

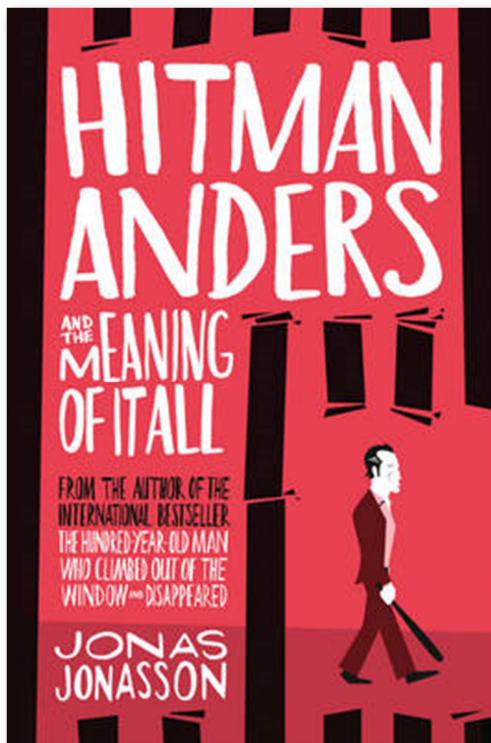


Helping you choose
your next book

LoveReading Reader reviews of **Hitman Anders And The Meaning Of It All** by Jonas Jonasson

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Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Phylippa Smithson

I am in love with a murder and thieves having read this quite brilliant, laugh out loud and unput-downable book!

The story focuses on 'Hitman' Anders (murderer who has spent more of his life in prison than out), Per (hotel receptionist whose life has been one big bad experience after another) and Johanna (former priest who is determined to make up for her enforced career by doing what she wants and not what her father dictated) .

All three are linked by their need to escape the lives they have respectively led and find a future that allows them

that escape. That future appears as a joint business venture with Hotman Anders doing the work (fulfilling paid orders to inflict various injuries on named individuals), Per doing the accounts and the priest overseeing all matters.

To say more would be to spoil the story but believe me, I have a massive grin on my face writing this as I recall so very many laugh out loud moments thanks to the brilliant writing style of Jonasson who is now on my absolute 'must-read-anything-he-writes' list.

Celia Cohen

A fun, irreverent, fast paced book with laugh-out-loud moments.

Anyone who has read Jonas Jonasson's previous books will not be disappointed in this one. It's more of the same. Zany characters that you can't help but like who get into weird situations but somehow come out on the right side in the end. I loved it.

Humaira Kauser

Droll. Comic. Hilarious. Quirky. Could not put this down for the life of me.

I cannot believe I have never read anything by Jonas Jonasson before. I now understand the hype over 'The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out Of The Window And Disappeared.' I need to read more of this man's work because he's a genius and I haven't read such a good book in such a long time. Highly recommend this book. I wouldn't even be surprised if this book was adapted into a movie!

You can follow Humaira on Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/cookie_bookie/

Pauline Braisher

*It's a quirky little story about three unlikely characters and their unusual money-making schemes. The three – an atheist vicar, an unprepossessing receptionist and a particularly stupid criminal – risk life and limb by conning the local villains. **It's a mad-cap romp through Sweden as the trio dodge the villains, the police and the press, lose and regain their ill-gotten gains and instigate ever-more audacious schemes to make their fortune.** I almost gave up on this book after a couple of chapters but I am so glad I persevered.*

<https://ilovebooksandcats.wordpress.com/>

Ann

Entertainingly absurd story.

This is as absurd as 'The Hundred Year Old Man' but equally entertaining. The story begins in a rundown hotel in Stockholm. Per Persson is the receptionist

who lives in a cupboard behind the reception desk. One of the rooms is occupied by Anders the contract killer. Having his lunch on a park bench the receptionist encounters a woman priest who doesn't believe in God and who has been dismissed from her parish.

The priest gets a room at the hotel, sees the potential to make money out of Hitman Anders, the receptionist goes along with it and the trio become partners in lucrative crime.

*This story **will make you chuckle as you read it. It is completely crazy but absorbing and you might be surprised by the ending** but you will have to read the book to discover what that is.*

Kerry Bridges

A book for fans of Scandinavian humour, great fun and easy to read.

I think the premise of this book is great; I really like the three main characters and I very much like the conversion of Hitman Anders and all that entails. I don't really like the way that violence is portrayed as less than serious, but I think the book does get away with it because people really do die and there are consequences to that.

The issue I had with it is that it should have finished 2/3 of the way through. The story is very sustainable through the first 2 sections and the change in viewpoint well-handled and amusingly written. At the end of that part though, it does start to get overlong and a bit silly, and I did start to lose interest at that point.

Nevertheless, it is an amusing read and does have plenty to recommend it including the excellent relationships between the three main characters and the way that the detail of their lives, a necessary part of the story, is so intertwined with what is happening in the novel itself.

I think it must have been hard to follow 'The Hundred Year Old Man' which I did really enjoy, and this is a good follow up but not a great one. Nevertheless I shall look forward to, and no doubt read, the next book by Jonas Jonasson.

<http://iamalwaysreading.wordpress.com/>

Jennifer Moville

This book is really about three people - the receptionist in the hotel, the priest who now doesn't believe in God and of course Hitman Anders.

Anders is a multi-murderer - and makes no bones about it - the scarier he can make himself then the better it is for him.

These people all join together when one day a man walks into the hotel with a wad of money for Anders - but the money is only half of what is owed to him on account that he only did half the job. It is down to the priest and the receptionist to give the money to Anders and to explain why he hasn't been paid in full - a job they don't relish doing. Hitman decides he wants all his money not half and sends the other two to go and get it.....or else!

When they come back with the rest of the money via various ways of threats on behalf of the Hitman then he is most impressed.

*They then all decide to go into business together - the priest and the receptionist book appointments for *The Hitman* - so much money for a broken arm , so much for a broken leg etc and this business seems to workbut the story doesn't end there.*

*Without giving away any more this novel is full of fun, **it had me giggling in parts and it shows how three people totally unknown to each other formed a bond.***

Sarah Hamid

An enjoyable read. The plot rolls along at a rollicking pace, which keeps the reader wondering what will happen next. Chock full of large doses of black humour and irreverence.

This is another clever book from Jonas Jonasson. Compared to the last two: 'The Hundred-Year-Old-Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared' and 'The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden' it moves along at a slightly less frenetic pace. There are fewer far-fetched events and mad characters. I can't decide if this is a good thing or not! This book is certainly easier to follow than the previous ones, but perhaps not quite so exciting.

The three main characters are larger than life. Though, apart from Hitman Anders, I found it hard to imagine what they actually looked like. I won't spoil it, but one of the characters has a name that makes me chuckle every time I think of it. The fact that the author makes fun of his own name, in relation to this, makes it even funnier.

It is difficult to read this book, without thinking of the author's previous novels. I think I missed the weaving of topical and historical events into the plot of this book, which the other two do so well.

I liked the way this novel deals with the criminal underworld but is sketchy on the details of the violence. I particularly liked the "Author's Thanks" at the end of the book, which really made me warm to him.

I would recommend this book to readers of his previous novels, and to new readers. Anyone who enjoys a bit of black humour and a clever plot will enjoy this. Not for lovers of romance or anyone who doesn't like a bit of fun being made of organised religion!

Clare Topping

A hit man, an atheist priest and a homeless receptionist were in a seedy hotel. No, not the start of a joke, but the setting for Jonas Jonasson's novel, 'Hitman Anders and the Meaning Of It All'. Hitman Anders has spent most of his adult life in prison, the priest most of hers trying to keep a congregation and overbearing priest of a father happy and the receptionist living at the hotel; including in its previous incarnation as a brothel. When confronted with the idea of telling Hitman Anders he had only been paid half his fee for his last beating up assignment, the priest comes up with a radical idea to make more money for them all through better marketing of the hitman's skills.

*Whilst not the hysterically funny or dramatic novel stated on the front cover, all the main characters are intensely likeable and it does flow along nicely. **It will make you smile and you will want to get to the end to see if they live happily ever after, but it is an entirely absurd story.** All in all 4 stars if you put it in the category of holiday reads.*

Keith Currie

Mix together three oddballs from the edges of Swedish society and observe the explosive result. A woman priest with no faith in God, a receptionist at a doss house and a reformed killer combine to create mayhem and confusion throughout the land, as well as tidy profits for themselves. Adopting the motto 'It is better to receive than give' they exploit criminals, the gullible and wider society to their own advantage.

At times reading like an adult version of Lemony Snicket's 'A series of unfortunate events' set in Sweden, this is a very funny, witty piece of philosophical and theological hokum which causes the reader to look at the world through very different eyes. What I found especially refreshing about the novel was how the leading characters struggled their way from an amoral,

even immoral, starting point towards what could be described as a relatively moral conclusion – that it is nice to give as well as receive, but receiving more is better still.

With its engaging characters, its wit and imagination, its off-beat approach to life and religion, this is a highly recommended read.

Victoria Emerson

*I adored ‘The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared’ and was expecting another great story from Jonas Jonasson. **Sadly I was disappointed.***

I was expecting a humorous and witty read but it just wasn’t there. I also found it to be a very slow.

Alex Hetherington

Acclaimed novelist Jonas Jonasson returns with his third extravagantly titled novel, this one equally bizarre and whimsical.

This tale follows a priest, a receptionist and a reformed hit man who now seeks redemption. It comes as no surprise that there is an abundance of eccentric ideas in the book’s early exchanges, as we are introduced to them all. However, I felt it lost a little of its charm as the story progressed.

Unlike ‘The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window’, the book was quite static and I felt suffered because of it. Lots of interesting characters popped up but there was never a huge amount of rallying for any of them to succeed. There are of course moments of comedy throughout but they came as singular moments and don’t really add to the direction the book is going.

From ‘Harold Fry’ to ‘The Extraordinary Fakir Who Got Stuck In An IKEA Wardrobe’, the key element to these flamboyantly titled novels has been the main characters and this is the main failing point with this novel. He was surrounded by intrigue and comedy and he was the main attraction throughout the novel but at no point did his past or new-found change in the present make me care anymore. This novel starts and ends with two other characters, a separate story about them in the future would be more interesting.

<http://boylestalkaboutbooks281.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/hitman-anders-and-meaning-of-it-all-by.html>

Edel Waugh

When thug for hire Anders is released from prison yet again, he is tired of this line of work he has done all his life. Now staying in the Sea Point Hotel he meets Per Persson the receptionist and an atheist female Protestant vicar. This is a truly dreadful hotel these people are in and when Anders suddenly finds a conscience he could not find two more helpful people to help lead him on his new path with hilarious consequences and many tongue in cheek moments.

I really liked Anders, he was a hitman with his very own unique sense of values and work ethic, but his ability to judge people and alcohol are sorely questionable. I recommend this book to everyone who likes an unusual main character to root for.

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2016/03/hitman-anders-and-meaning-of-it-all-by.html?m=1>

Clare Turner

The new novel from the author of ‘The Hundred Year Old Man’, and just as imaginative and fast-paced as its predecessors.

Written by the author of the much loved ‘The Hundred-year-Old-Man...’, this fast-paced, original and witty story could best be described as a romp or maybe a fantasy...

It deals with three somewhat unusual characters: the rather lovable, but very dim, Hitman Anders, recently released from prison, Johanna Kjellander, a female priest without a parish (and who never should have been ordained, not least because she is an atheist) and Per Persson, a receptionist whose life so far could not be described as auspicious!

The unlikely trio run come together in the Sea Point Hotel, described as “one of Sweden’s most wretched hotels”, which Hitman Anders is using as his base while he beats people up to order. Almost at once the other two see that they could use Anders’ activities to enrich themselves. The rest of the book follows the action as they do just this, in ingenious and immoral ways. Obstacles arise, including Hitman Anders “getting religion”, and an over-zealous church warden informing the Tax authorities, but ways around all problems are always found, and the ending could be described as satisfactory for everyone.

I seem to be one of the few people in the world who did not love ‘The Hundred Year Old Man’, and I felt rather the same about this. Whereas I greatly admire Jonasson’s imagination and energy, and his ability to keep things going along

at a cracking pace, I just cannot really see the point of it all. But given the undoubted inventiveness and comic energy, I am sure Jonasson fans will love this book too.