

Sisi & Sonia

Nic Penrake

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Sisi & Sonia is a first time novel by Nic Penrake, and published by YouWriteOn/Legend Press. The publisher is funded largely by the Arts Council. Their remit has been to flush out new talent and provide selected authors with a distribution deal on almost all the major booksellers' websites, from amazon to Barnes & Noble. Already, through facebook groups, the book is being talked about and recommended. What the author now needs is a conventional publisher to come in and boost the word of mouth by giving the book some physical presence in bookstores. Then we really are talking.

As Trainspotting took an unflinching look at the mad world of heroin addiction, Sisi & Sonia pulls no punches when it comes to the sexually obsessed world of one middle class punter and an escort girl from Thailand. Indeed, there are very few books on the market that can match Sisi & Sonia for its combination of character driven story telling and sexually-charged thriller writing. This is a page-turner with characters you remember once you close the back cover. And if you were in any doubts as to the gathering interest for the novel, you might take a read of the 3 reviews it has on amazon.co.uk.

Tags: prostitution, blackmail, murder, escort, crime, love, affair, fake, betrayal, stalker

5.0 out of 5 stars Sisi & Sonia, 3 Feb 2009

By Mr. A. Smith (UK)

(REAL NAME)

This is a great read, powerfully and intriguingly written. Nic Penrake really draws you into the situation and the increasingly awful predicaments. He certainly doesn't pull his punches! And he creates a convincing and fascinating obsession in his main character - at times you want to scream "Don't do it!" but at the same time you really enjoy (kind of) experiencing how the guy gets more and more caught up in a very tough and disturbing world where he doesn't belong, but which he can't - or doesn't altogether want to - escape. A really engrossing book.

5.0 out of 5 stars Love or obsession? 1 Feb 2009

By Paul E. Roberts "Elvis" (London, UK)

(REAL NAME)

I probably wouldn't have bought this book on the cover - it doesn't give you much idea about the story, although the trees have a hint of something oriental about them - but a friend recommended it to me and said it was really out there on sex. He was right. Not the titillating sensationalism of *Secret Diary of a Call Girl*, though. It's darker and richer than that.

It tells the story of a London dentist who should have known better falling for a beautiful Thai girl and patient who turns out to be an escort girl. The writer keeps you guessing - will they, against all odds, make it as a couple? The girl, in spite of her profession, genuinely likes the guy. The trouble is she likes his money more.

It's pretty explicit in places, but I never felt the sex was gratuitous - the sex scenes kept pushing the story forward and revealing new depths to the characters. The twists were strong and believable and I cared about the main characters even though they were often making bad choices.

It's very visual and at times it feels more like a French or German or Japanese film than anything English that I've seen, but that's what made it stand out from the crowd for me. If you like a noirish tale with no holds barred, this isn't a bad punt at all!

4.0 out of 5 stars MODERN LONDON: THAI'D UP IN KNOTS, 28 Jan 2009

By Jon Nathan

A searing, compulsive, sex-charged look at the fatal obsession a Thai 'working girl' holds for a middle-aged British dentist. Penrake's view of London - a mix of dull suburbia and squalid international playground - is one that's rarely rendered so clearly and while the OTT ending is, well, OTT (and this isn't a book for minors - or feminists) this is still a 21st Century 'Lolita' of real quality.

