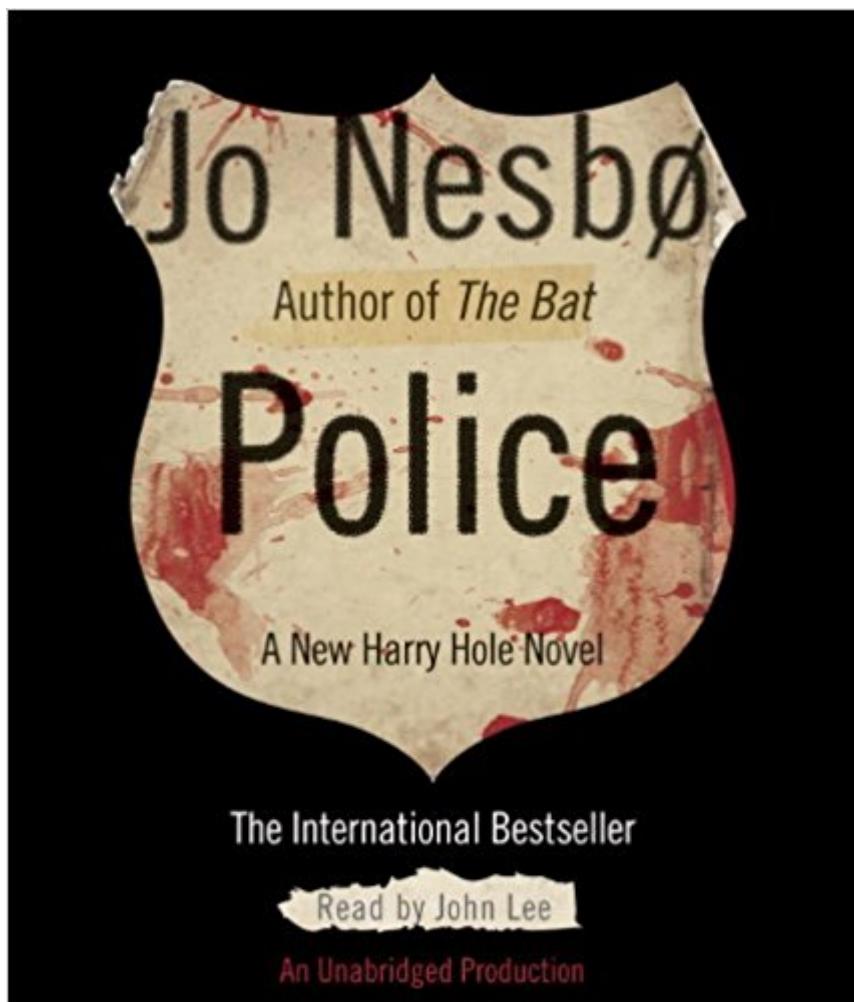


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# Police: A Harry Hole Novel (Harry Hole Series)



## **Synopsis**

Finalist -- GoodReads Choice Award -- Mystery/Thriller Harry Hole returns--or does he?--in a terrifyingly paced, vertiginous new roller coaster of a thriller by the internationally best-selling author of *The Snowman* and *The Redeemer*, "the king of Scandinavian crime fiction" (Kirkus). The police urgently need Harry Hole . . . A killer is stalking Oslo's streets. Police officers are being slain at the scenes of crimes they once investigated but failed to solve. The murders are brutal, the media reaction hysterical. But this time, Harry can't help . . . For years, detective Harry Hole has been at the center of every major criminal investigation in Oslo. His dedication to his job and his brilliant insights have saved the lives of countless people. But now, with those he loves most facing terrible danger, Harry is not in a position to protect anyone. Least of all himself . . . From the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The life of Insp. Harry Hole, who was shot in the head by his surrogate son in the finale of 2012's *Phantom*, hangs in the balance for much of Nesbø's powerful 10th novel featuring the Oslo homicide cop. Secondary players who have helped out along the way step into the spotlight: forensics expert and facial-recognition whiz Beate Lønn; the brilliant but psychologically unstable detective Katrine Bratt; Harry's longtime friend Bjørn Holm; and the slippery new police chief, Mikael Bellman. The police force itself is at stake when it becomes apparent that the seemingly unrelated deaths of police officers are actually part of a larger pattern: each officer was slain at the

site of an unsolved crime. In Nesbø's able hands, Harry's absence is a character unto itself, but this will only make readers more eager to learn Harry's fate. Author tour. 150,000-copy announced first printing. Agent: Niclas Salomonsson, Salomonsson Agency (Sweden). (Oct.) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

\*Starred Review\* Three shots fired at point-blank range. Harry Hole has to be dead, doesn't he? And, yet, here is a new *Harry Hole* novel, • not an earlier installment of the series published out of order. Ever since word of this novel's publication started leaking, fans of Nesbø's best-selling series have been scratching puzzled heads: Harry alive? Well, you're not going to find the answer in this review, and in fact, you won't find it definitively until page 505 of Nesbø's maddening yet riveting cat-and-mouse game of a novel. But let's leave poor Harry in a kind of literary limbo for the moment and focus on what "with or without Harry" is one hell of a thriller. Police officers in Oslo are being murdered by a serial killer with a bizarre agenda: each victim is discovered at a crime scene that mimics the scene of an earlier unsolved murder. Not only that but the new victims all participated in the investigations of the earlier crimes. Is the killer a fellow cop? Working as an off-the-books task force, Harry's former colleagues "Beate Lønn, Stale Aune, Bjørn Hølm, and Katrine Bratt" set out to find the answers. It's clear that Chief of Police Mikael Bellman and his henchman, Truls Berntsen, are dirty, but are they killers? Nesbø, cunningly plays with the reader throughout this devilishly plotted tale, introducing multiple corkscrewing twists and, while we're worrying about Harry, slipping in a horrifying shocker from another direction altogether. The narrative is ingenious, but it grips us the way it does because, after nine novels, we've formed abiding relationships with these characters and don't like to see them messed with. Nesbø messes with everyone here, especially the reader, but furious as we'd like to be, in the end we're willing supplicants. --Bill Ott --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

What is it about Scandinavian thriller writers? Is it just that they've got nothing better to do on all those cold nights than dream up more and more diabolical means to mislead readers? It's tempting to think so. Among the many other things he's done in his still-young life, Jo Nesbo has written ten novels featuring the exasperating Oslo police detective Harry Hole. Inspector Hole is, not to put too fine an edge on it, a piece of work. An alcoholic, deeply anti-authoritarian, and an obsessive investigator, he has finally cashed in all his chips with the department as Police opens. Harry Hole is now an ex-policeman, employed as a lecturer at the police academy. His nemesis, a younger detective whose corrupt involvement in the drug trade

Harry has uncovered but can't prove, has just been named Chief of Police. Now someone starts murdering police officers, and doing so at the sites of previous, unsolved murders.

Harry's old colleagues on the force become desperate as the murders continue. The pressure on Harry to come out of retirement becomes fierce. Reviewers use words like

"compelling" and "dizzying" and "relentless" to describe the tension that builds in stories like these. Despite knowing that I was being manipulated by a master storyteller, I found myself hooked. On several occasions as I read Police I looked up at the end of a chapter, only to discover that I'd read not one but three chapters and made myself late for something else. Is this addiction? Maybe it is.

When the Harry Hole novels started appearing in English a few years ago, I thought they were unbeatable for multi-layered fiendishness in the burgeoning genre of Nordic noir. Among the horde of loner detectives who somehow get their man while digging their own grave, Police Inspector Harry Hole set a new standard for magnetic self-loathing. "Police" follows closely on the heels of "Phantom," in which Nesbo left readers wondering whether Harry's end had finally come. One of the teasers in the new novel is whether the unnamed patient lying in a coma induced by the closing events of "Phantom" is, in fact, Harry. "Police" is stuffed with too many red herrings of this sort, which keeps things interesting a good part of the way, but palls as Harry, who isn't as sharp as usual, zeroes in on the killer. I also got tired of Harry's old nemesis on the force, Mikael Bellman, now chief of police, and his deeply creepy sidekick, Truls Berntsen, who should have been found out at least two books ago. As usual, Nesbo's women aren't very convincing: the femme-fatale in this one would send any red-blooded man running for the hills. And frankly, Nesbo's dark, drug-addled Oslo is becoming a bit too claustrophobic. Though I'd miss the great Norwegian names (e.g. Roar Midstuen), I'd love Harry to get out of town for the next one - perhaps a return visit to Hong Kong, or a walk down the sunny mean streets of L.A. He needs a holiday, and so do I.

This is the novel that really freaked me out. Granted, several of the lead-ins turned out to be red herrings (thankfully!) but at least one included the murder of a character we have come to know and love....Someone is going around killing Norwegian police officers involved with unsolved murders. Punishment for failure? Or something deeper? Harry Hole has left the force and is teaching at the police academy where he has more than his share of problems with a student determined to seduce him. Meanwhile, his old team is begging him for help, while Bellman, his corrupt nemesis, now chief of police, would love him to stay away. Harry eventually capitulates and joins the hunt ... and makes

several wrong decisions leading to some very dark dealings. He eventually identifies the killer (hmm... not quite, because cops were involved in the unsolved cases) but taking him down becomes exceedingly creepy. Happy end? The corrupt police chief and his faithful sidekick Truls remain in place, a bit the worse for wear, and Harry might even be content for once in his life. But crime fails to take a holiday and there are still a few killers out there (some identified and left hanging). Is this the end of the series or just a breather? I'd love to see everything wrapped up, but I guess life isn't like that. This series was one of my best discoveries. Though these novels are definitely not "feel-good" in their outcomes, they are very much worth the read.

I LOVE JO NESBO. I am a huge fan of Harry Hole and his partner's at the police station. I think Nesbo might be the leader of the pack for Scandinavian crime (this is no small statement to make - I've read them all and love so many of them). The police was an excellent novel, I read it cover to cover. Nesbo has gotten better as he's gone along but all of his books are worth a read. Some of them vary - The Phantom and The Leopard were very dark, as was The Snowman (which started a dark phase for him I think). He emerged from that super dark phase after these three books, and with Police, he really concentrates on the characters and lives that he's built throughout the entire series. I'm very interested in what will happen next in the lives of these characters, which says a lot as I'm always in it for the police procedural and mystery side of novels. But Nesbo has created a world and characters that have hooked me.\*The great thing about this series is that you can pick it up at any point - it is fantastic to read them in order to follow the threads of the main characters but not necessary. EX. I started somewhere in the middle of the series and eventually went back to read the first few.\*\*Also, check out THE SON if you want to read a stand alone novel by Nesbo. Loved it. Couldn't put it down.

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