



The Day is Dark

Yrsa Sigurðardóttir , Philip Roughton (Translator)

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When all contact is lost with two Icelanders working in a harsh and sparsely populated area on the northeast coast of Greenland, Thóra is hired to investigate. Is there any connection with the disappearance of a woman from the site some months earlier? And why are the locals so hostile?

The Day is Dark Details

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From Reader Review The Day is Dark for online ebook

Judith Teggelaar says

This book began with a bang but then got a little tedious as it went on. I was actually glad when I finally finished it. Please, Yrsa Sigurdardottir, do everyone a favor and don't write any more books with characters gone missing in isolated parts of Iceland and Greenland.

Dimitris Passas says

To "The Day is Dark" είναι το τρίτο βιβλίο της, Ισλανδικής καταγωγής, Yrsa Sigurðardóttir που διαβάζω και το μύθο βιβλίο είναι τι θα συνεχίσω την ανήγνωση των σκοτεινών, στα όρια του horror, μυθιστορημάτων της. Πώς και στο "Why did you Lie?", η συγγραφέας στνεί μια ιστορία έτσι ώστε ο αναγνώστης να πιστέψει τι το υπερφυσικό στοιχείο έχει εκδηλώσει την παρουσία του και θα κατέχει τον πρωταγωνιστικό ρόλο. Τα βιβλία της Sigurðardóttir διακρίνονται από μια αλλόκοτη ατμόσφαιρα, μια απειλή είναι μύημα παρόσα κατ' την διάρκεια εκτέλιξης της πλοκής και πραγματικά κατορθώνουν να μεταδώσουν με τον γλαφυρότερο τρόπο τα συναισθήματα του τρίτου και του πανικού που καταλαμβάνουν τους ήρωες μπροστά σε ανεξήγητα και ήκως φρικιαστικά γεγονότα. Συχνά, αν και όχι πάντοτε, το τέλος των βιβλίων που εξηγεί τα ήκως δυσεμνεύτα περιστατικά, αποκαλύπτει την ανθρώπινη παράμυθια και τότε καταλαβαίνεις τι έχεις αφήσει τον εαυτό σου να παραπλανηθεί από την μαγεία της γραφής και της φαντασίας της συγγραφέως.

Αυτό συμβαίνει και στο "The Day is Dark" και σε αυτό συντελεί η επιλογή της μακρινής και απομονωμένης Γροιλανδίας ως τόπου στον οποίο διαδραματίζεται η ιστορία. Οι ακραίες καιρικές συνθήκες, η έλλειψη φωτός και το διαρκές σκοτάδι, οι τοπικές προλήψεις και δεισιδαιμονίες των ντόπιων καθώς και η προσαρμογή σε ένα περιβάλλον που το μυστικό ζητούμενο δεν είναι τίποτα περισσότερο από την επιβίωση, παράχουν το κατάλληλο θεμέλιο για ένα ψυχολογικό θρόνο. Κατ' την προσωπική μου άποψη δεν είναι το καλύτερο βιβλίο της Sigurðardóttir, παράλα αυτό διατηρεί όλα τα στοιχεία που την ξεχωρίζουν από την μάζα των συγγραφέων του συγκεκριμένου είδους και αξίζει να το διαβάσετε κατ' προτίμηση τη νύχτα και με ελάχιστο φωτισμό. Είναι σίγουρο τι θα σας κάνει να ανατριχίσετε πολλές φορές.

Καλή ανήγνωση!

tENTATIVELY, cONVENIENCE says

review of

Yrsa Sigurdardóttir's The Day is Dark

by tENTATIVELY, a cONVENIENCE - July 21-22, 2017

This is the 1st Nordic crime fiction I've read. The author's Icelandic, the action takes place mostly in Greenland. Perhaps Lars von Trier's The Element of Crime (1984) might qualify as my 1st exposure to the

genre but there's probably something earlier than that that I'm not thinking of. Wd Ingmar Bergman's The Virgin Spring (1960) qualify? I associate the popularity of the genre, if it is popular, w/ Stieg Larsson's trilogy The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, all of wch were made into movies after the author's death in 2004 (according to Wikipedia). I've probably seen the movie made from The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest. Still, this is the 1st of the bks I've read. A back cover review says ""Worthy of Stieg Larsson." —*Kirkus Reviews*"

The author is described on the back cover as being "a director of one of Iceland's largest engineering firms. Her work is found on bestseller lists all over the world." For the sheep readers, the people who're afraid to read anything that hasn't been preapproved for them by some sort of semi-delusional mass consumption, this last sentence is perfect. For a person like myself, it's a complete turn-off b/c my experience of what constitutes 'best-selling' is that robopaths flock to it - & robopaths are only literate enuf to read their marching orders, to consume their cult propaganda. I bought a used copy of this so I didn't contribute to the dubious statistics.

One of the things that impressed me about this the most, if "impressed" is the right word, is that the protagonist, a lawyer accustomed to doing divorce cases, mainly gets done what she gets done by being a reasonable level-headed person that people will trust & talk to. I suspect that these are professional qualities that "a director of one of Iceland's largest engineering firms" might respect. I respect them too. I also don't think they're necessarily likely to characterize most lawyers. Lawyers are, after all, in the business of 'winning' thru argumentation - wch generally involves all sorts of underhanded manipulation. Wd you trust a lawyer? I have friends who're lawyers, obviously we like each other b/c of interests in common & mutual respect. Still, the qualities of the lawyer hero, Thóra, as presented in this bk are a bit too idealized for them to be believable to me. She's a bit *too* trustworthy. Take away a lawyer's cushy economically spoiled lifestyle & you might have a cornered rat. SO, the mystery:

"She swallowed her disappointment. "Are the workers in Greenland?"

""No, they're in Iceland. All but two people who are probably still on-site. The others cam home during their allotted leave, but now refuse to return."

""What do you mean when you say that the two who remained behind are *probably* still on-site?"

""Nothing's been heard from them for around ten days, and they can't get hold of anyone there to go and find out what's happening. It's possible that the camp's communication system has simply failed, but apparently the only way to find out is to go there. If a logical explanation is found for their silence, it's conceivable that the other employees can be persuaded to return. That of course would be the best solution for the bank."" - pp 14-15

Thora's hired by a bank to try to solve a potentially financially damaging snag in a nascent mining operation in a sparsely populated area of Greenland. Taking the job appeals to her b/c there's some mystery involved & she's sick of divorce cases. The story is generally not a very happy one but there is a little humor early on:

"She leaned in and whispered, "Did you notice that Bella is the only other person awake?" Stealthily, she turned to check if this was still the case. "If she weren't here I could invite you to the toilet and initiate you into the mile high club." She looked Matthew in the eye and grinned. "Damn it, what a shame she had to come." She turned back to the window, pleased with herself." - p 38

As I'm sure you all realize, the mile high club is for people who dump their poop out to freeze in the high altitude while their partner parachutes attached to a line & catches it in a net. They then get reeled back in & beat the pooper w/ the frozen club.

Ok, ok, I'm joshin' ya, the mile high club is just a name for people who have sex on airplanes. But you probably already knew that.

One of the main characters is a hunter who still lives according to the traditional lifestyle. He observes the Icelandic company employees discretely from a distance: "It was not his job to rescue full-grown children who came here on a fool's errand. He would concentrate on saving the dog; it was far more important to him." (p 60) The hunter has important wisdom but it's framed in a belief system that's not acceptable to the more modern people around him.

An Icelandic author writes a bk about Greenland. I wonder how many people conflate Iceland & Greenland? I don't but I do associate the 2 even though I know that Greenland's colder & definitely not greener, etc..

"Thóra skimmed over the text. It didn't surprise her that it was thought that those who first settled in Eastern Greenland around two thousand years ago had all died out. One migration and settlement followed another, but it always ended the same way: No one managed to survive for long in this harsh region. It wasn't until the eighteenth century that settlements started to thrive on the east coast, but in the nineteenth century the population started to decrease. One village after another fell to ruin after the villagers died from hunger or other hardships" - p 64

Sigurdardóttir does an excellent job of establishing a plethora of possible explanations for the still unknown fate of the missing persons & for the fate of the previous dead of the area: "Inuits believed that something called a Tupilak had killed them all." (p 67) When I think of something like a Tupilak, an apparently threatening curse or monster-like figure, I think of plans of ways to warn future people away from toxic waste areas w/ danger-lives that far exceed the likelihood of surrounding civilization lifespans. In other words, warnings that rely on imagery rather than language since the language may be long dead while the threatening imagery may still live on.

""I have a feeling this is probably some kind of Tupilak," said Friðrikka, pointing at the figurine. At first Thóra had found the figurine resembled a banana upon which something had been scratched, but when she looked more closely she saw that it was an intricately carved bone to which had been tied some strange-looking odds and ends: hair, some kind of leather, and a bird's claw. The craftsman appeared to have tried to make the bone itself resemble an ogre, and indeed the figurine looked quite monstrous. It had a large face with open jaws and numerous sharp teeth. Little hands with claws were carved into its belly but otherwise the monster was covered with a pattern that they couldn't understand, but that possibly symbolized something. On the figurine's back a tail could be distinguished." - p 115

"The woman frowned. "We're not bad to outsiders. We don't like the place you choose to live in. No one should be there; you are disturbing the evil that dwells there and by doing so you're putting us all in danger. We just want you to go somewhere else."" - p 134

As it turns out, the Greenlanders are correct in their warning but can't explain it in a way that seems anything but superstitious to the Icelanders so the warning is written off as being merely fanciful instead of representing a real danger. All sorts of things turn out to be correct.. but for the wrong reasons:

""Didn't those bastard Greenlanders just sabotage the equipment?" asked Eyjólfur immediately. "They'd certainly be capable of it."

""What the hell are you talking about, boy?" snapped the doctor. "Why would they want to sabotage anything here? I'm certain I know more about the natives of this country than you do, and I can tell you for sure that they're the kindest of people and wish no one ill."

""Except for their women," interrupted Friðrikka. "They're not particularly kind to *them*." Again she seemed

to regret having spoken, and pressed her lips shut.

"The doctor harrumphed, then said, "The way that a particular people or race handles alcohol says nothing about its disposition. Alcohol doesn't really bring out the best in Icelanders either. What if we were deprived of our sustenance, like these people have been because of bleeding-heart liberal Westerners banning the hunting they depend upon?" - p 90

What if everyone's a little bit right & a little bit wrong? Then there's the whole process of sifting thru it all & not throwing out the baby w/ the bathwater. There's definitely some clear-headed wisdom in this bk, & I admire it for that, but it strikes me as the type of wisdom that a person can have, an author can have, when they have a comfortable distance from actual problems that they may never have to directly experience the miseries of - b/c, if they did, they'd be just as destroyed by it, if not more so, than the people immersed in it from birth usually are.

The hunter, Igimaq, tries to fulfill what he considers his duty by warning people away from the cursed area. Alas, the distance between the culture he represents & the culture he's trying to warn is too great, the problem is more than a language gap - wch, in itself, is usually more than enuf to cause problems. He decides to appeal to his old friend who has some power in the community as a tribal elder & who at least partially understands the problem: "No one would listen to him that way. Besides, it was only this former friend of his who knew the story and so would hopefully understand the gravity of the situation immediately. Unless he had lost his connection with his roots." (p 107)

""Don't you remember what we were taught, Sikki?" The hunter stared at his friend. "We are responsible for this area." He recalled as if it were yesterday how the two of them had been entrusted with this task; Igimaq because he was a direct descendant of the greatest hunters in the village on his father's side, and Sikki because he was in line to become the next angekokk, or shaman, as his father and grandfather had been before him." - p 155

Another mysterious artifact is found: "After most of the ice had been removed from it, it turned out to be a bone that had been polished, with holes drilled in two places in the middle. A leather strap had been tied to it at both ends, meaning that above all, it resembled a giant's armband." (p 108) One might be tempted to jump to a conclusion that it's another relic similar to the Tupilak. After all, it's a bone w/ pieces of leather tied to it. But one of the strongest lessons of this bk is *don't jump to conclusions or you'll never figure out the truth*.

As w/ most mysteries, suspicion is cast on various characters:

"No doubt the therapist would quickly lose his appetite if Arnar started to describe the events leading to his fall. Terrible, mindless vengeance and violence—and not from someone who kills for survival but from him, a supposedly civilized human being. And toward his colleagues, too . . . He felt sick when he recalled the reasons behind his actions. But though the others' behavior toward him had been disgraceful, he alone was responsible for what had happened. And for that, he couldn't blame alcohol." - p 112

"Naruana could only hope that Igimaq didn't know what his son had done, how low he had stooped. Hope that he hadn't seen him as he stood there, his hands stained with the blood of a prey no hunter would boast about." - p 128

"Arnar turned his back to the wall. "What do you think about killing animals?" he asked.

""Me?" asked the young woman, as if he could have meant someone else. "I don't find it pleasant to think about, but it's okay if the animals are meant to be eaten."

""And people?" asked Arnar, without changing his expression or his tone of voice. "Is that all right?" - p

151

"Friðrikka sounded skeptical. "You know, I read somewhere that in the old days the Greenlanders never had any actual religion. In place of faith they lived with fear." Friðrikka's breathing was regular, as if she were drifting off and speaking almost in her sleep. "That's how I feel. I'm not religious but I feel a persistent fear of something, though I don't know what."" - p 183

If the following is accurate then Greenland is more interesting to me than ever:

"It was an ancient custom; those who lived together in small groups could not afford discord, meaning that those who raised their voices or bickered with each other were looked down on. The only way to express one's disapproval was to remain silent, because words spoken in anger had a way of snowballing, intensifying and provoking hostility that would eventually put the survival of the entire community at risk. The Greenlandic language was thus free of invective and Igimaq was not about to start swearing in Danish." - p 264

That's certainly a lesson that more people shd learn.

There're times when I suspect authors of saying just enuf to stimulate the reader to figure out at least one aspect of a mystery shortly before the answer is presented in full.

"Eyjólfur frowned. "I don't know. He wasn't so awful that people would have thought about killing him." He looked awkwardly at Friðrikka in the hope of support. "Right? It wasn't like that, was it?"

"Friðrikka looked from him to her lap. "No. Definitely not." She abruptly fell silent. It was as if all the air had gone out of her." - p 355

It was after the reading the above (& what led up to it) that I realized who killed _____ & why. I felt satisfied w/ myself when my theory was verified shortly thereafter. I'll bet there's even a term for when authors nudge the reader into solving a problem.

All in all, I admit to begrudgingly finding this bk wise & well thought thru. One of the things that makes my praise for it "begrudging" is that the writing style fairly *screams* of SOON-TO-BE-A-MAJOR-MOTION-PICTURE - but maybe it's not brutal or shocking enuf for that.

Christine says

Thora Gudmundsdottir is a single mother, an unexpected grandmother, a struggling lawyer and a magnet for mysteries. Sitting in her office one afternoon wishing for something more riveting than pre-nuptial agreements to come across her desk Thora receives a call from her boyfriend Matthew, offering her a chance to do some investigative work for a bank fearing a huge investment loss at a Greenland research facility. Despite her craving for some excitement she is reluctant to travel so far away but takes the job anyway. Researchers have disappeared under very mysterious circumstances and a strange video of the last two at the facility sheds no light on what happened to them other than it was something grizzly.

Ms. Siguroardottir's other Thora mysteries have all taken place in Iceland so I was a little apprehensive about the Greenland setting for this one. I needn't have been. The author does a wonderful job of describing the setting, remote as it is and I learned a lot about the history and just how remote Greenland really is. The story itself, however, left a little to be desired. While her other books moved along at a fairly brisk pace and

held my interest with Icelandic superstitions and folk tales as well as the plotline, the book moved a little to slowly. It still contained facts and local lore (Greenland-ic) but the plot itself dragged. I felt there were too many possibilities and too many players in The Day is Dark.

Here's to hoping that the next installment in the series takes the reader back to Iceland, Thora's family and the interesting mysteries I have come to expect.

Mary Gilligan-Nolan says

Almost gave it 5 stars, maybe I should have done. This is the best of the series I have read so far. Thora is asked by Matthew, who has now moved to Iceland and has a new job with a bank, to come to Greenland to look at a possible breach of contract case which could involve a possible insurance payout. A mining company has been operating in a remote area in Greenland and three employees have gone missing, now presumed dead. A rather eerie and bizarre video clip had been found, where it looks as if someone is being dismembered, but no body has been located to date. A group set off to investigate, Thora, Matthew, Bella, which Thora is not too pleased about, three former employees and a doctor. The atmosphere is dark and chilling, remote, snowbound and with a nearby village of unfriendly residents. I was captivated from the first few pages and could not leave this book down. I just hope, Ms. Sigurdardottir has another book in the pipeline, as I really like her stories. I would highly recommend this series to crime, mystery lovers.

Anna Kořáková says

Velké zklamání. Knihu jsem rozečetla už před rokem a vůbec mne nechytla. Teď jsem se donutila ji dočíst a jsem ráda, že už je za mnou. Divný rozvleklý děj, bez napětí, těžko uvěřitelný. Nejslabší, co jsem od Yrsy kdy četla.

Ellie says

I really like Yrsa Sigurðardóttir. No sooner do I finish one book (Last Rituals), then I start another (The Day is Dark). And now having finished that one, I crave a new one.

So why only three stars? The Day is Dark is creepy with fascinating Greenlandic information. I loved the locale, I like Thora, and the book completely engaged me. Still, I can't quite get beyond liked a lot to love.

In this installment of the series, Thora and her boyfriend are investigating a series of mysterious disappearances at a mine in Greenland. The bank financing the mine has hired them to clear up any suspicion that something - or someone - malicious is involved so that work on the mine can continue as planned.

Thora and Gunther arrive and are stranded in the freezing base of operations. A woman and two men have disappeared-all involved in some way or another with the taunting/defense of alcoholic (and gay) work Arnur who has been driven by the men back to drinking and rehab. The woman, a scientist who defended Arnur from the harassment has also disappeared. The workers remaining (most have left following the disappearances) are tense and bickering, the residents of the nearby village refuse to talk to the people from the mine, insisting that the area is haunted, food and drink are limited, and Thora misses her children (as well

as running water).

I began feeling somewhat desperately claustrophobic myself. I guessed the solution long before then end and found the book often too slow-paced for a thriller.

So that's why I gave it three stars. On the other hand, I seem to be addicted. Despite my vow not to buy any more books this month (plus a long list of books I'm currently reading and books I plan on reading that I already own), I'm already fighting the urge to buy another Thora.

So there must be more to the writing than I understand...

Woowott says

Now, I will fully admit, I'm not that into crime thrillers. Everybody and their butts are, apparently, whether it's literary or television. It's already got a mark against it for me.

But I LOVE things set in the polar regions. I adore them. So I thought it might be interesting to give this a shot.

Now, I realize much of the problem is the abominably stiff translation (which is par for the course, as far as translations into English of most novels go). But it's beyond the translation. The characters are bland and wooden and not very believable, and that's the writing. This book also gets incredibly tedious. It starts out strong when there is a slight horror element. But then the plot and characters become dull, with people sitting around being wooden and boring and grousing at each other, and not much at all happening. It needed some heavy editing and some better characters and a more gripping plot. I felt like very little happened, so the book should not need to be over 300 pages. It wants to be like every other polar isolation story, but it fails epically. Yawn.

Richard says

An enthralling mystery and engaging thriller that unsettles you as you read on with fear and expectation.

Set in an isolated settlement in Eastern Greenland the story captures the sense of danger from the environment - is this what killed the three missing workers?

A private investigation is undertaken by the bank that has underwritten the project when the drilling company seem unable to continue and meet their contractual obligations.

Major themes are covered. Our impact on the environment, loss of indigenous peoples' heritage and traditions, global warming and faith. Less grand but equally influencing communities subjects around workplace bullying, sexual harassment, alcoholism, domestic abuse and relationships are also covered.

The author is faithful to the place, its people and its past in an account that is well paced, with tension and suspense.

A beautifully crafted story that is a compelling read and a true whodunit.

Gisela Hafezparast says

I think this is definitely the best one in the series. I have unfortunately read them totally out of order, and liked some whilst others I found a bit of a drag. This one however is one of those where you don't won't to stop and packed full of cultural details, this time not of Iceland but of Greenland, which I did not know much about. Great crime story, which keeps you guessing for a very long time, as Sigurardottir gives you a wide range of possible murderers. Very interesting characterisation and place setting. Highly recommend this for a great weekend read.

Sunsy says

In ihrem 4. Band um die Isländische Anwältin Dóra Guðmundsdóttir entführt uns die Autorin nach Grönland. Es sind Menschen verschwunden, und so versucht ein Team, dem Dóra und ihr deutscher Freund angehören, für die Versicherung herauszufinden, ob sie sich nur verlaufen haben oder womöglich ein Verbrechen vorliegt.

Das Buch ist durchaus spannend, denn die vielen Anspielungen und Andeutungen führten mich zu einer Vermutung, die ein bisschen mysteriöser war als die Auflösung dann letztendlich präsentierte.

Ich gebe 07/10 Punkte.

<http://sunsys-blog.blogspot.de/2016/0...>

Carolien says

Like her previous books, this one is very atmospheric and combines elements of history and environment in the plot. One effectively ends up with a series of what, why and whodunnits spread over a century. The brooding isolation and cold of a Greenland winter adds to the darkness of the plot. I remain a big fan of the series.

Carey Combe says

It took me a while to work out why I wasn't more gripped by this book. The story is clever, logical and well thought out - I never guessed the ending - the writing is decent, the setting is interesting - set in Greenland with some fascinating background info into the country - but what really lets all these books down is the bad characterisation. All the characters (whether 'goodies' or 'baddies') are one dimensional and you never know any of them well enough to care what happens to them. Having read all these books, I know no more about the main protagonist now than I did in the first book.

Jeanette says

Having enjoyed two other Thora Gudmundsdottir novels by Yrsa Siguroardottir, it is now official- I am a fan. Reading this one out of order, I'm still going back to #2 and #3 next. And this series I will read all she writes.

It's not a mystery type that will appeal to everyone. But does it to me.

Thora is a lawyer. This case is one that may increase association for her own small firm, despite having to go to Greenland for 5 days, she takes it. Matthew is going with her as aspects of the banking end are also on his plate. It's a needed respite from the home situation and yet she misses her daughter (8) and grandson (just 2)almost immediately.

Where to start? It's about a tiny town where drilling for a proposed station for a business will be built. But there's trouble. Missing workers, balking workers, completely mute native population refusing to answer to Icelandic, Danish, Greenlandic languages. Poor Matthew is forced to watch some German porn just to hear his own language. LOL!

It's basically an excellent but slightly overlong "closed room" mystery. And this time I did NOT guess the perp until just before the reveal. Only 8 business/lawyer/banking/tech/doctor people are stuck (and for more than the 5 days they had planned) when all satellite, telephone, water etc. facilities are inoperable from both weather and sabotage. It's bleak. When we get to a bigger town eventually for Thora to take a shower, it is an EVENT. Water from snow and lots of processed or cans foods and heat from a oil system is about all they have when they are at "the stations".

The native story is awesome in depth, yet the redundancies re the bullying and sarcasm of the original crew uncovered in the video files gets convoluted and overlong. But the cold itself, and Thora's wit never gets stale.

I just love this character. She's a 39 year old divorced grandma at this point with so much on her plate that her resolve, humor, methods, self-identity and much of her thought patterns are purely 6 star funny, savvy, street smart, and VALUABLE. Matthew is intelligent and honest in his style, but at some points quite OCD. The combination to adversity between the two is an excellent mix. Bella (secretary who rarely does her job in any form of the correct manner but must be hired to keep the firm's financial partner happy)also adds another level of snark or honesty to the chemical mix of this trio too. Bella is dragged along this time because Thora's fellow and only other lawyer in the firm needs her gone in order to actually finish his own current pile of work.

Thora does conflict resolution quite well in this one. It's not easy read copy, this book, but dark and Nordic and often wordy in description. And the nomenclature, for me, more impossible than the Russian. But I love this series. All the stories are long and involve much cultural lore, native or isolated population perception or manners, and tons of intergenerational and partner negotiations.

And I apologize for all the accent marks and combinations of alphabetic letters that I cannot reproduce on this typing feature. Thora speaks English, Danish (poorly), Icelandic, and German- and can get by in Italian too in increments.

But I cannot type in Icelandic at all.

Fabulous series. Reminds me of a Louise Penny kind of depth to the characterizations in a small town. But much colder in temperature and much darker in cultural mood.

Pamela says

Tragedy in ice

This is a very powerful story that mostly takes place in the Northeast part of Greenland at the site of testing for molybdenum prospects for mining. Unbeknownst to the testing company and its employees, the chosen site is located in an area that is forbidden by the local indigenous people who live nearby in a settlement by the sea. There is a story about this forbidden area, and the man who guards the area—to keep others away.

Thóra, Matthew, and Bella are part of a crew of people sent to check out the status of the mining company work following the disappearance, and possible death, of three of the mining company crew, and the mass exodus of the remaining members of the original crew. Once they arrive at the site, questions—regarding human bones found in desk drawers and a frozen body in the walk-in freezer, none of which belong to the missing crew members—raise their inquisitive heads.

Intertwined in the story of those in Greenland is the story of Arnar, one of the original crew that has returned to Iceland, consequently relapsed into his alcoholism. Arnar is to be a key to solving the mystery, both from the past and the present. Alcoholism, and its effects in the lives of the indigenous people is also a significant part of this story.

Yrsa Sigurdardóttir's stories are getting better and better with each new book!

Linda Branham Greenwell says

In the beginning of the book, Thora receives a telephone call from her Matthew, her boyfriend. Matthew works for a bank/finance institution and they are having a problem with one of their clients, Berg Technology. The company is involved in a mining project in Greenland. All of the crew took a leave and is now refusing to return to the job. The two men who remained at the site are missing and presumed dead. Another work, a female, went missing a few months earlier. Thora agrees to join Matthew and a crew to investigate the situation and find an understandable reason why people are missing in order to entice the workers to return to their jobs.

I learned a lot about Greenland and cultural traditions of the Inuit people. However, I didn't enjoy the book as much as I have enjoyed the other books in the series. Maybe a little too much culture :)

Cristina Boncea says

Cel mai perfect final ever.

Nu aveam niciun dubiu că îmi va plăcea această carte, a doua pe care o citesc din seria cu Thora. Thora, Matthew, Bella și alți trei oameni de specialitate sunt trimiși într-un ștuc din Groenlanda pentru a

cerceta dispari?ia a trei oameni, fo?ti angaja?i ai firmei de foraje. Thora este avocat ?i trebuie s? îi fac? pe ceilal?i angaja?i s? se întoarc? la munc?, explicând moartea celor trei care au murit.

În final, se dovede?te c? Oddny Hildur a fost omorât? de Frorika (?), din gre?eal?, care inten?iona s? omoare un alt coleg dar Oddny îi purta hainele. Oddny era cea mai bun? prieten? e Frorikk?i. Cei doi muncitori au fost r?pu?i de boal?, o epidemie r?spândit? prin sânge înghe?at de zeci de ani. Sunt foarte multe personaje în carte, m-am obi?nuit deja, deci uneori e greu s? ?ii pasul.

Arnar a lucrat ?i el la firm? dar în timpul ac?iunii el e la dezalcoolizare. El era foarte bullied de cei doi muncitori mor?i a?a c? nu i-a ajutat când l-au sunat ?i l-a pus pe un prieten din sat s? le distrug? cadavrele. Acest prieten este Naruana (?), fiul lui Igimaq, ce mai b?trân vân?tor din sat... s?tenii tot încercau s?-i avertizeze pe oameni s? nu vin? în zona interzis?, exact unde e sediul firmei, dat fiindc? tot cei care au fost acolo nu s-au mai întors. Inclusiv fiica lui Igimaq ?i sora lui Naruana, Usinna. Acel lucru nu e foarte relevant pentru plotul principal, ci mai degrab? pentru frumuse?ea pove?tii.

Arnar îi recunoa?te Thorei la telefon c? el este criminalul impropriu-zis, doar pentru c? prietenul s?u a fost acuzat pe nedrept. La final, echipa se întoarce acas?, Frorika ?i Arnar au procese în desf??urare, Igimaq a recuperat oasele fiicei sale, happy-end. Dar asta nu e deranjant. La final, Igimaq practic se sinucide, luând oasele ?i intrând în pe?ter?, ?tiind c? nu se va mai întoarce.

Atmosfera c?r?ii, al Kaanneqului e minunat?, dar nu la modul de frumos ?i fascinant. Ador faptul c? mereu exist? dou? p?r?i la aceste c?r?i poli?iste. Partea spiritual?, în care oamenii dintr-o comunitate restrâns? cred ?i adev?rul ?tiin?ific. În acest caz, e un pasaj care spune c? de?i spiritele sufletelor moarte în pe?ter? exist?, doctorii nu le pot auzi îns? vân?torul, pentru c? el crede în tradi?ia str?mo?easc? ?i tr?ie?te în acea comunitate - da. Thora ?i Matthew fac o echip? foarte bun? ?i abia a?tept s? citesc alt? carte despre aventurile lor. Poate c? aceste conflicte ?i rezolv?ri ale problemelor nu sunt cele mai str?lucite dar cu siguran?? am aflat o gr?mad? de lucruri despre Scandinavia ?i mi-a f?cut mare pl?cere s? citesc acest volum. So, next!

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Thora Gudmundsdottir, lawyer

SETTING: Greenland

SERIES: #4 of 4

RATING: 3.25

Although Thora Gudmundsdottir is a partner in a law firm in Iceland, that doesn't mean that her work is very exciting. In fact, she is experiencing some boredom with the routine nature of her current work. Thus, when her significant other, Matthew Reich, asks her to take on an assignment from the bank where he is in security, she decides to travel with him to Greenland. They will be trying to prove that the bank does not have any liability in their agreement with a mining company. The mining operation has a work camp in a remote location, and two of its workers have gone missing. The remaining workers have left the site, which has shut down the operation.

Accompanied by a few former workers from the site and the prickly secretary of Thora's law firm, the group quickly finds the conditions to be extremely difficult. The people in the nearest town view the site as being jinxed and want nothing to do with the group. In fact, only one of its inhabitants is willing to say anything at all about the operation. Additionally, one of the native hunters has a personal stake in the outcome.

The work camp was the perfect suspenseful location—dark for many hours, removed from a populated area, with terribly inhospitable weather. Surprisingly, Sigurdardottir missed the opportunity to use this forbidding setting to heighten tension. There were a few minor instances where scary stuff happened, but I was never on the edge of my seat.

The major flaw in the book for me was that almost all the action was indirect. We rarely witnessed what was happening first hand. Instead, someone would tell Thora about an incident; and the reader would learn what was going on as she recounted the details to one of the other characters. This led to a lot of dialogue and a very slow pace. Frankly, there were times that I was thoroughly bored by the narrative.

Actually, Sigurdardottir writes well. What's missing is the ability to build excitement and maintain suspense, key ingredients that keep the reader engaged.

Blair says

Opening chapter: Excellent. Really grabbed my attention, sent shivers down my spine, made me desperate to find out what would happen next.

Exposition: Not good. In fact, kind of excruciating in places. There were SO MANY infodumps in the dialogue, particularly when Matthew was talking to Thóra about the case. Also, I am aware this book is part of a series, but I didn't see the point of all the references to Thóra's family etc. They're not actually part of this story so it seemed pointless to run over a load of information that was presumably explored in more detail in previous books. In addition to this, I started to become annoyed and distracted by what seemed like errors in the translation - words out of place and incongruous slang.

Middle bit: Started getting interesting again, particularly when Thóra et al visited the village - there was a lot of tension, a heightened sense of excitement and I could really picture exactly what the place looked and felt like. I wish more of the book had been like this.

Final third: I just lost all interest, I'm afraid. It's never good when you a) forget what the mystery in a mystery novel actually is and b) forget why you're supposed to care.

What made me choose to read a book that is the fourth in a series I've never encountered before? It was the premise itself, rather than the way it was framed, that appealed to me. *The Day is Dark* involves the heroine Thóra, a lawyer, journeying to a remote mining site in Greenland where a number of Icelandic employees seem to have disappeared. I am really intrigued by desolate landscapes, by very remote places, by small communities or individuals who exist in almost complete isolation, so the idea of this place was instantly fascinating to me and the gripping first chapter just compounded my excitement. Unfortunately, nothing that came afterwards lived up to it. I was constantly irritated by stiff, artificial dialogue, I didn't really like the characters (I found Thóra quite dull and disagreeably unsympathetic towards the others), and ultimately I just wasn't bothered about how the story might end.

Another significant problem I had with the book was the depiction of the character Friðrikka. (view spoiler)

I definitely wouldn't read another book in this series, but I haven't been entirely put off the author's work. I've heard a ghost story of hers is being published in English soon, and I wouldn't rule out reading that, although again it would be more for the themes than the style.

Cheryl says

Thora has received a telephone call from her lover, Matthew. His employer has an issue with one of their clients, Berg Technology. The company is in mining. It seems that all of the crew took a leave and is now

refusing to return to the job. Well most of the crew. The few that remained on the site are presumed dead. Thora agrees to join Matthew and a crew to investigate.

Yrsa Sigurdardottir is another new to me author. I was really intrigued to read this book. It sounded chilling. This was a good book however I did have some issues following along. I did get lost a couple times and had to go back and re-read a part of section that I had just read. One problem being that the story while it was interesting the mystery was long drawn out. Another was all of the different characters that appeared in this book. Some names seemed so similar to each other that this made it difficult to figure out who was who.

However I liked Thora. She never overreacted to anything. Also, I like that she still showed that she was a woman. For example when she unpacked her suitcase after arriving at in Greenland. Right on top in the suitcase was a pair of high-heeled shoes along with Capri pants, skirts, dresses and a pashmina shawl. The ending was good. I wanted to point this out for the fact that sometimes a book can be good but the ending bad or not up to par. I do want to go back and read some of the prior novels.
