



The Brothel in Rosenstrasse: An Extravagant Tale

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Old Count von Bek remembers his sexual glory days in pre-1914 Mirenburg. He remembers Alexandra, his teenage lover and the brothel in Rosenstrasse where outrageous fantasies were realised. But all the while civil war closes in. Politics and military power soon destroy the exotic and erotic mirage.

The Brothel in Rosenstrasse: An Extravagant Tale Details

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Author : Michael Moorcock

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From Reader Review The Brothel in Rosenstrasse: An Extravagant Tale for online ebook

Toby says

Cracking book. Great companion piece to the Colonel Pyat series.

Shannon Appelcline says

Well written, and actually has some insightful connections to the other Von Bek books if you read it carefully and consider the characters and theming.

Traummachine says

I love Michael Moorcock, but this was very different from anything else I've read by him. Not supernatural at all, although it's set in the same city as the 1st two von Bek books. Dreamlike prose that sways between nostalgic remembrance of a youth of debauchery and present-day, dying and bed-ridden. Aside from the city and the name "von Bek", this is unrelated to the von Bek series.

I like the premise of the book a lot -- if the world's going to hell anyway and you can't stop it, might as well party! The book's not for anyone who's morally squeamish; it does take place in a brothel, after all. My main complaint is that there's really not a lot that happens other than lover's quarrels and occasional news of the fighting taking place outside the brothel. The prose was great, but I wish the plot was stronger.

Tony Calder says

Unusually for a Moorcock book, this contains no fantasy elements. It is the story of a member of the von Bek family writing his memoirs at the end of his life. The memoirs are set in Moorcock's fictional city of Mirenburg during 1897 - the time that they are being written is not specified, but is sometime during the Spanish Civil War.

The book is not badly written, but it didn't really grab me - I found my attention wandering a lot while reading it. Rickhardt von Bek, like the protagonist of the second von Bek book, is not a particularly likable person - and not just because at the age of 27 he is having an affair with a 16 year old girl - something they may cause qualms to readers with modern sensibilities. This would also apply to the early 80s, when the book was written, but would not have been considered excessively shocking in the latter days of 19th century Europe. And Michael Moorcock has never been an author who worried about offending people's sensitivities.

This is the final volume in the von Bek series (I believe), although there is also a short story in one of his compilation volumes, The Metatemporal Detective.

Joe Stamber says

I think I may have read the second and third of the Von Bek series out of order, although I'm not sure how much difference it made, knowing MM. I don't remember this one as well as "The Warhound and the World's Pain", but I remember that I didn't enjoy it quite as much.

Elar says

Relation to Eternal Champion cycle is near to nil, but it was quite alright as erotic recollection of high born youth in the end of 19th century.
