



## When It Grows Dark

*Jørn Lier Horst , Anne Bruce (Translator)*

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Stavern 1983: Christmas is approaching, snow is falling heavily, and a young ambitious policeman named William Wisting has just become the father of twins. After a brutal robbery he is edged off the investigation by more experienced officers, but soon he is on another case that is not only unsolved but has not even been recognised as murder. Forgotten in a dilapidated barn stands a bullet riddled old car, and it looks as if the driver did not get out alive. This case will shape William Wisting as a policeman and give him insight that he will carry with him for the rest of his professional career: generations form an unbroken chain.

### **When It Grows Dark Details**

Date : Published March 16th 2017 by Sandstone Press (first published November 29th 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Jørn Lier Horst , Anne Bruce (Translator)

Format : Kindle Edition 194 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction

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## From Reader Review When It Grows Dark for online ebook

### Bruce Hatton says

The latest book in this excellent series is, in fact, a prequel set in 1983. William Wisting is just a rookie patrol officer, although he already has ambitions to join the CID. He's just recently married here and father of baby twins Thomas and Line - of course, the grown-up Line, a reporter, features prominently in the later-set novels.

In the course of this quite short but very exciting novel Wisting manages to solve a case involving a vintage car which was abandoned in a barn in the 1920s. He also plays a major part in capturing a gang involved in car-jacking and ram-raiding. Little wonder he eventually became chief of police in Larvik.

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### Pam says

AUTHOR Horst, Jorn Lier

TITLE: When It Grows Dark

DATE READ 02/11/2018

RATING 5/A

GENRE/ PUB DATE/PUBLISHER / # OF Crime Fiction / 2017/Sandstone Press/ 160 pgs

SERIES/STAND-ALONE #6 in William Wisting

FIRST LINES: The bank card was ejected from the TM and Temporarily out of order appeared in big white letters on the screen.

CHARACTERS William Wisting/policeman

TIME/PLACE: 1983/Norway

COMMENTS Loved this one! This is the 6th entry in the series but it is a prequel and can definitely be read first. As a young policeman starting out on the force and a new father of twins, William is trying to be a good father to his infant son and daughter and a helpmate to his wife Ingrid as well as a good policeman who can eventually advance to detective. Things do not look promising for his moving ahead when he is on the cusp of being involved with a robbery investigation but is pulled off so that more experienced officers can work on it. At the same time he is helping someone find the owner of an old car that has been stored in a barn since 1925 ... this is a most curious situation and leads to more criminal investigation and experience than William ever thought possible.

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### NerwSłowa says

Bardzo udany skandynawski krymina?. ALE: gdybym nie zna?a nazwiska autora wcze?niej (z wielu entuzjastycznych recenzji), tylko si?gn??abym po t? ksi??k? w ksi?garni i przeczyta?a opis na IV stronie ok?adki, nie kupi?abym jej - w dos?ownie trzech akapitach znale?? mo?na minimum CZTERY b??dy interpunkcyjne, co ja uwa?am za ca?kowity brak szacunku dla czytelnika oraz oznak? braku umiej?tno?ci osoby pisz?cej. Na szcz??cie w samej ksi??ce jest lepiej (cho? przyznaj?, ?e nie czyta?am jej tak uwa?nie, by wy?apa? wszystkie b??dy).

Bardzo podziwiam konstrukcj? zaproponowan? przez Horsta (wszystko splata si? ze sob? idealnie). Jedyna rzecz: fragmenty o rodzinie brzmi? niesamowicie pretensjonalnie i wydaj? si? doklejone na si?? ( chocia?

może dla osób, które czytają serię w kolejności wydawania/pisania, czyżby ci się wzruszające, bo mają już z rodziną głównego bohatera zbudowaną więź). W każdym razie mam zamiar sprawdzić, co będzie dalej, przede mną chyba siedem części; na razie jest bardzo dobrze.

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### **Tomáš Ulej says**

Horsta mám rád, jeden z mála zo severských detektívkarov, čo nemá potrebu popisovať skupenstvá kvapiek dopadajúcich na zem a nevyžíva sa v temnosti tmy a svetlosti svetla, ale píše skutočné detektívky. Len mu už trochu zažínajú dochádzať nápady. Škoda ho, snáť sa polepší. Still better lovestory than Kepler.

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### **Yoda says**

The best part about reading books by Jørn Lier Horst is how he manages to get all the small details that you didn't notice at the beginning completely change the outcome. He makes all the puzzles fit together in the end. I love books that surprise me, this one definitely did.

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### **Frances says**

Interesting introduction to Wisting....even though it is No. 11 in the series.

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### **Kasia (Książka z książki) says**

Nie mogę odmówić autorowi talentu do snucia wciągającej fabuły i warsztatu, dzięki którym wyrobił sobie ugruntowaną i mocną pozycję jako przedstawiciel dobrej jakości skandynawskiego kryminału, choć w tym przypadku powieść pozostawia niedosyt.

Cała opinia:

<http://www.kacikzksiazka.pl/2017/02/g...>

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### **Stven says**

This story can be described fairly well as an ordinary police investigation. For readers who have engaged with the character William Wisting in previous books, it will be interesting to flash back to early in his career, when he was a regular patrolman with aspirations toward becoming a detective. For me, never having read the other books, this was simply a story set in Norway in the now remote world of 1983, tackling a mystery that goes back even farther in time.

Happily, it hits the kinds of points I like to engage with in a police investigation. Strange circumstances, examination of the premises and artifacts, interviews with affiliated persons, family life and office life of the lead character, etc. I will gladly flash forward in time to read the more current exploits of Inspector Wisting.

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## **Deb H says**

### **Not great**

I enjoy the William Wisting series tremendously; however this one feel flat. Maybe because it takes place in the past but I am not sure. Whatever the reason don't let this book keep you from the rest of the series. And if you've read the rest this one is readable just not great.

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## **Diane S ? says**

What attracts us as readers to a series or for that matter a character? I'm sure every author would love to know the definitive answer to that question. This is a series where I have only read one other book, that being number eight, which I somehow blundered my way into, but found it and the main character Wisting, intriguing. I love these Nordic mysteries, the way the are put together, the slow but thorough way the story develops

This is the newest in the series, but takes us back to the beginning of Wistings career. How fortuitous is that? We meet him when he is a young police officer, wanting to make detective, trying to balance his work schedule with his home life, the father of two young twins. He finds himself drawn to a very old mystery, one including missing money and a very old car. It will take us into the past, and then come full to the present.

A good storyline and a good character in Wisting. He is easy to relate too, humble but determined. I very much enjoyed getting this look at his beginnings. Will I go back and read the entries I missed? Maybe if I run across them, but I am sure this series will be on my radar for any future releases.

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## **Linda Branham Greenwell says**

I love the series. This book goes back to how Wisting became started as a detective. LIne and Thomas, the twins were babies and Wisting was still a patrol policeman - and what lead him to becoming a detective It begins when Wisting is preparing to address a new graduating group of police officers. He receives a letter from a woman that was found in a relative's belongings - behind a picture frame. The letter changes how Wisting addresses the group of newpolice officers. He asks them to begin by helping him solve a 100 year old mystery. It does not have the immediacy and drama in the other books in the series - but it keeps the reader fascinated with how Wisting began - you want to know how? why? If you just like fast paced drama, you may not appreciate the complexities in this case

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## **Jeanette says**

What hubris I own to start reading a series at novel #11! But honestly, I believe it just fell into a perfect place to start. Because it was a prequel and harbored back 33 years at the beginning of William Wisting's career.

Good development of the young marriage, the baby twins, and especially his (William's) mindset and cognition of job "fit" and possible advancements to doing more what was "up his alley" than the overnight

police calls he was endlessly answering. The pranks, the domestics, the bar fights, the minor and major car accidents etc. etc. etc.

This author got that nuance how a person can understand what he was "meant to do" by his own gifts of nature (observing power, attention to detail, patience in conversations, health within sleepless conditions for great lengths, body clock ability and on and on and on) and what he was "not meant to do" - the same way. Very few authors seem to get or pose that dichotomy so well as this one does. People do not just PICK an occupation. Sometimes it absolutely DOES pick them. Even if you spent decades running from it. Do I know it.

William is finally getting to know where he belongs and on the way he is solving two long past murders. Or were they murders? One event was 33 years ago and the other more than 10 years ago.

The first half of the book is a bit plodding and there are periods of slog where all he does is directional roaming. I didn't want to read another Norway street or village or suburb name. Or highway designation. Or who answered the door. Or how they looked. But just as in real life, it all takes some time to condense into context relation. It does with any widespread after effect crime as these were.

Excellent entertainment. Others of this series will be read in summer by the water, if I am so lucky. They are perfect little individual Norwegian personality studies coupled with some better than average plotting. And I adored the majority 1983 placements when Microfilm and other investigative "fax" type prototypes were evolving and often expiring within just a handful of years. Remember those old walkie-talkie things the cops had!!

The language itself seems Nordic abrupt and almost German style in declarative absolute factual statements without any softening to affect or tone within it. I love it. I think it gives it character too. But I doubt many other readers will like that parsing as much as I did. Because it makes William seem cold, especially to his own small family. I would be super surprised if his wife lasts as being his wife until the days when Line is taking the pictures. (That's his twin daughter all grown up in the "present" day). But I could be wrong.

Will definitely be reading others. And the last half was 4.5 star. Anna was VERY interesting.

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## **Matt says**

Jorn Lier Horst returns with another William Wisting novel that takes the reader into rural Norway and a calmer form of Scandinavian crime thriller. After over three decades as a reputable police officer, Chief Inspector William Wisting is set to address some new recruits at the police academy. He is handed a letter, one that takes him back three decades and sparks a memory of a case that got away. The story then travels back to 1983, where Wisting is a beat cop with a young wife and twin newborns. Working the night shift, Wisting discovers many interesting, though rarely overly exciting, cases in the small community outside of Oslo. When called to the scene of a night safe robbery at one of the local banks, Wisting and his partner follow a lead, in hopes of finding the burglars. However, all that is left is a car that has been set alight and a cottage with some errant items. The burning vehicle is close to a large farmhouse that Wisting and his friend had been scouting out before, having located an abandoned vehicle from 1925. Wisting has taken a fancy to this car and tries to locate not only the barn owner, but also who might have left the car there. Closer exploration by Wisting shows two bullet holes in the door and a newspaper from 1925. This spurs the young police officer to poke around on his own time. Discovering the owner of the vehicle opens the door to a new mystery, one in which a large sum of money and the car's driver disappeared during a secret mission bound for Oslo. The deeper Wisting gets with this case, the more interested he is in solving it. However, with the

bank robbery unsolved and many cases piling up, something from six decades before must take its place on the back burner. Wisting lays the groundwork for his incredible detective future, balancing his love of policing with a young family back home. Horst fans will likely enjoy this flashback novel that seeks to show where William Wisting got his start and how that curiosity germinated over three decades of uncovering various crimes and mysteries.

I cannot remember what got me interested in Horst or his Wisting series, but I know that I was hooked from the get-go. The series reads so easily and Horst seeks to develop a great story without the need to pad it with excessive plot lines. Fans of the series will know that Horst only started English-language translation of his series after the fifth novel, starting with an established Wisting who had adult twins and a dead wife. From here, he has been able to amble forwards, though there is so much backstory that only Norwegian (and perhaps other) readers have been privy to exploring. This flashback not only gives the reader a glimpse into the early Wisting, but is the first chance to meet Ingrid, who appears to have shaped his life quite significantly. Line, the female twin, cannot play her investigative journalist role in this story, but her attentive nature is documented throughout the piece, as Horst gives the wee one quite the role when interacting with young Wisting. The story is interesting, as it seeks to explore a case of the day (1983), as well as one that had long gone cold by then (1925), both of which capture the reader and Wisting quite easily. Paths to explore both cases are laid out effectively by Horst and each chapter brings the reader a little closer, but there is the knowledge that something remains unsolved, as hinted at in the preface. It is also worth noting how smoothly the narrative flows, even after being translated from its original Norwegian. That is the test of a truly strong story, that it is not lost when forced through a set of linguistic gymnastics to appeal to a larger readership. Horst has left the door open for many more books, should he wish to look back with Wisting, even without opening the early series books to his English readers.

Kudos, Herr Horst, for this wonderful novel. I loved the look back and really hope you will work with English publishers soon to allow us Anglo fans to explore the series' first five books

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<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

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## Midwest Geek says

This prequel (which is actually #11 in publication order) follows William Wisting as a new police officer who aspires to become a detective. When the initial murder which he reported was shifted to experienced detectives, he begins to investigate a cold case that he comes upon. Initially, he is not authorized to do so, so he must do this in his spare time, even though his wife only recently gave birth to fraternal twins (a boy and a girl). It is rather short, the narration taking only 5 hrs and 15 mins. It takes the form of a police procedural, but nevertheless I found it a bit tedious at times. The narrator, Saul Reichlin, reads in a clipped British tone which, while easily understandable, conveys little excitement. So my attention waned from time to time.

The mystery itself is quite intricate; even after having finished, I'm not sure that I have all the elements and characters straight. The cold case was not even classified as a murder, but Wisting quickly determined that it was likely to have been so. Exactly who was killed and why is gradually teased out, but even then, the perpetrators were quite unclear until late in the story. I liked that Wisting made mistakes, ones that a more experienced officer would not make. Presumably, they inform his later work.

While not a rave, I liked the story and primary character enough to want to give later editions a try. Not all

11 have been translated yet, so far as I can tell, but I expect they will be.

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## **Mary Picken says**

When It Grows Dark takes us back to the beginning of Wisting's career as an investigator. It is something of a prequel to the other stories and as such is a little bit different.

This is Wisting as a somewhat naive young policeman, not yet a detective, though anxious to join their ranks when it is achievable. Married to Ingrid, newly blessed with twins, Thomas and Line, Wisting is an enthusiastic policeman who relishes his job and craves more responsibility. Yet he is somewhat frustrated. He hates that he writes up reports of his patrols, highlighting patterns he has detected or ways in which he thinks detectives might usefully progress a lead and yet he never gets to be part of the follow up process.

When, therefore, in the course of helping a friend, he comes across an old mystery, he starts his own investigation; one that will lead to finding a long dead body - after which he is officially given the case to look into.

Through detailed research, he finds relatives of the victim and begins to piece together the story of what happened to the lost car and its driver one hot day in August 1925.

Along the way he does, of course, make mistakes. One mistake in particular haunts him throughout his career. And so, when some 33 years later, he receives a letter that offers the answers he was looking for all those years ago, he knows he has to see it through to the end.

A really good storyteller, Joan Lier Horst is a thoroughbred when it comes to police procedurals. (Must be something to do with all those years he spent as a senior police investigator).

His characters are strong and sympathetic and this is a well plotted story.

In taking us back to Wisting's early years, Horst is reminding us of a more optimistic time in Wisting's life, where crime was more often opportunistic and social conditions had not yet contributed to the darker world of crime he becomes used to later in his career.

It is really good to revisit Wisting's youth and see how the police investigator's career began.

This was a fast and easy read and I very much enjoyed it. Wisting remains one of my favourite policemen.

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