

AISHA

Aisha

by Jesper Stein



SPECIFICATIONS

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More than 43,000 copies sold in Denmark.

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On the island Amager, near Copenhagen, a shipping company's chief of security is found murdered. There were numerous women in his life, so jealousy is an obvious motive. But in the past he also worked for the national security and intelligence service, where he was involved in all the big terrorism cases.

Deputy Inspector Axel Steen has returned to the job after a long period of sick leave. He's making a fresh start: no drugs or alcohol, and no conflicts or clashes with his colleagues. Axel hopes to build a better life for his nineyear-old daughter, who suffers from anxiety.

This is his first murder case in a year, and he's been assigned a new partner who proves to be a challenge to his hard-won sense of calm. The victim took certain secrets about Denmark's counter-terrorism activities with him to the grave, and when another former intelligence services operative turns up dead, Axel realises that the key to the murders lies in a three-year-old terrorism case that involved not only the two dead men, but also his new girlfriend and his former boss.

The investigation becomes a race against time as Axel tries to prevent further deaths.

JESPER STEIN

Prize-winning Danish noir by Jesper Stein

The Nørrebro area of Copenhagen provides the backdrop to Jesper Stein's series of crime novels about the hard-boiled and uncompromising Inspector Axel Steen, who never gives less than 100% to solving a case.

Axel Steen is his own man, refusing to let other people run his life. He is locked in an eternal battle with those in power – both within the police force and among the city's criminals – but he's also sensitive and unsure of himself, qualities that have led to an abuse of weed, alcohol and pills that occasionally escalates when he's under pressure.

The investigation, the hunt for the criminals and Steen's chaotic private life – he's divorced and has a daughter – are told in a raw, realistic and sometimes poetic tone known as '2200 Noir', a reference to the Nørrebro postcode. Stein's novels have been highly praised by critics both nationally and internationally, and among other awards he has won the Danish Crime Academy's Debutant Prize for the first instalment in the series, *Unrest*, as well as the Booksellers' prestigious Golden Laurel for the fourth in the series, *Aisha*.



Reviews

A masterful crime novel – it demonstrates what can be accomplished within the genre when you write as wonderfully as Stein does.

- Dagbladenes Bueau

Masterful ... What begins as a crime novel about a murder develops into an ambitious political thriller based around a nasty ethical dilemma with contemporary relevance. Stein builds the story up to its climax with impressive literary skill.

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This fourth instalment in the dark saga about tough cop Axel Steen is the best in the series thus far.

- Politiken

Brilliant ... shut out the rest of the world and prepare yourself: this book won't let you put it down until the puzzle of the murder and – not least – the motive has been solved.

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