

death of a red heroine

Death of a Red Heroine: Exploring the Intricacies of a Riveting Crime Novel

Death of a red heroine is not just a phrase; it's the gripping title of a compelling crime novel that has captivated readers worldwide. This novel intricately weaves a tale of suspense, intrigue, and cultural insight, making it a standout in the genre of detective fiction. For those who are fascinated by mysteries that go beyond the surface to explore deeper societal themes, this story offers a unique blend of thrilling narrative and thought-provoking commentary.

Unpacking the Essence of Death of a Red Heroine

At its core, *Death of a Red Heroine* is a crime novel set in a period and place that adds layers of complexity to the narrative. The book is renowned for its vivid portrayal of life in a specific socio-political context, which significantly influences the plot and character development. Unlike typical whodunits, this novel invites readers to immerse themselves in an environment where history and politics shape every action.

The Setting and Its Significance

The novel is set in 1990s China, a time marked by rapid change and political tension. This backdrop is crucial because it colors the characters' motivations and the unfolding of events. The "red heroine" in the title alludes to the communist ideals and revolutionary history that permeate the culture, making the death not just a personal tragedy but a symbolic moment reflecting broader societal shifts.

Plot Overview Without Spoilers

Without giving too much away, *Death of a Red Heroine* revolves around the mysterious murder of a young woman who embodies the ideals and contradictions of her time. The investigation unravels layers of deceit, ambition, and hidden truths that challenge the protagonist's perceptions and test their resolve. The plot's intricacy keeps readers engaged as they piece together clues alongside the detective.

Characters that Bring the Story to Life

One of the novel's strengths lies in its well-drawn characters, who are far from one-dimensional. Each individual carries their own secrets and struggles, contributing to the narrative's rich tapestry.

The Protagonist: A Detective with Depth

The lead detective is more than a crime solver; they are a window into the complexities of the era. Their internal conflicts and personal growth add emotional weight to the story. As they navigate the investigation, readers gain insight into the societal pressures and moral dilemmas faced by individuals during that time.

The Red Heroine: More than a Victim

Though the red heroine's death sets the story in motion, her character is fleshed out through memories, testimonies, and the detective's discoveries. She represents a generation caught between tradition and change, embodying hopes, fears, and contradictions that resonate beyond the novel.

Thematic Depth: What Death of a Red Heroine Teaches Us

Beyond its mystery, the novel delves into themes that enrich the reading experience. Understanding these themes can deepen appreciation and offer valuable perspectives.

- **Political and Social Commentary:** The story critiques the impact of political ideology on personal lives, showing how public narratives can mask private realities.
- **Identity and Transformation:** Characters grapple with their identities amid changing societal expectations, reflecting universal struggles with self-definition.
- **Justice and Morality:** The novel questions what justice means in a world where laws and ethics are influenced by power dynamics.

Why Death of a Red Heroine Resonates with

Modern Readers

The novel's appeal extends beyond its setting and plot. It connects with readers through its exploration of universal human experiences and its skillful storytelling.

A Window into a Different Culture

For many, *Death of a Red Heroine* offers a rare glimpse into Chinese society during a transformative period. This cultural insight enriches the mystery, providing context that elevates the narrative.

Engaging and Thought-Provoking Mystery

The book's pacing and suspense keep readers hooked, while its intellectual depth invites reflection. This balance makes it both entertaining and meaningful.

Tips for Readers Approaching *Death of a Red Heroine*

If you're planning to dive into this novel, here are some suggestions to enhance your experience:

1. **Familiarize Yourself with the Historical Context:** A basic understanding of China's political landscape in the 1990s will help clarify many plot points and character motivations.
2. **Pay Attention to Cultural Nuances:** The story is rich with cultural references that add layers to the narrative. Noticing these details can deepen your engagement.
3. **Reflect on the Themes:** Consider how the themes of identity, justice, and societal change relate to contemporary issues, making the story relevant beyond its setting.
4. **Discuss with Others:** Sharing insights with fellow readers can uncover new interpretations and enrich your understanding.

The Legacy of Death of a Red Heroine in Literary Circles

Since its publication, the novel has earned critical acclaim and a dedicated following. Its influence extends into discussions about the evolution of crime fiction and cross-cultural storytelling.

Impact on Crime Fiction Genre

Death of a Red Heroine has been praised for blending traditional detective elements with literary depth and sociopolitical commentary. This approach has inspired other authors to explore crime narratives within complex cultural frameworks.

Recognition and Awards

The novel's unique voice and compelling story have garnered awards and nominations, solidifying its place as a modern classic in crime literature.

Exploring Adaptations and Related Works

The popularity of Death of a Red Heroine has led to adaptations and inspired similar works that capture the spirit of the novel.

Film and Television Adaptations

While there hasn't been a major adaptation yet, discussions around bringing this story to screen highlight its cinematic potential due to its vivid characters and intense plot.

Books with Similar Themes

Readers who appreciate Death of a Red Heroine might enjoy other novels that explore crime within culturally rich settings, such as:

- "The Shanghai Murders" series
- "The Inspector Chen" mysteries

- “Red Dust” by Ma Jian

These works share a focus on blending mystery with cultural and political insights.

The death of the red heroine in this story is more than a plot device; it is a lens through which readers can explore history, identity, and justice. Its enduring appeal lies in its ability to entertain while provoking thought, making it a must-read for fans of crime fiction and literary depth alike.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'Death of a Red Heroine'?

The central theme of 'Death of a Red Heroine' is the clash between personal morality and political ideology in Maoist-era China, explored through a murder mystery.

Who is the author of 'Death of a Red Heroine'?

The author of 'Death of a Red Heroine' is Qiu Xiaolong.

What genre does 'Death of a Red Heroine' belong to?

'Death of a Red Heroine' is a crime novel and detective fiction set in contemporary China.

What is the significance of the title 'Death of a Red Heroine'?

The title refers to the murder of a woman who is considered a 'red heroine' or model Communist party member, highlighting the tension between political ideals and reality.

Who is the protagonist in 'Death of a Red Heroine'?

The protagonist is Chief Inspector Chen Cao, a detective navigating the complexities of crime and political pressures in Shanghai.

How does 'Death of a Red Heroine' portray Chinese society?

The novel portrays Chinese society as conflicted, illustrating the struggles

between traditional values, Communist ideology, and modernization.

Is 'Death of a Red Heroine' part of a series?

Yes, it is the first book in the Inspector Chen series by Qiu Xiaolong.

What historical period does 'Death of a Red Heroine' depict?

The novel is set in the early 1990s, post-Tiananmen Square era China.

What makes 'Death of a Red Heroine' unique among detective novels?

Its unique blend of a murder mystery with deep political and cultural commentary on contemporary China sets it apart.

Has 'Death of a Red Heroine' received any notable awards or recognition?

Yes, it has been praised for its insightful depiction of Chinese society and won several crime writing accolades.

Additional Resources

Death of a Red Heroine: An In-Depth Exploration of Qiu Xiaolong's Crime Masterpiece

Death of a red heroine is not only a gripping crime novel but also a profound literary work that sheds light on the complexities of modern China. Written by Qiu Xiaolong, this book introduces readers to Chief Inspector Chen Cao, a character whose investigations delve deep into the socio-political fabric of a rapidly transforming Shanghai. The novel's title itself evokes a sense of intrigue and cultural symbolism, setting the tone for a narrative that is as much about a murder mystery as it is about the tensions between tradition and modernity.

This article provides a comprehensive review and analysis of *Death of a Red Heroine*, focusing on its themes, narrative style, cultural context, and its position within the genre of crime fiction. By examining key elements such as character development, plot intricacies, and socio-political commentary, we aim to uncover why this novel has resonated with readers worldwide and become a standout work in contemporary Chinese literature.

Contextualizing Death of a Red Heroine

Set in 1990s Shanghai, **Death of a Red Heroine** captures a city in flux – caught between the remnants of communist ideology and the rapid influx of capitalist influences. The novel's backdrop is crucial to understanding the story's depth. Unlike typical Western crime fiction, Qiu Xiaolong's narrative is steeped in the nuances of Chinese politics and society, making it an insightful cultural study as well as a suspenseful detective story.

The “red heroine” in the title refers to Guan Hongying, a young woman found murdered under mysterious circumstances. Her image as a model Communist youth juxtaposes sharply against the murky realities revealed throughout the investigation, symbolizing the dissonance between public persona and private realities in contemporary China. This thematic tension is pivotal to the novel's exploration of truth, corruption, and identity.

The Crime and Investigation

At the heart of the story is the murder investigation led by Inspector Chen, whose methodical and introspective approach distinguishes him from typical hard-boiled detectives. Chen's character embodies a blend of Confucian ethics and modern skepticism, offering readers a unique perspective on justice and morality.

The plot unfolds with meticulous attention to detail, combining forensic evidence with political intrigue. Qiu Xiaolong's background as a poet and scholar enriches the narrative style, which incorporates poetic descriptions and philosophical reflections, setting it apart from conventional crime thrillers. This duality creates a layered reading experience where every clue and character interaction is laden with deeper meaning.

Characterization and Symbolism

The characters in **Death of a Red Heroine** are not merely vehicles for advancing the plot; they represent various facets of Chinese society. Guan Hongying, the titular red heroine, symbolizes the idealized Communist youth – disciplined, loyal, and outwardly perfect. However, as the investigation reveals, her life was far more complex, reflecting the contradictions many faced during China's transitional period.

Inspector Chen is portrayed as a thoughtful, somewhat melancholic figure who struggles with the bureaucratic pressures of his role. His internal conflict and moral dilemmas add a human element to the story, allowing readers to engage emotionally with the narrative. Through Chen's interactions with colleagues, suspects, and witnesses, the novel explores themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the elusive nature of truth.

Literary and Cultural Significance

Death of a Red Heroine stands out not only for its compelling storyline but also for its cultural commentary. It offers a rare window into the daily realities of life in post-Mao China, including the tensions between political ideology and personal ambition. The novel's setting in Shanghai – a city known for its cosmopolitan history and rapid modernization – further amplifies these themes.

Qiu Xiaolong's narrative challenges Western perceptions of China by presenting a nuanced portrayal of its society. The book addresses issues such as censorship, corruption, and social stratification without resorting to stereotypes. This balanced depiction has contributed to its acclaim among readers seeking authentic voices in international crime fiction.

Comparison with Other Crime Novels

When compared to other works in the global crime genre, **Death of a Red Heroine** distinguishes itself through its blend of political intrigue and cultural introspection. Unlike typical mystery novels focused solely on plot twists, Qiu's work invites readers to engage with broader societal questions.

For instance, while Scandinavian crime fiction often emphasizes bleak landscapes and psychological depth, and American thrillers tend to prioritize action and suspense, **Death of a Red Heroine** merges these elements with a rich cultural tapestry. Its deliberate pacing and emphasis on character psychology set it apart, appealing to readers who appreciate literary depth alongside mystery.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** The novel's richly detailed setting, nuanced characters, and integration of Chinese culture provide a compelling and educational reading experience. Inspector Chen's reflective nature offers philosophical insights that elevate the story beyond a standard whodunit.
- **Limitations:** Some readers might find the pacing slower compared to fast-paced thrillers. Additionally, the heavy emphasis on socio-political context may require readers to have some background knowledge of Chinese history and politics for full appreciation.

Despite these minor drawbacks, the book's strengths have made it a favorite among both crime fiction enthusiasts and those interested in Chinese

literature.

Impact and Legacy

Since its publication, **Death of a Red Heroine** has inspired a series of novels featuring Inspector Chen Cao, each continuing to explore the complexities of Chinese society through the lens of crime investigation. The book has been praised for expanding the boundaries of the crime genre by incorporating cultural and political dimensions rarely seen in detective stories.

Its success has also contributed to a growing interest in Chinese crime fiction worldwide, encouraging translations and academic studies. By blending suspense with social critique, Qiu Xiaolong has carved a unique niche that resonates with readers seeking intellectually stimulating narratives.

The influence of **Death of a Red Heroine** extends beyond literature; it has sparked discussions about justice, governance, and cultural identity in contemporary China. The novel's ability to humanize these abstract concepts through the personal story of a murder investigation highlights its enduring relevance.

The death of a red heroine, as portrayed in Qiu Xiaolong's novel, is more than a plot device – it is a metaphor for the fading ideals and emerging challenges within a society undergoing rapid change. Through careful storytelling and vivid characterization, the book invites readers to reflect on the price of progress and the complexities of human nature within shifting political landscapes.

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wishes and sacrifice his morals, or continue his investigation and risk dismissal from his job and from the party. Or worse . . .

death of a red heroine: *Death of a Red Heroine* Xiaolong Qiu, 2006

death of a red heroine: Reading China Against the Grain Carlos Rojas, Mei-hwa Sung, 2020-10-28 Through an analysis of a wide array of contemporary Chinese literature from inside and outside of China, this volume considers some of the ways in which China and Chineseness are understood and imagined. Using the central theme of the way in which literature has the potential to both reinforce and to undermine a national imaginary, the volume contains chapters offering new perspectives on well-known authors, from Jin Yucheng to Nobel Prize winning Mo Yan, as well as chapters focusing on authors rarely included in discussions of contemporary Chinese literature, such as the expatriate authors Larissa Lai and Xiaolu Guo. The volume is complemented by chapters covering more marginalized literary figures throughout history, such as Macau-born poet Yiling, the Malaysian-born novelist Zhang Guixing, and the ethnically Korean author Kim Hak-ch'öl. Invested in issues ranging from identity and representation, to translation and grammar, it is one of the few publications of its kind devoting comparable attention to authors from Mainland China, authors from Manchuria, Macau, and Taiwan, and throughout the global Chinese diaspora. *Reading China Against the Grain: Imagining Communities* is a rich resource of literary criticism for students and scholars of Chinese studies, sinophone studies, and comparative literature

death of a red heroine: *Encyclopedia of Asian-American Literature* Seiwoong Oh, 2015-04-22 Presents a reference on Asian-American literature providing profiles of Asian-American writers and their works.

death of a red heroine: Murder at the Lanterne Rouge Cara Black, 2012-03-06 The twelfth Aimée Leduc investigation set in Paris Lost secrets of the Parisian Knights Templar, dangerous Chinatown sweatshops, dirty policemen, and botched affairs of the heart—the 12th Aimée Leduc mystery is the most exciting yet! Aimée Leduc is happy her longtime business partner René has found a girlfriend. It's not her fault if she can't suppress her doubts about the relationship. And her misgivings may not be far off the mark: Meizi disappears during a Chinatown dinner to take a phone call and never returns to the restaurant. Minutes later, the body of a young man, a science prodigy and volunteer at the nearby Musée, is found shrink-wrapped in an alleyway—with Meizi's photo in his wallet. Aimée does not like this scenario one bit, but she can't figure out how the murder is connected to Meizi's disappearance. The dead genius was sitting on a discovery that has France's secret service keeping tabs on him. Now they're keeping tabs on Aimée. What has she gotten herself into? And can she get herself—and her friends—back out of it alive?

death of a red heroine: *The Boy in the Suitcase* Lene Kaaberbol, Agnete Friis, 2011-11-08 Nina Borg, a Red Cross nurse, wife, and mother of two, is a compulsive do-gooder who can't say no when someone asks for help—even when she knows better. When her estranged friend Karin leaves her a key to a public locker in the Copenhagen train station, Nina gets suckered into her most dangerous project yet. Inside the locker is a suitcase, and inside the suitcase is a three-year-old boy: naked and drugged, but alive. Is the boy a victim of child trafficking? Can he be turned over to authorities, or will they only return him to whoever sold him? When Karin is discovered brutally murdered, Nina realizes that her life and the boy's are in jeopardy, too. In an increasingly desperate trek across Denmark, Nina tries to figure out who the boy is, where he belongs, and who exactly is trying to hunt him down.

death of a red heroine: *Curse of the Pogo Stick* Colin Cotterill, 2011-07-05 The fifth Dr. Siri Paiboun mystery Seven female Hmong villagers kidnap Dr. Siri on orders from the village elder who hopes that Yeh Ming, the thousand-year-old shaman who shares the doctor's body, will consent to exorcise the headman's daughter. He fears that her soul has been possessed by a demon due to the curse of a mysterious Western artifact. Siri agrees to help and, in so doing, brings to pass a prediction of Auntie Bpoo, a transvestite fortune-teller.

death of a red heroine: *Diamond Solitaire* Peter Lovesey, 2003-07-01 Fired from the police for insubordination, Peter Diamond is reduced to working as a security guard at Harrod's. There he

finds an abandoned Japanese girl after the store closes. He must identify her in order to save her life.

death of a red heroine: Frozen Sun Stan Jones, 2009-12-01 The third entry to the Nathan Active series. State Trooper Nathan Active has long been caught between identities. Born an Inupiat Eskimo but raised in Anchorage by adoptive white parents, he had little knowledge of his heritage before being assigned to the remote Alaskan town of Chukchi. He only realizes how deeply settled into the local rhythm he is when Grace Palmer, a local beauty queen, goes missing. Active mounts a search that will lead him halfway across Alaska—and give him plenty of time to discover he is in love with Grace. Closing in on the answers, however, he discovers evidence that points to an agonizing conundrum: she is either dead, or she is a cold-blooded killer.

death of a red heroine: The Angels Will Not Care John Straley, 2018-06-19 Trapped on an Alaskan cruise line, PI Cecil Younger must expose a killer—and fast—or he may just find himself sleeping with the fishes. Cecil Younger never thought it would come to this: running surveillance on a chicken coop that's being raided by a fowl thief. But things have not exactly been breaking right lately for the Alaskan PI. The logical thing to do? Take a vacation, of course. Well, it's not exactly a vacation. Cecil has been paid to investigate a doctor aboard a cruise ship up the Alaskan coast following some complaints from his patients . . . that is, the patients who are still alive to complain. Worst of all, someone is leaving evidence pointing an accusing finger at Cecil. By the time the S.S. Westward makes landfall, Cecil will be wishing he was back guarding chickens.

death of a red heroine: Living Dead Girl Tod Goldberg, 2012-10-16 Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist: This novel of psychological suspense is "full of seductive prose [and] sharply focused characters" (Library Journal). Paul Luden has been haunted by a memory he can't recall. Whatever happened to his marriage, to his two-year-old daughter, is too traumatic to remember, so his subconscious has chosen to block out key details. But when he receives a phone call from the small lake town where they'd once lived, telling him that no one had seen or heard from his wife in ten days, he knows what he has to do. He and his nineteen-year-old girlfriend drive from LA to Washington State, where he's forced to confront his past. And as he pieces together his buried memories, Paul unravels mentally, falls into self-destructive trances—and ultimately discovers the truth about his wife. From the New York Times-bestselling coauthor of *The House of Secrets*, this is "both a page-turner and a complex study of human relationships . . . Fans of psychological thrillers will find a lot to like here" (Booklist).

death of a red heroine: *The Singer from Memphis* Gary Corby, 2016-05-17 This "witty" mystery set in ancient Greece is "sure to amuse Lindsey Davis and Elizabeth Peters fans" (Booklist, starred review). In this historical murder mystery that "blends humor with fascinating details about the ancient world," Nicolaos, the only private investigator in Athens, discovers that helping a writer with his book research can be very dangerous (Library Journal). Would-be author Herodotus has hired Nico and his priestess wife, Diotima, to accompany him to Egypt to research that ancient country's history. Unfortunately, Egypt happens to be in the throes of a rebellion against its overlords, the Persian Empire. Pirates infest the sea route. Three different armies roam the Egyptian countryside. The river is full of crocodiles. Everywhere Nico turns, there's a secret agent ready to kill him, and possibly worse, he can't find a decent cup of wine anywhere. A simple investigation is about to turn into a dangerous adventure of international espionage, in a novel that is "recommended for lovers of historical mystery and all things ancient Greek (and Egyptian and Persian and Libyan)" (Historical Novel Society).

death of a red heroine: *The Last Voice You Hear* Mick Herron, 2009-04-01 From the author of *Slow Horses* and soon to be an Original Series from Apple TV+ starring Emma Thompson and Ruth Wilson. Oxford private investigator Zoë Boehm struggles with the aftereffects of her violent past as she hunts for a killer—or has she become the hunted? Zoë Boehm has harbored a distinct aversion to death ever since she shot the man intent on killing her. So when Caroline Daniels takes a deadly fall in front of a train and her lover fails to turn up at the funeral, Zoë wants nothing to do with the case. But Caroline's boss is persistent, and as Zoë attempts to unlock the secrets of a woman she's never

met while in search of a man who could be anywhere, she starts to wonder if he's found her first. And if he has, will that make her the next victim, or prove to be her salvation from a paralyzing fear?

death of a red heroine: *The Secret Hangman* Peter Lovesey, 2007-06-01 "Lovesey's delicate balance of humor and suspense [is] one of the delights of contemporary crime fiction." —Wall Street Journal Delia Williamson, a waitress and mother of two young girls, is reported missing. She is soon found in a public park, hanging from the crossbar of a children's swing set. The postmortem reveals that she has been murdered. Her current partner, ex-husband, and a traveling salesman who frequented her restaurant are all suspects. Before Detective Superintendent Peter Diamond can solve the mystery, more will die. But even as he pursues a killer, he finds himself pursued by a secret admirer.

death of a red heroine: The Puppeteer Timothy Williams, 2014-11-11 Northern Italy, 1982: Inspector Piero Trotti is enjoying his breakfast at a café when gunmen drive up and shoot the man sitting at the next table. Was Trotti their intended target? He isn't sure. The case falls under the jurisdiction of the local Carabinieri, but Trotti decides to make his own inquiries. *The Puppeteer* is the follow-up to CWA award-winner Timothy Williams's dazzling crime fiction debut, *Converging Parallels*. This tautly written novel brings us to the depths of a corrupt, scheming Italian society in which bank officials, clergymen, masons, lawyers, and, of course, politicians are all suspect of resorting to criminal activity for personal gain. Only the police are presumed trustworthy, and even they are sorely divided by departmental rivalries and jealousies.

death of a red heroine: China Mysteries Jeffrey C. Kinkley, 2023-12-31 With the 1989 Beijing massacre fading from popular memory in the West, China from the mid-1990s to a few years ago felt more open than ever to global trade, communication, travel, and cultural and educational exchanges. There was even talk in the mainstream press that China was heading toward a more democratic future. It was during this second Sino-Western honeymoon that authors in the US, Canada, France, the UK, and elsewhere began writing mystery fiction set in contemporary China in their regional languages. These "China mysteries"—crime, detective, and mystery thriller novels that take place in China but were not written or published there—formed a new genre of popular fiction that highlighted the world's hopes and fears after Tiananmen. The multinational and multicultural writers of China mysteries, among them ex-PRC nationals like Qiu Xiaolong, Zhang Xinxin, and Diane Wei Liang, converged on the China Mainland to negotiate political and cultural complexities through crime fiction plotlines. Their books emerged from Western lineages of the modern novel and popular genre fiction—with Chinese contributions—and depended on Western commercial publishing models shaped by cultural, national, political, and economic factors. This work examines more than a hundred China mysteries—many describing and analyzing social and economic changes at the center of modern life in China—to provide a brief history of the genre and analyze the formulaic and original elements of the mysteries, including their attention to matters of location, social content, characterization, history, and biography. It also highlights the role of "information" acquisition as a motivation for readers and authors of popular fiction, which has become a topic of discussion in Chinese literature studies. With its timely commentary on Sino-Western relations as presented through crime fiction, *China Mysteries* will appeal to students and scholars of contemporary Chinese literature and culture, as well as fans of crime novels and others who are curious about the global dimensions of the genre and how it complicates our understanding of "world literature."

death of a red heroine: *Oxford International AQA Examinations: International A Level English Literature* Adrian Beard, Graham Elsdon, Pete Buntin, 2016-08-18 The only textbook that completely covers Oxford AQA International AS & A Level English Literature (9675), for first teaching in September 2017. Written by experienced authors who have contributed to the specification, the international approach develops reading, writing and critical thinking skills, supporting exam success and providing an excellent grounding for further study at university. This textbook ensures students are fully prepared for their exams with full support and guidance on the variety of assessment styles used in the specification, including passage-based questions, unseen

material, and open and closed book approaches. Packed with examples of traditional and contemporary prose, drama and poetry, plus set and unseen texts, this textbook develops the key skills required to critically analyse, evaluate and respond to different types of literature.

death of a red heroine: *Stagestruck* Peter Lovesey, 2011-06-14 Lovesey is a wizard at mixing character-driven comedy with realistic-to-grim suspense. And in a writing career spanning four decades, he has created a stylish and varied body of work. —The Wall Street Journal Pop diva, Clarion Calhoun, has packed the house with a celebrity appearance in Bath's Theatre Royal production of *I Am a Camera*. But within moments of her much-anticipated onstage appearance, she's pulled out of character as she screams and claws at her face. When tainted stage makeup is found to have caused the disfiguring burn, fingers point to her makeup artist. Detective Peter Diamond investigates when the makeup artist is found dead, pushed from a catwalk far above the stage. As Diamond digs deeper, he uncovers rivalries among the cast and crew and is forced to confront his own mysterious and deep-seated theatre phobia to find the killer.

death of a red heroine: *Masaryk Station* David Downing, 2013-06-18 Berlin, 1948. Still occupied by the four Allied powers and largely in ruins, the city has become the cockpit of a new Cold War. The legacies of the war have become entangled in the new Soviet-American conflict, creating a world of bizarre and fleeting loyalties—a paradise for spies. As spring unfolds, a Western withdrawal looks increasingly likely. Berlin's German inhabitants live in fear of the Soviet forces who occupy half the city, and whose legacy of violence has ripped apart many families. John Russell works for both Stalin's NKVD and the newly created CIA, trying his best to cut himself loose from both before his double-agency is discovered by either. As tensions between the great powers escalate, each passing day makes Russell's position more treacherous. He and his Soviet liaison, Shchepkin, seek out one final operation—one piece of intelligence so damning it could silence the wrath of one nation and solicit the protection of the other. It will be the most dangerous task Russell has ever taken on, but one way or the other, it will be his last.

death of a red heroine: *Detective Inspector Huss* Helene Tursten, 2004-05-01 One of the most prominent citizens of Göteborg, Sweden, plunges to his death off an apartment balcony, but what appears to be a "society suicide" soon reveals itself to be a carefully plotted murder. Irene Huss finds herself embroiled in a complex and high-stakes investigation. As Huss and her team begin to uncover the victim's hidden past, they are dragged into Sweden's seamy underworld of street gangs, struggling immigrants, and neo-Nazis in order to catch the killer.

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