



Katarzyna Bonda has been a literary celebrity in her native Poland for a number of years. Now the ‘Queen of Crime Fiction’ from Hajnówka is set to conquer the German bestseller list. “Das Mädchen aus dem Norden” (Girl at Midnight) is the first of a series of thrillers that have taken Poland by storm. Over 1.2 million copies of the first two volumes have been sold in the country since 2014.

Best-selling German author Nele Neuhaus calls Bonda “an exciting new voice on the *noir* scene”, and recommends her books as “the right choice for long weekends”. Indeed, readers should definitely have some time on their hands: once you open “Girl at Midnight”, it’s not that easy to tear yourself away from the pages. (...)

“Visually stunning, rich in detail, with a powerful narrative” – this is how the Pole’s German debut is described by her publisher. Bonda takes the reader on a

fascinating journey throughout the 650 pages: the plot is logical and gripping throughout, while the carefully structured arc of suspense is enthralling and full of surprises. (...)

Katarzyna Bonda didn't become a hugely popular crime author overnight. The 39-year-old writer studied Journalism at the University of Warsaw and spent many years working as a reporter and documentary screenwriter before writing her first novel. "Sprawa Niny Frank" (The Case of Nina Frank) was published in 2007, and earned Bonda numerous awards. Further books followed, including two non-fiction works, before she became a full-time crime novelist.

Poland is a large country, but for Bonda, who lives with her daughter in Warsaw, there could only be one location to set "Girl at Midnight": Gdańsk. "The 1990s in Poland was a very interesting, if slightly dangerous period; quite difficult and crazy from the point of view of an ordinary citizen. Mafia activity was booming, and it wasn't just limited to the underworld," explains the writer. Some of the biggest Polish gangsters, whose way of thinking and acting Bonda describes in her book, used to live and do business in Gdańsk. So, the choice to set the plot there was "by no means sentimental, but based on solid facts". The majority of crimes described by Bonda in her thrillers find their roots in real-life events she reported on as a young journalist.