OSLO LITERARY AGENCY



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.

Oslo Literary Agency, Sehesteds gate 3, P. O. Box 363 Sentrum, N-0102 Oslo, Norway osloliteraryagency.no

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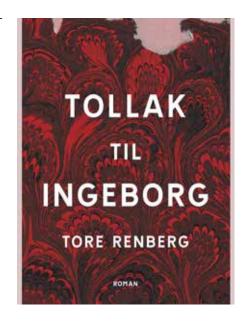
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44 - Espen Stueland

Tore Renberg

CAPPELEN DAMM - FICTION

Ingeborg's Tollak



Winner of the 2020 Norwegian Booksellers'

Shortlisted to the P2 Listener's Prize (Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation)

Shortlisted to the Norwegian Book **Bloggers' Prize**

The old sawmiller Tollak is a man of contradictions: proud and furious, righteous and tender. He curses the world that has long ceased to make sense to him, but continues to brim with love for his good wife Ingeborg who went missing several years ago. And now he is dying.

His two children rarely visit, only Oddo, or Oddo-the-half-wit as the neighbors call him, hangs around. Now, Tollak insists that his daughter and son return home one more time. He needs to speak out and share his secret before it is too late.

In this short novel that reads like both a great love story and an intense thriller, Tore Renberg has created a moving, complex and disturbing portrait of a man of bygone times that is nonetheless timely and accurate today.

Ingeborg's Tollak is one of the most widely acclaimed and best-selling Norwegian books this year, compared to works by authors like Cormac McCarthy and Tarjei Vesaas.

Tore Renberg

Tore Renberg (b. 1972) is one of Norway's most beloved, versatile and critically acclaimed authors and the winner of numerous literary awards. He made his debut in 1995 with the short story collection Sovende Floke and has since written several novels for adults and children.



Tollak til Ingeborg Cappelen Damm, 2020

Novel 176 pages

From the reviews:

- "What Renberg does with this story is masterful"
- Bok365
- "Technically brilliant (...) an incredibly strong portrait and an intense family drama"
- NRK
- "A furious, uncomfortable and intense novel from one our best storytellers (...) Ingeborg's Tollak is an energy bomb of a novel, best devoured in a single sitting, that will leave the reader wondering, shaken and disturbed" - VG
- "This compact, thrillerlike novel about love, violence and protest must be amongst the best things Tore Renberg has ever written (...) The way the author constructs this story, still makes it both moving and outstanding. And there aren't many Tollaks in contemporary Norwegian literature." - Aftenposten
- "A portrait of man, a tragic family tale, a piece of culture criticism, a beautiful love story... and a thriller (...) Ingeborg's Tollak is written in powerful and gorgeous prose with layer upon layer in the plot. And I dont't think the author would mind me saying that this book had me thinking of Hamsun as well. Run out and buy it"
- Nettavisen
- "Tore Renberg is a rock solid author. The portrait he creates of the old man Tollak had me thinking of Stoner by John Williams" -
- Tønsberg Blad

Monica Isakstuen

My Friends

GYLDENDAL - FICTION



"Temperature is soaring when Monica Isakstuen takes on controlling and intimidating female friendships in her new, groundbreaking novel" - *Dagbladet*

"READ THIS BOOK!!" - Klassekampen

"My Friends is a clean-cut, well thought-out work with an unusually playful and crystal clear prose" - Aftenposten

My Friends is a story of friendships. Conflicted friendships, friendships of convenience, invading friendships, "good-old"-friendships and those fresh and shiny budding friendships that sometimes resemble falling in love.

Our protagonist has made an enemy. Or frenemy? What should she call a brilliant best friend whose face she wants to rip off, digging out the flesh from the cheeks with her bare hands? How she dreads her former friend's own story of her, her version of events.

At a big, horrible surprise birthday party our protagonist is confronted with every friend she's had throughout her life, or perhaps with every friend she herself has been over the years. The speeches given are absurdly honest and increasingly confrontational.

Norwegian Book Prize-winner Monica Isakstuen is heartbreakingly funny and painfully precise in her take on the marvels and pitfalls of adult friendships.

Monica Isakstuen

Monica Isakstuen (b. 1976) won the 2016 Norwegian Book Award (Brageprisen) for fiction for her novel *Be Kind to The Animals*.

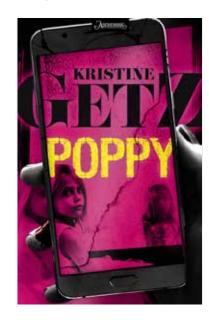
Her books and plays have been translated into several languages.



Kristine Getz

Poppy

ASCHEHOUG - CRIME



Rights sold: German (Ullstein) Danish (Modtryk)

Poppy, a doll-like two-year-old, is without doubt the most watched and admired toddler in Norway. Every moment of her life is captured and shared with hundreds of thousands of followers on Instagram. The revenue it brings in has given her parents a lavish lifestyle and a family empire built on cuteness.

Then disaster strikes. Four hours after her parents have published a photo of Poppy outside her grandparents' home (#sleepover), she disappears. The story hits the news in minutes.

Police investigators Murphy and Tidemand take on a kidnapping case where every minute counts. Is it about money? Is it about lust? Is it about hate? And does it have any-thing to do with the unknown past of Poppy's mother?

Kristine Getz

Kristine Getz (b. 1983) is a Norwegian writer who lives in Colorado, USA. She studied architecture and nutrition and now works as a freelance writer. She debuted with the biographical nonfiction book *Hvis jeg forsvinner, ser du meg da?* (Will you see me if I vanish?) in 2012. *Poppy* is her literary debut.



Gøhril Gabrielsen

Between North and Night



"The language is a pure delight, the idea is great, the images are vivid and the themes are interesting"
- Stavanger Aftenblad

Sold to Suhrkamp Insel, Germany

"In her best book to date, Gabrielsen highlights a paradox that says something very relevant about the mother-daughter relationship" - Morgenbladet

"I have rarely seen a more precise depiction of the ambivalence in close relationships, which also highlight Gabrielsen's mastery of language" - Vårt Land

Gøhril Gabrielsens new novel juxtaposes two storylines, both featuring mothers who are willing to do anything for their daughters.

A single mother in Norway is trying to understand and handle the dynamics in her own small family. At the same time, she reads and researches the story of the Finnish poet Edith Södergran who passed away at 31.

The book takes the reader into the partly real, partly imagined life of Södergran and her mother, examining the perils and often disastrous consequences of putting your child first at all costs.

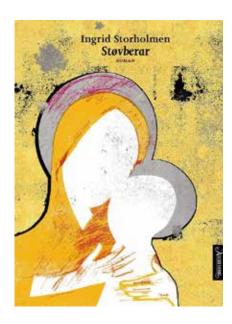
Gøhril Gabrielsen

Gøhril Gabrielsen (b. 1961) made her debut with the novel Unspeakable Events (2006) and has since then published five novels and won several awards for her work. Her books are translated into English and German.



Ingrid Storholmen

Stamen



Midwife and missionary Ingeborg travels to India in the 1980's to work with the Santal people.

The story starts when the young Ingeborg finds Jesus. We follow her mission to help others as she simultaneously fights to better herself and keep her faith. But is she fighting the right fight? Is her work as a missionary really making a difference? What does a loveless life do to a person? And do you have to be good to do good?

«A powerful portrait of a missionary midwife in India ... The author writes sin- cerely about entering an unfamiliar society ... Ingrid Storholmen is impressive in both her knowledge of the Bible and midwifery ... the ending is heart-breaking." - Adresseavisen (5/6 stars)

Ingrid Storholmen

Ingrid Storholmen made her debut in 2001 with The Poacher's Law and has since published several collections of poetry and fiction.



Mellom Nord og Natt Aschehoug, 2021

Novel 251 pages Støvberar Aschehoug, 2020 Novel 197 pages

Ellen VahrThe Brooklyn Bakery

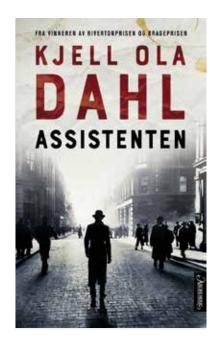


Thea has left her family in Kristiania to work for the rich and powerful Vanderbilt family in America. Her dream is to make enough money that she can someday go home and buy back the family bakery. Then, Amanda – the cheerful girl she shared a cabin with on the crossing – shows up. Amanda's encounter with America has been brutal, and she needs Thea's help. They invest everything they have and open a bakery in Brooklyn, but Amanda has her own plans, and Thea soon finds herself in an impossible situation that forces her to see herself in a whole new way.

The Brooklyn Bakery is a captivating encounter with wealth and the jazz that fills New York's dance halls a hundred years ago. It is a warm novel about baking, friendship, and love, but first and foremost, it is a story about finding your own way.

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 of 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

Ellen Vahr

Ellen Vahr left the world of finance to start working professionally as a life coach. She has written several books on how to follow your dreams and is a popular lecturer. She made her literary fiction debut with *The Gift* in 2016, which was a bestseller.

Fiction

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.

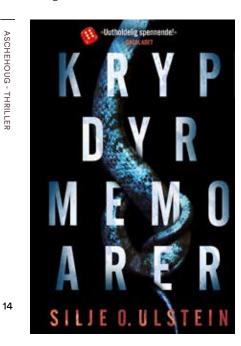


Photo: Oda Berby

Assistenten Aschehoug, 2020

Silje Ulstein

Reptile Memoirs



Foreign rights sold: World English (Grove Atlantic), German (BTB Random House), France (Actes Sud), Italy (Marsilio), Denmark (Gutkind), Sweden (Whlström & Widstrands), The Netherlands (AW Bruna), Russia (Exmo), Iceland (Forlagid), Turkey (Eksik), Bulgaria (Emas)

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

The story 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 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

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

Crime/Thriller 443 pages

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 Ulstein has succeeded in writing a thriller that really stands out"

- Aftenposten

"The best Norwegian crime debut in years"

- Adresseavisa, 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

Gudrun Skretting

Three Men and Vilma



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

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. 35-year-old Vilma lives alone and has no knowledge of her father. After all, she has her hands full avoiding her own early death – prepping in her basement and staying far away from radioactive bananas. That is, whenever she is not busy working with her rather irritating piano student.

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

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

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

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

Every year around one thousand people worldwide die on board planes. Hardly

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 head-ache 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

ASCHEHOUG - FICTION

18



Winner of the 2020 Oslo Prize for Fiction Shortlisted to the P2 Listeners' Prize Shortlisted to the Norwegian Book Bloggers' Prize

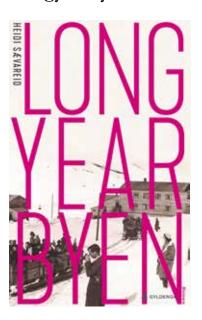
«The strongest book you'll read this fall» DN

Elise grows up in a music-filled home in the western part of Oslo. People tells her she has a voice of silver, her mother tells her that she is luminous. Everything is safe, yet she still longs to get away. She wants to feel weightless, to leave no trace. She tries it all, ascheticism, excess, 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.

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 an intense and brilliant story of a troubled marriage. It is also the story of a small, completely isolated 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 Sævareids's definite breatherough as a novelist, not only in Norway but on the international scene as well."

VG, 6 out of 6 stars

Maria Kjos Fonn

Maria Kjos Fonn (b. 1990) is one of the strongest young literary voices in Norway, nominated for the Norwegian Book Award "Brageprisen" for her first novel *Kinderwhore*. Kjos Fonn is also established as a prominent essayist on issues like politics, feminism and society. Her books have been translated into German and Danish.



Photo: Oda Berby

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

Heroin Chic Aschehoug, 2020 Novel 207 pages Longyearbyen Gyldendal, 2020 Novel 260 pages

Sissel Gran

ASCHEHOUG - NONFICTION

20

Desire - Carnal Lust in Life and Literature



Desire has always been a powerful force. It fills us with lust and the courage to win, explore, conquer, and love. But desire also has a dark side. It might be hard to see how this darkness may lead us astray. The will to do good is ingrained in us; we want safety and are compassionate, but we are also the root of transgression, savagery and ruthlessness. It frightens us, as if desire is in our flesh. A stranger among us.

Could acknowledging this dark force make us better equipped to handle the stranger among us? Is it possible to own your desire? To explore these and other questions, Sissel Gran takes the reader on a journey through life and literature, in darkness and in light.

Sissel Gran

Sissel Gran (b. 1951) is a psychologist, columnist and author, and one of Norway's leading voices on love, emotions and relationships.



Photo: Astrid Waller

Sigrid Bratlie & Hallvard Kvale

Reinventing Human



Foreign rights sold: Hungary (Typotex Kiadó)

Russia (AST)



Sigrid Bratlie & Hallvard Kvale

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.

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.

KAGGE - NON-FICTION

Andreas Viestad

Dinner in Rome - The History of the World in One Meal



Foreign rights sold: Polish (Znak Literanovna) «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.

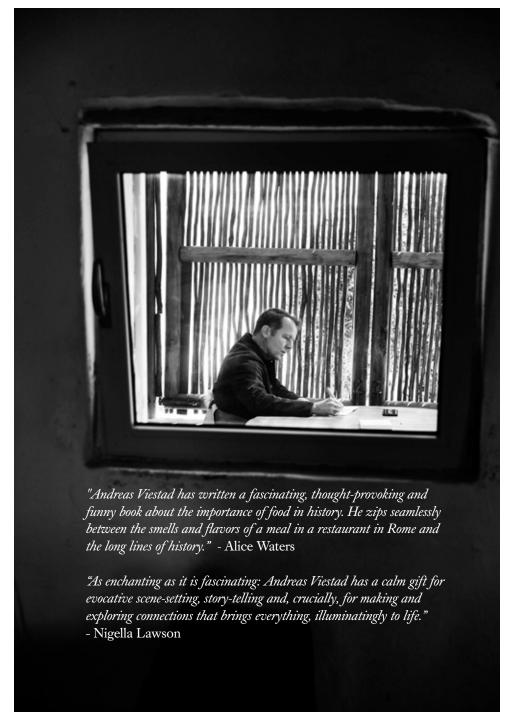
While enjoying a typical Roman meal in a classic Roman restaurant, Viestad takes us on a culinary journey, dish by dish, through world history and the history of The Eternal City.

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.





ASCHEHOUG - NON-FICTION

Thomas Hylland Eriksen

Planet of the Apps



Foreign right sold: Lithuania (Tyto Alba) Smartphones control our everyday lives. If you can't find something in an app, it doesn't exist. In return, you get access to an infinite universe of knowledge, communication, services, and distractions.

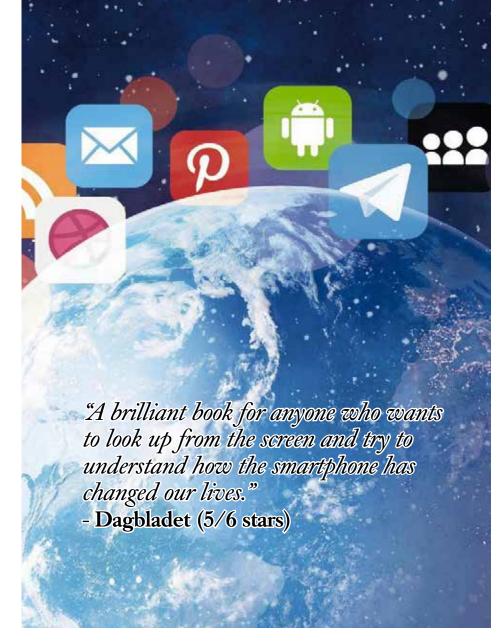
In just a few years, the smartphone has made the world smaller and bigger, closer and further away, more fun and more boring. Life has become freer and controlled, social and antisocial, while we are both smarter and dumber. It is an unparalleled global, digital revolution.

With commitment and curiosity, Thomas Hylland Eriksen takes us on a journey of discovery in the world of smartphones. If we don't want to become enslaved by smartphones, it's necessary to understand them, in order to take back control of our life and our time.

Thomas Hylland Eriksen

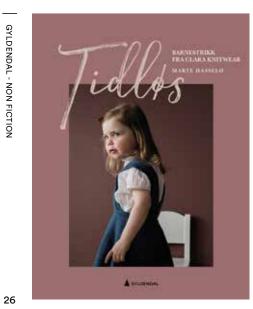
Thomas Hylland Eriksen (b. 1962) is professor of social anthropology at the University of Oslo and the author of numerous books on anthropological and cultural issues which have enjoyed tremendous success in Norway and abroad.





Marte Hasselø

Timeless Children's Knitwear



Foreign rights sold Danish (Turbine) German (TBA)

Beautiful, vintage-inspired knitting patterns

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 of the 1940s, 50s and 60s. The designs are simply timeless.

In this book, you will find 34 patterns for children from 0 to 12 years old. The reader is provided all the tools required to craft a full wardrobe for children. The patterns are 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 of knitters all over the world who adore her vintage-inspired children's clothing.

Lisa Aisato

All the Colors of Life



Warm-hearted and sharp, funny and moving, this highly anticipated book went straight to #1 on the Norwegian bestseller list. A total of 120,000 copies printed in Norway.

A celebration of life

No one illustrates a person's fears, hopes and dreams as beautifully as Lisa Aisato. In Life Illustrated she has collected all her best work, classic illustrations as well as new drawings, and written a gripping text about this life we all have to master. All of life's phases - love, sorrow, doubt and great joy - are portrayed and illustrated in Aisato's unique style which touches us to our innermost being.

Foreign rights sold:

Braz. Portuguese (Editora Morro Branco Ltda.), Bulgarian (Ciela Norma), Catalan (B de Blok/PRH Spain), Chinese (simplified) (Thinkingdom), Danish (Straarup & co.), Estonian (Rahva Raamat), Faroese (Bókadeild), German (Woow Books), Italian (Rizzoli Libri), Korean (Gilbut), Polish (Wydawnictwo Literackie), Slovakian (Tatran), Spanish (B de Blok/PRH Spain), Swedish (Bonnier Carlsen), Turkish (Epsilon) World English (Arctis US)

Winner of the 2019 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize

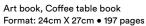
#1 bestseller

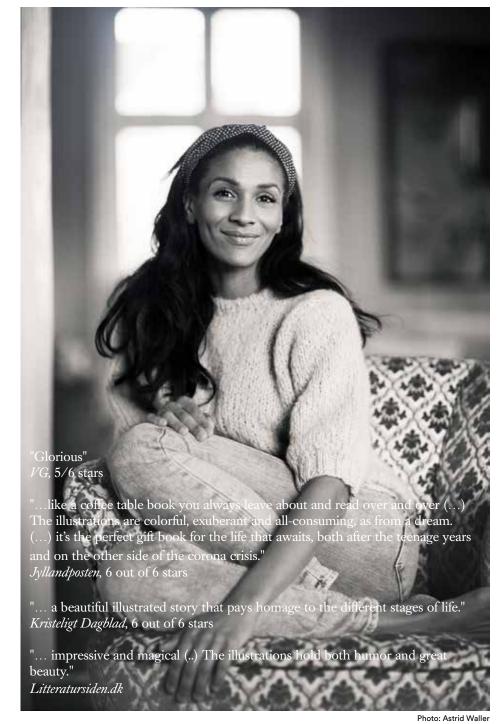
Coffe table book

Lisa Aisato

Lisa Aisato (b. 1981) is an awarded, acclaimed and bestselling author, illustrator and artist. Her unique style has made her one of Norway's most beloved and successfull illustrators. Her books are published in more than 30 territories. In 2015 Lisa Aisato was named one of the 10 best Norwegian writers under 35 by the Norwegian newspaper Morgenbladet. She runs her own gallery at Hvaler islands on the South East coast of Norway, where she lives with her family.

Format: 24cm X 27cm • 197 pages





Lars Fr. H. Svendsen A Philosophy of Lying

KAGGE - NON-FICTION

30



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

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.

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

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Non-fiction

44 - Espen Stueland

Mattis Øybø

FORLAGET OKTOBER

The Last Survivor Has Died



Everything is connected to everything.

In April 1942 the young student Isak Meyer is forced to flee to Sweden. A few months earlier he and everybody in his family were forced to have a "J" in their passport. Isak fears the worst. He has to get away.

More than seventy years later, Isak's grandchild Jonathan is about to celebrate Christmas with his family when he learns that his father has died. Jonathan doesn't know anything about his Jewish grandfather, but he is soon forced to confront his family story.

Isak's fate also has consequences for Louise and Henrik, who find some old photographs and letters hidden in the floor while refurbishing the apartment. At the same time the young mother Tessa has her great secret uncovered in a novel.

In *The Last Survivor Has Died*, the main character never steps forward, but still plays a decisive role in the lives of the other characters. It's a novel about history, how history is interpreted, how it is narrated and how it continues to live in all of us.

Mattis Øybø

Mattis Øybø was born in 1971. Since his debut with *Everything Sparkles* in 2003, he has written three acclaimed, ambitious novels where political and existential issues play out through gripping, personal stories. His books have been translated into Swedish and Danish. He lives in Oslo.



Photo: Pernille M. Walvik

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Lars Amund Vaage

The Unfinished House



"One of Vaage's finest publications ... an incomparable work" Nordic Council jury statement

"Pure bliss. The prose of The Unfinished House is art of high order" Dagsavisen

- * Shortlisted for the Nordic Council Literature Prize
- * Shortlisted for the P2 Listeners' **Novel Prize**

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

Helge sees that Gabriel has a way with words and helps him to enroll at a nearby 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 to 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's needed?

The Unfinished House is 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.

Novel

365 pages



Photo: Helge Skodvin

As Hallvard Gabrielsson walked down to the boathouse on that April day in 1889 to row across the fjord and fetch the doctor for his wife Margrete who lay in childbed and was expecting twins, he told himself he would not think. Small thoughts would be meaningless today, he knew, when one child had already come and seemingly wished to live, while the other would not come out. And the big thoughts, the ones that lay in wait within him, the ones on the verge of gathering and surging up inside him, those he held at bay; those he would have no truck with. Those he would be man enough to smother into silence. Those menacing, impossible thoughts he would row away from, across the fjord then back again, with the doctor in the stern. Helge, his brother, should be coming now to help him row.

He had already been out rowing earlier today, almost last night, had hurled himself into the boat and rowed to Utgard for the midwife. At first his mother Anna had said they should manage this by themselves, now. Just as they had managed by themselves there on the farm all the livelong years. Death had come and they had met him as they must. Births there had been too, and the children who came and wished to live, those they had cared for as they should, as they had learned, mother to daughter since the oldest times, especially on that farm, his mother had said. But then, at last, after many, many hours, she had declared: Well it seems you must fetch the midwife, Hallvard.

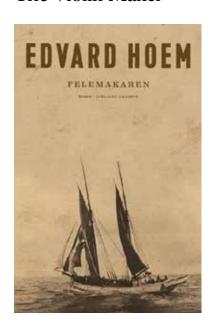
Why hadn't he fetched the midwife before? thought the man who would not think, as he walked into the dim boathouse and through it, out into the light on the old stone jetty. Nobody knew any longer who had built either the grey stone-walled boathouse or the jetty. He had listened to his mother, who was supposed to be strong and wise, but was neither, never had been - and nor was he, it struck him; although he was the youngest of her sons, he felt like the oldest. He was also the weakest, thought the man who could not even stop himself from thinking. Which of the other two, Helge and Mikkel, had had to endure anything like this? Anything like what he now...

He had stood there, in the loft, in the corridor, knowing he should have fetched the midwife earlier, for his mother was too hard, too old, too stiff of heart, but he, Hallvard, had not done so, but then he did fetch her and it took hours, that alone. And morning came. And then he should have fetched the doctor. He knew that too, knew it deep inside him, even though nobody had ever before fetched the doctor, not there to the farm, but then he had not known it either, not deep enough inside. He had known he should fetch the doctor but had simply stood there, waiting, and time stood still and the second child would not come. And then he had not fetched the doctor until the midwife told him to. 'You must fetch the doctor, Hallvard.'

Translated by Lucy Moffatt

Edvard Hoem

The Violin Maker



Foreign rights sold: Danish (Hovedland), German (Urachhaus)

The year is 1801. Lars Olsen, the son of a peasant, dreams of someday becoming the captain of his own ship, but his ambitions are cut short by war. He soon finds himself in the midst of the Battle of Copenhagen, when the Dano-Norwegian fleet comes under attack by 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 rye, 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 despaired 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 once 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 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

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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

Novel 349 pages

"Another wise novel rooted in Hoem's family history. War and love, violin making and poverty. A fact-based, imaginative story." Janneken Øverland, Klassekampen, Best of 2020

"More inspired than ever ... Hoem portrays the period and its people with great tenderness and empathy ... If this novel were a concert, many would have answered with standing ovations" VG, 5/6 stars

"Hoem knows how to do this, how to bring out an entire life from the obscurity of history through writing ... Most importantly, where the sources come up short, the poet takes over, with his overview and a clear mind. He adds colours, sounds, smells, voices and mindsets to a story that never claims to be true in the simplest term of the word, but which strives for this closeness to a possible life ... I can hardly praise this novel about a fiddlemaker in a distant past highly enough. Edvard Hoem's prose is concrete and factual, almost simple in a very positive sense"

NRK P2

"This autumn's most gorgeous book! Edvard Hoem has all but surpassed himself with *The Violin Maker*. I won't hesitate in hailing it as a masterpiece. Ouite simply this autumn's most gorgeous novel." Nettavisen

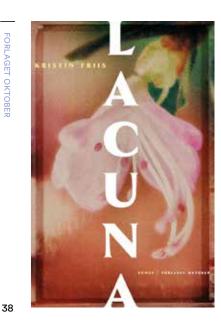
"Another finely tuned story about people in the author's own family ... With generous prose and captivating storytelling that switches between the frightened cries of war and the tender tones of the instruments that gradually grow forth from the hands of the fiddlemaker."

Romsdals Budstikke

Felemakaren Forlaget Oktober, 2020

Kristin Friis

Lacuna



After a long day at the office, Ine opens the gate to her own house. She lives with Jarl and her daughter Hedda, who is disappearing out of their life. The house is empty, but there are strange traces everywhere, and a vaguely sinister atmosphere enshrouds the property – the water is rising in the pond by the rhododendron bush down at the end of the garden, the sink is clogged up, and someone has drunk from the wine bottle.

Hedda started doing what she wanted long ago. She won't even say if she'll be joining them on their summer vacation. Ine is troubled by seeing Hedda and a stranger on their couch late one night, and she thinks about the young man who came for a consultation earlier that day. Why did he just sit there, staring at the photo of Hedda. Why did he leave before she could make a diagnosis? And why did he push her so aggressively as he passed her on the way home?

Lacuna is a novel about waiting, about living in the void left by an almost adult daughter, and about saving a rhododendron bush from drowning.

Kristin Friis

Kristin Friis was born in 1969 and made her debut with the acclaimed novel *The Barn. Lacuna* is her third book.



Photo: Paal Audestad

Frode Grytten

Boy, Girl, June, July



Frode Grytten Gut, jente, juni, juli These short stories take place on beaches, in swimming pools, in narrow fjords, in every conceivable place people might jump into the water on a hot summer day to cool down, to show off, to hide their feelings and to feel that they are alive. We meet boys and girls, men and women who, in the warm air and the cold water, are confronted with their deepest desires and their greatest fears.

Frode Grytten

Frode Grytten (b. 1960) is one of Norway's greatest short story writers. He has written books in most genres and reached a wide audience. He has won the Norwegian Book Prize (the Brage), the Riverton Prize and New Norwegian Literature Prize, and his books have been translated into numerous languages.



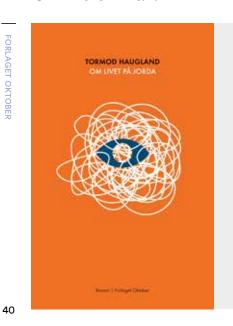
Photo: Helge Skodvin

Novel 215 pages Gut, jente, juni, juli Forlaget Oktober, June 2021 Short Stories 200 pages

Tormod Haugland

Of Life on Earth

FORLAGET OKTOBER



A life can be told in many different versions. Of Life on Earth is the story of the artist and farmer's son Tormod as a young man, where certain visions - such as his first encounter with a wood nymph - have a powerful impact on his relationship to his surroundings, to women to school and learning and to thinking. In his teens, Tormod is critical towards people and to life on earth, to industry and mass production and to life in the electric age. He will show them that he is a man who knows how to work. From an early age, Tormod gets the feeling that he is being oppressed by somebody else's hope of who he should be. His temper is like an unstable power, a smoldering ember that suddenly can ignite and burst into a raging fire.

Tormod Haugland's latest novels have had brilliant reviews. Through exuberant prose, understated humor and unfettered associative power, Haugland has created a deeply original form of autobiographical fiction. Of Life on Earth deals with youth, love, sexuality and school. At the same time, it is also a novel of different forms of estrangement and about the relationship between life and death.

Tormod Haugland

Tormod Haugland made his debut with the novel Wonder in 1994, and has since published novels, short stories, poetry and plays. In 2017, Haugland was shortlisted for the P2 Listeners' Novel Prize for Of Animals and Visions.



Photo: Helge Skodvin

Marianne Clementin Håheim

Duty



Photo: Andreas E. Nygjerd

After the sudden death of his father, a young man decides to move back to the farm where he grew up. He puts on the work clothes that his father used to wear and becomes a sheep farmer. Duty intimately and vividly portrays the young farmer's daily life with the sheep, the care he has to give to each animal and all the practical things he has to deal with.

Duty is a gripping and empathetic story of what running a small farm in our time entails, about living close to animals and nature and about belonging to a tradition. Gradually and subtly it also becomes a story of loneliness. A loneliness perhaps greater than any person can bear.

Marianne Clementin Håheim

Marianne Clementine Håheim (b. 1987) made her debut with Bilydar in 2012 and was dubbed Norway's rock poet. Her first novel Black Belt was published in 2015.

Om livet på jorda Forlaget Oktober, April 2021 Novel 295 pages Forlaget Oktober, April 2021

Novel 130 pages

Eirik Ingebrigtsen

Sea Damage

FORLAGET OKTOBER



"A powerful environmental novel ... The empathetic will to care is infective. There is a quiet joy in this novel"

Adresseavisen

Eirik Ingebrigtsen impresses again ... sensuous and poetic.

Dagsavisen

Eirik Ingebrigtsen

Eirik Ingebrigtsen (born 1975) made his debut in 2001. He has since published a number of acclaimed novels, including *A Christmas Tale* (2012) and *White Book, Dark Winter* (2018), which were both short-listed for the P2 Listeners' Best Novel Prize, and *Nails from Falling Boards* (2016), which won the Nynorsk Literature Prize. Ingebrigtsen was awarded the prestigious Sult Prize in 2013.



Photo: Finn Ståle Felberg

Johs has moved home to the farm by the sea where he grew up. Here he lives with his daughter Jill and his father Paal, who has been a widower for two years. After a scuba diving accident in which he almost drowned due to a lack of oxygen, Johs has struggled with his vision and his senses, and he has been on sick leave from his job as a marine biologist for a long time. But in the basement of the farm he's conducting a secret research project, and when he finishes his report, he will have a way back to the scientific com-

Sea Damage revolves around nature, the sea and the ocean – the mythical, lifegiving and destructive ocean. It's also the story of three accidents, and about a small family with three members of different generations. In intimate, sensuous prose Eirik Ingebrigtsen tells a story about everyday life and the greatest forces of nature, and about the anxiety and care of a father.

Kristin Ribe

Activation.

Vigorous, Vital ENERGY, in the Hope of Bringing about an Encounter with ALIENS



Kristin, a writer, is in the middle of a deep crisis. Two people close to her have disappeared from her life. Her feeling of paralysis interchanges with bursts of energy and urgent efforts to act and do something. To Kristin, lists, rules and numbers are crucial. Together with her glowing fascination for extraterrestrial life, rhey're the only things keeping her from falling apart from grief.

Activation. Vigorous, Vital ENERGY in the Hope of Bringing about an Encounter with ALIENS is a novel about grief and having been abandoned, and about being so alone that perhaps all you have left are aliens. At the same time it's a novel filled with energy, humour, wild leaps of thoughts and astonishing associations. It's about the bravery of being alive, and of letting your voice be heard. Because when there are no rules for human value: What should you do, what kind of plans can you make?

Kristin Ribe

Kristin Ribe (b. 1972) made her debut in 2003 with *Slips of the Tongue*. For her fourth novel, *Vision* (2010), she received the Booksellers' Grant.



Photo: Siri Ursin

Sjøskade Forlaget Oktober, 2021 Novel 192 pages

munity.

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Espen Stueland

FORLAGET OKTOBER - NON-FICTION

The Pandemic Archives



The coronavirus crisis is powerful reminder of the fact that the body is much more than a vessel for our free an independent self-development. The body is a part of nature, vulnerable because it is connected to all other forms of life – even a virus from a bat.

Even if the present pandemic creates a situation that is fundamentally new to all of us, it isn't new in human history. In stories of plague and pandemics we are met with descriptions of the tribulations that face both societies and individuals: How do we stop the disease from spreading? How do we take care of our duties to our fellow humans? How do we care for the sick, bury the dead and at the same time avoid infection? In short: How do we survive?

In *The Pandemic Archives*, Stueland explores literary representations of how everyday life is redefined by quarantine rules, fear, heartbreaking goodbyes, and self-sacrificing relief work. He also examines the medical aspects, using literature as a guide to understand medical and political responses to biological events.

Espen Stueland

Espen Stueland made his literary debut in 1992 and has written four poetry collections, a novel, and a prose collection, as well as breath-taking, ambitious literary non-fiction books on law, climate change and dissection. He has received several awards for his poetry, was named one of Norway's 10 best authors under 35 by Morgenbladet in 2004 and has been voted Critic of the Year.



Photo: Thomas Moss

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Even Råkil, Rights Director Film and TV rights even@osloliteraryagency.no Henrik Francke, Agent Forlaget Oktober / Literary Fiction henrik@osloliteraryagency.no Evin Sigrun Kalef, Contract Manager evin@osloliteraryagency.no Annette Orre, Agent Literary Fiction / Film and TV rights annette@osloliteraryagency.no Inga Semmingsen, Agent Non-fiction / Crime / Fiction inga@osloliteraryagency.no

Evy Tillman, Agent Children & Young Adults evy@osloliteraryagency.no