

Portrait of the Psychopath as a Young Woman

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She is utterly beautiful, and utterly insane. A novel from Edward Lee & Elizabeth Steffen. A full-force, hardcore psycho thriller. Unlike anything you've seen from Ed Lee before. Psychopath She shackles them to the bed. She glues their eyes closed. She punctures their eardrums. She sews their lips shut. Tortures They can't move. They can't see or hear. They can't scream. All they can do is feel. And with her tools -- her scalpels and needles, her bonesaws and her knives -- She gives them a lot to feel... "The novel that American Psycho should have been... brutal, break-neck, and very real. An astonishing, gruesome feminist thriller..." - Andrew Harper, author of Bad Karma

Portrait of the Psychopath as a Young Woman Details


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Author : Edward Lee , Elizabeth Steffen

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From Reader Review Portrait of the Psychopath as a Young Woman for online ebook

Glenn Alcorn says

Horrifying, disgusting, gratuitously violent ... and very, very good. So much more than I expected it would be. If it had been more widely published I'm certain this would have been a bestseller. Loved it. Definitely the best thing I've ever read from Ed Lee, as well.

Mike Kazmierczak says

This is a hardcore novel. Extremely brutal. There are enough torture scenes in this novel to give you at least one thing to cringe about. If you're like me, you'll find several. The new uses for power tools was one. The red pepper was another. If you get squeamish easily, pass on this book.

Kathleen Shade is a regular columnist for a feminist magazine when she starts getting stories from a serial killer. Not so much stories as descriptions of the torture inflicted on her victims. There are also glimpses into her childhood which is more depressing than the pain experienced by the men she kills. Detective Spence is the police officer assigned to investigate the killing spree but he can't quite find the connection between killer and columnist and is left a step behind as the victims pile up.

While a good read, Lee has done better. The torture is over the top at times and we don't usually find out too much about the victims. This leaves us not feeling much for them one way or another when they are killed. And there are even victims that we cheer the killer on with their torture. Without feeling for the victims, the book becomes more about the killer and those with who she chooses to communicate. We get a good view of these characters but for me, the feelings as to what might happen to them wasn't there. The novel is still kick ass and not one I would pass up but Lee has done better.

Anita Dalton says

On the surface, this book seemed like it was gonna be great. The presence of Ed Lee was part of it but the descriptions also made it seem like it was a winner. A journalist is contacted by a serial killing female in order to tell the killer's story. The journalist enters a new relationship that challenges her emotionally and before long, the woman, her new lover and the killer are on a collision course, and the journalist and the killer find a horrifying link between themselves. Add a mean cop, lots of violence, and pow, you got yourself a decent enough serial killer book. And to be frank, the killer herself was at times an interesting character, and the violence she wreaks might be, for some extreme horror fans, worth the price of admission.

So... Why does this book stink a' plenty? The reasons are myriad and glaring. First, you will never read a more cliched book outside of a romance novel or a western, or maybe a romance set in the Old West, preferably written by my mom. You've got your neurotic heroine who is hot and sexy but at weight lighter than Marilyn Fucking Monroe feels she is obese and ugly. Also she's wacky and likes to run around naked all the time, as body-loathing headcases are wont to do, amirite? We have a murderous whackjob who is a caricature of every abused female killer, with an endless mental dialogue with her abusive daddy. And

despite the fact that she's a mentally deranged killer, she still somehow manages to dress up, lure, stalk and kill her victims and hold a day job with almost nary a hiccup.

But there's more, oh so much more. We have the cliché of the hard ass cop bullying his unhappy witness. We have a man who is evidently a poet who is acclaimed enough to have made it into *The New Yorker* who is capable of writing poetry that would make a teenage goth misery case ashamed at the turgid purpleness of it all. Also, he falls in love with the heroine after a night of sex, because that's what poets do – they fall in love with weird women involved in murder cases. And in a novel about tracking a serial killer, despite the fact that Elizabeth Steffen is a federal crime analyst, we have characters who use the words psychopath and psychotic interchangeably, descriptions of mental states that read like gibberish and a character who appears to be largely psychotic who is yet still able to write out scholarly analyses of her torture techniques. Read my entire review [here](#).

Jessica Hodgkinson says

All in all good read. Not as gruesome as I was expecting, but not lacking in attention-grabbing moments of torturous vile instances that make your skin crawl. I would recommend this book to everyone who is into this genre, especially newer fans of Ed Lee. This story is a good way to break 'em into reading one of the best hardcore horror authors around. Ed Lee's books are never a disappointment.

BuboBubo says

ziemlich heftig...und genial!

Shannon Gardner says

This book is a crime drama, thriller, and horror story all wrapped into one scary ass read. This book brings together two very different women who share a very heinous history. I like when the characters are talking about police issues and procedures. The police science and their investigation technics are very good and believable. The profiling of the female killer is truly amazing, add to that the profiling of the killers idol is even better. I did not care for the disturbing background story for the killer and the killers idol. I know if there was no background story you would not have this book. I understand it is a major link between both killer and idol, it is just a very disturbing and disgusting subject. There may have been other ways to connect these two characters. The killer is one of the scariest character I have ever read about, she makes my skin crawl, this is a very disturbing book and a very mentally ill character. The book reads like a episode of *Criminal Minds* or any of those other tv shows that profile suspects, but this suspect is ten times worse then any one on those shows. I like the idea of this book. To have a female psychopath and for her to also be a serial killer is original. I don't think there are very many female serial killers. It seems very true and relevant of the current mind set. There have been serial killers who have contacted newspapers or the media in general while committing their atrocious, and bloody acts of violence to gloat, and get attention from local, state and national police investigators, plus getting their name and crimes out there to the general public. These suspects want their 15 minutes of fame. This killer is no different, she want's her 15 minutes of fame. The characters are built well in the first couple of chapters, so you already know that you love them, hate them, or are disgusted by them. At that point it is amazing to realize you now have the rest of the book to see

what, how, and why the characters do what they do till the very last page of the book. This is definitely an 18 or older book, due to graphic language, graphic sexual content and graphic torturous violence. Some dialogue in parts of this book are also lewd and crude. I had a hard time getting through some of the chapters due to the narrative of this book. It is not for the faint of heart. But people who like reading police dramas/thrillers/horrors and like watching The Justice Channel, HLN, and Investigation Discovery, this book is for you. It is well written. I will be looking for other collaborations from these two authors.

Shadow Girl says

I think this one started a little slow for me.

I started reading it two different times before now, and set it down - accidentally forgetting about it.

Ok, maybe that's not quite right. It didn't start slow, necessarily. It didn't start off as Ed Lee. When you're in the mood for depravity, Lee usually just throws you in head-first - no chance to buckle up. Portrait of the Psychopath as a Young Woman didn't do that, it eased you in.

I started over again yesterday, just finished it, and WOW! As a whole - Holy Shit!! When my brain started firing and putting things together, I wished I could read faster.

The depravity is there, buckets full of it! Mixed with gore, and painfully uncomfortable scenes of torture. It's all surrounded by a story that is as uncomfortable as the torture scenes!

A woman who could be described as a modern day, more feminist (I hate the term, but, roll with me here), version of *Dear Abby*, is contacted by a killer - a woman who describes her sessions in chilling detail, and adds a little 'proof' that she's not a phony. The detective on the case fucks with her relentlessly, and the wishy-washy love interest tries to be dominant, but someone from her past is the most dominating man in her head.

I'm very impressed with the story now, and I plan to look up Lee's co-author, Elisabeth Steffen.

Kerstin Stutzke says

Die 33-jährige Kathleen Shade führt ein eher zurückgezogenes Leben. Sie lebt in Washington D. C. und bekommt ihre Arbeit per Post zugeschickt, denn sie schreibt eine Kolumne namens "Urteil" für das Frauenmagazin '90s Woman und kann demnach ihrer Tätigkeit auch von Zuhause aus nachgehen. Leben kann die studierte Soziologin von diesem Job nicht, doch er macht ihr Spaß und da ihr Vater sehr vermögend ist, unterstützt er sie von Zeit zu Zeit. Finanziell ist sie also nicht auf ihrem Job abgewiesen, doch es macht ihr Freude, Menschen in schwierigen Alltagssituationen zur Seite zu stehen. Ihr großer Traum ist es jedoch, als Schriftstellerin ein Buch zu veröffentlichen. Mit der wöchentlichen Lieferung der Leserpost erhält Kathleen jedoch eine Sendung, der ihr Leben von Grund auf verändern wird, denn eine (weibliche) Person bietet ihr an, Kathleen die Geschichte ihres Lebens zu erzählen und bietet Kathleen an, diese zu veröffentlichen. Die Sendung erhält zusätzlich zu der Nachricht noch eine Zugabe - die Kathleen sofort veranlasst, die Polizei hinzuzuziehen.

Der 36-jährige Lieutenant Jeffery Spence ist ausgebildeter Psychologe und der Polizist, der ihr für diesen Fall zugeteilt wurde und eines steht auf den ersten Blick fest: die beiden können einander nicht ausstehen. Spence hält nicht viel von Kathleen, immerhin schreibt sie eine Kolumne in einer Frauenzeitschrift und generell kann er nicht viel mit Frauen anfangen, denn er ist homosexuell, was seinen Stand bei der Polizei nicht unbedingt einfacher macht. Schnell stellt sich heraus, dass es sich bei der "Zugabe" um ein Körperteil

von Stephen W. Calabrice handelte, dessen Leiche bereits aufgefunden wurde. Kathleen selbst kennt das Opfer nicht und kann daher keine Verbindung herstellen. Es bleibt ihnen nichts anderes übrig, als auf die nächste Nachricht der Killerin zu warten.

Lange müssen sie nicht darauf warten, denn sie schlägt immer schneller und mit einem immer höheren Gewaltpotential zu. Anschließend berichtet sie Kathleen von ihren Taten und so grausam diese auch sein mögen, Kathleen ist dennoch fasziniert von dieser Frau. Allerdings ist noch immer unklar, um wen es sich dabei handelt - fest steht nur: sie pflastert die Stadt mit Leichen förmlich zu. Da das Verhältnis zwischen Spence und Kathleen nach wie vor sehr angespannt ist, geht sie teilweise ihre eigenen Wege, ohne diese mit der Polizei abzusprechen. Im Rahmen einer Lesung lernt sie den Dichter Maxwell Platt kennen und die beiden kommen sich sehr schnell näher, sehr zum Missfallen von Spence, der eh keine besonders hohe Meinung von Frauen hat und hier eher die Gefahr sieht, dass Platt auch ins Visier der Serienkillerin geraten könnte. Doch nach langer Zeit ist Kathleen endlich mal wieder glücklich und möchte diese Zeit einfach nur genießen, denn abgesehen von den schrecklichen Folterberichten, die sie nach wie vor regelmäßig auf unterschiedlichen Wegen erhält, ist ihr Leben einfach nur wundervoll. Was jedoch zu diesem Zeitpunkt noch niemand ahnt - Kathleen wurde nicht zufällig ausgesucht, sie und die Täterin haben teilweise eine gemeinsame Vergangenheit ...

Gnadenlose Rache! Der Plot wurde spannend und abwechslungsreich erarbeitet. Besonders gut hat mir gefallen, dass der Autor den Leser in den Kopf der Killerin blicken lässt und man sie als Leser auch bei ihren Taten begleitet. Hierdurch offenbarte sich nach und nach der Grund, warum sie all diese bestialischen Morde begangen hat und ganz ehrlich, es gab durchaus auch Opfer, die es verdient hatten. Die Figuren wurden facettenreich erarbeitet. Interessant fand ich, dass keiner der Protagonisten dem unbeschwerten Menschentyp entsprach, wie es so oft der Fall ist. Tatsächlich hatten hier alle eine teils sehr harte Vergangenheit, die sie bis in die Gegenwart verfolgt hat und noch immer an ihnen nagte. Was mich allerdings ein bisschen gestört hat, ist die Tatsache, dass sich mir die Figur der Killerin nicht in voller Gänze erschlossen hat, denn ich habe noch nicht einmal ihren Namen erfahren, wohl aber einen Teil ihrer bestialischen Vergangenheit. Den Schreibstil empfand ich als spannend und sehr realistisch zu lesen, sodass ich abschließend sagen kann, dass mir das Buch fesselnde Lesestunden bereitet hat und dieses Buch das erste des Autors gewesen sein mag, das ich gelesen habe, jedoch bestimmt nicht das letzte.

Jesse Bedell says

Quite different from anything else I've read by Ed Lee. It has been said that every horror novelist must write a "serial killer" novel, and Mr. Lee doesn't disappoint here. The comparisons to Brett Easton Ellis' "American Psycho" are unfounded in my view. B.E.E.'s book, brilliant as it was, was essentially a hilarious satire on yuppie culture in the 80's. You'll find none of that here. This book is DARK. Ed Lee has always been effective at making you laugh and simultaneously squirm, but the gross humor that seems to be his trademark is utterly absent here. Some of the torture sequences are so horrific even I was wincing. (Believe me-that's hard to do) I've never been much for reviews, so all I can say is READ IT I

Tony says

Not for the weak of stomach. If you liked "American Pyscho" by B.E. Ellis this is the companion piece--only

this time a woman is preying on yuppie men.

Kristy says

I love this book! Man burger anyone? HA!

David Church says

The first half of the book I felt was bland & repetitive. The 2nd half really cranked up with some very interesting twists & turns. The chapter called "Manburger" will forever be burned into my mind, I still wince thinking about that chapter. Overall all a pretty good read, a slow burn to begin with but it ends with a bang.

Juxian says

[You know all those thrillers when, closer to the end, the psycho killer kidnaps the hero's token girlfriend - and you're like: "Whatever, let him kill her or something". And since the psycho killer in this book is a woman, she naturally kidnaps the heroine's bo

Birgit says

Was würde ein normaler Mensch denken, wenn er hier zuhörte?

Oder besser gesagt: "Was würde ein normaler Mensch über die in diesem Buch beschriebenen Taten denken?"

Das Buch **Porträt der Psychopathin als junge Frau** von Edward Lee & Elizabeth Steffen könnte man schnell mal mit einem Wort erklären: "krank"

Aber das trifft es auch nicht ganz, die umgesetzten Ideen, die genau beschriebenen Morde und die abartigen Charaktere sind vielleicht krank, aber um dieses Buch zu beschreiben muss man doch etwas weiter ausholen.

Der Roman ist in erster Linie ein typischer Kriminalroman, wobei die Täterin und ihre Morde weitaus blutiger und verrückter sind als die Standard-Krimi-Morde, aber das ist bei Büchern aus dem Festa-Verlag Pflicht.

Auch der Schreibstil entspricht dem eines Kriminalromans, wir lesen die Geschichte aus mehreren Perspektiven, unter anderem die der Mörderin und des ermittelten Polizisten. Je nach Perspektive ist auch das richtige Vokabular und Fachwissen angewendet, das unter anderem durch die Berufserfahrung der beiden Autoren sehr genau ist und dadurch positiv hervortritt.

An manchen Stellen wird der rund 470 Seiten lange Roman doch etwas langweilig, wenn zum wiederholten Male Vorgänge im Detail beschrieben werden, die wir schon von den ersten drei Malen kennen. Auch das Ende war absehbar, wenn man sich darüber etwas Gedanken macht und für mich nicht überraschend.

Alles in Allem ein gutes Buch, das jedoch, außer mit seiner Grausamkeit und der Beleuchtung der tiefsten Winkel der Sexindustrie, mit nichts Innovativem überzeugen konnte.

Tom says

Not your typical Edward Lee book but still with enough of his hardcore style to know that you are reading one of his books. This book is not for the faint of heart. Very graphic but the graphic parts are not just there for shock. They are a real part of the overall story. I did find myself having to put down the book quite often just to get my bearings back. If you like psychological horror this is a must read.
