



The Troubled Man (Kurt Wallander Mysteries)

By Henning Mankell

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The much-anticipated return of Henning Mankell's brilliant, brooding detective, Kurt Wallander.

On a winter day in 2008, Håkan von Enke, a retired high-ranking naval officer, vanishes during his daily walk in a forest near Stockholm. The investigation into his disappearance falls under the jurisdiction of the Stockholm police. It has nothing to do with Wallander—officially. But von Enke is his daughter's future father-in-law. And so, with his inimitable disregard for normal procedure, Wallander is soon interfering in matters that are not his responsibility, making promises he won't keep, telling lies when it suits him—and getting results. But the results hint at elaborate Cold War espionage activities that seem inextricably confounding, even to Wallander, who, in any case, is troubled in more personal ways as well. Negligent of his health, he's become convinced that, having turned sixty, he is on the threshold of senility. Desperate to live up to the hope that a new granddaughter represents, he is continually haunted by his past. And looking toward the future with profound uncertainty, he will have no choice but to come face-to-face with his most intractable adversary: himself.

From the Hardcover edition.

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The Troubled Man (Kurt Wallander Mysteries) By Henning Mankell Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2076383 in Books
- Published on: 2011-03-29
- Released on: 2011-03-29
- Formats: Audiobook, Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 14
- Dimensions: 1.68" h x 5.23" w x 5.83" l, .84 pounds
- Running time: 1020 minutes
- Binding: Audio CD

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In Mankell's masterful 11th novel featuring Kurt Wallander (and likely the last in this internationally bestselling series, according to Sonny Mehta's note to the reader), the 60-year-old Swedish detective unofficially pursues a baffling case that's part mystery, part spy thriller. At the 75th birthday party for Håkan von Enke (the "troubled man" of the title), von Enke, a retired Swedish naval commander, tells Wallander about a 1980 incident involving an unidentified submarine that "invaded Swedish territorial waters." Von Enke was about to fire depth charges to bring the sub to the surface when higher-ups ordered him to abort. A few days after von Enke confides in the detective, he disappears; shortly after, his wife goes missing as well. As Wallander's quest for the truth leads him back to the era of cold war espionage, Mankell (*Firewall*) deftly interweaves the problems of Swedish society with the personal challenges of one man trying to understand what happened and why. 150,000 first printing; 5-city author tour. (Mar.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Readers whose knowledge of Scandinavian crime fiction goes beyond Stieg Larsson know that it was Henning Mankell who jump-started what has developed into a 20-year golden age. Mankell's latest novel, the final volume in his Kurt Wallander series, represents a landmark moment in the genre comparable to the swan songs of Ian Rankin's John Rebus (*Exit Music*, 2008) and John Harvey's Charlie Resnick (*Cold in Hand*, 2008). We pick up Wallander's story with the aging inspector feeling his 60-plus years and suffering from memory problems that lead to his suspension from the Ystad police force. With time on his hands, Wallander throws himself into solving the disappearance of his daughter's father-in-law, a former Swedish submarine commander obsessed with an incident from the 1980s involving the detection of Soviet submarines in Swedish waters. Wallander's digging into the commander's life leads toward what appears to be a cold war scandal that could rock the current government. As Wallander strives to determine if the commander's public persona bears any relation to his private self, he launches another, more poignant investigation into his own past. Has he always been the man he feels he has become—"filled with self-pity, a thoroughly pathetic figure"—or does his past tell a different story? This is a deeply melancholy novel, at times painful to read, but Mankell, sweeping gracefully between reflections on international politics and meditations on the inevitable arc of human life, never lets his story become engulfed by darkness. Always a reticent man, Wallander shows an intensity of emotion here, a last gasp of felt life, that is both moving and oddly inspiring. An unforgettable series finale. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: The swan song of a much-loved series is always a big event, and thanks to the PBS series based on the Wallander novels, this one has some extra frisson. Expect off-the-book-page coverage on NPR and major print outlets as well as a widespread online advertising campaign. --Bill Ott

Review

"It's an unforgettable finale . . . As satisfying for its emotional depth as its suspense . . . A gripping mystery."
—*People* (four stars)

"With his new Wallander novel Mankell ups his game and enters John le Carré territory. Not only does *The Troubled Man* widen the scope of the detective's investigations into the world of international geopolitics and the relationship of Sweden to the U.S. and Russia, it is a work of genuine heft and substance, a melancholy, elegiac book that is thoughtful and perceptive about memory, regret and the unfathomability of human nature . . . Marvelously astute about behavior and motivation, Mankell has created in Wallander a shambling central character whose unconventional personality is at least as compelling as the crimes he

investigates . . . We can feel Mankell consciously saying goodbye to these people [from Wallander's past] and that he will regret not writing about them as much as we will miss reading about them. Which is more, really, than words can say."

—*Los Angeles Times*

"An absorbing and exciting work . . . The unique nature of *The Troubled Man* is how its two concerns—the search for the missing ex-officer, and Wallander's emotional history and physical health—run along parallel (sometimes conjoining) tracks . . . The resulting book is at once richer in personal detail and more suspenseful than either a work of strictly mainstream fiction or a simple police novel could be. Mankell remains in the vanguard of those writers taking the crime story back to its origins in the realistic novel."

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Readers whose knowledge of Scandinavian crime fiction goes beyond Stieg Larsson know that it was Henning Mankell who jump-started what has developed into a twenty-year Golden Age. Mankell's latest novel, the final volume in his Kurt Wallander series, represents a landmark moment in the genre comparable to the swan songs of Ian Rankin's John Rebus and John Harvey's Charlie Resnick . . . Moving and oddly inspiring. An unforgettable series finale."

—*Booklist* (starred)

"Wallander makes a riveting [11th] appearance . . . Though shivering in the winter of his discontent, Wallander will grip the reader hard . . . He is that rare thing: a true original."

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

"Masterful . . . Mankell deftly interweaves the problems of Swedish society with the personal challenges of one man trying to understand what happened and why."

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred)

International praise:

"A magnificent finale . . . Wallander finds himself embroiled in John le Carré-style cold war machinations . . . It's to be hoped that Mankell may be persuaded to revive his grumpy Nordic inspector . . . He's far too good to lose."

—Ian Thomson, *Financial Times* (UK)

"*The Troubled Man* delivers in full as a whodunit, as all the Wallander books do . . . [It] brings in all the elements his fans would hope for . . . *The Troubled Man* is a sorrowful—how could it not be?—but fully satisfying conclusion to a great series. No Mankell reader will think of missing it."

—David Sexton, *Evening Standard* (UK)

"The best of Mankell's books, without a doubt . . . A magisterial farewell."

—*El Periódico* (Spain)

"By far the most touching Wallander novel."

—*Brigitte* (Germany)

"The anchor of Wallander's personality ensures that *The Troubled Man* operates as a good, gritty procedural . . . Mankell is undoubtedly a skilled writer with plenty of breadth, but it's clear that his subtleties of character, plot, and pace achieve greatest expression in the Wallander series."

—James Urquhart, *Independent on Sunday* (UK)

“With *The Troubled Man*, Mankell must have known he had to deliver something really special and that is precisely what he has done. This is a perfect valedictory novel if, that is, we believe Mankell won’t find some way to reactivate his hero . . . Fears the final appearance of a beloved character would be an anticlimax are quickly banished and it seems Mankell has worked hard to ensure his customary storytelling engines are firing on all cylinders, delivering one of the richest tomes in the Wallander canon.”

—Barry Forshaw, *Daily Express* (UK)

“Mankell has created a singular character with this policeman named Kurt Wallander, with whom he has reshaped the history of the European crime novel.”

—*La Razón* (Spain)

“The curtain falls for Kurt Wallander and it’s time to give him a standing ovation. If anyone doubted that he would become a classic, this final act proves it.”

—*Qué Leer* (Spain)

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hattie Jasso:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book untitled *The Troubled Man* (Kurt Wallander Mysteries) can be good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Willie Navarro:

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John Stevenson:

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