



## **Ice Moon**

*Jan Costin Wagner, John Brownjohn (Translation)*

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Only a week after losing his wife, a distraught Detective Kimmo Joentaa returns to work to join a murder inquiry. It is the case of a woman smothered in her sleep—a curiously tranquil death, it seems, and one with no motive—and Kimmo becomes obsessed. The only clues are a half-empty bottle of red wine, two glasses, and a missing painting, a blurred landscape of no value. When a young man is found murdered in bed the next day in a hostel room with seven people asleep around him, Kimmo realizes a serial killer must be at work. As he struggles with the memory of his wife's early death, Kimmo investigates the murders and tries to understand the mind of the perpetrator, who appears to be quiet, self-effacing, and affable—why then the urge to destroy? Set in Finland during the unnervingly long days of late summer near the top of the world, Ice Moon is an unsettling, poignant mystery.

## **Ice Moon Details**

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Author : Jan Costin Wagner , John Brownjohn (Translation)

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## From Reader Review Ice Moon for online ebook

### Sue says

Young policeman with no flaws! His wife dies and this book is as much about his struggle to come to terms with his grief as the murder investigation. So painful to read in parts but so beautifully written.

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### Linda Branham Greenwell says

The main character is Detective Kimmo Joentaa. In this novel, at the very beginning of the book his wife die. Throughout the story Kimmo is dealing with his grief. You can feel his grief and feelings of disorientation and dissociation with reality throughout the book... an overwhelming sadness that he keeps inside as he questions everything around him

During his period of grief - a serial murderer is killing people in their sleep by placing a pillow over their faces while they sleep until they die. As Kimmo sees the bodies of those who have been murdered while they sleep - he has thoughts and associations of Shanna, his wife,

The story goes back and forth between Kimmo, and the thoughts of the murderer. The murderer who also has a very deep dissociation (unreality) in his thoughts of life around him... his connections with the moon.

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### Karen says

Recently finished, ICE MOON by Jan Costin Wagner was an unexpected pleasure. It seems that Wagner has a bit of a reputation in his homeland of Germany for turning the "traditional" form of crime fiction on its head and if that's the case then he's done it again with ICE MOON.

Whilst there is murder, and an obviously very disturbed serial killer, in many ways ICE MOON is more an exploration of grief. The book opens with Finnish detective Kimmo Joentaa confronted with the death of his young wife from cancer. Returning to work straight away, he is left trying to understand and deal with her death, whilst a strange series of connected killings begin to occur involving a range of seemingly unconnected victims.

Whilst the crime investigation proceeds through the book, the focus of ICE MOON remains Kimmo's struggle with grief, the affect that the grief has on his decision making, his life and his work. Ultimately it's that overwhelming sense of his own grief which tempers and informs the entire book - it's significantly less about the crime and more an exploration of this one man's grief.

This was undoubtedly one of the most moving books I've read in a long long while - the crime was handled well, but what you come away from is the awfulness of loss, and Kimmo's tentative steps back into his life.

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### Vesela says

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### **Anuradha says**

Dieses Buch ist ein Kriminalromane, dass ist in Finnland spielen. Dieses Buch ist besser in Deutsch als in Englisch. Das Buch hat in der Übersetzung verloren worden. Es ist über einen Detektiv, dessen Frau ist verstorben. Es ist mehr als ein Morder; es ist über Trauer und Tod. Das Ende ist ähnlich zu einem Roman von Murakami.

Jedoch, die Charakterisierung muss verbessert werden. Dieses Buch ist manchmal langsam. Aber, dieses Buch ist ertsten in eine Reihe, und ich würde noch die nächste Bücher lesen.

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### **Elli says**

I had a problem understanding or relating to this book. It is definitely a murder and police procedural mystery, but it is also a psychological mystery and those elements were very strong. It was not a cut and dried thing, and certainly not the hard-boiled detective story. I wish I could have rated it higher. The Finnish was of real interest to me. My grandfather was born in Turku and the lakes and forests sounded as I would like to hear and know. A lot would probably like this book, but I guess psychological mysteries are just not for me. Although the protagonist went back to work immediately after the crushing to him death of his wife, it did not help him to handle his grief in any way. He had hoped by immersing himself in his work, he would somehow normalize to where he could live with himself.

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### **Anuradha says**

This book has truly been lost in translation, because I rather enjoyed the German version. The translation, however, is choppy, and far too descriptive for my liking. The translator has no concept of "show, not tell", and I found myself, in many parts, extremely bored because of the copious info dump. The story, however, is very good, and is far deeper than a typical murder mystery. At its heart, it deals with issues like grief and acceptance. Kimmo's character is rather like Will Graham. I would go even as far to say that the relationship between the detective and the killer had elements of Graham's relationship with serial killers, though it fails to achieve even a fraction of the complexity and depth portrayed in Harris's novels. However, it is a very quick read (both in German and in English), and parts of it are rather captivating.

If one does plan on reading this, though, I do recommend they go for the German version.

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### **Carol says**

This was an interesting book, where the protagonist police officer investigates a serial killer while trying (unsuccessfully) to deal with the death of his wife. It is really almost more a study death and loss than a true

murder mystery drama. I did find it a good read, but was a bit unsatisfied with the ending, it really did not feel right to me how the case was ultimately resolved. Hopefully the next in the series will be a bit better. However, that being said, the author does instill in the reader the sense of grief the protagonist is experiencing, altho he doesn't always explain the emotions of the other ancillary characters as well.

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### **Daniela Montero says**

Un día después de fallecer su esposa, luego de una terrible enfermedad, el inspector Kimmo Joentaa se presenta a trabajar como un día más. Su superior, ante la negativa de tomarse unos días, le encomienda resolver el asesinato de una mujer en su domicilio. Un caso con muchas rarezas, ya que no fue forzada la entrada, la mujer murió en su cama y sólo fue robado un cuadro sin valor comercial.

Afectado por su reciente pérdida, el inspector trata de entender la naturaleza del crimen. Mientras tanto, el asesino se cobra nuevas víctimas.

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### **Orrieux says**

Dans une chambre d'hôpital, l'inspecteur Kimmo Joentaa, âgé d'une trentaine d'années, voit mourir sa femme Sanna, vingt-cinq ans, terrassée par une maladie de Hodgkin. D'abord anesthésié par le choc, Kimmo sombre dans un chagrin terrible, à la fois mutique et furieux, traversé d'hallucinations. Dès le lendemain, il est pourtant chargé par son supérieur d'une affaire de meurtre : une jeune femme retrouvée étouffée pendant son sommeil dans sa villa, sans effraction ni vol – à l'exception d'un petit tableau sans valeur représentant une lune dans un ciel d'hiver. Cette victime rappelle à Kimmo la mort de Sanna et redouble son obsession. D'autant plus que, rapidement, de nouvelles victimes sont retrouvées mortes dans leur sommeil.

Entre le tueur et le policier va alors se nouer un lien étrange : l'un (le policier) est dépressif, l'autre (l'assassin) est schizophrène, deux pathologies qui présentent certaines ressemblances. C'est donc ce désespoir commun qui va, paradoxalement, rapprocher les deux hommes : c'est en rentrant peu à peu dans l'esprit du meurtrier que Kimmo finira par le confondre...

À mi-chemin entre le pur polar et le roman psychologique, *Lune de glace* est un livre tout à fait étrange, à la fois feutré et violent, réservé et explosif, touchant de finesse et de sensibilité.

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### **Helena says**

Tämä oli mielenkiintoinen, ei-perinteinen dekkari. Jonkinlainen psykologinen trilleri tai ihmismielien tutkielma enemmänkin. Erityiseksi tämän kirjan teki tunnelman lisäksi se, että saksalaissyntyinen kirjailija sijoittaa tapahtumat Suomeen, Turkuun ja Naantaliin, poliisi on kotoisin Kiteeltä! Täytyypä tutkailla, onko mies kirjoittanut jotain muutakin.

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### **Diane S ? says**

Set in Finland this is a psychological thriller about the many different ways a person handles or hides their grief. Liked the lead detective Kimmo Joenta, who doesn't know how to handle the fact that his wife as died

and finds himself back at work and involved in a murder case. Intrigued enough to read his next US release called "Silence" which came out last week.

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### **Ellen Keim says**

The main character is struggling to come to terms with his wife's death while trying to solve murders that seem to be linked. Because his grief is so severe he is operating at a deficit yet he still manages to figure out who committed the murders and why.

The author subtly uses the murders as a device to cause both the main character and the reader to contemplate and explore the meaning of death. The writing isn't elegant--it may have suffered some in translation--but it is expressive. I really felt for the main character and although there were times when I wanted him to "get over it," I completely understood that it was a process he had to go through.

There is no happy ending to the story (is there ever in a murder mystery?), but there is hope. This is the first in a series and I look forward to seeing how the main character develops from this point on.

Interesting note: The novel is set in Finland but is written by a German whose wife is from Finland. I can hardly comment on the accuracy of his portrayal of life in Finland, since I've never lived there, but it seems consistent with novels I've read that are also set there. (Strangely enough, another series I really like that is set in Finland is also written by a non-native: the Inspector Kari Vaara series by James Thompson.)

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### **Inga says**

Jan Costin Wagner schreibt Kriminalromane, die in Finland spielen. Sein Protagonist ist der Polizist Kimmo Joentaa. In dem ersten Band der Reihe, Eismond, stirbt Kimmos Frau an Krebs. Er ist am Boden zerstört und geht dennoch, nahezu schlafwandelnd, zur Arbeit. Ein Serienmörder tötet Menschen im Schlaf. Kimmo fühlt sich dem Mörder auf seltsame Art verbunden, spürt Gemeinsamkeiten. So ist die Ermittlung eher eine emotionale Suche, ein In-sich-Hineinhorchen, eine Beschäftigung mit dem Tod und der Angst vor dem Alleinsein.

Eismond ist im Grunde nur "nebenbei" auch ein Krimi, die inneren Prozesse des Mörders und des Ermittlers gleichen bzw. ergänzen sich, womit Wagner sicher einen interessanten Weg einschlägt. Interessant ist, wie er den Charakter seines Ermittlers weiterentwickeln kann.

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### **Britta Söpper says**

Wer die Güte eines Krimis daran bemisst, wieviel Raum der Suche nach dem Täter und der Lösung des Falles gegeben wird, wird sicherlich von diesem Buch enttäuscht sein. Eismond lebt vielmehr von der

bizarren Parallelle, dass sowohl der Inspektor, der seine geliebte Frau verloren hat, wie auch der Täter, den Verlust geliebter Menschen nicht akzeptieren wollen und versuchen die Grenze zwischen Leben und Tod auf ihre ganz eigene Weise zu überwinden. Mit einer ruhigen und kargen Sprache gelingt es dem Autor meisterhaft, das Innenleben, v.a. seines Hauptprotagonisten, des Ermittlers Kimmo Joentaa dem Leser hoch spannend, aber v.a. mit unglaublich emotionaler Tiefe nahe zu bringen. Wer diese Abgründe der Trauer und des Schmerzes nicht scheut, liegt mit diesem Krimi richtig.

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