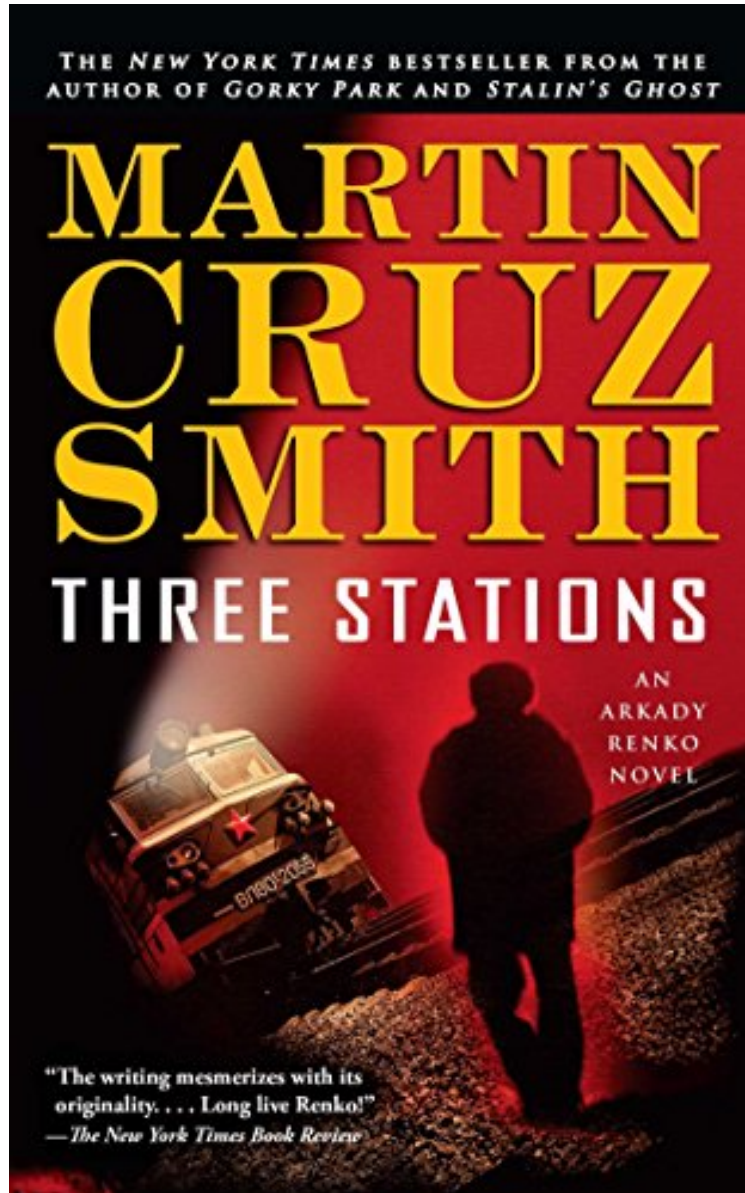


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Three Stations: An Arkady Renko Novel (Arkady Renko Series)

Von Martin Cruz Smith

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Von Martin Cruz Smith : Three Stations: An Arkady Renko Novel (Arkady Renko Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Three Stations: An Arkady Renko Novel

(Arkady Renko Series):

Kurzbeschreibung A passenger train hurtling through the night. An unwed teenage mother headed to Moscow to seek a new life. A cruel-hearted soldier looking furtively, forcibly, for sex. An infant disappearing without a trace. So begins Martin Cruz Smith's masterful *Three Stations*, a suspenseful, intricately constructed novel featuring Investigator Arkady Renko. For the last three decades, beginning with the trailblazing *Gorky Park*, Renko (and Smith) have captivated readers with detective tales set in Russia. Renko is the ironic, brilliantly observant cop who finds solutions to heinous crimes when other lawmen refuse to even acknowledge that crimes have occurred. He uses his biting humor and intuitive leaps to fight not only wrongdoers but the corrupt state apparatus as well. In *Three Stations*, Renko's skills are put to their most severe test. Though he has been technically suspended from the prosecutors office for once again turning up unpleasant truths, he strives to solve a last case: the death of an elegant young woman whose body is found in a construction trailer on the perimeter of Moscow's main rail hub. It looks like a simple drug overdose to everyone except to Renko, whose examination of the crime scene turns up some inexplicable clues, most notably an invitation to Russia's premier charity ball, the billionaires Nijinsky Fair. Thus a sordid death becomes interwoven with the lifestyles of Moscow's rich and famous, many of whom are clinging to their cash in the face of Putin's crackdown on the very oligarchs who placed him in power. Renko uncovers a web of death, money, madness and a kidnapping that threatens the woman he is coming to love and the lives of children he is desperate to protect. In *Three Stations*, Smith produces a complex and haunting vision of an emergent Russia's secret underclass of street urchins, greedy thugs and a bureaucracy still paralyzed by power and fear. *Pressestimmen* [Smith] takes what in essence is a police procedural and elevates it to the level of absorbing fiction. Nicholas A. Basbanes, *Los Angeles Times* A continuing adventure that in terms of popular fiction is surely a work of art. Patrick Anderson, *Washington Post* Martin Cruz Smith knows his Russia. Every page reeks of Moscow: dirty snow, the stink of cigarette and vodka fumes, the cynicism and tasteless opulence of the mafia, the all-pervasive corruption. *The Economist* The sustained success of Smith's Renko books is based on much more than Renko. This author's gift for tart, succinct description creates a poisonous political backdrop, one that makes his characters' survival skills as important as any of their other attributes. . . [This is] one top-flight series, still sharply honed, none the worse for wear. Janet Maslin, *New York Times* There are few thriller practitioners indeed who can weld a story to a graceful chassis of literature and send it barreling away at top speed. Martin Cruz Smith is one of them. Andrew Z. Galarneau, *Buffalo News* As always, Smith elevates a police procedural story to a taste of Russia, a glass of vodka poured quivering to the brim. Jennifer Kay, *Associated Press* *Pressestimmen* "A continuing adventure that in terms of popular fiction is surely a work of art." --Patrick Anderson, "*Washington Post*"