



Crime and Punishment

Crime and Punishment

Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821 - 1881)

translated by Constance Garnett

Crime and Punishment was first published in the literary journal *The Russian Messenger* in 12 installments during 1866, and later published in a single volume. It is the second of Dostoyevsky's full-length novels following his return from ten years of exile in Siberia. *Crime and Punishment* is considered the first great novel of his "mature" period of writing. It focuses on the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of Rodion Raskolnikov, an impoverished ex-student in St. Petersburg, who formulates a plan to kill an unscrupulous pawnbroker for her cash. Raskolnikov argues that with the pawnbroker's money he can perform good deeds to counterbalance the crime, while ridding the world of a worthless vermin. He also commits this murder to test his own hypothesis that some people are naturally capable of such things, and even have the right to do them. Several times throughout the novel, Raskolnikov justifies his actions by comparing himself with Napoleon, believing that murder is permissible in pursuit of a higher purpose. Much of the suspense of the novel is psychological, as the reader agonizes over Raskolnikov's efforts to evade justice for his crime. Much of it is also moral, as the question of whether or not Raskolnikov himself can find redemption as a human being leads to a surprising culmination. – *Wikipedia*

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Read by Expatriate



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