

0. THE DEATH SCENE - Story Preface

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3. NICHOLAS OUT-OF-TOUCH

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16. THE ROMANOV FAMILY



This image depicts a cellar room in the Ipatiev House, in the town of Ekaterinburg, where the Bolsheviks executed the Romanov family in July of 1918. N.A. Sokolov, Coroner of the Court, used this image (among many others) as he investigated the deaths of Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and children and four of their closest servants. The photo, and many related documents and other images, are part of the Sokolov Archive which is now maintained at the Houghton Library, Harvard College Library, Harvard University. Image online via Wikimedia Commons. Click on it for a full-page view.

Nicholas (who was only 5' 6") carried his 13-year-old son. Yurovsky personally led the family, Dr. Botkin, and the family's servants to the cellar room. There, without a trial—"this was prevented by the advancing Whites"—Yurovsky told the family they were about to die.

When the detachment came in, the commandant [Yurovsky] told the Romanovs that in light of the fact that their relatives in Europe were continuing their aggression against Soviet Russia, the Ural [local] Executive Committee had decreed that they were to be shot. Nicholas turned his back to the detachment, his face toward his family, then, as though collecting himself, turned to the commandant with the question: "What? What?" The commandant hurriedly repeated his statement and ordered the detachment to get ready.

The Romanov family was trapped. No one was there to help. Their beloved ikons were of no use.

Two of the men picked to kill the family had refused to shoot the girls. (This link takes you to a photo of the girls ten years before they were executed.) Those soldiers were discharged and replaced with men who weren't bothered by such details. The execution squad was ready:

The detachment had been given instructions earlier on whom to shoot and were ordered to aim directly for the heart to avoid a large amount of blood and to finish them off more quickly.

The scene of the murders was photographed later by the White Army. One can hardly imagine the horror that took place in the cramped (13 x 7) room. The Tsar was the first to die:

Nicholas, again turning to the family said nothing more; the others made a few incoherent exclamations; this all lasted a few seconds. Then the shooting started; lasted for two to three minutes. Nicholas was killed on the spot by the commandant himself.

Just before he died, Nicholas apparently tried to shield his son. Alexandra Fedorovna died immediately after that.

But killing Anastasia and her sisters did not go according to Yurovsky's plan.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-DEATH-SCENE-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-DEATH-SCENE-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

Media Stream



Nicholas II and his Son

Image depicted above, from a book published by the Imperial Court in 1916.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nicholas-II-and-his-Son>



Nicholas and Alexandra - The Romanov Children

Image, described above, from the Romanov Collection. General Collection. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nicholas-and-Alexandra-The-Romanov-Children>



Romanov Execution - Scene of the Murders

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Romanov-Execution-Scene-of-the-Murders>

Death of the Romanov Family - Execution in Siberia

Clip from the 1971 film, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, copyright Horizon Pictures and Sony Pictures, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the film. With a run time of 183 minutes, it is available for online viewing via various sources, including Amazon (via the above link).

Director

Franklin J. Schaffner

Producer

Sam Spiegel

Screenplay

James Goldman

Based on the book by:

Robert K. Massie

Starring

Michael Jayston - Tsar Nicholas II

Janet Suzman - Alexandra

Music by:

Richard Rodney Bennett

Cinematography

Freddie Young

Studio

Horizon Pictures

Distributor

Columbia Pictures

Release date:

December 30, 1971

Run time:

189 minute

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Death-of-the-Romanov-Family-Execution-in-Siberia>

