

OSLO LITERARY AGENCY

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SPRING 2020

FICTION / NON-FICTION

Oslo Literary Agency is Norway's largest literary agency, representing authors in the genres of literary fiction, crime and commercial fiction, children's and YA books and non-fiction.

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osloliteraryagency.no

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Cover illustration by Exil Design, taken from the front cover of Terje Holtet Larsen: *September*

Magnhild Haalke

Alli's Son



"Exceptionally good "
- *The New York Times* (1937)

"A literary sensation (...) Remarkably good and almost entirely forgotten"
- *Morgenbladet* (2015)

Magnhild Haalke

Magnhild Haalke (1885-1984) came from Vikna in Nord-Trøndelag and was 50 years old when she made her literary debut in 1935 with *Alli's Son*. She later published more novels throughout her career, but her first book is still regarded as her major work. It was translated into 17 languages after its original publication

Alli's Son
Aschehoug, juni 2020 (orig. 1935)

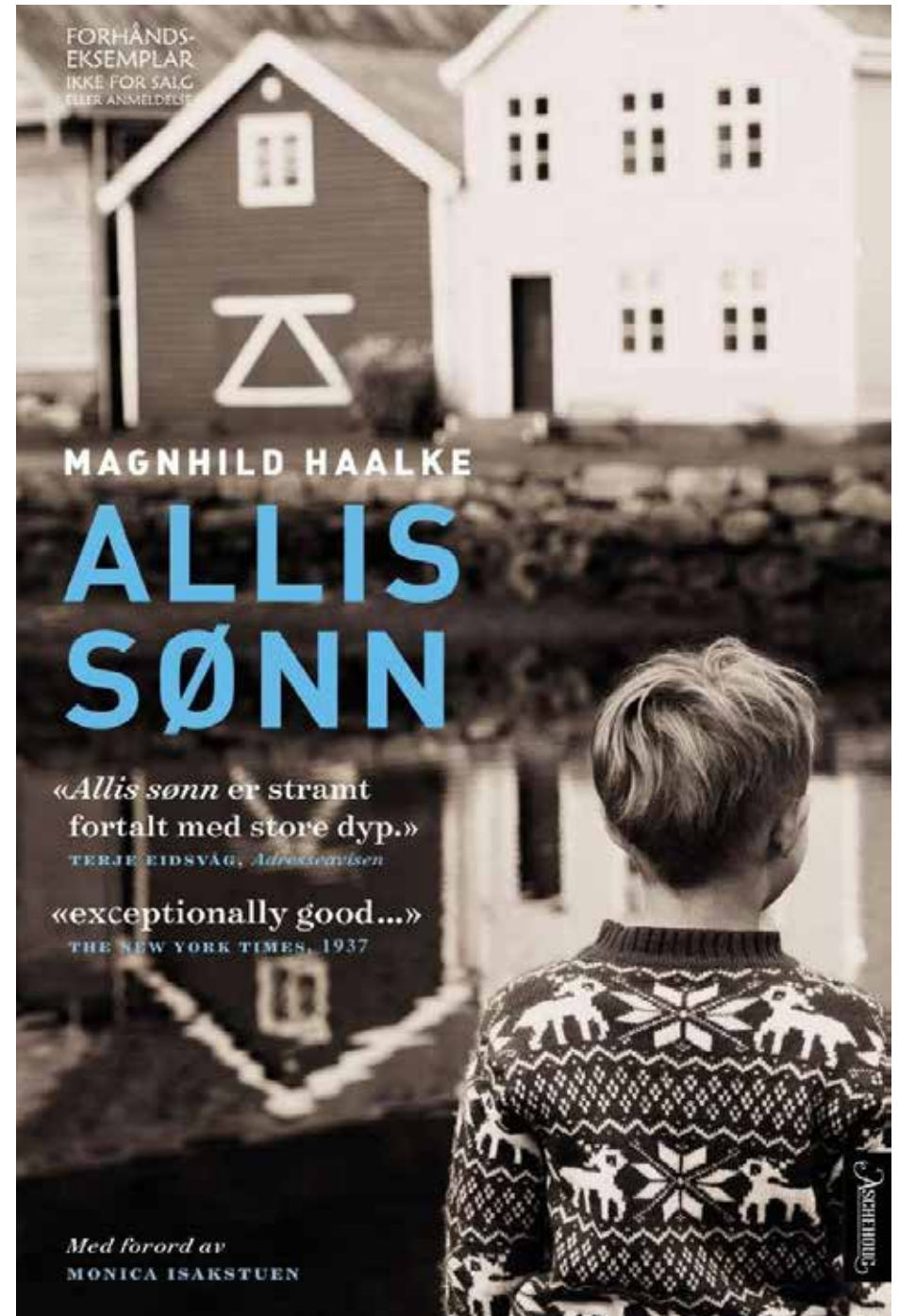
Reintroducing a forgotten masterpiece of Norwegian literature

Elling grows up in a poor fishing village on the coast of Trøndelag. He is an artistic, headstrong child who stands out amongst the islanders. Alli worries about her son and his differentness and tries to protect him from his surroundings. But perhaps in doing so she does him more harm than good.

The New York Times Book Review critic Alma Luise Olson wrote "Just in its brevity and firm grasp of psychology, the short novel has excruciating strength", while NY Times' Alfred Kazin characterized Haalke as "a sensitive and thoughtful writer" and praised her "admirable taste" and "exceptionally good passages of insights and sympathy".

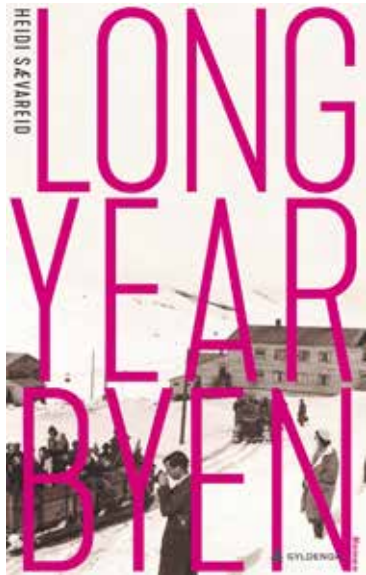
The dense and intense story of Elling and Alli will make as deep an impact on 2020 readers as it did in 1935. The upcoming edition will have a foreword by author Monica Isakstuen.

Novel
171 pages



Heidi Sævareid

Longyearbyen



When the Barents Sea freezes in November, no planes, no ships and no supplies will arrive in Longyearbyen before the ice melts in May. Thus, there is no way to return to the mainland during the long winter.

Set in the late 1950s in Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost town on the Svalbard Archipelago, Heidi Sævareid's highly anticipated first novel for adults is a dense and brilliant story of a troubled marriage. It is also the story of a completely isolated, small community under constant threat by the forces of nature and gradually also by one of its inhabitants' mental illness.

Eivor arrives from Oslo with her husband Finn and their two small children. He will serve as one of the two doctors in town. Finn works long hours and Eivor feels as if the walls of the way too hot apartment are closing in on her. All alone, always armed with a rifle in case a polar bear should come too close, she skis further and further from the town, up the snowclad mountains to where she might see some daylight and find some solace.

Heidi Sævareid

Heidi Sævareid (b. 1984) is an author, translator and literary critic. She was awarded The Ministry of Culture's First Book Prize 2013 and has earned several nominations for the Norwegian Book Award (Brageprisen) for her YA books. *Longyearbyen* is her first adult novel. She lives in Bristol, England.



Photo: Lidia Drzewiecka



Cesilie Holck

Dear Death



"A deeply moving and marvelous work of art"
- *Stavanger Aftenblad* (5/6 stars)

Yvonne hasn't been in touch with her father since her teens. When he shows up out of the blue, it is primarily because he is in need of a place to die. He moves into her one-bedroom student flat and soon her entire life evolves around facilitating his final days.

Dear Death is the story of the protagonist's search for a language that can make the bottomless tragedy bearable and also help mend the strained relationship between father and daughter. In this brave and personal novel, Holck suggests that some solace may perhaps be found in the two's shared sense of very dark, sometimes obscene humor and their defiant insisting on finding new approaches to living, and dying.

"... an original mix of wittiness and melancholy. ... the novel elegantly juxtaposes the explicit and the implicit, the core and the periphery." *Morgenbladet*

"a sharp and well-written novel about a father and daughter ... an energetic reflection on family relations, faith, life, death and our responsibility to our fellow human beings." - *Klassekampen*

"... the observations on death are original, poignant and surprisingly moving" - *Bergens Tidende*

Cesilie Holck

Cesilie Holck (born 1979) lives in Bergen. She made her literary debut in 2009 with the short prose collection *Norg*. *Dear Death* is her second novel.



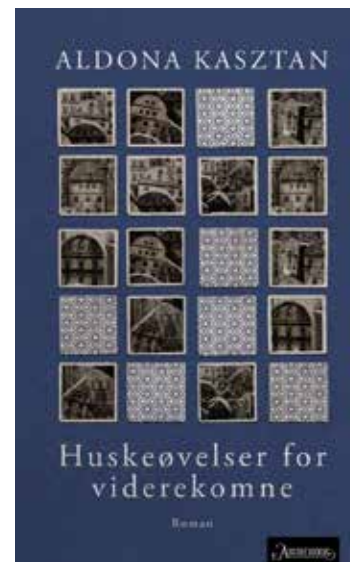
Photo: Aschehoug

Til døds
Aschehoug, 2020

Novel
212 pages

Aldona Kasztan

City of Sand



Winner of the 2019 Aschehoug Debutant Prize

Alina grows up in the 1980's, behind the iron curtain in the Polish city of Łódź. Even as a child, she realizes that there is something wrong with the city's memory, that a part of the past is covered up and silenced. Still, for Alina, there are traces everywhere of everything that took place during the war, moulded in the street grid, engraved in the pavement, visible in buildings, walls and staircases.

She learns of Brunon, the Jewish man who lived in the city ghetto generations ago. Fragments of his life start appearing to her as if they were her own memories. Can one person relive the life of another? Can she take it upon her to remember what the city seems to have forgotten? Can she choose not to?

"The surprise of the year, remarkable, moving and well-written. The original and stilsikre narrator is mesmerizing: It is hard to believe that this is a first-novel ... Should be read slowly, and perpaps also over again." - *Dagbladet*, 5/6 stars

"Advanced on uncovering suppressed chapters in Polish history." - *Stavanger Aftenblad*, 5/6 stars

"Kasztan's debut novel is an intricate story of memory, forgetting and storytelling ... deeply fascinating and very worth reading." - *Klassekampen*

Aldona Kasztan

Aldona Kasztan was born in Łódź in 1976 and moved to Norway at 17. She has a degree in Literature and works as a translator and interpreter.



Photo: Tine Poppe

Huskeøvelser for viderekomne
Aschehoug, 2019

Novel
188 pages

Maja Lunde

The Climate Quartet



Translated into 40 languages and sold in more than 2,5 million copies

Maja Lunde (b. 1975) is the most successful Norwegian author of her generation.

Lunde's debut novel *The History of Bees* (2015) was an instant hit and sold to several territories before Norwegian publication. It won The Norwegian Bookseller's Prize as well as multiple international awards. It was the best selling book in Germany in 2017 and has so far spent three consecutive years on the official German bestseller list.

The sequel *Blue* of the author's planned Climate Quartet was launched in the fall 2017, while Book 3 *Przewalski's Horse* was published in the fall of 2019, both to equal acclaim.

Lunde has written several books for children and young adults. The children's Christmas book *The Snow Sister* (2018) illustrated by Lisa Aisato, was a record-breaking success, printed in 250 000 copies in Norway and translation rights sold to 27 languages. She was recently awarded the 2020 Bjørnson Prize, one of Norway's most prestigious literary prizes, for her authorship.

Film/TV rights sold to Anonymous Content.

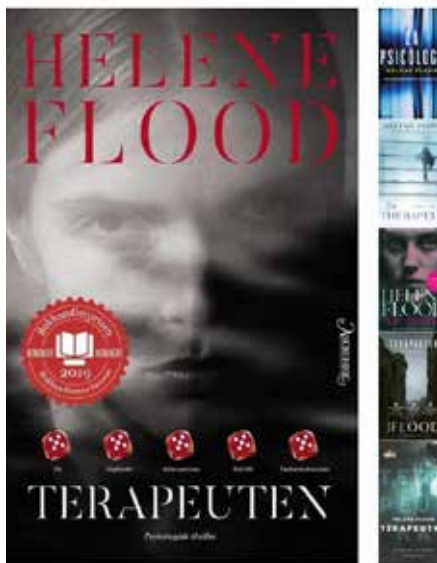
Bienes Historie (2015)
Blå (2017)
Przewalskis hest (2019)

Author photo: Oda Berby



Helene Flood

The Therapist



The Therapist is the first volume in a planned series of three stand-alone suspense novels with female protagonists, all set in the Oslo area. Working titles for book 2 and 3: *The Neighbour* and *The Spouse*.

Film/TV rights sold to Anonymous Content

The international suspense sensation, sold in 28 territories

Thirty-something psychologist Sara runs a private practice for troubled youth in the large, newly inherited house she is refurbishing together with her ambitious, over-worked architect husband Sigurd. One day, after leaving a sweet message on Sara's phone, Sigurd disappears.

As terrible truths unfold, Sara finds it increasingly hard to handle her own life and her own thoughts. Can she trust her memory? Can she, an expert in interpreting other people's emotions and intentions, truly see her own?

With a striking talent for both plot and prose, author Helene Flood merges a highly contemporary and realistic setting with creeping suspense and disturbingly sharp insight into the darkest corners of our selves, our family lives and our relationships.

Helene Flood

Helene Flood (b. 1982) is a psychologist and scholar. In 2016 she obtained her doctoral degree on violence, revictimization and trauma-related shame and guilt. She lives in Oslo with her husband and two sons. *The Therapist* is her first adult novel.

Author portrait: Julie Pike

Terapeuten
Aschehoug, 2019

Suspense/Crime
250 pages



Klara Hveberg

Lean Your Loneliness Slowly against Mine



Foreign rights sold:
US (Harper Via), UK (4th Estate), Germany (BTB), Denmark (Turbine), Korea (Sobitkil)

"A remarkable novel (...) I was both intrigued and found myself falling in love with Raket. Klara Hveberg has written a beautiful love story in D minor. I feel a little less lonely with this book on my nightstand."
- VG

Klara Hveberg

Author Klara Hveberg (b. 1974) studied music and literature before obtaining her PhD in mathematics, writing her thesis on fractals, the elusive, incredibly beautiful, geometrical formations that might be as close as you get to art in mathematics. *Lean Your Loneliness Slowly against Mine* is her first novel. The title is a slightly altered line from a poem by the Norwegian author Stein Mehren.



Photo: Agnete Brun

An unforgettable debut novel about mathematics, classical music and the very thin line between great love and great loneliness.

Raket has a rare talent for mathematics, and an even greater talent for misunderstandings. She has never mastered the art of making friends, but sees boats kissing on the fjord when everyone else just sees them crossing.

At nineteen, she moves to Oslo to attend university, and meets Jakob. He is her professor, and also working on a novel about Sofja Kovalevskaja, the first woman who became a mathematics professor. Just as Kovalevskaja was very close to her much older advisor, Raket and Jakob are instantly drawn to each other and eventually become lovers, although he is married.

In the years to come, Raket's academic career soars, but her health declines. From her bedside she imagines the life of Sofja while trying to understand her own. With a gaze both naive and mercilessly sharp, she dissects what may be her life's only love story, looking for answers in numbers, music and literature.

Lene din ensomhet langsomt mot min
Aschehoug, 2019

Novel
305 pages

From the reviews:

"A delightful story about the many aspects of love, and of the search for beauty in life."
- *Adresseavisen*, 6/6 stars

"A mathemagical debut. This incredibly strong novel makes music out of mathematics and turns life into poetry. Bravo!"
- *Dagsavisen*

"Klara Hveberg has written a truly wonderful history of love. A story told mainly in minor, but with a constant humoristic undercurrent that appears both refined and organic. The book is also packed with well-tuned references to music, literature, mathematics and philosophy."
- *Romsdals Budstikke*, 6/6 stars

From the novel:

On longing:

In order to walk away from someone you love, every organ in the body must be notified. It is not sufficient for the brain to have made up its mind. For the heart can make the body turn around. As can the lips, the uterus, the gut, the neck pit, the earlobes, the eyelids, the popliteals, the toes, the iliac crest, — yes, even the umbilical pit — can make the body turn around. As can the deceitful spaces in-between, where imprints of the loved one may be concealed. The space between nameless toes. The distance between the chin and the throat pit. The space between the labia. Come, my friends. Come with me now. I need you all.

And never look back.

Two lungs moving away. Four ventricles, twelve pairs of ribs, thirty-four vertebral and a tailbone. Two dimples on the lower back. Ten sensitive fingertips. Eight meters of intestines. Four liters of blood. Two square meters of skin. All moving away.

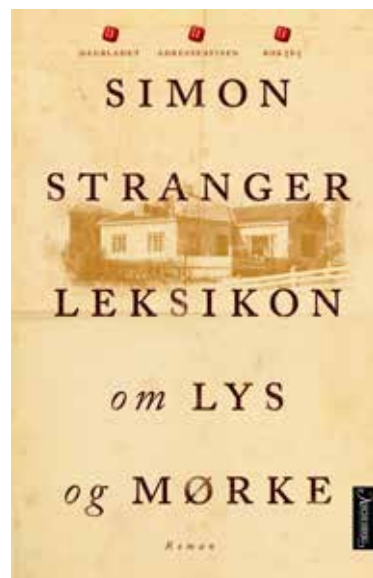
Knowing this: Without him I have no one. Without him I am no one. For without him I don't know who I am. And still forcing oneself to move further away. The spinal chord, the cerebellum — yes, the entire central nervous system — must obey this command: We will move on. And never look back.

On chocolate:

There are two kinds of confectionary lovers. Those who take their time reading the descriptions on the chocolate box in order to find just the right piece. And who spend even more time searching for this particular piece, only to learn, perhaps, that it has already been eaten by someone else. In that case they repeat the process while trying to conceal the disappointment of having to settle for another piece. If the piece they have chosen is still available, they risk having set their expectations for how good it will taste so high, that they will be disappointed none the less. The other kind of confection lovers take a random piece from the box without even looking at it, puts it in their mouth and appears to be enjoying a completely carefree existence. Sometimes people in the first category can infect people in the second through their way of being and thus complicate their lives unnecessarily. Jakob cannot eat confectionary as effortlessly as he could before. This is Raket's fault.

Simon Stranger

Keep Saying Their Names



According to Jewish tradition everyone dies twice. The first time is when the heart stops beating, and the synapses in the brain shut down, like a city during a blackout. The second time is when the dead person's name is uttered, read or thought of for the last time, after fifty or hundred or four hundred years. Only then, is the person really gone, erased from life on Earth.

Simon Stranger

Simon Stranger (b. 1976) made his debut in 2003, and has since written ten books for children, young adults and adults. His books for children and young adults have been translated into Swedish, Danish, German, French, Dutch, Arabic, Spanish, Korean, Japanese and Kurdish. *Keep Saying Their Names* is his first novel published by Aschehoug Forlag.



Photo: André Løyning/saffflaske.no

Sold in 22 territories
Winner of the Booksellers' Prize 2018
Winner of the Riksmål Prize 2018
Movie rights sold to NENT Group

A chilling and gripping double portrait of a young man who became a torturist and a family that would have been an entirely different one had Norway not been invaded in 1940.

What turns the bashful shoemaker's son Henry Rinnan from Trøndelag into one of the most hated criminals in Norwegian history; a double agent killing Norwegians for the Nazis? And why would a Jewish family want to move into Rinnan's headquarters shortly after the war, in the house that for many became the very symbol of the atrocities committed during the German occupation?

Spanning over four generations, Simon Stranger skillfully constructs a story consisting of the most beautiful and painful elements of human life in this epic and ambitious novel, pieces that when put together also becomes the history of his own family.

From the reviews:

"A compulsive twist on familiar stories from WW2. Simon Stranger has been inspired by this to write the best novel about the arrest of Norwegian Jews since Steinar Løding's *Erindrings tre* [Eng: *The Tree of Memory*] (1992). Both the story of Rinnan and the story of the Kommisar family, in particular of Ellen and her growing despair about living in "Bandeklosteret", is told in a prose that glows and sparkles and makes this story horribly engaging",
-*Dagbladet*, 6/6 stars

"Riveting and beautiful (...) This book deserves to be read by many"
- *Bok 365*, 6/6 stars

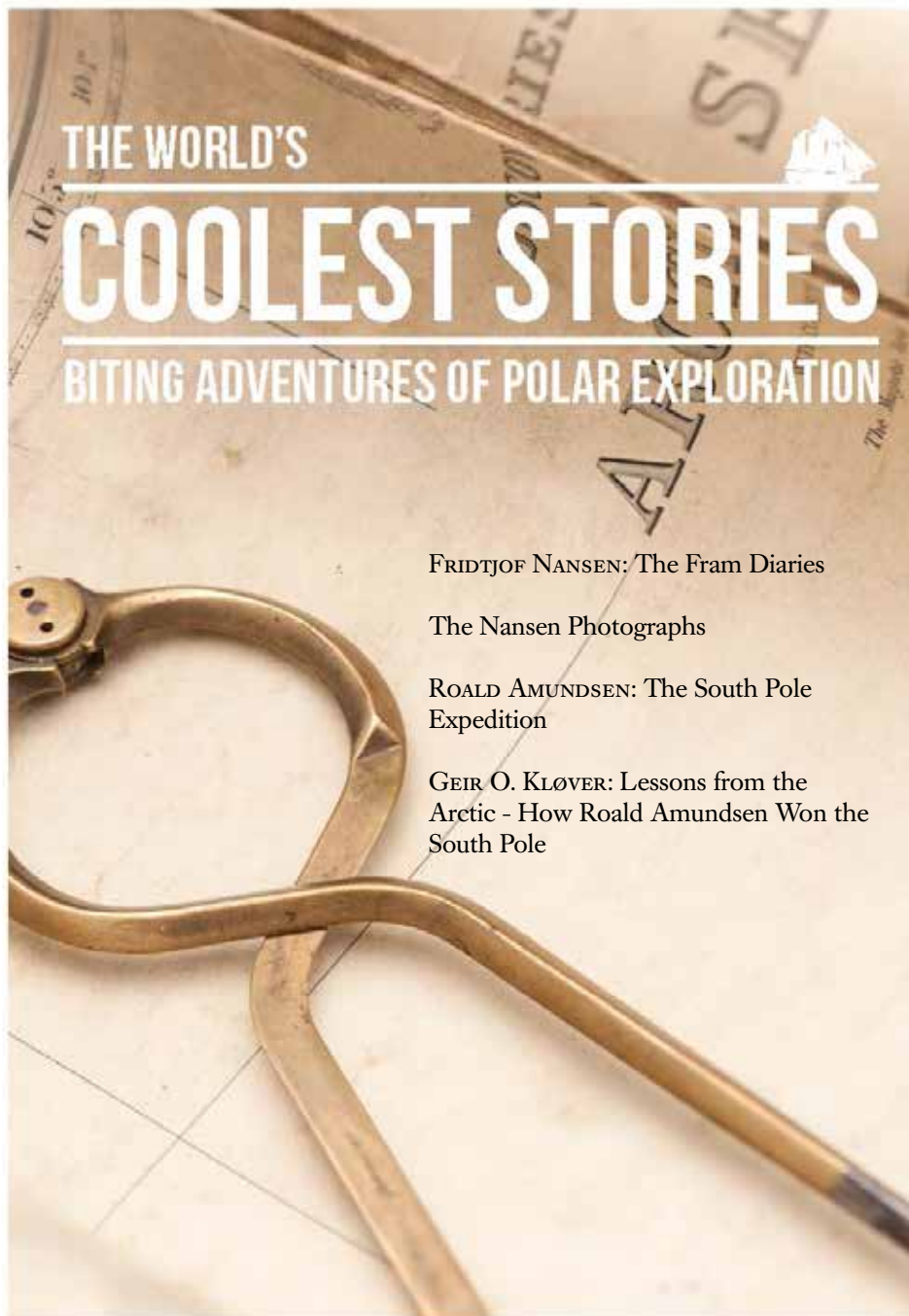
"Masterly and frightful"
- *Adresseavisen*, 6/6 stars

"Remarkably well-done. Stranger is making a bold move when choosing to write an entire novel about themes every well-read person knows very well. *When Keep Saying Their Names* is still such a successful project, the sole reason is the author's literary talent. This novel is intense with a tremendous narrative drive, at the same time as the prose has an almost flowing lightness to it"
- *VG*, 5/6 stars

"As the title more than suggests, Stranger has composed this book with a kind of encyclopedic structure, each chapter starting with a letter. This is no simple task, but it works excellently, even with letters like X, Y and Z. Very little appear superfluous and the high quality of the prose is upheld all the way through till the end.

Stranger writes wonderfully, there is no doubt about it. The language is economic, almost ascetic, but flows beautifully. Here are no bombastic metaphors. Stranger goes straight to the core, also emotionally. The contrast between the sober prose (the last few pages are some of the most wistfully dreadful I have read in Norwegian) and the dirty, bloody and macabre gives the at times scandalously violent content a lyrical dimension. It leaves the reader with a sense of pensive unease.

Stranger's descriptions of agony of death and resignation are frightening and sad. The most horrible scenes are cold and observing, yet empathetic, and makes me think of an author like Flannery O'Connor."
- *Minerva*



FRIDTJOF NANSEN: The Fram Diaries

The Nansen Photographs

ROALD AMUNDSEN: The South Pole Expedition

GEIR O. KLØVER: Lessons from the Arctic - How Roald Amundsen Won the South Pole

Fridtjof Nansen The Fram Diaries



Fridtjof Nansen's epic expedition across the Arctic Ocean with Fram, his attempt to reach the North Pole with Hjalmar Johansen, their sledge journey to Frans Josef land and the wintering there, constitute one of the world's most well-known and important polar expeditions. It was the expedition that laid the foundation for Norway as a polar nation, revolutionized international polar research, and established Fridtjof Nansen as one of the big heroes in the history of polar expeditions. The expedition also contributed to the Norwegian national feeling, self-confidence and independence.

In March 2020, almost 125 years after the return of the expedition, the Fram Museum in Oslo will publish the personal diaries of Fridtjof Nansen and eight of the twelve crew members on board. 5000 pages in eight volumes, including the nine diaries, 1000 letters, 200 technical drawings and maps, 300 newspaper articles, a number of menus, songs, lectures, and every single photo taken on the expedition.

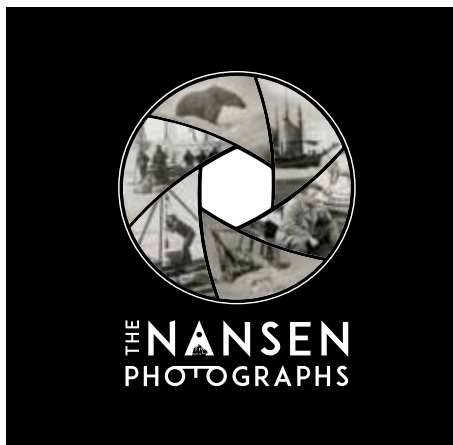
Fridtjof Nansen

Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930) was a Norwegian explorer, scientist, diplomat, humanitarian and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. He led the team that made the first crossing of the Greenland interior in 1888, traversing the island on cross-country skis. He won international fame after reaching a record northern latitude of 86°14' during his Fram expedition of 1893-1896.



Geir O. Kløver

The Nansen Photographs



The Nansen diaries from the Fram expedition are followed by the book *The Nansen Photographs*. In large format (30 x 30 cm) it will include all the 600 unique photos from the expedition, commented by excerpts from Fridtjof Nansen's and the crew members diaries. Included will also be the drawings showing the development of Fram and the maps brought on the expedition.



Geir O. Kløver

Geir O. Kløver is the director of the Fram Museum in Oslo, and author, co-author and editor of numerous books related to the polar expeditions.

The Nansen Photographs
Frammuseet, 2020

Photo, Travel, Nature
Format 30x30 cm

Roald Amundsen

The South Pole Expedition 1910-1912



On 14 December 1911, the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team became the first human beings to reach the South Pole, just over a month before Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated Terra Nova expedition.

Roald Amundsen's South Pole diaries are now available to the public, more than a hundred years after they were written. The diaries give readers the opportunity to travel back in time to one of the highlights of international polar exploration.

Sydpolekspedisjonen 1910-1912
Frammuseet, 2015

Travel, Diaries, Nature
416 pages

Geir O. Kløver

Lessons from the Arctic. How Roald Amundsen Won the South Pole



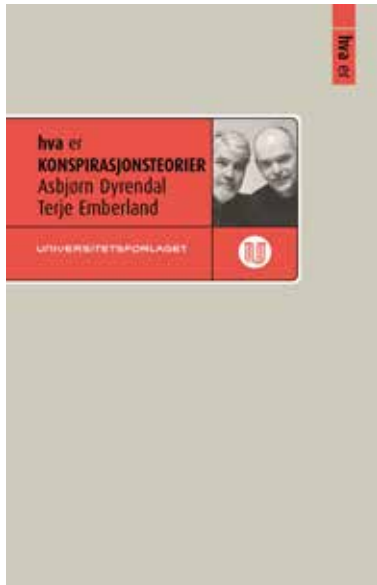
This is the story of how Roald Amundsen won the race to the South Pole through meticulous planning and preparations over many years. The book reveals his ability to foresee the challenges ahead and change plans when new factors came into play. It presents his well-qualified team members and his hard-earned lessons from the Arctic.

Frammuseet, 2017

Travel, Nature
592 pages

Asbjørn Dyrendal & Terje Emberland

What Are Conspiracy Theories



To be able to understand many of the darkest chapters in our history, as well as understanding our own time, it is necessary to know the mechanisms of conspiracy thinking.

Conspiratorial constructions of an enemy have been used as a mobilizing force in Putin's Russia, in Erdogan's Turkey and recently in the US election campaign. We find conspiracy theories in everyday life, in the dissemination of fake news and rumors, they appear incessantly in popular culture and are encountered across the political spectrum. Conspiracy theories are used by people of all income groups and all levels of education. However, some believe in them more often and more strongly than others. Why is it so? The prevalence of conspiracy theories in society also varies over time. What makes them increase?

These are among the questions that are addressed in this book, and to answer them the authors use knowledge from different disciplines such as psychology, history, religious studies, literary theory and sociology.

Asbjørn Dyrendal is Professor at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the NTNU in Trondheim. His research and publications have focused on the different expressions and conditions of contemporary religion, political science and conspiracy culture.

Terje Emberland is an author and Senior Researcher at The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies in Oslo, with a long list of publications on fascism and conspiracy theories.

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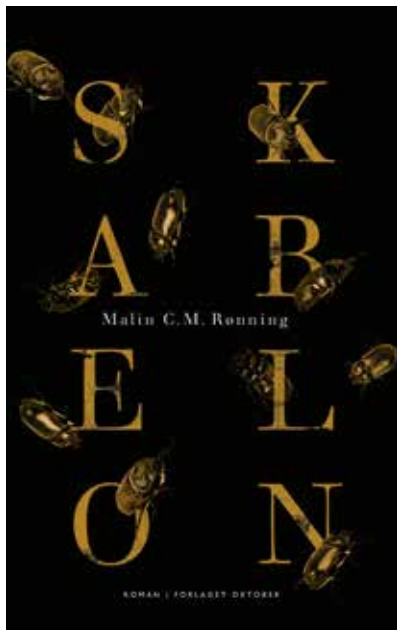
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Malin C.M. Rønning

Skabelon



Skabelon is the story of Urd, who lives with her family in a remote place deep in the forest. Her father is often away for weeks on end. Her mother drinks coffee and smokes in the kitchen, takes long baths day and night, or lies on the couch under her duvet. Although the older children go to school, the family exists in a kind of natural state, far from the comfort and safety of bourgeois society. Food and tenderness is scarce.

Urd is uniquely perceptive to all kinds of small animals and insects, dead and living; to bats and ravens, foxes and crows, animal skeletons and skulls. She seeks out caves, holes in the ground, hidden rooms in the house and abandoned cabins. She is often out in the forest alone, at night, in the dark. But when she ventures into the world of people, things always go wrong.

Skabelon is written in terse, unsentimental prose, but the story has a dreamy, gothic, darkly romantic quality, where reality and the probable can be swept aside abruptly.

Malin C.M. Rønning

Malin C.M. Rønning was born in Porsgrunn in 1985 and lives in Oslo. She studied creative writing at Bø in Norway and Litterär gestaltning in Göteborg. *Skabelon* is her first book.

Skabelon
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel
206 pages



Photo: Baard Henriksen

Lars Ramlie

The Luminous Borders of Memory



Photo: Hugo Ryvik

The Luminous Borders of Memory is a novel about a fraught relationship between father and son. It revolves around a day they spend together, 27 June, 1988, the day of the legendary boxing match between Mike Tyson and Michael Spinks. The father, once a promising boxer himself, is crippled by illness and drug abuse. He has gotten tickets for them to a bar where the fight will be shown live on TV.

When the story is being narrated, the son has become an adult and older than his father ever became. He immerses himself in his father's story, and rediscovers his own childhood and youth. With gripping sincerity he describes the messy, unstructured care his father was able to give him, while their existence was falling apart. Through his portrait of the relationship between a father and a son, Ramlie explores social and physical vulnerability, memory and awareness of death.

Lars Ramlie

Lars Ramlie (born 1974) is one of the most distinctive and unique voices in Norwegian contemporary literature. He made his debut in 1997 with the novel *Biopsy*, for which he was awarded the Tarjei Vesaas First Book Prize. In 2004 Ramlie was voted one of Norway's 10 best writers under 35. *The Luminous Borders of Memory* is his eighth novel.

Minnets lysende grense
Forlaget Oktober, June 2020

Novel
300 pages

Markus Midré

Biography of Unlived Days



*** NOT FINAL COVER ***

It's winter and it's snowing in Oslo. Together with three comedians, Sigurd is rehearsing a standup comedy show in an old theatre. Shortly before the third rehearsal, Minister of Public Health Ida Alseth goes missing in the forest. Alseth's invisibility as a minister was supposed to be the core of Sigurd's material, but now it is impossible to say anything about her.

At the same time Sigurd is moving out from his partner. Among his things he discovers a bag of old photos and papers. They belong to K, his girlfriend in high school. He starts thinking about her again, and things that he has worked hard to forget, come back to him. Slowly he starts seeing himself and his love for K in new ways, and his comedy show takes a new direction. But how far can you go in order to make people laugh? Where is the border between the lightness of contagious laughter and the dark depths of other people's tragedy?

Markus Midré

Markus Midré (born 1975) made his debut with the poetry collection *Theory of a Thousand Shadows* in 1995, and has since published several acclaimed volumes of poetry as well as novels. *Biography of Unlived Days* is his fifth novel.

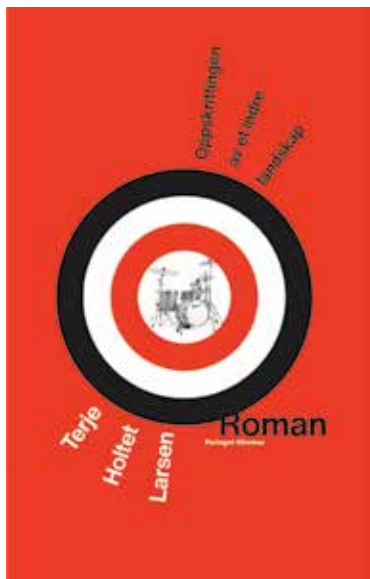


Photo: Pernille Marie Walvik

Biografi over ulevde dager
Forlaget Oktober, April 2020

Novel
220 pages

Terje Holtet Larsen September



From his position at the back of a bingo café, the narrator watches a peculiar and ominous reunion of two strangers at the next table. Twenty years earlier one of them was performing under the name Jesper Graff, as the drummer of the dance band trio Café Sahara, until he disappeared one summer evening, during the break between sets.

The accidental reunion makes the narrator follow in Jesper Graff's tracks along Oslo's non-places, across industrial properties, along railway tracks and into the silence under the city's eternally humming interchanges. At the same time he paces up the percussionist's inevitable fate, and perhaps also his own.

Terje Holtet Larsen

Terje Holtet Larsen (b. 1963) made his debut with the novel *The Son* in 1991. For the short story collection *Variations* (1995) he received the Gyldendal endowment. The novel *The Dilettante* (2012) received the Riksmål Literary Prize. Since *The Peer Gynt Version* (2003) Larsen has been cultivating an inventive mix of fiction, autobiography and essay that owes as much to Vonnegut as it does to Borges.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

Oppskritting av et indre landskap
Forlaget Oktober, March 2020

Novel
229 pages

Bjørn Esben Almaas The Good Friend



**Nominated for the Nordic Council
Literature Prize 2020**

In *The Good Friend* we follow an 11 year old boy during a few autumn months in 1987. The second part of the story takes part in 2013, when the main character has married and is himself a father to two boys.

From August to November 1987, something happens with the boy. He is being pushed around by classmates and other people around him. But there are other things too. He becomes evasive and less talkative, and doesn't want to go to school. But what has really happened?

As an adult we meet him as everyday family life threatens to slip away from him, and a sudden abyss appears among those closest to him.

Almaas portrays a young boy's sensitivity and innocence with tenderness and compassion. *The Good Friend* is a powerful story that step by step reveals the fragile threads between the child and the adult.

Foreign rights sold: Denmark (Turbine)

"A restrained yet equally deeply engrossing novel ... *The Good Friend* is a disturbing report of a miserable upbringing, but it also contains a wistful intensity – an intensity that only truly good literature can bestow upon us."
- From the statement of The Nordic Council Literature Prize jury

Bjørn Esben Almaas

Bjørn Esben Almaas (b. 1975) made his debut in 2001 with the collection of short stories *Costa del Sol* which received great reviews. In 2003 he published his first novel, *Katzenjammer*. His third novel *Sleep or Speak of Love* was published in 2008. He has also made short films and written movie scripts.



Photo: Lene Sørøy Neverdal

Den gode vennen
Forlaget Oktober, 2019

Novel
170 pages

Nina Lykke

Natural Causes - A Doctor's Romance



Winner of the Norwegian Book Prize/Brage
Nominated for the Booksellers' Prize
45,000 copies sold in hardback

Elin has moved into her doctor's office, where her patients march in, all day long, with all their little infirmities and ailments. For two decades, Elin has been a regular general practitioner. For at least as long, she has been married to Aksel. But before Aksel there was Bjørn, who suddenly shows up on Facebook, and who turns everything upside down. Elin likes being in her office, even though she has to hide before the security guard when he walks his rounds at night. And at home in her terrace house, Aksel sits seething – unless he has already started sleeping with their divorced neighbour/friend Gro.

Natural Causes is a novel about the curse of self-knowledge and the blessings of denial. It is a doctor's romance unlike any other.

Foreign rights sold: Danish (Gyldendal), Dutch (Atlas Contact), Finnish (Gummerus), German (btb), Icelandic (Benedikt), Korean (Sam&Parkers), Latvian (Zvaigzne), Serbian (Geopoetika), Spanish (Gatopardo), Swedish (Wahlström & Widstrand)

Nina Lykke

Nina Lykke (b. 1965) made her debut with *The Orgy and Other Stories*, followed by the novel *Disintegration* (2013) which was shortlisted for the P2 Listeners' Novel Prize. In 2016 she had a major breakthrough with *No, a Hundred Times No*. The novel has sold more than 60,000 copies in Norway, 42,000 in Sweden and 10,000 in Germany. It won the Young Reader's Critics' Prize and was the runner-up in the Swedish Bonnier Book Club's Books of the year 2018.



Photo: Agnete Brun

Full spredning
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel
288 pages

"It's been years since a book made me laugh so desperately long and hard as Lykke's Brage Prize winning doctor's novel *Natural Causes*."

Cathrine Krøger, Dagbladet, Books of the year 2019

"Lykke has one of the funniest pens in contemporary Norwegian literature. Here she turns all the conventions of the doctor's romance upside down, and offers juicy diagnoses of the miserable state of modern city dwellers. Deadly satire!"

Inger Bentzrud, Dagbladet, Books of the year 2019

"Lykke's witty misanthropy and contempt for our times is so powerful that I feel compelled to moral indignation, but no, I enjoy it far too much."

Bjørn Ivar Fyksen, Klassekampen, Books of the year 2019

"Oh, how wonderful it is to laugh at others – until you realize that this 'other' is indistinguishable from yourself ... Lykke's great accomplishment is that she makes you want to continue reading regardless ... Smart and sharp and funny, but with enough warmth at its core for it not to come across as nasty. Just good."

Gerd Elin Stava Sandve, Dagsavisen, Books of the year 2019

"Nobody can describe the white middle class' unbearable lightness in a funnier way than Lykke. After her success with *No a Hundred Times No* in 2016, Nina Lykke got many new fans. They will not be disappointed"

Trine Saugestad Hatlen, VG, Books of the year 2019

"[A] satirical barnburner of a novel ... With great success, Lykke has made caustic pessimism her trademark. Her books are full of people who can no longer see any meaning in conventions and the white lies supposed to work as social lubricants."

Aftenposten, Books of the year 2019

"A sharp, perceptive and very entertaining novel about the general practitioner Elin's infidelity and the distressing events that follow ... incredibly funny ... Lykke's prose is unusually fresh, without filter, smoothly sliding between past and present. Her diagnosis of our time is x-ray sharp and sensitive ... It's a wonderful read"

6/6 stars, Adresseavisen

"A razor-sharp, entertaining book about the forbidden ... one of our sharpest observers of marriage and relationships ... This year's book goes straight to the core, and it's her best so far, because it is her bravest ... With pitch-black humor and a good dose of empathy, she describes all the unfathomable things we keep doing as we try to find balance."

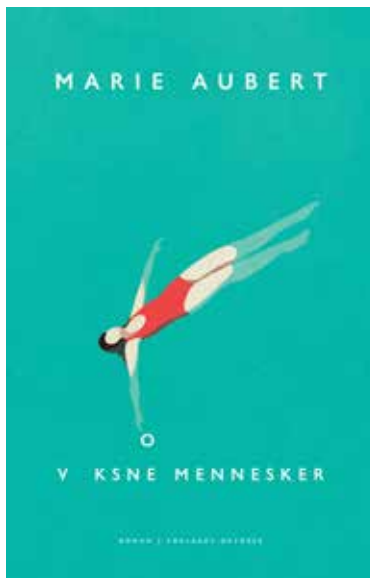
Dagens Næringsliv

"Lykke's novel shows how badly things can go when we don't appreciate what we have while we have it ... The satire is sharp and caustic ... With a confident grip on both storytelling and prose, the author shows us the foolishness of our age"

Dag og Tid

Marie Aubert

Grown-ups



Foreign rights sold: Danish (Lindhardt & Ringhof), Dutch (De Geus), English world (Pushkin Press), German (Rowohlt), Hungarian (Scolar), Polish (Pauza), Romanian (Paralela 45), Spanish (Nordica), Swedish (Wahlström & Widstrand)

Nominated for the Booksellers' Prize & the Young Readers' Critics' Prize

Ida is an architect, childless and in her prime, but lately the warning signs have become increasingly different to ignore. Just to be on the safe side, she has explored the possibilities of freezing eggs for later use, in case she will meet the right man. Now summer is here, and Ida is on a bus heading south to the idyllic family cabin by the sea, where her mother will celebrate her 65th birthday with her little family. Ida's younger sister Marthe is there already, together with her partner Kristoffer, and Kristoffer's daughter from previous relationship. Everything seems set for a perfect summer weekend – but then Marthe breaks her wonderful news.

Grown-ups is a novel of family ties worn thin, jealousy and self-assertion, and the shame of not being loved.

Marie Aubert

Marie Aubert was born in 1979 and lives in Oslo. She made her debut with the short story collection *Can I Come Home with You* (2016), which has been a huge success in Norway, selling more than 10,000 copies. *Grown-ups* is her first novel.



Photo: Agnete Brun

“Classic, slightly nasty and elegant ... Ida is childless and without a partner, but with a successful career. While her little sister has a handsome man and is carrying a child, she has little to show for on other arenas. Everything is set for jealousy between siblings, black thoughts and desperate acts. Marie Aubert keeps it all on a tight leash, while the pot is bubbling. A wonderful little chamber drama with a punch”

Turid Larsen, Dagsavisen, Books of the year 2019

“I gulped this one down like a delicious summer cocktail. Cringe TV in the form of a novel, and quite simply a devastatingly good novel”

Katrine Judit Urke, Dagbladet, Books of the year 2019

"Aubert's book is a small, pioneering work about being a single woman in our modern age"

Klassekampen

“Marie Aubert has written the book you have to read this summer ... Aubert can portray shame in ways that will make the reader, to her surprise, react with both joy and dread. That the author also throws a critical gaze on the fertility industry makes *Grown-ups* a highly topical novel”

Aftenposten

“The author's prose is effortless and playful, and rich in well-written, realistic dialogue. This is probably what makes the text such a horrifying read, we jump and bounce from one miserable deed to the next ... Impressive, efficient and elegant”

Dag og Tid

“She writes effortlessly and freely about the most shameful subjects ... The dialogues are elegant, as is her portrayal of the psychological interplay between the characters. The creeping unease, all the conflicts that complicate the relationships between people. Ida's futile efforts to be loved”

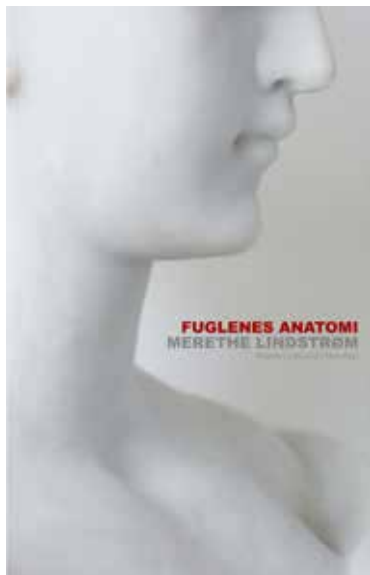
5/6 stars, Dagbladet

“Marie Aubert's second book is powerful stuff ... A demonstration of the destructive power of jealousy and people almost boiling over behind their forced smiles ... a flawless work with a remarkable patience and ability to let the story play out in the smallest spaces. *Grown-ups* is a 141 pages long chamber play, which becomes terribly uncomfortable because it's so recognizable and credible ... Quietly and patiently rolling out the past and all the small and big movements in the cabin, Marie Aubert has created a minefield of a book. Everything can go wrong at any time time, and there's fine line between an explosion and a mild summer breeze rustling the curtains”

5/6 stars, BOK365

Merethe Lindstrøm

The Anatomy of Birds



Foreign rights sold: Danish (Batzler)

Nominated for the P2 Listeners' Novel Prize

A writer has withdrawn to her study at Yew Tree Cottage, in a tiny English village. A young boy comes to build an aviary – a large outdoor birdcage. In the evening she drives him to a field where he claims to live, although there is no house there. While the boy is putting up the aviary, she creates a connection through the text she is writing, drawing a line that resembles the roads through the English landscape, creating a junction between the past and the present. When she looks in the mirror, she often sees her mother, and sometimes her daughters. An incident in her own childhood in Norway in the 1960s becomes a point of departure for understanding.

The Anatomy of Birds is written in lucid, vibrant prose, which hovers above a dark green landscape.

Merethe Lindstrøm

Merethe Lindstrøm (b. 1963) made her debut in 1983 with a collection of short stories, and has since published a number of short stories, novels and a children's book. In 2012, she won both the Nordic Council Literature Prize and the Critics' Prize for her novel *Days in the History of Silence*.



Photo: André Løyning

Fuglenes anatomi
Forlaget Oktober, 2019

Novel
200 pages

“Merethe Lindstrøm is a first-rate writer. You'll hardly find a single sentence that hasn't been finely crafted in her new novel ... a rich novel completely without dull points”

Aftenposten

“Lindstrøm is more seductive than ever ... familiar in its insisting, methodical uncovering of our inner, frail landscapes ... a moving novel about three women's fates, wrapped in Merethe Lindstrøm's sober, poetic language, at times with an imagery so surprising and precise that it punches the air out of the reader”

Dagsavisen

“The gravity hits us with full force after reading this new novel by one of Norwegian literature's prose masters ... Next to Jon Fosse and Dag Solstad, she is the Norwegian writer with the best odds as a candidate to the Nobel Prize of Literature. ... Merethe Lindstrøm's works loom large”

5/6 stars, Adresseavisen

“An unusually rich novel ... The most impressive thing is [...] perhaps how Lindstrøm lets a few recurring, overarching metaphors and often surprising juxtapositions tie together different phenomena, such as people, weather, landscapes, animals and things ... every change of weather, every nail in the bird cage becomes loaded with meaning”

5/6 stars, Bergens Tidende

“The punctuation gives this novel a unique plasticity, a flexibility in the prose that I seldom meet as a reader ... Lindstrøm's novel is rich in miniature descriptions of the ways in which a person can be transformed”

Klassekampen

“One of this year's great reads ... as the novel progresses, it's as if the mistiness of the text evaporates, and as the image of the characters and the events takes shape, I get more and more captivated ... one of this year's greatest reads. The Anatomy of Birds is a novel that demands patience from the readers, but which also richly rewards those who are willing to give that patience”

Vårt Land

“Merethe Lindstrøm – one of our most elegant prose writers – flies high and lands steadily ... It's the stiffened people that Lindstrøm describes so beautifully, those who freeze up somewhere without being able to reach out for help or ask for closeness ... It's captivating, fragmentary and poetic in a way that often feels breezy and suggestive, but at the same time earthbound in its depiction of the green, moist landscape with fields, wellingtons, cats, dogs, rabbits – and birds. It's dark, autumnal, wintry, but it all opens up into the light. The first-person narrator writes her pain away. Merethe Lindstrøm's nuances, sophisticated prose has the same luminous effect.”

Dagbladet



Widely regarded as the most important playwright since Shakespeare, Henrik Ibsen's position is as strong as ever, with an estimated 150 new productions taking the stage around the world every season. His social dramas in particular, such as *A Doll's House*, *An Enemy of the People*, *Ghosts* and *Hedda Gabler*, are constantly proven to be as relevant - even scandalous - as they were when they were first staged in the late 1800s.

In the Ibsen NOR project, three of today's greatest Scandinavian storytellers have been asked to freely write a novel based on Ibsen's works. The result: three thought-provoking, absorbing novels showing their authors at their very best.

Merete Pryds Helle Nora



Photo: Robin Skjoldborg

A Doll's House famously ends with Nora declaring her independence and leaving her husband and children. In *Nora*, Helle goes back in time to explore the roots of Nora's conflict, reimagining the story from her point of view: her marriage as a very young woman to Torvald, her experience of the oppressive demands of society, and her desperate struggle to save her husband after his breakdown.

Merete Pryds Helle had a huge breakthrough with *The People's Beauty* which won both De gyldne laurbær and Politiken's Literature Prize in 2016. The novel has sold more than 100,000 copies in Denmark.

Nora
Rosinante, 2019

Novel
264 pages

Vigdis Hjorth Henrik Falk



Photo: Agnete Brun

Henrik Falk
Forlaget Oktober, 2019

Oslo, 2018: The unsuccessful, upper-class stockbroker Henrik Falk returns from his honeymoon, already feeling trapped in his marriage with a conventional, unfortunately pregnant wife, whose main passion is old folk costumes. When Henrik learns that his ex-lover, the artist Tale, has bought his old family home, he is confronted with his own failed aspirations to greatness. *Henrik Falk* is a reinterpretation of *Hedda Gabler* with genders switched and the story set in our time.

One of Norway's most popular novelists, Hjorth reached a peak in her career in 2016 with *Wills and Testaments*, which won both the Booksellers' Prize and the Critics' Prize and became the year's biggest selling novel.

Novel
144 pages

Klas Östergren Hilde



Photo: Viktor Gårdsäter

Hilde
Natur & Kultur, 2019

Berlin, mid-1920s: Hilde Wangel, a Norwegian tourist office employee, suffers a severe anxiety attack in an outdoor cafe. Is there a link to the dramatic events as a youth in her small hometown in Norway decades earlier? In this novel, Östergren gives center stage to the enigmatic support character of *The Lady from the Sea* and *The Masterbuilder*, and puts her life in a wider European cultural context.

Ever since his massively successful novel *Gentlemen* (1980), Östergren has been one of Sweden's leading writers. The author of numerous inventive, entertaining novels and stories, he has also translated several Ibsen plays.

Novel
299 pages

Hanne Ørstavik

Novel. Milan



ROMAN.
MILANO

HANNE ØRSTAVIK

27 year old Val comes to Milano to live with Paolo, a man she has recently met in Oslo. Val is an artist, Paolo is a curator in a large family-owned art gallery.

Val has grown up with an aunt after her parents went to Silicon Valley to work when she was three. She has hardly seen them since. Val doesn't know what love feels like, she only knows that she wants to be with Paolo. And Paolo says that all he wants is Val, but how can she be sure about that?

Novel. Milan is a novel about art and about how a picture can be a source of understanding. About being without parents and about the need to belong. *Novel. Milan* explores how the child inside us is connected to our adult love relationships.

Foreign rights sold: German (Karl Rauch Verlag), Italian (Ponte alle grazie), Spanish (Duomo)

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. Her breakthrough novel *Love* (1997) was shortlisted for the US National Book Award in 2018. The novel *The Pastor* won the Brage Prize in 2004. Her works have been translated into 29 languages.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

Roman. Milano
Forlaget Oktober, 2019

Novel
330 pages

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