



# Russian Roulette

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

This could well be Anthony Horowitz's best novel yet. Almost free from the presence of 14-year-old spy and MI6 agent Alex Rider, always rather hard to believe in, this prequel concentrates instead on the early life of Yassen Gregorovich, the Russian assassin who both threatens and spares Alex before his own death at the hands of an even worse villain. This story tells of the tragic events that made Yassen what he was, involving murky details from his early life in Russia some of which carry an uncomfortable ring of truth. Tautly written, well plotted and continually engaging, the tension never lets up as Yassen just survives against the odds before the events that finally catch up with him turn him into an almost pitiless murderer. There is not one duff sentence in these pages, which are a model for popular writing also aiming at high literary standards ? living proof that prolific writing need not mean shoddy standards as well.

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