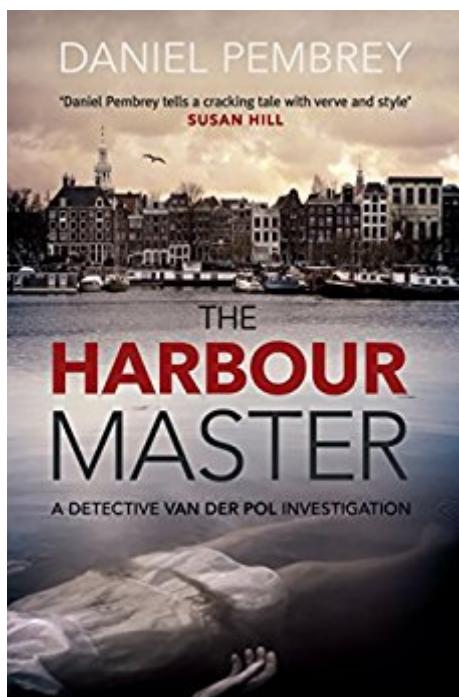


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The Harbour Master: An Atmospheric Amsterdam Detective Investigation (Detective Henk van der Pol)



Synopsis

'The Henning Mankell of Amsterdam' - Bill Rogers, author of *The Pick*, *The Spade* and *The Crow*
Henk van der Pol is a 30-year-term policeman, a few months off retirement. When he finds a woman's body in Amsterdam Harbour, his detective instincts take over, even though it's not his jurisdiction. Warned off investigating the case, Henk soon realises he can trust nobody, as his search for the killer leads him to discover the involvement of senior police officers, government corruption in the highest places, Hungarian people traffickers, and a deadly threat to his own family...For fans of Euro Noir, John Harvey's Charlie Resnick series and Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch, *The Harbour Master* is an action-packed detective investigation set in the evocative locale of Amsterdam. Delivering for Amsterdam what fans of Scandinavian fiction have come to love, this gripping novel shines a fascinating light on the dark side of a famously liberal society, combining vivid characterisation with ice-cold suspense.'A splendid debut by an English writer who has immersed himself in Amsterdam's dark and sinister port area'- *Times*'a debut novelist of rare skill' - *Financial Times*'Compelling and fast-moving [...] The exquisitely drawn Inspector van der Pol battles his way to the truth in a way that his fictional ancestor, Inspector Piet van der Valk, created by Nicolas Freeling, did in the Sixties' - *Geoffrey Wansell, Daily Mail* 'Daniel Pembrey writes with great authority and authenticity. *The Harbour Master* is a compelling, highly believable tale set in the flesh markets of Amsterdam and the even seedier corridors of power beyond them, where it's hard to know who the real criminals really are. You'll keep turning these pages right till the end' - *Howard Linskey, author of Behind Dead Eyes*'A splendid setting in what promises to be the start of a great new series' - *Ragnar Jonasson, author of the international bestselling Dark Iceland series*'A vivid sense of place and a flawed and believable central character...could herald a great series and career from this new British author' - *Maxim Jakubowski, Lovereading*'*The Harbour Master* is an accomplished novel, sporting a vividly realised sense of locale matched by an adroit evocation of character' - *Barry Forshaw, Brit Noir*'The style of writing was so enjoyable...this really is an excellent read' - *Sarah Ward, author of A Deadly Thaw*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love Henk. Henk Van der Pol, of the Dutch police, is tough, smart, driven and a pretty piss-poor husband and father. He doggedly pursues leads wherever they take him, from the red light district of Amsterdam to the governing halls of The Haag. "The Harbour Master" is the first in a series (the second is "Night Market") that begins with Henk lazily strolling along an Amsterdam harbor near his house boat. A dead body is found floating in the water and Henk wants to know who she is and how she ended up there. A simple enough beginning to a wild romp that includes international characters of all kinds. Along the way Henk waxes poetic and you are entranced: "It's hard to find silence in this city: the movement of vehicles on the ring road, the rumble and creak of trains entering and leaving Centraal station, a faint foghorn out in the sea channel. After thirty years as a cop on this beat, I can confirm that peace only comes from within." Henk also quips about his acquaintances and experiences: "...he climbed out of the Bentley, intercepted me and gave me a crushing hug. It was like trying to wrap my arms around a house." And, "The entire museum had been renovated over many years, at vast expense...It resembled an international airport." I met the author, Daniel Pembrey, while at the 2014 Bouchercon in Long Beach, CA. We were stuck in line waiting to get our books signed by Michael Connelly and got to talking. Daniel was and is a delightful and generous man, and I thrilled to say that he is also a fine writer. Buy The Harbour Master AND Night Market. Now.

A gripping and well written thriller with a great cast of characters especially the lead policeman. Keep up the good work

Thoroughly enjoyed this novella - brilliantly paced, and a great portrayal of the unique Dutch demeanor that can easily be dismissed as cold and is anything but. Pembrey's characters are deftly sketched and very believable. The plot races on without feeling rushed, maintaining a tension that resonates with the difficult subject matter. Pembrey avoids any sensationalism, focusing on the real impact of people tracking in Amsterdam. This was my first introduction to Pembrey's writing and I'll definitely be reading more.

A new author for me, I enjoyed it for the most part, but felt it was missing a bit, I hope he gets better.

Good atmospheric read and interesting plot, but some of the situations seemed too contrived i.e. trying too hard.

An enjoyable read, followed by another book in the series

One needs to read something cheery after this one - not saying it was a bad read though, I enjoyed it.

it was great

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