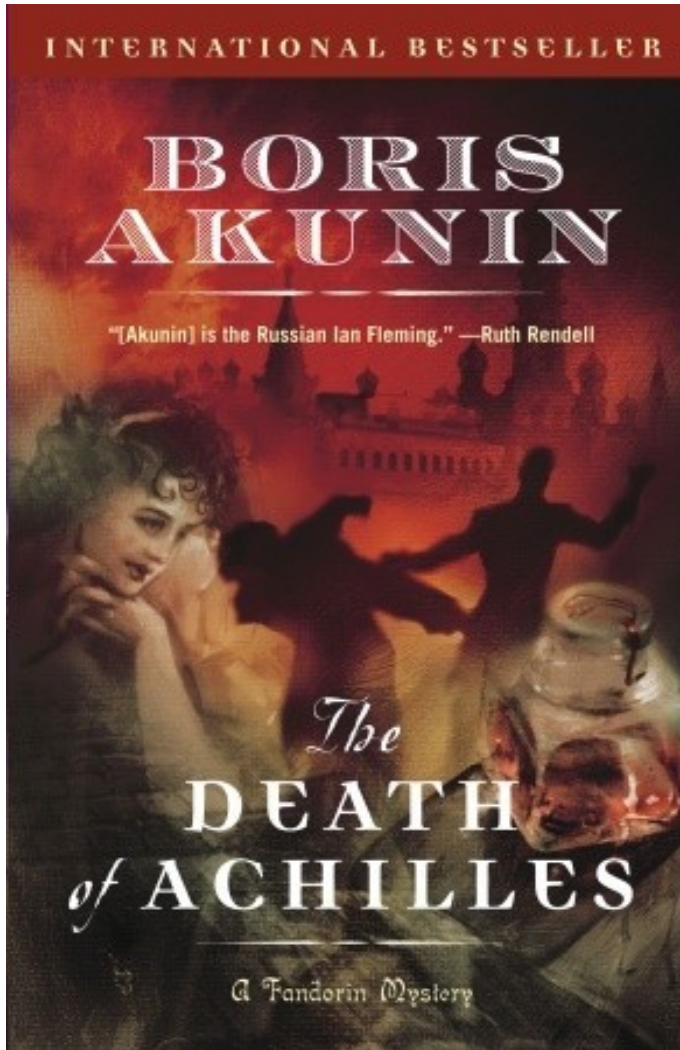


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**Boris Akunin**

**The Death of Achilles (Erast Fandorin Mysteries #4)**



Title: The Death of Achilles (Erast Fandorin Mysteries #4)

Author: Boris Akunin

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## Description

In 1882, after six years of foreign travel and adventure, renowned diplomat and detective Erast Fandorin returns to Moscow in the heart of Mother Russia. His Moscow homecoming is anything but peaceful. In the hotel where he and his loyal if impertinent manservant Masa are staying, Fandorin's old war-hero friend General Michel Sobolev ("Achilles" to the crowd) has been found dead, felled in his armchair by an apparent heart attack. But Fandorin suspects an unnatural cause. His suspicions lead him to the boudoir of the beautiful singer—"not exactly a courtesan"—known as Wanda. Apparently, in Wanda's bed, the general secretly breathed his last. . . .

## Insightful reviews

Richard Reviles *Censorship Always in All Ways*: A nice thing about series mysteries is the continuity of characters among the volumes. One grows accustomed to their faces and one expects they'll be back, if not the next time you read one of the series, then soon enough.

Bah! Humbug! sayeth Boris, happily killing off and abandoning people through the multi-year festival that is this entertaining and readable series. (Andrew Bromfield, the translator, deserves many kudos for producing such readable and thoroughly enjoyable translations.) This book's title is the clue to who dies this time, but I won't spoil it for the as-yet-uninitiated. I will, however, point them in the direction of *The Winter Queen* and encourage them not to shilly-shally, but start reading soon.

If you need a synopsis of the story, they're all over the place, but I say get goin' and make reading this your March Spring treat.

Wm: More intricately plotted with better villains and some fantastic scenes. On the other hand, it lacks the annoying yet haunting obstinate languor of the earlier three novels. A bit less post-modern. But still a fantastic tale. Would make an excellent movie and in this case I don't mean that as an insult.

Rafal Jasinski: Nadal stylowo i urzekaj?co, acz nieco mniej interesuj?co pod wzgl?dem fabularnym, jak i stopnia komplikacji intrygi. Fandorin, powraca niejako w swej "pierwotnej" postaci bryluj?cego towarzysko everymana, tym razem wzbogaconego o do?wiadczenia wyniesione z swych woja?y po Japonii. Pewne elementy owych nowych "do?wiadcze?" wypadaj? tu nadzwyczaj kuriozalnie, i pomimo mojego "patrzenia przez palce" na swoist? "poczt?wkow?" umowno?? w zakresie sposobu prowadzenia narracji, ci??ko mi by?o pogodzi? si? z groteskowo?ci? wplecionych w powie?? tych?e japo?skich motyw?w. Nawiasem mówi?c, zdecydowanie wol? tego wycofanego, nieco ponurego Fandorina, ni? bywalca salon?w w typie Jamesa Bonda.

Druga cz??? ksi??ki, przedstawiaj?ca origin antagonisty - miejscami tylko interesuj?ca - to najbardziej nu??cy i jednocze?nie najs?abszy element tej powie?ci. Natomiast samo rozwi?zanie zagadek nazbyt oczywiste, co we wcze?niejszych powie?ciach Akunina miejsca

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raczej nie mia?o.

To nadal kawa?ek solidnej, znakomicie si? czytaj?cej prozy, jakkolwiek tym razem pojawi?o si? kilka rys, które przeszkodzi?y mi w pe?nym i bezkrytycznym jej ch?oni?ciu.

Elina: (Minor spoilers!!) There are major explanation why the fourth within the sequence will get 4 stars rather than five. now not since it would not be as interesting and gripping because the prior ones, since it is. However, 1) the nature of Sobolev is killed correct within the beginning, depriving the readers the excitement of Erast and Sobolev's assembly in any case the years. Sobolev used to be an exceptional personality within the Turkish Gambit and may have deserved anything else. 2) the development of the radical resembles that of A examine in Scarlet: fascinating and interesting research through the attention-grabbing detective, to be through a long(ish) backstory. Had the chapters been intertwined throughout, it might be much less heavy reading. when we comprehend that Erast is so with reference to meet the murderer, we want to learn what occurs in that moment, and never pay attention the backstory of our villain (not that the backstory does not have its moments). Erast Fandorin has grown and matured, albeit being merely 26, and his years in Japan have further attention-grabbing layers to his character. Masa is additionally a good personality addition, bringing a bit humour to even the darkest of moments. The one side-effect of examining those books is that you simply believe no one. you cannot be sure that are the undesirable men and which, within the end, turn out to be goodies. That is, however, now not a nasty thing: it retains the reader at the aspect from the 1st web page to the last, that's a mark of a good detective story.

Ollie: Erast Fandorin's detective tales are my inspiration of excellent escapism. all of the books are set within the later half the nineteenth century - often in Russia - and have a young, stuttering hero who's a combination among Hercule Poirot, Sherlock Holmes and James Bond. during this fourth booklet of the series, Fandorin returns to Russia in 1882 after years of experience in Turkey and Japan. He brings with him a loyal, if stubborn, sidekick and manservant referred to as Masa who presents the novel's comedian relief. by way of coincidence, Fandorin's outdated pal and Russian hero, normal Sobolev (the "Russian Achilles") drops lifeless within the lodge they're staying in. Fandorin isn't really confident that any such younger and robust army guy may die from a center attack; he quickly starts off an research opposed to the needs of many robust men, unravelling an online of intrigue that hyperlinks the govt. with the main vicious criminals in Moscow's underworld. What i love approximately Akunin's writing is the convenience during which he conjures surroundings from a bygone age whereas whilst allotting a page-turner. nineteenth century Moscow comes alive effortlessly, with its aristocratic salons, its cabarets and dear escorts, its political intrigue. if you want to get away truth for a while, you cannot get it wrong with this novel or any of those previous it.

Kris McCracken: The fourth novel of the series, this time Fandorin unearths himself locked in a conflict of wits with the World's most dangerous assassin. Exciting? Absolutely! Of course, it can no longer be becoming if we did not have a backdrop of political intrigue and scandal, and this booklet has it in spades. A mysterious death, rumours of a plot of a coup, meddling from the top of regal powers, there isn't any scarcity of crimson herrings. Stylistically this booklet is fascinating for its shift in narration. the tale is informed twice. simply on halfway, the perspective

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switches from Fandorin to his antagonist, providing an exploration of his existence and motivations. while the 2 tales converge, they merge in final, concluding chapters. I imagine that this works particularly well, and manages to engender the needful volume of sympathy within the novel's fundamental villain. on the related time, we proceed to determine the nature of Erast develop and change. i actually loved this booklet a lot. hugely recommended.

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