



## Śmierć w Breslau

*Marek Krajewski*

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# ?mier? w Breslau

Marek Krajewski

**?mier? w Breslau** Marek Krajewski

Ksi??ka, która stworzy?a Mocka.

Wroc?aw, maj 1933 roku. Wstrz?saj?ca zbrodnia. Zmasakrowane zw?oki dwóch kobiet.

Tajemnicze zdanie napisane krwi? ofiar. I wsz?dzie skorpiony.

Idealna sprawa dla Eberharda Mocka.

W mrocznym i pos?pnym Wroc?awiu, gdzie w ka?dym zau?ku z?odzieje i mordercy czekaj? na ofiar?, rz?dzi przemoc i korupcja. Wysoko postawieni notable oddaj? si? hazardowi i rozpu?cie, przekupna policja walczy o w?adz?. W mie?cie zara?onym doktryn? hitlerowsk? pewien komisarz gustuje w do?? nietypowej rozrywce. Grywa w szachy (wed?ug w?asnych zasad) z pi?knymi roznegli?owanymi pannami.

To Mock, którego z domu rozkoszy mo?e wyci?gn?? tylko kolejna zbrodnia.

## ?mier? w Breslau Details

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Author : Marek Krajewski

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## From Reader Review ?mier? w Breslau for online ebook

### Lammoth says

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## AC says

Giving up. This book is a disappointment; artificial and contrived. The translation is awkward. There are better places to put my time. It's a pity because there are one or two sections where the writing does come to life....

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## Tim Orfanos says

Ο Μ?ρεκ Κραγ?φσκι αποτελε? μια ιδια?τερη περ?πτωση συγγραφ?α αστυνομικ?ς λογοτεχν?ας που θα μπορο?σε να χαρακτηριστε? απ? 'ιδια?τερος' μ?χρι εναλλακτικ?ς. 'Το σημ?δι του σκορπιο?' (1999) ε?ναι το πρ?το μυθιστ?ρημ? του με ?ρωα τον ?τεγκτο, 'αποστειρωμ?νο' και ιδι?ρρυθμο διευθυντ? της Δ?ωξης Εγκλ?ματος, ?μπερχαρντ Μοκ, στο Μπρεσλ?ου της Πολων?ας, ?που το 1933 βρισκ?ταν υπ? τη 'σκι?' του ναζισμο? και της δεισιδαιμον?ας.

Αντικειμενικ?, πρ?κειται για ?να πρωτ?τυπο θρ?λερ αστυνομικ?ς υφ?ς που διχ?ζει και απευθ?νεται σε ψ?χραιμους και, ?σως, ανοιχτ?μυαλους αναγν?στες, οι οπο?οι, κατ? την αν?γνωση, πολλ?ς φορ?ς θα αισθανθο?ν ?τι κ?νουν μια 'κατ?βαση' στη κ?λαση, ?χοντας σαν παρ?α σκορπιο?ς π?νω στο σ?μα τους - σ?γουρα δηλ. δεν πρ?κειται σε καμ?α περ?πτωση για ?να ε?κολο στην αν?γνωση ? ευχ?ριστο βιβλ?ο, και αυτ? αποτελε? ?να απ? τα πιο γοητευτικ? του στοιχε?α.

Σε πρ?το πλ?νο, ο συγγραφ?ας πα?ζει με τους συμβολισμο?ς, τη π?λη σ?ματος-πνε?ματος για την τελικ? επικρ?τηση, τις σεξουαλικ?ς αποκλ?σεις και παρεκκλ?σεις, την 'αρρωστημ?νη' αλαζονε?α της εξουσ?ας, την ?λλειψη συμπ?νιας και ανθρωπισμο?, τις ιστορικ?ς προφήτε?ες και τον θρησκευτικ? φανατισμ? για να καταλ?ξει ?τι ?ντως 'η εκδ?κηση ε?ναι ?να πι?το που τρ?γεται κρ?ο?.

Π?ρα απ? ?λα αυτ?, οφε?λω να τον?σω ?τι πρ?κειται για ?να απ? τα πιο ξεχωριστ? μυθιστορ?ματα της αστυνομικ?ς λογοτεχν?ας σε 'pocket' μορφ? των Εκδ?σεων 'Μετα?χμιο' που, ακ?μα, και αν δεν αρ?σει, σ?γουρα θα με?νει χαραγμ?νο στη μν?μη για την τ?λμη της πλοκ?ς και για τις κινηματογραφικ?ς 'εικ?νες' του.

Βαθμολογ?α: 4,5/5 ? 9/10.

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## Helen says

The city of Breslau. Don't look for it on a map. It doesn't exist anymore. Once upon a time, it was a German city sharing a border with Poland. After the atrocities of World War 2, the Soviets drove out the German populace and gave it to Poland. It is now Wroclaw.

Back to the book. Breslau, 1933. A teenage girl and her nanny are murdered and ritually disemboweled on a train car in Breslau. Inspector Mock knew the girl and her father, a local aristocrat. To assist Mock in solving the crime, the Berlin police send Herbert Anwoldt to Breslau. Outwardly, Mock is a world-weary cynic, but secretly he pines for a son. Anwoldt grew up in an orphanage. He yearns for a father.

I really did love most of this book. Mr. Krajewski has a dark gift for creating noir atmosphere. His hero is Eberhard Mock, a cheerfully amoral, rules-bending German police inspector trying to solve a hideous crime-

-as well as hold on to his job--and his head--at the precise moment in history when the Nazis came to power. Mix in a little history, mythology, gastronomy, class warfare, hookers, murder, and the occult, and you begin to have an idea of what this book is about.

You don't really appreciate the achievement of this novel until you realize, as I suddenly did, that none of the places he is describing exist anymore. The people and culture of Breslau are gone, even the street names, different. How did he find all this stuff out?

A couple of caveats. The translation is kind of stiff--it feels like a translation from a book in the 1930s, not a Polish best-seller that was published a few years ago. And the characters' attitudes towards Jews and homosexuals are pretty primitive.

But still, a terrific read, full of gritty, riveting detail. I couldn't put it down.

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### **Nancy Martira says**

Breslau, 1934. The head of the local police, Eberhard Mock, enjoys playing strip-chess with prostitutes. This is perhaps his most endearing quality, as he is a corrupt sadist. Herbert Anwaldt is an alcoholic grown-up orphan with an education in the classics. His commander in Berlin has had it with him and is only too happy to ship him off to Breslau on an errand. Together, Mock and Anwaldt must solve the murder of Baron von der Malten's daughter: the young woman was attacked in her train car, raped, disemboweled and had live scorpions dropped into her empty abdominal cavity. Just another day in Breslau.

Everyone is screwing everyone - literally and figuratively. Regimes change every week. If you don't have a good historical grasp on all that Ernst Roehm-era pustching, you'll have a devil of a time keeping it all straight: the Gestapo, the SS, the Abwehr, the SA.

A bestseller in Krajewski's native Poland, this book, the first in the Eberhard Mock series, has just been translated into English. Recommended for inter-war history junkies and Silesians, but most others can give it a pass.

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### **Zaphirenia says**

Μ?τριο θριλερακι με κ?ποια καλ? στοιχε?α αλλ? κυρ?ως μ?α κατ? β?ση βαρετ? απ?δοση. Γενικως δεν μου πολυαρ?σουν τα αστυνομικ? που η λ?ση τους σχετ?ζεται με προφητε?ες (σπ?ιλερ αλ?ρτ), αλλ? θα ?μουν διατεθειμ?νη να το προσπερ?σω αυτ? ε?ν η γραφ? του συγγραφ?α ?ταν καλ?τερη (δεν ?ταν) και αν με τραβο?σε περισσ?τερο η ιστορ?α (δε με τρ?βηξε). Στο τ?λος δε ?γιναν ?λα ?να τουρλουμπο?κι - η κ?θαρση του ?ρωα (γιατ? υπ?ρχει ?ντονο και το ελληνικ? στοιχε?ο στο βιβλ?ο) δεν ε?ναι ικανοποιητικ?, η τελευτα?α σκην? ε?ναι υπερβολικ? στημ?νη, οι (αμπελο)φιλοσοφ?ες περ? μο?ρας ?να σκ?το χασμουρητ?. Ξεκ?νησε καλ? αλλ? οι προσδοκ?ες δεν επιβεβαι?θηκαν (2,5 αστερ?κια).

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## **Col says**

The book is set in Breslau a pre-WW2 town in Germany in 1933, subsequently Polish post-war.

In a nutshell, a triple murder, double rape has occurred and Mock the policeman or Kriminaldirektor is tasked with solving the case. Most of the narrative takes place during 1933, with the concluding passage wrapping things up in 1951.

I'm undecided as to my feelings about the book overall. Clichés such as un-put-down-able or page-turner definitely don't apply in this instance. Occasionally you read a book that instead of leaving at home in the morning, you take it to work in the car, you read a few pages when you park, then pop it in your desk drawer ready to catch a chapter at lunchtime.....hmmm, not this time.

I suppose my main reaction is ambivalence, I didn't feel any empathy or connection to Mock or his underling Anwaldt. I wasn't outraged by the crimes in the beginning and I wasn't that fussed by the outcome at the end.

Krajewski was skilled at evoking the mood of pre-war Germany and the menace felt by those who though part of the establishment, weren't part of the growing Brown-shirted, Gestapo loving, Hitlerite factions. Loyalties, alliances and confidences were undertaken with caution, a fact which ratcheted the tension in progressing the investigation into the crimes.

That alone made the book a worthwhile read, though in my opinion the whole *raison d'être* for the crimes struck me as wholly implausible.

Decide in haste and repent at leisure. I can't actually recall why I bought this book, or the following two Krajewski Breslau/Mock that follow, but whilst I will read the second and third titles eventually; had I only bought the first, I wouldn't be rushing to the shops for numbers two and three.

I have some Philip Kerr/Bernie Gunther pre-war Berlin books that I'm looking forward to a lot more. I wouldn't put anyone off from reading this, but neither would I rush to recommend it either.....3 from 5 probably, 2 would be too harsh.

<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10...>

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## **Kerstin says**

"Tod in Breslau" lebt nicht nur von seinem markanten Mordfall, sondern auch von der sehr stimmigen Atmosphäre. Marek Krajewski lässt hier das Breslau der 1930er Jahre vor dem Auge des Lesers entstehen

und schildert dies detailreich und -getreu.

Mit Eberhard Mock bekommt man es mit einem nicht alltäglichen Kommissar zu tun, denn er betrügt seine Frau, geht ins Bordell und schreckt auch nicht vor Schlimmerem zurück. Durch den Roman zieht sich ebenso eine Spur aus Korruption, Machtgeschachere, Folter und auch die ein oder andere kurze Sexszene. Ein verruchtes Breslau eben! Ebenso wird schon der Einfluss Hitlers erkennbar.

Mir hat der Auftakt der Reihe gut gefallen, da es mal etwas anderes als die typische Krimi-Kost war und daher werde ich auch die anderen drei in Deutschland erschienenen Bände noch lesen.

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### **Nancy Oakes says**

First in a series of five novels, Death in Breslau might just possibly be my favorite crime fiction novel so far this year. I hadn't even finished this book and bought the next two, The End of the World in Breslau and The Phantoms of Breslau. If the cover doesn't grab you, the story will.

The story begins in 1950 in a Dresden psychiatric hospital, where the director is being pressed by a Stasi official who wants to question the patient named Herbert Anwaldt. Herbert Anwaldt's identity and the reason he is a patient are questions the author answers as the book moves back and forward in time, beginning in 1933 in Breslau (now Wrocław). The main character of this novel (and the four that follow) is Counsellor Eberhard Mock, who in 1933 was the Deputy Head of the Criminal Department of the Police Praesidium. That year, Hermann Göring had taken over the posts of Minister of Internal Affairs and Chief of the Prussian police. The Nazis had become very active in the Police Praesidium, and an entire wing of the building had been taken over by the Gestapo.

Mock is summoned to a side track of the main railway station, where he finds the bodies of Marietta von der Malten and her governess in a saloon car, savagely raped and murdered. Clues left behind include some dead scorpions, some live ones, and some cryptic writing in blood on the wall of the train car. Mock knows the dead girl and her father, the Baron, a fellow Mason and someone to whom he owes a great deal. His investigation leads him to Friedländer, a Jewish importer specializing in strange "vermin," which makes the Nazi anti-Jewish propagandists very happy. It also solves some of Mock's political problems, and the arrest leads to Mock's promotion as Criminal Director. But it's not the end of the story -- after Friedländer "commits suicide", the Baron receives a package containing some clothing that had belonged to his daughter and realizes that the real killer is still out there somewhere. Herbert Anwaldt, an alcoholic policeman from Berlin, is summoned to work with Mock to secretly discover the identity of the real murderer.

This book is as dark as dark gets. Spies are everywhere, Mock has enemies that would like to bring him down, the Gestapo is a force to be reckoned with. The sinister atmosphere does not let up for a moment. The characters are well developed, especially Mock, who although married, spends his Friday evenings at a brothel playing chess with two lovely women (one under the table, one at the table) who know that "every successful move was assigned a specific erotic configuration." He is quite adept at playing the game with the Nazis, and becomes a master of the art of self protection, both physically and politically. There are many other characters who indulge in hedonistic delights, and there are the Nazis, and nearly everyone seems to have secrets that they'll do anything to keep hidden. And if ever a book captured a place and a time, it's this one.

Death in Breslau is stunning, a novel you won't forget any time soon after reading. While it's great fun, it's also claustrophobic sometimes as you sink deeper and deeper into the world of the dark and sybaritic side of Breslau and its inhabitants. It's also an excellent look at the politics and changing Europe of the 1930s. I absolutely loved this book and very highly recommend it to readers who want something truly edgy and way off the beaten path in their crime fiction.

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### **Susan says**

This is a dark, noir novel, which is both bizarre and extreme. In the heat of a pre-war summer a seventeen year old girl and her governess are discovered murdered in a railway carriage, with their intestines and stomach slashed, scorpion's in the stomach cavity of the girl and strange writing, in blood on the wall. Enter Councillor Eberhard Mock, the Deputy Head of the Criminal Department of the Police Praesidium, who knew the young girl since she was a child and owes much of his career to her father, Baron von der Malten. However, the discovery of who murdered young Marietta is complicated by many things, including a large number of people who have a rather cynical view of the truth. For the novel takes place in Breslau in 1933, where the rise of the Nazi party is causing power within the police department to change hands and those with secrets, which includes virtually everyone in this novel, have reason to fear the truth coming out.

I feel this will be something of a marmite book. It is neither a straightforward crime story, nor really a story about the rise of the Nazi's, although it encompasses both. Rather it is a dark and twisted tale of revenge, mysterious curses and the underbelly of a city in Europe which is changing beyond all recognition. Be prepared to simply go with the flow and enter the author's world. I am sure that I will be reading on in this series.

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### **Thomas says**

I enjoyed reading this book and give it 4.5 stars (rounded up to 5). Eberhard Mock is a Police Inspector in Breslau, Germany in 1933 (present day Wroclaw, Poland). He is called to the scene of 2 horrific murders. Two women have been horribly mutilated and 1 of them is the daughter of very powerful man, Baron Von Malten. Mock is between a rock and a hard place, as solving the murders means antagonizing the Gestapo and not solving them means that the Baron will betray him to the Gestapo.

The plot moves along swiftly, move and counter move between Mock and the Gestapo. The torture scenes are very gruesome. There are vivid descriptions of the squalid corruption in the city.

The author bio identifies him as a former lecturer in Classical Studies at the University of Wroclaw. There are Latin and Greek phrases scattered throughout the book. I liked the ending. This book was originally written in Polish. The translation is very good.

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### **Maria Altiki says**

?να ιδια?τερα σκληρ? βιβλ?ο που μας μεταφ?ρει στην σκοτειν? εποχ? της Γκεστ?πο. Οι χαρακτ?ρες του αμφιλεγ?μενοι που μπερδε?ουν τον αναγν?στη για το πο?ες ε?ναι τελικ? οι προθ?σεις τους. Σεξ, βακχικ? ργια, διαστροφ?ς, σαδισμ?ς, β?α, εκδ?κηση σ? ?να κουβ?ρι που ο

συγγραφ?ας ξετυλ?γει με μαεστρ?α. Οι συνεχε?ς ανατροπ?ς του δεν σε αφ?νουν να σταματ?σεις την αν?γνωση παρ? μον?χα ?ταν διαβ?σεις για την τελικ? κ?θαρση στην τελευτα?α σελ?δα. Δεν μπορ? να πω ακ?μα κ τ?ρα αν συμπαθ? αντιπαθ? τον Μοκ. Ελπ?ζω να κατασταλ?ξω διαβ?ζοντας γ? αυτ?ν στο «Το κεφ?λι του Μιν?ταυρου», για να δο?με!

## Preslava says

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## Christian Dumais says

It's difficult to wander any bookstore in Poland without coming across a shelf devoted to Krajewski's quartet of Breslau books, which include, in order, *Death in Breslau*, *The End of the World in Breslau*, *Ghosts in the City of Breslau*, and *Breslau Fortress*; and I was thrilled when I discovered a translated copy of the first book in a bookstore in Berlin. My interest in reading this series in particular – outside of learning about a new Polish author – was that the books were set in (you guessed it!) Breslau, which is now known as Wroclaw, the city I live in today.

Death in Breslau tells the story of Criminal Director Eberhard Mock who must solve the murder of Baron von der Malten's daughter. But like any good murder mystery, it's hardly that simple. Since this is Breslau in 1933, Mock must not only outmaneuver the Gestapo, a frighteningly perverse society of aristocrats and an act of revenge 700 years in the making, but his own past as well.

For some reason, Death in Breslau reminds me of Arthur Conan Doyle's original Sherlock Holmes story, A Study in Scarlet. Perhaps it's for the superficial reason that both books introduce their respective characters; however, I find it interesting that they also both remove their protagonist from the story for extended periods of time. Unlike Doyle's disastrous choice to not only remove Holmes from nearly half the book, but to awkwardly shift from first to third person point of view, Krajewski's decision to have Mock exit the story helps establish the introduction of the book's true tragic character, Herbert Anwaldt, and plants the seeds for some of the book's most emotional payoffs.

In many ways, Mock is Poland's answer to Sherlock Holmes, as the character is a twisted version of Holmes had he been raised in the shadow of fascism, where he had to hide his powers of deduction for fear of being

noticed and instead embrace his more primal instincts in order to survive. When we first meet the Mock, he is enjoying his weekly meeting at a brothel, playing a sexually enhanced version of Chess with two prostitutes. This introduction reveals just a few of Mock's flaws, which also includes his anti-Semitism, infidelity and alcoholism. Despite these characteristics, there is something compelling about Mock's tenacity despite overwhelming odds; because Krajewski is careful to reveal Mock's humanity sparingly, readers find themselves sympathetic to Mock even when they're disgusted by his choices. And let me tell you, some of Mock's choices are doozies.

If you're in the mood for an excellent mystery with some solid characters, Death in Breslau will certainly leave you craving for more. In fact, Quercus published the English version earlier this year, and I can only hope that the remaining books will follow quickly.

This was originally published at: <http://wherethelongtailends.com/archi...>

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### Tim Orfanos says

Ο Μ?ρεκ Κραγ?φσκι αποτελε? μια ιδια?τερη περ?πτωση συγγραφ?α αστυνομικ?ς λογοτεχν?ας που θα μπορ?σε να χαρακτηριστε? απ? 'ιδια?τερος' μ?χρι εναλλακτικ?ς. 'Το σημ?δι του σκορπιο?' (1999) ε?ναι το πρ?το μυθιστ?ρημ? του με ?ρωα τον ?τεγκτο, 'αποστειρωμ?νο' και ιδι?ρρυθμο διευθυντ? της Δ?ωξης Εγκλ?ματος, ?μπερχαρντ Μοκ, στο Μπρεσλ?ου της Πολων?ας, ?που το 1933 βρισκ?ταν υπ? τη 'σκι?' του ναζισμο? και της δεισιδαιμον?ας.

Αντικειμενικ?, πρ?κειται για ?να πρωτ?τυπο θρ?λερ αστυνομικ?ς υφ?ς που διχ?ζει και απευθ?νεται σε ψ?χραιμους και, ?σως, ανοιχτ?μυαλους αναγν?στες, οι οπο?οι, κατ? την αν?γνωση, πολλ?ς φορ?ς θα αισθανθο?ν ?τι κ?νουν μια 'κατ?βαση' στη κ?λαση, ?χοντας σαν παρ?α σκορπιο?ς π?νω στο σ?μα τους - σ?γουρα δηλ. δεν πρ?κειται σε καμ?α περ?πτωση για ?να ε?κολο στην αν?γνωση ? ευχ?ριστο βιβλ?ο, και αυτ? αποτελε? ?να απ? τα πιο γοητευτικ? του στοιχε?α.

Σε πρ?το πλ?νο, ο συγγραφ?ας πα?ζει με τους συμβολισμο?ς, τη π?λη σ?ματος-πνε?ματος για την τελικ? επικρ?τηση, τις σεξουαλικ?ς αποκλ?σεις και παρεκκλ?σεις, την 'αρρωστημ?νη' αλαζονε?α της εξουσ?ας, την ?λλειψη συμπ?νιας και ανθρωπισμο?;, τις ιστορικ?ς προφητε?ες και τον θρησκευτικ? φανατισμ? για να καταλ?ζει ?τι ?ντως 'η εκδ?κηση ε?ναι ?να πι?το που τρ?γεται κρ?ο?.

Π?ρα απ? ?λα αυτ?, οφε?λω να τον?σω ?τι πρ?κειται για ?να απ? τα πιο ξεχωριστ? μυθιστορ?ματα της αστυνομικ?ς λογοτεχν?ας σε 'pocket' μορφ? των Εκδ?σεων 'Μετα?χμιο' που, ακ?μα, και αν δεν αρ?σει, σ?γουρα θα με?νει χαραγμ?νο στη μν?μη για την τ?λμη της πλοκ?ς και για τις κινηματογραφικ?ς 'εικ?νες' του.

Βαθμολογ?α: 4,5/5 ? 9/10.

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