

**Jesper Stein** (1965) lives in the Nørrebro quarter of Copenhagen. After getting a journalism degree in 1996, he became a reporter for one of Denmark's leading dailies, the *Jyllands-Posten*, distinguishing himself both for his in-depth reporting on court cases and as a war correspondent. In 2005 he started covering culture and writing book reviews, becoming a member of the Danish Crime Academy the following year. In 2008 he contributed to the writing of *Man jager et bæst og fanger et menneske*, the autobiography of Bent Isager-Nielsen, former task force head. He made his novel-writing debut in 2012 with *Unrest*, considered one of Denmark's best first novels in the genre ; it won the Danish Crime Academy Award. From that time on, Stein turned out a book a year for the next three years, including his second novel *Bye Bye Blackbird* and a story published in an anthology entitled *Over grænsen*. In 2016 his novel *Aisha* won the Danish booksellers' Golden Laurels Award. The previous year he had received the Dan Turèll Medal for his series of crime novels featuring Axel Steen, a police inspector with a double life: when at work with his colleagues at the Homicide Division, he's a hard-boiled cop, but at home he's fragile and a chronic worrier. He takes care of his daughter by day and by night turns to hashish to medicate his long-standing insomnia that constantly reminds him of his fear of death. Thirty-seven-years old, divorced, Steen lives in Nørrebro, Copenhagen's hip multicultural quarter, peopled by artists, addicts and prostitutes. Actually, Alex Steen has more than a few things in common with his creator, starting with his address. Jesper Stein's novels have been sold in numerous countries, along with their film rights.