

# OSLO LITERARY AGENCY

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AUTUMN 2021

FICTION / NON-FICTION

Cover illustration by Therese Moe Leiner, from the front cover of *It Is We Who Are Here Now* by Jostein Gaarder.

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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# Carl Frode Tiller

## Flight



Foreign sales:  
Denmark (Gutkind)  
Germany (BTB)

It's Christmas Eve. Elisabet and Sakarias have visited the grave, lit candles, brushed the snow off the stone and now he's driving her home.

Each of them will sit out this Christmas, the first without their son, in solitude. Sorrow has formed an impassable void between them and they have parted ways.

But as it turns out, they end up spending the evening together after all. Elisabet sits down by the piano and plays a piece of music their son used to like. It is to be a very special night before Christmas for them both.

Carl Frode Tillers novel «Flight» describes the relationship between the living and the dead, challenging the boundaries of what we would perceive as realism.

To be published medio October 2021.

Carl Frode Tiller

Carl Frode Tiller (b. 1970) made his debut with *The Slope* in 2001, and has since written several novels, short stories and plays and is widely regarded as one of his generation's most important novelists. He has been awarded several prizes, amongst them the Norwegian Book Award (the Brage), and been nominated to the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

*Flukt*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Novel  
199 pages

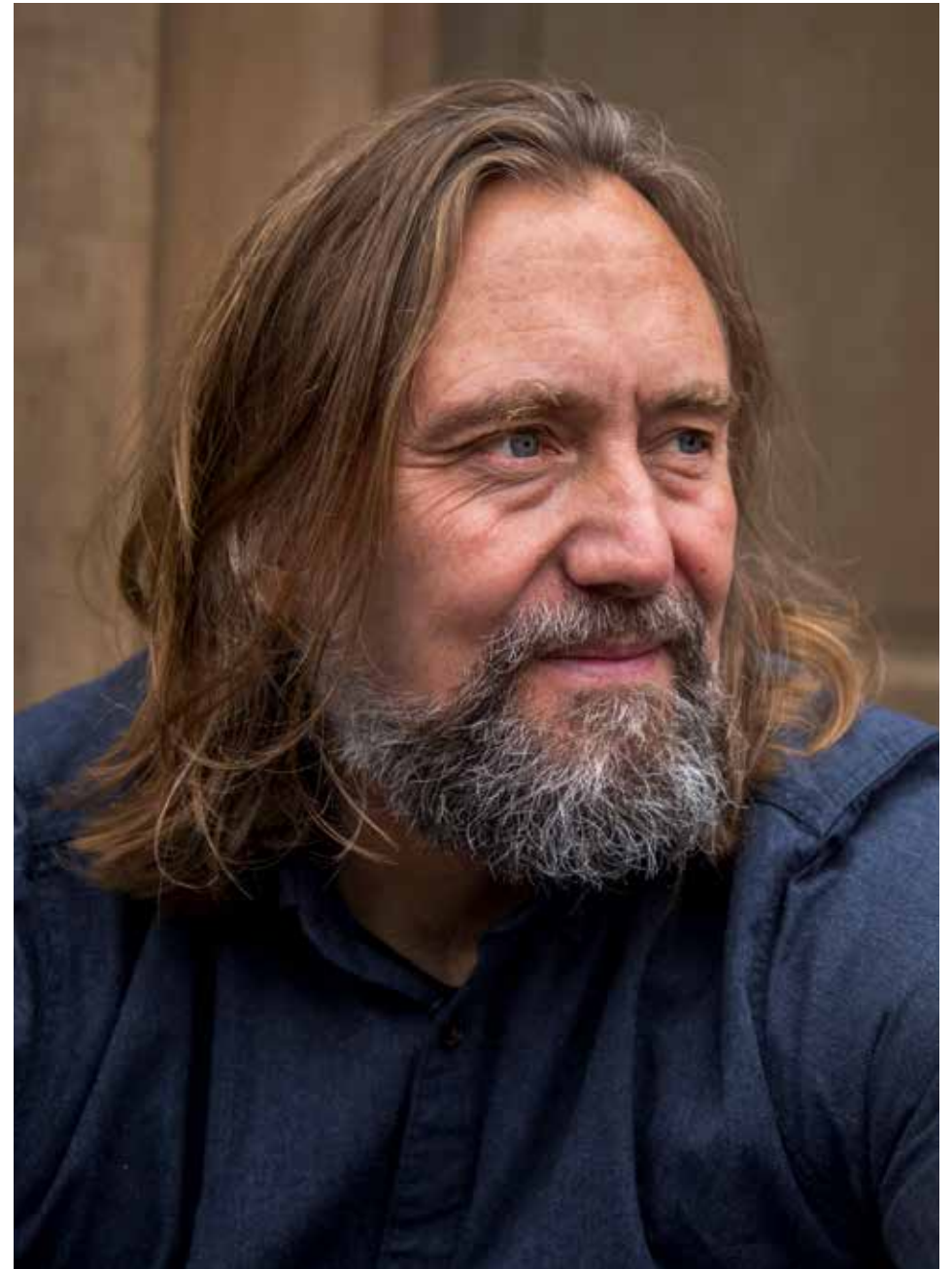


photo: Trine Melhuus

## Anne B. Ragde

### Heartbreaker



Foreign sales:  
Danish (People's Press), German (btb)

Jonetta longs for balance in her life. The balance that she feels when she's at her cabin in the forest, swimming in the pond, taking an outdoor shower or solving a crossword with the radio on. The simple life when drinking her morning coffee takes as long as it needs to. But Ragnar, her adult son, is also there. Ragnar lives at home and doesn't have a job. He goes on holiday with his mother, decides what TV programs they'll watch, gets her to wash his dirty laundry. The sweet boy she raised seems long gone.

Then, within the space of a few short weeks, a series of unexpected events turns everything upside down. A woman has come into her son's life, and there seems to be hope for him after all. But when things take a sinister turn, Jonetta is forced to ask herself whether she really knows her son. Can she save him? Does she even want to?

*Heartbreaker* is an insightful and humorous, disturbing and suspenseful story of the relationship between parents and children. How far are you willing to go for your child before something finally gives?

Anne B. Ragde

Anne B. Ragde (born 1957) made her literary debut in 1986 with a book for children. Her first novel for adults, *A Tiger for an Angel* was published in 1990. She has since written numerous bestselling novels, crime novels and short story collections. Her greatest success has been *The Berlin Poplars* and the five subsequent volumes of the Neshov saga. The books have sold more than 1,5 million copies in Norway and 2 million abroad.

*Hjerteknuseren*  
Strawberry, 2021

Novel  
271 pages

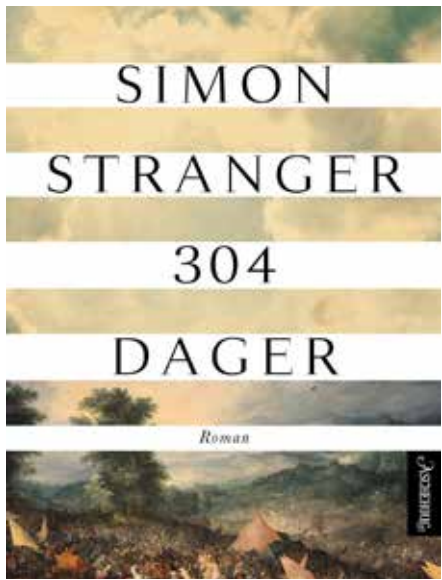


Photo: Magne Risnes



# Simon Stranger

## 304 Days



From the author of the Award winning international bestseller *Keep Saying Their Names*.

March 2015: Afghanistan veteran Nicholas stand alone in the forest behind his house, about to end his life. But suddenly realizes that he must first notify someone, so that his dog will be taken care of. He calls his mom, who pleads with him to give her one more Christmas – 304 days.

In 304 fragments, the novel tells two stories: That of Nicholas who goes to war to make the world a better place but ends up having his life torn apart. And that of Arman who is three years old when Sovjet Union invades Afghanistan. As an the adult, he will join the Taliban to protect his country – from, amongst others, Norwegian soldiers.

*304 Days* is a novel of war and friendship, love and family. It is a story of how our lives are interwoven, through recent events and centuries of history. And a story of trying to survive war, and peace.

Simon Stranger

Simon Stranger (b. 1976) made his debut in 2003, and has since written several bestselling books for children, young adults and adults. His novel *Keep Saying Their Names* won the 2018 Norwegian Booksellers Prize and is translated into 22 languages.



Photo: Agnete Brun

*304 dager*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Novel  
435 pages

# Marianne Marthinsen

## Significant Man Syndrome



Tonje is brilliantly intelligent. Raised by an inattentive single mother, she is only seen and recognized outside the four walls of her home.

When she starts university, she is seen – in more ways than one – by a married professor, which leads to both an academic and a sexual affair. But when that relationship breaks down, she is caught, or lets herself be caught, by another man: successful lawyer and recently divorced father, Jørgen. Suddenly, Tonje finds herself in a world inhabited by highly educated, perfect family members. She should feel happy, but something is gnawing away beneath the surface.

*Significant Man Syndrome* is a novel about social disobedience and strong unrest.

Marianne Marthinsen

Marianne Marthinsen (b. 1980) is a social economist, and has been a member of the Norwegian Parliament for the Labor Party since 2005, but did not go for re-election in 2021. *Significant Man Syndrome* is her first novel.



Photo: Tine Poppe

*Selveiersanger*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Novel  
344 pages

# Charlotte Weitze

## Rosarium



Sold on preempts to BTB (Germany), Aschehoug (Norway) and Meridiaan Uitgevers (The Netherlands).

Charlotte Weitze

Charlotte Weitze, born 1974, is a Danish author of fiction, poetry, lyrics and drama. She made her debut with *Changeling* in 1996, for which she was awarded the prestigious Danish Debut Award. Weitze's authorship has been characterized by her exploration of the liminal spaces between social realism and the otherworldly and her literary style compared by critics to that of authors like Blixen, Tokarczuk and Murakami.



Photo: Gutkind

*Rosarium*  
Gutkind 2021

Novel  
300 pages

Language: Danish

*"Botany on LSD, a Grimm's fairy tale for adults (...). Rosarium is a formidable novel and just like its cover, lush, wild, puzzling and fantastic. Wow – I cannot remember ever reading anything like it"*

Berlingske Tidene

*Rosarium* is a wild-growing, lush and deeply original novel about a young girl who takes root in the forest and a botanist who goes searching for a very unusual rose.

Spanning over three generations and several continents, at times echoing a dark and surreal Brothers Grimm-fairytale, this is a beautiful, riveting story about people, plants and biology. A poetic and disquieting take on the relationship between humans and nature from one of Denmark's most innovative literary authors.

"... how wonderful it is to finally come across a real, original, vibrant and completely made-up story, like the one Charlotte Weitze, with her sensationally strong and wild imaginary power, lays out before us in her new, generous and blossoming novel, *Rosarium*"

Weekendavisen, Denmark

"As in a Grimm fairytale, the story is magical, wild-growing, compelling and a little spooky"

Politiken, Denmark

"Weitze's novel is a rose garden of realism, myth, science and fantasy. Alluring and fascinating"

Kristeligt Dagblad, Denmark

"A spooky and unusually strong story, a big novel for the international stage."

Femina, Denmark

"Disturbing, dystopic and bestial like a von Trier-film"

Familie Journalen, Denmark

"Charlotte Weitze is a unique voice in Danish literature. A voice with a strange mix of fairytale and realism. Her stories have always fascinated, as they are so different from every other contemporary Danish work of fiction, they are strange, but yet as Danish as H.C. Andersen"

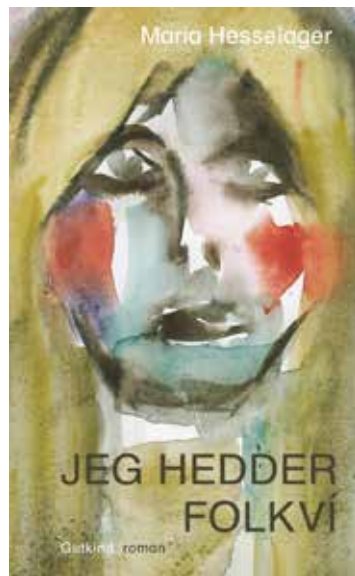
Kulturen.nu, Denmark

"This prose is untameable in this wild novel. How lucky we are to have Weitze, for there is no one quite like her."

LitteraturDK, Denmark

# Maria Hesselager

## My Name Is Folkví



Foreign sales: Riverhead Books (WE rights)

Winner of the Danish Debut Prize (Bodil and Jørgen Munch-Christensen Debut Award)

My Name is Folkví is set in an imagined viking era, shifting seamlessly between its psychological and mythological layers. It is a story of boundless sibling-love, of chance and signs, and about desperately trying to hold on to a flicker of time, while growing inexorably older.

The young woman Folkví and her brother Áslakr grow up inside the safe compound of the chieftain's seat. The two have always been close, each other's confidants and each other's mirrors. So, when Áslakr comes home from his first winter raid with news of a fiancée, fifteen-year old Gerd, Folkví is overcome with a raging fear of abandonment.

In the main storyline, an unhappy, but determined Folkví stumbles through the summer of Áslakr's engagement and marriage. Later, as a middle-aged man, Áslakr looks back on the dramatic events surrounding his wedding, trying to figure out what actually took place.

And at the foot of an old tree, the Nornes are seated, trying to keep track of the peculiar lives of humans.

Maria Hesselager

Maria Hesselager (b. 1984) studied at the Danish School of Creative Writing. *My Name is Folkvi* is her debut novel.



Photo: Lærke Posselt

*Jeg hedder Folkvi*  
Gutkind, 2021

Novel  
190 pages

Language: Danish

### From the reviews:

"The shifts between outer gestures and inner life makes My Name is Folkví a psychological novel of the finest kind; where the human mind remains unfathomable and emotions always mixed. (...) Hesselager doesn't just write with insight and empathy, she also demonstrates a superb sense of composition that makes me inclined to compare her to one of the Nornes sat at the foot of Yggdrasil, spinning the threads of faith. (...) She startles and astounds the reader when highlighting the small movements of great emotions."

**Politiken, Denmark, 5/5 stars**

"My Name is Folkvi is an exquisite novel, small in page count, but in every other way a powerful story of love, set in the Viking age (...) A prose that creates a thousand small poetic flavor explosions in the mind of the reader (...) A new, and truly outstanding star has entered the Danish literature scene."

**Berlingske Tidende, Denmark, 5/5 stars**

"Hesselager's original three-way drama is simultaneously a sharp, psychological portrait of a woman and a story crafted on mythology, that gives a literary condensed insight into the Viking way of living and thinking (...) With a few, very fine lines, she draws an intense atmosphere that takes us into the mythical world of the Vikings ... (...) a master of creating psychological suspense that lingers throughout the novel."

**Information, Denmark**

"A scenic meditation of love, jealousy and the forces of the Völva... Maria Hesselager succeeds in creating a Viking landscape that is equally believable and magical"

**Weekendavisen, Denmark**



# Mona Høvring

## The Saga of Froyd

His Opinions and Disposition, Also Containing a Few Moments of Pure Bliss



Foreign sales: Swedish (Lil'Lit)

“Absurd, warm and well-written ... Høvring has in any case managed to take her family novel far away from the beaten track, and it's a read that oozes of inventiveness and creativity”  
Sofie Braut, Stavanger Aftenblad

Mona Høvring

Mona Høvring (b. 1962) made her debut in 1998, and is the author of 10 acclaimed books, both poetry and novels. Her novel *Camilla's Long Nights* was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2014. In 2018 *Because Venus Crossed an Alpine Violet on the Day That I Was Born* became a huge success for the author. The book won the Critics' Prize and became a finalist for the Booksellers' Prize, and in 2021 it was longlisted for the French Prix Femina.



Photo: Mona Høvring

*Soga om Fråid. Hans meiningar og livskjenste*  
Samlaget, 2021

Novel  
125 pages

Froyd runs the house at Urskogen 13 with his older brother Terje Eddipus and younger sister Eva, while their father Vulgaris, a ship captain, sails the seven seas.

One day their father returns with a stepmother for the kids, Demona de Sjavy. She shakes up the family dynamics, and soon everybody is forced to accommodate her shifting moods. But Froyd is happy with this new, chaotic existence. He is not only fascinated by his stepmother, but also full of consideration for her. After a disastrous parents' evening at school, Demona hits rock bottom, and Froyd decides that he will be the first person to make her laugh again.

Mona Høvring's explosive novel draws a warm, insightful portrait of a highly unusual family. *The Saga of Froyd* is about coming to terms with what a family is, about longing and dreams, and about the freedom to be who you want to be.

# Jan Kjærstad

## A Time To Live



«Candy for book-nerds (...) a hyper-elegant construction»  
Dagbladet

«A brilliant novel in the Kjærstad tradition, rich in details, suspense and food for thought»  
NRK

Jan Kjærstad

Jan Kjærstad (b. 1953) is one of Scandinavia's most prominent authors. He won the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2001. His novel *Berge* was one of the most sold and best reviewed books in Norway in 2017.



Photo: Fartein Rudjord

*En tid for å leve*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Novel  
395 pages

Twelve people are heading to the National Theatre in Oslo. Each of them with a ticket to the opening night of a new production of Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*.

There is the teacher who got a little too close to his student and is now dreading a public scandal. The father, who recently lost his daughter to suicide, unsure of whether he can cope with seeing someone get shot in the final act. And the young activist who plans to get up and shout out her protest in the middle of the play.

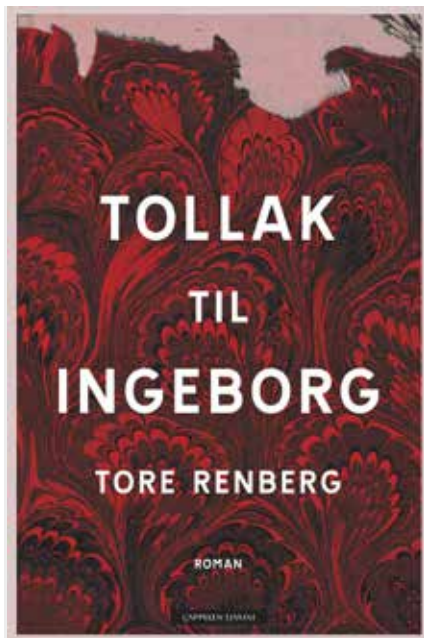
In the wings stands Hedda Christine Foss, the actress playing the part of Ibsen's Hedda. No one knows that the gun she will carry with her on stage is real and loaded.

Seated in the third row is her former lover. In the fourth, a hated critic. And in the very first row, the Norwegian Prime Minister.



## Tore Renberg

### Ingeborg's Tollak



**Winner of the 2020 Booksellers' Prize**

**Shortlisted for the P2 Listener's Prize**

**Shortlisted for the Book Bloggers' Prize**

Foreign sales: Faroese (Sprotin), Italian (Fazi), Russian (AST), Turkish (Timas)

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 *Sleeping Tangle* and has since written several bestselling, highly praised novels, as well as children's books.



Photo: Signe Christine Urdal

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.

*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 of 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, thriller-like 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 a man, a tragic family tale, a piece of culture critique, 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 don'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**

## Gudrun Skretting

### Three Men and Vilma



Foreign sales:  
German (Dtv)  
Swedish (Printz)  
Ukrainian

Film/TV rights (Nordisk Film)

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.



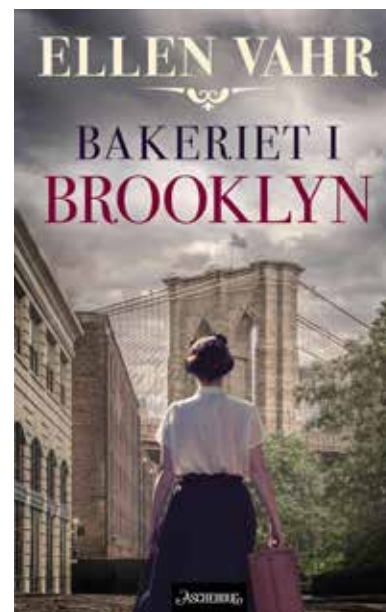
Photo: Niklas Lello

*Tre menn til Vilma*  
Aschehoug, 2020

Novel  
444

## Ellen Vahr

### The Brooklyn Bakery



*Based on a  
true story*

THE SECOND NOVEL IN THE  
'IDLE HOUR' TRILOGY

Thea has left her family in Norway to work for the rich and powerful Vanderbilt family in America. She dreams of making enough money to return home and buy back the family bakery. But then Amanda shows up – the cheerful girl she shared a cabin with on the crossing. Amanda, whose experience of America has been far more brutal than Thea's, is now in need of Thea's help. America is the land of dreams and the two friends put all their efforts into opening a bakery in Brooklyn, but Amanda has plans of her own. Soon Thea finds herself in an impossible situation that forces her to see herself in an entirely new way.

*The Brooklyn Bakery* is a captivating encounter with wealth 100 years ago, and the jazz that fills New York's dance halls. It's a heart-warming novel about baking, friendship and love, but first and foremost, it's a story about finding your own way and being free.

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.

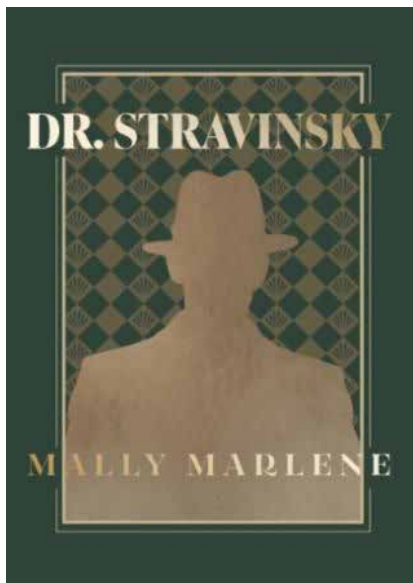


*Bakeriet i Brooklyn*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Novel  
348

## Mally Marlene

### Dr. Stravinsky



It is 1926 and a mysterious young man with a tragic past and a dark plan moves to a small town on the coast of England. Young Dr. Stravinsky transforms a dilapidated building into the talk of the town. But who is this mysterious man?

In a parallel story, starting in Scotland in 1910, we follow a young boy, Thomas, who is blamed for the death of his brother and sent away to an institution on an isolated, windswept island to live under the care of a merciless priest.

*Dr. Stravinsky* is a deep, dark and visually appealing story. A classic, gripping narrative told through multidimensional characters with a modern twist.

#### Mally Marlene

Mally Marlene (b.1992) is a Norwegian writer and storyteller both visually and literary. With a background and education in film from Long Island University in New York, she now works as a screenwriter and author. *Dr. Stravinsky* is her first novel.

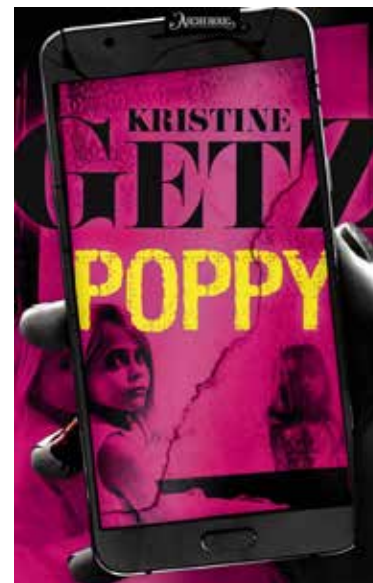


*Dr. Stravinsky*  
Inc, 2021

Novel  
342 pages

## Kristine Getz

### Poppy



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?

Rights sold:  
German (Ullstein)  
Danish (Modtryk)

Film/TV rights (TBA)

#### 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 free-lance writer. She made her debut with the biographical nonfiction book *Will You See Me If I Vanish?* in 2012. *Poppy* is her literary debut.



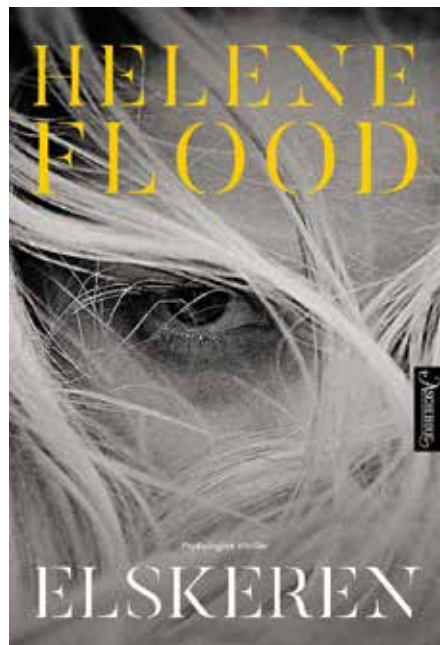
*Poppy*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Novel/Crime  
350 pages



## Helene Flood

### The Lover



"The perfect crime novel (...) The Lover is the best psychological thriller I have read in years"

**Dagbladet, 6/6 stars**

**From the author of the award-winning debut sensation *The Therapist*, sold in 29 territories.**

It starts with the dead cats. Beloved pets gone missing, only to be found on grotesque display weeks later, slayed in a park or hanged from a tree. The sort of thing that shouldn't happen in a good neighbourhood like this.

And soon, a far more unthinkable incident occurs in the large, four family-house in Tåsen. It is the kind of place Rikke and her husband always dreamt of living, a stone's throw from the city, still quiet and green. When Jørgen, the neighbor from the apartment upstairs, is found murdered, the idyll is shattered. Or did that happen long ago?

The neighbors start to realize how little they know about people living right next door. The investigators reveal that murder couldn't have been carried out by an intruder and Rikke knows she cannot keep postponing the revelation that will either ruin or save her marriage. And then another dead cat is found in the garden.

Helene Flood

Helene Flood (b 1982) is a psychologist who obtained her doctoral degree on violence, revictimization and trauma-related shame and guilt in 2016. She now works as a psychologist and researcher at the National Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress and lives in Oslo with her husband and two children. Her first adult novel *The Therapist* it has been bought for film by Anonymous Content, and rights have been sold to 29 countries, topped bestseller charts and earned numerous awards and nominations.

*Elskeren*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Novel / Thriller  
446 pages



Photo: Julie Pike



## 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**

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

Novel / historical crime  
410 pages

## Sven Petter Næss

### Guilty



Sven Petter Næss

Sven Petter Næss (b. 1973) is born and raised in Oslo, Norway. He works with IT at institutions for higher education and research. His second crime novel *The Stone of Destiny* (2020) won the prestigious Riverton award as best crime of 2020.



*Skyldig*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Novel / crime  
300 pages

*A new book from Riverton winner  
Sven Petter Næss!*

Helene is released from prison after serving 18 years for the murders of her mother and stepfather. She has never admitted guilt.

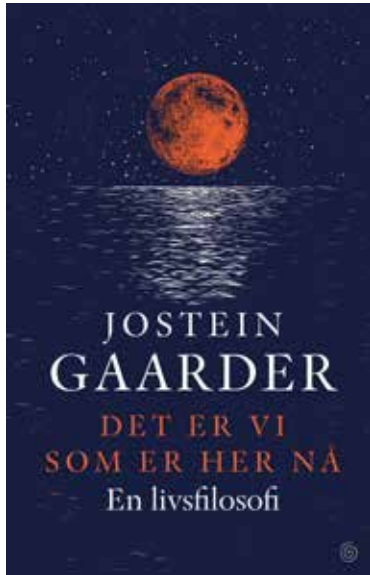
Officer Harinder Singh, who is on sick leave, is persuaded to look into the old murder case and quickly finds flaws in the investigation. Could Helene have been wrongly convicted?

The trail leads back to the small Norwegian town where they both grew up. And tracking down the truth about what happened 18 years ago turns out to be a dangerous task.

## Jostein Gaarder

### It Is We Who Are Here Now

KAGGE - NON-FICTION



From the author of the international bestseller *Sophie's World*.

30 years after the publication of his groundbreaking bestseller, *Sophie's World*, Jostein Gaarder has returned to the subject of philosophy with a non-fiction book about his own life philosophy.

*It Is We Who Are Here Now* is a literary and personal account that deals with topics ranging from nature, ecology and sustainability to relationships, religion, aging, love, life and death. Jostein, who has always been invested in nature and climate, tackles our most important challenge: how are we going to take care of ourselves, each other and the planet we live on?

Sold to:  
German (Hanser)  
Spanish (Siruela)  
Danish (Straarup)  
Arabic (Dar Al Muna)  
Indonesian (Mizan)  
Hungarian (TBA)  
Greek (TBA)

Jostein Gaarder

With his exuberant imagination and joy of storytelling, Jostein Gaarder has fascinated an entire world. His many novels, which all pose central questions about man's place in the universe, are read with the same interest all over the globe



*Det er vi som er her nå*  
Kagge, 2021

Philosophy  
206 pages



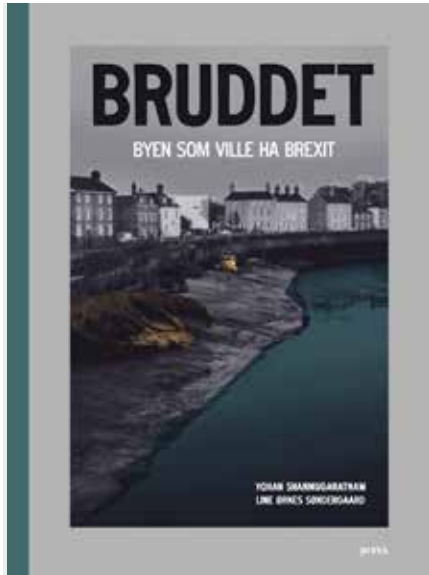
KAGGE - NON-FICTION

27

## Yohan Shanmugaratnam & Line Ø. Søndergaard

### The Split - A Brexit Love Story

NON FICTION - PRESS



Aleksandra is a Lithuanian factory worker in England, a single mother and has newly fallen in love. Albert is an old fisherman, a widower and ready for a rebellion. They reside in the same little town but live in different worlds.

*The Split - A Brexit Love Story* begins as The United Kingdom is about to vote in a referendum that will shake the country, the continent, and the world. Boston was dubbed “The Brexit Capital” of The UK when more than 75 percent of its population voted to exit the European Union during the referendum in June 2016. The main reason behind the result in Boston was a bottled-up discontent with the rapid influx of migrant workers from Eastern Europe, Aleksandra being one of them.

*The Split* narrates the time leading up to the referendum and the following four years of turbulence, seen through the eyes of a handful of Boston's inhabitants. In the unfolding drama, prime ministers and pundits play the roles as extras while the forgotten main characters are at the centre of the stage.

Yohan Shanmugaratnam and Line Ørnes Søndergaard (photo

Yohan Shanmugaratnam (b. 1979) has been writing about foreign affairs for the Norwegian newspaper Klassekampen for sixteen years. He has a masters' in Human Geography from University of Oslo, where he also studied sociology and social economics. Shanmugaratnam is also a speaker and panelist. He debuted with the critically acclaimed essay book *We Are Still Breathing* in 2020.



*Brudde*  
Press, 2021

Current affairs/Reportage  
335 pages

“*The Split* is storytelling of high quality – unsettling, balanced and extremely well written. The gaze is tender without being sentimental ...” – Klassekampen



NON FICTION - PRESS

29



# Sissel Gran

## 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

*Men størst av alt er begjæret. Kjøttets higen i liv og litteratur*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Psychology/Relationships  
288 pages

# Sigrid Bratlie & Hallvard Kvale

## Reinventing Human



Foreign rights sold:

Hungary (Typotex), Russia (AST)



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



Thomas Hylland Eriksen  
Planet of the Apps



32

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 gain access to an infinite universe of knowledge, communication, services and distractions.

In a matter of years the smartphone has made the world both smaller and bigger, closer and more remote, more fun and boring. Life has become freer and more controlled, social and antisocial, while we ourselves have become both smarter and dumber. This is an unparalleled global digital revolution.

With commitment and curiosity Thomas Hylland Eriksen takes us on a journey of discovery through the world of smartphones. If we are to avoid becoming slaves to our smartphones we must understand them – so that we can 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.



*Appenes planet*  
Aschehoug, 2021

Society  
271 pages

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.

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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

Food/Cultural history  
206 pages

## Marte Hasselø

### Timeless Children's Knitwear



Foreign rights sold  
Danish (Turbine)  
German (EMF)

#### 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.

*Tidløs barnestrikk fra Clara Knitwear*  
Gyldendal, 2020

Arts & crafts  
176 pages



Photos: Marte Hasselø

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# Maria Navarro Skaranger

## Emily Forever



Foreign sales: Danish (Gutkind), Dutch (De Geus), Finnish (Tammi), German (btb), Polish (Biuro Literackie), Swedish (Weyler)

Emily is 19 years old and pregnant, and Pablo, the child's father, has no intention of being part of her life or that of her unborn child. She works in a supermarket where the owner tries to take care of her. So does her neighbour, a single man who Emily thinks must be a priest and who turns out to be in love with her. Emily has grown up alone with her mother, and now that she's seven months pregnant, her mother moves into her apartment to help.

*Emily Forever* is a novel about class, about everyday life, and about struggling to find something inside that will help you cope. The empathetic, quizzical narrator comments on both Emily's life and the storytelling itself, frequently shifting perspective to examine how Emily is viewed by others – those who think they know who she is and how her life will turn out. As a result, the novel is shot through with a strange joy and the seeds of rebellion, a fundamental, defiant solidarity and sharp humour.

Maria Navarro Skaranger

Maria Navarro Skaranger was born in 1994 in Oslo and made her debut in 2015 with the novel *All the Foreigners Have Their Curtains Closed*, which was sold to Denmark even before publication and was nominated for the Vesaas First Book Award. The book was made into a film which premiered in the early spring of 2020. Her second novel, *Book of Grief* (*The Story of Nils in the Woods*) won the Oslo Prize in 2018 and the EU Literature Prize in 2020.



Photo: Io Sivertsen

*Emily forever*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
184 pages

"She deserves the Brage Prize ... Maria Navarro Skaranger writes with wisdom and heart about the anybodies in society in a brilliant novel ... Skaranger is a glowing literary talent, and part of what makes this novel so rich is its inquiring, critical, observing narrative voice"

Ellen Sofie Lauritzen, Dagens Næringsliv

"A powerful, sharply written novel about finding value in the life you have ... It is the sum of the theme, the social class of the characters and Skaranger's quite distinct, personal narrative voice that makes her books and this novel in particular unique"

6/6 stars, Ole Jacob Hoel, Adresseavisen

"... a profoundly beautiful book about a rudderless existence that seems genetically conditioned ... Maria Navarro Skaranger's warm prose and deeply felt sympathy with Emily glows throughout the novel"

5/6 stars, Inger Bentzrud, Dagbladet

"In beautiful, intuitive prose, Maria Navarro Skaranger shows how class contempt is expressed in Norway ... a fantastic book ... the prose is so intuitive and beautiful"

Ingeborg Misje Bergem, Vårt Land

"Skaranger's third novel hits the mark. *Emily Forever* is a novel about a young soul in a terrifying situation, written with integrity and a distinctive approach ... The narrator feels her way forward, spontaneous, wondering, shifting, subtly ironic, guessing, but still effortlessly poetic"

Shana Fevang Mathai, NRK

"The author portrays pregnancy, birth and postnatal period with her very own vitality, irony and poetry ... she assumes her place among the truly good ones with confidence and great naturalness"

Margunn Vikingstad, Morgenbladet



# Stein Torleif Bjella

## The Fish House



Ivar Helgesen Aal is 79 years old, a businessman and master fiddler. He has decided that his nephew Jon Aslessen Aal will take over Storsenn, the mountain lake to which he owns the fishing rights. Jon is 47, a teaching assistant and not especially successful musician. Together, they head off to Storsenn to go autumn fishing. Ivar is determined to teach his clumsy but not altogether hopeless nephew everything he needs to know – about fishing and life.

*The Fish House* is a novel about ramshackle fiddle-playing and brother-in-law-fishing, dreaming big and paying your dues in buckets of fish, hard truths and unregulated mountain lakes, the forces of nature and the Great Change that is looming in the life of Jon Aslessen Aal.

Stein Torleif Bjella

Stein Torleif Bjella was born in 1968 in Ål in the Hallingdal valley. A successful singer-songwriter and musician, he made his debut as a writer with the much praised poetry collection *Jordsjukantologien* in 2017. *The Fish House* is his first novel.



‘If you want to be a good fisherman, you need to think like a fish.’

Uncle Ivar looks straight at me. His forehead may be dripping wet but his American-style side parting is pristine. We’re standing on the grass by the boathouse. Storsenn Lake spreads out before us to the west. It’s bigger than I remember. Ivar squints into the blinding autumn light. He’s wearing rubber boots, a field jacket, knitted mittens and a peaked cap with earflaps. It’s only four kilometres from the carpark, but for Ivar it might as well’ve been forty. He battled his way here bent double and short of breath. Gravity and a battered backbone pressed him to the ground. Twice he fell over. First he tripped and tumbled over sideways. Body and backpack both became enmeshed in the underbrush and he hissed like an adder when I pulled him loose. Right after that, he fell over backwards in the middle of the trail and wedged himself fast between a couple of rocks. When I ran up to help him, he waved me away with his stick, then worked himself free unaided by rocking back and forth. Now he’s got a nasty limp in the right foot.

I thought to myself that Uncle wasn’t really the man for autumn fishing in cold mountain lakes any more. His balance, sight and hearing are all terrible, his hands are always freezing and he’d sink like a stone. Pretty much the only thing about him that still works is his mouth. That never stops, mind. He hasn’t asked me a single question since the moment I picked him up earlier today. No hope of a conversation, just a monologue. I haven’t got an entire sentence in edgeways, only short answers: ‘Yes,’ ‘Aha,’ and ‘Right, yes’. Meanwhile, Ivar’s talked up a storm. ‘Once upon a time that was an open plain. Once there were three-kilo trout here. Once the snow settled in August. Once they prayed to the moon and fire. Once there were two fishing huts, the oldest one made of rock and earth. Once the boat was a raft. One year, Grandpa brought a dairy cow with him, the boathouse was the cowshed and the cow stood in there at night covered in a blanket so she wouldn’t freeze – that way Grandpa could be sure of having milk and food and a pack animal for the way home. He patrolled the lake with a silver cane. The handle was a revolver and the stick was a gun barrel. That’s your forefathers for you, Jon. Hardy stock. As far back as the name is known.’

*Translated by Lucy Moffatt*

# Nils-Øivind Haagenzen

## Sangria in the Park



One summer day, as Aksel is sitting in the park, he sees his friend Bent put his hand between the legs of their female friend, Maiken. Sure, they have a relationship of sorts and, sure there's no noticeable reaction from Maiken, but does that mean the incident should just be ignored? What is it a sign of? Aksel's first thought is to say nothing, just to let it pass. But then he changes his mind and speaks out. And at that moment everything comes to the surface – the oppressive impulse that underlies everything men do, always and everywhere.

The incident in the park brings Aksel and Bent into the public spotlight, on to a podcast, on to a TV discussion program and, eventually, to court.

In *Sangria in the Park*, Nils-Øivind Haagenzen writes about the dynamics within a circle of male friends, about the often complicit silence between men when it comes to how they look at, talk about and treat women, and about what happens when somebody breaks the silence.

Nils-Øivind Haagenzen

Nils-Øivind Haagenzen (b. 1971) made his debut with the poetry collection *Hands and Memory* in 1998, and he has since written a number of critically acclaimed books of poetry and fiction. In 2004 he received the Sult Prize for his works. His book of poetry *Good Morning and Good Night* (2012) was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2013.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

*Sangria i parken*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
288 pages

And for a long time Aksel didn't like the park, the park right across the way, he could see it from his balcony, but didn't like what he saw, didn't understand all those people who trudged towards it, like zombies in the daylight, to sit on worn-out park benches or blankets on the grass, under the trees, and sit there, some of them all day, doing nothing.

Aksel felt exhausted just at the thought.

But one day that changed.

Just changed.

Out of nowhere. Like the proverbial bolt out of the blue. Isn't that how life is?

One day he rolls up his white bedspread, thick, freshly washed, tucks it under one arm and packs a rucksack, before he wanders off in the direction of the park. And it's not long before he's sitting with his shoes kicked off and his shirt open, with a light blue, nearly transparent sky above him, a colour that allows this vast dome overhead to give a strangely demure impression, not unlike a young man who looks down because someone offers him a compliment that his body isn't ready for.

It's a warm afternoon, with just a light breeze in the treetops, a breeze as light as newly woken fingertips in newly washed hair.

The open shirt is white and slightly crumpled.

Newly washed, but yet slightly crumpled.

The can in his hand is cold and green.

And almost nobody about.

Aksel feels a sudden sense of well-being. As intense as it is sudden. And he thinks: I'm going to stay here.

All day, every day, all summer.

I'll just stay here in this green, this light, seemingly forlorn; a couple of boules clink on the gravel below, the sound tickles a bit. Two mothers roll their buggies past on the path. A big yellow dog dives after a little yellow ball in the big rectangular fountain that reminds him of something, but nothing particular. And what kind of memory is that? That has a clear form, but no content?

Aksel does not know.

*Translated by Deborah Dawkin*

# Rune Christiansen

## The Case of the Caprice of Lost Time



Foreign sales: Danish (Etcetera), Dutch (Oevers), French (Notabilia), Swedish (Lil'lit)

A few months after her mother's death, Norma goes to visit her father, Torsten, who has settled in a large old summer house on an island. Torsten and her mother split up when Norma was in her mid-twenties. Now Norma is about to get divorced herself.

From the moment she boards the ferry, things start to look different to Norma, and as she stands at the port waiting for her father to pick her up, she sees something strange: the silhouette of a horse rider beneath a crooked tree up on the crest of the hill.

Perhaps it's Norma herself who transforms her surroundings into mysteries. Or is there really something mysterious going on? As she struggles to understand her own life, Norma scrutinises every incident as if it were a sign.

*The Case of the Caprice of Lost Time* borrows the atmosphere of a classic crime novel. Writing with great authority in unusually rich and captivating prose, Rune Christiansen tells the compelling tale of a woman searching for a sense of belonging and a solid place to stand, for independence and freedom.

Rune Christiansen

Though he was initially known as a groundbreaking poet, Rune Christiansen (b. 1963) has increasingly turned his attention to prose, having published a string of acclaimed novels since 2003. He had a massive breakthrough in 2014 with the Brage Prize winning novel *The Loneliness in Lydia Erneman's Life*. His following novel, the acclaimed *Fanny and the Mystery in the Grieving Forest* (2017), was also a finalist for the Brage Prize.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

*Saken med den tapte tidens innfall*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
224 pages

"Beautiful writing on love and darkness. An outstanding, sensuous novel about secret family relationships which are slowly but surely brought into the light. The author is in a class of his own when it comes to poetic prose"

Stein Roll, Dagsavisen

"Prose on a high level! With this novel Rune Christiansen cements his position as one of our finest prose writers ... a story of belonging and identity, but also about a self-image in danger of falling apart ... the open, questioning attitude that Rune Christiansen lets his main character meet the world with makes me as a reader engaged in Norma's story"

Sindre Hovdenakk, VG

"If you want to get high on prose, look no further than Rune Christiansen. His latest novel is an intoxicating read ... Perhaps it's this successful combination of the poetic, sensitive prose and his ability to draw exciting characters in recognizable life crises that makes him so irresistible ... With fine brush strokes Christiansen draws up all the small, but significant moments"

Turid Larsen, Dagsavisen

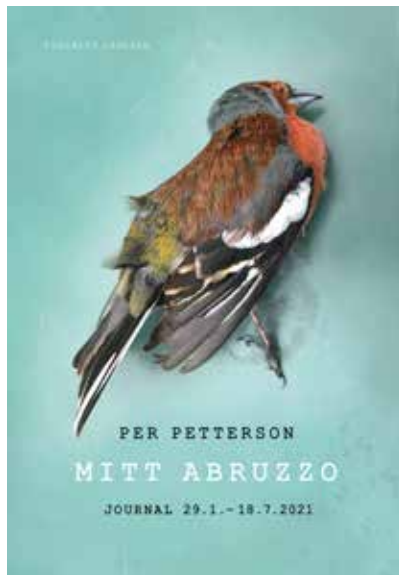
"Christiansen's text is well formed with a richness of imagery that is often striking ... While reading, I have frequently thought that this text is like reading a film, perhaps French, perhaps Bergman, in which scenes are acted out separately, while the end and the content remains veiled until the end ... I have taken great, almost strange pleasure in reading *The Case of the Caprice of Lost Time* until the end, where the veil is lifted"

Leif Ekle, NRK Bok



## Per Petterson

### My Abruzzo. Journal 29.01-18.07.2021



During winter and spring and all the way through to July 2021, Per Petterson sits down to write down thoughts, memories and small events from everyday life. Every morning he gets up at six and tries to read for two hours, often standing up by the kitchen counter, before he walks down to his writing cabin to work on the English translation of one of his novels.

There is always something to do on the little farm where he lives: a plot of land to clear for a new house, trees to cut down and sheep to shear. He visits his old friend Øyvind and talks to his older brother Steen about family history, and about his mother, father and two brothers who are all gone.

Running through it all is literature – his own writing, but even more his reading; an internal conversation about and with writers and their books: Pasternak, Woolf, Hemingway, Jean Rhys, Ginzburg, Gornick, and more.

*My Abruzzo* is a melancholic work, written with subtle vulnerability and rough humour in Petterson's inimitable, glowing prose.

Per Petterson

Per Petterson (born 1952) made his debut in 1987 and became a world-wide literary sensation with the novel *Out Stealing Horses* (2003). His books have won several international prizes, including the IMPAC Prize and the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. In Norway he has won the Brage Prize twice, the Critics' Prize twice and the Booksellers' Prize twice. The film adaptation of *Out Stealing Horses*, featuring Stellan Skarsgård, premiered in 2019.

*Mitt Abruzzo*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Journal/memoir  
424 pages



Photo: Baard Henriksen

#### ON MEN IN MY SITUATION (2018):

"It would be hard to find a better writer than Petterson. *Men in My Situation* is a vivid and moving account of Arvid's struggle to survive life's brutal blows"

**Kathleen MacMahon, Irish Times, Ireland**

"Never, in any of his previous novels, has the writer penetrated so radically and deeply into his characters' complex individuality and existential aimlessness"

**Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany**

"Like no one else the Norwegian writer portrays damaged lives and muted longing ... Petterson's prose is as always crystal clear, and at the same time realistic and gently poetic ... a magnificent work of art"

**Jyllands-Posten, Denmark**



## Line Baugstø

### I Lie When I Have To



Deep down in all the women in this collection of short stories is an inner rebel. It may be well hidden, but it's there all the same, simmering away. An older woman breaks with decorum in her quest to get a man. Another woman plans to settle scores with the Christian culture of fear in which she was raised. Baugstø's perception of the dynamics in relationships – between mothers and teenagers, women and men, or women and women – is sharp and revealing.

"Superb short stories from Line Baugstø. She writes about normal people, with secrets and transgressions that sometimes make everyday life become unbearably suspenseful ... Baugstø again proves herself a skilled storyteller."

Emil Otto Syvertsen, *Fædrelandsvennen*

Line Baugstø

Line Baugstø (b. 1961) made her literary debut in 1986, and has since published novels, short stories and a popular and awarded children's books. *The Summer Books*, her trilogy of novels about women's lives in the 60's, 70s and 80s, have earned her comparisons with Amalie Skram and Torborg Nedreaas, two giants of Norwegian fiction, famous for their pioneering focus on gender roles.



Photo: Pernille Marie Walvik

*Jeg lyver når jeg må*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Short stories  
206 pages

## Gunstein Bakke

### Austalgia



It's late summer 2019, a few months before Aust-Agder will cease to exist as a separate county. On the outskirts of the coastal town of Arendal, former beekeeper and farmer Mikkel Ro will spend a week with his grand-daughter Melissa while her mother takes a beauty therapy course. At the same time a new girl is moving into the house next door.

Mikkel has done his utmost to spread his genes and is now the father of six-and-a-half children. The half child is Rancine, who has always experienced language not just as power but also as violence, and who is clinging onto her job as a healthcare assistant at a nursing home further inland.

*Austalgia* is a novel about new and dying ways of life in a county that never made much of itself while it existed, but which here gets its swansong in a prose that is both sensuous and surprising.

"Brilliant ... Bakke's prose is so precise, sharp and rich with imagery that you jump with joy while reading"

Inger Bentzrud, *Dagbladet*, 5/6 stars

"Cunning about decay and devilry ... The shameless self-righteousness makes the novel uncomfortable, but no less exciting to read ... the thought of Ali Smith first pops up in my mind"

Anne Cathrine Straume, *NRK*

Gunstein Bakke

Gunstein Bakke (b. 1968) made his debut with the novel *The Office* in 2000. His third novel, *Maud and Aud* (2011), won the EU prize and was shortlisted for the Brage Prize, the P2 Listeners' Novel Prize and several other awards. The follow-up, *Expectant*, was met with terrific reviews and was nominated for the Critics' Prize.



Photo: Christian Elgvin

*Austalgi*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
336 pages

## Bjarte Breiteig

### The Tøyen Effect



Mona and Jostein, an idealistic young couple, moved to Tøyen when their son Kalle was little. Shortly after arriving there, they started a neighbourhood café to help build a community in what was then the most notorious borough in Oslo. Slowly but surely a network of neighbours seemed to grow up around the café – people of all ages from widely different cultures, who helped each other and felt responsible for their community.

Ten years on, Jostein has lost his spark and his ability to bring people together is dwindling. Mona wonders whether their son is paying the price for their choices and secretly longs to get away from it all. Everything comes to a head when Jostein fails to return from a trip to Copenhagen, and over one intense day and night we follow Mona as Jostein's disappearance forces her into a reckoning with her family's situation.

*The Tøyen Effect* is a penetrating contemporary novel about building a neighbourhood, finding a foothold for love outside the family, and faith in – and doubt about – the power of community.

Bjarte Breiteig

Bjarte Breiteig (b. 1974) is the author of three acclaimed collections of short stories: *Phantom Pains* (1998), *Surrogates* (2000) and *People Have Started Knocking* (2006). He is the winner of Anders Jahre Prize for Younger Artists and the the Young People's Critics' Prize. His novel *My Five Years as a Father* (2014) was nominated for the P2 Listeners' Novel Prize.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

*Tøyeneffekten*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
336 pages

## Runa Fjellanger

### Self Care



Sara, 35, lives in downtown Oslo and works as Head of Communications in a private company. Nothing happens in her life that she hasn't planned for or taken into account. She doesn't allow anybody to get close to her or to gain any kind of power over her. Sara has strong opinions about most things, especially about the relationship between women and men, women in general, gender, sex and body.

But when she meets Jonathan, something changes. Suddenly Sara has to think before she answers. Jonathan quickly gets under her skin, and Sara loses control.

*Self Care* is a novel about desire and falling in love, and about the need to see through everything around you without being seen yourself.

Runa Fjellanger

Runa Fjellanger (b. 1992) is a writer and a political journalist. Her first book, *On the Motorways* (2017), was shortlisted for the Tarjei Vesaas' Debut Prize. *No One across the Street* is her second novel.



Photo: Odin Drønen

*Ingen gjenboere*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
192 pages

## Vilde Heggem

### I Just



They are a couple in their mid-thirties with three children. They live in a house in a small town. The story takes place over the course of a year she spends at home with their youngest child. She likes her life, but is nursing an oppressive feeling that it's not enough. One day when she comes home, he says he thought she had left him and the children. She starts analysing their situation in light of his words.

*I Just* is a novel about life as a couple with small children, and about the unease that can develop between two people who are close. It's also a novel that plays with the genre and the way we perceive our times.

Vilde Heggem

Vilde Heggem (b. 1983) has previously published three collections of poetry and a novel, *Can He Say: Stay* (2017).



Photo: Hanne Hvattum

*Jeg bare*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
192 pages

## Inghill Johansen

### This Is G



«A rare and outstanding book ... The resignation opens up for black humour, genuine despair and precise, open, wide-eyed realism»  
Erik Berck-Hagen, *Morgenbladet*

“Creates an inner exultation in the reader. Inghill Johansen transforms the most commonplace experiences into captivating literature”  
Marta Norheim, *NRK*

G is a valley that flattens out on both sides. At the bottom of G is a large, brown building where the drunks used to live. In the middle and out towards the edges are simple houses intended for workers and employees.

Her father's father built the house. Here, her father grew up, and here she grew up herself. The house has two floors. A preacher once lived on the upper floor, but the religious revival that swept through G is long forgotten.

Her father disappeared many years ago. Now her mother is gone too, and the main character is considering dividing up the property and selling it off. She meets with the local authorities and an architect. Lines are drawn on a map, property boundaries are measured. It doesn't look good.

*This Is G* is a novel about the force that pulls at all things. It's about sinking, but also about floating up again and emerging in new forms. With great sensitivity and a peculiar, low-key humour, Inghill Johansen gives literary form to the dizzying sense that nothing is solid enough to hold on to.

Inghill Johansen

Inghill Johansen (b. 1958) made her debut in 1991 with the novel *Heart White*, before going on to publish three acclaimed, highly admired collections of prose, among them *Complain* (2001), which was shortlisted for the Brage Prize. In 2016 her novel *Bungalow* was met with brilliant reviews. Later that year she received the Swedish Academy's Dobloug Prize.



Photo: Pernille Marie Walvik

*Dette er G*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
168 pages



## Synne Øverland Knudsen

### Good Readers



She grew up in the countryside, but has set her sights on the world of culture, believing that anything is possible there. She is convinced that if she can only keep her mouth shut long enough, shut up about everything she observes and simply adjust to the strange conventions, alliances and ways of speaking, something good will come of it on the other side.

But now she's broke. Or is she just on the brink of a perfectly normal life crisis? She isn't quite sure. Is it really possible to find a place on the inside when you're an outsider? And how is she supposed to cope with the fact that a marketing executive at one of the country's largest publishing houses has started nursing the hope that she will save him from his disillusionment?

*Good Readers* is a desperate insider's account of the world of the literati; a lively, absorbing story about being on both the outside and the inside, and about not losing yourself in a culture that is in a process of change.

Synne Øverland Knudsen

Synne Øverland Knudsen was born in 1989. She has a background as a musician and runs the publishing house Fanfare. *Good Readers* is her first novel.



Photo: Signe Fuglestad Luksengard

*Gode lesere*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
313 pages

## Terje Holtet Larsen

### The Skinny Woman in the Garden by the Tennis Courts



The narrator of this novel is a fatherless man who was abandoned by his mother as a boy and was left in the care of his grandparents. After his mother's death, he is asked to clean out her small apartment. This brings him into contact with the skinny woman in the garden by the tennis courts. She serves him iced tea in tall glasses and feeds him fragments of a story about his mother, whom she once took care of, enabling her to act as an escort for well-to-do gentlemen.

For a long time he himself has led a discreet life as the custodian of a mysterious business in a downtown office building. Without really intending to, he has also become embroiled in an affair with an art student with flowing hair and golden sandals. All this turns out to be fateful for both of them.

In sophisticated and seemingly effortless prose, Terje Holtet Larsen cracks open the door on a black abyss of silence, pretence and loneliness.

Terje Holtet Larsen

Terje Holtet Larsen (b. 1963) made his debut with the novel *The Son* in 1991. For the short story collection *Variations* (1995) he received the Gyldendal endowment. The novel *The Dilettante* (2012) received the Riksmål Literary Prize, while the novels *Love between Intelligent Men* (2014) and *The Informer* (2016) were nominated both for the Young People's Critics' Prize and the P2 Listeners' Novel Prize.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

*Den magre kvinnen i hagen i flukt med tennisbanene*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
224 pages

## Merethe Lindstrøm

### Winter Horse



Merethe Lindstrøm is among the true masters of the Norwegian short story. Whether dealing with shame, vulnerability, loneliness or other topics, her stories are often deeply disturbing yet often also contain a quirky humour, warmth and an openness to change.

Her new collection can be read as a cycle of stories in which a female voice – possibly that of the same woman – portrays different aspects of her own youth and later adult life.

A young couple travels to Denmark: she just wants to keep going as far as she can, but he has brought his binoculars to watch birds. A woman returns to a farm where she had an affair with an older man, and is met by the man's wife and children. Lindstrøm offers us tales of travel, restlessness, and the quest for love – or some kind of substitute.

Merethe Lindstrøm

Merethe Lindstrøm (b. 1963) made her debut in 1983 with a collection of short stories, and has since published both short stories, novels and a children's book. She was nominated for the prestigious 2008 Nordic Council's Literary Prize and the Critics' Prize for her short story collection *The Guests*. In 2008, she was awarded the Dobloug Prize for her entire literary work. Her novel *Days in the History of Silence* (2011) was awarded both the Nordic Council Literature Prize and the Critics' Prize.



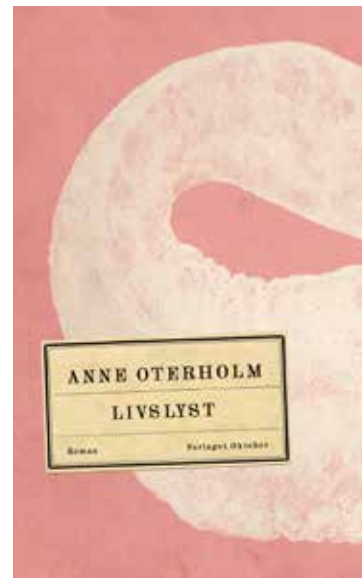
Photo: André Løyning

*Vinterhest*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Short stories  
200 pages

## Anne Oterholm

### Joy of Life



We are born, we live and we die. For animals it's all about reproduction. For Åsta, children were never part of the plan. She wants to keep existing in the moment she actually exists in for the rest of her life.

Åsta is tall and thin, and always hungry. She trained as a teacher, but is more comfortable working as a cleaning lady. She frequently dates men, but spends a lot of her time watching documentaries about topics that interest her, especially biological subjects. Åsta lives in a terraced house close to her parents. Her father believes in a God who will judge the living and the dead, while her mother places her faith in financial investments. Her brother Kristian is a public accountant with his own company, and Åsta can't understand how he can be interested in any aspect of his work.

So, this is life, then? Åsta might be satisfied with it. But for the reader, a deadly seriousness lurks below the surface.

*Lust for Life* is an intense disturbing book, full of dark humour.

Anne Oterholm

Anne Oterholm was born in Illinois in the US in 1964 and grew up in a small town outside of Oslo. She made her debut in 1995 with the novel nothing else than what you want, for which she received the Bokklubben Nye Bøkers Prize for Debut Author of the Year. In 1999 she was awarded Tanum's Scholarship for Women and in 2010 the Aschehoug Prize. Oterholm was head of the Norwegian Authors' Union 2005–2012.



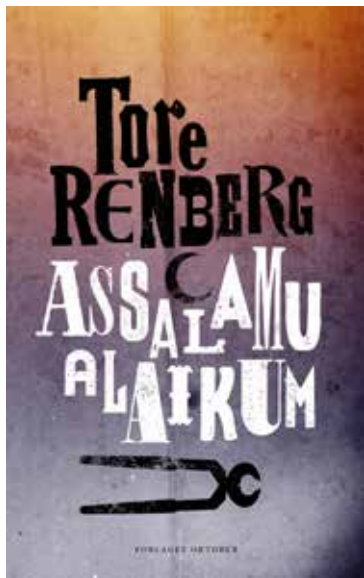
Photo: Pernille Marie Walvik

*Livslyst*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
248 pages

## Tore Renberg

### Assalamu Alaikum



The year is 2013 and at the bottom of the social pyramid, the Hillevåg gang wake up with dry lips, paranoia and swine flu. The gangsters from the richest city in the world thought they had put the worst behind them, only to discover that the steepest hill yet is right in front of them: Jan Inge, Cecilie and Rudi are up to their hairlines in stress and up to their necks in blood.

But worst of all, the cracks are starting to show in Jan Inge. What are those sounds in the Video Boy's head? What is this ghost rising up from the murky depths of the past? And why does he keep hearing a strange name whispered in the dark?

As Tore Renberg takes off the handbrake for the fourth book in the Teksas series, all that awaits at the end of the road is doom and a terrifying liberation.

"Surpasses or wildest fantasies ... finishes the Teksas quartet with a trump card"  
Arne Dvergdsal, Dagbladet, 5/6 stars

"A furious, carnivalesque, murderously entertaining book 4 about the Hillevåg gang ... tightly composed and well organized ... Renberg is a sharp observer who often cuts right to the point and thereby creates great comedy"  
Sigmund Jensen, Stavanger Aftenblad, 5/6 stars

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 *Sleeping Tangle* and has since written several bestselling, highly praised novels, as well as children's books.



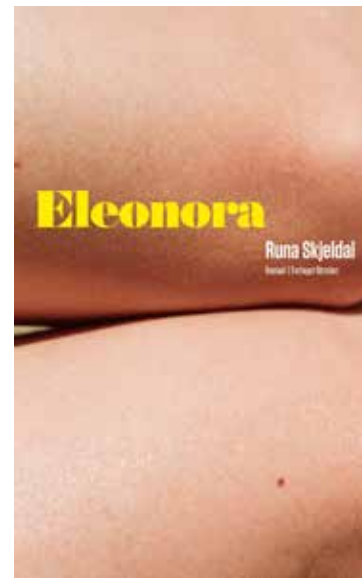
Photo: Signe Christine Urdal

*Assalamu Alaikum*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
561 pages

## Runa Skjeldal

### Eleonora



Ella is studying French, Audun is a nurse. They explore the world and each other, and who they are when they are together changes from one situation to the next.

*Eleonora* is a hypnotic novel about the significance of first love and about expectations and desire. In intense prose, Runa Skjeldal explores the interconnections between the nature within us and the nature around us.

Runa Skjeldal

Runa Skjeldal was born in 1998 and has studied creative writing at Bø. *Eleonora* is her first book.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

*Eleonora*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
146 pages



## Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold

### Agnes Night and Day



For as long as Agnes Møller can remember, she has thought that if she strays even slightly from the straight and narrow, doom will follow as inevitably as if she had thrown herself off a cliff. But now that she has turned 45, she's starting to think that enough is enough. There comes a time when you have to stop giving in to yourself and all your own neuroses. And perhaps that's why she wakes up on this particular morning with a man in her bed. His name is Peter Venn, he is her neighbour, and now he is lying there asleep, with his mouth open.

*Agnes Night and Day* is an existentially encouraging tale of Agnes Møller's encounter with love, written with comical gravity and uncommonly inventive prose.

"Perhaps this year's sweetest novel ... sympathetic without being toothless, profound without getting lost in darkness, bittersweet without being coy ... elegant and full of subtle humour"

Fartein Horgar, *Adresseavisen*, 6/6 stars

Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold

Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold (b. 1979) is from Oslo. She made her literary debut in 2009 with the novel *The Faster I Walk, The Smaller I Am*, which was awarded the prestigious Tarjei Vesaas First Book Prize 2009, nominated for the Booksellers' Prize 2009 and the P2 Listeners' Prize, and shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2013. It has been sold for translation into more than 25 languages. A versatile and prodigious writer, Skomsvold writes fiction, poetry and children's books.



Photo: Agnete Brun

*Agnes natt og dag*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
184 pages

## Dag Solstad

### Articles on Literature 2015-2021



Dag Solstad's articles can be read as diaries in the classical sense of the word, although several of the pieces in this collection are closer to memoir. Solstad writes with great energy and humour, about a dream, about the Norwegian language and about the 'journey through and to my Norwegian character'. He also writes about literature, about Pessoa, Thomas Mann and Selma Lagerlöf, and about his relationship to the works of Hamsun – and how a secret dream of becoming a writer was born in the 16-year-old reader of Hamsun, Dag Solstad. In a foreword to Camus' *Myth of Sisyphus*, he goes searching for himself as a young reader and reflects on what it was about both Camus and Kafka that made them so important to him around the time he made his debut as a writer.

"Norway's most important and interesting writer ... Solstad articulate his literary vision in a new way"  
Tom Egil Hverven, *Klassekampen*

"The sharp, melancholic, merrily quarrelsome polemicist Solstad is in solid shape ... For as long as Solstad persists in entertaining us with both his grumpy idiosyncrasies and sudden, romantic euphorias, we will return to his books, novels or not"  
Erik Bjerck-Hagen, *Morgenbladet*

Taken together, these texts form a kind of literary autobiography. Solstad approaches his own literary work and his thinking around literature from a variety of angles. The articles are generous and sharp, passionate and combative.

Dag Solstad

Through five decades, Dag Solstad (b. 1941) has produced works of the highest literary quality that somehow have both interpreted and defined the changing moods of the times. He is the winner of the Brage Prize (2006), the Nordic Council Literature Prize (1989) and, three times, the Critics' Prize (1969, 1992, 1999). His works have been translated into more than 30 languages.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

*Artikler om litteratur 2015-2021*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Essays  
528 pages

## Espen Stueland

### The Pandemic Archives



The coronavirus crisis is powerful reminder of the fact that the body is much more than a vessel for our free and 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, heart-breaking 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

*Pandemiarkivene*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Essay  
400 pages

## Sara Sølberg

### Sarabande



It's the warmest summer on record. Silja is working as a gardener at Oslo's Botanical Gardens, and fears that the scorching summer is a warning of serious changes in nature. Things are changing in her apartment too: At night, her bedroom is invaded by insects in their thousands, while mould and micro-organisms grow in the dark. Over the course of a few intense days she slips into a state in which the world is swallowed up by ants, worms, moths and other organisms. When she finally wakes up as a human being again, she finds herself in another reality – a hospital where her experiences are considered sick and unreal, and where nobody believes what she says. Where has she been? Who is she now? Something has changed, yet everything carries on as before.

*Sarabande* is a novel about a person and a world in crisis, about our ability to feel part of nature and responsibility for it in the face of a human-made threat. How do you continue to live as a human in a world on the edge of ecological collapse, knowing that your own species is to blame and that everything could break down again at any time?

#### Sara Sølberg

Sara Sølberg was born in 1983 in Trondheim. She made her debut in 2016 with the novel *Seismic Shock*, which was shortlisted for the prestigious Tarjei Vesaas Debut Prize.



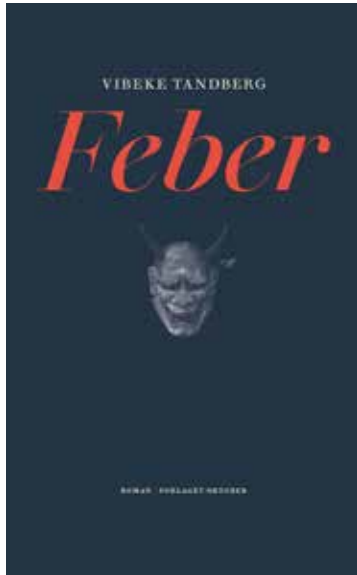
Photo: Pernille Marie Walvik

*Sarabande*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
288 pages

# Vibeke Tandberg

## Fever



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Tandberg isn't just an internationally celebrated photographer and video artist, she also writes strange, intense, uncompromising novels inspired by sophisticated writers such as Alain Robbe-Grillet, Samuel Beckett and Albert Camus ... again the lack of a tight, traditional intrigue and the extended use of manic repetitions – of symbolically loaded leitmotifs and loosely woven key scenes – that this febrile text challenges and impresses"

Steinar Sivertsen, Stavanger Aftenblad

A woman lies on the bathroom floor. She can't move and she can't remember how she got there. It could be day or night; she could have been sleeping or may just eaten breakfast. But what is the most pressing task right now – cancelling her appointment with the cabinet maker or getting hold of a neighbour who can help her up? Will anyone find her, or will she end her days with her head beneath the toilet bowl?

*Fever* is a novel about the final hours of a person's life, about the frailty of the body and the boundlessness of the mind. It takes us on an inner journey full of dark, humorous and painful reflections, in which the body's decay is mirrored by the main character's inner life, where past and present blend into one, and where hope, regret and defiance jostle for dominance in a struggle that can only be the work of the devil.

Vibeke Tandberg's prose is as captivating and uncomfortable as ever, shot through with her characteristic black humour.

Vibeke Tandberg

One of Norway's most influential visual artists, Vibeke Tandberg (b. 1967) made her literary debut in 2012 With *Beijing Duck*. Her subsequent novels have affirmed her position as an imaginative writer with a voice and a vision that set her apart in contemporary Norwegian literature.



Photo: Louise Jacobs

*Fever*  
Forlaget Oktober, 2021

Novel  
144 pages

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