

# OSLO LITERARY AGENCY



RIGHTS LIST

AUTUMN 2020

FICTION / NON-FICTION

Cover illustration from the front cover of Silje Ulstein: *Reptile Memoirs*, design by Maria Sundberg.

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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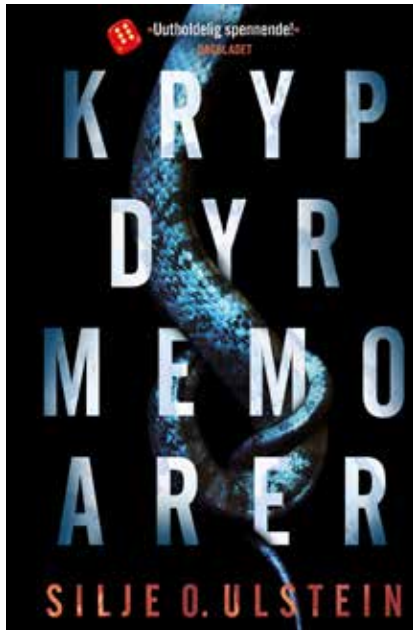
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## Silje O. Ulstein

### Reptile Memoirs



Foreign rights sold:  
Denmark (Gutkind)  
Sweden (Whlström & Widstrands)  
France (Actes Sud)  
The Netherlands (AW BRuna)  
Turkey (Eksik)  
Bulgaria (Emas)

Silje O. Ulstein

Silje O. Ulstein (b. 1984) has a Master's Degree in Literature from the University of Oslo and has studied creative writing at Skrivekunstakademiet in Bergen. *Reptile Memoirs* is her first novel.



Photo: Oda Berby

Silje O. Ulstein's debut novel *Reptile Memoirs* is a dark, daring and highly original psychological thriller about shame, loneliness and forbidden desires, in which the author explores whether it is possible to shed one's skin and become someone else entirely.

The story plays out and shifts between two periods in time: In the early 2000's when three twenty-something flatmates decide to get a baby tiger python as pet. And in 2017, when an 11 year-old girl goes missing.

"A stranglehold of a thriller. Finally, an addition to the genre that defies every cliché and that with its originality and glowing prose, sets a new standard for what the reader can expect from a psychological suspense novel. *Reptile Memoirs* is brave, ambitious, intense and deeply terrifying." - Jacob Søndergaard, publisher Gutkind

His body that first time was a paradox. Like living granite, or silken sandpaper. He was hard and soft at the same time. Coarse and smooth. Heavy and light. The first thing that struck me was how warm he was. As if I had believed his body would be cold from the inside and out. As if I hadn't wanted to believe that he was alive, before now. Only later would I learn that he didn't give off any heat of his own, only absorbed that around him.

From the reviews:

«Aims high and hits the mark. (...) With forceful, more or less cliché-free prose and an exquisite sense of composition, Silje O Ulstein has succeeded in writing a thriller that really stands out.»

Aftenposten

«The best Norwegian crime debut in years»  
Adresseavisen, 5 out of 6 stars

«Unbearably exciting. (...) deeply original (...) I predict that Silje O. Ulstein has a great writing career ahead of her.»

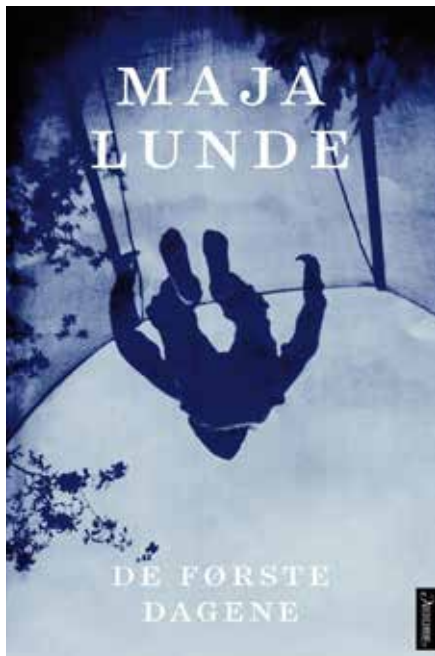
Dagbladet, 6 out of 6 stars

«A smashing debut for Silje O. Ulstein with this incredibly well-written, eerily exciting and almost disturbingly original thriller (...) Read it! You won't forget this story anytime soon.»

NTL Magazine

# Maja Lunde

## The First Days



Sold to  
BTB Random House, Germany

"Just these days and weeks have already become historic (...) it is this transition, this massive shift in our most recent contemporary history, Lunde describes so well in her new book."  
- *Dagbladet*, 5/6 stars

Maja Lunde

Maja Lunde (b. 1975) is the most successful Norwegian author of her generation. Her books are translated into more than 40 languages and have sold more than 2,5 million copies. Lunde's debut novel *The History of Bees* (2015) won The Norwegian Bookseller's Prize as well as numerous international awards and is being adapted for both screen and stage.

*De første dagene*  
Aschehoug, 2020

On March 12th everything changed, and the world was turned upside down.

They're a family of five. The grown-ups have just had an argument when the news breaks: from now on, they are to be confined to their home. All of them. Author Maja Lunde is used to this, she usually works from their house. But she is not used to homeschooling. She is used to writing big, dystopic novels, but she is not used to living in a dystopia. But the crisis is here, and the family must find a new way of living together.

*The First Days* takes the reader back to those first days when normal life was put on hold, to that strange spring when words like family and community, solitude and distance suddenly got new meanings. A time of change and hardship that will affect everyone's lives for the unforeseeable future, but perhaps also a time to try to think differently and redefine what is most important.

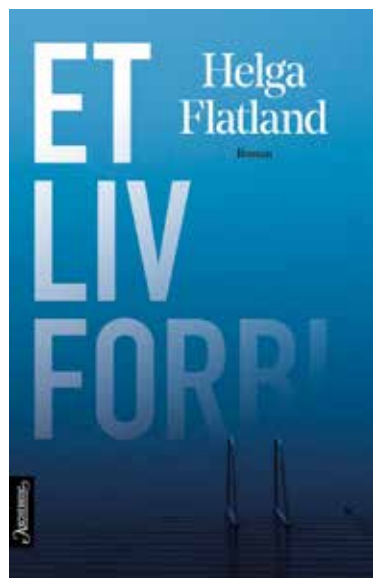
Novel  
181 pages



Photo : Oda Berby

## Helga Flatland

### At Life's End



"Flatland has perfected her literary style. And she's funny too. With this book, Flatland demonstrates, once again, her impressive skills in describing the modern human being – or rather, a modern family. (...) Cements her position as one of our most important younger authors."  
- Dagbladet on *A Modern Family*.

Helga Flatland

Helga Flatland (b. 1984) is one of Norway's most awarded and widely read authors. Her bestselling and critically acclaimed novel *A Modern Family* (2017) won the Norwegian Booksellers Prize and was sold in 10 territories.



Photo: Tine Poppe

*Et liv forbi*  
Aschehoug, 2020

Novel  
264 pages

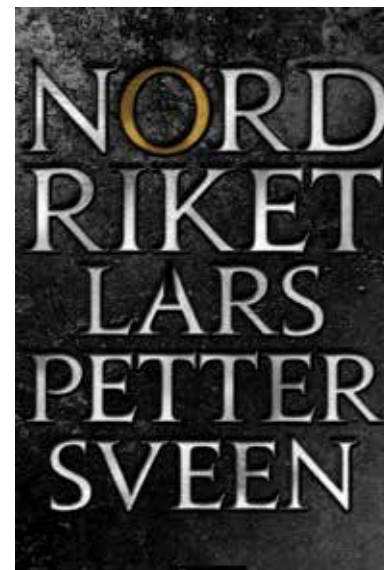
Sigrid is a doctor living in Oslo with her children and second husband with whom she left the small place where she grew up many years ago. Her relationship with her mother Anne is strained. Sigrid is still waiting for her mother to apologise and make amends for neglecting her and her brother from early ages while Anne looked after her sick husband.

When Anne gets terminally ill, Sigrid must reconsider her take on the roles in the family and tackle questions of love, neglect and commitment.

With her sixth novel, Helga Flatland cements her position as one of the best Norwegian storytellers of our time. With razor-sharp insight, humor and deep empathy, Flatland unveils the great dramas within ordinary lives and shows us how a single shift can bring forth suppressed desires and old secrets in any family.

## Lars Petter Sveen

### The Northern Kingdom



Named one of Norway's ten best authors under 35 (*Morgenbladet*)

"A young author whose work is mature, original and bold."  
- From the P.O. Enquist Prize Jury Statement

Lars Petter Sveen

Lars Petter Sveen (b. 1981) made his international breakthrough with his third novel *Children of God* (2014) for which he was awarded the prestigious P.O. Enquist Prize and was nominated to the Dublin IMPAC Award.



Photo: Tine Poppe

*Nordriket*  
Aschehoug, 2020

Novel  
261 pages

"We will set it all on fire."

In a world that may resemble our own, the small, independent state The Northern Kingdom has been under threat from the superior military power of The Federation for generations. A new attack from the Federation sparks a guerilla war and terror and religious extremism ensue.

Harald, the son of the great resistance hero of the North, grows into a beast-like soldier, capable of evoking fear in his enemies and allies alike. His sister Ingebjørg must leave her two young sons in an attempt to free her husband who has been taken prisoner by the Federation. Federal officer Henok, who was raised in the North, has been sent to destroy the resistance movement.

Set in a vast and cruel winter landscape, detached from time and geography, this story, told by one of Norway's strongest authors, stands out as disturbingly timely and contemporary.

## Gudrun Skretting

### Three Men and Vilma



*A funny, heartwarming and entertaining Christmas story about music, friendship, death and most of all, love.*

Gudrun Skretting

Gudrun Skretting (b. 1971) is a classical pianist educated at The Norwegian Academy of Music. She has studied creative writing and literature at the Norwegian Institute for Children's Books.



Photo: Niklas Lello

*Tre menn til Vilma*  
Aschehoug, 2020

Fiction

An older gentleman with a fake moustache and a viola dies on a plane traveling from London to Oslo. His name is Fredrik Mozart Sandvik and among the sparse possessions he leaves behind is a bundle of letters addressed to his daughter Vilma. The 35-year-old Vilma lives alone and has no knowledge of her father. After all, she has her hands full with avoiding her own early death, prepping in her basement, and staying well away from radioactive bananas. That is, whenever she is not busy working with her kind-of-annoying piano pupil.

But when a handsome priest and a pathologist with verbal Tourette's suddenly shows up at her door with the letters from her dead father, everything changes.

There have not been many men in Vilma's life previously, but now she suddenly has to deal with two of them – or three, if you count her dead father.

Every year around one thousand people worldwide die on board planes. Hardly surprising when you consider the staggering hordes of humanity that are airborne at any given time. But still thought-provoking, I'd say.

Some die at cruising altitude over the Pacific Ocean, others coming into land at Bardufoss. Some in peace, others in disbelief, almost all with a story left untold.

And to take a slightly practical view: all of them are something of a headache for the cabin crew.

The world's airlines take different approaches to death. Singapore Airlines has a special corpse closet should the situation require it, while British Airways always upgrades the deceased to first class, equipping him or her with dark glasses and the latest edition of the Daily Mail.

In the particular case of Fredrik M. Sandvik, neither British nor Norwegian newspapers were to be had. So the man was provided with a blanket before landing at Oslo Airport Gardermoen one-and-a-half hours later, slightly yellowish in hue, wearing dark glasses and – oddly enough – a fake moustache.

It should, perhaps, be stressed that the cabin crew were not responsible for the moustache (a fine thing that would have been). No, in fact, it wasn't even discovered until the deceased lay on the dissecting table, where they found that the cause of death was a brain haemorrhage, and that Fredrik M. Sandvik had surgery at an early age to correct a cleft lip. By a surgeon who was not especially gifted.

When, in addition, they discovered an unclaimed viola in the overhead locker above Mr. Sandvik's seat, there was little to suggest he was the agent of a foreign power.

That said, fake moustaches naturally pique the imagination. Which is why the pathologist joked that the deceased must be Santa Claus himself, since it was mid-November and the moustache was as snowy white as the deceased's long beard.

Well, oddly enough there was some truth in this interpretation all the same. After all, Santa Clauses do have a habit of never arriving empty-handed. And although this specimen had neither living relatives nor a workplace that missed him, his baggage was found to contain – besides the viola – a bundle of numbered letters and an address in Asker, Norway. Belonging to a woman by the name of Vilma Veierød.

Me, to be precise.

So that was how this story began.  
Or ended, depending on which way you look at it.

*Translated by Lucy Moffatt*

## Maria Kjos Fonn

### Heroin Chic



Elise grows up in a music-filled home on the western part of Oslo. People tells her she has a silver voice, her mother tells her that she is luminous. All is safe, apparently, still she longs to get away. She wants to feel weightless, to leave no trace. She tries it all, ascheticism, exceedance, to little, too much. Then something finally clicks. The drugs give her all she ever wanted - nothing. To fade out, to feel only numbness.

Heroin Chic is a novel about falling without any apparent reason. About a suffering untainted by outer circumstances.

*“An unusually talented storyteller”*  
VG

Maria Kjos Fonn

Maria Kjos Fonn (b. 1990) is one of the strongest young literary voices in Norway, nominated to the Norwegian Book Award “Brageprisen” for her first novel “Kinderwhore”, a powerful story on sexuality, assault and survival. Kjos Fonn is also established as a prominent essayist on issues like politics, feminism and society.

*Herion Chic*  
Aschehoug, 2020

Novel  
207 pages



Photo : Oda Berby

Ketil Bjørnstad  
The Last Decade



More than 175 000 books sold in Norway

"This writer obviously possesses every kind of talent possible."  
- Nils C. Ahl, *Le Monde*

The sixth and highly anticipated final volume of the extremely successful "The World I Used to Know"-series in which the author juxtaposes his own life story with the events and history of the decades of his life.

As the author mourns the loss of both his parents, the world around him grows more unstable. The bombing of Libya, the terror attacks in Norway on July 22nd, Brexit, the Trump presidency, and the climate crisis has him questioning his own political standpoints. What kind of world will his daughter F grow up in? And was his own father's deep commitment and activism all in vain?

The final decade is a story of reckoning, in which the author dissects every layer of a human life, as part of his search for a deeper understanding of both the world and himself, as he approaches old age.

"A literary tour de force!"  
- *Dagbladet*

Ketil Bjørnstad

Ketil Bjørnstad (b. 1952) is a musician, composer and writer. Versatile and prolific, he has published more than 30 books – poetry, novels as well as stories of painters Oda Krohg and Edvard Munch, the author Hans Jæger, the musician Ole Bull and the film artist Liv Ullmann. *The World I Used To Know* has been sold in more than 175,000 copies in Norway so far.

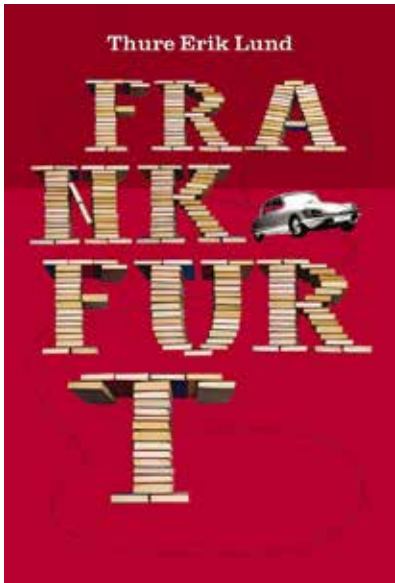


Photo: Frøydis Urbye

Originaltittel  
Aschehoug, 2020

Genre  
802 pages

Thure Erik Lund  
Frankfurt



Lund arrives at the bookfair in his Citroën DS, 1975, after detouring his way through the German countryside. He parks outside the main entrance and enters the fairgrounds that holds 300 000 visitors and even more books. Inside, he sees the international publishing world's hunt for big titles and big advances play out before his eyes.

"The greatest prose writer in my generation"  
- Karl Ove Knausgård

Thure Erik Lund

Thure Erik Lund (b. 1959) is one of Norway's the most innovative and renowned authors, and has been praised for both his deep seriousness and his endless humor in books where burlesque descriptions of everyday life, an almost manic search for truth, love and death form a higher unit.



Photo: Niklas Lello

Originaltittel  
Aschehoug, 2020

Novel

One author's meeting with the words largest publishing event.

In 2019, Norway was Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Bookfair. All eyes were supposedly upon us, and numerous Norwegian authors were sent to Germany to promote themselves and their works. One of them was Thure Erik Lund, as his 1999 novel «Grøftetildragelsesmysteriet» (The Ditch Incident Mystery) was being published in German.

Lund arrives at the bookfair in his Citroën DS, 1975, after detouring his way through the German countryside. He parks outside the main entrance and enters the fairgrounds that holds 300 000 visitors and even more books. Inside, he sees the international publishing world's hunt for big titles and big advances play out before his eyes.

The result is a highly entertaining, thought-provoking and surprising travelogue. For Lund is an author who writes like he drives his car; along unknown side-roads and with many sudden turns.

Kjell Ola Dahl  
The Assistant



Foreign rights sold:  
British English (Orenda)

Following a dramatic car chase in 1924, bootlegger Jack Rivers is arrested by police officer Ludvig Paaske. Fourteen years later we meet the pair again under different circumstances. Paaske is now a private investigator and Jack is his assistant. One day, a woman by the name Vera Gruber visits Paaske with suspicions of her husband's infidelity. This seemingly harmless task marks the start of a dangerous drama with a deadly outcome.

*The Assistant* is a captivating story set in prohibition time between two world wars. With the Spanish civil war and Norway's role in the political foreplay to World War II as a backdrop.

"A delightful read."  
- *Stavanger Aftenblad*



Photo: Oda Berby

Kjell Ola Dahl  
Kjell Ola Dahl (b. 1958) wrote his first novel in 1993. He has written multiple crime novels about the police investigators Gunnarstanda and Frølich that have been translated into many languages. He was awarded the Riverton Award in both 2000 and 2015, and he won the Norwegian Book Award (the Brage Prize) for the novel *The Courier* in 2015.

*Assistenten*  
Aschehoug, 2020  
Historical crime  
410 pages

Gaute Heivoll  
Dream of the Living



He grows up in the mist of the rolling forrest. The village is small, yet it contains an entire world. There's the fox bells in Gunvor's garden, Jakob's well, and the history of Laura Andersen who beat Jesus down from heaven with a wooden pole. And Klaus, who walks around with a crack in his leg that won't heal.

*Dream of the Living* is the story of a boy with rare abilities that few around him notice. From a very young age, he sees the world differently, a sensibility that makes him vulnerable and exposed. A sensibility that will shape his life and friendships, love and grief.

*Dream of the Living* is also a moving portrait of the author's father, from boy to young man. A novel told with luminous prose, with warmth and insight into the darkest and brightest corners of life.

"Most likely his strongest book since his breakthrough novel *Before I Burn*"  
- VG

"Heivoll at his very best"  
- NRK



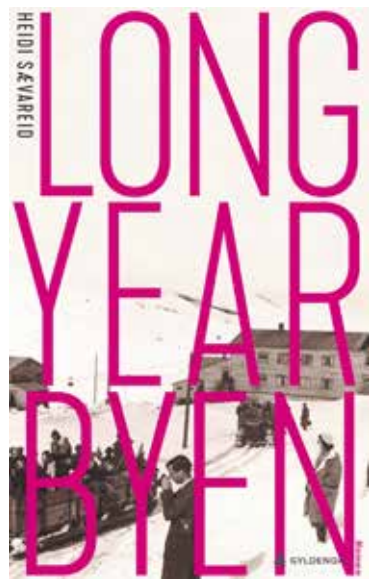
Photo: Lidia Drzewiecka

Gaute Heivoll  
Gaute Heivoll (b. 1978) debuted in 2002, and has written poems, childrens books, short stories and novels. In 2010 he was awarded the Norwegian Book Award Brageprisen for his novel *Before I Burn*, which was subsequently sold to more than 20 countries. He has also won the Sult Prize and been nominated to the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

*Drøm om de levende*  
Tiden 2020  
Novel  
471 pages

## Heidi Sævareid

### Longyearbyen



Foreign rights sold:  
Germany (Suhrkamp)  
Denmark (Grønningen 1)  
Croatia (Oceanmore)

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.

"Luminous prose, masterfully described (...) My guess would be that *Longyearbyen* will be Sævareid's definite breatherough as a novelist, not only in Norway but on the international scene as well."  
*VG, Six out of six stars*

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 (the Brage Prize) for her YA books. *Longyearbyen* is her first adult novel. She lives in Bristol, England.



Photo: Lidia Drzewiecka

*Longyearbyen*  
Gyldendal (2020)

Novel  
260 pages

## Magnhild Haalke

### Alli's Son



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

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

Shockingly good (...) one of the most insightful mother-child-portraits I have ever seen in literature.  
*Aftenposten* (2020)

Magnhild Haalke

Magnhild Haalke (1885-1984) 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.

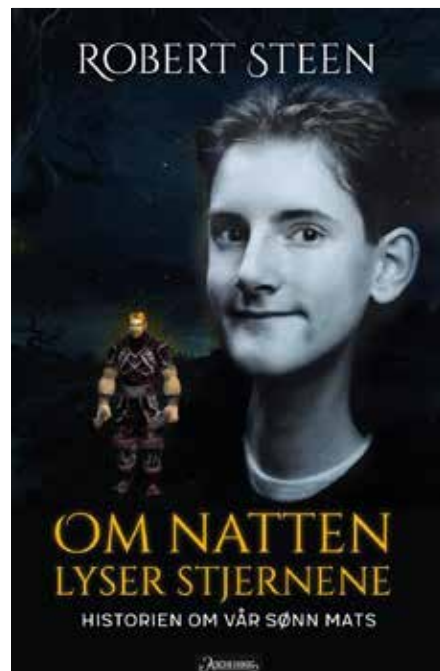
The *New York Times Book Review* critic Alma Luise Olson wrote "Just in its brevity and firm grasp of psychology, the short novel has excruciating strength", while NY Times' Alfred Kazin characterized Haalke as "a sensitive and thoughtful writer" and praised her "admirable taste" and "exceptionally good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

The dense and intense story of Elling and Alli makes as deep an impact on 2020 readers as it did in 1935. The new edition has a foreword by Norwegian Book Award-winning author Monica Isakstuen.

Novel  
171 pages

## Robert Steen

### The Stars Shine at Night



Their son Mats had a life-threatening disease and was confined to a wheelchair. To his parents' despair, their son preferred to stay in the basement with the curtains down, playing computer games day in and out.

But when Mats died at the age of 25 something unexpected happened. Across Europe, candles were lit, and people mourned the loss of a dear friend. The son they thought had chosen a life of isolation had more friends than they ever could have imagined. Within the computer game World of Warcraft he was known as Ibelin and Jerome, though in this world, he was no different from anyone else.

This is a story about what defines a good life, about friendship, sickness, love and being a parent.

Robert Steen

Robert Steen (b. 1961) is a politician in the Norwegian Labor Party and city council in the committee for Health and Welfare in Oslo. The book about his son is written in cooperation with journalist and author Hallgeir Opedal (f. 1965).



Photo: Frode Hansen

All eyes were drawn to the white coffin, covered in snow-white roses with a blue cloak, and memories paraded through my head, flickering film footage of Mats' life: Mats laughing, Mats swimming, joking; there were images of Mats in his wheelchair, his thin body in the big bed, images of the ventilator, his gaze in the rear-view mirror. We all had our images of Mats.

But some people in the chapel had never seen him bound to the wheelchair and ventilators. When they shut their eyes, they saw a young man running through green forests, pony-tail flying; sitting by the campfire beneath a starry sky; flirting and laughing – surrounded by friends.

Of everything that happened on that day, they were the part we were least prepared for. The five people we didn't know.

People we didn't know existed.

People we had never seen.

People Mats had never seen.

\*\*\*

The music faded out.

On the right-hand side sat the strangers. I had met them the previous evening. There was Anne from England, Lisette from the Netherlands, Janina from Finland and Rikke from Denmark. The fifth was Kai Simon from Oslo. He was the one who would, at last, get up, go to the pulpit, clear his throat, look down at the sheet of paper, look out across the chapel and say.

'I know that as we sit here, a candle is being lit in a classroom in the Netherlands. In a call centre in Ireland, there's a candle on a desk. In a library in Sweden, a candle is being lit. He is remembered in a little hairdressers in Finland. In a municipal office in Denmark and many other places, he is remembered by more of us than could be here today. Mats had a long reach. And I met Mats in a world where there are no limits to who you are or what body you have or how you look. Where the challenges of your everyday life aren't what matters, but rather who you choose to be – how you wish to present yourself. The thing that matters is what's up here.

He touched his head.

'And what's in here.'

He laid his hand on his breast.

There he stood, a stranger, speaking about my son, our Mats.

And through his words, he began to give us an insight into a world we had no idea existed.

*Translated by Lucy Moffat*

## Sigrid Bratlie & Hallvard Kvale

### Reinventing Human



Sigrid Bratlie & Hallvard Kvale

Sigrid Bratlie has a PhD in molecular biology from the Institute of Cancer Research at The Norwegian Radium Hospital in Oslo. In 2015 her work was awarded His Majesty the King's Gold Medal. Bratlie has worked for the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board and is now a special adviser for the Norwegian Cancer Society and the Norwegian Agricultural Cooperatives.

Hallvard Kvale has a PhD in contemporary history from the University of Oslo. He is Head of Communications at the Institute for Social Research in Oslo and has previously been head of communications at the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board.

*Fremtidsmennesket*  
Kagge, 2020

The biotechnological revolution and what it means for you.

Which tickets would you secure your children in the genetic lottery if you could control the outcome? If you could get a sneak peek at your entire blueprint – your DNA – what would you want to know? Should aging be considered a disease to be cured, or a natural part of being human? Biotechnology changes the rules of life – from conception to grave. How far would you want to go?

*Reinventing Human* is a book about the ways in which biotechnology makes it possible to override human biology in every stage of life. Divided into three sections, the beginning, the middle, and the end of life, the book's aim is to give the reader an understanding of biology and biotechnology, as well as to provide a good starting point for participating in the public debate with their own opinions.

Health & Society  
206 pages

## Lars Fr. H. Svendsen

### A Philosophy of Lying



Foreign rights sold:  
British English (Reaktion Books)  
Croatian (TIM Press)  
German (Römerweg)

Lars Fr. H. Svendsen

Lars Fr. H. Svendsen (b. 1970) is a Doctor and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bergen. He is also an internationally bestselling non-fiction author, known for his unique ability to communicate difficult contemporary and international topics in a straightforward manner. Svendsen has received several prizes for his work, and his books have been translated into more than 25 languages.



Photo: Sturlason

*Løgnens filosofi*  
Kagge, 2020

Philosophy

What is a lie? And why is it wrong?

*A Philosophy of Lying* looks at how we lie to ourselves and others, the role that lying plays in life, politics, and friendship and what it actually means to tell a lie.

Drawing from philosophers such as Plato, Machiavelli, Rousseau, Kant and Arendt, the author sheds light on the nature of lying and how it affects us individually and as a society.

# Andreas Viestad

## A Dinner in Rome – The History of the World in One Meal



«There is more history in a bowl of pasta than in the Colosseum or in any other historical building,» writes Andreas Viestad in *A Dinner in Rome*.

While enjoying a typical Roman meal in a classic Roman restaurant, Viestad takes us on a culinary journey, dish by dish, through world history and the history of The Eternal City.

This is a story about how a small village in an unlikely place became the center of the greatest empire the world has seen. We learn the role wheat and salt played in that transformation, how the taste of grilled food contributed to making us human, what's behind the mild buzz from half a bottle of wine; we experience the sour sweet taste of mafia and slavery in a lemon sorbet and join in the hunt for the original pasta carbonara recipe.

Andreas Viestad

Andreas Viestad is a food writer, tv chef, restaurateur, and activist. He is the longtime host of New Scandinavian Cooking airing on Public Television in the US and in more than 50 countries, a former columnist of The Washington Post, and a founder of Geitmyra Culinary Center for Children in Norway. He is the author of 14 cookbooks in Norwegian, and two cookbooks for the US market, *Kitchen of Light* and *Where Flavor was Born*. When he is not traveling, he shares his time between Oslo and a farm just outside Cape Town, South Africa.



*En middag i Roma*  
Kagge, 2020

Narrative non-fiction  
206 pages



«Tickles your curiosity!»

Heidi Bjerkan, chef Credo Restaurant \*\* Michelin

"The best non-fiction authors manage to convince the reader that their particular subject is the most important, and Andreas Viestad is one of those writers. In this book he takes the reader with him not just to Rome but to a condition in which everything, absolutely everything, is interesting, amazing, more important and often much more amusing and comical than they thought."

Bjørn Gabrielsen, Author and critic

Photos: Lars Petter Pettersen

# Emma Ellingsen

Emma



Emma Ellingsen was born as Tobias, but she has always known that she's a girl. She grew up in a normal family in a small Norwegian town with her twin brother and two older siblings. While her twin brother played football, Emma wanted to dance and dress up in girl's clothing. Her parents believed it was a phase that would pass, but when the twins started 5th grade, they were no longer brothers - they were brother and sister.

Today she is one of Norway's biggest YouTubers and an international style icon. But most importantly Emma is a strong role model with a humorous, young, and personal style that inspires you to be yourself. With this book she tells her candid story about how it is to be a girl born in a boy's body and how she has learned to live with it.



## Marte Hasselø

### Timeless Children's Knitwear



Beautiful, vintage-inspired knitting patterns for children.

Designer Marte Hasselø, also known as @claraknitwear, has gained enormous popularity for her classic knitting patterns. Her children's wear is inspired by the aesthetics from the 1940s, 50s and 60s. The designs are simply timeless.

You will find 34 patterns in the book for children from 0 to 12 years old. The reader is provided all the tools required to craft a full wardrobe for children. Simple, but with small details that make each item stand out. These garments will be passed down from generation to generation.

Marte Hasselø

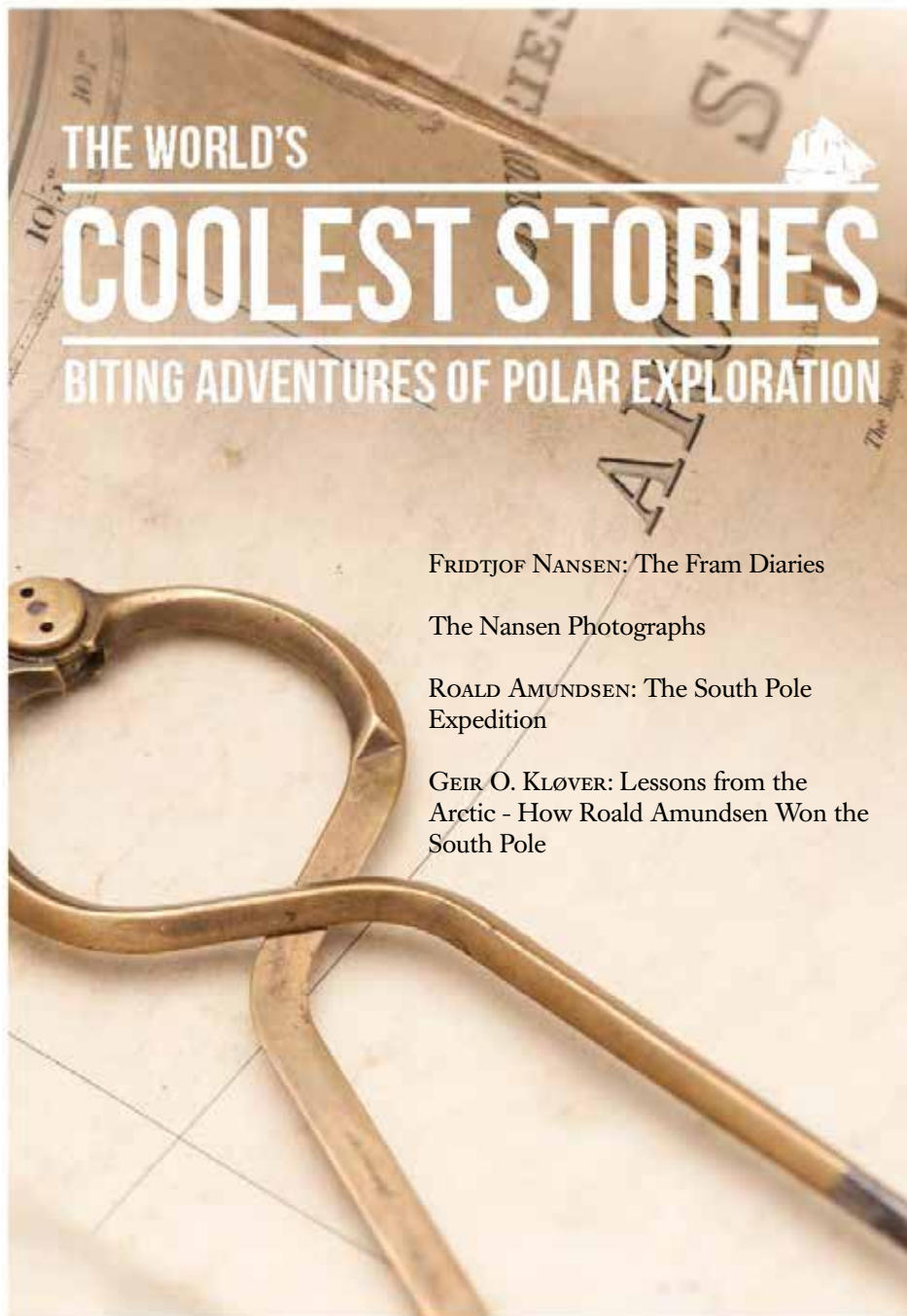
Marte Hasselø designs knitting patterns under the name Clara Knitwear. In only a few years she has gained an enormous following from knitters all over the world who adore her vintage inspired children's clothing.

*Tidløs barnestrikk fra Clara Knitwear*  
Gyldendal, 2020

Arts & crafts  
176



Photos: Marte Hasselø



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. This 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 great heroes in the history of polar expeditions. The expedition also contributed to the Norwegian feeling of national pride, 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 his ship. 5,000 pages in eight volumes, including the nine diaries, 1,000 letters, 200 technical drawings and maps, 300 newspaper articles, a number of menus, songs, lectures, and every single photo taken on the expedition.

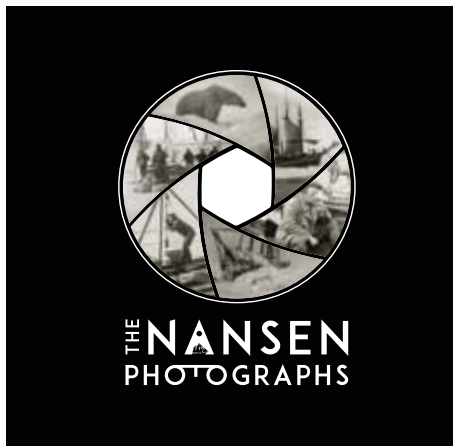
#### Fridtjof Nansen

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 inter-national 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 drawings showing the development of Fram and the maps brought along 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 December 14, 1911, the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team became the first known humans 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 one hundred years after they were first 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 portrays his well-qualified team members and describes the many hard-earned lessons learned in the Arctic.

Frammuseet, 2017

Travel, Nature  
592 pages

# Line Marie Warholm

## Cool Kids and Parents Who Struggle to Let Go

ASCHEHOUG - NON FICTION



Give your teenager freedom!

Psychologist Line Marie Warholm believes modern parents' eagerness to be friends with their teenagers has gone too far. Parents go out of their way to help their adolescent children in everyday life by removing any obstacle that stands in their way. But is this a good thing? When the differences between child and parent are erased, children are often left mentally ill and ill-equipped to solve challenges in their own lives. Afraid to disappoint mom and dad, teenagers turn their anger inwards and may sometimes get depressed. Is it time to let go? Warholm has found a middle ground. By sharing advice from her practice, parents can learn how to strengthen their teens' self-image without getting over-involved. Allow them the freedom to prepare for life in the real world, while still being available and present.

Line Marie Warholm

Line Marie Warholm is a psychologist and a columnist for the Norwegian newspaper *Aftenposten*. *Cool Kids* is her first book.



Photo: Astrid Waller

*Kule kids og foreldre som strever med å slippe taket*  
Aschehoug, 2020

Non fiction  
206 pages

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# Line Blikstad

## And Then Came Summer



One summer morning in 1985, 15-year-old Mia is found dead in the river on the outskirts of a small Swedish town. Shortly thereafter her best friend Tove's mother packs her car, leaves her husband and takes Tove with her back to Norway. Many years later, Tove tries to remember what happened that summer when everything changed.

*And Then Came Summer* is a story of young longing and of forbidden desire. Mia is new in town, charismatic and daring, and Tove is instantly drawn to her. They keep returning to the river, to swim and to measure their strengths. Nearby is the house of 20-year old Glenn, with whom Mia falls in love. It's also where Tove's mother starts going in the morning, after she and Glenn strike up a secret relationship.

Line Blikstad's third book is a sensuous, powerful novel about friendship, dark secrets and lifechanging moments.

Line Blikstad

Line Blikstad (b. 1973) made her debut in 2001 with the novel *To Ester*, which was published simultaneously in Norwegian and Swedish. In 2009 she published the novel *New Frontier Hotel* to great acclaim. *And Then Came Summer* is Blikstad's third novel.



Photo: Lars Petter Pettersen

It's early morning.

The birds are singing in the trees, the light has barely returned. There's not a breath of wind as Glenn walks into the water a little way below the railway bridge and starts to swim upstream against the current with slow strokes. He gives his hair a little shake and smooths it back. Then he shuts his eyes and dives back below the surface, arms straight out in front of him, kicks his way down to the riverbed, and swims straight into you.

You lie there in your knickers, face up. Your long hair has got caught between two stones and billows back and forth in the water. Around your neck hangs the little chain with MIA on it and at first he doesn't understand a thing – he barely touches you before shoving you away and screaming right out but no sound emerges, only tiny bubbles that climb up between you as he swims to the surface to get some more air then dives down and tries to free your hair, and slides backwards, facing up towards the light and just has time to think: how light she is, like nothing.

When the ambulance came, he was still sitting there with you in his lap. He told them he lived up there, pointing towards the brown house on the edge of the forest. He said he tended to train in the river every morning, doing the crawl against the current; his watch was lying on the flat stone over there, they could just check.

I know her a bit, he said, looking at the two men who crouched in front of him in the high grass.

She's in my brother's class.

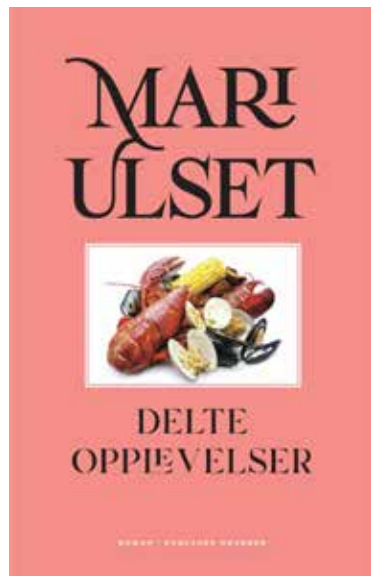
She was at my house last night.

But when I woke up, she was gone.

*Translated by Lucy Moffatt*

## Mari Ulset

### Shared Experiences



Andrea Bang is a former celebrity cook who had her glory days in the 80s and 90s. Back then her cookbooks were to be found in most homes. She was credited with introducing pasta, pizza, olives and canned tomatoes to her country of Norway. Unfortunately, a plagiarism scandal sent her career spiraling, and now at the beginning of the 2000s, her golden era is long gone. Andrea is 59 years old and divorced, has a difficult relationship with her daughters, lives alone in a small Oslo apartment, and creates recipes for the National Office for Fruits and Vegetables.

One day, Andrea is contacted by an energetic young editor who wishes to publish a collection of her best recipes. Andrea is excited, but also worried. She tries to lower her expectations but can't help hoping that this might be a chance to redeem herself and get her old career back.

*Shared Experiences* is a sharp, entertaining novel about lost opportunities and great expectations, about human folly and vice, and about our changing relationship to food and tradition.

Mari Ulset

Mari Ulset (b. 1980) made her debut with the novel *Car Ride* in 2011, and has since published the novels *June, July and August* (2014) and *The Way We Live Here* (2016). *Shared Experiences* is her fourth novel.



Hanne Ørstavik

Ti Amo

FORLAGET OKTOBER



40

Foreign rights sold:  
UK & CwEnglish (And Other Stories), German (Karl Rauch Verlag), Italian (Ponte alle grazie)

In the autumn of 2018, her husband is diagnosed with cancer. It wasn't long ago that she moved to Italy to live with him. They have married, they love each other, they feel so close. She knows he is dying. The doctors have told her. But does he really know himself? Does he want to know? Death is present between them all the time, but it has become a thing they cannot talk about.

*Ti amo* is a harrowing, upsetting, tender novel, a novel about grief, about the loneliness that death creates, but also about deep love and about opening up and embracing life.

Hanne Ørstavik

With her debut 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 more than 30 languages.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

*Ti amo*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
93 pages

I LOVE YOU. We say it to each other all the time. We say it instead of saying something else. What would that something else be? You: I'm dying. Both: Don't leave me. Me: I don't know what to do. Before: I don't know what I'd do without you. If you weren't here anymore. Now: I don't know what to do with these days, all this time, in which death is the most obvious of all things. I love you. You say it in the night when you wake up in pain, or between dreams, and you reach out for me. I say it to you when my hand finds your skull, which has become small and round in my palm now, your hair almost gone, or when I stroke you gently to get you to turn over and stop snoring. I love you. Once, I would reach out in the night to feel your skin, placing my hand on your back, your stomach, your thigh, anywhere at all, seeking connection, contact; the sense that something small and without language, something perhaps very primordial in me, newborn, could feel your skin and warmth and then sink down to the bottom of the night, as if to return home or, at long last, arrive. But you are no longer in your body. I don't know where you are; awash in morphine, you drift in and out of sleep or languor, and we do not speak of death. I love you, you say to me instead, and reach out for me from the bed on which you lie through the days, fully dressed, writing on your phone, writing a novel on that little screen, two or three lines at a time before you drift into sleep again, and I let go of the door frame and step towards you and take your hand and look at you and say: I love you, too.

*Translated by Martin Aitken*

FORLAGET OKTOBER

41

# Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold

## Today Me, Tomorrow You



42

"Gleefully horrifying ... a quietly flowing story with absurd and slightly weird situations and lots of playful imagery. But the novel also offers an unusually spooky and vicious mother ... *Today Me, Tomorrow You* is a short novel containing big questions that are treated with sparkling prose and a lot of wisdom.." - *Dagsavisen*

Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold

Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold (born 1979 in Oslo) made a sensational debut in 2009 with *The Faster I Walk, the Smaller I Am*. The book won the Vesaas First Book Award, was shortlisted for the IMPAC Prize and has been sold in 25 territories. She is the author of four acclaimed novels, a book of poetry and a children's book.

*I dag jeg, i morgen du*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Peter Venn lives alone in an apartment directly below his mother. He translates books at his own kitchen table and goes for evening walks in the area around the cemetery. He has a rich inner life, but there's wretchedly little else going on. He longs for the world outside but has yet to break free from his mother. He feels trapped by her sounds, her way of being and above all her version of his father's final years; his father who disappeared into the big bedroom when Peter was two years old, and who stayed there until he died five years later. Peter has no memories of his father, only a powerful longing.

This Friday Peter eats supper with his mother, as he has reluctantly done for years. He knows what questions need to be asked – but does he dare pose them? And will he have the courage to approach others?

Kjersti A. Skomsvold has written a wonderful novel about loneliness and the liberating force of love, about longing for death and fearing death. It is a novel full of humorous earnestness and extraordinarily inventive prose.



Photo: Agnete Brun

Novel  
146 pages

43

I pretend not to think about Mother, but I think of her often. Especially now that I'm about to have supper with her. The second hand pauses, assesses me, realises that I'm dragging out time, then it ticks on, and soon I'll have to turn home again. Mother and I have had supper together every Friday evening since I moved to the floor below her, which is an eternity ago; I think it was she who decided it would be like this. I've never had the courage to say that I'd rather not, and every Friday evening, I feel like the bruise on an apple, battered by a fall to the floor.

The sky is as clear as it was when I came out half an hour ago, only the colour has deepened. I stop at the butcher's shop on the corner, stand looking in through the large windows. Nothing eats humans, but humans eat animals, and animals eat each other. The white fibres twist and turn inside the meat, the sight of them makes it hard to move.

I should really have a map sticking out of my back pocket, so people don't think I'm just walking aimlessly. I generally follow the same route every evening, from my old yellow building and over the bridge, then I wander around the area by the memorial woods on the other side.

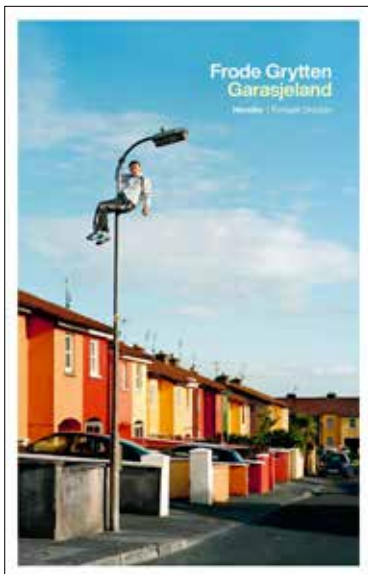
It was fine crossing the bridge this evening, it's still light, and the woman with the long hair wasn't there. I often see her standing staring down at the water. The lampposts on the bridge are old, they barely give off any light, and when it's dark, I frequently don't notice her until I'm quite close.

I think she's an older woman, her posture is bent and her hair looks grey. She could be my mother's age, but looks more worn, weathered. I can't help staring, as I do when I walk past people who sell their body on the street. I always cross over to the other side of the bridge from where she stands, and she's oblivious to me, yet still I don't breathe freely until I've reached the butcher shop.

*Translated by Kari Dickson*

## Frode Grytten

### Garage Land



A 16-year-old boy moves into his father's garage in Garage Land, and the record hot summer weeks that he spends there will mark him for life. A young man returns to his native Oslo to get revenge. An engaged couple have splurged out on their dream holiday, which the travel agent claimed has isolation level: high – but are they really all alone? Two former lovers meet by accident one cold evening during that extraordinary spring of 2020.

These are some of the characters at the center of Frode Grytten's tenth short story collection. Grytten takes us to Oslo, Bergen, Torrevieja, Sotra, Paris, Las Vegas and the very masculine Garage Land. Though desperate for community – whether driven by longing or love or fanaticism – each of his characters may equally end up lonely and isolated. Like all dreamers they must make concrete choices and approach others in a way that threatens to destroy their illusion of perfection.

Frode Grytten

Frode Grytten (b. 1960) made his debut in 1984 with the poetry collection *Start*. Since then he has written novels, short stories, poems and children's books. *Songs of the Beehive* won the National Book Prize, and was shortlisted for the Nordic Council Literary Prize. *Floating Bear* (2005) won the Riverton Prize and *Rooms by the Ocean, Rooms by the Sea* (2007) won the New Norwegian Literary Prize.



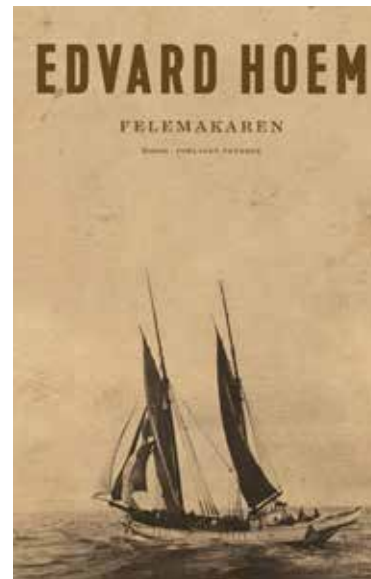
Photo: Paul S. Amundsen

*Garasjeland*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Short stories  
164 pages

## Edvard Hoem

### The Violin Maker



The year is 1801. Lars Olsen, a peasant's son, dreams of becoming the captain of his own ship one day, but his ambitions are cut short by war. He soon finds himself in the midst of the Battle of Copenhagen, while the Danish-Norwegian fleet comes under attack from the British. Transporting cannonballs in a rowboat out to the ships, he sees many of his friends killed. Later, during the blockade of Norway, he travels to Arkhangelsk to get rhye, but his ship is captured by the British. Lars subsequently spends four years as a prisoner of war on a crowded ship outside of Plymouth. Initially despairing and disheartened, he befriends a French fellow prisoner who teaches him how to construct violins.

After regaining his freedom, his life takes a new turn. Having dreamed of travelling the seven seas, he instead settles down as a violin maker in a rural town, where he lives with a woman he loves and their seven daughters.

*The Violin Maker* is a novel about how forces beyond our control can open the doors to a life that, in retrospect, may appear as a great gift.

Edvard Hoem

Edvard Hoem (born 1949) made his debut in 1969. He has since published numerous novels, and has received four nominations for the Nordic Council's Literary Prize. Hoem has also written plays, essays and biographies and has translated seven Shakespeare plays. In 2014, he published the first of a multi-volume family saga on emigration to North America. The four books published thus far have sold more than 200,000 copies in Norway. A US edition is due in 2021.



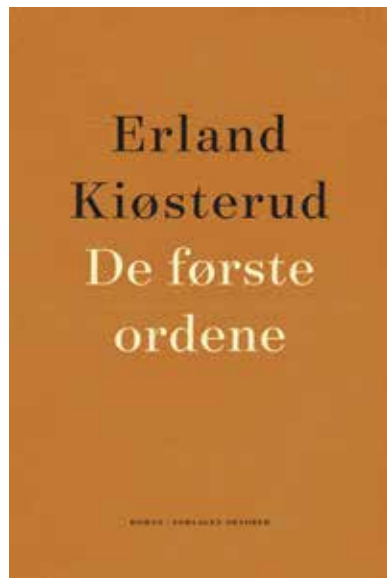
Photo: Paal Audestad

*Felemakaren*  
Forlaget Oktober, Nov. 2020

Novel  
App. 350 pages

## Erland Kiøsterud

### The First Words



Christian is all alone in a hut deep in the forest. He hasn't seen a living soul for more than a week. The former boarding house owner of Holmen lost his life's work and his home when the boarding house was sold off and razed to the ground. His wife Magda-Marie is dead. In an attempt to maintain a hold on something, he keeps a diary. But he has begun to doubt whether the things he observes around him are truly happening.

*The First Words* is a concentrated, ceaselessly probing novel of grief and disappearance, about unrestrained destruction and unfathomable quiet, and about our ability to understand what happens to us when words fail. Erland Kiøsterud masterfully combines descriptions of nature with inner reflection in a novel with great allegorical power.

*The First Words* concludes the trilogy that began with *The Work of Hands* (2015) and continued with *The Revelation* (2018).

Erland Kiøsterud

Erland Kiøsterud (b. 1953) made his debut in 1973 with the novel *Wounds that Never Heal*. He has since written numerous novels and novel cycles. Kiøsterud has won the Gyldendal Prize, the Riksmål Society Literature Prize and the Ypsilon Prize. His profound novels have won him a special place in Norwegian contemporary literature.



Photo: Finn Ståle Felberg

*De første ordene*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Genre  
80 pages

## Mirjam Kristensen

### A Sudden Darkness



After a holiday with their families in Italy, Judith and Hulda resume the friendship they had when they were young. Shortly after, Hulda travels to England for an artist-in-residence program, but she does not return as planned. Judith is convinced that Hulda has chosen to disappear – to her it confirms Hulda's pattern of making radical changes in her life. Eleven days later, Hulda reappears, refusing to say where she has been or what she has been doing. Instead she asks Judith to take care of her son for the last semester at high school, claiming that mother and son need a break from each other.

*A Sudden Darkness* is a gentle, tender novel about longing to be seen and longing to disappear, about the joy of meeting someone and the sadness of never really being known. It's not so much the desire not to be found that makes us disappear as it is the longing to be stronger.

Mirjam Kristensen

Mirjam Kristensen (b. 1978) won the Tarjei Vesaas Debut Prize for the novel *The Days Are Transparent* in 2000. Her second novel, *Those Who Are Out in the Rain* (2001), won the South Norwegian Literature Prize. She has since published three acclaimed novels. Kristensen has received the Bjørnson Grant and the Amalie Skram Prize, and her books have been translated into German and French.



Photo: Pål Gitmark Eriksen

*Et plutselig mørke*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Genre  
224 pages

## Marie Landmark

### In the End You Become Luminescent



Hanne works at the tax office and lives with her partner Terje, a security guard and enthusiastic runner. They live in a humid apartment building, passing ordinary lives as newly established adults. Hanne is passionate about ecology, nature and the climate crisis, and fantasizes about making a difference in the world. Despite her qualms about contributing to population growth in an ecosystem with limited capacity – as well as certain doubts about her relationship to Terje – she senses a growing urge to have her own children, and soon Hanne is pregnant.

As the physical elements are in constant motion around her – in the sea, in her growing belly and in the wet climate, Hanne is gripped by a powerful urge to let go of the limitations of everyday life, to become an organic part of an ecosystem, to shapeshift into an amphibian or a growing embryo.

*In the End You Become Luminescent* is a playful, poetic novel that investigates the paradox of living on a planet seemingly on the verge of collapse, while succumbing to the numbness of everyday life.

Marie Landmark

Marie Landmark was born in 1982 and lives in Årnes. She made her debut in 2017 with the novel *Events without Names*. *In the End You Become Luminescent* is her second novel.



Photo: Filip Christensen

*Til slutt blir du selvlysende*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
260 pages

## Ulla Lie

### Analysis of Material Fatigue



Maria is an engineer specializing in analysing material fatigue in ships. She first met Ola when she was a student, and they've been together ever since: through studies, career and in love, working in the same places for the same large international company. But suddenly Maria must return home from the US, where the couple has been posted together. Ola has met somebody else.

Now Maria is all alone. The structures that have held the weight of her existence are suddenly gone. Who will she be now? Determined to stay afloat, she pushes forward, burying herself in her work – and brushes up against what seems to be a lifebuoy: her married colleague Erik. As they throw themselves into a secret affair, a difficult moral dilemma becomes urgent: Is Maria someone who can destroy another woman's marriage?

*Analysis of Material Fatigue* is an intense, physical story of love, desire and betrayal – of being betrayed and of betraying others as well as yourself.

Ulla Lie

Ulla Lie (b. 1980) has a master's degree in aesthetics and works as a self-employed consultant. *Analysis of Material Fatigue* is her first novel.



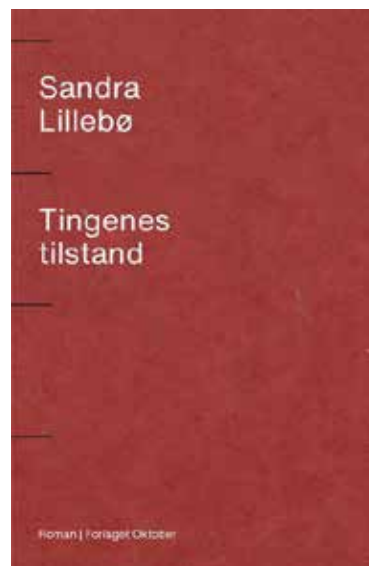
Photo: Baard Henriksen

*Tretthetsanalyse*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
306 pages

## Sandra Lillebø

### The State of Things



50

"A masterful, captivating novel ... Lillebø brilliantly portrays the dramatic, harrowing pattern of the narrator's childhood and youth"

- Klassekampen

"An unusually honest, personal and unfiltered text about living with a mentally ill mother – and living without her ... an absolute necessary novel ... Uplifting? No. But worth it? Yes"

- NRK

*The State of Things* is a raw, unsentimental novel about a woman's painful and complicated relationship to her own mother. For as long as the narrator is able to recall, her mother has been ill. At the opening of the novel, all contact between them has been cut, both because the relationship has been too stressful and because the daughter now has her own family to take care of. But her mother's grip on her still feels tight and restrictive: The effect her mother has on her has not subsided.

The narrator is vulnerable and struggling, and her story is inextricably intertwined with the story of her mother. She also knows that the story she tells can only be one version of the family's story.

*The State of Things* is a portrait of living close to mental illness. It is a moving novel, written in brilliantly concentrated, probing prose.

Sandra Lillebø

Sandra Lillebø was born in 1978 in Ålesund and lives in Bergen. She is the author of two collections of poetry, *The Name of the Lonely Has Been Released* (2011) and *Everything Shall Shine and Bleed* (2016). *The State of Things* is her first novel.



Photo: Helge Skodvin

*Tingenes tilstand*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
184 pages

## Agnar Lirhus

### They're Cutting Down Trees



51

Knut is an adult man who lives under the legal guardianship of the farmer Gunnar and his wife Sofia. Also resident at the farm is the couple's son Jon, and Jon's son Jacob. Sofia is caring towards Knut, but his relationship to the others on the farm is strained. Knut has grown up with his mother in a cabin nearby, but he is not a part of the family.

On the farm they grow strawberry and carrot, and workers from Lithuania and Vietnam help out during the harvest. But beneath the surface is a simmering conflict: Jon is planning to transform the property into a golf course, since the farm has stopped being profitable.

Knut has trouble making himself understood and understanding what is expected of him, but he is unusually sensitive to everything that lives in the forest; when he is with animals, birds and plants, conversation flows more easily than when he is with people.

Written in an inventive, poetic prose, *They're Cutting Down Trees* offers a strange, fascinating literary universe, where nature has a central role in the story.

Agnar Lirhus

Agnar Lirhus (b. 1987) made his debut in 2005 with the novel *The Forest Is Green*, which was nominated for the P2 Listeners' Novel Prize. He has since written five novels and two poetry collections. In 2011 he was awarded the Booksellers' Writers' Grant. His first novel for young adults, *Otherwise I'm Not a Human Being* (2018), was short-listed for the Critics' Prize.



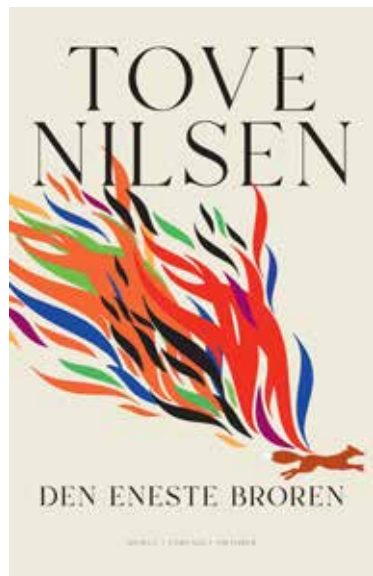
Photo: Finn Ståle Felberg

*Nå hogger de*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
233 pages

## Tove Nilsen

### The Only Brother



This is the story of Leif Jacobssønn, one of the many young men who were robbed of their life during the Second World War. Leif froze to death on his way over the mountains to Sweden in 1942, at only 19 years old.

The grandchild of a fisherman and the son of a sailor, Leif fears water and has promised himself never to leave dry land. He lives with his grandmother, mother and three sisters in the Ladies' Block in Trondheim. The apartment is so crowded that he seeks refuge in the Nidaros Cathedral. There he thinks about his sailor father, dreams about working in the best bicycle repair shop in town, and worries about who will get wood, shovel snow or chase away the rats if he earns enough money to move out.

He sits reading a letter from his old friend Nils, who claims that the continent is about to catch fire. But what can Leif do? What is demanded of a young man in dark times?

With great poetic power Tove Nilsen gives us a vivid portrait of a real boy in an unreal time.

Tove Nilsen

One of Norway's most beloved authors, Tove Nilsen (b. 1952) has written numerous acclaimed, bestselling novels since her debut in 1974. She found a large audience with *Skyscraper Angels* (1982), the first of a series of coming-of-age books from Oslo's east end. Nilsen has received several prizes, including the Riksmål Prize and the Amalie Skram Prize, and has been shortlisted for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.



Photo: Morten Krogvold

*Den eneste broren*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
306 pages

## Sarah Smith Ogunbona

### Globe



"The fact that the novel manages to make me look up from the story and out at the society it has been inscribed in, is one of its great strengths ... A debut that lets little things resonate with larger contexts"  
- BLA

"A powerful debut about a flight attendant's life up in the air ... You feel observed and exposed. With wit and humour"  
- *Aftenposten*

Sarah Smith Ogunbona

Sarah Smith Ogunbona (b. 1989) was born and grew up in Oslo. She has studied creative writing in Bø and Gothenburg. *Globe* is her first book.



Photo: Isak Martinsson

*Globus*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
204 pages

Hazel is in her early twenties and works as a flight attendant. Together with her radiant, always-supportive colleague Europa, she works quickly and efficiently in the confined plane cabin. She makes announcements and demonstrates safety procedures, calms passengers with flight anxiety, serves wine to those who are impatient, and thanks everybody for travelling with them. It's a nice job up in the air, it gives her something to do with her hands.

While up in the air, Hazel experiences memories of her childhood. When her parents split up and her mother disappeared into her own darkness, her older sister Cornelia had to teach Hazel how to navigate the world in a child's body. But what does it do to a child to be raised by another child?

*Globe* is a novel about family, dependence and the many forms of belonging – told from several thousand feet up in the air.

## 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, June 27, 1988, the day of the legendary boxing match between Mike Tyson and Michael Spinks. The story's father, once a promising boxer himself, is now crippled with illness and drug abuse. He has gotten tickets for them to a bar where the fight will be shown live on TV.

Many years later, the adult son is now 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

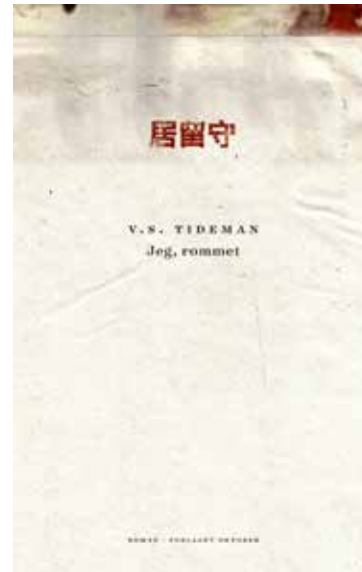
Lars Ramlie (b. 1974) is one of the most distinctive voices in Norwegian contemporary literature. He made his debut in 1997 with the novel *Biopsy*, for which he was awarded the Tarjei Vesaas First Book Prize. In 2004 Ramlie was voted one of Norway's 10 best writers under 35. *The Luminous Borders of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

*Minnets lysende grense*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
App. 300 pages

## V.S. Tideman

### Me, the Room



"It's a dark matter that V.S. Tideman explores ... There is an energy here that ensures that it never gets dull to read about the narrator's passive life, his regressive withdrawal ... He adds a disturbing murmur to the narrator's story, gradually turning it up until the volume is ear-splitting ... It's frightening and very well done"  
- *Dagbladet*

V.S. Tideman

V.S. Tideman (b. 1980) made his debut with the novel *kockmania. inc.* *Me, the Room* is his fifth novel.



Photo: Iris Schobler

The narrator of *Me, the Room* is 38 years-old and lives with his mother. 10 years prior, he interrupted his studies and moved back to the row house of his youth, into the room of his childhood. Increasingly isolated, he eventually decides to remain in his room indefinitely. His mother, who is his only contact with the outside world, lives alone in the rest of the house, and mostly leaves him alone. Through the narrator's constant stream of thoughts and his observing, limited gaze, the room of his childhood increasingly appears as a bulwark against the world, and the only thing in his life he has the capacity to tackle over time.

In an unmistakably light, twisted and elegant way, V.S. Tideman has written an enigmatic, uncomfortable novel about shutting yourself off from the world, a story that gradually and steadily progresses towards its fatal end.

*Jeg, rommet*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
180 pages

## Lars Amund Vaage

### The Unfinished House



The day in 1889 when Gabriel Hallvardson is born is a black day on the Hauge farm - it is also the day that his mother and twin brother die. Gabriel grows up on this place beside the fjord, a place that people leave, one way or the other, and where eventually the only ones who are left to attend to things are his grandmother and his thoughtful uncle Helge.

Helge sees that Gabriel has an unusual way with words and helps him to enroll at a near-by folk college. Here Gabriel's life will start anew, and his powers will be unleashed, just as the nation of Norway will find its way. But what will happen with the farm when the old people are gone? Who will tend to the fields, cut trees, and row the boat to get the doctor when he is needed?

*The Unfinished House* is a novel about coming to writing from an earthbound, taciturn place, where there is no room for fiction, and about expressing yourself in a new language in a new country fumbling for its own identity. Vaage has written a gripping portrait of a young man torn between his sense of duty and the calling of an artist.

Lars Amund Vaage

Lars Amund Vaage was born in 1952 on the west coast of Norway, and studied classical piano. He made his literary debut in 1979 and has since published novels, short stories and collections of poetry. In 1995 he had a definitive breakthrough with the Critics' Prize-winning novel *Rubato*. In 2012, his novel *Sing* won the Brage Prize, was nominated for the Critics' Prize and became a national bestseller.



Photo: Helge Skodvin

*Det uferdige huset*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
XX pages

## Pauline Östgård

### Milk Road



"In her first effort, Pauline Östgård holds back just enough to turn the novel into a real work of art ... A gentle book such as this also demands subtlety, and Östgård succeeds in this ... This is a solid debut."  
- Bok365

Liv is six years old and lives in a blue house on Milk Road. She lives there with her father, who can build anything and turn into an entire theatre all by himself, play an angry neighbour or a space alien, and her mother, from the sea, the most beautiful woman in the whole universe. But Liv is often left to herself. At school she struggles to find friends, her father comes and goes, and her mother disappears behind the doors of the house, because she has forgotten how to be happy. Liv usually stands in the garden, watching her through the window, guarding her so that nothing will happen. But one day everything changes, and Milk Road is suddenly very far away.

*Milk Road* is a painful story of tumultuous changes in the life of a young girl. Intimately and carefully the novel pictures the world through the eyes of a child, trembling and anxious, with limited insight into what is really going on, but pieced together by the child's imagination and ideas.

Pauline Östgård

Pauline Östgård was born in Lillehammer in 1997 and lives in Oslo. *Milk Road* is her first book.



Photo: Pernille Marie Walvik

*Melkeveien*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
242 pages

## Morten Øen

### Boogaloo



Jørgen Ulvstuplende, a studied scoundrel, soap boiler and moonshiner in his late thirties, lives on the remote family farm with his father, two uncles, his Alzheimer-stricken mother and an autistic cousin none of them can control. They are preparing for the end of the world, and all signs say that it's coming soon. They have established a silver economy in the little valley of Ulvstupelv in order to avoid paying taxes, and both the local merchant, mayor and police chief can easily be bribed with silver and quality moonshine.

Uncle Ole, the patriarch of the farm, has started a Youtube channel, in the hopes of getting in touch with likeminded people who can join in rebuilding the country after the apocalypse. The plan looks watertight, until the police chief suffers an accident, and Mona, a wholesale soap purchaser from Oslo, uses the opportunity to visit the bachelor Jørgen.

*Boogaloo* is a dark, humorous and post-ironic story about preparing for the end, where the characters do their utmost to live and survive beyond all social conventions.

Morten Øen

Morten Øen (b. 1969) made his debut as a poet in 1990, and has since written 10 collections of poetry and seven novels, among them the post-apocalyptic *Tellemarck* and *Norway in Spring*.



Photo: Helge Skodvin

*Boogaloo*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
352 pages

## Ingrid Z. Aanestad

### One Day We Will Wake Up and It Will Be Summer



Mir meets Ruth at a party. Ruth is carrying a drawing book, and the first thing she does is draw Mir's face. Together they take shape, transforming each other in the process. But Mir is only Mir, and Belle, the old lady next door, gives no advice, not about love, and not about illness. Instead she throws a party in the backyard, with crabs boiled on a gas burner, white bread and lemons, and strong liqueur in small glasses. And Ruth is Ruth, she has blue spots on her breasts after a cervical smear. She says she will be alright. But she doesn't promise anything.

*One Day We Will Wake Up and It Will Be Summer* is a novel about being seen by another person, and abandoning yourself, about friendship and love and the fear of not being heard, and about everything that can grow, one summer unlike any other.

Ingrid Z. Aanestad

Ingrid Z. Aanestad was born in 1983. She made her debut with the novel *Today Is a Beautiful Day*, and has since published a string of beautiful novels, quiet in tone, but powerful in impact. In 2010 she received Forlaget Oktober's Anniversary Grant, and in 2012 she won the Rogaland Literature Grant.



Photo: Cato Lein

*Ein dag vaknar me og det er sommar*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Novel  
120 pages

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