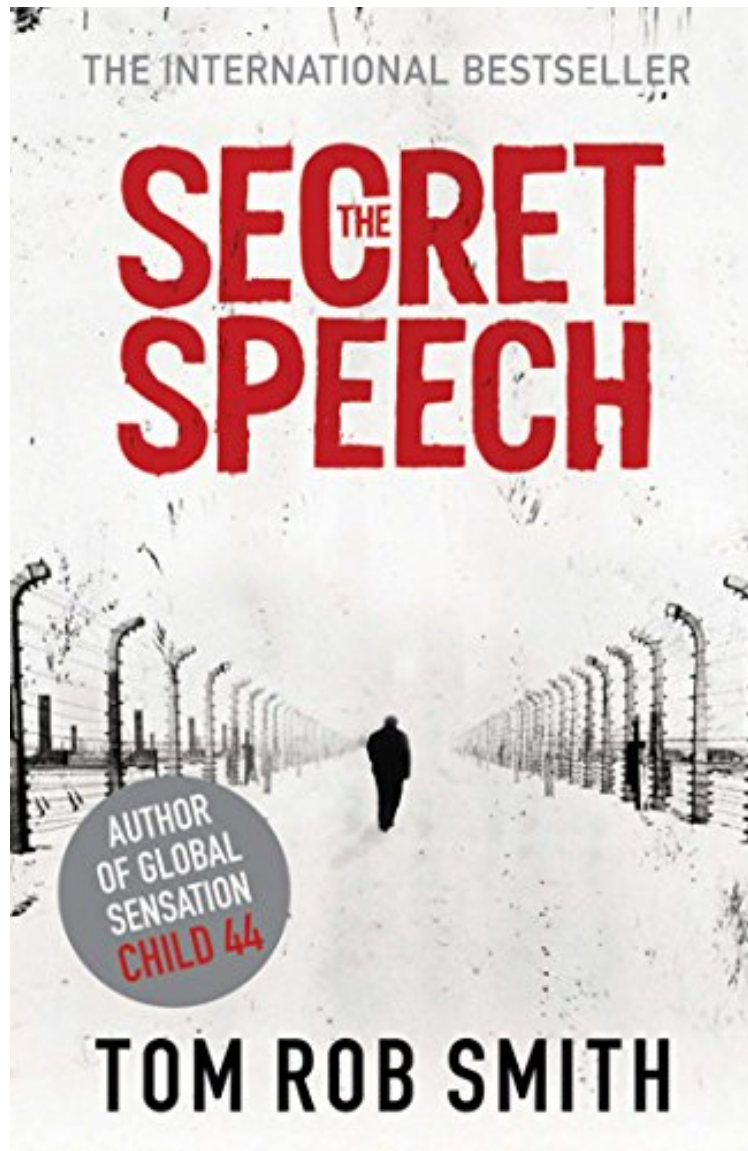


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Von Tom Rob Smith

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Von Tom Rob Smith : The Secret Speech (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secret Speech (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Secret Speech Von Lenja After having read "Child 44" I was really looking forward to reading this novel. However, it wasn't nearly as good. Although the characters are very clearly portrayed I found the plot a bit too, how should I say, too all-encompassing. It was as if the author wanted to cover too much; a dysfunctional family, a kidnapping, betrayal, prison

ships, prison camps and the Hungarian uprising. As a result, the novel was nowhere near as good as the first. A pity because the time and location touched upon gives a great deal to write about - but not all in one novel. 5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Doesn't quite stack up next to "Child 44" but still good! Von Mark O'Neill "Child 44" was always going to be a hard act to follow. And it shows in this book, "The Secret Speech". This book is extremely good but it struggles in many places and also gets a little sluggish. But the writing is still strong and the plot solid. Leo Demidov is working as the head of his newly installed Homicide Department but it is a department which is not trusted by the militia and which is constantly monitored by the KGB. He picks up a case where a printer commits suicide after being ordered to print out a speech by a high ranking party official. He later learns that the speech is by Stalin's successor, Khrushchev, in which he apologises for Stalin's actions. But why does this make the printer commit suicide? Meanwhile Leo has many problems at home with one of the two orphaned children we met in the last book, Zoya. She blames Leo for the death of her parents and she starts to hate all communists. When the KGB orders Khrushchev's speech to be read out in all schools and Zoya goes crazy, Leo and Raisa think she will be arrested. When two gangsters arrive in the guise of the KGB to kidnap Zoya, their female leader gives Leo an ultimatum - rescue my husband from the Siberian gulags or I will kill your daughter. Leo decides to go undercover as an arrested criminal and be taken to the Siberian gulag where the man is being held and then break him out - because that's the only way he can save Zoya. And the plot doesn't stop there.....it keeps on going! I don't want to spoil the ending. As I said, don't expect something as brilliant as "Child 44". But "The Secret Speech" comes damn close. If "Child 44" was a 10, "Secret Speech" would be a 9.2. I read Smith's working on a Demidov trilogy. I can't wait to see what he comes up with next. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fantastisch Von JOKO "Kolyma" ist das zweite Buch des amerikanischen Schriftsteller Tom Rob Smith. Wie schon in "Kind 44" gelingt es dem Autor Spannung und politische Aspekte in Einklang zu bringen und den Leser in die Sowjetunion der 50 iger Jahre eintauchen zu lassen. Auch wenn seine Romane fiktiver Natur sind, werden sie so realistisch beschrieben, dass die akribische Recherche dieser Zeit sprbar ist. Aber jetzt zum Inhalt. Moskau 1956. Der uns schon aus Kind 44 bekannte KGB-Agent Leo Demidow hat seiner frheren Ttigkeit den Rcken gekehrt und mit einem Kollegen in ein Bro zur Aufklrung von Mord,-und Selbstmordffllen gewechselt. Dieses wird allerdings geheim gefhrt, da der Staat Morde und Selbstmorde immer noch nicht ffentlich macht. Trotz alledem wird Leo mit der Aufklrung zweier Morde beauftragt, die nach Chruschtschows geheimer Rede, in der der Politiker die Taten Stalins verurteilt und die Person Stalin kritisiert, geschahen. In beiden Fllen wird die Rede Chruschtschows am Tatort gefunden. Seine Ermittlungen fhren Leo zu einer Person, die er aus seiner Vergangenheit kennt. Frajera, die ihren damaligen Namen ablegt hat, hat Leos Stieftochter Soja entfhrt und sich zur Aufgabe gemacht, Leos Familie zur zerstreuen, als Rache dafr, dass Leo, damals noch KGB -Agent, ihren Mann Lazar verhaftet hat. Lazar wurde verurteilt und nach Kolyma transportiert, einer Gegend im Nordosten Sibirens, wo sich die schlimmsten Gulags (Gefangenenlager) der Sowjetunion befinden. Aus diesem Grunde nennt man diesen Landstrich auch den "Vorhof der Hlle. Leo lt sich als vermeintlicher Gefangener in das Lager einschleusen, um Lazar zu befreien. Nur so besteht die Mglichkeit das Leben seiner Tochter zu retten. Doch sein Kollege, der ihn auf der Reise begleitet und in die Rolle eines Aufsehers schlupft, um dann spter die Freilassung Leos und Lasars zu erwirken, wird ermordet. Und somit beginnt auch fr Leo die "Hlle". Genauso spannend und atmosphrisch wie in seinem Erstlingswerk beschreibt Tom Rob Smith auch in diesem Buch die politische Situation der Sowjetunion nach der aufrhrerischen Rede Chruschtschows. Die Bevlkerung ist verunsichert. Ist diese Gedankenwende ernst gemeint oder will man die Genossen auf ihre Regimetreue berpfen? Ist die Zeit der Grausamkeiten und der Bespitzelungen vorbei, oder ist alles nur eine Farce? Es bilden sich Rebellengruppen, die sich an ihren ehemaligen Peinigern rchen wollen, auch im europischen Ausland, hier in Ungarn, versucht man die verhassten Besatzer zu vertreiben, es kommt zu brgerkriegshnlichen Aussschreitungen, der Hass der Rebellen eskaliert. Fiktion und geschichtliche Fakten werden in diesem Buch gut kombiniert und zu einer spannenden Geschichte verwoben, deren Ende man kaum erwarten kann. Die Verhltnisse in den Gulags und der Hass der Bevlkerung, der immer wieder in Gewaltttigkeiten gipfelt, werden gut beschrieben. Dieses Buch ist eine Geschichte von Schuld und Shne, eine Geschichte, die beschreibt, was passiert, wenn Menschen unterdrckt und gedemtigt werden und ihr Hass sich Bahn bricht. Kein leichtes Buch, aber dafr eindringlich.

Kurzbeschreibung Soviet Union, 1956: Stalin is dead. With his passing, a violent regime is beginning to fracture - leaving behind a society where the police are the criminals, and the criminals are innocent. The catalyst comes when a secret manifesto composed by Stalin's successor Khrushchev is distributed to the entire nation. Its message: Stalin was a tyrant and a murderer. Its promise: The Soviet Union will transform. But there are forces at work that are unable to forgive or forget Stalin's tyranny so easily, that demand revenge of the most appalling nature. Meanwhile, former MGB officer Leo Demidov is facing his own turmoil. The two young girls he and his wife Raisa adopted have yet to forgive him for his involvement in the murder of their parents. They are not alone. Now that the truth is out, Leo, Raisa and their family are in grave danger from someone with a grudge against Leo. Someone transformed beyond

recognition into the perfect model of vengeance..deTom Rob Smiths first book, Child 44, enjoyed unprecedented attention and acclaim (as did its youthful author), so it was inevitable that the appetite for that novels successor would be keen. Now its here, and The Secret Speech, largely speaking, lives up the promise of its Fleming-Dagger-winning predecessor, despite being a very different book: Ex-MGB officer Leo Dormidov returns and becomes involved in a narrative so incident-packed it makes the earlier book seem positively sedate. The most memorable thing about the first novel, of course, was the moral transformation of the hero, initially a charismatic tool of the brutal state apparatus, enforcing the Stalin-era edicts with grim efficiency until he becomes hunted rather hunter and earns some hard-won humanity. Part of the point of Child 44 was the protagonists journey of character so how to follow this, when Leo has become a human being by the end of the first novel? The Secret Speech performs this tricky balancing act by taking the reader back to 1949, with Leo the unreformed agent of the state, behaving with the callousness he once possessed before his life was turned upside down. We are then taken to the mid-fifties, after the death of Stalin (as cracks begin to show in the totalitarian Soviet State). Khrushchevs famous denunciation of the Stalin era ushers in significant changes, and Leo Dormidov (along with his wife Raisa and their daughters) are in danger, as the power of the police is undercut and, in fact, the police are now identified as enemies of the state. This is only one of the dangers that Leo faces: there is now a ruthless enemy on his trail as ruthless as Leo was himself in the days of his authority and acclaim. There is no denying that the bracing innovation of the first book (in what is to be a trilogy) burns at a lower wattage here thats inevitable but Smith is too adroit a writer not to keep us comprehensively gripped (breathless, even, as climax after climax is piled into a crowded narrative). --Barry Forshaw.co.uk

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