

# OSLO LITERARY AGENCY

## SELECTED BACKLIST

RIGHTS LIST

AUTUMN 2016

FICTION

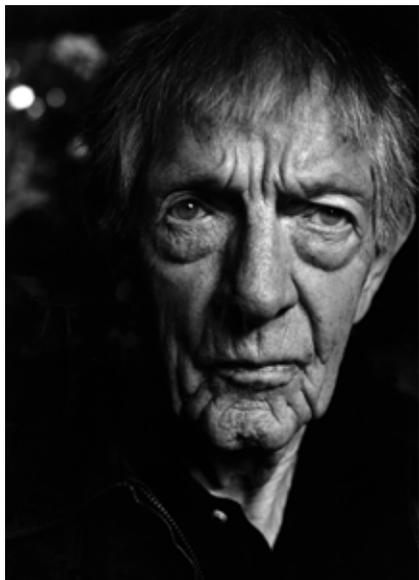
Oslo Literary Agency is Norway's biggest literary agency, representing authors in the genres of literary fiction, crime and commercial fiction, children's and YA books and non-fiction. Oslo Literary Agency was established in 2016, replacing Aschehoug Agency.  
Oslo

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# Kjell Askildsen



The Swedish Academy's Nordic Prize 2009  
Brage Honorary Prize 1996  
Critics' Prize 1991 & 1983

Kjell Askildsen (b. 1929) is one of the great Norwegian writers of the post-war era and an inescapable reference in contemporary Scandinavian literature. Admired above all for his short stories, Askildsen has cultivated a terse, ascetic style, the perfect vehicle for his existential themes. Though the world view often seems bleak and disillusioned, there is also humour in his works, albeit of the black, laconic kind.

Askildsen entered the literary scene in 1953 with a short story collection which received glittering reviews, but was banished from the library in his home town for moral reasons. After two more story collections and five novels he finally gained a wider readership in the 1980s with the Critics' Prize winning *Thomas F.'s Final Notes to the Public* and a later selection of his best stories. Two more excellent collections followed in the 90s. After a long silence, Askildsen returned with the acclaimed *The Cost of Friendship* in 2015.

*In a single sentence Askildsen can tell a story so big that others would spend an entire book on it, and in his short stories, he can build an entire world, and let it collapse by the story's ending ... Askildsen writes with the same, shocking clarity as always*  
Politiken, Denmark, on *The Cost of Friendship*

## Selected bibliography

The Cost of Friendship, short stories 2015  
The Dogs of Thessaloniki, short stories 1996  
A Wide, Deserted Landscape, short stories 1991  
A Sudden Liberating Thought, short stories 1987  
Thomas F.'s Final Notes to the Public, short stories 1983  
Nothing for Nothing, short stories 1982  
Surroundings, novella 1969



# Merethe Lindstrøm



Nordic Council Literature Prize 2012  
Critics' Prize 2011

Merethe Lindstrøm (b. 1963) made her debut in 1983 with a collection of short stories, and has since published a number of acclaimed books, mainly short stories and novels.

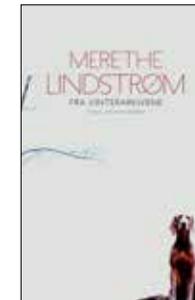
After several well-received short story collections and novels like *The Stone Collectors* (1996) and *The Substitute* (1997), Lindstrøm achieved definite recognition in 2007, when her collection *The Guests* was shortlisted for both the Nordic Council Literature Prize and the Critics' Prize. The year after, she was awarded the Dobloug Prize for her entire work.

*A brilliant love story ... another step towards greatness by this singular and hypersensitive writer*  
- Dagens Nyheter, Sweden on *From the Winter Archives*

Lindstrøm found even greater success with her next book, the novel *Days in the History of Silence*, which won both the Nordic Council Literature Prize and the Critics' Prize, and which has been sold to 13 countries. A subsequent collection of short stories, *Architect*, and the raw, personal novel *From the Winter Archives* have confirmed her high standing in today's literary landscape.

## Selected bibliography

From the Winter Archives, novel 2015  
Architect, short stories 2013  
Days in the History of Silence, novel 2011  
The Guests, short stories 2007  
The Child Searcher, novel 2005  
The Substitute, novel 1997  
The Stone Collectors, novel 1996



# Kristine Næss



Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2015.

Kristine Næss (b. 1966) made her debut in 1996 with a collection of poetry. She has since written novels, stories and a book of poetics, and her distinct, personal voice has given her a significant place in the Norwegian literary landscape. She has also edited a literary journal and worked as a critic. In 2009 Næss was awarded the Booksellers' Association's Author's Grant.

In 2015, *Only Human* was nominated for the Nordic Council's Prize. This complex, rich novel combines a crime mystery with portraits of three women of different generations.

At the center of the story is a middle aged, divorced author, who is deeply affected by the disappearance of a girl. Having often seen the girl walk by her large house, the author is unnerved when the police take an interest in her. When she also notices a mysterious man who seems to show up wherever she goes, things start spinning out of control.

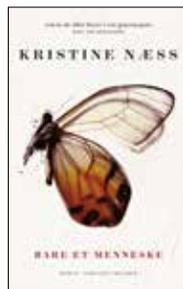
*Only Human* is sold for publication in UK and Sweden.

*Few are able to take language closer to life than Kristine Næss. She is one of the very best of our generation.*

- Karl Ove Knausgård

## Selected bibliography

- Only Human, novel 2014
- See What Happens, poems 2010
- Hannah's Story with Heddy, novel 2008
- Headstrong, novel 2004
- Rita Becomes a Writer, novel 2002



# Per Petterson



With rights sold to 50 countries and awards won all over Europe, few Scandinavian literary writers have achieved as much international recognition as Per Petterson.

Petterson made his literary debut in 1987 with a short story collection, and won the Brage for his fifth book, *In the Wake*, in 2000. A massive breakthrough came in 2003 with *Out Stealing Horses*. The novel has won the IMPAC prize, the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and several domestic prizes.

Its follow-up, *I Curse the River of Time*, won both the Nordic Council Prize, the Brage and the Critics' Prize. His latest novel, *I Refuse*, won the Booksellers' Prize and was hailed by The Guardian's reviewer as a "mesmerising achievement by the Norwegian master".

*It has to be said, on the evidence of these few novels, that Per Petterson is a profoundly gifted novelist*

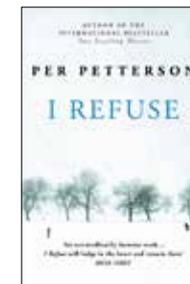
- Richard Ford

*A brilliant novel that grabs you and overwhelms you with scanty means and allusive power*  
- Livres Hebdo, France

- Nordic Council Literature Prize 2009
- IMPAC Prize 2007
- Prix des Lecteurs de litt. européenne 2007
- Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2006
- Booksellers' Prize 2012 & 2003
- Brage Prize 2008 & 2000
- Critics' Prize 2008 & 2003

## Selected bibliography

- I Refuse, 2012
- I Curse the River of Time, 2008
- Out Stealing Horses, 2003
- In the Wake, 2000
- To Siberia, 1996
- It's Fine by Me, 1992



## Anne B. Ragde



Anne B. Ragde (b. 1957) is one of Norway's best selling fiction writers and her Neshov series has found a huge audience abroad as well. Ragde made her debut in 1986 with a children's book. Her first novel for adults, *A Tiger for an Angel* came out in 1990. She has since written numerous bestselling novels, crime novels and short story collections.

While her popularity grew steadily with each new book, she had a massive breakthrough with *House of Lies* in 2004. The sequels *The Hermit Crabs* and *Pastures Green* were equally successful. The much loved trilogy was made into a TV series, watched by more than 1 million viewers in Norway.

In 2016 she caught readers by surprise by publishing what everybody has been waiting for: a fourth book in the Neshov series, titled *Always Forgiveness*.

*Even though House of Lies is first and foremost a page turner, a book you devour, you need not dig far to discover its intensity and complexity (...) House of Lies definitely deserves to become a long-lasting success*  
- Le Monde, France

1,4 million copies sold in Norway  
More than 2 million copies sold worldwide  
Rights sold in 23 territories

### Selected bibliography

Always Forgiveness [Neshov 4], 2016  
I Have a Blanket in a Thousand Colours, 2014  
I Will Make You so Happy, 2011  
Pastures Green [Neshov 3], 2007  
The Hermit Crabs [Neshov 2], 2005  
House of Lies/The Berlin Poplars [Neshov 1], 2004  
The Arsenic Tower, 2001



## Tore Renberg



Tore Renberg (b. 1972) made his literary debut in 1995 with a prose collection, which won the prestigious Vesaa's Debut Prize.

His big commercial breakthrough came with *The Man Who Loved Yngve* (2003), a coming of age story featuring the fallible antihero Jarle Klepp, who would also feature in four more independent novels. These books captured the essence of an era and displayed a portrait of a young man in a way never before seen in Norwegian literature. The movies based on three of the books were big box office hits.

In 2013 Renberg launched a high-energy, darkly funny gangster series, the Teksas series, with *See You Tomorrow*, followed by *Attack from All Sides* in 2014. A third book in this immensely popular series is scheduled for publication 2017.

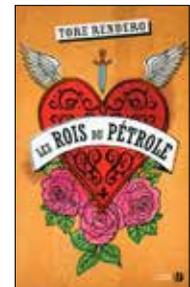
Tore Renberg's books have won several prizes, including the Booksellers' Prize and the P2 Listeners' Prize, and have been sold to 14 countries.

*A perfect book! Tore Renberg's See You Tomorrow is so good! Read it!*  
Sofi Oksanen

*An exceptional novel, as incredible as it is realistic, written with an explosive force and a pulsating passion for Balzac. A majestic page turner!*  
- Karl Ove Knausgård

### Selected bibliography

Darkland, 2016  
Attack from All Sides [Teksas 2], 2014  
See You Tomorrow [Teksas 1], 2013  
These Are My Old Days, 2011  
Charlotte Isabel Hansen, 2008  
The Orheim Company, 2005  
The Man Who Loved Yngve, 2003



# Kjersti A. Skomsvold



Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold (b. 1979) is from Oslo. She made her literary debut in 2009 with the novel *The Faster I Walk, The Smaller I Am*, which was awarded the prestigious Vesaas Debut Prize and nominated both for the Booksellers' Prize and the P2 Listeners' Prize. The book was later shortlisted for the IMPAC Prize and has been published in 27 territories so far.

The powerful and acclaimed autobiographical novel *Monster Human* (2012) was shortlisted for the P2 Listeners' Prize and has sold more than 15,000 copies in Norway. An English edition is scheduled for publication in 2017.

Her third novel, the surrealistic love story *33*, was published to great acclaim in 2014. Never one to repeat herself, Skomsvold has also published a book of poetry and a YA novel.

*A tour de force of autofiction ... an ambitious mix of Bildungsroman, memoir and social portrait. The result is fragmental, yet psychologically coherent ... a lengthy, fascinating and delightfully non-whining story about how the urge to write can defeat even the most stubborn of demons.*

- Weekendavisen, Denmark on *Monster Human*

## Selected bibliography

- 33, novel 2014
- A Little Sad Mathematics, poems 2013
- Monster Human, novel 2012
- The Faster I Walk, the Smaller I Am, novel 2009



# Dag Solstad



Brage Prize 2006  
Critics' Prize 1999, 1992 and 1969  
Nordic Council's Literature Prize 1989

Through five decades, Dag Solstad (b. 1941) has produced works of the highest literary quality, works that have both interpreted and defined the changing times. This sensitivity has ensured that in spite of the stylistic and thematic unity of his works, Solstad never seems to be repeating himself. Always challenging, always relevant, Dag Solstad thoroughly shows that timelessness is not at odds with engaging with your times.

Solstad's works can roughly be bracketed in decades: the modernist prose of the 1960s, the political novels of the 1970s, the (self-) critical investigation of utopianism of the 1980s, the existential novels of the 1990s and the formally adventurous books of the 2000s.

*An utterly hypnotic and utterly humane writer.*  
- James Wood

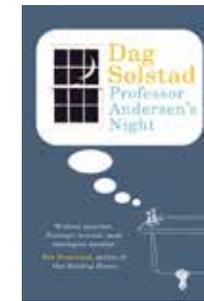
*Wryly humorous and needle-sharp ... Solstad is unlike anyone currently writing in English*  
- Sunday Times, UK

*Without question, Norway's bravest, most intelligent novelist*  
- Per Petterson

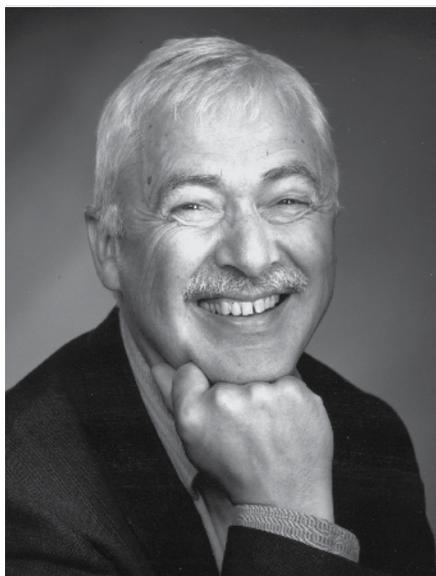
With rights now sold to more than 35 countries, the past decade has seen a surge in the international interest in his works. Among his admirers today are the critic James Wood, and the writers Lydia Davis, Peter Handke and Haruki Murakami - who has even translated *Novel 11, Book 18* into Japanese.

## Selected bibliography

- Armand V., 2006
- 16.07.41, 2002
- T. Singer, 1999
- Professor Andersen's Night, 1996
- Shyness and Dignity, 1994
- Novel 11, Book 18, 1992
- Attempts to Describe the Impenetrable, 1984



# Lars Amund Vaage



Lars Amund Vaage was born in 1952 on the west coast of Norway. He made his literary debut in 1979 with the novel *Exercise Cold Winter*, and has since published books in a great variety of genres.

The novel *Rubato* (1995) placed Vaage firmly among the among the elite of Norwegian novelists. *Rubato* won the Critics' Prize and was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

After several outstanding novels and books of poetry, Vaage published what is arguably his crowning achievement, the novel *Sing*, in 2012. Explicitly leaning of the author's own experience, *Sing* is the powerful story of a man and his daughter, who has severe autism. The book won the Brage, was nominated for the Critics' Prize and ended up on many critics' best-of-2012 lists.

*A shining novel filled with tenderness, tragedy and momentous scenes.*  
- Aftenposten on *Sing*

*A heartbreakingly beautiful, vulnerable and wise novel about being the parent of an autistic child.*  
- VG on *Sing*

- Brage Prize 2012
- Gyldendal Prize 2002
- P2 Listeners' Novel Prize 2002
- Oktober Prize 1999
- Dobloug Prize 1997
- Critics' Prize 1995
- Aschehoug Prize 1995

## Selected bibliography

- Sing*, 2012
- The Shadow and the Queen*, 2010
- The Piano Keys*, 2005
- The Art of Walking*, 2002
- The Strange City*, 1999
- Rubato*, 1995



# Hanne Ørstavik



With the publication of the novel *Cut* in 1994, Hanne Ørstavik (b. 1969) embarked on a career that would make her one of the most remarkable and admired authors in Norwegian contemporary literature.

Ørstavik's breakthrough came in 1997 with the publication of *Love* (1997), which was named the 6th best Norwegian book of the last 25 years in a prestigious critics' vote in 2006. Other highlights include the Brage winning novel *The Pastor* and *There Is a Wide Open Square in Bordeaux*, which was named one of the 10 best translated books of 2014 in the Danish newspaper *Berlingske*. Ørstavik's works have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Through 10 novels Ørstavik has followed a path which is very much her own, often provoking fierce debate along the way. Her personal, urgent, yet unmannered style is instantly recognizable and much imitated.

*A true masterpiece ... perhaps the best depiction of sexual frustration I have ever read.*  
- Expressen, Sweden on *There Is a Wide, Open Square in Bordeaux*

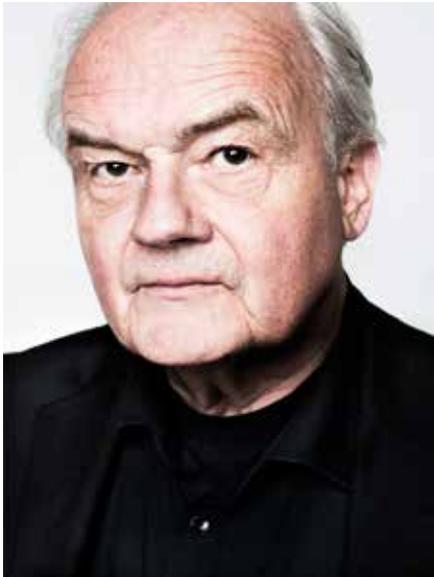
- Aschehoug Prize 2007
- Brage Prize 2004
- Dobloug Prize 2002
- P2 Listeners' Novel Prize 1999
- Hunger Prize 1999

## Selected bibliography

- On the Terrace in the Darkness*, 2014
- There Is a Wide, Open Square in Bordeaux*, 2013
- 48, rue Defacqz*, 2009
- The Pastor*, 2004
- As True As I Am Real/The Blue Room*, 1999
- Love*, 1997



## Ketil Bjørnstad



Ketil Bjørnstad (b. 1952) is an author, pianist, composer, with several albums released by ECM. He made his literary debut with a collection of poetry in 1992 and has since written a number of novels, non-fiction and poetry collections. His international breakthrough came with the trilogy *To Music* (2004), *The River* (2007) and *The Lady in the Valley* (2009). The influential critic Elke Heidenreich described *To Music* as "a perfect book" in her Lesen! program for ZDF, and it went straight into the German bestseller list. The book was also Bjørnstad's literary breakthrough in France, where he was awarded the Prix des lecteurs in 2008.

He is currently writing his massive, six-volume novel series *The World I Used to Know*, where the two books published so far, *The Sixties* and *The Seventies* have been bestsellers in Norway, characterized by the critics as "Large-scale and daring ... An important contribution to the literature of reality." (Dagbladet) and "Some of the best he has written" (Dagsavisen).

*This writer obviously possesses every kind of talent possible.*

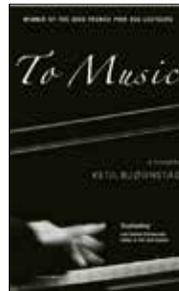
- Nils C. Ahl, Le Monde

*A cultural prodigy.*

- John Fordham, The Guardian, UK

### Selected bibliography

- The Sixties, novel 2015
- The Road to Mozart, novel 2014
- The Immortals, novel 2011
- The Lady in the Valley, novel 2009
- The River, novel 2007
- To Music, novel 2004
- Fall, novel 1999



## Kari F. Brænne



Kari Fredrikke Brænne was born in Oslo, Norway in 1966. She studied art at art academies in Italy, Norway and New York, receiving the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Scholarship.

She worked as a fine artist before her debut as a playwright in 2002. Her plays have been performed in theaters throughout Norway and have earned great reviews.

In 2007, she made her debut as a novelist with *A Different World*, for which she received Aschehoug's Debutant Prize. Her second novel, *Under the Deep Shadows*, has been sold for translation into several languages and has earned excellent reviews in France, Germany, Austria and Canada. Her third novel *Firmament Falling* was a favourite amongst readers and critics alike.

*A literary masterpiece... Exciting and alluring!*

- Bucher Spleen, Germany on *Under the Deep Shadows*

*Incredibly entertaining (...) sober and well-written.*

- Dagbladet, on *Firmament Falling*

### Selected bibliography

- Firmament Falling, novel 2015
- Under the Deep Shadows, novel 2010
- A Different World, novel 2007



## Tom Egeland



Author and journalist Tom Egeland was born in 1959 in Oslo, Norway, and worked as a journalist before becoming a full-time author. He enjoyed a tremendous commercial breakthrough with the novel *Circle's End* in 2001, the first bok in the bestselling, prize-winning series about the shrewd and neurotic archaeologist Bjørn Beltø. Thoroughly researched, the Beltø books deal with fascinating mysteries and conspiracies with roots at the very beginning of our civilization.

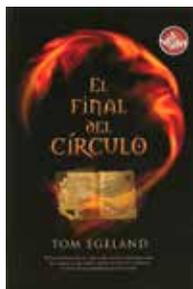
Egeland's novels have so far been translated into 24 languages. The thriller *The Night of the Wolves* (2005) was made into a feature length movie and a tv mini-series, and Egeland was awarded the Norwegian Riverton Price given to the best crime novel for *The Gospel of Lucifer* (2009).

*A first class thriller. Night of the Wolf is extremely sophisticated in its construction. Spellbinds the reader from the first page to the last. A bull's-eye of a novel!*  
- VG, on *Night of the Wolf*

*Wow! If you're one of those who'd wish to be able to read The Da Vinci Code again for the first time, this is your chance.*  
- Fyens Stiftstidende, Denmark on *Circle's End*

### Selected bibliography

The Secret of the Catacomb, novel 2013  
The Testament of Nostradamus, novel 2012  
Gospel of Lucifer, novel 2009  
Guardians of the Covenant, novel 2007  
The Night of the Wolf, novel 2005  
Circle's End, novel 2001



## Helga Flatland



Helga Flatland's debut novel *Stay If You Can. Leave If You Must* (2010) received excellent reviews and established her as one of the foremost up-and-coming, young Norwegian authors. She consolidated her position with *Everyone Wants to Go Home. No One Wants to Go Back* (2011) and *There Is No Whole* (2013).

The three books constitute a trilogy about small town Norway and the world around it, told through the story of three young childhood friends who travel to Afghanistan and are killed in action.

Flatland's fourth novel *Wing Loading* (2015) got rave reviews, with VG's critic declaring it "An important novel about our time".

Amalie Skram Prize, 2015  
Mads Wiel Nygaards legat, 2015  
Young Critics' Prize, 2011  
Tarjei Vesaas Debutant Prize, 2011  
Aschehoug Debutant Prize, 2010

*Each novel on its own is a stylistic masterpiece that could, but shouldn't, be read separately. Together, they form a phenomenal story.*  
- Extrabladet, DK

### Selected bibliography

Wing Loading, novel 2015  
There is No Whole, novel 2013  
Everyone Wants to go Home,  
No One Wants to Go Back, novel 2011  
Stay If You Can, Leave If You Must, novel 2010



## Jostein Gaarder



Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, 1994  
Norwegian Booksellers Prize, 1993  
Norwegian Critics Prize for children's or youth's literature, 1990

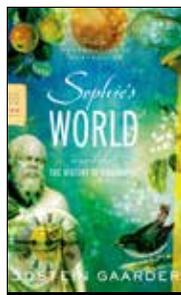
The biggest Norwegian literary success in modern times, *Sophie's World* has been translated into 64 languages and has sold more than 40 million copies.

When Jostein Gaarder (b. 1952) published *Sophie's World* in 1991, he believed that a novel on the history of philosophy would appeal to a small, specialist readership. In 1995 the book was the most sold novel in the world. Gaarder's other works, both his children's books and adult novels such as *The Solitaire Mystery*, *Through a Glass, Darkly*, *Vita Brevis*, *The Ringmaster's Daughter*, and *The Orange Girl* have proved hugely popular and been published in a host of countries.

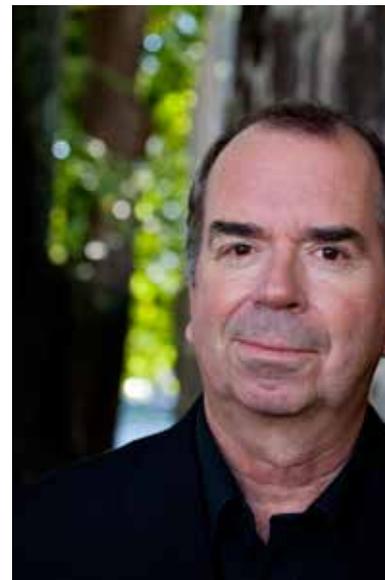
Jostein Gaarder has been an advocate for the promotion of sustainable development for nearly two decades. His profound personal commitment and great fund of knowledge have inspired readers all over the world to think and ask questions about ourselves, our place in history, and the world around us.

### Selected bibliography

The Puppeteer, novel 2016  
The Castle in the Pyrenees, 2008  
Through a Glass, Darkly, novel 1993  
The Christmas Mystery, novel 1992  
Sophie's World, novel 1991



## Jan Kjærstad



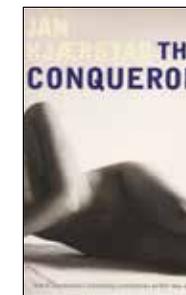
*He exists. The perfect novelist exists and his name is Jan Kjærstad and he comes from Norway*

- Dagens Nyheter, Sweden

*Read, reader, read - great books are so rare*  
- Die Welt

### Selected bibliography

The Path of Kins, novel 2015  
I Am the Walker Brothers, novel 2008  
The Discoverer, novel 1999  
The Conqueror, novel 1996  
The Seducer, novel 1993  
On the Verge, novel 1990



Jan Kjærstad has a Master of Theology from the University of Oslo, and he made his debut as a writer of fiction in 1980. He has written a number of novels and short stories in addition to picture books and essays.

In 1984 he received the Critics' Prize for *Homo Falsus*, or *The Perfect Murder*. The fact that he was honored with Germany's prestigious Henrik Steffens Prize in 1998, awarded to Scandinavians who have significantly enriched Europe's artistic and intellectual life, illustrates his international appeal as an author.

His trilogy *The Seducer* (1993), *The Conqueror* (1996) and *The Discoverer* (1999) makes a monumental contribution towards renewal of the art of novel writing in Scandinavia, and secured the author the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2001.

*One of the most influential writers of his generation. Say his name, and I think of Milan Kundera, Martin Amis and Frank Zappa*  
- Linn Ullmann

## Maja Lunde



Maja Lunde (b. 1975) is a Norwegian author and screenwriter. She has written several books for children and young adults, and several scripts for Norwegian television.

Her debut novel for adults *The History of Bees* is a unique and exceptional novel that gives the reader a feeling of literary familiarity and yet leaves you thinking that you never have read something similar. It is a novel about the relationship between men and women, about the relationship between parents and children, about grief, about burning for a thought, a profession. Not least, it is a novel about understanding how human interaction with some of the world's smallest creatures can be critical to whether we survive as a species or not.

*The History of Bees* is simply the most visionary Norwegian novel I have read since *Knausgård's* *My Struggle*.  
- Expressen, Sverige

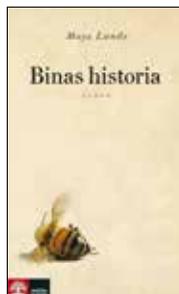
Sold to 17 countries

Norwegian Booksellers' Prize, 2015

### Selected bibliography

The History of Bees, novel 2015

The Worlds Coolest Kids-children's series (2015 -)



## Lars Petter Sveen



Lars Petter Sveen was born in 1981 and has studied creative writing. From his debut in 2008, critics noticed his remarkable talent and originality. His got his big breakthrough in 2014 with his third novel *Children of God*. Set in Bethlehem at the time of Christ, it is a tale of good and evil seen through the eyes of biblical, historical and mythical figures, which mirrors our time as much as their own. It was nominated to, and won, numerous awards and is sold to Sweden, Denmark, France and the US.

*Children of God* is in every way a well-deserved breakthrough for a young author whose work is mature, original and bold.

- From the PO Enquist Jury statement

*A masterpiece. Lars Petter Sveens third novel is a rare piece of art*

- Klassekampen

*Children of God must be this years best novel*

- Aftenposten

PO Enquist Prize, 2016

Jan Roar Leikvoll Prize, 2015

Mads Wiel Nygaards legat, 2014

Nynorsk Literature Prize, 2014

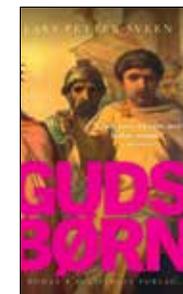
Tarjei Vesaas Debutant Prize, 2008

### Selected bibliography

Children of God, novel 2014

I'll Be Back, novel 2011

Driving from Fræna, short-stories 2008



# Carl Frode Tiller



Undoubtedly one of his generation's most important novelists, Carl Frode Tiller is admired for his instantly recognizable, furious prose and his ability to create vivid, complex characters whose fates often seem sealed by their inability to break out of destructive behavioural patterns. Though they might come across as dark and desperate, Tiller succeeds in portraying these tragic characters in a way that arouses the deepest sympathy in the reader.

Few have won as many literary prizes for their first books as Tiller, starting with the sensational debut in 2001. In 2005 he was named one of the 10 best Norwegian writers under 35. In 2006, *The Slope* was named among the 25 most important Norwegian novels from the last 25 years.

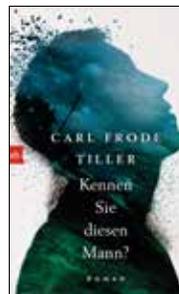
*Drilling into the human nature with sensibility, painful honesty and accurate prose. A rare talent.*  
- Jo Nesbø on *Encirclement*.

**Rights sold to 22 countries.**

Nominated to the Nordic Council Prize 2010  
European Union Prize for Literature 2009  
Hunger Prize 2008  
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