



Smiting the Bear: The Last Stand of Comrade Fox (The Life and Times of Archibald Brinsley Fox 2)

Stewart Hennessey

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Smiting the Bear is the journal of Archibald Brinsley Fox's extraordinary adventures in the Russian wasteland of 1920-1921. Known in his day as a deserter, spy, forger, thief and womaniser, Brinsley Fox was always honest in his journals (though rarely at any other time).

Here he bears witness to a land ravaged by years of revolution and civil war; a time of massed banditry in which elaborate torture, casual murder and gang rape were unremarkable.

Fox is bent on staying in Russia to acquire a Faberge Egg and have his "wicked way with that mad bint, Inessa Armand," meaning Lenin's former mistress. Driven by desire, he blunders across a Russia which "Poe wouldn't have dared to imagine."

In the countryside, he is forced to partake in the new cuisine; cannibalism. In the city, he is confronted by the feral tribes of orphans who roam the streets killing innocents for kicks. He is press ganged into a Red Army unit, arrested by secret police and forced to wander the vast Russian steppes while the country is in uproar. With his desires thwarted, Fox stumbles into the legendary Kronstadt Rebellion, the last great uprising in Bolshevised Russia. And he knows it's a surefire failure...

Smiting the Bear: The Last Stand of Comrade Fox (The Life and Times of Archibald Brinsley Fox 2) Details

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From Reader Review *Smiting the Bear: The Last Stand of Comrade Fox (The Life and Times of Archibald Brinsley Fox 2)* for online ebook

C.S. Woolley says

For me this book was absolutely sensational. The tone and voice of it is something I can identify very easily with as the way that Fox interacts with the different characters he comes across is very close to how my best friends and I interact – right down to the insufferable messages of sarcasm and gloating that betray emotions of love and elements of reassurance.

The character of Fox is endearing and very likeable almost instantly. Despite his clear and present faults, he is still someone that the reader can find charming very easily. The comical tone of the book as it explores the internal struggle of the Russian war between the Reds and Whites brings the war and strife to life through the voice and perspective of a man that seemingly has his own preservation and wealth as his only priorities in life.

The plot is extraordinarily laid out, with twists and turns to keep the reader guessing and the relationships between each of the characters, especially skewed by the perspective of Fox are delightful to behold.

This is one of the few books I have read by self-published authors that has genuinely delighted me from reading the first paragraph and left me feeling just as enchanted with it by the last sentence. For those who are British and those that enjoy a satirical and sarcastic manner will love Fox and find this book to be a real page turner.

It does rely in places on having read the previous book to this, but this is no bad thing when the writing is as good as this. I would recommend this to anyone that enjoys fiction to be entertained, or to read scandal, or even to read of how even the most roguish and free-willed of men can find himself completely out foxed by a sly and cunning woman.

Anthea Carson says

Set at the end of Russia's Civil War, this is the follow-up to *Comrade Fox*, and it is less epic in style, a more straightforward adventure story. It offers a powerful portrait of a time when Russia almost entirely fell apart. The anarchic atmosphere and the surfeit of horrors are fascinating, and the dramatic twists in the narrative are first class storytelling. However, it is not as funny as *Comrade Fox* - perhaps it's not really trying to be, maybe the stakes are too high for Fox to laugh as much? It's still humorous but with fewer LOL moments - a great yarn and full of fascinating historical tidbits. But *Comrade Fox* is funnier.

James McCormick says

Excellent follow-up to *Comrade Fox*, wonderful depiction of the tragic -and tragically forgotten - Kronstadt

Rebellion, and an epilogue that casts new light on everything over the two books.

Not as funny as Comrade Fox, it is deeper, more dramatic and poignant. Hennessey includes a Homeric Odyssey early on in the tale, across anarchic Russia in 1920 that is shocking and memorable.

This is the third Archibald Brinsley Fox tale I've read and as historical fiction I believe they're good enough to be placed up there with the others classics of the genre.
