

The Last Policeman By Ben H Winters

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"Recensione A promising kickoff to a planned trilogy. For Winters, the beauty is in the details rather than the plot's grim main thrust --Kirkus Reviews; STARRED review--Absolutely outstanding...this gets the highest recommendation I can give. Buy it. --Classic Mystery, June, 2012---Normally, only Stephen King and Dean Koontz can suck me into a book and not release their stranglehold until I, exhausted from lack of sleep, have turned the last page. Now [Ben Winters] has joined their ranks...

The Last Policeman is extraordinary as well as brilliant, surprising, and, considering the circumstances, oddly uplifting --Mystery Scene magazine, July, 2012----set in a world not too different from our own, with one major difference. A 6.5 km asteroid is on a collision course with Earth, and within six months the vast majority of life on the planet will be wiped out, with the few human souls that survive the coming apocalypse living in permanent winter where the light of the sun will not penetrate the layers of debris thrown into the atmosphere by the impact. The infrastructure that so many of us rely on is, slowly but surely, breaking down. People are quitting their jobs to spend time with their families, or to fill their last days with their 'bucket list' fantasies. Fuel and food are scarce. The electricity supply and mobile reception are sporadic, and getting worse as more people abandon their jobs and repairs to these core services are ignored. Suicide is so frequent that the police no longer bother investigating them. Against this background, we are introduced to Detective Hank Palace. Hank has only been in the job for a few months, the resulting promotion because of an older colleague quitting to become a 'bucket lister'. When Hank is called to a probable suicide in the toilet of a McDonalds, it seems like an open and shut case. But something about the case does not sit well with Hank. He thinks that a murder has been committed and spends the book struggling against a tide of apathy to try and prove that his instincts were right. The Last Policeman is a fascinating novel. I honestly can't ever remember reading a book that dealt with the way that society falls apart in the face of impending apocalypse before, and it makes for a very compelling read. The characters are all well drawn, and the sense of defeat for almost every person in this world, as they wait for their inevitable demise is a palatable force that drives the narrative along. While the main plot of the book is fairly standard police procedural fare, the descriptions of society in terminal decline are absolutely riveting. This novel is apparently the first of a trilogy, and in truth, I really cannot wait for the next instalment. --Starburst Magazine, August, 2012----This book may win the prize for the most intriguing premise of the year. If you knew that the world was going to end would you keep on doing the job that you do now? Winters plays with the readers expectations and I ll admit there were a couple of moments

that managed to catch me completely off guard. The thing to remember is that normal rules no longer apply, and character motivations are entirely different from what you would expect in a standard murder mystery. The good news is that there are another two novels set to follow on from *The Last Policeman*. One set three months before the asteroid is due to hit and one set in Earth's final month. I have to admit that I am already insanely curious about what is going to happen.Winters has left just enough loose ends in the plot to keep this reader interested. He has crafted a story that manages to avoid being entirely downbeat or pessimistic and instead offers just the smallest glimmer of hope. I have to admit that I kind of liked that. I'll be checking these out as soon as I can get my hands on them..... ----The Eloquent Page, Sept, 2012 L'autore **Ben H. Winters** is an Edgar Award winner and a New York Times best-selling author. He lives in Los Angeles, California. Estratto. © Riproduzione autorizzata. Diritti riservati. I'm staring at the insurance man and he's staring at me, two cold gray eyes behind old-fashioned tortoiseshell frames, and I'm having this awful and inspiring feeling, like holy moly this is real, and I don't know if I'm ready, I really don't. I narrow my eyes and I steady myself and I take him in again, shift on my haunches to get a closer look. The eyes and the glasses, the weak chin and the receding hairline, the thin black belt tied and tightened beneath the chin. This is real. Is it? I don't know. I take a deep breath, demanding of myself that I focus, block out everything but the corpse, block out the grimy floors and the tinny rock-and-roll Muzak from the cheap speakers in the ceiling. The smell is killing me, a pervasive and deeply unpleasant odor, like a horse barn that's been splashed with French-fry grease. There are any number of jobs in this world still being efficiently and diligently accomplished, but the late-night cleaning of twenty-four-hour fast-food-restaurant bathrooms is not among them. Case in point: the insurance man had been slumped over in here, lodged between the toilet and the dull green wall of the stall, for several hours before Officer Michelson happened to come in, needing to use the john, and discovered him. Michelson called it in as a 10-54S, of course, which is what it looks like. One thing I've learned in the last few months, one thing we've all learned, is that suicides-by-hanging rarely end up dangling from a light fixture or a roof beam, like in the movies. If they're serious, and nowadays everybody is serious, would-be suicides fasten themselves to a doorknob, or to a coat hook, or, as the insurance man appears to have done, to a horizontal rail, like the grab bar in a handicapped stall. And then they just lean forward, let their weight do the work, tighten the knot, seal the airway. I angle farther forward, readjust my crouch, trying to find a way to share space comfortably with the insurance man without falling or getting my fingerprints all over the scene. I've had nine of these in the three and a half months since I became a detective, and still I can't get used to it, to what death by asphyxiation does to a person's face: the eyes staring forward as if in horror, laced with thin red spiderwebs of blood; the tongue, rolled out and over to one side; the lips, inflated and purplish at the edges. I close my eyes, rub them with my knuckles, and look again, try to get a sense of what the insurance man's appearance had been in life. He wasn't handsome, that you can see right away. The face is doughy and the proportions are all just a little off: chin too small, nose too big, the eyes almost beady behind the thick lenses. What it looks like is that the insurance man killed himself with a long black belt. He fastened one end to the grab bar and worked the other end into the hangman's knot that now digs brutally upward into his Adam's apple. "Hey, kid. Who's your friend?" "Peter Anthony Zell," I answer quietly, looking up over my shoulder at Dotseth, who has opened the door of the stall and stands grinning down at me in a jaunty plaid scarf, clutching a steaming cup of McDonald's coffee. "Caucasian male. Thirty-eight years old. He worked in insurance." "And let me guess," says Dotseth. "He was eaten by a shark. Oh, wait, no: suicide. Is it suicide?" "It appears that way." "Shocked, I am! Shocked!" Denny Dotseth is an assistant attorney general, a warhorse with silver hair and a broad, cheerful face. "Oh, geez, I'm sorry, Hank. Did you want a cup of coffee?" "No, thank you, sir." I give Dotseth a report on what I've learned from the black faux-leather wallet in the victim's back pocket. Zell was employed at a company called Merrimack Life and Fire, with offices in the Water West Building, off Eagle Square. A little collection of movie stubs, all dating from the last three months, speaks to a taste for adolescent adventure: the *Lord of the Rings* revival; two installments of the sci-fi serial *Distant Pale Glimmers*; the DC-versus-Marvel thing at the IMAX in Hooksett. No trace of a family, no photographs in the wallet at all. Eighty-five dollars in fives and tens. And a driver's license, with an address here in town: 14 Matthew Street Extension, South Concord. "Oh, sure. I know that area. Some nice little town houses down that way. Rolly Lewis has a place over there." "And he got beat up." "Rolly?" "The victim. Look." I turn back to the insurance

man's distorted face and point to a cluster of yellowing bruises, high on the right cheek. "Someone banged him one, hard." "Oh, yeah. He sure did." Dotseth yawns and sips his coffee. New Hampshire statute has long required that someone from the office of the attorney general be called whenever a dead body is discovered, so that if a murder case is to be built, the prosecuting authority has a hand in from Go. In mid-January this requirement was overturned by the state legislature as being unduly onerous, given the present unusual circumstances. Dotseth and his colleagues hauling themselves all over the state just to stand around like crows at murder scenes that aren't murder scenes at all.

Now, it's up to the discretion of the investigating officer whether to call an AAG to a 10-54S. I usually go ahead and call mine in. "So what else is new, young man?" says Dotseth. "You still playing a little racquetball?" "I don't play racquetball, sir," I say, half listening, eyes locked on the dead man.

"You don't? Who am I thinking of?" I'm tapping a finger on my chin. Zell was short, five foot six maybe; stubby, thick around the middle. Holy moly, I'm still thinking, because something is off about this body, this corpse, this particular presumptive suicide, and I'm trying to figure out what it is. "No phone," I murmur. "What?" "His wallet is here, and his keys, but there's no cell phone." Dotseth shrugs. "Betcha he junked it. Beth just junked hers. Service is starting to get so dicey, she figured she might as well get rid of the darn thing now." I nod, murmur "sure, sure," still staring at Zell. "Also, no note." "What?" "There's no suicide note." "Oh, yeah?" he says, shrugs again. "Probably a friend will find it. Boss, maybe." He smiles, drains the coffee. "They all leave notes, these folks. Although, you have to say, explanation not really necessary at this point, right?" "Yes, sir," I say, running a hand over my mustache. "Yes, indeed." Last week in Kathmandu, a thousand pilgrims from all over southeast Asia walked into a massive pyre, monks chanting in a circle around them before marching into the blaze themselves. In central Europe, old folks are trading how-to DVDs: How to Weigh Your Pockets with Stones, How to Mix a Barbiturate Cocktail in the Sink. In the American Midwest? Kansas City, St. Louis, Des Moines? the trend is firearms, a solid majority employing a shotgun blast to the brain. Here in Concord, New Hampshire, for whatever reason, it's hanger town. Bodies slumped in closets, in sheds, in unfinished basements. A week ago Friday, a furniture-store owner in East Concord tried to do it the Hollywood way, hoisted himself from an overhanging length of gutter with the sash of his bathrobe, but the gutter pipe snapped, sent him tumbling down onto the patio, alive but with four broken limbs. "Anyhow, it's a tragedy," Dotseth concludes blandly. "Every one of them a tragedy." He shoots a quick look at his watch; he's ready to boogie. But I'm still down in a squat, still running my narrowed eyes over the body of the insurance man. For his last day on earth, Peter Zell chose a rumpled tan suit and a pale blue button-down dress shirt. His socks almost but don't quite match, both of them brown, one dark and one merely darkish, both loose in their elastic, slipping down his calves. The belt around his neck, what Dr. Fenton will call the ligature, is a thing of beauty: shiny black leather, the letters B&R etched into the gold buckle. "Detective? Hello?" Dotseth says, and I look up at him and I blink. "Anything else you'd like to share?" "No, sir. Thank you." "No sweat. Pleasure as always, young man." "Except, wait." "Sorry?" I stand up straight and turn and face him. "So. I'm going to murder somebody." A pause. Dotseth waiting, amused, exaggerated patience. "All right." "And I live in a time and a town where people are killing themselves all over the place. Right and left. It's hanger town." "Okay." "Wouldn't my move be, kill my victim and then arrange it to appear as a suicide?" "Maybe." "Maybe, right?" "Yeah. Maybe. But that right there?" Dotseth jabs a cheerful thumb toward the slumped corpse. "That's a suicide." He winks, pushes open the door of the men's room, and leaves me alone with Peter Zell."

nbc nabs the last policeman sci fi cop drama from ben h

May 7th, 2020 - in a petitive situation nbc has landed the last policeman an adaptation of ben h winters sci fi mystery novel with a put pilot mitment neal moritz preacher is producing sony tv where moritz s original films is under an overall deal is the studio winters will pen the series adaptation which follows a detective in new hampshire during the final years of civilization as a

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ben winters wraps up the last policeman trilogy with world

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the last policeman solving a murder before an asteroid

May 23rd, 2020 - the last policeman is ben winters third novel he also wrote sense and sensibility and sea monsters which i have not read and i enjoyed it even more than bedbugs it s a noir ish whodunit that

the last policeman ben h winters

May 25th, 2020 - and most of all i remember that when i was reading a ton of apocalyptic fiction to prepare for writing the last policeman my very favorite was a masterly and disturbing depiction of england thousands of years after a devastating nuclear war leveled all civilization a brutal adventure book written entirely in a sort of pidgin english because the characters had reconstructed the language

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review the last policeman trilogy by ben h winters

April 24th, 2020 - ben h winters is the author of nine novels including most recently the new york times bestselling underground airlines his other work includes the award winning last policeman trilogy the last policeman was the recipient of the 2012 edgar award and it was also named one of the best books of 2012 by and slate

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the last policeman

May 25th, 2020 - the last policeman is a 2012 american science fiction mystery novel by ben h winters it follows a police detective in new hampshire as he investigates a suicide he believes was really a murder his efforts are plicated by the social political and economic effects of preparations for and anticipation of an asteroid impact six months in the future

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the last policeman series by ben h winters

May 27th, 2020 - the last policeman series 3 primary works 4 total works hank palace a police detective living under the threat of an impending asteroid collision in concord new hampshire

summary and reviews of the last policeman by ben winters

May 24th, 2020 - the information about the last policeman shown above was first featured in the bookbrowse review bookbrowse s online magazine that keeps our members abreast of notable and high profile books publishing in the ing weeks in most cases the reviews are necessarily limited to those that were available to us ahead of publication if you are the publisher or author of this book and feel that

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May 21st, 2020 - the last policeman is a great murder mystery story written with talent by ben h winters and delivered in a perfect performance by peter berkrot the story follows young police detective hank palace as he tries to do his job while the earth is on the brink of destruction

the last policeman going tv series route with lorenzo di

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superiors want to send him to early retirement but he would like to stay on the force and the criminals of jaffa don t want to see him leave either

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May 5th, 2020 - the last policeman ben h winters when the earth is doomed by an imminent asteroid collision homicide detective hank palace considers the worth of his job in a world destined to end in six months and investigates a suspicious

the last policeman reading group choices

May 8th, 2020 - ben h winters is the author of the last policeman trilogy the last policeman the first book in the trilogy was the recipient of the 2012 edgar award from the mystery writers of america it was also named one of the best books of 2012 by and slate countdown city the second book was an npr best book of 2013 and the winner of the philip k dick award

ben winters the last policeman reviewed

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the last policeman a novel ebook by ben winters

May 27th, 2020 - the last policeman tells the story of hank palace a detective from a small town in the state of washington that is obsessed in trying to solve a supposed suicide of a insurance policy analyst in a mcdonald s bathroom one that he suspects to be actually a homicide

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