



Jar City: A Reykjavik Thriller

By Arnaldur Indridason

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From Gold Dagger Award--winning author Arnaldur Indridason comes a Reykjavík thriller introducing Inspector Erlendur

When a lonely old man is found dead in his Reykjavík flat, the only clues are a cryptic note left by the killer and a photograph of a young girl's grave. Inspector Erlendur discovers that many years ago the victim was accused, but not convicted, of an unsolved crime, a rape. Did the old man's past come back to haunt him? As Erlendur reopens this very cold case, he follows a trail of unusual forensic evidence, uncovering secrets that are much larger than the murder of one old man.

An international sensation, the Inspector Erlendur series has sold more than two million copies worldwide.

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Jar City: A Reykjavik Thriller By Arnaldur Indridason Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

When a lone septuagenarian is murdered in his apartment in the Nordurmýri district of Reykjavík, detective inspector Erlendur Sveinsson is called in, along with partner Sigurdur Óli and female colleague Elínborg. Everyone is related to everyone else in Iceland and refer to one another by first name, even formally. Erlendur is about 50, long divorced, with two kids in varying degrees of drug addiction. The victim, a man called Holberg, turns out to have been a nasty piece of work, and Erlendur is disgusted by the series of rapes Holberg apparently committed. The rapes and the deaths of a number of young women may be connected, and the search brings Erlendur to the forensic lab, whose old "jar city," since disbanded, held research organs. Meanwhile, Erlendur's daughter, Eva Lind, is pregnant and still using; she flits in and out of his life angrily, but may be crying out for help. Reykjavík's physicality, and the fact that crimes are relatively rare in Iceland, gives things a defamiliarizing cast. The writing, plot and resolution are nicely done, but remain fully within genre boundaries. (*Oct. 11*)

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From [Booklist](#)

It's hardly surprising that there is a thriving crime-fiction scene in Iceland (insular worlds with forbidding climates breed crime quite nicely); it is surprising, on the other hand, that it's taken until now for any Icelandic mysteries to penetrate the U.S. market. We're off to a fast start with this gripping procedural starring Inspector Erlendur Sveinnson, a veteran detective with the Reykjavik police. Murder is relatively rare in Reykjavik, and it is usually solved easily (crimes of passion are the norm). This time, though, there are no easy answers. The brutal killing of a lonely pensioner seems inexplicable until Erlendur (Icelanders always address one another by first name) begins to track back through the man's life, uncovering not only a plethora of dirty secrets but also a genealogical trail whose tentacles appear to stretch throughout the country (in Iceland, "everyone seemed related or connected in some way"). There is a Ross Macdonald element to all this rummaging in familial closets, but the emotional pain Erlendur feels as he gets closer to the truth recalls Madeleine Nabb and Donna Leon. A powerful, psychologically acute procedural drama. *Bill Ott*
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Review

"Fan[s] of mystery in general and Henning Mankell and Karin Fossum can only exult." *?Library Journal*

"This is a dark, haunting novel, with a protagonist who searches for a murderer and finds his own humanity. The emotionally wrought ending caught me off guard and touched me in a way that few mystery novels do." *?The Boston Globe*

"[Erlendur is] a helluva detective." *?Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"*Jar City* stresses both the otherworldliness of this faraway country and how similar its denizens are to the rest of us. . . . An excellent debut." *?Baltimore Sun*

"Indridason raises in a thoroughly gripping manner not just questions of paternity in a small nation, but wider issues of the use of genetic information, culminating in an ending that proves impressively moving." *?Time Out London*

"Award-winning Iceland author Indridason makes a compelling American debut with this first in a series

featuring Reykjavík police inspector Erlendur. . . . Quiet, morose, dryly witty, Erlendur makes a fine, complex companion. . . . Those who enjoy Karin Fossum, Henning Mankell, or Janwillem van de Wetering will welcome this new series.” *?The Portsmouth Herald*

“A powerful, psychologically acute procedural drama.” *?Booklist*

“*Jar City* is classic mystery fiction, both compassionate and thrilling. Indridason is about to become one of the brightest stars in the genre's dark skies.” *?John Connolly, author of Dark Hollow*

“There's much to glean about the people of Iceland from this erudite and compelling story. . . . *Jar City* taps into the melancholy of Scandinavian perspective and manages to be quite thrilling, too.” *?Rocky Mountain News*

“This careful, sparsely written book operates at a deeper level than most crime fiction: it conveys the sense of painful inevitability underlying the old stories that medieval Icelanders told through the long winter nights.” *?The Independent (London)*

“The descriptions of Reykjavík and the surrounding area . . . are fascinating in their own right, and the plotting is riveting. . . . Detective Inspector Erlendur Sveinsson is an intense and introspective protagonist.” *?BookPage*

“The author's American debut, winner of the 2002 Nordic Crime Novel Award, is a model puzzle presented with clarity and crisp economy.” *?Kirkus Reviews*

“An absorbing police procedural dense with psychological pressure. The plot is a twister, the setting unique, and Erlendur's personal life is even bleaker than the Icelandic fall. Erlendur is a cop to watch. And I will.” *?Marshall Browne, author of The Eye of the Abyss*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jared Hoskins:

The book *Jar City: A Reykjavik Thriller* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading a book *Jar City: A Reykjavik Thriller* to be your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You can know everything if you like wide open and read a e-book *Jar City: A Reykjavik Thriller*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this publication?

Sonia Shipley:

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Allen Grimm:

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Della Francis:

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