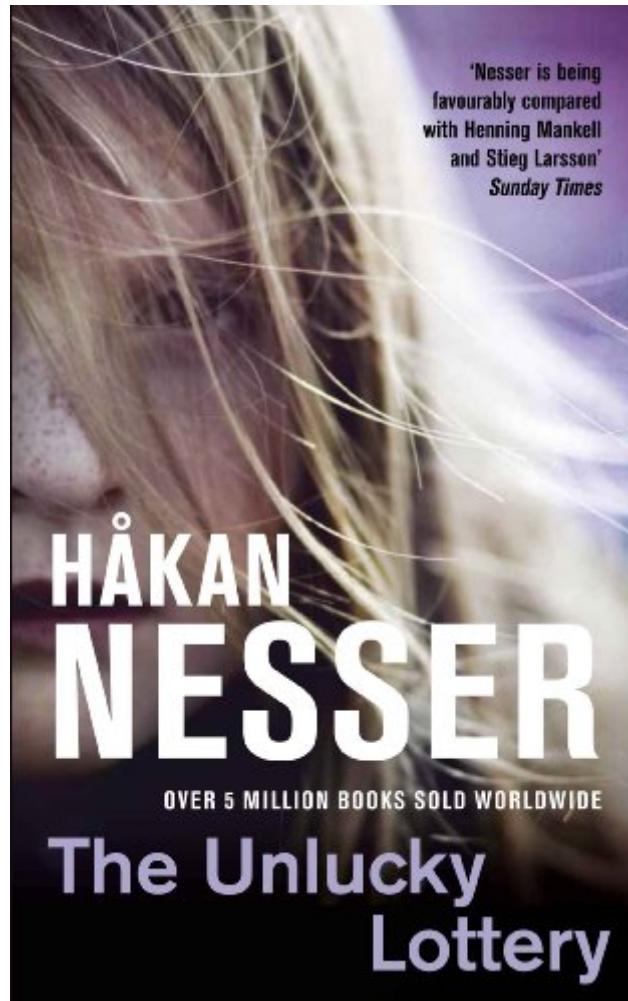


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The Unlucky Lottery (The Van Veeteren Series)



Synopsis

A Swedish crime writer as thrilling as Mankell, a detective as compelling as Wallander. . . Chief Inspector Van Veeteren delves into a dark family mystery in the sixth book in Håkan Nesser's Van Veeteren series, *The Unlucky Lottery*. Four friends celebrate winning the lottery. Just hours later, one of them - Waldemar Leverkus - is found in his home, stabbed to death. With Chief Inspector Van Veeteren on sabbatical, working in a second hand bookshop, the case is assigned to Inspector Månster. But when another member of the lottery group disappears, as well as Leverkus's neighbour, Månster appeals to Van Veeteren for assistance. Soon Månster will find himself interviewing the Leverkus family, including the eldest - Irene - a resident of a psychiatric clinic. And as he delves deeper into the family's history, he will discover dark secrets and startling twists, which not only threaten the clarity of the case - but also his life . . . *The Unlucky Lottery* is followed by the sixth book in the series, *The Hour of the Wolf*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Please note that Nesser's *The Lottery* is being released in the US under the title *Munster's Case*. I purchased *The Lottery* from the UK in 2011 for the following review. Good news first: English

readers can avail themselves of another translation of Hakan Nesser. But I almost hate to tell the bad news to fans of Inspector Van Veeteren. This is NOT a VV mystery; it is an Inspector Munster/Moreno book. Our hard-to-love but impossible-to-hate hero VV is sorely absent, save for a few pages, having moved on to smoke and drink in an entirely different venue. The Unlucky Lottery marks the third time that Inspector Munster has had to rely on the advice of the former Chief Inspector. Sadly (for this reader), VV's intuition plays a larger role than his actual character does. Munster does not even contact VV until the middle third of the book. The storyline is initially gripping: four winners of a lottery find their luck running out as two of them come to a bad end. But with Munster's increasing weariness, the tale grows unfocused and even the author seems just plain tired. The pace slumbers through most of book, waking only for the final fifth of the story. Perhaps the worst news to relay is how disconnected and disappointing The Unlucky Lottery is. The robotic dialog imparts no real feel for the characters, and Nesser puts us in the heads of far too many people. For the first time, having read all 5 of the VV books prior to The Unlucky Lottery, I have thought this precinct might be nothing more than a bunch of self-involved detectives bumbling about and only superficially connected to each other by the current case. The absence of VV at the station also forces an absence of pathos and credibility there.

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