



0. ROMANOV FAMILY DEATH SCENE - Story Preface

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This image depicts a painting by Pavel Ryzhenko providing the artist's conception of how the cellar room, at the Ipatiev House, may have appeared after the Romanov family and their four helpers were murdered. It is entitled "The Ipatiev House. The Morning After" and is from the Triptych "Imperial Golgotha." Online via Art and Faith. Click on the image for a better 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. (See "Yurovsky's Account of the Execution of the Imperial Family.")

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. ("Yurovsky's Account.")

The scene of the murders was photographed later by the White Army. One can hardly imagine the horror that took place in the cramped 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. ("Yurovsky's Account.")

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/ROMANOV-FAMILY-DEATH-SCENE-Nicholas-and-Alexandra>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ROMANOV-FAMILY-DEATH-SCENE-Nicholas-and-Alexandra>

Media Stream



Nicholas and Alexei

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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



Romanov Children

This photo is from the Romanov Collection, General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Execution Squad

Image online via Russian-language website, Uraloved.

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Romanov Execution - Scene of the Murders

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ROMANOV FAMILY DEATH SCENE

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