



The Troubled Man

By Henning Mankell

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A retired navy officer has vanished in a forest near Stockholm. Kurt Wallander is prepared to stay out of the relatively straightforward investigation—which is, after all, another detective’s responsibility—but the missing man is his daughter’s father-in-law.

With his typical disregard for rules and regulations, Wallander is soon pursuing his own brand of dogged detective work on someone else’s case. His methods are often questionable, but the results are not: he finds an extremely complex situation which may involve the secret police and ties back to Cold War espionage. Adding to Wallander’s concerns are more personal troubles. Having turned sixty, and having long neglected his health, he’s become convinced that his memory is failing. As he pursues this baffling case, he must come to grips not only with the facts at hand, but also with his own troubling situation.

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The Troubled Man By Henning Mankell Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #92157 in Books
- Brand: Vintage
- Published on: 2012-04-03
- Released on: 2012-04-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.10" w x 5.15" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 496 pages

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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

"With his new Wallander novel Mankell ups his game and enters John le Carré territory." —*Los Angeles Times*

"[The] perpetually dour Swedish detective is at his gloomy best." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"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*

“A magnificent finale.” —*Financial Times*

“Arguably Mankell's best Wallander book—which makes the finale for his rule-breaking, overeating, overdrinking, depressed but ultimately good-hearted and righteous detective all the more poignant.” —*The Plain Dealer*

“Mankell's prose is as blunt and pragmatic as his hero.” —*The New Yorker*

“By far the most personal and poignant in this classic and compulsive series.” —*New York Journal of Books*

“Mankell's ability to unspool a mystery and Wallander's ability to solve it are still at the head of the class.” —*Newsday*

“A story that rings deep and hinges on personal stakes. . . . It is the voice of the author—through his hero—and the illumination of layers of life in a thankless profession that lead into a delicious abyss of urgency battling with hopelessness, a rationalization of risk versus a reward already buried under a false headstone.” —*The Oregonian*

“A moving portrait of a man entering old age.” —*The Times Literary Supplement* (London)

“A richly embroidered tapestry.” —*Providence Journal*

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Donald Jackson:

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