

During a train ride, Pozdnyshov overhears a conversation concerning marriage, divorce and love. When a woman argues that marriage should not be arranged but based on true love, he asks "what is love?" and points out that, if understood as an exclusive preference for one person, it often passes quickly. Convention dictates that two married people stay together, and initial love can quickly turn into hatred. He then relates how he used to visit prostitutes when he was young, and complains that women's dresses are designed to arouse men's desires. He further states that women will never enjoy equal rights to men as long as men view them as objects of desire, yet describes their situation as a form of power over men, mentioning how much of society is geared towards their pleasure and well-being and how much sway they have over men's actions.

After he meets and marries his wife, periods of passionate love and vicious fights alternate. She bears five children, and then receives contraceptives: "The last excuse for our swinish life -- children -- was then taken away, and life became viler than ever." His wife takes a liking to a violinist, Troukhatchevsky, and the two perform Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata (Sonata No. 9 in A Major for piano and violin, Op. 47) together. Pozdnyshov complains that some music is powerful enough to change one's internal state to a foreign one. He hides his raging jealousy and goes on a trip, returns early, finds Troukhatchevsky and his wife together and kills his wife with a dagger. The violinist escapes: "I wanted to run after him, but remembered that it is ridiculous to run after one's wife's lover in one's socks; and I did not wish to be ridiculous but terrible."

Later acquitted of murder in light of his wife's apparent adultery, Pozdnyshov rides the trains seeking forgiveness from fellow passengers.

Do II: 2 models of love Gerasim & Son class difference kindly distance
Gerasim - physical comfort, duty to others (what? everyone) → mostly strangers, selflessness
Son - spiritual comfort, duty to family, selfishness (in a way) - intimacy
Anna K - favors son model (family first)
Do I - favors Gerasim model, push family away
paradox: colleagues are selfish and don't care, Gerasim selfless and doesn't care

Kreutzer Sonata

2 viewpoints: woman (looks like man), lawyer, merchant (weakness, but socially low)

Woman: emotional connection

merchant (old guy): defends Old Testament stuff, seen by God, once took vow it's done

narrator - ? Know nothing, never introduced, mystery / eyes of God → wait a minute, you're a hypocrite ^{old man}

Pozdnyshov - root → belated, figure out meaning of life too late (says: if one thing, remember, should have married)

personal confession - I'm the guy who killed his wife / lawyer and wife switch caregivers

P asks narrator if should tell story, from that point on most is that story / narrator criticized old man → P wants the relationship is like Gerasim, connection is like strangers

P - hateful?! right? doesn't think just a bad marriage (why, but we all feel that? look deeper)

Tolstoy says most marriages involve infidelity

P treatment of women is bad, comparison to Jews, imposed roles

wedding night - ^{traumatic} woman chaste, man is not / go into bedroom and loss of innocence, everyone is an egoist, that's really she would feel horror / wants human connection / man takes advantage of woman

gradually things change, like learning to smoke, eventually she likes it, finally loves it

love vs. sex / the evil is non-love 'tradition' etc.

all marriages are hell, deep down want to be children again, don't like it, weep when introduced

Jews → Russians, take revenge by indenting them, same as how women feel, their thoughts

Kills wife because he thinks she commits adultery, greatest crime was marriage (not murder)

Assume P speaks for Tolstoy, why put yui into such a 'bad' character (insane, hateful)

thinking 'sex is bad' is hopeless to convey, has to be story to get us through it, Sex represents people ^{from loving} each other

Chastity / Abstinence vs. "real" marriage → virginial marriage / story hints at 2 models, prefers one but doesn't ignore other

P models Gerasim? model of chastity, deal with others but not their covers