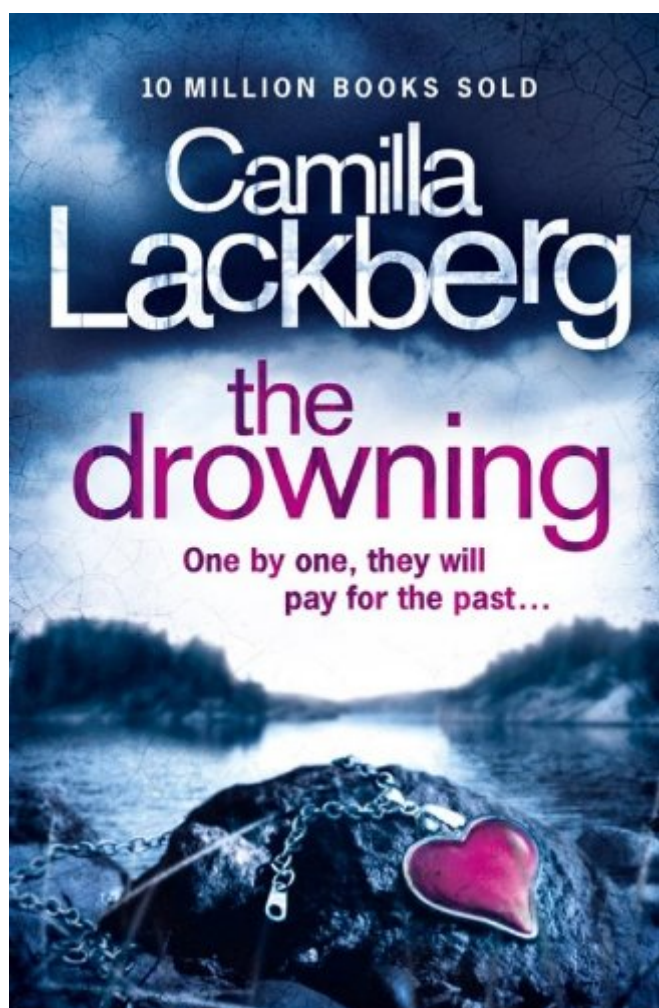


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# The Drowning (Patrik Hedstrom And Erica Falck, Book 6) (Patrick Hedstrom And Erica Falck)



## Synopsis

Swedish crime sensation and No. 1 international bestseller, Camilla Lackberg's new psychological thriller - for fans of Stieg Larsson and Jo Nesbo Christian Thydell's dream has come true: his debut novel, *The Mermaid*, is published to rave reviews. So why is he as distant and unhappy as ever? When crime writer Erica Falck discovers that Christian has been receiving anonymous threats, she investigates not just the messages but also the author's mysterious past. Meanwhile, one of Christian's closest friends is missing. Erica's husband, Detective Patrik Hedström, has his worst suspicions confirmed as the mind-games aimed at Christian and those around him become a disturbing reality. But, with the victims themselves concealing evidence, the investigation is going nowhere. Is their silence driven by fear or guilt? And what is the secret they would rather die to protect than live to see revealed?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am a bit confused - this book was said to be new - coming out Sept 15 of this year - I ordered it on my kindle and was so excited - yet as I read it, it was very familiar...I looked a bit further and see

that the book came out in 2012 and was sold as a paperback! I was a bit upset - I HAD already purchased and read it in paperback a couple of years ago! What is the deal here?!?!? That was most misleading. I just wasted my money.

I've been a fan of this series up until this book. In this one, the characters remain compelling, but the mystery is weak and the payoff isn't enough to forgive some of the narrative stretching Lackberg is employing to the point of tedium. There is nothing more frustrating in a mystery than to have almost all of the information available to the characters that is necessary to solve the mystery within the first 1/4 of the book, yet have the writer consistently refuse to share that information with the reader on her own whim just to stretch the narrative. When time and time again, we heard about characters learning more and more about the keys to solving the mystery, yet those parts of the conversation were routinely withheld, I found that the story became very frustrating. This is a writing device that should be used sparingly and intelligently, rather than frequently and obviously. Basically, it made the book boring where the others had been complex and interesting. This just felt lazy.

I kept wanting to leave this book unfinished. I saw where it was leading, and I was increasingly irritated by the investigative lead(s) discovery of key information which was not shared with the reader. (SPOILER ALERTS). Add to this the inappropriateness on every level of a woman pregnant with twins haring off to do her own investigations and then not sharing critical information with her policeman husband!! Oh...and who kills off the killer before the end of the book? There was no build in the tension at the end. Then there is the ending... Could it be more annoying? And no, I will not be reading the next book in the series to find out who survives this horrible crash of an ending!!

I guessed the "twist" within the first several chapters of THE DROWNING. I'm very happy to suspend disbelief within the context of a well-constructed plot, credible characters, and relationships that are sufficiently complex to support seemingly illogical or, in other circumstances, truly unbelievable decisions. This novel achieves none of this. Rather, it features absolutely ridiculous behavior and bizarre choices that are simply jarring and serve to undermine the characters in pursuit of the "mystery" at the heart of the book. Given that the plot turns entirely on these absurd choices, the novel becomes laughably silly and irritating. It felt as though Lackberg was just too lazy or indifferent to his characters to take the time and care necessary to create them with any depth or intricacy. Usually I try to find at least one positive aspect of any novel on which I comment, but I am struggling to do so with THE DROWNING. Alice, the addled younger sister of one of the main

characters, is charming. That is the best I can do.

A friend of Erica's, Christian, has written a book, *The Mermaid*. It is selling well. Patrick, police officer, is working on the disappearance of a man, Magnus, who had no enemies and was liked by everyone. First we learn that Christian has been receiving threatening letters from an anonymous person - even before the book is released. We also hear about the past from an unknown person - brief stories written in italics. It is the disheartening story as told by a child whose mother died and was taken in by an unloving couple. Several readers did not like the book - I could not put it down and read it in one day.

And the saga continues. The book's pace builds to another exciting climax. When reading this series of books be sure to begin with the first book so that you understand the complete storyline. Like other reviews stated, I question the ability of a pregnant woman carrying twins doing all that Erica did in the book but it is what it is. Ending makes you want to read next book ASAP! Certainly leaves you with many questions.

*The Drowning* by Camilla Lackberg is a crime novel set in Sweden. Four people hold a deep and very dark secret from long ago and although three of them have pretty much forgotten about it, one has the story uppermost in his mind. All four begin to get threatening letters, but only one knows the meaning of them. Crime writer Erica Falck and her detective husband Patrick Hedstrom become involved in solving the crimes that eventually surface. Erica has helped a newcomer in Fjallbacka write his first novel, *The Mermaid*, and the book became an instant hit. Christian Thydell, the author, is married to Sanna and has two children. He is a quiet person and is not comfortable with his recent fame. Before long the letters begin to be delivered and they take on a threatening tone. Three others realize that their lives are in danger, but none of them knows what to do about it. Interspersed amid the chapters is a story by an unknown character who tells the sad tale of his childhood and his parents' treatment of him, as well as the bullying he suffered at school. This is an important part of the plot and the most interesting part of the book to me. I enjoyed the book and I usually do like Camilla Lackberg's books. The mystery and the crime in this one is not that easy to figure out, but all is revealed in the end.

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