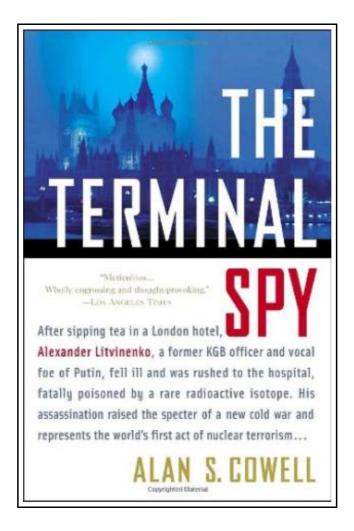
# The Terminal Spy: After sipping tea in a London hotel, Alexander Litvinenko, a former KGB officer and vocal foe of the Kremlin, fell ill and was rushed to the hospital, fatally



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## THE TERMINAL SPY: AFTER SIPPING TEA IN A LONDON HOTEL, ALEXANDER LITVINENKO, A FORMER KGB OFFICER AND VOCAL FOE OF THE KREMLIN, FELL ILL AND WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL, FATALLY



Broadway Books, 2009. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK REVIEW "The Terminal Spy: A True Story of Espionage, Betrayal, and Murder" by Alan S. Cowell A foreign correspondent analyzes the poisoning death of dissident Russian intelligence agent Alexander Litvinenko. By Tim Rutten Los Angeles Times Staff Writer August 16, 2008 WHEN veteran foreign correspondent Alan S. Cowell turned his superb newspaper coverage of dissident Russian intelligence agent Alexander Litvinenko''s bizarre 2006 murder into a book, he knew he was writing a real-life post-Cold War thriller rich in implication. His title and subtitles, "The Terminal Spy: A True Story of Espionage, Betrayal, and Murder -- The First Act of Nuclear Terrorism and the New Cold War," suggest just how rich. It''s hard to imagine, however, that even Cowell could have foreseen this complex tale"s urgently prophetic dimension, since it"s a story that repeatedly leads back to Vladimir Putin, shedding important light on the Russian strongman"s exercise of power and on his attitude toward the West. As the Georgian crisis grinds on, understanding Putin and his brand of statecraft are matters of more than passing interest. Cowell, a longtime correspondent for the New York Times, was reporting from the paper"s London bureau when the Litvinenko story broke. The Russian had begun a lifetime involvement in intrigue as a counterintelligence agent in the Soviet KGB. After the fall of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, he entered the domestic branch of the FSB, successor agency to the KGB, joining an organized crime unit. Like many a Russian with an eye for the main chance in that wild west interlude, Litvinenko attached himself to one of the emerging oligarchs fattening like carrion birds on the chaotic and corrupt privatization of...

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