



Rasputin's Bastards

By David Nickle

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Rasputin's Bastards By David Nickle

They were the beautiful dreamers. From a hidden city deep in the Ural mountains, they walked the world as the coldest of Cold Warriors, under the command of the Kremlin and under the power of their own expansive minds. They slipped into the minds of Russia's enemies with diabolical ease, and drove their human puppets to murder, and worse. They moved as Gods. And as Gods, they might have remade the world. But like the mad holy man Rasputin, who destroyed Russia through his own powerful influence?..?. in the end, the psychic spies for the Motherland were only in it for themselves.

It is the 1990s. The Cold War is long finished. In a remote Labrador fishing village, an old woman known only as Babushka foresees her ending through the harbour ice, in the giant eye of a dying kraken—and vows to have none of it. Beaten insensible and cast adrift in a life raft, ex-KGB agent Alexei Kilodovich is dragged to the deck of a ship full of criminals, and with them he will embark on a journey that will change everything he knows about himself. And from a suite in an unseen hotel in the heart of Manhattan, an old warrior named Kolyokov sets out with an open heart, to gather together the youngest members of his immense, and immensely talented, family. They are more beautiful, and more terrible, than any who came before them. They are Rasputin's bastards. And they will remake the world.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This novel is supernatural eeriness at its best, with intriguing characters, no clear heroes, and a dark passion at its heart. Horror aficionados and fans of Stephen King's larger novels should appreciate this macabre look at the aftermath of the Cold War."

-Library Journal

"[Rasputin's Bastards is] stiffly compelling. Once you're done, there's no question: the hours spent enfolded in Nickle's imagination are well spent. You won't ever feel the desire to ask for them back."

-January Magazine

"Nickle's book is an enormous tale, bewilderingly complex, but with lots of twists and turns that reward close attention. It is grotesque, violent, and exciting, with a supernatural tinge that is his hallmark."

-Cory Doctorow, BoingBoing

"Part Bioshock, part X-Files, part Sopranos--and 100%, uncut Nickle--Rasputin's Bastards is a glorious, chaotic delight. I wish I'd written it; in fact, I may yet steal the domesticated giant squid."

-Peter Watts, author of Blindsight

"A journey from the depths of the sea, the heart of Mother Russia, to the darkest corners of the soul, this book appeals to the reader's intellectual curiosity, and engages the heart with surprising moments of emotionality. I ... highly recommend Rasputin's Bastards."

-K.E. Bergdoll, The Crow's Caw

About the Author

David Nickle is the author of numerous short stories and several novels, including Eutopia: A Novel of Terrible Optimism, Rasputin's Bastards, and The 'Geisters. He lives in Toronto, where he works as a journalist, covering Toronto City Hall for Metroland Media Toronto.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hilda Baker:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or data even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This Rasputin's Bastards is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

Diana Elliott:

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Linda Manning:

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