



The Death of Ivan Ilyich and Confession

Leo Tolstoy

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"Over the past hundred years we have had numerous versions . . . of [Tolstoy's] major works. This volume, however, is arguably the best so far." —Times Literary Supplement

In the last two days of his own life, Peter Carson completed these new translations of *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* and *Confession* before he succumbed to cancer in January 2013. Carson, the eminent British publisher, editor, and translator who, in the words of his author Mary Beard, "had probably more influence on the literary landscape of [England] over the past fifty years than any other single person," must have seen the irony of translating *Ilyich*, Tolstoy's profound meditation on death and loss, "but he pressed on regardless, apparently refusing to be distracted by the parallel of literature and life." In Carson's shimmering prose, these two transcendent works are presented in their most faithful rendering in English. Unlike so many previous translations that have tried to smooth out Tolstoy's rough edges, Carson presents a translation that captures the verisimilitude and psychological realism of the original Russian text.



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