



## Europa blues

*Arne Dahl*

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En kølig forårmorgen gøres et makabert fund blandt rovdyrene i den zoologiske have Skansen. En lille pige bliver skudt på vej hjem fra en fødselsdagsfest. Otte ikke helt almindelige østeuropæiske kvinder forsvinder sporløst fra en flygtningelejr. En 90-årig professor kører rundt og rundt i Stockholms undergrundsbane i selskab med døden. En mobiltelefon ringer i en afrevet hånd på et jernbanespor. Og for kriminalkommissær Jan-Olov Hultin begynder tiden at opføre sig underligt.

De tilsyneladende så forskellige hændelser former langsomt, men sikkert et net, som kastes ud over Europa. Fortidens sår bryder op, og det, som strømmer ud af dem, sætter sig fast i nettet. Dem, der holder nettet, er Hultins team - Rigskriminalpolitiets specialenhed for voldskriminalitet med internationale aspekter, bedre kendt som A-gruppen.

EUROPA BLUES er fjerde bind i serien om Paul Hjelm og A-gruppen. Som sine forgængere er det en samfundskritisk kriminalroman. Dahl har øre og øje for person- og miljøbeskrivelserne, og denne gang handler det bl.a. om den europæiske dobbelthed og vores fælles historie.

## Europa blues Details

Date : Published 2003 by Modtryk (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9788773947876

Author : Arne Dahl

Format : Hardcover 358 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, European Literature, Scandinavian Literature, Fiction, Swedish Literature

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## From Reader Review Europa blues for online ebook

### Ella says

Het verhaal begint in Zweden met de moord op een oude Joodse professor. Soortgelijke moorden zijn gepleegd in verschillende steden in Europa.

Prostituees verdwijnen en er is een dagboek wat de zoon van de professor in bewaring had. Wat hebben de moorden met elkaar te maken. De nazitijd komt terug omdat de professor een nummer vanuit Buchenwald op zijn arm heeft. Het A-team gaat met de verschillende 'leads' aan de gang. Het einde is verrassend.

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### Lee says

A gripping storyline weaving together mafia-like international crime and nazi war crimes in an enthralling read. Quite gory in places, I now see wolverines in a new light.

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### Bart Jan VERBEKE says

De reeks die Arne Dahl schreef gaat naar mijn gevoel in crescendo. Het A-team dat ook in dit vierde deel opduikt wordt met het verhaal menselijker. Het verhaal waarin zij flaneren even menselijk, maar dan in zijn wreedheid. Eeuwige wreedheid: toen en nu!

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### Chrissa Vasileiou says

?σες περισσ?τερες υποθ?σεις της Ομ?δας Α διαβ?ζω,τ?σο περισσ?τερο εκτιμ? και θαυμ?ζω την μοναδικ? π?να του Arne Dahl! Σε κ?θε βιβλ?ο ε?ναι ολοφ?νερη η εξ?λιξ? του,τ?σο η συγγραφικ? σο και σε ?,τι αφορ? τους χαρακτ?ρες που τ?σο αριστοτεχνικ? χει πλ?σει.

Αντ? το φορ? η υπ?θεση ?χει και ?ρωμα...Ελλ?δας,μιας και το πρ?το θ?μα ε?ναι ?νας ?λληνας νταβατ?ζ?ς που βρ?σκεται νεκρ?ς σε ?να ζωολογικ? κ?πο. Με αφορμ? αυτ? το γεγον?ζ,ο δηλωμ?νος φιλ?λληνας Dahl αναφ?ρεται συχν? στην ελληνικ? μυθολογ?α, την οπο?α ?λλωστε χρησιμοποιε? για να πλ?σει τον σκελετ? την ιστορ?ας του και κ?νει πολλ?ς αναφορ?ς ακ?μα και στις τραγωδ?ες του Αισχ?λου! Το μ?νο που με ξ?νισε λ?γο ?ταν το ?τι σκιαγρ?φησε τον ?λληνα ?ρω? του σ?μφωνα με τα στερε?τυπα: κακ?γουστο ντ?σιμο,χοντρ? χρυσ? καδ?να στον λαιμ?,δασ?τριχος... Συγν?μη κ?ριε Dahl,αλλ? η πλειοψηφ?α των Ελλ?νων-ακ?μα και των παραν?μων-δεν κυκλοφορε? πια ?τσι! Αν σας εν?πνευσε ?νας συγκεκριμ?νος ?νθρωπος για τον συγκεκριμ?νο χαρακτ?ρας σας,μ?λλον θα ?πρεπε να στε?λετε κι αυτ?ν μια β?λτα στον λ?κκο των αδηφ?γων. :P Παρ?λληλα,?να μ?ρος της υπ?θεσης εκτυλ?σσεται και στην Ιταλ?α,αλλ? και σε ?λλα μ?ρη της κεντρικ?ς Ευρ?πης. Μιλ?με λοιπ?ν για ?να βιβλ?ο εντελ?ς 'ταξιδι?ρικο'!

Κι εκτ?ζ αυτο? ?,κρως συναρπαστικ?! Πραγματικ?,ε?ναι αξιοθα?μαστος ο τρ?πος που ο συγγραφ?ας καταφ?ρνει να "συναρμολογε?" ?να παζλ που αποτελε?ται απ? δ?ο ? τρεις ? και περισσ?τερες ?γνωστες υποθ?σεις,που μοι?ζουν αρχικ? εντελ?ς ?σχετες μεταξ? τους,αλλ? στην

ουσ?α πρ?κειται για ?ψεις μιας μεγ?λης,σοβαρ?ς,σημαντικ?ς και περ?πλοκης. Ε?ναι κ?τι που κ?νει σε ?λα τα βιβλ?α με τις υποθ?σεις της Ομ?δας Α - εν μ?ρει πιστε?ω και για να ασχολο?νται τα μ?λη της,που ?χουν διαφορετικ?ς χαρακτ?ρες,με το κομμ?τι που ξυπν? κ?τι ιδια?τερο στον καθ?να τους και να υπ?ρχει ποικιλ?α. Ε?ναι δηλαδ? ?νας ακ?μη τρ?πος για να ξεδιπλ?νει το ταλ?ντο του και στην αν?λυση/περιγραφ?/αν?πτυξη διαφορετικ?ν χαρακτ?ρων την ?δια στιγμ? (? εναλλ?ξ,σε πολ? γρ?γορους ρυθμο?ς) και να μην αφ?νει τον αναγν?στη να ξεκουραστε? ο?τε λεπτ?. Αντ?θετα,τον αναγκ?ζει/παρακινε? να βρ?σκεται συν?χεια σε εγρ?γορση,προκειμ?νου να μην χ?σει τ?ποτα απ' τα ?σα συναρπαστικ?,αναπ?ντεχα και αποκαλυπτικ? συμβα?νουν ταυτ?χρονα.

Μπορ? να πω πως τα "Μπλουζ της Ευρ?πης" ε?ναι απ? τα βιβλ?α της Ομ?δας Α που μου ?ρεσαν περισσ?τερο. ?χω επαναλ?βει πως,?σο προχωρ? η αν?γνωση και νι?θω πιο οικε?α με τα μ?λη της,τ?σο περισσ?τερο μου αρ?σουν και οι υποθ?σεις της Ομ?δας Α. Αυτ?ν εδ? ?μως την ξεχωρ?ζω ιδια?τερα και για τη θεματολογ?α της. Ο ναζισμ?ς και το εμπ?ριο λευκ?ς σαρκ?ς ε?ναι δ?ο ιδια?τερα ενα?σθητα θ?ματα. Κι εδ? ο Dahl αναφ?ρεται ενδελεχ?ς και στα δ?ο,αποτελο?ν ουσιαστικ? τον κορμ? ?λου του βιβλ?ου,και ?μως πουνθεν? δεν ξεφε?γει απ? τα ?ρια,δεν γ?νεται υπερβολικ?ς,ο?τε καν τ?σο δα απ?σεκτος. Και δεν μπορ? να μην τον θαυμ?σω ιδιαιτ?ρως γ? αυτ?!

## Anke says

Spannend, maar het einde vond ik een beetje een teleurstelling. Hoe één van de verdachten dan familie blijkt te zijn van één van de speurders, vond ik een beetje bij de haren gegrepen. jammer!

## Emily says

Το βιβλ?ο μου ?ρεσε πολ? και μου κρ?τησε παρ?α στο ταξ?δι μου στο ?μστερνταμ, ?που αρκετ?ς φορ?ς, περπατ?ντας στην π?λη, συν?λαβα τον εαυτ? μου να σχεδι?ζει μεσημεριαν?ς ολλανδικ?ς σι?στες με το βιβλ?ο αν? χε?ρας!

Η ομ?δα Α, με ?να απ? τα μ?λη της ξενιτεμ?νο, καλε?ται να λ?σει ακ?μα ?να μυστ?ριο. Το ξενιτεμ?νο στην Τοσκ?νη μ?λος, ο ?ρτο, προσφ?ρει μια ν?τα δροσι?ς στην πλοκ?, δια χειρ?ς συγγραφ?α, ο οπο?ος τοποθετε? στο μεσογειακ? τοπ?ο μια ολ?κληρη οικογ?νεια με ?σπρα μαλλι?, κ?τασπρα δ?ρματα και προοδευτικ?ς απ?ψεις. Στο τ?λος, ο ?ρτο καταφ?ρνει απ? μακρι? να β?λει τα πρ?γματα σε τ?ξη...

Η πλοκ? του βιβλ?ου ?ταν πολ? ενδιαφ?ρουσα και την ?κανε περισσ?τερο ενδιαφ?ρουσα η σ?νδεση ιστορικ?ν στιγμ?ν και γεγον?των του παρ?ντος και του παρελθ?ντος.

----- Πιθαν?ς αποκαλ?ψεις -----

Η ιστορ?α ξεκιν? με ?ναν ?λληνα αλυσιδ?κια (?τσι λ?γαμε στην εποχ? μου τους ?ντρες που φορο?σαν χοντρ?ς χρυσ?ς καδ?νες στο λαιμ? ? στο χ?ρι) ο οπο?ος ρουφ?ει κοκα?νη σε ?να παγκ?κι π?ρκου και οραματ?ζεται την κυριαρχ?α του επ? της ν?ας π?λης που ?χει εγκατασταθε?.

Ο συγγραφ?ας, σε αυτ?ς τις πρ?τες σελ?δες, περιγρ?φει πολ? υποβλητικ?, μια ολ?κληρη καταδ?ωξη και ?να θ?νατο χωρ?ς ουσιαστικ? να μπορε? να καταλ?βει ο αναγν?στης τι ακριβ?ς συν?βη.

Σε αυτ? το αρχικ? κομμ?τι της πλοκ?ς, ο συγγραφ?ας ?κανε ?σως ?να μικρ? ατ?πημα. Β?ζει τον ?λληνα κακοποι? να γρ?φει τη λ?ξη Εριν, η οπο?α αποδεικν?εται στη συν?χεια ?τι ε?ναι η λ?ξη Εριν?ες, οι θε?τητες της εκδ?κησης, οι οπο?ες τον καταδι?κουν για να τον τιμωρ?σουν. Κ?ποιος

?πρεπε να εξηγ?σει στον Νταλ ?τι αποκλε?εται ?νας κακοποι?ς να ?ξερε τις Εριν?ες, δι?τι ?ταν απασχολημ?νος με τις παρανομ?ες ?ταν θα ?πρεπε να λ?βει σχολικ? παιδε?α. Εδ? αμφιβ?λλω αν και στις κανονικ?ς σχολικ?ς τ?ξεις, ?να σ?γχρονο παιδ? ξ?ρει ? χει διδαχθε? περ? Ερινυ?ν και Ευμεν?δων.

Πολ? ?ξυπνη ?ταν στο τ?λος η σ?νδεση ?λων των γεγον?των περασμ?νων και τωριν?v. Ο ?ρτο παραμ?νει η ευχ?ριστη ν?τα του βιβλ?ου αλλ? γ?νεται και η φων? της λογικ?ς κ?που στο τ?λος.

Τα ον?ματα δεν ε?ναι να προσπαθ?σεις να τα προφ?ρεις καν. Τα σκαν?ρεις απλ?ς με το μ?τι και αποτυπ?νεις την οπτικ? τους για να μπορε?ς να πορε?εσαι στη συν?χεια.

Το μεγ?λο μπ?ρδεμα δημιουργε?ται με τα 3 γνωσικε?α ον?ματα απ? Σ, Σ?λα, Σ?ρστιν, Σ?ρα και σε κ?ποια στιγμ? Στ?vα. Και β?βαια με τις εναλλαγ?ς επιθ?του και μικρ? ον?ματος. Μ?χρι να καταφ?ρεις να συνηθ?σεις τα μικρ?, εμφαν?ζονται μια τα μικρ? μια τα επ?θετα.

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### **Panagiotis says**

Πολ? καλ? αστυνομικ? σχεδ?v τ?σο καλ? ?σο το "μ?σος και α?μα". Η αρχ? του με την καταδ?ωξη στο π?ρκο εκπληκτικ?. Η υπ?θεση αγγ?ζει δ?ο απ? τα μεγαλ?τερα προβλ?ματα που ?χει η Ευρ?πη σ?μερα, το trafficking και την ατιμωρισ?α παλαι?ν και ν?ων Ναζ?. Δε με μπ?ρδεψων τα ον?ματα μια και ε?ναι το τρ?το βιβλ?ο της ομ?δας ?λφα που διαβ?ζω. Η μετ?φραση πιστε?ω ?τι ε?χε κ?ποια θ?ματα και η λ?ξη Εριν? απλ?ς να ?ταν μισοτελειωμ?vη αλλι?ς ε?ναι βλακε?α. Για το αν μπορε? ?νας ?λληνας νταβαντζ?ς να ξ?ρει τη λ?ξη και τι ακριβ?ς ?ταν οι Εριν?ες υπ?ρχει εξ?γηση: Ο Notis σε ?να τραγο?δι λ?ει "οι εριν?ες με κατατρ?χουν"

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### **Pontus Ridderstedt says**

Det är väl någonting mytiskt i förhållande till förintelsen med svenska skribenter. När de ska beskriva ondskan renodlat och vill ta i ändå från tårna för att göra det hela så djävulskt ont som möjligt, så finns det inte sällan en historisk återkoppling till ett nazistiskt koncentrationsläger, där någon av vakterna överlevt och nu sprider sin ondska vidare i modern tid. Och det fungerar ofta.

Arne Dahls tredje deckare handlar som vanligt om några till synes osammanhängande mord där den skickliga A-gruppen, som löser särskilda mord med internationella relationer, finner sammanhang och historiska återkopplingar med ibland extremt eleganta metoder där allt blir så tydligt att detta "bara" är en deckare och ingen verklighet. Det är väl dessa sistnämnda nämnare som alltid behandlas intelligent och skickligt, vilket får Dahls deckare att hamna ovanför mängden. När det dessutom i den här boken sprids ut en del överraskningar genom den andra halvan blir slutet snudd på en hisnande upplevelse.

Det finns förstås några sämre delar, de otroligt sadistiska morden och de ganska övermänniskligt intellektuella poliserna, men man störs ganska lite ändå. Vi har väl ändå lite för många överviktiga ensamma män som huvudpersoner i svenska deckare, vilka man slipper här.

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### **Rosemary Standeven says**

I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Arne Dahl is one of my husband's favourite authors, but until now, I hadn't read any of his books. Now I am

hooked too. Arne Dahl throws everything at this book: holocaust survivors; Eastern European prostitutes; a Greek pimp; Finnish winter war hero; Italian mob royalty; Sweden's hidden history; Greek myths; a ninja feminist; and if that were not enough, some coked-up wolverines. It is a truly European affair, with corpses all over the continent. The various threads are slowly but surely brought together, via a multitude of twists, in a thrilling piece of story-telling.

The characters are very well portrayed, and particularly the Swedish A-team police, interact beautifully and believably with each other.

The normal prose of a crime novel, describing the characters' actions, is interspersed with almost poetic, dreamlike sequences, as individual characters drift in and out of reality: "His thoughts were practically running away from him. This from the man who was normally so good at damming the flow and digging channels to allow his thoughts to pour in the right direction. Now, though, they were more like the Danube delta". At first, that comes across as rather weird to the reader, but then you realise that that is the way our minds actually work. Normally our musings are kept private and not written down – here, Arne Dahl treats the private and the public as equal.

There are frequent references to the space-time continuum: "Time seemed to be taking a siesta. It was moving as slowly as treacle". It is of a particular worry for one policeman, Hultin, who is faced with intimations of his own mortality. But soon time is causing everyone existential problems: "He was forced to cross an enormous, terrible gap in time. He was balancing on the narrow plank, crossing the abyss. Step by step, swaying, he made his way across"; "Why am I describing time in such detail? Because soon it will no longer exist. Because the next bomb will fall it. Because it is already trembling in the breeze. Because time is about to die"; "Time had started moving more sluggishly. It would probably be possible to relax a little at the weekend. But time was also being difficult. It wasn't acting like normal. It was probably out of sync".

Luckily by the end of the book "The black hole in the space-time continuum was starting to fill up. And the spanner in the works, the fundamental error in their thinking, was fast approaching. Time was starting to right itself". That was a relief.

Apart from the existential questions, there are moments of humour and also moments of clear social conscience. The book asks us to evaluate when we decide whose fate we care about: "the fact that they had discovered the women's disappearance was entirely dependent on their believing it was a case of asylum seekers going underground. That was when they reacted. That was when it was decided that the country was at risk of becoming impure. If eight prostitutes had simply disappeared from the streets of Stockholm, no one would have batted an eyelid", and when we decide that the truth must be told. The book ends with: "He was standing on top of bodies in order to see Paradise. And he wasn't alone. He was an entire continent".

I loved this book and would recommend it to everybody – my husband is already queuing up to read it.

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## Thebooktrail says

Booktrail the locations in the book Europa Blues

A trip to the zoo proves deadly...

Skansen zoo is a popular sight in Stockholm popular with tourists and locals alike but there is shock when a gangster recently arrive in the city is found murdered in the most macabre of situations, his body consumed by animals.

Elsewhere in the city, a group of eight Eastern European women vanish from a refugee centre. Then an elderly professor is found executed at a Jewish cemetery, the tattooed number on his arm a disturbing sign to his past.

The Intercrime unit dedicated to international violent crime has a dark dark series of cases to investigate and their search will take them back through the recesses of history.

This is a grim, gritty delve into the past with murder, torture, slavery and war time butchery seeping into Stockholm's streets. What role did Sweden have during the war and how neutral was it really? How did fascism then and now keep rearing its ugly head?

The landscape of Stockholm now is one of ugly repercussions – and the war, the holocaust has some horrific secrets to share. The Intercrime unit is to have some complicated threads to unravel. A deeply disturbing view of nationalism is permeating every crevice of the city and beyond.

Swedish Noir at its best.

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### **Karen Brooks says**

Europa Blues, by Arne Dahl, was a really different kind of crime book, even in the genre I am so enjoying, the broadly termed “Nordic Noir.” Not realising this was book four in a ten book series, I picked it up, seduced by the synopsis on the back of the book which explains that his novel is about a series of crimes involving the grisly death of a Greek gangster, disappearing Eastern European prostitutes and the macabre murder of a famous Jewish professor. From the start, it was pretty clear to me that the police involved in the investigations had complex lives and histories to which I was only partly privy and which no doubt earlier books explored. But (and this is testimony to the strength of Dahl’s writing), at no point did I feel this disadvantaged me. Such was the power of the prose and the way the principal characters were presented and their back-stories hinted at, I felt I knew them and any gaps and omissions were filled. Better still, I cared about these people deeply.

With three investigations on the go and one man down (he’s on extended leave in Italy), the A-unit, or National Crime Investigation Department’s Special Unit for Violent Crimes of an International Nature (what a mouthful!), is busy, especially when, after a street thug is brutally murdered by a woman in a train station, they begin to suspect that all the murders are linked. When they seek help from Interpol and Europol, their suspicions are confirmed. But it’s when they ask one of their own, the man in Italy, to do some investigating there, that the connections reveal themselves. What’s exposed goes back decades and into one of the most violent and cruel periods of human history. Not one to shy away from both the individual’s or country’s role in human suffering and genocide, through its characters, Dahl is highly critical of Sweden’s “neutrality” or ability to look the other way. Exploring huge issues such as complicity and national shame, Dahl uses history to also critique the present in an intelligent and searing manner.

The final twists and turns are both shocking and gratifying.

The way characters are developed; the use of literature and history and the sense of social and personal justice that pervades this book is so strong. I was drawn into the story and the relationships – professional and personal. The writing is sublime and always powerful – though humour, particularly between those who have worked together and known each other so long - relieves some of the bleaker moments: gallows’ humour indeed.

A magnificent book that makes me long to lose myself in another in the series.

4.5 stars.

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## **Alexandra (matobookalo) says**

Ωρα?α ιστορ?α αλλ? θεωρ? κ?πως κουραστικ? την αφ?γηση (?ταν διαφορετικ? απ? τα ?λλα του βιβλ?α).

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## **Paul says**

### Europa Blues – An Examination of the Forgotten Past

Arne Dahl is one of the best Scandi crime novelists with a huge amount of fans across Europe, as he is not afraid to tackle taboo subjects in his thrillers. Once again he does this in Europa Blues which was written in 2001 but only recently translated in to English that looks in to the dark heart of Sweden, its war neutrality and hiding in plain view. Europa Blues takes us from Stockholm, to Italy and various points across Eastern Europe.

An unknown Greek gangster has only recently moved to Stockholm and is causing problems already, but he ends up being murdered in unusual circumstances by the wolverines of the Skansen Zoo who consume most of him. While elsewhere in the City eight Eastern European women, who have been trafficked in to the sex industry have vanished from a refugee centre outside of the Stockholm. An elderly science professor is murdered in a Jewish cemetery, with tattooed numbers on his arm.

All three crimes are going to be investigated by The A-Unit shortened from the National Crime Investigation Department's Special Unit for Violent Crimes of an International Nature. A team of detectives that had been busy over the previous year. These experienced and cynical detectives started out investigating three separate crimes with the aid of a colleague who is using inherited money living in Tuscany.

As the investigation deepens and they contact various Police Forces across Europe a bigger picture of what they are investigating becomes a little clearer even if at times a little confused. It is when they have to look deeper in to what happened during the Second World War things do become a little clearer even if it also challenging the long held view of Sweden's neutrality during the war and that was an enabler with its own fascist problems at that time.

Things start to come together and the picture becomes clear when the Greek gangster's murder is a message to a Milan crime family known as Ghittoni makes the murder seem like poetic justice if not a little savage. Especially as there seems to be a team of female ninjas who are running across Europe taking revenge on the murder victims and sending various messages.

As the A-Unit investigates further what does become clearer to the team is that everything is related to the war and medical research, and an unknown murder victim with no nose sometime back in the 80s. Through police work across Europe and using modern technology will the answers finally arrive even if one of their number ends up having a pistol forced in to his mouth.

For a crime thriller the reader is always asked a few questions, about what do we really care about, would you really care what happened to refugees if they just disappeared, and were removed from the country. It also asks the question of do you really know what your family did during the war; do you have a clear conscience? As well as historic crimes, ghoulish crimes of the present there is still a fair amount of humour

in the thriller.

Europa Blues is a further example of why Arne Dahl is considered as one of the best Scandi Crime Writers out there, and I cannot recommend this highly enough.

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### **Helena Frisk says**

En bra story. Lite mystiskt först men sen blev allt logiskt

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### **Spela says**

Za samo vsebino bi knjigi rade volje dodelila 4 zvezdice, oceno pa za polovico zniža pošastno število napak v slovenskem prevodu. Pogosto nerodno zastavljeni povedi so posejane s tipkarskimi napakami, ki bi morale prevajalcu in lektorici (Branku Perku in Poloni Kekec) v o?i pasti že kot uporabnikoma spodobnega ?rkovalnika, kaj šele kot prevajalcu in lektorici Prešernove družbe:

- "Nam?ija"
- "jedli so jabolke"
- "svetilo je bila ubo?ena navzgor"
- "devetega spetembra"
- "iz kotika o?es"
- "se stvari vrneje v stari tir"
- "švedka zgodovina"
- "pomladanskei sapici"

(Navedeni spodrsljaji so ve?inoma vzeti iz druge polovice knjige, ko nisem ve? vzdržala in sem jih za?ela beležiti - žal jih ne manjka niti v prvi polovici.)

Mi lahko nekdo pojasni tudi, kaj pomeni beseda "evroanten"? V knjigi je uporabljen vsaj dvakrat, njenega pomena pa mi nikakor ne uspe dognati.

Napake se pojavljajo tudi v angleških delih besedila ("I rest my case").

I rest my case as well, Prešernova družba. Knjige v trenutni obliki žal ne bi priporo?ila nikomur.

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### **Rowena Hoseason says**

There's good Nordic noir. And there's excellent Eurocrime. And there's outstandingly accomplished crime writing which uses the genre to illustrate greater human truths, to bend perceptions, to shine light on subjects most folk would rather leave unseen in silent shadows. The Intercrime / A-unit series of police procedurals does all of the above.

Europa Blues is eloquent, entertaining and insightful. It's also witty and gripping, not scared to blindside the

reader with ugly truth and gruesome details. Sweden's international crime investigation unit are confronted with a series of strange murders. They must find the links between a Mafioso being eaten by wolverines; a mugger who comes off much worse than his mark, and a Jewish concentration camp survivor who's killed in an unusually weird way.

Arne Dahl uses his familiar cast of characters to add multiple dimensions which layer through the story, lifting the narrative beyond its immediate morality and into something much broader. He touches on the very nature of time, or how free market capitalism is the thin end of the fascist wedge, and Sweden's unspoken guilt over the Holocaust. If this book wasn't categorised as 'crime' then you'd find it on the 'modern literature' shelves.

Yet *Europa Blues* is never stuffy, never stifling. The interactions between the members of Intercrime are perfectly pitched; rolling banter which turns serious in a syllable. It's all beautifully observed, from a personal to a political level, with a sprawling cast of generously developed characters. The author has a fine eye for the detail of an ensemble police procedural where the intertwining plot-lines are all skilfully controlled. He also demonstrates a blistering ability to portray the gruesome alongside the mundane so that it feels as if it might actually happen.

So I can just about forgive Dahl's inclination to suddenly convert one of his characters into an unlikely version of Jason Bourne for a chapter of death-defying derring-do. The action-packed finale goes a bit boy's own adventure and felt more than a little out of place.

That small snag aside, *Europa Blues* is a hugely satisfying novel on every level.

8/10

There's a longer review over at <https://murdermayhemandmore.wordpress...>

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### **Karen says**

**EUROPA BLUES** is the first of Arne Dahl's books I've been fortunate enough to read and it definitely won't be the last. A combination of a slightly eccentric, dedicated and very determined investigation group full of strong individuals, who work as a team; and a confrontational and some very pointed crimes and their backgrounds, perpetrated for very believable reasons made this novel a stand-out read.

When an unknown Greek gangster is murdered and then disposed of in the wolverine enclosure of a local zoo, the likelihood of even identifying him, let alone resolving the questions of why or who killed him seems pretty remote. As does the likelihood of working out any possible connections between his death and the disappearance of a number of Eastern European women from a refugee centre outside Stockholm. When an elderly science professor is then murdered in extremely bizarre circumstances, in the centre of a Jewish cemetery, this really does seem like a series of disconnected and extremely odd occurrences.

The Intercrime unit (or A-Unit as they are known) is a special unit put together to investigate violent crimes with international aspects. Which is a wonderful creation as whilst the unit might feel feasible, there's much in its management structures and membership that is most unexpected. And many of the members seem particularly comfortable in that sort of working environment. They are, however, a ruthlessly efficient bunch of cynical, analytical and experienced cops who are not at all afraid to follow a hunch.

Well balanced within the strong characterisation, there's an intricate plot that falls into place seamlessly, incorporating questions and observations about many societal questions along the way. The disappearance of refugee women, the increasing problem of women from struggling economies being lured into sex-trafficking, and the gangsters and organised crime behind it are part of the current day problems explored, as are aspects of more recent European history and connectivity that seem to be an ongoing discussion in many of the Scandinavian Crime Fiction books this reader has been fortunate enough to encounter.

There's a lot to catch up with if you're starting out with this series at EUROPA BLUES as this reader did. It doesn't create a problem in getting into the style and tone of the writing, nor in picking up on the personalities and working relationships of the A-Unit. It may, however, create a stacking problem as there are other books available in this series, with the very distinct possibility that they'll be creeping to the top of the reading pile very soon.

<http://www.austcrimefiction.org/reviews/>

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### **Linda Branham Greenwell says**

I always find it interesting when I really love a book, that others don't like it at all :)  
So, "to me" - the characters grow with each book in the series - their characters become even stronger. I love the history elements in the books - I learn a lot about things that happened from a different point of view. Here in the US we have been taught one version of history while there are much different versions elsewhere. Also, the crimes and the investigation into how they occurred, I found fascinating.  
I can't wait to read the next book in the series :)

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### **Artemis Slipknot says**

Στην αρχή δεν με ερχεται ενθουσιασει. Αλλα προς το τέλος που γινεται συνδεση των ιστοριών πραγματικών αποστομωτικών. Επισης του δυνατων παραπομπών συν διτι το ερχεται ξεκινησει στην Στοκχόλμη, οπτε ξερα τα μέρη που αναφεροταν και αυτό σου δυνει λλη ασθηση.

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### **Linda Boa says**

Exceptional, well-plotted, intelligent quality thriller/police procedural.  
Couldn't recommend it more highly.  
Review to follow.

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