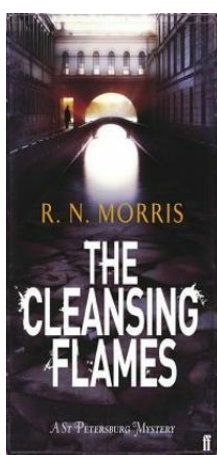


# THE CLEANSING FLAMES

Easter, 1872. Fires burn in St Petersburg, a prelude to the revolutionary turmoil that will shake Russia a generation later. As the springtime thaw begins, a body rises to the surface of the Winter Canal. Following an anonymous tip-off, magistrate Porfiry Petrovich is drawn into an investigation of the radical intellectuals who seek to fan the flames of revolution. In the meantime, junior magistrate Pavel Pavlovich Virginsky plays a dangerous game of his own. Following a chance meeting with a man he suspects of being an...



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## Reader's Opinions

The Cleansing Flames is the fourth instalment of Morris' Inspector Porfiry Petrovich series and the first I've read. Whilst there is much to admire about Morris' writing, especially his wry observations, social and political historicisation and sense of place, for my tastes the story suffered from...

The Cleansing Flames is the fourth in the series of St Petersburg mysteries and begins on the night of a fire in 1872 at the auspicious time of Easter. A disgruntled junior magistrate, Pavel Virginsky, is drawn to it and, as he watches, a stranger hands him a poem against God before vanishing. On the same night, 5 sailors dive into...