



***Blood on Snow, by Jo Nesbo***  
***Reviewed by Cindy Kennedy, December 2015***

Every once in a while, it's good to break out of one's usual reading comfort zone and try a new author or style of writing. Spotting Jo Nesbo's *Blood on Snow* on the Heritage Hills Library's new-books shelf, I decided to give this acclaimed Norwegian author a try.

The setting of *Blood on Snow* is as bleak and cold as its title would suggest. Sardonic Scandinavian humor infuses this slim, off-beat novel, giving it an edge. Olav, the narrator, is a fixer in Oslo—he fixes things permanently, if you get my drift. His profession demands precision and detachment. "It's nothing personal," he tells one target. But Olav has several weaknesses. In particular, he has a habit of falling in love with beautiful, helpless women.

Things are going well for Olav, until his boss Hoffmann gives him another assignment. For Hoffman, it's personal this time. He wants Olav to fix his wife Corina. Olav then sets out to stalk Corina, to find the best opportunity for the eventual fix.

But when Olav sees Corina for the first time, it all changes: "Everything about Corina Hoffmann was beautiful. Her face, with its high cheekbones, Brigitte Bardot lips, her blonde, mussed up, glossy hair.... And the white white skin ...like snow glittering in sunlight, the way that can make a man snow-blind .... Basically, I liked everything about Corina Hoffman. Everything except her surname."

Clearly, Olav has a bit of a dilemma here. All things considered, she is beautiful—and what does he have to lose? Should he or shouldn't he? Some snow-bound day, pick up *Blood on Snow* and you'll find out for yourself.