"I'll Get Him This Time."

The International Thriller that Stockholm City hailed as the Best Crime Novel of the Year has finally crossed the Atlantic! Three years ago, Lydia and Alena were two hopeful girls from Lithuania. Now they are sex slaves, lured to Sweden with the promise of better jobs and then trapped in a Stockholm brothel, forced to repay their “debt.” Suddenly they are given an unexpected chance at freedom, and with it the opportunity to take revenge on their enslavers and reclaim the lives and dignity they once had. What will happen now that the tables are turned and the victims fight back? In this masterful thriller, the celebrated team of Anders Roslund and Börge Hellström delve into the seedy underbelly of Stockholm. There we meet Lydia and Alena as they embark on a desperate plan to expose their captor and demand justice; police officers Sundkvist and Grens, on the trail of both Lydia’s enslavers and Jochum Lang, a notorious mob enforcer; and Hilding Oldéus, a junkie on what might be his last—and most destructive—bender. At the Söder Hospital, their destinies begin to converge in unexpected and explosive ways. Box 21 is a Scandinavian thriller of the
highest order: a mindblowing psychological drama written with powerful intensity. When it was published in Sweden, Solo called it “suspenseful, gripping, and intelligently written . . . Almost impossible to put down,” while SVT exclaimed: “Forget crime literature; this is, simply put, great literature!”

Features:
* ISBN13: 9780374282950
* Condition: NEW
* Notes: Brand New from Publisher. No Remainder Mark.
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Authors Roslund and Hellstrom build a chilling thriller from the detritus of human suffering, two cases playing out dramatically in a Stockholm hospital where a junkie confronts the consequences of stepping on product and a teenaged Lithuanian sex slave is beat near unconsciousness by her Russian handler. Human trafficking is front and center in this shocking story, the drug culture a close second in its seriousness. In contrast, veteran detective Ewert Grens is the face of the law, his rough persona hiding years of grief that aches like a phantom limb. Grens wants revenge-or justice- for an act committed twenty-five years ago, the subject of his rage, Jochum Lang, an enforcer, in his sights and nearly in his grasp thanks to the actions of the junkie, Hilding Aldeus, Lang's current target.

Depraved and pathetic, Hilding personifies the dead-end drug culture, the ugly underbelly of junkies and their suppliers in the city, as well as the organized crime that supports and profits from human misery. When severely beaten prostitute Lydia Grajauskas arrives at the hospital for treatment, a series of events unfolds, Lydia suddenly the focus of a system that gives such victims short shrift. The police are thrown into chaos as the lonely junkie meets his nemesis a few floors away, Grens and detective Sven Sundkvist confronted with questions for which they have no answers. While extreme, the brutality in this story is hardly surprising; it is the moral dilemma at the heart of the thriller that is disturbing, the grey areas of human behavior misshapen by grief and personal bias, the voice of the innocent barely recognizable above the din of crime vs. law enforcement.

In an increasingly violent, lawless world men are called to action, force meeting force in dramatic confrontation. But at the heart of this story is one courageous woman desperate to tell her truth to the world, to be heard. While criminals rage and police respond in kind, Lydia engineers a moral coup that is stunning in its simplicity, a lone voice in a chaotic wilderness. The moral conundrum is in the response. In a world filled with cacophony, how can a truth be told? Who will listen? And whose truth is more important? Fast-paced, brutal and laced with the personal dramas of larger-than-life characters- some more unlikable than others- Box 21 is provocative and disturbing, leaving the reader with much to ponder about the unpredictability of justice and the nature of truth. Luan Gaines/2009.
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