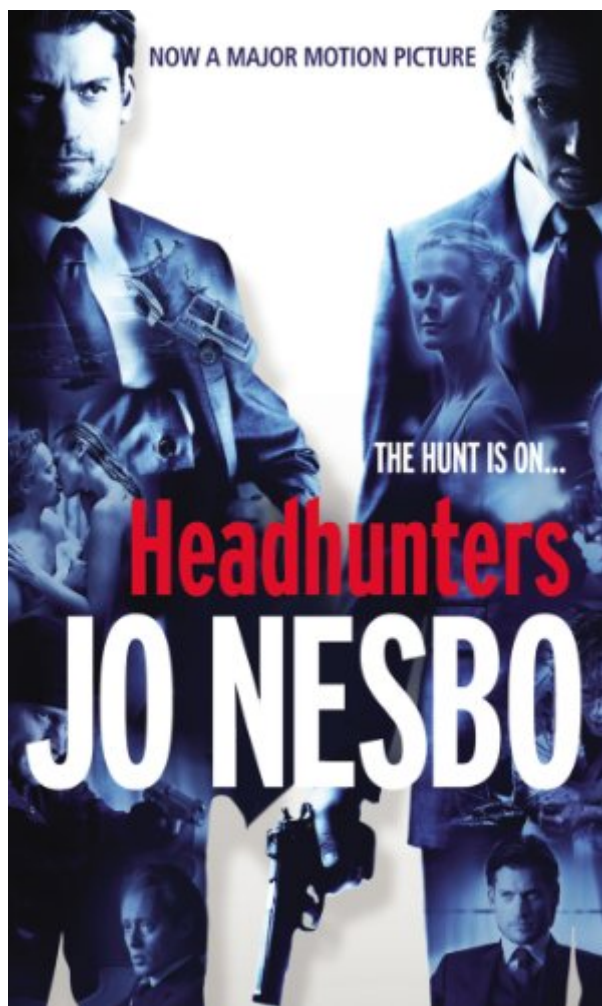


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Headhunters



Synopsis

THE NEW GLOBAL PHENOMENON Roger Brown has it all: clever and wealthy, he's at the very top of his game. And if his job as a headhunter ever gets dull, he has his sideline as an art thief to keep him busy. At a gallery opening, his wife introduces him to Clas Greve. Not only is Greve the perfect candidate for a position that Brown is recruiting for; he is also in possession of one of the most sought-after paintings in modern art history. Roger sees his chance to become rich beyond his wildest dreams, and starts planning his biggest theft ever. But soon, he runs into trouble - and it's not long before the hunter becomes the hunted...

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Customer Reviews

Norwegian writer Jo Nesbo's latest novel is a stand-alone, not part of his Harry Hole series, and it provides yet another example of Nesbo's immense talent as a story-teller. Nesbo never "writes the same book twice." Even the five Harry Hole novels currently available in the U.S. are very different from each other. In this novel, Nesbo lets his darkest, most deadpan humor loose in a wild but

beautifully constructed mystery in which the organization of the novel parallels textbook recommendations regarding interviewing and hiring candidates for executive positions - seemingly a straightforward process. Nesbo turns it all on its head, however. His "headhunter," Roger Brown is a loathsome human being, but he is as close to a "hero" as one gets in this page-turner. His powerful enemies are at least as clever, opportunistic, and amoral as he is. By focusing on these characters, however, Nesbo frees himself from the limitations of the police procedural and can take his story in new directions, omitting the law entirely from almost all of the action, and creating a plot in which Roger Brown and his enemies play a game in which the "king of the chessboard" is the person who survives. Roger Brown has a side business, set up so cleverly that none of the other participants know who else is involved, a business which handsomely supplements his business income. As he interviews clients, Roger gains important personal information, including their artistic tastes and the nature of their investments in art. Then he cleverly arranges to have that artwork stolen from their homes and fenced. No one ever suspects him.

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