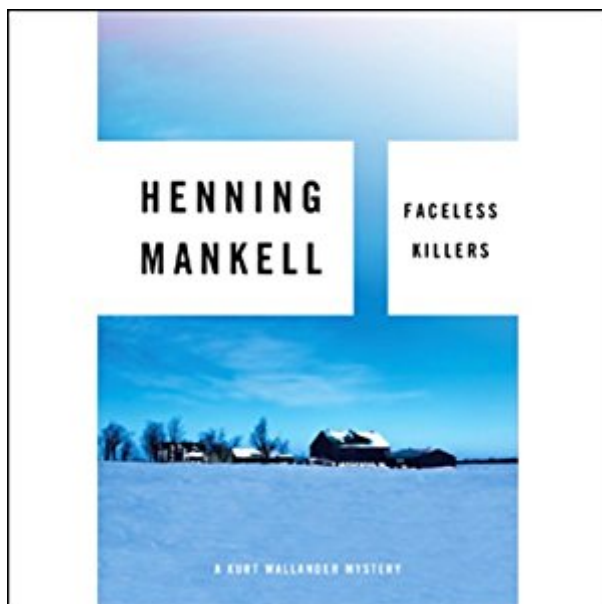


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Faceless Killers: A Kurt Wallander Mystery



Synopsis

From the dean of Scandinavian Å noir, the first riveting installment in the internationally bestselling and Å universally acclaimed Kurt Wallander series, the basis for the PBS series starring Kenneth Branagh. It was a senselessly violent crime: on a cold night in a remote Swedish farmhouse an elderly farmer is bludgeoned to death, and his wife is left to die with a noose around her neck. And as if this didn't present enough problems for the Ystad police Inspector Kurt Wallander, the dying woman's last word is foreign, leaving the police the one tangible clue they have and in the process, the match that could inflame Sweden's already smoldering anti-immigrant sentiments. Unlike the situation with his ex-wife, his estranged daughter, or the beautiful but married young prosecutor who has peaked his interest, in this case, Wallander finds a problem he can handle. He quickly becomes obsessed with solving the crime before the already tense situation explodes, but soon comes to realize that it will require all his reserves of energy and dedication to solve. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Henning Mankell wrote exquisite noir mysteries! I love his books. With words he can immerse us into Sweden's winter gloom, make us shiver and actually become as depressed as the weather. Most of the Wallander series are set in gloom. Most of the time our detective is fighting his Demons. In Reading the story, words allow us direct admittance to his thoughts, words allow us to see how

he deducts the important from the chaos. We understand how his thinking leads to developing a working hypothesis, a strategy. Wallander's great detection of the crime and deduction of what happened is there for us in the book. In a movie you follow the action. In a book you hear the thoughts behind the action. In this story a heinous crime is committed. How he gets from the scene of the crime to the solution is a series of twists, dead ends, and surprise. Wallander's private life is forever butting in. But, our detective is extraordinary. He puts away the unnecessary. He focuses completely.

I've watched the Wallander series on PBS and wanted to try the books. This is the first I read and I was immediately drawn into Wallander's world. Plan to continue to read his mysteries. I find them well worth my time. The character of Wallander is interesting, believable and definitely flawed, which only makes him more appealing. Other characters are also interesting. Occasionally I found the story confusing but that may have been because everything takes place in Sweden and the Swedish place names can be difficult. But I thoroughly enjoyed my first experience with Wallander.

This was the first Wallander mystery I'd ever read, a gift from a friend of Swedish descent. I love police procedurals, and this one begins with violence and death, and ends with a breathless chase, as they all do. In the middle, of course, is the tortured character of Kurt Wallander, a lonely man estranged from his wife and worried about his daughter.

Critical reviewers cite other authors with a better plot, more developed characters or more suspense. In my humble opinion, this is a very well developed novel for a 1st effort. It gives US readers a taste of Swedish fiction with its stoic lead detective leading his group of competent subordinates. It's not Wambaugh with wise crack dialogue, but Wallander, the lead character, is serious about his work. You also are presented with Wallander's personal problems and flaws. A PBS series and a series of Wallander novels have been written or produced since the 1st book was debuted, so a lot of people think highly of this author.

This is not a typical American mystery novel. It has a decidedly Swedish flavor to the writing. Some time has passed since the book was written so there is some adjustments the reader makes in processing the story to deal with a setting that is a quarter of a century ago. But what is true is that the main character thaws out to become an engaging man with a very identifiable set of personality issues. I am going to try another Mankell book to see if the first book is unique...or if the Swedish

novel is a unique form of mystery writing.

Ok, I can't find the original review I wrote for this book, I wrote it on the iPhone app and submitted it. It was a very good review, can't duplicate it so let me just say that this author and this book have rekindled (pun?) my interest in Police Procedurals again. This book is dated, old in some ways, before cell phones and computer access to the world, but, the story is good. I am refreshed with Mankell's style because the pop cop crap that is all over the place has turned me off, this, I hope will be a new road of entertainment. I like it..The cast of characters is a bit overwhelming and I make up my own way of pronouncing there names and places but once I started reading I was a hook'd into the mystery as much as Kurt.

It is easy to walk midway into the Inspector Wallander series and get swept away by the relentless pace, dogged investigation and numerous side plots. But you'd be missing something. Kurt Wallander is no Sherlock. He is a compulsive whose personal life is a shambles and unraveling even as he stitches together the most arcane clues to catch the killers. Along the way he encounters broken people beneath a sheen of Swedish normality: the pharmacist with a secret past, the farmer with a double life, and the occasional bitter government functionary. Even his most self-righteous moments are drenched in a coating of self-deprecation as he suffers through attacks by the press, fistfights with suspects and the banal rejection of his family. He is a detective superstar with a chipped tooth. I, for one, love this series. My only regret is that I didn't start at the beginning, so - like Wallander - I have to work my backward.

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