

## The Blood Strand by Chris Ould

5 stars

The first in a trilogy set in the Faroes. Looking forward to reading the next two!

I absolutely loved this book. I am a great fan of Scandinavian thrillers both on TV and in books and this is in a similar vein. The action takes place on the Faroes. I have never been there but have been to Iceland so had an idea of this type of place. However, everything is slightly down-scaled as the Faroes are not quite as distant as Iceland and the action is not quite as dramatic as some novels of this ilk that I have read. If anything, this made this book even better. The atmosphere, landscape and weather of the Faroes is so well described that you almost feel you are there. Chris Old is an award-winning screenwriter and he is obviously a born author.

The actual plot is also enthralling. It revolves around Jan Reyna, who is a British detective who left the Faroes as a young child with his mother and, until the story begins, has only returned once to see his estranged father which ended badly. However, when his father is found unconscious with a shotgun at his side and is rushed to hospital in a coma, Jan feels obliged to visit his father for what could be the last time. A body is then found washed up on the beach and the blood in his father's car matches this victim.

We are introduced to Jan's family, two half-brothers with their own problems and various cousins, who all seem to know a little about Jan's history. Jan encounters the local detective, Halt Hertz, an unassuming character who wants to do his police work correctly and efficiently. The two men become good friends and work together to try and solve the murder.

This was one of those books that you just have to keep reading. There are so many strands, not only regarding the central murder plot, but also Jan's interaction with his family members, his desire to find out why his mother, who died when Jan was six, left his father and the potential burgeoning friendship with his cousin Frida. Although the murder is solved in this book there are many areas left open and the reader is left wanting more.

Fortunately this is a trilogy and even more fortunately I am going to be able to read and review them both.

Dexter

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review