

Fantasy Island – a reportage from the heart of Brazil

“*Fantasy Island* is the best I’ve read within Swedish reportage in the latest years. The author opens the readers’ eyes just by being there: observant, well informed, interested. Just like a Kapuscinski, he sets out on a journey to the satellite cities where violence and misery spreads itself like rings on the water. The artificial lake, Paranoá, is surrounded by exclusive villas that Brasilia’s millionaires have bribed themselves to, the red dust makes you dizzy and in the horizon you can see the congress’s glass façades fading away. May *Fantasy Island* be read by many.”

Ola Klippvik in Sydsvenskan

“In the presence of such an overwhelming and multifaceted phenomenon like Brasília, the willingness to describe the whole spectrum it’s understandable: the architecture, the politics, the history, the dreams of the future, the social situation as well as the global comparisons. Brandão Jönsson however manages to keep the balance in a most outstanding way – not only this portrait succeeds in giving a rich and complex picture but it also mediates a coherent image where it becomes clear how the whole country’s postcolonial history unites in Brasília or the Capital da Esperança – The Capital of Hope, as it was called during the inauguration. Read and get astonished!”

Aron Aspenström in Svenska Dagbladet

“No matter which story there is to tell about the intriguing Brazilian capital, Jönsson makes sure he finds a person to interview. He talks with the *Emo* kid that has seen his friends jump from a shopping center in a bizarre suicide wave during the past year. He meets the butcher and second-hand bookseller that within regular periods organizes a carnival-like “Cultural evening” in his modernistic quarters. He comes round freaky New Age sects and follows the social worker during his duty visit to the miserable satellite cities where the drug cartels rules. He even manages to get an interview with the legendary Niemeyer during his 100th birthday party!”

Dan Jönsson in Dagens Nyheter

“Henrik Brandão Jönsson has an ability to lift his arguments to a comprehensive discussion about politics and sustainable development. He’s also open about his, sometimes, strong reactions to what he experiences as well as the indignation he feels about power abuse and assault. It’s not a frozen objective journalism we get served. And that’s why it is very good journalism.”

Jörgen Andersson in Helsingborgs Dagblad

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“With *Fantasy Island* Jönsson has written an outstanding reportage book. It is personal, filled with information, accessible reading and very exciting. And wide. Because *Fantasy Island* expands itself to become a book about so much more than just about the capital. Through Brasília he gives us a picture of the whole country, the south hemisphere’s biggest economy with a growing rate like the one of China’s.”

Eva Dandanelle in Hallandsposten

“It’s easy to become obsessed by this absurd city where the public administration employees make three times more money than the ones in the rest of the country, to compensate for the lack of beaches. Brazil’s correspondent Henrik Brandão Jönsson catches this Orwellian science-fiction feeling very skillfully in his reportage book. Read it!”

Julia Nilsson in Journalisten

“When Latin-America’s correspondent Henrik Brandão Jönsson moves around in Brasília, he does it not only with experience and knowledge but, above of all, with a genuine journalistic talent to come close to people and their lives.”

Aftonbladet