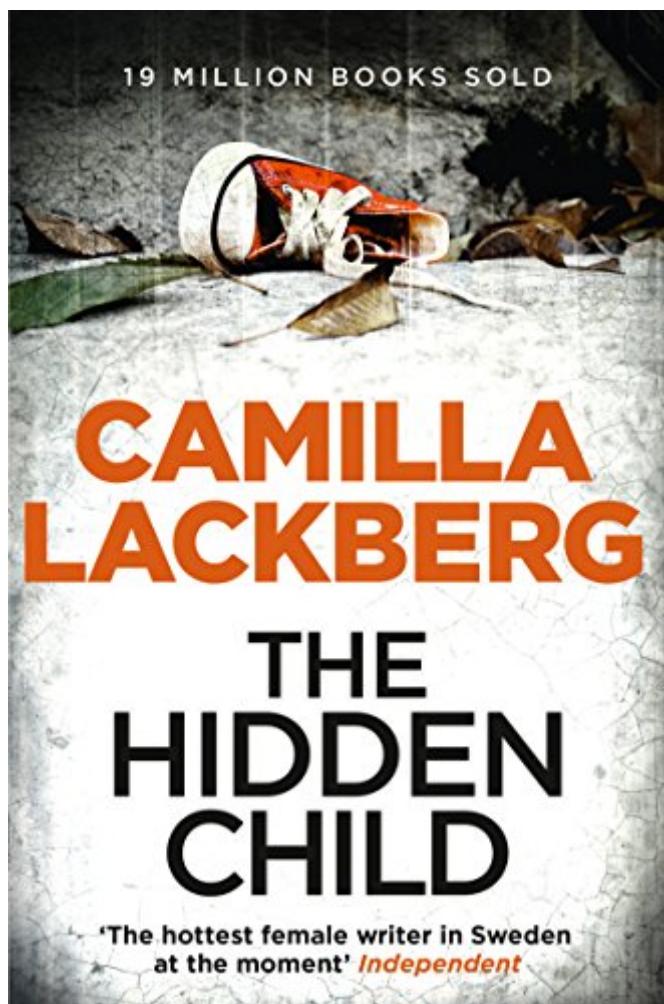


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The Hidden Child (Patrik Hedstrom And Erica Falck, Book 5) (Patrick Hedstrom And Erica Falck)



Synopsis

In this official TV Summer Book Club pick, worldwide bestseller Camilla Lackberg weaves together another brilliant contemporary psychological thriller with the chilling struggle of a young woman facing the darkest chapter of Europe's past. Crime writer Erica Falck is shocked to discover an old Nazi medal among her late mother's belongings. Inspired to dig deep into her past, she visits a retired history teacher for answers. Two days later, he is dead. Detective Patrik Hedström is on paternity leave. But his wife's enquiries appear to have set off a chain of murders and he is finding it hard to keep out of the investigation. A terrible secret from the darkest days of World War II is coming to light and their families' histories are right at the heart of it.

Book Information

File Size: 1235 KB

Print Length: 515 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (June 20, 2011)

Publication Date: June 20, 2011

Language: English

ASIN: B0052D10MW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #299,700 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #78 in Books > Travel > Europe > Sweden > General #2407 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > War #2780 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Military

Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book. It does jump back and forth between the past and present - for those of you who do not like that type of writing beware. In this novel Erica is trying to learn about her mother's past. She discovers diaries and a Nazi medal wrapped in a baby's dress. She takes the medal to a neighbor who studies old Nazi memorabilia. That neighbor is later found murdered!

learned a lot about how WWII impacted Sweden and the people who lived there. I learned a lot about the white supremacist ideology - which is still very much alive and thriving in todays society. So if you are not interested in that period of time you would not like this book. However, if you want some insights into the mentality of what is happening in our world today - you will enjoy it. Plus - it is a really good murder story :)

I had to learn the secret of Erica's mother. Erica was an author whose husband Patrick was a policeman on paternity leave, caring for their one-year-old daughter so that Erica could resume her writing career. Following her mother's death, Patrick and Erica moved into Erica's mother's house. In the attic, Erica discovered some of her mother's diaries and a baby dress with dried blood on it wrapped around a Nazi medal. A murder victim was discovered in this small town in Sweden who was a childhood friend of Erica's mother, and the mystery began. Very well written and easy to follow. Highly recommend it.

I personally loved this book. The only thing I will say is that it was very hard to keep on top of the switching storylines. Jumping from one person's story to another so quickly, gets confusing at times. I found myself re-reading big chunks of it just to make sure that I completely understood the message the author was trying to convey to me. I wanted to make sure that every strand of it, made sense to me when it all became connected. It kept me on the edge of my seat, and really challenged me to think about every aspect of the book. Flashing back to the time of the war, really helped me to envision what it must have been like back then. As well as helps you to understand why the characters' personalities are the way they are. I always know it's a good book, when you're reading and you realize that it has made you feel every emotion imaginable through characters that aren't even real. Getting to know them on a level, that's almost personal, makes it hard to say it's over. I commend Camilla Läckberg for this remarkable work, and I will be reading the rest of this series in the future.

A little drawn out, but worth sticking with the story and the history behind it. This is a heart wrencher, a small piece of history in a terrible war that brought to light the savage nature of those dizzy with power urges. Unfortunately, in today's world with generations removed by time and imbued with false promises of liberalism, the current generations cannot see history is repeating itself, and the same sadism is being poured onto the heirs of survivors that suffered 70 years and more before.

Lackberg has given us an interesting story of a part of WWII that doesn't normally show up in fiction. This is a story that shows us the impact of Nazi Germany on the lives ordinary Scandinavians, including the political divisions within the populace. It was not all anti- Nazism, and her story informs the recent events in Sweden where extremists have committed horrific acts of violence against groups they deem "other." The idea of ethnic "purity" still exists and has relevance to Europe's quandary over the current refugee emergency as well. As to this particular book, the dialog is often stilted and unnatural and over-expository, providing a major distraction, and to me, an irritation. Sometimes the characters' interior dialogs had the same effect. But in places, she seemed to hit her stride, often in the more action-oriented scenes, and the writing flowed. Over all and given the option to read something a bit more polished, I probably would not be enticed to pick up another one of her books at this stage in her writing career, but I did appreciate the historical content and aspect.

This was my first Camilla Lackberg book, and while I enjoyed it for the most part, I found one of the central characters quite irritating. It's Hedstrom's wife, Erica, who's the primary protagonist in this novel, in search of information about her deceased mother. Fine. Lots of us get into the hunt for information on lost ancestors, but Erica seems so completely oblivious to everything else that her behavior borders on the self-indulgent. Really, what kind of person badgers an elderly woman with Alzheimer's? Aside from that, it was an enjoyable read and I may pick up another in the Patrik Hedstrom series if I've nothing else on hand; but if his wife is as annoying in my next read as she was in this one, it'll probably be my last.

This was my introductory book from this author, and I am glad I read it. At first it was difficult to follow the names of the characters and names of places because they are foreign to English, but eventually I got it all straightened out. The story itself had an intriguing plot and cast of characters, each with their own personalities and secrets. As the story unfolded I became more and more absorbed in what was happening and was going to happen next. The ending is brilliant. I did not see the ending coming, as the twists and turns kept me guessing and it all came together nicely. There was one storyline that I felt was left hanging, but you should read this and see if you agree. I will be starting with the first book of this author's works, as I liked her pace and found the foreign names and places a refreshing change from the English I am completely familiar with. I also liked the humorous aspects she sprinkled in to help break the tension when needed. I am a new fan of this author and can't wait to get started on my next selection!

A well written novel. This novel will keep you guessing to the end! This is a unsettling story of love unforgiving hate and revenge. It is a story of many secrets from the past. I thinkAny one reason this novel Will enjoy its convoluted tapestry.Dave

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