



by Gisa Klönne
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Fiction

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Night without Shadow

Nacht ohne Schatten

review

This third outing for police detectives Judith Krieger and Manni Korzilius (the first won its author a *Friedrich-Glauser– Krimipreis* best debut nomination in 2006) starts with the gruesome murder of a train-driver in Cologne. Then a pizza fast-food restaurant nearby explodes and the only survivor is a young abused woman who had been locked in its cellar. It is not yet clear if and how these cases are connected. During her search for traces or witnesses, Krieger follows a lead to a nearby former factory building, where a group of artists have rented studios some of which offer views onto the scene of the train driver's death. But one of the artists, Nada, who might be a good witness, has mysteriously disappeared. In the meantime Judith's colleague Manni follows a lead to the prostitute scene in Cologne, since the survivor of the arson at the pizza place was obviously a young Russian prostitute, Svetlana, who came illegally to Germany and was forced into the trade. The detective's visits to various brothels and other such haunts show how brutal and dirty this business is. Prostitution in Germany was legalized in 2002 in order to improve the conditions for the prostitutes, but illegal prostitution is still a major problem in the cities. This gives an extra dimension to the book because Judith used to work for a so-called 'Frauenhaus' (battered women's shelter). Now a former colleague agrees to put her in touch with Olga, an illegal prostitute also from Russia, who knows Svetlana and leads the police to the pimp Popolow who organizes the transport of under-age girls from Russia to Germany.

The novel keeps you in suspense from the first page on. Very well written and meticulously researched, it draws a thoroughly realistic picture of police work and those involved. The main characters carry on very much as in the two earlier volumes. They sleep too little, work too hard, smoke too much, drink too much – but they come across as very alive. Prostitution in Germany may be a special case, but the problem itself is worldwide. This series really should take off.

press quotes

'Klönne is terrific.' – Bücher on Der Wald ist Schweigen
'Gisa Klönne constructs a convincing crime novel from two parallel stories... She is a sensitive observer and is set to join the ranks of the top German crime writers.' – *Der Standard*

about the author

Gisa Klönne, born in 1964, has an MA in English language and literature. She is a writer and journalist, in both of which fields she also lectures. Her debut novel *Der Wald ist Schweigen* ('Silent is the Forest') was acclaimed in the media as well as by the general public. With her second novel also featuring Detective Judith Krieger, *Unter dem Eis* ('Under the Ice') she further widened her fan base. Both novels are currently being translated. Gisa Klönne lives in Cologne.

Previous works include:

Der Wald ist Schweigen (2005); *Unter dem Eis* (2006) – both Ullstein

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