



Twilight of Love: Travels with Turgenev

By Robert Dessaix

SIMON SCHUSTER, United States, 2006. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New ed.. 194 x 130 mm. Language: English. Brand New Book. Turgenev (1818-1883) was one of Russia s most famous writers, friend of Flaubert, Dostoyevsky and Henry James. Turgenev s private life was, perhaps, as remarkable as his public. For forty years he was passionately devoted to Pauline Viardot, a singer, following her and her husband around Europe. Yet their relationship was completely chaste - both had affairs with other people - and at various stages Turgenev lived amicably next door or upstairs from the Viardots. In fact, he described M Viardot as one of his dearest friends. What, then, did Turgenev mean by the word love? Robert Dessaix learned Russian as a young man in the 1960s, and has been reading Turgenev on and off ever since. Over the course of his own forty year relationship, he has come to see Turgenev s life and work as illustrating a turning point in the history of love, as much as the history of Russia - the moment the Romantic became the Modern, the moment love became sex, and sex became a commodity.



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