

**The Man from Beijing by Henning Mankell**  
Harvill Secker 2010.

It is said that, after the suicide of the young actress who played Kurt Wallender's daughter in the Swedish TV version of the detective stories, Henning Mankell decided that the time had come to introduce a leading female protagonist to his novels.

Said protagonist appears for the first time in Mankell's latest book, *The Man from Beijing*, in the shape of Judge Birgitta Roslin, a successful, middle aged jurist with an average marriage and a very determined nature, who becomes embroiled, first through sheer curiosity and then direct connection, in a terrible act of mass murder in a remote village in the north of Sweden.

*The Man from Beijing*, unlike many of Mankell's other novels, is set in several time zones and countries, each with meticulous attention to detail and a great sense of atmosphere, and the denouement is chilling as Roslin unwittingly puts herself in real danger.

Let us hope that this is but the first of a series of novels featuring Judge Roslin, about whom we will learn much more as they proceed from Henning Mankell's successful and prolific pen.

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