



# The Cossacks and Hadji Murat (Pocket Penguins)

*Leo Tolstoy*

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*Leo Tolstoy*

## **The Cossacks and Hadji Murat (Pocket Penguins)** Leo Tolstoy

'He said that Shamil had ordered Hadji Murat to be taken dead or alive....' In 1851, at the age of twenty-two, Tolstoy joined the Russian army and travelled to the Caucasus as a soldier. The four years that followed were among the most significant in his life, and deeply influenced the stories collected here. Begun in 1852 but unfinished for a decade, *The Cossacks* describes the experiences of Olenin, a young cultured Russian who comes to despise civilization after spending time with the wild Cossack people. *Sevastopol Sketches*, based on Tolstoy's own experiences of the siege of Sevastopol in 1854-55, is a compelling consideration of the nature of war, while *Hadji Murat*, written towards the end of his life, returns to the Caucasus of Tolstoy's youth to explore the life of a great leader torn apart by a conflict of loyalties. Written at the end of the nineteenth century, it is amongst the last and greatest of Tolstoy's shorter works. A new series of twenty distinctive, unforgettable Penguin Classics in a beautiful new design and pocket-sized format, with coloured jackets echoing Penguin's original covers.

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