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# From Internationally Bestselling Author Ransom Riggs

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Cowboys of Ransom Creek Collection

The Orphan

Bodyguard: Ransom (Book 4)

Ransom

Dark Ransom (Mills & Boon Modern)

The Cossacks by Leo Tolstoy (International  
Bestseller Book) From the Author books Like Anna  
Karenina War and Peace The Death of Ivan Ilych

The Kreutzer Sonata Resurrection İnsan Ne İle

Yaşar? A Confession Hadji Murád

The Many Deaths of Cole Parker

The People Next Door

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Race for First Place

King's Ransom/King's Ransom/Nate

Ransom

Ransom

The Fading

Beneath the Lake

The Desolations of Devil's Acre

Ransom My Heart

The Ransom Note Blues

With This Promise

Erak's Ransom

Ransom  
Long Island Compromise  
Monsters in a Mess  
Ransom  
Rules of Betrayal  
Target for Ransom  
Kingston's Ransom (Kingston Security 1)  
The Orphan  
THE RANSOM - Book Seven of the Munro Family  
Series  
The Romanov Ransom  
The Complete Set of The Cowboys of Ransom  
Creek  
Ransom  
Erak's Ransom (Ranger's Apprentice Book 7)  
A King's Ransom  
A King's Ransom  
Ransom  
The Birthing House  
The Ripper Gene  
Rules of Vengeance  
Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow

*From*  
*Internationally Bestselling*  
*Author*  
*Ransom Riggs*

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## **BEST ZION**

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*Cowboys of Ransom  
Creek Collection* Laura  
Iding  
HER COWBOY HERO,

Book One Rodeo bronc  
supplier Lori Calhoun  
has struggled to live up  
to expectations after  
her father's sudden  
death. When a trailer  
load of her star broncs  
disappears, the Knight  
Agency steps in to

investigate. Foreman of the Calhoun Ranch, Trip Jensen has watched Lori struggle to keep up with the demands of the ranch and the rodeo stock. He's always admired her and loved her—but he's kept that to himself. She was the boss's daughter and is now the boss...off-limits for a cowboy like him. When more stock begins to disappear from the ranch, they must work together to solve the mystery. Unable to know who on the ranch to trust Trip enlist the Presley brothers from the neighboring ranch to back him up. Lori has always admired Trip but he made it clear years ago that he wasn't interested in her as more than a friend. Now, he sticking close and she's finding

it hard to concentrate on the danger and not the man. Can love blossom between them before time runs out? THE COWBOY'S BRIDE FOR HIRE, Book Two Single males in need of a bride for a day? This is strictly an at-your-service business proposition. Absolutely no romance involved. Do you need the eyes of a woman to help plan and/or set up an event with your personal interest and taste in mind, but with an added touch of your bride— if you had one? Then call Bride for Hire and let me do the work... Jilted twice, Bella Reese has no plans to find out if three's the magic number. She's done with men. But she's always loved the idea of being a bride, setting up house,

planning parties, making sure things are pretty and homey—the perfect nest for a home...and she’s determined not to give up on that dream. Six months after her final wedding fiasco, she’s turned a new leaf and opened her business, Bride for Hire. So far she’s been amazingly busy with corporate events, with no “homey” entering the equation. Until now... After being jilted by his ex, rancher Carson Andrews will never make the marriage mistake again. But now his daughter is turning five and he wants to make her fifth birthday special and redecorate his ranch house to make it more “homey” for a growing little girl. The irony of his situation is he lives on the outskirts of Bride,

Texas—the legendary home of the jilted bride...a small town south of Fort Worth. When his cousin Cooper Presley shows him the ad from a Fort Worth newspaper, it’s everything he’s looking for—even the plainly stated absolutely no romance involved. Carson makes the call. It sounds like the perfect plan—until he meets Bella. COOPER: CHARMED BY THE COWBOY, Book Three Romance, cowboys, rodeo, ranching and wild mustangs...the Presley men, aka the cowboys of Ransom Creek, will win your heart and have you longing for Texas. After making a major dating mistake, Cooper Presley has sworn off women. But then he meets his new neighbor and she's

making his new “no dating policy” hard to abide by. She's special and he knows it, but what's he going to do about it? Beth Lee is happy to settle into her new property with her baby goats and her dreams of a small productive farm. Forced to hide from her ex-boyfriend, she isn't looking for romance of any kind. Especially with a cowboy with a jealous ex of his own. But after Cooper rescues her baby goats she can't get the handsome cowboy off her mind. When her past catches up to her, Cooper Presley comes to her rescue. Now, despite all the rumors and the jealous ex's, Beth is at risk of falling in love with the sexy cowboy. The small town of Ransom Creek is buzzing with rumors,

a little suspense...and a lot of speculation that Cooper Presley might be the first of those handsome Presley men to fall in love. SHANE: THE COWBOY'S JUNK-STORE PRINCESS, Book Four Dumped by her fiancé, Jenna Emory decides it's time to visit her Aunt Sally in Ransom Creek. Maybe there she can decide what her next move should be. Though her aunt has been urging her to join her in the “junk” business for years she's certain that small town life isn't for her. To ward off her aunt's matchmaking she decides not to tell her the engagement is off. For as long as he can remember, Shane Presley's aunt and her friend, Sally Ann have been hoping to fix him, or one of his brothers,

up, with Sally's niece. The only problem-she's a city gal who recently dashed their dreams by getting engaged to someone else. But, after rescuing her from her car on a freezing winter night, Shane finds suddenly that he is as disappointed as the aunts are that she's engaged. Determined not to stay in Ransom Creek, Jenna is fighting not to fall in love with the town or the cowboy who rescued her when she first arrived. She's a city girl with a big career in advertising. She is not a "junk" dealer... Despite it being the coldest winter in years, sparks are flying in Ransom Creek as Shane and Jenna fight their attraction to each other. He's a whole lot of country, and she's a

whole lot of city...can love bring them together? VANCE: HER SECOND-CHANCE COWBOY, Book Five Speculation is out of control and running rampant in Ransom Creek about the new waitress at the Goodnight Café. What's her story? Libby Smith, aka Libby Dunaway, can't catch a break. She's been on her own since she was seventeen and has struggled but made it, until everything caught up to her... Now, hiding out in the small town she hitchhiked to after the unexpected happened, she's hoping to lay low until it's safe to go home, if ever. Thankfully, the townsfolk are nice and the cowboys too...especially one who totally throws her off every time he walks

into the room. Professional bronc rider Vance Presley is at the top of his profession when he comes home for his brother's wedding and sees the new waitress at the café again. She's cute and nervous when he's around, dropping things and freezing up and totally adorable. Funny thing is, every time she looks at him with those big blue eyes of hers, he can hardly think straight himself. When she shows up at his brother's wedding, he asks her to dance...and that's when things spin out of control. Sweet romance is blooming in Ransom Creek, one cowboy at a time. Enjoy a good, clean and wholesome romance series readers are falling in love with!

**DRAKE: THE COWBOY**

**AND MAISY LOVE, Book Six** She's full of life and made for adventure. He's built from family responsibilities and devotion to commitments. The last thing Drake Presley needs is to be attracted to the lavender-eyed beauty with a teasing tongue and no sense of what responsibility means. She's a roamer built for leaving. Only problem—he can't stop thinking about her, and despite the fact that they rub each other the wrong way, she seems to have decided that it's her all-fired duty to loosen him up. Free-spirited Maisy Love is determined to see all fifty states, traveling in her refurbished travel trailer as she cooks her way across the country. Focused on

her internet show, On The Road with Maisy Love, she's found the perfect place for her next show, the Goodnight Café. The fact the place is full of handsome cowboys is an added bonus for her viewers. Trouble is, she tangled with a skunk and a handsome cowboy with serious green eyes, and her world just turned upside down. A relationship is not part of her plans. Too bad for her. Drake Presley is gorgeous, tempting, and despite smelling like a skunk, he draws her like a bee to honey water. Fireworks like never before are shooting off this summer and it's not from the town celebration. Can these two opposites come to an agreement on the subject of love? BRICE:

NOT QUITE LOOKING FOR A FAMILY, Book Seven Romance, cowboys, ranching, and wild mustangs...the Presley men, aka the Cowboys of Ransom Creek, will win your heart and have you longing for Texas. Don't miss the final book in this satisfying series! His family is changing and growing with happily-ever-afters surrounding Brice Presley. He's happy for his brothers and his sister, and feeling restless to make a mark on his own future, but he's not ready to settle down. He's planning to branch out with his own ranch, until his plans get derailed when the ranch he's looking to buy is rented out to a spunky beauty and her two children. Determined to get the



deal done, he's not sure how he'll manage buying the property and not coming out the bad guy. Tara Quinn has plans to get her horse business up and running and then to buy the ranch she's leasing. She's hoping her landlord will make her a deal and not counting on the hunky, handsome cowboy from across the road wanting to boot her from the property and take it for his own. And she's certainly not counting on the attraction that has them both about as nervous as cats on hot tin roofs. Romance is the last thing she wants, especially with the man she sees as the obstacle between her providing her kids with the future they deserve or starting over again. Love is

looking about as likely as a rainstorm in the middle of a Texas drought...but miracles do happen.

**The Orphan** Simon and Schuster

A PERFECT FAMILY

Mick and Amy Nash are an ordinary couple leading ordinary lives.

And then, into the house next door move the Renders - beautiful, charming, perfect . . .

and not at all what they pretend to be. AN

EVIL SECRET Too late Mick learns that

something is deeply, darkly wrong with the

neighbours. Who are these people? Where did they come from?

And what are they hiding in the

basement? A

SHOCKING TWIST

ENDING As death and darkness descend on

the neighbourhood, only Mick can save his

family and expose the horrifying truth about the people next door - a secret already hailed as the most electrifying twist ending in years.

*Bodyguard: Ransom*  
(Book 4) DCP

Publishing LLC

Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive... When Ellie Cooper married Clayton Munro six years ago, she hoped his daughter Olivia would accept her into her life, but despite all of Ellie's efforts, the ten-year-old has rejected her at every turn. When Olivia is kidnapped while shopping with Ellie, she's beside herself with guilt. To add to her devastation, Clayton's blaming her for not taking proper care of his daughter. Detective Senior

Sergeant Lane Black of the Chatswood State Crime Command is put in charge of the case. A child is missing and time is of the essence. To further complicate matters, the New South Wales Attorney General's youngest daughter was present at the time of the kidnapping. The girls look very much alike. Could it be a case of mistaken identity? Could the abduction be politically motivated? When interviewing the Attorney General, Lane's disquieted by the man's nervousness. His oldest daughter Zara Dowton is also on edge. Immediately drawn to her exotic beauty, Lane does his best to remain unmoved and impartial, despite his body's urgings. What are the Downtons

hiding...and why?

**Ransom** Random House

Two Scottish chieftains help Gillian fight for her home, her family, and her father's reputation.

*Dark Ransom (Mills & Boon Modern)* Penguin

It was expecting them. Conrad and Joanna Harrison, a young couple from Los Angeles, attempt to save their marriage by leaving the pressures of the city to start anew in a quiet, rural setting. They buy a Victorian mansion that once served as a haven for unwed mothers, called a birthing house. One day when Joanna is away, the previous owner visits Conrad to bequeath a vital piece of the house's historic heritage, a photo album that he claims

"belongs to the house."

Thumbing through the old, sepia-colored photographs of midwives and fearful, unhappily pregnant girls in their starched, nineteenth-century dresses, Conrad is suddenly chilled to the bone: staring back at him with a countenance of hatred and rage is the image of his own wife.... Thus begins a story of possession, sexual obsession, and, ultimately, murder, as a centuries-old crime is reenacted in the present, turning Conrad and Joanna's American dream into a relentless nightmare. An extraordinary marriage of supernatural thrills and exquisite psychological suspense, *The Birthing House* marks the debut of a writer whose first

novel is a terrifying  
tour de force.

*The Cossacks* by Leo  
Tolstoy (*International  
Bestseller Book*) From  
the Author books Like  
*Anna Karenina War and  
Peace The Death of  
Ivan Ilych The Kreutzer  
Sonata Resurrection  
İnsan Ne İle Yaşar? A  
Confession Hadji Murád*  
Random House

"A family of monsters  
enters its red truck into  
a monster truck race,  
but will it win first  
place?"--

The Many Deaths of  
Cole Parker Simon and  
Schuster

The international  
bestselling series with  
over 5 million copies  
sold in the U.S. alone!  
In the wake of  
Araluen's uneasy truce  
with the raiding  
Skandians comes word  
that the Skandian  
leader has been  
captured by a

dangerous desert tribe.  
The Rangers - and Will  
- are sent to free him.  
But the desert is like  
nothing these warriors  
have seen before.  
Strangers in a strange  
land, they are  
brutalized by  
sandstorms, beaten by  
the unrelenting heat,  
tricked by one tribe  
that plays by its own  
rules, and surprisingly  
befriended by another.  
Like a desert mirage,  
nothing is as it seems.  
Yet one thing is  
constant: the bravery  
of the Rangers.

"Bringing together  
many favorite  
characters for a grand  
adventure, this book  
delivers both  
excitement and quiet  
good times." - Booklist  
Perfect for fans of  
J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of  
the Rings, T.H. White's  
The Sword in the  
Stone, Christopher

Paolini's Eragon series, and George R. R. Martin's Game of Thrones/A Song of Ice and Fire series.

*The People Next Door*  
DCP Publishing LLC

When a mysterious envelope arrives for Jake Ransom, he and his older sister, Kady, are plunged into a gripping chain of events. An artifact found by their parents—on the expedition from which they never returned—leads Jake and Kady to a strange world inhabited by a peculiar mix of long-lost civilizations, a world that may hold the key to their parents' disappearance. But even as they enter the gate to this extraordinary place, savage gracklys soar across the sky, diving

to attack. Jake's new friends, the pretty Mayan girl Marika and the Roman Pindor, say the gracklys were created by an evil alchemist—the Skull King. And as Jake struggles to find a way home, it becomes obvious that what the Skull King wants most is Jake and Kady—dead or alive.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Sankofa Girl

Thirty Years Ago On a camping trip by a remote lake, the Mercer family enjoyed the vacation of a lifetime - until a violent tragedy forced them to make a decision that would haunt them for ever. This Summer When the younger Mercers learn their father is dying, the family reunites at the lake, seeking a second

chance to put their lives back together. But something is waiting ...Four Days of Hell Also arriving at the lake are estranged son Raymond Mercer and an alluring stranger, Megan, both ignorant of the family's secrets. Within hours, they are all trapped in a relentless nightmare and fighting for their lives. Some places are better left. Some secrets are better forgotten. Some people are better dead.

### **Race for First Place**

Carole Mortimer  
The most riveting novel yet in Christopher Reich's New York Times bestselling series-featuring Dr. Jonathan Ransom and his undercover-agent wife Emma, a dangerous woman with a mysterious past who has gone rogue in the

high-stakes, serpentine world of international spies. In 1980, a secret American B-52 crashes high in a remote mountain range on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Nearly thirty years later, and spanning locales from those peaks to New York City, a terrible truth will be revealed. Jonathan Ransom returns as the resourceful doctor thrown into a shadowy world of double and triple agents where absolutely no one can be trusted. To stay alive, Ransom must unravel the mystery surrounding his wife-an enigmatic and lethal spy who plays by her own rules-and discover where her loyalties truly lie. Rules of Betrayal is a masterfully plotted novel that cements

Christopher Reich's reputation as one of the most admired espionage thriller writers today. *King's Ransom/King's Ransom/Nate* HarperCollins UK  
In this rhyming second book in the Level 1 Ready-to-Read Red Truck Monsters series, the fun-loving family of monsters gets a new pet! A family of monsters go for a drive in their red truck and buy a new pet goldfish. But then they get home and realize there's no place to put the fishbowl in their cluttered space! Can they clean up and turn their "mess sweet mess" into a "home sweet home?"  
Ransom LCT Productions Pty Limited  
Scottish chieftains Ramsey Sinclair and Brodick Buchanan, help

the beautiful Gillian fight for her home, her family, and her father's reputation.  
*Ransom* Hachette UK  
An exhilarating novel about one American family, the dark moment that shatters their suburban paradise, and the wild legacy of trauma and inheritance, from the New York Times bestselling author of *Fleishman Is in Trouble* "A big, juicy, wickedly funny social satire . . . probably the funniest book ever about generational family trauma."—Oprah Daily  
"Were we gangsters? No. But did we know how to start a fire?" In 1980, a wealthy businessman named Carl Fletcher is kidnapped from his driveway, brutalized, and held for ransom. He is returned to his

wife and kids less than a week later, only slightly the worse, and the family moves on with their lives, resuming their prized places in the saga of the American dream, comforted in the realization that though their money may have been what endangered them, it is also what assured them their safety. But now, nearly forty years later, it's clear that perhaps nobody ever got over anything, after all. Carl has spent the ensuing years secretly seeking closure to the matter of his kidnapping, while his wife, Ruth, has spent her potential protecting her husband's emotional health. Their three grown children aren't doing much better: Nathan's chronic fear won't allow him to

advance at his law firm; Beamer, a Hollywood screenwriter, will consume anything—substance, foodstuff, women—in order to numb his own perpetual terror; and Jenny has spent her life so bent on proving that she's not a product of her family's pathology that she has come to define it. As they hover at the delicate precipice of a different kind of survival, they learn that the family fortune has dwindled to just about nothing, and they must face desperate questions about how much their wealth has played a part in both their lives' successes and failures. Long Island Compromise spans the entirety of one family's history, winding through decades and



generations, all the way to the outrageous present, and confronting the mainstays of American Jewish life: tradition, the pursuit of success, the terror of history, fear of the future, old wives' tales, evil eyes, ambition, achievement, boredom, dybbuks, inheritance, pyramid schemes, right-wing capitalists, beta-blockers, psychics, and the mostly unspoken love and shared experience that unite a family forever.

The Fading Thorndike  
Press Large Print  
New York Times  
Bestseller Months after  
foiling an international  
terrorist attack,  
Doctors Without  
Borders physician  
Jonathan Ransom is  
working under an  
assumed name in a  
remote corner of

Africa. His wife, Emma, desperate to escape the wrath of Division, the secret American intelligence agency she betrayed, has been in hiding. Both look forward to sharing a stolen weekend in London—until a terrorist attack ruins their romantic rendezvous. In the aftermath, Emma disappears and Jonathan is apprehended by the police and threatened, unless he helps secure his wife's capture. He embarks on a breathless chase across Europe, searching for Emma, and keeping Division at bay . . . until he realizes that all along he's been a pawn in a high-stakes game of international intrigue far beyond his imagining. Follow the

Rules: Don't miss Christopher Reich's new thriller, *Rules of Betrayal*, coming in hardcover in July. The first novel in the series, *Rules of Deception*, is available now in paperback.

*Beneath the Lake*

Vintage

Lives — and hearts — in peril Jesse LeBeau had fought off an attacker with his own knife, but the terrifying memory remains. Then she looks up from her hospital bed and sees the handsome cowboy who'd always been like a brother to her. King McCandless is determined to bring Jesse back to Oklahoma and protect her from the threat of another attack. But can Jesse stay when now her heart is in danger? Includes a bonus story, *Nate* by Delores Fossen

*The Desolations of Devil's Acre Forge*  
Books

A powerful story about a mother's courage in the face of overwhelming odds. Fernanda Barnes's life was once graced by security, success and stunning wealth. Now, widowed and with a mounting pile of debts, she is trying desperately to shield her three children from the rising panic within her. When a file of press clippings and photos of the Barnes family is found in the desk of a convicted criminal, police detective Ted Lee is sent to protect them. He is a man of unshakable integrity but even he cannot prevent the devastating events that follow. In a gripping race against

time, Detective Lee is the only man who can save Fernanda and her children from a terrifying fate . . .

Ransom My Heart Pan Macmillan

A #1 New York Times Bestselling Author  
A Sam and Remi Fargo Adventure  
In 1918, an enormous ransom was paid to the Bolsheviks to free the Romanovs, who died anyway. During World War II, the Nazis stole the ransom from the Russians, and after that -- it vanished. And now, treasure-hunting team Sam and Remi Fargo's search for the fortune brings them into perilous contact with a neo-Nazi clan.

**The Ransom Note Blues** HarperCollins Australia  
KINGSTON'S RANSOM (Kingston Security 1) is the first book in USA

Today and Amazon International #1 Bestselling Author, Carole Mortimer's, NEW Contemporary Romance series. Rosie needs the arrogant Max Kingston's help, and she doesn't care what she has to do to get it. Except, gaining the head of the powerful Kingston family's attention, is virtually impossible. Unless, or if, Max decides he wants to see or speak to you. If that should be the case, then he will be the one to arrange a meeting, at his convenience, and at a place of his choosing. Rosie doesn't have time for that and decides to take matters into her own hands. A move Max takes exception to. To a degree Rosie becomes his prisoner

in the Kingston fortress, otherwise known as Kingston Manor. Carole Mortimer has written over 270 books, in contemporary romantic suspense, Regency romance, MM Regency romance & paranormal romance. She became an indie author in 2014. In May 2017 she received a Career Achievement Award from Romantic Times. She is the Recipient of the 2015 Romance Writers of America's Lifetime Achievement Award. Is an Entertainment Weekly Top 10 Romance Author—ever. Carole is a 2014 Romantic Times Pioneer of Romance. She was also recognized by Queen Elizabeth II in 2012, for her “outstanding service to literature”.

### **With This Promise**

Sphere Paperback Fiction  
From USA TODAY Bestselling Author Laura Scott Protecting the innocent while saving their country... Can he save the daughter he didn't know he had? Former FBI agent Jordan Rashid has been tasked with infiltrating a terrorist cell located in Washington, DC. But when he receives an email link with a video of a young girl being held captive by kidnappers, his mission becomes very personal—the eleven-year-old Bryn is the daughter he didn't know he had. Diana Phillips is horrified to discover her daughter has been kidnapped and is frantic to find her. And she doesn't understand why she is being directed to her

former fiancé Jordan Rashid for help. Clearly her witness protection cover has been blown, and worse, her cousin Tariq is likely the mastermind behind Bryn's kidnapping. In the midst of a serious terrorist threat, Diana and Jordan must find a way to put their rocky past aside and work together to rescue Bryn. Can they save hundreds of innocent lives in time to become a family, once again? -- Read what others are saying about USA Today Bestselling Author Laura Scott: "Thrilling! If you enjoy the works of Irene Hannon or Elizabeth Goddard, you will want to give this a try." L. Couter VINE VOICE "Scott delivers distinctive characters, an appealing small-town setting, and a

hint of romance. This cozy is perfect for animal lovers." -- Publishers Weekly review of *Dogged by Death* "An entertaining cast of characters makes for a kickoff sure to please dog lovers." --Kirkus review for *Dogged by Death* Read the entire Security Specialists, Inc. series in order: *Target For Terror* *Target For Ransom* *Target For Revenge* *Target for Treason* -- Topics: Christian suspense romance, suspense, thriller, Christian thriller, Christian International Thriller, contemporary suspense romance, clean and wholesome romance, foster family romance, foster kids, family centered romance, Laura Scott books, Laura Scott romantic suspense

books, smoky  
 mountain romance,  
 urban romance,  
 Washington, DC,  
 emotional romance,  
 redemption romance,  
 finding faith romance,  
 faith journey, finding  
 faith, USA today  
 Bestselling author, USA  
 Today, rescue  
 romance, learning to  
 trust again, strong  
 women romance,  
 bodyguard, damsel in  
 distress, doctor,  
 hospital, strong men of  
 faith, protector, faith  
 redeemed, adoption,  
 action packed  
 suspense, high stakes  
 danger, terrorist  
 threat, political thriller  
 -- Readers of Laura  
 Scott's books enjoyed  
 books by: Lynette  
 Eason, Irene Hannon,  
 Susan Sleeman, Susan  
 May Warren, Hallee  
 Bridgeman, Christy  
 Barritt, Diann Mills,  
 Dee Henderson,

Elizabeth Goddard,  
 Terri Blackstock, Lisa  
 Harris, Rachel Dylan,  
 Dani Pettrey, Colleen  
 Coble, Edie James,  
 Terri Reed, Shirlee  
 McCoy, Lenora Worth,  
 Heather Woodhaven,  
 Dana Mentink  
Erak's Ransom Simon  
 and Schuster  
 From the Author books  
 Like · Anna Karenina ·  
 War and Peace · The  
 Death of Ivan Ilych ·  
 The Kreutzer Sonata ·  
 Resurrection · İnsan Ne  
 İle Yaşar? · A  
 Confession · Hadji  
 Murád · How Much  
 Land Does a Man  
 Need? · Family  
 Happiness · Childhood,  
 Boyhood, Youth · The  
 Cossacks · Master and  
 Man · The Kingdom of  
 God Is Within You · The  
 Devil · Father Sergius ·  
 What Is Art? ABOUT  
 THE BOOK: To read  
 Tolstoy's early sketch,  
 The Raid, and his first

novel, *The Cossacks*, is to enter the workshop of a great writer and thinker. In *The Raid* Tolstoy explores the nature of courage itself, a theme central to *War and Peace*. In *The Cossacks* he sets forth all the motifs of his whole future life and his work. The hero is a young man-about-town who has squandered half his fortune - and his life - and retires to the desultory existence of a regiment stationed in mountainous Cossack country, where he takes part in the daily life of a Cossack village. But his love for the beautiful Maryanka precipitates a conflict between the belief that "Happiness lies in living for others" and a passion that sweeps self-abnegation aside. As Romain Roland

says, "The full force of Tolstoy's descriptive powers is already expressed in this splendid [novel] and Tolstoy's realism shows itself with equal force in depicting human nature. ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy (Russian: Лев Николаевич Толстой; most appropriately used Liev Tolstoy; commonly Leo Tolstoy in Anglophone countries) was a Russian writer who primarily wrote novels and short stories. Later in life, he also wrote plays and essays. His two most famous works, the novels *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, are acknowledged as two of the greatest novels of all time and a pinnacle of realist fiction. Many consider

Tolstoy to have been one of the world's greatest novelists. Tolstoy is equally known for his complicated and paradoxical persona and for his extreme moralistic and ascetic views, which he adopted after a moral crisis and spiritual awakening in the 1870s, after which he also became noted as a moral thinker and social reformer. His literal interpretation of

the ethical teachings of Jesus, centering on the Sermon on the Mount, caused him in later life to become a fervent Christian anarchist and anarcho-pacifist. His ideas on nonviolent resistance, expressed in such works as *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*, were to have a profound impact on such pivotal twentieth-century figures as Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.