

JERREY
ARCHER



A MATTER
OF HONOUR

A MATTER OF HONOUR

shows world best-selling author, Jeffrey Archer, writing at the very height of his compelling powers. Not since John Buchan's *THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS* has a novel of pursuit and suspense unravelled with such breathtaking pace.

Adam Scott listens to the reading of his father's will, aware that the financial benefit can only be pitiful. The colonel, after all, had nothing to leave – except a letter he had never opened himself, a letter, Adam fears, which can only bring further dishonour to the family name.

Should Adam open the letter and discover what had caused his father to leave the regiment in disgrace and force him to resign his commission? His mother begs him not to, but the moment he does so he realises his life can never be the same again. The contents leave him no choice but to follow a course that his father would have described as "A MATTER OF HONOUR"

Colonel Scott's bequest leads Adam first to a Russian icon of Saint George and the Dragon that had once belonged to the last Tsar, before being left to Colonel Scott himself. Now the Russians want it back, having discovered its secret which could change the balance of world power.

Thus begins a story that no reader will be able to put down until the final page. Jeffrey Archer, author of *KANE AND ABEL* and *FIRST AMONG EQUALS*, has achieved his greatest triumph to date.

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JEFFREY ARCHER



A MATTER OF HONOUR



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To Will

PART ONE



**THE KREMLIN
MOSCOW**

May 19, 1966