



Farewell to Russia

Jim Williams

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The unthinkable has happened at the Soviet nuclear plant at Sokolskoye. An accident of such terrifying proportions, of such catastrophic ecological and political consequence that a curtain of silence is drawn ominously over the incident. Major Pyotr Kirov of the KGB is appointed to extract the truth from the treacherous minefield of misinformation and intrigue and to obtain from the West the technology essential to prevent further damage. But the vital equipment is under strict trade embargo...

And in London, George Twist, head of a company which manufactures the technology, is on the verge of bankruptcy and desperate to win the illegal contract. Can he deliver on time? Will he survive a frantic smuggling operation across the frozen wastes of Finland? Can he wrong-foot the authorities ... and his own conscience? Is it possible to say farewell to Russia?

Farewell to Russia is the first of Jim Williams's astonishingly prophetic novels about the decline and fall of the Soviet Union.

Farewell to Russia Details

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Author : Jim Williams

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From Reader Review Farewell to Russia for online ebook

Dave says

This was a terrific yarn about a nuclear accident and the KGB's bungling attempts to correct it. I loved the skill of the author (I admire the Brits for their command of language!) in weaving the main story and the sub-plot concerning bureaucratic mismanagement at multiple levels (both corporate and governmental.) The story did bog down slightly from time to time (particularly when spelling out the technical details) but I pushed through because the plot was so interesting. I would like to read more by this author.

Brad says

A great read! Although it was a longish book (400+) it held my attention pretty much all the way. I guess the final pages and epilogue drifted a bit, and the story suffered. But it was a 5star book most of the way, but ended at 4 1/2 star.

Pat says

Good read

Somewhat confusing, but still good and interesting. Make you wonder how factual and believable. Lots of exotic background fills lots of story but acceptable.

J.J. Toner says

Writing to die for. The main character is a KGB agent in the cold war period of Gorbachov's glasnost and perestroika. We are continually reminded that the KGB no longer uses the old, crude methods. The plot revolves around a serious nuclear accident in a frozen lake and the race to sort the problem before the spring thaw. Absolutely wonderful writing. 5 stars. Highly recommended.

Michael says

I usually like long books but this was way too long. Too much in this book that detracted from the overall plot. I got lost several times and put it down so many times I forgot about what this was supposed to be about. It seriously needs another edit to make this a great book. Didn't like the gratuitous vulgarities but it seems authors aren't able to write without them. The dark psychology of the Russian characters were spot on and added overall to the plot. Very ironic this was written before Chernobyl.

Derek McCabrey says

When one sets out to read a novel, the parameters of the story take on form as the reader progresses until a point is reached whereby the reader must make a decision: does he discard the novel?; does he continue?; and if he decides to continue, is there sufficient substance in what has been read to that point, to encourage the reader to head towards a satisfactory conclusion? I chose this book for two reasons: a fascination with the old Soviet empire and a keen interest in all things nuclear (the events in Chernobyl in particular). I came cold to not only the book, but the author also. What I didn't expect though, was a superbly-woven tale of intrigue that became hard to put down as it progressed: the plot was plausible, and the characters were finely crafted, with prosaic and believable attributes, and then were thrust into so unique a set of circumstances, that the reader begins to wonder whether he or she is still reading a work of fiction. With one exception, none of the characters step outside of their own realities and indeed, its precisely the unremarkable lives that the characters lead that creates the perfect counterpoint to the dramatic events being played out. And the acid test of the novel - did I care about the characters - was a resounding yes. Five stars.

Jeremy Michael Gallen says

Good Period Piece

Although this book is advertised as "A Pyotr Kirov Detective Novel," it actually has very little to do with the Soviet investigator, taking place during the twilight years of the Soviet Union yet nonetheless weaving an interesting story about energy and environmental politicking in Russia and the West, ultimately being a recommended read.

Rose says

Conflicting Interests

An interesting story written from the perspective of a Russian agent/detective. I definitely liked the questions raised about who are the good guys vs who are the bad guys. Despite some of the crude details, i felt compelled to root for the Russians!

Samori Augusto says

I don't think it's worth even talking about. I know that something almost happened in the book, but that's all I remember.

Susan Roddy says

Fine books, both of his Russia books are. Kept looking for the third one he kept talking about but never wrote apparently; very clever mister :).

Scot says

I liked this thriller more than I expected—it was well researched, so while I followed the rather complex plot I learned a lot about containment strategies for a possible secret nuclear reactor spill and threats of contamination, particularly as the setting is in rural Russia in the 1980s. Therefore, I also learned about the intricacies of bureaucracy when forces within the KGB and the Soviet Army both want to cover their own butts, and there is general widespread corruption and disillusionment even as all see no escape from their own intertwining into the tentacles of state bureaucracy. We get a counterplay to the same theme with a businessman in the west—he's a Brit but the company is American—it manufactures some needed containment supplies and holds the intellectual property rights to mechanisms that might help—except the US government has an embargo on any such trade with the Soviet Union. What is to be done, and by whom?

This is a sophisticated adventure tale that takes time to develop a few sympathetic characters—and also several weak or disillusioned ones – on both sides of that 1980s struggle for hegemonic control. It's mostly an indictment of all bureaucracies, the unacknowledged tolls they make us all pay. When the action shifts to Finland, there's an added bonus of getting some vicarious touring and tourism, and rising tension, in that Scandinavian land, which I don't know as well as the others, so therefore, again, an opportunity for both entertainment and intellectual enrichment.

Don says

Hard to Read

Although I did not give this novel the time required for an in depth review, there was enough to allow a three star. Deep in the workings of the Soviet Union and their particular problems, I was not impressed with the explanations. As a novice in the manners of the Soviet political system I thought there was overkill in explanations. Also the same was observed in the running and problems of a nuclear facility. For one with a vested interest in these matters this would be a valued book, but for me it was a waste of effort.

Tom says

One of the best books I've read. In spite of a plethora of pesky names of Russian characters and places, and the overall length of the book - either of which has caused me to abandon books many times before - I found that the quality of writing, presentation, interwoven plot lines, and character development blended into a superb work that held my attention and interest throughout. I am not one to give books top ratings (there's nothing wrong with a 3- or 4-star rating), but this book is truly deserving of my 5 stars!
