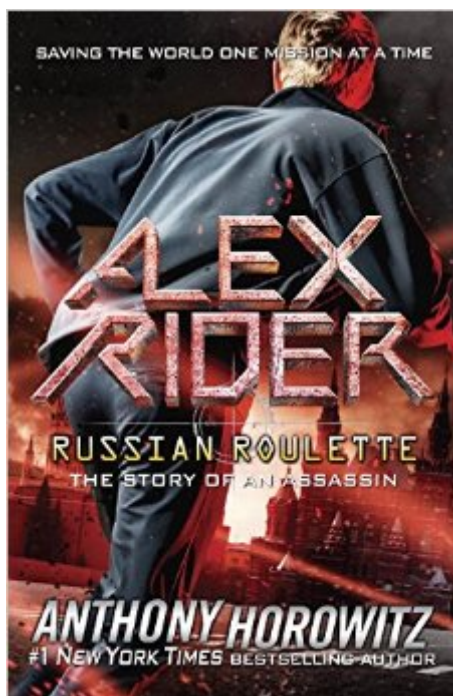


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# Russian Roulette: The Story Of An Assassin (Alex Rider)



## Synopsis

Alex Rider is an orphan turned teen superspy who's saving the world one mission at a time "from #1 New York Times bestselling author! Alex Rider's life changed forever with the silent pull of a trigger. Every story has a beginning. For teen secret agent Alex Rider, that beginning occurred prior to his first case for MI6, known by the code name Stormbreaker. By the time Stormbreaker forever changed Alex's life, his uncle had been murdered by the assassin Yassen Gregorovich, leaving Alex orphaned and craving revenge. Yet when Yassen had a clear shot to take out Alex after he foiled the Stormbreaker plot, he let Alex live. Why? This is Yassen's story. A journey down the darker path of espionage. Like a James Bond for young readers, international #1 bestseller Anthony Horowitz delivers a blockbuster thrill ride. From the author of *Magpie Murders* and *Moriarty*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The final Alex Rider title is a companion to the first (*Stormbreaker*, 2001), focusing on Scorpia assassin Yassen Gregorovich. Prior to his mission targeting Alex, Yassen reminisces about his life: the anthrax deaths of his parents; his journey to Moscow where he falls in with pickpockets; and his kidnapping by Vladimir Sharkovsky, a wealthy businessman responsible for the death of Yassen's parents. When Sharkovsky is gunned down, Yassen convinces the assassin to rescue him, leading Gregorovich to the Scorpia organization and eventually special training with double-agent John Rider, Alex's father. As many can attest, Horowitz is a master of the YA spy

thriller. He creates intriguing characters that readers care about, places them in exotic locales, forces them into perilous circumstances (for example, John Rider in the removing a target and a black widow spider with one bullet), and doles out relevant clues at a steady pace, ensuring that the suspense never flags. Although some may miss the clever gadgets used in the earlier novels, this makes a satisfying conclusion to a terrific series. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: A national Alex Rider Villain Tour, a dedicated website, and app ought to build further interest on top of the already existing demand. Rider should ride out on top. Grades 6-9. --Kay Weisman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Anthony Horowitz, in addition to being an international bestselling author, is also the writer and creator of the multi-award-winning television series *Foyle's War*. He lives in London, England. Visit him online at [www.alexrideradventures.com](http://www.alexrideradventures.com) and [www.anthonhorowitz.com](http://www.anthonhorowitz.com) or follow him on Twitter @AnthonyHorowitz.

One night, only a few weeks ago, I was scrolling through the Alex Rider adventures on . I have been a die hard fan for years, and I was interested in completing my collection. Like many others, I'm sure, I was sad when the series ended with "Scorpia Rising." Imagine my surprise, then, when I saw a section of the web page dedicated to "Alex Rider Books 1 - 10". After looking around, I saw that, indeed, Anthony Horowitz had decided to return to the world of MI6, Scorpia, spies, gadgets and the rest of it with "Russian Roulette : The Story of an Assassin." To say I was excited was an understatement. I ordered a copy, sat back, and waited. Looking back, I wish I had done just a bit more homework. When the book arrived, I greedily tore it open - and then stood staring in dismay. Because it turned out Alex Rider, the fourteen year old super spy, wasn't coming back after all. The book was a prequel. Soon, I came around, and began to read. I got over being disappointed very quickly. "RR" opens up with a familiar face - the face of Yassen Gregorovich, the assassin who terminated Ian Rider in "Stormbreaker," which cast Alex into the spy world. In the beginning of the story, Yassen receives orders from his employers - Scorpia, one of the largest criminal bands in the world - to kill Alex, to punish the boy for defeating Herod Sayle. However, for the first time, Yassen is hesitant. Because, as readers of the series know, Yassen was trained by John Rider, Alex's father. But, there's a new element to his hesitation readers were not aware of in previous stories. Then begins the flashback... Fourteen year old Yasha Gregorovich is set on a life changing journey when his childhood home is destroyed by a powerful criminal. As Yasha grows into a man, he is bullied, mistreated, and must fight to survive, all the while being pulled into a world of evil and

death he has no desire for, but won't let him go. In the end, it will be the pull of a trigger, and not his own choice, which decides his fate...All in all, the book was very good, giving us a very different picture of the seemingly bloodthirsty killer from "Stormbreaker" and "Eagle Strike". Yassen feels as though he was never given a chance to be anything but an assassin, and, in sympathetic understanding, tries to give Alex the shot for freedom he never had in a cool rewriting of the last scene in "Stormbreaker," when Yassen kills Sayle. "Next time they (MI6) ask you (to work for them), say no." However, the reason this is a four star is because of the gaping plot hole in the end. Spoiler alert. Now, there is a plot hole in this story, but I feel compelled to correct a mistake I made in an earlier review. I falsely stated that Yassen felt no loyalty to John Rider after discovering he was an agent for MI6. I reread the book, however, and saw what I had, eh, skipped. Yes, Yassen does, as I just said, figure out his mentor, Hunter, John Rider, the father of Alex Rider, was sent to infiltrate Scoria. The betrayal scars Yassen, and actually becomes the final domino in his journey as a killer. But Yassen did not reveal John to his superiors for two reasons - one, John had saved his life. Two, although he worked for them, Yassen hated Scorpia, and didn't care what happened to them.... But that begs a new question, even as I correct my false claim. When Yassen dies in "Eagle Strike," why does he encourage Alex to work for Scorpia? Why does he seem to have such respect for Alex's father? "He was a killer like me..." What? Now Yassen is proud of himself? But this is a very good story, and earns its place at the Alex Rider table. Packed with emotion, action, and several cool cameos COUGH Mrs Rothman COUGH, it softens that soft spot left by "Scorpia Rising". And makes us hungrier for more.

This long-awaited novel reveals the biography of Yassen Gregorovitch, the mysterious Russian assassin in the Alex Rider series. Horowitz goes full-on from the beginning, as Yassen's childhood home is a village called Estrov, which happens to exist next to a biological weaponry factory, in which his parents are somehow tangled up. Then an accident occurs and the village is infected with anthrax, and the Russian government decides that obliterating the village with air-to-surface missiles is going to be easier than facing the media. Yassen, who was known as Yasha back then, escapes. From there the story is carried on to the Moscow gutters, billionaires' summer houses, and Scorpia's training facility in Malastago. The book fully explains Yassen's meeting with John Rider, Alex Rider, and Julia Rothman. The result is a high-octane game of Russian roulette, highlighting Yassen's struggles with his conscience and his eventual evolution into a cold-blooded murderer and his torment by the hands of Sharkovsky, a mafiaman who, quite literally, made him put up a revolver to his head. Recommended strongly if you read the Alex Rider series, even more strongly if you

haven't. Lots of guns, weapons, and blood. Perfect. VBG

The circumstances that create the world's most assassin are cruel, demeaning and take his youth. Actually his youth was lost when he lost his parents child alone in Mother Russia that is a piss-poor parent in his circumstance. Like the previous Rider stories, the child is more lucky than possible, skilled beyond belief, and seemingly still has a mindset that may permit him to stand back from permanent enlistment. Since the series appears to have concluded (?), It may be so. Here, the boy has become a man, and stumbles his way into the hands of the most successful and powerful crime/power organization in the world, Scorpia (a painful anagram-like stretch). The young man out not killed, and it is mentioned that there is something about him - other than literary license. The tugs of humanity squaring off with a honed skill for killing. Honor nevertheless is acknowledged. And so, the 14th year of Alex Rider's life really begins...

I've been waitin for this book since like....2008! or something like that, ever since Anthony mentioned it. idk why, but I loved Yassen, even though he was a "villain". There was just something about him. Of course, I was excited for the other Alex books, but I was still waiting and waiting for this, and it's finally here! Most of the other books I waited to get until they came out in paperback (so i could afford them haha), but I couldn't wait for this one! And I loved every second of it! Seeing how Yassen grew up, his friends, how he came accross Scorpia....It was just awesome, seeing him change and become the assassin we "know" I highly recommend this to everyone who's read the other 9 books of the series, and even for those who haven't, it's the perfect place to start! the series comes fully circle. This is the beginning of Alex's journey as well, since it involves his father somewhat! can't believe it's over!!! :(But THANK YOU ANTHONY!!! I will reread them over and over again forever :)

I am a middle school/high school librarian, and both boys and girls love the Alex Rider series. So, when we found out Horowitz was coming out with an additional novel, everyone was thrilled. While it gives a very open "biography" of how Yassen Gregorovich became the assassin that killed Alex's father, it is rather "slow" and is definitely not the thriller that one anticipated after reading all the Rider series.

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