



“Crime and Punishment” is Fyodor Dostoevsky’s legendary novel. A shocking and gripping story of murder, remorse and ultimate redemption: some say a reflection into the Russian psyche.

Radisson Sonya’s interior design draws inspiration from the novel’s themes, transformation being the central idea. The novel’s story centers around Rodion Raskolnikov who begins by murdering an old lady and is subsequently saved from descending into a moral abyss by Sophia “Sonya” Marmeladova, a sweet middle class girl forced into prostitution to save her family from bankruptcy. The hotel attempts to re-create the novel’s depth and drama through its interiors to make your experience surprising, intriguing, and unpredictable.

Look no further than the lobby and its Reception desk. Just as the saintly Sonya bore the burdens of Raskolnikov’s tortured life notice the Reception desk appears to float on air. It is supported by a group of upside down Matrioshka dolls, a tiny red colored doll at each end seeming to bear the full weight of the structure.

Raskolikoff’s transformation goes from murderer to a reformed man, largely thanks to the sweet solicitations of his great love Sonya, who despite her profession, typifies many of the qualities of the Virgin Mary. Her character was most likely shaped by Dostoevsky’s fascination with Rafael’s painting “the Sistine Madonna” which he apparently went to see five times in his life. Sit long enough in the Metamorfos Restaurant and you will notice the images of the Madonna morphing into Dostoyevsky and then Rafael. This fascination continues in every guest room where the artwork above the beds showcases a specific section of this painting.

These are just a sample of the many overt and subtle references throughout the hotel to “Crime and Punishment”. We hope you will enjoy the individuality of Radisson Sonya and its uniquely Russian atmosphere.

