



Cargo

D.V. Berkom

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Money—the universal merchant. Anyone can be bought, anyone can be sold.

Anyone.

Haunted by memories of an op gone bad, former assassin Leine Basso travels to Bangkok in search of a missing backpacker. With help from an old contact, she discovers the man responsible for the girl's disappearance is connected to a violent Hong Kong triad and is the linchpin of an extensive trafficking network—both animal and human.

Making enemies isn't new for Leine, but making one in the triad is—she soon finds herself a prisoner on board a cargo ship headed for sub-Saharan Africa. To ensure her survival and to continue her hunt for the missing girl, she must join forces with Derek, an ivory poacher who promises to help her.

For a price.

As her involvement intensifies, Leine delves deeper into a disturbing and treacherous criminal underworld where everything has a price.

Cargo Details

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Author : D.V. Berkom

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From Reader Review Cargo for online ebook

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon today (12/14/2017)! ?

HornFan2 (Mike) says

Thanks to netgalley.com, D.V. Berkem and Duct Tape Press for the advance ARC for my honest review.

I must confess, that I have all the prior books in this awesome series buried on my Kindle/TBR list and will have to read them now. This one is my favorite of all the 2015 published books I've read.

This one is brilliant written, beautifully done on it's subject content, perfect written to keep the reader reading verse getting upset and not wanting to finish 'Cargo'.

D.V. Berkem takes three hot topics right out of the news, then intertwines them, puts her super action hero Leine Basso right in the mix, you get a heart pounding edge of your seat book, full of twist and turns, fast paced and one that takes you from California to Bangkok and to Tanzania.

I really like the Leine Basso character, she's super human, tough as nails, has no fear, can handle any situation, lethal with any gun and protector of the weak, those that can't defend themselves.

With her daughter Alice wanting to be like Mom, Leine shows that deep inside that tough exterior, she's just like anyone else. With Santiago, even a tough cookie needs a little loving.

Cargo's about sex trafficking, poaching, the illegal ivory and black rhino black market trafficking. Berkem shows just how easy it's to do sex trafficking, with the two scenario's she uses in 'Cargo'.

Can't forget Alma, Zara and Hattie that work for a nonprofit organization that takes care of Lion cubs, then injured or sick adults and with the goal to release them back into the wild.

You also have poaching, the black market for Ivory and Black Rhino which I was familiar with it and found her writing made it more of an educational experience for me.

Berkem's characters are amazing, they are life like, stand out and either good or bad just add to make the story so good.

Even as bad as Derek van der Haar is, being a poacher, trafficking in Ivory and Black Rhino, with his interacting with Leine. You can tell he's really a decent guy and deep down knows he has to make some changes in his life.

I liked the Kylie, to be abducted and sold the way she was, man what a toughie. Knew that when Nassir popped into the story, that in somehow was connected to Leine's past and a host Ranger.

The only thing I would change would have had Leine taking out Kauai but I do like the way Berkem did it

and the necklace thing was a brilliant way to end the book.

Better stop since I try not to just rewrite some of the storyline or give too much away and have a bunch of Berkoms' books too catch up.

I highly recommend 'Cargo', D.V. Berkoms' books and she'll end up being your new favorite.

Terry Turrell says

This was the first of DV Berkoms' novels that I had read and I'm hooked. The words flowed so seamlessly, I became entirely engrossed in the action that I lost myself, forgetting I was even reading a book. The pictures painted in my head by her descriptions of the African land and animals, the bad guys, and the big game hunting issues were so realistic, I lost myself in this book as if watching a movie. The only question is which one of her many books shall I read next?

Colin Rochford says

Cargo by D.V. Berkoms

An intriguing story with a message. Often authors tend to let the message over-rule the story and the characters. D.V. does not do this. Her stories are gritty, intelligent, plausible for the most part, and exciting.

Her characters are well developed and keep you wanting to turn the pages and find out more about them. Even the baddies are interesting. Horrible yes, but they are baddies.

The atmospherics are well done and attention to detail is quite exciting. for example: "A cardboard box flew out of nowhere, smacking the windshield and whipping up and over the roof." Nothing to do with the story but tells you about the storm through which they were driving. More please.

Bryan says

Awesome!!

This was my first book from this author, and I couldn't put it down! That's saying a lot, as I'm not one to normally read a book straight through unless it grabs me. Love the strong female lead!

Starfire says

I think I picked this one up as a freebie in one of the BookBub specials, and I read through almost the entire book on the plane journey up from Dunedin. It was fun, brainless and action-packed with a nicely competent female protagonist, a suitably nasty one-dimensional bad guy, and zero thinking required on my part (although that said, there **were** some heart-breaking descriptions of the effects of illegal game hunting and ivory poaching that I had to skip through)

It does make me want to go back and read Book 1 of Leine's story - I'll check whether my library has it.

TE says

This series keeps me on the edge of my seat and I love it. Cargo is gritty, fast paced and full of action and suspense. Leine Basso is like a modern day female version of The Equalizer... you know your day is going to get a whole lot better when she comes to the rescue. I like how Ms Berkem weaves both familiar characters and new ones into each story. I especially like how even though these books are part of a series, they can all be read as stand alone novels...and wish more authors would take this cue from Ms Berkem. All around great read.

Cathy Speight says

Berkem must have looked up 'thriller' in the dictionary: 'A novel, play or film with an exciting plot, typically involving crime or espionage', then decided that the definition needed cranking up a notch or two...or six.

I met Leine Basso in *Serial Date*. I was instantly smitten and stalked her unashamedly through books two and three. I adore her: she's a doer. A job has to be done, she jolly well gets on and does it. She has determination, courage, intelligence and fearlessness. Well, she's an ex assassin, after all, but the tough exterior houses a woman of passion, compassion and wit.

However, such sterling qualities don't keep her out of trouble. A good friend's headstrong daughter heads to the Far East for some time-out backpacking, but fears the worst when she realises she's missing. Leine wastes no time and heads off to Bangkok to find her. She soon realises the young girl has been kidnapped for trafficking, but soon picks up her trail; things go badly awry and Leine becomes cargo on its way to Africa, along with ivory poacher Derek, who has seriously annoyed the leader of the trafficking ring. Since Derek values his life as much as Leine does her own, they merge their survival skills to escape. At the same time, the search for the missing girl must continue, but Leine discovers that the atrocity of trafficking isn't confined to humans...animals are in grave danger too.

If Berkem can bear the weight, I'm just going to pile on another ton of praise for another excellent, fast-paced, gripping and riveting adventure in Leine Basso's life. This author is described as being 'a slave to the

voices in her head'. I hope they're yelling at her very loudly, because I can't wait to meet up with Leine again.

Highly recommended.

Jay Williams says

Leine Basso is a strong and capable woman. In this adventure she drops back into a life she had abandoned when a friend's daughter goes missing in Thailand. In a parallel subplot her own daughter goes under cover to assist in the investigation of sex traffickers. The action covers several exotic locales that are well but briefly described. The characters all have depth and quickly enter the reader's emotions. The suspense is continuous and the action virtually non-stop. Berkom does a great job of developing the relationships between the characters, and establishing the gritty atmosphere of the locales. The book is an easy and exciting read that is impossible to put down.

Chuck Jelgersma says

Gr8 story

When I first started with this story I figured it would be just another spy type of book. By the time I was part way through I realized I was wrong. Lot of believable action with enough twists to make this story very interesting. Definitely worth reading.

Tami Boreman says

Enjoyed this book . Really love the strong female character. And love that these books show how bad human trafficking really effects everyone.

Jim B. says

Leine is transforming before our eyes in this book series by DV Berkom. She is still tough and leery of relationships except with April, her daughter. She is so afraid of her choices in men and how people close to her parish. However, she is growing and changing. In Cargo Leine encounters old allies halfway across the world from home and makes new ones when she battles human and animal traffickers while distracted about the safety of a loved one.

This is the latest in the Leine Basso series; I can't wait for the next book release. While I wait I will return to DV Berkom series about Kate Jones.

Emmy says

"DV Delivers a True Mystery Thriller 5+ Stars! "

What did you love best about Cargo?

I loved how I was blindsided by the book. I half expected a decent suspenseful thriller. This knocked me over the head and I had to hold on tight for the ride.

Did the plot keep you on the edge of your seat? How?

The plot was deep and complex. I could not figure out how Leine was going to be the heroine. I held my breath so many times and would have flipped the book to the final pages just to appease my curiosity.

Have you listened to any of Kristi Alsip's other performances before? How does this one compare?

This was my first audio from Kristi. I think I'm going to start her fan club.

In all honesty, she was magnificent in this book and I plan to download the other book she narrated in this series.

Any additional comments?

I've been hesitant to read MC (ex) assassins - to the point I usually avoid them. I've never found it even vaguely intriguing or interesting. But I came across this author on an InstaFreebie site and was instantly subscribed to her newsletter. She's one of the few I haven't clicked "unsubscribe". I figured if her emails keep me entertained, what could a seven hour audiobook do to me?

Oh my wow.

Although this was book 4 in a series, I was able to fall in behind the characters as if I grew up with them. They were an incredible bunch with realistic thoughts, sound judgement, and tangible emotions with corresponding actions. I'd love to invite them over for Thanksgiving dinner! (It's not too early for an RSVP because I'll have to carefully plan to impress!)

Rarely have I lost myself and track of time into the depths of an academically - and grammatically/editorially - deep and suspenseful adventure. The ops is transcontinental and multi layered in several cultures. It's tight and holds water (and attention).

I am DYING to get to the other books in this series and may even check out the Kate Jones series.

Kristi Alsip was a DYNAMIC narrator for this book. It doesn't appear she has narrated all of Ms Berkom's books, but I will download the ones she voiced first. I'd prefer to keep up the momentum and my enthusiasm within this genre (assassins MC) and am apprehensive to change to another narrator. We all know it's a blissful blessing when the two are on the same wavelength.

I strongly, wholeheartedly recommend this audio (author + narrator) for anyone who truly believes listening to a book is a well deserved mini vacation and treat, not to be taken lightly, and money and time well spent!

Sherry Fundin says

DV Berkem writes some fantastic thriller fiction and her latest, *Cargo*, does not disappoint. In fact, I think she took it up a notch. I anticipated a great read and wondered who Leine will be killing today. The twists and turns the characters and I went through kept the suspense building as the level of danger grew.

DV Berkem writes of strong, kickass, female protagonists and Leine Basso is a prime example. She is a complex character that is hard on the outside, with a soft filling. She is an expert shot and skilled in hand to hand combat. She wants to save everyone. Is it to atone for the guilt she carries from her past life as an assassin? How many lives has she ruined? Does she deserve the happiness she has found with Detective Santiago Jensen? She will do whatever is necessary to achieve her goal and right now, it is to rescue Kylie.

Kylie had been abducted while backpacking overseas and she was in for a horrific experience. She wondered what would become of her. Would they rape her? Would they take her organs and dump her somewhere far from home, never to be found? Would they sell her to the highest bidder? Or worse?

Things don't go the way Leine plans and she ends up in need of rescue herself. She teams up with Derek, who is locked on the ship with her, bound for Africa. He is a poacher and Africa is his home. We will see him grow and develop as DV Berkem takes us on this wild African adventure of...

Poaching, terrorists, animals parading as men. Leine will learn more than she ever wanted to know about poaching and the men behind it. Their brutality and lack of respect for life, whether human or animal is beyond my comprehension. Women are treated as less than human, sold, traded, bartered and murdered at will.

The debasement and abuse heaped on Kylie by another woman totally shocked me. I wasn't prepared for that. How depraved must she be to have no empathy, taking delight at treating her like a dog, or worse. I cannot imagine the terror Kylie felt thinking she may die.

I know this is fiction, but it reeks of realism. I was so angry about it all. I can see the women huddled in dank, dirty surroundings, scared out of their minds. I can see the herd of elephants after being brutally murdered and mutilated for their ivory. I recently read about their tusks being dyed pink so they no longer have any value. I agree with Leine's feelings of disgust with the men who think they can do whatever they want without consequence. I want to see them get theirs.

Wang is a poacher and hopes to become the king of canned hunts, but that is only one of his criminal enterprises. I am hoping, crossing my fingers and talking to the book, please, please, please, make sure he gets what he deserves. I want him to come across someone who can mete out an appropriate punishment. A quick death wouldn't be good enough for me. He needs to suffer horribly.

April is a bonus and I hope her role will grow as DV Berkem expands on the series. I am very curious about her. Leine is her mother and they were estranged for many years, but they had something in common. They had both been abducted. I know April has a story to tell and I want to hear it. What say you, DV?

I read a blog post of DV Berkom's in which she talks of the research she does and I can see it paying off in a big way. The depth and details of the events and how the characters dealt with them were horrific, yet uplifting.

Cargo unfolds at a steady pace as DV Berkom takes us into a dangerous world of abduction, animal and human trafficking, poaching, canned hunts and terrorists. As we travel from the United States, to Bangkok, to sub-Saharan Africa the danger mounts, tension increases and the suspense has me reading faster, telling myself no peeking. When I turned the last page, I sat, just thinking. How cool is that, when a book won't let you go, even after you have finished reading it? That is why DV Berkom is an author to have on your must read list.

I received Cargo by DV Berkom in return for an honest and unbiased review.

LooseBoots says

I know people say they couldn't put a book down but literally I couldn't. I even woke up at 3 a.m. And finished the last 18 %. What a fantastic series. Great story sadly based on some true facts regarding poaching for ivory. Leine is a wonderful character with fast action all the way but with a tender and human side. Hope there are more to come.
