



Black Lies, Red Blood

Kjell Eriksson , Paul Norlén (Translator)

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Kjell Eriksson has made a huge splash around the globe with his Ann Lindell police procedural series. Now Eriksson is back with another stunning mystery packed with surprises.

In *Black Lies, Red Blood*, police officer Ann Lindell is great at solving crimes, but she doesn't have as much luck in her personal life. When she meets journalist Anders Brant, Ann thinks her luck has turned around. But then Anders disappears without a trace and a homeless man's body is found with Anders' phone number in the dead man's pocket. As Ann races to find Anders, she hopes that she will not be too late, and she also hopes that whatever she discovers will not break her heart.

Eriksson has been nominated for the Best Swedish Crime Novel five times, and readers will find this new book in his critically acclaimed and beloved series both shocking and intriguing.

Black Lies, Red Blood Details

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From Reader Review Black Lies, Red Blood for online ebook

Sheila says

While it is a crime and police procedural novel, a good deal of the narrative is about the female detective's emotional state, her longing for her lover, and her confusion when she believes he may be involved in a murder. Apart from Ann and her lover, the other characters are not fleshed out enough for me to remember which is which. I like crime novels because unlike in real life, things usually get tidily resolved in the end. The end of this book, however, I found rather less satisfying.

Elizabeth says

Ann Linell is a captivating character. Sad, smart and vulnerable, she makes for a complex heroine who knows her policing but does not know herself. There are two murders being simultaneously investigated, which makes the book compelling, if hard to follow at times. I found the end disappointing insofar as one of the murders remains unsolved. That said, I did read it in a day, and found the plot solid in this very character driven story. Kjell Eriksson, I will read you again.

Mike Cuthbert says

My exploration of Nordic Noir continued with this example from Kjell Eriksson. Unlike most of its brethren in the genre, this one is half murder mystery and half romance. Ann Lindell, cop, has concluded a tempestuous love affair with journalist Anders Brant. He has since disappeared, leaving her extremely depressed and sexually frustrated. She has a son by a previous marriage, but she clearly wants a commitment from Brant. So, while she waits to hear from him she begins work on two homicides: a young girl, Klara Lovisa, has disappeared and has yet to be found and a homeless man named Bo (Bosse) Gränsberg. Bo has a piece of paper in his pocket with a phone number: that of Anders Brant. That makes Brant a suspect for some reason, though it seems to me the phone number of a reporter who features stories about the helpless classes would not be enough to place the reporter under suspicion of homicide. Lindell is aided and supported by a fellow officer, the elder Sammy Nilsson. There is no whiff of serious relations between them; he is just a good friend with her best interests at heart. I found the constant references to her desperation over the loss of Brant and side trips into his Latin affairs with the ravishing Vanessa time ill-spent, but then Lindell doesn't spend much effort on the homeless case and is very slow developing the case against anyone for the Lovisa slaying. The novel also turns out to be out-of-balance: while the romance and the mixed cases of the homeless man and a Russian connection take a lot of time, the solution to both cases comes lightning quick, in almost excessive haste. Other than her desperation and her admirable relationship with Sammy, I never got much of a feel for Lindell's character as a cop. There is also very little physical activity in the novel, a rarity for this genre. All-in-all, then, somewhat of a let-down in my series. I have many more to go, however, so I shall remain optimistic.

Gisela Hafezparast says

Whilst I still enjoyed this story, this is so far my least favourite of the series. What I like about the series is that it first introduces you to a police department and then lets you get to know the detectives bit by bit and whilst the problems they face in their private and professional life are shown until now it wasn't depressing. More like that's life, it has its ups and downs. This book however, definitely tipped into the depressed state, both as far as the individual police men and women were concerned, especially Anne Lindell (who is having a terrible time), but also a general despondency over the whole department. The crimes, whilst terrible, are not the most harrowing ones of the series. Can only assume the writer wasn't having a great time when he was writing this! Still worth a read though and I will start the last one in the series tonight.

Margaret Sullivan says

Another good detective story; this one was easier to follow the main characters. From the beginning you are always trying to figure out who the killers are; since there are more than one murder scene going on throughout the book. A lot of surprises along the way.

Michael Rumney says

This comes across like most Scandinavian crime novels as cold and bleak and I had to remind myself it was Summer in sweltering heat. Two crimes were merged into one the link being Ann Lindell who investigates a disappearance and her new boyfriend is implicated in a murder of a homeless man. I got confused in the last third of the book to where we were in either story and the fact one remain unsolved.

I know this happens in real life but it still felt unsatisfactory. Some of the English translation felt odd, who says paper carrier for someone who delivers newspapers. Does anyone take pain pills?

I felt the author could do better it felt like two separate tales but didn't have enough for separate books.

Deane says

As usual, a good read set in Sweden and one of the Detective Ann Lindell mystery series. Ending surprised me in its briefness of the solutions or closing of the cases of murder being investigated but all made clear, thank goodness. I notice more and more explicit sex being introduced which is unnecessary; hope that path doesn't continue. Now to find the final book #10 in the series!

Was very surprised to find several errors in the translation of this book....where was the editor who should have caught these somewhat confusing mistakes?

Laura Bourassa says

The translation was very poor and the editing that didn't catch the poor translation disappointing. The mystery was well paced and interesting. The parallel Anne and Anders romantic thread was overdone and detracted from the characters themselves.

Suzanne says

I think that because I came straight in at Book 5, the story felt slow and sluggish - wading through treacle. I didn't care about the characters, good or bad so they didn't keep me interested enough to be desperate for the final act .. sadly, just the final page.

Linda says

I've liked his previous books featuring Ann Lindell solving complex crimes, however this entry seems muddled and not nearly as interesting.

David says

Worth persevering but a bit slow in places.

Ching-Bing-Ping says

Black Lies, Red Blood by Kjell Eriksson is the latest instalment in the series featuring Ann Lindell. Set in Sweden, the book starts with Lindell glowing in the light of new found love (according to her). But, no sooner had she really started feeling happy, than the “perfect man” Anders Brant, disappears from her life and apparently from Sweden without any hint as to his whereabouts or his motive. Before Lindell can figure what’s happening, a dead body with a bashed up head is found. Quickly identified as a homeless man, the police find a phone number in his pockets. And, giving credibility to the term “co-incidence” the number turns out to be Brant’s. Lindell is distressed and tries to solve another crime relating to the disappearance of a teenage girl, as she tries to find out “Where the hell, Brant is and what had he done to get his phone number in the pockets of a murdered man?”

Now, points to reckon while reading a book that has been written in a Scandinavian country.

1. Extremely brutal and twisted crime. Like one bullet used to kill three men standing haphazardly.
3. An equally twisted logic to solve and explain the crime.
4. Extremely bad translation (in most cases).
5. Extremely dark detectives.
 - a. They don't know how to laugh.
 - b. Their lives are always down in the dumps.
 - c. They, always somehow in some way make the crime personal.
6. An African connection. (not frequent, but neither rare)
7. A book, despite all the above points, which is deliciously fast, and hugely entertaining to read.

Now, this particular book had none of the points mentioned from 1 to 6, except maybe the brooding detective and bad translation. Yet, it came out as a “WHY DID I PICK THIS BOOK” kind of book. The crime was pretty simple, the motive when explained to the reader was also simple, in fact it was so simple that wasting

320 pages on such a crime, and bringing it out with a name as mysterious and having no connection to the plot is a bit over the top. And the detection. This took all the cakes away. For 80% of the book everyone was speculating as to who can be the murderer, digging up names and taking with them, comparing fingerprints with no success. And then suddenly the murderer starts behaving oddly, he starts to show to the reader that he just might be the criminal, and in the penultimate chapter he is branded as the culprit. The police could have as well sat on their backs and waited for the 80% of the book to go by and wait for the man to reveal himself. This is not something I like in a detective novel. If this is a kind of thriller you are writing, I would rather read a case report. And coming to case report, the translation actually felt like that. Wooden and official.

Then what was this fuss about the book being an Ann Lindell mystery??? I mean the crime written on the blurb gets solved by everyone else but this lady. The only connection she had with the crime was that her supposed beau's number was in the victim's pocket, and that he did a vanishing trick. Lindell was busy trying to solve the missing kid case. And what did that case had to do with the main plot, except increase the number of pages?? And, even that case didnt get a proper ending. Or for that matter what did Anders Brant's vacation in Brazil, his escapades with a Brazilian lady had to do with the main plot?? Except increasing the number of pages.

This book will remain as one, which had a thin plot fit for a short story, but which came out as a novel just because the author decided to stuff the whole plot with words and paras not remotely connected with the main plot. Or maybe this was that other kind of crime novel, the one with a "BROADER ISSUE" as it base. Whatever that might be!!

Tim says

I am a big fan of Eriksson's book "The Princess of Burundi" – a very ambitious, very socially conscious crime novel, and a good read. This one was more difficult for me to enjoy (too many moving parts? Too much poorly connected connections? the fault could be my own), but it has a fine ending.

Janellyn51 says

I liked this one the best I think. Ann wasn't all boohoo Edvard.....

Marcy Skala says

What a surprise, when I started to read this book and the author mentions Rackarbergsgatan, a street I used to live on in Uppsala. Maybe there are other Rackarbergsgatan in other towns of Sweden, but no, then he mentions Flogsta, another place I lived. It is set in Uppsala -- how fun. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, not only for the mention of so many familiar places, but I feel that Kjell Ericksson really gets into the heads of his characters -- not to the point where it gets in the way of the story -- but enough to draw one in. Have another of his books on hold at the library and cannot wait to pick it up!
