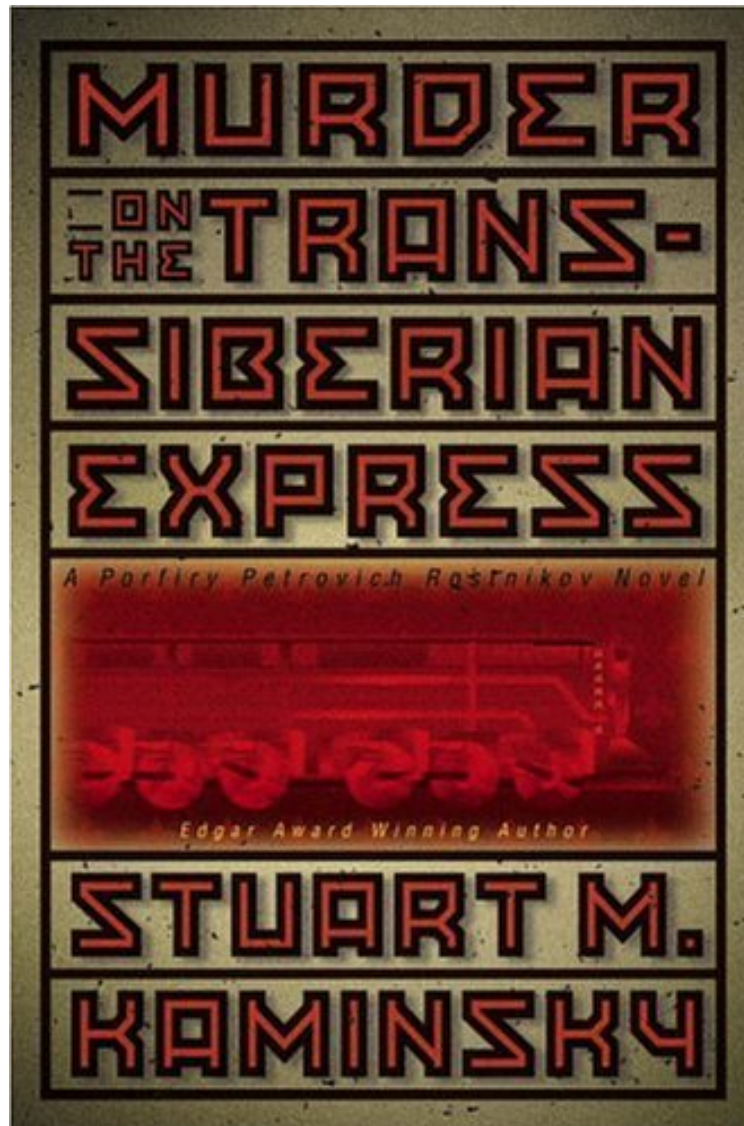


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Murder on the Trans-Siberian Express: A Porfiry Petrovich Rostnikov Novel

Stuart M. Kaminsky

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Stuart M. Kaminsky : Murder on the Trans-Siberian Express: A Porfiry Petrovich Rostnikov Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Murder on the Trans-Siberian Express: A Porfiry Petrovich Rostnikov Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good One by a Fine AuthorBy drkhimxzFortunately, Stuart Kaminsky has left us many fine books which will allow new readers to savor one of the best in his time and old

readers periodically to revive fond memories of the first time they read the particular volume they have in hand. This is one from his second series featuring a Jewish police officer in the Soviet Union and its successor incarnation. Within the confines of a series cut short by the author's death, Kaminsky created a well-defined central character well on its way to being one of the duly recognized detectives of our times. In this volume, there are three major concerns that consume the investigative agency's personnel: random knifings in the subways, the disappearance of a wild and wildly popular musical critic of the conventional social setting, and the transfer of vital, well we do not know exactly what, material of some sort from what malevolent force to another (which requires a journey on the eponymous Trans-Siberian Express). This tripartite subdivision may well be a legitimate grievance for some readers since the portrayal of the agency's multiple activities might well annoy them by appearing to be three short stories papered together to make a book. I did not find this organization of material weakening the impact, but then, I am quite familiar with the police cast and might have been overgenerous in accepting it. At any rate, the potential reader should be duly warned. Kaminsky's writing is quite appealing to this reader, who has enjoyed it in all three series he created. It is quite superior to the average volume to be found in the detective section of e-books and a pleasure for this reader in each variation suitable to a given series. With the admonition given above with regard to the tripartite organization of the text, I can recommend the book to readers not disturbed by its structure. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Return to Russia, with love By Dianne Latona How many Inspector Rostnikov novels--15? 20?--and there will be no more, because the author passed away in 2009, with *A Whisper to the Living* being published posthumously in 2011. I have read these works on and off for the past twelve years or so, after having visited post-Communist Russia twice. It is a haunting place, incredibly harsh and alive. The people are gruff but have hearts of gold. I think of my experiences there almost daily even now. Kaminsky's novels bring it all back so vividly. I recently purchased the rest of the set on Amazon, and read all of them in chronological order. I highly recommend you do the same. No one of them stands out for me--I take them together, as a kind of extended novel, a slice of Russian life, best savored with some borscht, sausage and pelmeni, on a chill winter's evening. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoy Kaminsky's books for an enjoyable read. By BeeJay I enjoy Kaminsky's books for an enjoyable read. I like his Russian books the best and enjoy the characters. Good light reading.

Inside the Moscow Police Department, madness reigns. Inspectors Karpo and Zelach enter the underground world of post-punk rock clubs searching for clues to the disappearance of an anti-Semitic rock star who happens to be the son of one of Moscow's most powerful Jewish citizens. Then there is the young woman, dubbed the Phantom of the Underground by the media, who is randomly stabbing well-dressed men in the Moscow Metro. And Chief Inspector Rostnikov is en route to Vladivostok in a first-class carriage on the Trans-Siberian Express - the greatest train in the world. It now carries two hand-picked officials of the Moscow Police...and an extortionist who may have information that could bring down the entire Russian government.

.com Penzler Pick, December 2001: This is a compulsively readable tour de force that keeps more balls in the air than a pitching machine. On top of that, in this 14th novel featuring the one-legged Moscow cop Porfiry Petrovich Rostnikov, Stuart Kaminsky once again catapults us straight from our armchairs into the mindset of modern Russia in all its perverse dysfunctions. Kaminsky must have had fun cooking up the plotlines, which ingeniously plunder the storage bins of mystery history. There's everything from a Jane the Ripper to homages to train-bound thrillers like *The Lady Vanishes*, *North by Northwest*, and the more obvious *Murder on the Orient Express*. At the same time, there's the conscious, skillfully presented element of social realism, an aspect that never intruded into the action of any of those tales. Kaminsky is wonderfully artful at conveying the pervasive cynicism that comes with the territory at all strata of existence in the former Soviet Union, and he does it without ever being repetitious. At an organic level, it seeps into and informs every level of the mystery as it unfolds. One must marvel at the manipulations of the political and legal systems engaged in by Chief Inspector Rostnikov and his dedicated colleagues as they endeavor to deliver the semblance of a not-always-welcome law and order. To top it off, there are some terrific set-piece scenes, such as when the policeman Zelach reveals his unexpected familiarity with heavy-metal arcana as he and his partner interrogate some punks about a missing pal. Kaminsky won the Edgar Allan Poe award in 1989 for the Rostnikov mystery *A Cold Red Sunrise*. Reading *Murder on the Trans-Siberian Express*, it's not hard to understand why, only difficult to know how he keeps the series' quality so high. --Otto Penzler From Publishers Weekly Edgar-winner Kaminsky's 14th Rostnikov novel (after 2000's *Fall of a Cosmonaut*), about the imperturbable one-legged Russian policeman, weightlifter, plumber and family man, lacks narrative force due to its episodic structure. But while it may not be one of the author's best, his cast of oddball characters and view of post-Soviet Russia continue to fascinate. Chief Inspector Porfiry Petrovich Rostnikov, now working for Moscow's Office of Special Investigation and reporting to its director, Igor Yaklovev, gets assigned with one of his men to ride the 6,000-mile Trans-Siberian Express to intercept a courier exchanging money for a package somewhere along the route. Yaklovev believes the package contains a 100-year-old secret document belonging to Czar Nicholas II; Rostnikov follows orders, though he knows there's much his boss hasn't told him. Meanwhile, detectives Iosef Rostnikov, the chief inspector's son, and Elena Timofeyeva lead the effort

to locate a madwoman whose seemingly random knife attacks have injured or slain three men in four weeks at subway stops. And detectives Emil Karpo and Zelach pursue a kidnapped rock rebel called Naked Cossack, who happens to be the son of a powerful Jewish magnate. The result is a busy and entertaining trio of stories woven together with vignettes about the building of the Trans-Siberian railway. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Moscow police inspector Rostnikov rides the famed train in search of a valuable historical document. Back in Moscow, meanwhile, the famous son of a powerful citizen has been kidnapped, and a serial murderer stalks the newly rich in the subway. Never a dull moment in Kaminsky's 13th Rostnikov mystery. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.