



Der hvor roser aldri dør

Gunnar Staalesen

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For nesten 25 år siden forsvant treåringen Mette Misvær spurlost fra sandkassen utenfor hjemmet i det fredelige boligstrøket Nordås utenfor Bergen. Foreldelsesfristen for forbrytelsen er i ferd med å løpe ut, og Mettes mor gjør et siste fortvilt forsøk på å finne ut hva som skjedde med datteren. Det blir Varg Veum som får oppdraget.

Lille Mette vokste opp i et miljø preget av idealer om åpenhet, fellesskap og deling. Når Veum begynner å grave, er det imidlertid et flokete nett av hemmeligheter og løgner han finner. Men det skal en brutal hendelse i nåtiden til før et mønster trer frem...

Der hvor roser aldri dør Details

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From Reader Review *Der hvor roser aldri dør* for online ebook

Christine says

Last year, I met Varg Veum. He was in the wonderful Nordic *We Shall Inherit the Wind*. Time has passed. Varg is back in *When Roses Never Die*. It is like the return of an old friend.

The Varg Veum series is written by Gunnar Staalesen, translated into English by Don Bartlett.

Varg Veum, the self titled lone wolf, is a bit of a mess. We last saw him in 1999, when his long term girlfriend was dying. It is now three years later. Varg is in need of a kick up the backside. He is a barely functioning alcoholic, with a broken heart and an inability to move on. Varg is finally given a case and a chance to rebuild his life. He is a Private Investigator, after all. He is asked to look into the disappearance of a little girl. Three year old Mette, vanished in 1977 and no trace of her was ever seen.

Gunnar Staalesen sends us into the lives of a smallish community. They live in a sort of shared housing co-op, with all of the houses facing each other. Very 1970s hippy! Their lives are very intertwined, as they socialise together. There are many secrets and lies. They were ALL not honest with the police back in the 1970s. It is no surprise, that the police got no where with the case. A missing child, a potential murder case, is the stuff of nightmares. Staalesen never lets us forget the effect on the mother, the way time has frozen for her. At the beginning of the novel, pessimism reigns. No one thinks Varg can get to the truth. We get a strong sense of the brutal and long term psychological impact of events, including the loss of the girl.

Varg Veum starts by questioning and unpicking their words, together with getting inside information from the police working the case back in the day. He is determined to find any connections to the missing child. We slowly see him drawing conclusions and making sense of various odd behaviours. He is one clever, sweetly old fashioned chap!

This is the sort of crime novel to go for, if you like brooding rough round the edges heroes. The mystery itself takes us down a few misdirected paths, til eventually we see the shocking and sad hidden truth. Staalesen is critiquing the selfish human condition and how it brings about its own downfall. This is a fabulous and very accessible Nordic thriller, with a dark satisfying side.

Sarah says

Where Roses Never Die is a crime thriller that had me hooked from the start.

Veum is an alcoholic that is struggling to function. When the mother of a girl who went missing years before comes in it gives Veum a purpose in life.

I really liked Veum, he is battling his own demons but he is someone that you want to cheer on and see him do well for himself. There are quite a few books out already featuring the character which I'm not quite hundred per cent if this is part of a series or a stand alone as I haven't read any of the others but for me it certainly read easily as a stand alone.

As a parent, the thought of a young girl going missing from her own back garden was just awful. The not

knowing of what has happened must be absolute torture and to be honest I didn't know if knowing would be any better as I had lots of different ideas in my head as to what fate the girl had met and none of them were nice ones.

The story has plenty of twists and turns and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing how certain parts of the story all started falling into place. It's almost like doing a jigsaw where your a bit bewildered as to what's in front of you but the further to the finish you get, all the pieces start to finally fit.

Where Roses Never Die is a brilliant crime thriller which I absolutely loved. It reminded me slightly of an Agatha Christie novel, not with the main character but with the brilliance of how the whole plot had been written and how it had me totally clueless as to how everything fits together and to who is behind the disappearance of the young girl. Can't recommend highly enough and this is one author whose books I will certainly be checking out and reading more of.

Many thanks to Karen at Orenda Books for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Raven says

Averse as I am to gushing, with some authors it's difficult to remain completely objective when you have genuinely loved every single book that they have ever produced. Such is my problem- but a nice problem- with the venerable Mr Staalesen, and Where Roses Never Die, which merely compounds my adoration of this series to date.

As there is a deliciously dark twist in this book, I will not tarry long on the plot, but needless to say Staalesen once again employs his tactic of making the reader believe that what they are witnessing is a fairly simple investigation, in this case possible child abduction/murder and a jewellery store robbery. But nothing so straightforward my friends. Staalesen has a wonderful way of calmly exposing a very nasty underbelly to Veum's investigation that will both unsettle and disturb you, all through a measured unfolding of Veum's probing discoveries, and the exposure of his protagonist's true nature and motivations. As you think that the investigation is going steadily in one direction, a follow up interview or a loose casual remark uncovers another dark thread for Veum to follow, and the innocent are not always as innocent as we believe. Staalesen's plotting is consistently faultless and this book proves no exception. Question everything you think you know, and don't be fooled, there are some rum characters in this one.

Staalesen is incredibly good at exposing the kinks in the psychological make-up and behaviour throughout his characterisation, from his dogged and haunted PI Veum, through the layers of deceit and misdirection that the surrounding cast of characters exhibit as he searches for truth and resolution. Veum is such a non-linear, unpredictable character and cleverly, the familiarity we think we have with him as readers is effectively warped in each book, as Staalesen seems to re-assess and redraw him slightly in each investigation, exposing different facets of the man both personally and professionally. The natural cynical humour, and determination to unsettle and irritate some of those he encounters remains a constant though, and I love the way that Staalesen extends this feature of Veum's character to poke affectionate fun at the locale of Bergen and its inhabitants too. On a more serious note though, it is good to see Veum starting to recover from a significant loss in his life, and making a few tentative steps back to the realm of personal relationships, leaving the door open a gap for this emotional recovery to continue in the next book.

Once again, Staalesen has produced another impeccable slice of Nordic noir, that places him at the forefront

of the Scandinavian crime writing community. With immaculate and controlled plotting, which throws up a number of dark surprises along the way to nicely unsettle the reader, and the engaging figure of Varg Veum at its centre, *Where Roses Never Die* is a more than satisfying addition to this excellent series. Highly recommended.

Paul says

Where Roses Never Die – Another Nordic Masterpiece

Gunnar Staalesen's storytelling never fails to grip the reader and with his Private Investigator Varg Veum we have the ultimate defective detective. Staalesen's stories and setting never fail to impress and his descriptive prose is crisp and clear like the air over the Fjords.

The story is set in 2002 when he is asked to investigate a case that is nearly 25 years old and not far from reaching Norway's statute of limitations for any charges to be brought forward if the case is ever solved. In September 1977, Mette Misvaer a three-year-old girl goes missing from the sandpit outside the front door of her house. In spite of a massive police investigation and all the resources being thrown at the case Mette is never found.

Varg Veum has never got over the killing of his lover and is living in an alcoholic haze the aquavit being his poison of choice, but as a seasoned drinker he is still functioning, just. When he is asked by Mette's mother to help find out the truth behind what happened nearly 25 years ago.

Varg is many things, and dogged is one of them, especially when he approaches the police and the former investigators he knows the last thing he will get is any love. At the same time, he looks in to a jewellery robbery in town where one of the witnesses was murdered in cold blood. Once again the case is heading for the cold case pile.

As Varg investigates, and fights his demons, he knows he will have to scrape off the veneer of respectability in one last attempt to find the truth. What he finds is an intricate web of lies and destruction leading to some shocking events that have been concealed over the years. Things start to fall in to place for Varg when a brutal incident happens and he is able to see things far more clearly.

Gunnar Staalesen has once again written a classic Nordic crime thriller, with Varg Veum he has a brilliant defective detective, who is a seasoned drinker that somehow always solves the case, even if there is some pain involved. Staalesen does not waste words but creates a sharp thriller, that if it were a dog it would bite. This is one of the most captivating thrillers of the year and written in the best Nordic traditions.

Once again Gunnar Staalesen Don Bartlett have delivered a stunning thriller in to the English language and it is easy to see why Staalesen is a world class writer.

Crime by the Book says

I'm somewhere between 3 - 3.5 stars on this one! I'm still processing my thoughts on it.... back soon with a little review :)

Sandy says

Varg Veum is back with a cold case that has strange ties to the present. It's been almost 25 years since 3 year old Mette Misvaer went missing from her yard. With the statute of limitations looming, her mother Maja asks Veum to take one final crack at finding the truth.

It would be a welcome paycheck but before he signs on, Veum will need to make a few changes to his lifestyle. In the 3 years since his partner died, his only relationship has been with a bottle. If he can put the Aquavit back on the shelf, he might find some answers & perhaps a little self respect along the way.

The book opens with an armed robbery of a jewelry store In Bergen. As the masked thieves flee the scene, a pedestrian is fatally shot. Police are unable to find or identify the culprits & the case is soon sliding toward the unsolved stack.

What's the connection? Well, you'll have to sit yourself down & ride shotgun with Veum to find out how this one thread is elegantly woven into the main story. It's not easy tracking down those who were part of Mette's world. Some have moved on, some have died, some have secrets they'll do anything to protect. But Veum is a persistent guy & his relentless questions soon unveil more mysteries than he bargained for.

Staalesen excels at telling stories that are intricate & plausible. There are no bolts from the blue or hastily constructed endings. Every piece of the puzzle is uncovered through persistent digging & there's almost an audible click as each slides into place on the way to a satisfying end. Violence is kept to a minimum as he chooses to employ Veum's brains rather than brawn to find answers.

It's a refreshing take on the P.I. genre & more believable given he's now a man of "a certain age". He's not exactly the poster child for healthy living & doesn't bounce back quite as easily. Instead, he relies on quick thinking & a well placed verbal jab when trouble comes knocking. Veum is a complex, fully developed character who may seem to fit the hardboiled stereotype at first glance. But as you spend time with him, it's his introspection & compassion that will stay with you. He's not a bad person, just a lost soul doing the best he can.

It's a gritty & poignant story that flows at a steady pace until the jaw-droppers begin at the 3/4 mark. You'll find yourself thinking about the nature of secrets, how they never really go away but just hibernate. And the longer they are hidden, the more powerful they become. It's also a cautionary example of how easily we judge based on someone's appearance or reputation.

If you get to a place where you're putting out book #18, you're doing something right. Probably several things, as is the case with this author. His Bergen based PI has become a benchmark in the genre who fans have been following for 40 years & this is a clever, absorbing addition to the series.

And hey, if you're ever in Bergen, stop by & have your picture taken with Veum's statue outside the Strand hotel near the fish market. He's a looker.

Heidi says

I profess I love Nordic thrillers, so was very excited to “accidentally” discover this series when scrolling through monthly deals on Amazon – and what could be more intriguing than an old cold case nobody has ever been able to solve? Even though I entered the series at #18 I had no problem at all connecting with the characters or following the story. Initially, PI Varg Veum appeared like your stereotypical flawed detective – a loner who drinks too much and struggles with his demons. I found out later that this was due to the death of his long time partner earlier in the series for whom Varg is still grieving. However, Varg has neither lost his taste for solving crime, nor his talent at following obscure clues to get his answers. When he is being approached by Maja Misvær to look into the disappearance of her three year old daughter Mette over twenty years ago he goes right back to scratch, looking at all the people who lived in the small housing commune in Nordas where Mette grew up. With a background in social welfare, Veum has a nose not only for liars but also for bringing things to light that have remained hidden in the original police investigation.

I love mysteries that reveal small seemingly insignificant clues as the detective unearths them, letting readers draw their own conclusions. This Hansel-and-Gretel like trail of evidence eventually gets results, revealing dark secrets that have been hidden by members of the commune for a quarter of a decade. Staalesen has a talent for portraying all of his characters with such depth and insight that I was totally enthralled by the events that unfolded, and could picture them clearly in my mind.

How could I have not come across any of Staalesen’s work before? Containing all the elements I love in Nordic crime fiction – the atmospheric setting, the dark, gloomy undertones of hidden secrets and menace – this made for a fantastic read. Where Roses Never Die is a perfect example of why I am such a huge fan of the genre. With just good detective work, the book may lack the popular features employed by many contemporary crime writers (the unexpected twist, the unreliable narrator, etc), but it makes up for it in atmosphere, excellent character development and a multi-layered plot. Very highly recommended to all lovers of Nordic crime – I will definitely look up other works by the same author, and with 17 previous novels and number 19 published late last year, it will keep me entertained for a long time to come yet.

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Renee (itsbooktalk.com) says

slower paced mystery with flawed but very likable detective...review coming soon!

BookwormDH says

September 1977. Mette Misvaer, a three-year-old girl disappears without a trace from the sandpit outside her home. Her tiny, close middle-class community in the tranquil suburb of Nordas is devastated, but their enquiries and the police produce nothing. Curtains twitch, suspicions are raised, but Mette is never found. Almost 25 years later, as the expiry date for the statute of limitations draws near, Mette's mother approaches PI Varg Veum, in a last, desperate attempt to find out what happened to her daughter. As Veum starts to dig, he uncovers an intricate web of secrets, lies and shocking events that have been methodically concealed. When another brutal incident takes place, a pattern begins to emerge ...

I relish a new Gunnar Staalesen book & Varg Veum. It's like that comforting feeling you get.

This is a brilliant and classic crime novel. As usual, an outstanding plot which flows all the way through. Very suspenseful and full of intrigue rolls you through this captivating story.

Brilliant characters and dialogue, and a fantastic translation from Don Bartlett - a job that must be very hard to do!!

Very impressed and highly recommended.

Thanks to, Karen at Orenda Books for the review copy.

Rachel Hall says

Gunnar Staalesen, the godfather of Nordic Noir, is on exemplary form with his eighteenth novel in the Varg Veum series and our protagonist is as dogged as ever and his social conscience just as much in evidence. The death of his long time partner Karin three years ago is still very much an open wound for Veum, and his descent into a state of alcohol fuelled morass is threatening to overwhelm him. Living from one bottle of aquavit to the next, "on the longest and darkest marathon of my life", it is the case which Maja Misvær approaches him with that offers him a lifeline and forces him to clean up his act. After all, who better to empathise with a mother losing a child than a man who has been through the trials that Veum has faced, the most painfully felt being the demise of his partner?

When Maja Misvær comes to his office in Bergen, Varg Veum is encouraged to take the case purely out of financial necessity after a fallow period of work and his growing dependency on alcohol has rapidly drained his coffers, yet his hopes of resolving her problem are not high. He remembers the original media attention on the disappearance of three-year-old Mette Misvær in September 1977, from the middle-class and peaceful suburb of Nordas as she played in a sandpit outside the window of her home. The case came as a shock to the other families that lived in the community and has drawn a shadow over the Solstolen Co-op project of living ever since. That a child could have disappeared from the fenced area that surrounded the five homes where the residents all knew one another would seem unthinkable. As the twenty-five-year statute of limitations is looming Veum agrees to undertake a final review of what became known as "The Mette Case" and remains unresolved.

Varg Veum's approach to his work is rather understated and may appear simplistic; those he comes across are keen to mock what a simple private investigator can add to this now cold case after the police have drawn a blank. A common mistake is to underestimate him, but Veum is not only an expert at reading people but also in hitting the raw nerves that bring the most salacious details to light. Veum's background in social welfare and his dealings with locating missing children enable him to empathise with those who seek his services and his failure to be shocked by the dark underbelly of society is paramount to his skill. As long held secrets are exposed and proceedings take a distinctly darker turn his resolve and often his provocation in handling the most aggressive characters threatens to finally answer the question of just what happened to little Mette Misvær.

Undoubtedly *Where Roses Never Die* is the most eloquent treatment on the topic of grief in crime fiction since Jan Costin Wagner's *Detective Kimmo Joentaa*, and Veum's battle with the bottle draws some

insightful analogies from our protagonist. In addition, this is an affectionate portrait of Bergen, the home town of Staalesen where Varg Veum is rightly held in the high regard that he deserves, and provides a spectacular backdrop to his travails.

As ever, the translation by Don Bartlett is outstanding and Bartlett's innate 'feel' for Veum shines through for a character he has now translated on four occasions. Readers who would not normally consider translations are urged to do so as the use of slang and colloquial expressions is second to none.

Quite simply, *Where Roses Never Die* is an exquisite work of crime fiction and Staalesen's eye for characters is as finely honed as his readers have come to expect. Beautifully paced and making some wider statements on the repercussions of behaviour on impressionable youths and morality, this is the literary equivalent of manna from heaven! Staalesen's prose is consistently on point; one moment stricken by grief and the next catching readers off guard with his rapier sharp wit reminiscent of Ian Rankin. Staalesen leaves his readers hanging off his every word, aching to discover the truth as he finally brings a sense of closure for Maja Misvær and simultaneously solves another crime en route. Hopefully, there could will be one last chance at romance for Varg Veum, and certainly plenty more outings in his private investigative capacity! Exceptional stuff!

Miriam Smith says

Suspenseful, intriguing and chilling - words that come instantly to mind when describing this gripping book - I thoroughly enjoyed "Where Roses Never Die" the 18th instalment in the Norwegian series featuring private investigator Varg Veum. This series has been around for many, many years and is obviously very successful to get to book number 18! Quite easily read as a standalone too, as this was my first venture into the series, I had no problems grasping Varg's history and with individual storylines to each book these make for fabulous and intriguing reading.

In September 1977, three year old Mette Misvaer disappears without trace from the sandpit outside her family home. In a last ditch attempt before the statute of limitations comes into force, Mette's mother hires Varg in a desperate plea to find out what actually happened to her twenty five years ago. Can Varg break through the secrets and lies that have stayed hidden for so long and can he discover the truth behind Mette's disappearance. As a mother myself, the storyline is one you most fear as a parent but it was handled diplomatically without distressing the reader.

Three years after the death of his long term girlfriend, Varg is still a broken-hearted mess, reliant on alcohol and the odd P.I. job to pay the bills. Flawed, but very likeable I couldn't help but fall in love with his character and his perseverance in getting to the truth and breaking people down to reveal their innermost secrets.

It did take me a while to get used to the characters names and how they all fitted into the story but once I did the story flowed seamlessly at a steady pace, thick with intrigue and was very easy to follow.

Written by hugely talented Gunnar Staalesen and expertly translated by Don Bartlett I can't recommend this book enough, a shocking, outstanding plot that's traditional and classic and keeps the reader guessing till the very end. LOVED it!!

5 stars.

Meggy says

Sometimes, all you need is a good one whodunit in the form of a cold case and an investigation done the good old way.

The title attracted me first. Where Roses Never Die; **poetic, tragic, and beautiful**. Then the cover made me quiver with its cold colors. The mix definitely catches the eye and intrigues.

That's what the book is about: an intrigue. Poor Mette disappeared from a sandpit decades ago and as the case is about to get closed for good, her mother needs answers. **PI are usually interesting to follow, and Varg Veum is definitely one of my favorites now.** Yes, he has issues. Yes, he has a heavy background, but his way of thinking and his reactions make him so authentic. **He is no super-hero or anti-hero,** he is a scarred man with a long past and bills to pay. **From the start, I felt comfortable with him.** My only complaint is that Where Roses Never Die is the 18th book in a series so **there are holes in Veum's story that get mentioned in the story with no explanation, which is very frustrating when you like a character** and enjoy having all the answers! **This did not prevent me from falling for the guy and root for him,** though! I only wished all books had been translated to meet Veum at the beginning of his journey and go all the way through, but it seems only a few stories are available in English.

I liked that the police were involved, but only at the outskirts of the investigation. They weren't just missing, this added to the frightening realism of the story. PI often are retired cops and their links in the force is always useful to solve cases. **Between the police's help, sometimes granted, sometimes forced, and the good old work of questioning, Veum digs up more than he expected and what seemed to be a simple missing-child case turns into a Desperate Housewives-like tower of secrets and a dangerous game of guessing.** The “neighborhood” of the disappearance of the child gave me such a strong claustrophobic feeling I promised myself to never let anyone make me settle in such a place! Thankfully, we also get to travel and see more of the country. I must say I am beginning to really like the cold!

“Nothing is more fatal to a marriage than something both partners know, but neither will talk about.”

With its seemingly easy investigation, Where Roses Never Die surprised me with an easy-flowing writing and more twists that I was hoping for! Layers are added faster than lies leave lips and the list of suspects gives you enough to work with to keep you wondering until the shocking end. And I mean it, shocking end. **Where Roses Never Die is a Classic Crime story with a big C: a story that plays with**

your mind in the best way possible! I know I often make classic rhyme with boring but this time I mean it as a compliment: **every key element of the true crime book is here, ready to satisfy even the most seasoned crime readers!**

I would like to thank Karen Sullivan for providing me with a copy of this book. This review is my unbiased thank you to her and the author.

Joanne Robertson says

If you had asked me this time last year if I was a fan of Scandinavian crime fiction or Nordic noir then I would have responded with a "hell no!" even though I really liked tv shows such as The Killing and Wallender. But 2016 has opened my eyes to great examples of this genre that I would have kicked myself for missing out on otherwise, one of them being Where Roses Never Die. I am rather late to the party for this one though as 2017 will mark 40 years since this series began! Thankfully I don't have too long to wait for the next instalment which is due to be published by Orenda Books next year.

Those expecting a fast paced and thrilling rollercoaster read will be sorely disappointed though. This book unravels its secrets steadily and carefully-it's like unwrapping a beautiful box of chocolates where each one is individually packaged and you have no idea what it is until it slowly melts in your mouth. The plot involving the disappearance of a 3 year old little girl is handled calmly and delicately by the private investigator Varg Veum as he methodically works through a cold case that is about to reach its statute of limitations after 25 years. The co-op habitat that Mette disappeared from, and where her mother still lives, seems to hold the key and Varg is prepared to delve deeper than the previous police investigation to find out what happened back in 1977. I took a little while to work out who was who in the co-op but once I did I was absolutely enthralled by their lives both in the past and present and watched intently as all the threads started to knit together.

I loved Varg and found myself not only cheering him on in his investigation but also in his private life. Although I have joined the series very late I didn't feel that I was missing out on too much backwards story as all I needed to know was there and I picked up clues to the past quickly and easily. I am now desperate to discover more about this man and his life and will eagerly await the next book in this series. The combination of the wonderfully translated prose and the darkly atmospheric setting were a perfect fit for this richly plotted novel and I absolutely loved it.

Linda Branham Greenwell says

Great story. The story picks up a couple of years after the last novel. Varg Veum is recovering - and drinking too much. When a mother comes into his PI office to have him find out what happened to her daughter who went missing 25 years earlier. The time limit is almost up and she wants one last chance to find out what happened.

As Varg begins his investigation, coincidences seem to pop up. And Varg begins to ask questions that some people don't want to answer. The mother is heartbroken and has never recovered. All of the people in the

small community (5 houses) have had unhappy events occur after the disappearance

Dimitris Passas says

Μια ακ?μα ποιοτικ? ιστορ?α μυστηρ?ου της σειρ?ς Varg Veum, με την λιτ? και ξεκ?θαρη πρ?ζα, η οπο?α αποτελε? σ?μα κατατεθ?ν του G. Staalesen, να καθιστ? την αν?γνωση του βιβλ?ου ταχ?τατη και απολαυστικ?. Οι αραι?ς πινελι?ς χιο?μορ σε μια κατ? τα ?λλα ιδια?τερα σκοτειν? ιστορ?α προσφ?ρουν το απαρα?τητο δι?λειμμα για να "ανασ?νει" ο αναγν?στης και να μην μπορε? να σταματ?σει μ?χρι να αποκαλυφθε? η αλ?θεια και να λυθε? το μυστ?ριο. Ο G. Staalesen μπορε? επ?ξια να θεωρε?ται ως ?νας απ? τους κορυφα?ους Σκανδιναβο?ς crime συγγραφε?ς. Το βιβλ?ο παρ?τι ε?ναι το 18ο (!) της σειρ?ς μπορε? ?νετα να διαβαστε? ως standalone βιβλ?ο.
