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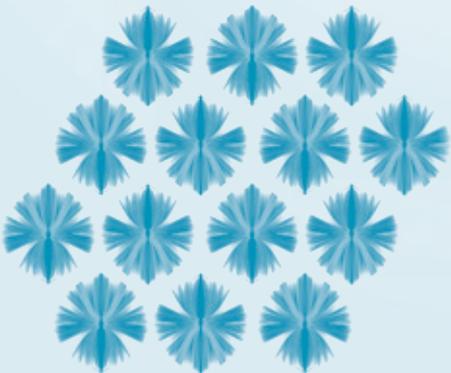
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fiction
literary, crime and poetry



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FORLAGIÐ

www.forlagid.is

literary fiction

Andri Snaer Magnason

Alfrun Gunnlaugsdottir

Armann Jakobsson

Arni Thorarinsson

Audur Jonsdottir

Björg Magnúsdóttir

Bragi Olafsson

Einar Karason

Einar Mar Gudmundsson

Eiríkur Orn Norddahl

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Vilborg Davídsdóttir

crime fiction

Arnaldur Indridason

Arni Thorarinsson

Oskar Hrafn Thorvaldsson

Solveig Palsdottir

Stella Blomkvist

Viktor A. Ingolfsson

poetry

Anton Helgi Jonsson

Bragi Olafsson

Einar Mar Gudmundsson

Gerdur Kristny

Hannes Petursson

Haukur Mar Helgason

Ingibjorg Haraldsdottir

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FORLAGIÐ

rights-agency

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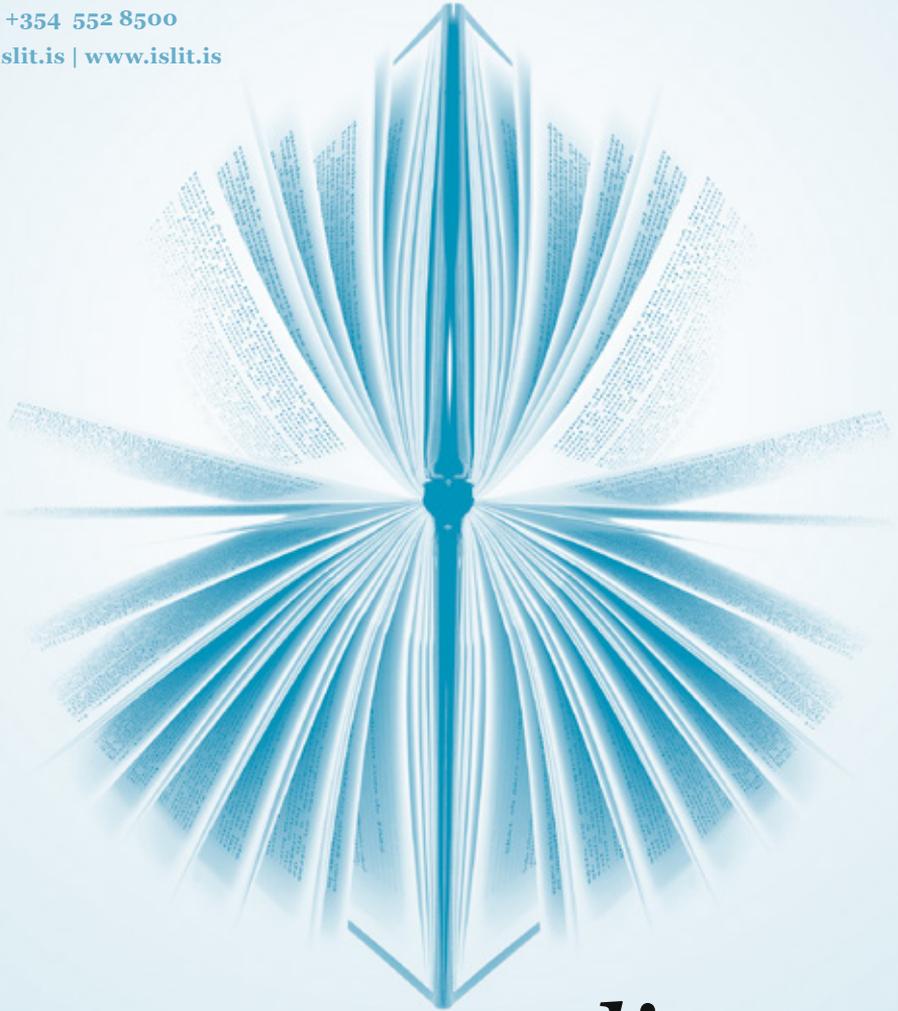
Icelandic Literature Center

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*literary
fiction*



ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON

(b.1973) has won the Icelandic Literary Prize for both fiction and non fiction. His work has been published or performed in over twenty countries and received numerous international awards, amongst them the Janusz Korczak Honorary Award, the West Nordic Children's Book Prize and the Kairos prize awarded by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation to outstanding individuals. Magnason has been active in the fight against the destruction of the Icelandic Highlands.

www.andrimagnason.com

“Very entertaining, very funny and original concepts. I had a great time reading this book.”

BREAKFAST TV, CHANNEL 2

“Orwell, Vonnegut, and Douglas Adams are felt on every page, though Magnason is never derivative. His satire and insightful social commentary sweeten the pot and the sheer wackiness of Magnason’s oversized imagination is invigorating.”

PUBLISHER’S WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW)

- Special citation, Philip K. Dick Award 2013, USA
- Bookseller’s Literary Award 2002
- DV Newspaper’s Book of the Year Prize
- Nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize 2002

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria
(Verlagsgruppe Lübbe);
World English (Seven Stories Press);
Hungary (Gondolat Kiadó);
France/ Switzerland/Luxembourg
(Zulma); Japan (Tokyo Sogensha)
English translation available

Love Star

Love Star, novel, 2002

A multinational called LoveStar has put Iceland on the map by marketing death and programmed love. Indridi and Sigrídur are cordless individuals in this technological community which they believe in until a letter arrives from the powers that throws their lives into disarray. They were not meant for each other and Sigrídur is summoned north to Oxndal Valley, where the LoveStar logo shines behind the clouds over a vast pleasure ground, to meet her only love. As soon as the lovers start to deal with the consequences of the letter, LoveStar, the founder of the company, is about to make the greatest discovery of his life. A fantasy about a society in which the principles of marketing and technology rule supreme, but still fail to suppress man’s deepest and most ancient instincts: love and lust for life. 275 pp



ALFRUN GUNNLAUGSDÓTTIR

(b.1938) has authored numerous novels and short-stories. Three of her novels have been nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize, first *Going in Circles* in 1991, *Confidentially* in 1995 and *Across the Ebro River*, in 2003.

“One of the finest qualities of this novel is how splendidly its fragmented form conveys the subject matter itself: the attempts of an old woman to comprehend her fractured memory. ... An artfully constructed story.”

VIDSJA, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

“... the stirring narrative is skilfully woven into this masterly constructed work.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Channels of Memory

Siglingin um síkin, novel, 2012

Gyda is temporarily living with her son Solvi. Her husband has passed away and she deeply misses her daughter, Svava, whom she has neither seen nor heard from for decades. During the day, she is accompanied by Elena, a young woman from a distant country, although Gyda feels as if the young woman is guarding her like a prisoner. However, Gyda is cunning and sometimes escapes Elena's watchful eyes. On one such day Gyda runs into Onundur, her former lover who betrayed her long ago, and she can no longer flee the past. In the story, Gyda sails the channels of memory searching for answers. What had gone so terribly wrong and why? This is a story of memories and forgetfulness, a story of reckoning to the beat of the kitchenware revolution that took place in Iceland following the collapse of the Icelandic banking system in 2008. 234 pp

- *Nominated for the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award, 2012*

Chapters in English available

A Girl Named Ran

Rán, novel, 2008

Down through the years, life's currents have swept Ran far from her place of birth. Now she finds herself on the way back, travelling from a home and husband in Switzerland to her native Iceland, with a stopover in Barcelona, where she once spent many eventful years. Though her memories are fresh as ever, the city she encounters is quite another and her journey turns out to be a search for a lost time, forcing her to face up to moments long gone and ideals abandoned. Following a path through the thorny woods of memories takes courage, however.

A powerful and captivating book, weaving together internal and external conflicts in times of social upheaval, to reveal the ambiguity of individual truths. 251 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2008*
- *The DV Newspaper's Cultural Award, 2008*
- *The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize, 2009*



ARMANN JAKOBSSON (b.1970) is professor of medieval literature at the University of Iceland. He has written articles about social and cultural issues in newspapers and magazines for decades, as well as in-depth pieces on Icelandic literature. He is the author of diverse books of non fiction and poetry. *Glaesir – A Study in Evil* is his second novel.

“It is fantastically well written, and constructed like the best of thrillers. It leads the reader on relentlessly, and guarantees a sleepless night of reading ... a beautifully crafted story with references to the past as well as the present.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

“The narrator’s viewpoint is without doubt one of the most original we have seen for a long time ... [Jakobsson is] learned but at the same time funny, clever and entertaining.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY

“Jakobsson’s novel is ingeniously and respectfully crafted ... but the author nevertheless handles the material in his own personal way. ... The main character, the narrator, is extremely unconventional.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

Glaesir – A Study in Evil

Glæsir, novel, 2011

Glaesir has experienced much. He fights a tough battle with himself and, alone and abandoned, takes stock of his life and his bleak destiny.

On his own in a dark cowshed he recites his life story to himself, its hopes and betrayals, honour and shame, loneliness and utter misfortune. His story is connected with political conflicts and a struggle for power. But who is this character whose past is such a tragedy – is he of this world or another, a monster or an ogre – or perhaps just a wretched animal? Only the old nanny suspects the truth about Glaesir.

In his novel, Armann Jakobsson demonstrates an original take on our literary heritage and folk tales, with this account of an old man who turned into a ghost, unable to create, only to destroy.

Glaesir – A Study in Evil is at once eventful, dramatic and sparkling with humour, but above all brimming with emotion. 204 pp

Chapters in English available



ARNI THORARINSSON (b.1950) is a nationally renowned award-winning journalist and a media personality. He has written several gripping crime novels and two TV scripts, one of which was nominated to The Edda Award (best television script of the year 2002). Thorarinsson was the editor of Mannlif magazine and has also been on the board of the Reykjavik Film Festival as well as a member of several panels of judges at international film festivals.

“Unforgettable characters that wrestle with an unbearable fate. Masterfully written.”

ARNI MATTHIASSEN /MORGUNBLADID

“Here Arni Thorarinsson shows a new side where his mastery of narrative skills is displayed to the full. A gripping story.”

KATRIN JAKOBSDOTTIR FORMER MINISTER OF CULTURE

The Crime - a Love Story

Glæpurinn – ástarsaga, novel, 2013

The night before he died he didn't sleep much. Or did he sleep at all? Didn't his dream mean that he had slept? Or wasn't it a dream? When he woke up, the fear was still tangible. If he woke up. If he had indeed slept. The corpse was unrecognizable. At any rate, he couldn't identify it at first glance.

All three of them had been awaiting this day and dreaded its coming. She will try, against the odds, to keep her promise. He doubts that the truth will set them free. Frida insists the secret that shattered their lives will be revealed. Arni Thorarinsson strikes out on a new path in his writing career with this novel, a chiselled and haunting story about a fateful twenty-four hours in the life of a family. 152 pp

Chapters in English available



AUDUR JONSDOTTIR (b.1973) is one of the most accomplished authors writing in Icelandic today. Four of her books have been nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize, and it was awarded to her for the superb novel *The People in the Basement*, for which she was also nominated for the Nordic Council's Literary Prize.

www.jonsdottir.com

"I am struck speechless over this intricate, beautiful and funny story. I therefore simply echo my colleagues and say: A delight and a gem and a piercingly beautiful book!"

FRETTABLADID DAILY (ON WINTERSUN)

"The different levels and plot lines ... are cleverly and effortlessly gathered and interlocked with skillful nonchalance. The story is ingeniously constructed, without being over-engineered, and just as humorous as thrilling to read."

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

Secretaries of the Spirits

Ósjálfrátt, novel, 2012

"Won't you leave this man?"

The sentence assaults her ears; she hears what granny is saying but how is she supposed to answer? ...

"If you are incapable of thinking of yourself, will you at least think about your novel?"

One day Eyja wakes up in a small fishing village in the west of the country, married to a drunkard twenty years her senior. They live in a red area, just a stone's throw from the ruins of the houses that a recent avalanche destroyed, killing nineteen people.

Strong and determined women on her mother's side decide to get the young woman away from her newly acquired husband and send her off to another country in the company of a skiing heroine for whom the word capitulation does

not exist. Fifteen years later Eyja wakes up in the same place, but this time she is back to writing in order to get a grip on the past, the fiction in life, her family, and what it means to be a writer. *Secretaries to the Spirits* is an interesting, funny, extraordinarily intricate and intimate story of family relations that can be so very bitter, of love that can be so painfully difficult, a story on writing, on what it takes to write a book, about all the stories life gives us and that we must prevent from falling into oblivion. 384 pp

- *Nominated for the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award 2012*
- *The Women's Literature Prize 2012*

Sold to:
 Germany/ Switzerland/ Austria
 (btb/ RandomHouse)
 Chapters in English available

Wintersun

Vetrarsól, novel, 2008

Sunna is shocked when she learns that the police are searching for one of her old friends. Memories from her student days in Barcelona haunt her and make it difficult to focus on the pre-Christmas rush at the publishing house where she works or the crime fiction writing course she is supposed to be directing. When Sunna realizes that three mys-

terious men are following her around it seems as if her life is turning into a crime thriller ... 255 pp

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria

(btb/Random House);

The Netherlands (Querido)

Film rights sold to:

Silja Hauksdottir (producer)

Chapters in English available

Deposit

Tryggðarpantur, novel, 2006

Gisella, a rich heiress, suddenly has to face the fact that her abundant inheritance is dwindling. She therefore needs to devise ways of increasing her income and takes on an assignment to write about the shortage of accommodation in the city. As a way of killing two birds with one stone, she rents out three of the rooms in her enormous apartment to three homeless women of different nationalities. This creates a colourful ménage, to say the least, and by the end of the story, all of the women's lives have been changed, not least Gisella's. 335 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2006*
- *Film rights sold to: Blueeyes Productions*

Sold to:

Denmark (Tiderne Skifter)

Film rights sold to:

Litla gula hænan

Chapters in English and

German available

The People in the Basement

Fólkið í kjallaranum, novel, 2004

Klara's boyfriend, Svenni, has pretty much cornered her into hosting a dinner party for his nouveau riche friends. As the mirth mounts, Klara, an artist with little in common with her guests, withdraws increasingly into painful memories from her past. While the party grows livelier, Klara's sister turns up, her parents barge in and the mysterious neighbour in the basement knocks repeatedly on their door. The dinner party eventually degenerates into one big catastrophe, as the narrative craftily steers a course from its realistic setting into the realm of the absurd. But that's Klara's life! 290 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2004*
- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2005*

Sold to:

Denmark (Tiderne Skifter);

Sweden (Kabusa)

A stageplay from the book was

premiered in Reykjavik City

Theatre autumn 2010.

Chapters in English available

German translation available



BJORG MAGNUSDOTTIR (b. 1985)

is a Political Science graduate with a Master’s degree in Applied Cultural Studies from the University of Iceland. Magnúsdóttir has worked as a journalist, chairwoman of the Student Council of the University of Iceland, promoter and project manager, among other things. She currently works as a reporter for the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service. Magnúsdóttir is a columnist and has written for widely read online publications, most recently at mbl.is. *Not This Type* is her first novel.

“Great start...[the author] plays with clichés so the reader squirms with laughter at some chapters. ... Refreshing and hilarious chick novel. A successful mix of SATC and Girls with a dash of all-Icelandic awkwardness.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

“This is a book that you don’t read in public unless you can stand people asking you “What’s so funny?” every two minutes.”

VIDSKIPTABLADID WEEKLY

Not this type

Ekki þessi týpa, novel, 2013

A book for you?

1. It’s about young women. That are a little whacky. That have a ton of opinions. Of course, they also get in crazy trouble. Otherwise nothing would be happening. They are definitely going somewhere...although they don’t know where exactly.
2. Icelandic dating culture, Brazilian wax, men with stabby chest hair, unbearable mother-in-

- laws, gender quotas, and club make-outs are involved. Also men that can’t stand smart women.
3. And yes – perhaps most importantly – everything in the book has happened recently in Iceland. Really. Some of it slightly exaggerated. Some not. Some is ridiculous and some is just plain funny. 351 pp



BRAGI OLAFSSON'S (b.1962) novels are undoubtedly among the most original and remarkable Icelandic stories of recent years. Olafsson's novel *The Ambassador* received the 2006 Icelandic Bookseller's Award and was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Award and the Nordic Council Literary Prize in 2008.

bragi.funksjon.net

*“So how long do we have to wait
for English versions of his other books?”*

LOS ANGELES TIMES

*“... a tremendously funny author, a very
well-crafted and entertaining book.”*

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

The Absence

Fjarveran, novel, 2012

Armann Valur Armannsson is an Icelandic scholar and proof-reader. Most of his life he has read texts by other people but now, when he's into his sixties, he has started to wonder if he should maybe focus on his own writing. The only published work by him is a 218 word text that his friend, the composer Markus Geirhardur, set to music he wrote for a voice, strings, and radio waves. The work was published on a record but was not widely known, as it was a very progressive and unusual work of art. The text is also remarkable for the fact that possibly – in fact it is very likely – there is important information regarding an unsolved mystery with a disappearance, which happens to

be the most famous case in Icelandic criminal history, the Case of Geirfinnur. Armann wrote the text after eaves-dropping in on a conversation between two men in the restaurant Klubburinn in November 1974, two days before Geirfinnur disappeared. No-one aside from Armann and Markus know anything about the real meaning of the text, not even the singer who performed it on the recording. But important information is no longer exciting when it is out in the open. And who better to judge the importance of suspense than the proof-reader? 238 pp

Chapters in English available

Letters of Intent

Handritið að kvikmynd Arnar Featherby og Jóns Magnússonar um uppnámið á veitingahúsinu, eftir Jenný Alexson, novel, 2010

When Chas Featherby, a sailor from Hull, dies at a ripe old age, his son Örn, a playwright and legal translator, finds out from his aunt that he has inherited about two hundred pairs of shoes from his father. At the same time, Örn and his partner, Jon Magnusson, a film director who is working as a librarian, are given an opportunity they have long dreamt of: the half-promise of some funding in the form of a letter of intent from an old school friend, to produce a feature film. 464 pp

The Ambassador

Sendiherrann, novel, 2006

Icelandic poet Sturla Jon Jonsson attends an international poetry festival in Lithuania – but this is no ordinary trip. As the poetic ambassador of his country, Sturla Jon shrugs off his official duties, deciding to become the ambassador to his own feelings instead. A story about the criminal in all of us, metaphysical novel about an un-expected dark deed in the bewitching world of literature. 386 pp

- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize*
- *The Icelandic Bookseller's Prize 2006*
- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2006*

Sold to:

Denmark (Athene); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (S. Fischer Verlag); USA/Canada/UK/Australia (Open Letter)

Film rights sold to:

The Icelandic Film Company

The Pets

Gæludýrin, novel, 2001

Emil, a young Icelander, returns home after a short trip to London to find that a sinister old acquaintance, Havard, has been roaming the streets of Reykjavik looking for him. The prospect of a face-to-face encounter proves too much for Emil, and when Havard forces his way into his flat, he hides under his own bed.

A tale of cowardice, comeuppance and assumed identity, this is an original and very funny take on the theme of the double. 248 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize*
- *Nominated for the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award*

Sold to:

Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (dtv); USA/Canada/UK/Australia (Open Letter); France (Actes Sud)/South and Central America /Spain/USA (Bajo la luna) Italy (Edizioni la Linea); Egypt (Animar)

Time Off

Hvíldardagur, novel, 1999

"I try to imagine who would be the first person to walk into my flat, if I weren't to come back from Heidmork. And how long it would take for someone to miss me. Probably two and half months, I thought, which is about what I have left of my summer leave."

The narrator of this clever novel has been granted an unusually long summer leave from his job. He decides to head up to the Heidmork nature reserve on a daytrip, but the hike takes a sudden and unexpected twist. 192 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 1999*
- *Nominated for the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award 1999*

Chapters in English and French available



EINAR KARASON (b.1955) is a novelist and one of the most popular author and scriptwriter of his generation; best known for his *Devils' Isle trilogy*. His novel *Fury* (2009) was nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize and awarded the Icelandic Literary Prize.

“Through Karason’s use of choral narrative technique the final inferno is subtly prepared. The hope that a new war could be prevented, in spite of everything, flares up, over and over again. But Karason does not intend to rewrite the Sturlunga Saga. What is relevant today about that time and its bloody conflicts lies in the timeless mechanisms of violence and the willingness to reconcile, which are analyzed with sensitivity and skill by the author.”

DEUTSCHLAND RADIO

“The portrayal of Sturla is convincing and complex, just like the portrayal of the Sturlung Era in all the books ... The best chapters are masterful.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY (ON POET)

Poet

Skáld, historical novel, 2012

...he realized that he couldn't entirely comprehend it himself, how all the battle lines had become disorganized. Everybody was at war with everybody else...

It's the summer of 1276. Sturla Thordarson is in residence in his home at Stadarholl and has just finished recording the recent incident at Flugumyri, where people had been burned alive in their homes, when he is summoned to immediately present himself in the court of Magnus the Law-Mender, King of Norway. Sturla reluctantly sets off with two other Icelandic chieftains, Hrafn Oddsson and Thorvardur Thorarinsson, but the three associates suffer damages to their ship in a storm off the

coast of the Faroe Islands, forcing them to endure the winter there. This long delay gives Sturla cause to recollect the treacherous events of the past 40 years and perceive them in a new context. With *Poet*, Einar Karason completes his series about the history of the powerful family clan Sturlungar. In this novel he gives voice to the poet himself who presents the reader with his experience of this riotous medieval period and shows us his innermost thoughts. 236 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria
(bth/Random House);
Denmark (Tiderne skifter)

Chapters in English available

“In my opinion Einar has done an outstanding job ... not only in telling a story, but also telling it in a very unique manner ... He has not only created a new work of literature worthy of being read, but also breathed new life into the sagas of Sturlungar, making us all wealthier.”

VIDSJA, ICELANDIC STATE RADIO (ON FURY)

Fury

Ofsi, historical novel, 2008

1252 AD. A bloody civil war grips Iceland. Gissur Thorvaldsson, leader of the powerful Haukadalur clan, has returned to Iceland to attempt to make his peace with the Sturlungs. As a token of good faith, he offers to marry his son to daughter of the Sturlung leader. At the fine estate Modruvellir dwells the local hero Eyjolfur Ofsi. While he is prepared to accept Gissur's outstretched hand, his wife is not about to forgive Gissur her father's and grandfather's deaths. Generous and easygoing in the daytime, Eyjolfur's mood darkens as night falls. Feelings of inferiority fester like a cancer inside him, leading to a fateful outcome. 192 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2009*
- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2010*

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria
(bth/Random House);
Denmark (Gyldendal)

A Gathering of Foes

Óvinafagnaður, historical novel, 2001

When news reaches Thordur Kakali in Norway that his father and brothers, members of the most powerful family in Iceland, the Sturlunga clan, have been killed by a rivalling clan, he has few options. After years of drink and gambling, Thordur has few friends. He's heavily in debt and when he learns that hitmen are after him, Thordur decides to face his enemies in Iceland. 248 pp

Sold to:
Denmark (Gyldendal); Finland (Johnny Kniga/WSOY);
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (bth/Random House)

Film rights sold to:
Fridrik Thor Fridriksson/Spellbound Productions

“Certainly not everyone can tackle as big a theme as revenge and get away with it as well as this.”

JYLLANDS-POSTEN, DENMARK

Storm

Stormur, novel, 2003

The central character of this powerful novel is Eyvindur Jonsson Stormur, a clever, witty but self-deceptive man, who is surrounded by a motley crew of heavy drinkers, hippies, business men, losers and Icelandic students abroad. A brilliant rendering of the ideas and spirit of

the times and an entertaining gallery of expressive characters and hilarious events. 333 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2003*
- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2004*
- *The DV Newspaper’s Cultural Award 2003*

Sold to:

Norway (Cappelen); Denmark (Gyldendal); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb/Random House); Russia (Fluid); Azerbaijan (Alatoran)

Killian’s People

Killiansfólkið (Heimskra manna ráð, Kvikasilfur, novels), new edition, 2004

Colourful tales of the entrepreneurs and motley crew that make up Killian’s family, and the noble goals and petty dreams of these nouveaux riches yet perennially broke people, painting a portrait that sharply reflect the history of Iceland in recent years. 413 pp

Sold to:

Sweden (Bonniers); Norway (Aschehoug); Denmark (Gyldendal); Finland (Like); France (Seuil); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Zsolnay/Hanser, paperback rights: Random House/btb)

Where Devils’ Isle Rises The Isle of Gold The Promised Land

Þar sem djöflaeyjan rís, Gulleyjan, Fyrirheitna landið, novels, 1983–1989

Set in Reykjavik in the fifties, this highly colourful family saga describes in a very lively and humorous way the immense change in Iceland, when a simple rural culture of farmers and fishermen clashed with the American mass culture. 200–215 pp

Sold to:

Denmark (Gyldendal); Sweden (Bonniers); Finland (Like); The Netherlands (De bezige bij); Norway (Aschehoug); Faroe Islands (Árting); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Eichborn/Die andere Bibliothek/ Paperback rights: Random House/btb); Poland (Marpres/as an e-book: Tower Press); U.K. (Canongate)

A motion picture based on these novels received an award for the best Nordic film in 1997.



EINAR MAR GUDMUNDSSON

(b.1954) is a novelist, short-story writer and poet, one of the most widely translated Icelandic authors born in the post-war period. Gudmundsson has received many awards and distinctions for his books, such as the Norwegian Bjørnson Prize, the Scharnberg Memorial Award in Denmark, The Karen Blixen Medal and The Guiseppe Acerbi Literary Prize in Italy. In 2012 Einar Mar Gudmundsson received the Swedish Academy's Nordic Prize, dubbed "The little Nobel", for his contribution to literature.

"I strike it solid with royal seven inch nails that Gudmundsson's book doesn't lack narrative prowess and humor in them."

LISELOTTE WIEMER, KRISTELIGT DAGBLAD,
DENMARK

"Brilliantly fun."

WEEKENDAVISEN, DENMARK

Icelandic Kings

Íslenskir kóngar, novel, 2012

The Knudsen clan has ruled Tangavik for more than two centuries. They have built herring factories, warehouses and shops, sat on the town council, owned factories, boats, fishing ships, freezing plants, conducted brass bands, choirs and women's associations. The Knudsen clan has built empires and lost them. It has disappeared and then reappeared, been both immensely popular and detested, and everything in between. The Knudsen clan in Tangavik is a colourful and party-loyal family with hard-working ship-owners, dutiful bank managers, boozy shop own-

"The book is characterised by exceptionally exuberant narrative, colourful characters, a lot of humour and an incisive dissection of society. This is a vibrant book and a joy to read."

MORGUNBLADID DAILY



"Wonderful book about kings of all shapes and sizes."

ALT FOR DAMERNE

ers, popular MPs, feisty beauty queens, and even loveable village idiots. It's story is intricately woven into the story of the people, having ruled and manipulated it from earliest memory. The narrator is a former pupil of Arnfinnur Knudsen, one of the clan's most impressive members of all time, and one of the most colourful characters in fiction. Einar Mar tackled the Icelandic economy in his last two poetical essay-stories, *The White Book* and *Zero, Bank Street*. Now he deals with the country's upper class with great wit and humour. 256 pp

Sold to: Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof);
Sweden (Natur och Kultur);
Norway (Cappelen Damm)
Chapters in English available

The Beatle Manifesto

Bítlaávarpið, novel, 2004

A spectre is haunting the streets of the world, the spectre of the Beatles.

Master storyteller Gudmundsson returns with this wonderful book, which in its narrative approach and style is a kind of *The Knights of the Spiral Staircase* meets *Angels of the Universe*. 253 pp

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2004

Sold to:

Denmark (Borgen);
Norway (Cappelen);
Sweden (Natur & Kultur);
Finland (Like)
Chapters in English available

*“Angels of the Universe is ...
a rare, suggestive and poetic novel.”*

SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

Angels of the Universe

Englar alheimsins, novel, 1993

The story tackles the torment of psychiatric illness as experienced by the central character, who narrates his whole life from birth to death, as he gradually succumbs to the terrors of mental illness and the equally horrific treatment applied to its sufferers. Despite the air of tragedy that per-

vades the whole work, the tale ripples with humour as it presents a whole pantheon of colourful characters, whose inner worlds are larger than life. 224 pp

- Nordic Council Literary Prize 1995
- The DV newspaper's Cultural Prize 1994

Sold to:

Denmark (Vindrose); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Natur & Kultur); Finland (Like); Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Greenland (Atuakkiorfik); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser/Paperback rights: btb); UK (Mare's Nest); The Netherlands (De bezige bij); Italy (Iperborea); Lithuania (Tyto Alba); France (Flammarion); Spain (Siruela); Portugal (Canguru); USA (St. Martin's Press); The Czech Republic (Odeon); Poland (Tower Press/also as an e-book); Serbia (Narodna knjiga); Turkey (Acikdeniz Publishing); China (The Commercial Press); Estonia (Imahaa); Bulgaria (Hemus); Hungary (Siraly Kiado); Spain (Rinoceronte Editora, in Galician); Korea (Nangiyala Publishing House); Latvia (Jumava), Slovenia (Temza); Russia (Corpus); Brazil (Hedra); Albania (B-Books)
Adapted into an award-winning motion picture directed by the Oscar nominee Fridrik Thor Fridriksson.

Footprints on the Heavens Dreams on Earth Nameless Roads

Fótspor á himnum, novel, 1997
 Draumar á jörðu, novel, 2000
 Nafnlausir vegir, novel, 2002

This trilogy traces the fortunes and misfortunes of several generations (modelled in part on the author's own family) from around the turn of the century to the end of the 1930s, with the largest gallery of heroes and rogues ever to come from Gudmundsson's pen. A unique depiction of life in Iceland in the first half of the twentieth century.
 213–222 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 1997 (Footprints on the Heavens)*
- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2000 (Dreams on Earth)*

Sold to:

Denmark (Borgen/Vindrose); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser, paperback: btb); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Natur & Kultur); Finland (Like); Italy (Iperborea); Czech Republic (Odeon) Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Albania (B-Books), Egypt (Golden Pony)

English translation available

The Knights of the Spiral Stairs Wingbeat on the Rooftops Epilogue of Raindrops

Riddarar hringstigans, novel, 1982
 Vængjasláttur í þakrennum, novel, 1983
 Eftirmáli regndropanna, novel, 1986

Highly original portrait of the life of small boys in a suburb of Reykjavik. The narrator is a six-year-old boy who juggles the language of children and adults to set the scene and describe the action of the novel. Boys in a suburb of Reykjavik “give their thoughts wings” to create a private world where life is breeding pigeons and building coops. But their yearning for freedom clashes harshly with the strictures of organized adult society.
 190–235 pp

Sold to:

Denmark (Borgen); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Natur & Kultur); Finland (Like); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser) and France (Gaïa)
 English translation available



EIRIKUR ORN NORDDAHL (b.1978)

has written novels and poetry. Furthermore, he is a translator, both of fiction and non fiction, and has written articles about literature and social issues. www.norddahl.com

“Magnificent author.”

SALON-KREUZBERG.DE

★★★★★ (5 stars out of 5)

“So masterfully done, original and cool that it’s frightening ... Crazy book! Read it! ... Informative, entertaining, sad and funny. It combines history, love story, philosophical pondering and humour ... So masterfully done, original and fantastic that it is just overwhelming.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

“Norddahl has made himself a place amongst the most progressive and daring authors of his generation with his work.”

VIDSJA, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

“A major work in every sense ... very strong impact ... masterly well written ... constant tension ...”

KILJAN, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

Evil

Illska, novel, 2012

The momentum of world history: Agnes Lukauskas and Omar Arnarson meet early one piercing-cold Sunday morning in the taxi queue in the centre of Reykjavik. Three years later Omar burns their house to the ground, drives to Keflavik and abandons the country by plane.

The story actually begins long before then, in the summer of 1941, when half of the residents of the small Lithuanian town of Jurbarkas are slaughtered in the surrounding forest. Two of Agnes’ great-grandfathers were in the massacre – one shot the other – and three generations later Agnes has made the holocaust the centre point of her own life. Her obsession leads her to Arnor, a literate Neo-Nazi. *Evil* is about the holocaust and about love, about Iceland and Lithuania, about

Agnes who becomes lost in herself while Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, Icelandic ambassador in Lithuania, acknowledges the independence of the Baltic countries and Lithuanian criminals begin operating from Reykjavik, about Agnes who doesn’t know whether she is a fan of the B-Ranking World Champions in Handball or of Bogdan Kowalczyk, about Agnes who loves Omar who loves Agnes who loves Arnor. 540 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2012*
- *The Icelandic Bookseller Prize for the best novel of 2012*

Sold to:
 Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Klett-Cotta);
 France/ Switzerland/Luxembourg (Métailié);
 Sweden (Råmus)
 Chapters in English available

*“Fascism has no sense of irony, it says somewhere, and irony must therefore prove a useful tool in the struggle against it. You want to believe that at any rate after reading *Evil*, but even if it is not the case, certainly here is a beautiful and expansive novel, a tremendous feat I must say, about injured people wandering around an ailing world in all its misery – and splendour.”*

BOKMENNTIR.IS (ON EVIL)

*“**Kindness** is a sermon-on-the-mount about contemporaneity, performed in nimbly encoded images, sharp and rich in content.”*

TMM LITERARY REVIEW

*“Eiríkur Orn Norddahl’s book, **Kindness**, is obtrusive, a fresh breath among all of the artistic creations inspired by the notorious collapse...an energetic and powerful dash.”*

BOKMENNTIR.IS

Kindness

Gæska, novel, 2009

When conservative MP Halldor Gardar wakes up the world is a different place from what it was the night before. Not only is mt. Esja ablaze, Reykjavik enveloped in clouds of smoke and Parliament square crammed with demonstrators, but Halldor Gardar no longer feels right – he feels left. At some point during the night his conscience must have got turned upside down and suddenly the whole world seems new and frightening. When a young Moroccan girl asks him to help free her parents from the clutches of the Icelandic state, his life acquires a purpose he had never suspected before... An incredibly imaginative and funny novel about everything that has been amiss in Iceland in the past years. 340 pp

Chapters in English available

Poison for Beginners

Eitur fyrir byrjendur, novel, 2006

Halldor and Herdis live together but are not known to have ever kissed. When Herdis brings into the home a hazardous potplant and Hogni, a student of gender studies, Halldor loses the ability to leave the house, but develops a sudden interest in the use of poison. *Poison for Beginners* is a novel that features in a sensitive way the relationship of a young couple. 139 pp

Sold to:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Kozempel & Timm);

Sweden (Rámus Förlag)

English sample translation available



ELISABET JOKULSDOTTIR

(b.1958) is an author with masses of creative talent and great sensitivity for human emotions. She has published novels as well as short stories and poetry.

“I say bravo for this book, didn’t put it down for a second. I’ve never read a book that deals so brazenly with sex.”

JULIA ALEXANDRA / JOURNALIST

The Locksmith’s Good Advice

Heilræði lásasmiðsins,
a novel, 2007

Elisabet and Algea met when she was on a trip to New York. He American, she Icelandic; he black, she white; he a hatter and a drummer, she a writer; he from a big city, she a child of nature. He follows her to Iceland but they both have difficulties distinguishing between fantasy and reality and encounter a fair dose of turbulence on their path. Not least when love leads to those recesses of their inner lives that have been bolted under lock and key for a very long time – and a locksmith needs to be called in.

A candid, blunt and intimate account of the relationship between two very different individuals who meet and form a temporary bond that is destined to dissolve. 219 pp

Football Stories (Mini Stories)

Fótboltasögur, örsögur, 2001

Footballers all have their positions to defend, both on and off the pitch. With piercing black humour, these stories tell us of the fullbacks, forwards, goalkeepers and other players on the pitch and on the bench, in reality and in dreams, and recounts their feats or would-have-been actions. The author has full control over her players and excels in attack, but leaves occasional gaps in the defense to allow the reader to run in and join the game. 77 pp

• *The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize 2008*

English translation available

“Jökulsdóttir’s stories revolve around football and the craze it inspires, but also, not least, the psychology of the characters, their emotions, language and reality – and in most of them she really scores.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER



FRIDA A. SIGURDARDÓTTIR

(1940–2010) worked as a lecturer at the University of Iceland and as a librarian before turning exclusively to writing in 1978. Her first work was the short story collection *Nothing Serious*, published in 1980.

“A poignant and passionate story, brimming with demanding speculation about love, death and the meaning of life.”

DV NEWSPAPER

Night Watch

Meðan nóttin líður, novel, 1990

Nina appears to be a successful modern woman – sophisticated, intelligent and confident. But her success is overshadowed by doubt and despair. As she sits at her mother’s deathbed, perennial questions arise in her mind. Fragments of present and past realities are woven together in the course of the story, which carries a poignant message for our times. 193 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 1991*
- *The Press Cultural Award for Literature 1991*
- *The Nordic Council Literary Prize 1992*

Sold to:

Czech Republic (Mladá Fronta/Praha); Denmark (Rhodos); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Steidl); Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar); Norway (Emilia); Finland (Gummerus); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Mare’s Nest); Lithuania (Leidykla Vaga)

In Julia’s House

Í húsi Júlíu, novel, 2006

The story of two sisters and their tempestuous relationship. After an absence of many years abroad, Lena makes a sudden and unannounced return. Wheels are set in motion, the moment Lena steps into Julia’s house, ushering new dangers into the home. This novel by Sigurdardóttir encompasses many haunting elements, and in her own unique manner she manages to interweave the various narrative threads to create a poignant and powerful contemporary story. 235 pp

In a Closed World

Í luktum heimi, novel, 1994

Tomas, a middle-aged man, wakes up one morning haunted by questions of the purpose and meaning of life. How can an individual control his own fate, love and happiness? Or are these just words, devoid of any significance? The novel describes a few desperate weeks of Tomas’ life; weeks filled with joy and despair, love and unbearable pain. 281 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 1994*

Sold to:

Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar)



GUDBERGUR BERGSSON (b.1932)

is one of Iceland's leading writers, the first author to win the coveted Icelandic Literary Prize twice, first in 1991 for the widely acclaimed *The Swan* and then in 1997 for the first volume of his biographical novel *Father and Mother and the Mystery of Childhood*, which was also nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize in 1992.

Bergsson has been named Doctor Honoris Causa by the department of foreign languages of the University of Iceland.

“A great European novelist.”

MILAN KUNDERA

The Eternal Yearning

Hin eilífa þrá, novel, 2012

Gudbergur Bergsson has dedicated himself to mapping out Icelandic reality in his works. In this modern tale everything that defines a community in the age of pornographic commercialism shatters. The Karaoke Hall is the main place of worship, business hippies run Paradise Greenhouse, housewives prance about the kitchen in teeny-weeny bikinis, and tech savvy kids eat what they can get in the networked vacuum. The stage is set in an industrial area in contemporary Reykjavik. Most of the characters work at the sewing factory for the raincoat

manufacturer Iceland Rain, and they all share a dream of making a quick fortune. Even Reverend Jon is not without dreams, and he sometimes pops by the cafeteria to say hello to his wife and massage the shoulders of unmarried and hard-up seamstresses. But what is behind this fateful dream of easy money? And what is the eternal yearning?

The Eternal Yearning is a both a devious prankster story and a tragic tale of modern Icelanders. Politically correct people are advised to stay clear of this book. 270 pp

“Loss is doubtless one of his more influential works, terse and chiseled, inspiring the readers to reflect.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

“Loss is a masterful narrative of how old age clutches a person... it is funny and very bleak... an incredibly beautifully written book.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

Loss

Missir, novel, 2010

To what does the mind turn when one reaches the end of the road and there is little ahead but eternity itself? To past times... now disagreeable memories. Nothing breaks the silence but the merciless hiss of the kettle, the everyday accompaniment to a lonely man’s reckoning with his life, love or lack of love that reaches beyond the borders of life and death – and old age, the lot awaiting everyone when the body becomes decrepit and stamina dries up.

Here Gudbergur Bergsson provides a provo-

cative and unexpected insight into an everyday world that one and all recognize but beautify in their own particular way. *Loss* is a novel that exposes the individual in relation to his inevitable fate. 128 pp

Sold to:

Brazil (Bateia)

Spain/Andorra/South and Central

America/USA (Tusquets); Hungary

(Gondolat Kiadó); France/Switzerland/

Luxembourg/Canada (Métailié)

Chapters in English available

Spanish translation available

The Swan

Svanurinn, novel, 1991

The Swan is the story of a nine-year old girl raised in a fishing village, who is sent to a farm in the country as punishment for shoplifting. There she discovers feelings she had not known before, mysterious, terrible and painful. A novel built on tension and contradiction, where the grotesque and the beautiful, the comical and the dramatic, are at once contrasted and yet reconciled. 148 pp

- *The Icelandic Literature Prize 1991*
- *Nomination for The Nordic Council Literary Prize 1992*

“A literary voyage of the soul, filled with wonders and adventure.”

NDR RADIO

Sold to:

Turkey (Marti Yayinlari)

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The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (De Geus);

Greece (Ellinika Grammata); Estonia (SA Kultuurilent);

Lithuania (Leidykla Vaga); Taiwan (Owl Publishing);

World Arab (Sphinx); Ethiopia (Qirtas); Macedonia

(Antolog)

Film rights: Vintage Pictures

“The mixture of irony and simplicity, depression and distance and most of all the density of the atmosphere, creates a mood unlike any other and elevates this story, making it a work of art.”

BERLINER MORGENPOST

The Search for the Child in the Chasm

Leitin að barninu í gjánni, novel, 2008

Gudbergur Bergsson is well-known for his unconventional approach and inventive narratives. In *The Search for the Child in the Chasm – A Children’s Story not for Children* he once more strikes a new note. This tender and symbolic story, which is definitely meant for adults, describes the journey of a child and a teacher along strange paths, through

a secret door in the basement of the school among others. Under the surface is another more haunting story, not least about the imagination which is sometimes stolen from young people – and about the challenge of finding the courage to do battle with oneself. 147 pp

The Paralyzed Teachers

Lömuðu kennslukonurnar, novel, 2004

Coming home after a period of study, a proud mother’s bright hope gets a full-time job as a social worker that takes him to the bedside of two paralyzed sisters. He starts to invent stories for them and before he knows it, the sisters have led him down a road from which there is no turning back. The power of the para-

lyzed sisters lures him into a narrative totally against his own will. Primitive and vulgar elements gain the upper hand. But what is left of the author’s mind after allowing himself to be duped into the story? 213 pp

“Wonderful, ironic, sad, shocking and funny.”

DV NEWSPAPER

Sold to:
Lithuania (Pasvires Pasaulis)

“An uncomfortable masterpiece from Gudbergur – who just seems to get better with age.”

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

1 1/2 Book – A Terrible Story

1 1/2 bók – Hryllileg saga, novel, 2006

In *1 1/2 Book – A Terrible Story* Gudbergur Bergsson takes on one of his most ambitious topics to this day: Icelandic culture and its influences, from the time Iceland was under Danish rule to our day. Delving under the surface of

Icelandic society he portrays unforgettable characters in a work of fiction that tackles the truth and history, and not least the Icelandic national identity. 260 pp

“Bergsson is one of this century’s principal geniuses and rarely has he been more successful than in this novel.”

DAGUR NEWSPAPER

“A magnificent work which will undoubtedly be considered among this century’s leading work of literature ...”

DV NEWSPAPER

Father and Mother and the Mystery of Childhood

Faðir og móðir og dulmagn bernskunnar, novel, 1997

In this captivating and touchingly honest story, Gudbergur Bergsson revisits the days of his youth in the fishing village of Grindavik. He revives days passed, examining these childhood years with an adult’s eyes attempting to see himself through his parents and the surroundings out of which he grew. 320 pp

- *The Nordic Council Literary Prize 2004*
- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 1997*
- *Selected Dagur Newspaper’s Novel of the Year*
- *Nominated for the 1998 DV Newspaper’s Cultural Prize*
- *Nominated for the 1999 Aristeion European Literary Prize*
- *Nominated for The Nordic Council Literary Prize 1999 (vol. 1 and 2)*

Sold to:

Brazil (Rocco); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (Tusquets); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Steidl); Sweden (Atlantis); Egypt (Sphinx)

Like a Stone Smoothed by the Sea

Eins og steinn sem hafið fágur, novel, 1998

Volume II of Bergsson’s biographical novel. In this captivating story, Gudbergur Bergsson picks up where he left off in his award-winning work, *Father and Mother and the Mystery of Childhood*, reviving a life which now only exists in the recesses of his mind. Bergsson writes both compellingly and candidly of the world which shaped his own mentality, emotions and writings. 405 pp

- *Nominated for the 1998 Icelandic Literary Prize*
- *Nominated for The Nordic Council Literary Prize 1999 (vol. 1 and 2)*

Sold to:

Sweden (Atlantis)

Torments of Love in the Chamber of the Mind

Sú kvalda ást sem hugarfylgsnin geyma, novel, 1993

A middle-aged man inherits a childhood friend’s assets, as well as his male lover. In a basement room he searches for a passion that is invisible to the rest of the world. 250 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 1993*

Sold to:

Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (Tusquets); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Steidl); Egypt (Sphinx)



GUDRUN EVA

MINERVUDOTTIR (b.1976) has earned herself a place among Iceland's most promising writers.

In her incredible poignant style she interweaves all kind of relationships and exchanges, which, in one way or another, together form a kind of study of the body and its connections to the mind, culture and just the world.

www.minervudottir.com

“Minervudottir has long since proved herself to be one of our most fertile and original writers, with a unique way of presenting people’s interactions in a fresh and unexpected light.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

“Minervudottir has yet again created a magical novel which will stay in the memory for a long time.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

Everything With a Kiss Awakens

Allt með kossi vekur, novel, 2011

Indi is caught in a web of her own lies, severely addicted to cleaning and shopping and downright losing her struggle with everyday life. Rescue comes in the unlikely form of Indi's old school-friend, the charismatic but unstable Elisabet. But soon the rays of hope are banished by a cloud of plagues and horrors, accompanied by the destructive forces of erupting mount Katla. Thirteen years later events are being carefully unearthed by Elisabet's son, David. Through documents and drawings, hearsay and his mothers' dubious recounts he learns the disturbing truth about the fate of Indi, while getting to know the banality of evil and the mean-

ing of genuine, heroic sacrifice. Did Elisabet have a destructive effect on everybody around her? Did the Katla eruption perhaps bring out the evil in people? Did the one true kiss possess some un-defined terrible power?

Everything with a Kiss Awakens is a powerful and imaginative story where the narrative dances on the boundaries of reality and fantasy. Illustrations are by Sunna Sigurdardottir. 299 pp

- *The Icelandic Literature Prize 2011*
- *Selected as the best novel of the year by Morgunbladid daily.*

Sold to:

Italy (Scritturapura); Germany/Austria/
Switzerland (Random House/ btb)
Chapters in English available

“An entertaining, turbulent novel.”

NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

“A wonderful, but tragic comedy, full of dry humour [...] Gudrun Eva Minervudottir is one of the best Icelandic authors, and with her original masterpiece she delivers more than convincing proof.”

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG



“Terrifying and wonderful”

Berlinske Tidende, Denmark

The Creator

Skaparinn, novel, 2008

Sveinn has devoted himself to the artistic pursuit of creating the loveliest sex dolls imaginable. Living alone and keeping to himself, he has limited contact with the world around him. Glancing out of his window after working especially long and hard, he happens to see a woman, Loa, attempting to change a tire. After succumbing to the natural urge to help her out, Sveinn invites her into his home, only to gradually become entangled in Loa’s family affairs. Not only does this have unforeseen results, it also leads him to reassess his own life. Powerfully written, the text uniquely captures human emotion at the breaking point. Here, as in her previous works, Gudrun Eva Minervudottir spotlights everyday people grappling with unusual situations, where help sometimes arrives from where it is least expected. 280 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize*

Sold to:

Italy (Scrutturapura); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Random House/ btb); UK/Australia/New Zealand/ South-Africa/USA/Philippines (Portobello); Finland (Atena); France/Switzerland/ Luxembourg/Canada (Autrement)

Yosoy

Yosoy, novel, 2005

Madame Louise de Roubaix meets Dr. Olafur Benediktsson at an international congress on pain in Brussels and charges him with the investigation of a strange circus in Iceland. The whole organisation is shrouded in mystery and gaining the trust of its members turns out to be a peculiar experience for Olafur, as he gradually discovers the true nature of these unforgettable and perplexing people.

This is a powerful tale about pain and human nature, sublime and zany love, innate and acquired talents – and how people cultivate their God-given gifts. 383 pp

- *The DV Newspaper’s Cultural Award 2006*
- *Nominated for the Bookseller’s Literary Award 2005 as the best novel of the year*

Sold to:

Italy (Scrutturapura); Danmark (Art People)
 Film rights sold to: Pegasus Pictures
 Chapters in English and German available



GUDMUNDUR ANDRI THORSSON

(b. 1957) published his first novel, *My Wonderful Angst*, in 1988 to a very positive reception. He was awarded the DV newspaper's Culture Prize for literature for his novel *The Icelandic Dream* in 1991 and two of his books have been nominated to the Icelandic Literature Prize. Gudmundur Andri Thorsson is one of Iceland's most respected writers, praised for his superlative style and writing skills. He is the director of the literary magazine TMM and a columnist for Iceland's biggest newspaper, besides working as an editor for a publishing house. He has also translated several works of fiction into Icelandic. His novel *The Valeyri Waltz* was nominated to the Nordic Council Literary Award 2012.

Dignity

Sæmd, novel, 2013

"... he led me into the day and the light, as he himself was confronting the doorway of his own evening."

Towards the end of 1882, Olafur Arnason, a student at the Latin School filches a book from his schoolmate. In charge of the school is one of the country's most distinguished scholars, Bjorn M. Olsen, who regards it as his life's work to drag the nation out of ignorance and wretchedness, a task that requires harshness and discipline. His students are the nation's lifeline, and it is important to educate them in the right spirit. At the same time the poet Benedikt Grondal makes a decision to tear himself away from drinking

and pipe dreams, and turn up for teaching duties. Contrasting men, contrasting ideas – it seems that conflict is unavoidable.

This mesmerizing and uncommonly well-written story is based on real events and characters, and uses them to draw a dramatic picture of commanding figures and ordinary human life at a sensitive period in the nation's history. But *Dignity* is also a story of crime and punishment, bravery, the nature of power, class division, the poet's role in society – and honour. It addresses the human being's embodiment in the world, in a society where some oppress and others are completely dependent on the whims of the powers that be. All things transmute sooner or later in the constant search for a new embodiment of their own core. 178 pp



“An exquisite story, fragrant with sunshine and salt and human longing.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY (ON THE VALEYRI WALTZ)



*“... he captures the imagination, simply fires up the senses. **The Valeyri Waltz** is a delightful read from cover to cover.”*

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

The Valeyri Waltz

Valeyrarvalsinn, a novel in stories, 2011

“I see the secrets. I see the people cooking and pottering about, pissing, being silent, skulking. Some are crying, some are listening, some are staring. I see the people screaming into their pillows, throwing out rubbish and useless memories, and I do not look away. I never look away.”

In a little village the paths of peoples’ lives are variously interwoven, and even though many are very familiar with each other, no-one knows what lies hidden in the next person’s head, in the memory palaces of the mind.

In sixteen closely-linked stories all happening during the same two minutes, Thorsson presents people of flesh and blood, familiar folk who battle with life and an existence which is at

times grey and cruel but at also incomparably wonderful. In an exceptionally chiselled and beautiful text which is bound to touch many people deeply, characters and sentiments spring to life, resulting in an entertaining and lively story arc where the great is reflected in the small, the whole of Iceland in a little village. The author cites Sherwood Anderson's seminal 1919 short story cycle Winesburg, Ohio as his favourite example of the form, a book known as one of the earliest works of Modernist literature, placed midway between the novel proper and the mere collection of stories. 168 pp

- Nominated to the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2012

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hoffman und Campe);
 France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Gallimard);
 Denmark (Batzer & Co); Norway (Orkana)
 Chapters in English and German available
 Danish translation available

“... an entertaining book ...”

THE WEEKLY PAPER

“... an especially well-written and engaging novel.”

KISTAN.IS

Tell Mama I'm Fine

Segðu mömmu að mér líði vel,
novel, 2008

“We kissed. Then, gently extracting herself from my embrace, she smiled and waved a goodbye before getting into the car.

I remember that our eyes met and I said something about going to buy sausage for dinner – like I sometimes did – sausage made from horsemeat – and she gave a wry smile at the wellworn joke, saying she wasn't sure she'd make it for dinner, she'd call ...”

Kata's call takes its time in coming, however, and in the meantime Einar goes for a walk with his dog. His thoughts turn to Kata and her son, to his father – an alcoholised saxophone player who has known better days – with whom he has lived all these years. And to his mama, a country girl turned singer, pondering how their fates were all entwined ... Until the phone rings shrilly and nothing is ever the same again. 152 pp

The Power of Mercy

Náðarkraftur, novel, 2003

A sardonic family saga about a son who has to tell his parents that a song he wrote has reached the final in the Eurovision Song Contest – which he knows will horrify them – and the daughter has to decide whether she should sacrifice her fiancé, a promising young Europeanist, for a bluesy dope-head whom she doesn't know is probably the heir to a fortune. The mother is a priest who has to deal with the sudden return of psychic powers, and the father is a former Socialist member of parliament who cultivates his garden. These are the last Socialists, their ideals have made them a laughing stock, and they live under the shadow of shattered dreams and damnation, but in spite of it all, they still gather around the piano sometimes in the evening and sing “Gracias a la vida”... 237 pp



GERDUR KRISTNY (b.1970) proved herself as one of Iceland's most interesting poets with her first book, and has since then published several books of poetry, as well as short stories, novels and children's books. She received the Icelandic Children's Book Award for *Smart Marta*, The Halldor Laxness Award for her novel *A Boat with Sails and All* and the Icelandic Literary Award for her book of poetry, *Bloodhoof*, which was also nominated for The Nordic Council Literary Award.

“There is a deep solitude and quest in the text that underlies the rugged surface, and Gerdur Kristny develops this subtext quite brilliantly; Oddfridur’s story touches and stirs the reader without ever succumbing to sentimentality (which no reader of Gerdur Kristny’s would have expected anyway) and doesn’t shy away from her heroine’s faults – and a subtle humour pervades it all.”

BOKMENNTIR.IS

A Boat with Sails and All

Bátur með segli og allt, novel, 2004

A Boat with Sail and All is an exciting family tale of corruption and betrayal in contemporary Reykjavik. A young woman reporter is hired by a small daily newspaper, and sucked into a power struggle in a dog eats dog world. At the same time, she is trying to come to terms with her

own roots. Gerdur Kristny has skilfully woven a thrilling story that sharply reflects our times. 319 pp

- *The Halldor Laxness Award 2004*

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Ullstein)
Chapters in English available



HAUKUR INGVARSSON (b. 1979) is a literary scholar, poet and radio personality. Previously he has published a book of poetry, *Downfall and Episodes of the Mysterious Mangi*, as well as the work *Contemporary Features, an examination of Halldor Laxness' late novels*.

“... a delightfully entertaining and extremely well written text.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

“Has to be counted as one of the most splendid first novels by a young author of the past few years.”

TMM LITERARY MAGAZINE

“The plot is crisply shaped, the humour never far below the surface and with a well-disciplined narrative mode.”

VIDSJA, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

November 1976

Nóvember 1976, novel, 2011

“And why would a good-looking woman like Bibi, who has been messing around in foreign countries, want to talk to you? A golden-brown-skinned woman who walks like a French movie whore. What do you say to a woman like that, what did you girlfriends talk about? Perhaps you started to moan about me, that will have amused her I'm sure, but did you tell her about what you did? Did you tell her that you killed my television last night? Did you tell her that?”

As Dorothea gets ready to watch the tele-vision news on Friday evening, November 12th 1976, the set first starts to catch fire, then expires for ever. During this time it was easier to acquire

nuclear weapons in Iceland than a television, there being stringent restrictions on all kinds of imports to the country (even beer was banned in Iceland!), so her husband Richard decides to seek the help of Baldur downstairs, who is a bit of a fixer.

Baldur makes no promises, but he borrows Torodd, Dorothea's and Richard's son, for a work trip. This trip proves fateful for the whole stairwell.

November 1976 is an amusing story from recent times, recent and yet so remarkably long ago. 216 pp

Sold to:

Germany / Austria/ Switzerland (Edition Rugerup)

Chapters in English available



HALLDOR ARMAND

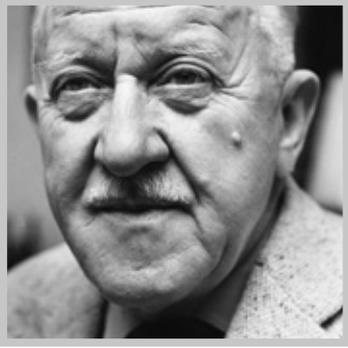
ASGEIRSSON (b. 1986) is a new and extraordinary voice in Icelandic literature. His play *Vakt (Shift)* was performed at the Nordurpóll theater in 2010 and was well received; this year he was awarded the Icelandic Literature Center Green Shoots Awards for the stories in this book.

Vince Vaughn in the Sky

Vince Vaughn í skýjunum, two stories, 2013

On the Internet anybody can be a star. One day previously unknown faces are on everybody's lips, the next they are forever forgotten. Will we all perhaps become world-famous for 15 minutes after all?

Sara and Thorir – she a high school girl who works at a swimming pool, he a well-mannered lottery show host - are totally unprepared for their sudden rise to fame. He becomes infamous in Iceland, she an international star. How do they manage this new reality? 149 pp



The Nobel laureate **HALLDOR LAXNESS** (1902-1998) is the undisputed master of contemporary Icelandic fiction and considered one of the greatest European novelists of the twentieth century. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955.

“One of the greatest novelists of the 20th century.”

DIE WELT

“Laxness is the patriarch of European literature.”

DIE WOCHENZEITUNG

Literary agent:

Licht & Burr, Copenhagen, Denmark

e-mail: tl@licht-burr.dk

Halldor Laxness was prolific during his long career, writing more than 60 books which have been translated over 40 languages and published in more than 500 editions. They have sold in large numbers all over the world, e.g. hundreds of thousands of copies in the US alone. His career is unique, the diversity of his works almost without parallel, and with every book he can be said to have approached his readers from a new and unexpected direction. In Laxness' works man and nature, legend and reality merge in magic unity and as a master of story-telling he possesses a fantastic imagination and inexhaustible resources of technique. Nine of the stories by Halldor Laxness have been filmed. The filming rights to the tenth, *Independent People*, one of Halldor Laxness' most famous novels, have been sold to Pegasus Pictures.

Under the Glacier

Kristnihald undir Jökli,
novel, 1968

A youthful emissary of the Bishop of Iceland travels to the beautiful and mysterious district of Snaefellsnes, locally known as “Under the Glacier”, to investigate the affairs of the parish and its enigmatic pastor. The story is the young man's report to the bishop on the extraordinary events taking place at the foot of Snaefells-Glacier. In this strange region all accepted distinctions between past and present, the mundane and the supernatural seem at times to vanish. A complex biblical allegory with many levels of meaning and hugely intricate and intriguing structure, and as such a unique work in Nordic literature. 334 pp

Sold to:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Steidl); The Czech Republic (Aurora); Hungary (Balassi); Romania (Niculescu); USA (Random House/Vintage); The Netherlands (De Geus); Italy (Iperborea); Czech Republic (Dybbuk); Georgia (Intelekti Publishing); Romania (Editura Arts)

Previously translated into 9 languages

The Fish Can Sing

Brekkukotsannáll, novel, 1957

This is the tale of Alfgirim, an abandoned child, left in the turf-and-stone cottage of Bjorn of Brekkukot on the outskirts of what is now Reykjavik. The central motif is the dichotomy between a genuine and unassuming way of life in an old homestead and the misguided pursuit after fraudulent renown. One of Laxness' most endearing and many-faceted novels with a large collection of unforgettable individuals. 316 pp

Sold to:

Norway (Oktober); UK and USA (Harvill Press/Vintage); Germany (Steidl); Italy (Iperborea); France (Librairie Arthème Fayard); Spain/South America (Turner); The Netherlands (De Geus); Greece (Kastaniotis); Lebanon (Arab Scientific Publishers); Macedonia (Mikena doo); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro)
Previously translated into 16 languages

The Iceland's Bell

Íslandsklukkan, novel, 1943-46

This major novel is set at a time when Iceland was an oppressed colony at the mercy of Denmark. After making a bawdy joke about the Danish king, farmer Hreggvidsson finds himself a fugitive from a charge of murder. In the course of his wanderings he becomes entangled in the star-crossed love affair between a beautiful, headstrong noblewoman and the King's antiquarian, a worldly aristocrat secretly devoted to his downtrodden people. *Iceland's Bell* creates a Dickensian canvas of heroism and perversity, violence and sorrow, charged with narrative enchantment on every page. 484 pp

Sold to:

Netherlands (De Geus); Sweden (Svenska Akademian/Atlantis); USA (RandomHouse/Vintage); Estonia (Varrak); Israel (Schocken); Denmark (Gyldendal); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Steidl); Spain/South America (RBA Libros); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Bulgaria (Roboread)
Previously published into 23 languages

Paradise Reclaimed

Paradísarheimt, novel, 1960

A tale of a poor farmer who abandons his land and family in pursuit of a dream of happiness, and chases it all the way to the Mormon communities in Utah. In the end he returns home convinced not only that all his efforts were in vain but that he has lost the most important thing of all. 301 pp

Sold to:

USA (Random House/Vintage); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Steidl); France (Gallimard); Denmark (Gyldendal); The Netherlands (De Geus); Macedonia (Dejan)
Previously translated into 13 languages

Independent People

Sjálfstætt fólk, novel, 1934-35

A timeless elemental masterpiece, which was one of the works for which Halldor Laxness was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. It evokes the mood and rhythm of life in an isolated community in a remote corner of Europe as no other writer has done since the time of the great Icelandic sagas. Richly lyrical, often humorous, conceived on a grand scale, and with a cast of memorable characters, *Independent People* is one of the truly great poetic novels of the 20th century. It is the story of a crofter on Iceland's remotest moor, but it is also a study of deception, love and grief among all people. 726 pp

Sold to:

UK (Harvill Press); USA (Random House/Vintage); The Netherlands (De Geus); Germany (Steidl); Brazil (Globo); France (Librairie Arthème Fayard); Italy (Iperborea); Norway (Tiden); Denmark (Gyldendal); Spain (Turner); Literatur Yayincilik (Turkey); Sweden (Leopard); Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Esperanto (Mondial); Korea (Think Big); Hungary (The Hungarian Radio)
Previously translated into 27 languages
Film rights sold to: Pegasus Pictures



HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON (b.1977) can be called Iceland's uncrowned prince of the graphic novel. His work has received a great deal of praise both in Iceland and abroad, although some people look on his comic strips as childish scribbles. That attitude is challenged with this most recent book, which many consider his best to date.

www.dagsson.com

End 1: Revelation

Opinberun, cartoon, 2012

This book speaks of the time when aliens invade the Earth and use the Book of Revelations as a guide on how to destroy mankind. This is what happens when science meets religion.

70 pp

17,6x25 cm

End 2: Misfortune

Ógæfa, cartoon, 2013

Illustrations: Ran Flygenring

This book speaks of the time when binge drinking in Reykjavik during Gay Pride Weekend turns to horror. The boozers turn into zombies and no one can tell the difference between revellers and cannibals. Except for Eurovision hero Paul Oscar who saves the day...

70 pp

17,6x25 cm

End 3: Bloop

Blúbbs, cartoon, 2014

This book speaks of the time when artists try to save the world with Neo Utopianism. But what they don't know is that they are in fact conjuring up the ancient god, Cthulhu. Illustrated by the Danish artist Don Kenn and based on the lore of H.P. Lovecraft.

70 pp

17,6x25 cm

“... right up our sordid little street.”

ESCORT

“Prepare to laugh until you prolapse your anus,
because this is just about the funniest book we've seen in ages...
it had us chuckling like a fat man at a free buffet.”

MAYFAIR

Kisi, the One-Eyed Cat and the Recession – Escape from Reykjavik

Eineygði kötturinn Kisi og ástandið –
flóttinn frá Reykjavík, cartoon, 2009

Kisi is back and is as resourceful and homicidal as ever. But in the fourth book, the one-eyed-cat has to grapple with the recession with his friends. The book features, among other things, a possessed curly-haired martyr, an un-understanding publisher and the underworld of Icelandic genetics which may hold the key to the future of this tormented nation. The Kisi series of books have been popular with readers of all ages. 64 pp

“Ban this sick book.”

THE IRISH SUN

Is This Some Kind of Joke? Is This Supposed to be Funny? Should you be laughing at this?

Fylgið okkur, cartoon, 2006

Bjargið okkur, cartoon, 2005

Forðist okkur, cartoon, 2005

Rarely have simple line drawings been made to enact the kinds of scenarios found in Icelandic artist Huggleikur Dagsson's cartoons. From the absurd to the offensive to the immoral, Dagsson includes every taboo out there. Dagsson's sweet little cartoons took the Icelandic counter-culture scene by storm becoming a best-seller in Iceland. The stage play from *Should you be laughing at this?* won the Best Play of 2005 award in Iceland's main national newspaper. 244 pp

Sold to:

Brazil (Hedra); Italy (Arnoldo Mondadori/ISBN); Finland (Atena); Norway (Gyldendal); US (HarperCollins); Hungary (Partvonal); Germany (Rowohlt); France (Sonatine); Sweden (Kartago); UK/ANZ (Penguin)



HUGRUN KRISTJANSDOTTIR

(b.1972) is a scholar in Icelandic studies and webpage designer. This is her first novel.

Stolen Voices

Stolnar raddir, novel, 2010

Sollilja is both lazy and a liar, besides being unsure of what exactly she should do with herself. Continue her university studies and remain eternally penniless, or go to work and make money? Keep seeing the law student Gunni, who has a future, or turn instead to the middle-aged newshawk and lady's man Krummi? But when by accident Sollilja finds a photo of her grandmother with a stranger, her own problems become trifles. Little by little Sollilja discovers that her grandmother hides an immense sorrow, and that her grandfather and grandmother lived an entirely double life without anyone knowing. It turns out that it's not just Sollilja who knows how to lie. 272 pp



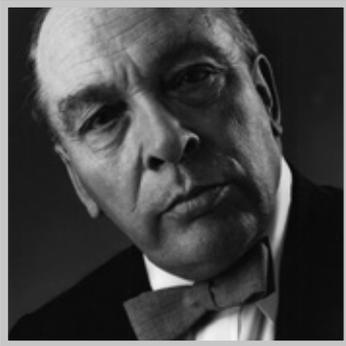
HILDUR KNÚTSDOTTIR (b.1984)

volunteered in Guatemala after graduating from college and travelled through Latin America. She spent a winter in Berlin and lived in Taiwan for a year, studying Chinese at Chengchi University, Taipei. In autumn 2010 she finished her BA degree at the University of Iceland. *A Change of Heart* is her first book.

A Change of Heart

Sláttur, novel, 2011

Edda is a 24 year old woman living in Reykjavik. She had a heart transplant five years ago and is convinced that she received more than just the heart from her donor. Because sometimes she doesn't know which feelings really belong to her and which came with the heart. She tries not to think about the future, since statistics show that she probably won't live very long. She is in fact almost resigned to dying, until she meets a single father and his seven year old son, and realizes that maybe instead she needs to resign herself to living. 256 pp



INDRID I G. THORSTEINSSON

(1926–2000) was one of Iceland’s most prominent 20th-century writers.

Land and Sons North of War Calling Cab 79

Land og synir
Norðan við stríð
79 af stöðinni

“...dark gem.”

READUX.NET

“The most impressive novel
of the last months.”

BÖRSENBLATT

“Icelandic Hemingway.”

NZZ

Phases in the Life of a Nation was the title Indridi G. Thorsteinsson gave to his trilogy *Land and Sons*, *North of War*, and *Calling Cab 79*. Together these three novels illustrate some of the most radical sociological changes in the history of Iceland, in the wake of the Depression, military occupation, and the emergence of new forms of employment. In his books, Indridi G. Thorsteinsson provided us with an X-ray of the emotional roots of two generations, and in doing so, created classic fiction about the nature of human destiny itself. Two of his novels, *Calling Cab 79* and *Land and Sons* have been adapted into milestone movies.

358 pp

- Nominated to the German Independent Publishers’ Award, Hotlist 2011

Calling Cab 79 sold to:
Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland
(Transit Verlag)



JON GNARR (b. 1967) was diagnosed with severe mental retardation, learning difficulties and ADHL as a child. In late 2009 Jon Gnarr formed the Best Party with a number of other people with no background in politics. The Best Party, which is a satirical political party that parodies Icelandic politics and aims to make the life of the citizens more fun, managed a plurality win in the 2010 municipal elections in Reykjavik, and Gnarr became Mayor of Reykjavik.

“A heartfelt and searing tale of bullying, rebellion and the search for a place to belong in the world. A story that genuinely touches the reader.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY (ON THE PIRATE)

The Pirate

Sjóræninginn, novel, 2012

“I was afraid of the loneliness, of always being alone and alienated, that no one would understand me or love me. Will I always be weird? Will I always be like an alien from another planet?”

The ginger haired boy Jon is standing at crossroads at the end of elementary school and feels like a total outcast in society. Here he talks freely of his troubles and traumas in the Icelandic educational system, describes the cruel bullying he suffered at school, his period as a punk rock kid, ups and downs on the job market – and a disastrous career as a rock singer. But there is light at the tunnel; hope comes in the guise of Nina Hagen, Johnny Rotten, and Count Krapotkin – punk rock and anarchy bring the promise of a better and more exciting life.

Even though the narrative is full of humour, it is both sincere and heartbreaking as the author’s journey through the Icelandic educational system was painful and full of conflict – both physically and mentally. 267 pp

- Nominated for the DV Newspaper’s cultural award 2012

Rights sold:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland/Luxembourg
(Klett-Cotta)

The Indian

Indjáninn, novel, 2006

„Many perhaps wonder whether this book is an autobiography or a work of fiction. It’s both. It’s not totally true. Yet there is no direct lie in it. I don’t believe in lies. In fact I think lies are the greatest obstacle on our path towards spiritual development. But I shift quite a few things around. I write from memory. There are some things I have absolutely no recollection of myself, so I’ve had to rely on other people’s memories. But all memory is fiction. Our brain is the greatest master of deceit in the universe.“

A highly entertaining piece of bittersweet biographical fiction by Icelandic comedian and the major of Reykjavik Jon Gnarr who describes his riotous childhood, which wasn’t always a bed of roses – because it isn’t always easy to understand a kid’s actions, when he hasn’t the faintest understanding of them himself. And the things kids love doing the most are always the forbidden ones... 221 pp

Rights sold:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland/Luxembourg
(Klett-Cotta)



JONINA LEOSDOTTIR (b. 1954)

as worked as a journalist and written biographies, plays, and novels. Her trilogy *Kisses and Olives*, *Black and White* and *You and I*, has enjoyed great popularity.



“A funny and well written family drama.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY

Just Fine – And You?

Allt fínt – en þú?, novel, 2010

Nina does not know how to react when her father, a handsome man of seventy, turns up with a new girlfriend only a few weeks after the death of his wife. But the celebrity actress Sunna, Nina’s sister, will have none of it: she wants to cut off all contact with her father. Immediately! As befits a self-respecting vicar’s wife and her family’s pillar of strength, Nina tries to be understanding and help smooth things over, in spite of already having enough on her plate. Her finances are a shambles, she has grave worries about her two daughters and her husband is irritatingly slow at reading her mind.

The situation in the family becomes increasingly complicated – until things finally reach boiling point.

Just Fine – And You? describes a few months in the life of a nearly forty-year-old woman in Reykjavik. A woman who cannot say no and desperately wants to be kind to everyone ... and therefore runs the risk of neglecting herself. An extremely funny story about deadly serious matters that could happen in most families.

288 pp

Sold to:
Germany (KiWi);
Bulgaria (Black Flamingo)
Chapters in English available

Lightening Up

Léttir, novel, 2012

In spring 2007 Jonina Leosdottir, writer, journalist and wife of Iceland’s PM, faced up to the fact that she had become seriously overweight.

This didn’t just mean that she couldn’t get into her clothes any more, but that her condition was bringing with it more serious repercussions: health problems and mental and physical heaviness. She set herself to get down to her ideal weight. Not for the first time. But on this occasion she decided to keep

a record of how things were going from day to day. *Lightening Up* is Jonina’s diary over the course of a whole year, a very wide-ranging discussion of slimming and the diet she went through over her twelve months of self-restraint.

The book will make encouraging, informative and entertaining reading for anyone who has ever wanted to lose weight. Chapters in English available.

215 pp



JON ATLI JONASSON (b.1972) has written a number of short stories, one novel, *In the Frost*, works for theatre, and film scripts such as *The Deep*, *Undercurrent*, and *You Are Here*. His plays have been performed in several countries, including at the Schaubühne theatre in Berlin.

“The story is superbly written, and the horrors always lurking just beneath the surface of the text are almost tangible. Its images are powerful and convincing, echoing the work of authors such as Jon Trausti, who wrote so well and vividly about the hardships ordinary Icelandic folk had to endure at one time.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

The Children in Murky Creek

Börnin í Dimmuvík, novella, 2013

Can one person bear the weight of another? If so, for how long?

An old woman travels out into the country to attend her brother’s funeral. This brings back to her memory events that happened during her childhood in Murky Creek.

Life’s hard struggles, painful childhood, and the impermanence of existence, are the subjects of this little story. (83 pp)

Chapters in English available
Sold to:
 France (Les Éditions Noir Sur Blanc)
 Film rights sold to: Nimbus Productions



KARI TULINIUS (b. 1981) *Untalented Martyrs* is Kari Tulinius' first novel, but he has previously focused on poetry. His work has been published in the anthology *Of Concrete*, as well as in the *British Poetry Review* and elsewhere.

*“The strength of **Untalented Martyrs** lies particularly in its structure, how the timeline holds together, and in the plot... an outstanding first go.”*

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Untalented Martyrs

Píslarvottar án hæfileika,
novel, 2010

The novel *Untalented Martyrs* is about five youths in Reykjavik. They all want to leave their mark on society, but with little result. They have a half-formed desire to commit an act of terrorism but it is difficult to be a fanatic when there is nothing worthwhile to kill or die for. Is it possible to be a hero in a day and age lacking ideals? 224 pp

- *A stageplay from the book was premiered in several cities in Sweden in 2013.*



KARL FRANSSON (b. 1959) is a widely renowned Icelandic author that has received many awards during his career. *The Lover* is his first erotic novel.

“Sizzling sex scenes ... The writer clearly knows how to describe lust and pleasure in a professional and tasteful manner. .. I want more! A hot and beautiful book about a gorgeous guy, his daily life and worries, along with a jam session of sweaty orgies. What could be better?”

PJATTROFURNAR.IS

The Lover

Elskhuginn, novel, 2013

I was under Mirabelle's control. It could cost me my job. She didn't close the door behind her. I remained where I was and looked over my shoulder before I pulled the door closed. She grabbed me, locked the door and pinned me to the wall.

Patrice is a thirty year old Icelander that works at a luxury hotel in Paris while he studies architecture. Life is a routine until he meets Mirabelle, the charming wife of a rich diamond merchant,

who is looking for a new play thing ... or is she? She can provide Patrice with more pleasure than he has ever experienced but what does she want in return and why is she dragging him into the world of the rich and famous?

She is also not the only woman that lights his fire and his desire for hot sex – and unexpectedly he finds himself in situations with more thrill and excitement than he had hoped for. 393 pp



KRISTIN EIRIKSDOTTIR (b.1981) made her mark on the literary scene in a big way with her collection of short stories, *Doris Dies* in 2010. Critics agreed that a new, fully-fledged author had arrived with one of the most significant works of fiction of the year. Her voice is strong and importunate – one of the most original of her generation.

White Fur

Hvítfeld - fjölskyldusaga, novel, 2012

Former gymnastics star, Jenny Hvítfeld has it all: looks, sex appeal, brains, and a career. She has been living in Texas for the past years, making a name for herself with discoveries in the field of physics, writing articles for esteemed scientific magazines, modelling, and been associated with various American superstars, all this while also being a loving and caring mum. When her sister dies she travels home to Iceland with her daughter Jackie. She meets her family after a long separation and she starts to realize that nothing is quite the way she thought it was. Her family history is toxic with lies and finally Jenny must face the past, and herself. *White Fur*, is a powerful story about lies and delusion. 295 pp

• Nominated for the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize 2012

Chapters in English available

Doris Dies

Doris deyr, short stories, 2010

These are stories of contemporary life, dealing with relations between the sexes, love, and ordinary drab existence. The stories are beautiful, often funny, but their tone is threatening... life is always shown in a new and unexpected light. 165 pp

Two stories available in English translation. One story is included in Dalkey Archive Press' "Best European Fiction."



“Truly one of the most remarkable works of fiction this year by a young and fantastic writer”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY



KRISTIN MARJA

BALDURSDOTTIR (b.1949) is one of Iceland’s most highly acclaimed novelists, author of novels and a short story collection that all demonstrate the author’s great gift for characterisation. Baldursdottir has received the highest order of the Republic of Iceland, the Order of the Falcon, for her contribution to Icelandic literature.

“Beautifully executed, an excellent read.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

“Baldursdottir has a complete mastery of her style ...”

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

Cantata

Kantata, novel, 2012

The photographer shoots, determining the fate of the people. Not there and then but elsewhere and later ... the photo of the couple is the beginning of it all.

While Nanna is tending her garden she sees that it’s all going out of control; branches reach up unto the veranda, blocking her view. Finn has similar feelings towards the hotels’ accounts, something is not right. In the grand family everything has its proper role and place. But when the quiet foreigner appears the harmony

shifts and discord bubbles up to the otherwise smooth surface...

Cantata by Kristin Marja Baldursdottir is a magnificent and polyphonic family story, with interwoven threads, spinning twisting, turning, and coming undone. Accompanied by nature; the unruly life in Nanna’s garden, the trees, insects, birds, and the river with leaping salmon – where events are about to unfold.

314 pp

Sold to:

**Denmark (Gyldendal); Germany/
Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag);
Norway (Gyldendal)
Chapters in English available**

The Big Dipper

Karlsvagninn, novel, 2009

When Gunnur wakes up one morning, she realises to her horror that her home has been burgled while she was sleeping. All her state-of-the-art modern gadgets have vanished – and all her credit cards. They've wiped her clean and her husband is abroad. Full of revulsion for this violation of her home, she decides to flee to the couple's summer house in the east, even though it's the heart of winter. But she doesn't get to go there alone. While she's talking to the police, she's saddled with taking care of a young girl, before she even has a chance to protest. This

odd pair, a psychiatrist in her fifties and a girl close to confirmation age, are lumbered together in a remote house without any gadgets for the whole weekend. Secluded in the frost and snow, they have no choice but to tap into two resources they've lost the habit of using: their memories and the imagination.

Even though *The Big Dipper* spans only three days, Baldursdottir sheds light on the nature and development of mankind throughout the ages in this original yarn about the whole art of story telling. 173 pp

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag);
Denmark (Gyldendal)

Chaos on Canvas

Óreiða á striga, novel, 2007

Set in Iceland, Paris and New York, this vivid portrait of a gifted female artist spans five decades, an extraordinary range of emotions and paints a compelling image of her life and the sacrifices she must make to be able to pursue her art. The author skillfully unravels the destiny of the artist through the process of creation, her relationship with her family and friends, solitude, betrayal, success, unbearable sorrow and great passion. Memorable characters make their appearance in this powerful and moving story, brimming with life and humanity. 541 pp

- *The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize, 2008*

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag);
The Netherlands (Querido); Denmark (Gyldendal);
France (Gaïa, pocket, Éditions du Seuil); Norway,
(Gyldendal Norsk)

Karitas – Untitled

Karítas án titils, novel, 2004

The dramatic and fascinating story of a young girl who, despite her low social background, manages to study Art at the beginning of the 20th century, at a time when very few women did so. This is the insightful story of a single woman's destiny and women as a whole – a vivid portrait of their role and lives in the 20th century and a conflict between two powerful forces: love and art. 447 pp

- *The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize, 2008*
- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2005*

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag);
The Netherlands (Signature); Sweden (Bra böcker);
Denmark (Gyldendal); France (Gaïa); Norway,
(Gyldendal Norsk)

House to House

Hús úr húsi, novel, 1997

Kolfinna has just moved back to her mother's at the end of a hapless cohabitation, and finds nothing better to do than to fill in for a pregnant friend as a house cleaner, insinuating herself into homes of varying degrees of cleanliness in one of Reykjavik's residential neighbourhoods. The job is an undeniable eye-opener, as she moves from house to house, poking into other people's personal belongings. She slowly recovers her appetite for life again and gets drawn into some bizarre situations. An artfully crafted and exciting novel about a rebellion against mediocrity and the endless quest for love and happiness. 285 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag);

Seagull's Laughter

Mávahlátur, novel, 1995

Everything is turned upside down in the peaceful village world when Freyja suddenly appears one day, all the way from America. And this is hardly surprising, considering who she is. Her thick, black hair reaches down to her hips, her icy-blue eyes are piercing, her lips are red and her shape perfect. She has seven trunks of clothes and her manner is colder than death. Seen through young Agga's inquiring eyes the life of the village takes on an air of complex mystery and romance. Who is Freyja? Agga wants to find an answer to that. Is she perhaps a fairy queen? A Viking heroine? A murderer? The Goddess of Love? The setting, a 1950s fishing village, is expertly depicted, and the

When the Day Grows Colder

Kular af degi, novel, 1999

A hilarious story about a female teacher, a single woman who takes vacations in France and reads dictionaries for pleasure. Her life takes a new, unwanted direction when a handsome substitute teacher comes along. 136 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag)
Denmark (Gyldendal)

"When the Day Grows Colder as not a long story... yet there is more to it than meets the eye, and it continually surprises and entertains the reader with its subtle humour and the writer's sharp eye for the humiliations of human relationships."

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

characters are well-drawn. An absolutely irresistible story of female uprising before the days of feminism. 246 pp

A film based on *Seagull's Laughter* was premiered in December 2001, starring the German actor Heino Ferch. The film won most of Iceland's major awards for 2001 and at its World Premiere, at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where it played in the main competition, it received the best actress award.

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag);
Denmark (PP-forlag, pocket edition: Gyldendal);
The Netherlands (Signature); Sweden (Bra Böcker);
Norway (Pantagruel); Macedonia (Antolog)
English chapters available



It is long since **KRISTIN OMARSDOTTIR** (b.1962) developed her unique style which is unparalleled in Icelandic literature. She received The Women’s Literary Award in 2008 for her book of poetry, *Sjáðu fegurð þína (See Your Beauty)*, which also was nominated for two other prizes. In 2005 Omarsdottir received the Icelandic drama award, Gríman, for her play *Segðu mér allt (Tell me Everything)*. Her novel *Elskan mín ég dey (I’ll Die, My Love)* received the DV Cultural Prize for Literature in 1998 and was nominated for The Nordic Council Literary Prize in 1999 and her play, *Ástarsaga 3 (Love Story 3)*, (1997), was nominated for the Nordic Council Drama Award.

Co-agents with Aitken Alexander Associates LLC
(contact: Anna Stein O’Sullivan – anna@aitkenalexander.com).

“[A] daringly droll,
wholly perturbing book.”

NEW YORK TIMES

Milla

Milla, novel, 2012

Milla is twenty-one years old and longs to have a life like any normal girl – but she has no idea what to do with her life and has a gnawing suspicion that the summer might be her last. Three weeks in May make all the difference: love comes and goes, Milla writes several letters to her grandmother but receives no answer, she admires springtime in Reykjavik from the air with a friend, and at work she files data for “The Museum of the Ordinary Icelandic Family at the End of the Twentieth Century”.

Milla is a fantastic story set in Reykjavik, both light-hearted and serious, happy and sad – Milla tends her garden but there is a tree growing there that no one else can see. 314 pp

• Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize

Chapters in English available



KRISTIN STEINSDOTTIR'S

(b.1946) numerous books have received a variety of awards, including the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize for high-quality innovative works by women, which she received for the novel *By Herself*. The book was also nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize. Steinsdottir has received the highest order of the Republic of Iceland, the Order of the Falcon, for her contribution to Icelandic literature.

*“It touches the reader in a powerful way ...
Here nothing is redundant and nothing is missing.”*

VIDSJA, ICELANDIC NATIONAL RADIO

The Lost Girl

Bjarna-Dísa, novella, 2012

There is an Icelandic folk tale of a girl who went on foot out on the heath with her brother in foul weather and never made it back. Disa, as she was called, died out there in the highlands and her fate provided material for a cruel folk story.

Disa was born in a small turf cottage in the east of Iceland in the 18th century, a time steeped in superstition and had to work hard from an early age to survive. It's building up to a blizzard the day she and her brother, Bjarni, head up the mountain, but duty calls. They are farmhands and must do as they are told. Out on the ice-

cold heath the forces of nature and night await them. Bjarni is forced to leave his sister behind and go for help. Meanwhile Disa sits alone in the relentless darkness, the endless void, for several days and nights – and the monsters start coming.

Kristin Steinsdottir received critical acclaim for her last novel, the immensely popular *Brightness*. Now she delves again into the past giving voice to a woman who, until now, has never had a voice of her own. 160 pp

| Chapters in English available



“A stylish and well crafted story with wonderful characterisation. A story that covers the complete spectrum of emotions and is impossible to put down.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

Brightness

Ljósa, novel, 2010

“I hadn’t put much of my life behind me when it first made its presence felt. The bird which would end up becoming an inseparable part of my life. Spreading its wings, singing and sending my heart speeding. Why did it have to snuggle up against my neck like that? Trying to smother me. Keeping me from sleeping at night. Lying down on top of me and squashing me.”

Ljosa grows up late in the 19th century under the glacier’s dome with a sweeping view of the sea and the barren lands. With every chance of being happy, but reality turned out otherwise. As time passes, she loses her grip on life, to retreat into a world of illusion that confounds other people.

Brightness is Steinsdottir’s third novel, a gripping tale of the joys and sorrows of a unique woman. 242 pp

- *The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize, 2011*
- *The DV Newspaper’s Cultural Award 2011*

Sold to:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Verlag C.H. Beck/ pocket dtv)
Chapters in English available

By Herself

Á eigin vegum, novel, 2006

Sigthrudur has reached the autumn of her life, become a widow, and scrapes a living, delivering newspapers. She tends to her garden and plants, hangs around cafés and libraries, takes care of cats and attends funerals. She is alone but not lonely; from early childhood she has learnt to rely on no-one but herself, to expect nothing.

All of her close ones are gone, although she is still with them in her mind, sitting in the stillness of her solitude, pondering. But deep in her soul she hides a dream for another life, another country – a dream sparked off by all the women who lived their uneventful lives and died.

But could such a dream ever become a reality?
136 pp

- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize*
- *The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize, 2007*

Sold to:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Verlag C.H Beck); Sweden (Kabusa);
Finland (Lurra)
Chapters in English available



KRISTJAN THORDUR

HRAFNSSON (b.1968) is a poet, playwright and a renowned translator of plays. His work has been noted for, among other things, the powerful way in which he manages to convey the intimate detail of human relations.

“... a well thought-out and crafted novel that stirs the reader ... Complex ... deserves to be read twice.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

“The story unravels in a quiet murmur without resorting to shocks or ruptures. And it is precisely this quietness and candour that ensures this book will haunt the reader’s mind for a long time to come.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Strong Ones

Hinir sterku, novel, 2005

A young woman has acquired great popularity and recognition for her assertive hosting of a TV debating programme after the evening news – but then a series of unexpected events shake her world to its foundations. *The Strong Ones* is a poignant novel about human conflict, the damage it causes to people’s lives, and the wounds it conceals. 191 pp

Others’ Thoughts

Hugsanir annarra, novel, 2002

Others’ Thoughts is an unusual and charming novel about a man’s experience of a secret and forbidden passion. A soliloquy to love and the sacrifices it sometimes demands in its honour, a story about forbidden love, betrayal, desire, selfishness and generosity. A story about torment and rapture, regret, longing and excitement; a story about feeling and being alive. 125 pp



OFEIGUR SIGURDSSON (b. 1975)

has published six books of poetry and two novels. Ofeigur received his BA degree in 2007, with a thesis on the taboo and transgression in the works of Georges Bataille.

Sigurdsson is at the forefront of a poetic movement of dynamic young creative people, who have recently had a hand in reshaping the form of Icelandic poetry. He has translated literature and written for radio on writers including Louis-Ferdinand Céline and Michel Houellebecq.

Spirit Guardians of the Land

Landvættir, novel, 2012

Socrates has garnered certain notoriety in the newspapers when he lands a job at the meat factory Bacon and chops in Kjalarnes. There he quickly learns about Bayonne Ham, London Pork, jellied pork, salami, Malakoff, Berlin and München frankfurters, beer sausage, bacon dogs, bite-size party dogs, and Mecca sausage. Not to mention paté, both creamy and chunky, and he witnesses the pizza revolution. Socrates

immediately makes friends with all of the other employees, except for the god-like chief executive. After having gone astray in everyday life, the factory becomes a sanctuary for Socrates, at least until one co-worker, who happens to be the head-foreman of the Nationalist Party-White Candidacy, begins to have a strong influence on Socrates' unstructured life-style. 496 pp

Chapters in English available

A novel of Jon

Skáldsaga um Jón, novel, 2010

In 1755 Reverend Jon Steingrímsson from Skagafjörður travels south to Myrdalur to look after his wife's farm. He lies under suspicion of having murdered her former husband and has been expelled from his position at Reynistadur Monastery. The South, however, is not a desirable place in which to dwell: Katla is erupting and Myrdalur is shrouded in a cloud of ash. Jon goes to live in the Badstofuhellir cave along with his brother and a farmhand. In letters to his wife

he describes the many things that happen to him that winter. He also reflects in his letters on the story of the love between him and Thorunn, which turned out to be so fateful. 214 pp

- *European Union Prize for Literature 2011*

Sold to:

Denmark (Gyldendal); Bulgaria (Balcáni Publishing); Hungary (Libri); Czech Republic /Slovakia (Dauphin)
Chapters in English available



OLAFUR GUNNARSSON (b.1948) is among Iceland's best storytellers. With his highly acclaimed trilogy, *Trolls' Cathedral* (1992), *Potter's Field* (1996) and *Winter Journey* (1999), he has earned a place among the major realists in Icelandic letters. *Troll's Cathedral* was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize in 1992 as well as the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award in 1996. An adaptation for the stage premiered at The National Theatre in 1996 and the film right has been sold. Gunnarsson received the Icelandic Literary Prize for his novel, *The Axe and the Earth*, in 2004.

The Painter

Málarinn, novel, 2012

When Johannes Kjarval presents young David with one of his paintings after an exhibition at the Artists' Lodge in 1945, David's future suddenly becomes distinct. He **MUST** become an artist. Forty years later, David is a well-known painter, his work sells like hot cakes, he is well-off and well married. But he has never gained the recognition of the cultural elite he so desires,

and a horrible accident, which David may have been responsible for, casts a dark shadow on his family life years after the accident took place. *The Painter* is an eventful and gripping novel concerning struggles of the soul, disputes between people, conflict, disorder, and ambition.

328 pp

Chapters in English available

"Well constructed work, both engrossing and then the drama sneaks in on you... a powerful book."

KILJAN, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

"Gunnarsson is a born raconteur ... he entertains, provokes thought and leaves a little bit of a chill in the soul. Cruelty, humour and complete mastery of the form."

FRETTABLADID DAILY

The Masterpiece and Other Stories

Meistaraverkið og fleiri sögur, short stories, 2011

Olafur Gunnarsson's readers will be surprised by the publication of this, his first collection of short stories, as until now Gunnarsson has been known mainly for his big novels such as *Trolls' Cathedral*, *Winter Journey* and *The Axe and the Earth* for which he received the Icelandic Literary Prize in 2004.

Gunnarsson presents here a varied repertoire of characters. The title story, *The Masterpiece*, is about a boy waiting impatiently to see his drawing in the school's exhibition, while in

The Nazi an Icelandic Nazi experiences more horror than he could have imagined. We also hear about an Icelander who fought in Vietnam, an old rock singer who unexpectedly gets an opportunity to appear on stage with a megastar, a pole-dancer who moves in with an Icelandic car mechanic in the Vogar district of Reykjavik, and many more colourful characters. Many will find it interesting to hear of the man who was forced to steal his own house in the year Iceland became a republic. 186 pp

Sold to:

USA/UK/ANZ (New American Press)

The Dark Rose

Dimmar rósir, novel, 2008

The stage is Reykjavik in the years 1969 to 1971, years of conflict between the old time and the new; the years when Kinks and Led Zeppelin hold concerts in Iceland, young people look towards the future in a state either of expectation or intoxication, as the case may be, and the older generation really don't know what hit them. The dramatis personae is formed by two picturesque families in town. The characters come in all sizes and shapes; from the rebellious teenage girl to the well-meaning theology student, from the longhaired drummer to the old car mechanic, from the colourless accountant to the actress who is permanently on stage. The action is spun around the fates of these two families, unexpectedly entwined together in an enthralling read.

408 pp

Sold to:

Norway (Bokvennen)

Chapters in English available

The Axe and the Earth

Öxin og jörðin, 2003

The Axe and the Earth is an historical novel based on one of the most dramatic events in Icelandic history, when the catholic bishop Jon Arason and his two sons were executed by the leaders of the reformation. This is an exceptionally well written story about faith and doubt and how the struggle for power dominates the actions of characters who step forward from the mists of the past. The human qualities of Gunnarsson's characters make their tragedy only too tangible in our own principle-testing times. 366 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2003*
- *The Icelandic Booksellers' Prize 2003*

Sold to:

Lithuania (Pasvires Pasaulis); France/Switzerland/Belgium/Luxembourg/Canada (Gaïa)

Film rights sold to:

Palomar Pictures, producer Joni Sighvatsson

Head Ransom

Höfuðlausn, novel, 2005

It is the summer of 1919 and Reykjavik is suddenly transformed from a village into a town, when a troupe of actors and film crew come to Iceland to shoot Gunnar Gunnarsson's famous *Family Saga*. Jakob Olafsson, a young man who runs his own taxi service, drives the foreigners around, and before he knows it, falls in love with the leading lady. There is not just one but two women in Jakob's life when he meets Asthildur Bjornsdottir, an apprentice goldsmith. But just as Jakob seems to be on the point of finding happiness, his life takes a twist and reserves him and his close ones an unexpected fate. 194 pp

Potter's Field

Blóðakur, novel, 1996

Set in modern-day Iceland, *Potter's Field* is an epic tale of three distinguished families and a Catholic priest. The families suffer all the problems of an ordinary family, and some more, in spite of their wealth and influence. The second volume in Gunnarsson's trilogy, focusing on the themes of guilt, responsibility and tragedy. 508 pp

Sold to: UK (Mare's Nest)

Troll's Cathedral

Tröllakirkja, novel, 1992

The year is 1953. An architect yearns to build a cathedral echoing the shapes of the landscape, the arc of a seabird's wing, the hollows of a cliff-face. Yet his current project, plagued by uncertainty and debt, is for the first franchise department store in Reykjavik. A single seemingly random act, an assault on his young son, will destroy the family. Obsessions, dreams and difficult memories lead inevitably to violence. 278 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize*
- *Shortlisted for the Impac Dublin Literary Award*

Sold to: UK (Mare's Nest); Germany (Steidl); France/Switzerland/Belgium/Luxembourg/Canada (Gaïa); The Czech Republic (Host); Egypt (Animar)

Winter Journey

Vetrarferðin, novel, 1999

Sigrun is an ambitious Reykjavik businesswoman during World War II who pays a high price for the fulfillment of her goals. This third novel in Gunnarsson's trilogy deals with difficult questions of integrity, loyalty and responsibility in a world where "homo homini lupus est". 482 pp

Film rights sold to: Spellbound Production, producer Fridrik Thor Fridriksson



OLAF OLAFSSON (b.1962) studied physics as a Wien Scholar at Brandeis University. His books have been published to critical acclaim in more than twenty languages. He is the recipient of the O. Henry Award and the Icelandic Literary Award, was shortlisted for the Frank O'Connor Prize, and has twice been nominated for the IMPAC Award. He is the Executive Vice President of Time Warner and he lives in New York .

Co-agents with The Marsh Agency Ltd. (contact: Georgina Le Grice – Georgina@marsh-agency.co.uk) for the Nordic Countries. For other rights please contact The Marsh Agency Ltd.

“A beautifully written literary novel of love, betrayal, reconciliation, and art.”

BOOKLIST

Restoration

Málverkið, novel, 2011

Raised within a cosseted circle of British expats in Florence, Alice shocked her family and friends when she married Claudio and went to live in San Martino, a crumbling villa on a windy Tuscan hilltop. But away from her family and the ease of life to which she was accustomed, Alice begins to slip into a vast and encompassing loneliness.

An overloaded northbound train from Rome at the beginning of July 1944 is hit by a bomb and Icelandic artist Kristín Jónsdóttir is evacuated to the nearby San Martino along with other survivors. The lady of the house, the Marchesa Alice Orsini, has her staff attend to the wounded as well as other fugitives and partisans hiding out at the villa. As far as Alice is concerned,

“Olafsson masterfully depicts the interior lives of these women, creating a richly complex portrait of love and passion at work even as his harrowing depictions of daily life in war-torn Italy add additional depth and power to the novel.”

LIBRARY JOURNAL

chance brought Kristín to the villa, but in reality she has arrived with a purpose.

As the war moves towards its inexorable conclusion, and the front lines sweep closer to San Martino, Alice and Kristin not only have to confront the onslaught of soldiers and the destruction of everything they hold dear, but also the consequences of their past mistakes.

A sweeping story of love tested by the terrors and tragedies of war in the tradition of *The English Patient* and *Atonement*, by critically acclaimed Olaf Olafsson, author of *The Journey Home*. 310 pp

Sold to:

USA (HarperCollins); The Netherlands (A W Bruna);

Serbia (RTV B92)

Available in English



OSKAR MAGNUSSON (b.1954) has a degree in law. He first worked as a news director and Supreme Court attorney but for nearly two decades has been the director of various businesses. He is now the publisher of the daily Morgunbladid. He has previously published two collections of short stories to excellent reception. One of his short stories, *Dr. Amplatz*, is included in Dalkey Archive Press' "Best European Fiction".

Lower It Down, Chaps

Látið síga, piltar, novel, 2013

Lower It Down, Chaps happens in the present, in a valley called Hlidardalur. It describes the day-to-day life of a farming community, old-fashioned division of labor, love of the foster land, solidarity, frugality and industriousness.

The story is threaded with catastrophic events, natural disasters, struggle with bankers, crime and kindness, affection and friendship.

Lower It Down, Chaps is sarcastic, sharp and sometimes thrilling and on the whole witty and great fun. 350 pp

“All of present Iceland forms the foundation of this novel which tells about natural catastrophes, described with artistic vigor. When Oskar Magnusson presents his first novel there are no half-measures. Here we have a cool and exciting text that will make a lot of readers happy. The conclusion: many will find it a true Icelandic magical realism.”

OLAFUR GUNNARSSON, AUTHOR



PETUR GUNNARSSON (b.1947) is among the most widely acclaimed authors of his generation, writer of popular novels, poetry and essays. He has a Masters degree in philosophy from the Université d'Aix - Marseille and is a prolific translator.

Block of Icelanders

Íslendingablokk, novel, 2012

There are many of them and they are quite different: Indridi the customs officer, an elderly widower who is increasingly living “the rest of his life”; Addi the barber who owns a star in the Milky Way, the school psychologist Kata, who has become quite a hit as a poet but is having trouble moving forward, Hansi, the sex addict with the lovely wife, and Mani who used to work for charity organizations in Africa but is now considering running for president. They all have one thing in common – they live in the same block of flats, the Block of Icelanders, and many more characters come into the mix, friends, acquaintances, and relatives.

Block of Icelanders is a funny, feel-good story of contemporary Iceland. But even though it tells the story of people in a block of flats in Reykjavik in this day and age, the narrative travels far and wide through space and time, even all the way back to the Big Bang ... 179 pp

Trilogy

Picture of the World

The Way to Rome

The Mechanism of Time

Myndin af heiminum, 2000

Leiðin til Rómar, 2002

Vélar tímans, novels, 2004

The creation of the world, of man – these are Petur Gunnarsson’s themes in the three novels series called *The Novel of Iceland*. We visit important events in the history of Iceland and the Icelanders, crucial places and times. The author follows the example of medieval writers, who generally sought to begin at the beginning, i.e. at the Creation, and recount history from them. While the narrator probes fundamental questions, he has to tackle them in his own life too – creating an exciting and particularly rewarding story, told with the humour, depth and compassion which characterize Petur Gunnarsson’s writing. 128–182 pp

- *Nomination for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2000 and 2002*

Chapters in English available



RAGNA SIGURDARDOTTIR (b.1962)

is also an artist and art critic. In 1993 she published her first novel *Borg* (City), which was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize the same year.

“... captivating and gripping ... an enjoyable book and excellent reading...”

DV NEWSPAPER

“The Perfect Landscape is part character study and part exploration of what qualifies as art and how that definition changes over time. ... very well-crafted story.”

AMAZON.COM

The Bonus Girl

Bónusstelpan, novel, 2011

- *When I use your till I never run out of money.*
- *We're getting back together; it's all thanks to you, Bonus girl.*
- *I've never believed in miracles and I don't know what happens at your till, but it's as if the credit on my card is limitless.*
- *We were due to lose the flat today but the bank granted us an extension. It's thanks to you.*

Dilja has a brilliant idea for her final project from the Icelandic Art Academy. She is going to work on a till in the low price supermarket, Bonus, with pink hair in style with their logo and shocking pink lips. When rumours start circulating that the Bonus girl performs miracles, Dilja has no qualms about taking her performance a step further. The Academy and her family want her to stop but Hafliði, jack of all trades, stands by her side.

The Bonus Girl is a haunting story, straight from disrupted contemporary Iceland. 216 pp

Chapters in English available

The Perfect Landscape

Hið fullkomna landslag, novel, 2009

Hanna returns to Iceland from Amsterdam to arrange an exhibition space in the city's Art Museum. Iceland is enjoying a financial boom and tycoons are lavishing expensive gifts on the museum. One of them is a landscape painting with a birch tree by a famous artist from the last century. The only problem is that the head warden of the museum, the enigmatic Steinn, believes the painting to be a forgery. Is it? And what can be done if it turns out not to be genuine?

In this original story, Sigurdardottir taps into her insights into the art world in a unique way. Characters from the Icelandic and international art world and museums are vividly brought to life and collide in conflicts that are driven by ambition, greed and betrayal – and the passion for art. 224 pp

Sold to:

USA/UK/Australia/Canada (AmazonCrossing)
Available in English



SIGURBJORG THRASTARDOTTIR

(b. 1973) is the author of six books of poetry, two novels and miscellaneous dramatic works. Her book of poetry *Candlelight Vigil* was nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 2009 and received the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize. Thrastardóttir's poems have been translated into twelve languages and published in anthologies, magazines and literary festival publications across Europe. Thrastardóttir was named City Artist of Akranes, her home town.

Jump

Stekk, novel, 2012

Alexandra Flask solemnly prepares a jump from the fourth-floor balcony of her old Barcelona apartment. In the midst of a sticky heatwave she fights a persistent chill in her heart, born of loss, guilt, and an instinctive aversion to happy endings. The unbridled love-life of her 22 year old local friend Lif does little to improve the situation, and the urge to change the course of life becomes ever stronger.

But what, exactly, is the role of the body in our search for peace? Why do some renounce the pleasures of the flesh? Can love blossom in cloisters? And, most importantly, if you are not prepared to take your own life, can you possibly take half of it?

Jump is an unusual and witty novel on serious issues, where remorse and guilt wrestle with compassion. 332 pp



SIGURDUR GUDMUNDSSON (b.1942)

is one of Iceland's most important pioneers of concept art. His previous novels are *Tabula rasa* (1993) and *The Invisible Woman* (2000), which was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Award. Like the other novels, *The Beasts in Saigon* is an interweaving of a traditional biographical sketch and fiction.



“... at once fiction and a philosophical experiment about man... the book worked on me like a lyrical work of fancy replete with eroticism, even though the erotic element never directly becomes physical. What is remarkable about this complicated book is how readable and accessible it is despite all of its imaginative complications.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Beasts in Saigon

Dýrin frá Saigon, novel, 2010

In *The Beasts in Saigon*, the artist Sigurdur Gudmundsson is fivefold: besides the man in him there is also a horse that is a poet, a homosexual swan, a seagull that expresses itself only in English and a fourteen-year-old girl who is a philosopher. This quintet enjoys life to the hilt, composes poetry and creates the most magnificent works of art.

The Beasts in Saigon is Sigurdur Gudmundsson's third novel, written during its author's ten-month stay in Vietnam in 2008. In the novel the artist attempts to survive without language, divorces himself from his own culture, and tries living like a wise beast. It is at once a poetical and philosophical work and an unusual love story. 228 pp



SIGURDUR PALSSON (b.1948) was born in Northern Iceland and studied literature, drama and cinema direction in Paris. He is one of the most unique and intimate poets of his generation and a prolific translator of French literature. Palsson has won numerous awards for his work. He received Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1990.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“A beautiful and enchanting work that will without doubt take its place in Icelandic literature as an important document of its times, then and now.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY

★ ★ ★ ★

“Palsson writes with a stylistic lightness of touch that makes him a pleasure to read. By endowing everyday events and situations with an engaging romantic air he brings his childhood years to life without ever stumbling into sentimentalism or affectation.”

VIDSJA, ICELANDIC NATIONAL RADIO

A Book of Childhood

Bernskubók, novel, 2011

During a heatwave in the height of the hay-making season close to the Arctic Circle, a future poet and man of the world is born. In the lap of the region and its encircling mountains he experiences the world on his own terms, he learns the points of the compass and how to decline irregular English verbs, he faces a life-threatening situation, he has a hernia, and he takes up writing. In *A Book of Childhood* Palsson leads his readers down unusual paths around childhood lands of adventure, from birth to the age of fourteen, when he goes to Reykjavik to attend regular school for the first time.

A Book of Childhood is a work of recollection based on a person's ability to remember, to bring back memories, to validate his existence with narration, above all to create text – to quote from the book: *“He who has not been turned into text has not lived.”*

Palsson was awarded the Icelandic Literary Award in 2007 for *Notebook from Memory*. 284 pp.

Chapters in English available

*“The novel achieves almost a musical quality
and resounds in the mind of the reader
long after the final page.”*

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

“One of the most captivating memoirs I have ever read.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

A Notebook from Memory

Minnisbók, novel, 2007

Fourteen years would pass before Sigurdur Pálsson finally returned to Iceland from Paris, where he arrived after graduating from secondary school in 1967. This is a memoir from those years, but as the author points out in the first chapter, memories come into existence even if they are in a state of perpetual motion. They are filtered through time and through the senses,

which actually created them in the first place and with time sensation becomes the real essence of memory. Sigurdur Pálsson’s memories are distilled, sensual snapshots of France, and Paris especially, during the years when he made the country his home. 295 pp.

- *The Icelandic Literary Award 2007*

English and French synopsis
and excerpt available



Literary agent: Licht & Burr
e-mail: tl@licht-burr.dk

SJON (b.1962) has published numerous poetry collections and seven novels, as well as written plays, librettos and picture books for children. His long-time collaboration with the Icelandic singer Björk led to an Oscar nomination for his lyrics for the Lars von Trier movie *Dancer in the Dark*. In 2005 Sjon won the prestigious Nordic Council’s Literary Prize for his fifth novel *The Blue Fox* which in 2009 was nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. Sjon’s poems have been translated into more than twenty languages. His latest novel, *From the Mouth of the Whale*, was shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2012.

*“The narrative is kaleidoscopic and mesmerizing,
 comic and poignant by turns”*

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Moonstone—The Boy Who Never Was

Mánasteinn—Drengurinn sem aldrei var til, novel, 2013

The year is 1918 and from Reykjavik the erupting volcano Katla can be seen colouring the sky night and day. Life in the small capital carries on as usual despite the natural disaster, shortage of coals and the Great War that still wages in the big world.

The sixteen year old kid Mani Steinn lives for the movies. Asleep he dreams the pictures in variations where the tapestry of events is threaded with strands from his own life. Awake he lives on the outskirts of society. But then the “Spanish

influenza” epidemic comes ashore and forces thousands of the townspeople into the sick bed, killing hundreds.

The shadows of existence deepen. The black wings in Mani Steinn’s breast beat faster. A chilling draught blows between the worlds in a place where life and death, reality and imagination, secrets and revelations jostle for dominance.

132 pp.

Sold to:

Finland (Like); Denmark (C&K Forlag)
Chapters in English available

*“The narrative is kaleidoscopic and
mesmerizing, comic and poignant
by turns”*

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

From the Mouth of the Whale

Rökkurbýsnir, novel, 2008

The year is 1635. The earth is still at the centre of the universe, the chambers of the heart are two, birds hatch from seaweed, unicorn horns are in demand as luxury goods and stones are used as medicine.

The artist and wordsmith Jonas Palmason the learned is sentenced for spreading the knowledge of witchcraft and sent into exile on a tiny islet, Gullbjarnarey, off the east coast of Iceland. The novel *From the Mouth of the Whale* is based on the life and mental world of this self-educated Icelander who can be said to have incorporated the seventeenth century Iceland. It tells of the chilling aftermath of the Lutheran Reformation, the exorcism of a walking corpse in the remote

county of Snæfjallastrond, secret Virgin Mary rituals, the massacre of Basque whalers in the western fjords and a family on the run in times when neighborly charity had become obsolete. In his exile Jonas the learned reflects on his life, and the reader follows him on his journey as he braces the storms of the heart and the mind in the age of *From the Mouth of the Whale*. 239 pp.

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize
- Shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2012.

Sold to:

UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa/
USA/Philippines (Telegram/Saqi Books);
Germany/Switzerland/Austria(S. Fischer);
Spain/South America (Nórdica Libros),
Sweden (Alfabeta); Denmark (C&K Forlag);
The Netherlands (Uitgeverij De Geus); Brazil
(Hedra); Lithuania (Apostrofa); USA (Farrar,
Straus & Giroux); Turkey (Dogan)
English translation available

“The Blue Fox describes its world with brilliant, precise, concrete colour and detail ... Comic and lyrical.”

THE TIMES

The Blue Fox

Skugga-Baldur, novel, 2003

The year is 1883. The stark Icelandic winter landscape is the backdrop. We follow the priest, Skugga-Baldur, on his hunt for the enigmatic blue fox. From there we're then transported to the world of the naturalist Fridrik B. Fridriksson and his charge, Abba, who suffers from Down's syndrome. The fates of Fridrik, Abba and Baldur are intrinsically bound and unravelled in this spellbinding book that is part thriller, part fairy tale. 123 pp

- *Nordic Council Literary Prize*
- *Nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize*
- *Shortlisted for the 2011 The Jan Michalski Prize for Literature*

Sold to:

UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa/ USA/ Philippines (Telegram/Saqi Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria(S. Fischer); Spain (Nórdica Libros); Sweden (Alfabeta); Denmark (Athene); The Netherlands (Uitgeverij De Geus); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Galicia (Rinoceronte Editora); Poland (słowo/obraz terytoria); Lithuania (Apostrofa); The Czech Republic (Argo); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Payot & Rivage); Italy (Mondadori); Faroe Islands (Nýlendi); Finland (Like); Norway (Tiden); Serbia and Montenegro (Balcancult Foundation); Turkey (Dogan Kitap); Hungary (Magvetö); Russia (Corpus); Bulgaria (Locus Publishing); Finnish puppet theatre rights (Piellos); Lebanon and Arab speaking world (Dar-al-Saqi); USA (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); China (Yilin Press); Skuggabaldur til Makedóníu (Antolog)
English translation available

The Whispering Muse

Argóarfllísín, novel, 2005

An elderly Icelander joins a Danish merchant ship on its way to the Black Sea. During the voyage, an old sailor called Caeneus tells the tale of how he sailed with Jason on the quest for the Golden Fleece. 135 pp

An opera based on the novel will be premiered in Copenhagen in 2012/2013.

- *Winner of the Icelandic Bookseller's Prize in 2005*

Sold to: Sweden (Alfabeta); Denmark (Athene)/ audio (Den Grimme Ælling); The Netherlands (Uitgeverij De Geus); Faroe Islands (Nýlendi); Finland (Like); Norway (Tiden); USA (Farrar, Straus & Giroux);
English translation available

With A Quivering Tear

Með titrandi tár, novel, 2001

The story of Löwe's arrival in Iceland accompanied by the mysterious hat box which played such an important role in the previous novel, as told by Löwe's made-from-clay son. 187 pp

Sold to: France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Payot & Rivage); Sweden (Alfabeta)
English translation available

Made in Secret

Augu þín sáu mig, novel 1994

Made in Secret is a love story set in a small German village during the Second World War. And it is, all at once, funny, suspenseful, dramatic, playful, mysterious, and historical.

231 pp

Sold to: Denmark (C&K Forlag); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Payot & Rivage); Romania (Niculescu); Lithuania (Apostrofa); Spain/South America (Ediciones Siruela); Finland (Like); Norway (Tiden); Sweden (Anamma)
English translation available



SOLVEIG JONSDOTTIR (b. 1982) has a degree in Political Science from the University of Iceland and a M.Sc. in Nationalism Studies and Nationalistic Conflict from the University of Edinburgh. Jonsdottir has worked as a journalist and feature writer since 2005. *Quarter* is her first novel.

“An engaging story from beginning to end ... The language is lively and the characters convincing, the plot works well, skilfully split between four stories, for each of the girls.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

“This book grabs you ... Each quarter flies by and cannot be put down. Smart and funny too. A sort of Bridget Jones without the inferiority complex.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY

Quarter

Korter, novel, 2012

“I didn’t know you’d take your ring off before you go out clubbing. Sometimes it’s married men who pull harder, I’ve heard. Have you heard that, Baldur?’ Silja found how her voice was getting harder and the sore place on her hand was beginning to hurt.

‘I do just about next to nothing these days. I’m looking for work. Or I’m supposed to be looking for work. So my time’s just sort of taken up with that,’ she added, lifting her glass and cigarette.”

Quarter follows the lives of four young Reykjavik women who have little in common except for their city-centre surroundings and their place of sanctuary at Café Quarter.

An effervescent tale of love and life that spans the whole spectrum of human emotions. Chapters in English available. 360 pp

Sold to:
Germany/ Switzerland/ Austria (Suhrkamp)
Chapters in English available
Film rights sold to:
The Icelandic Film Company



STEINUNN JOHANNESDÓTTIR

(b.1948) studied drama in Stockholm and worked as an actress for some years. *Gudridur's Journey* was on the bestseller list in Iceland for months and has been reprinted every year after its first publication.

“The author does a very good job of re-creating the period and the surroundings for the reader in vivid detail ... And here the author has succeeded admirably...

Gudridur's character description is never simplistic; on the contrary, the author communicates to us a complex and multifaceted image which stays with the reader long after the book has concluded.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Endowment

Heimanfylgja, novel, 2010

This captivating novel, set in 17th century Iceland, narrates formation years at the episcopal see at Holar of Hallgrímur Petursson, the writer of the nation's favourite hymns. Characterised by passion, love and conflict, the story of Hallgrímur Peturson is set against the backdrop of dramatic contemporary events: volcanic eruptions, political power struggles and raids by Turkish pirates. People and places, both real and invented, come alive as they appear in the story. Gradually we see a unique personality emerging, grappling with major setbacks. His poetic talents cost him dearly, yet also serve as his solace and salvation. Steinunn Johannesdóttir weaves an imaginative and sympathetic portrait from the limited sources that exist on Peturson's early years and development. Among her previous works is the novel *Gudridur's Journey*, which tells the amazing tale of Peturson's wife, who was among those captured by Turkish raiders and sold into slavery. 350 pp

Gudridur's Journey

Reisubók Guðríðar Símonardóttur, historical novel, 2001

In 1627 one of the most dramatic and terrifying events in Icelandic history occurred, the so-called Turkish Raid, when sea raiders from a distant world took some 400 Icelanders prisoner, and transported them south across the sea to be sold into slavery on the Barbary Coast. Among them was Gudridur Simonardóttir, a young fisherman's wife and mother from the Westman Islands. Author Steinunn Johannesdóttir follows Gudridur on her lengthy journey to slavery in Algiers, tells of her nine-year stay there, and then of her journey northward, until she once more sees Iceland, together with the young theology student, Hallgrímur Petursson, who eventually becomes the country's most celebrated hymnist. 499 pp

Sold to:

Germany (Wunderlich/Rowohlt); Norway (Engelstad)

English synopsis available and translation of two chapters.

One chapter available in Swedish, synopsis in French.



STEINAR BRAGI (b.1975) studied Comparative Literature and Philosophy at the University of Iceland. He has wandered a great deal around the globe, travelling through Europe, Asia and both North and South America, acquiring unique experience. When his novel *The Sunshine People* was published in 2004, a Morgunbladid critic wrote that it established Steinar Bragi “as one of the most important novelists of his generation.” His novel *Women* was nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize and for the DV Newspaper’s Cultural Award 2009. It was also chosen as The Novel of the Year 2010 of all translated novels in Poland by one of the most respected cultural site in Poland, www.G-punkt.pl.

“... a phenomenal thriller ... Steinar Bragi’s style is kind of cold-chiselled and dark, and he manages to draw you completely into the text.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY



“Steinar Bragi is a fantastically deep, original and fascinating writer who possesses a kind of superhuman grip on what he does ... An enormously classy, original and very profound novel.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

The Highlands

Hálendið, novel, 2011

Two couples from Reykjavik go on an autumn trip to the highlands. A fog descends on the sandy wilderness north of Vatnajökull glacier, and by accident they crash into a house. Their jeep is ruined and despite the residents’ misgivings, they are allowed to spend the night. There is no contact with the outside world, the house is protected like a fortress and in the evenings, the residents lock up securely. Outside in the wasteland, strange noises sound

and fires burn, events from the past haunt the visitors and it becomes increasingly difficult to work out where the enemy is hiding. *The Highlands* is a psychological thriller as well as a folk tale about people who see their reflection in everything but find themselves in nothing. A gripping story of guilt and innocence, the limits of humanity and the cruelty of Icelandic nature – or our own. 253 pp

Sold to:

France (Métailié), Sweden (Norstedts)

Film rights sold to: ZikZak

Chapters in English available



“... a kind of doom-story, a darkly sinister and painful work that deals with pornography, debasement, slavery and sexual and spiritual violence against women, presented in the manner of a skilfully built, self-deconstructing thriller.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

“Steinar Bragi’s simple tale of a young couple’s failed romance is heartbreaking, understated, and at times funny.”

BOOKSLUT.COM

White Mountain

Himinninn yfir Þingvöllum, three stories, 2009

Three young men. Three young girls. Three different worlds: Reykjavik, the French Alps and a oil rig that is suddenly left standing in the middle of a desert when the sea disappears. Despair looms everywhere in a deafening silence and profound solitude that lead to bizarre events and extremes.

In these three gripping stories, Steinar Bragi explores solitude and the longing to connect, the borderline between the human and in-human, and the link between reality and the imaginary with the same sensitivity that he displayed in *Women* which was so warmly received by both readers and critics last year. 230 pp

One story available in English translation

Published in Dalkey Archive Press'

“Best European Fiction”

Women

Konur, novel, 2008

Eva Einarsdottir returns home to Iceland after living in New York. She has been offered a rent-free apartment in a hi-tech high-rise with state-of-the-art security and monitoring in downtown Reykjavik. *Women* depicts Iceland in the moments before the crash, when fantasies of Reykjavik as a financial powerhouse at the edge of the world reached their dizziest heights of madness. But it is also, obviously, a book about women: how women become commodities in the neo-libertarian world where everything has its price. The sense of menace intensifies as the work progresses, culminating in the excruciating second half. 220 pp

- Nominated for the DV Newspaper’s Cultural Award 2009
- Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2010
- Selected Best Translated Novel of the Year 2010 by Polish cultural website www.G-punkt.pl.

Sold to:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Verlag Antje Kunstmann); France (Métailié); Sweden (Natur & Kultur); Poland (Krytyka Polityczna)

Chapters in English available

A stage play based on the book will be premiered in Reykjavik City Theatre soon

Film rights sold to: ZikZak



SVAVA JAKOBSDÓTTIR (1930–2004) was one of Iceland’s leading contemporary authors and her short stories, often depicting the lives of women, hold a special place in Icelandic literature. Jakobsdóttir was also acclaimed as a playwright, literary scholar and a novelist.

“Mixing Norse mythology with surreal storytelling, this compelling narrative chronicles the relationship between a mother seeking justice and her seemingly insane daughter. A leading author in Icelandic literature, Jakobsdóttir’s psychological novel draws readers into the world of suspenseful realism.”

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

“The style of this book is unusually rich and composed of dissimilar elements, harsh realistic descriptions and poetic inspiration from the world of the Edda and myth... Svava Jakobsdóttir’s most significant, most mature and greatest work to date, and one of the best and most noteworthy novels to appear in Iceland in recent years.”

SV. SK. HOSKULDSSON, PROFESSOR OF ICELANDIC LITERATURE

The Saga of Gunnlod

Gunnlaðar saga, novel, 1987

A young Icelandic woman is arrested in the National Gallery of Denmark for stealing a priceless gold urn. The police suspect she is either mad or a terrorist, but the woman herself claims she is just recovering her birthright – the gold urn containing the mead of poetic creativity which she, Gunnlod, guarded in ancient times,

until it was stolen by the god Odin. The narrator is the woman’s mother, who gradually comes to understand and appreciate the significance of her story. 196 pp

- Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize
- The Henrik Steffens Prize 1997

Sold to:

Norway (Cappelens forlag);
Sweden (Norstedts); Denmark (Rhodos);
Finland (Otava); France (Corti);
Lithuania (Tyto Alba); Italy (Giardini);
UK/USA (Norvik Press)



THORBERGUR THORDARSON

(1888-1974) was a writer and novelist who remains dear to many Icelanders for his versatile and creative use of the Icelandic language; his two very satirical, semi-fictional autobiographies of his life in Reykjavik in the early twentieth century, *Icelandic Aristocracy* (1938) and *The Prodigy* (1940-41), have continued to amuse and entertain each new generation of Icelanders. Thordarson's writings cover an extraordinary spectrum of subjects and styles, and his popularity and reputation continues to grow in the 21st century.

Rights to Icelandic Aristocracy
Sold to: Germany (S. Fischer Verlag)
Chapters in English available

*“Thordarson is the most interesting
– if eccentric – of all modern Icelandic writers
... he was a superior writer.”*

MARTIN SEYMOR-SMITH

The Stones Speak

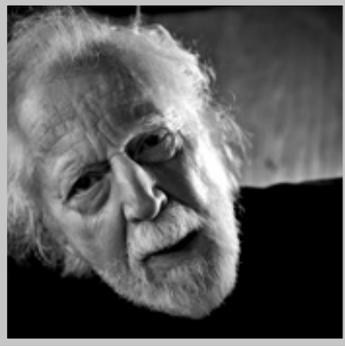
Steinarnir tala, novel, 1956

The Stones Speak is Thorbergur Thordarson's elegiac portrayal of his childhood and youth on the farm of Hali in Sudursveit, an isolated rural area of southeastern Iceland, in the late 19th century. It reveals his reverence for the beauty of the Sudursveit countryside and his enduring love of his family and neighbours and their language, history and culture. It is a sometimes witty and

funny, sometimes wry and sad, sometimes contemplative and mystical, but always affectionate portrait of a time, a place and a people, all of which have long since passed away. *The Stones Speak* is not only an enchanting work of art, but also a vitally important witness to the way of life on an Icelandic turf farmstead in the 1890s.

255 pp

English translation available



THOR VILHJALMSSON (1925-2011) is considered the leading innovator in modern Icelandic literature. He published around 25 books in Icelandic: novels, short stories, poetry, travel books, essays, besides three monographies on painters. His books have been translated widely into all the Nordic languages, and other languages as well such as English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. Vilhjalmsson received the prestigious Nordic Council Prize for Literature in 1988 for his novel *The Grey Moss Glows*. He has long held a leading role in the cultural life of Iceland.

“Discovering Vilhjalmsson is an absolute must; he is a great author, and it is irrelevant whether or not he is Icelandic.”

INROCKUPTIBLES

“Wreath is an ambitious novel ...

A challenging modern work, which fuses the present with the past, and reminds us that the age of battles is still upon us in the world; the ruthless lust for power, vendettas, warfare and contemporary bloody religious conflicts are clear signs that history repeats itself; taking us back to a new Sturlunga Age.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Wreath

Sveigur, novel, 2002

In this novel, Thor Vilhjalmsson once more delves into that great magical treasure of the past: the 13th century classic, *Sturlunga Saga*. *The Wreath* paints a captivating picture of the life of a poet who is born a pauper, raised by

monks, and later becomes retainer to a powerful chieftain, and witnesses the harshest civil war in Iceland in the 13th century. 207 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2002*

Sold to:

France (Actes Sud); Italy (Iperborea)

Morning Verse in the Grass

Morgunþula í stráum, novel, 1998

A historical novel based on characters from the classic 13th-century *Sturlunga Saga*. In 1234, Sturla Sighvatsson set off for Rome to seek Papal absolution for his sins, and, as *Sturlunga Saga* recounts, was led between the principal churches. He stood then at the peak of his achievements, and had even greater ambitions. His aim was to gain supreme power in Iceland. But something went wrong with the plans of this splendid potentate. *Morning Verse in the Grass* contains hard-won wisdom; it is a contemplation on power and pride, violence and love, and is a confrontation with the heroic myths Iceland has inherited. 290 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 1998*

Sold to:

Sweden (Bra böcker); Denmark (Borgen/Vindrose); France (Actes Sud); Italy (Iperborea); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Osburg Buch Verlag); Spain (Nórdica)
Chapters in English and a synopsis available

“Thor Vilhjalmsón is undoubtedly known as a master of style, and this book certainly won’t disappoint his admirers, if anything increase their numbers ... This is an accessible text which bears all the trademarks of Vilhjalmsón at the height of his powers; his mastery of style and visual power merge well with the exciting narrative weaved out the sagas, recollections and consciousness of the Icelanders.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Grey Moss Glows

Grámosinn glóir, novel, 1986

A historical novel set in 19th-century Iceland, now considered a Nordic classic. A story of love between half-brother and sister, and their prosecution by the authorities, a narrative of drama, poetry and landscapes; a compelling novel of obsession and aversion. 267 pp

- *The Nordic Council Literary Prize 1988*

Sold to:

Denmark (Vindrose); Norway (Norsk Gyldendal); Finland (Otava); Sweden (Wiken/Bra böcker); Germany (Kleinheinrich/Paperback rights: Ullstein); France (Actes Sud); Italy (Iperborea); Turkey (Telos Yayinalik); UK (Mare’s Nest, published under the title *Justice Undone*); Bulgaria (Hemus); Lithuania (Lithuanian Writers’ Union Publishers); Spain (Nórdica); Portugal (Cavallo de ferro); Turkey (Alakarga)

Killing in the Deep of Night

Náttvíg, novel, 1989

Love, death, the sea: the author interweaves these threads in a stirring story set in Reykjavík’s underworld, revealed through the mouth of a taxi driver. Most of the story takes place in the course of two nights. The first night is characterised by a series of seemingly innocent events, but the darkness conceals a killing; on the second three louts burst into the narrator’s car and force him on an expedition. The journey triggers off the narrator’s memories about his past at sea, violence, death and the precariousness of life.

A dark vision of human nature, urban anguish seen in Vilhjalmsón’s inimitable, grand literary style. 245 pp

Sold to:

Denmark (Vindrose); Sweden (Wiken); France (Actes Sud)



THORARINN ELDJARN (b.1949) is one of Iceland's most admired authors and the recipient of many awards. A superb poet, he has tackled every genre, published countless children's books, written novels, collections of short stories and scripts and also worked as a translator.



“Eldjarn’s ingenious mastery of the short story form is already beyond discussion. His social criticism, on the other hand, has never been as sharp as it is in these stories because the role of fiction now more than ever is to define the truth, expose trickery and tell the truth.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

“Eldjarn is a great stylist and subtle humorist ... an entertaining collection of well thought-out stories.”

KILJAN, ICELANDIC STATE TELEVISION

Here Lies a Poet

Hér liggur skáld, historical novel, 2012

Each night, when Hallbjorn the shepherd lies down to sleep in the paddock, he thinks of the poem he would like to create; it is about Thorleifur Poet of the Earl who, as the story goes, lies underneath the very spot where the shepherd sleeps. „Here lies a poet,“ he starts but doesn't get any further because Thorleifur himself lends a hand – in a dream, because he has been lying dead in the ground for two hundred years. “The story goes “ – Ah, yes, how does the story go? Ancient tales are told of Thorleifur and his

kin in Svarfadardalur, of fierce battles between the chieftains in the valley, premonitions and monsters, a fateful trip to Norway, cruelty and killing, potent poetry of vengeance, and an inhuman murder in Thingvöllur. Thorarinn Eldjarn recounts and makes up Thorleifur's fateful tale; he spins, weaves and fills in the gaps to craft a powerful and impressive story of a modest poet who doesn't waver in the face of a daunting but important task: fighting evil. 165 pp

“The Baron is a beautifully crafted book and a historical novel of the best possible kind.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

“The story of the baron in Hvitarvellir is absolutely charming.”

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

The Baron

Baróninn, historical novel, 2004

This gripping novel is based on the fantastic but true story of the tragic life of Baron Charles Gauldrée Boilleau, a mysterious French/American musician and son of a French diplomat, turned farmer and entrepreneur in remote and backward Iceland in 1898–1901.

Baron Boilleau was a multifaceted man and the book gives us a vivid portrait of the “belle époque” of the Euro-American bourgeoisie, and how a man’s artistic aspirations and ideals of progress become shipwrecked once they hit the barren shores of a backward Icelandic society. Sophisticated, a cellist and composer, educated in a British boarding school and with a second home on the Italian Riviera, Boilleau tries to establish a dairy in Iceland at the turn of the 1900’s. It can only lead to one thing: disaster. An exceptionally well written book by one of Iceland’s most popular and respected authors of the past quarter-century. A book where the incredible is true, and the credible untrue. 309 pp

Film rights sold to: Krumma Films
English and French chapters available

The Blue Tower

Brotahöfuð, historical novel, 1996

A brilliantly written novel, set in Iceland and Denmark in the 17th century. Accused of encouraging immorality, Gudmundur Andresson was sent to prison in Copenhagen’s notorious Blue Tower. Andresson is probably the only prisoner who has managed to „escape“ from there, which he did when he accidentally fell through the bars of his cell window, to the astonishment of an aristocratic couple who were copulating inside a room below. This dramatic entrance drew the king’s attention to Andresson’s case, and in the end the charges against him were dropped. A timeless and universal historical novel. 252 pp

- Shortlisted for the European Aristeion Literary Award
- Nomination for the Nordic Council Literary Prize
- Nomination for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2001

Sold to:

UK (Mare’s Nest); Finland (Like);
France (Le Cavalier Bleu);
Denmark (Poul Kristensens Forlag)
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Conte Verlag)

“Gripping saga ... insistently memorable and intensely real.”

PUBLISHER’S WEEKLY



THORUNN VALDIMARSDOTTIR

(b.1954) is a writer and historian whose earlier works count novels, books of poetry, biographies and academic publications. Her books have received numerous awards, such as nominations for the Icelandic Literary Prize and the Nordic Council's Literary Prize.

Girl With a Belly

- a Family Saga Based on Documents From the Metal Cabinet

Stúlka með maga, novel, 2013

And now comes his justification in the wider sense. He says that perhaps he deserves this for meddling with things that are no concern of his, but the thing is, you're created with this desire or pleasure, which is also the very strongest influence on you of all the pleasures, or at least, that is how it is with him.

In Girl With a Belly the author expresses her heartache through the voice of Erla Thordis Jonsdottir. In her account, the dead come alive

as a Pandora's box of forgotten family afflictions and secrets is opened. A High Court judgement, shipwreck, world wars, the effects of syphilis, the everyday life of yesteryear – all are intertwined with poetic ingenuity.

Girl With a Belly is a stand-alone sequel to Girl with a Finger published in 1999, which was awarded the DV Literary Prize as well as being nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Award.

“... *this is above all a riveting contemporary story that gives the reader more satisfaction than can usually be expected from reading crime fiction.*”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER (ON COLD BLOOD)

The Lion Has Many Ears

Mörg eru ljónsins eyru, novel, 2010

The Lion has Many Ears is a second novel in a crime series using the Icelandic Sagas as a model. This time the author plays with themes from Laxdaela Saga and recreates it in a modern context.

This novel is a follow up of *Cold Blood*, nominated for the Icelandic Literature Prize in 2007, resetting scenes from Niall's Saga in a contemporary setting. In these stories the traditional crime fiction format is beautifully interlaced with the Icelandic traditional Saga and Icelandic fate in the past and present. 324 pp

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2010

Cold Blood

Kalt er annars blóð, novel, 2007

Cold Blood is an unusual crime novel where the traditional format is beautifully interlaced with the Icelandic traditional Saga and Icelandic fate in the past and present.

In the chilly city of Reykjavik a raven circles the sky and watches events unfold that will have dire consequences. He sees things hidden to human eyes – money exchanging hands, cats run over by cars, houses burnt to the ground, and people shot like dogs. When Asa finds a body by chance in a gravel mound out on the heath many unknown things start coming to light – what drives people to make away with others and what happens when restraints disappear one by one and things spin out of control? 332 pp

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2007

Chapters in English available

“This is an intricate novel ... It is written in lucid and powerful language, the characters are convincing and memorable, and the story becomes true to life through its special manner of projecting a novel look at society, a look which is as convincing as it is challenging.”

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

*“Openness, honesty and human insight characterize the tale of Gudrun’s relationships and the loss of her child. Yet it is Thorunn Valdimarsdottir’s mastery of suspense techniques that makes **Quite Enough** hold the reader’s enthusiastic attention until the final page.”*

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

*“**The Four Elements** is a remarkable, unusual and somewhat provocative book. With extraordinary eloquence the author tests the boundaries of morality and challenges our views on love and sex, as she explores the relationship between author and reader and comments on the role of literary art in society.”*

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

Girl with a Finger

Stúlka með fingur, novel, 1999

A novel recounting the life of an ordinary young girl, Unnur Jonsdottir, her relationships and forbidden love. The author skilfully weaves a dramatic and exciting tale about life at the turn of the last century. 314 pp

- *The DV Newspaper’s Cultural Award 1999*
- *Nominated for the Nordic Literature Prize 2001*

Sold to:
Sweden (Publish America)

Quite Enough

Alveg nóg, novel, 1997

The heroine, Gudrun Jonsdottir, is in Copenhagen reminiscing about the past, her search for love and the tragic events that upset her existence. But with the realization that destiny can not be escaped, Gudrun manages to turn her life around. 148 pp

- *Nominated for the DV Newspaper’s Cultural Award 1997*

The Four Elements, Love Letter Service

Höfuðskepnur, ástarbréfa-
þjónusta, 1994

A young woman is offered a hefty sum to write love letters to a stranger and decides to go for it. 221 pp



VALUR GUNNARSSON (b.1976) divided his childhood between Iceland, Norway and Great Britain, and spent his summers as a teenager in Saudi-Arabia and China where his father worked as an engineer. He has a BA in History, and an MA from the Creative Writing program at Queens University Belfast. He has worked as a free-lance journalist and correspondent in Iceland for foreign media.

“The King of the North is a thoroughly entertaining book, hilarious and interesting.”

VIDSKIPTABLADID NEWSPAPER



“A wonderful first book from this author.”

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

King of the North

Konungur norðursins, novel, 2007

Ilkka Hämäläinen is an unloved and overweight Helsinki shipcleaner, who silently and from afar adores a girl at the supermarket, and sometimes has strange dreams about leaving his own body. In a bout of depression Ilkka stows away on a ferry bound for Sweden, with the intention of becoming outrageously drunk. While he lies helpless in drunken stupor his body is occupied by an unscrupulous ghost which had been haunting the Baltic for a millennium. The ghost subtly takes control without Ilkka’s knowing and sends him on a quest to the North in search of the necklace of Freyja, and the mighty sword of

Freyr, which can even defeat Hel, the goddess of death. When hapless Ilkka finally succeeds in finding the sword the spirit uses it to cut the silver chord which connects his spirit with his body. Now Ilkka must go to Hel to get another chance at life and then retrieve his body. But does he really want to return to a world he never really liked to begin with? Partly set in 6th century Sweden and Finland, this original first novel is littered with allusions to the *Eddas*, as well as to the Finnish national epic, *The Kalevala*. 196 pp

Chapters in English available



THORARINN LEIFSSON (b.1966) studied at the Icelandic Academy of Arts. In the same period he worked as a street painter in Western Europe. After graduation from art school he worked as an illustrator, billboard painter and graphic designer. He has illustrated several books and newspaper articles. The HC Andersen books, published in 4 northern countries are among his most important illustrations.

www.totil.com



“This book is a very enjoyable read, lively, entertaining and full of adventures.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

“Leifsson is an excellent stylist, subtly amusing and fluent at creating an atmosphere.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

The Street Painter

Götumálarinn, novel, 2011

“I drifted south in winter and north in summer. Hitched rides with complete strangers and let them decide where I was going. Sometimes I traveled by train without a ticket. The final destination was not important. I just wanted to get as far away as possible.”

In 1986, an Icelandic youngster disappears when on vacation in Europe. Last news of him come from southern Spain, where he claims to make a living painting pictures on the sidewalks. When he fails to write home for several months his

sister and mother catch a plain down south to try to find him. When they arrive in Andalusia they experience a sickening fear of what their search may reveal ...

In this unusual on the road story the reader is led through the post Franco era of southern Spain and Morocco, into the exotic and dangerous world of street artists and tramps. The narrative is exciting and adventurous, full of darkness and subtle humor just as Leifsson’s previous works. 276 pp

Chapters in English available



VIGDIS GRIMSDOTTIR (b.1953) has received widespread recognition for her work and her books have been translated into several languages. Vigdis has won many prizes for her writing, including among other things, the Icelandic Literary Prize. Two of her novels have been adapted for the stage in Sweden and Iceland, and one of her novels, *Cold Light* (*Kaldaljós*), has been made into a major motion picture.

The Woman with the Yellow Bag

Dísusaga. Konan með gulu töskuna, novel, 2013

When it's finally revealed that Disa Grims from Kleppsvegur will get to write her own book she tells her story plainly. It's not like she has anything to hide. The book tells the very powerful story of a ten-year-old girl that is exposed to violence and locks herself into a dungeon of silence and hiding games. In fifty years she can't see an escape, until one day she is allowed to write by her oppressor and former rescuer, although only for two months. Time is running out and Disa decides to write to the man she has always loved. Will she be able to tell the truth?

In the north fjords Disa enjoys immeasurable happiness over everything nature and the people there give her to deal with her swelling feelings. Surrounded by the mountains, the sea and the security in the Coffeehouse she writes the story and the memories flow. This is Disa's story, a story of violence, honesty and generosity. This is also our story; unexpected, enchanting and wonderful book where Vigdis Grimsdottir gives way to Disa Grims who now gets the word. 384 pp



“... an extremely beautiful, stylish and sophisticated work.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY



“**Do you believe in Magic?** is, simply, the best written novel of recent years ... This is a true masterpiece.”

PRESSAN.IS

Do You Believe in Magic?

Trúir þú á töfra?, novel, 2011

“My village nestles in a deep valley between tall mountains. Some say that it is in the Western Fjords, others that it’s in the Eastern Fjords and yet others maintain that it is in the highlands; if truth be told, the people who live here haven’t got a clue where they are ...”

The narrator is a twelve-year-old girl who is named after Nina Björk Arnadóttir, her mother’s favourite poetess, and she describes life in her village which, surrounded by a dark wall, rests under a heavy glass dome. In this shut-in world an experiment to create the perfect community is taking place; here each and everyone plays whatever part he or she is allocated, under a reign of terror by the powers that be; here life is completely choreographed.

But little Nina has her hopes and dreams and, driven by her namesake’s poems, genuine curiosity and a yearning for beauty, she seeks the freedom everyone is missing.

Do you believe in Magic? is a story that takes place in the near future and leads its readers into a maze of arbitrary power and cruelty that no-one understands – as well as to the pure joy of life inspired by the scent of the past and the fragrance of the future.

While this work by Vigdís Grímsdóttir is a true ode to poetry it also reveals a human being’s vulnerability in a complicated struggle for existence where only magic can light up the path.

259 pp

“Bibi Olafsdottir’s tale is not your run-of-the-mill confessional story of an Icelandic working class hero or a leading figure, and it isn’t told with mild detachment but poetic intimacy and warmth ... This is a truly beautifully written book about a woman’s development and a dramatic tale with some moments of high drama.”

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

Bibi

Bíbí, sagan af Bíbí Ólafsdóttur, novel, 2008

Bibi is the extraordinary story of a tenacious working class woman who never falters in the face of adversity, a woman who makes the impossible possible. Her tale is brought to life through the stylistic ingenuity of Vigdis Grimsdottir’s pen.

Bibi Olafsdottir was born in 1952 under difficult circumstances and this is her dramatic story. She speaks with candid honesty and leaves no stone unturned, because she is true to the promise that she once made to herself when her

young daughter was given no hope of survival.

Her attitude is an incitement to us all to embrace adversity with humour, goodwill towards others and to rejoice in the small things of life.

Vigdis Grimsdottir evokes the era so vividly that you can hear the creaking of the old barracks dwellings in the Mulakampur neighbourhood, sniff that peculiar smell or stench in the air, sense the joy and sorrow, and experience the character’s relentless struggle and determination to succeed. 352 pp

Sold to:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Cargo Verlag)

*“This is a truly unique, riveting, mysterious
and multi-layered book.”*

SVENSKA DAGBLADET

*“She bewitches the reader into following her on an
adventurous journey where beauty reigns supreme to the point
that it becomes impossible for the reader to remain
as an impassive observer, he simply has to take part in it.”*

TRELLEBORGS ALLEHANDA

From Light to Light

Frá ljósi til ljóss, novel, 2001

In this first volume of Vigdis Grimsdottir’s trilogy the reader is introduced to Rosa, her friends and family. The secrets, wishes and dreams of these characters are revealed as they try their best to find their way in a confusing world of contradictions and underlying conflicts, truth and lies, life and death – not knowing what awaits them around the corner. 196 pp

Sold to:
Finland (WSOY/Johnny Kniga); Sweden (Anamma)

When a Star Falls

Þegar stjarna hrapar, novel, 2003

The third and last book in the trilogy. The characters struggle with their existence, heated emotions, difficult history and ironic fate, in an unforeseen and momentous manner. Before long no-one is safe on that merry-go-round of dreams and reality, which does not come to a halt until all the chickens have come home to roost. 218 pp

Sold to:
Finland (WSOY/Johnny Kniga)

Heart, Moon and Blue Birds

Hjarta, tungl og bláir fuglar, novel, 2002

Grimsdottir has a unique talent for unveiling the truth and providing insight into the complex relations between human beings. Her mesmerizing narrative style is here at its best, as the characters deal with a new reality in a colourful setting where bluebirds nest in the trees, and miracles happen.

236 pp

Sold to:
Sweden (Anamma); Finland (WSOY/Johnny Kniga)

“Cold Light is an ode to beauty, trust, and cruelty;
a multi-faceted story of love and mystique, yet of realism.

Crafted with great skill. Incomparable! ...

A work of art that I wish I could frame on my wall.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

Cold Light

Kaldaljós, novel, 1987

The story of Grimur Hermundsson and his family has captured the imagination of Icelandic readers ever since its publication in 1987. Based partially on a true story, a misfortune devastating an Icelandic fishing village, legend and fairy tales are also a source of inspiration for the author.

The book describes an unusually beautiful and

contradictory life of Icelanders who face a cruel nature and the misdeeds of their fellow beings with their imagination, dreams and poetry. There is no doubt that *Cold Light* sets Grimsdottir amongst those of our contemporary authors who best know how to tell a story. 254 pp

Film rights sold to:
Icelandic Film Corporation
Chapters in English available

“The Silence is probably Grimsdottir’s best novel,
but at the same time the most unrelenting.
At first she shows us a picture of a beautiful relationship
between a young girl and her grandmother.
Gradually, however, a shadow darkens that picture
– until it at last becomes simply frightening.”

FALU KURIEN

The Silence

Pögnin, novel, 2000

In *The Silence* Grimsdottir perhaps delves deeper than ever before, juxtaposing love and submission against repression and folly in a context that makes it impossible for readers to shun their responsibilities. Linda’s grandmother, who early on in her life decided to commit herself to silence, plays a major role in the young girl’s upbringing

and teaches her to appreciate art and culture, albeit in a truly novel way. The book starts as Linda returns to Iceland after a period of study in the United States to sit by her grandmother’s death bed. She recalls her childhood and her relationship with her grandmother since her very infancy. 381 pp



VILBORG DAVIDSDOTTIR (b.1965)

is the author of popularly acclaimed historical novels, including, among others, *The Raven* which was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize. She hosts her own blog, *Mindful Living*, in Icelandic at vilborgd.blogspot.com

“Broad and high story ... very large setting and big story”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

Crimson Sky

Vígroði, historical novel, 2012

The year is 865. Audur the Wise, independent and headstrong Viking woman, raises her son on her own in Caithness, Britain, where the heathen Norse have settled and driven out the Christian natives. Afraid that her chieftain father in the Hebrides will marry her off again for political gain, Audur has stayed away from her kin since her divorce from Olaf the White, the Norse king of Dublin. Yet, after more than a decade in Caithness, she now shows up at her father’s hall in the Hebrides to attend her brother’s wedding. As customary in the beginning of winter, the women sacrifice a boar to the gods and goddesses and look into the future, foretelling blood red skies above the British Isles: The Norse are fated to yet again go viking in the Western Seas. And indeed there is unrest and strife in the north of the British Isles. The natives are becoming more defiant with each passing day and the

ambitious Earl of Orkney hungers for power on the mainland. Then, to the astonishment of all, the warrior king of Dublin invades Scotland in mid-winter and it soon becomes inevitable that the paths of Audur and Olaf the White shall cross again ...

At the same time tales are told of a new and unsettled country in the far north, where the mountains breathe fire, glaciers adorn the skyline, and rivers and lakes swarm with fish. Maybe the best option is to leave the battlefields in the lands of the hostile Picts and Scots, set sail and seek this island of fire and ice at the edge of the world ...

Crimson Sky is a sequel to the best-selling novel *Audur*, nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize in 2009. 264 pp

Chapters in English available

Audur

Auður, historical novel, 2009

Audur is set in the British Isles in the 9th century. As is the case in many of Villborg's other works, the heroine is a young woman, but this time she is a well known figure from the Icelandic sagas: Audur the Deep-Minded, one of the first main settlers in Iceland. The novel traces her story from childhood through her stormy relationship with King Olaf the White of Dublin and, at the same time, paints a vivid picture of this tumultuous period when battles were con-

stantly being waged between the Norse invaders and the islanders of the Atlantic.

Audur's kin are all heathens, but when she meets the Scottish monk Gilli she is attracted to his message about the White Christ. What she doesn't know is that there is more to Gilli's mission to the islands than converting the inhabitants to Christianity, and their friendship will ultimately cost them dearly. 271 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2009*

Chapters in English available

The Raven

Hrafninn, historical novel, 2005

Naaja grows up with her father in an Inuit community in fifteenth-century Greenland. Mutual support is the cornerstone of Inuit society but father and daughter are at odds with their world, initially due to the father's idiosyncrasy but later because of what happens in the solitude of a deserted fjord one winter when Naaja and her father forsake their village.

A powerful, gripping story of an alien world, based on exhaustive research into the customs and culture of the old Inuit society. 312 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize*

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb)
Chapters in English available

On the Cold Coasts – A Novel

Galdur – skáldsaga, historical novel, 2000

The year is 1419. Ragnfridur and Thorkell are betrothed as children, by decision of their high-ranking parents. But Ragnfridur becomes pregnant by an English castaway, and after this Thorkell leaves to study at the Sorbonne in Paris. While he is away, unrest grows in Iceland. The Norwegian authorities feel threatened by the growing English presence in Iceland. When Thorkell returns, and falls in with the English bishop of Holar, John William Crexton, he meets up with the bishop's housekeeper, Ragnfridur, and her young son ... 192 pp

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb)
USA/Philippines/UK/Australia/New Zealand/
South Africa (AmazonCrossing); Egypt
(Animar)

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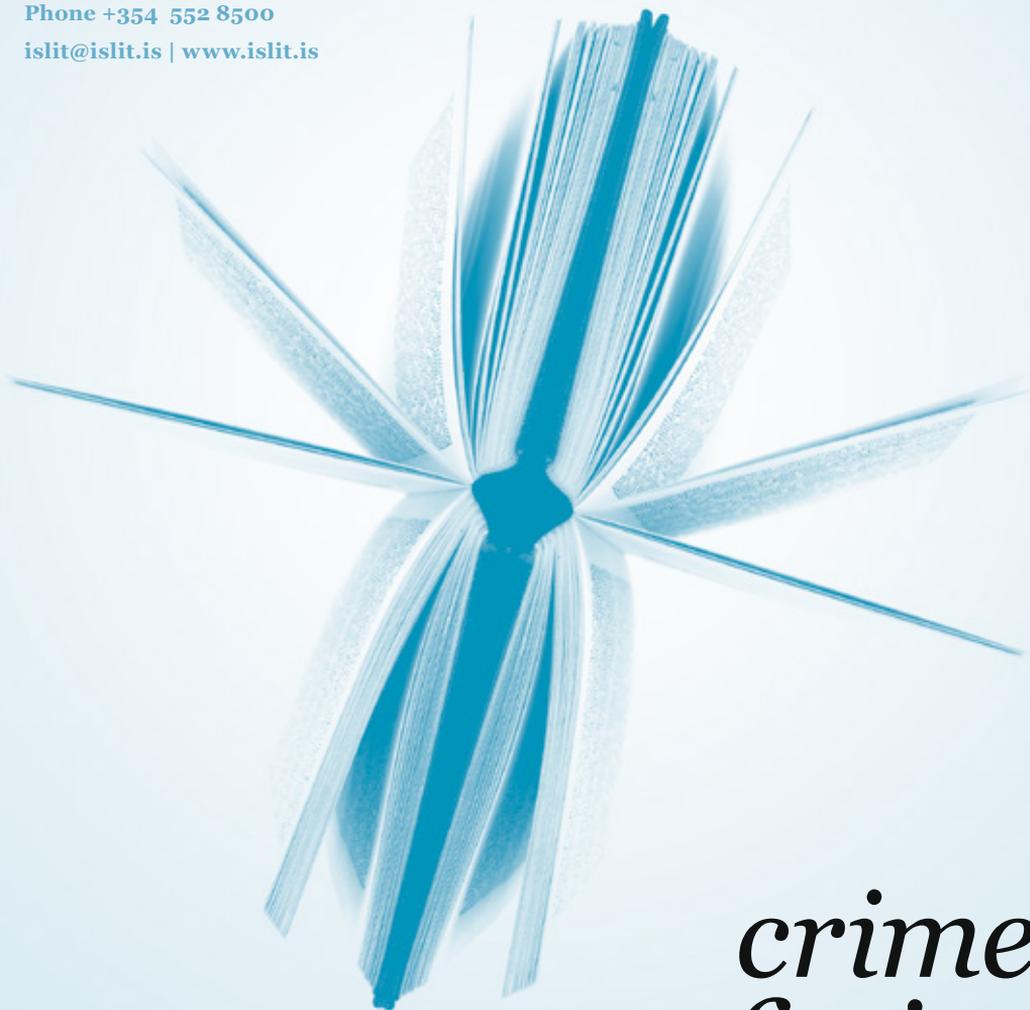
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Iceland

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*crime
fiction*



ARNALDUR INDRIDASON

(b. 1961) has the rare distinction of having won the Nordic Crime Novel Prize two years running. He is also the winner of the highly respected and world famous CWA Gold Dagger Award for the top crime novel of the year in the English language, *Silence of the Grave*. Indridason's novels have sold in ten million copies worldwide, in 40 languages.

“The language is clear and concise, but at the same time richly expressive and deep... Every detail is carefully thought through, and the plot is masterfully crafted, delicate and precise as clockwork.”

FROM THE VERDICT OF THE JURY OF THE RBA INTERNATIONAL CRIME NOVEL AWARD

The Man from Manitoba

Skuggasund, crime novel, 2013

An old man is found dead in his apartment in Reykjavik. On his desk are newspaper clippings going back to the Second World War about a brutal murder: a girl was found strangled behind the National Theater which, at the time, was a storage facility for the American Army. A retired police officer hears about the incident and his curiosity awakens. He remembers the case of the dead girl but wants to find out why the old man kept news related to her murder.

The Man from Manitoba is Arnaldur Indridason's 17th book. In this one he treads unknown paths following a new character; both during the

present and during the World War. Indridason is an internationally renowned author. His books have been translated to multitude of languages, sold millions of copies and have earned their author prizes and awards all over the world. 316 pp.

• *RBA International Crime Novel Award 2013*

Sold to:
Netherlands (Querido); Spain/ Andorra/ South- and Central America, USA (Rba Libros); Catalonia (La Magrana)

★★★★★ (Out of five stars)

“Arnaldur Indridason is the most outstanding thriller writer in Iceland, and ranks amongst the most prominent crime writers in Scandinavia and elsewhere.

But he is much more than a crime writer: his descriptions of people and the issues of the time are exemplary, and lend great depth to his books. He is, simply, always a step ahead of his fellow Icelanders and many others in the same field. ...

***Reykjavik Nights** is not only a thriller, it is also an excellent present-day story about grief and longings. ... A fine book, yet another feather in Indridason’s cap.”*

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

*“**Reykjavik Nights** is one of his best written books.*

The construction of the story is well crafted and the way the two cases interlink is handled with consummate proficiency.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

Reykjavik Nights

Reykjavíkurnætur, crime novel, 2012

The loner Erlendur has recently joined the police force and the beat on the streets in Reykjavik is busy: traffic accident, theft, domestic violence, contraband ...

An unexplained death won't leave him be. A bum he met regularly on the night shift is found drowned in a ditch and no one seems to care. But his fate haunts Erlendur and drags him further into the strange and dark underworld of the city. *Reykjavik Nights* is Arnaldur Indridason's sixteenth novel and follows the first case of the policeman Erlendur, who readers know from the au-

thor's earlier books. Indridason's books have been immensely popular both in Iceland and abroad and have received excellent reviews. 286 pp

• Nominated for the DV Newspaper's cultural award 2012

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*“The structure of **The Great Match** is top-notch, the narrative is calm and collected to begin with but then it gathers speed, the tension grows and the twist at the end is excellent, plus the ending is a pleasant surprise. Crime novels don’t come any better than this. **The Great Match** is yet another feather in Arnaldur Indridason’s cap.”*

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

“Indridason knows the art of weaving a crime story ... The temporal setting of the novel is masterfully done ... An exciting and coherent story ...”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

The Great Match

Einvígið, crime novel, 2011

It is the summer of 1972 and Reykjavik is in turmoil; the world chess championship is about to start in the Laugardalshöll sports centre and the city is teeming with foreigners. The Cold War is at its height and representatives from East and West escort their men, Spassky and Fischer, to the chessboard. As preparations reach a climax, a harmless youth goes to the cinema and is viciously attacked. The police are at full stretch but Marion Briem, who is in charge of the case, is determined to make sense of the life-and-death duel which is being fought here.

In Indridason’s fifteenth novel, real events frame a gripping account of tragic human sacrifice. No other Icelandic author has enjoyed such popularity as Indridason has in recent years, both in Iceland and abroad. Translated into many languages, his books have sold in millions and had excellent reviews everywhere. 324 pp

Sold to:

The Netherlands/ Belgium/ Luxembourg (Querido); Germany/ Switzerland/ Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); France/ Switzerland/ Luxembourg/ Canada (Métailié); Sweden (Norstedts); Italy (Ugo Guanda); Finland (Blue Moon)

“European crime-writing at its best.”

SYDSVENSKAN, SWEDEN

“An exciting discovery from the high north ... Indridason can now count himself among the best of Nordic crime writers.”

WOCHENBLATT BADEN/PFALZ, GERMANY

Strange Shores

Furðustrandir, crime novel, 2010

Erlendur is at his childhood home in the East Fjords and the past comes to haunt him. Not just events from his own life, but also other unsolved cases, unsettled matters. Many decades ago sinister events occurred when a large group of British soldiers became lost in a storm in the mountains. Some made it with difficulty back to town, others did not. On the same night, a young woman disappeared in the same area and was never found. Her story arouses the curiosity of Erlendur, who hungers for answers to the riddles of his past, no matter how painful they might be. *Strange Shores* is Arnaldur Indridason's fourteenth novel, with Detective Erlendur Sveinsson taking the lead role as so often before. 304 pp

- Nominated by *The Swedish Crime Academy* for the best foreign crime novel 2012
- Selected as one of Sweden's best crime novel of 2012 by *Dagens Nyheter*
- Nominated by *Crimezone* for the best foreign crime novel in *The Netherlands* 2012

Sold to:

The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Métaillié); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Norstedts); Italy (Ugo Guanda); Finland (Blue Moon); Czech Republic (Moba)

Black Skies

Svörtuloft, crime novel, 2009

Detective Sigurdur Oli is in trouble. After a school reunion exposes the chasm between his life and those of his much more successful contemporaries, leaving him bitter and resentful, one of his old friends asks him to pay an unofficial visit to a couple of blackmailers. He readily agrees, only to arrive to find one of the pair lying in a pool of blood. When the victim dies in hospital, Sigurdur Oli is faced with investigating a murder without revealing his own reasons for being present at the murder scene. Moving from the villas of Reykjavík's banking elite to a sordid basement flat, *Black Skies* is a superb story of greed, pride and murder from one of Europe's most successful crime writers. 326 pp

- Selected as the best crime novel of the year in the Netherlands 2011 by *Vrij Netherland*
- Shortlisted for the 2013 *Petrona Award* for the Best Scandinavian Crime Novel of the Year in UK

Sold to:

The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métaillié); Finland (Blue Moon); Sweden (Norstedts), Norway (Cappelen); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Italy (Ugo Guanda); Czech Republic (Moba)

Outrage

Myrká, crime novel, 2008

In a flat near the city centre, a young man lies dead in a pool of blood although there are no signs of a break-in or any struggle. A purple woman's shawl, found under the bed, gives off a strong and unusual aroma. A vial of narcotics found in the victim's pocket among other clues soon lead Erlendur's colleagues down a trail of hidden violence and psychological brutality. And of wrongs that will never be fully righted. 294 pp

- *Nominated for the Swedish Martin Beck Award 2010*
- *Selected by Aftonbladet as one of the three best crime novels of 2010 in Sweden*

Hypothermia

Harðskafi, crime novel, 2007

On a cold autumn night in Thingvellir, a woman is found dead in her summer house. She had been troubled for a while and the noose was her way out of despair. When Erlendur receives a recording of a séance that the woman attended just before her death, he is driven to dig up her story and find out why her life ended in such a sudden and sad way. At the same time he is haunted by unsolved riddles of disappeared people and his own past. Erlendur Sveinsson is one of the most loved fictional characters of contemporary Icelandic literature, the eccentric cop with the brisk exterior and warm heart has charmed readers both in Iceland and abroad for several years. 295 pp

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Norway (Cappelen); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Finland (Blue Moon); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Norstedts / Prisma); Italy (Ugo Guanda); The Czech Republic (Moba); Denmark (Rosinante); Spain/ Andorra South and Central America/ USA (RBA Libros), Catalonia (La Magrana)

- *Nominated one of the Ten Most Notable Crime Books of 2010 by the New York Times*
- *Shortlisted for the CWA International Dagger 2010*
- *One of the best crime novels of 2009 in UK, selected by Sunday Times*
- *Reviewed as the best crime novel of 2009 in The Times*
- *Nomination for the Glass Key – The Nordic crime Novel Award 2008*
- *The Drop of Blood – The Icelandic Crime Novel Award 2008*
- *Shortlisted for the Icelandic Booksellers' Literary Award 2007*

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The King's Book

Konungsbók, crime novel, 2006

1955. A young Icelander travels to Denmark for his studies and tracks down a fellow countryman and downtrodden old professor, who harbours a terrible secret: during the turmoil of the war years, he lost sight of a unique and priceless manuscript, which he had been entrusted with, the Codex Regius itself, the Poetic Edda – the age old relic of the Icelandic nation. Together, the professor and his disciple embark on an

uncertain journey across Europe in a quest to recover this invaluable vellum manuscript; a treasure that some people are willing to die and kill for. This is an unusual and extremely exciting story about what can be sacrificed – and what must be sacrificed – for the greatest jewel of the ages. 363 pp

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); The Czech Republic (MOBA) France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Métailié)

- *One of the most notable crime novels of 2009 in USA, selected by The New York Times*
- *Shortlisted for the CWA International Dagger 2009*
- *Nomination for the Swedish Martin Beck Award 2007*

Sold to:

UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); Sweden (Norstedts/Prisma); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); Finland (Blue Moon); Czech Republic (MOBA); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Italy (Ugo Guanda); Norway (Cappelen); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (RBA Libros); Catalonia (La Magrana); Russia (Corpus); Hungary (Animus); Poland (WAB)

Arctic Chill

Vetrarborgin, crime novel, 2005

The body of a dead child is found in the gardens of a Reykjavik apartment block on a cold January day; a young dark-skinned boy, lies face-down in his own blood, frozen to the ice. When the police arrive on the scene, they suspect a horrific crime. Erlendur, Elinborg and Sigurdur Oli start their investigation and, through the darkness and the blizzards, gradually uncover facts that turn out to be chillier than an Arctic winter night. 333 pp

*“... a world-class
crime writer ...”*

SUNDAY TIMES

“The Draining Lake is a beautiful, sad, haunting tale of lost love and lost illusions, regret and betrayal.”

THE TIMES

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2004
- Le Prix du Polar européen du POINT, France, 2008
- The Barry Award, USA, for Best Novel of the year 2009
- Nominated for the Macavity Award by Mystery Readers International 2009

Sold to:

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*“... A particularly gripping, exciting and ingenious story about a femme fatale ... The first models to spring to mind might be **The Postman Always Rings Twice** or **Double Indemnity**, by James M. Cain, both of which were adapted into great movies.”*

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

Sold to:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); Czech Republic (MOBA); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Métailié); Spain/ Andorra/ Central and South America/USA (RBA Libros)

The Draining Lake

Kleifarvatn, crime novel, 2004

The water level of a lake drops in the wake of an earthquake, revealing the hidden skeleton of a man in the sand below. Attached to it is a communication device with Russian inscriptions. The police are called in and Erlendur, Elinborg and Sigurdur Oli begin their investigation, which takes them back several decades, unearthing shattered dreams, and hot passions dampened by the Cold War. 349 pp

Betty

Bettý, crime novel, 2003

“I made mistakes. I fell into one trap after another. Sometimes willingly. Deep inside I knew they were there and knew they were dangerous, but I didn't know everything. Sometimes I tell myself I'd let myself fall into them again, if I only could.”
A young lawyer sits in custody and recalls a fateful encounter with Betty, who appeared one day in a tight dress and a golden chain on her ankle. And when she smiled ... 215 pp

- First Prize of Honour for Nordic Crime Fiction, Boréales/Région Basse-Normandie, France, 2011

“Indridason reaches extraordinary psychological depths.”

INDEPENDENT

Voices

Röddin, crime novel, 2002

- *The Martin Beck Award 2005, Sweden*

Nominated in The Netherlands 2005 as:

- *one of the 8 best best crime novels by crimezone.nl*
- *one of the 10 best crime novels by De Volkskrant*
- *one of the 100 best books of the year by BOEK Magazine*

The Christmas rush is at its peak in a big Reykjavik hotel, packed with foreign guests, when the police are called in to investigate a murder: a member of the staff, a middleaged man, has been stabbed to death, and found dressed in a Santa outfit with his trousers around his ankles. The police, Erlendur, Elinborg and Sigurdur Oli, have a complex case on their hands, and initially seem to have few clues to lead them to the murderer. But delving into the victim’s adventurous and sad childhood, Erlendur and his colleagues begin to unravel some promising leads. A terribly exciting story about the oddness of human fate, solitude and loss in the broadest sense of those terms. 330 pp

Sold to:

UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin’s Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe LÜbbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Signature); Finland (Blue Moon); Denmark (Forum); Sweden (Norstedts/Prisma); Norway (Cappelen); Czech Republic (MOBA); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Italy (Ugo Guanda); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (RBA Libros); Russia (Corpus); Catalonia (La Magrana); Brazil (Companhia das Letras); Portugal (Porto Editores); Turkey (Dogan); Romania (Trei); Japan (Tokyo Sogensha Co); Lebanon (Arab Scientific Publishers); Poland (WAB); Korea (Younglim Cardinal); Poland (WAB); Greece (Metachmio)

“A chilling read.”

THE TIMES

Silence of the Grave

Grafarþögn, crime novel, 2001

- *The CWA Gold Dagger Award 2005, UK, for the top crime novel of the year in the English language*
- *The Glass Key 2003, The Nordic Crime Novel Award*
- *Prix Fiction 2006 du Livre insulaire de Ouessant*
- *Shortlisted for the Icelandic Booksellers' Literary Award 2001*
- *Nomination for the Swedish Martin Beck Award 2004*
- *Nominated as the best crime novel of 2004 in The Netherlands by crimezone.nl*
- *One of 10 Top Crime Books Of The Year 2005 by CrimeSquad.com, UK*
- *Grand Prix des Lectrice de Elle 2007*

A skeleton is unearthed on a building site in Reykjavik; clearly someone was buried here several decades ago. The familiar cast of Erlendur and his detective colleagues, well known to readers of Indridason's previous novels, try to discover what happened, seeking out people who lived in the area decades before. Various unpleasant truths surface, and the story behind the skeleton turns out to be both complex and horrifying. This recklessly exciting story is both powerful and realistic; a story that will keep the reader's pulse pounding. 295 pp

Sold to:

UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Signature); Finland (Blue Moon); Denmark (Forum); Sweden (Norstedts/Prisma); Norway (Cappelen); Czech Republic (MOBA); Hungary (Animus); Italy (Longanesi/Ugo Guanda); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Turkey (Sinemis Yayanlari); China (People's Literature Publishing House); Korea (Younglim Cardinal Inc.); Taiwan (Crown); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (RBA Libros); Poland (WAB); Russia (Corpus); Catalonia (La Magrana); Brazil (Companhia das Letras); Portugal (Porto Editores); Basque Country (Alberdania); Romania (Trei); Japan (Tokyo Sogensha Co); Lebanon (Arab Scientific Publishers); Vietnam (AlphaBooks); Ethiopia (Qirtas Publisher); Greece (Metachmio)

Film rights sold to: Blueeyes Production

“Once again Indridason demonstrates that the best Scandinavian crime writers can hold their own against their British and American rivals.”

SPECTATOR

Jar City

Mýrin, crime novel, 2000

An elderly man is found dead in his basement flat. The murderer has left a note which the police detectives Erlendur and Sigurdur Oli (known from other books by the author) have to find out the meaning of. Getting at the truth leads the detectives to truly horrifying secrets from the past. A brilliantly plotted crime novel with convincing character portrayal and interesting side-plots. 280 pp

- *The Glass Key 2002, the Nordic Crime Novel Award*
- *Nomination for the DV Cultural Award*
- *Nomination for the Swedish Martin Beck Award 2003*
- *The Swedish Caliber Award 2003, as The Best Crime Novel of the Year*
- *Nominated as the best crime novel of 2003 in The Netherlands by crimezone.nl*
- *Selected as one of the best thrillers of 2004 in New Zealand, by The New Zealand Herald*
- *Nomination for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2006*
- *Final selection of Grand Prix des Lectrices de Elle 2005*
- *The Black Heart Award (Le Prix du Coeur Noir) in Festival du Polar de Saint Quentin, France, 2006*
- *Awarded the French Le Prix Mystère de la Critique 2006*
- *One of 10 most noteworthy crime novels in USA 2005, nominated by Kansas City Star*
- *Nominated for the Gumshoe Awards 2006, as one of the five best European crime novels published in USA*

Sold to:

UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA /Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Italy (Longanesi/Ugo Guanda); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (RBA Libros); Brazil (Editora Record); Portugal (Livraria Civilizaçao Editora); Finland (Blue Moon); Denmark (Rosinante); Sweden (Norstedts/Prisma); Norway (Cappelen); Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Bulgaria (Infodar); Croatia (Edicije Bozicevic); Czech Republic (MOBA); Hungary (Animus); Poland (WAB); Rumania (Trei); Slovenia (Didakta); Israel (Keter); Greece/Cyprus (Livanis Publishing); Turkey (Sinemis Yayınları); Estonia (Nynorden); Japan (Tokyo Sogensha Co); China/Hong Kong/Singapore (People's Literature Publishing House); Taiwan (Crown); Korea (Younglim Cardinal Inc.); Russia (Corpus); Lebanon (Arab Scientific Publishers); Thailand (Pearl Publishing); Latvia (Apgards Mansards); Lithuania (Media Incognito); Vietnam (AlphaBooks); Serbia (Booka); Corea (Younglim); Macedonia (TRI Publishing Centre); Armenia (Guitank Publishing)

A motion picture based on the novel has won prizes at several international film festivals.
Producer: Blueeyes Productions

“I’ve come to believe Arnaldur Indridason has given himself the task of reminding us that Iceland’s perspective is unique in the world. And I’m glad he’s taken on the job. He’s really good at it.”

WWW.CRIMINALELEMENT.COM, USA

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); Czech Republic (MOBA); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA /Philippines (St. Martin’s Press/Thomas Dunne Books)

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Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Signature)
English synopsis available together with Reader’s Report

Operation Napoleon

Napóleonskjölin, crime novel, 1999

The wreckage of a WWII-era airplane surfaces from under the ice on Vatnajökull glacier, and the American naval forces at Midnesheidi moor are put on the alert. When Kristin, an attorney with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, begins to investigate, she ends up on the run in a bone-chilling attempt to save her own life. A fast-paced thriller against the hauntingly beautiful backdrop of wintertime Iceland. 278 pp

Silent Kill

Dauðarósir, crime novel, 1998

The body of a young girl is found on the grave of the leader of Iceland’s 19th century independence movement. Investigations reveal that her death is linked to a larger case responsible for the greatest migrations in Icelandic history, still ongoing. 255 pp

Sons of Earth

Synir duftsins, crime novel, 1997

The story opens with the suicide of Daniel, a 40-year-old patient in a Reykjavik mental hospital. Simultaneously an elderly teacher – a man who had only recently begun visiting him at the hospital – burns himself to death. When Daniel’s brother tries to find out what connected them, he begins to his horror to find evidence of a childhood drug testing programme which went wildly wrong. 294 pp



ARNI THORARINSSON (b.1950) is a nationally renowned award-winning journalist and a media personality. He has written several gripping crime novels and two TV scripts, one of which was nominated to The Edda Award (best television script of the year 2002). Thorarinsson was the editor of Mannlif magazine and has also been on the board of the Reykjavik Film Festival as well as a member of several panels of judges at international film festivals. Arni's first novel, *The Night Has a Thousand Eyes*, was published in 1999, and since then he has sent forward more books about the investigating journalist Einar.

“Fierce social criticism and uncomfortable questions in a tightly woven thriller that leaves no-one untouched.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

Year of the Cat

Ár kattarins, crime novel, 2012

Ominous skies cast their eerie shadows over a community where humanity and evil contend to each other. And unsolved puzzles begin to pile up in the life and work of a journalist named Einar. What is the real motive behind a deadly attack in front of a night club? Or behind a gruesome prank at a wedding which turns into a nightmare? Who is sending Einar obscene text messages? And what type of political wiles is being employed in the struggle for the future of the Evening Press? Not everything is as it seems – and perhaps nothing is.

Arni Thorarinsson has an acutely lucid view of today's society, ironic and revealing at the same time. His books have been translated to numerous languages and widely well-received. *Year of the Cat* is yet another intriguing episode of the intense series of criminal investigations involving Einar the journalist. 300 pp

Sold to:

France / Switzerland / Luxembourg /
Canada (Métailié)

Chapters in English available

***“Angel of the Morning is a crime masterpiece.
Arni Thorarinsson’s best book. Courageous and true.”***

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

“Exciting, revealing and terrifying, with a surprising twist in its tail.”

KATRIN JAKOBSDOTTIR, FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Angel of the Morning

Morgunengill, crime novel, 2010

They may not seem to have much in common, the North Iceland postman with hardly a penny to her name and the capitalist in Reykjavík carrying billions in debt in his briefcase. However, fate tangles their paths together when the journalist Einar searches for justice no less than a front-page scoop.

Seldom has he come across a crime this complex. Nothing is what it used to be. Except that one man’s meat is still another man’s poison. *Angel of the Morning* is a crime novel set in contemporary Iceland, compelling and disturbing in its portrayal of lost innocence, the need for atonement, and acceptance of one’s origin. 300 pp

Sold to:
France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada
(Métailié)
Chapters in English available

*“... Arni Thorarinsson’s **Seventh Son** is the best description of today’s Iceland ...”*

LE MONDE MAGAZINE

“...supple and quick... A sharp discourse on human interaction and society as a whole.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

“If you want to understand how things work in Iceland, this strange country in the middle of an economic crisis, where volcanoes disrupt air travel and clowns become politicians, you have to read this novel.”

LE MONDE

The Seventh Son

Sjöundi sonurinn, crime novel, 2008

Anticipation is hardly the word to describe the mood of Einar, a reporter for the Evening News, sent off to the remote West Fjords in midwinter to write about the local fishing industry. Before long, however, Einar’s nose for news begins to twitch. After an old house in the centre of town burns down, suspicions of arson arise. While interviewing the building’s owners, Einar only just avoids being run over by a mobile caravan driving by at top speed. Two other guests in town,

a popular soccer player and his mate, disappear without a trace. When the mobile caravan is found outside of town, also gutted by fire and a grisly sight, Einar is up to his neck in a frightening sequence of events. This contemporary story of revenge, greed and alienation pulls no punches. Leading us, in the closing chapters, to one basic question that begs for an answer: What does it mean to be a victim? 376 pp

Sold to:

France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Norway (Bazar); Sweden (Bazar)

Chapters in English available



“A compelling crime novel which fans of the genre should not miss under any circumstances.”

DV NEWSPAPER

“A future Stieg Larsson?”

BIBLIOSURF.COM

Sold to:

France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métalié); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Droemer-Knauer); Spain/South America (Ediciones ámbar)

“Raymond Chandler, Dashiell Hammett or Ross Macdonald: The Einar-Series is a modern Icelandic version of the hard-boiled American classic.”

DPA, GERMANY

“Full of humour, vivacity and suspense.”

LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2005

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Droemer Knauer); Denmark (Bazar); Finland (Bazar); Norway (Bazar); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métalié); The Netherlands (De Geus); Czech Republic (Argo); Poland (Cat Books); Greece (Polis); Spain/South America (Ediciones ámbar); Sweden (Bazar); USA/UK/Australia/New Zealand/Canada/South Africa/Philippines (AmazonCrossing); Hungary (Scolar)

Film rights sold to:

Fridrik Thor Fridriksson/Spellbound Productions

Italian and Swedish translations available

Death of a Clown

Dauði trúðsins, crime novel, 2007

Are ghosts afoot during bright summer nights in Akureyri? When things are slow anything goes with reporter Einar. A summer festival is starting up and thousands of guests head for the capital of North-Iceland to party. At the same time a rumour is going around that Hollywood stars have arrived in town to film an erotic thriller. Before Einar and the Chief Constable know, assignments are piling up. Who was the young girl found dead in the old house? Who is the mysterious woman on the phone claiming to be clairvoyant? What is reality and what is illusion? A potent mixture of brilliant wit and deep seriousness drives this thrilling novel about the dangers lurking in human relations. 391 pp

Season of the Witch

Tími nornarinnar, crime novel, 2006

Einar has given up his old hunting ground of chronicling crime life in the capital, and moved to the small town of Akureyri, where he's expected to boost the circulation of the Evening Press. But on his way to a theatre rehearsal, Einar finds himself covering a hotter piece of news: a local woman has fallen to her death in an obscure river accident on a company outing. This is the first – but not the last – death to occur in the sinister course of events that unfold in this new adventure of the reporter Einar. Arni Thorarinnsson intertwines historical heritage with his sensitive perceptions of Icelandic society, weaving an intricate narrative in which each riddle triggers off the next. 384 pp

Blue Moon

Blátt tungl, crime novel, 2001

Einar is going to his parent's house with his daughter for a traditional Christmas meal, when the radio reports a case of a missing person, an old girlfriend of his, and he feels compelled to find out more. Thus opens a fast-paced, exciting sequence of events in which Einar tackles old and new adversaries, including himself. Before the dust settles he has to draw on all his resources so as not to lose both his reputation and his mind. *Blue Moon* is a crime story from the depth of the Icelandic winter, in which mysterious elements of the human psyche and familiar features of everyday life are intertwined in a complex but tightly woven plot. 236 pp

The White Rabbit

Hvíta kanínan, crime novel, 2000

Einar, a journalist, is forced to go on a vacation in Spain with his daughter. Soon terrible things start to happen, but these are only the beginning of a horrifying and gripping course of events where nothing and nobody is what they seem to be. 224 pp

“Thorarinson is a leading crime author of today ... I do not hesitate to say that it is the best Icelandic novel to be published ...

I wouldn't be surprised if it was successful abroad with foreign readers ...”

STRIK.IS



“The excellent psychological analysis of Einar's mental problems is the best bit in Thorarinson's colourful and witty crime story. He uses deep psychological intuition to lay bare Einar's tortured soul, while at the same time presenting us with a vivid picture of Iceland today ...”

FYENS STIFTSTIDENDE

The Night Has a Thousand Eyes

Nóttin hefur þúsund augu, crime novel, 1999

A murder is reported at the Airport Hotel and journalist Einar is hauled out of bed with a thundering hangover to get the scoop. By chance he overhears some things his colleagues do not know and finds himself the nation's source on

this grisly crime. Einar is told to pursue the case further and he sets off. But he would have been better off to leave the case alone. A story that captures the reader right up to the final page. 202 pp

Sold to:

Denmark (Modtryk); Germany/

Switzerland/Austria (Buthler und Kawohl)

English excerpt available



OSKAR HRAFN THORVALDSSON (b. 1973) worked as a reporter and news director for Channel Two and the Internet news media outlet Vísir, but quit in the wake of reports of alleged capital transfers made by several of the corporate raiders. *The Millionaires* is his first book.

“Sometimes reality is so incredible that fiction does a better job of portraying it than the press. This book hits the spot.”

FRETTATIMINN MAGAZINE

The Millionaires

Martröð millanna, crime novel, 2010

The corporate raider, millionaire, lady’s man, and arrogant snob Reynir Sveinn Reynisson is found brutally murdered in the hot tub at his luxurious home. All of his fingers have been cut off and float around him in the tub — except for his right-hand thumb.

The police detective Gunnar Finnbjörnsson and his men have few leads to pursue at first. Nor does it help that his old schoolmate, the newspaper editor Hörður Sveinsson, publishes the investigation’s findings in his paper as soon as any are made. But little by little the circle tightens ...

Among those who appear in this fast-paced and gripping narrative are a hitman from Lithuania, a dyslexic corporate raider, an amoral banker, Belgian diamond brokers, the Russian mafia, and a strip-club king who is none too bright. We are granted insight into a deranged lifestyle with its private yacht parties, cocaine and escorts, squandering of money and one-upmanship in decadence. We follow along with the twists and turns of reckless business deals, rapid growth and expansion and an equally huge plunge downward. 238 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Aufbau Verlag)
Chapters in English available



SOLVEIG PALSDOTTIR (b.1959) studied at the Drama Academy of Iceland and has a BA degree in literary studies from the University of Iceland. She has acted in several productions at the National Theatre of Iceland and with independent theatre groups, besides participating in radio and television plays, in dubbing and other jobs related to the stage. Finally she has considerable experience in creating programmes for radio.

Since 1996 Palsdottir has dedicated herself to teaching in secondary school. In recent years she has flirted with drama again, acting in short films and popular television series. *The Actor* is her first book.

“This is a contemporary story, featuring many of the sort of everyday problems people have to deal with ... There is always something happening and the book is, therefore, an easy read. ... It is well written, and cleverly plotted ... It is obvious that practice makes perfect, and that Solveig Palsdottir is now well into her stride as a writer ...”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

*“I really enjoyed **The Actor** last year, but I like this new book even better; it is exciting, entertaining and well-written.”*

VIKAN WEEKLY

The Rigtheous

Hinir réttlátu, crime novel, 2013

A prominent middle-aged businessman is found dead on a golf course in the south of Iceland. The same day a sensational course of events kicks off in Reykjavík, when an explosion rocks a whaling boat in the harbour and a group of young people hold demonstrations outside restaurants that have whale meat on the menu.

The under-staffed police force has plenty to deal with, and on top of it all Særos, on whom senior officer Gudgeir normally relies, is not as cool-headed as she usually is. Soon events take a surprising turn ... What had seemed a peaceful autumn suddenly looks very different. 284 pp

Sold to:
Germany/ Switzerland/ Austria
(Aufbau)
Chapters in English available



“Devotees of Icelandic crime fiction will welcome the emergence of a new face.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY

“This is one of those books that the reader just doesn’t want to put down. I finished it in a single sitting. An exceptional début.”

VIKAN MAGAZINE

The Actor

Leikarinn, crime novel, 2012

They waited in complete silence and Alda could feel the tension growing in the room. Why didn’t the man begin? Why didn’t he say his piece? She looked fixedly at him. He turned slowly, his eyes flickering from one place to another. Their eyes met for an instant. Then she saw it. The anguish.

During the shooting of the final scene in a movie, the main star, one of the country’s most admired actors, drops down and dies in front of the photography team on the set who are unable

to prevent it. One of the people present is Alda, the props manager, who has a colourful past. The life of the actor, however, seems to have been beyond reproach – no disorder, no enemies ... When his death turns out to be murder, the police initiate a complicated investigation – but the bewitching Alda is never far off, curious about everything and everyone. 284 pp

Sold to:

Germany/ Switzerland/ Austria
(Aufbau/ Audio Audible)

Film rights sold to:

The Icelandic Film Company
Chapters in English available



STELLA BLOMKVIST

No one knows who the mysterious Stella Blomkvist really is. The only information given is that Stella writes under a pseudonym.

Murder in Bessastadir

Morðið á Bessastöðum, crime novel, 2012

Though Stella is her usual self, her life has taken a somewhat new direction, as she now has her little daughter to look after.

Early in the new year Stella is summoned to the deathbed of an old man from the West Fjords who claims to have killed two men some decades ago; he asks her to search for a daughter who he claims to have had with the fiancée of one of the men.

Around the same time the baby of some relatives of Stella's is to be baptised in Bessastadir Church, but on arrival there the bloody and battered body of a well-known financier is discovered by the altar. He, along with a large group of entrepreneurs, had been a guest of the President at a party in Bessastadir the previous day. The police soon arrest a young hardline drug addict, but Stella suspects that the wealthy and powerful friends of the victim know much more about the affair than they care to admit, and that the key to it may lie somewhere in the distant past. This feeling is strengthened when one of the friends, an executive in the Central Bank, is also brutally murdered.

Stella is also called to Litla-Hraun prison, where a Lithuanian has been imprisoned for drug smuggling. He speaks no English and wants Stella Blomkvist as attorney, much to her surprise. She is more interested in discovering what has happened to Ilona, the Lithuanian girl who dances in Porno-Valdi's strip joint but hasn't been seen since she danced at the policemen's Christmas party; she had disappeared from the party in the company of two policemen, who continually obstruct Stella when she tries to investigate the case.

All these threads intertwine into one, culminating in a dramatic showdown in an abandoned and debt-laden luxury villa ... 287 pp

Chapters in English available

*“Everything
is as one might expect;
the story is exciting,
and Stella as cool as ever.”*

DV NEWSPAPER

Murder in the Supreme Court

Morðið í Hæstarétti, crime novel, 2001

An actress is found murdered in the office of a Supreme Court judge. Security camera recordings show the judge and the actress entering the building shortly before the murder, but the judge claims to have been far away at that time. 254 pp

Sold to:
Czech Republic (MOBA)

Murder on Television

Morðið í sjónvarpinu, crime novel, 2000

A famous producer is murdered on a live broadcast. Seeking refuge, the suspect seeks the help of a tough minded attorney, Stella Blomkvist. 207 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria
(Random House/ btb);
Czech Republic (MOBA)

Murder in Rockville

Morðið í Rockville, crime novel, 2006

The American army is closing down its military camp at Midnesheidi Heath after 60 years, leaving a ghost town behind them. The body of a man is discovered inside one of the houses and turns out to be a former employee of the army's. An Icelandic tycoon is suspected of the murder and turns to Stella Blomkvist for help. 230 pp

Sold to:
Czech Republic (MOBA)

Murder in the Drowning Pool

Morðið í Drekkingarhyl, crime novel, 2005

One day in late summer, German tourists find a corpse in the Drowning Pool in Oxara river. The body proves to be that of a young Kurdish girl. Her Middle Eastern descent immediately gives rise to the suspicion that the murder is a crime of honour. 278 pp

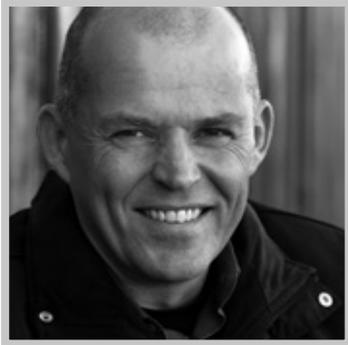
Sold to:
Czech Republic (MOBA)

Murder in Parliament

Morðið í Alþingishúsinu, crime novel, 2002

A reporter falls off the balcony of the House of Parliament during a live broadcast. A xenophobe is accused and Stella is hired to defend him. Research into the case sends her on a trail that leads straight into Reykjavik's underworld. 233 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria
(Random House/ btb);
Czech Republic (MOBA)



VIKTOR A. INGOLFSSON (b.1955)

is one of Iceland's most accomplished crime fiction authors. Ingolfsson's novel, *House of Evidence*, was nominated for the Glass Key – the Nordic Crime Novel Award in 2001 and *The Flatey Enigma* was nominated for the same prize in 2004 – a bestseller for weeks in Germany as well as *Daybreak*, published in 2005. It was also the #1 selling mystery on Amazon Kindle in March 2012.

“Viktor Arnar has an unquestionable knack for writing historical or cultural crime fiction.”

DV NEWSPAPER

*“... an Icelandic revelation, wonderful and vivid. ... Iceland, that little island in the North Atlantic has yielded some great authors, hitherto unknown in this country. Ingolfsson is one of them. His **Flatey Enigma** doesn't only give us excitement, but also a deep insight into the Icelandic soul.”*

NDR, GERMANY

Sunna's Candlesticks

Sólstjaskar, crime novel, 2009

Seated in the office of the Icelandic embassy in Berlin is a dubious tycoon. His entrails are protruding and a razor sharp hunting knife has been planted in his stomach. He's dead. On the previous evening he had been the guest of the ambassador along with six other Icelandic men and the ambassador's wife. Who wanted this man out of the way? And how did the knife slip through the Nordic Embassies' building tight security?

Birkir Li Hinriksson, Gunnar Mariuson and Anna Thordardottir are dispatched to Berlin to start the murder investigation. But despite

the confined scene of the crime and the very few actors involved, the case turns out to be quite complex and rooted in the distant past. The Icelandic police team urgently need to dig up everything they can to prevent others from meeting the dead man's fate.

This is the same team that solved the riddle of Ingolfsson's *Daybreak*, which formed the basis for the popular Icelandic *Man Hunt* television series. 286 pp

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Daybreak

Afturelding, crime novel, 2005

It is autumn, and hunters make for the countryside in search of geese. But one hunter isn’t seeking geese – he’s after humans. The hunters fall one by one, day after day, at the hands of an unknown and unpredictable killer, able to appear anywhere in the country and who seems to be especially eager to target those who try to solve the mystery. But policemen Gunnar and Birkir decide to go hunting for geese when there’s no one left who dares ... 285 pp

The Flatey Enigma

Flateyjargáta, crime novel, 2002

In the spring of 1960 three men accidentally discover a decaying body on a deserted island, later identified as the body of a Danish codicologist who had been missing for several months. An investigation ensues and the case is mysteriously linked to the contents of a medieval manuscript known as the Book of Flatey. Before long another body is found in Flatey, but this time an eagle has been carved into the victim’s back in blood, in the ancient Viking tradition. 284 pp

House of Evidence

Engin spor, crime novel, 1998

It is early in the year 1973 and a man has been found dead in a distinguished old house in Reykjavik. The cause of death is a fatal shot wound to the chest. The police investigation reveals that the man’s father was shot to death in the same living room in 1945, a crime which was never solved. 264 pp

Please note that a fund for the promotion of Icelandic literature operates under the auspices of the Icelandic Ministry of Education and Culture and subsidizes translations of literature.

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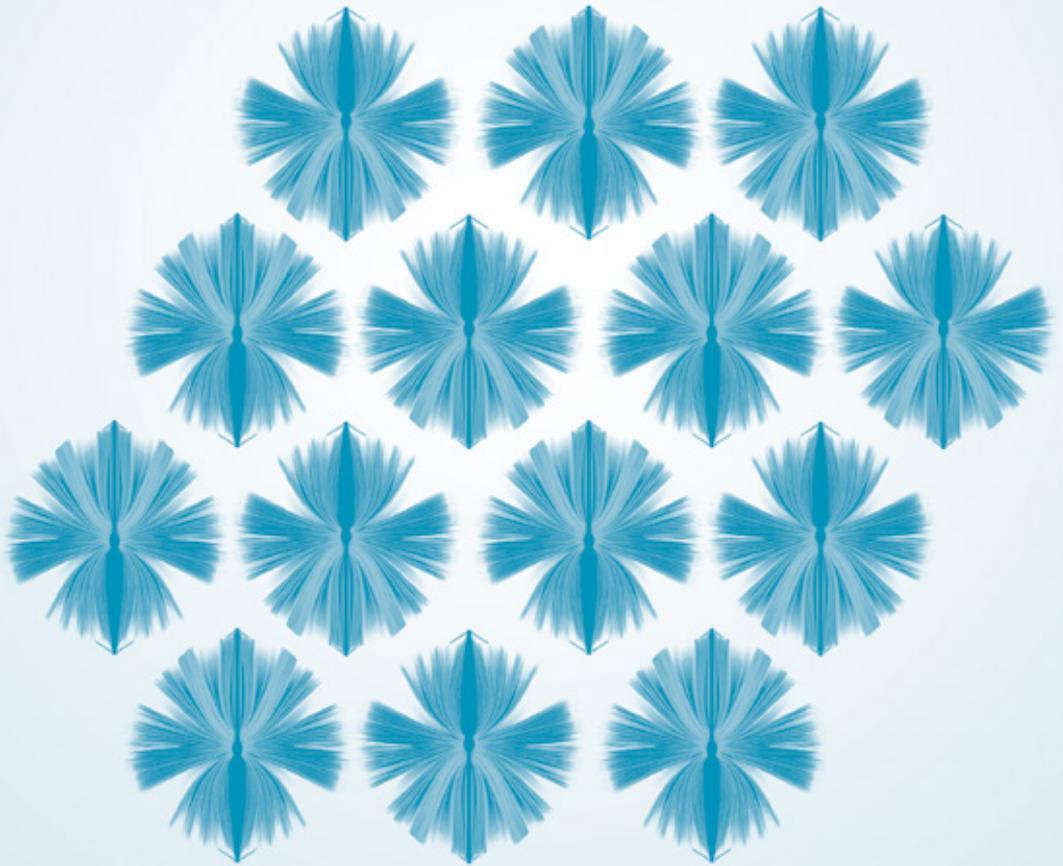
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POETRY



ANTON HELGI JONSSON

(b. 1955) has gained attention and recognition for his poetry, including the Jon from Vor Award for Poetical Achievement (*Ljodstafur Jons ur Vor*).

www.anton.is



BRAGI OLAFSSON'S (b.1962) has long been established as one of Iceland's greatest poets and his novels are undoubtedly among the most original and remarkable Icelandic stories of recent years. Olafsson's novel *The Ambassador* received the 2006 Icelandic Bookseller's Award and was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Award and the Nordic Council Literary Prize in 2008. **bragi.funksjon.net**



EINAR MAR GUDMUNDSSON'S

(b.1954) fame as an author has travelled the world wide and his novels have been translated into many languages – but in Iceland it was as a poet that Einar Mar had his first breakthrough. In 1980, he published his first two poetry books, *Loneliness of the Delivery Boy* and *Who's Wearing the Korona Line?* which both attracted a lot of attention, due to the power of their imagery and the freshness of his approach and became bestsellers. He followed these up, one year later, with *Robinson Crusoe Returns Home*, which was equally well received, and in 1991 he published a collection of poems under the title of *A Rock in the Ocean* which was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Award that year. In 1995 he published *In the Eye of Chaos*.

| Translation available in several languages



GERDUR KRISTNY (b.1970) proved herself

as one of Iceland's most interesting poets with her first book, and has since then published several books of poetry, as well as short stories, novels and children's books. She received the Icelandic Children's Book Award for *Smart Marta*, The Halldor Laxness Award for her novel *A Boat with Sails* and All and the Icelandic Literary Award for her book of poetry, *Bloodhoof*, which was also nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2012. *Bloodhoof* has been published in Sweden (Ariel), Denmark (Vandkunsten), Finland (Savukeidas), Norway (Nordsjøforlaget) and England (Arc). Translation available in 20 languages.



HANNES PETURSSON (b.1931) has long

been hailed as one of the greatest Icelandic poets of the 20th century. Since the publication of his first collection of poems in *Kvaedabok* in 1955, at the young age of 23, the nation has welcomed his poetry with open arms. Few poets can poeticize with the same craftsmanship and confidence, both in traditional forms and free verse. Petursson's poetry is also renowned for the force of its peculiar imagery. He writes about human feelings in all its myriad of forms, and not least poetry about nature and the history of Iceland, which have won him the affection of the nation. He has received many prizes for his writing, including the Icelandic Literary Prize in 1993.

| Translation available in several languages



HAUKUR MAR HELGASON

(b.1978) has written in addition to his fiction articles on politics and philosophy in Icelandic and foreign newspapers and magazines. He has also translated *The Plague of Fantasies* by Slavoj Žižek, which was nominated for the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award.



INGIBJORG HARALDSDOTTIR

(b.1942) has for a long time now occupied a place of honour as one of Iceland's most distinguished poets, in addition to being an outstanding translator. Her poetry has a limpid quality and is never cumbersome, and she frequently manages to create a bewitching atmosphere and to charm the reader into viewing things he or she thought he knew in a fresh and unexpected light. Haraldsdottir has published poetry books and translated numerous novels and volumes of poetry. She has received many awards for her work, including, among others, the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award in 1988 for her translation of *The Idiot* by Dostojevski. She also received the 2002 Icelandic Literary Award for her book of poetry *Wherever I May Be*.



JOHANN HJALMARSSON'S

(b. 1939) poems have appeared in numerous anthologies. From the beginning his poetry has been marked by surrealism. Hjalmarsson's latest books have been characterized by critics as modern and postmodern. His poems have diverse roots in the old Icelandic Sagas, modern history and human life. Hjalmarsson's book *Hljodleikar* was nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2003. His poems have been translated into thirty languages.



JONAS THORBJARNARSON

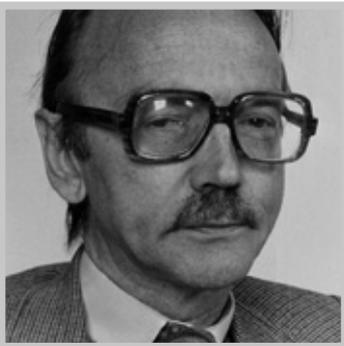
(1960-2012) published a number of poetry books. The first, *On the Edge of Town*, came out in 1989. His book *A Moment on Earth* was nominated for the DV Cultural Prize in 1993, and Jonas was also awarded first prize in poetry competitions hosted by newspaper Morgunbladid and the Committee for the National Holiday. His poems have been translated into other languages, such as Chinese, French and Gaelic.



LINDA VILHJALMSDOTTIR

(b.1958) is a poet of deep and delicate emotions, finely expressed in crafted verse. She was awarded the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award in 1993 for her book of poetry *Ice Children (Klakabörnin)*.

| Translation available in several languages



SIGFUS DADASON (1928–1996) was one of Iceland's leading poets in the latter half of the twentieth century. He started writing at a time of great fermentation in the Icelandic literary and art world and was exposed to foreign contemporary influences at an early age. Nonetheless his poetry always retained a very personal and original tone. Dadason's choice of material and his treatment of it clearly sets him in a class of his own in the context of Icelandic poetry.



SIGURBJORG THRASTARDOTTIR

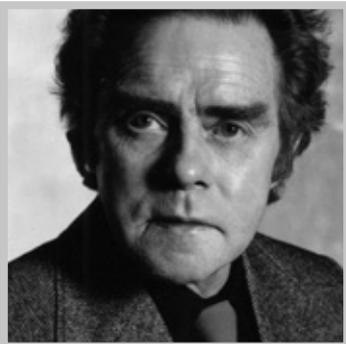
(b. 1973) is the author of six books of poetry, two novels and miscellaneous dramatic works. Her book of poetry *Candlelight Vigil* was nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 2009 and received the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize. Thrastardóttir's poems have been translated into twelve languages and published in anthologies, magazines and literary festival publications across Europe.



SIGURDUR PALSSON

(b. 1948) is one of Iceland's greatest poets, prose writers and playwrights. His numerous awards include the Icelandic Literary Prize for his book *Minnisbók (Notebook)* in 2007.

His books of poetry have been translated into a number of languages, among them Bulgarian and Chinese. In 1994 a bilingual edition of his poetry was published by Editions de la Différence in Paris, and in 2013 Jordan publisher Azminah released a bilingual Arab-Icelandic selection of his poems.

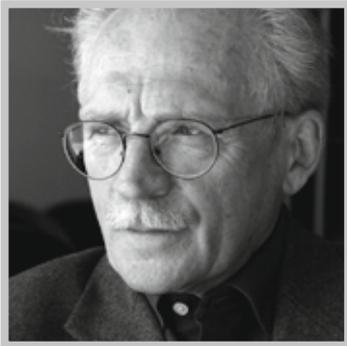


STEFAN HORDUR GRIMSSON

(1929–2002) was a leading representative of modernist poetry in Iceland. Grímsson's poems are usually short and condensed, some of them reminiscent of aphorism, others are poetry in prose; his subjects include nature and love, and his capability of creating memorable images is exceptional. Translations available in several languages.



THORARINN ELDJARN (b.1949) is one of Iceland's most admired authors and the recipient of many awards. A superb poet, he has tackled every genre, published countless children's books, written novels, collections of short stories and scripts and also worked as a translator.



THORSTEINN FRA HAMRI (b.1938) has long been established as one of the greatest poets in the Icelandic language. Ever since he published his first collection of poems in 1958, he has continued to shape and refine his style, and it is often said that he has been particularly successful at fusing old poetic traditions and contemporary devices into a modernist poetic language. Thorsteinn has also written several novels and stories, in addition to his translation work. He has received many awards for his writing, including the Icelandic Literary Prize in 1992. A selection of his poems was published in Germany by Queich Verlag.



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