



## Closed Circles

*Viveca Sten, Laura A. Wideburg (Translator)*

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It's a beautiful day for a regatta—until one of Sandhamn Island's most prestigious residents is killed aboard his sailing yacht.

Oscar Juliander was a rich lawyer and deputy chairman of the prestigious Royal Swedish Yacht Club. While at first his death seems like a tragic accident, there is evidence of foul play. Police detective Thomas Andreasson teams up with local lawyer Nora Linde to investigate. As they work to uncover clues, they face resistance from an elite world where nothing but appearance matters.

When the rich and powerful inhabitants of Sweden's idyllic island getaway come under scrutiny, Thomas and Nora must work closely and secretly to seek justice.

## **Closed Circles Details**

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## From Reader Review Closed Circles for online ebook

### **Maria Alejandra says**

Indecisa con esta valoración: entre 2 y 3. Comencé esta serie según fue publicada en español, tercero y cuarto y ahora otra editorial publica el primero y segundo. Cuando empecé a leer a Viveca Sten me encantó, estuve enganchadísima y me dije esta autora entra entre mis favoritos en la "novela negra nórdica". Pero estos primeros libros me han parecido soporíferos, me ha llevado varios días terminarlos sin mucho entusiasmo. El caso me ha parecido aburrido, no hay enganche, y creo que le doy las tres estrellas porque el culpable no era quien yo creía. De todas maneras espero que sigan publicando los siguientes de esta serie en español a ver si mis gustos han cambiado o solo ha sido un bajón. Una lástima ...

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### **Tõnu Laanemäe says**

Milline halb kriminull, mis töestas, et kõik mis tuleb Skandinaaviast, täpsemalt Rootsist, pole puhas kuld. Nõrk motiiv ja palju kahtlasi selgitusi a la nagu küsimusele "Kuskohast relva saite?" umbes selline vastus (täpselt ei viitsi tsisteerida) "Riiast tõin, sealt ju nii lihtne osta." Ühesõnaga mõttetu ja absoluutsest ei vastanud ootustele, niigi raske lugemisele pühenduda, kuna võitled töökoorma ja olelusvõtlusest tuleneva stressiga, lisaks veel loominguline kriis ja siis kui tahad kvaliteetselt aega raisata satud sellise mõttetu raamatu ohvriks. Asi oli nii amatöörik kohati, et kujutasin tegelaskujudena ette sinises teksasärgis ja sinistes jeansides purjekingades Marko Matveret ja Vanana (kes on loomulikult tema ülemus) Jaan Rekkorit (vahelduva eduga kadunud Kalju Komissarovit). Naispeasatäitjad olid suvalised blondiin ja brünett. Purjetamine oli teemas sees muide.

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### **Emma says**

After reading Still Waters last year, I was really looking forward to picking up Closed Circles, the second in the series set on Sandhamn island, the summer retreat of Sweden's wealthier residents. The setting sounds idyllic with beautiful views and blue waters – just the type of place I would like a holiday home...that is if I could afford it – and people didn't keep getting murdered.

The murders destroy the island's calm and make the resident's anxious. Last's summers murder were, they were sure, an anomaly. Now there are more. And worse, they are targeting the have's vs. the have nots, respected members of the community. It is also a closed community, one with plenty of secrets that they don't want to share with the detective in charge, Thomas.

Thankfully, he's dedicated and dogged and unlikely to give up. He's also really likeable and pretty well balanced, avoiding the many stereotypes of dysfunctional police officers with family issues and drinking problems. Whilst not everything in his life is perfect, he handles it like a grown up – and manages to set it aside when working on the case. His best friend Nora is equally as likeable and became much more of a "real" person to me in this book.

A lawyer at a bank, she spends her summers on Sandhamn so it makes perfect sense for Thomas to ask for her help on the case. They don't, however, like the blurb suggests, team up. Instead, she is on the periphery

of the investigation – though does help it come to its conclusion. I could have felt cheated by this if I hadn't been so caught up in Nora's own story, which runs parallel to the investigation and isn't crime related at all but very personal.

This might have been a distraction but wasn't at all, a testament I think to how well both characters were developed and how well written (and translated) the book was. It had a good pace and a good plot – simple but with plenty of twists and turns that kept me guessing until close to the end and, as a result, I liked it a lot.

The only downside to it is that it might not make much sense if you haven't read the first book, the events of which very much drive Nora in this one. I am not sure it can stand on its own without being confusing. So, my overall recommendation? Well worth a read (after you've read *Still Waters!*!).

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### **Natasha Niezgoda says**

Okay then! I enjoyed book 2 so much more than the first, so I'm glad I kept moving forward with this series.

The plot of this murder mystery is your typical "who done it" crime. There's desperation, lies, scandal, affairs, murder obviously, and greed. There's enough hype to keep your interest from a crime perspective, but it's really the development of Thomas and Nora that drew me in further.

I felt like with the close of book 1 I was just getting to know them. And in this "episode" I now feel emotionally connected to the two main characters. I learned more about their personal moral compasses, what each of them is striving for in life, what they are both missing and longing for, and what empowers them.

I will say, the book ended oddly. But I am realizing that transitions aren't Sten's greatest strength. So I'm gonna read the third book and see if this dynamic duo keeps their momentum. Maybe Nora can finally join the police force - she helps out Thomas enough to already be an honorary member ;)

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### **Kristi Lamont says**

You know how sometimes you just want to wear your favorite yoga pants and sit on the couch and eat macaroni and cheese straight out of the pot and half a bag of chocolate chunk chocolate chip cookies while watching pleasant and pretty people on a cooking show? Sometimes I feel like that's essentially what I'm doing when reading predictable yet enjoyable books like the two so far in Ms Sten's Sandhamn series. For murder mysteries with a hefty side helping of marital dissension, they're oddly comforting. It's that whole Sweden thing, isn't it?

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### **Clarabel says**

Toujours un bonheur de s'évader sur les terres nordiques ! Cette série m'enchante livre après livre : contrairement à Camilla Lackberg, les personnages de Viveca Sten vivent leurs vies en parallèle. Nora et Thomas sont de simples amis d'enfance. Lui mène ses enquêtes, tandis qu'elle se débrouille avec ses déboires conjugaux. C'est plus qu'un roman policier, on s'invite aussi chez nos héros et c'est bigrement bon.

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### **Marsha says**

This second offering from Viveca Sten starring Thomas Andreason and Nora Linde did not disappoint. The plotting was well done (an influential and rich man is murdered at the helm of his yacht on race day) and concluded satisfactorily. What I like most about these Swedish mysteries is the ambience of the Swedish towns and islands. I also enjoy catching up with Thomas' and Nora's lives. Thomas is haunted by the death of his child and the end of his marriage, while Nora is grappling with her husband's prejudice and overbearing pride. The personal stories almost overshadow the mysteries, but I like that.

I'll continue to read this series if only to see what happens to Nora's marriage.

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### **Amanda Hansen says**

Lätsam och "mysig" sommardeckare. Mordgåtan var spännande att följa men relationen mellan Nora och hennes man blev lite tjatig och tillförde inget till storyn. Man får inte riktigt grepp om karaktärerna. Men sommarkänslan och mord i Stockholms skärgård gör att serien passar perfekt att läsa på stranden!

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### **Tanja Berg says**

En lagom underhållande deckare tecknad mot en vacker skärgårdstablå. Det som är mest intressant är bevitna är undergången till Nora och Henriks äktenskap. Däremellan blir också nån höjdare skjuten i en segeltävling och efter diverse nystanden och felsteg dyker en nog så osannolik mördare upp. Ger mersmak, underligt nog.

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### **Lis Carey says**

It's a year later, the summer after the events in *Still Waters*, and an important yacht race is happening at Sandhamn. Thomas is a spectator, a guest on the marine police boat he once captained, when the starting gun fires--and the prominent lawyer, commanding a yacht favored to win, collapses to the deck of his yacht.

It wasn't the starting gun that killed him, of course, but someone used the starting gun as cover for the sound of the rifle they used to shoot Oscar Juliander.

Juliander was successful, prominent, a major figure in the yacht club, and well-liked. He was especially liked by women, and had, in addition to a well-connected wife who looked the other way, a string of ex-lovers whom he'd managed to part with on reasonably friendly terms. He also had a lifestyle that seems not to have been adequately supported by the income the police can identify--yet there is no untoward debt, either. Where is the money coming from?

Thomas, Margit, and the rest of their team have potential motives, but no one they can connect to them who doesn't have a good alibi for the time of the shooting. What's going on?

Thomas's friend Nora, a bank lawyer, helps them track down some potentially critical evidence regarding finances. Thomas is dogged and persistent, even has this confusing case drags on, and another murder occurs that appears to be directly connected. It's complicated, interesting, and compelling.

Meanwhile, both Thomas and Nora have problems in their personal lives. For Thomas, Carina is a sweet, charming girl who does really love him--but he's finding he doesn't love her. The age difference doesn't have to be a relationship killer, but for Thomas, Carina's youth is too great a difference. He's been enjoying her cheerful vitality in a way that he increasingly feels has been exploitative, and it's now just making him feel old. For Nora, of course, it's her husband, Henrik, who might have learned something from her near-death the previous year, but apparently didn't. Things are deteriorating, and maybe, maybe, Nora is starting to recognize what she really needs to do.

What puzzles me in the story is that Margit, who is Thomas's older, more experienced partner, has so little presence. More so than in the first book, when she was of course supposed to be on vacation, but why does Thomas seem to be running this investigation? It's not an inability to write strong characters, and maybe we'll see more of Margit in future books.

Overall, a very good, satisfying mystery. Recommended.

I bought this audiobook.

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### **Vera Long says**

The second of the Sandhamn murder series was a fast read, engrossing, engaging, believable. The two main characters are Thomas, a homicide detective, and his best friend, Nora, who helps him solve cases. Set in Sweden, one can almost smell the sea air of the archipelago.

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### **Chris says**

[ in the series, Nora's husband smacks her after she denies having an interest in Thomas. While spousal abuses is a no, Nora's denials to her husband ring false, especially since she had kissed Thomas. The television series inclusion of a romant

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### **Ken Fredette says**

This is another "Sandhamn Murders" mystery, "Closed Circles". It is the second after "Still Waters" by Viveca Sten. Revolving around sail boats, different Island's in the Stockholm Archipelago, and nasty characters. Thomas Andreasson is the Detective Inspector, Nora Linde is the lawyer of a bank and friend to Thomas since childhood. These are the main characters that Viveca utilizes in her stories. I should say that the protagonists are regular people, but the situations that they get into are unconscionable. I like Viveca's style of writing and can't wait for another book.

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## **Richard Derus says**

Rating: 3.5\* of five

Ya know what's frustrating? Like lips moving from Heaven to flapping at you frustrating? NOT BEING ABLE TO TELL YOU WHY THIS ISN'T A 4-STAR REVIEW. Because major, major spoilers would be required for me to do that.

Minor irks: Carina and Thomas are brought up and dropped in the space of a few sentences. I'd like more of that please. The partial resolution of Nora's marital woes is a good start, but this entry has next to no Nora-and-Thomas time and I missed it. The Eva subplot's resolution doesn't seem finished, somehow. It seems unlikely to be complete as it stands and it itches for that reason.

Something about these books and their lutefisk-and-cardamom atmosphere makes me crave a jalapeño cheeseburger. I guess that's an index of how very Swedish they are. And how cozy are they? So cozy I want to cruise the piers (I'd have to learn to time-travel, but that's just an added bonus) to recover from the wholesome.

So all in all, a good read and a series I can recommend to my smut-averse, violence-averse puzzle-solving friends.

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## **Aylavella says**

Novela entretenida, aunque es previsible, adiviné al asesino bastante pronto, pero aún así me ha gustado reencontrarme con los protagonistas y me ha tenido entretenida un par de días.

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