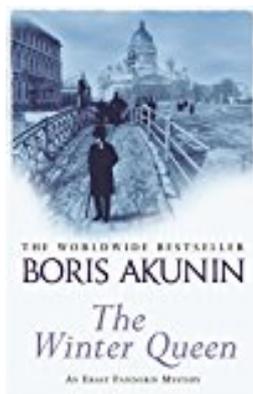


# [PDF] The Winter Queen

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**Books Details:**

Title: The Winter Queen  
Author: Boris Akunin  
Released: 2003-05-01  
Language:  
Pages: 256  
ISBN: 0297829742  
ISBN13: 978-0297829744  
ASIN: 0297829742

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**Description:**

**From** Three million copies of Akunin's Erast Fandorin historical mystery series have been sold in Russia, where the author is a celebrity. This volume--the first of nine installments so far--should get the series off to a rousing start in the U.S. It's set in Czarist Russia and stars the naive but eager Fandorin as a young investigator with the Moscow police. Why would a university student shoot himself in the middle of the Alexander Gardens? Fandorin sets out to find the answer and soon lands in the middle of a far-reaching international conspiracy. Yakunin effectively juxtaposes the comical innocence of his hero against the decadence of nineteenth-century Moscow--aristocrats idling in gambling clubs while the winds of revolution freshen. In his debut, Fandorin comes across as an odd but appealing mix of Holmesian brilliance and Inspector Clousseauian bumbling. Occasionally,

Akunin's style seems a bit affected, aping the manner of, say, Thackeray, commenting on the foibles of his characters, but at the same time, that nineteenth-century tone is part of the book's appeal. Anne Perry fans, in particular, will enjoy this series. *Bill Ott*  
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**Review** The year is 1876 and the setting Moscow. A law student aged 23 commits suicide in the Alexander Gardens, having accosted a young woman who turns on him, whereupon he shoots himself, having spun the revolver's chambers first in a form of Russian roulette. Erast Fandorin, a clever young detective, is assigned to the case and discovers that the young man who shot himself was the son of an influential industrialist. Fandorin's investigation leads him to Berlin and St Petersburg as he unravels a major conspiracy. The first in a multi-book series, this is a gripping crime story with an authentic background.

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