
Åsa Larsson

Der schwarze Steg (Rebecka Martinsson #3)



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Description

Nach ihrem letzten Fall kann die Anwältin Rebecka Martinsson nur schwer ins Leben zurückfinden. Sie will nicht mehr in ihrer Stockholmer Kanzlei arbeiten, bewirbt sich um eine Stelle bei der Staatsanwaltschaft in Kiruna, ihrer Geburtsstadt, und zieht ins alte Haus ihrer Großmutter.

Die Stille ihres neuen Lebens wird jäh unterbrochen, als ganz in der Nähe eine Frau ermordet aufgefunden wird. Schnell ist das Opfer identifiziert: Es handelt sich um Inna Wattrang, leitende Angestellte bei Kallis Mining, einer weltweit erfolgreichen Grubengesellschaft. Deren Gründer, Mauri Kallis, war einst bettelarm. Seinen märchenhaften Aufstieg verdankt er nicht nur seiner verwegenen Lust am Spekulieren, sondern auch Inna und Diddi Wattrang, gutaussehenden Geschwistern aus verarmtem Hochadel mit besten Beziehungen. Rebecka erkennt, dass die Tote etwas mit Mauris überaus dubiosen Geschäften in Uganda zu tun hatte ...

Åsa Larsson überzeugt wieder mit ihrer klaren, kühlen Sprache und den sensibel gezeichneten Figuren. Auch in ihrem neuen Krimi gelingt es ihr überzeugend, die Verwerfungen der schwedischen Gesellschaft zu zeigen, die Abgründe zwischen Schein und Sein.

Insightful reviews

Kathy Davie: Third in the Rebecka Martinsson mystery series set in the country in Sweden and revolving around a tax lawyer who cracked up.

The Black Path was nominated in 2009 for a Barry Award for Best Paperback Original.

My Take

Whoa, this one is CRITICAL. Read this. Try to read this as soon after [The Blood Spilt](#), 2, as possible. It'll help with remembering as Larsson pulls events at the end of *The Blood Spilt* right in at the start of *The Black Path*. And do not skip ahead to [Until Thy Wrath Be Past](#), 4, and [The Second Deadly Sin](#), 5.

Most of the time it's just the little things that hit you odd when you read out of sequence. It's not like that in *The Black Path*. Too much happens in here including explaining why there is such an emphasis on Rebecka's having spent time in an asylum, how she became enmeshed in the prosecutor's office in Kiruna, and finally, something comes of Rebecka's interest in Måns, and vice versa. It's not believable, but at least I'm out of my misery in wondering *what* and *when* is something going to happen!

"...if everybody's dodgy, in the end nobody's dodgy, somehow."

This "love" interest is still a mystery to me. And probably one of Larsson's few weak points. It's all *tell*, and an extremely weak one. Most of the books have been of Rebecka whining on, maybe being interested in Måns; it's not until now that we get more than a hint. As for Måns' interest. *Tell* me more than these little, bitty grade school snippets.

One of the things I like about Larsson is her truth. Her memories of childhood and how she retains those impressions. I love her insight into the old ladies buying her [Rebecka as a child] ice creams! Her perspective on therapists and their stupid questions. The smells and joys of a toddler. That truth she states about journalists. Yeah, more interested in a good sound bite than truth. And isn't that a sad state of affairs in the news world?

We do get more background on Rebecka about her dad, her parents' marriage and their deaths, and its effect on Rebecka as a child. What happened to her after she was kicked out of the church in [Sun Storm](#), 1. How she ended up living with Grandmother. How she gets her job in Kiruna — Bjönfot knows just what to say to entice her in. It's too much fun to read of Rebecka getting down to work; how she's putting everyone off, lol. How it's pulling Bjönfot in.

We also learn more about Anna-Marie and Sven-Erik. This was one of those conundrums for me, where I wish I hadn't read ahead. Read this series in its proper order, and you won't find your head spinning in frustration as you try to reconcile events you've read that haven't happened yet!

In *The Black Path*, Larsson takes us in backwards as the team struggles to learn who the murder victim is. It takes everyone to start down this path, to rip up the quirky clues that paint an unlikely picture of this odd death with weird injuries, and it's fascinating to read along as Larsson reveals the meaning of those clues. They all make sense, and I'd never have got a single one.

Larsson winds off onto a tangential path when we delve into Kallis and the Wattrangs. It's all PR perfect until we begin to slip under their mantle of achievement. It's a careful path Larsson treads as she makes us fall in like with Mauri. He's come from a horrible background and has struggled all his life to feel of any worth. It breaks your heart what he had to go through as a child and then a young man. And it's a ping-pong of memory and today. Rest assured, however, lol, it's only frustrating in that Larsson takes so bloody long to finally reveal it all.

It amazes me how well Larsson gets me caring for the bad guys. Even as you realize that they do deserve it, you're crying a little inside at the waste of it. Although, I do not understand why Mauri is so attracted to Inna. I'd'a thought he was too smart for that.

I completely get where Mauri is coming from with regards to the African situation. You can't trust the third-world African governments at all. But then I'm conflicted by the other side of it. What that money is also helping to destroy.

I love Ester's story. *Hmmm, I do feel a need to explain that.* I love the artist side of it even as I deplore how poorly her mother took care of her and the rest of the family. But I do want to see Ester's artwork, I want to encourage her to continue on with it, to take advantage of those opportunities! And then I have to wonder if she "saw" how it would all turn out. Why didn't she say something to Mikael, if not Mauri?

As depressing as Larsson's situations are in her stories, they're also so very upbeat, warm, and cozy. I know, it's a weird combination. It's the old-fashioned of Grandmother's house, of other

people's homes, of pastries or cookies on a plate that takes me back to my own grandmother. It's the family-style caring of the people around her. It's an odd contrast that plays against the horror of the killers, the morally bankrupt.

"I feel fine, I say to myself. This is what it's like to feel fine."

The Story

It's Patient Rebecka Martinsson in a secure unit due to a severe psychosis, and a frozen stiff huddling under a blanket in an ark, but only one is coming out of it.

The Characters

Rebecka Martinsson was severely traumatized in [*The Blood Spilt*](#), and is slowly coming back to life, but not the same one as a lawyer in a big firm in Stockholm. She shares an inheritance, her grandmother's house in Kurravaara, with her **Uncle Affe Inga-Brittis** Affe's wife. **Jussi** was the dog of her childhood. **Sivvingis** Rebecka's neighbor in Kiruna; he was **Theresia Martinsson's** friend. **Bella** is his dog. **Lena** is his married daughter; his wife, **Maj-Lis**, is dead.

The police in Kiruna...

Inspector Anna-Maria Melläs partnered up on the job with **Sven-Erik Stålnacke** (he's Valfrid Stålnacke's boy); off the job, the easygoing, somewhat thoughtless **Robert** is her partner. Together they have four kids: **Marcus**, **Jenny**, **Petter**, and **Gustav** is the youngest. **Hanna** is Marcus' girlfriend. Sven-Erik's daughter lives in Luleå with her family, and he still hasn't replaced his missing cat, **Manne**, who has been missing for 18 months. *Although, at one point Larsson says that Manne is dead.* **Hjördis** is his ex-wife. **Inspector Fred "Fredde" Olsson** their computer expert and good at physical social networking. **Inspector Tommy Rantakyrö** another member of the team.

Lars Pohjaner is the medical examiner who had the throat cancer operation. **Anna Granlund** is his very loyal technician. **Inspector Krister Eriksson** a dog handler; **Tintin** is one of his tracker dogs.

Chief Prosecutor Alf Bjönfors wants Rebecka to work for him, and I mean he WANTS her. He's seeing all that potential for financial crime. **Margareta Huuva** is his boss and the head of chambers. **Gudrun Haapalahti** is with the main office, and she's stopped sending anyone to Kiruna. What's the point? All the work is already done.

Northern Explore Ltd....

...is part of **Kallis Mining** owned by **Mauri Kallio** a wunderkind; he pulled himself up by his own bootstraps, wanting to do good in the world. Even as he falls into those corporate-third-world traps. He's married up. Way up. **Ebba von Uhr** is from a noble family and now breaks Arabians; **Echnaton** is one of them. They have two sons: **Magnus** and **Carl**. **Honorine "Inna" Wattranig** the head of information for Northern. **Jacob "Diddi" Wattranig** her brother and Mauri's first friend. **Ulrika** is Diddi's wife, and they have a seven-month-old son, **Philip**. The three of them live in individual houses on the **Regla estate**. **Mikael Wiik** is the head of security who's come up

through Special Protection Unit, then private security. **Sven Israelsson** is on the board; he's also the boss at SGAB.

Ester, Mauri's psychic half-sister, has a gift for foretelling. **Britta Kalliss** is his nutjob of a mother. Ester's "real" parents were trying to make it as reindeer breeders, but her Sami mother was an artist who became too lost in her work. **Antte** was their birth son. **Bengt** was a bullying little boy at school. **Musta** and **Sampo** were the dogs; **Herkules** was the neighbor's dog. **Marit** is her mother's sister, always with the lousy choices in men. **Jan-Åke** is just the latest.

Nils Gunnarsson is the nuthouse consultant where Britta is incarcerated. **Ajay Rani** is supposedly Ester's father.

Businessmen Mauri is working on or with...

Gerhart Sneyers owns mining and oil companies and is the chairman of African Mining Trust, an association of foreign mine owners in Africa. He's also on the blacklist. **Quebec Invest** will be the downfall. **Heinrich Koch** is vp of Gems and Minerals Ltd; **Paul Lasker** and **Viktor Innitzer** owned mines in Uganda; and, former general **Helmuth Stieff** are the dinner guests.

Zimbabwe

Museveni is the current president of Zimbabwe. **Kadaga**, Museveni's cousin, was the general of the army. **Mrs. Florence Kwesiga** is the Minister for Industry in Uganda. Museveni's current general is **Joseph Muinde**. **Pastor Kindu** was a good man.

Mauri at school...

Anders was a student neighbor; **Håkan** and **Mattias** are roommates. Mauri's foster parents were small-time cons. **Jocke** is his brutal, psychotic foster brother.

Torneträsk...

...is a lake popular with ice fishermen. **Leif Pudås** must've been a bit drunk that night. An **ark** is a shelter on the ice for ice fishermen. **Persson's ark** is in better shape than Pudås', although it has one more occupant than Pudås thought. **Abisko** is a tourist station near the lake. **Riksgränsen** is a ski resort the law firm is coming up to visit.

Stockholm

Meijer & Ditzinger...

...is the law firm where Rebecka worked. **Måns Wenngren** used to be Rebecka's boss at the law firm. *I'm not getting why Rebecka is attracted to him. He sounds like an absolute jerk.* **Maria Taube** is a friend and was a colleague who still keeps in touch with Rebecka. **Sonja Berg** was the secretary at Meijer & Ditzinger. **Malin Norell** deals with company law and would like to be with Måns.

Johan is one of the nurses at **St. Göran's hospital**

Gunilla Petrinis the curator at the Color Factor and a board member of the national art council with some influence at the **Idun Lovén Art School**

Benny is a local locksmith. **Malou von Siver** is a TV show interviewer. **Sofia Fuensanta Cuervo** is Diddi's first downfall. **John McNamara** wears a summer overcoat. **Per-Erik Seppälä** is a journalist with a local station with a tidbit of news for Anna-Marie. **Örjan Bylund** had been a journalist with *Norrländska Socialdemokraten*. His wife, **Airis** loves cats. **Boxer** is one of her cat's kittens. **Dr. Erlander** helped bypass the police. **Axel** is Airis' grandchild who has Örjan's computer. **Tieva** is Airis' mother. **Ecke** and **Malte Gabrielsson** are some of Inna's many "friends". **Douglas Morgan** is a former paratrooper and a former mercenary with Blackwater, with a little problem.

The Cover and Title

I think the cover is Ester as she races down the trail through the trees with the horizontal lines representing the speed with which she moves as well as the scratches she accumulates. I do like the red in Larsson's name. A blood red.

The title is the trail that Ester follows, *The Black Path* to salvation. It's one that comes in many forms.

Paulo Pires: Há muito que pretendia ler este livro, tinha uma enorme curiosidade pela autora. Confesso que os autores nórdicos me apaixonam.

Inna Wahring, uma executiva da empresa Kallis Mining é encontrada assassinada num das cabanas "flutuantes" que povoam o lago Torneträsk.

Rebecka Martisson, que se encontra em recuperação de uma enorme trauma, acaba por ser uma peça essencial na compreensão deste quebra cabeças que Anna-Maria Mella, a inspectora da policia encarregado do caso, tem em mãos.

Este livro é um policial envolvente e muito peculiar, não só no enredo como na forma de escrita.

Tem uma escrita eloquente e penetrante, com constantes flasbacks, sem contudo perder a coerência da história, bem pelo contrário, cria um interesse constante e crescente de quem lê. Recomendo...

Aguardo a oportunidade de ler "Aurora Boreal" e "Sangue Derramado", obras já publicadas desta autora.

Chrissa Vasileiou: ?? ?????????? ?????????? ? ?????????? ?????????????? ?? ? ????? ??? ?? ????? ?????? ?????? ??? ?????? ??? Larsson.????? ??? 3 ?????? ??? ?????????? ?????????,??? ?????????? ????? ?
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Ellie: The Black course by means of Åsa Larsson is the 3rd in her sequence of mysteries that includes Rebecka Martinsson and is a superb story. all of the characters have been vividly drawn and the entire tale arcs interesting. I by no means sought after it to be over, a sense I infrequently have as I rush from one ebook to another. And it did what few books ever do: it made me cry. and that i nonetheless enjoyed it.The ebook starts off with what appears to be like the yes demise of a guy at the ice yet quickly alterations direction whilst he discovers the physique of a woman. Inna Wattrang is a part of a trio of entrepreneurs, together with her brother Diddi and led through rags-to-riches good fortune tale Mauri Kallis. the three are tremendously successful, really in excessive hazard mining in war-torn international locations (their present activity is in Uganda) they usually paintings simply slightly at the correct aspect of the law. Rebecka Martinsson is now operating in Kiruna, having left her tax legislations perform after her final "adventure" (in The Blood Spilt led to a critical emotional breakdown. She is helping police officer Anna Maria Mella (who remains to be considered one of my favourite detectives: wife, mother, very human) in her investigation. The ebook is well-plotted and paced with a variety of fascinating characters. It additionally examines Sweden's welfare state, capitalism, and art. in the course of the plot and characters, Larsson proportion a few fascinating insights and perspectives on those advanced issues. The e-book has made me are looking to research extra approximately Swedish tradition (I've already all started attempting to grasp a analyzing wisdom of the language so i will learn a few of these mysteries within the original).But as a rule i suppose i'd just say the publication is wonderful. Enthralling. I enjoyed it- I'm in basic terms sorry i cannot learn it back for the 1st time.Recommended for everyone.

Judith Baller-Fabian: this can be a publication that genuine fanatics of Scandinavian Noïr would favor a lot. the writer is an inventive wordsmith and her writing is lovely, very lyrical. She actually "lives" her characters (all of them) so that you develop into very acquainted with every one one. She additionally has a fascinating manner of switching from 3rd to first individual and it took me some time to determine it out, yet she makes use of first individual current while she's writing approximately one of many character's past. as soon as I figured it out, it made feel and it used

to be right here that she used to be the main poetic and descriptive. i feel she was once "her character" at these instances and used to be seeing with their eyes. this is often additionally a really fascinating location: Lapland, the some distance north of Sweden. until eventually I learn this book, i did not recognize the time period Lap (Laplanders) was once insulting. they're Sami (people) or The Sami and are pointed out in the course of the publication that way. The Black direction is her 3rd book, and so now i am operating backward. i purchased The Blood Spilt and feature all started that one and should then purchase the 1st within the series, solar Storm. no longer find out how to learn a sequence however the Black direction captured my mind's eye whilst I learn the description. i am giving it 4 good deserved stars: lovely, good written yet a section complex. I learn like I eat, slowly having fun with each bite.

Gisela Hafezparast: Love this series, although I learn all of them out of order. Now learn them all and cannot wait for the subsequent book. This one is grittier than the others with huge company within the type of a shroud investor, became mining corporation proprietor and his accomplices, yet Larssen nonetheless inserts loads of what makes this sequence so good, i.e. she tells you approximately this a part of Sweden, it truly is humans and their lives. each ebook has a special element during this regard, quite attention-grabbing and touching. anything tells me that we would listen approximately the various "baddies" of this publication again.

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