



## A Vengeful Longing

*R.N. Morris*

Download now

Read Online [➔](#)

# A Vengeful Longing

R.N. Morris

## A Vengeful Longing R.N. Morris

*A Vengeful Longing* confirms what RN Morris' previous novel, *A Gentle Axe*, suggested - that here is major talent in the increasingly overcrowded historical crime field. On the evidence here, Morris is writing novels that rival the very best in the genre in terms of atmosphere, plausible historical detail and exemplary plotting. Two people - a mother and son -- are murdered; a box of chocolates delivered by woman's husband contains an agonising poison. The detectives investigating the killing (in which the doctor husband is, of course, the prime suspect - and seems to telegraph his guilt when interviewed) are the novice Virginsky and the experienced Porfiry Petrovich - the later, of course, the protagonist in Morris' previous books -- And the policeman in Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, no less. Morris audaciously utilised Petrovich in his previous novel. That gamble (cheeky though it was) has paid off handsomely there - and does so once again in *A Vengeful Longing*.

19th-century Russia is once again evoked with total authority, and the murder investigation has the compulsiveness of modern crime fiction - with the added frisson of a brilliantly conjured period setting. The continuation of characters created by other authors is nothing new, but few have the chutzpah of RN Morris - or the skill to pull off (not once, but twice - and more, we are told) this daring trick. --*Barry Forshaw*

## A Vengeful Longing Details

Date : Published February 7th 2008 by Faber & Faber (first published 2008)

ISBN : 9780571232529

Author : R.N. Morris

Format : Paperback 317 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Fiction, Cultural, Russia

 [Download A Vengeful Longing ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Vengeful Longing ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online A Vengeful Longing R.N. Morris**

---

## **From Reader Review A Vengeful Longing for online ebook**

### **Jackie says**

Story based in Tsarist Russia. Hot, smelly summertime. Stinky sewers and canals. Good mystery and funny, too!

---

### **Anne Hawn Smith says**

This is the second book I have read by this author and I had the same mixed feelings about the books. The mystery is great and the Magistrate Profferri is wonderful. He is something of a Colombo character and I really like him. The problem with the books is not really the fault of the author. It is the naming system the Russians use. Each character is called by about three different names and it is very confusing. This is especially so when you are using an audiobook, which I was. With a book, you can go back a chapter and see who the character is, but it is impossible with an audiobook. I found my self going back over parts trying to relate the action with the correct character.

That being said, I truly enjoyed the mystery and the personalities of the main characters. I also enjoyed the glimpse into Russian history and the Russian nature. I certainly will read more by the author, but I will allow extra time to go back and sort out the characters. Since I am always doing something else while I am listening, this is not really an inconvenience.

---

### **Sheilagh Lee says**

A Vengeful Longing

By R.N. Morris

Category Mystery,Suspence

This is the second in the series however I have not read the first A Gentle Axe after reading this book however I'll have to find that book and read it. . A doctor brings home a fancy box of chocolates for his wife and son an unusual gift on such a hot afternoon. Within an hour, both mother and child die a poisoning death, and the doctor is immediately arrested, suspected of poisoning. Detective Porfiry Petrovich a character from Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment comes alive once again in this book as he too seems to succumb to the heat and concedes that the doctor must have done it. More murders happen and a strange coincidence seems to be tie the three murders together but how to prove it? Porfiry is forced to go into the darkest part of the city and face unimaginable horror and cruelty to solve this crime. Porfiry is a character much like Sherlock Holmes who determines the essence of the crime picks it apart and then puts it back together to find the answer.

The writer R.N. Morris has captured the essence of Russia of the nineteenth century. This book is an

interesting and a compelling read. I must read "A Razor Wrapped in Silk" the next book in this series which came out in May last year as I found this book so compelling

\*\*\*\*\* 4 1/2 stars out of five

---

### **Paul Pessolano says**

This is mystery that takes place in St. Petersburg, Russia in the late 1860's. Detective Porfiriy Petrovich is put in charge of investigating what appears to be the murder of a Doctor's wife and child. It seems a clear cut case but Porfiry and his new assistant, Pavel Virginsky, start looking into less obvious solutions. In their investigations the suspects and murders start to pile up.

Porfiry's superiors are looking for the fast, easy, and obvious solution to clear the murders, but Porfiry keeps digging into the lives of those involved and finds that there may be several possible suspects and different reasons for the murders.

In the sweltering heat and stench of a St. Petersburg summer, Porfiry puts the pieces together and comes up with the murderer, a person totally unexpected.

"A Vengeful Longing" comes after Morris's first book, "The Gentle Axe", which also has Porfiry Petrovich as its main character.

These novels, although both are good and interesting, probably will not satisfy the true mystery reader. I found that the murderer, especially in "A Vengeful Longing", is so hidden in the story that no set of clues would give the reader an opportunity, or at least a fighting chance, to solve the crime. I feel that few clues are given and that the reader is not introduced to the murderer until they are too far into the book.

This would be a good book for someone who would like a nice read that has a minimum of language and sexual content. It is interesting and does have some good character development and plot.

---

### **Simon says**

A Vengeful Longing by RN Morris

This is the second in Rogers excellent series of novels recreating Dostoevskies character Porfory Petrovich who was the investigating magistrate in Crime and Punishment.

The book opens with what looks like a straight ahead poisoning using chocolates but soon escalates into multiple murders and intrigues and takes a good look at the seamy underside of late 19th St Petersburg with the prostitution and thinly veiled child prostitution as well as

all sorts of other nasty things happen as Porfory and his young assistant Virginsky finally manage to solve this crime wave. Highly entertaining and as far as I can tell pretty true to the times and places he is trying to recreate, which can't be easy when your writing the books in modern day London. It also shows that there is plenty more for Porfory Petrovich to investigate and that A Gentle Axe was just the beginning. I look forward the the third installment that will no doubt be along soon.

---

### **Bonnie says**

Following in the footsteps of acclaimed novel *The Gentle Axe*, *A Vengeful Longing* solidifies the reputation of R. E. Norris. His detective is Porify Petrovich who solves crime in 18960s nineteenth-century Russia. In the middle of a hot, sultry day, the father, a doctor, brings home a box of chocolates and admonishes his wife and son to eat them quickly before they melt. Raisia has gained weight lately and does not want to add more bulk. But, mother and son begin to eat the melting chocolates. Within an hour, both mother and son die excruciating deaths. The slim, young girl who works for the family had been offered to share the candy, but refused. Porify Petrovich is called to investigate and concedes the obvious solution often turns out to be the answer. The doctor is arrested, but when further, apparently unconnected murders occur on the other side of town, a surprising pattern starts to emerge. Porify is forced to reassess his assumptions and follow a trail that takes him into the hidden, squalid heart of the city that forces him face-to-face with horror and cruelty. The descriptions of the murders of Raisia and Grisha resound in the imagination long after the end of the novel. The *Sunday Times* says, "Morris's descriptions of the horrors of insanitary slum dwellings in St. Petersburg are extraordinarily vivid, but the most striking feature of the novel is the way in which Porfiry's sophisticated understanding of human nature compensates for the limited investigatory tools at his disposal." An excellent read in an unusual setting of pre-Soviet Russia with a detective who vows to solve crimes and does with panache.

---

### **Bart says**

I give it B on my letter-grade scale.

The book was better for atmosphere and character development than for plot. But it is a good, fun, fast read. Almost literary, especially by the standards of modern crime writing. Morris works hard and well to bring to life the setting and feel of mid-19th Century imperial Russia and St. Petersburg.

But ultimately, where detective stories provide themselves is plot: does it sustain suspense but resolve itself plausibly? This plot is ultimately too contrived and strains credibility past my breaking point. Ultimately the perpetrator lacks believable motivation to commit the luridly brutal murders at the center of the story.

Morris's *The Gentle Axe* was much more persuasive and effective. Though it and this book share similar

strengths and weaknesses.

---

### **Lisa says**

A great follow-up to "The Gentle Axe," this novel finds Porfiry Petrovich and his assistant Virginsky -- the starving student from the previous book -- juggling three seemingly unrelated murder cases. We know better, and Porfiry ultimately unearths the connection among them all. St. Petersburg again springs to life, this time in the stagnant, sweltering summer, when the fetid canals make the weather even more unbearable. The story is richly detailed and well plotted, though the ending comes together a little hastily compared with the sometimes languorous pacing of the first three-quarters of the book. But the clues -- and the killer -- are in the story from early on. A satisfying, well-done period mystery.

---

### **Paul Forster says**

A coherent plot I understood despite being complex and well drawn characters.

---

### **Bibliophile says**

*A Vengeful Longing* is the second of R. N. Morris's mystery series starring Porfiry Petrovich, the man who brought Raskolnikov to justice in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. In this outing, a series of seemingly random murders stretch Porfiry's skills to their utmost and provide his new assistant with a horrifying introduction to the world of an investigating magistrate in 19th century St. Petersburg. Yet again, Morris creates a powerful and imaginatively rendered atmosphere, this time ranging from the opulent summer homes of aristocrats to the filthy, cholera-ridden underground dungeons inhabited by the poor of the teeming city. I liked this sequel even better than *The Gentle Axe* since I thought the characters were more original and owed less to Dostoevsky. I look forward to reading more of this series!

---

### **Bonnie says**

I learned that Roger Morris is a master storyteller and that I have to take the time to write a full blown review for this. So, look for it on BonnieGlover.com in a few days. I'm still blown away by the ending. Never saw it coming.

---

### **PDXReader says**

*A Vengeful Longing* was a fine, intricate mystery, and overall I thought it was worth my time. I love the protagonist, Porfiry Petrovich. There was something about him that reminded me of "Colombo" -- perhaps his slightly rumpled appearance, or his ability to remain under the radar so that others underestimate his superb deductive capabilities. The author does an excellent job of creating a sense of time and place, particularly in the second half of the novel, as he takes his readers to mental hospitals and the slums of St. Petersburg. My

only complaint was that the murderer's justification for his crimes seemed weak and unconvincing.

---

## **Kari Coleman says**

I really thought this book would be more interesting than it was. I was completely drawn in by the synopsis on the front cover, but there was just something missing for me. I loved the suspense and trying to figure out how the murders were connected, but I got a little bogged down with the names, since I am definitely not from St. Petersburg.

Below is the short blog I wrote for this book:

I found this new author in my typical way of roaming through the library and seeing what titles caught my attention. I had big expectations of this book after reading the short synopsis on the front flap.

"In the middle of a hot, dusty St. Petersburg summer in the late 1860s. A doctor brings home a fancy box of chocolates for his wife and son - a strange gift on a scorching Saturday afternoon. Within an hour, both mother and child die an excruciating death, and the doctor is immediately arrested, suspected of poisoning. As investigator Porfiry Petrovich concedes, in such cases the obvious solution often turns out to be the correct solution. And in the city's sweltering, oppressive atmosphere, even he lacks the energy to delve any deeper.

But when further, apparently unconnected, murders occur on the other side of town, a subtle and surprising pattern starts to emerge. Porfiry is forced to reassess his assumptions and follow a tenuous, uncertain trail that takes him into the hidden, squalid heart of the city and brings him face-to-face with incomprehensible horror and cruelty." (front flap)

After reading that, I was hooked. However, I was kind of disappointed in the actual unfolding of the story line. As always, I enjoyed trying to figure out the answer before it was actually presented, but it was not a book I loved. There were parts of it that were very capturing and others where I just wanted to skip ahead. I don't know if it's a combination of being busy at work and trying to prepare for the upcoming holidays or if this really is an author I will not enjoy. I may try to read something else by him, but it will probably be quite a while.

---

## **Stuart says**

Using Dostoevsky's hero, Porfiry Petrovich, from "Crime and Punishment," R.N. Morris gives the detective the task of solving a string of murders in 1868 St. Petersburg. The gritty, summer-hot streets of the city, the ever-present flies, and the feces-filled canals are all too real — almost uncomfortably so at times. Porfiry uses intellect and reasoning in this wily who-done-it.

My problem — and it is MY problem — is that, because of my schedule, I was only able to read this book in many short installments, late at night before bed. As a result, I had a hard time remembering the many (and there are many!) three-part Russian names, such as Ruslan Vladimirovich Vakhramev. Sometimes this character would be referred to as Ruslan Vladimirovich, and in the next sentence as Vakhramev, so one must

intimately know the entire name to recognize it in any form. So, I suggest reading the book in a few lengthy sessions during the day so as to retain the multitude of information that is presented.

Having said that, I did enjoy the story, Morris' descriptive powers, and the vivid characters. The author has written one or two other books in his St. Petersburg series, and "A Vengeful Longing" has prepped me for more of the exploits of Porfiry Petrovich. I might even go back and revisit "Crime and Punishment"!

---

### **Janine says**

This is an excellent novel with plenty twists and turns. One question though, did we actually get the answer to who did the initial killing? I am going to be reading the series of this books. This first book looks to be a promising introduction to the series.

---