



The Vanished

Lotte Hammer, Søren Hammer, Martin Aitken (Translator)

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Lying at the bottom of his apartment stairs, a postman is found dead.

At first glance, his death appears to be a tragic accident. However, when Detective Superintendent Konrad Simonsen is called to investigate, he notices that something doesn't add up. Did he fall?

When life-sized images of a vanished girl are discovered plastering the walls of the dead man's attic, the case takes a new and sinister turn. Who is she? Could she be alive?

Soon the homicide team find themselves delving into the past, but as they approach the truth, Simonsen is forced to confront long-hidden skeletons in his own cupboard.

The Vanished Details

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Author : Lotte Hammer , Søren Hammer , Martin Aitken (Translator)

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Download and Read Free Online The Vanished Lotte Hammer , Søren Hammer , Martin Aitken (Translator)

From Reader Review *The Vanished* for online ebook

Maureen says

There's a good story here but it needs editing and dear god a better translation/translator.

Stephanie Hannah says

Sounded a good book, just seemed slow after a while, did get better near the end

Kerry says

I read the print version, excellent mystery and much better English translation than in the first book.

Matt says

In the third novel in their Konrad Simonsen series, Søren and Lotte Hammer offer the reader a deeper look at the protagonist while he delves into a crime that spans decades. Having recently returned from a heart attack, Simonsen is no longer in charge of the Criminal Division or the team he guided for years. Instead, he is directed to look into a potential crime scene involving a postal worker, who was found at the bottom of the outside stairs on the second floor of his home. What was originally deemed an accidental fall has Simonsen questioning the determination of the police and forensic authorities. As he looks into the man's past, Simonsen discovers clues to a missing girl from the late 1960s, who left Liverpool and made her way into Denmark. With little on which to go, Simonsen and his team begin exploring the possibilities, which reveals a Group of Six students attending school together, calling themselves the Lonely Hearts. Could these six have played some role in the disappearance (and potential murder) of the English girl? Subsequently, could someone have broken a pact and killed the one member whose guilt became too much? As the case progresses, living more in the age of Flower Power than current criminal activity, Simonsen has flashbacks to the life he lived in the same era, and a love interest whose dealings with the law plagued him for a long time. As he tries to wrestle with that series of feelings and events, Simonsen must look to the present to determine if a handful of fifty-somethings can recollect meeting a girl one summer and what might have happened that pushed them over the edge, turning Lonely Hearts into cold-blooded killers. An interesting crime thriller allows the Hammer siblings to spin a tale that has criminal elements and much backstory for the protagonist through to the final page.

While I am no expert on Scandinavian crime thrillers or literature in general, I have a handful of authors from the region with which I am familiar and can compare their works to that of Søren and Lotte Hammer. I find the Hammers' work to be much more dense and harder to digest, though there could be something about the translation from the Danish that impedes the flow of the story. That said, with much longer chapters and a tendency to push into the more minute details and expand on them, the novel can, from time to time, move into the realm of overdone and somewhat too much for the intended purpose. I know I have mentioned in past reviews of the authors that it seems they take longer to get back to the point and tie up loose ends, the

the premises of their novels is strong and the characters are well-developed. Simonsen does have some parallels to those detectives from the aforementioned other Scandinavian thrillers, though this novel ties him up on so many personal levels that it is harder for the reader to leave feeling a sense of a strong connection to the man, but rather a sense that the past and present are overloaded and leave everyone feeling a tad raw. The Hammer siblings are wonderful storytellers, though their delivery could, for some readers, cause a less than celebratory mood as one wades through the text in search for a powerful mystery.

Kudos, Hammer siblings for the strong foundation. While one might call it something lost in translation, I cannot help but feel it is more a case of too much in a single book. I cannot wait to get my hands on the three novels that have yet to make it into English.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Sadie says

I can't decide between 3.5 or 4 so I'll give it a 4.

Detective Superintendent Konrad Simonsen, who has returned to work after a heart attack, is still recuperating. He's given a cold case to investigate. Was a postman found dead at the bottom of a staircase the victim of an accident, or was he murdered? When life-size photos of a mystery girl are discovered in the dead man's attic, the police must delve into the past to discover the truth. *The Vanished* is a meticulous and skilfully crafted police procedural, which explores the danger of the new-found freedoms of the 1960s. This book was a very well written novel. At times the content drifts off to more mundane parts about the main character's current private life and past life that seem tedious and not apparently connected to the investigation. But all in all this is a good read if you are into crime novels or mystery novels. I would defiantly recommend (:

* I received this copy in exchange for a honest review.

Sally says

Slow, meticulous, meandering, and satisfying.

Stina says

Dette er 3. bind i serien om Drabsafdeling på Københavns politigård.

Jeg kastede mig over denne, da jeg var meget begejstret for efterfølgeren : *Pigen i Santans Mose*... Men for filan, de kan slet ikke måles!

Sproget er flydende, dialogerne som hovedregel gode, men der er en del gentagelser og megen overflødig snak, som træder vande og blot bidrager til at fylde romanen.

Bogen starter med en sag, som stort set intet har at gøre med resten, dette kunne sagtens undlades uden at

romanen mister noget.

Kategorien er krimi, men der er stort set intet krimi i denne roman, til gengæld er den fyldt med gode hjertevarme tilbagesyn, og de trækker trods alt op... Selv om den som helhed fejler fælt som krimi.

Plottet holder ikke, opklaringsarbejdet er langsommeligt, uvedkommende og til tider fuldkommen uinteressant – det virker forstyrrende på de hyggelige tilbageblik.

Da der stort set ikke er noget krimi, er det næsten umuligt at beskrive opklaringsarbejdet ordentligt, den del er en stor skuffelse.

Jeg giver 2 hjerter for en hyggelig roman med ganske få glimt af krimi, den holder meget mere end den lover, og er fuldkommen fejlplaceret i krimigenren... Men selve historien er hyggelig og glider nemt ned... Jeg burde nok kun give et hjerte, men runder op til to.

Helen says

I can't decide whether the slightly uneven way the book progresses is due to its having two authors or not. It is a bit slow in places, although I rather like all the incidental detail. The story is a bit strange: the team, now not led by Konrad Simonsen who is recuperating from a heart attack and has just returned, investigates what was originally thought to be an accidental death. Enquiries reveal a hidden loft with a series of pictures of a girl who disappeared in 1969, and that case too is investigated by the team. Both are eventually solved, with Konrad also reliving some of his own past and discovering what happened to his girlfriend from the time (and clearing his conscience about something he did). The opening however is a description of a school shooting, which produces a connection to the accidental death and some thoughts about where social exclusion might lead people, but also contributes, for me at least, to the feeling of unevenness, as this dramatic event is lost sight of and only remembered later on for purposes of drawing a moral. In fact there is quite a lot of reflective moralising (the episode in which the fifty-somethings are made to dig up the skeleton is strange, but presumably meant to be some sort of restitution). Not entirely comfortable with the psychic woman consultant, either. Not a bad book, though!

Mitch S. says

It's an okay story but I was turned off by the silly Easter Egg references to The Beatles Sgt Pepper album scattered out in the open like a child's hidden object game. Rita? Lucy? Her parents wondering why she left home "to meet a man from the motot trade" after they gave her "everything money could buy".....a priest actually says something like "I heard the English army had just won the war", a social group called the Lonely Hearts, etc etc...made a mockery of being a serious detective fiction for me

Catherine Barker says

Loved this book even though I had never read any other book in the series. Maybe because it is a Danish (?) to English translation, reading it has the same feel and quality as the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo series. Very good read!

Simon says

Well all I can say is 'what a snoreie zzzzzzzzz), slow, yawning, enjoyed the first few pages then slowed right down, is it the translation ? don't know but at least gave it a go and was free from the library.

Olivia says

3.5 stars.

Thumbs up for the new guy.

Thumbs down for Pauline.

Zazoo Laro says

Inintéressant, à part la découverte de personnages qui me semblent très danois. C'est le seul point positif. Et se "promener" un peu dans Copenhague. Le livre avavait bien commencé puis il a totalement bifurqué dans trop de directions. Je ne l'ai même pas fini, ce qui en dit long...

Heiheen says

Je suis rarement déçue par mes lectures, mais avec ce livre, je ne peux utiliser d'autre terme pour définir ce que je ressens en le terminant.

J'ai le sentiment d'avoir été trompée par la quatrième de couverture et le premier chapitre, qui laissaient présager une histoire palpitante et intéressante. En réalité, la succession d'événements est plutôt ennuyeuse, avec des passages semblants écrits pour remplir les pages.

Aucun personnage ne m'a touchée, pas même le personnage principal, je ne me suis attachée à aucun d'eux, ce qui rend difficile de s'intéresser à leur sort et aventures. Le personnage de Simon et le personnage de Pauline sont particulièrement antipathiques. D'autres personnages tout comme l'intrigue secondaire de ce roman, avec Rita notamment, sont superflus.

Pour finir, l'histoire part dans tous les sens après quelques chapitres pourtant assez satisfaisant, mais l'enchaînement des découvertes et l'enquête en elle-même me paraît tirée par les cheveux, et la fin ne rend pas hommage à un tel pavé.

John Brooke says

This is the third book in the Konrad Simonsen series, by Danish brother/sister writing team Lotte and Soren Hammer. I enjoyed the first - The Hanging, reviewed in this space. I missed the second – The Girl in the Ice,

but I will seek it out.

As noted in my first review, I am wary of writing “teams”, but the Hammers helped me overcome this with a combined voice I found to be dry but also very funny at the most surprising junctures. In *The Vanished*, the humorous element is replaced by a more musing, philosophical voice. This shift reflects an ageing, almost retired, head of the homicide team, recently felled by a heart attack from stress and careless living. Detective Superintendent Konrad Simonsen is trying to slowly ease back into his role as the story opens.

Instead of getting straight back into a serious murder investigation, Simonsen’s second-in-command Arne Pedersen, who has been acting as Super, assigns him the mostly bureaucratic task of collecting and confirming the details of an apparent accidental death – a broken neck caused by a fall down some stairs. The victim is a postman, who turns out to have been a complete loner. And who converted to the Catholic church. More in-depth forensics lead Simonsen to believe there may have been foul play. And a deeper look into that possibility brings to light the possibility that the dead postman was also involved in a very disturbing incident.

Simonsen ends up chasing the ghost of a long-missing British girl who was traveling in Denmark in the late 60’s, the era of free love, drugs and social alienation, etc. Also time of much personal upheaval for a now senior cop.

Despite fragile health, Konrad Simonsen remains an irascible, deeply intuitive cop who has trouble communicating the most important things to those trying to help him. He is surrounded by interesting supporting characters. First among them is the Countess, a senior detective who happens to come from Denmark’s nobility. She and “Simon” are now in the first stages of living together, though they both hold to their own ground professionally. The young and volatile, and now PTSD-damaged, Inspector Pauline Berg adds emotional frisson. The unnamed Deputy Commissioner brings matronly charm and gentle humor.

(What happened to Inspector Poul Trouson, source of the mordant humor I so much enjoyed in *The Hanging*? ...Another reason to read the second book in this series.)

But the dynamic informing this investigation is completely different from the first book, and therefore so is the tone of the story. To the authors’ credit. Some crime writers tend to repeat themselves.

At the heart of it, and what makes this crime novel fascinating, is Simonsen’s ongoing dialogue with the priest who was the dead postman’s confessor. There are not so many Catholics in Denmark; our cop is not sure how to approach a priest. The priest is smart. Polite and engaging though he may be, he knows how to use the Church’s shield of immunity in guarding the postman’s most intimate revelations – and yet provide a perceptive cop with useful information.

Can Simonsen hear rightly? The crux of this investigation is in the space between the cop and the priest. And it’s done perfectly.

4 stars. I wish the dark-funny element was still at play. But in *The Vanished*, the Hammers go to a different, deeper societal place. Well worth the slower, more contemplative pace.
