

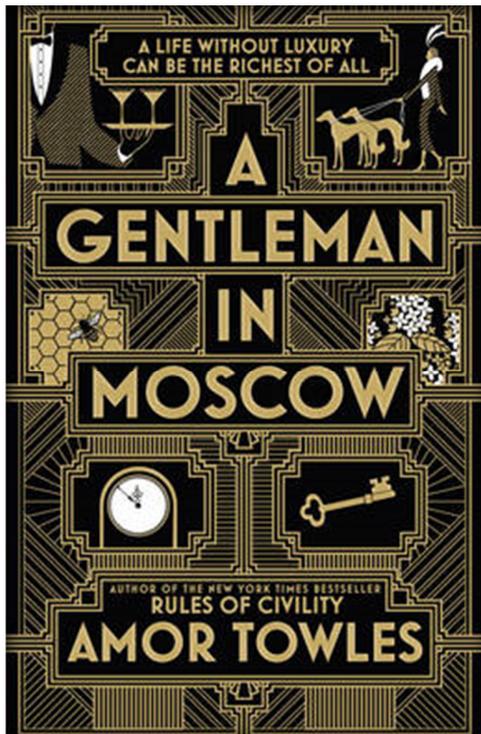


Helping you choose  
your next book



## LoveReading Reader reviews of **A Gentleman In Moscow** by Amor Towles

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



**Phyllippa Smithson**

*This is one of the most elegantly written stories I have ever read. Oozing quick paced humour and wonderfully real characters.*

*The Count was born, Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov and in 1922 he was brought before an internal affairs committee targeted at removing the threat of the aristocracy as the socialist era took effect – early 1920s. The good news is that, unlike many of his breeding, he was not executed. The bad news is that he is forced to relinquish his freedom and face confinement in The Metrople Hotel, Moscow where he had in fact been living in on the most luxurious suites.*

*In embracing the terms set, which also included him being transferred to a tiny attic room big enough for him, a bed and a table, Towles creates a character who is totally engaging – The Count. This is not just as a result of the antics he gets up to with both the staff at the Hotel and some of those people from his non-captive life, but key is in his use of such wonderful prose which is both perfectly pitched and incredibly humorous.*

*One of those books you desperately want to read but never want to finish, I never appreciated the Russians had such a British sense of humour nor had I really fully had opportunity to think about what socialism meant to the Russian aristocracy in the early days.*

*My hope now is that Towles is working on a sequel as I am not sure I could possibly live without The Count in my life.*

## **Ann Peet**

***A surprising, intriguing and perceptive story of life in Russia from the 1920s to the 1950s.***

*The gentleman of the title is Count Rostov and the story starts in 1922 when he is placed in what amounts to house arrest in a small attic room in the Metropol Hotel in Moscow. We then follow his life, the people he meets and his philosophical musings over the next four decades. **Words such as ingenious, whimsical, unusual could all be applied to this well written novel.** The vast changes in Russian society during this period are viewed from the perspective of an aristocrat confined to the hotel. It is a different and rather bizarre story that succeeds because of the quality of the writing. And as a bonus the hardback is also a beautifully produced book with a most attractively designed cover in black and gold.*

## **Catherine Bryce**

*In 1922's Moscow, the well-decorated Count Alexander Rostov is suddenly sentenced to house arrest having to give up the comforts of life he enjoys such as his expensive suite within the luxurious Metropol Hotel itself to house arrest in an attic room of the same hotel. The Count then begins adapt to his new surroundings and commences to live the fullest of lives with the aid of various people within the hotel whilst at the same time discovering himself.*

*Here he strives to bring a routine of normality as best he can by forming relationships with the hotel staff, examining the remainder of the large attic, seeking the attention of beautiful women, especially the relationship that he makes with Nina and surprisingly becoming a waiter within the hotel. All happening inside the hotel whilst outside in the world the most turbulent decades ever to face Russia for the next four decades are taking place.*

*As time passes the Count begins to loosen his aristocratic view on life regarding privileges and class and accepts what really matters in life are human feelings such as devotion and generosity.*

***The book itself is a brilliant read, covering many genres and the author keeps the flow of humour throughout the book.*** Attention to detail by the author is excellent as he introduces the reader to the various characters in the book thus making it a thoroughly pleasurable and enjoyable read whilst combining the characters with the Count's ventures to gain a profound understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.

*A really enjoyable good read!*

### **Angie Rhodes**

*I will be honest and say, I did wonder how a novel about a Russian Count being held in house arrest would be interesting, but I have to say, I loved it. Starting on June 21 1922, Count Alexander Rostov, Master of the Hunt, member of the Jockey Club, and recipient of the Order of Saint Andrew, is escorted from his elegant rooms in the Hotel Metropol and taken to an attic room, and held under house arrest.*

*His crime? Poetry, or more what the poems say,*

*While in there, he has time to think and to realise that without all the trappings that define his life there is more to himself than he had realised.*

*With the friendship of a glamorous actress, a very serious child and a very grumpy chef, he discovers an understanding of life, one with a purpose.*

***'A Gentleman in Moscow', is a beautiful book, one that once you walk through the Hotel's doors, you will not want to check out.***

### **Pauline Braisher**

*This wasn't the type of book I normally read but I am so glad I put myself forward to review it. The book is set in post-Revolution Russia and is the whimsical, sweet story about a Russian Aristocrat placed under house arrest in Moscow's premier hotel. However, it's also a tale of love, loyalty and betrayal and how sometimes bad things can turn into good ones if you have a positive outlook on life. There are plenty of insights into human nature, both in the descriptions of the characters and in the author's asides. The footnotes, which are sensibly placed at the end of the paragraph to which they refer, give an insight into life in Russia over a period of 40 years. The book is **beautifully written** although not all the characters have depth to them.*

*I did struggle with the book at the beginning because I felt the narrative was too wordy in parts and the story wasn't moving along quickly enough - it was too easy to get bogged down. However, once the pace picked up I couldn't put the book down and when it came, the ending was a total surprise.*

***In summary, I loved this book, will recommend it to friends and will happily read other novels by Amor Towles.***

## **Helen Lowry**

*I loved this book and am grateful for the opportunity to read it. **Being a lover of historical fiction, it was a pleasure to read. But there is so much more to this novel than just history.** Our main character, Count Alexander Rostov, is someone you would be happy to sit next to for seven hours crossing the Atlantic.*

*Moscow is a troubled city after the revolution, and the Count is a citizen of the old aristocracy and now under house arrest, for life, in a plush hotel called The Metropol. One day he is moved from his lavish suite to a much smaller room, but he takes it all in his stride. He even has the company of a one-eyed cat, who seems to understand him!*

*There he begins to look at life a little differently. A hotel is always bustling with people and the Count is a genial fellow and makes friends easily, including Nina, a nine-year-old, who knows more about the hotel than anyone. The old handyman and the honey from his bees. Simple pleasures but wonderful experiences no less.*

*The Count tries to make the most of his imprisonment, and it is this strength of character that sees him through every day. He also lets us see a city going through great changes, some good, some not so good.*

***Beautifully written and highly recommended.***

## **Clare Wilkins**

*Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov is a 'Former Person', an aristocrat sentenced to indefinite house arrest at Moscow's grand Metropol Hotel. Whilst death, famine and upheaval characterise the Soviet landscape, Rostov leads a life of casual decadence in albeit, reduced circumstances. Turned out of his elegant suite by the new Bolshevik regime, Rostov begins decades of internment in an abandoned room in the hotel's Belfry.*

*Restless, separated from his opulent trappings of wealth, he almost imperceptibly starts to fade until he meets Nina Kulikova, a child being raised in the hotel in the care of a governess. Nina opens Rostov's eyes to the intimate workings of the hotel and becomes an indispensable companion. Along with seamstress Marina, Chef Emile, Maître'd, Andrey and beguiling actress Anna they form a patchwork family. Yet it is only when Nina briefly returns years later leaving her child, Sofia, in Rostov's care that his desultory existence assumes real purpose. As Sofia grows up and her musical talent provides an*

*opportunity to travel, an audacious plan to escape begins to form in the redoubtable Count's mind.*

*A glittering and diverse support cast offset the claustrophobic confines of the hotel walls and Rostov's charm weaves a thread through the decades. This is a book laced with lavish detail and peppered with cute literary references. Quick-witted and precise, the author conjures a beautiful sense of time and place and in a grim and unrelenting era the world of the Metropol feels utterly and irresistibly decadent.*

*'Life will entice, after all'. Indeed.*

***Quick-witted, precise and irresistibly decadent. Alexander Rostov's internment at the Hotel Metropol is a picture of faded elegance and charm against a backdrop of Soviet-era upheaval.***

### **Ray Orgill**

*Count Rostov has been very much one of the great and the good in pre-revolutionary Russia. His world had consisted of fine dining, luxurious living and association with all the right thinking people. He was permanently resident in a fine suite in the Hotel Metropol.*

*Suddenly it is all gone. He is put before a Bolshevik tribunal charged with seditious writings and is found guilty. His sentence is to return to the Metropol but to a small and dingy attic, to live in penury for the rest of his life. This does not, as expected, break the Count but rather he uses his skills with people, especially the common people, to make life as comfortable and rewarding as he can. **This is brilliant, descriptive writing.***

### **Janet Monks**

*As the title suggests this novel is about a gentleman in Moscow, one who is sentenced to spend the remainder of his life in the Metropol Hotel, to become a Former Person.*

*Having read and enjoyed Amor Towles' 'Rules of Civility', I was looking forward to reading his latest novel - although admittedly I expected to find a colder perhaps darker novel. I couldn't have been more wrong because the Count is sentenced to house arrest in a wonderful hotel in the heart of Moscow. He is moved to an attic room and yet it is the making of his life. Within the four walls the characters, from a chef who is depressed early morning to a curious*

child, a glamorous actress and later visitors from Europe and America all create an atmosphere of warmth, intrigue and fun. There are also visitors from the Kremlin, some of them heroes in their own small way. **The backdrop of the post-revolution City, the Second World War, and the rule of Stalin contrasts with the energy and life within the Metropol Hotel. I really didn't want to leave....**

### **Linda Amos**

*The cover is quite sumptuous. In gold and white on black it looks like a 1920s art deco door. Opening the door we meet Count Alexander Rostov on his way back from a meeting with the Bolsheviks. Before the meeting an aristocrat; the recipient of honours; a man of breeding, wealth and position. After the meeting all he has left is his breeding, memories and a few family heirlooms. He is under house arrest in the Metropol Hotel, a non-person, and is moved from his suite of rooms which befitted his old life to an attic room on the top floor under the roof of the hotel which befits his new.*

*So what does someone do all day in a hotel they cannot leave? He meets Nina and a film star. He teaches diplomatic skills to a member of the Politburo. He meets Americans. He becomes head waiter and imparts his knowledge of wines. These skills serve him in good stead at an historic dinner attended by the party elite of the USSR.*

*We travel from the 1920s to the 1950s. There are a few moments when the hardships experienced by some of the aristocrats are sharply drawn. This is not an edge of the seat book but it is **a beautifully written historical story and a love affair with individual growth, accepting what life throws you and making the best of it. I thoroughly enjoyed it.***

### **Sarah Jones**

***Enthralling and captivating. Fantastic writing with a wonderful plot. Read it!***

*Count Alexander Rostov is forced by the Bolsheviks to live in the attic rooms of the Hotel Metropol in Russia 1922. Although this sounds dull, life for the Count is anything but and he finds himself caught up in a whole new world.*

*Fantastic writing, with an utterly believable and bewitching cast and setting. I found myself completely drawn into the world and living every moment along with the Count. Luckily it is a long book as I didn't want it end. I wanted to stay*

*in the Metropol forever! Absolutely wonderful!*

### **Sue Broom**

***With plenty of literary references, quirky characters and atmosphere, I can recommend this book to fans of historical fiction with a twist of whimsy.***

*Narrowly escaping execution or the work camps of Siberia by virtue of his poetry, Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced by the revolutionary authorities in 1922 to permanent house arrest in his current home, the swanky Metropol Hotel. Slap in the centre of Moscow, the hotel entertains the great and the good, and the not-so-good, giving the gregarious, resourceful and above all utterly charming Alexander the chance to observe at one remove the changes taking place in his country. Over three decades he comes to reflect on his own and his country's history and to re-evaluate his place in its future.*

*Terrifically well written (if a little long in my opinion), with plenty of literary references, quirky characters and atmosphere, I can recommend this book to fans of historical fiction with a twist of whimsy. Alexander's slightly surreal escapades with 9-year-old Nina reminded me of 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' so if you are as big a fan of that film as I am, this would definitely appeal to you.*

### **Alexandra Harper-Williams**

***What a terrific book: insightful, charming, funny and heart-warming, you won't want to put it down!***

*The first word that comes to my mind to describe this novel is charming.*

*A Russian Count is sentenced to spending his life in captivity at the prestigious Metropol Hotel in Moscow. But this change in his circumstances is no fall from grace, as he faces life with a positive attitude of making the most of it at all times.*

*He never complains and builds up a new life entirely different to how it had been before.*

*I absolutely loved this book from the beginning to the last page. It enhanced my mood and made me feel positive and relaxed. At the same time, it is very poignant and sometimes devastatingly sad. Life in all its facets.*

***A real gem!***

## **Vanessa Wild**

***A beautifully written, quirky and thought provoking story.***

*This captivating and philosophical story begins in 1922, spans over 30 odd years and is set, as the title suggests, in Moscow. Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov has been tried and sentenced to remain indefinitely in the Hotel Metropol, not in his luxurious bedroom suite there but in an attic room, for the heinous crime of being an aristocrat.*

*This is not a plot driven tale, its more character based. The Count meets many fascinating and memorable individuals, including a one-eyed cat and some absconding geese! I found it a slow burner at first as it took me a little time to become immersed in the story. There are moments of hilarity and amusement, but also times of sadness and poignancy. It's beautifully written, quirky and thought provoking, almost fairy-tale like in style. It has something to tell us about life, ourselves and the planet we live on. The descriptions of the Count's life in the hotel are wonderful. I almost felt I was there with him in his claustrophobic world and there is a great sense of time and place. It also has such a clever ending. I loved it!*

*Incidentally, I don't know much about Russian history but after reading this book, I feel I have gained some knowledge as I often found myself googling certain facts.*

*A fantastic piece of compelling and engaging historical fiction which I have no hesitation in recommending.*

You can follow Vanessa on Twitter: @Butterflybiblio

## **Humaira**

***'A Gentleman in Moscow' is just oozing glamour and sophistication. Alexander Rostov is character I won't be forgetting anytime soon.***

*The book was a bit of a long winded read, but eventually when I finished I realised that it was a good thing that I took my time and savoured Amor Towles words, because they beyond brilliant. The story aside, the dust jacket is to die for; the gold finish makes it more glamorous which adds to the plot. Alexander Rostov is character I won't be forgetting anytime soon.*

## **Carolyn Huckfield**

***'This Gentleman of Moscow' keeps his sense of humour and love of***

***the ridiculous throughout his changes in fortune.***

*Alexander is truly a gentleman with bags of charm as he learns wisdom and contentment.*

*It is 1922 and Count Alexander Rostov is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel. We follow his life for the next four decades when Russia changes out of all recognition. He keeps his sense of humour and love of the ridiculous through all of his changes in fortune .Alexander is truly a gentleman with bags of charm and he never loses his sense of the ridiculousness of his life. He learns wisdom and contentment in situations he cannot control. Scenes from the past are told painting a rich portrait of privileged living for those lucky to be born into the right families. We then see the developing growth of the communist state, which lacks the colour and fun that the rich used to enjoy. The Hotel Metropol is portrayed in glorious detail. The book gives you time to create an image of the hotel in your mind and you meet both fictitious and historical characters. Alexander lives through the decades by not considering that he is a prisoner but is just a long term resident of the hotel. Later on in the story from out of the blue there are some gripping scenes when the Count finally tries to break free from his captivity. This gentleman of Moscow keeps his sense of humour and love of the ridiculous throughout his changes in fortune .Alexander is truly a gentleman with bags of charm. He learns wisdom and contentment in situations he cannot control.*

**Glenda Worth**

***‘A Gentleman in Moscow’ is an intriguing look at Russia's history during the revolution. The cruelty and hardships taking a backseat to Count Rostov's enjoyment of his incarceration at Hotel Metropol.***

*‘A Gentleman in Moscow’ by Amor Towles was sent to me by Lovereading pre-publication to read and review. A large heavy hardback about Russia - I was apprehensive but need not have been as I really enjoyed reading about the life of Count Rostov during his house arrest.*

*Having been out of the country when the revolution began the escaped being executed. However on his return ended up in court deemed an 'unrepentant aristocrat'? His sentence was to live for the rest of his life in The Hotel Metropol and to lose all his wealth and lifestyle.*

*The book tells us his story but with a lot of history thrown in of Russia at the time, from the perspective of a hotel trying to survive with a lack of food and the*

*regime imposed on them all.*

*Rostov considers himself one of the lucky ones and integrates into hotel life even when he is forced to leave his luxurious suite and ends up in former staff quarters. He makes the best of this and meets many people from all walks of life, helping some, hindering others, but all in all enjoying his incarceration as much as he can.*

*Not an easy read at times with copious notes at the bottom of some of the pages to digest alongside the text, but an interesting insight into the soviet world at this troubled time.*

### **Dana Captainino**

*The blurb on the cover does not do justice to this quite brilliant book – ‘A Gentleman in Moscow’.*

*Yes it is the amazing story of Count Alexander Rostov and his 40 years in exile confined to the Metropol Hotel. The Count was deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal but the reality is much more complex.*

*The characters he meets are quirky and warm and we get a real sense of their richness mirrored by the vivid descriptions of the hotel which is a character in its own right. The staff and the guests alike are embroiled in the Count's story - the serious child, the lovable child, the famous actress, the chef, the hairdresser, are all part of the story.*

*But just as important is the insight gained into an intriguing period of Russian history - its political turmoil, changes and hardship along with the sheer determination to develop, grow and both honour and criticise the cultural and wider regime.*

***I learnt a lot from this book. It is both entertaining, informing and thought provoking. The writing is superb and I have no doubt that it will receive literary recognition. ‘A Gentleman in Moscow’ certainly deserves it. Wonderful.***

### **Nicki Southwell**

*Count Alexander Rostov is condemned, by the Bolshevik tribunal. His crime was writing incisive poetry which leads to house arrest in the attic of The Hotel Metropol in Moscow. This prominent establishment is within sight of the Kremlin.*

*He has his possessions moved from his hotel suite, to a storage room, thus only the most important items could be kept. Rostov has never worked a day in his life, so his new circumstances take a great deal of getting used to. His journey is to discover a new sense of purpose – something he hasn't had to consider before. The opportunity to look and listen makes him appreciative of what he had.*

***I loved the character himself and found that his interaction and dialogue with others was brilliantly written.*** *I am not surprised that there are so many high scoring reviews, and I can only add to them. What a gentleman indeed.*

*I chose to read this book and all opinions in this review are all my own and completely unbiased. My thanks to Lovereading for this opportunity.*

### **Evelyn Love-Gajardo**

*This is a long, literary book with an unusual premise, the idea that someone could be placed under permanent house arrest in a grand hotel.*

*The book is set in Moscow from 1922 to 1954, a time of great change in Russia. The main character is Count Alexander Rostov, a man of elegance and charm, who finds his own way to survive the sentence imposed on him for writing a poem considered to be against the political regime when he returns to Russia in 1922 .Because his last permanent address was the Metropole Hotel, he is sentenced to remain there for the rest of his life. However, the book is about so much more than that and the story is told in a succession of tales and events involving a group of characters who develop as the story unfolds.*

***It is a beautifully written and often poignant story, but it is also humorous in parts and ultimately very uplifting.*** *Not a book to read in short bursts, so maybe not holiday reading but definitely memorable.*

### **Rosie Watch**

*Count Rostov, a true gentleman in every sense. What a character, definitely one that you would want on your '10 guests you would like to ask for dinner' list.*

*The sub title on the cover 'a life without luxury can be the richest of all' is however, quite misleading. If you are going to be arrested and punished by The people's commissariat for internal affairs, then a life time under house arrest in the Metropol, is definitely the punishment of choice. It is hard to feel too sorry for him when he is sitting sipping a grand cru burgundy after a day of wining and dining, a little trip to the barbers and some congenial company is not too*

*hard to take from where I am sitting.*

*The book certainly captures the characters beautifully and the rich description really brings them to life. The count is such a gracious man. His serious conversations with the young, the courting couples and his infinite politeness with everyone he encounters including the hotel staff, makes him such a likeable character. Towles has a beautiful way of writing that describes everything in such exact detail, the furniture, the meals and the clothes. As the book spans the years, the changes are subtle and cleverly written and mark the passing of time in such a subtle way.*

*In many ways the book is quite insular with the everyday running of the hotel and its guests. It is therefore more surprising and memorable when there are references to the Russian Revolution, the state of the poor in Moscow and the characters that bring the outside world to him.*

***A wonderful story with a real sense of history and drama.***

### **Les Wood**

***Highly descriptive of a Counts inconvenienced everyday life.***

***Sorry but this is just not for me.*** *Whilst the writing and descriptions are very good I am not one for reading, for example, a three page description of someone walking to the hairdressers (the actual haircut and in between conversation is detailed separately). So, at the end of 462 pages, I did still wonder what the writer was trying to convey; it was all beyond me. Other than the obvious landmarks and titles it could have been set anywhere. I have no knowledge of Russian history other than fiction that I have read, all of which convey a totally different picture of how dissidents etc were dealt with; prisons certainly were not grand hotels. I'm sure that Gulag occupants would have volunteered for this type of incarceration; it was unfortunately a type of punishment for me to persevere with this novel.*

### **Linde Merrick**

*This interesting novel is set in post-Revolution Russia and follows the adventures of the former aristocrat, Count Alexander Rostov, during his indefinite house arrest in Moscow's premier hotel. With the friendship of a very serious child, a glamorous actress and a very grumpy chef, he is able to give a sense of purpose to his very different way of life. There is a great sense of time and place and the vast changes in Russian society during this period form a*

*well-documented backdrop to the Count's existence. **The novel takes time to engage one's attention fully but eventually becomes totally absorbing and has an intriguing, clever ending.** It is a different sort of historical novel to many with the inclusion of historical footnotes but it succeeds due to the quality of Amor's writing.*

### **Paul Garland**

***This is an intriguing story set in the early days of the Bolsheviks in Russia about a true gentleman restricted to living under house arrest in a hotel whilst maintaining sanity and humour.***

*In 1922 the Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov is sentenced by the Bolshevik Committee of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs to house arrest at the Moscow Hotel Metropol for being an aristocrat and writing a poem in 1913. However, not content to allow him to live in the grand manner he was used to they crammed him into a small room in the attic of the hotel formerly used by servants. Despite having to squeeze a small selection of his furniture and books into a very restricted space and not able to leave the hotel on pain of death the Count manages to maintain his strict routines. Then a nine years old girl, Nina, who is also restricted to the hotel, enters his life by just joining him at dinner in the hotel restaurant and asking him why he had removed his moustache. Nina expands the Count's world by showing him all the 'out of the way' places in the hotel. Their lives become entwined until Nina grows up and leaves Rostov's life.*

*Rostov continues his life much as before making friends both in and out of the hotel until Nina returns, only briefly, to leave her daughter, Sophia, for Rostov to look after for a few months. Life takes on a new meaning and Rostov is tasked to raise Sophia and enlists the help of the chef, the concierge, the maître d' and the seamstress and he becomes a member of the hotel staff.*

*Sophia, of course, grows up and becomes a renowned pianist. This is where I became concerned about how Towles would end the story without the sudden stop often found in this type of tale. I was pleased to find that the ending was different but I am not going to say how. That would spoil it!*

*I found this book a most enjoyable and intriguing story.*

### **Ffion Evans**

***Informative, insightful and immersive. An unforgettable read that leaves its mark upon your literary soul.***

*A novel that is intricately woven with depth and accuracy that makes the words lift off of the page in a swirl and encompass and enthrall you. As it is spread over four decades, the novel draws you in and you become invested in Count Roskov's life and story, making it difficult to put down or forget. It is the perfect piece of fictional history loaded with footnotes to aid the reader and references to the cultures of the time. Whilst the novel keeps at a leisurely pace that becomes like an old friend; the final chapters slowly builds and builds with mystery, intrigue and suspense. Until it crashes leaving you holding your breath in anticipation for the ending. It is a novel that stays with you once you close the final page and leaves you with many questions floating around your head.*

You can follow Ffion on Twitter: @FfionJEvans

### **Victoria Emerson**

*I thought this was a fantastic book. I personally adore stories set in Russia and this was no exception. The story follows Count Alexander Rostov and how his life changes when he is placed under house arrest.*

***I found it to be a wonderfully rich story and atmosphere and I found Count Rostov completely charming.***

### **Tania**

*In 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amor Towles, Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced by a Bolshevik tribunal to house arrest and to live the rest of his life in the Hotel Metropol. Instead of going back to his suite where he has been living all this time, he is given a small room in the attic. He is stripped of all his luxury possessions. The story begins in the 1920s and we will follow Alexander's life for the next few decades. Count Rostov will make a new life for himself at the hotel Metropol, making friends with an actress, a child, members of staff and guests of the hotel and eventually getting a job there. The book about friendship is **a pleasure to read and difficult to put down.***

### **Cathy Small**

*Count Alexander Rostov had the life that was evidenced, all the luxuries, he has travelled but one fateful night that changed his life forever gave him a better life than he could imagine. Count Rostov was sentenced to house arrest in the*

*Metropol Hotel following a visit to the Kremlin. He is immediately removed to the smallest room in the hotel with only a handful of luxuries allowed. He doesn't see how to can possibly cope but his life changes for the better thank you to meeting a young girl who opens up the hotel to him and shares her special sights. He meets an actress who brings a new meaning to his life and he makes friends with many of the staff as he continues his life. Whilst we see Alexander make a new life for himself, we also hear the Russian history that shows that the decision to put him under house arrest was the best outcome for him. **An enjoyable story that takes you through many emotions** but always on the side of Count Rostov.*