

RÖPECKA

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SYNOPSIS

Central Sweden, deep forest, thousands of lakes, isolated farmsteads.

In this supposed idyll three bestial murders happen in a short time.

The victims are men, forest owners, in this region since generations.

The murderer first killed the victims and then left them emasculated behind. Several things point to a ritual murder.

The investigators are confronted with a mystery. They neither find a connection between the victims nor a motive for the murderer. He appears, kills, emasculates and leaves, leaving a lot of traces. He never brings the murder weapon with him but always takes something suitable on location. Nonetheless the murders appear to be planned and the victims aren't chosen randomly.

On the second story-level we get to know the murderer "Carlo". He observes his victims, their habits. Their way of dealing with women triggers associations and memories.

Carlo's relationship to women is deeply deranged. His mother is a prostitute in Flensburg, Germany. He never understood what made her choose this life, what made her let him grow up in such an environment.

His paranoia starts to reveal when his grandmother, his only foothold in his life, tells him the story of their family. The story of her grandmother "Röpecka", who lived in a Swedish forest village at the end of the 19th century. Because of her lifestyle – she had six children with supposable six different men – she was banished by the women of the village to live in the forest with her only surviving daughter. She stayed in the forest for three years.

After this martyrdom her daughter fled to Flensburg at the age of 17 and started a family-history of prostitutes.

The young Carlo can't cope with this information and links the fate of "Röpecka" with his own failed life. He thinks he can only escape his fate when he kills the descendants of the men who inseminated his ancestor.

The investigators don't suspect any of this. Only after another murder they receive a clue by a genealogist, who – too late for the fourth victim – tells the investigators of a young German, who bought his village chronicle and interrogated him about "Röpecka".

In his documents the investigators realize that the sixth child of Röpecka might have the same father as one of the siblings. They are relieved, because then no more victims are to be expected.

But the investigations of a Swedish officer together with her colleagues in Flensburg reveal that Carlo will not stop, unless the sixth child is venged. Carlo could search for a relative of the already killed victim.

A desperate search starts, with success as it seems. The son of the victim is warned and he gets police protection. But Carlo nonetheless manages to get to Arne, his possible last victim. But Arne confronts the murderer of his father with his paranoia and gets through to him. In their argument we realize that Carlo searches for liberation from his compulsions and that he wants to be caught and maybe even killed himself.

Then something incomprehensible happens: The SWAT Team, which aligned around the house, by mistake kills Arne instead of Carlo. The liberation he's longing for is denied.