



Still Waters

Viveca Sten , Marlaine Delargy (Translator)

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On a hot July morning on Sweden's idyllic vacation island of Sandhamn, a man takes his dog for a walk and makes a gruesome discovery: a body, tangled in fishing net, has washed ashore.

Police detective Thomas Andreasson is the first to arrive on the scene. Before long, he has identified the deceased as Krister Berggren, a bachelor from the mainland who has been missing for months. All signs point to an accident—until another brutalized corpse is found at the local bed-and-breakfast. But this time it is Berggren's cousin, whom Thomas interviewed in Stockholm just days before.

As the island's residents reel from the news, Thomas turns to his childhood friend, local lawyer Nora Linde. Together, they attempt to unravel the riddles left behind by these two mysterious outsiders—while trying to make sense of the difficult twists their own lives have taken since the shared summer days of their youth.

Still Waters Details

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From Reader Review Still Waters for online ebook

Aditi says

“Anger, resentment and jealousy doesn't change the heart of others-- it only changes yours.”

----Shannon L. Alder

Viveca Sten, an international best-selling Swedish author, has penned a fast-paced gripping thriller featuring Thomas Andreasson, in her book, *Still Waters* which is the first book in the *Sandhamn Murders* series. The story, set in Sandhamn, a small island in the central-peripheral part of the Stockholm Archipelago in central-eastern Sweden, begins with the discovery of a dead body of an outsider washed up ashore, tangled up inside a fishing net, followed by another murder of an outsider. Police detective Thomas Andreasson is trying hard to find the connection between the outsiders and the island, and what drew them to this quaint island town, and he has to figure it out ASAP before the killer strikes again.

Synopsis:

On a hot July morning on Sweden's idyllic vacation island of Sandhamn, a man takes his dog for a walk and makes a gruesome discovery: a body, tangled in fishing net, has washed ashore.

Police detective Thomas Andreasson is the first to arrive on the scene. Before long, he has identified the deceased as Krister Berggren, a bachelor from the mainland who has been missing for months. All signs point to an accident—until another brutalized corpse is found at the local bed-and-breakfast. But this time it is Berggren's cousin, whom Thomas interviewed in Stockholm just days before.

As the island's residents reel from the news, Thomas turns to his childhood friend, local lawyer Nora Linde. Together, they attempt to unravel the riddles left behind by these two mysterious outsiders—while trying to make sense of the difficult twists their own lives have taken since the shared summer days of their youth.

Thomas Andreasson finds himself in a twisted situation, when he could not figure out the connection between the murder of brother-sister duo, who are outsiders on the island of Sandhamn, and the island. Thomas has to come to a conclusion as soon as possible before the killer claims his another victim. With no clear motive or agenda behind these murders, Thomas turns to his childhood friend-cum-lawyer, Nora, who is struggling with her own marital issues, to help him solve the case. Little did Nora knew that her struggle to adjust her family life and work life is nothing compared to the investigation, which throws her into the face of death.

I won't say that the book is a page turner, but it certainly kept me engaged till the very last page. The book is originally published in Swedish, later translated into English by Marlaine Delargy, an award-winning translator. The writing style of the author is really strong, packed with twists and turns that have enough capability to throws the readers off their edges and at times will elude them from the real motive. The narrative is engaging and free-flowing and the mystery builds up with lots of action and at times with lots of different motives.

The pacing of the book is really fast as the story jumps from one location to another. The setting of the book is a sight for the sore eyes of the readers. The author have projected the picturesque backdrop of Sandhamn islands with vividness, she not only captured the landscape, but also it's people, customs and culture. And her arresting details of this quaint island transported me straight into that location.

The characters, both the main and the supporting ones, are depicted with realism and are quite well-developed. The main characters, Thomas and Nora, both are fighting with their personal issues and loss, thus making them look sympathetic in the eyes of the readers. Thomas is recovering from his divorce and the death of his newborn daughter, whereas Nora, managed to acquire her dream job in a different city, which requires the whole family to shift their base, not only that, her husband does not respect her choices, yet she is sacrificing every other day against her happiness. Thomas, along with Nora's help, tries to solve the case and both of them are equally strong and brave.

The POV shifts from Thomas to Nora, thus letting the readers see through the main characters and to comprehend with their choices and demeanor. In, short, the characters are interesting and the mystery is a bit predictable yet unraveling. Occasional mystery readers will fall for this book, and the seasonal ones will find it brain-twisting but easy to anticipate the murder plot.

Verdict: *A riveting Swedish thriller that will take you to the serene and green island of Sandhamn!*

Courtesy: *Thanks to the author, Viveca Sten, for giving me an opportunity to read and review this book.*

LindaJ^ says

2.5 rounded to 2 stars.

This was a Kindle free book. It is translated from Swedish. Thomas and Nora are lifelong friends. Thomas is a policeman; Nora is a lawyer who works for a bank and is married to Henrich and has two kids. Thomas is recently divorced after he and his wife lost their first child and he is just starting to be able to think clearly. There is no romance between Thomas and Nora, they are just good friends. Nora and Henrich spend their summers on Sandhamn Island.

One summer, 3 people turn up dead in a short period of time. By the third death, foul play is very much on everyone's mind. The first two to die were cousins but there is no obvious connection with the third man. The story does not focus solely on the investigation into the deaths. The read is also subjected to a family quarrel between Nora and Heinrich, which is not resolved when the book ends.

I won't be seeking out any of the other books in this series.

Nadine Jones says

Whoa there are EIGHTY books on Goodreads titled "Still Waters." That's not even counting variations such as "Beneath Still Waters" and "By Still Waters," etc.

The trite title should've served as warning.

1 star because this disappointed me so much I became angry.

I've been trying to read more books that have been translated into English, running on the theory that a publisher bothered to hire a translator,, it must be really good, cream of the crop. Well. This book proves that rule wrong! This is so trite and plodding. The writing is the sort I expect to find in those old free *Silhouette* romances.

I hesitate to bash a translated book due to its writing, since of course the translator had a hand in it too, but I believe my complaints go back to the original author's choices, not the translator's. It's possible that the translator is partly responsible for the wooden dialogue, but that's all. The translator didn't choose to have Nora look at herself in the mirror and describe her appearance (including the state of her breasts - what is with this breast obsession? I don't give a crap what her breasts look like! ... I also didn't need to read that the dead woman was naked except for red panties, and her breasts were lying slack - how does that add to the story at all??? It doesn't!). The translator didn't choose to describe Thomas's renovation choices to his cottage (completely new bathroom and a loft bedroom!). The translator didn't choose to go into agonizing detail on Nora's husband's job, hobbies, and habits, and the annoying qualities of his parents. These are all authorial choices.

For example, chapter 35: LOTS of descriptions of Thomas's office furniture (birch), the tea he chooses to make himself (earl grey, with two teaspoons of sugar and a drop of milk) and reflection (again) on how much he misses his ex wife and how horrible it was when his daughter died (which has nothing to do with this mystery), and nothing about what's in the report he reads on Kicki's lab results, just that it complicates things and the prosecutor will need to hear it. How about we hear it??? I'm so tired of this bizarrely coy style *-it does not add to the mystery to tell the reader the characters do and see and think things and not describe those things to the reader!*

Then, chapter 36, an example of the flat dialogue (which may or may not be the fault of the translator):

Carina was next to them with her pen at the ready. Thomas noticed that she was wearing a barrette, but a few strands of hair had escaped. Her pink blouse looked pretty against her tanned skin.

Carina pointed to a plate in the middle of the table. "Help yourself to a cinnamon Danish, Thomas. I passed a bakery on the way in, and I thought a treat might help."

Thomas nodded. "Thanks. Anything that raises the blood sugar and provides energy is welcome."

I hate Carina and I don't want to hear about the danishes! Who talks like that????

And Nora's job interview (which moved the plot forward in no way whatsoever) blew my mind, because here in the USA it is illegal for a prospective employer to ask you about your spouse or your family situation in general. Maybe it's different in Sweden.

Things that had nothing to do with the plot (spoiler-tagging in case you REALLY don't want to know):
(view spoiler)

Alaina Meserole says

Still Waters was such a good audio book. However, some of the characters really annoyed me. It was probably how they acted at something in certain situations or how they were throughout the entire book. Either way those characters really made me dislike some of this book.

The one thing about this book that I really enjoyed and had no problem with was the overall mystery. I had no clue who the murderer was the entire time. I also didn't even try to guess mostly because I'm terrible at guessing who the actual murder suspect is in these books. The overall mystery probably saved this book from being DNF'd by me because I kept thinking about.

The whole wanting to actually DNF a book was kind of mind blowing for me. I have never wanted to DNF any book I've ever read but the constant distractions or annoyances about the detectives relationships and such were kind of annoying. If I could skim or speed up my narrator I would've but I didn't because I wanted to see how this was all going to play out.

Thomas and Nora were kind of meh to me. I didn't really care about their personal lives and how it was interwoven with the "mysterious deaths". Nora's marriage problems were intriguing to read about but her husband was a selfish asshole. So I quickly got annoyed anytime he was mentioned. Then there's Thomas's personal issues and I was just kind of done with these two.

Overall, I was completely shocked by the ending. I really enjoyed the audio book because it made work bearable even with the annoying situations or characters popping up. I get that their personal lives were supposed to distract us from the whole mystery murderer case but I just wanted to get to the murder and suspect a lot quicker than I did.

Richard Derus says

Rating: 3.5* of five, rounded up

I downloaded this onto my Kindle when it was a Kindle First offering about three years ago. It finally snagged my attention. I think it finally got me because, when I opened it, I read this:

The department's coffeemaker produced a liquid that was positively toxic. How Margit could knock it back in such quantities was a mystery. Thomas had switched to drinking tea for the first time in his life because of it.

THOMAS!! RUN!! Run fast and run far, no good can ever come from a place where the coffee is so bad that *retch* *tea* *shudder* is a better beverage option!

glowers Blightyward Y'all got nothin' to say here, Brits, you gave the world chattel slavery, John Bull, and cricket, and kept National Health Service, Cornwall, and Prince Harry!

Thomas Andreasson is from Harö in the Stockholm archipelago's unfashionable bit, or at least it wasn't fashionable when he was a lad. His world has been upended in so many ways in recent months, his life as a husband and father is over without warning or any desire for it to be so, his best friend Nora is suddenly

among murderers on their shared childhood home of Sandhamn, and he's got no clues to solve the suspicious death followed by sure and certain murder, followed by *very* suspicious death and bring the killer to justice.

So he plods along, doing responsible policework, following leads that don't lead, until he is weary of the routine as well as of the whole enterprise of staying alive. We switch PoV characters a good bit in this book, but Thomas is the policeman so he gets most of the tedious legwork in the story. His senior partner, Margit, is dying to spend the short, sweet Swedish summer with her husband and teenaged daughters somewhere south. This case is foiling her desire to get away. Interestingly, Thomas has no issue with Margit being the lead in the case; he's never once shown being resentful of her authority, but once feels a bit downhearted when she corrects an error he's made...because he made the error, not because a woman corrected him. This was refreshing.

One lead, found by Thomas' lovely young colleague (and clearly intended to be love interest) Carina, takes him and Margit to a self-made man's home on Sandhamn. Thomas' past on the island makes the appearance of the house grating to him, and Margit's social conscience shows up for a pleasant interlude:

Apart from the white eaves and steps, every last piece of timber was nauseatingly green. Without the eaves and steps you could easily have imagined you were standing in front of a giant marzipan cake. Only the rose was missing.

"I've never seen such a fine example of nouveau riche." (said Margit)

We see that a lot on the South Shore of Long Island. It's the arrivistes buying old cottages and slapping down out-of-proportion McMansions onto their zero-lot-line dreams of seaside living. Dreadfully familiar to anyone living by a water feature. Thomas doesn't like the house and really doesn't like the man in it...there is something *wrong* with a person who moves to a strong, distinctive community like Sandhamn and flouts every tradition and norm that makes the place itself!

But then there's Nora, whose roots on Sandhamn go way back before even Thomas' do. She doesn't like this new reality at all, and doesn't like the cultural shift it represents. She feels it as an affront to her core principles, as we're told directly:

It gave Nora the unpleasant feeling that everything was for sale. Everything could be bought or sold.

Sandhamn is more than a place to Nora, it's a life and a lifestyle she feels is hers down to her very core. These values agree with mine. I approve of them and wish there were more Noras in the world.

So what the hell drew her to the insensitive clod of a scion of the booboisie that she married?!

Henrik just didn't get it. He was blind and deaf to any hint that his mother might not be the best mother-in-law in the world. Nora gave in.

Now she had been offered her dream job, and he didn't even seem to want to discuss it. It wasn't fair.

Why challenge Henrik, instead of paying attention to the clear signals he had given her?

I found this infuriating. Which is it, Author Sten, Nora's a modern woman or a housewife? She started their marriage with compromises on where they'd live, what he'd be expected to do as a parent, and somehow thought he'd magically divine that she was seriously convinced he'd do the same for her?! Why?! How?! Begin as you mean to go on, Nora. Was it Mary Poppins who said that first, or just most famously? Anyway, there was absolutely no reason to think Henrik would ever be anything but his parents' son, since he never made a single solitary peep of dissatisfaction with them and the way they live(d) their lives. Oh! Oh! And then there's her best friend, Thomas, whose reaction to Henrik should've made Nora run screaming:

There was an underlying distance between the two men that never quite disappeared in spite of the fact that they had known each other for a long time. Henrik's upper-middle-class background and deeply conservative values didn't exactly improve matters.

There's no way in hell that didn't show in Thomas' responses to Henrik over the years. So lay off the shockhorror about the way the reactionary poltroon responds to your desire to do something for yourself, lady, he's never been different and expecting him to change will only make both of you and your kids angry and upset and end up in divorce. Skip the middle bit: Get the divorce, start the new life, and make sure the kids know *why* mommy left daddy without rancorous vituperative invective flowing from you. Him, you can't affect. As should be obvious to you by now.

The two sleuths are close friends and each has made a hash of their personal life. This isn't familiar at all, is it. But it's an evergreen for a reason, since it gives the author a great line of attack to keep series readers reading. Nora's marriage is doomed, Thomas' relationship with Carina is doomed, the whole island of Sandhamn...faithless to the crime statistics for Nordic countries...will soon be hip deep in dead bodies, much more will be made of Nora's diabetes (which figures in the action but not the resolution of this book), and if there is a just and merciful gawd Nora's mother-in-law will be savagely torn to bits by ravening wild dogs on live television.

Translator Delargy, based in the UK, uses some tricks to keep the prose feeling uniquely Sten's own. One is the use of a nonstandard form of the verb "to get hold (of)", viz. "ahold." In spoken words I'm not averse to this formulation of the verb, but it abounds in this book and I found it irksome after the sixth or seventh usage. It's purely a personal twitch, no knock on the skills Delargy brought to bear on the Englishing of the book. I am on record many places as despising the unnecessary and ungainly "u"ification of perfectly simple words like "valor" and "honor" so I needn't go into why that made me flinch every time I ran across it. Delargy does a creditable job making Sten's words readable in English, and that's no mean feat, so kudos to you Madam.

The world has lots and lots of gritty Scandicrime. You can hardly open your Kindle without being offered some more gritty Scandicrime. What the world doesn't have is cozy Scandicrime. Sten's involving debut novel is both pine-scented Scandi and cozy, sense-of-place crime. I like that about it and it's what will cause me to seek out the next book in the series.

So switch your mental gears to Swedish cozy. Step out of the Vauxhall and into the Volvo station wagon.

Tulay says

Enjoyed the story.

Slow going story, I enjoyed the location and reading about the lighthouses. Googled and learned more about them. Murders in this small island and relationship between husbands and wives. Who and why the murders

was shocking.

PennyLady (Bev) says

kindle first

3.5 ★

Sandhamn (Sweden's idyllic vacation island)...Police detective Thomas Andreasson and childhood friend, local lawyer Nora Linde.

Maxwell says

A decent domestic mystery. I liked the mix of a policeman and a lawyer, but I felt like the characters were just starting to develop when the book ended. I'd be willing to continue with the series just to see what happens with their personal lives, but I won't be rushing to get to book #2.

Melodie says

This was a kindle first selection some time ago that's just been laying there waiting to be read. Most of the kindle first selections are just so-so. This was an exception. A mystery set in Sweden, enjoyable with interesting character backgrounds and subplots. I might even check out the series that is evidently on Hulu!

Chris says

You know that old adage, "the book is always better". This is a case in point. I picked this up because I recently got Hulu, and the TV series based on these books is something I watched. While I enjoyed the series, I thought Nora was dumb and while she didn't deserve to be smacked, her innocence act was over the top because she was kissing the man her husband accused her of crushing on. The television series (at least the 3 seasons that were up on Hulu), seemed to highlight Nora as damsel in distress, and despite claims to having a job, she didn't seem to do anything. That is not the case in the book. The book takes place on the famous summering island of Sweden. In other words, it is the Swedish version of Cabot Cove or Midsummer. Nora's oldest friend, Thomas, is an investigator called into to deal with a found body. Nora's primary concern in the book isn't so much the mystery, but the conflicts of working and family, in particular the feeling that her husband does not consider her career in any meaningful way. It actually makes for a nice change. And unlike the series, Nora actually talks to a woman as equals. The ending also works better here.

Denise says

A good detective story that was a Kindle First download, I found this Viveca Sten novel to be long on characterizations (they were excellent and believable) even if a bit short (or somewhat predictable) in terms of plot. I also enjoyed the scenic descriptions -- never having been to Sweden, I felt like the author described the settings so that you could really imagine the seaside towns and the archipelago. I also liked the way all of the questions were answered by the end of the book. Thanks for the opportunity to read it!

SweetSweede says

I should probably start by mentioning I read this book in Swedish, i.e. its original language, and my native tongue. I had seen several movies/TV mini series based on this series of books and enjoyed them very much. Therefore, I knew who the killer was and their motive before I started reading the book. Fortunately for me, I'm horrible at solving mysteries, and my memory is sketchy at best (sorry officer, I can't tell you what I was doing last Wednesday afternoon at 6.05. I can't even tell you what I was doing five minutes before you asked me that question). My inability to figure mysteries out lets me enjoy reading mysteries, as I never find the clues and am always surprised at the outcome. Even when I've read/seen it all before.

One of the quotes on the back of the book state that this debut novel secures Ms. Sten a place among Swedish mystery writers. Well...I've read a few popular authors and I haven't been that impressed. Nor am I particularly impressed by this one. That said, I still enjoyed it and it's a great read for an afternoon on the veranda or at the beach. Personally, I prefer English mysteries. Maybe it's because I mostly read (and write) in English that I find so many faults with my own native tongue, as it is quite limited when it comes to the sheer number of words available.

The chapters are really short. At the beginning, this annoyed me, having heard so much about needing a minimum of 4,000 words per chapter and worked really hard on achieving that myself, but after a while, I saw the appeal. It gave the effect of 'oh, the next chapter is only a few pages, I can read one more before I go to bed'.

I read a review that said the characters weren't drawn well enough, and I don't know if they were. Because I'd seen the movie, I knew the characters already, so I didn't reflect too much on it while reading. In retrospect, though, I'd say they could have used more flesh on their bones. But I often find this lacking in multi-POV stories. It's a style and it takes getting used to.

All in all, it was a good read and I enjoyed it. I've bought the whole series, so I'll read them all. After that, I'll go back to my strict English-speaking 'diet'.

Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Η μ?δα των καιρ?ν μας επιτ?σσει η σ?γχρονη αστυνομικ? λογοτεχν?α να περιστρ?φεται γ?ρω απ? ψυχοπαθε?ς δολοφ?νους που σκοτ?νουν κατ? συρρο?ν, απ? ανθρ?πους με ?ντονα προβληματικ? παρελθ?ν, απ? τα παιδικ? τους κι?λας χρ?νια, τους οπο?ους κυνηγ?νε ευφυ?στατοι επιθεωρητ?ς που, ?μως, βασαν?ζονται απ? τους προσωπικο?ς τους δα?μονες, ε?ναι εθισμ?νοι σε ουσ?ες, κ?πως αντικοινωνικο? αλλ? την ?δια στιγμ? εξαιρετικ? γοητευτικο?. Αυτ? το μοτ?βο φα?νεται να

προσπαθε? να "σπ?σει" η Viveca Sten, που αν και Σκανδιναβ?, ακολουθε? μια διαφορετικ? προσ?γγιση, εστι?ζοντας περισσ?τερο στον ανθρω?πινο παρ?γοντα, μ?σα απ? ?να κοινωνικ? και ενδοοικογενειακ? πρ?σμα, θυμ?ζοντας, κ?πως, σε επ?πεδο αισθητικ?ς του λ?χιστον, τα νου?ρ μιας ?λλης εποχ?ς.

Χρησιμοποι?ντας ως τ?πο δρ?σης το νησ? Σαντχ?μν που βρ?σκεται στο αρχιπ?λαγος της Στοκχ?λμης, το μ?ρος ?που ζει και η ?δια, η Sten ξεκιν?ει ν' αφηγεται μια ιστορ?α που φ?νεται να ?χει μια αρκετ? κοιν? εισαγωγ?. ?νας ?ντρας βρ?σκεται νεκρ?ς, με το ?ψυχο σ?μα του να ?χει ξεβραστε? μπλεμ?νο σ' ?να δ?χτυ. Η τοπικ? κοινων?α δεν τον αναγνωρ?ζει, αλλ? σ?ντομα αποκαλ?πτεται η ταυτ?τητ? του, αλλ? αυτ? που δεν ε?ναι ξεκ?θαρο ε?ναι η αιτ?α του θαν?του του. Οφε?λεται, ?ραγε, σε εγκληματικ? εν?ργεια, πρ?κειται για αυτοκτον?α ? για ?να φρικτ? ατ?χημα; Η πεπο?θηση πως ?χουμε να κ?νουμε με δολοφον?α ενισχ?εται ?ταν η ξαδ?ρφη του θ?ματος βρ?σκεται ?για δολοφονημ?νη σε μια πανσι?ν, γεγον?ς που δεν φαντ?ζει και τ?σο τυχα?ο. Την υπ?θεση αναλαμβ?νει ο υπαστυν?μος Τ?μας Αντρ?ασσον, που αν και δεν ?χει εμπειρ?α απ? αν?λογες περιπτ?σεις, καλε?ται να βρει τη λ?ση του μυστηρ?ου.

Το "Κ?τω απ' τα ?συχά νερ?" ε?ναι το πρ?το βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς με γενικ? τ?τλο "Sandhamn", που αν και εκδ?θηκε το 2008, ?σχετα απ' το αν κυκλοφ?ρησε σχετικ? πρ?σφάτα στη χ?ρα μας, παρουσι?ζει τα δ?ο πρ?σωπα της Σουηδ?ας, που σ?μερα μπορε? να ε?ναι αρκετ? ξεκ?θαρά, τ?τε, ?μως, ?χι και τ?σο. Η Sten μ?σα απ' την ιστορ?α της αυτ? δεν επιχειρε? να αναπτ?ξει ?να εξαιρετικ? ειδεχθ?ς ?γκλημα που ?χει τις ρ?ζες του σε μια διαστροφικ? μαν?α, αλλ? στα εγκληματικ? ?νστικτα που μπορο?ν ν' αναπτυχθο?ν καθαρ? λ?γω συνθηκ?ν. Ουσιαστικ?, αποτελε? μια κοινωνικ? κριτικ? η οπο?α εξηγ? β?μα προς β?μα για ποιους λ?γους μπορε? να οδηγηθε? στο ?γκλημα, ?χι μ?νο κ?ποιος που ?χει εν γ?νει την τ?ση προς σ' αυτ?, αλλ? ο κ?θε ?νθρωπος, κυριευμ?νος ε?τε απ? εκδικητικ? ε?τα απ? ?πληστα ?νστικτα.

Το γεγον?ς πως η συγγραφ?ας επιλ?γει να περιορ?σει τ?σο αυστηρ? τον τ?πο δρ?σης και εξ?λιξης της ιστορ?ας της, δημιουργε? ?να αποπνικτικ? α?σθημα, εν? παρ?λληλα επιτυγχ?νει να μας κ?νει να εστι?σουμε στα πρ?σωπα αυτ?ς, ε?τε φ?νεται να σχετ?ζονται ?μεσα με το ?γκλημα ε?τε ?χι. Αυτ? μας επιτρ?πει, ?πως προαν?φερα, να ?χουμε μια πιο ξεκ?θαρη εικ?να της κοινων?ας και το πως αυτ? λειτουργε?, ? και ασφυκτι?, κ?τω απ? τις υπ?ρχουσες συνθ?κες που ε?τε σε καθιστο?ν ?ναν ευτυχισμ?νο ε?τε ?ναν δυστυχισμ?νο ?νθρωπο. Δεν υπ?ρχουν μεσα?ες καταστ?σεις, παρ? μον?χα ?κρα, αλλ? σε ?ποιο απ' αυτ? κι αν βρ?σκεσαι, τ?ποτα δεν μπορε? να διασφαλ?σει την ασφ?λεια ? την ευημερ?α σου, γεγον?ς που σε προβληματ?ζει και σε κ?νει να αναλογ?ζεσαι το σ?μερα και τις συνθ?κες που το καθορ?ζουν.

Δεν μπορ? να ισχυριστ? πως η πλοκ? ρ?ει αβ?αστα, ο?τε πως το μυθιστ?ρημα αυτ? χαρακτηρ?ζεται απ? ?ντονες εξελ?ξεις και ανατροπ?ς που σου κ?βουν την αν?σα, πιθανολογ?, ?μως, πως η πρ?θεση της συγγραφ?ως δεν ?ταν να δημιουργ?σει ?να ακ?μα κοιν?τυπο αστυνομικ? ?ργο, αλλ? μια κριτικ? π?νω στη ζω? των Σκανδιναβ?ν στο σ?μερα, που δεν ε?ναι και τ?σο ρ?δινη και ονειρεμ?νη ?σο, ?σως, θ?λούμε να πιστε?ουμε οι υπ?λοιπο Ευρωπα?οι, και ?χι μ?νο. Σ?γουρα προσφ?ρει τροφ? για σκ?ψη, και προβληματισμ?, σ?γουρα ?χει ?να κ?ποιο ενδιαφ?ρον, και ακ?μα πιο σ?γουρο ε?ναι το γεγον?ς πως στο μ?λλον θ' αναζητ?σω κι ?λλα ?ργα της θ?λοντας να δω πως θα εξελιχθε?, ?χι μ?νο η ?δια συγγραφικ?, αλλ? και οι ?ρω?ς της.

Dale Harcombe says

Three and a half stars

While walking his dog on the island of Sandhamn a man finds a body tangled in a fishing net. Police detective Thomas Andreasson seeks to uncover whether this is an accident, suicide or murder. But then another body turns up. It is the dead man's cousin. Suddenly, it seems the two deaths are related and there is a murderer on the loose.

One of the other main characters is Nora Linde, married to Henrik and a close friend to Thomas. Both these main characters were well developed although Nora certainly needed to stand up for herself more, especially when it came to her husband. He is a selfish, domineering man with no concern for his wife's needs. The Swedish island setting is well done.

I wouldn't call this a fast paced mystery but it was interesting enough for me to want to keep reading and follow the trails the story takes. Towards the end it definitely gets fast paced though and perhaps a little farfetched, I thought. This was my first read by this author and I quite enjoyed it and may look for more in the series.

Nathalie Bakelandt says

Een nieuwe favoriete schrijfster gevonden. Prachtig verhaal in een leuke omgeving en verweven spanning. Op naar de volgende delen
