



# Faceless Killers: A Kurt Wallander Mystery

By Henning Mankell

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**Faceless Killers: A Kurt Wallander Mystery** By Henning Mankell

**From the dean of Scandinavian noir, the first riveting installment in the internationally bestselling and universally acclaimed Kurt Wallander series, the basis for the PBS series starring Kenneth Branagh.**

It was a senselessly violent crime: on a cold night in a remote Swedish farmhouse an elderly farmer is bludgeoned to death, and his wife is left to die with a noose around her neck. And as if this didn't present enough problems for the Ystad police Inspector Kurt Wallander, the dying woman's last word is *foreign*, leaving the police the one tangible clue they have—and in the process, the match that could inflame Sweden's already smoldering anti-immigrant sentiments.

Unlike the situation with his ex-wife, his estranged daughter, or the beautiful but married young prosecutor who has peaked his interest, in this case, Wallander finds a problem he can handle. He quickly becomes obsessed with solving the crime before the already tense situation explodes, but soon comes to realize that it will require all his reserves of energy and dedication to solve.

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## Faceless Killers: A Kurt Wallander Mystery By Henning Mankell Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### Amazon.com Review

If you remember with pleasure those dark and gloomy Martin Beck mysteries by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo, you'll be glad to plunge into the first of Henning Mankell's Kurt Wallander mysteries to appear in English. Wallander's personal life can occasionally seem more depressing than even a provincial Swedish detective should be asked to bear, but his investigative skills are strictly first rate. And Mankell's story of the brutal murder of an elderly farm couple uncovers an unusual aspect of life in modern Sweden--a streak of fear and prejudice against the many newcomers from Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe who have sought asylum there.

### From Publishers Weekly

In his first appearance in English, Swedish bestselling author Mankell combines thriller-quality entertainment with a depiction of anti-foreigner prejudice in Sweden, painted here as a very chilly place indeed. Since his wife walked out on him, Kurt Wallander, a middle-aged cop in the small town of Lenarp, has drowned his sorrows in opera and far too much liquor. Such consolations can't help him absorb the scene at the Lovgren farm, where elderly Johannes Lovgren has been brutally beaten and stabbed to death and where his wife, Maria, is found barely alive with a noose around her neck. Rydberg, a police force old-timer, says the noose's unusual knot and the word foreigner, which Maria uttered before she died, are important. Wallander puts those clues on the back burner when he learns that Johannes, ostensibly a simple farmer, had a secret life involving wealth and connections unknown to his wife. However, a leak to the press complicates the investigation by arousing anti-immigrant feelings, some of which are expressed in anonymous threats. Mankell is clearly a skilled writer, and his portrait of Wallander (who periodically slides beneath respectability) is effective. But he provides essential information only at the last minute, which makes the solution feel more like an appendix than a conclusion. Also, American readers may find odd Mankell's bundling of his upright anti-racism message with broad notions of what constitutes acceptable social control. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### From Library Journal

This brilliant U.S. debut is the first book in a Swedish mystery series. An elderly couple is murdered on an isolated farm after being tortured brutally. The woman's last word, "foreign," unleashes an onslaught of antirefugee sentiment that Police Inspector Kurt Wallander tries to quell. Then the cold-blooded murder of a Somali refugee entangles the inspector further as he tries to solve that related crime as well. Meanwhile, he sashes through the detritus of his own dysfunctional life, trying to reconnect with his wife, who's left him; his daughter, who refuses to see him; and his father, who is slipping toward senility. The author goes well beyond the narrow police procedural in creating a full-bodied Wallander and in casting light on the refugee problem in contemporary Swedish society. Wallander is reminiscent of Ruth Rendell's Inspector Wexford in his low-key, thoughtful performance.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Rose Cordeiro:**

Here thing why this kind of Faceless Killers: A Kurt Wallander Mystery are different and dependable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good however it depends in the content of it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Faceless Killers: A Kurt Wallander Mystery giving you information deeper and different

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