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Evgeny says

...One of the main rules of survival: if your enemy turned his back on you, do not be an idiot - shoot fast without opening your mouth...

This quote is especially true if you are a simple mortal foolish enough to take on a high-level wizard.

Hi, my name is Evgeny and I am aleoholic... oops, sorry wrong speech; what I wanted to say, I read trashy books. So let me start by saying that the writing quality will never make this book a classic even if a global catastrophe will destroy every single one other than this. The number of times the author described yet another gorgeous woman (I looked hard and finally managed to find exactly one ugly woman in the whole book) in practically the same words made me feeling sick by the end. To be fair Jim Butcher has exactly the same problem in Dresden Files and it does not prevent the series from being a huge success.

Yet, I gave this book 3 stars and had to make an embarrassing confession in the beginning of the review. Yes, I also eat at McDonald's sometimes.

Just like I cannot recommend this particular restaurant even to my enemies I cannot recommend this book to anybody. It was very entertaining for me; the sort of entertainment which does not force your gray cells to work, not even a single one.

The blurb begins with describing an event from the second half of the book and ends with revealing something from the very end. Luckily it is in Russian so people that do not know the language are safe from the spoiler. Anyhow a woman who also happened to be the strongest human wizard on the level of the best ones of the Secret City decided to play havoc with Great Houses of that mysterious place. Hint: if you want to know her motivations right away read the blurb.

In addition to being strong she was also smart, beautiful (could you guess it?), and had a lot of time to prepare. The fun began. As a result innocent people died by dozens and the Great Houses were ready to start war with each other, hiding from the people be damned. What she completely missed is that if you play with people's lives like this it tends to get the survivors really pissed and so practically half the population of Moscow (17,100,000 by the last census) began forming lines for a chance to get even.

So even in a completely trashy book you can find a practical lesson: even if your wizarding skills make Gandalf the White stand in a corner in shame it is not a good idea to get everybody and their brother upset.

There was another great lesson in the book (and this time I am dead serious). If you think you have a great idea and you only need to destroy even one person to implement it, do not delude yourself: you are really wrong. No idea, no matter how great it is, is worth a single human life. Russians suffered for almost a hundred years and learned the lesson. It is simple, but what always boggles my mind is how many people do not get it.

One more positive side of the tale: it does bring interesting and relatively unknown in the West Russian mythology. Have you ever heard about the lost library of Ivan the Terrible?

It was supposed to be almost as good as the famous Library of Alexandria.

Does anybody remember Sukharev Tower destroyed by Soviet authorities in 1934? It used to be one of the most famous landmark of Moscow.

As you can see from the quote in the beginning and further description the book is quite violent. The violence reached its peak by the end where it stopped at times to make place to some hilarious scenes - quite unexpectedly. The latter really saved the rating and made me hesitate in my firm resolution not to continue reading the series. As of now I am not sure if I do not want to continue.

Red says

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