



## The Indian Bride

*Karin Fossum*

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## **The Indian Bride** Karin Fossum

When perpetual bachelor Gunder Jomann goes to India for two weeks and comes home married, the town of Elvestad is stunned. On the day the Indian bride is supposed to arrive, the battered body of a woman is found in a meadow on the outskirts of town. None of the "good people of Elvestad" can believe that anyone among them would be capable of such a brutal murder. But in his quiet, formal way, Inspector Konrad Sejer understands that good people can commit atrocious deeds, and that no one is altogether innocent—including the café owner who knows too much, the girl who wants to be a chief witness, and the bodybuilder with no outlet for his terrible strength.

Another brilliantly conceived, dark novel from one of Europe's most successful crime writers.

## **The Indian Bride Details**

Date : Published (first published 2000)

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Author : Karin Fossum

Format : Kindle Edition 400 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, European Literature, Scandinavian Literature, Thriller, Scandinavian Lite..., Nordic Noir

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## From Reader Review The Indian Bride for online ebook

### Lobstergirl says

I have to admit a tiny tear escaped my eye on the last page of *The Indian Bride*. A 50-something Norwegian tractor salesman, goodnatured and a bit of a simpleton, goes to India to procure himself a wife. She flies to Norway but he can't meet her at the airport due to unforeseen circumstances, whereupon she is violently killed in a field. Near the end of the book her Indian brother comes to Norway to claim her body, and brings with him a letter she has written him explaining why she married this man, anticipating the resistance he would feel. It takes the tractor salesman a few days to get the letter translated, and the book ends with it.

Fossum's Inspector Sejer is very appealing, in the mode of Dalglish and Lewis. He likes Judy Garland (but don't read too much into that). His relationship with his deputy, Jacob Skarre, is very similar to that between Inspector Lewis and Detective Sergeant Hathaway. He eats prawn sandwiches (who knew there was such a thing?). This was my favorite sentence from the book:

*"He's the right man and you know it," he said tersely, harpooning a prawn with his fork.*

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### Carol says

This was a really wonderfully different type of book to read. It was more a character study of the people of a town where a young Indian woman is brutally murdered for no apparent reason, and the reaction of the people who are marginally or directly involved with contact with her and the man who married her and brought her to this place. I found myself caught up in the distinct loneliness of these individuals and their seeming inability to empathize or relate to each other as most would expect given this set of circumstances. It was a fascinating read and the ending was completely satisfying to me.

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### Elina says

Πολ? καλ?!!! Θα ?θελα πιο δυνατ? φιν?λε...

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### L says

Fossum takes quite a different approach to the murder mystery genre than we usually see, built in a different sensibility. Yes, there is a murder, a brutal murder. There is an investigation. But the focus here is more on the quirks of fate that led the victim to be where she was, when she was, and on the husband left behind. The tale is also about the people in this small Norwegian town/village, what they've seen, what they imagine, and why they don't talk; the level of secrecy is astonishing. It's a fascinating portrayal of all involved. Of course there is a mystery, but we see more tragedy, heartbreak, and acceptance than anything else.

I'm sure that if I read more by this author they won't all get five stars. This is just such a different approach to the thing that it left me stunned.

Spoiler--After reading the entire book, including the investigation, arrest, interrogation, and more, I'm still

not sure "who done it." And that actually isn't as important as one might think, all in all.

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### Vesela says

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### Carol says

When will I learn not to rent audios for Nordic crime fiction? I hope that I'm not ethnocentric, but I couldn't keep the foreign sounding names for these Norwegian characters (and towns) straight in my head. I became frustrated, which diminished my enjoyment of this story. I've no doubt that it is a better novel that my rating indicates.

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### Nancy says

This Norwegian mystery was a strange little book. It held my interest, but I wasn't so thrilled with the characters. Except for Poona (the Indian bride), the female characters were not very bright or sane or likeable (Marie was okay I guess but she was in a coma for most of the book). The police officers were too good to be true. And the main character, Gunder was the world's sweetest most devoted man living a fantasy until August 20th - when his charmed life completely turned upside down. I kept waiting for obvious connections that never appeared - and at the end, the book just sort of stopped, with us assuming at least one character is in danger - and another is accused of a murder that we don't know if he committed. The beauty of mysteries is seeing if you can solve it before the author tells you what happened. In this book - all speculation is wasted - since we'll never really know.

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### Paradoxe says

3.5 STARS

Υπ?ρχει ?νας τρ?πος σ?γουρος για να διαβαστε? λ?θος αυτ? το μυθιστ?ρημα κι εκ των πραγμ?των να απορριφθε?: να διαβαστε? σαν αστυνομικ?. ?πα μεγ?λε και τ?τε ως τι θα διαβαστε?; Ως πεζογραφ?α μ?πως; Και αυτ?ς ο τρ?πος ε?ναι λανθασμ?νος. Το μυθιστ?ρημα αυτ? μεταβ?λλεται καθ' ?λη την εξ?λιξη του απ? την πεζογραφ?α στην αστυνομικ? λογοτεχν?α. Επειδ? ωστ?σο γρ?φτηκε απ? λογοτ?χνη που αν?κει στην αστυνομικ? λογοτεχν?α και επειδ? στην Ελλ?δα οτιδ?ποτε εκδ?δεται πλ?ον απ' τις εκδ?σεις Μετα?χμιο στη γνωστ? σειρ? θεωρε?ται ως τ?τοιο,

προκαταβ?λλεται ο αναγν?στης.

Το σ?γουρο π?ντως ε?ναι πως η κυρ?α Fossum ?χει κ?τι να πει. Ωστ?σο δεν ξ?ρω αν το πετυχα?νει απ?λυτα και ?χι λ?γω του ευμετ?βλητου χαρακτ?ρα. Πιστε?ω ?τι διατηρε? τα ην?α στην αστυνομικ? προσ?γγιση δι?τι με αυτ? ?γινε γνωστ?. Το θ?μα ε?ναι ?μως ?τι ?τσι στερε? απ' τον εαυτ? της τη δυνατ?τητα να εκφρ?σει τους προβληματισμο?ς και τις εμπειρ?ες της και παρ?λληλα στερε? απ' τον αναγν?στη μια καλ? πεζογρ?φο.

Ε?χα αποφασ?σει πως θα το απορρ?ψω. Μ?νο που υπ?ρχουν πρ?τα απ' ?λα δυο στοιχε?α που με ?καναν να αναθεωρ?σω: Αφ' εν?ς, διακρ?νει μια αντρικ? πτ?ρυγα απ' αυτ?ς που δ?σκολα αποκωδικοποιο?νται ( αν διαβαστε? ? ?χει διαβαστε? απ? ?ντρα μπορε?τε να καταλ?βετε ακριβ?ς τι εννο? και σε ποια σημει?α το επιτυγχ?νει ) και αφ' ετ?ρου εντοπ?ζει, στοχε?ει και φωτ?ζει τον τρ?πο που βλ?πει την καθημεριν?τητα του ?νας φιλ?ζωος. Επειδ? ε?μαι φιλ?ζωος, επειδ? γνωρ?ζω πως ε?ναι να ζεις με σκ?λο με ?σα συνεπ?γεται κι επειδ? β?ωσα πολ? ?ντονα σε κ?ποιες περιπτ?σεις το χαμ?, την απ?λεια, ξ?ρω πως γρ?φει φιλ?ζωος. Γι' αυτο?ς τους λ?γους σε πρ?τη φ?ση δεν απ?ρριψα το μυθιστ?ρημα.

Μια πολ? ενδιαφ?ρουσα χροι? στην αστυνομικ? φ?ση του βιβλ?ου ε?ναι πως δεν υπ?ρχουν αποδε?ξεις, υπ?ρχουν μ?νο ενδε?ξεις και με αυτ?ς απαγγ?λλεται κατηγορ?α.

Ωστ?σο σε δυο περιπτ?σεις αυτ? που ?χει ιδια?τερη ουσ?α ε?ναι στον τρ?πο που η Λ?ντα απαντ?ει στη μητ?ρα της σχετικ? με τις αποχρ?σες ενδε?ξεις και στον τρ?πο που εντοπ?ζει ο Σ?γερ τα αιτιατ? που οδ?γησαν στο φ?νο της Πο?να Μπ?. Μπορε? να κ?νω λ?θος, μπορε? να μην ?ταν αυτ? η πρ?θεση της συγγραφ?ως ? να μην ?χει διαβ?σει ποτ? τα ?ργα στα οπο?α θα αναφερθ?, αλλ? ωστ?σο η αν?λυση των ενδε?ξεων και η μεθοδολογ?α στη σκ?ψη του Σ?γερ, συγκλ?νουν πως χρησιμοποιε?ται ο ν?μος της ομοιογ?νειας που παραπ?μπει στην Κριτικ? του καθαρο? λ?γου και τον τρ?πο που το ?να αιτιατ? οδηγε?ται στο ?λλο με τον τρ?πο που μιλ?ει ο Πλ?των για τις απ?ψεις στο Συμπ?σιο. Τον?ζω πως μπορε? να κ?νω λ?θος. Αυτ? ?μως δεν ε?ναι κακ? να το δο?με εμε?ς ?τσι, ως μια πνευματικ? εξ?σκηση καθαρ? δικ? μας. Και γι' αυτ? το λ?γο δεν το μετρ?ω στα υπ?ρ του βιβλ?ου δι?τι δεν μπορ? να αναγνωρ?σω τις προθ?σεις της συγγραφ?ως. Ωστ?σο, προτε?νω εμε?ς να το δο?με και ?τσι.

Ο?τε σαν πεζογρ?φημα ωστ?σο ε?ναι απλ?, ο?τε σαν αστυνομικ? μυθιστ?ρημα. ?χει ιδιαιτερ?τητες. Θ?λω να πω, πως η πλοκ? το ?χει το αλ?τι της, την ?χει τη ζ?χαρη της. Π?ντως, στο τ?λος δε?χνει η συγγραφ?ας να αποφ?σισε τελικ? πως θα κλε?σει πεζογραφικ?. Πλ?ρωση και ?χι κορ?φωση. Γιατ? στην πραγματικ?τητα, το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι το βιβλ?ο του Γκ?ντερ και η συγγραφ?ας τηρε? τη μεγαλ?τερη υπ?σχεση της: τ?ποτα δεν μπα?νει σε τ?ξη, π?ντοτε κ?τι δεν κολλ?ει. Αν αυτ? σας θυμ?ζει τη ζω? σας ε?ναι γιατ? ?τσι ?χουν τα πρ?γματα. Μου ?ρεσε το τ?λος, με κ?λυψε και οι εκκρεμ?τητες που ?φησε, μου δ?νουν χ?ρο να σκεφτ?.

Στα εσωτερικ? του βιβλ?ου τ?ρα:

Η μοναξι? δι?πεται απ' την ελπ?δα, ?σο κι απ' τα παιδι? της, την προσδοκ?α και την ψευδα?σθηση. Συχν? ορθ?νει ?να το?χο που δε μας επιτρ?πει να βλ?πουμε τον εαυτ? μας ως αιτ?α για τα προσδοκ?μενα που δεν ?ρχονται αλλ? τους ?λλους. Αρχικ? μ' εξ?ργισε ο Γκ?ντερ κι ?πειτα αντιλ?φθηκα π?σο ανθρ?πινο και κατανοητ? ε?ναι να μην ?χεις το χρ?νο να βρεις τον εαυτ? σου,



αποκτηθε? τελικ? αυτ? η αποξενωτικ? απαθ?ς κι ε?στροφή ευγλωττ?α.

?να πολ? ανθρ?πινο απ?σπασμα:

??- Κι εγ? ?μενα κοντ? στη μητ?ρα μου ?πως κ?νετε εσε?ς τ?ρα, ε?πε ο Σ?γερ. Π?θανε πριν απ? δυο χρ?νια. Προς το τ?λος απλ?ς ?ταν ξαπλωμ?νη εκε? ακ?νητη, με μ?τια καρφωμ?να στο κεν?. Δε με αναγ?ριζε πια. Π?ντα π?στευα ?μως ?τι με κ?ποιο τρ?πο διαισθαν?ταν ?τι ?μουν κοντ? της. Ακ?μα κι αν δεν καταλ?βαινε πως ?μουν εγ?, διαισθαν?ταν ?τι κ?ποιος ?ταν στο προσκ?φαλο της. Ξερε πως δεν ?ταν μ?νη.

- Π?ς περνο?σατε το χρ?νο σας, ρ?τησε ο Γκ?ντερ

- Κουβ?ντιαζα με τον εαυτ? μου για ?να σωρ? προ?γματα, χαμογ?λασε ο Σ?γερ. ?λλες φορ?ς μιλο?σα μ' εκε?νη κι ?λλες με τον εαυτ? μου. Σκεφτ?μουν μεγαλ?φωνα. Φε?γοντας ε?χα πραγματικ? την α?σθηση ?τι της ε?χα κ?νει επ?σκεψη. Εν? αν κ?θεσαι εκε? και δε λες κουβ?ντα, νι?θεις κατ?θλιψη. Κο?ταξε τον Γκ?ντερ. Αρχ?στε να μιλ?τε. Κανε?ς δε σας ακο?ει εδ?. Πε?τε της για την Πο?να. Πε?τε της ?λα ?σα συν?βησαν??

Δ?νει μια δι?οδο σ' ?ναν ?νθρωπο που στο ?βγα του στον κ?σμο προ?τα συνταρ?χθηκε και στην ουσ?α στ?ναξε. ?νας ?νθρωπος ?χι ρηχ?ς, αλλ? ?μαθος στη συν?φεια του κ?σμου, παραμ?νοντας ως τ?ρα με τον εαυτ? του κυρ?ως και με την α?σθηση πως οι ?λλοι δεν τον πλησι?ζουν, χωρ?ς να ξ?ρει τον τρ?πο, το κλειδ? που ?λεγα παραπ?νω.

Η συγγραφ?ας ?χει προ?γματα να πει, ωστ?σο υπ?ρχει μια αμηχαν?α που την κρατ?ει στον αφρ?. Φ?βος για ενδοσκ?πηση; Ασαφ?ς σκ?ψη που εμποδ?ζει και τη σαφ?νεια του λ?γου; Εμμον? με τη δημιουργ?α εικ?νας;

Εντο?τοις, το βιβλ?ο ?χει αβ?αστο ρυθμ? και για την ακρ?βεια, μου αρ?σει ο ρ?θυμος τρ?πος με τον οπο?ο εκδηλ?νεται. Η γραφ? ε?ναι απλ?, κατανοητ?, προσιτ? και συν?μα σε μεγ?λα κομμ?τια ?χρωμη ? επιδερμικ?.

Λ?ντα:

Πολ? ενδιαφ?ρουσα εικ?να μακροσκοπικ? και μικροσκοπικ?, ο εξοστρακισμ?ς της ?φηβης που ταυτ?χρονα αισθ?νεται σα β?ρος μια δεισιδαιμον?α που υπονοε?ται περισσ?τερο και λιγ?τερο που λ?γεται, επειδ? ε?ναι ακ?μα παρθ?να και ?χει καταντ?σει δαχτυλοδειχτο?μενη ?δη προ του εξοστρακισμο? προσπαθ?ντας να πε?σει για το φαινομενικ? αντ?θετο. Διακατ?χεται απ? πολ? ?ντονα συναισθ?ματα που αυτ? της η ?κφραση την αναγκ?ζει να διατηρε? ?ναν εσωτερικ? εαυτ? που κ?ποια στιγμ? σκ?ει, απ' την αν?γκη μιας μη αποστειρωμ?νης και ανοιχτ?ς ζω?ς. Σε αυτ? προσθ?τουμε την απ?ρριψη, τις απορρ?ψεις και την πανταχο? παρο?σα χημε?α, εδ? ως ηρεμιστικ? που αποτελε? πλ?ον την ε?κολη λ?ση σε ?λα.

Η συγγραφ?ας συνθ?τει στη Λ?ντα το αντικ?τοπτρο του βασικο? υπ?πτου ?που ?χουμε μια ?λλη ψυχολογικ? χροι? εν?ς ανθρ?που με παντελ? ?λλειψη συναισθημ?των ?ξω απ? ?κεινη του τι θα πει ο κ?σμος, να προλ?βω να ε?μαι παρ?ν, να τους αναχαιτ?σω. Μ?σα σε ?λα αυτ? η υπερβολικ? οργ? επειδ? η επιθυμ?α εκτ?νωσης δεν εκπληρ?νεται ποτ? πραγματικ?. Κοιν? συνιστ?σα και των δ?ο, η απ?ρριψη, υπαρκτ? ? φ?βος και η χρ?ση της ιστορ?ας και για τους δ?ο του παραμυθιο? με τον Π?τρο και το λ?κο. Ο ?ποπτος κοινωνικ? αποδεκτ?ς αλλ? ?χι εξωστρεφ?ς, δημοφιλ?ς, το κορ?τσι μον?ρες με μια φ?μη, ως μ?νη ?χι αποδοχ? αλλ? αναγ?ριση απ' το πλ?θος. Ο ?ποπτος, ως ο

?νθρωπος μας που ξ?ρουμε. Το κορ?τσι, αποπ?μπεται διαρκ?ς κι αμε?λικτα.

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### **Karen C. says**

When I had finished reading the last page, I felt like I had been dumped out of a moving vehicle onto a quiet countryside road in the middle of nowhere. For an instant I thought, "Is there a Part II?" This book is a quick, fun read and you become addicted to the situation and the characters early in the book; the addiction becomes increasingly stronger as you continue to read on. But there are no easy answers to who is the guilty culprit. Someone confesses, but is he a victim of mind control? Inspector Sejer has a definite view but it doesn't seem like there is any hard core evidence that would convict the suspect. You're left wondering how things will play out. Sadly enough, you get a sense of what it must be like to be an investigator, who spends hours trying to sort out the facts, who ends up with no real evidence, yet has a pretty good idea who the criminal is, and how frustrating that must be; essentially, the book mirrors real life, but it's not what we want at the end. We want happy endings and all the pieces of the puzzle in place. Fossum gives us one bone, however; the character who marries the Indian woman learns of her true feelings for him, of which he was becoming insecure. As for the rest of the story, since the book was first published in 2001, it's pretty safe to say that we're on our own, dangling in time, wishing someone (Karin?) would email us the outcome. I still recommend the book.

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### **Rachel Hall says**

4.5 stars

This fifth entry in the series featuring Inspector Konrad Sejer and Jacob Skarre and is a slightly more traditional police procedural in contrast to some of the earlier offerings from Karin Fossum. However, in her true style she takes readers on a tumultuous journey to the heart of the small rural town of Elvestad, home to just over two-thousand residents. Calling Out For You appears on outset to bear all the hallmarks of an uplifting love story but is quickly followed by an act of barbaric violence which devastates a small and seemingly peaceful community. Stolid and admittedly rather simple ageing bachelor Gunder Jomann is inspired by a book entitled "People of All Nations" and makes an out of character decision to travel to India to find himself a wife. The dependable agricultural machinery salesman might be balding and considered a little eccentric but it doesn't stop him wanting to find love. His intention in not to find a subservient wife who simply wants a ticket to a richer lifestyle but to find a woman he can adore, cherish and make a life with. His sister, Marie, urges caution but in thirty-eight-year old Poona Bai, a resident of Mumbai, he meets a companion to share his dreams with. Marriage follows and Gunder returns home to await her arrival a fortnight later in late August but the tragic news that his sister has sustained serious injuries after a car accident sees him prevented from collecting his wife from her flight. Gunder enlists the help of fellow resident and taxi-driver Kalle Moe to meet Poona Bai at Gardermoen airport, only for him to fail to locate her before she departs the terminal. As Gunder worries and buries his head in the sand kidding himself of Poona Bai's impending arrival he frets beside the comatose Marie, but the report of the body of a "foreign woman" cruelly murdered just one-thousand-metres from his home is too much for him to withstand. In an act of unparalleled savagery, the woman is found bludgeoned to death in what appears as a frenzied attack inflicting sustained damage, leaving her face unrecognisable. But just who is this woman?

Delays in identifying the woman due to the preponderance of residents keen not to draw the attention of the police is compounded by the inhabitants failure to conceive that a fellow member of their community could

have been behind the violent crime. Fossum's expose of the residents of Elvestad and their steadfast refusal to think that a school friend, workmate or relative could have been behind that crime leads to those who have something to report fearing that they may either be implicating neighbours or raising their head above the parapet. Life might seem pleasantly straightforward and honest in the little village of Elvestad but as the rumour mill gains momentum and the witnesses are publicly identified and subsequently ostracised, Sejer and Skarre assiduously pin down the final hours of Poona Bai whilst almost blending into the background of life in the community as the whole town's atmosphere turns a shade darker. As the clock ticks down and a suspect sits across the table from Sejer it is his passionate belief in delivering justice, along with his incredible patience and humanity that sees him steer the case to its conclusion.

The brilliance of this novel is in demonstrating how a series of independent occurrences can conspire to wreak havoc and bring unintended victims. The staggering number of contributing factors which combine to change the lives of an entire and peaceful community is made devastatingly apparent. In the words of the distinguished Inspector Sejer:

"There are so many elements. So many incidents which pave the way for evil."

A suitably ambiguous ending leaves the memories rattling around in the conscience of readers and makes for a powerful, yet disturbing story. The lack of a single conclusive piece of evidence, a garbled confession which is later withdrawn and some late night gossip leaves questions abounding about the guilt or innocence of the charged party. Fossum explores the fate of Gunder Jomann both sensitively and compassionately, without the need for overdone histrionics detracting from the raw emotion on show.

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### **Diane says**

After having read *When the Devil Holds the Candle*, I knew I was in for something unusual when I picked up another of Karin Fossum's Inspector Sejer's books. This one, *The Indian Bride*, as did the earlier book, features action that takes place almost outside of Inspector's Sejer's investigation. Fossum succeeds in developing parallel narratives of Sejer and the character Gunder, who goes in search of a wife in India. Throughout the book, as in the earlier book, the reader always knows more than Inspector Sejer, who seems almost purposefully obtuse at times. This may strike one as strange until it becomes clear that murder investigations probably work that way in reality. It is only in Law and Order land that the detectives are ahead of the villain in every episode.

The conclusion of *The Indian Bride* is satisfying, but not in the ordinary way that murder mystery conclusions are satisfying. And one of the most satisfying aspects of the book is the unique cast of Norwegian characters who people the story.

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### **Debbie Sweeney says**

4.5 stars. This is my first book by this author and I loved it. I like a lot of Scandinavian mysteries/psychological thrillers and this is no exception. There is a lot of ambiguity, almost as though there is more than one truth. I look forward to my next one by this author!

## Sophie says

This book was an easy read, with many interesting characters, a good flow, moments of mystery and moments of suspense. I thoroughly enjoyed picking the book up every night, hoping to find out more and to try and guess who the murderer was. However, the ending disappointed me.

I usually judge a book by the ending. If it is a good ending, I will say the whole book was good even if it started out less well. In this case, the book was great, but the mediocre ending ruined it for me. The problem was, it was too ambiguous. There were many suspects, and we never found out who truly did it and what was their motive. Hours after I finished reading the book, it's still on my mind as I try to recount past details and to figure out who the murderer was. I guess this lasting feeling was the author's goal, but it does not please me. I love reading a mystery and then a perfect conclusion, and feeling all the puzzle pieces come together, leaving you with a feeling of amazement. This was not the case. All that I was left with was a feeling of emptiness and confusion.

Here are some parts of the story which I felt were left incomplete: (SPOILERS!!)

Linda - She started out as a rather ordinary character, but by the end of the book, she had become quite a psychopath, with an unhealthy obsession with Jacob Skarre. We never know what happened with her - did she kill Jacob, as she was planning? Was she telling the truth about the car she saw? Was she telling the truth about the time she got attacked by a man? If so, who was this man that attacked her at night?

Mode - Was he the murderer? Many clues point towards it. He drives a white Saab, which Gunder saw speeding away after the murder. The fact that he had a bowling ball was emphasized - it would make the perfect murder weapon. And he truly had no alibi, since he left the bowling alley before the murder occurred. All clues point towards him, yet this character received little attention during the book, and I have no clue what his motive would be.

Poona - Why did she leave her suitcase in the cafe? And was Einar telling the truth? The book emphasized that the suitcase is very big - surely you cannot simply 'forget' something like that.

Lillian - Was she really with Goran that night?

Goran - Is he the murderer? The author leaves you with a feeling that he is not, and that Sejer manipulated him to give a false confession. However, how did he know some key details - like her small bag which was the shape of a banana (Sejer said it was the shape of a strawberry once, and another time he said it was the shape of a melon, to trick Goran).

Anders Kolding - Many clues also pointed towards him in the book. He messed around at the gas station shop and left at the same moment as Poona - and could have easily taken her. He also bought a car battery, the perfect murder weapon.

Writing this, I realise how many unresolved parts there are in this story. I wish there were more answers, but the ambiguous ending certainly made the book memorable. Therefore I give it 3 stars.

## Estibaliz79 says

Últimamente leo mucha novela negra nórdica y creo que es por la sencilla razón de que, dentro del hecho de que la novela negra rara vez defrauda en términos de entretenimiento (sin más, pues tampoco es mi género favorito), la nórdica se destaca frente a la anglosajona por contar historias más cercanas en términos de ambientación... porque, sí, normalmente en la anglosajona la cosa va de asesinos en serie o tramas hipercomplejas.

Esta novela de Karin Fossum es sin duda un buen ejemplo de tal tipología, puesto que más allá de lo interesante que pueda ser el caso de asesinato en sí (y lo es, y mucho), la autora se destaca por su creación de personajes y ambientes. La historia no se centra sólo en la investigación, sino que se entretiene en tramas secundarias que, sin quitar protagonismo a la central, ciertamente enriquecen la lectura.

La pega que se le puede poner a esta novela es su final, más abierto de lo esperado... pues no sólo no está del todo claro si el crimen se ha resuelto de verdad (seguramente así es, pero...), sino que algunas de las subtramas se interrumpen en su punto álgido (véase el caso de Skarre).

En resumen, una novela que mezcla con acierto el género negro con la narrativa contemporánea y las historias de personajes. Me quedo con muchas ganas de saber qué pasa después (¡Oh, Linda!)

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## Bill Garrison says

I'm a big fan of Karen Fossum and have enjoyed going through her books, reading one about every three months as I catch up on all that she has written. THE INDIAN BRIDE is the fourth book in the Konrad Sejer series, I believe. It is a book where you will definitely enjoy the journey, but the destination might leave a sour taste in your mouth.

It takes some getting used to, but I've grown to love the structure of Fossum's novels in which Sejer and his partner Jacob Skarre don't appear until chapter five. The first four chapters introduce Gunder, a lonely man who, after getting a traveling book from his sister, decides to go to India to try and find a wife. He meets, woos, and makes plans to return home with Poona Bai, a lovely Indian woman.

Through a horrific string of events he can't control, Gunder misses picking Poona up at the airport, and Poona never arrives at his house. Later, he hears of a murder in his small town, and his life spirals out of control.

Sejer and Skarre are on the case, interviewing everyone from the flaky, obsessed 16-year old girl to the old man who lived close to where the body was found. Fossum writes in a way that keeps you turning the page, waiting for the next revelation from her twisted cast of characters.

The ending perhaps leaves some unanswered questions and makes the reader doubt Sejer and his methods. That is the major problem with this book, but also a strength because it is perhaps truer to life than we might hope.

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