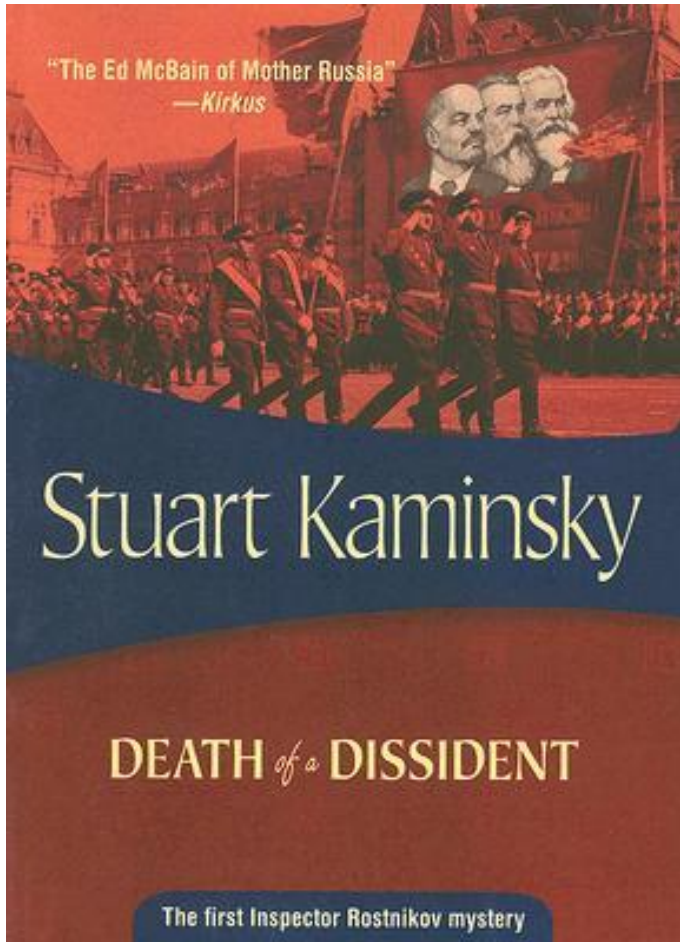

Stuart M. Kaminsky

Death of a Dissident (Porfiry Rostnikov #1)



Title: Death of a Dissident (Porfiry Rostnikov #1)

Author: Stuart M. Kaminsky

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Description

Inspector Porfiry Rostnikov has a lot on his plate. His superiors in the Moscow police force are suspicious of his Jewish wife, the black-market copies of his beloved Ed McBain ?87th Precinct? novels are getting tough to find, and his dreams of becoming a competitive weight-lifter are receding at a rapid clip. And then there's the famous dissident who's been murdered right before his trial?a trial intended to showcase the wonders of the Soviet judicial system. Rostnikov is charged with finding the killer, but the arrest had better be politically convenient, acceptable to the KGB. And things only get trickier when the killer strikes again, displaying a fondness for weapons?a hammer, a sickle, a vodka bottle?with a particularly Russian resonance. Clearly, he's making a statement, but what exactly is he saying? And can Rostnikov stop him before he says it again?

Insightful reviews

Lisa: The Inspector Rostnikov novels start in the waning years of the Soviet Union with "Death of a Dissident" and follow the main characters through the transition to a post-communist society. Porfiry Petrovich Rostnikov (who shares his first and middle names with the police inspector in "Crime and Punishment") leads a group of police detectives slogging through murders, robberies, arsons and the like, while dodging the political ambitions of the higher-ups and working within a broken system as best they can, which often isn't very effectively at all. They develop as professionals and as people through out the series, which also gives an accurate, intimate look at daily life in a changing Russia. Intertwining plots, a host of interesting characters and a spot-on look at corruption and politics lift this sometimes gritty, sometimes hopeful series above the fray.

Kris: I've read most of Martin Cruz Smith's Arkady Renko series (Gorky Park, Polar Star, etc.) and I hope Kaminsky's books give as good a picture of the hopeless situation Soviet-era police found themselves in. I've read a couple of Kaminsky's Toby Peters books (Murder on the Yellow Brick Road and, I think, He Done Her Wrong) and enjoyed them.

After reading

This was a pretty good book, and did a good job of showing what the Soviet Union was like toward its last days - the tendency of many to just give up, not try to improve their lives, and just try to stay under the radar of the KGB. There is also the characters' awareness of how saying the wrong thing, having the wrong friends, even being in the wrong place at the wrong time, could lead to a knock on the door at 3 a.n., followed by a trip to KGB headquarters. Rostnikov is told by his superior, and by a KGB colonel, that sometimes there are more important things than finding out who actually committed the murder; of course Rostnikov, as a policeman, a detective, and a solver of puzzles, has a hard time letting go of the mystery, even after the KGB has "found the killer".

We are introduced to the killer fairly early in the book, so the "whodunit" part of the novel isn't difficult to figure out; the book is more enjoyable for - as I've mentioned - its glimpse into late-Cold War Russia.

Valerie: Excellent!!

Jason Reeser: It took me a short while to get into this yet i finished up having fun with it relatively a bit. i admire the fashion and the characters; the plot used to be okay. i'll be interpreting extra within the series. It has nice potential.

Pat: this can be the second one time i've got learn this book. (Yes, this sequence is that good). Unfortunately, Stuart Kaminsky gave up the ghost and that i love the solid of characters in his Rostinkov series. So, i made a decision i might re-read the series. Hey, whilst the characters are this good, it really is like catching up with outdated friends!

Clearwater Public Library Staff Picks: the most personality of this series, Inspector Rostnikov, is the main lovable Russian detective ever. you'll prove loving him and his family, simply because Stuart Kaminsky makes them so actual and accessible. My basically remorse is that Mr. Kaminsky has kicked the bucket and won't be scripting this awesome and beautiful sequence any longer. it is a nice view into lifestyles in Communist Russia and what that implies for it really is humans and it is criminals!

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