

Killer Deal

Sofie Sarenbrandt

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An abused wife with a small, strange child; real estate agents with plenty to hide; a pregnant cop with a complicated love life; a shadowy stalker, and several gruesome murders make this third book in Sofie Sarenbrandt's Emma Sköld series of crime novels a gripping, chilling read.

Cornelia Göransson, longing to escape her abusive husband, Hans, has their upper-end house listed for sale. Waking up the day after an open house, six-year-old Astrid discovers her father's mutilated body in the guest room. When there is no evidence of a break-in, and the murder weapon proves to be a knife from the family's own kitchen, Cornelia becomes a prime suspect, despite Astrid's claim that a strange man was in her room, gently stroking her cheek, on the night of the murder. Detective Emma Sköld, who should be rejoicing in her pregnancy but instead is in a complicated relationship with the baby's father, is called to work the case. After Cornelia is in custody, more murders, all associated with open houses in the area, prove that the killer is still on the loose, and Emma, stalked by a former lover, finds the web of suspicion drawing frighteningly close to home.

While Sarenbrandt's multivoice approach takes us deeply into the minds of her characters, including that of the psychopathic killer, the cliffhanger ending still comes as a surprise.

KRISTINE MORRIS (Summer 2016)

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