



Cobra

Deon Meyer

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Celebrated as the "King of South African crime," Deon Meyer is a world-class thriller writer, whose gripping plots probe the social and racial complexities of his native country. In his latest brilliant page turner, the bodies of three people are found at an exclusive guest house in the beautiful Franschhoek wine valley. Two of them were professional bodyguards, but the British citizen they were meant to be protecting is nowhere to be found; left behind are his brand new passport, new suitcase, and new clothes. And the spent shell cases bear a chilling engraving: the flaring head of a spitting cobra.

Meanwhile, in Cape Town, a skilled pickpocket is using his considerable talents to put his younger sister through school. But one day he is caught in the act. Security guards begin to question him, only to be killed with consummate ease by a stranger who leaves behind the distinctive shell cases.

With the help of his colleagues, Detective Benny Griessel rushes to untangle a case that only grows more complex. The British man's passport turns out to be a fake, but the British consulate is decidedly unhelpful. And then the pickpocket's sister is abducted. From Cape Town's famous waterfront to a deadly showdown on a suburban train, "Cobra" hurtles towards a shocking finale--and someone may not make it out alive.

Cobra Details

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Author : Deon Meyer

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From Reader Review Cobra for online ebook

Sonja says

In het begin moest ik er even inkomen. Er werden met lastige termen gesmeten. Maar op een gegeven moment grijpt het verhaal en dan wil je maar blijven lezen, om te weten te komen hoe het gaat aflopen. Kapitein Bennie Griessel wordt betrokken bij een bloedbad bij een luxe vakantiehuis. Er worden hulzen gevonden met de mysterieuze spuugende Cobra en hierdoor start een onderzoek met heel veel ellende en moeilijkheden. Griessel zit niet op moeilijkheden te wachten want die heeft hij al genoeg, hij liegt, bedriegt en heeft contact met zijn AA sponsor. Zal hij het onderzoek tot een goed einde brengen? Ik heb genoten van dit boek, dus ik hoop jullie ook!

Paolo says

Sarà anche un libro "di genere" senza pretese di essere una pietra miliare della storia della letteratura, ma funziona benissimo assemblando l'intrattenimento costituito dalla trama thriller con la rappresentazione della realtà del Sudafrica di oggi.

Formalmente l'eroe eponimo è Bennie Griessel, detective un po' in disarmo, ma pari dignità nell'economia del romanzo hanno gli altri membri degli Hawks, il corpo di polizia di élite protagonista delle gesta narrate nei libri di Meyer, la cui composizione etnica è molto "rainbow", esattamente come il Sudafrica aspira ad essere tra mille contraddizioni e difficoltà. La corruzione dei governanti post Mandela si avverte sullo sfondo in ogni pagina, ma più forte è la carica morale ed ideale che accomuna i poliziotti di ogni estrazione etnica (ci sono il meticcio Vaughn Cupido, il xhosa Boshingo, la zulu Mbali, oltre al frastornato e malinconico eroe bianco afrikaan Bennie Griessel).

Letteratura di pura evasione certo, ma scritta con mestiere, ma anche con profondo affetto per la propria giovane e complicata terra.

Deon Meyer, da bravo sudafricano bianco, è tifosissimo di rugby (come il sottoscritto) e dei gloriosi Springboks in primis, ed alla fine non resiste alla tentazione di vendicarsi.....Il famigerato commando di sicari che si firma "Cobra" è costituito da ex membri della legione straniera, di cui solo uno è di origine francese, e viene ucciso nel conflitto a fuoco con gli Hawks, un tal Romain Poite.

Per chi non frequenta i campi di rugby Romain Poite è un arbitro francese che ha osato espellere Bismarck Du Plessis (il n° 2 degli Springboks) per un placcaggio regolarissimo su Dan Carter (il n°10 degli All Blacks) :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZdaV...>

ed è decisamente impopolare in Sudafrica. Immagino che Meyer abbia goduto tanissimo a trattare il suo personaggio come bambolina woodoo dell'odiato fischiетто.

Alex Cantone says

Tyrone Kleinbooi is a petty thief, riding the train network in the Cape Town area, working the tourist spots to fund his sister's studies at Stellenbosch University. He dreams of hitting it rich and one day travelling to Barcelona: *the Holy Grail of pickpocketing*. At the Victoria and Albert Waterfront his scheme comes undone when he steals the purse from a young woman's bag - the wrong mark - and is apprehended by security guards and taken to the control centre. Within minutes the door bursts open and the guards are killed, Tyrone loses his backpack while fleeing for his life.

As Benny Griessel and Vaughn Cupido investigate the shootings, the spent cartridges are found to be marked with the drawing of a cobra, the same ammunition used earlier to kill two bodyguards from "Body Armour" hired to protect an Englishman at an exclusive retreat at a vineyard, and who is now missing. The British Consulate in Cape Town is anxious to hose things down and Captain Vaughn Cupido is unconvinced.

'No Benna. Here we have an academic who suddenly has a false passport? How? I don't buy it. Here's this innocent professor who has a whole other Morris identity, and makes his Gmail cleaner than a virgin's conscience? I mean, come on... '

Before the investigation can proceed the detectives are told to stand down and hand over all evidence to the South African secret service, working with MI6. Risking their careers, the flamboyant Cupido, himself a Cape coloured, the recovering alcoholic Griessel, and the short stout Zulu Mbali, pistol in her handbag and highly intelligent, press on to find the professor and the killers, pulling together as never before.

A vetgat, windgat and a dronkgat. The fat, the vain, and the drunk.

On the run from the heavies pickpocket Tyrone heads to Bellville, unaware of its contents of the purse he has stolen, until the killer uses the thief's mobile, found in his rucksack to trap the sister, and now Tyrone needs all the help he can get.

...on the square at Krystal Avenue and among the informal trader's stalls in the alleyways and malls, you found more characters and shysters per square metre than any other place in the Cape.

Again Deon Meyer has produced a gritty masterpiece that has the pages turning, the storyline switching between the "Hawks" investigation and the street-savvy thief. Like his earlier books, Meyer produces a map in the front (gets an extra star from me), and a glossary of Afrikaans words and explanations of terms such as "MK" - Mkhonto we Sizwe - or Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) – the military wing of the ANC. But it's his description of minor characters that adds extra flavour.

He was chunky and hairy – short beard and moustache, hair growing out of his ears, hair out of his nose, hair that pushed out from under the collar of his grey pullover, like plants reaching for light.

What's not to like?

Carol says

2.5 STARS I should have read this rather than listen to an audible version of the novel. It's an intricate

South African plot and the language is mostly Afrikaans. Apparently there was a glossary at the back of the book, which would have been helpful. Most of my GR friends gave this 5 stars so I know it's about me...not the story.

Polly says

I've become a big fan of Deon Meyer's writing! Meyer sets scenes and gives life to characters with a winning combination of dialogue (using wide variations of Cape Town/Afrikaans dialects) and apt descriptions. Each character becomes cemented in my mind soon after the book begins and it's a delight to watch them interact with each other as the plot unfolds. Captain Benny Griessel, is the main protagonist in Cobra. He is brilliant, troubled and battling alcoholism. Griessel works alongside two other 'Hawk team' inspectors, Vaughn Cupido, a Cape coloured and the handbag wielding Zulu Mbali to make sense of the death of a heavily body-guarded English mathematician, a mass shooting at a mall and the kidnapping of a young female medical student.

Tania says

Deon Meyer se boeke is amazing, en Kobra is een van my gunstelinge. Die karakters is almal volrond met unieke stemme, soveel so dat jy hulle mis aan die einde van die boek. Ek het veral die cape flat stemme van uncle Solly, Tyrone en Cupido geniet. *Never trust a phone company that makes fridges, pappie.* Sy beskrywing van Kaapstad en omgewing laat mens ook sommer voel of jy daar is.

Sy uitbeelding van SA se huidige politieke situasie is hartseer, maar 100% akuraat. ...maar nou voel dit weer soos in die ou dae. 'n Regering wat stadigaan verrot. En dit is aansteeklik. Al hoe meer polisiemanne vang sotlikhede aan en daar's al hoe meer wanbestuur, korruksie en gierigheid... Hy verwys gereeld na dinge wat onlangs in die nuus was, en dis nice om 'n storie te lees waarin iemand nie bang is om iets te roep soos hy dit sien nie. Definitief nie polities korrek nie, maar baie real.

Laastens was die storie self boeiend en ek kon nie die boek neersit nie, ek het dit in twee dae deurgevlieg. As jy nog nie 'n Deon gelees het nie, beveel ek aan dat jy met Infanta, die eerste van die Bennie Griessel boeke begin. You'll never look back.

Die lewe is een lang proses van ontnugtering, om jou te genees van die fabels van jou jeug.

Orsodimondo says

NAJA MOSSAMBICA

Un prestigioso matematico inglese (di Oxford) viene rapito in una villa esclusiva. I rapitori lasciano sul terreno tre morti e un bossolo di troppo.

Un giovane borseggiatore intelligente e affascinante, orfano meticcio, mette le mani nelle tasche sbagliate. Bennie Grissel deve risolvere il caso. Anzi, i casi.

La naja mossabica, o cobra sputatore del Mozambico.

Il romanzo si muove su un sentiero consumato: Benny Griessel, il protagonista detective di polizia, si presenta sulla scena del crimine con l'aria di chi ha passato una nottataccia

Deon Meyer usa le regole e le situazioni che sono comuni al genere (poliziotti ubriachi, con situazioni familiari complicate, ladri abili, assassini pericolosi, violenza improvvisa...): ma siccome immerge tutto nel suo paese, il Sudafrica post-apartheid, nella regione di Città del Capo, là dove le montagne incalzano l'oceano, diventa unico nel genere.

Il luogo dove Tyrone, il giovane borseggiatore, ruba la borsa.

Circondato da uno scenario mozzafiato, il detective Griessel, che in questo romanzo è stato da poco promosso nei Cape Town Hawks, squadra d'élite di investigatori che si occupano di omicidi e crimini violenti, Benny Griessel, che discende da coloni olandesi, e fa quindi parte della minoranza che ha dominato fino a pochi anni fa (1994), si muove in un paese multirazziale dove alla fine dell'apartheid non è seguita né la fine della sua eredità né tanto meno una vera integrazione.

Ma il paese è in rapida modernizzazione.

Cape Town

Thriller e crime novel insolito, movimentato, emozionante, coinvolgente.

Senza retorica, senza cadute di tono, con bella atmosfera.

Dialogo efficace, senza sbavature.

Ben documentato, basato su un notevole lavoro di ricerca che svela particolari nuovi di fatti che fanno discutere ma si conoscono superficialmente.

Un plot denso e complesso, con dettagli curati.

Un intreccio che crea tensione in crescendo, con colpi di scena.

Il van del Deon Meyer Mistery Tour trasporta i lettori nei luoghi dei romanzi di Meyer.

Se la situazione è complessa, rendila ancora più complessa (è quella che io chiamo la regola Spielberg), se chi ti guarda o legge sta trattenendo il fiato per la suspense, levaglielo tutto, non lasciargliene neppure un po', se è in ginocchio per l'ansia, stendilo a terra, in modo che lo spettatore o il lettore non abbia mai voglia di staccare gli occhi o posare il libro.

Personaggi robusti, ben costruiti, ben raccontati, non banali.

Un mondo fatto di bianco e nero (e bianchi e neri), e tutto quello che c'è in mezzo.

E, in più, uno spaccato del Sudafrica post-apartheid, paese misterioso travagliato e giovanissimo dalla realtà complessa e fragile, in gran parte sconosciuta.

Deon Meyer, Nell'estate 2015 è venuto a presentare "Cobra" a Roma: l'incontro s'è svolto all'Ergo Bar Culture lungo il Tevere.

Books says

A surprisingly good read, for an Afrikaans book. If it wasn't for it being one of our book club reads, I probably never would've read this. I'm not too fond of Afrikaans books, but Meyer's storytelling skills and a

solid plot drew me into this book in no time. I even laughed a few times. I really liked a lot of the characters and was wholly impressed by Meyer's research i.t.o. the Intelligence environment. I might read more of his books.

Uwe Pfaffmann says

Dieses Hörbuch wurde mir wärmsten empfohlen und somit habe ich es mir angehört. Zunächst war ich etwas enttäuscht. Zu viele Namen man muss höllisch aufpassen, gerade wenn man noch nie etwas aus der Griessel Reihe gehört hat. Doch die Spannung ist kaum zu überbieten. Ganz tolle rasante Story hat mir gut gefallen. 5 Sterne für dieses Hörbuch, das ich innerhalb von nur 2 Tagen durchgehört habe.

Folge mir auf YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEqm...>

Natascha says

As always, a great read. You can NOT go wrong with a Deon Meyer-book! Keeps you on the edge of your seat, all the time, guessing until the end.

Only one complaint: the lack of sleep you get when you've started reading, because you can't put any of his books down easily.

Phrynn says

The most notable thing with this book was the quality of the writing - so, so good! And since it is a translation points must go to both the author and the translator. I love the way certain Afrikaans phrases are left in the English text. They give it atmosphere and constantly remind the reader that you are in a country with very specific cultural issues.

Meyer's books vary as to the balance of police procedural versus action thriller. This one leans heavily towards procedure and it is a delight to watch the varied cast of characters working as a team to come up with results. Of course there is action and a pretty high body count as well!

Benny is a fantastic character and after four books I am coming to know him well. He has a grip on his alcoholism now although it is a perpetual concern for him and by the end of this book he seems to have his private life sorted. Best of all was watching him in charge of the whole team and managing their way to success.

A really good book from a talented author and I have the next one all ready on my shelf:)

Coenraad says

Weer eens 'n uitstekende Meyer-spanningsverhaal! Die naelbyt-aksie, die aktuele kwessies en die boeiende

karakters maak dit 'n eensitboek: oor en oor die moeite werd. Ek reken steeds dat *Infanta* koning kraai in Meyer-land, met *Onsigbaar* so 'n kortkop agter, maar *Kobra* is 'n waardige toevoeging tot Meyer se al hoe indrukwekkender oeuvre.

Kobra is an excellent new suspense novel by Deon Meyer. While those of us who can read Afrikaans rave a little gloatingly, his other fans need to wait for the translations to stream forth. I'm sure the translators are already slaving away with great joy. I realise how Yrsa Sigurdardóttir's Icelandic fans must feel while I gnash my teeth and watch Amazon with a hawk's eye!

switterbug (Betsey) says

South African Deon Meyer is the putative giant of second-tier thrillers (but he should be first-tier!). He stays consistently at the top of my pile of crime fiction literature, and never fails to pull me in with his muscular prose and taut, thrilling plot lines, the kind of narrative that usually takes place in a narrow period of time and with a lot at stake. In COBRA (and I won't reveal *why* the title, since it is fun just getting to it!), Benny Griessel is back again, fighting his personal demons as well as the external ones.

Meyer has hit on the global zeitgeist of crime in his latest book, placing technology at the center of the plot. It is also fun watching Luddite Benny Griessel struggling to get a handle on 21st century telecommunications. Meyer, while keeping pace with progress, nails down the importance of creating rich characters to engage readers. He doesn't rely on technology alone to fasten us to the story.

The first pages open with murder and abduction, with the Hawks (South Africa's top police) investigating the bloody mess at a remote guesthouse. Captain Griessel lines up a team to chase down the killer and the kidnapped. The next chapter introduces us to a petty pickpocket named Tyrone, who is trying to help his sister, Nadia, pay for university. We don't know how Tyrone figures into the multiple-homicide case, but Meyer seamlessly provides a juncture for the disparate threads to connect and catapult the story in thicker and more dangerous territory.

Meyer is expert at enriching the story while moving forward vertically. For new readers, the author blends in enough for you to know that Griessel is a recovering alcoholic, and providing some backstory for his current circumstances. Although Benny is a tough, strong guy with plenty of mettle, the veteran detective has some burning issues that cause him to question aspects of his nature. Meyer has created a believable, long-suffering character in Benny.

I was also delighted that he included the heavy-set, sharp, sometimes-comical Captain Mbali Kaleni, the only female in the DCPI Violent Crimes team. I first met her in Thirteen Hours, a memorable character who is both sympathetic and, in the latter book, periodically the brunt of a joke. However, when it comes to fighting crime, she is a force to be reckoned with, a crackerjack detective who is decisive, authoritative, and morally unequivocal. In COBRA, we also see new facets of her character. I'd like to see Meyer write a series of books with Kaleni as the primary protagonist.

If you are new to this author, I am confident that COBRA will not be your last Meyer book. If you are already a fan, your expectations will be amply met; you'll be addicted from the first page. And, the answer to all COBRA's questions aren't guaranteed until the very last page, which keeps you guessing. Meyer is at his peak without being over-the-top! And the Glossary at the back of the book is not only edifying, but enjoyable.

Skip says

Two bodyguards and a hotel worker are killed, and their charge (a Cambridge University professor involved in detecting terrorist financing) goes missing. Captain Benny Griessel, now part of the elite Hawks corps (of the South African Police Service) is called to investigate, and quickly determines the involvement of a professional killer. Shell casings marked with a cobra are linked to an assassin for hire by Interpol.

Meanwhile, a young pickpocket (Tyrone) trying to support his sister, unknowingly steals the ransom, leading to another killing spree. But Tyrone is angered by their kidnapping of his innocent sister, and he goes off to settle things himself. Meyer has superb, but flawed characters, the now sober Benny, his new love interest/musician Alexa, the always serious female Captain Mbali, his boss Colonel Nyathi. Another excellent one by this South African author, relatively unknown here in the U.S. Highly recommended.

Mysticpt says

i will start by stating that i won this thru Goodreads and this was my first Deon Meyer. one of my online book friends enjoys this series so I was very happy to give it a try. she noted that you will not be hindered by not reading the others in the series and that is certainly the case. Benny is part of an elite team (the Hawks) of South African law enforcement and we are introduced to him and his team as they try to track down a possible kidnapping victim. this storyline soon merges with a local pickpocket who is trying to help his sister, but also crosses paths with the kidnapper(s). this is a pretty good procedural with a plot torn from the headlines re terrorism, banking, gov't corruption, etc. Meyer keeps the pages turning with quick scene changes and the last third of the book is all out action, race against time drama. very well done and the ending should have an impact for the next entry assuming there will be more. I will definitely be on board. thanks Goodreads!
