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## Raid and the Blackest Sheep By Harri Nykanen

Hard-nosed hit man Raid is driving toward the Arctic Circle with Nygren, a career criminal in the twilight of his life. As they journey northward, Nygren puts his affairs in order, wreaking vengeance on those who have wronged him and paying penance to those he has wronged. Their first stop is at a church, where a sham preacher is fleecing his congregation for money.

Soon, both cops and crooks are on the trail of the mysterious pair. Detective Lieutenant Jansson and his colleagues are interested in any potential jobs the notorious criminals might be planning. A couple of accomplices from Nygren's past believe he has a hidden stash of cash, and want a share for themselves. In the end, the pilgrimage leaves a trail of wounded and dead in its wake.

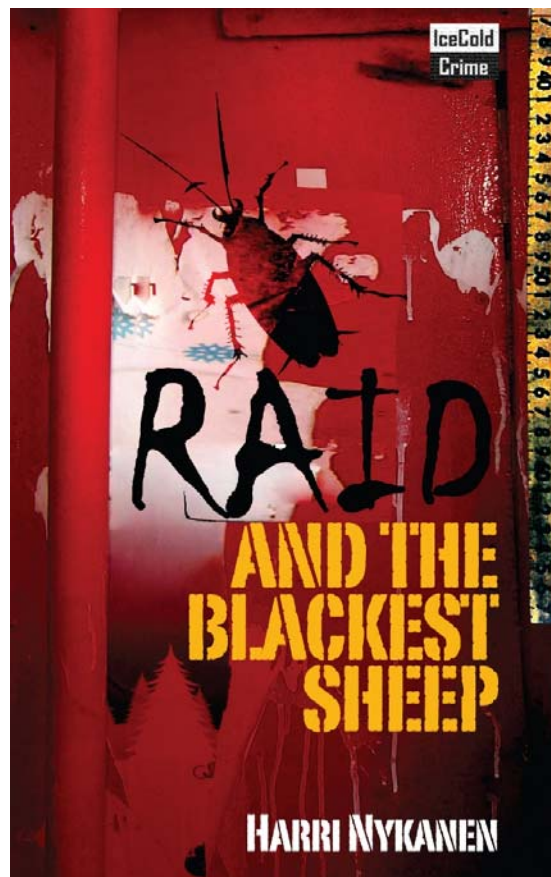
Harri Nykanen, 57, is a Finnish author who has written nearly 30 books and is best known for his Raid series. While Nykanen's work has been translated into many languages, *Raid and the Blackest Sheep* is the first of his novels to be published in English. A series based on the Raid character has appeared on television in both Finland and select U.S. markets, and a Raid movie also appeared in Finnish theaters.

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### Helsinki Homicide: Vengeance

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### An excerpt from the novel:

The stout one pulled his coat aside to reveal a gun in his shoulder holster.

"If I were you, I'd strike a deal. Afterwards, we can all quietly go our own ways. You remember Lehtinen? He crossed me and didn't want to reconcile. Things didn't go well for him—got a screwdriver in his gut."

"A Phillips," added slim.

The owner slipped quietly behind the cover of the bar.

Nygren patted Raid on the shoulder.

"He isn't fond of guns. If I were you, I'd leave before he gets angry."

The stout one smiled doubtfully, drew his gun and pointed it at Raid's forehead.

"So he's gonna get mad? If I were you, I'd be worried about me getting mad."

Glancing over to see Nygren's reaction was a mistake.

Raid sprang into action, and in a flash, he had the stout one's gun in his hand. Shorty's reflexes were sluggish and his finger grasped at the trigger, but the gun was already gone.