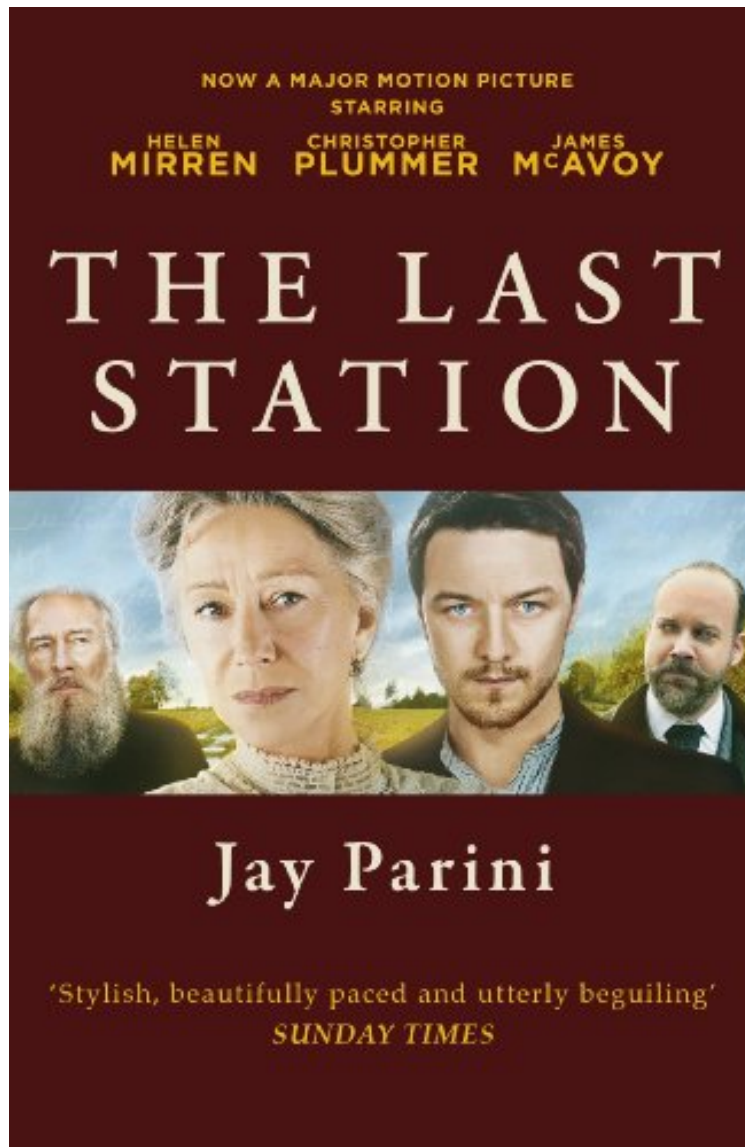


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The Last Station: A Novel of Tolstoy's Final Year

Von Jay Parini

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Von Jay Parini : The Last Station: A Novel of Tolstoy's Final Year before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Station: A Novel of Tolstoy's Final Year:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The final days of Russia's greatest authorVon Mark O'Neill"The Last Station" is a book set in 1910 Russia, the last year of Leo Tolstoy's life. By this stage of his life, Tolstoy is the most famous man in Russia. Everyone reveres him as a God - the peasants love him as one of their own while the Tsar fears an uprising.The book by Parini is a collection of diary

entries by people close to Tolstoy - his wife Sofya Andreyevna, his daughters, sons, his secretary, his doctor and the man who wants to steal Tolstoy's copyrights for his own gain, Chertkov. Throughout the book, we see how each person is maneuvering to control Tolstoy's legacy after he dies, while the old man simply wants to be left alone to read, think and write. Parini has written the book in such a way that each character sounds and looks extremely rude, disagreeable and unsympathetic. But at the same time, you can see their point of view and perhaps understand a little about why they are acting the way they are. It is difficult therefore to decide who is right and who is wrong, which makes you focus on the one character that matters the most - Tolstoy himself. The book however is tough reading. You really need to have an interest in Tolstoy, his work, philosophy and Russia. I was forced to re-read several sections many times because I didn't get it the first time - it's not often when that happens. 1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tolstoy's last years through the eyes of his intimates. Von T. Elwin It would not matter if Jay Parini writes about a bowl of soup, let alone the great Leo Tolstoy, Parini's writing is simply eloquent. I read Parini with a highlighter in one hand.

Kurzbeschreibung By 1910, Leo Tolstoy, the world's most famous author, had become an almost religious figure, surrounded on his lavish estate by family and followers alike. Set in the tumultuous last year of the count's life, *The Last Station* centres on the battle for his soul waged by his wife and his leading disciple. Torn between his professed doctrine of poverty and chastity on the one hand and the reality of his enormous wealth, his thirteen children, and a life of hedonism on the other, Tolstoy makes a dramatic flight from his home. Too ill to continue beyond the tiny station of Astapovo, he believes he is dying alone, while outside over one hundred newspapermen are awaiting hourly reports on his condition. Narrated in six different voices, including Tolstoy's own from his diaries and literary works, *The Last Station* is a richly inventive novel that dances bewitchingly between fact and fiction. From Publishers Weekly Alternating narrators from Count Leo Tolstoy's household tell of his attempts to balance his philosophy of poverty and his privileged lifestyle by living humbly in his final days. "In the end, it is not the people around him who speak most eloquently for Tolstoy, but the sincerity of his own words--and those of Parini in his kaleidoscopically rich and skillful novel," said PW. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This historical novel provides a fascinating glimpse into the turbulent final year of Leo Tolstoy's life. Based on the diaries of various family members and associates and the great Russian's own words, and told through their different voices, it effectively and sensitively depicts the forces vying for his very soul. Tolstoy's stormy relationship with his wife, the philosophical as well as practical implications of her battle with his beloved disciple Valdimir Chertkov over the rights to his literary heritage, and the mental anguish of a man professing the virtues of poverty and chastity while living a life of great privilege become clearly manifest. Tolstoy's tragedy is that of a man whose life has been plagued by contradictions, and one can easily understand why in his last days he felt compelled to flee forever the home he had known since childhood. A compelling portrait likely to inspire further investigation into the original sources, this is very highly recommended.- David W. Henderson, Eckerd Coll. Lib., St. Petersburg, Fla. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.