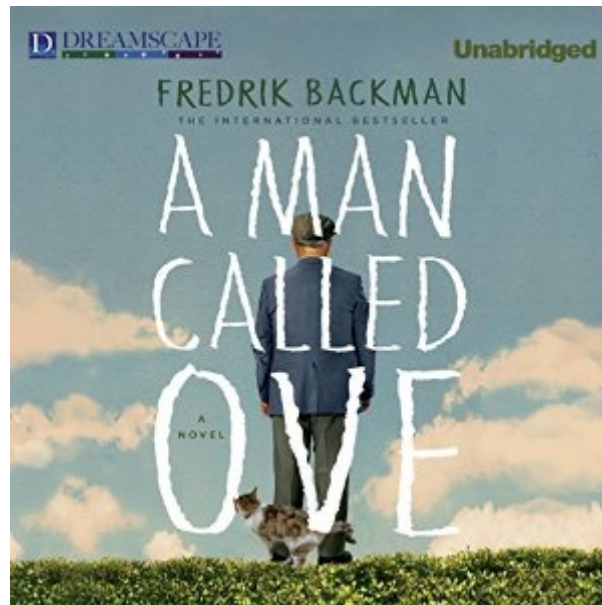


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# A Man Called Ove



## Synopsis

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon - the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell". But behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 9 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Dreamscape Media, LLC

Audible.com Release Date: August 5, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00MG4N5SW

Best Sellers Rank: #5 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Humor & Satire > Humorous #6

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature #25 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

My sister and I listened to this book from Audible and I am now reading his other book. Such a sweet, well written story of despair and hope. Having just lost a husband less than a year ago, I can certainly relate to his sorrow and feelings of worthlessness - being old and useless. What a blessing this book has been to me.

This is a gem of a feel-good debut novel about A MAN CALLED OVE by Swedish author and blogger Fredrik Backman. It will make you laugh and make you cry and you will remember Ove for a long time. Some would call Ove a curmudgeon, a lovely word meaning a bad-tempered, difficult, cantankerous person. His wife called him the most inflexible man in the world - he borders on being obsessive compulsive but is generally a grumpy man who doesn't tolerate fools and likes things to

be done that way he wants them. While many think that he is just a rude and grumpy man, at heart you will find out that he is one of the kindest persons you will ever know. Ove is a 59 years old widower who has just been arbitrarily retired after 30 years in the same job. His world now revolves around his home and neighbourhood housing complex where he rules the roost making sure that all local rules and regulations are followed. He is very lonely since his wife died, he quarrelled with his best friend and neighbour years ago and rarely has contact with his neighbours. Ove's world is one of anger and sadness. One day a new neighbour accidentally flattens Ove's mailbox driving in an area where vehicles are prohibited. This starts a very amusing, heartwarming and frequently very sad story as Ove's rigidly structured world is disrupted by unexpected friendship from Parvaneh, a vivacious small and very pregnant Iranian woman who has moved in next door with her Swedish husband Patrick and two girls. Parvaneh is perhaps the only person who can take on Ove directly and win, and starts to change his life for the better. We also go back to how Ove met his vivacious and loving wife Sonja who was the direct opposite of Ove. At a critical time in her life she said to him "We can busy ourselves with living or dying, Ove. We have to move on." Now a widower Ove is struggling to move on. This is one of the best feel-good stories I have read for some time and it gets a place in my best books for 2014. I strongly recommend it to someone who wants to read something different that will hit at your heart. If you are emotionally affected by books I strongly suggest keeping a box of tissues handy. My thanks to Net Galley and the publisher for a copy of this book for review.

This was one of those accidental finds--meandering through book choices and came across it. I absolutely loved this book. It is funny, tender, thoughtful and thought-provoking. The character of Ove seemed a bit too curmudgeony at first, but as his story unfolded, it all fit. A touching perspective on loss and what it means to choose life and figure out one's new role as a loner. It also celebrates the importance of coincidence and embracing what life brings. Laughed out loud and blubbered like a baby--what more can one ask of a book? Heartily recommend *A Man Called Ove*.

Scando literature seems to be going in two directions. Either it is extremely dark, peopled with evil people doing terrible things (ref Steig Larsson), or it's about loveable eccentrics living quirky lives (ref Jonas Johansson). This book falls firmly in the second camp. It's about Ove, a Jack Nicholson style curmudgeon living in a Swedish housing estate who spends his days policing the residential laws. After his wife dies, Ove sees little point in carrying on, but every time he tries to end his life he keeps getting interrupted by one of his neighbours. This is an easy to read and genuinely comedic

novel, but it's not all froth as the story of Ove's life and the various setbacks he overcame is also woven into it. My main criticism is that none of the characters feel like or behave like real people. Even the cat behaves totally unlike any real cat. It's a charming and likeable book, one that I'd recommend but it doesn't have the depth to burrow permanently under my skin.

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