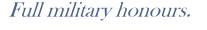
worst traditions of a Mafia State as the Empire undoubtedly was.

Naturally, they received the respect they deserved from an Empire grateful for their many years of unwavering theft. The burial of their remains followed the fashionable style of the time.

XVI

16





What is that Dear Reader? I see you sitting there impatiently. Ah, yes, whom had the Tsar resolved to consult? He had only summoned up all his courage, which was not a lot, to venture into the dread Forest of Gloom (otherwise known as the "Girkin Central Park of Culture and Leisure") to consult with Arch-Wizard Kirill, high priest of the Z-Cult and life member of Club FSB.