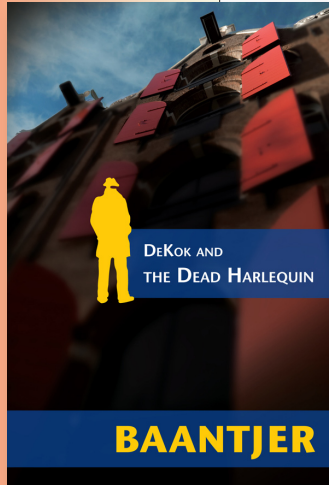


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## DeKok and the Dead Harlequin

By Baantjer



*Baantjer's newest police procedural takes mystery lovers on a fascinating ride in DeKok and the Dead Harlequin*

*Murder victims posed to look like wooden harlequins create a new challenge for Inspector DeKok*

Denver, CO (2/1/2009)—Inspector DeKok and his partner, Vledder, receive a puzzling note. A man claims he's planning on killing someone, but wants the inspector's input on how to commit the perfect crime—he wants advice from an expert. In exchange, he will claim responsibility for the crime. DeKok is puzzled.

Later he is confronted with a double homicide at a local hotel. The first man appears to have been murdered with a weighted hockey stick., but more unusual is the appearance of the body: "Jan Brets was supine, arms and legs stretched out wide. It was as if he had wanted to cover as much of the floor space as possible. That's how they found him. The position of the corpse made the man resemble a wooden harlequin, a marionette whose every string had been pulled tight."

In usual Baantjer fashion, this smart police procedural twists, turns and ties together, surprising and challenging readers.

*"Baantjer's laconic, rapid-fire storytelling has spun out a surprisingly complex web of mysteries."*

—Kirkus Review

### *Inspector DeKok Investigates*

The sixty crime novels featuring Inspector DeKok written by Baantjer have achieved a large following among readers in Europe. These translations by Speck Press have brought this best-selling series to mystery readers in the United States.



**Baantjer** is the most widely read author in the Netherlands. A former detective inspector of the Amsterdam police, his fictional characters reflect the depth and personality of individuals encountered during his thirty-eight-year career in law enforcement. He was recently knighted by the Dutch monarchy and honored with the first-ever Master Prize of the Society of Dutch-language Crime Writers.

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books—revealing scenes that are  
typically invisible to the casual observer.

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For more information on *DeKok and the Dead Harlequin* and the rest of the Inspector DeKok Investigates series, please visit [www.speckpress.com](http://www.speckpress.com).