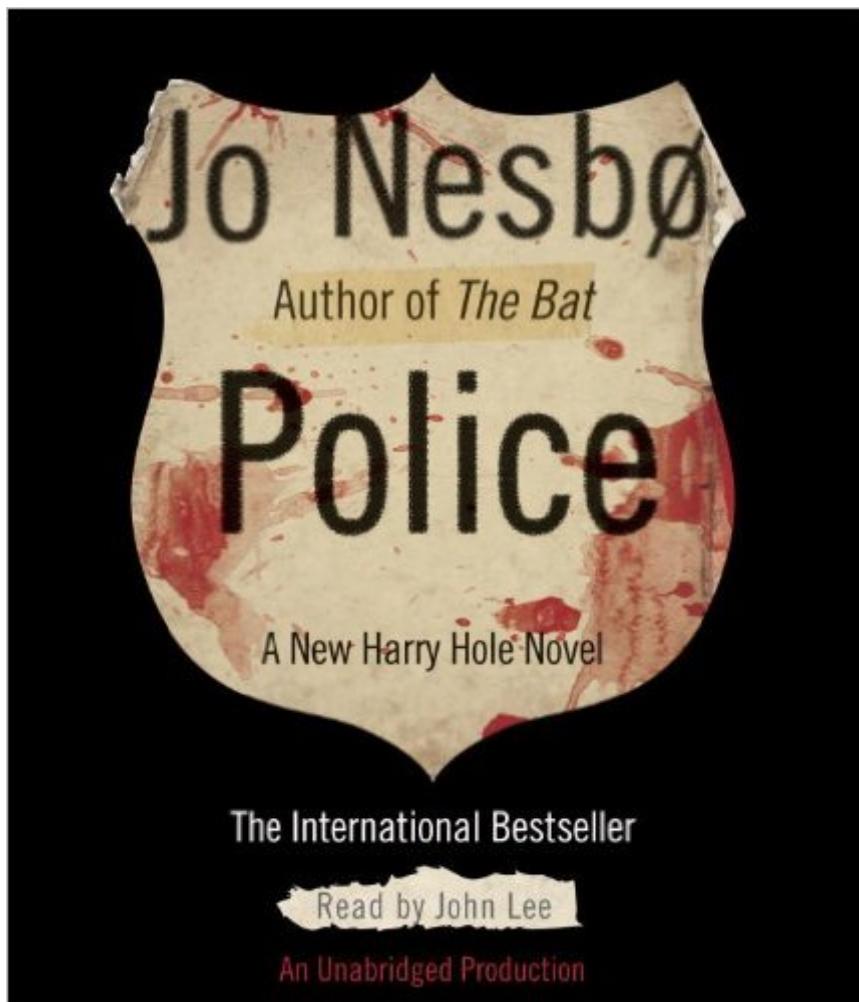


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Police: A Harry Hole Novel (Harry Hole Series)



Synopsis

Finalist -- GoodReads Choice Award -- Mystery/Thriller Harry Hole returns--or does he?--in a terrifyingly paced, vertiginous new roller coaster of a thriller by the internationally best-selling author of *The Snowman* and *The Redeemer*, "the king of Scandinavian crime fiction" (Kirkus). The police urgently need Harry Hole . . . A killer is stalking Oslo's streets. Police officers are being slain at the scenes of crimes they once investigated but failed to solve. The murders are brutal, the media reaction hysterical. But this time, Harry can't help . . . For years, detective Harry Hole has been at the center of every major criminal investigation in Oslo. His dedication to his job and his brilliant insights have saved the lives of countless people. But now, with those he loves most facing terrible danger, Harry is not in a position to protect anyone. Least of all himself . . . From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Series: Harry Hole Series

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1,095 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I've read all the Harry Hole novels but not in order since translations did not hit the US in order. The last Harry Hole released in the US was *the Bat*, which is actually chronologically the first Harry Hole. I also see the sequel to the *the Bat*, *The Cockroaches*, will hit the US in January. This is somewhat important to this review and actually determined five rather than four stars. Generally, when I read in this genre, especially series, I'm usually influenced by a review of the current novel and if I like it I will go back to the first. Usually, it helps to have read many series in this genre in order but it isn't entirely necessary. Most authors want their latest novels to stand-alone and pick up new readers.

My sense is that this is not the case with Jo Nesbo. Nesbo wrote Police for his readers who had read The Phantom. I am not sure how much of Police one can get through without giving up in frustration; however, readers of Phantom might need the occasional memory jog but will have no problem getting right into Police. This is why I gave Police five stars. It's rare that a writer shrugs off potential new readers in order to write directly for his fans. Readers of The Phantom know what happened at the end, so it is no spoiler with the advent of Police that it is indeed a Harry Hole novel. By the way reviews of other Nesbo's Hole novels explain eloquently Harry's name and the issue of translation. Nesbo's usual translator, Don Bartlett, translated this novel. I give Reg Keeland the translation edge for the Steig Larson translations. However, Barlett does a good job although with some unevenness. I also noticed that Alfred A. Knopf as opposed to Vintage publishes Police, which published the Bat. Harry seems to be finding a lot of fans in the US.

With over twenty million books sold worldwide, and over a dozen Nordic prizes and nominations for crime writing, Norwegian author Jo Nesbo is at the top of his game, and this novel, which most readers will probably agree is the best one yet, is sure to win him even greater recognition and even more readers. The ninth in the Harry Hole series, which centers on a troubled, alcoholic Oslo police inspector, this novel begins where Phantom, the preceding novel, left off, with Inspector Harry Hole suffering from grievous injuries and near death after being shot in the head. As the novel opens, an anonymous man has been hospitalized, comatose and under 24-hour police guard, for months. As a series of new crimes terrorizes Oslo, many familiar characters reappear in this novel, including Beate Lonn, Stale Aune, Gunnar Hagen, Katrine Bratt, and Bjorn Holm, all of whom have worked with Harry Hole in the past. Both Kripo and the Crime Squad are collaborating here to find a serial killer who is murdering policemen. Each victim has been lured to the site of an unsolved murder on which s/he worked, on the anniversary of that earlier murder. The murders involve "sex, sadism, and the use of knives," and frequently violence to the face with a blunt object. Mikael Bellman, the young, new (and self-serving) Police Chief, under great pressure to produce results, is determined to protect his turf by taking credit for any progress and blaming others for delays. As new characters and suspects are introduced, Nesbo, always clever in creating bizarre details to make these characters memorable, also focuses on the psychiatric problems which have led the murderer to create some grotesque - even nauseating - scenes.

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