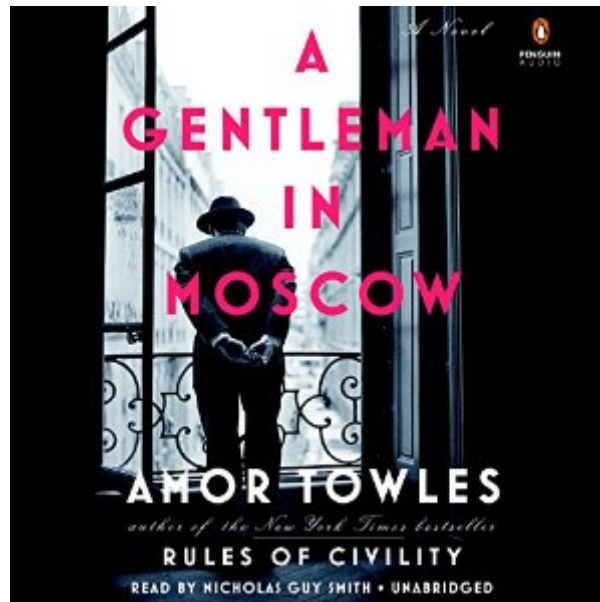


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A Gentleman In Moscow: A Novel



Synopsis

From the New York Times best-selling author of *Rules of Civility*, a transporting novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel. With his breakout debut novel, *Rules of Civility*, Amor Towles established himself as a master of absorbing, sophisticated fiction, bringing late 1930s Manhattan to life with splendid atmosphere and a flawless command of style. Listeners and critics were enchanted; as NPR commented, "Towles writes with grace and verve about the mores and manners of a society on the cusp of radical change". *A Gentleman in Moscow* immerses us in another elegantly drawn era with the story of Count Alexander Rostov. When, in 1922, he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

RATING: 5/5 Incredibly Satisfying stars!REVIEW: Book hangover. Book

hangover for days. I had such an emotionally fulfilled feeling at the end of this novel that when I finished the last page, I closed the book, sat back, sighed deeply, and thought, "well, what now?"

where do I go from here? how do I move on?"...book hangover. It seems convoluted to start a review with the ending of a book, but this novel is actually a rather long tale, spanning 30+ years, so before I get into the journey, allow me this one break with decorum. The ending. Oh, this ending. Whenever anyone asks me which book ending I love the most, I will usually answer *Water for Elephants*, because it has one of the most satisfying endings I have ever read. And until now no other novel has come close to changing my answer. But *A Gentleman in Moscow*, if not completely upsetting Sara Gruen's work, at least pulls level with it, because it is such a satisfying end to this novel, and I'll say no more than that for fear of ruining the experience for anyone else. Who hasn't had the thought, at some point, that it would be nice to live in a hotel? Perhaps we don't imagine that it will be under house arrest and 1922 in Moscow, but it's a luxurious idea to entertain. It feels like such a universal fantasy that, despite the fact that we are not (probably) an aristocrat, a connoisseur of multiple tastes, exceedingly cultured, and currently exiled within our own country, we somehow connect with Count Rostov immediately. Here is a man from a by-gone era and yet he wins us over completely with his wit and charm from the very first page. This is all due completely to the beautiful writing of the author, of course.

Amor Towles's *A Gentleman in Moscow* describes a big life in a seemingly small world and paints a vibrant picture of Soviet history from 1922 through 1954. In this beautifully written and captivating story, Amor Towles tells a tale of the triumph of goodness over cruelty and hopefulness over despair. This second novel is as enjoyable and engaging as his first, *Rules of Civility*. In 1922, the Emergency Committee of the People's Commissariat For Internal Affairs sentences Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov to spend the rest of his life inside the Hotel Metropol for writing the poem *Where Is It Now?*, which brashly asked the question, *where is our purpose now?* In imposing the sentence, the prosecutor pronounced that the Count *has succumbed irrevocably to the corruptions of his class* and now poses a threat to the very ideals he once espoused. On that basis, our inclination would be to have you taken from this chamber and put against the wall. Instead, the Count is sentenced to a lifetime in the Hotel Metropol, where he has previously resided in luxurious accommodations. Of course, when he is returned to the Hotel, he is removed from his luxurious accommodations and moved to a single attic room. In trying to adjust to his new circumstances, the Count tells himself that *if a man does not master his circumstances then he is bound to be mastered by them* and that *imagining what might happen if one's circumstances were different was the only sure route to madness*. And so the Count adjusts to the 30 or more years that he ultimately spends in the Hotel. Of course there are some challenges

along the way. The Hotel Metropol is a grand hotel.

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