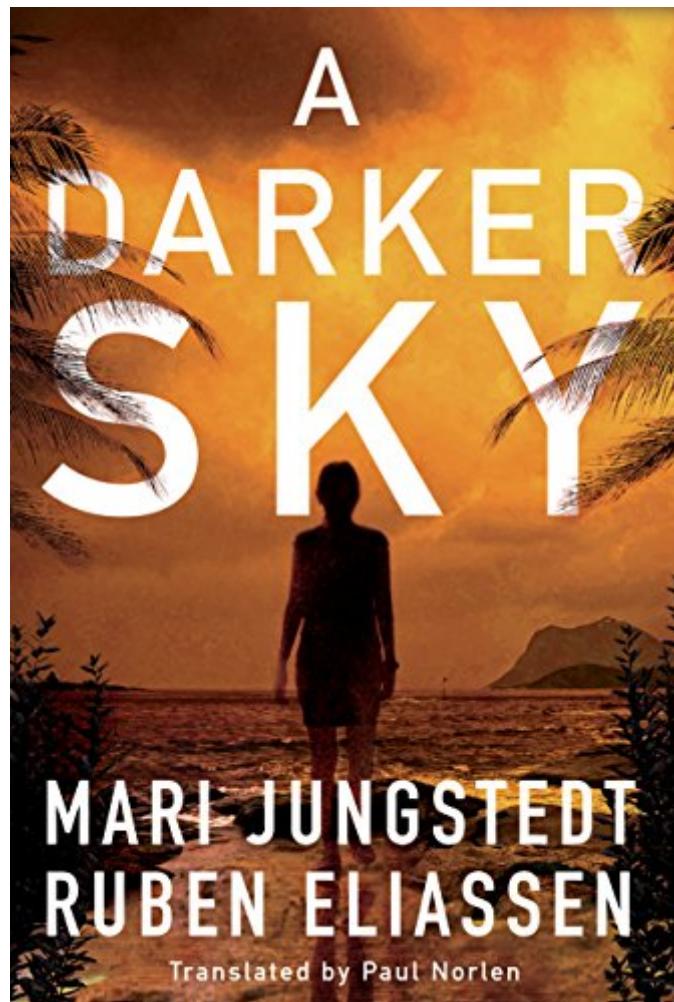


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A Darker Sky (The Canary Island Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Murder is killing the mood at a yoga tourist destination. As dawn breaks on the Canary Islands, a fisherman discovers a woman lying dead on the rocks nearby, her body arranged like a piece of art. To solve the case, Chief Inspector Diego Quintana gets unexpected help from Swedish journalist Sara Moberg, who runs the Scandinavian newspaper on the island, as well as from handsome former investigator Kristian Wede. But not even that can stop the killer from striking again. As the death toll rises, the mood darkens, and Sara and Kristian race to find the killer before another tourist falls prey. But who is the culprit? "an island local with a grudge against the tourists, a visitor on the run from trouble in her home country, the womanizing local yoga instructor, or the person they least suspect?

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Customer Reviews

It's pretty common at this point to have first-person point-of-view sections for the serial killer. It lets the reader in on his or her mindset, as well as additional clues, without having to give the perpetrator away (if done well). Unfortunately it seems to be trending lately, and it's often done poorly. In this case I really like it. Because of it, we get to see that this is not a stereotypical serial

killer. There is no sneering condescension toward the police. There is no arrogant lack of concern. We get to see that this killer is nervous and scared, and fully expects the police to catch up with him at any moment. It's a great way to take an overused device and make it useful again. The pacing at the beginning is quite good. It's a slow exploration of the characters and locale, and it made the story more personal. While the pacing does pick up later, this tale is more about the people than the police work. Speaking of which, I really liked most of the characters. There are some stereotypes, but even they tended to get a little more detail here or there. One of my favorite moments was a scene in which the serial killer clearly wanted to do the stereotypical serial killer monologue but gets thwarted. Given how ubiquitous those scenes are, I loved this break from tradition. I only had two problems with this book: some of the little plot threads or minor characters seem to go missing, and some of the back-and-forth time jumps confused me (especially those centered around Adriana). NOTE: Book provided free by publisher for review

For some reason the beginning of the book seemed to have a different writing style - maybe it was the translation... people seemed to be gulping water a lot. Then it seemed to change.... and it became a very interesting read. The story jumps back and forth between the past and the present - so you need to read the statement at the beginning of the chapter to know the time. But I like jumping back and forth so it is not a problem for me :) First, there is a murder - a woman on a beach - posed. The police begin to investigate. There is a police chief, of course. But there is also a journalist and an ex-policeman from Norway who become central to the story. The characters are well developed and I can tell this is to be a series! I really enjoyed the book - but I don't want to say more and give the plot away

This really was a very enjoyable read. I've always loved Mari Jungstedt's books, and teaming up with Ruben Eliassen has really worked, and they have both done a superb job with this book. A stand-out for me is part of the story is based in the present, and the part of it in the past, and it gives the reader a good understanding of why the events are happening. Canary Islands is such an idyllic place until a woman's body is found on the rocks with her throat slashed. Sara Moberg a newspaper reporter, and has the ability to source more information than normal from the local police, mainly because the Chief Inspector Diego Quintana is in love with her. Unfortunately for him they are both married. Being that the woman that is murdered is a Swedish Citizen, Kristen Wede from the Consulate, is also sent to deal with the lady's family. Being a former police officer, he can't help but get involved in the investigation. Things really start to heat up when

thereâ™s another woman murdered, and displayed in the most bizarre way. The Authors have also done a wonderful job in the detail and background of each character. Do yourself a favour and read this book, it really is that good.

Murders are occurring in the beautiful Canary Islands and there is no shortage of investigators. There is the chief the inspector who is official investigator and is helped by a reporter and consulate officer. The setting is attractive and the mystery is interesting; but the authors overuse flashbacks and make them confusing by simply entitling them "earlier." The result is that an otherwise fine novel seems disjointed.

The book started strong, but about two-thirds through, my interest totally waned and I skimmed the rest. The sections marked "Earlier" were confusing because there is no context for when "earlier" actually occurs - could be days, years or decades. As a reader, you just don't know. It comes together in the last few pages, but by then I didn't really care about the assortment of undeveloped characters who were just plain odd. I was so hopeful because I was interested in the location. I'm glad I only paid \$3.99.

I enjoyed the book very much. I chose it originally because of the plot taking place in the Canary Islands and the author being a Scandanavian. I thought the murder mystery was credible and a worthy challenge to determine "who did it". My only criticism was my difficulty in determining how the flashbacks related to the present. But once I got a handle on that, the book flowed well. The author did a great job with character development and describing some of the unique culture found in the Canary Islands. I would definitely consider choosing other books by this author.

I'm a big Mari Jungstedt fan. This was an interesting collaboration novel. I look forward to more Canary Island thrills. I had a little trouble when a new chapter would start in a different location, or character. Took me awhile to get my bearings. Who is the lead investigator? Sara, or Kristian? The police chief? Samsara threw me off, too. Who is he? Is he the murderer? I miss the Gotland landmarks. However, the Canary Island scenes seemed authentic. Good beginning!

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