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First There Was Silence



Synopsis

Nele finally had her life back on track. After her first marriage crumbled, she didn't know if she'd ever be able to recover until she met Andreas. Their marriage and the birth of Lotta had been a small miracle. But when the baby, now nine months old, mysteriously disappears, Nele's world turns dark again. Suspicion immediately falls on her but Detective Sven Jansen suspects that there's more to the story, especially when Nele's long-estranged sister suddenly reappears and begins talking about their past. Desperate to retrieve her missing daughter, Nele finds herself on the run. With her world crashing down around her, she combats the growing distrust from those closest to her, along with her own self-doubt, to find out what happened to Lotta. But can she or Detective Jansen uncover the truth? Or will Nele's worst nightmare become a reality for a second time?

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Customer Reviews

Nele lived every parent's worst nightmare when she lost her first son to crib death. At the time her husband blamed her and the marriage crumbled. Now, a few years later she moved on as best she could, remarried and has a beautiful baby girl, Lotta. But horror strikes again when she wakes

up one morning to find that Lotta has gone. Because of the mysteriousness of the disappearance and Nele's history of post-natal depression, suspicion immediately falls on her and there is a growing distrust even from those closest to her. Although her world is disintegrating around her once again, Nele is convinced that Lotta is still alive and in her desperation to search for her, she finds herself on the run. This is a great psychological thriller and suspects abound to keep the reader guessing. It also addresses how fragile relationships and people's own psyche can be during times of crisis. However, it also illustrates the power of a mother's love and the seemingly impossible lengths she would go to in order to save her child. Overall, it's a heart-rending story with excellent characterisation and plotline. This novel is set in Wiesbaden, Germany. As we know, literature offers us a vital window into other cultures, promoting understanding in a way that even travel cannot. Yet English-language publishers have a woeful track record when it comes to translating great stories from other parts of the world. It is encouraging therefore to see that this has changed recently with the popularity of authors like Stieg Larsson which reflects a growing demand for translated novels.

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