

The Alphabet House

Alfabethuset

by Jussi Adler-Olsen



During World War II, two British pilots, James and Bryan, are shot down over Germany. They know that they will be executed if captured. With an enemy patrol in pursuit, they manage to jump aboard a train reserved for senior SS soldiers wounded on the Eastern Front. In a moment of desperation, they throw two patients off the train and take their places, hoping to escape later. Instead, they end up in the Alphabet House, a mental hospital located far behind enemy lines, where German doctors subject their patients to daily rounds of shock treatments and experimental drugs. Their only hope of survival is to fake insanity until the war ends. But soon James and Bryan realize they are not the only ones in the Alphabet House feigning madness.

Jussi Adler-Olsen published his first bestseller *Alfabethuset* (*The Alphabet House*) in 1997 and it was followed in 2002 by *Og hun takkede guderne* (*The Company Basher*). In 2006, *Washington Dekretet* (*The Washington Decree*) was published.



SPECIFICATIONS

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268,000 copies sold in Denmark.

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From then, the novels in the crime-thriller series about Carl Mørck and Department Q took over. The first five volumes of this crime thriller series: *The Woman in the Cage* , *The Pheasant Killers* , *Message in a Bottle* , *Journal 64* and *The Marco Effect* have made Jussi Adler-Olsen one of the most popular and widely-read authors both in Denmark and internationally.

The series about Department Q are scheduled to be an ongoing story consisting of 10 very different individual novels. Together they tell a comprehensive story about the main characters. The series have been sold for publication in 42 countries and is in many places printed in astronomical numbers of copies. The film rights for the novels have been purchased by Zentropa and Nordisk Film. The first five are out now.

The previous books in the series have won The Golden Laurels (De Gyldne Laurbær), The Readers' Book Prize (Læsernes Bogpris), The Harald Mogensen Award and The Glass Key to name a few, as well as a number of highly prestigious international awards.

Reviews

One of the best that Jussi Adler-Olsen has ever written. His description of the grotesque misery of the patients in a mental hospital as a result of the war is touching and harrowing at the same time

- Aftonbladet

Extremely well-researched Danish thriller-debut of international standard

- Jyllands-Posten

The best film I have ever read

- Academy Award-winning producer Just Betzer

... hypnotic Hitchcock-film meets John Grisham thrill-ride

- Publishing Trends