



# Presidentens valg

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When Helen Barclay becomes the first female US president, the whole world takes notice. And unfortunately for President Barclay, one man takes very particular notice. He knows her dark secret, buried for over 20 years. And not only does he have the power to destroy everything she's worked for, but he also has the ultimate motive.

## Presidentens valg Details

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Author : Anne Holt

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## From Reader Review Presidentens valg for online ebook

### Thais says

Un giallo un po'strampalato. Ho trovato noiosissime le (numeroso) parti sul confronto polizia norvegese/americana, sempre uguali e che non risolvevano mai nulla.

Per il resto, storia un bel po'inverosimile. È vero, alla fine (quasi) tutto torna, tutti i personaggi che non si capiva cosa stessero lì a fare trovano il loro posto nella storia, però boh... alla fine tutte ste grandissime indagini, Fbi, Secret Service, spiegamento di forze norvegesi e americane, e poi chi risolve il caso? Nessuno, cioè, si risolve da solo. Anche i protagonisti non si capisce bene che ruolo abbiano, sembra che ci siano solo personaggi secondari.

Per carità, alla fine mi ha incuriosita e le ultime centocinquanta pagine le ho lette in frettissima, però non sono molto convinta. Direi che due stellette sono il voto giusto. Così così.

(per non parlare del titolo italiano...la porta chiusa? Ma quale porta?? Il titolo originale parlava dell'elezione del presidente...)

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### Louise says

This book leaves many stones unturned. The plot is at times very exciting and high paced, but the ending is disappointing to say the least. If you are after an anticlimax, this is the book for you.

Throughout the book, Anne Holt hints that more or less all the characters have secrets vital to the story. You keep reading to find out what these secrets could possibly be and how they will fit in to what is essentially a well created plot. The problem is you never find out what the secrets are. The characters proceed to disclose their secrets to each other, but not to the reader as the chapter will inevitably end just when the juicy stuff is about to start.

I still enjoyed the book when I got over the initial irritation of being left in the dark. The story is good, feels up to date and it does keep you intrigued enough to keep turning the pages. The ending does let it down as does the amount of unanswered questions you are left pondering. I do not like cliff hangers when there is no prospect of finding out what happens next! If you are less of a nosy and impatient character than me, I would still recommend it for an easy read.

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### Costea Constantin says

Comisarul Stubø se confruntă cu o situație-limită: președintele Americii este răpit în Oslo. Ne aflăm în pragul unui scandal diplomatic și al unei crize mondiale. Ingvar Stubø este implicat în acest caz. I se cere să colaboreze cu omul președintelui, profilerul FBI Scifford, un individ misterios care răsară de undeva din trecutul tulbure al lui Inger Johanne Vik, soția și coechipiera lui Stubø. Această apariție ajută oare la soluționarea dispariției sau complică și mai mult situația? Un remarcabil polițier al zilelor noastre, care te ține cu suflul la gură până la capăt. Fostul ministru al justiției din Norvegia, Anne Holt, scrie un roman polițist cu miză politică. Helen Lardahl Bentley, prima femeie președinte a Statelor Unite, tocmai a învins-o în alegeri pe Hillary Clinton. Face o vizită oficială în Norvegia, țară cu un potențial de risc extrem de mic, de altfel. Dar, în plină zi de sărbătoare națională a Norvegiei, președintele american dispărește fără urmă din camera ei de hotel, în ciuda maximei securități și a camerelor vigilente de luat vederi. Poliția norvegiană e în alertă, FBI-ul sosește de urgență la Oslo. Ca și Warren Scifford, subordonatul direct al președintelui, agent

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al Serviciilor Secrete și profiler. Sciford cere să lucreze în echipă cu poliștul Yngvar Stubø, care, nu întâmplător, este colegul de muncă și soțul lui Inger Johanne Vik. Pe Warren îl leagă un trecut misterios de Inger Johanne, de pe vremea când aceasta era studentă în America. Dar problema crucială cu care se confruntă comisarul Stubø este cum să evite o criză mondială. Răpirea Președintelui a zguduit o lume întreagă, bursa și se prăbușește, s-au deteriorat relațiile Americii cu Iranul și Arabia Saudită, dat fiind că în spatele dispariției se presupune a fi Al Qaida, iar națiunea americană e cuprinsă de o panică generală. Anne Holt pune în mișcare o intrigă complexă și de mare finețe, ce leagă prin fire nevăzute nenumărate personaje din diverse colțuri ale lumii, abordând totodată problema terorismului arab împotriva Americii. Plin de suspans, povestea diabolică nu încetează să te surprindă de la prima până la ultima pagină a cărții.

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### Lis says

This book brings together the main female protagonists in both of Anne Holt's series -- Johannesburg Viking and Hanna Wilhelmsen.

It features a female US President, elected in 2004 (defeating George Washington Bush. (Published in 2006 but of course written earlier, it mentions Hillary Clinton but says "it's not her time yet. It might be her time when she's around 70." And it does not predict Barack Obama at all.)

This plot has that president kidnapped while on a trip to Oslo. And a large plan to attack the US economy, headed by one person.

Fairly well done though overly dramatic and conspiratorial.

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### Nathalia says

Por consideración a como se desarrollaron los libros anteriores le concedo las 3 estrellas, pero el libro en sí me pareció bastante flojo.

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### Dana says

Sorry, but I struggled with this book - and was so pleased to finish it - I was tempted to give up. We went from political intrigue to suggestion as to what was happening and why and by whom. It felt more like a film script than a novel. I couldn't engage with most of the characters and I'm not sure the author knew quite what she was trying to achieve. I am afraid I thought there were a lot of holes in this web. I'll stick to watching the series like Modus that she was involved in - though come to think of it that was a bit confusing too!!!

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### Serena.. Sery-ously? says

**Anne Holt, che tu sia condannata a passare l'eternità nel girone più infimo dell'inferno dei cattivi scrittori!**

Vik, Stubo e compagnia bella: da bravi, mettetevi tutti in fila indiana in modo ordinato per facilitare

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l'operazione "Riempiamo di calci i personaggi stupidi ed irritanti". Johanne, tu per ultima, perchè ti sei meritata una doppia razione, se non tripla. Al momento non mi sembra che esista un personaggio più irritante di codesta donna, e giuro che ne ho beccati tantissimi nella mia lunga e onorata carriera di lettrice. Qualcuno vuole spiegare alla Holt che NON è necessario presentare il cattivo a pag 3?! Se non si toglie questa brutta abitudine, 'sta qua..

Tralaltro, io non riesco ad afferrare il concetto: presidente rapito - - - -> terrorismo - - - -> ARABI. \_.

Come si permette xD Manco fosse americana..

E poi, non per fare la guastafeste eh, ma la tipa la trovano a pag 247. Il libro ne ha 430. (Arcani misteri di scrittori incompetenti.)

Credo che il libro sia posseduto da demoni: più andavo avanti e più la fine si allontanava, e diventava sempre più un miraggio..

18.50 € NON POSSO CREDERCI. BUTTATI, SPRECATI, SPRERPERATI PER UNA BOIATA SIMILE.

Mi vado a punire col il cilicio, va u.u

Visto che ci siamo, vi dedico una perla di saggezza della Holt:

*Il lunedì precedente, Louise aveva preparato una cena di quattro portate con patè di foie gras, (MICA CAZZI) risotto ai tartufi veri (E MICA QUELLI TAROCCHI DA DISCOUNT EH!) e arrosto di cervo, frutto di una partita di caccia autunnale che, in verità, avrebbe dovuto essere riservato al cenone di Natale con i vicini. (Pag 14).*

ORA.

La vicenda si svolge il **20 gennaio** . Quindi una settimana prima era il 13 , giusto?! E che diamine, che si tiene il cervo per un altro anno perchè "riservato al cenone di Natale con i vicini"?? Ditemi se sono l'unica allibita.

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## Antonomasia says

This 4-star rating: much like when I enjoy some cheesy action film that hasn't got very good reviews, this isn't a recommendation to discerning readers - but I did have a damn good time.

Which I needed. Overwhelmed by a succession of recent books in which I was finding significant quotes on almost every page, and about some of which I felt the urge to write several-thousand word reviews that may or may not ever be finished\*, my brain desperately needed a break from so much bloody *meaning* and *importance*. Something verging on trashy was necessary, and this example turned out more fun than I expected.

The events of *Death in Oslo* would be very important if they had actually happened - as is the case with most crime fiction and thrillers - but discussing the book won't be. This one isn't the usual police procedural that Anne Holt writes, it's a political thriller: the first female president of the USA (of partly Norwegian descent) disappears whilst on a state visit to Oslo. The political thriller side of things was what I enjoyed so much: there was a larger cast of characters with close third-person narration than in the two earlier books, and nearly all of the focus was on events and conversations relating to the case, with very few scenes from the home life of the now-married Vik & Stubo. Lots of big exciting stuff happening yet no gore.

And (hurray!) Hanne Wilhelmsen - the protagonist of Holt's other series - appears in *Death in Oslo*. It was because I enjoyed *1222* that I got these V&S books in the first place. (And it was because of a now-defunct UCL Scandinavian Studies reading list found online that I read *that*, one of their two suggested samples of Nordic crime fiction.) In contrast to the anxious criminal psychologist Johanne Vik, Wilhelmsen, here on early retirement after injury in the line of duty, again appears to be a female version of the brilliant grumpy loner male detective, exactly the sort of heroine I want to read about in crime genre fiction.

There is a serious subtext to the novel as is the case with a lot of 'Nordic noir' - like the two earlier Vik & Stubo books, there's a theme of encroachment onto the Norwegian way of life by Americanised dangers and attitudes, things that some people feel only used to happen elsewhere. First it was children and child safety, second celebrities and their conduct, and in *Death in Oslo*, it's America's self-appointed role as world police post 9/11. (You don't exactly need to be well-informed to guess that the US agents try to take over the investigation and that the Norwegians resist that.)

And Anne Holt's way of writing a feminist crime novel is to put plenty of women in significant roles where they are respected, and for this not to be a big deal. This I like much better than the highlighting negatives approach (eg Liza Marklund, whom I'm not keen to read any time soon). And a conversation between Stubo and a senior American intends to highlight differing 'typical' attitudes to women among men of the same age: mysterious & irresistible v. usually easy to understand, and equal.

Holt makes a few nods to the meta / literary, but there are several silly blockbuster-movie aspects in *Death in Oslo* (which will irritate some, but it was just what I wanted). The chief baddie has elements of Bond villains, westernised Arab tycoons and Osama bin Laden. (It's the *Siddhartha* approach, used twice in this book, where a fictional character has things in common with a real life figure, but is shown to be a different person partly because they've met them.) Also how *did* Wilhelmsen end up living in Frogner [≈Belgravia]? And there's a really daft plot twist. Which made me burst out laughing when I accidentally saw a spoiler whilst scrolling past reviews on WorldCat. (There wasn't long to go before it appeared in the book, at least.) I liked the way it actually happened, and all the scenes resulting from it. (view spoiler)

For all that this book was rather fun, I still don't think the character of Johanne Vik fits together very well. If a writer creates a character who's a specialist in a field in which they themselves aren't, without doing a lot of research, the character may not ring true to readers who *\*have\** studied the area. Okay, Vik is a criminal psychologist and academic rather than one on the therapeutic / counselling side, but despite being empathic and sensitive to people around her, she never thinks in psychological depth about her avoidance and outbursts (around her difficult time training in America when she was younger) and the effects on her husband. It's like she doesn't even know the terms or processes - yet she obviously must, given everything else she works out about other people. It's very hard to believe that as long as 15 years could pass without someone with her skills gaining more understanding of herself. And in general we hear very few of her thought processes, she simply comes up with ideas that often fit.

No longer thinking I'd jumped the gun in getting all of this series because it were cheap, I'm now looking forward to the next one a whole lot more - though more still to the Hanne Wilhelmsen books I haven't read yet.

\* *The Blazing World* (finished), *Ancillary Justice* (not finished); *City of Angels or the Overcoat of Doctor Freud* (half read).

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## Jmm says

Washington D. C., January 2005, Helen Lardahl Bentley takes the oath of office as the first female president of the United States. As the crowd cheers, President Bentley is thinking, "I got away with it . . . ."

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, businessman Abdallah al-Rahman is watching the inaugural event on television from his soundproof exercise room. To no one he says, "She actually thinks she got away with it!"

And in Oslo, Norway, watching the televised event, Hanne Wilhemsen speculates about the new president's spotless past to her friend, former FBI profiler Johanne Vik, and muses, "But there's always something . . . some little secret . . . ."

Thus begins *Death in Oslo*, Anne Holt's intricately plotted third entry in the Adam Stubo-Johanne Vik series. This fast-paced thriller with Machiavellian overtones really takes off when President Bentley, on her first official state visit to Norway, disappears from her locked and guarded hotel room in the middle of the night. Immediately, the security forces of both countries scramble to find the missing head of state before the unthinkable happens. The task is complicated by territorial tensions between the two national security forces and infighting within the FBI. When Warren Scifford, head of a much-resented specialized team within the FBI, arrives on the scene to take charge of the American investigation, he requests that his former student, Johanne Vik, be assigned from Norwegian Criminal Investigation Service to help him. But Johanne doesn't work for the NCIS so Scifford instead asks for Johanne's husband, Adam Stubo. But Johanne has her own secrets from the past regarding her former FBI mentor and threatens Adam that, if he accepts the assignment to work with Scifford, their marriage is over. Adam, however, cannot turn his back on duty and reluctantly reports to work, angry that Johanne has chosen not to confide in him about this man from her past. Everyone, it seems, has "some little secret."

Anne Holt is a master at creating chilling characters whose scariest quality is their immense patience in stalking their victims. The international scale of *Death in Oslo* ups the ante for the consequences of failure in the eternal war of good versus evil. The ups and downs of Johanne's and Adam's domestic life provide an effective counterbalance to the international feuding between nations. This is definitely a suspense thriller you'll want to read, even if you haven't read the first two.

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### **Gabriela Silva says**

Not the best book. Quite enjoyed the storyline.

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### **Isaura Pereira says**

Esta foi a minha estreia com a autora. Anne Holt é conhecida pelos seus thrillers e policiais entusiasmantes. Mas este não me cativou.

Decidi ler este livro, talvez um pouco influenciada pelo título (acho que percebem porquê!), mas também porque já o tinha há algum tempo na estante à espera para ser lido. E como quero mesmo reduzir a pilha de livros na estante por ler decidi arriscar.

Embora gostasse da escrita da autora achei a narrativa muito lenta, um pouco arrastada. Sem um fio condutor. Uma história com pouco sentido. Não senti ligação com nenhuma personagem em particular.

Só mais tarde é que percebi que este livro é o terceiro livro integrante de uma série (se é que lhe posso chamar assim). Contudo, não faço ideia se podem ser lidos em separado. Pelo que pude apurar existem personagens em comum aos livros anteriores. No entanto, as histórias julgo serem diferentes.

Talvez por esta razão a minha opinião sobre este livro é um pouco difícil de caracterizar. Contudo, gostei da escrita da autora e vou arriscar ler mais livros dela. Pois acho que o meu problema com esta história reside no conteúdo e não na forma.

Boas leituras.

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## Patricia says

Norwegian Noir. Some parts better than average, some parts tedious. The first female president of the United States disappears from her hotel room during a visit to Oslo. There are all sorts of red herrings and clashes between the FBI and the Norwegian police and a personal story concerning the two good guys Johanne and Adam who are part of the series. I didn't realise that this was the third book with Johanne and Adam but it stands alone. There are Middle Eastern players, one good and one very bad and the plot against the world is increasingly arcane and complicated.

But it all seems to hover around the revelation that the president of the United States had an abortion when she was 19 even though at one stage she points out that she ran on a pro-choice platform and didn't fear the information getting out.

But but but . . . my main objection centres around the end when the good guy with the gun turns up to kill the bad guy with the gun. This is gun free Norway but a woman who hates guns and is in a wheel chair as a result of a firearms injury happens to have a gun (!) and because the President is sheltering in the home of this woman the President borrows the gun and uses it to shoot to man who has plotted against her.

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## Naomi says

I love Holt's novels but gosh when they get close to the ending all logic flies out of the window, and an otherwise tautly written and gripping thriller turns into something so OTT it borders on campy.

The basic plot: an Arabic billionaire supervillain who secretly controls the world's financial markets and runs a world-wide secret crime organisation (basically Blofeld) plots to kidnap the first female president of the USA, so that when he hacks into and brings down a bunch of American TV channels, Americans will riot and turn against each other rather than projecting their anger onto Muslims. This is his payback for the wave of Islamophobia generated by 9/11. Because forget flying planes into buildings, the way to really hurt Americans is to deny them TV and cheap petrol. The plot is 90% "James Bond thriller" and 10% "totally insane campy nonsense."

But, oh, the coincidences used to explain everything! The President of the USA once had a fling with an Arab man and aborted his baby. That man's brother turns out to be ArabBlofeld's main henchman. (I guess it's supposed to be a satire on American moral values that when terrorists blackmail her by threatening to reveal that she had an abortion as a college student, she instantly cooperates with them rather than risk the secret getting out.)

Anyway ArabBlofeld blackmails the American President into leaving her hotel room with kidnappers, then stashes her tied up in an abandoned Oslo basement and leaves her to die. She's discovered and rescued - I love this - when the housekeeper goes into the basement to do laundry, and instead of a mice and Tide pods she finds the missing American President. Because sure a supervillian criminal mastermind wouldn't bother to check that his kidnap lair isn't also a hard as nails streetwalker-turned-superhero-housekeeper's laundry room. By massive coincidence, guess who is staying in that house? The criminal profiler investigating the President's disappearance! (And in an extra, extra coincidence, she's also the ex-girlfriend of the President's best friend, meaning they immediately become best mates.)

The majority of the book is a well-researched police procedural and socio-cultural exploration of political



attitudes in the USA, Norway, and the Arab Gulf. The power plays between the various nationalistic factions are fascinating. But then Holt will throw something completely unexpected in. The President refuses to let the investigator report that she's been found because she wrongly believes her best friend and chief security advisor has betrayed her (by telling her what's engraved on a watch she gave him, because obviously that's not information they could possibly have discovered on their own, say by sending a beautiful woman to seduce him then take a peek at his watch when he's asleep) so she goes into hiding. In the same unprotected house ArabBlofeld chose as his kidnap lair. When her friend and advisor eventually finds her she pulls out a gun and shoots him dead, and everyone's like "huh the President of the United States just shot her own chief security advisor dead in cold blood, finecoolwhatever." Oh and there's a mid-book reveal that she once kinda sorta was partially responsible for the death of her adoptive daughter's birth mother when she discovered the adoption might not have been completely legal, and it only comes up because she's worried someone else might know about it. Then she rationalises that she hasn't told anyone so no one can possibly know, heaves a sigh of relief, and it's never mentioned again.

I hope all Holt's books are this accidentally hilarious.

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### **Theunis Snyman says**

I read this book because it was promoted as a locked room mystery and I just finished riding the tram and metro routes in Oslo on You Tube. The locked room element was quite good. But this book is not a mystery. There was no questioning of suspects or any clues. It is rather a political novel. I wouldn't even call it a thriller. Not my kind of book at all. And in certain sections it becomes rather tedious. Just descriptions of what people are doing and saying. The only real suspense came in the last 10% of the book.

And I wish people will understand the difference between a closed circle mystery and a locked room mystery. A locked room mystery is where a crime is committed behind locked doors. It is also a generic term for any kind of impossible crime. A closed circle mystery is a story where all the suspects are together near the scene of the crime, for example in a country house or a train or a vacation resort. This book is not a closed circle mystery. Many of the characters don't even meet each other.

And why do the investigators of two different countries have to fight with each other instead of working peacefully together?

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### **Emmapeel says**

L'autrice è avvocato. Non contenta, è diventata giornalista. Non contenta, Ministro della giustizia norvegese dal 1996 al '97. Non contenta, ha deciso di diventare una 'delle più importanti scrittrici di gialli scandinavi'. Spero che non si accontenti nemmeno di questo e si prepari a rapire e uccidere Condoleezza Rice, sposarne il vedovo e diventare il prossimo Presidente degli Stati Uniti d'America & Norvegia. Vi sembra inverosimile? E' solo perché non avete letto il suo ultimo libro. Dopo quello tutto il resto vi sembrerà perfettamente plausibile. E originale. E ben congegnato. E scritto meglio. Persino Vargas, sì.

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