

true crime

# The Dyatlov Pass Incident

**True crime.** St. Petersburg 2012. ca. 430 pages including illustrations

**Publishers:** Germany - Random House, Czech Republic - Dobrovsky

With an epilogue by Oleg Kashin

The Dyatlov Pass incident resulted in the deaths of nine ski hikers in the northern Ural mountains on the night of February 2, 1959. The mountain pass where the incident occurred has since been named Dyatlov Pass after the group's leader, Igor Dyatlov. The lack of eyewitnesses has inspired much speculation. Soviet investigators determined only that "a compelling unknown force" had caused the deaths. Access to the area was barred for skiers and other adventurers for three years after the incident. Investigators at the time determined that the hikers tore open their tent from within, departing barefoot into heavy snow and a temperature of  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-22^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Although the corpses showed no signs of struggle, two victims had fractured skulls, two had broken ribs, and one was missing her tongue. Their clothing, when tested, was found to be highly radioactive.

This book makes a new attempt to analyse all of the information available up until today about the mysterious deaths of the group of Sverdlovsk tourists on the Dyatlov Pass in the winter of 1959 and to evaluate them for the first time without any of the mystic suppositions that have dogged this unexplained event. In doing so, the author draws on two witnesses still living as well as on archives and on secret files held in Yekaterinburg and elsewhere, files that have been withheld from the public up to now. The book goes as far as naming those responsible in the end. Why their names cannot be revealed, however, becomes clear during the course of the book. Despite, or perhaps precisely because of the rational, strictly documentary portrayal, this book leaves the reader with the impression of experiencing a true nightmare.

The Hollywood feature film "Devil's Pass" has been released 2013 with Renny Harlin as director (Nightmare on Elm Street / Die Hard 2 / Cliffhanger / Deep Blue Sea / Exorzist Beginning / The Covenant / 5 Days of War).

**"A terrible tragedy with unbelievable force that grips the reader right until the end!"**  
*Lovelybooks*

Rakitin was born in 1964. He has lived in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) since 1979, went to school there, completed his training as a mechanic at the city's military academy and worked in a "secret" engineering department within the Ministry of Mechanical Engineering up until Perestroika. Following 1989 his sound physical constitution enabled a move to a private security company. Up until the mid-2000s he was bodyguard to Russian and international VIPs visiting St. Petersburg, during the course of which he was injured several times. During one of his convalescence periods he started the "Unsolved Crimes of the Past" internet project together with a group of like-minded individuals. On the side, Rakitin began writing thrillers based on true crimes from the 19th century. Rakitin has no passport, gives no interviews and does not appear in public. He lives in St. Petersburg.

Kashin was born in Kaliningrad in 1980. He is Russia's best known investigative journalist. As a journalist with the newspaper Kommersant and others he is a repeated critic of democracy deficits in Russia.

# Aleksei Rakitin

## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
2 languages

**samples available**  
full german

**other work**  
Monster from the Ural