



Alex

Pierre Lemaitre

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Kriminalkommissær Camille Verhoeven kommer på hårdt arbejde, da en ung pige ved navn Alex bliver kidnappet; Der er kun et enkelt øjeblik og ellers ingen spor at gå efter.

Alex er imidlertid blevet efterladt nøgen i et bur i en gammel fabriksejendom, uden hverken mad eller drikke, og i et kapløb med tiden, må hun desperat håbe på at overleve.

Når Camille Verhoeven at finde Alex inden det er for sent, og er det i virkeligheden hans største problem? I hans afdækning af sagen kommer der hele tiden nye fakta til om offeret og alt er bestemt ikke lige positivt.

Den franske krimi af Pierre Lemaitre byder på barsk og hæsblæsende spænding, samt et twistet og gennemtænkt plot.

Alex Details

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Π?νος Τουρλ?ς says

?ντρας απ?γει γυνά?κα και την κλέ?νει σε ?να κλουβ?, αφ?νοντ?ς τη βορ? στους αρουρα?ους. Ποιος ε?ναι και γιατ? τη δι?λεξε; Γιατ? δεν την κακοποιε?; Γιατ? δε ζητ?ει λ?τρα; Κι αν ?λα αλλ?ξουν απ? τη μια στιγμή? στην ?λλη και το θ?μα γ?νει θ?της; Ποια ε?ναι αυτ? η Αλ?ξ; Και γιατ? δεν μπορε? να την εντοπ?σει ο αστυν?μος Βεροβ?ν;

?ταν ?να απ? τα δυνατ?τερα σε ?νταση και περιγραφ?ς αστυνομικ? μυθιστορ?ματα, με ?ναν διαφορετικ?, βραχ?σωμο αστυν?μο, τον Καμ?γ Βεροβ?ν, που ?σο μπ?ι του λε?πει, τ?σο μυάλ? ?χει. Η εμφ?νισ? του ξεγελ?ει ?ποιον ?χει απ?ναντ? του. Τετραπ?ρατος, απ?τομος, καθ?λου ευγενικ?ς, με το δικ? του τραυματικ? παρελθ?ν. ?να παρελθ?ν που ε?ναι ?σχημο (δυστυχ?ς διαδραματ?ζεται στο πρ?το, αμετ?φραστο προς το παρ?ν στην Ελλ?δα, βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς, με τ?τλο Irene), τον ?χει επηρε?σει αρνητικ?, καταφ?ρνει ?μως να λ?σει την υπ?θεση που του αναθ?τουν με τη βο?θεια αξι?λογων συνεργατ?ν: του π?μπλουτου Λου? που αγνοε? την περιουσία του κι εργ?ζεται ως βοηθ?ς αστυνομικ?, ο τρακατ?ς και κλεπτομαν?ς Αρμ?ν (η σκην? με την αν?κριση στο ψιλικατ?δικο εν? αδει?ζει το μαγαζ? ?ταν αξεπ?ραστη)

Μου ?ρεσε πολ? η διαφορετικ? οπτικ? της ιστορ?ας και ο τρ?πος που το β?ρος της υπ?θεσης ξεκιν?ει απ? αλλο? για να καταλ?ξει αλλο?. Εν? νομ?ζεις στην αρχ? ?τι ?χεις να κ?νεις με μια ?μορφη κοπ?λα που κ?ποιος τρελ?ς την απ?γαγε, ?σο η υπ?θεση προχωρ?ει διαπιστ?νεις ?τι ο απαγωγ?ας και η απαχθε?σα ?χουν κ?τι κοιν?. Και ?χι μ?νο αυτ? αλλ? ξαφνικ? τα θ?ματα που βρ?σκει η αστυνομ?α με καμ?νο λ?ρυγγα απ? το θεικ? οξ? που αναγκ?ζονται να καταπιον? αυξ?νονται! Ποιος κρ?βεται π?σω απ? αυτ?ς τις δολοφον?ες και τι σχ?ση ?χει με την απαγωγ?;

Οι περιγραφ?ς ε?ναι σκληρ?ς και εμετικ?ς. Πολλ?ς φορ?ς βρ?θηκα να κλέ?νω απ?τομα το βιβλ?ο για να μη διαβ?σω παρακ?τω. Ο συγγραφέας δεν ε?ναι φειδωλ?ς στις περιγραφ?ς του, ?χι για να γεμ?σει σελ?δες ? για να εκβι?σει την αηδ?α αλλ? για να δε?ξει τον επικ?νδυνο ψυχικ? κ?σμο του δρ?στη. Επιπλ?ον η ?νταση κορυφ?νεται, γιατ? αποκαλ?πτεται κι ?λλο λιθαρκι γ?ρω απ? τη ζω? της απαχθε?σας και του περιβ?λλοντος στο οπο?ο κινε?ται.

Και το τ?λος....αχ, το τ?λος! Τοποθετ? τα κομμ?τια του παζλ στη σωστ? σειρ? και με τη σωστ? γων?α αναπαρ?στασης! Στο τρ?το και τελευτ?ο μ?ρος του βιβλ?ου, η ?νταση χτυπ?ει κ?κκινο, η Αλ?ξ συνεχ?ζει να επηρε?ζει τους γ?ρω της με ?ναν απ?στευτα ευρηματικ? τρ?πο και διαπιστ?νω πο? το π?ει η υπ?θεση σχεδ?ν ταυτ?χρονα με τους αστυνομικ?ς! Ειλικριν?, αυτ? ?ταν το καλ?τερο φιν?λε αστυνομικ? βιβλ?ου, με την πρ?ταση: «Για μας αυτ? που ?χει σημασ?α δεν ε?ναι η αλ?θεια αλλ? η δικαιοσ?νη» να ε?ναι το πιο μεσοβ?ζικο, διπλ?ς σημασ?ας απ?φθεγμα βιβλ?ου που ?χω διαβ?σει ως τ?ρα.

Πραγματικ?, ?να κε?μενο που με ?φησε ?φωνο για τον χειρισμ?, την ιδ?α και την εξ?λιξη της πλοκ?ς. Τελικ?, πρ?πει να πα?ρνει κανε?ς τον ν?μο στα χ?ρια του κι αν ναι ως πο? ?χει το ηθικ? και ν?μιμο δικα?ωμα να φτ?σει; Εκπληκτικ? κε?μενο, γρ?γορο, στακ?το, ανατρεπτικ? ως την τελευτ?α σελ?δα.

MaryG2E says

This is an absolutely first class crime novel. It is a real page-turner, and I had great trouble putting it down before reaching the clever ending. I rate it 4.5 ★s

Within the crime fiction genre, I prefer the police procedural and/or forensic science formats. That's because I love guessing 'Whodunnit?' So I enjoy best those novels that drop little clues into the narrative - doesn't matter if they are false clues or red herrings, because it is all about solving the mystery. With its principal crime solvers being detectives in the French *brigade criminelle*, there are enough hints sprinkled through the story of *Alex* to keep me riveted to the page.

Leading the crime squad is the somewhat melancholic detective Commandant Camille Verhoeven, a widower whose professional and personal life have been marred by a past tragedy. Verhoeven is reluctant to take on the case of a kidnapped woman, Alex, but is gradually drawn into the race to find and save her. From there, a death ensues, and the scene is set by the author for a great murder mystery story.

Verhoeven's investigations into the kidnapping disclose a connection to some unsolved cases and thus lead him to believe there is a serial killer at large, someone whose 'signature' involves the mutilation of their victims with acid. We, the readers, learn quite early in the book the identity of the killer, and we are given insights into their character, in particular their resourcefulness, determination and attention to detail in trapping and murdering several people. We are not spared the bloody, gruesome details of the crimes. So this novel is essentially a 'Whydunnit?' as we search for answers to the perpetrator's motivations for such violent and cruel actions.

As the story progresses, the suspense deepens, with the detectives mystified and frustrated in their search for this vicious killer. Lemaitre reveals his writing genius as he twists the tale a number of times, keeping us readers off-balance. The ending is very clever, and it left me both shocked and satisfied with the final outcome. However, I sound a warning note: this book is not for the squeamish or faint-hearted. The crimes are cruel, the details are gory, and the backstory is horrendous. So why did I enjoy the book so much? Because it is so well-written - the pace is electric, the characterisations feel authentic, and the plot lines touch on key social issues in our communities.

I was fortunate to have read Irène first, the author's earlier book, which introduced the character of Commandant Verhoeven. Although *Alex* works well as a stand-alone novel, it is helpful to have read Verhoeven's backstory, as his personal history does have an impact on his attitude and behaviour.

Carolyn says

This was an exceptionally good suspense novel. It starts off as a horrendous kidnapping, with the victim suffering unimaginable torture for reasons that are not clear to us. Then it becomes a murder mystery where the police are hunting a serial killer who kills her seemingly unrelated victims in a horrendous manner. Not for the faint hearted but masterfully written and gripping right to the end.

This is the second novel in the Verhoeven trilogy and it stands alone very well. However it does reveal information from the first novel Irène so you may prefer to read them in order. Commandant Camille

Verhoeven lost his wife Irene in a kidnapping in the previous novel so is reluctant to take on this kidnapping case but he gradually becomes driven to find the unknown victim and find out the motive of the perpetrator.

Although the author lets us know who has been doing the killings before Verhoeven works it out, we don't guess why until close to the end. The murderer's final act is chillingly clever and unexpected. A brilliant ending in fact!

Huy says

M? ??u cu?n sách, Alex là n?n nhân c?a m?t v? b?t cóc. Th? nh?ng sau ?ó cô l?i tr? thành hung th?, r?i l?i tr? thành n?n nhân ?? r?i khép l?i cu?n sách, cô l?i ti?p t?c là tác gi? c?a m?t cái b?y tinh vi.

M?t cu?n trinh thám bu?n, dù ch?m rãi nh?ng v?n b?t ng? và t?m t?i.

Brenda says

This is the second book in a trilogy. The first, Irene, I gave 4 stars; this book gets 5 stars.

You can probably tell from the title that this book is about Alex. Alex was put into a horrific situation from which...oh, rats, I can't tell you that. Then the story turns 180° when it turns out Alex is...oops, I can't tell you that, either. And finally, Alex... Well, I give up. You have to read the book. There's nothing I can tell you, except this was an emotional roller coaster and I loved the ride! There's no doubt in my mind why this book was the CWA International Dagger Award winner for Best Crime Novel 2013, and it was well deserved.

Now to finish the trilogy with Camille.

Sharon says

??Reviewed for The Reading Room (Bookstr)

When I first received this book, I was not sure if I would enjoy it so I put it off time and time again. I have read a few Crime Thrillers before and enjoyed them but they were not my thing. So imagine my surprise when this book turned out to not only be my favourite for the year. It's one of the most cleverly written books that I have read in a long time.

Written almost in a movie script style; I am not sure if that is the intention of the author or whether it is the way the story is translated. I like quirky books so I did not mind this style of storytelling at all. The author tells us what the characters are thinking, how they are moving and how they interact with each other. There are no hidden messages, it is a case of what you read is what you get.

The story itself is one of the most clever and well thought out plots that I have read in a long time. At the start, the reader is drawn in and feels sorry for Alex and what is happening to her. As things change and the plot slowly twists and turns to reveal itself, you start feeling like the victim doesn't deserve your sympathies. Then as you go even deeper into the characters and the plot twists a little more, you start to feel that you were right all along to feel pain for this woman. The writing flows along never missing a beat; it goes back and forth between Alex and the police officials that are trying to find her. As I mentioned above, there are

multiple twists and turns that will leave you wondering what will happen next.

A totally enjoyable read, I would recommend this book to anyone who loves Crime Thrillers and anyone else in between.

Thanos says

Εδ? και λ?γο καιρ? ?θελα να βρω ?να βιβλ?ο που θα διαβ?ζεται γρ?γορα χωρ?s να γ?νεται κουραστικ?, με καλ? και ?ξυπνη υπ?θεση, με συμπαθητικο?s χαρακτ?ρες και ανατροπ?s. Ε λοιπ?v, ?λα αυτ? υπ?ρχουν σε αυτ? το βιβλ?ο!

?σο περν?νε οι σελ?δες, οι ανατροπ?s διαδ?χονται η μ?α την ?λλη. Ποιος ε?ναι ποιος? Απ? τη μ?α συμπ?σχεις με κ?ποιους χαρακτ?ρες και απ? την ?λλη τους καταρι?σαι. Αλλ? σε κ?θε σελ?δα τα π?ντα αλλ?ζουν. Μ?χρι και το τ?λος υπ?ρχουν ανατροπ?s.

Γενικ? ε?ναι ?να πολ? ?ξυπνο βιβλ?ο που ξεφε?γει λ?γο απ? τα κλασικ? αστυνομικ? και δ?νει αυτ? το κ?τι παραπ?νω που χρει?ζεται για να ξεχωρ?σει. Τα καταφ?ρνει επ?ξια και ειλικριν? θα ?θελα μεταφρασμ?νο και το πρ?το βιβλ?ο της σειρ?s για να ?χουμε μ?α καλ?τερη εικ?να των χαρακτ?ρων.

Highly recommended!

Janet Joy says

Shocking.
Gruesome.
Complex.
Compelling.

I did not like the beginning because I am squeamish. It was ugly. Raw and very Frightening.

I continued and was rewarded with the start of an ingenious puzzle. A layered plot is so delicious and this was extremely satisfying and addictive.

One starts with pitying the woman & fearing for her : twist: pitying the men and fearing for them : twist : understanding the woman through those who knew her : pitying her : twist : cheering for her.

It is brilliant in the effortless reveal of this complex and fascinating character. And that's just Alex.

The detectives are each fully developed and wonderfully flawed. The rich nuances of their past and present relationships with each other and others provided so much texture.

This is not a genre I gravitate to probably because a good mystery/detective/crime/suspense novel takes over my life until I finish the story. That's what ALEX did to me for 3 days.

Bravo to the writer & the translator for a tension-filled unforgettable story.

I was thinking about who would love this book:

Readers of Stieg Larsson with its tension, brutality, shocking events and turn of events.

Readers of Gone Girl. I loved the twist in Gone Girl. Hated the characters by the end. It was strange to me because I couldn't recommend the book as it was too ugly and I didn't 'enjoy' it.

ALEX on the other hand has multiple twists, characters you go through many emotions with and then the ending is brilliant.

It is a rich experience with a full and extraordinary ending.

Robert says

If I may be so bold, I'd like to begin at the end and say there's definitely a "disturbance in the creative force."—thanks Amanda Or at least that was my first thought after completing this novel.

If I didn't want to embrace books with a warm hug and proceed to shove them out into the world by talking about them, promoting them, and engaging in lively discussions with informed readers across the space and time continuum for the rest of my life without fail, I could very easily just write ALEX off and move on with my life, rubbing my palms together, and then ducking under an overpass while the train rocks the tracks above my head. But that wouldn't be okay, and it certainly isn't a productive use of my time. Maybe I'm half-sensitive, half-crazy, prone to second-guessing, and have enough of an ego that I feel like I need to somehow be a productive member of society and make some sort of contribution before I dissipate off this Earth faster than a fart in the New Mexican wind, so here we are, wonderful reader and I, dancing the tango over yet another book review. Where I hope to impart a few thoughts, informed opinions, and constructive criticisms, and you can pretend that you actually give a flying fart.

Here are a few of the issues:

Constant telling to the point that I wanted to rip my hair out? Check.

Inside Alex's head way too much, to the point that I could set up camp, read a newspaper, and smoke a cigarette while balancing a tumbler on my left knee? Check.

Shaggy dialogue? Check.

Exclamation point minefields? Check.

Not getting to the point? Check.

Am I making myself clear? No.

Piss-poor similes and metaphors? Check.

Overstated, redundant, bloated prose? Check.

Stilted, stiff, wooden, overformal, mannered, and pretentious dialogue? Check.

Overemphasis on ellipses? Check.

Repetitious to the point that I thought I had developed CRS disease? Check.

Drama and heightened tension sucked out of the prose faster than a Hoover by mediocre writing? Check.

Excessive stammering to the point that I wanted to offer speech lessons? Check.

Mystery? Possibly but it was a side car on this happy train.

A supposed thriller minus most of the thrills? Check.

Plenty of clichés? Check.

Immediate and unexplained epiphanies? Check.

Brings words like pussyfooting to the foray? Check.

Penchant for passive voice? Check.

Almost seemed to switch POV in the middle of a few scenes? Check.

Editing comments that were both annoying and frustrating and over explained the difference between French and English? Check. (This should be fixed upon the official release, otherwise readers are in for a real treat.)

For the first two-thirds or so of this tale, Alex Prevost just might have been my least favorite character of all time. I'm not sure I could have looked at her, or even been in the same room with her, and being in her head for so long proved rather torturous, corrupting me on more than one level. (view spoiler)

If I didn't already have some sort of complex where I tend to question myself, ponder the meaning of life, and seek out both the good in people and books, I might be perfectly fine with writing two one-star reviews

in a row. But I can't help but feel as though I have somehow failed the universe.

Upon finishing ALEX, I don't really feel anger or frustration or fury or annoyance, I feel a lingering, profound sadness that hangs over me like the sun, a sense of defeat and loss and despair that clings to me like a wet t-shirt, and then I don't really feel much of anything at all.

I received this book for free through NetGalley.

Cross-posted at Robert's Reads

Chi — cuddle.thereader says

Wowwww b?t ng? n?i nhau, nh?t là cái k?t.
Highly rec.

Alexandra (matobookalo) says

Ε?ναι ?να πολ? καλ?, διαφορετικ?, ανατρεπτικ? αστυνομικ? βιβλ?ο που με κ?ρδισε και θα το προ?τεινα σε κ?ποιον που δεν θ?λει να μπλεχτε? με συναισθηματισμο?ς, περιγραφ?ς και περιττ?ς γραμμ?ς “για να γεμ?σει το βιβλ?ο”. Ε?ναι ?τι χρει?ζεται και ?σο χρει?ζεται!

Δε μπορ? να πω ?μω? ?λλα, γιατί? ε?ναι απ? τα βιβλ?α που ?τι και να πεις ε?ναι spoiler...

Μακ?ρι να ε?χε μεταφραστε? και το Ιρ?ν ?στε να τα διαβ?ζαμε με τη σειρ?..

Sinta Nisfuanna says

Tragis. Awalnya tokoh disekap dengan perlakuan yang tidak manusiawi, lanjut menjadi sosok kejam pembunuh, tak disangka kembali menjadi korban. Bingung? Silakan baca sendiri... Pastinya saya suka dengan novel thriller yang satu ini!

Raven says

Every so often a crime thriller comes along that leaves you breathless and takes you on a disturbing journey into the darkest recesses of human experience- ‘Alex’ is one such book and you are guaranteed a tale of the unexpected from start to finish. Don’t expect any spoilers or dwelling on the plot from me, as I want you all to be as surprised by this twisty tale as I was, but all I will say is, you are in for more than one shock or two along the way. Intriguing huh?

The book opens innocuously enough with the kidnapping of a young woman, the eponymous Alex, but as the grim details of her incarceration unfold, and quite frankly, will probably haunt your dreams, she finds herself having to draw on every ounce of her own resource-fulness to survive and seek her escape. With the police

seemingly at a loss to identify her and, to more importantly track her and her kidnapper down, what is it about this woman that eludes their detection and has forced a man to take such serious measures as to patiently stalk her, and then seek to watch her die in a pretty damn barbarous way? Well, I'm not telling, but suffice to say when the true nature of Alex's character and her ruthless sense of retribution are slowly revealed, you will be completely caught up in, and engaged with the expose of this remarkably determined and dangerous young woman- a woman who admittedly makes Lisbeth Salander look like Mary Poppins. But, and here's the clever bit, you will be wrongfooted at every turn in your emotional responses to her and this is where the genius of this dark tale lies.

Outside of the sterling characterisation of the truly hypnotic Alex herself, Lemaitre proves he is no slouch at creating other compelling characters, as an integral part of the whole. Police Commandant Camille Verhoeven, who reluctantly discovers himself in charge of this initially mystifying case is a wonderful creation. Struggling with his own mental torment following the relatively recent kidnapping and murder of his wife, Verhoeven, a diminutive man in stature, but with the investigatory tenacity of a small terrier, takes a firm hold on the case, challenging those who seek to interrupt his path of detection with a steely determination and a nice line in putdowns. As small as he is physically, his character looms large within the piece and his interplay with his colleagues Louis, intelligent and rich who drapes himself in designer clothing, and Armand, a scruffy individual who has taken cadging to a whole other level, is so plausible and engaging, that as the action pivots between Alex herself and the police investigation, there was to me a perfect mix of drama, poignancy and humour ingrained in Verhoeven and his close cohorts throughout. There are also by turns, some truly hapless and repellent characters who all play a strong part in the novel, both in conjunction with Alex's actions, and in those who seek to undermine Verhoeven's grip on the case, despite the sense of urgency and professionalism he brings to the investigation. Quite simply, Lemaitre provides a masterclass in characterisation throughout, and you will be appalled and delighted by his protagonists at every turn.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to offer a special mention, to the translator Frank Wynne, who has not only peppered the book with some lovely- as we say in English- turns of phrase (sorry, this is a nod to a character- you'll understand it when you read the book) including 'narked', references to 'muppets' and even a 'noggin', that injects the book with another level of humour, but has also produced a distinctly fluid translation that, to me, retains the nuances of Lemaitre's accomplished plot and characterisation, and elevates the enjoyment of this novel even more.

An absolute gem of a crime novel that is wonderfully dark, scary, mad, bad and dangerous to know, but just far too good to miss...

Krbo says

vidite kako sam odjednom sko?io sa 31% na "pro?itano"?

e, to je takva knjiga - nema mrdanja dok se ne pro?ita kad se jednom razmaše jer nije takva od po?etka. po?inje relativno normalno - oteta lijepa djevojka, zlostavljana i tako to sve dok...

na samom po?etku sam odmah dobio napad mržnje prema nakladniku jer glavni junak vrlo ?esto ima reference prema svojoj ženi Irene, a postoji i ta knjiga no prvo izdaju kronološki #2 što mrzim jer ne znam ništa o ranijoj radnji.

I tu sam pogriješio, te vam to i navodim kako ne biste sli?no pomislili - da, "Irene" je kronološki prva no izdana je u ožujku ove godine (3 godine nakon Alex) pa smo u HR malo zakinuti.

Ako ?itate strana izdanja onda je lako, idite redom.

a sad o "Alex" - jednostavno strašna knjiga.

Strašno dobra i o strašnim, užasnim stvarima.

Ako želite biti šokirani mra?nim dijelovima ljudskog uma, volite jake obrate u krimi/napetica djelima onda ?ete uživati.

Ne smijem ništa više spominjati, a izbjegavajte i ostale recenzije kako vam ne bi upropastilo doživljaj.

Naletio sam na nešto recenzija koje spominju plošnost likova. Da, negativci i žrtve su jako plošni no bilo kakav ulazak u njihovu psihi, unutarnje dijaloge i sli?no bi odmah srušio stupove raspleta. Zato ih prihvatite kakvi jesu dok vam se sve ne razjasni. Karakterizacija pozitivaca je daleko dublja.

Brrr, koji rasplet.

4,0 do 4,5

Roula says

3.5 αστερια για την ακριβεια.οκ ηταν ενα ενδιαφερον αστυνομικο.ειχε καποθες ωραιες ανατροπες αλλα δεν με καλυψε για οοοοολον αυτο το χαμο που εχει γινει.επισης δε μου αρεσε που δεν ξετυλιχθηκε αρκετα ο χαρακτηρας του κεντρικου ηρωα. ωραιο γραφη, σε κραταει αλλα τιποτα το εξαιρετο..

Janet says

Alex is the follow up to Irene in the Verhoeven trilogy by Lemaitre. Even though the storyline is completely different certain events continue on from the previous book so these books are best read in order if you want to fully appreciate how they're told.

I don't like giving away spoilers so I'll keep this brief and say that the story is one of Alex, a young woman that gets brutally kidnapped and held hostage by an assailant for reasons that only become clear with time. What follows is a hard hitting, shocking, twisty turny tale that will have your head spinning at times. Just as you think you know where the story is going, it moves totally into a different direction and will keep many guessing until the end. I did work out some of the premise here but that in no way detracted from the heady thrill and squirmy factor. And squirm I did!! Without giving away too much, let's just say I hated a particular species of animal before, those feelings were compounded even more so here. *shudders*

All in all this is another well executed book and though I've given it five stars I still think Irene is slightly better for me. A five and half perhaps?!!

Looking forward to the last book, Camille, in this thrilling trilogy. So, it will come as no surprise that I highly recommend this one for a read that is a cut above what's normally offered out there. Just bring your strong stomach with you!!

Σπυροπο?λου ?σπα says

Σιγουρα ?χω με?νει ?φωνη!Αναμφ?βολα πρωτ?τυπο, αγων?α απο την αρχ? μ?χρι το τ?λος και φοβερ? ανατρεπτικ? οχι στην πλοκη μονο αλλα στα συναισθ?ματα που σου βγ?ζει κυρι?ς προς την Αλ?ξ ,ο συγγραφ?ας σου ανατρ?πει συχν? την γνωμη που ?χεις για την κεντρικ? ηρωιδα και εκει που νομ?ξεις οτι ξ?ρεις...οτι καταλαβα?νεις... τελικ? δεν γνωρ?ξεις τ?ποτα!Κ ενα τ?λος που σιγουρα ειναι αυτο που ?θελα...Βιβλ?ο σοκαριστικ?, σκληρ? αλλα απ?λαυσσα την κ?θε του σελ?δα!

Carl Ingebretsen says

I am ecstatic right now. Damn near in shock. I have just experienced the thrill of reading what I am going to hold as one of the best crime novels I have ever read. In other words;

**BEST. CRIME NOVEL. EVER EVER EVER
OMGOMGOMGOMGOMGOMGOMGOMGOMGOMGOMGOM**

Ahem.

But seriously, I cannot get over how terrific, how amazing, this novel really is. Written in present tense (DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY IDEA HOW RARE THIS IS?!), in third person, the prose is sometimes bizarre and always slightly different to read. It is masterfully written, with excellent characters and dialogue that makes you understand, get to know and get a feel for the characters. This is very, very rare, especially in crime fiction. What's even more rare is doing it while the plot zips and zaps, moving along like a train at full speed (sorry, for that *terrible* metaphor, as I read this on a train...).

And I haven't even gotten to the plotting. Or the twists. Aaaaagghhhh it is so great.

We meet Alex, and she gets kidnapped. Police Commandant Camille Verhaeven is reluctantly put on the case, along with some of his old friends, and they start looking for this girl. The only problem is, they have *nothing* to go on except for an eyewitness report. Every second matters, time is of the essence and nothing is as it seems.

This, my friends, is a crime novel. It's like someone took *Silence of the Lambs*, *Gone Girl* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and threw them in a blender, then sprinkled some *Sherlock Holmes* on top, along with a dash of kidnapping-horror. It has everything you could ever ask for in a crime novel; shocking twists, gruesome descriptions of violent and gory acts, harrowing truths and a feeling of complete disbelief as you

realize that you have no idea where this is going next. I scratched my head so many times, going "why is this happening now? This doesn't make sense..." and then, fifty pages later, I went "Oh shit. How the hell didn't I see that coming?". That is, if I had managed to close my dropped jaw and stopped reading for a moment to think, instead of just reading on, desperate to find out what would happen next.

If *Gone Girl* was last years' phenomenon, then I'll be damned if Alex shouldn't be this years. Crime thrillers this great are few and far in between. Someone needs to get off their ass and translate Lemaitre's other novels or else I'm learning french, just to keep reading. And when Hollywood gets ahold of this...

It's going to be *huge*. Mark my words. And read it now; you won't be sorry you did.

Michael Kotsarinis says

Ε?χα καιρ? να διαβ?σω τ?σο καλογραμμ?νο (και χορταστικ?) αστυνομικ? που συνδυ?ζει τη σ?γχρονη γραφ? με τις αρετ?ς του κλασσικο?. ?να βιβλ?ο που ξεκιν?ει αργ? και προβλ?ψιμα θα ?λεγε κανε?ς για το ε?δος και στη συν?χεια επιταχ?νει με τη μια ανατροπ? να ακολουθε? την ?λλη μ?χρι το ευρηματικ? και συνεπ?στατο τ?λος. Το βιβλ?ο μου ?ρεσε ιδια?τερα καθ?ς ο Pierre Lemaitre αποδεικν?ει ?τι μπορε? να γρ?ψει κανε?ς ?να σ?γχρονο αστυνομικ? και να ψυχογραφ?σει τους ?ρω?ς του με τα προβλ?ματ? τους χωρ?ς να χαθε? στους λαβ?ρινθους των ψυχολογικ?v και υπαρξιακ?v τους αναζητ?σεων. Δηλαδ? απλ? χωρ?ς να ξεχ?σει τι γρ?φει και χωρ?ς να βαρεθε? ο αναγν?στης.

Pat says

Absolutely awesome book! The first book "Irene" I might have to rate a 5.5 but "Alex" is right behind with 5 stars. Very different stories and very different premise in the storyline. I could not figure out where this story was going but the end was far better than anything I imagined. I recommend these books to anyone who appreciates a great crime series. I also recommend these books be read in order (and I am someone who cheats and reads out of order!). Some details from "Irene" appear in "Alex" and it will ruin reading Irene if out of order.

I'm going to try and wait before reading the final book "Camille". Uugggh! If I can have that kind of resistance! I believe this series may have ruined me for what I am going to read next. All others may seem 'meh' next to this.
