



by Mirko Beetschen
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My Brother's Shadow

Schattenbruder

review

Mirko Beetschen's slow-burning psycho-thriller keeps readers guessing throughout.

Samuel Bach is a thirty-seven-year-old architecture critic for a leading national newspaper in Zurich. Having parted from his friend Miriam after an evening's drinking, he decides to have one final drink before heading home. This is a mistake that colours the next four months of his life. He orders a beer and finds himself drawn to Raymond, and the night ends with the pair sleeping together at Samuel's flat.

While Samuel is not sure about their encounter, Raymond clearly wants more and refuses to take no for an answer. First he begins to appear in all of Samuel's favourite haunts: the bookshop, the outdoor pool, the café, the local organic grocery store. Next he turns up at Samuel's office with a gift, and soon he is inundating him with requests to meet. Samuel disconnects the phone and effectively becomes a prisoner in his own home. The reader looks on in horror as Samuel's mental equilibrium begins to falter. It transpires that Raymond is not at all who he says he is, and that Samuel's life may be in imminent danger. Beetschen's flawless characterisation brings this tightly-plotted read to life.

about the author

Mirko Beetschen was born in 1974 and grew up near Lake Thun. He studied English and American Literature as well as media science in Bern. He worked as an editor for Archithema Verlag in Zurich and continued his studies in the field of architecture and design. Mirko

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