

(Library ebook) Child 44 (English Edition)

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Von Tom Rob Smith

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Von Tom Rob Smith : Child 44 (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Child 44 (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen12 von 12 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A brilliant debut!Von Wombatsbooks1953 in Moscow. Leo Stepanovich Demidov is a highly decorated veteran of the Great Patriotic War, he is a symbol of Russian victory. Leo works for the Russian intelligence apparatus and is a staunch believer in the regime. One day the body of the four-year-old son of one of his subalterns is found on the

railroad tracks. The death is ruled an accident, but the boy's bereaved family claims it was murder. But there is no crime in Stalinist Russia - other than crimes that occur against the state. So Demidov is sent out to silence the family. After some time he tends to believe that it was indeed murder, however, and starts investigating on his own against the will of his superiors. Now those who sent him out to silence the family are out to silence him. The hunter becomes the hunted, the silencer the silenced, the believer turns into a skeptic and the decorated vet into a refugee...Although Smith's debut is based on the life of the Ukrainian serial killer Andrej Chikatilo, the major and even better part portrays daily life in the Soviet Union in the 1950's though. It is a grim, realistic and chilling portrait Smith presents: daily surveillance oppression, where your mere thoughts may put you and your loved ones into danger. The jealousy of others may be your downfall and if you do not suppress your sense of justice, it may very well pave your own personal way to hell. Smith did amazingly well with his debut novel. His characters are very well developed and not a single one of them is w/o an ulterior motive. His narrative is brilliant and the pacing flawless. "Child 44" is gripping and stands out from the plethora of serial-killer books - and not only because the setting is different but because it is so unnervingly real! A darn fine read!

12 von 12 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Genial, das Beste seit langem ! Von dieleseratz Seit langem das beste Buch, das ich las (und ich lese sehr viel). Eigentlich als Krimi gekauft, ist dieser Roman doch eigentlich eine Zustandsbeschreibung des russischen Lebens Anfang der 50ziger Jahre unter Stalin. Deshalb sind auch wahrscheinlich einige Leser enttäuscht, da sie einfach einen guten Krimi lesen wollten. Es ist sicherlich keine leichte 08/15 Sommerlektüre. Das Buch geht einem nach, man leidet mit den Hauptpersonen - und vor allem den Kindern mit - man spürt die Atmosphäre der Angst in den Schulen, in den Hausgruppen, jeder verdächtigt jeden.... Das Buch geht unter die Haut, man versteht ein bisschen mehr vom russischen Leben, der russischen Seele in der Nachkriegszeit - und das ist doch für "nur einen Krimi" immens viel. Fazit: Sehr gut geschrieben (ich las das englische Original), sehr spannend, dazu informativ - was will man mehr ! Sehr empfehlenswert.

9 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spannend bis zur allerletzten Seite Von Sarah Das Buch habe ich eigentlich nur gekauft, weil ich es jemandem in der S-Bahn lesen gesehen habe und mir das Cover gefiel. Als ich das Buch dann allerdings angefangen habe zu lesen, konnte ich es nicht mehr aus der Hand legen. Das Buch beginnt nicht, wie ein typischer Thriller oder Krimi direkt mit einem Mord und einer dann folgenden Morduntersuchung. Vielmehr wird zunächst die Situation in der Sowjetunion dargestellt, zusammen mit ihrem System, basierend auf der Angst der Menschen. Mitten in dieser Situation lernt man den Hauptcharakter Leo kennen. Er ist ein Staatsdiener, er glaubt an den Staat, er glaubt alles richtig zu machen. Und so ist es ihm nicht möglich, den Tod des Sohnes eines Kollegen als Mord anzusehen, denn Verbrechen gibt es in der Sowjetunion nicht. Aus dieser Situation heraus, in der man mit Leo, obwohl er nicht unbedingt ein typischer Heldencharakter ist, schon mitfiebert und ihn in irgendeiner Weise auch schon versteht, entwickelt sich dann die eigentliche Geschichte, in der Leo von einem gehorchenden Diener des Staates zu einem Menschen wird, der alles an was er glaubt verliert und riskiert um einen Mörder zu finden, den es nicht geben darf. Die Wendungen, die die Geschichte dabei nimmt, sind so unerwartet und doch völlig in die Geschichte integriert, dass sie nicht plötzlich "da" sind, sondern sich vielmehr ankündigen um dann umso unerwarteter "Fakt" zu sein, ohne das man als Leser genau weiß, wie es nun dazu kam. Dieses Buch sollte man nur zur Hand nehmen, wenn man genug Zeit, denn man wird es nicht so schnell wieder weg legen können. Es ist nicht einfach nur ein Thriller, sondern dieses Buch zeichnet auch ein Bild der Sowjetunion, welches eine Atmosphäre kreiert, die eigentlich eine zweite Geschichte schreibt. So hat man zum einen die Morde und die Suche nach dem Mörder und zum anderen die Verfolgung Leos und seiner Frau, durch die Menschen die er einst Kollegen nannte und zu denen er selbst gehörte. Vor allem aber ist es auch die Art, wie Smith schreibt, die dieses Buch so faszinierend macht. Am Anfang kann es ein wenig irritieren, doch umso mehr man liest umso mehr liest man sich in den Stil des Autors. Als Leser weiß man immer mehr als Leo, dass aber auch nur, wenn man aufmerksam liest - und das von Anfang an. Wer Bücher mag, in denen nicht nach einem altbekannten Schema Mörder gefangen werden, und wer sich auf eine Atmosphäre einlassen kann, wird dieses Buch nicht wieder zur Seite legen können.

Kurzbeschreibung Now a major movie, directed by Daniel Espinosa and starring Tom Hardy, Noomi Rapace and Gary Oldman. For fans of Robert Harris, John Le Carre and Martin Cruz Smith comes a gripping thriller set in Moscow, 1953. Under Stalin's terrifying regime families live in fear. When the all-powerful State claims there is no such thing as crime, who dares disagree? An ambitious secret police officer, Leo Demidov has spent his career arresting anyone who steps out of line. Suddenly his world is turned upside down when he uncovers evidence of a killer at large. Now, with only his wife at his side, Leo must risk both their lives to save the lives of others. Inspired by a real-life investigation, Child 44 is a relentless story of love, hope and bravery in a totalitarian world. It is a thriller unlike any you have ever read.

de With so many new books in the crime and thriller field vying for our attention, alert readers need all the help they can get. In the case of Tom Rob Smith's Child 44, the numerous glowing reviews were preceded by a lively word of mouth on the book. The latter can often be misleading, but not in this case -- this is a very exciting debut. It is set in the Soviet Union and in the year 1953; Stalin's reign of terror is at its height, and those who stand up

against the might of the state vanish into the labour camps or vanish altogether. With this background, it is an audacious move on Tom Rob Smith's part to put his hero right at the heart of this hideous regime, as an officer in no less than the brutal Ministry State Security. Leo Demidov is, basically, an instrument of the state -- by no means a villain, but one who tries to look not too closely into the repressive work he does. His superiors remind him that there is no crime in Soviet Union, and he is somehow able to maintain its fiction in his mind even as he tracks down and punishes the miscreants. The body of a young boy is found on railway tracks in Moscow, and Demidov is quickly informed that there is nothing to the case. He quickly realises that something unpleasant is being covered over here, but is forced to obey his orders. However, things begin to quickly unravel, and this ex-hero of state suddenly finds himself in disgrace, exiled with his wife Raisa to a town in the Ural Mountains. And things will get worse for him -- not only the murder of another child, but even the life and safety of his wife. Tom Rob Smith's beleaguered hero is a protagonist who we know will (at some point) have to rebel against the totalitarian state he works for. But it is the suspense of waiting for this moment as much as the exigencies of the thriller plot that makes this such a compelling novel. --Barry Forshaw.com

About the Author ~ Tom Rob Smith Tom Rob Smith was born in 1979 to a Swedish mother and an English father and was brought up in London where he still lives. He graduated from Cambridge in 2001 and spent a year in Italy on a creative writing scholarship. Tom has worked as a screenwriter for the past five years, including a six-month stint in Phnom Penh storylining Cambodia's first ever soap. . Exclusive .co.uk Interview with Tom Rob Smith

What is Child 44 about? Child 44 is a thriller set in the terror of 1950s Stalinist Russia, a brutal regime that executed anyone who disagreed with its dogma. It proclaimed to be a perfect society. So, when a series of brutal murders take place, no one is permitted to say that these are the work of a serial killer. In a perfect society there can be no crime. One man, Leo Demidov, a State security agent, a man who has spent his entire career arresting innocent men and women, decides to redeem himself by catching this killer. To do so, he must buck the system, risking his life and the life of everyone he loves. What inspired you to write it? It was inspired by a true story, a killer called Andrei Chikatilo who murdered over sixty children, girls, boys, over a period of ten years. Reading about the case I realized this wasn't a criminal mastermind who'd evaded capture through devious skill. He'd gone on killing for so long because the system refused to admit he even existed. He should've been caught on numerous occasions but the prejudices of the State got in the way and, as a result, tragically, many children died. I felt such a tremendous sense of frustration reading about the events that I saw its potential as a piece of fiction. The real killer murdered in the 1980s. In Child 44 I moved the story back to the 1950s, when the stakes were much higher for someone who dared to risk opposing the State. Who are your literary influences? In one sense, any book that I've ever read, good or bad. To answer the question more usefully authors who have directly influenced Child 44 are Graham Greene, Robert Louis Stephenson, Thomas Harris and Arthur Conan-Doyle. Child 44 is as much an adventure as it is a detective story. If you could recommend just one "must-read book" to anyone, what would it be and why? There are so many wonderful books. However, connecting to Child 44, I'd say The Gulag Archipelago by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Whenever I've mentioned the book to people who haven't read it, they understandably presume it to be melancholy. Much of it is brutal but he is also brilliantly witty, slicing up the absurdities of the regime. It's an incredible book or, rather, three books, but there is an abridged edition published by Harvill. What top tips do you have for anyone looking to write their first book? There's a lot of advice already out there. One issue is being able to recognize which advice is good and which is bad, advice that works for one person, might prove disastrous for someone else.