

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910583503703321
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Titolo	The Liberation of Life through Death : Reading Tolstoy's "The Death of Ivan Ilyich" // by Jason Hoult
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2022
ISBN	9783031076169 9783031076152
Edizione	[1st ed. 2022.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (60 pages)
Collana	Palgrave pivot
Disciplina	809.933548 891.733
Soggetti	Literature - Philosophy Christian philosophy Literature Philosophy of Literature Christian Philosophy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 45-46) and index.
Sommario/riassunto	This book undertakes to show how the exercise of reading Tolstoy's "The Death of Ivan Ilyich" involves articulating for ourselves, as readers, what it means to liberate life through death. What Tolstoy's short story shows us, the author argues, is that life can be truly liberated through death only when we see that death is neither a supernatural event nor a natural end but involves a work of love. In Part 1 of his study, the author addresses the common assumptions that give rise to the idea that religious and secular views of life and death are opposed in modernity. He also examines the history of values that Tolstoy's story embodies. In Part 2, he analyses the life and death of Ivan Ilyich in order to show that the values that are embedded in Tolstoy's story are at once religious and secular.