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Wisconsin Vietnam Vet, Soviet Scholar and Author Robert E. Townsend publishes Third Novel in *The Long War Series*

MADISON, Wisconsin, 1 November 2016: *The Executioner's Son*, the third novel in Robert Townsend's *Long War* series, opens in springtime 1953. Eighteen-year-old Danton, son of NKVD officer, Volk Larionov, lives in Suzdahl, Russia's medieval religious center. Its fortresses, monasteries, and nunneries have become the Gulag, the NKVD all-powerful. Screams punctuate the night. During the *rasputitsa*, Russia's spring thaw, the dead rise from mass graves, the earth rejecting the murdered, those buried without ceremony or funeral.

An apparition, the fifteen-year-old goose herder, Ekaterina Soroka, appears on Illian Meadow beneath the walls of the Suzdal Kremlin. The all-powerful sixteen-year-old Danton spies the beauty from afar. He will take her for his pleasure. She transfixes with a tale and as the spring becomes summer a slight and blond Scheherazade beguiles the executioner's son with *skazka*, a Russian folk tales. On a summer day she disappears.

Danton the bully has fallen in love with Ekaterina the storyteller. He vows he will seek her if he must travel *beyond the seventh sea beyond the seventh kingdom*.

And so it comes to pass. In a distant land on a flooded Laotian river crossing, he encounters his the American soldier, SP-4 Richard Belisle, {*Spirit Falls, The Wounded*} framing him within the crosshairs of the sniper's scope

[*The Executioner's Son*](#), (ISBN **978-1495399336**) \$14.95 paperback, \$2.99 eBook. The third novel in Robert E. Townsend's *The Long War* series, release date 15 October 2016, is available for sale at Amazon.com

URL > <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1495399338?tag=worktrut-20>

[Read sample chapter here](#)

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About the Author:



Townsend knows of what he writes. He served two tours in Vietnam, lived long years in Germany, Russia and Central Europe, and speaks Russian, German and French (He supported Cambodian military operations in the French language). His academic and military specialty is the Soviet Union and Russia and holds a master's degree in Russian Area Studies (Georgetown University). He ran the Air Force counter-deception program against the Soviet Union from CIA in the 1980s.

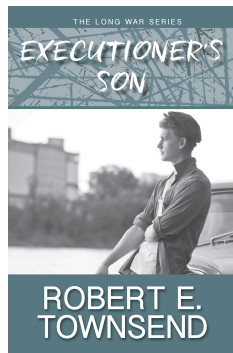
The fourth book in *The Long War* series, *Broken Codes*, scheduled for publication in late 2017, was the first written. When Townsend completed *Broken Codes* some years back, he realized that the book's protagonists, the US Army officer, Richard Belisle, and Soviet GRU officer, Danton Larionov, were fighting a war begun long before. Understanding that were he to follow their conflict to its beginning, the story would begin with Cain, the farmer, and Abel, the herder. He compromised. He reached back to the fragmented stories of WWII veteran, Russian and American told, his own hot and cold war experiences, the tales former KGB and GRU agents told over iced vodka. See <http://roberttownsendonline.com/about/author/>

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About the Book:



In the spring, 1953, Danton Larionov, son of NKVD officer, Captain Volk Larionov, spies the young beauty Ekaterina Soroka herding sheep in the shadow of the Suzdal's medieval fortress. He forces himself upon her, but she pauses him with a fairy tale and his time of troubles begins. Suzdal is now a GULAG. As Stalin's death convulses the Soviet Union, she holds him a bay with Russian tales. In the fall, she disappears, as if Koschei, the Deathless, has taken her. He vows to find her, and begins an improbable journey to distant and strange lands battling an implacable and cunning enemy armed with a most powerful weapon, the American soldier, Richard Belisle. *Published by Liars Path Publishing, 2016, (ISBN 978-1495399336) \$14.95 paperback, \$2.99 electronic.*

Review Copies and Media Interviews:

For a review copy of *The Executioner's Son* or an interview with Robert Townsend, please contact (715-360-1945/rbt.townsend@liarspath.org). When requesting a review copy, please provide street address. If you would like to receive this information as a Word document, please let us know.