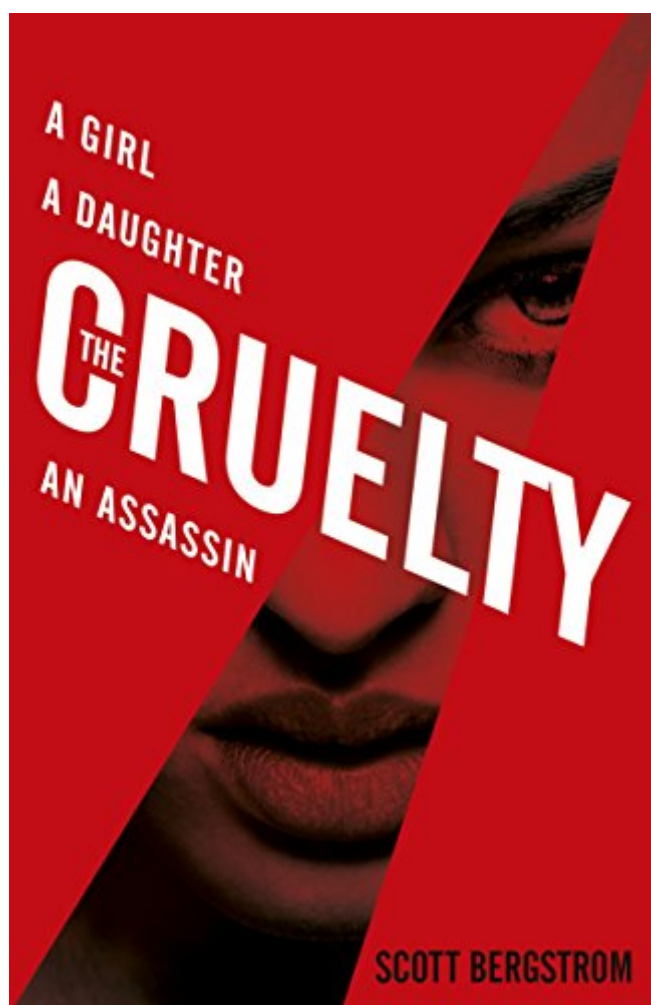


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# The Cruelty: A Gripping, High-octane Thriller For Fans Of The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo



## Synopsis

The Cruelty is the first book from a groundbreaking new YA voice: an utterly compelling thriller. When Gwendolyn Bloom realizes that her father has been kidnapped, she has to take matters into her own hands. She traces him from New York City across the dark underbelly of Europe, taking on a new identity to survive in a world of brutal criminal masterminds. As she slowly leaves behind her schoolgirl self, she realizes that she must learn the terrifying truth about herself. To overcome the cruelty she encounters, she must also embrace it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Gwendolyn Bloom! Paging Gwendolyn Bloom! This is how author Bergstrom provides the earliest interaction with his lead character, and the introduction of a central theme in his excellent “The Cruelty” . . . A question from her teacher, what might Camus have meant by, “The benign indifference of the world?” World Literature as taught within the confines of the Danton Academy “an exclusive private high school in New York City. Gwen, her mind elsewhere, stumbles for an answer. Though her reverie was not of the

average, teenage angst variety. She has been thinking of her father and mother " the former as today is his birthday; the later since it is the anniversary of her death. Murdered at the hands of a group of Algerian men when Gwen, her mother, and the only "Dad she's ever known" accidentally drove into the middle of a "beef" between a group of protesting men and the local military police. This is, to be sure, a lousy day. Gwen, the reserved 17-year-old daughter of a career State Department diplomat " a condition that marks her as one of the school's "Five Per-centers". A "Diplobrat", and "pretentious snob" in the eyes of her classmates, themselves an insular collection of the wealthy, overprotected children of " if not the best and brightest " certainly the richest and most entitled. Gwen, the introvert " fails to defend herself physically from a slap by one of her classmates; the quintessential "mean girl" of high schools the world over. Her verbal defense, in French - but of course, gets her suspended " putting a damper on the evening birthday celebration she had planned for her father. Gwen's life has been a bubble. Protected in the loving relationships she has with her father and the elderly couple who are their landlords and friends. Still, bubbles like all good things, must come to an end. Her father must leave the next day on yet another diplomatic trip, and "Pop goes reality". Dad is missing and after the usual assurances from The Department of State . . . nothing. It might well be that he has vanished so completely, perhaps by choice, that his trail is cold as ice. Or not. What she learns in short order is that DAD isn't with the D.O.S., but rather the C.I.A., and despite the somber expressions of concern she is beginning to fear " those in charge of the search might well be indifferent. She is left with nothing but a blend of worry "this is all a ridiculous dream; am I now an orphan " shock and confusion as friends and distant family members reach out to help. Gwen, now doubting everyone, is torn between the warmth of a hug, and the desire to tell them to mind their business and take a hike. With the few bits and pieces of information she is able to believe Gwen knows one thing " she is on her own. Where to begin is where Dad seems to have ended. This won't be an innocent abroad " more a Frommer's Guide to not getting killed by the worst and lowest that Europe has to offer. Bergstrom has delivered this with an enviable sense of timing and tension. Crisp and certain dialogue which takes Gwen from introversion to determination. From the girl who couldn't dodge a slap from a well heeled brat to a more worldly, tough and wise young woman who does, with a smile, assure a deadly adversary, "I'm every bit the devil you imagined". That's as much as I can say without spoiling things. Sure, the world certainly does seem indifferent at times " but get yourself a copy of "The Cruelty" " you won't be.

I really loved this (audio) book...one of my favorites, I hope he writes another!!

great book along the lines of dragon tattoo

Great product, exactly as described, arrived in a timely manner

Saw the book on Pinterest and picked it up. Great construction and story line. The plot is tight and a lot of interesting twists.

This book grabs you from the beginning and won't let go. I couldn't put it down. The characters, places, and scenes set out by the author are absorbing and beautifully detailed. I didn't want the story to end. Gwendolyn is a wonderful protagonist and it was highly entertaining following her transformation from an introverted young girl to a fearless, determined young woman hell-bent on saving her father. Can't wait to read her next adventure. This is an author to keep your eye on.

This book came highly recommended by a friend. I personally didn't like it. It was not BAD, just very cliché and unbelievable. I almost never buy books (just get them from the library), but I did pay \$10 for the kindle form for this...and I regret it!

I wasn't sure what to expect with this book, but early on I was hooked. Scott Bergstrom has written a knockout thriller with an amazing young protagonist. Gwendolyn Bloom's father disappears and she sets out to find him. That doesn't begin to describe what a journey she will have. This is no young adult fantasy, which I was a bit concerned about, but a fully fleshed-out tale of dangerous intrigue with a heroine who finds out just what she's capable of. While some of the plot seems unbelievable, that's what makes thrillers work, they aren't documentaries. If you've ever spent time in Europe, Bergstrom's descriptions of the people and places rang true to me. Thoroughly enjoyed it and hope we see more of Gwendolyn. Kudos to Scott Bergstrom.

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