



## The Intrusions

*Stav Sherez*

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When a distressed young woman arrives at their station claiming her friend has been abducted, and that the man threatened to come back and 'claim her next', Detectives Carrigan and Miller are thrust into a terrifying new world of stalking and obsession.

Taking them from a Bayswater hostel, where backpackers and foreign students share dorms and failing dreams, to the emerging threat of online intimidation, hacking, and control, *The Intrusions* explores disturbing contemporary themes with dark psychology.

Under scrutiny themselves, and with old foes and enmities re-surfacing, how long will Carrigan and Miller have to find out the truth behind what these two women have been subjected to?

## The Intrusions Details

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Author : Stav Sherez

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## From Reader Review The Intrusions for online ebook

### Tony says

THE INTRUSIONS. (2017). Stav Sherez. \*\*\*1/2.

This thriller was the third installment in the author's series featuring Detectives Carrigan and Miller. Falling into my usual mode, it was the first of his works that I read. Now I have to go back and read the first two adventures to answer some of the questions that were raised in this book. I've got them on hold from our local library. The setting for this novel – as was apparently the same for the first two – was in London, where it opens with the discovery of the body of a young woman who had been tortured, raped, and then murdered. The killer spent time after his deed arranging her body in a certain form. Our detective duo has no leads, but soon discovers that the woman was part of a group of women of similar age who lived together in a hostel. It is only when a second body is found under like circumstances that clues begin to arrive based on the MO of the killer. The unusual twist to this crime is that it was perpetrated using techniques available on the web that have not previously been explored. We get to learn how the culprit can 'stalk' his victims and seriously affect their lives by using techniques available through the internet. If all that the author claims can be done has a basis in reality, the story becomes truly scary. The plot line makes you want to keep your computer locked in the closet and out of use. For a new take on internet crime, you will want to add this book to your 'need to read' list.

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### Paul says

The Intrusions – A Slick Thriller

Stav Sherez has brought back detectives DI Carrigan and DS Miller in The Intrusions and what we get is a slick, modern thriller that always has an unexpected twist at the end. I am always impressed with Sherez's thrillers in that they are modern in setting and challenging our current knowledge, while the belief in justice shines through.

We see two back packers that are resident in one of Bayswater's hostels drinking in a local club, both share a drink, but they both have different outcomes. Both are tripping and really do not know what is happening to them or where they are, one makes it back to the hostel, the other disappears without a trace. Madison who does manage to get back to the hostel, reports that her friend Anna has been taken, but she seems to be high and causing chaos in the Police Station reception when she knocks over and lands on top of Miller.

Carrigan has his own problems, Superintendent Branch has him in his office telling him that he has a whole host of problems of his own making. He points out that it doesn't matter how successful Carrigan is at solving cases, his last one had over stepped the mark, and that ACC Quinn wants his job and pension, and if possible a prison sentence for Carrigan.

When back in his office and Miller is telling him about Madison and his lost friend he allows her to investigate just so he can have a quiet life. Even though he is convinced that Anna is just another drugged up back packer who will turn up once they have sobered up. While Miller is off on a wild goose chase a murder case lands in his lap, rather gruesome but he can tell the scene has been staged for the police.

It is when Miller sees the picture she realises that they are investigating the same crime and as they dig further they find that other than the hostel there seems to be no links whatsoever to the murderer and Anna. As they dig in to the life of Anna and her use of social media networks, they become aware of a new sort of stalking, ratting, which means a hacker can take control of another person's computer and in essence their life.

The more they dig in to the case the deep in to a very dark world of online stalking as well as a mix of drugs that could give a person a trip they may never remember. As the case develops they realise that something that happened on a trip to Bali is the key to the murder and abduction but will they be able to find it in time?

What we get with Stav Sherez's *The Intrusions* is a slick thriller that is a reflection of modern life and asking do we know how to prevent our own computers safe from a determined hacker? We see that once again the police procedures are out dated in the modern world leaving the police always one or two steps behind where technology is concerned.

What we get is an exciting, well researched thriller that could be happening right now to someone's daughter who is backpacking around the world. This really is the unseen, mostly ignored part of life that is covered in the book and Sherez is shining a very bright light in to the darkness. A thoroughly modern thriller that will keep you gripped from beginning to end, a book I cannot recommend highly enough.

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### **Liz Barnsley says**

*The Intrusions* is a joy to read even through the fear (switches computer off, deletes all social media never uses a credit card again fear) because as usual for this particular author it is so beautifully written both in style and substance that the world just goes away.

I've loved all the books but I am particularly fond of the Carrigan and Miller series because of the beautifully flawed, memorable characters – and I'm not just talking about the main pair here – the gritty yet gorgeous realism ingrained into the storytelling and the fascinating, socially relevant subject matters covered. In the case of *The Intrusions* my eyes were opened to many many things and this one kept me up at night. Is still keeping me up at night. Will probably keep me up at night for a while.

Its not always about the crime when you read a crime book – not with the good ones anyway and oh boy is this a good one – but often about what lies beneath the crime – within the people, victims and others, a kind of peeling back of the layers of humanity, something which Stav Sherez does all too well. Razor sharp and brilliantly insightful, *The Intrusions* will take you to the dark side, a place that is sadly all too real.

The plot twists unexpectedly without having to shout about it, the characters who we know progress down an ever more challenging path, the ending is subtle but stunning in its impact and the entire thing is just a little bit epic. That was my smallest child's word by the way – I asked him how he would describe something that he thought was one of the best things ever – his answer, "that was epic"

The Intrusions

That was epic...

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### **Thebooktrail says**

Visit the locations if you dare:Intrusions in Baywater

I am now officially traumatised. The end of the prologue in particular will ever stay in my mind. As will most other moments this novel throws at you.

The premise is haunting, the setting the darkest deepest corners of Bayswater in London and some of the punchiest, panic inducing set ups since time began. Haha yes and there are some sick people out there wandering about London's streets if this novel is anything to go by.

This grabbed me as more than your regular crime thriller though as it was an onion of a novel - if I can liken a novel to a vegetable - with each layer came another one of intrigue and mystery. I felt I was getting closer to the central truth but the stench of evil was getting ever stronger. My eyes were stinging, my hands felt dirty....now this is one immersive experience isn't it?

The cover is suitably haunting and Stav Sherez is definitely a skilled writer you need on your TBR pile - at the top.

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### **Emma says**

I recently finished reading The Intrusions by Stav Sherez and can confirm that I am now totally freaked out. This is normally the point where I say, 'but in a good way'. However, I'm not all that sure that being \*this\* freaked out and a tad too nervous to log on to the internet is, in any way, a good thing or how it could be seen 'in a good way'. I am of course jesting (a little) and I'm not really worried (well, maybe a smidge). Flipping heck!

The Intrusions is the third book in the Carrigan and Miller series and the first book I have read by author Stav Sherez. Going into a series part way through doesn't really worry me too much these days. If the author in question is worth their salt then they should be able to plug any cavernous holes in the story for a new reader and, if anything, tempt you into wanting to read all previous instalments. Which is exactly what Sherez has done.

Within a few pages, I had fallen a little bit in love with gutsy, plucky DS Geneva Miller. Shortly after I was introduced to DI Jack Carrigan and knew that this book, this particular partnership, was something I was going to very much enjoy. I didn't have the same instant affection for Carrigan, that built throughout the course of the book but I did like him – thanks to his somewhat reckless methods of getting an arrest during his last big case.

DS Miller is in the wrong place at the wrong time (or maybe it's the right time). Making her way through the station's reception area a young, distraught woman catches her attention. Madison claims that her friend, Anna, has been drugged and taken by a man in a van. Madison herself acts as though she under the influence of something and makes little to no sense during the interview. But DS Miller believes what she's been told

and wants to investigate. Before long, the team are thrown into a world they have very little knowledge of. A world where you're watched from the moment you wake. A world where your life isn't really your own.

The themes in *The Intrusions* chilled me to my very core. An incredibly compulsive read and one that will stay with me for time to come. I loved how the author leads you down one path, where you're as flummoxed as his detectives and then totally turns the tables on you. I had a wild stab in the dark at one point, pinning my suspicions on one character. Only for those suspicions to be confirmed later on in the story. That certainly didn't take any enjoyment away from the story for me. And even if you do take a lucky punt like me, there are still plenty of shocks and surprises to come.

Before I conclude this review, a word of advice for you. Find a post-it note, or find some blu-tack and stick it over the camera on your device. Really, this is something you **WANT** to do.

Would I recommend this book? Oh yes, I would. It's a thrilling, frightening read which will make you think about the time you spend online, and who you are spending it with. The final chapter blew me away with its nail-biting intensity. And that epilogue...WOAH! I am thrilled to have discovered Stav Sherez's writing. I think this is the start of a long and happy relationship.

Five out of five stars.

I chose to read and review a copy of *The Intrusions*. The above review is my own unbiased opinion.

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### **Stephen Clynes says**

Follow Detectives Carrigan and Miller in this British crime thriller. Although this is the third book in the series, it can be read as a standalone. I have not read any book written by Stav Sherez before but this was recommended by a friend on Goodreads.

I found this novel to get off to a poor start and I did not engage with Detectives Carrigan and Miller. The story appeared to be quite dull although it involved a missing young woman in alarming circumstances. But I urge readers to bear with it as this story vastly improves once a profiler becomes involved. Then I engaged fully with this novel and found the profiler's input to the case very interesting indeed. My interest increased further when the title of this novel came into play. The *Intrusions* are those enabled by modern technology and social media using Remote Administration Tools. For good measure, throw in a cocktail of drugs including DMT - (N,N-Dimethyltryptamine) and you have a very entertaining and thought provoking novel.

I think *The Intrusions* is a good contemporary tale. Some people use social media so heavily, they forget about the dark forces behind the scenes which could come into play. I particularly liked the exploration of Remote Administration Tools as their use can be quite creepy. People can forget that although they see a lot of cameras, there is often one camera that they fail to spot. We now live in a world where these intrusions happen 24 hours a day. Many coach drivers on the National Express network here in the UK have been sacked due to those 12 second video clips downloaded using Remote Administration Tools on the Dashboard cameras, one facing forward the other spying on the driver.

I enjoyed reading *The Intrusions*. Characterisation was not marvellous and I did not develop an empathy for any of the characters. It does not qualify as a character led novel as their roles were weak. But where it scores heavily is in the social commentary on social media and Remote Administration Tools. Years ago the

worry was of Big Brother watching your every move, now in 2017 the worry of The Intrusions is of those dodgy individuals covertly watching you from afar. I think this novel is a good read, there are novels with better characterisations and plots but The Intrusions is very thought provoking about the way our society has progressed, so it is 4 stars from me.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher Faber & Faber giving me a copy of this book on the understanding that I provide an honest review.

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### **Sandy says**

This is one of several current thrillers that deal with cyber stalking & the shadowy side of social media. When it comes to the internet, the possibilities for scaring the pants off us are endless & the author takes full advantage in this gritty read.

DS Geneva Miller & boss DI Jack Carrigan are forced to educate themselves when they end up investigating the abduction/murder of young women with ties to a local backpackers' hostel. It's the type of place that caters to young, transient foreigners so pinning down information on the girls is a challenge. But as Miller & Carrigan pick away, a chilling MO begins to emerge & they realize this is not your average stalker. This is someone who has mastered the game of cat & mouse, someone who feeds off your emotional distress as they gradually take over your life.

There's a sense of urgency to the case & not just because a life is at stake. Carrigan's handling of a previous investigation has caught the eye of Internal Affairs. Did he colour outside the lines? Yup. Was it justified? Maybe, but it's the ammunition an old nemesis on the force has been waiting for & Carrigan's days as a cop are numbered.

As a straight up police procedural, this is a fast paced & scary ride. As the story progresses & the killer's motivation is revealed, it's clear the initial investigation is just the tip of the iceberg. And for someone like me (who consults a 10 year old for tech support), what a person with malicious intent can do with your computer is truly frightening.

But when it comes to the characters, I would not recommend this as a stand alone. Miller & Carrigan are compelling but both are dealing with multiple personal issues. No doubt these have roots in previous books in the series which I have not read. My bad. At times, I couldn't help but feel like I was missing something & it prevented me from fully connecting with them. They obviously have a complex history & I'm sure faithful fans will have a richer read.

Not up for debate is this author's ability to write. The narrative is smooth & well paced with plenty of twists to keep you guessing. There are some scenes with a high squirm factor but they inform the plot & never feel gratuitous. Some story lines are left open & events on the final page ensure fans will be lined up for book #4.

If you're in the mood for a smart & scary thriller, give this a try. By the end you'll either be changing your online habits or moving to a cave.

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## **Brenda says**

I feel like stomping my feet and throwing a tantrum because I can't find a clue on the internet about a fourth book in this Carrigan and Miller series!

Carrigan and Geneva are investigating the death of a young woman who was drugged and abducted. Then they find evidence of two others. The investigation is laid out step by logical step, and where it leads should scare the crap out of every computer user out there, especially in light of the current Facebook-Cambridge Analytica fiasco.

The author includes aspects of the main characters' personal lives, and that brings Carrigan and Geneva to life. Carrigan's mother is near death, more is revealed about his wife, and Geneva's case against her ex-husband is almost resolved. Due to something Carrigan did in the previous book, he is also under investigation by the Directorate of Professional Standards.

The writing is excellent, the plot is thick, and the characters are strong. I need the next book, Mr. Sherez!

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## **Marina Sofia says**

I read this one very quickly: the transient backpacker population and the online stalking really got to me. I thought I had grown sick of the serial killer meme in fiction, but this is a very different twist on it. I don't know if I'll ever be able to go online again without panicking slightly.

Side note: I'd love to find out more about Geneva's poetry - or read her mother's.

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## **Esil says**

3.5 stars. Yikes! I feel like I just came off an intense ride. I had never heard of Stav Sherez and his Carrigan and Miller series before reading *The Intrusions*. This is the third in the series. Taking place in London, it focuses on the disappearance and murder of a number of young women. The women are stalked on the internet, drugged and abducted. Sherez has constructed a very tight and clever mystery. At times, it's hard to read because it really delves into the vulnerability of young women to internet and real life stalking. But the story is very clever because Sherez makes this issue more complicated than it seems at first blush. Sherez is a great story teller -- he kept me on the edge of my seat, nodding in appreciation as the story came together. I've knocked off half a star because I didn't feel quite as engaged by his detectives' personal issues, but that might be because I haven't read the first two books in the series. I may have to go back to read them now. I should note that what kept me on the edge was the cleverness of the story and not the violence -- there is some graphic violence but it doesn't dominate the narrative. Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for an opportunity to read an advance copy.

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## **Sandra Foy says**

The first thing to say about this book is that it is fabulous: I mean truly fabulous.

The second thing to say is that it is scary: and I mean truly scary.

The book is set in Bayswater, London; temporary home to a transient population. When a resident in one of the hostels goes missing and her friend goes to the police, D.S. Geneva Miller wants to investigate, but her boss D.I. Carrigan is sceptical until he is called to a murder site and the victim turns out to be Anna, the missing resident.

Carrigan is already in trouble with his superiors over past misdeeds, so when the case seems to be mired, he has to reluctantly accept the services of profiler, Ed Hoffman. They are not the best of friends.

The net is spread far and wide, encompassing countries, drugs, computer crime and social media.

I loved the characters of Carrigan and Miller, they worked so well together, and Geneva is my favourite name ever! All the characters are well-drawn and come across as real people; no copy and paste cliches here.

A book that is grounded in reality is always going to be unsettling and the premise here is extremely chilling. It will make you think every time you turn on your computer or go onto social media: how easy would it be for this to happen?

This book is such a wonderfully written, intelligent crime thriller. The layers of the crime are peeled away with subtlety to reveal twists, but also to deepen your understanding of the characters involved.

This is my first Stav Sherez novel; I have no idea how this has occurred, but I am off now to grab hold of his first two books and really hope that it's not too long before his fourth is out.

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### **Paromjit says**

This is my first Stav Sherez novel and I am so impressed with it. It is an intelligent literary crime thriller that comes from a very dark place and terrifies the hell out of you. It is set in the dilapidated and murky district of Bayswater in London. DS Geneva Miller finds herself interviewing a heavily drugged young woman, Madison Carter, who claims that her friend, Anna Becker, was abducted in an alley by a man in a van and who is going to come back for her. Geneva pays a preliminary visit to the site and finds a discarded vial. DI Jack Carrigan is not convinced they have a case until he finds himself at the site of a gruesome murder of a woman who turns out to be Anna. Miller and Carrigan find themselves in the middle of a twister of a case where it is difficult to discern precisely what is going on. What is clear is that they have a highly intelligent and ruthless killer who engages in a highly refined form of torture and killing.

Carrigan finds himself being targeted by ACC Quinn as the result of a previous case. He finds himself under severe pressure as Internal Affairs delve deep into some of his unorthodox practices, which means he faces the possibility of facing criminal charges. He also has to accept the inclusion of a psychological profiler, Ed Hoffman, on the team despite all his efforts to resist this. The investigation takes the team to Anna and Madison's Hostel, a cleaning employment company, connections with Bali, and more worryingly, the possibility that this is not the first time the killer has struck. There are numerous twists and danger comes to envelop the police team itself.

This a beautifully written, atmospheric and chilling novel. It is impeccably plotted and the descriptions make you feel as if you are right there in Bayswater. Carrigan and Miller are wonderfully flawed and intense

characters that you want to be with and root for. The cyber themes raised such as RAT, remote access technology, are urgent and compelling social issues in contemporary society. This book gives us a frightening insight into the internet and just how much of our information is available both for criminals and government. I love finding new crime writers and Stav Sherez is a fantastic discovery. A highly recommended and brilliant read! Thanks to Faber and Faber for an ARC.

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### **Pat says**

Ah Stav Sherez you've done it again. You've given us another twisty, convoluted mystery - just the way I like them. The events in this book test both Carrigan and Miller to the limit.

Carrigan is facing big trouble from Professional Standards for some of his actions in the previous case (detailed in the book *Eleven Days*). But murder waits for no one. The body of a young woman is found in an abandoned house. She has died of exsanguination, the killer cut her jugular precisely and she was posed after death.

The woman had been staying at a hostel in London so that is where the detectives start their inquiries. They find some puzzling evidence and are told of another hostel resident who had gone missing. They also learn that both women had been stalked and tormented online before disappearing. The investigation starts to focus on this online activity. This part was very disturbing, if any of it was real it appears to be frighteningly easy to destroy someone from your laptop. Hmm, I have since covered up my webcam!!

Clearly the story is going to get more complex and twisty and you have no idea who the sick puppy killer is. The plot twists come thick and fast and you never know what is going to happen next. This was another very clever thriller from Sherez. The ending, I hope, paves the way for another episode. I'll be keenly looking out for it as I'm loving this series.

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### **Craig Sisterson says**

If you haven't yet read Stav Sherez, do yourself a favour: go to your favorite bookstore and grab a copy of one of his books today. Even though this is the third in his excellent series starring police detectives Carrigan and Miller, Sherez isn't your standard police procedural series author. He writes literary crime thrillers with a joyfully dark heart, which just happen to involve police investigators.

Sherez beautifully entwines style and substance in his crime novels, delivering some heft without disrupting a smooth, page-turning narrative. There's a crackle to his prose, a viewpoint and voice that's a little distinct, and overall is just a pleasure to read (despite creepy subject matter).

Technology is all pervasive nowadays - we don't have to worry about George Orwell's idea of an autocracy watching every move of its citizenship - we've pretty much done it to ourselves, by choice.

Sherez taps into that reality in *THE INTRUSIONS* with a criminal who uses technology to stalk and terrorise his victims, remotely taking over their lives. DI Carrigan is facing stark consequences for his past actions: his job, and even his freedom, are in jeopardy. An old nemesis is gleefully looking to drop the guillotine. Meanwhile DS Miller interviews a drugged up backpacker making wild claims.

In terms of creepiness, THE INTRUSIONS is at the level of freezing fingers down your spine tale on a pitch-black night when you think you're all alone in an abandoned house, miles from help. Sherez has a real talent for subtly building a fear-drenched atmosphere. Similarly, his tales have plenty of twists and page-turning drive, while never shouting about it. There's a lovely balance - the novel hurtles along but you feel it's a substantial, richly layered story that has plenty to say too.

The first two Carrigan and Miller novels were shortlisted for the prestigious Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year Award. Given the excellence of THE INTRUSIONS, I wouldn't be at all surprised if Sherez wowed the judges even more this time around. Very highly recommended.

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### **Elaine Tomasso says**

I would like to thank Netgalley and Faber and Faber for an advance copy of The Intrusions, the third London based police procedural featuring DI Jack Carrigan and DS Geneva Miller.

Carrigan is under investigation for some illegal activities he undertook during his last investigation (Eleven Days) and his mother is in a coma but he puts these worries to one side when a new case comes in. In the meantime Miller is mulling over the reported disappearance of Anna Becker, a backpacker who was drugged and abducted from a local nightclub. The problem is that her friend, Madison, is high as a kite when she reports it and nobody can believe the word of someone under the influence of drugs, unless you are Miller. Their investigations take them into a world of online stalking, trolling and ratting (it was new to me too).

The Intrusions is a well constructed novel with a good plot. The downside for me was the technical discussions about the dark web and its activities which I have zero interest in. Fortunately it's not as techie as some books I have read recently but it is infinitely more scary and I may never turn a webcam on again if even half of what Mr Sherez describes is possible. I like the linearity of the plot with each discovery opening more lines of enquiry and the third person narrative giving Carrigan and Miller's points of view with no dipping into the perpetrator's mind making it a proper old fashioned novel with modern content. I like the contrast.

The plot itself is, on the whole, good with some unexpected twists but Carrigan and Miller are very slow to pick up on the perpetrator's motivation when all the signposts are there, in spades. I did find myself saying "for goodness sake" a couple of times when they don't see the obvious but it still held my interest.

I like Carrigan and Miller as characters, both are smart and dedicated but I don't feel I got a really good sense of them in this novel. There is too much going on to get any depth on them.

I enjoyed The Intrusions which is very readable with an easy to follow but not simplistic plot and have no hesitation in recommending it as a good read.

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