

*New erotic thriller by Danish author is a "must read"...*

STEPHANIE  
CARUANA  
SMERTEN  
SELV

SPENDINGSRÖMAN • ROSINANTE

PAINFUL



# ABOUT PAINFUL

---

Stephanie Caruana's debut, **Painful**, is an erotic thriller, which investigates a world of lust and violence.

Copenhagen 2008: An award-winning photographer is found brutally murdered. He has been cut open with a knife and left bleeding to death in his own bed.

Mickey Liebermann is new in his job as a psychologist and profiler within the Danish police and must find a way not to get caught up in the many in-house intrigues, when he is put on the murder case.

Back in the 1980's the young neglected Eva is turning into a young woman, drowning herself in dangerous sex in order to suppress her desire to kill. This urge leads her to a lover who changes her life path. And while Eva's past is catching up with Mickey's present, he is forced to confront sides of himself he thought he left long ago and in order to avoid becoming the next in line of young, naked, dead men, he must face his own desires.

★★★★★

*Journalist Stephanie Caruana makes her debut with an erotic thriller, which manages to satisfy the choosy reader. In-depth character descriptions, combined with a sharp-edged language and an unusually macabre plot. An award-winning photographer is murdered, and psychologist Mickey finds himself in the middle of the heat: the murder squad.*

*Parallel with the murder investigation we meet Eva. Let down by her alcoholic mother she slowly develops a desire to kill her mother's many men. This reviewer is gripped by the exact character descriptions, which give the reader a perfect insight into the worst thinkable kind of psychopath and her actions. Even if the pictures of the murder victim are unforgettable, it is the reflections on the corners of the human mind, that stays with you long after finished reading.*

- Alt for damerne

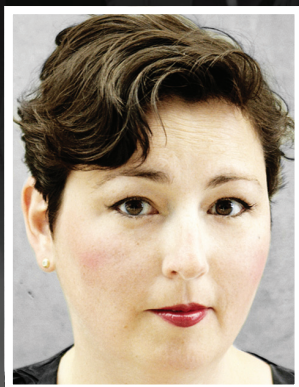
★★★★★

*"Stephanie Caruana, Danish-American journalist and film blogger, makes her debut with a stylistically consistent and clever erotic crime novel.*

*There are those who write crime novels with murders and violence and gradual detection. Then there are those who write erotica with groan and sweat and never ending ejaculations. And then there are those, who mixes a little of both, because sometimes sex leads to death, and again others, who thinks that death is sexy. But only a very few, such as Danish-American first-time novelist and film blogger Stephanie Caruana, manages to combine the two best-selling genres in an intelligent and deeply frightening erotic crime novel, which is better than most.[...]*

*The story sounds, in all its harsh and blunt banality, very simple. But Caruana manages to lift the vulgar to storming heights with a psychological insight, which rarely unfolds in the same way in a crime novel, let alone in an erotic novel. Her characters are multifaceted and albeit the perhaps somewhat unbelievable set-up, they are very believable. And at the same time she writes better than most, with short sharp sentences and a figurative language, which is not just nuanced and accommodating but also pointedly and exact."*

- Berlingske



---

## ABOUT STEPHANIE CARUANA

Stephanie Caruana, is a Danish/American writer and journalist, born in Florida in 1974 and living in Copenhagen with her two children. She runs a popular blog about writing, film and culture. **Painful** is her debut.

GYLDENDAL  
GROUP  
AGENCY

Gyldendal Group Agency represents rights for:  
Forum • Gyldendal • Høst & Søn • Rosinante • Samleren

---

Jenny Thor • Phone: + 45 2517 8101 • e-mail: Jenny\_Thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk