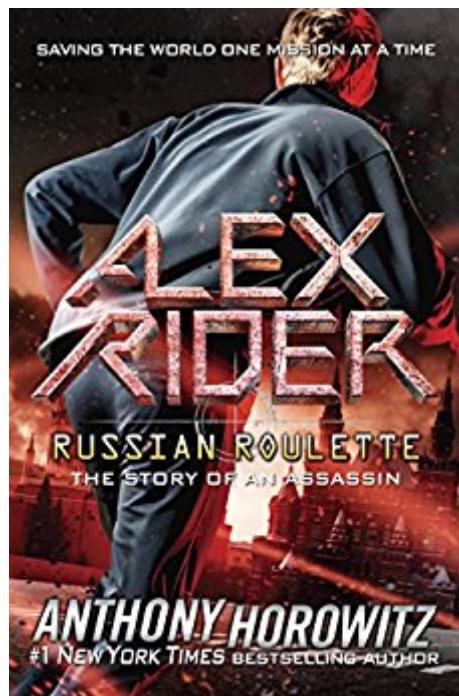


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# Russian Roulette: The Story Of An Assassin (Alex Rider Book 10)



## Synopsis

The final book in the #1 bestselling Alex Rider series with over 6 million copies sold in the U.S. alone! Alex Rider's life changed forever with the silent pull of a trigger. When Ian Rider died at the hands of the assassin Yassen Gregorovich, Alex, ready or not, was thrust into the world of international espionage—the world's only teenage spy. Alex vowed revenge against Yassen and the two have battled ever since. Yet, years ago, it was none other than Alex's own father who trained and mentored Yassen, turning him into the killer he would eventually become. What makes us choose evil? Why did one boy choose to kill while another chose to risk his life to save others? In some ways, Alex Rider and Yassen Gregorovich are mirror images of each other. Yet the paths they traveled turned them into mortal enemies. This is Yassen's story. A journey down a darkened path. International #1 bestseller Anthony Horowitz delivers a blockbuster thrill ride in this, his final Alex Rider novel. Perfect for young fans of James Bond.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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 Scorpia. 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 do this? 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 conscious 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 outs 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 across 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 full circle. This is the beginning of Alex's journey as well, since it involves his father somewhat! I 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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