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The Winter Queen (Erast Fandorin)



Synopsis

Moscow, May 1876: What would cause a talented young student from a wealthy family to shoot himself in front of a promenading public in the Alexander Gardens? Decadence and boredom, most likely, is what the commander of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Moscow Police thinks, but still he finds it curious enough to send the newest member of the division, Erast Fandorin, a young man of irresistible charm, to the Alexander Gardens precinct for more information. Fandorin is not satisfied with the conclusion that this is an open-and-shut case, nor with the preliminary detective work the precinct has done—and for good reason: The bizarre and tragic suicide is soon connected to a clear case of murder, witnessed firsthand by Fandorin. There are many unresolved questions. Why, for instance, have both victims left their fortunes to an orphanage run by the English Lady Astair? And who is the beautiful A.B., whose signed photograph is found in the apparent suicide's apartment? Relying on his keen intuition, the eager sleuth plunges into an investigation that leads him across Europe, landing him at the deadly center of a terrorist conspiracy of worldwide proportions. In this thrilling mystery that brings nineteenth-century Russia to vivid life, Akunin has created one of the most eagerly anticipated novels in years. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grabs you in the first chapter and doesn't let go. Jamrs Bond meets Sherlock Holmes meets Dan Brown - all in 1876 Moscow and Europe. Humor, Suspense and international intrigue expertly woven.

It is an interesting read but not anything unusual. The main characters are interesting and different. Overall the book is a quick read.

By the time one is finished reading The winter Queen, there is an abrupt cliff.

Great book. A lot of characters with Russian names, have to concentrate to keep track. The main character always gets out of desperate situations and lives to fight another day!

Excellent translation of renowned Russian Author Boris Akunin, first in series of "Erast Fandorin"

I'm not sure why Francis J. McInerney panned this book but compared with much of what passes for mystery novels today it was great. Historical novels always have the danger of not maintaining the period they exist in. Akunin knows what Russian life was like near the end of the monarchy-he captured it with a true feeling. I'm sure some of the nuances were lost but the translation was remarkable - I had a Russian friend read sections, she was very familiar with the novel. As a fan of this genre I look forward to more translated novels - maybe even a TV series like other European detectives.

I love the character development in this book! And I really could not predict the end of the book.

Amazing book. You will read this book for 1 day. It's hard to stop reading this story.

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