



## Sein letzter Fall

*Håkan Nesser, Christel Hildebrandt*

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Håkan Nesser's Kriminalroman begins in the past and reaches back to the time when his Commissioner Van Veeteren had not yet retired: In an empty swimming pool a woman is found dead, and her husband is accused of murder. Jaan "G." Hennan, who had recently moved from America, comes to the scene of the crime. On the one hand, he enjoys the pleasure of a life insurance; on the other hand, it turns out that Barbara Hennan had asked the detective Maarten Verlangen to keep an eye on her husband.

For Commissioner Van Veeteren, the suspect is an unknown. He knows "G." from his school days and has bitter experiences with him. Now the formerly convicted "G." is a successful businessman who has returned home. Van Veeteren is convinced that "G." is the murderer and puts him under hours of questioning under pressure. But despite all evidence, he cannot prove the suspect's guilt. As he had a watertight alibi for the time of the crime, he is released and disappears again.

15 years later, the former Commissioner Van Veeteren is still struggling with this unsolved case of his career. When one day the daughter of the detective Verlangen reports her father as missing, Van Veeteren realizes that the detective must have brought Hennan into his life more than he ever did. So the "Case G." appears in a completely new light ...

In *Sein letzter Fall*, Håkan Nesser shows his best side. Without a doubt, it is the Swedish authors' success with this book to have set a subtle narrative peak within the Van Veeteren series. Despite the publisher's statement that the book is the last of Van Veeteren's 10 cases, it is not irritating.

The publisher has provided the book with a detailed companion book at the end of the Van Veeteren series, which was well received by Nesser fans. In retrospect, it is clear that Håkan Nesser's books are free from melancholy, the darker "Existentialism" and the skeptical social criticism that characterizes the Kriminalromane of the Scandinavian provenance. Nesser succeeds in writing fantastical and ironical stories, creating a world of fictitious, half-real places. In the background of this original, almost fairytale-like world, Nesser directs our attention to the simple truth that human actions and decisions are also ironical tragedy. --Christian Koch

## Sein letzter Fall Details

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## From Reader Review Sein letzter Fall for online ebook

### **Ellen says**

The G File by Hakan Nesser.

Chief Inspector Van Veeteren is reality anything else in your life goes on hold!

THE Chief Inspector has but one file that has never been closed...never been solved. That of Jaan G. Hennan. Did it start 15 years ago when private eye Maarten Verlangen was paid a visit by Barbara Hennan. Fru Hennan wanted Verlangen to tail her husband and report back to her with any results.

It actually started with the body of Jaan G. Hennan's former wife's body being found after an exhausting search. That happened in the States with "G" being found not guilty due to lack of evidence. Now it appears that a 2nd wife has met with a similar "accident". Can "G" get away with murder another time in another country? NOT if ret. chief Inspector Van Veeteren has anything to say about it.

Be prepared to put anything else going on in your on hold. Van Veeteren is reality until the very end. Absolutely on a level so far above other authors Nesser's brilliance can't be measured.

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### **Amit Tiwary says**

Fitting closure to this series of Van Veeteren. It is a brilliantly crafted thriller spanning over 15-16 years.

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### **Rhiannon Williams says**

At 600 pages, this was about 300 too long. There was a murder mystery to solve and the resolution was quite clever, but by the time I got there I was so desperate to finish the book I was past caring. Most of the book was really turgid and there was so much repetition of "we know he did it but we can't prove it!", it drove me crazy. No real detective work per se, and just saying over and over "he's so evil!" is not not good enough to convey someone's evilness. Generally I'm a fan of Scandi thrillers, but this was was very disappointing.

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### **Mosco says**

ecco da dove viene l'impressione di deja vu: "la donna che visse due volte".

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### **Sharon says**

The last, number ten, of the Van Veeteren series and I have enjoyed the series and the writer's storytelling and quirky touches all along. Why only three! Because this good read was too long and meandering. Yes, the

twists were interesting, characters well drawn, old and new, storyline tidied up nicely with some good touches at the end. But why did it take so many to come to this conclusion, so late....this I am left mulling over! Anyway, a good read as always and looking forward to watching the two box sets of the TV series Van Veeteren now I've finished this final book.

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### **Richard says**

The final Inspector Van Veeteren mystery is a worthy conclusion to this wonderful series.

The G File is perhaps two books in one; certainly at over 600 pages you get value for money. However the book is in two distinct parts, 15 years apart and beautifully crafted to run smoothly together.

The initial section set in 1987 concerns a case before the master detective retires and resulted in the only failure and blemish on his career. Although convinced of the guilt of the husband he can not get a conviction as G has a cast iron alibi when his beautiful wife dies.

Van Veeteren retires and this remained his only unsolved case. Now some 5 years into his life as a bookseller around 2002, the second section of the page takes up the story

A PI, Maarten Varlangen, involved in the original murder investigation goes missing, having left vague clues that he has solved the case finally. Despite some clever detective work they are no closer to finding Jaan G Hennan and The G File remains stubbornly open and Varlangen has disappeared.

When the PI's body turns up murdered the final part of the book gathers pace as the former Chief Inspector attempts to solve what he recognises will be his last case.

A superb read from a wonderful author and talented story-teller. A fitting end to a classic series, made extra special and memorable having met this humble writer recently.

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### **Sue says**

Håkan Nesser is one of my favourite Swedish crime writers. This is the most recent in his van Veeteren series, and takes place after the 'Chief Inspector' has retired. After a successful career, the chief inspector has only one unsolved case. Fifteen years before, he was unable to prove that G murdered his wife, after previously escaping justice for the murder of his former wife in the USA. New evidence is unearthed and his ex-colleagues bring him into the case again. Nesser characterises the chief inspector as rather aloof yet with a strong sense of morality. van Veeteren is convinced that G is guilty without a shred of evidence, and in the face of his ex-colleagues doubts; his own instinct and insight are enough for him. The story is ingenious, with humour and philosophy sprinkled around. A good addition to the series.

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### **Bev Taylor says**

inspector van veeteren becomes involved with the death of a woman at the bottom of a swimming pool - which has no water, barbara hannan

just 3 days prior she had hired a p.i. to follow her husband - with no explanation. verlangen, who is an ex police officer, assumes that it is the usual suspected adultery and just takes the money and does his job

added into this mix is the fact the the husband - jaan - was at the same school as veeteren and back then he was known for his bullying and always getting his way whilst acting in a very calm and collected manner,

which is still haunting veeteren now when he turned his back on a boy who nearly died and then committed suicide

oh and there is a life insurance policy .....

jaan is bought to trial although he had the perfect alibi - verlangen. the prosecution based on him having an accomplice but he was freed

15 years later this is the one case he has not solved and it still eats away at him although he is unofficially retired. but then verlangen disappears after leaving a message that he has found the truth

can they finally arrive at the truth or will the case take them all down .....

wonderful characterisation - they like their drink¬! - but what made it for me was the use of words to describe feelings as well as dialogue making a very broody atmosphere

h/e i did find a few holes - why did they not follow up on inconsistencies such as wearing a swimsuit when she knew the pool was empty and also why she hired verlangen especially as he had put her husband in prison for over 2 years on a drugs charge; no mention of checking on phone records in the office or home; could have used estate agents to tract the house down; also bars to see if anyone had seen verlangen after his disappearance

will forgive the translator for opening a bottle of port and then having his last swallow of chianti .... !!

4.5 stars

bev

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### **Satyaki Mitra says**

A greatly satisfying end to the Van Veteen series and probably the most engaging book in the entire series

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### **Mi?o?niczka Ks?ek says**

Zapraszam serdecznie do zapoznania si? z moj? recenzj? powie?ci "Sprawa G", kt?o znajduje si? pod adresem: <http://magicznyswiatksiazki.pl/recenz...>

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### **Ken Fredette says**

Thought the story was a good one, you don't know how it was done until Håkan lets it fly.

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## **Carolin says**

Auch auf die Gefahr hin von anderen der Blasphemie bezichtigt zu werden: Håkan Nesser ist der bessere Henning Mankell!

Aufgrund letzterem kam ich eigentlich schon zu der Überzeugung, dass skandinavische Krimis wohl einfach nichts für mich seien, obwohl ich eigentlich "Drumherumerzählungen" sehr mag ;) Håkan Nessers Krimi (und es ist mein erster des Autors) hat es aber geschafft, mich zu begeistern: Er verbindet hier intensive Beschreibungen mit sehr spannenden Sequenzen und schafft so einen runden Krimi, der ein sehr überraschendes Ende bereithält. Sowohl die Personen als auch die verschiedenen Settings erscheinen lebensecht und ließen mich sehr gut in die Geschichte abtauchen. Zur Geschichte an sich mag ich eigentlich gar nichts sagen, weil ich sonst schon zu viel verraten würde.

Mir hat auch die Stimme und die Erzählweise des Sprechers sehr gut gefallen. Insgesamt ein spannender und doch nicht zu rasanter Krimi mit hohem Detailreichtum.

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## **Bernie says**

This is the last in the Van Veeteren series unless Håkon Nesser decides to resurrect him. It G file refers to the only case that Van Veeteren hasn't solved in his career. The G file has been hinted at in several previous instalments. The story is presented in two parts a retelling of the past and the story of the one who got away. The G File does have a nice twist at the end which does tie the whole story up nicely. Also many of the characters that Van Veeteren has been associated with are found in this the last of his adventures. Definitely worth reading the series in order.

I enjoyed this one enormously it has in my opinion a most satisfying end. As with any series it's like losing an old friend when the series comes to an end. Although there is a hint that it could come back. Van Veeteren is in a reflective mood pondering his mortality and he believes will be his last investigation. I will miss the "somewhere" in Northern Europe Maardam with its murderers and grumpy Chief Inspector.

### *A footnote*

This is the third in this series that I have read on my Nexus 7 tablet. I complained in an earlier review that the punctuation was shot. The apostrophe falling foul of modern technology. I can report that in is book punctuation makes a welcome return.

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## **Antonella Sacco says**

Un giallo un po' insolito che racconta di un'indagine non risolta nonostante che la polizia tenti di incriminare l'uomo che ritiene colpevole di aver assassinato la moglie. Un caso che nessuno dei poliziotti coinvolti riesce a dimenticare, in particolare il commissario Van Veeteren, che ha guidato l'indagine. Dopo quindici anni dall'omicidio qualcosa rimette in moto la caccia all'uomo e, anche se ormai in pensione, Van Veeteren collabora con i colleghi nell'intento di affidare finalmente alla giustizia il colpevole. Quando sembra che non sia nuovamente possibile incriminare l'uomo un colpo di scena dà l'avvio all'inaspettato epilogo.

Trovo che sia un romanzo molto ben condotto, con personaggi e vicende molto credibili e con un finale che fa quadrare tutto e che non avevo immaginato. Non conoscevo questo autore ma devo dire che è stato un buon incontro.

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**Mario Giachino says**

Un ottimo thriller, scritto, come sempre fa Håkan Nesser, in modo impeccabile (anche il traduttore questa volta è preciso) e la migliore storia per concludere il ciclo di Van Veeteren. Ci mancherà.

Mai noioso, fotografa situazioni assolutamente normali, così normali da risultare molto interessanti.

Un libro che chi ama il giallo non può perdere.

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