



Enemy's Enemy

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A Swedish counterintelligence agent coming toward the end of his career must defend himself and the new Europe from a deadly eruption of terrorist violence. First U.S. publication. 20,000 first printing.

Enemy's Enemy Details

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From Reader Review Enemy's Enemy for online ebook

Brian says

Written to be turned into a TV show or movie. Like reading an old Tom Clancy, out of date cold war stuff. Good entertainment though.

Andrei Faur says

Tyckte att det här var mycket mer spännande än de första tre, det hände rätt mycket under loppet av 500+ sidor. Historiens struktur är inte lika linjär och många aktörer påverkar händelsernas ström; det brukade vara bara Carl mot fienden, nu är det lite av alla mot alla.

Nya ord som jag tyckte var intressanta: glasnost (ryssarnas politisk reform från 80-talet som innebar ökad yttrandefrihet), maskirovka (vilsedande taktik som medför plantering av falsk information med syfte att skapa förvirring; ofta är informationen kopplad till andra uppgifter som är verkligen sanna), bowdleriserad (censurerad).

Carls beskrivning är lika förvirrande som förr, han pendlar mellan en ångerfylld man och en kylig, känslolös spion. Hans beteende mot den ryska pianistkvinna under sin tid i Moskva visar en skrämmande sida av honom, som kan urskulda vilken som helst beteende så länge den är i nationens intresse. Hans sista krav från den ryske spion, i slutet, kändes som ett lat försök från författaren att måla honom i ett bättre ljus. Karaktäriseringarna (inte bara Carls) är fortfarande den sämsta delen av de här böckerna.

Å andra sidan känner jag fortfarande att det är rätt svårt att följa alla underrättelseorganisationer och regeringsmyndigheter som nämns ofta bara med sina akronymer. Regeringens struktur ser invecklad ut och dess delarnas roll oklart för mig och jag erkänner att för det mesta tolkade jag dem som "några som sysslar med landets försvar". Jag kan dock förstå hur sådana detaljer är häftiga för någon som är mer insatt i ämnet.

BoekenTrol says

Een van de beste spionageromans die ik ooit heb gelezen. Ik vind dat deze schrijver zich zeker kan meten met Tom Clancy.

De setting is enigszins anders, de thuisbasis is Zweden. Dat is in een bepaald opzicht (wij hier weten minder van de Zweedse manier van werken dan van de Amerikaanse) even wennen. Maar storend is het beslist niet, ik vond het erg interessant om te lezen hoe Zweden denken in situaties die met spionage van doen hebben. Ik vertel verder niets over de inhoud van het boek, mochten er mensen zijn die het nog niet gelezen hebben. Ik heb het met veel plezier gelezen en herlees het nog regelmatig, zonder dat ik bladzijden oversla 'omdat ik toch wel weet wat er komt'. Een aanrader voor iedereen die van het genre houdt.

Sharon says

Commander Count Carl Hamilton serves in an intelligence division of the Swedish navy. After participating in a very secret mission against a Russian incursion into Swedish waters, he is one of three people named as a Russian spy. The consequences of this accusation and the subsequent investigation are the basis of the plot, which is really a series of exploits that are almost parodies of those of James Bond. In fact, there are explicit references to Carl being 'Sweden's James Bond' with a tone of mockery. The real interest here is the description of the relationships between Sweden and other countries (Britain, the US, Russia) and organizations (the PLO) and the interplay of representatives of the military, the government, and the press.

Martin DH says

Suverän bok., kanske den bästa av alla de tidigare i serien. Gillade mest att intrigerna och plot:en var den mest avancerade och förgrenad jämfört med de tidigare.

Ash Gawain says

1988. The Swedish penitentiary system is so bad, that a Swede convicted for spying for the Soviet Union manages to escape to Moscow.

The Swedish government sends Hamilton to Moscow to kill him. Is it legal for a Swedish government to order the assassination of a Swedish citizen? In theory, no. But in practice, who cares?

Once again, irony and cynicism put at the service of entertainment. Unfortunately, not available in English.

Jakob Thomsen says

The story is fine, it's just too long. Furthermore the authors disgust of the swedish security police is very clear, unfortunately so much that it become quite dull and repetetive.

Elizabeth Sulzby says

The beginning of this book is greatly amusing, knowing some of the background of the events it wraps itself around. I came to read it after reading many of Liza Marklund's books and her Author's Notes and Epilogues. It had sat on my shelf for a year or more before I decided I had read enough of Jan Guillou's background investigations and his novels to read his original work.

R.E. Conary says

ENEMY'S ENEMY by Jan Guillou reads like a classic John Le Carré spy thriller instead of the lightweight, flash-and-dazzle escapism of Fleming or Ludlum. The emphasis is on the real, down-and-dirty, nitty gritty assignments of field operative Carl Hamilton. A man who will go to any lengths in the interest of his country. That this may have a severe toll on him is of no concern. He will maintain his stoic image as ugly

hauntings eat his soul.

The book is decidedly Sweden-centric with Sweden's best interests in mind at all times. If that requires coordinating with the Palestinian PLO to rescue kidnapped Swedish citizens, or with the Russian GRU to stop a home-grown fascist dilemma, so be it.

ENEMY'S ENEMY also takes a close look at the Swedish political mindset of the time. The scandal tabloid, "Expressen," ran a series of articles from "well-informed sources" inside Säpo (Swedish Security Service) of a "vendetta between Swedish and Soviet intelligence services," an "agent war," which led to it outing Hamilton and forcing a constitutional committee hearing. It's interesting (and amusing) to watch the various committee members from the Social Democrats, moderate conservatives, Center Party, Liberal Party, Communist Party and others attempt to twist and turn their questions and Hamilton's answers to their particular advantage (sort of like watching one of our congressional witch hunts).

But Carl beats them back as adroitly as he does physical opponents and ends his testimony saying, "if you've caused people as much harm as I have, then in every lonely hour you ask yourself whether it's worth it, whether you've been doing the right thing. I've asked myself all these questions every day for years . . . But I became an officer because I wanted to use my skills to defend Sweden's independence . . . I don't run away from anything, but neither do I strive for anything — except to do a job that's so difficult that many people don't want to handle it. It has to be done, it's part of our defense, and I am part of our defense."

ENEMY'S ENEMY is a 5-star, often gut-wrenching, ride. It was translated by Steven T. Murray using the pseudonym Thomas Keeland. Murray also translated Stieg Larsson's Millennium series (pseudonym Reg Keeland) as well as novels by Henning Mankell and others.

A few words about the author: Swedish investigative journalist Jan Guillou, writing for a left-wing Swedish magazine in 1973, published a series of articles exposing a Swedish secret intelligence agency called Informationsbryån (The IB affair). Guillou and three others were convicted of espionage and sentenced to prison. Guillou's sentence was reduced to 10 months. In 1976, Guillou placed an article in a major newspaper about a colleague who had been recruited by the CIA in Stockholm. Because of the exposure, the CIA operative was ordered to leave Sweden. No criminal charges were made against Guillou that time. In 1986, Guillou created his fictional spy in a long series of novels (unfortunately, only this one is in English) that have been filmed several times.
