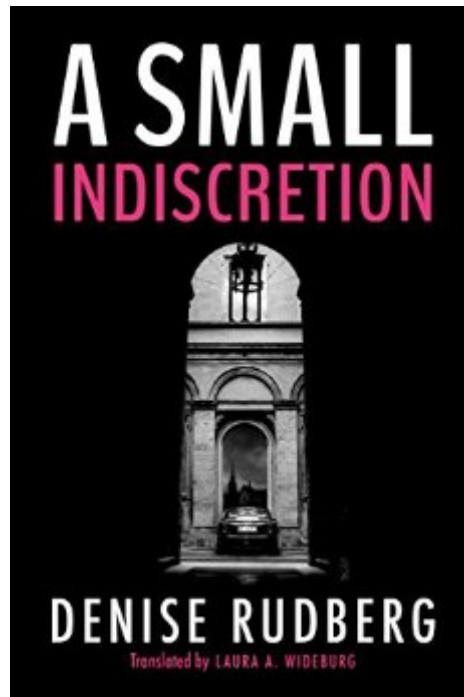


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A Small Indiscretion



Synopsis

Marianne Jidhoff is having trouble getting back on her feet after the death of her husband, Hans. As Stockholm's Attorney General, Hans was known as much for his marital indiscretions as his ability to solve complex cases. But Olle Lundqvist, Lead Prosecutor at the department and Marianne's friend of many years, knows that she was the brain behind Hans's success. He persuades her to come back to work, and she quickly shakes her grief as she finds herself at the center of a series of mysterious killings among Stockholm's upper echelons. Marianne teams up with the brash and handsome investigator Torsten Ehn to find out who is behind the murders, and together they uncover a kinky secret society populated by the city's elite. This sexy twist on the Scandinavian crime tradition "dubbed Elegant Crime by the author" is both a colorful glimpse into the rarefied world of Sweden's rich and powerful and a beguiling mystery featuring a cast of unforgettable characters.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Denise Rudberg described as the Chic-Lit Queen of Sweden has written a hybrid Chic-Lit crime-mystery novel. The result is a curious mixture that is neither one nor the other. Much of the

book is chatty and shallow. Preparation of an open sandwich is described blow by blow. The best place to buy fruit is discussed at length. Several pages are devoted to the furnishing of Marianne's office. In between there is only an occasional reference to the investigation into two murders. Chic-Lit aficionados will not be satisfied. Although there are a couple of explicit sex scenes there is little romance and the reader will find it difficult to empathise with the combatants. As far as mystery goes, it is ho-hum. The investigation of the murders moves slowly. Police procedures are unconvincing and at the end there are many loose threads and unresolved issues.

I enjoyed reading about Sweden, the description of the homes, the furnishing, the clothing and the culture. As a 50 plus woman I related to Mary at a turning point in her life, discovering herself again after her husband dies, reevaluating making adjustments and moving forward. I enjoyed the other characters also and the mystery that was solved with all the loose ends tied up at the end. I would love to read more of this author.

If you're expecting more Nordic noir, you'll be disappointed. This takes a very feminine slant that traverses food [how many cinnamon buns can these people digest!] to a touch of what the characters are wearing [who cares] to a bit about rampant husbands and wives then on to a, from nowhere, sexual adventure. The dialogue between investigators is agonising. Easy to put down.

Story good but yet another abrupt ending, was waiting for criminal to be arrested etc yet appeared to stop once it was figured out. Seriously thought I had a chapter missing from the end. Am I the only person who likes some sort of conclusion?

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel, it kept me interested and involved as the plot unfolded. The main characters were unusual characters, well developed and believable. The setting for these novels is mostly quite bleak and sparse which adds an atmosphere very different to more contemporary crime fiction. There was the occasional interesting sexual relationship but for the most part this did not drive the storyline. The writing style was clever and easy to follow. I have just bought the authors previous novel the Gingerbread House and I hope I enjoy it just as much.

It was an enjoyable read with a rather abrupt ending. Some storylines were never quite resolved - which lends itself to a sequel. Good characters in this murder-mystery story. The ending was not predictable until the point where the main characters were about to figure it out. I would have liked a

few more pieces of the story wrapped up, but it was still worth the read.

Regardless of the perspective readers have on this novel, whether Chick-Lit or Chick-Lite, Denise Rudberg's, *A Small Indiscretion*, is both a horrible recounting of a police investigation and a mildly interesting telling of the travails of women without men. The two tales in this story couldn't conflict more. From comparing the number of pastries eaten to the weak role of Detective Ehn, the writing soundly shows the author's leaning toward Chick-Lit with little regard for the telling of the police investigation. Plot lines aside, the ending of the book is also tell-tale. Slamming the door, Rudberg's chooses to introduce a new character rather than offer a satisfactory finale. I could recount other numerous conflicts in this novel but I can't decide whether to eat another pastry or sneak a smoke. I won't do either but will rate this book based upon the sex of the reader...men - hate, women - read (but won't admit to it).

I like reading Swedish crime as I lived in Sweden for awhile. Love the culture...and love Stockholm. I knew all the street names in this book...having said that...who else wants to read every street and road written over and over again? And the story was disjointed and unsatisfactory. It is not often I read a crime novel that is so bland...this is one I was so happy to finish.

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