

BUTTERFLY SKIN

TITLE: BUTTERFLY SKIN

AUTHOR: SERGEY KUZNETSOV

FORMAT: NOVEL (400 PAGES, 2014)

GENRE: THRILLER, NOIR, POLICE

AESTHETICS: ENTHRALLING, ARRESTING, EERIE, BRUTAL, DARK, HIGH-PITCH, SENSUAL, EROTICALLY CHARGED

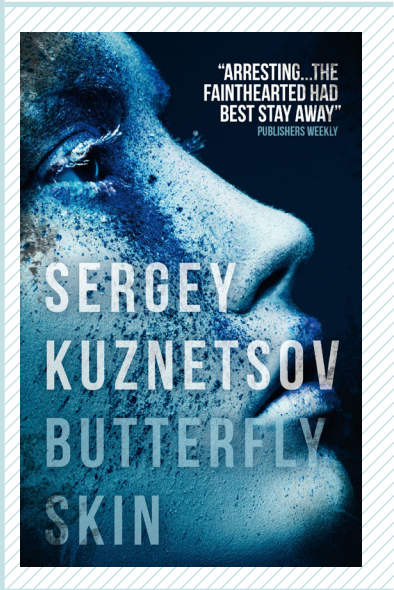
REFERENCES:

MINDHUNTER, TV SERIES, CREATED BY JOE PENHALL AND PRODUCED BY DAVID FINCHER, 2017-2019

SEVEN, DIRECTED BY DAVID FINCHER, 1995

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS, DIRECTED BY JONATHAN DEMME, 1991

A love story from hell
The New York Times



Logline

A brutal serial killer at loose and a young journalist in pursuit, who discovers, amid the acts of sexual sadism, an echo of her own desires.

Pitch

When a brutal and sadistic serial killer begins stalking the streets of Moscow, Xenia, an ambitious young newspaper editor, takes it upon herself to attempt to solve the mystery of the killer's identity. As her obsession with the killer grows, Xenia devises an elaborate website with the intention of ensnaring the murderer, only to discover something disturbing about herself: her own unhealthy fascination with the sexual savagery of the murders.

Translation rights sold

Published in 8 languages, including English, German and French

Materials available

Pitch
Outline
Full English, French translations

Synopsis

Moscow is plagued with a series of gruesome murders: a serial killer is targeting young women in the city, inflicting grisly sexual tortures upon his victims.

Ksenia, an ambitious young editor in the news department of a small but influential online journal decides to track down the serial killer, devising an elaborate website to entrap him and thereby boost her company's profile. She soon realises, however, that her obsession with the psychopath reflects something more deeply disturbing: her own unconscious mixture of horror and fascination with the sexual savagery of the murders.

A sexual masochist, Ksenia has her own dark side and is drawn deeply into the story. New victims emerge as Ksenia has an affair with a co-worker and tries to make sense of her desires.

Her one potential soul mate is an online chat partner identified as "alien"; their virtual affair is both psychologically and erotically charged. They fall in love and edge toward a face-to-face meeting, without Ksenia suspecting that her correspondent is the killer.

Ksenia's best friend, Olga, tries to keep her grounded, with disastrous results.

Selected reviews

Arresting...The fainthearted had best stay away.

Publishers Weekly

This book is much, much deeper than just a story about a serial killer and a masochist who follows him.

Popcults

If Stieg Larsson and Thomas Harris met each other on ICQ, courted each other, then met in person and had a lovechild and posted its picture on a creepy subreddit, it'd look something like this book.

Litreactor

Superb character development and a strong central plot that will keep you enthralled.

City of Films