



## Good Night, My Darling

*Inger Frimansson*

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## **Good Night, My Darling** Inger Frimansson

Fiction. Translated from the Swedish by Laura A. Wideburg. Justine lives alone in a house by a lake, where she has lived all her life. It is the house in which her mother died when she was small, the house to which her father brought the narcissistic and cruel Flora to be her stepmother. In this gripping psychological novel, stories of those who had victimized her converge until at last Justine starts to realize her power, and take revenge. Inger Frimansson was born in 1944 in Stockholm and grew up in various places in the middle of Sweden. Today she lives in Sodertalje, a town not far from Stockholm, with her husband Jan. She is considered by many to be Sweden's premier author of psychological thrillers. Critics place her novels in the same class as the best English and American novels in the genre.

## **Good Night, My Darling Details**

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Author : Inger Frimansson

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## From Reader Review Good Night, My Darling for online ebook

### Bindhu says

I think a thriller should have a flow in story telling. If you suddenly switch between different times it may not make any sense to the reader. Rather surprisingly the novel won the award for the best Swedish thriller for the year. Can't understand how!

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### Margarethe says

War nicht ganz mein Fall eine verstörtes reiches Mädchen, hat eine schwere Kindheit und entwickelt sich merkwürdig.

Kein Krimi sondern ein Psychodrama mit Toten.

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### Victoria says

After the success of *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, translated fiction - particularly mysteries - attracted new attention. This novel, originally written in Swedish, won awards in both Sweden and for translated fiction, so I admit to having some rather high expectations for it. Unfortunately, the book ultimately disappointed me. I had a hard time connecting with any of the characters, and even the plot failed to generate much interest.

Though the novel is relatively brief (about 315 pages), the build-up is drawn out very slowly. The characters that are introduced did not immediately connect with one another, leaving the first half of the novel in a rather disjointed state. And though Frimansson offers a multitude of different points-of-views, none of the characters are particularly likable - or even sympathetic. Even after the "thrilling" part begins (a murderous rampage that is no mystery at all), it is hard to muster up any emotion at all for any of the characters. And while some of the scenes are well-written, nothing provides enough of a connection to quell the general apathy created by reading this.

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### Mikael Kuoppala says

"Good Night, My Darling" is a book written by a well known mystery writer and marketed as a mystery novel. In this case the genre stamp is somewhat unfortunate as it takes away an otherwise effective unpredictable element. And even though there is ultimately murder in the tale, as a whole it really doesn't fit seamlessly into the thriller and especially not the mystery category.

Frimansson has written a solid psychological tale with honed, highly literary language. She takes us to a grey, melancholy Sweden where people live in a frozen state of vague and barely registered malcontent. She solidifies her themes on modern existence in three nuanced and fleshed-out characters.

Berit is a book editor working for a small publisher. Her ever present insecurities and sense of aimlessness intensify when she is told she will be laid off.

Justine is an heiress living alone in her family's old house with a lone raven to keep her company. She is plagued by memories of a deeply unhappy childhood.

Hans Peter is a man with a misspent youth and a failed marriage behind him. He spends his lonely nights working in a hotel reception.

Very quickly it becomes apparent that Justine is the main protagonist of the novel. Berit and Hans-Peter occupy only the present whereas we get to visit Justine's troubled history. A daughter of a rich man who died before his time, Justine had to spend most of her childhood in the care of her authoritarian stepmother Flora. Systematic attacks on her self-esteem at home were accompanied by equally systematic domination by her schoolmates.

In the present Flora is dying on a hospital bed, unable to communicate. Visiting her stepmother makes Justine become haunted by her childhood again. She happens to get in contact with Berit, who we learn was her schoolmate and a major force behind the bullying.

"Good Night, My Darling" forms into a beautiful but hopeless tale on the psychology of revenge and the absolute cruelty associated with bullying and positions of authority. The depictions of Justine's childhood are nuanced and dully horrid more than outright shocking, but they are still extremely uncomfortable to read. Frimansson takes the reader inside Justine's psyche and summons a clear understanding on the ramifications of cruelty. Symmetrically, the insecurities of a bully are addressed through Berit. Flora is left a bit distant from the reader; she is seen through the eyes of a child, overbearing and unreasonable, even though her self-doubts and fears come across.

The problem with this novel is the fact that it's divided into three different segments that don't fit together as well as they maybe could have. This brings unevenness into the tone and structure which is slightly disorienting. Still, Frimansson manages to keep the story together well enough and as a whole the book works.

If you are looking for a fast-paced thriller or a mystery to be solved, "Good Night, My Darling" isn't for you. But if you want to read a meaningful tale with heavy themes and rich characters this will suit you perfectly.

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## **Estibaliz79 says**

2 1/2.

Para mí, este libro promete mucho más de lo que da, se va por las ramas en exceso a la hora de introducir a determinados personajes que, a fin de cuentas, no resultan especialmente relevantes para la historia, y no ofrece un final completamente satisfactorio, al menos para mi propio gusto personal.

Lo bueno es que se lee fácilmente y resulta bastante ameno, pero tengo que reconocer que el personaje principal me ha puesto un poquito de los nervios. Si se supone que los "dramas" de su pasado han de justificar sus actos del presente, la cosa para mí no funciona demasiado bien. Por no mencionar el episodio del 'Cazador', al que se le quiere dar tanto misterio que la cosa resulta un tanto hueca.

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## **Patrick Boyce says**



Frimanssonin kirjoihin alkoi siis koukuttavasti , kirja poikkesi lupaavalla tavalla 'perusdekkareista'.

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### **Jane says**

I can't decide how I feel about this book. The main character was too creepy for my taste, but the story was so compelling that I had to finish the book. The inner workings of such a tormented mind were fascinating.

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### **Pilvi says**

This book had received a prize in 1998 by being the year's best crime book. I wouldn't really call this a crime book! This is more a psychological drama book, not crime. I really didn't like this book. Justine was so disturbed that I just kept thinking why nobody had noticed it, and why she didn't receive any treatment. If you don't count Flora's torture as "treatment". I also detested that Justine got away so easily of all the things she had done. I'm not used to "crime" books where nobody has even the smallest hint who really did the crimes.

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### **Ann Repetto says**

weird

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### **Bé Né says**

J'ai trouvé ce roman au détour d'une brocante, le résumé m'a convaincu, j'ai donc voulu découvrir qui était Justine et pourquoi elle vivait en hermite dans la maison de son enfance.

Malgré le fait que j'aie eu du mal à rentrer dans l'histoire, j'ai commencé à apprécier ma lecture au bout d'un peu plus de 50 pages, au moment où le récit se met en place et qu'on découvre les personnages qui entourent Justine. Mais voilà même si dans l'ensemble j'ai apprécié l'écriture de l'auteure il n'en reste pas moins qu'il est difficile de suivre l'intrigue puisque tout au long de l'histoire il y'a énormément de retour dans le passé et l'auteur revient dans le présent sans que le lecteur s'y attende vraiment. En conséquence la notion du temps est vite perdue et le fil de l'intrigue avec. C'est vraiment le gros défaut que je reproche à ce thriller qui au fond ressemble plus à un roman noir puisque les rebondissements sont quasi inexistantes et que le résumé nous promet des choses qui tardent à arriver et qui ne sont pas d'énormes révélations. C'est ce qui a sans doute finit par provoquer ma déception, cependant si l'écriture de l'auteure n'avait pas été aussi plaisante j'aurais sûrement abandonné l'histoire en cours de route, tout n'est donc pas négatif.

L'histoire de Justine est tout de même saisissante on ne peut qu'avoir de l'empathie pour ce personnage ayant eu une enfance maltraitée par une belle-mère jalouse et des camarades d'école la martyrisant. Un portrait très bien dressé qui nous fait comprendre pourquoi Justine choisit la solitude, ce qui ne peut qu'être compréhensible.

En faisant des recherches sur le net je me suis aperçue qu'il y'avait un 2 ème tome, mais je ne m'y pencherai pas, malgré l'écriture de qualité d'Inger Frimansson, je n'ai pas été assez emportée par cette histoire farfelue.

