

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Ben Pastor's *A Dark Song of Blood*, slated for an April release from Bitter Lemon, is set in 1944 Nazi-occupied Rome. The book will be the third outing for Baron Martin von Bora, "an officer in the Wehrmacht torn between his sense of duty and his opposition to SS policies."

Bora's been assigned to Rome after running afoul of the Gestapo, and there he must solve three murders: those of a German embassy secretary, a Roman society matron, and a cardinal. Pastor observes that while, with the catastrophic loss of life, investigating a single death might appear "mundane, Bora considers every victim important." She adds, "The tensions and excesses of a world war—the greatest crime of all—allow me to dig into my protagonist's seemingly absurd desire to do the right thing, even if and when no one else does."