



CHRISTINE PAXMANN
CLOSED TODAY FOR MURDER

A picture-postcard winter, and a tiny little murder.

Crime scene: mountain chalet – refreshingly different!

»Welcome to Engeldorf am Munzerkogel. Likelihood of snow: high. Average age: 40 to 60. Special characteristic: No Snowboarding! Ideal for ski-nostalgics. Flirt factor: high to worryingly high. Chalets: quaint to ultra-quaint – and sometimes closed due to murders.«

When Chief Inspector Clara Kull allows herself a sabbatical, it looks as if she will finally have the leisure to relaunch her almost non-existent love life. When her friend Gracia suggests a winter holiday, she doesn't find it all that tempting, because she had actually hung up her skis some time before. But when she hears of a winter-sports resort which has devoted itself to slow motion and the rediscovery of old sporting activities she becomes curious.

Alpine paradise Engeldorf really does seem to be the Harrods of winter sports resorts. Sun, powder snow, an alpine designer hotel and irresistibly charming people all have their aphrodisiac effect on the Chief Inspector – even when the delightful chalet maid is found with a hole in her head.

Clara can't resist acting the detective. Happily, and not entirely altruistically, she offers her services to Karl Truxler, the somewhat plodding alpine sheriff who's in charge of the local investigation. An act that sets an avalanche going – and not just in her emotional life ...

■ The first chalet thriller – a refreshingly new voice and an exciting new investigator in the world of crime novels. A light and amusingly written book for a female readership.

Christine Paxmann hung up her skis ten years ago – previously no black run had been safe from her. Now she finds the nostalgic calm of cross-country skiing ideal for thinking up her novels. Clara Kull's first case is not the Munich author's first novel – she has already published successfully under various pen-names – but it is her first chalet thriller. Born in Munich, she loves mountain chalets (though she obviously prefers them without corpses) and when she's not gliding through the snow, Christine Paxmann devotes her time to her family, design projects, dogs or public relations work.

- World Rights.
- Hardcover: Thiele Verlag Fall 2014 (288 pages).

