SUMMARY

VOLUME I

Part One


V–VI. Pierre goes to supper at Prince Andrei’s and then to Anatole Kuragin’s. The bet with Dolokhov.


XII–XIII. Anna Mikhailovna and Boris go to see the gravely ill Count Kirill Bezukhov. Prince Vassily and Pierre are there.

XIV. The countess Rostov and Anna Mikhailovna.


XVIII–XXI. Prince Vassily and Catiche at Count Bezukhov’s. Anna Mikhailovna and Pierre arrive. The dispute over the inlaid portfolio.

XXII. At Bald Hills. The old prince. Marya and Julie exchange letters.

XXIII–XXIV. Prince Andrei brings the pregnant little princess to Bald Hills. The old prince’s discourse on “Buonaparte.”

XXV. Prince Andrei leaves for the army. Princess Marya gives him an icon. He parts from the little princess.

Part Two

I–II. Kutuzov reviews the troops at Braunau.

III. Prince Andrei in Kutuzov’s headquarters. The unfortunate General Mack.

IV–V. Nikolai Rostov with Denisov. Telyanin and the stolen purse. Discussion and disapproval among the officers.

VI–VIII. Kutuzov falls back towards Vienna as the French advance. Crossing the Enns. Nikolai sees action for the first time.

IX–XII. Kutuzov sends Prince Andrei to the Austrian court in Brünn. Conversation with Bilibin. Morning with Bilibin, Ippolit Kuragin, and other diplomats. Prince Andrei is received by the emperor Franz. Bilibin’s story of the bridge at Tabor.


XV–XVI. Prince Andrei reports to Bagration. Captain Tushin. Prince Andrei surveys the battlefield at Schöngrabern. The action begins.

XXI. The Russian forces withdraw. Tushin summoned before Bagration. Prince Andrei defends him.

Part Three


III–V. Prince Vassily and Anatole visit the old prince Bolkonsky at Bald Hills. The courting of Princess Marya. Anatole and Mlle Bourienne in the conservatory.

VI. The Rostovs receive a letter from Nikolai.

VII. Nikolai in Kutuzov’s camp at Olmütz. Visits Boris and Berg. Run-in with Prince Andrei.

VIII. Review of the Russian army by the emperors Alexander and Franz. Nikolai’s enthusiasm.

IX. Boris visits Prince Andrei in Olmütz. They meet with Prince Dolgorukov.

X. Nikolai out of the action at Wischau. He sees the emperor Alexander again.

XI. The buildup to battle. Dolgorukov’s views, Kutuzov’s displeasure.


XIII. Rostov on the picket line with Bagration’s army. Drowsy thoughts. Bagration and Dolgorukov disagree. Napoleon’s orders to his army.


Volume II

Part One

I. Nikolai brings Denisov home to Moscow on leave.

II. Count Ilya Andreich arranges a banquet for Bagration at the English Club.

III. The festivities begin. Bagration arrives.

IV. Pierre challenges Dolokhov to a duel.

V. The duel.

VI. Pierre’s ruminations. He breaks with Hélène and leaves for Petersburg.

VII. At Bald Hills two months after Austerlitz. Prince Andrei presumed dead.

VIII–IX. The little princess goes into labor. Prince Andrei arrives. Lise dies giving birth to a son. Lise is buried and Prince Nikolai Andreevich is baptized.

X–XII. Dolokhov recovers in Moscow. The Rostovs come from the country for the winter season. Denisov and Dolokhov frequent the house. Courtships at Christmastime. The young people’s ball at Iogel’s.


Part Two

I–II. Pierre meets the Mason Bazdeev.


V. Pierre throws Prince Vassily out.

VI–VII. Soirée at Anna Pavlovna’s after Prussian defeats at Jena and Auerstädt. Hélène befriends Boris Drubetskov.

VIII–IX. Prince Andrei at Bald Hills. The baby’s illness. Letters from the old prince and Bilbin.
Summary

X. Pierre goes to Kiev province to visit his estates. Philanthropic intentions towards his serfs.
XI–XII. On his way back, Pierre visits Prince Andrei at his estate of Bogucharovo. Long conversation about good and evil. Continued on the ferry.
The old prince returns.
XV. Nikolai Rostov rejoins his regiment. Hunger and sickness.
XVI. Denisov seizes a supply transport. Threatened with court-martial. Wounded by French sniper.
XIX–XXI. Nikolai goes to Tilsit to intercede for Denisov. Meeting of the two emperors. Nikolai’s reaction.

Part Three

IV–VI. Prince Andrei in Petersburg. Speransky and Arakcheev.
VII. Pierre and the Masons in Petersburg. His speech.
IX. Hélène’s salon in Petersburg. Her relations with Boris.
X. More from Pierre’s diary.
XI. The Rostovs go to Petersburg. Berg proposes to Vera.
XII–XIII. Natasha is sixteen. Meets Boris. Talks at night with her mother.
XVIII. Prince Andrei at Speransky’s the next day. Disillusionment.
XIX. Prince Andrei calls on the Rostovs. Natasha’s singing and its effect on him.
XX–XXI. An evening with the Bergs. Prince Andrei and Natasha meet there.
XXII. Prince Andrei and Natasha in love. Natasha confides in her mother, Prince Andrei in Pierre.
XXIII. Before proposing, Prince Andrei goes to Bald Hills to ask his father’s consent. The old prince’s stern conditions. Prince Andrei returns and proposes.
XXIV. Prince Andrei and Natasha after the engagement. Prince Andrei leaves for abroad.
XXV–XXVI. The old prince at Bald Hills. Princess Marya’s trials.

Part Four

I. Reflections on idleness. Nikolai goes to Otradnoe on leave.
II. Nikolai confronts the steward Mitenka.
III. Preparations for the hunt. Natasha and Petya insist on joining in.
IV–VI. The hunt.
VII. Evening at uncle’s. Balalaika. Natasha dances.
VIII. The old countess and Nikolai. He refuses to marry for money. Nikolai and Sonya.
XIII. The old countess opposes Nikolai’s marriage to Sonya. He goes back to his regiment. Natasha impatiently waits for Prince Andrei. She and Sonya return to Moscow with the old count.
Summary

Part Five

I. Pierre in Moscow. Moral dilemmas.
II. Old Prince Bolkonsky moves to Moscow with Marya and Nikolushka. Harsh treatment of Marya. The old prince and Mlle Bourienne.
III–IV. Scandal with Dr. Métivier. The prince's name-day dinner. Political talk. Pierre and Marya discuss Boris and Julie Karagin.
V. Boris proposes to Julie.
VI. Count Rostov, Natasha, and Sonya come to Moscow and stay with Marya Dmitrievna.
VII. The count and Natasha call on Prince Bolkonsky.
XI. Anatole and Dolokhov discuss Natasha.
XII. Hélène calls on Natasha in Marya Dmitrievna's absence and invites her to a soirée.
XIII. Hélène's soirée. Anatole and Natasha. Natasha's sleepless night.
XIV. The Rostovs plan to go back to Otradnoe. Natasha receives two letters.
XV. Sonya reads the letter from Anatole. She confronts Natasha. Natasha breaks her engagement to Prince Andrei. She meets Anatole at the Kuragins'. Sonya resolves to prevent the elopement.
XVI. Anatole at Dolokhov's. Preparations for the elopement.
XVII. Anatole and Dolokhov set off. Met by Marya Dmitrievna's enormous footman.
XVIII. Marya Dmitrievna scolds Natasha.
XIX. Pierre tells Natasha the truth about Anatole.
XX. Pierre finds Anatole. Anatole leaves Moscow.
XXI. Natasha's despair. Rumors. Prince Andrei comes to Moscow and learns everything. Meets Pierre coldly and asks him to return Natasha's letters and portrait to her.

Volume III

Part One

I. Thoughts about the causes of historical events.
II. Napoleon crosses the Niemen and invades Russia.
IV–VII. Balashov's meetings with Murat, Davout, and Napoleon.
VIII. Prince Andrei hunts for Anatole Kuragin. On Kutuzov's staff in Moldavia. Sent as envoy to Barclay de Tolly. Visits Bald Hills. Quarrels with father.
IX–XI. Prince Andrei at Russian general headquarters on the Drissa. The eight parties. He meets Piel. Attends an informal council of war in the emperor's presence. Asks the emperor's permission to serve in active army.
XII–XIII. Nikolai with the regiment. Writes to family and to Sonya. Nikolai and Ilyin in the rain. The tavern and Marya Genrikhovna.
XIV–XV. In action at Ostrovna. Nikolai leads a charge, takes a prisoner. Praised by his commander. His feeling of shame.
XVI. Natasha in Moscow. Physical and moral illness. The Rostovs stay for the summer.
XVII. Natasha and Pierre. She prepares for communion. The Peter and Paul feast.
XVIII. Natasha and her mother at a prayer service for the salvation of Russia.
XIX. Pierre interprets the Apocalypse.
XX. Pierre brings the Rostovs the emperor’s manifesto. Petya wants to enlist but the old count says no. Pierre decides to stop visiting the Rostovs.

XXI. Petya tries to meet the emperor. The crowd in the Kremlin. The old count gives in.


Part Two

I. Thoughts on the events of 1812 and on human freedom.


III. The old prince sends Alpatych to Smolensk. Finally reads Prince Andrei’s letter and understands the danger. Recollections.

IV. Alpatych in Smolensk. French bombardment. Alpatych meets Prince Andrei, who sends him back to Bald Hills with a note urging his father to leave at once.


VI. In Petersburg. Shifting opinions of Kutuzov in Anna Pavlovna’s circle. Kutuzov named commander in chief.

VII. The French advance on Moscow. Nikolai’s orderly Lavrushka taken prisoner. Napoleon’s talk with him, plus quotations from Thiers. Lavrushka freed.

VIII. Prior events at Bald Hills. The old prince refuses to leave. He has a stroke. They go to Bogucharovo. Reconciliations. Death of the old prince.

IX–XII. The French advance continues. Preparations to leave Bogucharovo. Troubles with the peasants. Princess Marya unable to leave. She remembers her father’s last words.

XIII–XIV. Nikolai, Ilyin, and Lavrushka happen onto Bogucharovo. Nikolai learns of the situation and meets Princess Marya. He deals firmly with the peasants. Princess Marya can leave. Sympathy between her and Nikolai.


XVII. Moscow as the French approach. Rastopchin’s posters. Julie’s farewell soirée.

XVIII. Pierre undecided. Witnesses a public flogging. Resolves to leave for the army in Mozhaisk. Learns of the battle of Shevardino on 24 August.

XIX. Thoughts on the battles of Shevardino and Borodino. Errors of the historians. Corrected map of the battlefield.

XX. Pierre leaves Mozhaisk for Borodino. Meets a convoy of wounded.

XXI. Pierre arrives in Gorki. He surveys the battlefield. The icon of the Smolensk Mother of God is brought. Prayer service. Kutuzov is there.


XXIII. The Russian disposition from Gorki to the extreme left flank.


XXVI. Napoleon on the eve of battle. “The king of Rome.” Napoleon’s proclamation to his troops.

XXVII. Napoleon’s disposition of his troops.

XXVIII. The unfathomable causes for the conduct and outcome of the battle.

XXIX. Napoleon drinks punch and talks with Rapp. He has a cold. At 5:30 a.m. the battle begins.

XXX. Pierre observes the battle from Gorki. He rides to the bridge over the Kolocha.

XXXI–XXXII. Pierre rides to the Raevsky redoubt. Among the artillerists. Around him the redoubt is taken and retaken.
XXXIII–XXXIV. Napoleon during the battle. His generals ask for reinforcements. He reflects on the difference between this battle and all his previous ones.


XXXVI. Prince Andrei’s regiment in reserve behind Semyonovskoe. Steady losses under artillery fire. Prince Andrei is wounded and taken to a dressing station.

XXXVII. Next to Prince Andrei a man has his leg amputated. Prince Andrei recognizes Anatole Kuragin. Pity and love.

XXXVIII. Napoleon looks at the bloody battlefield. A moment of insight. His later accounts of the battle.

XXXIX. Further reflections on the battle. Moral victory of the Russians.

Part Three

I. Achilles and the tortoise. The search for the laws of historical movement.

II. General reflections on the Russian retreat after Borodino and the role of the commander in chief.

III. Kutuzov and his generals on Poklonnaya Hill. Kutuzov’s inner debate.

IV. The council of war in a peasant’s cottage in Fili, viewed by the peasant’s little daughter. Kutuzov’s decision.

V. Thoughts on the abandoning and burning of Moscow. Rastopchin’s role.

VI–VII. Hélène in Petersburg. Two suitors. Her conversion to Catholicism. The question of remarriage. Bilbin’s views. She writes to Pierre.

VIII. Pierre after Borodino. Return to Mozhaisk with foot soldiers.

IX. Pierre’s recollections and dreams at night in Mozhaisk. Return to Moscow.


XII. The Rostovs in Moscow as the French approach. Late preparations for departure.

XIII. A convoy of wounded arrives. Natasha invites them to stay in their house.

XIV. The Rostovs packing. Another wounded man. He turns out to be Prince Andrei.

XV–XVII. Moscow’s last day. The wounded ask to leave in some of the Rostovs’ carts. A visit from Berg. Family conflict. Natasha insists that they unpack and give the carts to the wounded. Sonya discovers that Prince Andrei is in their train. They meet Pierre on their way out of Moscow.

XVIII. Pierre’s recent days in Bazdeev’s house. The mad Makar Alexeevich and the servant Gerasim. Pierre goes to buy a pistol.

XIX. The Russian troops leave Moscow. Napoleon on Poklonnaya Hill. Le ridicule.

XX. Moscow as an abandoned beehive.

XXI. Shops looted by departing Russian troops.

XXII. Mavra Kuzminishna helps a Rostov relative.

XXIII. Street scenes before the French arrive.

XXIV. Count Rastopchin in abandoned Moscow.

XXV. Count Rastopchin seeks a victim. He speaks to the mob. The killing of Vereshchagin. Rastopchin flees Moscow. His meeting with Kutuzov.

XXVI. The French enter Moscow. Moral collapse. Reflections on the burning of Moscow.

XXVII. Pierre at Bazdeev’s. His plan to assassinate Napoleon. Indecision. Makar Alexeevich gets hold of the pistol. French officers come in.

XXVIII. Pierre saves the French captain’s life. The captain befriends him.

XXIX. Pierre and Captain Ramballe talk over dinner. Pierre loses his resolve to kill Napoleon.

XXX. The glow of the first Moscow fires seen from Mytishchi, where the Rostovs have stopped.

XXXI. The Rostovs’ reactions to the burning of Moscow. Natasha has learned that Prince Andrei is with them. While the family sleeps, she goes to him.

XXXII. Prince Andrei’s inner state and thoughts in the days prior to seeing Natasha. Their meeting.

Summary

XXXIII–XXXIV. Napoleon during the battle. His generals ask for reinforcements. He reflects on the difference between this battle and all his previous ones.


XXXVI. Prince Andrei’s regiment in reserve behind Semyonovskoe. Steady losses under artillery fire. Prince Andrei is wounded and taken to a dressing station.

XXXVII. Next to Prince Andrei a man has his leg amputated. Prince Andrei recognizes Anatole Kuragin. Pity and love.

XXXVIII. Napoleon looks at the bloody battlefield. A moment of insight. His later accounts of the battle.

XXXIX. Further reflections on the battle. Moral victory of the Russians.

VOLUME IV

Part One

I. Court interests in Petersburg. A soirée at Anna Pavlovna’s. Hélène’s illness. Prince Vassily reads the metropolitan’s letter to the emperor.

II. Kutuzov’s dispatch from Borodino is received. Festive mood in Petersburg, then suspense. Death of Hélène. News of the abandoning of Moscow. The emperor’s rescript to Kutuzov.

III. Michaud comes to the emperor from Kutuzov. Their conversation.

IV–VI. Differing views of historic events. Nikolai is sent to Voronezh to buy horses. Evening at the governor’s. He learns that Princess Marya is in Voronezh. Matchmaking. Nikolai and Princess Marya meet.


VIII. The circumstances behind Sonya’s letter. The question of Prince Andrei’s recovery. Sonya remembers fortune-telling at Otradnoe.

IX. Pierre under arrest. Interrogation.


XI. Pierre witnesses the execution of five prisoners.


XIV–XV. Princess Marya goes to the Rostovs in Yaroslavl. Her love for Nikolai. Princess Marya and Sonya. Natasha takes Princess Marya to Prince Andrei. He is cold and distant.

XVI. Prince Andrei’s thoughts about death before and after Princess Marya’s arrival. His “awakening from life.”

Part Two

I–II. Thoughts on the causes of historical events. Analysis of Russian movements after abandoning Moscow. Napoleon’s letter to Kutuzov. Kutuzov’s reply.

III. Problems of command in the Russian army. The emperor’s letter to Kutuzov. A Cossack happens upon Murat’s army near Tarutino.


VIII–X. Commentary on Napoleon in Moscow. The emperor’s proclamations to the citizens. Looting and breakdown of discipline. Napoleon learns of the battle of Tarutino. Orders departure of the whole army.


XV. Kutuzov receives and refuses a second offer of peace from Napoleon. Praise of Dokhturov. He happens on the whole French army retreating down the Kaluga road. Word sent to headquarters.

XVI. The envoy finds Konovnitsyn. He reports to Kutuzov. Praise of Konovnitsyn.

XVII. Kutuzov’s thoughts during sleepless nights. He learns that the whole French army is in retreat. He praises God and weeps.

Part Three

I. Unusual character of the war of 1812. A national war.
II. Thoughts on partisan warfare.
III. Denisov and Dolokhov as partisan leaders.
IV. A messenger comes to Denisov. It is Petya Rostov. He stays with Denisov.
V. Denisov and Petya spy on a village where the French are camped. Tikhon Shcherbaty.
VI. Tikhon Shcherbaty’s story about capturing a Frenchman.
VII. Night in Denisov’s camp. Petya’s wish to take part in the raid. Sympathy with the captured French drummer boy.
VIII. Dolokhov arrives. His stern simplicity and Petya’s admiration.
IX. In French uniforms, Dolokhov and Petya visit the village and come back safely.
XI. The attack on the French. Petya ignores Dolokhov’s warning and is killed. The French taken and the Russian prisoners freed. Pierre is among them.
XII. Pierre’s recent days with the prisoners. Karataev’s illness. Pierre’s reaction.
XIII. Karataev’s story.
XIV. The convoy moves on, but Karataev stays behind. A shot. Karataev’s dog howls.
XV. Pierre’s thoughts and memories. The raid and liberation. Petya’s burial.
XVI–XVII. General remarks about the French retreat. Berthier’s report to Napoleon. The movements of the two armies during the final period of the war.
XVIII. Critique of French historical accounts of the retreat. Greatness and heroism reconsidered.
XIX. Critique of Russian historical accounts.

Part Four

I. Natasha and Princess Marya after Prince Andrei’s death. Natasha’s memories.
II. The Rostovs learn of Petya’s death. Natasha looks after her mother.
III. Friendship of Natasha and Princess Marya. They go to Moscow together.
IV. With the Russian army after Vyazma. Kutuzov’s consistency. Conflicts with his generals.
V. Defense of Kutuzov.
VI. Kutuzov addresses his troops at Krasnoe.
VII–IX. Life in a Russian infantry camp at Krasnoe. Captain Ramballe and his orderly Morel are brought in. Morel teaches the Russians a French song.
X. The crossing of the Berezina. Dissatisfaction with Kutuzov at court. He goes to Vilno. Meeting with the emperor.
XI. Kutuzov gives a dinner and ball for the emperor. His opposition to continuing the war in Europe. He is replaced as commander in chief. His death foretold.
XII–XIII. Pierre falls ill in Orel. His joyful feeling of freedom and its effect on others. He returns to Moscow.
XIV. Rebirth of Moscow.
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Part One


Part Two

I–XII. Reflections on history and historians, greatness and power, freedom and necessity.

Summary