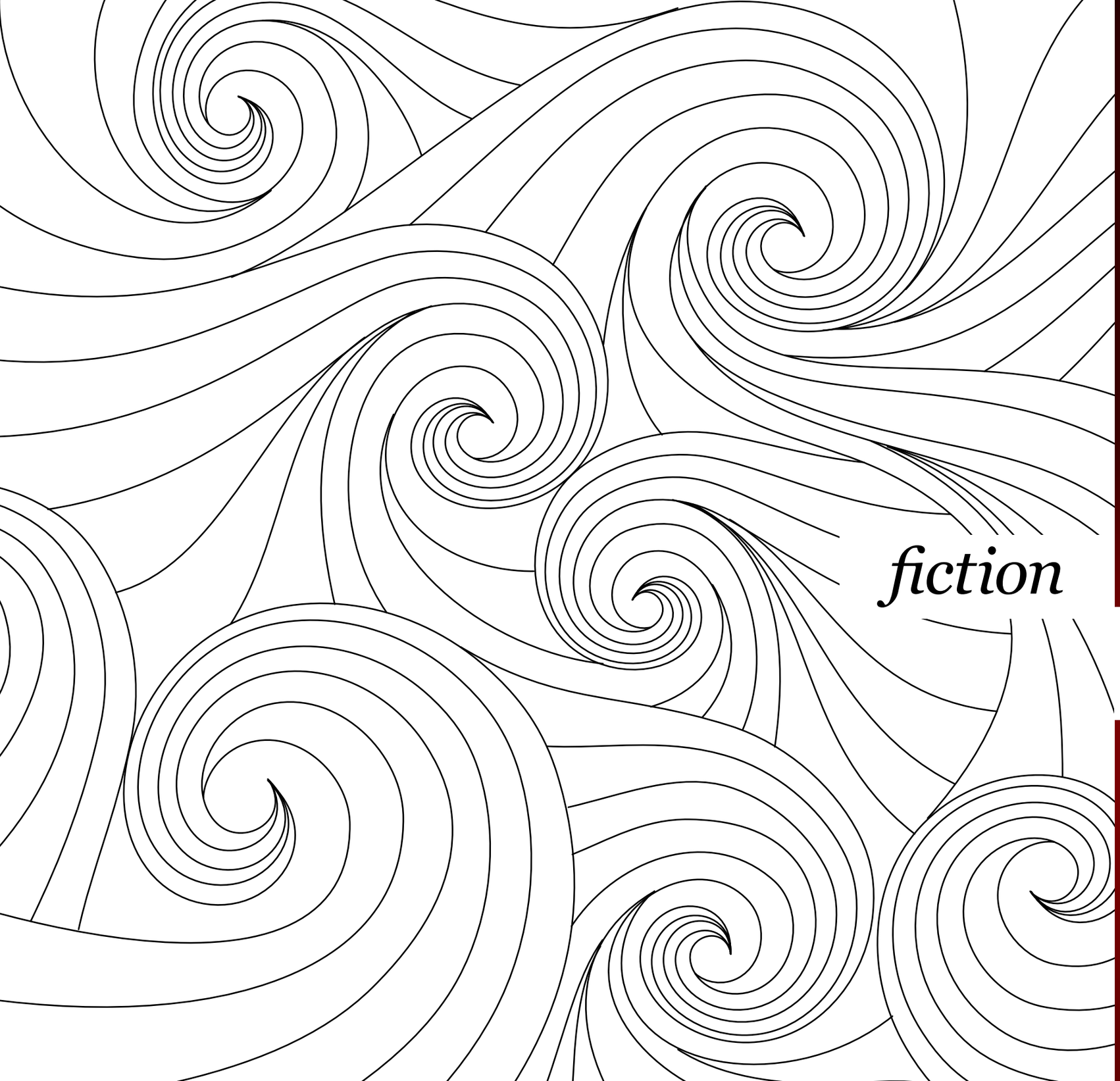


fiction

LITERARY FICTION
POETRY
CRIME FICTION

FORLAGIÐ
rights-agency

ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON

(b.1973) has won the Icelandic literary prize for both fiction and non fiction, his work has been published or performed in over twenty countries and received numerous international awards, amongst them the Janusz Korczak Honorary Award and the West Nordic Children's Book Prize. Magnason has been active in the fight against the destruction of the Icelandic Highlands. **www.andrimagnason.com**

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

BREAKFAST TV, CHANNEL 2

Love Star

Love Star, novel, 2002

- *Bookseller's Literary Award 2002*
- *DV Newspaper´s Book of the Year Prize*
- *Nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize 2002*

A multinational called LoveStar has put Iceland on the map by marketing death and programmed love. Indridi and Sigridur 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 Sigridur is summoned north to Oxnadal 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

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria
(Verlagsgruppe Lübbe)
English translation available

ALFRUN GUNNLAUGSDOTTIR

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

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Time of Shadows

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*

*"I can't remember having read any account of the horrors of war and its human consequences as stirring as this, with the possible exception of Laxness' **The Happy Warriors** and Homer's **Iliad**."*

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Across the Ebro River

Yfir Ebrofljótið, novel, 2001

It is not widely known that three Icelanders fought in the Spanish Civil War. In this novel one such veteran, Haraldur, recalls his years with the International Brigade, the Battle of the River Ebro, daily life in the military camps and his battle for a normal life on returning to Iceland. This is an epic novel, at once richly informative and exciting and also highly intelligent. 459 pp

- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize*

Chapters in English available

AUDUR JONSDOTTIR (b.1973) is one of Iceland's most highly acclaimed young writers. She has received numerous awards for her works. Her novel, *The People in the Basement*, received The Icelandic Literary Prize and a nomination for the Nordic Council Literary Prize.
www.jonsdottir.com

"Written with real dexterity, she's a highly inventive author who can play skilfully with language and circumstances ... When the curtain falls, the novel leaves a definite mark on you, she's a writer with a sneaky subtlety ... A very fine book."

KILJAN/ ICELANDIC STATE TELEVISION

Wintersun

Vetrarsól, novel, 2008

"The metropolitan police is searching for Arndis Theodorsdottir . . . she was last seen at Korpulfsstadir Centre for Culture last Friday . . ." Sunna is shocked when she sees the announcement on the internet. Memories from her time as a student with Arndis in Barcelona haunt her and make it difficult to focus on the crime fiction writing course she is supposed to be directing. On the other hand, the pre-Christmas rush at the publishing house where she is working has reached its peak and there's little time left to investigate the disappearance of an old friend. To make matters even worse, the relentless winter storms are holding Axel, Sunna's boyfriend, hostage in a remote town in the West Fiords, leaving her abandoned with his ten year old son, whom she hardly knows. 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 (Random House/btb);
The Netherlands (Querido)
Film rights sold to:
Silja Hauksdottir (producer)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"A compelling and elegantly styled, thoroughly thought-out story about important issues."

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

"An excellent contemporary tale."

POLITIKEN, DENMARK

Deposit

Tryggðarpantur, novel, 2006

Gisella, a girl who has never known anything other than wealth and opulence, suddenly has to face the fact that her abundant inheritance is dwindling. She therefore needs to devise ways of increasing her income, and as a free-lance reporter, decides 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. An exhilarating and credible story with a burning relevance to our times, that can be interpreted as a metaphor for modern day Europe and its clashes of cultures. 335 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2006*

Sold to:
Denmark (Tiderne Skifter);
Sweden (Kabusa)
Film rights sold to:
Litla gula hænan

The People in the Basement

Fólkið í kjallaranum, novel, 2004

Klara is an artist in her thirties who can't quite find her footing in life. Her boyfriend, Svenni, a happy-go-lucky entrepreneur, has pretty much cornered her into hosting a dinner party for his nouveau riche friends. As the mirth mounts, Klara withdraws increasingly into her own world. Painful memories from her past emerge and bit by bit, the past and present begin to fuse in her mind. Then Klara's sister turns up out of the blue to ask her to mind her son, while the party grows livelier, her parents barge in on her and the mysterious neighbour in the basement knocks repeatedly on their door. This ordinary dinner party eventually degenerates into mayhem, 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)

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

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

LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I'm convinced beyond any doubt that Bragi Olafsson is among our best authors."

DV NEWSPAPER

The Ambassador

Sendiherrann, novel, 2006

Icelandic poet Sturla Jon Jonsson attends an international poetry festival in Lithuania – but this is no ordinary poetry 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, the things we steal to be ourselves and the investigations we have to carry out to find out why we committed a crime. A metaphysical novel about an unexpected dark deed in the bewitching world of literature. 386 pp

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

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

Party Games

Samkvæmisleikir, novel, 2004

Printer trainee, Fridbert, has invited his friends and relatives to his 30th birthday party, and in the small hours of the morning, when he's finally said goodbye to what he thinks is his last guest, he discovers there's still one person left in the flat. An unusual, provocative, and hilarious story that deals with the significance and insignificance of moral issues. 340 pp

- *The DV Newspapers´s Cultural Award 2004*
- *The Icelandic Bookseller Prize 2004*

*"Brilliantly written and funny, no, very funny... **The Pets** is one of the best pieces of Nordic literature I've read in a long time."*

BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, DENMARK

"... a true literary masterpiece."

DIE BERLINER LITERATURKRITIK

*"**Time Off** is an incredibly powerful and mesmerizing book, with a fine and well thought-out structure. The style, approach, and choice of words in this wonderful novel all exude a sense of calm and beauty."*

DV NEWSPAPER

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 and reminisces over their disastrous flat-sharing experience in London a few years previously. A tale of cowardice, comeuppance and assumed identity, this is an original and very funny take on the theme of the double. 248 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize*
- *Nominated for the DV Cultural Award*

Sold to:
Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (dtv); USA/Canada/UK/Australia (Open Letter); France (Actes Sud)

Time Off

Hvíldardagar, novel, 1999

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

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

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

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 *Storm* (2003) was nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize and the Icelandic Literary Prize and awarded The DV Newspaper's Cultural Award as the Book of the Year.

"Karason is a storyteller worth his weight in gold. He can bring together tragedy and humour opposites, which stand naturally side by side, like two sides of the same coin."

HUVUDSTADSBLADET, HELSINKI, FINLAND

Ofsi

Fury, novel, 2008

1252 AD. A bloody civil war grips Iceland. Still fresh in men's minds is the confrontation at Orlygsstadir, where two leading members of the Sturlung family were slain by their opponents, led by Gissur Thorvaldsson and Kolbeinn the Younger. Under the apparent calm waters, the thirst for revenge ferments. Now this same Gissur, leader of the powerful Haukadalur clan, has returned to Iceland as the Norwegian king's envoy. Prompted by the pleasures of home and family, and his hopes for the future, he attempts to make his peace with the Sturlungs. Enough men have been slain. As a token of good faith, he offers to marry his son to daughter of the Sturlung leader and historiographer Sturla Thordarson. The wedding feast is to be held at his estate at Flugumyri in the autumn of 1253. He plans to make it the most impressive gathering ever to be held in Iceland. At the fine estate Modruvellir, just over the mountains to the east, dwells the local hero Eyjolfur Ofsi, a man held in high regard by himself and others. While he is prepared to accept Gissur's outstretched hand, his wife, Sturla Sighvatsson's illegitimate daughter and a valkyrie incarnate, 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, and he is plagued by nagging doubts and suspicions. Feelings of inferiority fester like a cancer inside him, leading to a fateful outcome.
Fury revisits the tumultuous Sturlunga Era, also the setting of Karason's acclaimed *Gathering of Foes* (2001). 192 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2009*

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Random House)
Danish translation available

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

JYLLANDS-POSTEN, DENMARK

Storm

Stormur, novel, 2003

The central character of this powerful novel is Eyvindur Jonsson Stormur, a clever, witty but self-deceptive man, who is surrounded by a motley crew of heavy drinkers, hippies, business men, losers and Icelandic students abroad. A brilliant rendering of the ideas and spirit of the times and an entertaining gallery of expressive characters and hilarious events. 333 pp

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

Sold to:
Norway (Cappelen); Denmark (Gyldendal); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Random House); Russia (Fluid)

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)

A Gathering of Foes

Óvinafagnaður, novel, 2001

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

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

Film rights sold to:
Fridrik Thor Fridriksson/Spellbound Productions

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 (Marpress/as an e-book: Tower Press); U.K. (Canongate)

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

EINAR MAR GUDMUNDSSON

(b.1954) is a novelist, short-story writer and poet, one of the most widely translated Icelandic authors born in the post-war period. A storyteller with a lyrical perceptive and humorous style, his work charts the growth of urban culture in the capital and the larger-than-life characters that it spawns.

*"**Behind Bars** is yet another of Einar Mar's warm and humane stories that touch the reader deeply. Perhaps his best, because it is a road map to the hope of rebuilding one's life when substance abuse threatens to destroy everything."*

VIGDIS FINNBOGADOTTIR, FORMER PRESIDENT OF ICELAND

Behind Bars

Rimlar hugans, novel, 2007

A tender if somewhat atypical love story, the story of Einar Thor, a convicted drug dealer and an addict and his girlfriend Eva, portrayed through the letters they exchange during Einar's stay in prison, as well as the journey of the author through alcoholism, denial, worries and self-delusion, elegantly interwoven with the harrowing life stories of Einar Thor and Eva. A powerful tale of human frailty, reckoning and redemption. 362 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2007*

Sold to:
Denmark (Borgen/Vindrose);
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser);
Norway (Cappelen)
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)

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

Sold to:
Denmark (Borgen/Vindrose); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser, paperback: btb); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Natur & Kultur); Finland (Like); Italy (Iperborea); Czech Republic (Odeon)
English translation available

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

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

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

Sold to:
Denmark (Borgen); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Natur & Kultur); Finland (Like); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser) and France (Gaïa)

Angels of the Universe

Englar alheimsins, novel, 1993

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

SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

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

- *Nordic Council Literary Prize 1995*

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

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. Icelandic critics have found reason to compare him to such dissimilar poets as Snorri Sturluson and Vladimir Mayakovsky.
www.norddahl.org/english/about

"This author promises great things to come."
DV NEWSPAPER

Kindness

Gæska, novel, 2009

When conservative MP Halldor Gardar awakens the world has turned into a completely different place. Mt. Esja is ablaze, Reykjavik is enveloped in clouds of smoke, Parliament square is crammed with demonstrators and a powerful sandstorm is raging. Halldor's response to the situation is to avoid turning up for work at parliament and to lock himself away. But when a young Moroccan girl asks him to help release 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

Poison for Beginners

Eitur fyrir byrjendur, novel, 2006

Halldor and Herdis live together but are not known to have ever kissed. When Herdis brings into the home a hazardous potplant and Hogni, a student of gender studies, Halldor loses the ability to leave the house, but developes 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 people. 139 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Kozempel & Timm)
English sample translation available

Ideological Slut

Hugsjónadruslan, novel, 2004

Thrandur is on his way to Copenhagen to meet a girl he met on the internet. She is a polyamorous Texan with a master in anthropology. On his way over on the ferry, he meets Faroese cello player Ani, a pearl in the North Atlantic. During a carefree piss-up in Christiania and Copenhagen with the gay Billy and a bunch of happy-go-lucky Danish punks, Thrandur is brutally awakened to the fact that we've shifted into the "post 9/11" era. In times like these you can't just sleep around, hopping from one ideological bed into another, if you don't want to be called a slut. 259. pp

Chapters in English and Danish available

FRIDA A. SIGURDARDOTTIR

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

"A poignant and passionate story, brimming with demanding speculation about love, death and the meaning of life."
DV NEWSPAPER

Night Watch

Meðan nóttin líður, novel, 1990

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

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

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

In Julia's House

Í húsi Júlíu, novel, 2006

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

In a Closed World

Í luktum heimi, novel, 1994

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

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 1994*

Sold to:
Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar)

GUDBERGUR BERGSSON (b.1932)

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

"A great European novelist."

MILAN KUNDERA

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

BERLINER MORGENPOST

The Search for the Child in the Chasm

Leitin að barninu í gjánni, novel, 2008

Gudbergur Bergsson is well-known for his unconventional approach and inventive narratives. In The Search for the *Child in the Chasm – A Children's Story not for Children* he once more strikes a new note. This tender and symbolic story, which is definitely meant for adults, describes the journey of a child and a teacher along strange paths, through a secret door in the basement of the school among others. Under the surface is another more haunting story, not least about the imagination which is sometimes stolen from young people – and about the challenge of finding the courage to do battle with oneself. 147 pp

1 1/2 Book – A Terrible Story

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

In *1 1/2 Book – A Terrible Story* Gudbergur Bergsson takes on one of his most ambitious topics to this day: Icelandic culture and its influences, from the time Iceland was under Danish rule to our day. In *1 1/2 Book – A Terrible Story* he delves under the surface of Icelandic society and portrays unforgettable characters in a work of fiction that tackles the truth and history, and not least the Icelandic national identity. 260 pp

★ ★ ★ ★

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

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

"Wonderful, ironic, sad, shocking and funny."

DV NEWSPAPER

The Paralyzed Teachers

Lömuðu kennslukonurnar, novel, 2004

Coming home after a period of study, a proud mother's bright hope realizes that there's nothing waiting for him in Iceland, as he sits vegetating in the smell of carpets in his mother and father's adjacent sitting rooms, after sunbathing so freely in bigger and mightier countries – until he gets a full-time job as a social worker that takes him to the bedside of two paralyzed sisters, and starts to invent stories for them.
Before he knows it, the sisters have led him down a road from which there is no turning back. The power of the paralyzed sisters lures him into a narrative totally against his own will. Primitive and vulgar elements gain the upper hand and he convinces himself he's a miraculous author. But what is left of the author's mind when the paralyzed sisters rise again, after allowing himself to be duped into the story? 213 pp

Sold to:
Lithuania (Pasvires Pasaulis)

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

NDR RADIO

The Swan

Svanurinn, novel, 1991

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

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

Sold to:
Bulgaria (Hemus); Brazil (Rocco); Czech Republic (Ivo Zelezni/Praha); Denmark (Rhodos); Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Gallimard); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (Tusquets); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa, USA/Philippines (Mare's Nest); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Steidl); Italy (Il Saggiatore); Finland (Like); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (De Geus); Greece (Ellinika Grammata); Estonia (SA Kultuurilent); Lithuania (Leidykla Vaga)

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

DAGUR NEWSPAPER

"A magnificent work which will undoubtedly be considered among this century's leading work of literature ..."

DV NEWSPAPER

Father and Mother and the Mystery of Childhood

Faðir og móðir og dulmagn bernskunnar, novel, 1997

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

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

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

Like a Stone Smoothed by the Sea

Eins og steinn sem hafið fágar, novel, 1998

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

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

Sold to:
Sweden (Atlantis)

Torments of Love in the Chamber of the Mind

Sú kvalda ást sem hugarfylgsnin geyma, novel, 1993

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

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 1993*

Sold to:
Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (Tusquets); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa, USA/Philippines (Mare's Nest); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Steidl)

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. Awards for her work include 1st prize in the National Broadcasting Service short story competition, 1st prize in poetry competition in a cultural programme on TV, The Children's Choice Book Prize and the Halldor Laxness' Literary Prize for *A Boat with Sails and All.*

"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' Literary Prize 2004*

Chapters in English available

GUDMUNDUR ANDRI THORSSON

(b.1957) received the DV Newspaper's Cultural Prize for Literature for his novel *The Icelandic Dream* in 1991. The book was also nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize in the same year. The novel *Journey to Iceland* was nominated for the same prize in 1996.

"... an entertaining book ..."

THE WEEKLY PAPER

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 dopehead 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

"... an especially well-written and engaging novel."

KISTAN.IS

GUDRUN EVA MINERVUDOTTIR

(b.1976) has earned herself a place among Iceland´s most promising writers. In her incredible poignant style she interweaves all kind of relationships and exchanges, which, in one way or another, together form a kind of study of the body and its connections to the mind, culture and just the world.

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

Sold to:
Italy (Scritturapura); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Random House/btb); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa, USA/Philippines (Portobello)

Yosoy

Yosoy, novel, 2005

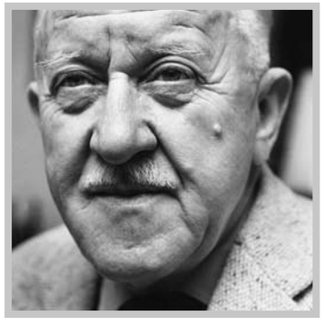
Madame Louise de Roubaix meets Dr. Olafur Benediktsson at an international congress on pain in Brussels and charges him with the investigation of a strange circus in Iceland. The whole organisation is shrouded in mystery and gaining the trust of its members turns out to be a peculiar experience for Olafur, as he gradually discovers the true nature of these unforgettable and perplexing people. This is a powerful tale about pain and human nature, sublime and zany love, innate and acquired talents – and how people cultivate their God-given gifts. 383 pp

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

Sold to:
Italy (Scritturapura); Danmark (Art People)
Film rights sold to: **Pegasus Pictures**

*"**Yosoy** is an ambitious work ... a powerful reflection of a society of alienation and over-consumption."*

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER



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

"One of the greatest novelists of the 20th century."

DIE WELT

"Laxness is the patriarch of European literature."

DIE WOCHENZEITUNG

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

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

Under the Glacier

Kristnihald undir Jökli, novel, 1968

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

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Steidl); The Czech Republic (Aurora); Hungary (Balassi); Romania (Niculescu); USA (Random House/Vintage); The Netherlands (De Geus); Italy (Iperborea)
Previously translated into 9 languages

The Fish Can Sing

Brekkukotsannáll, novel, 1957

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

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

The Iceland's Bell

Íslandsklukkan, novel, 1943-46

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

Sold to:
Netherlands (De Geus); Sweden (Svenska Akademian/Atlantis); USA (RandomHouse/Vintage); Estonia (Varrak); Israel (Schocken); Denmark (Gyldendal)
Previously published into 23 languages

Paradise Reclaimed

Paradísarheimt, novel, 1960

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

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

Independent People

Sjálfstætt fólk, novel, 1934–35

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

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

HALLGRIMUR HELGASON (b.1959)

is a writer and artist, one of Iceland's most popular authors. His novel *101 Reykjavik* was nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize and he received the Icelandic Literary Prize for *The Author of Iceland*.

www.hallgrimur.is

Literary agent:
Andrew Nurnberg Associates
e-mail: lbrannstrom@nurnberg.co.uk

"... deeply entertaining ... a total, laugh-a-minute joy to read ... side-splittingly funny. You have to read it ... He has done the best thing possible: found a new way of telling."

THE GUARDIAN

*"**Rokland** is his fourth application for the very top of the premiere league in the company of Tolstoy, Proust, Mann, Nabokov."*

WWW.LITERATURKRITIK.DE

Rokland

Rokland, novel, 2005

After 10 years of study in Germany, Boddi returns to his hometown in North Iceland, a town that is way too small for such a big mouth. Before he knows it, he is sacked from his teaching position at the local high school, after taking his students on a weekend-trip to the highlands where he makes them sleep in a cave in the middle of winter, to give them a direct experience of a classical Icelandic Saga. Boddi is a man of spirit in a materialistic land, and finds an outlet on his blogpage, where he writes profusely and lets loose against the whole of contemporary society. Then finally one winter's day he declares war ... *Rokland* is the story of a solitary rebel, who is too smart for his hometown, too angry for the big town, and too frank for his country. This book fuses many of the qualities of Helgason's previous works: the black humour of *101 Reykjavik* and the ironic lampooning of contemporary values in *Things Are Going Great*. At the same time, *Rokland* bears the traits of a classic village story, which is in many ways reminiscent of *The Author of Iceland*. 391 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2005*

Sold to:
Germany (Klett-Cotta); Denmark (Aschehoug); Sweden (Norstedts)
Film rights sold to: **Pegasus Pictures**

Mr. Universe –

The Hollywood Blockbuster

Herra Alheimur, novel, 2003

The Lord runs the Universe like the CEO of a major corporation, from his headquarters at a small planet called Center of the Universe. One day The Big Boss is informed that man on Planet 607 has learned to clone himself. God reacts with anger and immediately decides to destroy Mankind 607. The book is written like a mock blockbuster Hollywood movie with big-name movie stars in every role. Marlon Brando is God, Woody Allen his assistant and Salman Rushdie the scientist in charge of the creation of the New Man. A frolicsome novel with existential undertones. 287 pp

Sold to: **Italy (Longanesi)**
English translation available

The Author of Iceland

Höfundur Íslands, novel, 2001

A famous Icelandic writer, Einar J. Grimsson, dies at the age of 88, only to wake up in a novel he wrote some 40 years ago. The old novel is set at a remote farm in the east part of Iceland and one day the old man is found lying out in the fields, like he just fell to earth. The farmer carries him into the house where the writer gradually comes to terms with his afterlife. An impressive story, fascinating and disturbing, about fact and fiction, death and creation. 510 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2001*
- *The Bookseller's Literary Award 2001*

Sold to: **Italy (Longanesi/Ugo Guanda); Germany (Klett-Cotta); Finland (Otava); Sweden (Norstedts); Denmark (Rosinante); Norway (N.W. Damm & Sön)**
Chapters and synopsis available in English

101 Reykjavik

101 Reykjavík, novel, 1996

A highly unusual and catching novel about a young man, Hlynur Bjorn, whose way of life is totally in accordance with the essence of the modern consumer society. Unemployed at the age of 34, he is still living with his mother and spends his days watching satellite TV and girls in the local bars. Changes are brought to his life when his mother comes out of the closet and her girlfriend moves in with them. This turns the story into a love triangle between mother, son and the mother's girlfriend. English translation and excerpt available. 383 pp. The book was adapted into a film directed by Baltasar Kormakur, starring the leading Spanish actress, Victoria Abril and featuring music by Damon Albarn (Blur) and Einar Orn (Sucarcubes).

Sold to:
UK (Faber & Faber); USA (Simon & Schuster); Denmark (Rosinante); Finland (Otava); Sweden (Norstedts); Norway (N.W. Damm & Sön); Germany (Klett-Cotta); France (Actes Sud); Italy (Longanesi); Spain/Mexico/Argentina/Uruguay/Colombia (RBA); Romania (Universal Dalsi); Poland (Swiat Literacki/as an e-book: Tower Press); The Netherlands (Meulenhoff); Russia (Azbooka); Latvia (Valters un Rapa); Spain (Rinoceronte Editora, in Galician); Korea (Dulnyuk)

*"**101 Reykjavik** is a realistic novel in which the existential problems of modern man are depicted with Hamlet as a model."*

NORDIC LITERATURE 2001

HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON (b.1977) can

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

www.dagsson.com

Literary agent: **Penguin Group**
e-mail: Kate.Brotherhood@uk.penguingroup.com

"Ban this sick book."

THE IRISH SUN

Kisi,

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

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

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

Should You Be Laughing At This?

Forðist okkur, cartoon, 2005

Sure, Hangman is violent, but rarely have simple line drawings been made to enact the kinds of scenarios found in Icelandic artist Hugleikur Dagsson's collection, *Should You Be Laughing At This*? The first few pages alone offer up murder, cannibalism and incest, and the jokes keep coming from there. Dagsson's sweet little cartoons took the Icelandic counter-culture scene by storm becoming a best-seller in Iceland. The stage play won the Best Play of 2005 award in Iceland's main national newspaper. Dagsson's second UK collection of cartoons is called *Is This Supposed to Be Funny?* published in 2007. 224 pp

Sold to:
Italy (Arnoldo Mondadori); Finland (Atena); Norway (Gyldendal); US (HarperCollins); Hungary (Partvonal); Germany (Rowohlt); France (Sonatine); Sweden (Nicotext)

ELISABET JOKULSDOTTIR

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

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

JULIA ALEXANDRA / JOURNALIST

The Locksmith's Good Advice

Heilræði lásasmiðsins, a novel, 2007

Elisabet and Algea met when she was on a trip to New York. He American, she Icelandic; he black, she white; he a hatter and a drummer, she a writer; he from a big city, she a child of nature. He follows her to Iceland but they both have difficulties distinguishing between fantasy and reality and encounter a fair dose of turbulence on their path. Not least when love leads to those recesses of their inner lives that have been bolted under lock and key for a very long time – and a locksmith needs to be called in.
A candid, blunt and intimate account of the relationship between two very different individuals who meet and form a temporary bond that is destined to dissolve. 219 pp

Football Stories (Mini Stories)

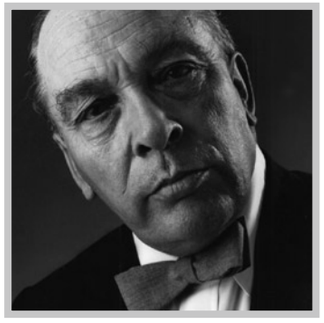
Fótboltasögur, örsögur, 2001

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

English translation available

"Jokulsdottir'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



INDRIDI G. THORSTEINSSON

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

Phases in the Life of a Nation

Tímar í lífi þjóðar, novels, 1978

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.

KRISTIN STEINSDOTTIR

(b.1946) is one of Iceland's best known authors of children's books and has received numerous recognitions for her work. Her first book published in 1987 received the Icelandic Children's Book Award that year. Her book, *An Angel in the Neighbourhood* won the the Nordic Children's Book Award in 2003. *By Herself* is her second novel for adults.

"It touches the reader in a powerful way ...
Here nothing is redundant and nothing is missing."

VIDSJA, ICELANDIC NATIONAL RADIO

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

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

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.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*"**Karitas** is a wonderful story, which as any great novel grabs you while for the duration of the story and which then follows you, long after the book, sadly, is over."*

BERLINSKE TIDENDE

The Big Dipper

Karlsvagninn, novel, 2009

When Gunnur wakes up one morning, she realises to her horror that her home has been burgled while she was sleeping. All her state-of-the-art modern gadgets have vanished – and all her credit cards. They've wiped her clean and her husband is abroad. Full of revulsion for this violation of her home, she decides to flee to the couple's summer house in the east, even though it's the heart of winter. But she doesn't get to go there alone. While she's talking to the police, she's saddled with taking care of a young girl, before she even has a chance to protest. This odd pair, a psychiatrist in her fifties and a girl close to confirmation age, are lumbered together in a remote house without any gadgets for the whole weekend. Secluded in the frost and snow, they have no choice but to tap into two resources they've lost the habit of using: their memories and the imagination.

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

Chaos on Canvas

Óreiða á striga, novel, 2007

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

Sold to:
Germany (Krüger/Fischer); The Netherlands (Querido); Denmark (Gyldendal); France (Gaïa)

Karitas – Untitled

Karítas án titils, novel, 2004

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

- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2005*

Sold to:
Germany (Krüger/Fischer); The Netherlands (Signature); Sweden (Bra böcker); Denmark (Gyldendal); France (Gaïa)

Seagull's Laughter

Mávahlátur, novel, 1995

Everything is turned upside down in the peaceful village world when Freyja suddenly appears one day, all the way from America. And this is hardly surprising, considering who she is. Her thick, black hair reaches down to her hips, her icy-blue eyes are piercing, her lips are red and her shape perfect. She has seven trunks of clothes and her manner is colder than death. Seen through young Agga's inquiring eyes the life of the village takes on an air of complex mystery and romance. Who is Freyja? Agga wants to find an answer to that. Is she perhaps a fairy queen? A Viking heroine? A murderess? The Goddess of Love? The setting, a 1950s fishing village, is expertly depicted, and the characters are well-drawn. An absolutely irresistible story of female uprising before the days of feminism. 246 pp

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

Sold to:
Germany (Kruger/Fisher); Denmark (PP-forlag, pocket edition: Gyldendal); The Netherlands (Signature); Sweden (Bra Böcker); Norway (Pantagruel)
English chapters available

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*"... masterfully constructed ... Kristin Marja sets herself a major challenge with **Seagull´s Laughter** and achieves it in style."*

BT, DENMARK

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

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Strong Ones

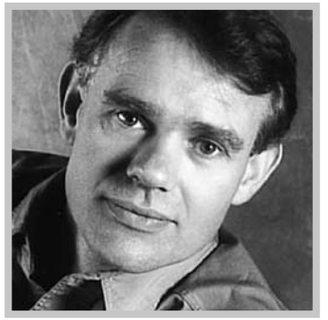
Hinir sterku, novel, 2005

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

Others' Thoughts

Hugsanir annarra, novel, 2002

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



PETUR GUNNARSSON (b.1947) is among the most widely acclaimed authors of his generation, writer of popular novels, poetry and essays.

*"Gunnarsson achieves the impossible, endowing the history of the universe, natural sciences, religion and philosophy – to name but a few – with such urbane wit and narrative verve that it becomes a delight to read ... **The Picture of the World** is in a class of its own."*

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Trilogy

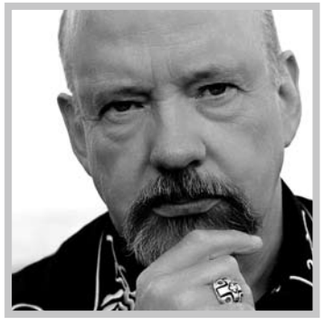
Picture of the World
The Way to Rome
The Mechanism of Time

Myndin af heiminum, 2000
Leiðin til Rómar, 2002
Vélar tímans, novels, 2004

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

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

Chapters in English available



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 1997. An adaptation for the stage premiered at The National Theatre in 1996 and the film right has been sold. Gunnarsson received the Icelandic Literary Prize for his novel, *The Axe and the Earth*, in 2004.

"Of all the contemporary Icelandic authors that German readers have had an opportunity to read in translation, Olafur Gunnarsson is the one who most obviously picked up the torch from his great colleague and predecessor Halldor Laxness. He also paints an impressive portrait of how contemporary social and economic changes have affected traditional Icelandic society."

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

Dark Roses

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 personnae 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.
In this book Gunnarsson paints a vibrant portrait of a period and a set of characters faces with the fundamental issues of integrity and ethics. 408 pp

Chapters in English available

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

The Axe and the Earth

Öxin og jörðin, 2003

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

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

Sold to:
Lithuania (Pasvires Pasaulis); France (Gaïa)
Film rights sold to:
Palomar Pictures, producer Joni Sighvatsson

Troll's Cathedral

Tröllakirkja, novel, 1992

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

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

Sold to: **UK (Mare's Nest); Germany (Steidl); France (Gaïa); The Czech Republic (Host)**

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)**

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**

OLAFUR JOHANN OLAFSSON

(b.1962) has carved out an unusually impressive career as a novelist. Formerly the president of Sony Interactive Entertainment, Olafsson is currently vice chairman of Time Warmer Digital Media. His books have all become best-sellers in Iceland.

Literary agent:
Marsh Agency
e-mail: Camilla@marsh-agency.co.uk

"... top-notch Nordic novelist, who may become that true rarity, an Icelandic Nobel Prize winner."

FORBES MAGAZINE

"An ambitious, harrowing collection."

LIBRARY JOURNAL

"There's not an ounce of fat on most of these stories; Olafsson is an admirably brisk, compelling narrator."

KIRKUS REVIEWS

Valentines

Aldingarðurinn, linked stories, 2006

A haunting collection of thematically linked stories that encompass the twelve months of a year, capturing the most candid moments between lovers, husbands and wives, parents and children, when truths and true feelings surge to the surface and everything changes. Olafsson's fans will recognize the perfect restraint and precision – and quick wit – with which he characteristically explores these dark epiphanies, when the heart is suddenly laid bare, whether by love or betrayal, disenchantment or regret, or the shock of loss. While their settings range from the East Coast to the West Coast, from Paris to Slovenia and Iceland, these contemporary stories probe the complexity of modern relationships over time. Each of the twelve stories reveals another element in the agonizing nature of passion, diminished and yet sustained over time. A powerful work of fiction from one of our most gifted and subtle international writers at work today. 288 pp

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 2006*
- *The O Henry Award 2008 for the short story April*

Sold to: **USA (Knopf)**

The Innocents

Sakleysingjarnir, novel, 2004

"... This is a wide-ranging novel which introduces a new perspective into Icelandic literature."

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Dagur Alfred, the protagonist of this book, a boy born on a door in the middle of the last century, recounts his incredible life and lets others decide whether he is innocent. Olafsson takes the reader on a phenomenal journey set against the backdrop of Iceland, England, India and the United States. Dagur Alfred carries the world on his shoulders and the individuals who meander into his life. The characters are complex and cut deeper than many first imagine. A powerful tale about human frailty, solitude, fate, love and nostalgia. The author's elegant style interweaves perfectly with this exciting plot, which is unravelled with great artistry and keeps the reader captivated from beginning to end. 555 pp

English translation available

Walking into the Night

Höll minninganna, novel, 2001

"Olafsson, a tremendous talent, has written an unforgettable novel."

THE BOSTON GLOBE

A powerful novel about an Icelander, Kristjan, who vanished from his family and friends one dark night and ended up as a servant to the American tycoon, William Randolph Hearst, at the end of the first World War. What possessed him to abandon his wife, children and blossoming company and the security of Reykjavik? How did he end up in the service of Hearst, the press magnate, on the Pacific Ocean?

An unforgettable study of human destiny, love, segregation, isolation, solitude and nostalgia. Stylishly written with vibrant characters. *Walking into the Night* was highly acclaimed by both readers and critics, and is currently being developed into a movie. 324 pp

Sold to:
USA (Pantheon); UK (Faber and Faber); Sweden (AlfabetaAnamma); Italy (Longanesi); The Netherlands (Nijgh en Van Ditmar); Israel (Modan); Italy (Longanesi); Russia (Azbooka); Serbia (RDP B92); Spain (RBA); Turkey (Can Yayinlari)

The Journey Home

Slóð fiðrildanna, novel, 1999

Olafsson weaves a powerful and moving story of Icelandic destiny into the turbulent history of Europe in the mid 20th century. For years Asdis Jonsdottir has run a smart country-house hotel in England but now she must confront the deceptions in her life – and the truth. She must return home – to the island she left 20 years before – in search of the life she turned her back on. 367 pp

- *Nomination for The IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2002*
- *A Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection*
- *Nominated as one of the 100 best novels of 2005 in the Netherlands by BOEK magazine*

Sold to:
USA (Pantheon, hardcover; Vintage, paperb.); UK (Faber and Faber); Germany (Knaus); Spain (RBA); Italy (Longanesi); France (Seuil); Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof); Sweden (AlfabetaAnamma); Israel (Modan); Portugal (Temas & Debates); China (Chongqing); The Netherlands (Nijgh & van Ditmar)
Film rights sold to: **Hollywood – Paloma Pictures**

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.

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

SIGRUN DAVIDSDOTTIR (b.1953)

is the author of a series of a popular range of cookery books as well as fiction. Her book for children, *Silfur Egils*, received The Reykjavik City Literary Award as the children's book of the year in 1989. She lives in London where she's a correspondent for Icelandic and foreign media.

"Davidsdottir´s narrative is well spun and few loose ends.
The book is confidently structured and the main strength lies in the fact
that the author manages to build up a great tension between the main characters,
arriving at a believable and sensual climax ...
***Uchronia** is a skilfully written novel and the characters are excellently depicted."*

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Uchronia

Feimnismál, novel, 2006

A young Icelandic photographer in New York is assigned to photograph the widow of one of the most famous photographers of our time. They seem to have little in common, other than the fact that they are both Icelanders living abroad. However, he is captivated by her age and experience, she by his youth and enthusiasm – and their fatherland and the Icelandic language turn out to create an unexpected bond between them.

Steeped in sensuality, *Uchronia* takes us on a complex erotic journey through life in New York, Paris, Naples and Iceland: food, betrayal and attachment are just some of the elements in this novel that explores the senses and sheds new light on the meaning of time, intimacy, nature and pleasure in the uncharted landscape of love, body and soul. 408 pp

Chapters in English available

SIGURBJORG THRASTARDOTTIR (b.1973) has a B.A. degree in comparative literature at the University of Iceland as well as a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. She works as a journalist for Morgunbladid newspaper alongside her work as a writer and poet.

*"The reader is deeply moved ... Thrastardottir here depicts the effects of gross abuse in a vivid, effective manner. **The Story of Sol** is a rewarding read for all those who love good fiction ... The reader is left with beautiful words and hope in his soul."*

STUDENTABLADID NEWSPAPER

"Compelling and impressive ... written with remarkable style and art."

JURY' ASSESSMENT

The Story of Sol

Sólar saga, novel, 2002

A young Icelandic girl living in Italy is brutally attacked and raped. The first person narrative of Sol (Sun) traces her ensuing search for herself as she collects the pieces of a shattered self-image in this highly unusual odyssey through one of Italy's most beautiful cities. 231 pp

- *Tomas Gudmundsson Literary Award 2002*

Chapters in English available

STEINAR BRAGI (b.1975) studied comparative literature and philosophy at the University of Iceland. His first published book was the poetry collection *Blackhole* in 1998. Since then he has sent forward a number of poetry books as well as novels. His first novel *The Tower* came out in 2000, followed by *Worrydolls* in 2002.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

White Mountain

Himinninn yfir Þingvöllum, three stories, 2009

Three young men. Three young girls. Three different worlds: Reykjavik, the French Alps and a oil rig that is suddenly left standing in the middle of a desert when the sea disappears. Despair looms everywhere in a deafening silence and profound solitude that lead to bizarre events and extremes.
In these three gripping stories, Steinar Bragi explores solitude and the longing to connect, the borderline between the human and inhuman, and the link between reality and the imaginary with the same sensitivity that he displayed in *Women* which was so warmly received by both readers and critics last year. 230 pp

One story available in English translation

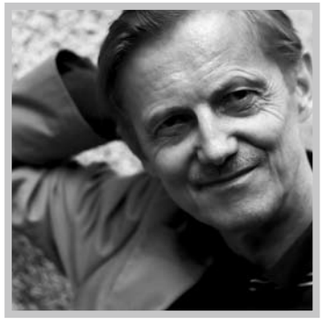
Women

Konur, novel, 2008

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

- *Nominated for the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award 2009*

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Verlag Antje Kunstmann); France (Métailié); Sweden (Natur & Kultur)



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.

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

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

A Notebook from Memory

Minnisbók, novel, 2007

Fourteen years would pass before Sigurdur Palsson 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 Palsson'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 synopsis and excerpt available

Night Lodging

Næturstaður, novel, 2002

The magnificent descriptions of nature and powerful characterizations prove irresistible to the reader as he is drawn into a narrative stream where past, present and future unite, spreading new and refreshing perceptions. 176 pp

Blue Triangle

Blár þríhyrningur, novel, 2000

The second of Sigurdur Palsson's novels, *Blue Triangle*, proves that the renowned poet has fully mastered his new medium. His purity of style and lively characters drive the plot, with scenes of true erotic beauty. 179 pp

"Full of magic, sharp insight and poetic imagery."

ICELANDIC NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

The Paris Wheel

Parísarhjól, novel, 1998

A novel that spans a summer in the life of a young Icelandic artist who is faced with great sorrow at the death of the person closest to him. A serious and sensual novel, where joy and grief are mingled with an adept sensitivity. 188 pp

STEINUNN JOHANNESDOTTIR

(b.1948) studied drama in Stockholm and worked as an actress for some years. *Gudridur's Journey* is her first novel. The book 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

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 Simonardottir, a young fisherman's wife and mother from the Westman Islands. Author Steinunn Johannesdottir 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, Hallgrimur Petursson, who eventually becomes the country's most celebrated hymnist. 499 pp

Sold to:
Germany (Wunderlich/Rowohlt); Norway (Engelstad)
English synopsis available and translation of two chapters.
One chapter available in Swedish, synopsis in French.

SVAVA JAKOBSDOTTIR (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. Jakobsdottir was also acclaimed as a playwright, literary scholar and a novelist.

"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 Jakobsdottir's most significant, most mature and greatest work to date, and one of the best and most noteworthy novels to appear in Iceland in recent years."

SV. SK. HOSKULDSSON, PROFESSOR OF ICELANDIC LITERATURE

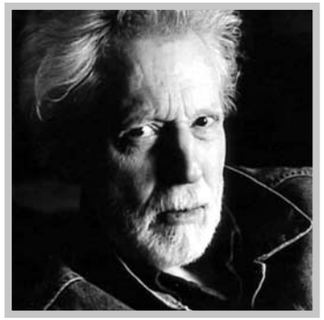
The Saga of Gunnlod

Gunnlaðar saga, novel, 1987

A young Icelandic woman is arrested in the National Gallery of Denmark for stealing a priceless gold urn. The police suspect she is either mad or a terrorist, but the woman herself claims she is just recovering her birthright – the gold urn containing the mead of poetic creativity which she, Gunnlod, guarded in ancient times, until it was stolen by the god Odin. The narrator is the woman's mother, who gradually comes to understand and appreciate the significance of her story. 196 pp

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

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



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

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

INROCKUPTIBLES

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Wreath

Sveigur, novel, 2002

In this novel, Thor Vilhjalmsson once more delves into that great magical treasure of the past: the 13th century classic, *Sturlunga Saga*. *The Wreath* paints a captivating picture of the life of a poet who is born a pauper, raised by monks, and later becomes retainer to a powerful chieftain, and witnesses the harshest civil war in Iceland in the 13th century. 207 pp

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2002*

Sold to:
France (Actes Sud); Italy (Iperborea)

Morning Verse in the Grass

Morgunþula í stráum, novel, 1998

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

- *The Icelandic Literary Prize 1998*

Sold to:
Sweden (Bra böcker); Denmark (Borgen/Vindrose); France (Actes Sud); Italy (Iperborea)
Chapters in English and a synopsis available

"Thor Vilhjalmsson 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 Vilhjalmsson at the height of his powers; his mastery of style and visual power merge well with the exciting narrative weaved out the sagas, recollections and consciousness of the Icelanders."

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Grey Moss Glows

Grámosinn glóir, novel, 1986

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

- *The Nordic Council Literary Prize 1988*

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

Killing in the Deep of Night

Náttvíg, novel, 1989

Love, death, the sea: the author interweaves these threads in a stirring story set in Reykjavik'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 Vilhjalmsson'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. He has tackled every genre; he is one of Iceland's most accomplished poets, has published countless children's books, written novels, collections of short stories and scripts and also worked as a translator.

★ ★ ★ ★

"Eldjarn's ingenius 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

Always the Same Story

Alltaf sama sagan, short stories, 2009

Always the Same Story contains eleven stories presenting a rich gallery of characters and wonders from the past, present and future. The stories feature a poetic speaking dog, an ancient Saab, a mysterious oaf, a lost hammer, a revolution in the population's sporting activities, haunted places and hardships. These are ingratiating stories in here for just about everyone. Thorarinn Eldjarn is a linguistic wizard who likes to play with his characters, ideas, words and, not least, the readers themselves: What's the man thinking of – or is it perhaps always the same story? 159 pp

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

"The story of the baron in Hvitarvellir is absolutely charming."

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

The Baron

Barónninn, historical novel, 2004

This gripping novel is based on the fantastic but true story of the tragic life of Baron Charles Gauldrée Boilleau, a mysterious French/American musician and son of a French diplomat, turned farmer and entrepreneur in remote and backward Iceland in 1898–1901.
Baron Boilleau was a multifaceted man and the book gives us a vivid portrait of the "belle époque" of the Euro-American bourgeoisie, and how a man's artistic aspirations and ideals of progress become shipwrecked once they hit the barren shores of a backward Icelandic society. Sophisticated, a cellist and composer, educated in a British boarding school and with a second home on the Italian Riviera, Boilleau tries to establish a dairy in Iceland at the turn of the 1900's. It can only lead to one thing: disaster. An exceptionally well written book by one of Iceland's most popular and respected authors of the past quarter-century. A book where the incredible is true, and the credible untrue. 309 pp

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

The Blue Tower

Brotahöfuð, historical novel, 1996

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

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

Sold to:
UK (Mare's Nest); Finland (Like);
France (Le Cavalier Bleu);
Denmark (Poul Kristensens Forlag)

"Gripping saga ... insistently memorable and intensely real."

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

THORUNN VALDIMARSDOTTIR

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

"An immensely well written novel. The storyline is woven from the finest emotions that make us human."

TMM LITERARY QUARTERLY

Cold Blood

Kalt er annars blóð, novel, 2007

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

• *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2007*

"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

Girl with a Finger

Stúlka með fingur, novel, 1999

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

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

Sold to:
Sweden (Publish America)

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

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

Quite Enough

Alveg nóg, novel, 1997

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

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

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

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

The Four Elements, Love Letter Service

Höfuðskepnur, ástarbréfaþjónusta, 1994

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

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

"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.

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Cargo Verlag)

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)

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)

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)

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

The Silence

Þögnin, novel, 2000

In *The Silence* Grimsdottir perhaps delves deeper than ever before, juxtaposing love and submissiveness against repression and folly in a context that makes it impossible for readers to shun their responsibilities. Linda's grandmother, who early on in her life decided to commit herself to silence, plays a major role in the young girl's upbringing and teaches her to appreciate art and culture, albeit in a truly novel way. The book starts as Linda returns to Iceland after a period of study in the United States to sit by her grandmother's death bed. She recalls her childhood and her relationship with her grandmother since her very infancy. 381 pp

VILBORG DAVIDSDOTTIR (b.1965)

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

*"Vilborg Davidsdottir has put plenty of effort into her historical and geographical research, which makes **The Raven** a very tangible and thought-provoking story ..."*

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

Audur

Auður, historical novel, 2009

Audur is set in the British Isles in the 9th century. As is the case in many of Vilborg'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 constantly 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

*"In **Magic** Davidsdottir skilfully weaves together a story of great destinies, personal as well as social. It seems to have been very well researched and the grimness of its social struggles is expressed with great clarity. A finely-honed narrative, this is an extremely well written novel."*

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

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 (btb)
Chapters in English available

Magic – A Novel

Galdur – skáldsaga, historical novel, 2000

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

Sold to:
Germany (btb)

THORBERGUR THORDARSON

(1888–1947) was a superb stylist who won a wide following with his humorous autobiographical writings. In 1924 Thorbergur Thordarson published *Letters to My Beloved* (*Bréf til Láru*), one of the most unusual prose works in Icelandic. In it he broke all the conventions about subject and language and established himself as one of the greatest Icelandic stylists.

Rights to Íslenzkur Aðall
Sold to: **Germany (S. Fischer Verlag)**

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

MARTIN SEYMOR-SMITH

VALUR GUNNARSSON (b.1976) divided

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

*"**The King of the North** is a thoroughly entertaining book, hilarious and interesting."*

VIDSKIPTABLADID NEWSPAPER

★ ★ ★

"A wonderful first book from this author."

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

King of the North

Konungur norðursins, novel, 2007

Ilkka Hämälainen is an unloved and overweight Helsinki shipcleaner, who silently and from afar adores a girl at the supermarket, and sometimes has strange dreams about leaving his own body. In a bout of depression Ilkka stows away on a ferry bound for Sweden, with the intention of becoming outrageously drunk. While he lies helpless in drunken stupor his body is occupied by an unscrupulous ghost which had been haunting the Baltic for a millennium. The ghost subtly takes control without Ilkka's knowing and sends him on a quest to the North in search of the necklace of Freyja, and the mighty sword of Freyr, which can even defeat Hel, the goddess of death. When hapless Ilkka finally succeeds in finding the sword the spirit uses it to cut the silver chord which connects his spirit with his body. Now Ilkka must go to Hel to get another chance at life and then retrieve his body. But does he really want to return to a world he never really liked to begin with? Partly set in 6th century Sweden and Finland, this original first novel is littered with allusions to the *Eddas*, as well as to the Finnish national epic, *The Kalevala*. 196 pp

Chapters in English available

The imprints of Forlagid publish works by many of Iceland's poets, such as

ARNI IBSEN | BJORN SIGURBJORNSSON | DIDDA | EINAR BRAGI | ELISABET JOKULSDOTTIR | EIRIKUR ORN NORDDAHL | GYLFI GRONDAL | GYRDIR ELIASSON HAUKUR INGVARSSON | HJORTUR PALSSON | ISAK HARDARSON JOHANNES UR KOTLUM | JON HELGASON | JON UR VOR | JONAS HALLGRIMSSON JONAS THORBJARNARSON | KRISTIN EIRIKSDOTTIR | KRISTJAN THORDUR HRAFNSSON | MATTHIAS JOHANNESSEN | PETUR GUNNARSSON | SIGTRYGGUR ELIASSON | SNORRI HJARTARSON | STEINN STEINARR | THORUNN VALDIMARSDOTTIR TOMAS GUDMUNDSSON | VIGDIS GRIMSDOTTIR | VILBORG DAGBJARTSDOTTIR

For further information please contact the foreign rights department.

POETRY

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

A Short Cut Round Death

Ég stytti mér leið framhjá dauðanum, poetry, 2006

A Short Cut Round Death is Gudmundsson's sixth collection of poems, in which the poet looks back to his origins in a powerful and candid way. 143 pp

Sold to:
Denmark (Vindrose/Borgen)

POETRY

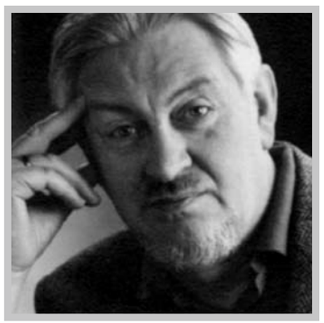
GERDUR KRISTNY (b.1970) proved herself as one of Iceland's most interesting poets with her first book, and has since then published poems in papers and magazines, in addition to her books of poetry.
Translations available in several languages.

Soft Spot

Höggstaður, poetry, 2007

Soft Spot is Gerdur Kristny's third book of poetry. Like in her earlier works her topics are many and multifold and span everything from the deepest emotion to playful observations about life and the living. The poet's voice is often razor-sharp and the imagery pointed. 47 pp

- *Nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize in 2007*



HANNES PETURSSON (b.1931) has long been hailed as one of the greatest Icelandic poets of the 20th century. Since the publication of his first collection of poems in *Kvaedabok* in 1955, at the young age of 23, the nation has welcomed his poetry with open arms. Few poets can poeticize with the same craftsmanship and confidence, both in traditional forms and freer verse. Petursson's poetry is also renowned for the force of its peculiar imagery.
He writes about human feelings in all its myriad of forms, and not least poetry about nature and the history of Iceland, which have won him the affection of the nation.
He has received many prizes for his writing, including the Icelandic Literary Prize in 1993.
Translations available in several languages.

HAUKUR MAR HELGASON

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

The Rain Sets Us Free

Rigningin gerir ykkur frjáls, poetry, 2009

In *The Rain Sets Us Free* Helgason takes stock of the "old Iceland" and engages in a provoking dialogue with the "new" country and the world around it. This isn't a perfect world, much of it is reminiscent of the thirteenth century and will be squashed when the oil runs out, something has to burn. Poems about politics, love, joy, anger and irritation and the rain which washes away stories and sins and sets us free. 54 pp

INGIBJORG HARALDSDOTTIR

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

JOHANN HJALMARSSON'S

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

LINDA VILHJALMSDOTTIR

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

Frost Butterflies

Frostfiðrildi, poetry, 2006

A collection of 30 poems, in which the poet senses the tangible closeness of her loved one, despite his distance, as he climbs the glacial slopes, and the spirit of the one who waits roams restlessly across the landscape, haunted by anxieties that seem to insinuate themselves everywhere, even under her sheets. The book, with its broad sweep of melancholy, bears a clear relation to older poems of similar type. 36 pp

SIGFUS DADASON (1928–1996) was one of Iceland's leading poets in the latter half of the twentieth century. He started writing at a time of great fermentation in the Icelandic literary and art world and was exposed to foreign contemporary influences at an early age. That exposure, in addition to a long spell in France where he studied literature, strongly influenced the formation of his poetry, which nonetheless always retained a very personal and original tone. Dadason was not a particularly prolific poet, but when his body of work is viewed as a whole in a single collection, one gets a clearer vision of the sheer variety of his output. This applies both to Dadason's choice of material and his treatment of it, which clearly sets him in a class of his own in the context of Icelandic poetry.

Poems 1947–1996

Complete works by Sigfus Dadason

Ljóð 1947–1996 – Heildarsafn ljóða

Sigfúsar Daðasonar, poetry, 2008

Poems 1947–1996 contains the complete body of Sigfus Dadason's work and was published on the 80th anniversary of his birth. The volume was compiled by Thorsteinn Thorsteinsson who also wrote the introduction. The book comes with a CD of the poet reading his own work, *Recordings 1985–1995*. 253 pp

SIGURBJORG THRASTARDOTTIR (b. 1973) has a B.A. degree in comparative literature at the University of Iceland as well as a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. She works as a journalist for Morgunbladid newspaper alongside her work as a writer and poet.
Translations available in several languages.

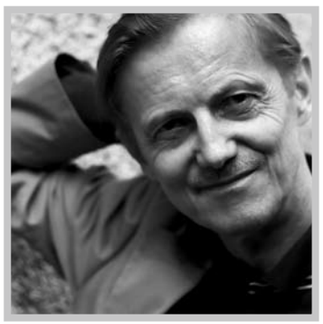
Candlelight Vigils

Blysfarir, poetry, 2007

Swedish translation available

Candlelight Vigils treads that thin line between poetry and a novel; the powerful verse moulds the tale of a poisoned relationship, white dragons on Icelandic summer nights, air tickets to hope, the beauty of grave yards and arms that try to connect as they're bleeding. A text of unusual magnetic power. 147 pp

- *Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize*

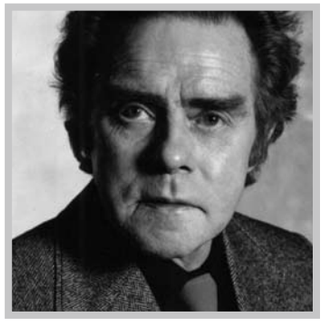


SIGURDUR PALSSON (b.1948) is one of Iceland's greatest poets, prose writers and playwrights. His numerous awards include the Icelandic Literary Prize for his book *Minnisbók* (Notebook) in 2007. *Poetry Energy Craving* is Palsson's fourteenth book of poetry.
Translations available in several languages.

Poetry Energy Craving

Ljóðorkuþörf, poetry, 2009

Poetry Energy Craving can be read as a poetic symphony in seven movements, each of which is made up of seven poems, although each piece stands as a separate poem in its own right. The book's form therefore reflects one of its main preoccupations, the connection between the individual and society, and the need for every individual to have a healthy relationship with himself. 104 pp



STEFAN HORDUR GRIMSSON

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

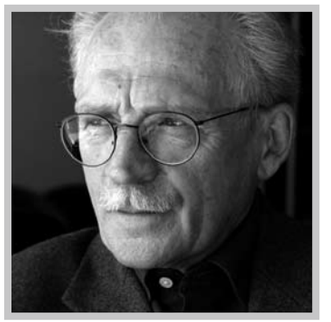
THORARINN ELDJARN (b.1949) is one

of Iceland's most admired authors and the recipient of many awards. He has tackled every genre; he is one of Iceland's most accomplished poets, has published countless children's books, written novels, collections of short stories and scripts and also worked as a translator. Translations available in several languages.

The Mountains Must Do

Fjöllin verða að duga, poetry, 2007

Eldjarn's style as a poet is witty and sharp, and he constantly takes the reader by surprise with novel connotations and ideas. Under the playful surface however, there is always a sombre undercurrent and even dark despair. The understated and subtle poems in this book are different in form and content, and yet they create a strong ensemble where the struggle of putting words to thoughts is the main theme. 95 pp



THORSTEINN FRA HAMRI (b.1938)

has long been established as one of the greatest poets in the Icelandic language. Ever since he published his first collection of poems in 1958, he has continued to shape and refine his style, and it is often said that he has been particularly successful at fusing old poetic traditions and contemporary devices into a modernist poetic language. Thorsteinn has also written several novels and stories, in addition to his translation work. He has received many awards for his writing, including the Icelandic Literary Prize in 1992. Translations available in several languages.

Each Word Is an Event

Hvert orð er atvik, poetry, 2008

Each Word Is an Event is the title of the latest collection of poems to come from national poet Thorsteinn fra Hamri and is the eighteenth collection to be published. Thorsteinn is a tireless, eloquent and poignant thinker, the poet who gives a voice to nature and history, the country and the life of its society. He writes poetry that strikes people in the heart, at times cruel and provocative, at others bitter-sweet and tender. *Each Word Is An Event* is a book that carries the echoes of history and the past, but also, at the same time, resonances of the contemporary world in which there is a burning need for this craft, pure poetry, to be savoured and cherished. 56 pp

ARNALDUR INDRIDASON

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

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

WOCHENBLATT BADEN/PFALZ, GERMANY

"European crime-writing at its best."

SYDSVENSKAN, SWEDEN

Black Skies

Svörtuloft, crime novel, 2009

A woman accused of blackmail is beaten to death practically under the noses of the police. The assailant manages to get away, but everything seems to indicate that he is a debt collector – hired by a respected member of society. Meanwhile a well-known criminal has been making repeated attempts to contact the police for reasons that are murky at best.

Arnaldur Indridason has been Iceland's most popular author for well over a decade. In his latest novel he picks up the thread from his previous books and once more reunites his readers with the familiar team of investigators at the Hverfisgata headquarters. Indridason's books have been translated into many languages and topped bestseller lists both in Iceland and abroad. 326 pp

Outrage

Myrká, crime novel, 2008

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/ Canada (Éditions Métailié); Norway (Cappelen); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books)

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

Hypothermia

Harðskafi, crime novel, 2007

- *Shortlisted for the Icelandic Booksellers' Literary Award 2007*
- *Nomination for the Glass Key – The Nordic crime Novel Award 2008*
- *The Drop of Blood – The Icelandic Crime Novel Award 2008*

Sold to:
UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/ Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); Sweden (Norstedts/Prisma); France/Switzerland / Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Finland (Blue Moon); Denmark (Rosinante); Norway (Cappelen)

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

The King's Book

Konungsbók, crime novel, 2006

1955. A young Icelander travels to Denmark for his studies and tracks down a fellow countryman and downtrodden old professor, who harbours a terrible secret: during the turmoil of the war years, he lost sight of a unique and priceless manuscript, which he had been entrusted with, the Codex Regius itself, the Poetic Edda – the age old relic of the Icelandic nation. Together, the professor and his disciple embark on an uncertain journey across Europe in a quest to recover this invaluable vellum manuscript; a treasure that some people are willing to die and kill for. This is an unusual and extremely exciting story about what can be sacrificed – and what must be sacrificed – for the greatest jewel of the ages. 363 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido)

Arctic Chill

Vetrarborgin, crime novel, 2005

- *Nomination for the Swedish Martin Beck Award 2007*
- *Shortlisted for the CWA International Dagger 2009*

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

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

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

THE TIMES

The Draining Lake

Kleifarvatn, crime novel, 2004

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

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

Sold to:
UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA/Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Signature); Sweden (Norstedts/Prisma); Czech Republic (MOBA); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Finland (Blue Moon); Denmark (Rosinante); Norway (Cappelen); Italy (Ugo Guanda)

Betty

Bettý, crime novel, 2003

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

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

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

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); Czech Republic (MOBA)

Voices

Röddin, crime novel, 2002

- *The Martin Beck Award 2005, Sweden*

Nominated in The Netherlands 2005 as:

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

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

Sold to:
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"A chilling read."

THE TIMES

Silence of the Grave

Grafarþögn, crime novel, 2001

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

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

Sold to:
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Film rights sold to: **Blueeyes Production**

*"**Jar City** keeps the reader captivated from the first page."*

DV NEWSPAPER

Jar City

Mýrin, crime novel, 2000

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

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

Sold to:
UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa (Random House/Harvill Secker); USA /Philippines (St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Querido); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Italy (Longanesi/Ugo Guanda); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (RBA Libros); Brazil (Editora Record); Portugal (Livraria Civilizaçao Editora); Finland (Blue Moon); Denmark (Rosinante); Sweden (Norstedts/Prisma); Norway (Cappelen); Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Bulgaria (Infodar); Croatia (Edicije Bozicevic); Czech Republic (MOBA); Hungary (Animus); Poland (WAB); Rumenia (Editura Historia); Slovenia (Didakta); Israel (Keter); Greece/Cyprus (Livanis Publishing); Turkey (Sinemis Yayınları); Estonia (Nynorden); Japan (Sony Magazine); China/Hong Kong/Singapure (People's Literature Publishing House); Taiwan (Crown); Korea (Younglim Cardinal Inc.); Russia (Corpus)

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

Operation Napoleon

Napóleonsskjölin, crime novel, 1999

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

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

Film rights sold to:
Pegasus Pictures
English synopsis available

Silent Kill

Dauðarósir, crime novel, 1998

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

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); Czech Republic (MOBA)

Sons of Earth

Synir duftsins, crime novel, 1997

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

Sold to:
Germany/SwitzerlandAustria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (Signature)
English synopsis available together with Reader's Report

ARNI THORARINSSON (b.1950) is a nationally renowned award-winning journalist and a media personality, besides being the author of several gripping crime novels.

"Thorarinsson sketches striking portraits of people and places in his new murder mystery set in the West Country."

STOD 2, NATIONAL TELEVISION

"Fine murder mystery."

KILJAN, NATIONAL TELEVISION

The Seventh Son

Sjöundi sonurinn, crime novel, 2008

Anticipation is hardly the word to describe the mood of Einar, a reporter for the Evening News, sent off to the remote West Fjords in midwinter to write about the local fishing industry. Before long, however, Einar's nose for news begins to twitch. After an old house in the centre of town burns down, suspicions of arson arise. While interviewing the building's owners, Einar only just avoids being run over by a mobile caravan driving by at top speed. Two other guests in town, a popular soccer player and his mate, disappear without a trace. When the mobile caravan is found outside of town, also gutted by fire and a grisly sight, Einar is up to his neck in a frightening sequence of events. This contemporary story of revenge, greed and alienation pulls no punches. Leading us, in the closing chapters, to one basic question that begs for an answer: What does it mean to be a victim? 376 pp

Sold to:
France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié)

★ ★ ★ ★

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

DV NEWSPAPER

"A future Stieg Larsson?"

BIBLIOSURF.COM

Sold to:
France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Éditions Métailié); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Droemer-Knaur); Spain/South America (Ediciones ámbar)

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

DPA, GERMANY

"Full of humour, vivacity and suspense."

LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR

- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2005*

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Film rights sold to:
Fridrik Thor Fridriksson/Spellbound Productions

Italian and Swedish translations available

Death of a Clown

Dauði trúðsins, crime novel, 2007

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

Season of the Witch

Tími nornarinnar, crime novel, 2006

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

Blue Moon

Blátt tungl, crime novel, 2001

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

The White Rabbit

Hvíta kanínan, crime novel, 2000

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

"Thorarinson is a leading crime author of today ... I do not hesitate to say that it is the best Icelandic novel to be published ... I wouldn't be surprised if it was successful abroad with foreign readers ..."

STRIK.IS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

FYENS STIFTSTIDENDE

The Night Has a Thousand Eyes

Nóttin hefur þúsund augu, crime novel, 1999

A murder is reported at the Airport Hotel and journalist Einar is hauled out of bed with a thundering hangover to get the scoop. By chance he overhears some things his colleagues do not know and finds himself the nation's source on this grisly crime. Einar is told to pursue the case further and he sets off. But he would have been better off to leave the case alone. A story that captures the reader right up to the final page. 202 pp

Sold to:
Denmark (Modtryk); Germany/ Switzerland/Austria (Butler und Kawohl)
English excerpt available

PALL KRISTINN PALSSON (b.1956) has worked as a journalist, editor and producer of documentaries. He is the author of several novels, short stories and film scripts, as well as two crime novels written in collaboration with Arni Thorarinsson.

The Passenger

Farþeginn, crime novel, 2006

When taxi driver Sigurdsson picks up company director Hjalmarsson in the centre of Reykjavik on an ice-cold New Year's day, a bizarre journey begins. What initially appears to be a coincidental encounter and lighthearted journey soon turns out to be a bitter reckoning with the past and the present. *The Passenger* is an unusual and well-paced thriller. 238 pp

"Excellent crime novel."

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

And God Created Murder

Í upphafi var morðið, crime novel, 2002

Kristrun is a young filmmaker working on a documentary called *"A Year in the Life of a Glacier"* when her mother is found dead by apparent suicide in their home. Police investigators, however, show that the mother was murdered. Before she realises, Kristrun has started investigating the case herself and hurles into a course of events that will soon shatter old certainties regarding her life. 268 pp

"A crime novel that grabs and holds your attention."

KASTLJOS, NATIONAL TV

"A distinguished psychological thriller."

DV NEWSPAPER

Film rights sold to:
Sagafilm

STEFAN MANI (b.1970) has already acquired a solid fan base of readers with books such as *Black's Move*, *The Ship* and *Memento Mori*, which were acclaimed for their suspense and power. *The Ship* received The Icelandic Crime Novel Award 2007 and was nominated for the Glass Key, The Nordic Crime Novel Award 2007.

"Stefan Mani is a genious at conjuring up images that involve all the senses..."
FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

*"**Black´s Move** is a powerful and merciless novel. ... Not for the faint-hearted."*
MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*"**The Ship** is a crazy roller-coaster ride, a truly magnificent piece of magical narrative which entangles the reader in a tightly woven net of premonitions, magic and adventure, drawing one into a reality from which there seems to be no escape."*
DV NEWSPAPER

Abyss

Hyldýpi, crime novel, 2009

Four young boys row out into a vast lake without permission. One of them falls overboard and is almost drowned. In the water he thinks he sees a blond and skinny naked girl with a shadow in her eyes who comes to him and hands him a black object. But the boy himself carries a darkness inside him that he will be fleeing in the decade ahead, a darkness that feeds on silence and fear and will one day reclaim him ...
Ten years later a peculiar thing happens: Two young people disappear on the same day: a boy and a girl. The boy is soon found, more dead than alive, but there is no trace of the girl. He decides to go searching for her but the trivial game soon turns into a bottomless abyss in a quest that is transformed into an endless nightmare...
In *Abyss* Stefan Mani once more displays his unique style and insights and the setting for his story is just as chilling as ever. 265 pp

Memento Mori

Ódáðahraun, crime novel, 2008

Odinn R. Elsuson, a hardened criminal, finds himself one day in the possession of a mysterious undelivered letter. The letter opens the doors for Odinn into the world of finance and share trading, and before he knows it the king of the underworld is waging war with the country's leading capitalists. Unafraid to make use of various tricks and ruses, Odinn is an instant success, and for a while looks set to become one of the richest and most influential men of his day. The last of the giants of Icelandic legend, who will stop at nothing where money and power are concerned. *Memento Mori* is Stefan Mani's eighth novel, following in the wake of *The Ship*, which was among the best-selling works of 2006 in Iceland. In this book, the underworld and the financial world merge to form the setting for a gripping tale straight out of Icelandic reality. A hard-hitting thriller that keeps the reader enthralled from beginning to end. 296 pp

Sold to:
Denmark (Gyldendal)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DV NEWSPAPER

"A truly thrilling story"
H MAGAZINE

"The real mastery of this novel is how the author manages to spin many literary genres into a tightly woven web from which it is impossible for the readers to wriggle out of until the very last page."
ICELANDIC STATE TELEVISION

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Film rights sold to: **Zik Zak Filmworks**

The Ship

Skipið, crime novel, 2006

Stormy clouds clutter the sky and lightning shakes the heavens as the freighter Per se pulls out of Grundartangi harbour and starts its long journey towards South America. There is a crew of nine aboard, most of them with some kind of agenda. The atmosphere on the ship is fraught with suspicion, menace and hostility and once communication has been lost with the outside world, evil seems to take over. A tremendously exciting thriller that'll make even the most hardened reader break out in cold sweat. *The Ship* is a crazy roller-coaster ride, a truly magnificent piece of magical narrative, which entangles the reader in a tightly woven net of premonitions, magic and adventure, drawing one into a reality from which there seems to be no escape. 432 pp

Tourist

Túristi, crime novel, 2005

A large sailing ship is in difficulties off a rocky coast in the depths of winter. The sailors struggle to beat off the ice and say their prayers, all that is, except one man: lashed to the mainmast he curses the world, the Lord and life itself. And he is the only survivor. Four hundred years later the world is waiting for him to take the stage ... 294 pp

"... Stefan Mani is a genius at conjuring up images that involve all the senses ... The author's references to literature, mythology and especially heavy metal are brilliantly woven into the story."

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

Black's Move

Svartur á leik, crime novel, 2004

This story has all the tension of the best thrillers, but at the same time the depth, substance and force of literary fiction. Set in contemporary Reykjavik, it is about Stefan, a young man from the countryside who works in a bar and seems a little wet behind the ears. By an unexpected twist of fate, a weird tale about a kilo of cocaine and a bunch of shady characters, he gets sucked into an incredible, breathtaking course of events, partly based on recent Icelandic crime history. And all of a sudden Stefan turns out to be not as wet behind the ears as he seemed. 548 pp

Filmrights sold to:
ZikZak

STELLA BLOMKVIST

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

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

DV NEWSPAPER

Murder in Rockville

Morðið í Rockville, crime novel, 2006

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

Murder in the Supreme Court

Morðið í Hæstarétti, crime novel, 2001

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

Murder on Television

Morðið í sjónvarpinu, crime novel, 2000

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

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

Murder in the Drowning Pool

Morðið í Drekkingarhyl, crime novel, 2005

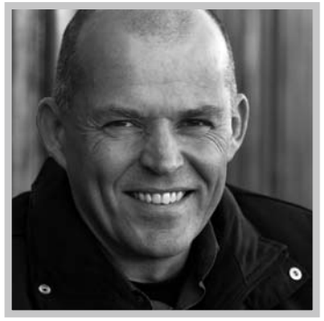
One day in late summer, German tourists find a corpse in the Drowning Pool in Oxara river. The body proves to be that of a young Kurdish girl. Her Middle Eastern descent immediately gives rise to the suspicion that the murder is a crime of honour. 278 pp

Murder in Parliament

Morðið í Alþingishúsinu, crime novel, 2002

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

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



VIKTOR A. INGOLFSSON (b.1955)

is one of Iceland's most accomplished crime fiction authors. Ingolfsson's novel, *No Trace*, was nominated for the Glass Key – the Nordic Crime Novel Award in 2001 and *The Flatey Enigma* was nominated for the same prize in 2004 – a bestseller for weeks in Germany as well as *Daybreak*, published in 2005.

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

DV NEWSPAPER

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

NDR, GERMANY

Sunna's Candlesticks

Sólstjakar, crime novel, 2009

Seated in the office of the Icelandic embassy in Berlin is a dubious tycoon. His entrails are protruding and a razor sharp hunting knife has been planted in his stomach. He's dead. On the previous evening he had been the guest of the ambassador along with six other Icelandic men and the ambassador's wife. Who wanted this man out of the way? And how did the knife slip through the Nordic Embassies' building tight security?
Birkir Li Hinriksson, Gunnar Mariuson and Anna Thordardottir are dispatched to Berlin to start the murder investigation. But despite the confined scene of the crime and the very few actors involved, the case turns out to be quite complex and rooted in the distant past. The Icelandic police team urgently need to dig up everything they can to prevent others from meeting the dead man's fate.
This is the same team that solved the riddle of Ingolfsson's Daybreak, which formed the basis for the popular Icelandic *Man Hunt* television series. 286 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"A tremendous crime novel."

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

"Really entertaining."

LAUSITZER RUNDSCHAU, GERMANY

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); Czech Republic (Moba)
Film rights sold to:
Reykjavik Films for the popular Icelandic Man Hunt television series
Chapters in English available

"... A marvelous book that completely fulfills the reader´s expectations."

WWW.KRIMI-COUCH.DE

- *Nomination for The Glass Key, The Nordic Crime Novel Award 2004*

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); Czech Republic (Moba)
Film rights sold to:
Reykjavik Films
Danish translation available
Chapters in English available

- *Nomination for The Glass Key, The Nordic Crime Novel Award 2001*

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); Czech Republic (Moba)

Daybreak

Afturelding, crime novel, 2005

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

The Flatey Enigma

Flateyjargáta, crime novel, 2002

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

No Tracks

Engin spor, crime novel, 1998

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

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

For further information please write to:
The Fund for Icelandic Literature
Austurstræti 18 | 101 Reykjavik | Iceland
Phone +354 552 8500
bok@bok.is | www.bok.is

Iceland will be Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2011. This will provide a unique opportunity to present Icelandic literary culture to the book world as a whole.

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