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After murdering Rasputin, the conspirators drove his body to the Malaya Nevka ("Little Nevka") River which was freezing cold on this December 1916 night. Standing on the wooden Bolshoy Petrovsky Bridge—now dismantled—they threw Rasputin's remains into the river. Soon after, a couple of workers spotted some blood stains on the fourth span of the bridge. They found more blood elsewhere (including on the railing and bridge supports). Passers-by also spotted a boot between two adjacent bridge foundations. This led to a police investigation and the recovery of Rasputin's remains. Pictures from the police investigation file, including this one, depict the monk's body before autopsy. Note the bullet wound on his forehead. Image online via Wikimedia Commons.

Since the Empress had become so dependent on Rasputin, Prince Felix Yussupov and other members of the family believed murder was the only way to get rid of the monk.

On December 16, 1916 (or, per the Gregorian calendar, December 29th), Yussupov invited Rasputin to his home in St. Petersburg. Feeding him cyanide-laced wine and cakes, Yussupov thought killing Rasputin would be easy. He was wrong. Rasputin collapsed from the poison but did not die.

Later, the alleged details of the murder came out. Reportedly, Yussupov shot Rasputin in the chest, but still he did not die. One of the conspirators shot him twice as Rasputin tried to flee. The shots disabled the monk but, legend has it, he was still alive as conspirators—standing at the top of the bridge at Petrovsky Island—threw his body into a tributary of the Neva River. His remains were found days later.

Some investigators, however, believe that recent revelations from Russian Archives paint a different picture of Rasputin's death. Using forensic evidence, including information from his autopsy and other investigative materials, researchers have concluded that apparently Rasputin wasn't as hard to kill as the story his alleged murderers told at the time.

Rasputin made an eerie, written prediction before he died.

If I am killed by common assassins and especially by my brothers the Russian peasants, you, Tsar of Russia, have nothing to fear for your children, they will reign for hundreds of years in Russia.

...if it was your relations who have wrought my death, then no one in your family, that is to say, none of your children or relations will remain alive for two years. They will be killed by the Russian people...

I shall be killed. I am no longer among the living. Pray, pray, be strong, think of your blessed family.

Grigory

Three months after Rasputin's death—allegedly by the hand of Romanov "relations"—Nicholas was deposed as Tsar (March, 1917). Less than two years later, the rest of the "mad monk's" prediction came true as well.

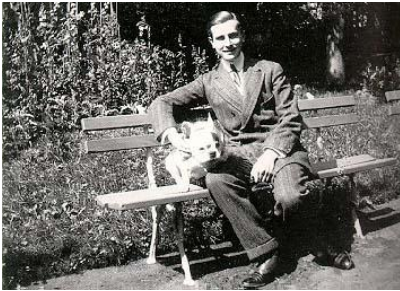
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/RASPUTIN-S-MURDER-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/RASPUTIN-S-MURDER-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

Media Stream



Prince Felix Yussupov

Image online, courtesy the Alexander Palace website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Prince-Felix-Yussupov>



Rasputin Caricature

Image online, courtesy the angelfire.com website.

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Petrovsky Island

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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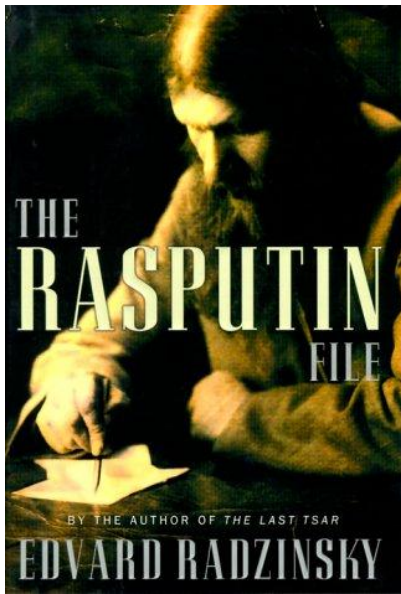
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Neva River

From the Images of St. Petersburg website.

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The Rasputin File - by Edvard Radzinsky

Image online, courtesy goodreads.com website.

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Rasputin - Death Photo

Photo from Russian Archives. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Rasputin - Conspiracy to Murder

Clip from "Rasputin: Dark Servant of Destiny" (1996) - award-winning film for television. Copyright, HBO, all rights reserved. Clip provided as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the production.

Director

Uli Edel

Writer

Peter Pruce

Studio

HBO

Starring

Tamas Toth (Young Rasputin)

Alan Rickman

Greta Scacchi

Ian McKellen

David Warner

John Wood

Run Time: 104 minutes

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rasputin-Conspiracy-to-Murder>



Rasputin - Refuses to Die

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Rasputin - Nicholas II Abdicates

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