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Divorce Turkish Style (Kati Hirschel Murder Mystery)



Synopsis

Praise for Esmahan Aykol: "Kati could be the love child of Miss Marple and NPR's Andrei Codrescu. It doesn't matter who done it. What matters is that Aykol uses the genre to tell us more about the world than we're used to." —*Newsday* "An offbeat amateur sleuth with a distinctive narrative voice. Fans of Amanda Cross's Kate Fansler and Kerry Greenwood's Phryne Fisher will find a lot to like." —*Publishers Weekly* Kati owns Istanbul's only mystery book store and, as usual, gets involved in a case that is none of her business. Every day, a beautiful woman lunches alone in the restaurant next to the bookstore. When the woman is found dead in her apartment, Kati immediately recognizes the stranger from the restaurant in images in the newspaper photos. Although the police believe it was an accident, Kati suspects something more sinister has happened. Sani Ankaraligil was an attractive young woman and a politically active ecologist in the middle of a divorce from her wealthy husband. So who would benefit from her death? The industrial companies Sani had accused of polluting the rivers of western Turkey, or her jealous husband seeking revenge through an honor killing, or a Thracian separatist group? The investigation pulls Kati into murkier waters: the marriage may have been a sham, designed to cover up Sani's husband's homosexuality . . . the role of her mother-in-law goes from distasteful to outright criminal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

‘The heroine could be the love child of Miss Marple and NPR's Andrei Codrescu. It doesn't matter much who done it. What matters is that Aykol uses the genre to tell us a

little more about the world than we're used to hearing from more commercial writers. Newsday; Aykol makes her English-language debut with *Hotel Bosphorus* her first mystery featuring Kati Hirschel, an offbeat amateur sleuth with a distinctive narrative voice. Fans of such female detectives as Amanda Cross's Kate Fansler and Kerry Greenwood's Phryne Fisher will find a lot to like. Publishers Weekly; In Aykol's impressive second Kati Hirschel mystery *Baksheesh* set in Istanbul (after 2011's *Hotel Bosphorus*), Kati, a German expatriate who loves reading detective stories and has a shop specializing in; once again turns amateur sleuth with aplomb. Publishers Weekly; When you want to be more than a pretty wife, you may have to go above and beyond the call of duty. With characters all around her putting the pressure on her, Kati Hirschel pushes herself to keep her independence, until her interest becomes her business in more than one way. *Baksheesh* is a strongly recommended pick for lovers of international mystery, highly recommended. MBR Bookwatch

Esmahan Aykol: Esmahan Aykol was born in 1970 in Edirne, Turkey. She lives in Istanbul and Berlin. During her law studies she was a journalist for a number of Turkish publications and radio stations. After a stint as a bartender she turned to fiction writing. She has written three Kati Hirschel novels. *Hotel Bosphorus* is the first and has been published in Turkish, German, French and Italian. The others are *Baksheesh* and *Divorce Turkish Style*. **Ruth Whitehouse:** Ruth Whitehouse worked as a violinist in Ankara. She pursued her interest in Turkish culture and literature by doing by obtaining a PhD in Turkish Literature at SOAS in London. This is her first translation of a full novel but her work has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in April 2010 in a series called *Young Turks*, featuring translations of work by young Turkish writers.

The mystery aspect was mild. The search for the culprit(s) is slow and as expected enlightening. The victim was a distant acquaintance of Kati's and as she peels back the layers and inner circle of this woman's life things become very interesting as secrets and possible motives are exposed. The drawn out narrative can drag a bit, however Kati's often brash personality keeps you entertained. Fofo, Kati's best friend and fellow amateur gumshoe have their share of witty repartee allowing for plenty of chuckles. Momentum ebbs and flows, other scenarios interrupt causing minuscule subplots. Kati Hirschel possesses a strong personality. At times she grates on your nerves with her jagged edges, other times her edges are smooth and you appreciate her softer side. I have a better grasp of her by the end of the book, although the road was bumpy. Once you learn of her past,

concerns, and there is enough presented, you understand this fiercely independent, strong woman much better. The fact Kati is the owner of the only crime/mystery book store in Istanbul is clever. She reads so much crime she's confident she can solve local crimes of merit, and she does. Kati is so adept at sleuthing she impresses the police, in fact they quasi consult her, adding to her over abundant level of confidence. Another interesting aspect I enjoyed, seeing Turkey through Kati's eyes. Kati is an expatriate from Germany, still adjusting to Turkish ways and people despite residing in Turkey for quite some time. Interesting to learn the intricacies of Turkey along with Kati as well as her comparisons of Germany vs. Turkey. Mild mystery filled with numerous and electric characters. A few surprises along the way to solving the murder. I was off base as to the culprit, which was welcomed. Not until the very very end did all the pieces come together. Kati and Fofo will entertain you both on and off the case. Given Turkish is a difficult language to translate I found the translation strong. I still wish I could read every language to fully experience each story in their original tongue. This is the third book in a series. I have not read the previous books, however it did not deter from my reading experience. This book is fine as a standalone, although bits and pieces of the previous books are scattered throughout the narrative gleaned enough insight into previous exploits protagonist has been involved in.

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