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# Henning Mankell

## Os Cães de Riga (Kurt Wallander #2)



Title: Os Cães de Riga (Kurt Wallander #2)

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Format: Paperback

Language: Portuguese

Pages: 270

Publisher: Editorial Presença, 1036137600

ISBN: 9722329464

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 6.6 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

Fevereiro de 1991. Um barco salva-vidas oriundo da Letónia dá à costa no Sul da Suécia transportando dois cadáveres. A polícia de Ystead, liderada pelo detective Kurt Wallander, procede de imediato às investigações; e quando o pesadelo parece ter chegado ao fim, sucede mais um crime, desta vez vitimando um major letão que cooperava com a polícia. Determinado a desvendar toda a verdade, Kurt Wallander segue para Riga, na Letónia, e acaba por descobrir que se tornou alvo de uma conspiração intimamente ligada às dramáticas mudanças dos Estados Bálticos.

Wallander tem pela frente uma missão perigosa, capaz de desafiar os limites da coragem.

## Insightful reviews

Lobstergirl: This was an engaging mystery, with two dead bodies found drifting in an inflatable raft in the ocean and Wallander his usual charming glum self, until the setting moved from Sweden to Latvia. I just couldn't get interested in the shadowy, dangerous, corrupt, gray, Soviet-controlled landscape the way Mankell had written it. And my image of a woman who would have the name Baiba Liepa is a fat housewife wearing a babushka, simmering pigs feet in a big cauldron in her yard next to her Lada up on cinder blocks, so it was a stretch for me to picture Wallander falling in love with her. Many things in the last 70 pages of the book are beyond a stretch, as Wallander hatches one farfetched plot after another and they all pan out, and Mankell prods us clumsily as Wallander thinks repeatedly to himself, "This is so crazy, it just might work." The only believable moment - the Wallander we know and love resurfacing - is when his bowels begin to churn uncontrollably and he stops to take a dump in a trashcan in the Riga state police archives.

Lance Charnes: You may have gathered from my other reviews (such as [here](#) and [here](#)) that the Scandinoir tsunami has broken on either side of me and left me largely unmoved. I'm tired of protagonists who are incompetent at the business of being human beings and stories full of characters who are all broken doves. So it could be that my reaction to *The Dogs of Riga* -- author Mankell's second Wallander novel -- is one of relief in finding an entry in this genre that didn't make me want to open a vein.

Inspector Kurt Wallander, Our Hero, is a detective in a provincial town in southern Sweden. When two murdered Latvians wash up on his shores in a life raft, he ends up falling down a rabbit hole trying to solve the crime and the associated murder of his Latvian counterpart, whom he befriended earlier in the story.

As seems to be the case among the Scandinavian authors I've read, Mankell is more concerned with characterization than he is with setting. We spend extensive time inside Wallander's head, and the other characters are well-realized and feel authentic. The dialog is likewise realistic and serves to both move the plot and further the characterizations. However, if you don't know what Ystad (Our Hero's hometown) looks like before reading this, you won't be any better informed afterwards. To be fair, Mankell spends more time describing Riga than he does any other location, possibly because Wallander is seeing it for the first time, and possibly because it was

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still considered exotic in 1992 when this book first appeared in Sweden.

It's impossible to overlook the fact that when Mankell wrote this book, the dust from the fallen Berlin Wall was still blowing through central Europe and the post-Soviet era was both new and fragile. Much of the plot hinges on the political upheaval in the Baltic states and the possible threat posed by ex-Soviet hardliners wanting their empire back. That we know how this all worked out doesn't detract from the story, though, in the same way that knowing the interwar years in Europe wrecked on the twin shoals of fascism and war doesn't take away from the experience of reading an Alan Furst novel.

I use that comparison advisedly, because *The Dogs of Riga* is as much a novel of intrigue as it is a police procedural -- perhaps even more so. Without giving too much away: Wallander finds himself involved with Latvian dissidents who are trying to resist the old-regime *apparatchiks* who are working to throttle Latvian democracy in its crib. There are midnight meetings, shadows to be evaded, secret messages to be passed, and a fair amount of skulking around that wouldn't be out of place in a spy novel. As a result, Wallander isn't nearly as much a human wreck as he was in *Faceless Killers*, and most of the non-Swedish characters are likewise *acting* rather than wallowing in their various dysfunctions.

It's this atypical excursion into political intrigue that salvaged this book for me. Wallander is still too dithery and diffident to really engage me as a protagonist, and the general bleakness wears after a while. It could simply be that after my various other excursions with Larsson, Nesbo and Mankell, this genre is lost to me. If you're a fan, you'll probably enjoy it more than I did. I may read the next Wallander tale sometime in the future, but not soon. Three and a half stars, rounded down.

Kat: I wondered why the Kenneth Branagh productions had failed to film, "The Dogs of Riga"; now I have a good appreciation for why they gave it a miss.

Although this book appears to borrow the concept of displaced detective in a foreign land from, "The Man Who Went Up In Smoke" by Sjowall and Wahloo, it ends there.

Wallander's experience of Riga, Latvia is nothing short of outrageous. He is thrown into situations that appear highly unlikely and which push our sense of belief to the absolute limit. Although Wallander's character himself, periodically reflects on the absurdity of his predicament, it does nothing to allow us to accept what he's going through.

This is Wallander meets James Bond and it for me, at least, it just does not work.

The "dogs" motif is overused and stretched to its utter limits to the point of being ridiculous when Wallander witnesses a fight between an Alsatian and a mongrel. Mankell even throws in a bloated dead cat and some mice!

The beginning of the book had me intrigued and fascinated, but by the end, I just wanted

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Wallander to get the heck out of Riga!

Have you read this book? What did you think?

Linda: leader Inspector Kurt Wallander leaves the comforts of his domestic turf during this moment access during this stellar series. bullet-riddled corpses in a existence raft wash up at the coast close to Ystad, and it quickly turns into transparent to Wallander's group that they're no longer Swedes. Latvian seems their nationality, and a detective from that country, significant Liepa, is distributed in to consult. Kurt and his men are relieved (who desires to tangle with the Russian Mafia?) whilst Liepa takes complete responsibility, returning to Latvia to proceed the investigation. In a gorgeous development, Liepa himself is murdered at the similar day he arrives home, and now it really is Wallander who's assigned to refer to in Riga. Wallander is a skilled detective and a superb man, yet within the unusual new international of post-Soviet Latvia, he is out of his point and overwhelmed. quickly he realizes that he is being 24 hours an afternoon (by a number of the canine of the title), and from what the Latvian police have shared with him, Kurt senses that whatever is very flawed with their story, and it scares him. yet he loved significant Liepa, and while he meets his widow, Baiba, Kurt grows made up our minds to discover and disclose the truth. What unfolds is a story of the grimness of lifestyles within the jap Bloc, the place the liberty that used to be promised through the dying of the Soviet Union has no longer been accepted to blossom. The canine of Riga is an element police procedural, half undercover agent novel, and half social commentary. Henning Mankell often writes round a theme, and likewise to Wallander's loneliness and persistent angst (makes one ask yourself why his health practitioner by no means steered a very good antidepressant), the bleak forces of totalitarianism, prepared crime, and govt and political corruption, towards which Western Europeans and americans wish to flip a blind eye, colour each part of this gray, grey novel. Even Wallander's charm to Baiba Liepa is fraught with issues that will by no means be an issue had they met again in Sweden. it's the social observation that makes this novel so compelling. canines used to be initially released in 1991, purely translated into English 4 years later, yet there's little cause to suspect that lifestyles in jap Europe has stronger any. Mankell has performed a superlative task in bringing this subject to the eye of his readers. that isn't to claim that canine is not anything greater than a lifeless political diatribe; at the contrary, it is a respectable mystery in each experience of the word.

Kemper: terrible previous Kurt Wallander. I simply are looking to purchase the man a lager and inform him to give up being so not easy on himself. The Swedish police detective isn't faring far better within the moment e-book of the sequence than he was once within the first. nonetheless lonely after his divorce and apprehensive approximately his flighty daughter and aged father, Wallander has additionally misplaced his ally at the police strength to cancer. the recent breed of crime emerging within the early '90s in Sweden keeps to surprise him and makes him doubtful even if he may still even proceed being a cop. When a lifestyles raft with a few tortured and murdered our bodies washes up on shore, Wallander doubts that there'll be any option to remedy the crime, and while the sufferers end up be from Latvia, he's all too satisfied to show the case over to the Latvian detective despatched to investigate. Of course, issues don't move that easily and Wallander finally ends up having to commute to Riga and reveals himself wrapped up in harmful political and police corruption because the kingdom struggles to loose itself from the final continues to be of Soviet communism. Like the 1st novel, Faceless Killers,

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the most attraction within the books is the nature of Wallander. a very good everyman kind of detective, who's very insecure approximately his specialist talents and personal life, Wallander turns out regularly at the verge of simply giving up in frustration. but he continually manages to maintain plodding alongside and dealing at the case at hand, and exhibiting the type of grim decision that others name bravery whether Wallander could scoff on the idea. It's been very fascinating to learn those Swedish books that have been written correct as communism fell in jap Europe. It provides loads of new viewpoint to what that a part of the realm needed to deal with.

Jan-Maat: as soon as upon a time I heard inform of a poet who constantly travelled with a similar 3 books: the Bible, Don Quixote and Kant's Critique of natural Reason. It used to be most likely a symbolist poet now that I come to consider it (view spoiler)[ maybe it used to be Alexander Blok, or Andrei Bely or simply someone like that (hide spoiler)]. even though I approve of traveling with a ebook or - i'm going to admit to being a bigamist reader - generally I want a bit extra type whether this does require lengthy dithering in entrance of the e-book shelves. occasionally notwithstanding I entrust myself to fate, or extra accurately, the honor and the grandeur of the airport or station station booklet seller. And this led me to choose up canines of Riga. A couple of snarling canines at the cover, the writer had a well-recognized name, seemed as if it's going to slot in a coat pocket - what extra might I want? Sadly it grew to become out that i needed greatly more. I see lots of people have loved this e-book a lot. probably they're all crazy. As a speculation this turns out somewhat sweeping, so possibly it really is me. I had an analogous challenge with this as with The White Lioness. I benefit from the characters and the settings, yet with the second one or extra murders the tale loses it really is credibility for me. hence i used to be additionally unconvinced by means of Wallander's skill to smuggle himself again into Latvia and the ultimate denouement. I feel i purchase into the gritty realism of the detective novel and simplistically take this to intend that it'll be realistic. possibly you will have learn murder (view spoiler)[ if not, why not? Do you're thinking that Moses will bring you to the promised land with no need to wander throughout the wasteland for 40 years? Repent sinner! get up and enable your hands do the wandering during the pages. (hide spoiler)], might be you learn the papers or persist with the scoop and recognize that almost all homicide circumstances will not be in any respect just like the tales in Detective fiction, yet nonetheless possibly you're still capable of take pleasure in such stories. I can't. they only stick in my throat after the second one murder. I examine the second one homicide and that i bear in mind the fellow who attempted to homicide his mom and dad by means of using them right into a canal. British canals as a rule usually are not that deep and tend to be choked with sludge. So the guy bought out of the auto and stood at the roof to get it to sink faster. Passers-by collected at the tow paths and shouted at him till he bought down and permit his mom and dad out of the car. Later he drove around to their domestic and killed them with a shot-gun (view spoiler)[ or what concerning the younger girl whose mom forbade her from having a boyfriend not to mention getting married. The woman, regardless of being an grownup and having a good paid activity did not simply depart domestic yet as a substitute ordered poison over the net from the us and administered it to her mom through her favorite fizzy pop whereas she used to be looking at television. the mummy did not die. The daughter then wrote a livid electronic mail to whinge concerning the useless poison no longer realising she used to be being monitored by way of the protection services. The case got here to court docket and the jury acquitted her. mom and daughter at the moment are it sounds as if principally reconciled... (hide spoiler)]The

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challenge with this type of stupidity is that it does not make for lengthy novels. but it is actual and brutal. Crime novels however in general appear too shrewdpermanent to be plausible. If i used to be studying a ebook approximately urban bankers in the midst of which a dragon crashed into Bishopsgate i might placed it right down to the tradition of dug and ingesting between raider-traders. yet difficult plotting in a homicide story? Nah. are you able to get suspension of disbelief transfusions  
yet?["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

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