



Swedish Crime Fiction TV series (by J. Granstrom)

Swedish crime fiction continues to reach an ever-growing audience - riding on the wave of the Millennium trilogy, Wallander and others - with some of the new series incorporating supernatural elements.

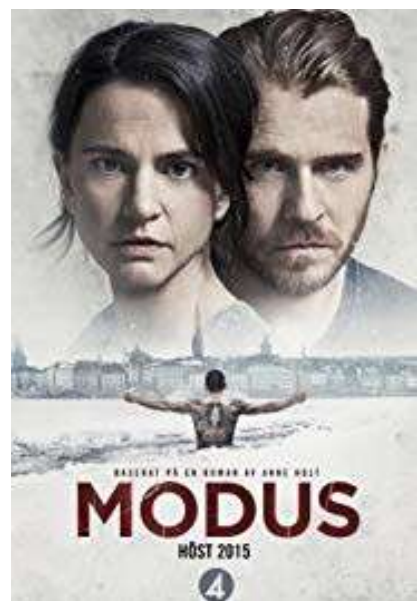


"Jordskott" is probably my favorite, due to its highly atmospheric cinematography and complex storyline involving a secret organization ("Envoyés de la Nature (EN)" or Nature's Messengers) protecting creatures associated with Nordic folklore. In "Jordskott", these creatures live amongst us, from Huldras to trolls, and EN reaches deep into highest government and law enforcement to protect them (or make themselves more powerful as we later find out). Although I'm sure a lot of "creative liberty" was used when incorporating Nordic folklore into the storyline, I still think it's great that it was used in a contemporary setting



A similar thing can be said about "Midnight Sun" featuring Sami culture and mysticism. Although some criticism has been raised regarding its depictions of Sami culture, in particular related to its antagonist, I found the TV series compelling and respectfully portraying Samis and the difficult reality they still often face in Northern Fennoscandia (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia).

"Springfloden" is another highly compelling TV series, which successfully combines crime fiction, family drama and humor, especially in the form of the character "Minken" whose accomplishments are only limited by the scope of his imagination (and being able to remember that New Hampshire is located in the United States and not England). It also features highly complex character depictions, from the former cop turned homeless man to a successful business woman trying to cover up a dark past. However, the biggest highlight of "Springfloden" may have been the final twist, which - at least for me - came completely out of the blue.



"Modus" has a lot of the same qualities as "Springfloden", although some of the depictions of Americans in Season 1 were a bit too cliched and one-dimensional, and the poor accents of the non-American actors playing these roles did not help. Season 2 certainly worked much better in that regard. Nonetheless, "Modus" is definitely also worth checking out! Most of these series are available from Amazon with English subtitles.