

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.

For further information please write to:

Icelandic Literature Center

Hverfisgata 54 | 101 Reykjavik

Iceland

Phone +354 552 8500

islit@islit.is | www.islit.is

Forlagid Rights Agency



*literary
fiction*



UA MATTHIASDOTTIR
ua@forlagid.is
VALGERDUR BENEDIKTSDOTTIR
vala@forlagid.is



literary fiction



FORLAGIÐ

rights-agency

Andri Snaer Magnason

Alfrun Gunnlaugsdottir

Ari Jóhannesson

Armann Jakobsson

Arni Thorarinsson

Audur Jonsdottir

Bjorg Magnusdottir

Bragi Olafsson

Einar Karason

Einar Mar Gudmundsson

Eirikur Orn Norddahl

Elisabet Jokulsdottir

Frida A. Sigurdardottir

Gudbergur Bergsson

Gudrun Eva Minervudottir

Gudmundur Andri Thorsson

Gerdur Kristny

Haukur Ingvarsson

Halldor Armand Asgeirsson

Halldor Laxness

Hugleikur Dagsson

Indridi G. Thorsteinsson

Jakobina Sigurdardottir

Jon Atli Jonasson

Jon Gnarr

Jonina Leosdottir

Kari Tulinius

Karl Fransson

Kristin Eiriksdottir

Kristin Marja Baldursdottir

Kristin Steinsdottir

Ofeigur Sigurdsson

Olafur Gunnarsson

Oskar Magnusson

Petur Gunnarsson

Ragna Sigurdardottir

Sigurbjorg Thrastardottir

Sigurdur Palsson

Sjon

Soffia Bjarnadottir

Solveig Jonsdottir

Steinunn Johannesdottir

Svava Jakobsdottir

Sverrir Norland

Solvi Bjorn Sigurdsson

Thorbergur Thordarson

Thor Vilhjalmsson

Thorarinn Eldjarn

Thorunn Valdimarsdottir

Thorarinn Leifsson

Vigdis Grimsdottir

Vilborg Davidsdottir



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 thirty countries and has 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.

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
- The Icelandic Booksellers’ Prize 2002
- DV Cultural Prize for Literature
- 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);

Egypt (Al Arabi); Turkey (Final Yayıncılık)

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 Oxadal 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 shortstories. Three of her novels have been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature 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 Prize for Literature, 2012

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 Cultural Prize for Literature, 2008
- The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize, 2009



ARI JOHANNESSESSON

Ari Johannesson is a specialist in internal medicine and works at the National University Hospital of Iceland. He was awarded the Tomas Gudmundsson Literature Prize in 2007 for the poetry book *Ash Wednesday*. *Vital Signs* is his first novel.

“...a powerful mixture of suspense, depth and conflict that forms an extremely exciting plot.”

WWW.HUGRAS.IS

*“...a story about friendship, responsibility and vanity
...a wide-ranging story...a story about disaster
– natural disaster, social disaster and personal
disaster. ...important questions are raised.
The essential questions.”*

THE ICELANDIC NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

*“...an eventful and captivating story, cleverly plotted
and skilfully written. Vivid scenarios from hospitals
are not just fillers but an essential part of the tale.”*

VESTEINN OLASON, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

Vital Signs

Lífsmörk, novel, 2014

“You must realise that no matter how many heroic deeds you do, one mistake can ruin everything.”

Solvi Oddsson is a young anaesthetist, at the intensive care unit of the National University Hospital of Iceland, highly valued by his colleagues and patients alike. He devotes himself

to his work, always eager to take an extra shift, but growing distant from his wife and children in their designer-branded home in Gardabaer. Little by little, the pressure starts to take its toll, and as the boundaries between relieving and inflicting pain begin to break down; something has to give.
282 pp



ARMANN JAKOBSSON (b.1970) is a 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

Glaesir, 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 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 Mannlíf 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 MATTHIASSON /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 twenty-four fateful hours in the life of a family. 152 pp

**Sold to: France/ Switzerland/ Luxembourg
(Métailié)
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 Literature Prize 2005.

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

Secretaries to 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 Nordic Council Literature Prize 2013*
- *Nominated for the DV Cultural Prize for Literature 2012*
- *The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize 2012*

Sold to: Germany/Switzerland/Austria (bth/RandomHouse); Denmark (Tidernes Skifter); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Presses de la cité); United Arab Emirates (Thaqafa)
Chapters in English available

“One of the best novels of the year.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY (ON SECRETARIES TO THE SPIRITS)

“Jonsdottir is a great humourist – this is a very funny book in parts, it is also ironical and extremely lyrical ... This is Jonsdottir’s most mature work and certainly marks the highlight of her career so far.”

KILJAN NATIONAL TV (ON SECRETARIES TO THE SPIRITS)

“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

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 mysterious 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*

Sold to:

Denmark (Tiderne Skifter)

Film rights sold to:

Rabella Films

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

Chapters in English available

German translation available

Film right sold to:

Rvk. Studios



BJÖRG MAGNUSDÓTTIR (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.

“An entertaining and very well written book with particularly well-crafted characters.”
MORGUNBLADID DAILY

“...biting humour...”
DV DAILY

*“...a respectable attempt to convey the reality for young women in Iceland through literature. Well written with sympathetic characters
... Magnúsdóttir is an excellent writer with good ideas...”*
FRETABLADID DAILY

Not This Type

Ekki þessi týpa, novel, 2013

A book about young women in Iceland. That are a little whacky. That have tons 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. Some of it slightly exaggerated. Some not. Some is ridiculous and some is just plain funny. 351 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Suhrkamp)

This Type

Þessi týpa, novel 2014

Spring is in the air in Reykjavík, with all the accompanying anticipation. An onslaught from an ex-boyfriend unsettles Bryndis, Regina gets a long-awaited promotion, Inga plans her big day with the help of a manic wedding blogger, and Tinna goes home with a man who sleeps on a rubber sheet.

But their lives do not revolve around men. Their friendship is stretched and strained, sexualities redefined, principles broken, identities strengthened, and the country dance attended. Sometimes there are tears, but more often screams of laughter. 261 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Suhrkamp)



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 Booksellers' Prize and was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize and the Nordic Council Literature 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 is not widely known, as it is a very progressive and unusual work of art. The text is also remarkable for the fact that possibly – in fact 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 eavesdropping in on a conversation between two men in the restaurant Klubburinn in November 1974, two days before Geirfinnur disappeared. Noone aside from Armann and Markus knows 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 unexpected dark deed in the bewitching world of literature. 386 pp

- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize*
- *The Icelandic Booksellers' 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); Lithuania (Kitos Knygos); Macedonia (Ikona)

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 2001*
- *Nominated for the DV Cultural Prize for Literature*

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); Macedonia (Ikona); Turkey (Oblomov)

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 Cultural Prize for Literature 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 Literature 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 Sturlungs 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)

Age of Terror

Skálmöld, novel 2014

Handsome Sturla Sighvatsson is the ambitious and self-assured son of a nobleman, who strives for more and more power. Other nobles stand in his way and refuse to defer to him; following continuous skirmishes and betrayals, huge legions finally join battle at Orlygsstaðir. Heroes young and old fall in the ensuing fierce combat, and afterwards there is much to avenge: an age of terror has arrived.

Though *Age of Terror* is the fourth book published in Karason’s series on the Sturlungs, chronologically it precedes the others: here you have the events leading up to a civil war that brought conflagration and bloodshed to

Iceland. Karason has previously dealt vividly with the main events of the 13th century in his books *Gathering of Foes*, *Fury* and *Poet*: he has untangled plots and family trees, peered into the minds of both the exalted and the low-born, and examined history from an unusual viewpoint. But the motivation for all these events is here at the start – it is the ambition and pride of fallible people.

Karason’s books about the Age of the Sturlungs have been universally praised, and have been instrumental in igniting interest in this very turbulent era of Iceland’s history. 192 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria
(btb/Random House)

Poet

Skáld, historical novel, 2012

It's the summer of 1276. Sturla Thordarson is in residence in his home at Stadarholl and has just finished recording the incident at Flugmyri, where people had been burned alive in their homes, when he is summoned to immediately present himself at 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. In this novel Karason 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
(btb/Random House)

Chapters in English available

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 the 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 Literature Prize 2010*

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria
(btb/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 Sturlung 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 (btb/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 Literature Prize 2004*
- *The DV Cultural Prize for Literature 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, shortstory 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 Giuseppe 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

"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

"Brilliantly fun."

WEEKENDAVISEN, DENMARK



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

ALT FOR DAMERNE

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-

ers, popular MPs, feisty beauty queens, and even loveable village idiots. 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); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb/Random House); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Galaade) 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 Literature Prize 1995
- The DV Cultural Prize for Literature 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); 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); Macedonia (Bata Press); Bulgaria (Hemus); Hungary (Siraly Kiado); Spain (Rinoceronte Editora, in Galician); Korea (Nangiyala Publishing House); Latvia (Jumava), Slovenia (Temza); Brazil (Hedra); Albania (B-Books); Spain/South America (Ediciones del Nuevo Extremo)

Adapted into an award-winning motion picture directed by 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); France (Gaïa); United Arab Emirates (Thaqafa)
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. norddahl.com

“A very, very important author has emerged.”

LIVRES HEBDO, FRANCE

*“Take **My Struggle 6** by Karl Ove Knausgård along with **Purge** by Sofi Oksanen, add Reykjavik and you get **Evil**.”*
WEEKENDAVISEN, DENMARK

*“What will become of the modern novel now, following this book? **Evil** is a novel that is truly one of a kind. It is the modern novel.”*
SVENSKA DAGBLADET, SWEDEN

“This book is a monster. A loud, unpleasant, dangerous, violent, feverish and sometimes tender, vulnerable and sensitive monster. It rips and bites, unsettles your stomach and then enlarges your heart.”
STADTBEKANNT WIEN, AUSTRIA

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*
- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2013*
- *Prix Transfuge du meilleur roman Scandinave*
- *Nominated for the Prix Médicis étranger 2015*
- *Nominated for the Prix du meilleur roman étranger 2015*

Sold to:

Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Klett-Cotta);
France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Métailié);
Sweden (Råmus förlag); USA/UK/ANZ (Dalkey
Archive); Denmark (Ordenes By)
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, 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 in 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 Literature Prize 1992*

Sold to:

Czech Republic (Mladá Fronta/Praha); Denmark (Rhodos); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Saga Verlag); 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)



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 Literature Prize for *Smart Marta*, The Halldor Laxness Prize for her novel *A Boat with Sails and All* and the Icelandic Literary Prize for her book of poetry, *Bloodhoof*, which was also nominated for The Nordic Council Literature Prize.

“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 Prize 2004*

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



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 Literature 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

Three Turned Back

Þrjú sneru aftur, novel, 2014

“Men search for energy in war and peace; life is sustained by the energy in ourselves and in nature, said the old man miserably.”

In an isolated place where nothing happens, rumors of struggles and strife in the surrounding world begin to filter through. Before long, the sequence of events has made its way there, and modernity arrives. The results are in equal

measure unforeseen and dramatic.

With unerring instinct, the author portrays a society at a crossroads, humanity's unceasing struggle to survive, the grapple with ignorance and apathy, truth and lies, stupidity and greed.

Circumstances may change, yet history constantly repeats itself. Generations come and go, yet family patterns will not be ignored; we cannot escape ourselves. 214 pp

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize

Sold to:
Denmark (Sisyfos)

“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*
- *Nominated for The Nordic Council Literature Prize 1992*

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

NDR RADIO

- *Film rights sold to: Vintage Pictures*

Sold to:

Turkey (Marti Yayinlari); Bulgaria (Hemus); Brazil (Rocco); Czech Republic (Ivo Zelezni/Praha); Denmark (Rhodos); Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Gallimard); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Saga Verlag); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (Tusquets); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa, USA/Philippines (Mare's Nest); Italy (Il Saggiatore); Finland (Like); 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

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

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

Sold to:

Brazil (Rocco); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (Tusquets); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Saga Verlag); Sweden (Atlantis)

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

DV NEWSPAPER

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 Icelandic Literary Prize 1998*
- *Nominated for The Nordic Council Literature 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 (Saga Verlag)

Tomas Jonsson: A Bestseller

Tómas Jónsson-metsölubók, novel 1966

When *Tomas Jonsson: A Bestseller* was published in 1966, it attracted immediately much discussion, outrage and admiration and sold out, fulfilling the title. Never previously had such a book been published in the country. A senile old man talks incessantly about everything under the sun and different texts of all kinds make their appearance without warning. Stories start and stop, characters come and go, merge and diverge in the torrent of words. Fun

is made of old narrative techniques and nothing seems sacred to the author.

The humor and inventiveness of Bergsson has no limits. The book, plethoric with the explosive power of innovation, firmly grasps the reader.

This seminal work has gained a place in the Icelandic literature over the years: Tomas Jonsson, a masterpiece.

Sold to:

Denmark (Sisyfos); USA/UK/ANZ (Open Letter)



GUDMUNDUR ANDRI THORSSON

(b.1957) published his first novel, *My Wonderful Angst*, in 1988 to a very positive reception. He was awarded the DV Cultural 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 editor 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 Literature Prize 2012.

„His text is effortless, flowing as a river that slips softly along in balmy weather on a peaceful spring evening. It is always such a joy to read Thorsson, as he writes so well, be it a novel or a newspaper article. Everything is always in exactly the right place. His style is so warm that it feels as if he is standing next to you holding your hand... Few – if any – Icelandic writers have Thorsson's command of the language.”

DV DAILY

Dignity

Sæmd, novel, 2013

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

Dignity is 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. 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. 178 pp



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

FRETTABLADID DAILY

“A gem that contains humour, depth and a wonderful command of language. Bright and light as the summer, while also steeped in a perception of the innermost parts of human nature. Such an enjoyable experience that you cannot wait to share it with others.”

COMMENT BY THE COMMITTEE OF LIBRARIANS



“...he captures the imagination, simply fires up the senses.

***The Valeyri Waltz** is a delightful read from cover to cover.”*

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

“Take note of the name Gudmundur Andri Thorsson – still unknown in Denmark, but after his nomination for the Nordic Council Literature Prize he will soon conquer the world.”

WEEKENDAVISEN, DENMARK

*“The **Valeyri Waltz** is an absolute gem.”*

BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, DENMARK

The Valeyri Waltz

Valeyrrarvalsinn, 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 for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2012*

Sold to:

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



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, merge to form a kind of study of the body and its connections to the mind, culture and just the world.

minervudottir.com

Angel Dust

Englaryk, novel, 2014

In the small town of Stykkisholmur, the Boulanger family is in therapy with psychiatrist Snaefridur Bjornsdottir. Ever since the daughter Alma met Jesus Christ on a family vacation in Spain, the Boulanger's day-to-day existence has been up in arms. And once Alma makes up her mind to follow the savior's example by turning the other cheek and help her brother in need, she sets in motion an unexpected chain of events that leaves townsfolk flabbergasted.

Her parents step in, and hope to bring Alma back down to earth with the therapy sessions. But with Dr Snaefridur, all members of the family must face their own frailties, and a reckoning is unavoidable. In this spellbinding contemporary tale, Gudrun

Eva Minervudottir examines the nature of human relationships, everyday struggles, and the power of ideals. Is it possible to practice kindness without getting on the nerves of everyone around you?

Angel Dust is Minervudottir's seventh novel. She received the 2011 Icelandic Literary Prize for her previous one, *Everything With a Kiss Awakens*. 260 pp.

- DV Cultural Prize for Literature 2014
- Nominated for the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(bth/Random House)
Chapters in English available

“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 loosing her struggle with everyday life. Rescue comes in the unlikely form of Indi’s old schoolfriend, 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 get-

ting to know the banality of evil and the meaning 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/ · 35 · Canada (Autrement); India/Malayalam (Megha Books)

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

- *DV Cultural Prize for Literature 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



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. In 2014 he was awarded the Icelandic Literature Center Green Shoots Awards for the stories in this book.

“Asgeirsson is a new voice in Icelandic literature, and one hopes this voice will sound loud and clear in the years to come.”

DV DAILY

Drone

Drón, 2014

When Heidrun Solnes, an Icelandic football prodigy, starts to suspect that her period pains can predict mysterious drone attacks round the world, she fears that she is losing her mind. Her anxiety turns into sheer horror when Iceland itself is attacked. But that is simply one problem of many for this sensitive City of Reykjavik summer employee: her parents want to move to their summer cabin out of fear that a Katla eruption may trigger chaos and lead to a breakdown of society; an unpleasant internet video jeopardizes her future in sports; and, on top of it all, she might be in love with her boss, who chain-smokes menthol cigarettes and loves shopping malls. The only person able to help Heidrun in her search for love

and self-determination is her mysterious and world-famous grandmother in London. Or will her ultramodern little brother solve the riddle? *Drone* is an elegantly written and extraordinary novel by Halldor Armand, who last year received superb reviews for his debut work of fiction, *Vince Vaughn in the Clouds*. Fiercly original and tremendously funny, *Drone* is brimming with irrepressible imagination and skilfully poses inescapable questions on technology and humanity, truth, and alienation while also being a truthful account of a young person’s quest for freedom in a remotely-controlled world.

An original and crazy novel straight out of the extreme present. 300 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 into 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); UK/USA (Random House/Vintage); Italy (Iperborea); The Netherlands (World edition/De Geus); Czech Republic (Dybbuk); Georgia (Intelekti Publishing); Romania (Editura Arts); Ethiopia (Hohe)

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/USA (Random House/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

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); UK/USA (Random House/Vintage); Estonia (Varrak); Israel (Schocken); Denmark (Gyldendal); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Steidl); Spain/South America (RBA Libros); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Bulgaria (Roboread); Turkey (Efil)
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:

UK/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/USA (Random House/Vintage); The Netherlands (De Geus); Germany (Steidl); Brazil (Globo); France (Librairie Arthème Fayard); Italy (Iperborea); Norway (Tiden); Denmark (Gyldendal); Spain (Turner); Sweden (Leopard); Turkey (Iletisim Yayinlari); Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Esperanto (Mondial); Korea (Think Big); Macedonia (Ars Lamina)

Previously translated into 27 languages

Film rights sold to: Rvk. Studios

World Light

Heimsljós, novel, 1938-1940

As an unloved foster child on a farm in rural Iceland, Olaf Karason has only one consolation: the belief that one day he will be a great poet. The indifference and contempt of most of the people around him only reinforces his sense of destiny, for in Iceland poets are as likely to be scorned as they are to be revered. Over the ensuing years, Olaf comes to lead the paradigmatic poet's life of poverty, loneliness, ruinous love affairs, and a sexual scandal. But he will never attain anything like greatness. *World Light* demonstrates how the creative spirit can survive in even the most crushing environment and even the most unpromising human vessel. 624 pp

Sold to:

UK/USA (Random House/Vintage); Germany (Steidl); France (Aubier)
Previously translated into 19 languages

The Atom Station

Atómstöðin, novel, 1948

When the Americans make an offer to buy land in Iceland to build a NATO airbase after World War II, a storm of protest is provoked throughout the country. The airbase provides Laxness with the catalyst for his astonishing and powerful satire. Narrated by a country girl from the north, the novel follows her experiences after she takes up employment as a maid in the house of her Member of Parliament. A witty and moving satire on politics and politicians, Communists and anti-Communists, phoney culture fiends, big business, and all the pretensions of authority, Laxness' masterpiece of social commentary is as relevant today as when it was written in 1948. 282 pp

Sold to:

Spain (Cátedra/Altaya); Denmark (Cicero); France (Messidor); Sweden (Rabén & Sjögren); Germany (Steidl); UK/USA (Random House/Vintage); Italy (Iperborea)
Previously translated into 28 languages

“Laxness is a brilliant writer. He can capture an elusive truth in a short span of words.”

WASHINGTON POST

“A poet who writes to the edge of the pages, a visionary who allows us a plot: he takes a Tolstoyan overview, he weaves in an Evelyn Waugh-like humour: it is not possible to be unimpressed. The right stuff, the real thing.”

DAILY TELEGRAPH



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 television news on Friday evening, November 12th 1976, the set first catches 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



HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON (b.1977) is 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. dagsson.com

BestSellers

A book that will teach you absolutely nothing about world literature.

Are you one of those people who hasn't read any books? Are you totally ignorant when it comes to Dickens or Austen or Dostoyevsky? Do you feel stupid when your friends discuss world literature? Well, this book will make you even stupider.

Icelandic cartoonist Hugleikur Dagsson scrutinizes classic book titles with childish humor in this rather unintellectual collection of silly drawings.

72 pp

10,5 x 15 cm

Sold to:
Finland (Atena)

End 1: Revelation

End 2: Misfortune

End 3: Up & Down

Opinberun, cartoon, 2012

Ógæfa, cartoon, 2013

Ofan & neðan, cartoon, 2014

A trilogy presenting different scenarios for the end of the world. Aliens invade the Earth in the first title, *Revelation*, and use the Book of Revelations as a guide on how to destroy mankind. This is what happens when science meets religion. In *Misfortune*, illustrated by Ran Flygenring, Reykjavik suffers a zombie invasion during Gay Pride Weekend. Fortunately Eurovision hero Paul Oscar saves the day. *Up & Down*, illustrated by Don Kenn and based on the lore of H.P. Lovecraft explains what happens 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.

70 pp

17,6 x 25 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. 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

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)



INDRIDID 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.”

NEUER ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

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 for the German Independent Publishers’ Award, Hotlist 2011

Calling Cab 79 sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Transit Verlag)
Available in English translation



JAKOBINA SIGURDARDOTTIR

(1918-1994) was born in Haelavik on Iceland's northernmost peninsula, Hornstrandir, but spent most of her life as a housewife on a farm in Myvatnssveit named Gardur. She was one of Iceland's leading authors, producing novels, short stories, and books of poetry. Three of her novels were nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

*“This is a remarkable book ...
absolutely masterful.”*

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

“Jakobina was of course an absolutely incomparable writer; the fact that she wasn't granted her rightful place as one of Iceland's most important 20th century writers, that's very simply because she was a woman on a farm up north...she wasn't posh enough for the literary pack in Reykjavik.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

The Noose

Snaran, novel, 1968

Jakobina Sigurdardottir's novel *The Noose* garnered a great deal of attention upon its release in 1968. The story is a monologue – or, rather, a dialogue in which one participant's voice is inaudible – a unique narrative structure in Icelandic literature.

We find ourselves in an undefined future. Heavy industry dominates the economy and the country has been flooded by capital and workers from abroad. The novel's sharp satire is perhaps most clearly revealed in the character of the narrator, a sweeper in a factory; his words, opinions, and reactions. He tells his own story as well as that of the nation, beginning with the arrival of a foreign army during the war and the social changes this brought about, relating history up until the events of the novel. Has this time perhaps already come? 120 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. He was chosen Playwright of the Year in 2004 for his play *Brim*, and in 2006 he was nominated for the Nordic Playwright Prize.

“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



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.

“He’s a bit of a genius, that Jon Gnarr.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

“A very moving book.”

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

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 as he finishes 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 Cultural Prize for Literature 2012

Rights sold:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Klett-Cotta); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa/USA/Philippines (Deep Vellum)

“More mayors in the world should be like Jon Gnarr.”

LADY GAGA

“Extremely honest, totally unpretentious, mischievous or ridiculously funny, Jon Gnarr tells all about how to shake things up: have fun, mix with other people and care about everything that relates to human beings.

The most entertaining and refreshing must-read of the year.”

TEXTMARKER.AT

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 mayor 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:

**Czech Republic (Pragma); Spain (Funambulista);
Egypt (Al Arabi); Germany/Austria/Switzerland/
Luxembourg (Klett-Cotta); UK/Australia/New Zea-
land/South Africa/USA/Philippines (Deep Vellum)**



JONINA LEOSDOTTIR (b.1954) studied linguistics and art history at Essex University and has a degree in Literature from the University of Iceland. She is a novelist, poet, playwright, a former journalist and the author of a dozen plays, ten novels, two biographies and numerous articles. She writes both for adult readers and teenagers. Among the awards Leosdottir has received for her work is the poetry award Ljodstafur Jons úr Vör, the IBBY Iceland Award for her novels for teenagers and prizes in playwriting competitions. Jonina Leosdottir played a key-role in establishing The Icelandic Women's Literary Prize. She is married to the former Icelandic Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir.

“An explosively funny contemporary story.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY

“An entertaining family story, certainly highly dramatic, but also extremely funny...extremely well done.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

If Only...

Bara ef ..., novel, 2014

If only... the birthday boy hadn't demanded a divorce in front of all the guests at his surprise 60-year birthday party.

If only... the father-to-be didn't think that his partner was still on the pill.

If only... the kid's weren't nagging for a dog, the old man wasn't on a bender in the summer

house, and rumours about an affair were not in the air.

If only life were a bit more bearable!

If Only... is a hilarious story of modern life by Jonina Leosdottir, engrossing from start to finish.

294 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Kiepenheuer & Witsch)

Chapters in English available



“A funny and well written family drama.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY

“A marvelously entertaining story...Jonina has found her footing here, and is sure to create a grateful reader base.”

KOLBRUN BERGTHORSDDOTTIR / LITERARY CRITIC

“A sparkling wit.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

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 (Kiepenheuer & Witsch);
Chapters in English available**



KARI TULINIUS (b.1981). *Untalented Martyrs* is Kari Tulinius' first novel; 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 debut.”*

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

“Ingenious contemporary description.”

KILJAN NATIONAL TV

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*

| Chapters in English available



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 thrills 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.

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

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 early teens, 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:
Denmark (Gyldendal); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag)

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);
Denmark (Gyldendal)

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. 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 murderess? The Goddess of Love? The setting, a 1950s fishing village, is expertly depicted, and the characters are well-drawn. An absolutely

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

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 (Gyldendal); The Netherlands (Signature);
Sweden (Bra Böcker); Norway (Pantagruel);
Macedonia (Antolog)
English chapters available



KRISTIN STEINSDÓTTIR'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 Literature Prize. Steinsdóttir has received the highest order of the Republic of Iceland, the Order of the Falcon, for her contribution to Icelandic literature.

Land of Hope

Vonarlandið, novel, 2014

They arrive in Reykjavik on foot, two friends, hoping to find employment in a good home as maids. In the meantime, they support themselves by washing clothes, salting fish, carrying coal, for these are the occupations open to independent women. Their workdays are long and difficult. Nevertheless, they choose the hard but independent town life over the dependent drudgery of the countryside.

Land of Hope is a tale of Reykjavik in the late 19th century; the story of a few women living

together in a small hovel, trying to make it from day to day. While there will be plenty of setbacks, they also know how to coax enjoyment from what they have, and make the most of precious little. Kristin Steinsdóttir has garnered much praise for her novels, not least the bestseller *Brightness*. In this lively and captivating story, she again explores the lives of remarkable women, who are determined to escape the constraints of poverty – and strive for it. 199 pp

| Chapters in English available

*“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 tale.

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 (ABOUT BRIGHTNESS)

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. She has every chance of being happy, but reality turns 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*
- *DV Cultural Prize for Literature 2011*

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Verlag C.H. Beck/pocket dtv);
Lithuania (Gimtasis Zodis)
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 Literature 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



OFEIGUR SIGURDSSON (b.1975)

received his BA degree in 2007, with a thesis on the taboo and transgression in the works of Georges Bataille.

He has translated literature and written for radio besides publishing several award-winning novels. Sigurdsson was awarded the 2011 EU Prize for Literature (EUPL) for a *Novel of Jon*.

“Frightfully brilliant...One of the most interesting and remarkable novels of the year.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

“Completely magical.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

“Wastelands is like the highlands – unlike anything.”

KJARNINN.IS

Wastelands – A Novel

Öræfi - skáldsaga, 2014

Barely alive after a solo expedition out on Vatnajökull Glacier, Austrian toponymist Bernhardt Fingerberg makes his way back to civilization. While nursing him back to health in a hotel room, the physician Dr Lassi tries to get to the bottom of the Viennese scholar's strange trek into the highlands of Iceland. Was he studying toponyms

out on the ice, or retracing the footsteps of a 20 year old crime, an event that involved someone very close to him? 342 pp

- *The Icelandic Booksellers' Prize 2014*
- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2014*

Chapters in English available

Sold to:

Denmark (Gyldendal); US/UK/ANZ (Deep Vellum)

“Sigurdsson is without a doubt one of the best writers of his generation, the best chapters are pure joy to read. Dashes frequently split up the text...and the staccato is so powerful at times that it literally makes the reader dizzy.”

FRETTABLADID (ABOUT SPIRIT GUARDIANS OG THE LAND)

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 sausages, 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

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*

Chapters in English available

Sold to:

Denmark (Gyldendal); Bulgaria (Balcani Publishing); Hungary (Libri); Czech Republic/Slovakia (Dauphin); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Serbia (Heliks); Spain (Madrilenian); Croatia (Naklada Ljevak)

“The style is masterful...an artfully drafted text in a tremendously well-structured story that mirrors reality both then and now.

Without a doubt one of the best novels of the year.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY



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 rights have been sold. Gunnarsson received the Icelandic Literary Prize for his novel, *The Ax and the Earth*, in 2004.

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 Ax 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)

“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 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 Ax and the Earth

Öxin og jörðin, 2003

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. An exceptionally well written story of 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. 392 pp

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

Available in English

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:

Germany/Austria/Switzerland

(Saga Verlag); UK (Mare's Nest);

France/Switzerland/Belgium/Luxembourg/

Canada (Gaia); The Czech Republic (Host);

Egypt (Animar)

Available in English

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



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".

"An ironic and humorous social critique, coloured with frankness and drama. It hits home."

DV DAILY

THE RECKONING

Látið síga, piltar, novel, 2013

The Reckoning takes place in the present, in a secluded valley in Iceland called Hlidardalur, an oldfashioned farming community that fosters love of the land, solidarity, frugality and industriousness.

When the entire valley comes under threat from natural disasters, struggle with bankers and

crime, the local farmers must unite to stave off catastrophe and save the community. The Reckoning is brimming with kindness, affection and friendship while also sarcastic, sharp and thrilling at the same time. On the whole witty and great fun. 350 pp.

Chapters in English available

"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.

“Deep, warm and beautiful. It conveys the awakening of ideas and the atmosphere of early adulthood in a compelling way evoking a nostalgic thirst for life in the reader.”

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY

“It goes without saying that Petur is an excellent writer and it is a delight to recall how people were at this time ... the most enjoyable part was seeing how his relationship with his different acquaintances prompted many of the things he has done since. For me that is its greatest strength. And of course the very beautiful passages about becoming a father and a lover ...”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

My World History

Veraldarsaga mín, novel, 2014

A world picture is as important for a person as the air in his lungs. If we didn't look for purpose we would collapse like a vacuumized container under the sheer pressure of the world, because we (as opposed to our brothers and sisters in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms) are supposed to understand the world, to take part in its formation and affect its progress. But this does not take place in a vacuum – on the contrary, it happens through interaction between the histories of the individual and the world at large.

In *My World History* we are introduced to one such experimental project – but we also experience our own endeavours, because, while no two world pictures are the same, there is only one world and we are all participants in this giant production: Life itself. 166 pp

“One can somehow find everything in this book: love and treason, fondles and cheating, dreams and longings, misunderstanding and friendship, life and death. Petur is wonderfully successful at establishing a well constructed and fun world in this block by Miklabraut...But this is how clever authors can write; **Block of Icelanders** is both deep and funny...”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

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 this 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?

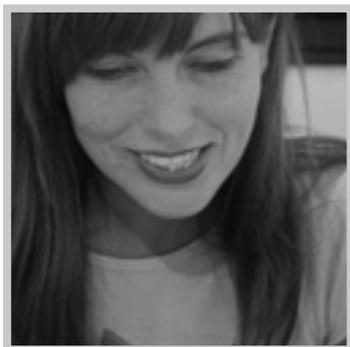
In this original story, Sigurdardottir taps into her insights into the art world in a unique way. Characters from the Icelandic and international art world and museums are vividly brought to life and collide in conflicts that are driven by ambition, greed, and betrayal – and the passion for art.

224 pp

- *Nominated for IMPAC Dublin Literary Award*

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 hometown.

“The text is well-crafted and the words painstakingly selected. ... An original book and beautifully written...”

FRETTABLAÐID DAILY

“Thrastardóttir uses her character and character's experiences to ask questions, but the answers are subtle and depend on the reader's own connections and interpretations.”

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

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 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 Book of Adolescence

Táningabók, novel 2014

“Is it possible to describe how stupid it is to be fourteen, fifteen, sixteen years old? I hardly think so, Still, I’ll try.”

The confirmation candidate pedals furiously around Axarfjordur and into his teenage years. The future is a blank page, the past more or less the same. He is leaving home for the first time,

ahead of him five years in Reykjavik: Pop music, wearing winkle-pickers and doing the Twist, the apostles John, George, Paul, and Ringo, cubism, poetry and the iceberg principle, literature, jazz, freedom, and creativity. Transformed into an incorrigible poet in a beret and a long scarf, he’s engulfed by the world of art and he’s never coming back. 288 pp

Chapters in English available



“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* Pálsson 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.*”

Pálsson 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 Literature Prize for his fifth novel *The Blue Fox*, which in 2009 was nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. Another of his novels, *From the Mouth of the Whale*, was shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2012. Sjon's novels have been translated into more than thirty languages. **sjon.siberia.is**

*“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 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

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2013*
- *DV Cultural Prize for Literature 2013*
- *The Icelandic Booksellers' Prize 2013*

Sold to:

The Netherlands (De Geus); Sweden (Alfabet); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (S.Fischer); USA/Philippines/Canada (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); Spain/South America (Nórdica); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Payot & Rivages); Czech Republic (Dybbuk); Faroe Islands (Sprotin); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa (Sceptre); Norway (Orkana); Slovakia (Slovart); Slovenia (Cankarjeva Založba); Finland (Like); Denmark (C&K forlag); Serbia (Geopoetika)

Available in English

“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:

Brazil (Planeta); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa (Telegram/Saqi Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (S. Fischer); Spain/South America (Nórdica Libros), Sweden (Alfabetá); Denmark (C&K Forlag); The Netherlands (De Geus); Lithuania (Apostrofa); USA/ Philippines/Canada (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); Turkey (Dogan); Hungary (Magvetö); Finland (Like)

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 Literature Prize*
- *Shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize*
- *Shortlisted for the 2011 The Jan Michalski Prize for Literature*

Sold to:

UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa/ (Telegram/Saqi Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (S. Fischer); Spain (Nórdica Libros); Sweden (Alfabetá); Denmark (C&K Forlag); The Netherlands (De Geus); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Galicia (Rinoceronte Editora); Poland (slowo/obraz terytoria); Lithuania (Apostrofa); The Czech Republic (Argo); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Payot & Rivage); Italy (Mondadori); Faroe Islands (Nylendi); 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/Philippines/Canada (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); China (Yilin Press); Macedonia (Antolog); Greece (Nefeli); Romania (Editura Polirom); Slovenia (Cankarjeva Založba); Croatia (VBZ); Brazil (Hedra); Estonia (Pegasus)

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 was premiered in Copenhagen in 2013.

- *The Icelandic Bookseller's Prize in 2005*

Sold to: Basque country (Pasazaita Liburuak); Sweden (Alfabetá); Denmark (Athene/audio Den Grimme Ælling); The Netherlands (De Geus); Faroe Islands (Nylendi); 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, *Made in secret*, as told by Löwe's made-from-clay son. 187 pp

Sold to: France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Payot & Rivage); Sweden (Alfabetá)

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 (Siruela); Finland (Like); Norway (Tiden); Sweden (Anamma)

English translation available



SOFFIA BJARNADOTTIR (b.1975) has studied literary theory, creative writing, and theater, and has worked as a writer, university instructor, literary critic, and archivist. *Magnetic Declination* is her first novel.

“A very good first book. Original and with a varied style.”

SJON, AUTHOR

“Splendidly written...poetic and charming – Sofia depicts images that are bizarre and touching and everything in between, plays with metaphor and jumps from one thing to another with skill and tastefulness.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

Magnetic Declination

Segulskekkja, novel 2014

“She stared intently at the sky, fervently sucking on a cigarette as dead birds do. Then she looked at me and her eyes were glistening black. I disappeared into the darkness in her eyes, into her, and heard a hollow voice resonate: “Let me tell you the story of an old, wise woman who has lived forever. She is the one who carries the light out of the depths. She is like the spider.”

A woman sets out on a journey to Iceland following an unexpected phonecall on an archeological

dig in Finland. Her journey brings her to a requiem on the island Flatey which takes her back in time and space. On this island of winter, psalms, dreams and memories are carried ashore. There she is forced to gaze into the open wound of her own past as she looks into the eyes of the legendary Siggý – the mother who rises from the ashes with the sun in her head.

Magnetic Declination is a story about the will to live, and the winding roads a person will take to come to terms with her own existence. 167 pp

Chapters in English available

Sold to:

France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Zulma)



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. *Reykjavik Café* 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

Reykjavik Café

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.”

Reykjavik Café 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); Italy (Marsilio)

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 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 Algerian 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);
France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Gaïa)
Chapters in English available



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 Literature Prize
- The Henrik Steffens Prize 1997

Sold to:
 Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Saga Verlag);
 Norway (Cappelens forlag);
 Sweden (Norstedts); Denmark (Rhodos);
 Finland (Otava); France (Corti);
 Lithuania (Tyto Alba); Italy (Giardini);
 UK/USA (Norvik Press)



SVERRIR NORLAND

(b.1986) has a BA degree in Law and Creative Writing from University of Iceland and a Master's degree in Creative Writing from London's Middlesex University. His poetry, graphic works, short stories, and other writings have been widely published, including two collections of poetry, a CD of his band performing his own compositions, and a book of short stories that was on sale for just one evening during the full moon. In recent years he has lived alternately in Paris, Reykjavík, and New York. *Masters of Anxiety* is his first novel.

“An excellent book.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

Masters of Anxiety

Kvíðasnillingarnir, novel, 2014

Just how many emotions can you stuff into a boy's heart?

Masters of Anxiety follows three best friends as they navigate the treacherous waters of boyhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. Jumping back and forth through time in a cozy Paper Time Machine, the author paints a unique and lively picture of the male role in modern times, all the while introducing readers to a large cast of memorable characters, including a whole league of artful, seductive girls who disturb the delicate emotional balance of the titular characters, the masters of anxiety.

Set in Reykjavík and London, this charming novel artfully weaves local and global themes into a gripping present-day story, giving an

authentic picture of how Icelanders live on their tiny island, and how they cope with the larger world surrounding them. Readers are invited to breathe in the aroma of mud at Hostel Turf, catch a touch of bluesy whining at the Asylum for the Impotent, and then kick back at the Haven for Lonely Boys.

Masters of Anxiety is a book for its time, full of warmth, humanity, joy, and magic. It combines a rare sense of style with dry wit, deep empathy, and an unceasing flow of original ideas. 301 pp

*Recipient of the Icelandic Literature Center's
2014 New Voices Grant*



SOLVI BJORN SIGURDSSON (b.1978) is the author of several books of poetry, as well as numerous novels. A translator of classical poetry, he has also received distinguished nominations for his translations of Rimbaud's *A Season in Hell*. His novel, *The Last Days of My Mother*, was published to great critical acclaim in 2009, and listed as one of the novels of the decade by Iceland's biggest newspaper, *Frettabladid*. His two volumes, *Pole Fishing in Iceland* and *Icelandic Fish and Their Catchers* received the DV Cultural Prize for non-fiction in 2013. Solvi studied French in Montpellier and Icelandic and Comparative Literature at the University of Iceland. He received his M.lit. degree in Publishing Studies from the University of Sterling in Scotland.

“Sigurdsson's novel successfully straddles the line between impious gallows humor and a heartfelt depiction of a son's love for his mother.”

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW)

“Solvi masters the task at hand. His writing is funny and dynamic, absurd and sarcastic, but at the same time brimming with despair and true emotion. A successful cocktail that keeps the reader swiftly turning the pages...”

NORDEA LITERARY MAGAZINE

The Last Days of My Mother

Síðustu dagar móður minnar, novel, 2009

Hermann, 37 years old and listless, has his life turned upside-down when his rapier-tongued, usually intoxicated mother is diagnosed with cancer. They embark on a picaresque journey to Amsterdam to get her a special treatment, and to

bond over all the booze they can imbibe. Wickedly funny and profound, this is a mother-son novel for the twenty-first century. 225 pp

Rights sold: USA/Philippines/UK/ANZ (Open Letter); Denmark (Torgard)

English translation available



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, and 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 Literature Prize 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 Sturlung 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, *Sturlung 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 *Sturlung Saga*. In 1234, Sturla Sighvatsson set off for Rome to seek Papal absolution for his sins, and, as *Sturlung 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 in 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 Literature Prize 1988*

Sold to:

Denmark (Vindrose); Norway (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 (Cavalo 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, since 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 Thingvellir. 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

**Sold to: Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Conte Verlag)**

*“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
- Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize
- Nominated 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



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.

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. He is last heard of in 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 plane 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



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 Literature 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. 441 pp

- *The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize, 2014*
- *The Icelandic Booksellers’ Prize for the best novel of 2013*

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 Cultural Prize for Literature 1999*
- *Nominated for the Nordic Literature Prize 2001*

**Sold to:
Sweden (Publish America)**

“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

“... *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 traditional Icelandic 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



VIGDIS GRIMSDOTTIR (b.1953) has received widespread recognition for her work and her books have been translated into several languages. Vigdís 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*, has been made into a major motion picture.

The Woman with the Yellow Bag

Dísusaga. Konan með gulu töskuna, novel, 2013

When Disa Grims from Kleppsvegur finally gets a voice of her own, she tells her story plainly. It's not like she has anything to hide. Short of time, Disa decides to write her book in the form of a letter to the man she has always loved. Will she be able to tell the truth?

This is Disa's story, the very powerful tale of a ten-year-old girl that is exposed to violence and locks herself into a dungeon of silence and hiding games for fifty years. It is a tale of violence, honesty, and generosity. This is also our story; unexpected, enchanting, and wonderful. 384 pp

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2014
- Nominated for the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize 2014

Do You Believe in Magic?

Trúir þú á töfra?, novel, 2011

The narrator of *Do you believe in Magic?* is twelve-year-old Nina, named her mother's favourite poetess, who 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.

A true ode to poetry revealing human vulnerability in a complicated struggle for existence where only magic can light up the path. 259 pp



"The author handles this delicate subject matter extremely well...and does it ever so beautifully, although her sense of humour is never far off and the story becomes alive, sad, colourful, and entertaining...Through my window in Greenland, as I write these lines, I can glimpse at least a thousand stars. Vigdís and Disa deserve all of them. But I'll have to make do with these five."

PRESSAN.IS (FIVE STARS OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE)

“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

Sold to:
Denmark (Klim); Sweden
(Anamma); Finland (Like)



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
(Random House/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 Craxton, he meets up with the bishop's housekeeper, Ragnfridur, and her young son...

192 pp

Sold to:

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



FORLAGIÐ

www.forlagid.is