



## Bubble

*Anders de la Motte*

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**Bubble** Anders de la Motte

**The stunning conclusion to the groundbreaking Scandinavian crime trilogy featuring a deadly game that blurs reality and fiction in a world obsessed with social media.** It's the middle of summer and Stockholm is preparing for the wedding of a beloved Swedish princess. Trying to move on with his life after the end of *The Game*, HP is still struggling to find his way when he receives an anonymous text message asking if he'd like back in. HP knows his participation has already put himself and his sister in danger and he'd like to ignore the text, but he also realizes he doesn't know who to trust. HP tried to stay hidden and on the run, but he can't escape the Game Master. Hoping to uncover the truth behind *The Game* and free himself from the Game Master's control forever, HP decides to accept one more assignment.

Rebecca's life has changed dramatically as a result of her brother's involvement in *The Game* and she, too, is trying to move on and find the truth. And now she's determined to uncover the connection between her late father's past and her brother's current predicament. But will Rebecca's investigation into the past cost her the future? Taking action, HP hunts down a man he believes might be the Game Master himself. With a band of fellow former Game players, they infiltrate the Fortress in order to collect information that could be the Game's undoing. But is he strong enough to take down *The Game*? And can he trust his fellow gamers?

A fast-paced, technological thriller that concludes the story that began in *Game* and *Buzz*, *Bubble* will have readers gasping for breath during the final showdown between HP and the Game Master.

## Bubble Details

Date : Published February 4th 2014 by Atria/EEmily Bestler Books (first published 2012)

ISBN : 9781476712949

Author : Anders de la Motte

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## From Reader Review Bubble for online ebook

### Paul Pessolano says

“Bubble” by Anders De La Motte, published by Emily Bestler Books.

Category – Mystery/Thriller Publication Date – February 04, 2014

“Bubble” is the third book in this trilogy. The first book is “Game” and the second is “Buzz”. If you have been reading my reviews you will know that Henrik Pettersson, known as HP, has become involved in a deadly “Game” that is controlled by the Game Master. What started out as a game involving innocent pranks that paid off in much needed monetary rewards has become a “Game” involving murder.

Henrik tries to leave the “Game” but finds that not only is it difficult but he becomes involved with others that are trying to bring the Game Master down and a highly technical and long reaching organization.

In this final chapter, HP accepts one more assignment that puts not only himself but his sister in danger. HP and a group of gamers try to infiltrate the headquarters of the suspected Game Master in an attempt to bring down the organization. The organization seems to be prepared for them leading them to believe that there is a traitor among them. However, they are too far into the attempt that they must continue their assault.

The author has succeeded in all three books to keep the identity of the Game Master not only hidden but gives the reader several possibilities as to his identity. Not only does he keep the Game Master hidden but throughout the three books it is almost impossible to tell the good guys from the bad guys. This leads to an exciting conclusion and unpredictable ending.

Although this is labeled a trilogy, Anders De La Motte does leave the door open for another book.

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### Vanessa Montês says

(..)

Apesar deste ritmo louco ser interessante e nos prender do início ao fim, pelo menos a mim leva-me a perder certos factos, a confundir um pouco o que se passava e onde, porque diversos acontecimentos estavam a ocorrer em simultâneo. A certas alturas já não sabia quem era a pessoa x de quem todos estavam a falar e já não me lembrava de certos pormenores que haviam sido descritos anteriormente. Pode ser de mim e não acontecer a muitos leitores, mas no meu caso a velocidade da narrativa fez-me confundir muitos acontecimentos.

Um livro que para os amantes do género sem dúvida que será um delícia. No meu caso, deu para passar um bom bocado, mas não achei nada de especial.

Opinião em <http://blocodedevaneios.blogspot.pt/2...>

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## Mirkat says

Oh, Bubble... You Didn't Even Burst. You Just Kind of Leaked. As opposed to Game and Buzz, I did not receive Bubble as an uncorrected-proof ebook. Allegedly, after having submitted reviews for the first two, I was to receive the third from the publisher, but that never happened. There might have been a secret deadline that I failed to meet. Regardless, my NOT having received a free copy of this book has NOT prevented me from providing an honest review here. (I borrowed this book from my library. Libraries ROCK.)

I found Bubble frustrating. It felt as though there was plenty of action, yet nothing was happening. No, that's not it exactly. Stuff was happening, but much of it felt like filler and stalling, the kind that tend to crop up in the middle book of a trilogy.

One of the things that bothered me was that HP and Rebecca don't talk to each other, or otherwise communicate, for the entire narrative. There are missed calls and dodged calls, but not a single conversation. This was a plot contrivance, and an irksome one, at that.

At the end of Game, there was a cliffhanger suggesting that a secondary character was involved in the game. That secondary character proceeds to stay off-screen all through Buzz, and then the payoff, such as it is, of that cliffhanger doesn't happen until this third book. This character ultimately delivers the "twist" at the very end of the final book, and I can't say that I like it.

I think that Anders de la Motte had interesting ideas with the trilogy, but his execution wasn't the best. And I know it's unfair, but I'll say it. He's not Stieg Larsson, nor Larsson's heir apparent. Though in Buzz, he does make a reference to "Stieg Larsson tourists." Plus, de la Motte's Swedes drink coffee almost as compulsively as Larsson's do. In Sweden, I would never sleep!

I often felt that the pop-culture references were too self-conscious. Sprinkle in some Matrix here, Bourne series there. And I cannot even tell you how tired I got of chain-smoking HP's constant need for yet another cigarette.

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## Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Στη "Φυσαλ?δα", το τρ?το και τελευτα?ο μ?ρος αυτ?ς της ανατρεπτικ?ς τριλογ?ας, ο Χ?νρικ βρ?σκεται κυνηγημ?νος αλλ? την ?δια ?ρα, αποφασισμ?νος ν' ανακαλ?ψει την αφετηρ?α του "Παιχνιδιο?", ?τσι ?στε να μπορ?σει να το τερματ?σει μ?α και καλ?. Αλλ? κ?θε φορ? που φα?νεται πως πλησι?ζει στο στ?χο του, ?λο και πιο μακρι? βρ?σκεται, με την αλ?θεια να μοι?ζει να ξεκιν?ει πολλ?ς δεκαετ?ες π?σω. Μαζ? με μια ομ?δα αντ?στασης παλι?ν παικτ?ν, θα δ?σει αγ?να για να π?ρει και π?λι τη ζω? του στα χ?ρια του, ?στω κι αν οι πιθαν?τητες δεν φαντ?ζουν υπ?ρ του. Την ?δια στιγμ?, η Ρεμπ?κα ?χει επιλ?ζει ν' απομακρυνθε? προσωριν? απ? το αστυνομικ? σ?μα, βρ?σκοντας δουλει?ς ως προσωπικ? ασφαλε?ας σε μ?α ιδιωτικ? εταιρε?α, κ?τι που δεν θα εξελιχθε? καλ? αφο? θα απολυθε? σ?ντομα. Τ?τε ε?ναι που ?ρχεται στα χ?ρια της το κλειδ? μιας θυρ?δας, μ?σα στην οπο?α βρ?σκονται χρ?ματα, ?να ?πλο, αλλ? και δεκ?δες διαβατ?ρια ?λλων κρατ?ν, που ?λα φα?νεται να αν?κουν στον πατ?ρα της. Με τη βο?θεια εν?ς παλιο? φ?λου και πρ?ην συνεργ?τη του, η Ρεμπ?κα θα προσπαθ?σει ν' ανακαλ?ψει τι πραγματικ? συμβα?νει, κ?νοντας ?να ταξ?δι στο χρ?νο, βυθιζ?μενη σε ?ναν κ?σμο κατασκοπ?ας και β?ας με δεκ?δες

μυστικ;.

Η "Φυσαλ?δα", με τον ?κρως ευρηματικ? τ?τλο -πρ?γμα που καταλαβα?νει κανε?ς αφο? ολοκληρ?σει την αν?γνωσ? της-, ολοκληρ?νει αυτ? το τεχνολογικ?, δραματουργικ? θρ?λερ χαρακτ?ρων και καταστ?σεων, με τον πλ?ον καλ?τερο δυνατ? τρ?πο. Ο συγγραφ?ας, ο?τε για μια στιγμ? δεν ?χασε τον στ?χο του, με την δρ?ση να παραμ?νει καταιγιστικ? απ? την πρ?τη μ?χρι και την τελευτα?α στιγμ?, με τις πληροφορ?ες να φτ?νουν σε μας, τους αναγν?στες, ?ταν ?πρεπε και στις δ?σεις που ?πρεπε, κ?νοντ?ς μας ?χι απλ? παρατηρητ?ς αυτ?ς της περιπ?τειας, αλλ? ενεργ? μ?λη της δρ?σης των εξελ?ξεων. ?λλωστε, η τριλογ?α αυτ?, αφορ? ?ναν γρ?φο που αναζητ? λ?ση. Μια λ?ση που στην πραγματικ?τητα, μπορε? να βρ?σκεται πολ? πιο κοντ? μας απ' ?σο θ?λουμε να πιστε?ουμε. Γιατ? μπορε? η τριλογ?α αυτ? ν' αποτελε? προ??ν μυθοπλασ?ας, ?μως στην πραγματικ?τητα, εμπερι?χει αλ?θειες της σ?γχρονης πραγματικ?τητας που ε?ναι ?κρως τρομακτικ?ς. Μπορε? να διαν?ουμε την εποχ? της δραματικ?ς αν?πτυξης της τεχνολογ?ας, ?μως π?σο ελε?θεροι μπορο?με να ε?μαστε ?ταν το κ?θε μας β?μα, η κ?θε μας κ?νηση, ακ?μα και η κ?θε μας σκ?ψη, αποτελε? πηγ? πληροφορι?ν στην συλλογ? κ?ποιων που μπορο?ν να τις αξιοποι?σουν ?πως θ?λουν; Και ?ραγε, π?σο σ?γουροι ε?μαστε ?τι δεν ?χουμε πρ?βλημα με αυτ?; Τροφ? για σκ?ψη; Σ?γουρα! Μια απολαυστικ? περιπ?τεια; Ακ?μα περισσ?τερο!

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### Monika says

Jag har ju alltid gillat konspirationsteorier och teknik (specifikt IT) är ett av mina största intressen. Två saker som verkligen tillgodoses med hela den här serien, i vilken *[bubble]* är den tredje och sista. Min största undran när jag började läsa var om jag skulle få svar på alla frågor jag samlat på mig under vägen. Läs mer på <http://bokslut.blogspot.se/2015/10/bu...>

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### Vivienne says

In the final book in this thriller trilogy the pace changes some with back-story being introduced featuring the Cold War, which brought to mind aspects of the *The Millennium Trilogy*. Again, the narrative moves between HP and his sister Rebecca with clever use of language linking the siblings' stories.

It was a thrilling ride with plenty of twists and turns along the way. My heart was certainly pounding for the final few chapters and I applauded de la Motte as I closed the book as I felt he'd done a sterling job in bringing the tale to a satisfactory conclusion. I would recommend the trilogy to folk who enjoy dark, complex plots with the social and economic foundation so often found in Nordic crime and thrillers.

I own a copy of the Audible Audio edition and listened to parts of this, though not the entire novel. I did read the entire library print edition.

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### Diana N says

Foi um bom desfecho, mas não me prendeu tanto como a Vibração. No geral é uma optima trilogia com uma escrita bem masculina principalmente nas descrições da personagem HP, o que tornou esta personagem

bastante credível e não o típico herói perfeito em que tudo lhe corre bem. Gostei mesmo muito do HP. Já a Rebecca foi crescendo ao longo dos livros. No primeiro achei-a uma chata e neste ultima demonstrou ser, sem dúvida, uma grande mulher.

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### **Simon Scoltock says**

I sort of enjoyed Bubble in much the same way I enjoy a leave your brain at the door, dumb blockbuster movie with someone like Bruce Willis and a load of explosions. The writing isn't great but it had me turning the pages.

But oh dear oh dear The plot is a mess, the writing dips to almost Dan Brown levels of bad, Rebecca continues to be 'a male character with tits'. HP has ludicrous abilities, he chain smokes (and it appears it's important to know they are Marlboros) eats bad food (mostly gorby pies it seems), and he slobbs about playing computer games and wanking. However when called for can run at incredible speed for long periods of time. When I smoked I could hardly run for a bus. He also appears to be immortal I thought the Kergan would show up and lop off his head

The 'twists' were signposted and obvious and ultimately not very satisfying.

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### **Brenda says**

This all turned out to be a bit much, with too many characters and too many things going on to keep track of what's going on. And that's not even mentioning the confusing nature of the book to begin with. There is not a likable character to be found in these books. HP in particular is completely unlikeable. And somehow he manages to survive anything that happens to him, and get out of any scrape he's in. He's like a superhero, except there's no reason why he should be. It's just that's the way things needed to go for the author to advance his story. It was all way too out there to be believable in the slightest.

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### **Przemysław Garczyński (3telnik.pl) says**

Noo, na taki obrót spraw, to nie byłem przygotowany... ;) niez?e zako?czenie trylogii

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### **John Hatley says**

This is one of the best thrillers I've read recently. I wouldn't have thought it possible for Mr de la Motte actually to improve over his first two novels, but in my opinion with "bubble" he has done just that. His best yet.

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### **Desiree says**

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I loved this trilogy and did not want to see it end! The story that began with *The Game* is finally wrapped up in this exciting techno-thriller. The plot is advanced, just as in the last two books, with the action going back and forth between HP and his sister, who is in law enforcement. They finally get to the bottom of who is pulling their strings and it was definitely not who or what I thought! The suspense kept me reading late into the night, needing to see what would happen next! Get ready for an action packed edge of your seat ride from Sweden. I highly recommend it, but do suggest you start with *Game* first! I am keeping my fingers crossed that this one makes it to the big screen! Excellent trilogy!

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## Sarah says

27/7 - Due to some hasty hold placing at the library I somehow ended up with this book (#3) borrowed before the previous book (#2). Then I did it again with Richelle Mead's *Blood Promise* and *Shadow Kiss*, somehow mistaking *Blood Promise* for the third book in the series, when it's actually the fourth. So I had to quickly get a hold of the next books in both series and read them, so I could get to this and *Blood Promise* before they were due at the library (they're obviously popular as they immediately had further holds on them). Didn't quite get all that? Don't worry, it's a bit strange and complicated and comes from placing a hold through the library's computer without access to GR to check the true series order (no, I don't have an iPad or phone with internet access), instead of doing it at home with GR open in another tab, as I usually do.

Oh well, it looks like it's going to work out fine in the end. I have until the 4/8 before this and *Blood Promise* are due back and while this is a decent sized book, I managed to read *Buzz* (which is only slightly shorter than *Bubble*) in just two days earlier this month, so I think I can get all three books finished before I have to start paying fines for them. Plus, I'm really pumped for the big ending, how everything's going to be wrapped up.

Will HP finally manage to kick his fame addiction (or any of the others)? What's going to happen to Rebecca when she starts working for the company that runs *The Game*? Will they beat *The Game*? Or will the ending be like those horror movies where you think the final characters have managed to kill the unkillable bad guy, only to have him prove he truly is unkillable (think Jason Voorhees) by popping back up again to chop off one more head before disappearing back into the forest. I think I sped through my last book *Whisky Charlie Foxtrot* so fast because I knew that this was next on my internal list and I **could not wait** to get started.

Although, now that I could be seconds away from doing just that (depending on how fast I type) I'm nervous it won't be as good as the first two, that it'll be a let down after all the tension of *The Game* and *Buzz*. I guess there are only two ways to find out, read the GR reviews (obviously not going to do that because not only will I ruin any plot twists, but I also still won't have a definitive answer because what one person one stars another five stars) or read the book. I'm going to read the book and try to forget the fact that I happened to catch a glimpse of the average rating for the book. 3.65 is a **good** book, just good, not great or fantastic or amazing, but I'm not going to think about that I'm just going to trust that my opinion is usually the opposite (or at least different) of a lot of others and read with an open mind. To be continued...

28/7 - As I exhibited with my pre-review ramble last night, I was a little bit excited and nervous about starting the possibly climactic, or possibly disappointing, final book in this fast-paced series. Now I don't know if it was a symptom of that mix of excitement and nerves, but I didn't really notice or become annoyed by the quick POV changes that I felt a little plagued by in *Buzz* and *Game*. I wonder whether, now that I've

gotten over those first date jitters, the lightning fast changes will become more apparent and irritating. I'll be back tomorrow to talk about it.

Oh, before I go I just want to mention that I just realised that with 400 pages to go in *Bubble*, approx. 450 in *Shadow Kiss* and a little over 500 in *Blood Promise* that I've got about 1300 pages to read in six days and a few hours. With a little rounding off that works out to around 200 pages a day, which doesn't sound too hard, until you **know** that you're reading to a timetable and know that if you only manage 100 pages on one day that means you'll have to make it up somewhere in the remaining days, either with pages added to every day or just a chunk to one day. All that mathematising could lead to stressful, rushed reading. I think, if it comes down to enjoying my reading or paying a small fine (and at only 50c a book per day it would be small), I'll pay the fine and finish the book happily rather than hurriedly skimming it in the car outside the library (my 'I have to return this book today' last chance reading spot).

Later - How bloody stupid can HP be? Imagining that, after being bitten by a rattlesnake and passing out (supposedly due to the effects of the venom, not sure how fast rattlesnake venom would take to kill you, but that's another discussion) he would be able to successfully inject himself with multiple syringes of antivenin, then collect all his breaking and entering tools and a loaded gun and get back to his apartment before once again passing out. It certainly seems crystal clear to me that the bad guys came back, fixed him up and deposited him back on his own bed, all for some nefarious ulterior motive. Possibly so he can be setup as their patsy in whatever terroristic act they're planning. I really shake my head at HP's stupidity, stunningly bad decision-making and blindness to what's really going on around him. I **was** very pleased when I read that he hadn't smoked marijuana since it got him in so much trouble in Dubai, over six months ago, because really, look at the trouble he gets himself into when he's **not** high. To be continued...

30/7 - I feel like HP, with no idea of who to trust, whose story, or how much of it, to believe, constantly jumping from theory to theory about what's really going on and who's behind it all.

Was Uncle Tage telling Rebecca the truth and he's being set up by de la Motte to appear sinister? Or has he cleverly revealed just enough of the truth that his story will sound plausible to Rebecca, encouraging her to help him 'help' HP. Also Nora and Jeff... they don't seem all that innocent and straight forward. Some of their answers, like how they found HP so easily, give me suspicions that they're actually working for the Game and have been tracking him for days, or even weeks. How do we know that they're not the next door neighbours and aren't guiding HP towards their intended target for assassination/detonation, all ready for him to be the fall guy? Everything about them is just too convenient for my suspicious mind. To be continued...

31/7 - Well, it looks like I've jinxed myself with all that talk of needing to read 200 pages a day for six days. I am down to two days and a few hours (this is being written at approx. the same time as my update on the 28th) and I haven't even finished the first book - **AAARRRRGGGGHHHH READING STRESS!!!!!!**

In regards to the book itself - exciting, tense, complicated, keeping me guessing at all times. Also the quick-fire POV changes seem to have mysteriously disappeared (or I'm so involved in the story that I haven't noticed them, not sure which), for which I'm grateful. Manga has returned and I'm not sure I believe what he's saying anymore than I believe Uncle Tage's spiel. I'm getting paranoid over fictional character's true motives and I can't stop wondering about who the real Game master is - not knowing is making me a bit insane, also as I read back what I've just wrote I realise that I'm repeating myself, sorry about that. To be continued...

2/7 - The last 10 pages I spent the whole time going "No! This can't be the way it all ends." I was so disappointed thinking that it was going to end the way those annoying horror movies do, with the bad guy

rising back up and escaping only to live another day in the next movie, or book, only we know that this is the last in the series and then we would have ended up with a very unsatisfactory ending. Fortunately, that wasn't exactly how things went - the 'bad' guy did rise up to fight another day, but he also died. Eventually, it all made sense, but it's still very complicated, especially HP and Rebecca's father and Sammer's involvement during the 60s. I now have over 900 pages to read in 1.5 days. AAARRGGHH MORE READING STRESS!!

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### **Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says**

I can see how this book might appeal to some readers, but it didn't really work for me. It took a while for me to get into the story (granted, I wasn't able to read the first two books). The storyline was too gritty, and the main leads were downright unpalatable more times than not. Also, the plotting wasn't as tight as this concept needed. I admit the ending had some good suspense.

I can only give this **2.5/5.0 stars**.

Reviewed for *Affaire de Coeur Magazine* for the February 2014 issue: <http://affairedecoeur.com>.

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### **Paul says**

#### **The Bubble Bursts with a Bang**

Welcome to Bubble the third and final book in the Game Trilogy by Anders De La Motte and oh boy all I can say is wow! Usually when you have a trilogy one of the books will be weaker than the others, it just happens sometimes, but something went wrong in this trilogy as this was even better than Game and Buzz. This really is Swedish thriller writing at its best, and I certainly hope that we hear more from De La Motte.

The story opens a few months after HP's rescue from the hands of ArgosEye and he is rarely leaving the flat afraid of the Game and the Game Master. Paranoia has taken a hold of HP and all his thinking and it does not help when the Police break his door down and accuse him of being a terrorist and planning attack on Swedish soil. He quite frankly has not got a clue what is going on and his life is spinning out of control and to make matters worse it looks like his sister is involved somehow working for PayTag and the Game Master.

Becca takes, after all the excitement, a sabbatical from the Security Police to help set up a personal security firm that will have PayTag and its chairman as the client. Everything is going very well until an attempted assassination of the PayTag boss and from their Becca's life seems to spin out of control as Uncle Tag takes control of guiding her life. As more she digs into her own life and that of her father's the more she seems to be dependent up Uncle Tag.

There are two massive events coming up and they need all the hands on the pump, HP has been declared a wanted terrorist whose life is in the hands of former Game players and possibly the Game Master and Manga. There is a Royal Wedding that could be a target or the opening of a massive server farm which would mean that PayTag would control the future as much as they could manipulate the past. Both come in to play as HP and his new friends must make an attempt to cause maximum damage to PayTag and see if

they could escape. At the same time is the Royal Wedding could this be the scene of the terrorist attack who knows?

With Bubble you feel as if you are as paranoid as HP as the pace of the book really picks up and with all the twists and turns you really cannot see what is coming especially the Grande Finale and you can really ask yourself the King is dead, long live the King! This is a brilliant, exciting fast paced trilogy the really does reach a crescendo in Bubble and you will have to read it yourself to find out if the Bubble really does burst!

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