

# Anthony R. Howard's "The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox"--The Ultimate Spy Thriller

## Where All Missions...Are Possible

By **Ayanna Guyhto**

If you have ever wondered where action filmmakers get their ideas for exciting screenplays, wonder no more. [Anthony R. Howard](#) is responsible for one of this decade's most thrilling page-turners. Set in the present day, *The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox* takes its cues from the Cold War that ended in 1991. Getting a grasp on this tense background is crucial to understanding the story line's flow. But if you're not up on your world history or politics, have no worries. Howard obliges the lesser informed with a quite thorough introduction. And without a hint of condescension, the author sets up the elaborate political world created by the dissolution of the Russian KGB.

The beginning chapters set the stage, with the action unfolding at break-neck speed. It isn't too difficult to comprehend the climate of the novel from the first few pages. And immediately after, it becomes evident that there is a broad network of individuals that you'll need to be consistently aware of. And just when you think you have figured out one agenda, another one reveals itself. Don't feel badly if you are compelled to backtrack and reread a few pages to get a handle on what's actually going on. And if you start getting fuzzy on the characters, Howard has included an easy-to-follow organizational chart of Russian operatives. (How's *that* for thinking ahead?)

The action bounces back and forth between remarkably slick teams of Russian agents (*invisible enemies*, if you will) and the American powers that be, that are charged with stopping the mayhem and preventing political chaos. Abandon all previous notions of "Russian spies"; these secret agents are woven so seamlessly into the fabric of society that you would hardly notice if one sat next to you on the subway. But you don't necessarily have to be a spy fan to completely immerse yourself in the world of espionage presented by Anthony R. Howard's [The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox](#).

Truly, this is one of those novels that are crammed with so much "visual" information that your brain will spin. Nonetheless, the acute attention to detail is only one of the more brilliant aspects of Howard's writing. The precise descriptions of his characters not only serve the plot, but also outfit the reader's imagination. We know exactly what the spies look like; but even better than that - we understand how they evolved into the "human robots" that they have become. Certainly, there are flourishes of humanity sprinkled throughout the novel. But even these pieces of the puzzle are designed to support the book's multiple agendas.

Yes, this is indeed the stuff that packed movie theaters are made of. Despite the wide array of technological advancements in cinema, somehow you get the feeling that a book like this would be virtually impossible to film. There are simply too many elaborate nuances that capturing them all on camera would take monumental vision. Calling this novel intricate would probably be the grossest understatement of the year. The advanced weaponry and fleet of high-end techie devices alone are enough to send the brain reeling. Could devices of warfare like this truly end up in the hands of people who shouldn't have them? The real-life answer is more frightening than you might think.

(And just when you thought the mayhem was over, Howard follows up this masterpiece with a sequel, [The Invisible Enemy II: Vendetta](#).)

To be continued...

### SOURCES:

The Invisible Enemy: Black Fox by Anthony R. Howard  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)