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

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ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON
(b.1973) has won the Icelandic Literary Prize for both fiction, children’s book and non-fiction. His work has been published or performed in over thirty countries and has received numerous international awards, amongst them the Janusz Korczak Honorary Award, the French Grand Prix de l’Imaginire and the Kairos prize awarded by the Alfred Toepefer Foundation to outstanding individuals. Magnason has been active in the fight against the destruction of the Icelandic Highlands. andrimagnason.com

“Well written, honest, and loosely connected stories form a strong whole.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

Sleep My Love
Sofðu ást mín, short stories, 2016

A dodgy childhood friend and a Tyrannosaurus Rex, a trapped bee in the highlands of Iceland, a desperate search for a new word for love, Duran Duran, birdsong, titillating romantic rendezvous in strange hotels … all this and much more in seven new short stories by Andri Snaer Magnason that come from different angles but share a strong sense of love and time.

Twenty years ago Andri Snaer published a very popular collection of short stories, and now we have a new collection by this unique voice of Icelandic literature. 139 pp

“Each story in the collection possesses its own character and strength, moving the reader with sensitivity, each releasing its hold at precisely the right moment.”

BOKMENNTIR.IS

Two stories available in German, one story available in English
Love Star

Love Star, novel, 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

- Special citation, Philip K. Dick Award 2013, USA
- The Icelandic Booksellers’ Prize 2002
- DV Cultural Prize for Literature
- Nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize 2002
- 2016 Grand Prix de l’Imaginaire
- Selected as one of five Orwellian dystopias of the 21st century by TheConversation.com
- Selected as 1 of the 10 most interesting novels of 2016, by Huffington Post
- Ted speaker-recommended book of the year 2017

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Verlagsgruppe Lübbe); World English (Seven Stories Press); Hungary (Gondolat Kiadó); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Zulma); Québec (Alto); Japan (Tokyo Sogensha); Egypt (Al Arabi); Turkey (Final Yayıncılık); Brazil (Morro Branco); Portugal (Bertrand); Korea (Booklog); Macedonia (Ikona); Norway (Bokvennen); Albanian Minority of Macedonia (Skhupi); Serbia (Presing)

English translation available
ALFRUN GUNNLaugsdottir
(b.1938) has authored numerous novels and short stories. She has won a number of commendations for her writing, including three nominations for the Nordic Council Literature Prize and two for the Icelandic Literary Prize. She won the Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize for her novel Ran, as well as The DV Cultural Prize for Literature.

“... powerful family drama ... a book filled with deep wisdom
...Difficulties in communication, silence, and disconnect
can have consequences beyond death and the grave.”

Kvennabladid

Sacrificial Games
Fórnarleikar, novel, 2016

“He picked up the bike and was off in a flash, the moment of freedom gone and perhaps never to return again. No more sun, no more earth or this feeling of being at one with it. A light breeze caressed his cheek. He was on his way to repetition, towards that to which he was bound and what must be done every day. He was on the way home. Total uncertainty ahead.”

Having found a dusty cassette tape filled with interesting material in his attic, Magni decides to use it as the basis for a novel. What follows are stories about his ancestors. The son of a local wholesaler who has a passion for cycling. His mother, who keeps a firm hand on everyone and everything. The young woman who travels the country in search of love. But the world doesn’t stop turning just because Magni’s head is stuck in the past. There’s still love and life all around him. In Sacrificial Games, Alfrun Gunnlaugsdottir tells the story of five generations, poignantly revealing how decisions and coincidences can color relationships between husbands and wives, or parents and children. 216 pp
Channels of Memory
Siglingin um síkin, novel, 2012

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

• Nominated for the DV Prize for Literature 2012

A Girl Named Ran
Rán, novel, 2008

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

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

• Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2008
• The DV Cultural Prize for Literature, 2008
• The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize, 2009

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

VIDSJA, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE
ARI JOHANNSESSON is a specialist in internal medicine and works at the National University Hospital of Iceland. He was awarded the Tomas Gudmundsson Literature Prize in 2007 for the poetry book Ash Wednesday. Vital Signs is his first novel.

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

“...a story about friendship, responsibility and vanity
...a story about disaster – natural disaster, social disaster and personal disaster. ...important questions are raised. The essential questions.”
THE ICELANDIC NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

Vital Signs
Lífsmörk, novel, 2014

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

Solvi Oddsson is a young anaesthetist, at the intensive care unit of the National University Hospital of Iceland, highly valued by his colleagues and patients alike. He devotes himself to his work, always eager to take an extra shift, but growing distant from his wife and children in their designer-branded home in Gardabaer. Little by little, the pressure starts to take its toll, and as the boundaries between relieving and inflicting pain begin to break down; something has to give.

282 pp

“...an eventful and captivating story, cleverly plotted and skilfully written.”
VESTEINN OLAISON, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND
Glaesir has experienced much. He fights a tough battle with himself and, alone and abandoned, takes stock of his life and his bleak destiny. On his own in a dark cowshed he recites his life story to himself, its hopes and betrayals, honour and shame, loneliness, and utter misfortune. His story is connected with political conflicts and a struggle for power. But who is this character whose past is such a tragedy – is he of this world or another, a monster, or an ogre – or perhaps just a wretched animal? Only the old nanny suspects the truth about Glaesir.

In his novel, Armann Jakobsson demonstrates an original take on our literary heritage and folk tales, with this account of an old man who turned into a ghost, unable to create, only to destroy. Glaesir – A Study in Evil is at once eventful, dramatic and sparkling with humour, but above all brimming with emotion. 204 pp

Fractals
Brotamynd, novel, 2017

A young journalist undertakes an investigation into the life of physician, revolutionary politician and entrepreneur Herdis Palsdottir to find out why this formidable woman bequeathed her house to an unrelated teenager from the United States, along with a large share in her husband's company.

The truth about Herdis proves elusive but the search concerns the different opportunities and choices facing different generations of Icelanders and the potential people have to shape their own destiny. At the same time, the connections between the investigator and subject start getting complex, and the question is no longer only who Herdis was and what influenced her actions, but also how the biographer can best be faithful to her subject. 286 pp

Glaesir – A Study in Evil
Glæsir, novel, 2011

Armann Jakobsson (b.1970) is professor of medieval literature at the University of Iceland. He has published extensively on old Icelandic literature and culture in various journals and authored several scholarly books. Fractals is his fourth novel.
ARNI THORARINSSON (b.1950) is a nationally renowned award-winning journalist and media personality. He has written several gripping crime novels and two TV scripts, one of which was nominated to The Edda Award (best television script of the year 2002). Thorarinsson was the editor of Mannlif magazine and has also been on the board of the Reykjavik Film Festival as well as a member of several panels of judges at international film festivals.

“Unforgettable characters that wrestle with an unbearable fate. Masterfully written.”
ARNI MATTHIASSON /MORGUNBLADID

“Here Arni Thorarinsson shows a new side where his mastery of narrative skills is displayed to the full. A gripping story.”
KATRIN JAKOBSDOTTIR, FORMER MINISTER OF CULTURE

The Crime - a Love Story
Glæpurinn – ástarsaga, novel, 2013

“She will try, against the odds, to keep her promise. He doubts that the truth will set them free. Frida insists the secret that shattered their lives will be revealed.

Arni Thorarinsson strikes out on a new path in his writing career with this novel, a chiselled and haunting story about twenty-four fateful hours in the life of a family. 152 pp

- Prix des Lecteurs at the Festival du Polar de Villeneuve - Lez - Avignon

Sold to: France/ Switzerland/ Luxembourg (Métailié); Armenia (Guitank)
Chapters in English available
AUDUR JONSDOTTIR (b.1973) is one of the most accomplished authors writing in Icelandic today. Four of her books have been nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize, and it was awarded to her for the superb novel *The People in the Basement*, for which she was also nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2005.

jonsdottir.com

“A poignant and riveting novel, without doubt one of the best books of the year ... an effortlessly beautiful ebb and flow between thought and reality, past and present... ”

*MORGUNBLADID DAILY*

“A complex family drama as well as a mystery novel that thoroughly develops the theme of what it’s like to be unable to trust your own mind and body.”

*BOKMENNTIR.IS*

**Grand Mal**

Stóri skjálfti, novel, 2015

Saga comes to after an epileptic seizure on a sidewalk along busy Miklabraut Street; her three-yearold son is gone. The last thing that she remembers is a double-decker bus that no one else confirms seeing. Over the following days, Saga’s mind is beset by memories and doubts. What happened before her seizure? Who can she trust? And how can she make any sense of her emotions when her memory is so fragmented?

Audur Jonsdottir’s novels have aroused interest in Iceland as well as abroad for their rare blend of incisive candor and humor. *Grand Mal* is a haunting and exciting story that bears all of the author’s best hallmarks. 298 pp

- *The Icelandic Booksellers’ Prize*
- *Nominated for the DV Cultural Prize for Literature 2015*
- *Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2015*
- *RUV Writers Fund Prize*

Sold to: World English (Dottir Press); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb/RandomHouse); Hungary (Gondolat Kiado)

Film rights sold to: Ursus Parvus

Chapters in English available
“I am struck speechless over this intricate, beautiful, and funny story. I therefore simply echo my colleagues and say: A delight and a gem and a piercingly beautiful book!”

**FRETTABLADID DAILY**

“This is what women’s literature should be like. Full of humour, consideration, warmth, and variously vulnerable, but lovely, women.”

**VIKAN MAGAZINE**

Secretaries to the Spirits

Ósjálfrátt, novel, 2012

One day Eyja wakes up in a small fishing village, married to a drunkard twenty years her senior. They live in a red area, just a stone’s throw from the ruins of the houses that a recent avalanche destroyed, killing nineteen people. Strong and determined women on her mother’s side decide to get the young woman away from her newly acquired husband and send her off to another country in the company of a skiing heroine for whom the word capitulation does not exist. Fifteen years later Eyja wakes up in the same place, but this time she is back to writing in order to get a grip on the past, the fiction in life, her family, and what it means to be a writer.

An interesting, funny, extraordinarily intricate and intimate story of family relations that can be so very bitter, of love that can be so painfully difficult, a story on writing, on what it takes to write a book, about all the stories life gives us and that we must prevent from falling into oblivion. 384 pp

- Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2013
- Nominated for the DV Cultural Prize for Literature 2012
- The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize 2012
- Selected one of the Best Books of the Year 2015 by Litteratursiden.dk, Denmark
- Nominated for the French Lire en Poche Award 2018

Sold to: Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb/RandomHouse); Denmark (Tiderne Skifter); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Presses de la cité); Albania (Ejal Albania); Lebanon (Arabic Scientific Publishers)

Chapters in English available
Sunna is shocked when she learns that the police are searching for one of her old friends. Memories from her student days in Barcelona haunt her and make it difficult to focus on the pre-Christmas rush at the publishing house where she works or the crime fiction writing course she is supposed to be directing. When Sunna realizes that three mysterious men are following her around it seems as if her life is turning into a crime thriller. 255 pp

“Wintersun”
Vetrarsól, novel, 2008

“One of the best novels of the year.”
MORGUNBLADÍÐ DAILY (ON SECRETARIES TO THE SPIRITS)

“Jonsdottir is a great humourist – this is a very funny book in parts, it is also ironical and extremely lyrical … This is Jonsdottir’s most mature work and certainly marks the highlight of her career so far.”
KILJAN NATIONAL TV (ON SECRETARIES TO THE SPIRITS)

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

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb/Random House);
The Netherlands (Querido)

Film rights sold to:
Silja Hauksdottir (producer)

Chapters in English available
Deposit
Tryggdarpantur, novel, 2006

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

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2006

The People in the Basement
Fólkið í kjallaranum, novel, 2004

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

- The Icelandic Literary Prize 2004
- Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2005
BJORG MAGNUSDOTTIR (b.1985) is a Political Science graduate with a Master’s degree in Applied Cultural Studies from the University of Iceland. Magnusdottir has worked as a journalist, chairwoman of the Student Council of the University of Iceland, promoter, and project manager, among other things. She currently works as a reporter for the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service. Magnusdottir is a columnist and has written for widely read online publications.

“...biting humour...”
DV DAILY

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

Not This Type
Ekki þessi típa, novel, 2013
A book about young women in Iceland. That are a little whacky. That have tons of opinions. Of course, they also get in crazy trouble. Otherwise nothing would be happening. They are definitely going somewhere...although they don’t know where exactly. Some of it slightly exaggerated. Some not. Some is ridiculous and some is just plain funny. 351 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Suhrkamp)

This Type
Þessi típa, novel 2014
Spring is in the air in Reykjavik, with all the accompanying anticipation. An onslaught from an ex-boyfriend unsettles Bryndis, Regina gets a long-awaited promotion, Inga plans her big day with the help of a manic wedding blogger, and Tinna goes home with a man who sleeps on a rubber sheet.
But their lives do not revolve around men. Their friendship is stretched and strained, sexualities redefined, principles broken, identities strengthened, and the country dance attended. Sometimes there are tears, but more often screams of laughter. 261 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Suhrkamp)
I don’t know how long we had been lying asleep on the rug when the buzzing woke us up. “Have you ever seen so many flies?” Kristin asked, trying to wave them away. “Those aren’t flies,” I said. “They’re full stops to end the poems I plan to write for you.”

A young man moves to Reykjavik just before the economic crisis and becomes a participant in a childhood friend’s unusual project. At the same time he falls in love with Kristin. Life is poetic, every moment is a composition. The Last Confession of Love is a beautiful, funny and exciting novel about love, art and life. 240 pp

- Shortlisted for European Union Prize for Literature 2016

The Last Confession of Love
Síðasta ástarjátningin, novel 2016

DAGUR HJARTARSON (b.1986) has previously published several poems and stories; he has been awarded the Tomas Gudmundsson Poetry Prize and the Icelandic Literature Center’s Newcomer’s Grant as well as the Jon ur Vor poetry prize. The Last Confession of Love is his first novel and with it he takes his place amongst Iceland’s most interesting writers.

... a beautifully written book, full of speculations, depression, humour, fragments of poetry, and love.”
FRETTABLAÐID DAILY

“This is an entertaining book with a diverse plot ... In its simplicity it’s the most beautiful thing I’ve read for a long time.”
ORD UM BÆKUR, ICELANDIC BROADCASTING SERVICE

“... ironic and poignant.”
LESLIBRAIRES.CA

Sold to: World French (La Peuplade)
Chapters in English available
EINAR KARASON
(b.1955) is a novelist and one of the most popular author and
scriptwriter of his generation; best known for his *Devils’ Isle
trilogy*. His novel *Fury* (2009) was nominated for the Nordic
Council Literature Prize and awarded the Icelandic Literary
Prize. Foreign publishers showed tremendous interest in his
latest novel *Storm Birds* at the recent London Book Fair, and
the rights have already been sold in several countries.

“An incredible reading experience, and
the book does exactly what great literature
is supposed to do: it changes you.”
GUDMUNDUR ANDRI THORSSON, WRITER

Storm Birds
Stormfuglar, novel, 2018

Thirty-two men aboard the side trawler Seagull,
with a ship full of redfish are hit by a major storm
just as they prepare to turn for home; the sea is
cold enough to kill a man, and the trawler quickly
ices up in the biting frost and violent tempest. The
heavy icing weighs down the already fully-laden
craft, which is pummelled by one breaker after
another — and here, out on the open sea, there is
no exit route. From the fishing grounds around
them can be heard distress signals from other
ships in the same situation. It is a battle of life and
death.
A dramatic story about the desperate struggle of a
group of Icelandic fishermen against the ruthless
forces of nature. 124 pp

“*A masterpiece from hell!*”
ROY JACOBSEN

Sold to: World English (MacLehose Press);
Brazil (Intrínseca); China (China Booky);
Czech Republic (Albatros); Faroe Islands
(Sprotin); France (Grasset); Germany
(RandomHouse, btb); Hungary (Magvető);
Egypt (Al Arabi); Poland (Jagiellonian
University Press); Italy (Einaudi); Sweden
(Thorén & Lindskog)

English translation available
The Sturlungs Clan Quartet: 
A Gathering of Foes - Fury - Poet - Age of Terror 
THE GODFATHER OF THE 13TH CENTURY

The Age of the Sturlungs, named after the most powerful viking clan, was the bloodiest and most violent chapter in the Icelandic history marking the end of the viking era.

Age of Terror
Skálmöld, novel 2014

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

Though Age of Terror is the fourth book published in Karason’s series on the Sturlungs, chronologically it precedes the others: here you have the events leading up to a civil war that brought conflagration and bloodshed to Iceland. Karason has previously dealt vividly with the main events of the 13th century in his books Gathering of Foes, Fury and Poet: he has untangled plots and family trees, peered into the minds of both the exalted and the low-born, and examined history from an unusual viewpoint.

But the motivation for all these events is here at the start – it is the ambition and pride of fallible people.

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

“Mature writing talent and a rare honour in our time.”
FRETTABLADID DAILY

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

Film rights sold to:
Fridrik Thor Fridriksson/Spellbound Productions
Available in English
Poet
Skáld, historical novel, 2012

It’s the summer of 1276. Sturla Thordarson is in residence in his home at Stadarholl and has just finished recording the incident at Flugumyri, where people had been burned alive in their homes, when he is summoned to immediately present himself at the court of Magnus the Law-Mender, King of Norway. Sturla reluctantly sets off with two other Icelandic chieftains, Hrafn Oddsson and Thorvardur Thorarinsson, but the three associates suffer damages to their ship in a storm off the coast of the Faroe Islands, forcing them to endure the winter there. This long delay gives Sturla cause to recollect the treacherous events of the past 40 years and perceive them in a new context. In this novel Karason gives voice to the poet himself who presents the reader with his experience of this riotous medieval period and shows us his innermost thoughts. 236 pp

Available in English

Fury
Ofsi, historical novel, 2008

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

• The Icelandic Literary Prize 2009
• Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2010

Available in English

A Gathering of Foes
Óvinafagnaður, historical novel, 2001

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

Available in English

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

Film rights sold to:
Fridrik Thor Fridriksson/Spellbound Productions

Available in English
Passion Psalms
Passíusálmarnir, novel, 2016

It’s not easy being caught in the grasp of a writer; to suddenly become a character in a work of fiction where everything is more or less exaggerated, if not completely turned on its head. Many people know Einar Karason’s story of Eyvindur Jonsson, a.k.a. “Storm”, who lived in Denmark for several years and was described as a rather dubious character. That narrative was so distorted and full of misinformation that it needs to be put right. The truth will out.

This time Storm takes to the podium, explains his side of the story, and rights wrongs. The author also expresses his point of view and offers comments, and so do Storm’s friends and family. All this is for the benefit of the readers, for their information – or at least for their entertainment. An incomparable read and play on the structure of the novel – Eyvindur Storm and Einar Karason join hands to create a fantastic and intricate comedy. 211 pp

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

Storm
Stormur, novel, 2003

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

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

Sold to:
Norway (Cappelen); Denmark (Gyldendal); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb/Random House); Russia (Fluid); Azerbaijan (Alatoran)
Killian’s People

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

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

“Karason’s most prominent stylistic trait is his feeling for different voices.”

BOKEN MAGAZINE, BO AXELSSON

“He is an Icelandic Erskine Caldwell or William Faulkner - Karason is a genial storyteller, and has already won himself a place in the literary history of Iceland and the Nordic countries.”

BOKMENNTIR.IS

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

Par 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 (Arting); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Eichborn/Die andere Bibliothek/Paperback rights: Random House/btb); Poland (Marpresse/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.
“For the last few days the mountain has called to me, or more correctly, summertime on the mountain.”

Thus begins Haraldur’s tale of a summer long ago when he went to Norway to work, intending then to travel around Europe, perhaps further; to have adventures and get to know the world – an emerging poet thirsty for life experience. But he fails to account for love, which changes everything entirely...

Snapshots is a travel story, a romance, and a coming of age novel – what better way to grow up than via exotic places, people, and feelings? Here is simmering humanity and seething youth, larger-than-life characters, entertaining stories, grim fate – Einar Mar Gudmundsson weaves all of this into the magic web of his renowned artistry. The story springs from a fertile world of storytelling; from the same earth as the award-winning classic Angels of the Universe, and the family trilogy Footprints in the Heavens, Dreams on Earth and Nameless Roads. With Snapshots, this world continues to grow. 279 pp

Sold to: Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof); France (Zulma)

“The easygoing narration is crafted in a particularly fun manner....“

MORGUNBLADID
“Yet again Einar Mar Gudmundsson demonstrates his outstanding eloquence and joy in narration ... While there is grandeur in Gudmundsson’s style, humour always has a secure place too.”

DAGBLADENES BUREAU, DENMARK

Dog Days
Hundadagar, novel, 2015

Dog Days is a story about people, Icelandic and foreign; about places, familiar and strange; about ideas, good and bad; about events, unimportant and momentous; about ambition, trouble, failure, and weakness; about men who reach for the stars and across the globe, too; about love and passion—about the threads that bind the ages together. Drawing on source material about Jørgen Jórgensen, the so-called “Dog Days King” of Iceland, Reverend Jon Steingrimsson, the “Pastor of Fire” who experienced the Laki volcanic eruption firsthand, and others from bygone eras, this sparkingly entertaining novel travels far and wide through time and space. Historical facts have their place, but the creative muse is close at hand, as is the joyful spirit of storytelling that leads the reader on an adventure through the past.

342 pp

- The Icelandic Literary Prize 2015
- 21st Century Best Foreign Novels 2016, China
- Zou Taofen Foreign Novel of the Year 2016, China

“Gudmundsson is a born storyteller ... a masterpiece!”

POLITIKEN, DENMARK

Sold to: Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof); Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb/Random House); Mainland China (People’s Literature Publishing House)
**“Wonderful book about kings of all shapes and sizes.”**

IAL FOR DAMERNE

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**Icelandic Kings**

Íslensk kónrar, novel, 2012

The Knudsen clan has ruled Tangavik for more than two centuries. They have built herring factories, warehouses, and shops, sat on the town council, owned factories, boats, fishing ships, freezing plants, conducted brass bands, choirs, and women's associations. The Knudsen clan has built empires and lost them. It has disappeared and then reappeared, been both immensely popular and detested, and everything in between. The Knudsen clan in Tangavik is a colourful and party-loyal family with hard-working shipowners, dutiful bank managers, boozy shop owners, popular MPs, feisty beauty queens, and even loveable village idiots. The narrator is a former pupil of Arnfinnur Knudsen, one of the clan's most impressive members of all time, and one of the most colourful characters in fiction.

Einar Mar tackled the Icelandic economy in his last two poetical essay-stories, The White Book and Zero, Bank Street. Now he deals with the country’s upper class with great wit and humour. 256 pp

- Prix Littérature-monde 2018

Sold to: Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof); Sweden (Natur och Kultur); Norway (Cappelen Damm); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (btb/Random House); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Zulma)

Chapters in English available

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

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

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“*Brilliantly fun.*”

WEEKENDAVISEN, DENMARK
The Beatle Manifesto
Bitlaávarpið, 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

Angels of the Universe
Englar alheimsins, novel, 1993

The story tackles the torment of psychiatric illness as experienced by the central character, who narrates his whole life from birth to death, as he gradually succumbs to the terrors of mental illness and the equally horrific treatment applied to its sufferers. Despite the air of tragedy that 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 Literature Prize 1995
- The DV Cultural Prize for Literature 1994

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

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

Sold to:
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Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Greenland (Atuakkiorfik); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser/Paperback rights: btb); UK (Mare’s Nest); The Netherlands (De bezige bij); Italy (Iperborea); Lithuania (Tyto Alba); France (Flammarion); Portugal (Canguru); USA (St. Martin’s Press); The Czech Republic (Odeon); Poland (Tower Press/also as an e-book); Serbia (Narodna knjiga); Turkey (Acikdeniz Publishing); China (The Commercial Press); Estonia (Imahaa); Macedonia (Bata Press); Bulgaria (Hemus); Hungary (Siraly Kiado); Spain (Rinoceronte Editora, in Galician); Korea (Nangiyala Publishing House); Latvia (Jumava), Slovenia (Temza); Brazil (Hedra); Albania (B-Books); Spain/South America (Ediciones del Nuevo Extremo); Croatia (Hena); Azerbaijan (Alatoran)
Adapted into an award-winning motion picture directed by Oscar nominee Fridrik Thor Fridriksson.
Footprints on the Heavens
Dreams on Earth
Nameless Roads

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

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

213–222 pp

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

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

Riddarar hringstigans, novel, 1982
Vængjasláttur í þakreinnum, 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/Vindrose); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser, paperback: btb); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Natur & Kultur); Finland (Like); Italy (Iperborea); Czech Republic (Odeon) Faroe Islands (Sprotin); Albania (B-Books), Egypt (Golden Pony)
English translation available

Sold to:
Denmark (Borgen); Norway (Cappelen); Sweden (Natur & Kultur); Finland (Like); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hanser); France (Gaïa); China (China Radio International Press); Lebanon (Arabic Scientific Publishers)
English translation available
EIRIKUR ORN NORDDAHL
(b.1978) was awarded The Icelandic Literary Prize and The Book Merchant’s Prize for his novel Evil, as well as being nominated for the Nordic Council’s Literary Award. When Evil came out in France in 2015 it was shortlisted for the Prix Médicis Étranger, the Prix Meilleur Livre Étranger and received the Transfuge award for best Nordic fiction.
norddahl.org

“While the story challenges established conventions it also erases boundaries, underlines conflicting factors and exposes weaknesses, immorality and nonsense that have a direct precedent in today’s society.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

Hans Blær

Hans Blær, novel, 2018

“Hans Blær is all of us and none of us, the twisted, frightening pleasure we get from causing others harm, the smarting pain that satisfies our longings, the neuroses that plague us when we remain silent and the pang of conscience when we decide to speak up...”

Hans Blær is a 34-year-old transgender troll, a modern-day Loki, toned, athletic and stylized with sinuses burned through from snorting up mountains of cocaine. They’ve changed their sex more often than anyone can count, transitioned at least as many times, performed, lied and contorted their gender. Their life and views have been a continuous spectacle since they – then called Ilmur Tholl – got their own radio program and then a book deal and finally a television show. But now they’re on the run, one step – never less – ahead of everyone who seeks to persecute them: the police, the public, the papers – the dregs, riff raff and rabble. The radio reports that they’re wanted by the police regarding an investigation at Samastadur, a treatment center for rape victims, but to gain any grasp on this mess we must go way back ...

In this provocative and challenging book, Eirikur Orn Norddahl examines contemporary life through the keen eyes of internet troll Hans Blær, who sees all and spares no one. 335 pp

Sold to: France (Métailie)
Sample translation in English available
“Brief and intense but filled to the brim with ideas and threads that run deep into the heart our times.”

DV DAILY

“A well-plotted, thrilling, riveting novel, written in clear and sophisticated language with an interesting gallery of characters. ... Stupidity may be set in the future, but it can also be read as a contemporary dystopia – a novel that itself deceives as it spotlights the deceptions of a surveillance society that the story’s characters and readers alike live with and willingly take part in.”

HUGRAS.IS

Stupidity
Heimska, novel, 2015

“She wanted him to see her. To alert him. There were no secrets. There were six webcams in their bedroom, another in the living room, three in the kitchen, even one in the bathroom. There was a security camera in the garden and all the other gardens on the street, not to mention four surveillance drones that cruised around the gravel paths, and satellite images on the internet. No longer could one screw behind a locked door, no longer could one shit in private. And why should they want to do that anyway? There was nothing shameful about shitting or screwing.”

At an unspecified point in the future, under the watchful eyes of the surveillance state, authors and former spouses Aki and Lenita do everything they can to move on from one another. A novel about seeing everything and being observed everywhere, about man’s uncontrollable curiosity and his need to be noticed, about worthless literature and art, and—most importantly—about the likelihood of difference, about vanity, love, and betrayal. And last, but not least, about the future. 167 pp

• The Transfug Awards as the best Nordic novel in France 2017

Sold to:
France/ Switzerland/Luxembourg (Métaillé);
Sweden (Rámus förlag)
Evil
Ilmska, novel, 2012

The momentum of world history: Agnes Lukauskas and Omar Arnarson meet early one piercing-cold Sunday morning in the taxi queue in the centre of Reykjavik. Three years later Omar burns their house to the ground, drives to Keflavik, and abandons the country by plane. The story actually begins long before then, in the summer of 1941, when half of the residents of the small Lithuanian town of Jurbarkas are slaughtered in the surrounding forest. Two of Agnes’ great-grandfathers were in the massacre – one shot the other – and three generations later Agnes has made the holocaust the centre point of her own life. Her obsession leads her to Arnor, a literate Neo-Nazi. Evil is about the holocaust and about love, about Iceland and Lithuania, about Agnes who becomes lost in herself while Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, Icelandic ambassador in Lithuania, acknowledges the independence of the Baltic countries and Lithuanian criminals begin operating from Reykjavik, about Agnes who doesn’t know whether she is a fan of the B-Ranking World Champions in Handball or of Bogdan Kowalczyk, about Agnes who loves Omar who loves Agnes who loves Arnor. 540 pp

- The Icelandic Literary Prize 2012
- The Icelandic Bookseller Prize for the best novel of 2012
- Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2013
- Prix Transfuge du meilleur roman Scandinave
- Shortlisted for the Prix Médicis étranger 2015
- Nominated for the Prix du meilleur roman étranger 2015
- Nominated for the Prix Médicis étranger 2015

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Klett-Cotta);
France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Métaillé);
Sweden (Råmus förlag); Denmark (Ordenes By); Greece (Polis); Croatia (Naklada Ocean-More); Macedonia (Art Connect); Spain (Hoja de Lata)

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

TMM LITERARY REVIEW

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

BOKMENNTIR.IS

Kindness
Gæska, novel, 2009

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

An incredibly imaginative and funny novel about everything that has been amiss in Iceland in the past years. 340 pp

Poison for Beginners
Eitur fyrir byrjendur, novel, 2006

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

Sold to: France/ Switzerland/Luxembourg (Métaillé); Chapters in English available

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Kozempel & Timm); Sweden (Rámus Förlag); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Métaillé)
English sample translation available
Football Stories

(Football Stories)

Fótboltasögur, örsögur, 2001

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

- The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize 2008

English translation available

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

JULIA ALEXANDRA / JOURNALIST

The Locksmith’s Good Advice

Heilræði lásasmiðsins,
a novel, 2007

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

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

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

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

*DV NEWSPAPER*

Night Watch
Meðan nóttin líður, novel, 1990

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

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

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:**
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Denmark (Rhodos); Germany/
Switzerland/Austria (Saga Verlag);
Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar);
Norway (Emilia); Finland (Gummerus);
UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-
Africa (Mare’s Nest); Lithuania
(Leidykla Vaga); China (China Radio
International Press)

**Sold to:**
Sweden (Rabén/Prisma/Arleskar)
GERDUR KRISTNY
(b.1970) won the Icelandic Literary Prize in 2010 for her book-length poem Bloodhoof. She is the author of more than 30 books and has received numerous prizes and accolades for her work, which has been translated into many languages.

Smarties
Smartís, novel, 2017
A teenage girl in Reykjavik is trying to envision the future. The Cold War is raging and getting a fashionable new sweater at a cool store downtown seems just as realistic as the world coming to an end. The only choice anyone seems to have is between the lesser of two evils: either freezing to death in a nuclear winter or getting roasted by radioactive fallout. And neither is exactly what she’s had in mind...
Enlivened by Gerdur Kristny’s incisive style, humor, and joyful storytelling, Smarties is a novel set in the 1980s that brings to life a bygone era and the powerful emotions that characterized it.
125 pp

“Smarties, novel, 2017

“A very funny story with more to it than meets the eye – read at least twice.“
FRETTABLADID

“She draws a very effective picture of teenage friendships... there is a smooth surface to this book, but there’s also a lot going on under that surface...“
KILJAN, NATIONAL TV
The Lake
Hestvík, novel, 2016

“It was good to meet my old classmate again and accept a glass of wine from him without thinking that he’d spit in it.”

Summer is nearly over and the scent of heather fills the senses in Grafningur county. The islands Nesey and Sandey can be seen from the nearby summer houses, their peaks cresting the surface of Thingvellir Lake. Sometimes, you can see boats sailing there, too. People come here to relax and be alone with their memories and secrets. But by summer’s end, the nights have gotten dark, making it difficult to find what you’ve lost. 163 pp

“... a beautiful book with a terrifying undertone that grabs the reader...”
NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

“The surface is smooth and calm, but underneath darkness simmers. Wonderfully written.”
MORGUNBLADID DAILY

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

BOKMENNTIR.IS

A Boat with Sails and All
Bátur með segli og allt, novel, 2004

A Boat with Sail and All is an exciting family tale of corruption and betrayal in contemporary Reykjavik. A young woman reporter is hired by a small daily newspaper, and sucked into a power struggle in a dog eats dog world. At the same time, she is trying to come to terms with her own roots. Gerdur Kristny has skilfully woven a thrilling story that sharply reflects our times.

319 pp

• The Halldor Laxness Prize 2004

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Ullstein)
Chapters in English available
Gudbergur Bergsson (b.1932) is one of Iceland’s leading authors, the first one to win the coveted Icelandic Literary Prize twice, first in 1991 for the widely acclaimed The Swan and then in 1997 for the first volume of his biographical novel Father and Mother and the Mystery of Childhood, which was also nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 1992. Bergsson has been named Doctor Honoris Causa by the Department of Foreign Languages of the University of Iceland.

“A great European novelist.”

MILAN KUNDERA

“Bergsson’s most compelling and remarkable book in a long time, a book that induces the reader to further reflection, consideration and analysis ... An allegory of the Icelandic nation in the twentieth century that contains many of the author’s finest characteristics.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

Three Turned Back

Þrír sneru aftur, novel, 2014

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

In an isolated place where nothing happens, rumors of struggles and strife in the surrounding world begin to filter through. Before long, the sequence of events has made its way there, and modernity arrives. The results are in equal measure unforeseen and dramatic. With unerring instinct, the author portrays a society at a crossroads, humanity’s unceasing struggle to survive, the grapple with ignorance and apathy, truth and lies, stupidity and greed.

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

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize
- Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2016

Sold to:
Denmark (Sisyfos); France/ Switzerland/ Luxembourg (Métaillié)
“Loss is a masterful narrative of how old age clutches a person... it is funny and very bleak... an incredibly beautifully written book.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

Loss
Missir, novel, 2010

To what does the mind turn when one reaches the end of the road and there is little ahead but eternity itself? To past times... now disagreeable memories. Nothing breaks the silence but the merciless hiss of the kettle, the everyday accompaniment to a lonely man's reckoning with his life, love or lack of love that reaches beyond the borders of life and death – and old age, the lot awaiting everyone when the body becomes decrepit and stamina dries up. Here Gudbergur Bergsson provides a provocative and unexpected insight into an everyday world that one and all recognize but beautify in their own particular way. Loss is a novel that exposes the individual in relation to his inevitable fate. 128 pp

Sold to:
Brazil (Bateia); Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (Tusquets);
Hungary (Gondolat Kiadó); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Métaillé)
Chapters in English available
Spanish translation available

The Swan
Svanurinn, novel, 1991

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

- The Icelandic Literature Prize 1991
- Nominated for The Nordic Council Literature Prize 1992

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

NDR RADIO

Sold to:
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Spain/Andorra/South and Central America/USA (Tusquets);
UK/Australia/New Zealand/South-Africa, USA/Philippines (Maré's Nest);
Italy (Il Saggiatore);
Finland (Like); The Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg (De Geus);
Estonia (SA Kultuurilend);
Lithuania (Leidykla Vaga);
Taiwan (Owl Publishing);
World Arab (Sphinx);
Ethiopia (Qirtas);
Macedonia (Antolog)
Film rights: Vintage Pictures
“Bergsson is one of this century’s principal geniuses and rarely has he been more successful than in this novel.”

DAGUR NEWSPAPER

Father and Mother and the Mystery of Childhood
Faðir og móðir og dulmagn bernskunnar, novel, 1997

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

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

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

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

DV NEWSPAPER

Like a Stone Smoothed by the Sea
Eins og steinn sem hafið 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 writing. 405 pp

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

Sold to:
- Sweden (Atlantis)
Torments of Love in the Chamber of the Mind
Sú kvalda ást sem hugarflygsnin 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

“Bergsson achieved success with his novel ... which shocked Icelandic readers in innumerable ways.”
DAGNY KRISTJANSDOTTIR

Tomas Jonsson: A Bestseller
Tómas Jónsson - metsölubók, novel 1966

When Tomas Jonsson: A Bestseller was published in 1966, it attracted immediately much discussion, outrage and admiration and sold out, fulfilling the title. Never previously had such a book been published in the country. A senile old man talks incessantly about everything under the sun and different texts of all kinds make their appearance without warning. Stories start and stop, characters come and go, merge and diverge in the torrent of words. Fun is made of old narrative techniques and nothing seems sacred to the author.

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

This seminal work has gained a place in the Icelandic literature over the years: Tomas Jonsson, a masterpiece. 400 pp

• BTBA Shortlist 2018 (Best Translated Book Awards, US)
Dad came back on the second day. He had a finger looped through the handle of a wine jug and was waggling it a bit and whistling a tune to emphasize that he took no notice of my presence.

A teenage boy spends a summer in a southern city with his father, a distinguished painter who’s not easy to get along with. His stay proves momentous for the both of them. Decades later, after his own children are grown, the man returns, reminiscing about that peculiar summer in a strange place, under the blazing sun. The summer when his life took a turn. Wild Summer is an incisive and captivating story by Gudmundur Oskarsson, winner of the Icelandic Literature Prize in 2009 for his novel Bankster. In this latest work, Oskarsson unequivocally demonstrates his aptitude as a storyteller: his style is at once lyrical and unadorned, and his narratives artfully woven. 125 pp

Film rights sold to Frozen Frogs
Chapters in English available

GUDMUNDUR OSKARSSON (b.1978) studied Icelandic and philosophy at the University of Iceland. In 2007 he published a collection of short prose and a novel the following year. Bankster, another novel, was published in 2009 and brought him the prestigious Icelandic Literary Prize.

“Perfect balance in gorgeous imagery... beautiful and funny.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

Wild Summer
Villisumar, novel, 2016

“Dad came back on the second day. He had a finger looped through the handle of a wine jug and was waggling it a bit and whistling a tune to emphasize that he took no notice of my presence.”

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

“A remarkably successful and touching work ... beautifully thought out and incredibly beautifully written ... Without doubt one of the most notable and best books of the year.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

A Poet and a Vagabond
Og svo tjöllum við okkur í rallið, novel, 2015

Thor Vilhjalmsson was one of the greatest authors in Iceland and was known throughout the country as an uncompromising advocate for the arts, culture, and philanthropy. But he also was terrifically striking and photogenic, his every move capturing attention wherever he went. In this unique book, Thor’s son Gudmundur Andri has gone through his father’s photographs and selected ones to help him tell Thor’s story. With a sensitivity, style, and precision that are indicative of his closeness to the material, Gudmundur Andri creates a memorable portrait of a poet and vagabond; a moody and complicated man who was often at odds with his environment, but was nevertheless a genial humanist who sacrificed everything for his art. 160 pp

- Nominated for the DV Cultural Award
- Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize

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

_DV Daily_

“Thorsson’s writing style is nothing short of ravishing, and the book is worth reading for that alone ... The book is stirring and occupies the reader’s attention from beginning to end. This is one of those books you will read again and again. Definitely a must-read.”

_Eyjan.is_

_Dignity_
_Sæmd, novel, 2013_

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

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

_Sold to: France (Gallimard) _
“An exquisite story, fragrant with sunshine and salt and human longing.”
FRETTABLADID DAILY

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

The Valeyri Waltz
Valeyrarvalsinn, a novel in stories, 2011

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

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

In sixteen closely-linked stories all happening during the same two minutes, Thorsson presents people of flesh and blood, familiar folk who battle with life and an existence which is at times grey and cruel but at also incomparably wonderful. In an exceptionally chiselled and beautiful text which is bound to touch many people deeply, characters and sentiments spring to life, resulting in an entertaining and lively story arc where the great is reflected in the small, the whole of Iceland in a little village.

The author cites Sherwood Anderson’s seminal 1919 short story cycle Winesburg, Ohio as his favourite example of the form, a book known as one of the earliest works of Modernist literature, placed midway between the novel proper and the mere collection of stories. 168 pp

• Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2012

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Hoffman und Campe); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Gallimard); Denmark (Batzer & Co); Norway (Orkana); Poland (Wielka); UK (Peirene Press); Macedonia (SHKUPI, in Albanian); Israel (Lesa Press); Arabic (Al Arabi)

Chapters in English available
“...an entertaining book...”
THE WEEKLY PAPER

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

Tell Mama I’m Fine
Segðu mömmu að mér líði vel, novel, 2008

“We kissed. Then, gently extracting herself from my embrace, she smiled and waved a goodbye before getting into the car. I remember that our eyes met and I said something about going to buy sausage for dinner – like I sometimes did – sausage made from horsemeat – and she gave a wry smile at the wellworn joke, saying she wasn’t sure she’d make it for dinner, she’d call...”

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

The Power of Mercy
Náðarkraftur, novel, 2003

A sardonic family saga about a son who has to tell his parents that a song he wrote has reached the final in the Eurovision Song Contest – which he knows will horrify them – and the daughter has to decide whether she should sacrifice her fiancé, a promising young Europeanist, for a bluesy 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

The Icelandic Dream
Íslenski draumurinn, novel, 1991

A novel about friendship, love and betrayal, which deals with the fate of the Icelanders in the 20th century. This is a serious and amusing attempt to come to terms with the everyday myths of the post-war population of Iceland.

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 1991
- The DV Culture Prize for Literature 1992

Sold to: Finland (Like)
GUDRUN FRA LUNDI (1887 – 1975) was one of the most popular and most read authors in Iceland. She and her husband were farmers in Skagafjordur in Iceland’s North Fjords until 1939, when they then moved to the nearby village of Saudarkrokur. It was there that Gudrun finally had the time to write. Her first book was published when she was 59 years old, after which she released fifteen additional novels (some of which were multi-volume sagas) and continued to set—and break—one sales record on top of another.

Life in the Dales
Dalalíf, novel, 1946

“No one who has been to Hrutadalur valley can deny that this is the most beautiful countryside in all the land.”

So begins Life in the Dales, the masterwork of Gudrun Arnadottir, more commonly known as Gudrun fra Lundi. It opens on district administrative officer Jakob Jonsson, who lives, unmarried and childless, at the Nautaflatir ranch in Hrutadalur valley. In his middle age, Jakob unexpectedly takes a bride named Lisibet Helgadottir from a nearby district. Their son Jon later becomes the self-proclaimed ‘chief’ of all the children in the adjoining village, including a young girl named Thora from Hvammur.
The Nobel laureate HALLDOR LAXNESS (1902-1998) is the undisputed master of contemporary Icelandic fiction and considered one of the greatest European novelists of the twentieth century. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955.

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

“Laxness is the patriarch of European literature.”
DIE WOCHENZEITUNG

Under the Glacier
Kristnihald undir Jökli, novel, 1968

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

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Steidl); The Czech Republic (Aurora); Hungary (Balassi); Romania (Niculescu); UK/USA (Random House/Vintage); Italy (Iperborea); The Netherlands (World edition/De Geus); Czech Republic (Dybbuk); Georgia (Intelekti Publishing); Romania (Editura Arts); Ethiopia (Hohe); China (China Radio International Press)

Previously translated into 9 languages

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

Nine of the stories by Halldor Laxness have been filmed. The filming rights to the tenth, Independent People, one of Halldor Laxness’ most famous novels, have also been sold.

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

**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

**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

**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
World Light
Heimsljós, novel, 1938-1940

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

Sold to:
UK/USA (Random House/Vintage); Germany (Steidl); France (Aubier); Faroe Islands (Sprotin)
Previously translated into 19 languages

The Atom Station
Atómstöðin, novel, 1948

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

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

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

“A poet who writes to the edge of the pages, a visionary who allows us a plot: he takes a Tolstoyan overview, he weas in an Evelyn Waugh-like humour: it is not possible to be unimpressed. The right stuff, the real thing.”
DAILY TELEGRAPH
Haukur Ingvarsson (b.1979) is a literary scholar, poet, and radio personality. Previously he has published a book of poetry, *Downfall and Episodes of the Mysterious Mangi*, as well as the work *Contemporary Features*, an examination of Halldor Laxness’ late novels.

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

Frettabladid Daily

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

TMM Literary Magazine

November 1976

November 1976, novel, 2011

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

As Dorothea gets ready to watch the television news on Friday evening, November 12th 1976, the set first catches fire, then expires for ever. During this time it was easier to acquire nuclear weapons in Iceland than a television, there being stringent restrictions on all kinds of imports to the country (even beer was banned in Iceland!), so her husband Richard decides to seek the help of Baldur downstairs, who is a bit of a fixer.

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

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

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Edition Rugerup)
Chapters in English available
HJORTUR MARTEINSSON
(b.1957) received The Tomas Gudmundsson Literature Prize 2014 for his collection of poems called *Alzheimer Variations*. In 2000, he earned the same award for his novel *AM oo*, and in 2007 he received the Ljodstafur Jons ur Vör Poetry Award. *The Champions* is his fifth book.

“An amusing and enjoyable commentary on the culture of self-aggrandizement in sports and all the strangeness that thrives in a competitive environment.”

*VIKAN WEEKLY*

The Champions
Meistararnir, novel, 2018

At the age of ten, Rosant accompanies his grandfather and namesake to the 1972 European Veterans Athletics Championships in Finland. But grandfather’s lucky discus disappears just before departure and the gold medal he thought was a dead cert is now doubtful. When the Icelandic team arrives in Finland a whole world of adventures opens up for young Rosant, and it becomes clear that the biggest challenges are not always those in the stadium. A humorous, warm account of frail men, in which the mysterious and alien world of youth clashes with the world of adults where not everything is as trouble-free as it seems on the surface. 217 pp
INDRIDI G. THORSTEINSSON
(1926–2000) was a prolific writer and journalist, producing several acclaimed novels, as well as poetry, short stories, biographies and much other work.

“...dark gem.”
READUX.NET

“The most impressive novel of the last months.”
BÖRSENBLATT

“ICELANDIC HEMINGWAY.”
NEUER ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

Phases in the Life of a Nation was the title Indridi G. Thorsteinsson gave to his trilogy Land and Sons, North of War, and Taxi 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, Taxi 79 and Land and Sons have been adapted into milestone movies. 358 pp

• Nominated for the German Independent Publishers’ Award, Hotlist 2011

Land and Sons
North of War
Taxi 79
Land og synir
Norðan við stríð
79 af stöðinni

Taxi 79 sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland
(Transit Verlag); UK (Williams & Whiting)
Available in English translation
The Noose
Snaran, novel, 1968

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

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

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

“This is a remarkable book ... absolutely masterful.”
KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

JAKOBINA SIGURDARDOTTIR
(1918-1994) was born in Haelavik on Iceland's northernmost peninsula, Hornstrandir, but spent most of her life as a housewife on a farm in Myvatnssveit named Gardur. She was one of Iceland's leading authors, producing novels, short stories, and books of poetry. Three of her novels were nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.
JON ATLI JONASSON (b.1972) has written a number of short stories, one novel, *In the Frost*, works for theatre, and film scripts such as *The Deep*, *Undercurrent*, and *You Are Here*. His plays have been performed in several countries, including at the Schaubühne theatre in Berlin. He was chosen Playwright of the Year in 2004 for his play *Brim*, and in 2006 he was nominated for the Nordic Playwright Prize.

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

FRETTABBLADID DAILY

The Children in Murky Creek
Börnin í Dimmuvík, novella, 2013

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

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

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

Chapters in English available
Sold to:
France (Les Éditions Noir sur Blanc);
Denmark (Løvens forlag)
Film rights sold to: Nimbus Productions
JON GNARR (b.1967) was diagnosed with severe mental retardation, learning difficulties, and ADHL as a child. In late 2009 Jon Gnarr formed the Best Party with a number of other people with no background in politics. The Best Party, which is a satirical political party that parodies Icelandic politics and aims to make the life of the citizens more fun, managed a plurality win in the 2010 municipal elections in Reykjavik, and Gnarr became Mayor of Reykjavik.

“Such pain, intimacy and alienation. This is an utterly incredible book.”
OFEIGUR SIGURDSSON, WRITER

The Outlaw
Útlaginn, novel, 2015

In *The Outlaw* Jon Gnarr describes the harsh world of the teenage years and wrestles with difficult and somewhat bleak memories of this troubled stage of his life. Fourteen years old he is sent to a boarding school in Nupur in Iceland's Westfjords where conflicts and bullying were simply par for the course. Punk rock was his way of coping with life but gradually he discovers a growing interest in girls. At the same time he ponders questions about right and wrong and tries to be true to his feelings.

When Jon returns to Reykjavik he feels rootless and adrift. He begins in high school, changes schools, drops out, tries out different workplaces, but is never at ease, leaves home and starts a life of partying hard, meeting new people, but is still alone in the world. And one day everything goes black.

Jon Gnarr describes the restlessness and despair of these sensitive formative years with his typical candor, bluntness, and celebrated sense of humour, but the underlying seriousness lend his words weight, as life and death are at stake. 384 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Klett-Cotta); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa/USA/Philippines (Deep Vellum); Bulgaria (Calligraph); Arabic (Al Arabi)
The Pirate
Sjóræninginn, novel, 2012

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

“I was afraid of the loneliness, of always being alone and alienated, that no one would understand me or love me. Will I always be weird? Will I always be like an alien from another planet?”
The ginger haired boy Jon is standing at crossroads as he finishes elementary school and feels like a total outcast in society. Here he talks freely of his troubles and traumas in the Icelandic educational system, describes the cruel bullying he suffered at school, his period as a punk rock kid, ups and downs on the job market – and a disastrous career as a rock singer. But there is light at the tunnel; hope comes in the guise of Nina Hagen, Johnny Rotten, and Count Krapotkin – punk rock and anarchy bring the promise of a better and more exciting life.
Even though the narrative is full of humour, it is both sincere and heartbreaking as the author’s journey through the Icelandic educational system was painful and full of conflict – both physically and mentally. 267 pp

The Indian
Indjáninn, novel, 2006

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

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

Sold to:
Czech Republic (Pragma); Spain (Funambulista); Egypt (Al Arabi); Germany/Austria/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Klett-Cotta); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa/USA/Philippines (Deep Vellum); Bulgaria (Calligraph); Makedonia (Icona)

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland/Luxembourg (Klett-Cotta); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa/USA/Philippines (Deep Vellum); Bulgaria (Calligraph); Makedonia (Icona)
JONINA LEOSDOTTIR (b.1954) studied linguistics and art history at Essex University and has a degree in Literature from the University of Iceland. She is a novelist, poet, playwright, a former journalist and the author of a dozen plays, ten novels, two biographies and numerous articles. She writes both for adult readers and teenagers. Among the awards Leosdottir has received for her work is the poetry award Ljodstafur Jons úr Vör, the IBBY Iceland Award for her novels for teenagers and prizes in playwriting competitions. Jonina Leosdottir played a key-role in establishing The Icelandic Women’s Literary Prize. She is married to the former Icelandic Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir.

“An explosively funny contemporary story.”
FRETTATÍMINN WEEKLY

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

If Only...
Bara ef ..., novel, 2014

If only... the birthday boy hadn’t demanded a divorce in front of all the guests at his surprise 60-year birthday party.
If only... the father-to-be didn’t think that his partner was still on the pill.
If only... the kid’s weren’t nagging for a dog, the old man wasn’t on a bender in the summer house, and rumours about an affair were not in the air.
If only life were a bit more bearable!

If Only... is a hilarious story of modern life by Jonina Leosdottir, engrossing from start to finish. 294 pp

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

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

The situation in the family becomes increasingly complicated – until things finally reach boiling point. *Just Fine – And You?* describes a few months in the life of a nearly forty-year-old woman in Reykjavík. A woman who cannot say no and desperately wants to be kind to everyone ... and therefore runs the risk of neglecting herself. An extremely funny story about deadly serious matters that could happen in most families.

288 pp

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**Sold to:**
Germany (Kiepenheuer & Witsch);
Chapters in English available
KARI TULINIUS
(b.1981) released his first novel, Untalented Martyrs, in 2010. He’s one of the founders and editors of the poetry group Medgonguljod. His work has been published in the anthology Of Concrete, as well as in the British Poetry Review and elsewhere. He splits his time between Reykjavík and Helsinki.

“... a mind-expanding book ... somehow it carries within itself that the author does not come from just one world. ... Read it!”

AUDUR JONSDOTTIR, NOVELIST

“Of a Mother’s Mind has no borders in every possible meaning and the title therefore reflects the world so amazingly – as it should be, as we should see it!”

VIGDIS GRIMSDOTTIR, NOVELIST AND POET

“... about seeking, floating selves, genderqueering, everything-queering. About internet-consciousness, eternity and last but not least, being born in fiction.”

HALLDORA K. THORODDSEN, POET AND NOVELIST

Of a Mother’s Mind
Móðurhugur, novel, 2017

“My daughter’s suicide is done; I finished it.”

Her only daughter lying in a coma, Theodora consents to have her life support turned off. How can she live with such a decision? Theodora is a poet and she copes by composing a book in memory of her daughter Inga, who was in love with Abel, a trans man who didn’t love her back. A novel about love, life, and death, about the search for acceptance of oneself and others, about the line between fiction and reality. An excerpt from the novel has been published in English in PEN Austria’s Words and Worlds Magazine.

160 pp

Chapters in English available
“The strength of Untalented Martyrs lies particularly in its structure, how the timeline holds together, and in the plot...an outstanding debut.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Untalented Martyrs
Píslarvottar án hæfileika, novel, 2010

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

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

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

“A dreamlike meditation on isolation and the bone-aching desire for companionship.”
KIRKUS REVIEWS

“Kristin Eiriksdottir is simply the most interesting Icelandic author today!”
BOKMENNTIR.IS

A Fist or a Heart
Elín, ýmislegt, novel, 2017

Elin makes props and prosthetics for movies and the theatre, and though she is over seventy, her existence still centres around her work. She lives alone and is unaware of the past that lies hidden in boxes around town. One day, the boxes appear on her living room floor.

When Elin starts work on a new play by the rising star Ellen Alfsdottir, her past is revisited once again. The two women have crossed paths previously under horrible circumstances, though one doesn’t remember, and the other is about to forget. A Fist or a Heart. is a complex and artfully woven story about mothers and daughters, violence and trauma, power and forgetfulness. Kristin Eiriksdottir has shown in previous works how clever she is at crafting extraordinary stories that are gripping and that remain with the reader. 290 pp

• The Icelandic Literary Prize 2017
• Nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize 2019
• The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize 2018
• The Icelandic Booksellers’ Prize 2017 (2nd place)
• Nominated for the DV Newspaper’s Cultural Prize 2018

Sold to: World English (AmazonCrossing); Hungary (Polar Könyvek); Macedonia (ArtConnect); Denmark (Grif); France (Les Editions Noir sur Blanc); Sweden (Flo förlag)

Chapters in English available
White Fur
Hvítfeld — fjölskyldusaga, novel, 2012

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

• Nominated for the Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize 2012

Doris Dies
Doris deyr, short stories, 2010

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

Two stories available in English translation. One story is included in Dalkey Archive Press’ “Best European Fiction”.

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

FRETTATIMINN WEEKLY
“If one initiates revolutions that are too great, the earth will scorch and smoke will pour from the ruins. There will be casualties, the effects of which will be considerable and even permanent in the community. It can take generations to recover after great revolutions and one injures herself most often, even to the point of self-destruction. But if one creates small revolutions every day, if one creates revolutions that very few even notice, then the world shifts, taking one along with it.”

Teacher Gloa sits on her terrace sipping red wine while her mind turns to her foremothers who, through their choices and efforts, have enabled her to reach her place in life. Fragments of women’s history from the whole century are tightly entwined into her personal experiences, the voices of mothers, sisters, and daughters who dream of better days – calm and smooth streets, free women, and children that live.

For years, Kristin Helga Gunnarsdottir has been one of the most popular authors in Iceland. Here she interweaves these amazing stories into one powerful narrative that sheds light on the circumstances of women past and present, as well as the gains we’ve made thanks the little revolutions of our foremothers. 250 pp
KRISTIN MARJA BALDURSDOTTIR (b.1949) is one of Iceland’s most highly acclaimed novelists, author of novels, short stories and plays that all demonstrate the author’s great gift for characterisation. Her books have been translated into many foreign languages and enjoyed great acclaim, both abroad and in Iceland. Baldursdottir has been the recipient of numerous prizes and commendations for her work, not least a nomination for the Nordic Council’s Literature Prize. She has received the highest order of the Republic of Iceland, the Order of the Falcon, for her contribution to Icelandic literature.

“... a book that belongs among the author’s best work ... keeps the reader glued to the page.”

FRETTABLADID

Black Calm
Svartalogn, novel, 2016

“A woman with a suitcase, stuck in a snowdrift. The village was white, the sea blue-black in the fleeting winter daylight, houses dotted the headland that stretched down to the sea and up the slope to where I was standing, stuck in the snowdrift, wondering if anyone had been watching my progress. Villagers were nosy, or so I’d heard, but I couldn’t see anyone looking up at the house that I’d come here to paint over the next few months.”

After many months spent searching for a job, Flora heads to the West Fjords to paint a house in a seaside village. There she meets an organist and three foreigners who work in a fish factory.

All of them have a story that brought them to this place. They sing like angels but all of them wrestle with grief. Is it possible to carry one’s grief to the end of the world? In the isolation of the village, the weather seems to play many instruments, and its resonant song echoes powerfully in the soul. The Icelandic winter is white, and the cold penetrates one’s bones. A story of love, friendship, solidarity and safe havens in life, a story of communities that hold you in their embrace or—depending on the place—crush you in their iron grip. 382 pp

Sold to: Denmark (Gyldendal); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag)
Chapters in English available
Cantata
Kantata, novel, 2012

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

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

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

314 pp

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

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The Big Dipper
Karlsvagninn, novel, 2009

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

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

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

...powerful and fascinating ...
MORGUNBLADID DAILY
Karitas – Untitled
Karítas án titils, novel, 2004

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

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

“Karitas’s story is graced with precisely all the qualities you would expect to find in a great award winning book.”
KRISTIANSTADSBLADET, SWEDEN

Chaos on Canvas
Óreiða á striga, novel, 2007

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

- The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize, 2008

“Let it be said at once, Baldursdottir’s novel about the fate of women at the beginning of the 20th century is magnificent.”
POLITIKEN, DENMARK

“Baldursdottir deserves a lot of praise for her skilful narration of this poignant tale.”
MORGUNBLADID
House to House
Hús úr húsi, novel, 1997

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

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

When the Day Grows Colder
Kular af degi, novel, 1999

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

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

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Seagull’s Laughter
Mávahlátur, novel, 1995

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

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

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Krüger Verlag);
Denmark (Gyldendal);
The Netherlands (Signature);
Sweden (Bra Böcker);
Norway (Pantagruel);
Macedonia (Antolog);
Hungary (Metropolis Media Group)
English chapters available
Don’t Be Mad
Ekki vera sár, novel, 2017

Imba has spent her whole life waiting on others. But now that she’s retired, she’s footloose and fancy free—or is she? She’s gotten what she wanted from life—a family, a home, a satisfying career. Now that her children have left the nest and all her obligations have been fulfilled, it’s time for her to enjoy herself, to realize her dreams. But her husband has dreams of his own and they may be very different than hers...

Don’t Be Mad is the story of a woman at a crossroads and her reckoning with the security that she opted for as a young woman. Looking back on years past, she thinks about all the opportunities she didn’t take advantage of. But is she ready to stand up for herself? Is it possible that a new opportunity is just around the corner? 212 pp
“They arrive in Reykjavik on foot, two friends, hoping to find employment in a good home as maids. In the meantime, they support themselves by washing clothes, salting fish, carrying coal, for these are the occupations open to independent women. Their workdays are long and difficult. Nevertheless, they choose the hard but independent town life over the dependent drudgery of the countryside.

Land of Hope is a tale of Reykjavik in the late 19th century; the story of a few women living together in a small hovel, trying to make it from day to day. While there will be plenty of setbacks, they also know how to coax enjoyment from what they have, and make the most of precious little. Kristin Steinsdottir has garnered much praise for her novels, not least the bestseller Brightness. In this lively and captivating story, she again explores the lives of remarkable women, who are determined to escape the constraints of poverty – and strive for it. 199 pp

Sold to: Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Verlag C.H. Beck)
It touches the reader in a powerful way...
Here nothing is redundant and nothing is missing.”
VIDSJA, ICELANDIC NATIONAL RADIO

The Lost Girl
Bjarna-Dísa, novella, 2012

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

Disa was born in a small turf cottage in the east of Iceland in the 18th century, a time steeped in superstition, and had to work hard from an early age to survive. It’s building up to a blizzard the day she and her brother, Bjarni, head up the mountain, but duty calls. They are farmhands and must do as they are told. Out on the ice-cold heath the forces of nature and night await them. Bjarni is forced to leave his sister behind and go for help. Meanwhile Disa sits alone in the relentless darkness, the endless void, for several days and nights – and the monsters start coming.

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

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

FRETTABLADID DAILY (ABOUT BRIGHTNESS)

Brightness

Ljósa, novel, 2010

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

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

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

- The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize, 2011
- DV Cultural Prize for Literature 2011

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

By Herself

Á eigin vegum, novel, 2006

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

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

136 pp

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

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Verlag C.H. Beck); Sweden (Kabusa);
Finland (Lurra)
Chapters in English available
OFEIGUR SIGURDSSON’S
(b.1975) novels and poetry have been widely celebrated. A Novel of Jon won the European Union’s Literary Award in 2011, and the best-seller Oraefi: The Wasteland snatched up the Icelandic Literature Award in 2014.

“…few authors can write stories as imaginative, energetic and entertaining as Ofeigur.”
MORGUNBLADID

“Ofeigur has found his unique voice, unparalleled in contemporary Icelandic literature. He masterfully kneads new dough out of our literary heritage and the result is brilliant.”
PALL ASGEIR ASGEIRSSON

Hekla’s Fissure: A Guide to the Fire
Heklugjá – leiðarvísir að eldinum, novel, 2018

A writer crosses the road with his dog every day on his way to the National Archives, where he reads up on the artist and eccentric Karl Dungannon. A girl with blazing red hair and sea-green eyes who works at the archives is no less interesting than the old documents she works to preserve – but getting to know someone is no small task. The tale unfolds across oceans and ages; new characters continually emerge from the depths of history, and deep in the bowels of the earth, an eternal fire burns, erupting tumultuously. Under a plume of ash, Sigurd the Crusader sails all the way to the Holy Land. Each layer of ash conceals another, and beneath it all lies treasure, stories, literature, and life itself.

Hekla’s Fissure: A Guide to the Fire is an adventure in time and space, a story about searching for happiness. 414 pp

Chapters in English available
“Frightfully brilliant...One of the most interesting and remarkable novels of the year.”
KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

“Completely magical.”
FRETTABLADID DAILY

“Wastelands is like the highlands – unlike anything.”
KJARNINN.IS

“It’s a wild ride, unlike anything you’ve read.”
JOSH COOK, PORTER SQUARE BOOKS

“Stunning novel ... a collection of Icelandic stories, realist and mythic, historical and fictional, nestled inside an epic adventure.”
THE ARKANSAS INTERNATIONAL

Wastelands – A Novel
Öræfi - skáldsaga, 2014

Barely alive after a solo expedition out on Vatnajokull Glacier, Austrian toponymist Bernhardt Fingerberg makes his way back to civilization. While nursing him back to health in a hotel room, the physician Dr Lassi tries to get to the bottom of the Viennese scholar’s strange trek into the highlands of Iceland. Was he studying toponyms out on the ice, or retracing the footsteps of a 20 year old crime, an event that involved someone very close to him? 342 pp

• The Icelandic Booksellers’ Prize 2014
• The Icelandic Literary Prize 2014
• Best Translated Book Awards 2019 Finalist
• Nominated for the National Translation Award, ALTA, 2019

Chapters in English available
Sold to:
Denmark (Gyldendal); US/UK/ANZ (Deep Vellum)
“Sigurdsson is without a doubt one of the best writers of his generation, the best chapters are pure joy to read. Dashes frequently split up the text...and the staccato is so powerful at times that it literally makes the reader dizzy.”

FRETTABLADID (ABOUT SPIRIT GUARDIANS OG THE LAND)

Spirit Guardians of the Land
Landvættir, novel, 2012

Socrates has garnered certain notoriety in the newspapers when he lands a job at the meat factory Bacon and Chops in Kjalarnes. There he quickly learns about Bayonne Ham, London Pork, jellied pork, salami, Malakoff, Berlin and München sausages, beer sausage, bacon dogs, bite-size party dogs, and Mecca sausage. Not to mention paté, both creamy and chunky, and he witnesses the pizza revolution. Socrates immediately makes friends with all of the other employees, except for the god-like chief executive. After having gone astray in everyday life, the factory becomes a sanctuary for Socrates, at least until one co-worker, who happens to be the head-foreman of the Nationalist Party-White Candidacy, begins to have a strong influence on Socrates’ unstructured life-style. 496 pp

A Novel of Jon
Skáldsaga um Jón, novel, 2010

In 1755 Reverend Jon Steingrimsson from Skagafjordur travels south to Myrdalur to look after his wife’s farm. He lies under suspicion of having murdered her former husband and has been expelled from his position at Reynistadur Monastery. The South, however, is not a desirable place in which to dwell: Katla is erupting and Myrdalur is shrouded in a cloud of ash. Jon goes to live in the Badstofuhellir cave along with his brother and a farmhand. In letters to his wife he describes the many things that happen to him that winter. He also reflects in his letters on the story of the love between him and Thorunn, which turned out to be so fateful. 214 pp

- European Union Prize for Literature 2011

Chapters in English available

Sold to:
Denmark (Gyldendal); Bulgaria (Balcani Publishing); Hungary (Libri); Czech Republic/Slovakia (Dauphin); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Serbia (Heliks); Croatia (Naklada Ljevak); Macedonia (Antolog); Georgia (Klio); Italy (Safara Editore)
OLAFUR GUNNARSSON
(b.1948) is among Iceland’s best storytellers. With his highly acclaimed trilogy, *Trolls’ Cathedral* (1992), *Potter’s Field* (1996) and *Winter Journey* (1999), he has earned a place among the major realists in Icelandic letters. *Troll’s Cathedral* was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize in 1992 as well as the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award in 1996. An adaptation for the stage premiered at The National Theatre in 1996 and the film rights have been sold. Gunnarsson received the Icelandic Literary Prize for his novel, *The Ax and the Earth*, in 2004.

“The Gunnarsson has the gift of being able to tell riveting stories and create protagonists who keep the reader enthralled from beginning to end …”

*MORGUNBLADID DAILY*

The Artists’ Salary
Listamannalaun, historical novel, 2018

Three artists, black sheep of the modern era, bohemians who scandalized and captivated, foresaw that fame would find them some day. Plagued by misfortune, their public and private lives were full of drama – but with pen and paintbrush, they sought refuge from the fray. Author Olafur Gunnarsson was a good friend of these controversial geniuses, Alfred Floki, Dagur Sigurdarson and Steinar Sigurjonsson who lived their lives on the fringes of society. Here, he leads the reader on a tour around Reykjavik and Copenhagen of the 70s and 80s and describes, with deep understanding, honesty, and unparalleled humor, his encounters with these three and with many other unforgettable characters from that era: cultural leaders, country folk, world-famous writers, furniture salesmen, bartenders, suspected KGB agents, mistresses, poets, and artists. 221 pp
The Sinner
Syndarinn, novel, volume 1 published 2012 & volume 2 2015

The first part of this saga describes the life of David Thorvaldsson, a well-known and successful painter who has never the less compromised his art to gain popularity among the general public. His colleague Illugi Arinbjarnar goes out of his way to jeer at him and point this out. A horrible accident for which David may or may not be responsible casts a dark shadow on his family life. In part two, Illugi Arinbjarnar, at the peak of his career, has taken New York by storm with his enormous canvases in the style of the old masters, depicting the German invasion of the Soviet Union in World War II. He sets himself up in one of Reykjavík’s most handsome houses, the former city library, to paint pictures of the White Cossacks’ collaboration with the Germans and the genocide they suffered as a consequences. But then his fortune takes a turn for the worse.

The Sinner is a family saga encompassing many characters, great passions, and conflict set in the last decades of the twentieth century; people’s fates interweave unpredictably in a story that is at times both thrilling and disturbing. Olafur Gunnarsson has the ability to gaze into the darkest recesses of the human soul without flinching and without judging. 740 pp

“Gunnarsson has the gift of being able to tell riveting stories and create protagonists who keep the reader enthralled from beginning to end . . .”
MORGUNBLADID DAILY (ABOUT VOLUME 1)

“An excellent example of Gunnarsson’s art of storytelling at its best.”
FRETTABLADID DAILY (ABOUT VOLUME 1)

“A riveting book.”
KILJAN, STATE TV (ABOUT VOLUME 1)
“Memorable stories of Fear and Loathing in Iceland ... Throughout these superb stories, there is a certain desolation, of the heart as well as of the landscape.”
ARTFUSE.ORG

“In spare, minimalist prose, the author documents both the joys and tragedies of being human while exploring such diverse themes as aging, terminal illness, rivalry, and what is real ... brilliant juxtaposition of the quotidian and the grotesque.”
FOREWORDREVIEWS.COM

The Masterpiece and Other Stories
Meistaraverkið og fleiri sögur, short stories, 2011

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

Gunnarsson presents here a varied repertoire of characters. The title story, The Masterpiece, is about a boy waiting impatiently to see his drawing in the school’s exhibition, while in The Nazi an Icelandic Nazi experiences more horror than he could have imagined. We also hear about an Icelander who fought in Vietnam, an old rock singer who unexpectedly gets an opportunity to appear on stage with a megastar, a pole-dancer who moves in with an Icelandic car mechanic in the Vogar district of Reykjavik, and many more colourful characters. Many will find it interesting to hear of the man who was forced to steal his own house in the year Iceland became a republic.

186 pp

Sold to:
USA/UK/ANZ (New American Press)
“Gunnarsson is a born raconteur...he entertains, provokes thought, and leaves a little bit of a chill in the soul. Cruelty, humour, and complete mastery of the form.”

FRETTABLADID DAILY

The Dark Rose

Dimmar rósir, novel, 2008

The stage is Reykjavik in the years 1969 to 1971, years of conflict between the old time and the new; the years when Kinks and Led Zeppelin hold concerts in Iceland, young people look towards the future in a state either of expectation or intoxication, as the case may be, and the older generation really don’t know what hit them. The dramatis personae is formed by two picturesque families in town. The characters come in all sizes and shapes; from the rebellious teenage girl to the well-meaning theology student, from the longhaired drummer to the old car mechanic, from the colourless accountant to the actress who is permanently on stage. The action is spun around the fates of these two families, unexpectedly entwined together in an enthralling read. 408 pp

Sold to:
Norway (Bokvennen)
Chapters in English available

The Ax and the Earth

Öxin og jörðin, 2003

Historical novel based on one of the most dramatic events in Icelandic history, when the Catholic bishop Jon Arason and his two sons were executed by the leaders of the reformation. An exceptionally well written story of faith and doubt and how the struggle for power dominates the actions of characters who step forward from the mists of the past. The human qualities of Gunnarsson's characters make their tragedy only too tangible in our own principle-testing times. 392 pp

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

Available in English

Sold to:
Lithuania (Pasvires Pasaulis); France/Switzerland/Belgium/Luxembourg/Canada (Gaia)
Film rights sold to:
Palomar Pictures, producer Joni Sighvatsson
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

Troll’s Cathedral
Tröllakirkja, novel, 1992

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

• Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize
• Shortlisted for the Impac Dublin Literary Award

Sold to:
Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Saga Verlag); UK (Mare’s Nest);
France/Switzerland/Belgium/Luxembourg/Canada (Gaïa); The Czech Republic (Host);
Egypt (Animar)
Available in English

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

Sold to: UK (Mare’s Nest)

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

“The ironic and humorous social critique, coloured with frankness and drama. It hits home.”

DV DAILY

The Reckoning
Látið síga, píltar, novel, 2013

The Reckoning takes place in the present, in a secluded valley in Iceland called Hlidardalur, an old-fashioned farming community that fosters love of the land, solidarity, frugality and industriousness. When the entire valley comes under threat from natural disasters, struggle with bankers and crime, the local farmers must unite to stave off catastrophe and save the community. The Reckoning is brimming with kindness, affection and friendship while also sarcastic, sharp and thrilling at the same time. On the whole witty and great fun. 350 pp

Chapters in English available

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

OLAFUR GUNNARSSON, AUTHOR
Writing
Skriftir, novel, 2016

Writing is first and foremost a homage to the art of writing. About the miracle of capturing sensibility, experience, feelings and emotion into the unlikely material of words. A craft that demanded a whole educational system, which was in fact in place when the author was growing up, a system intensely focused on the school paper and the pinnacle: the homework essay. After graduation the community took over – a community that practiced the religion of literature, complete with places of worship (libraries), saints (poets and writers), a god (Halldor Laxness), and even promise of heaven (acclaim). The purpose and principal meaning of life was to transform it into fiction. Writing follows the author’s incessant search for subject matter magnificent enough to write about, which he finally finds in the most everyday event – the birth of a new individual, and that later provides him with material for his first novel. Writing is about that particular conception, gestation, and labour, sprinkled with family snapshots, zeitgeist, and other necessary ingredients for creating fiction – including reality. 250 pp
A world picture is as important for a person as the air in his lungs. If we didn’t look for purpose we would collapse like a vacuumized container under the sheer pressure of the world, because we (as opposed to our brothers and sisters in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms) are supposed to understand the world, to take part in its formation and affect its progress. But this does not take place in a vacuum – on the contrary, it happens through interaction between the histories of the individual and the world at large.

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

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

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

**MORGUNBLADID DAILY**

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**Block of Icelanders**
**Íslendingablokk**, novel, 2012

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

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

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

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

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

- Nomination for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2000 and 2002
- Chapters in English available
“She jerked as from an electric shock passing through her body, darting towards her hands and descending to her feet. He pronounced the name like a foreigner. So he had a reason to be there, he was looking for her. This wasn’t some common burglar, but rather someone who knew who she was. Hafdis Hannesdottir, minister of justice.”

On a dark September night Hafdis is roused by an unfamiliar sound. Is there an intruder in the house? Her health is delicate, as the ministry is under enormous pressure, the refugee crisis has sparked anger in the community and there are protests in the streets.

And then an old girlfriend makes her appearance and Hafdis is forced to recall a fateful winter in the Austurbaer Primary school a quarter of a century earlier. A forceful and haunting contemporary story of friendship and trust, about those who belong, and those who are ostracized.

250 pp

Girlfriends
Vinkonur, novel, 2016

“A gripping story, well written and brilliantly plotted; this is a book that is easy to connect with and hard to put down until it is finished.”
MORGUNBALDID DAILY

“This is simply a great book, written with sensitivity, humor and great narrative joy.”
VIKAN WEEKLY

“Well done! ... One of Sigurdardottir’s most accessible books ... Very exciting. One might just take this book to the summer house or to the beach.”
KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

RAGNA SIGURDARDOTTIR (b.1962)
studied art at The Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts and after graduation moved to Holland for further studies. In 1993 she published her first novel, Borg (City), which was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize the same year. Sigurdardottir has translated a number of novels from Dutch.
The Bonus Girl
Bónusstelpan, novel, 2011

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

Dilja has a brilliant idea for her final project from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts. She is going to work on a till in the low price supermarket, Bonus, with pink hair in style with their logo and shocking pink lips. When rumours start circulating that the Bonus girl performs miracles, Dilja has no qualms about taking her performance a step further. The Academy and her family want her to stop but Haflidi, jack of all trades, stands by her side. The Bonus Girl is a haunting story, straight from disrupted contemporary Iceland. 216 pp

The Perfect Landscape
Hið fullkomna landslag, novel, 2009

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

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

* Nominated for IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

Chapters in English available

Sold to:
USA/UK/Australia/Canada (AmazonCrossing)
A murder was committed in Drapuhlid street last night, just after supper. A work-from-home hairdresser stood by the kitchen counter cutting a mango, which can be taxing on the nerves for those who don’t expect the hard fibre core in the middle of the fruit.”

SIGURBJORG THRASTARDOTTIR (b.1973) has published books of poetry, several plays, and novels. In addition, she has actively written for radio, newspapers, and magazines, and collaborated with visual artists and composers. A fine example of this is the work IS(not), a collaborative project with Polish illustrators and a band of women writers, Metropoetica, that researched European cities for many years. Thrastardottir’s narrative poem, Candlelight Vigils was nominated for the 2009 Nordic Council’s Literature Prize and has been published in German and Swedish.

“The short-story collection of the year.”
MORGUNBLADID

The Fearful Trumpeter and Other Stories
Óttaslegni trompetleikarinn og aðrar sögur, micro stories, 2016

“A murder was committed in Drapuhlid street last night, just after supper. A work-from-home hairdresser stood by the kitchen counter cutting a mango, which can be taxing on the nerves for those who don’t expect the hard fibre core in the middle of the fruit.”

A compelling collection of micro stories where the author plays around with different voices and settings that reflect reality at surprising angles. Animals and humans react to their fates in poignant and funny stories characterised by lightness and dark humour. 90 pp

• The Red Raven’s Feather for the most curious sex scene in Icelandic Literature 2017
“The text is well-crafted and the words painstakingly selected. ... An original book and beautifully written...”

FRETTABLAID DAILY

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

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

Jump
Stekk, novel, 2012

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

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

Jump is an unusual and witty novel on serious issues, where remorse and guilt wrestle with compassion. 332 pp
Is it possible to describe how stupid it is to be fourteen, fifteen, sixteen years old? I hardly think so. Still, I’ll try.

The confirmation candidate pedals furiously around Axarfjordur and into his teenage years. The future is a blank page, the past more or less the same. He is leaving home for the first time, ahead of him five years in Reykjavik: Pop music, wearing winkle-pickers and doing the Twist, the apostles John, George, Paul, and Ringo, cubism, poetry and the iceberg principle, literature, jazz, freedom, and creativity. Transformed into an incorrigible poet in a beret and a long scarf, he’s engulfed by the world of art and he’s never coming back. 288 pp

A Book of Adolescence
Táningabók, novel 2014

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

The confirmation candidate pedals furiously around Axarfjordur and into his teenage years. The future is a blank page, the past more or less the same. He is leaving home for the first time, ahead of him five years in Reykjavik: Pop music, wearing winkle-pickers and doing the Twist, the apostles John, George, Paul, and Ringo, cubism, poetry and the iceberg principle, literature, jazz, freedom, and creativity. Transformed into an incorrigible poet in a beret and a long scarf, he’s engulfed by the world of art and he’s never coming back. 288 pp

SIGURDUR PALSSON (1948 - 2017)
studied literature, drama and cinema direction in Paris. He is one of the most unique and intimate poets of his generation and a prolific translator of French literature. Palsson has won numerous awards for his work. He received Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1990.

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

★★★★★

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

Chapters in English available
A Book of Childhood
Bernskubók, novel, 2011

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

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

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

284 pp

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

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

A Notebook from Memory
Minnisbók, novel, 2007

Fourteen years would pass before Sigurdur 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 and French synopsis and excerpt available
SJÓN (b. 1962) has published numerous poetry collections and novels, as well as written plays, librettos and picture books for children. His long-time collaboration with the Icelandic singer Björk led to an Oscar nomination for his lyrics for the Lars von Trier movie Dancer in the Dark. In 2005 Sjón won the prestigious Nordic Council’s Literature Prize for his fifth novel The Blue Fox, which in 2009 was nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. Another of his novels, From the Mouth of the Whale, was shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2012. Sjón’s novels have been translated into more than thirty languages. sjon.siberia.is

Codex 1962
Codex 1962, novel, 2016

Your Eyes Saw Me, 1994
With a Quivering Tear, 2001
I Am a Sleeping Door, 2016

“There are not many of us on this Earth who can describe the feeling of entering the world. Most people have difficulty remembering what they did yesterday, not to mention a week ago, three months or thirteen years ago. But I can recall every single thing that has happened from the moment I came to life on the kitchen table in In-golfstraeti street 10 and to this very day.”

As an individual of the anno 1962 vintage, Josef Löwe recounts his story that is unlike any other and reaches back to the horrors of WWII. He is himself a living testimony of the consequences of the transgressions that followed. Therefore, his story offers a view to a not-so-distant past – events that changed the world – and the narrative, peppered with vivid descriptions of people and intricate fates, captivates the reader.

“A Magus of the North.”
A.S. BYATT

Sjón tackles life and literature in his unique way, and as it says in the epilogue – all stories begin “long before humans found a way to store them outside of their memory”. 562 pp

- DV Cultural Prize for literature, 1995 (Your Eyes Saw Me)
- DV Cultural Prize for literature, 2002 (With a Quivering Tear)
- Nominated for the DV Cultural Prize for literature 2016 (I Am a Sleeping Door)
- Nominated for Prix Europa 2009 in the category Radio Fiction (adaption by B. Jonsson) (Your Eyes Saw Me)
- Nominated for Gríman, the Icelandic Theatre Awards 2009, as the radio play of the year (Your Eyes Saw Me)
- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2016 (I Am a Sleeping Door)
- The Icelandic Booksellers’ Prize 2016 (I Am a Sleeping Door)
- Best Translated Book Awards 2019 Longlist

Sold to: Denmark (C&K Forlag); Finland (Like); Germany (S. Fischer); UK (Sceptre); USA (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); Hungary (Gondolat Kiado); Czech Republic (Dybbuk); Sweden (Rámus)
LITERARY FICTION

“One of the unavoidable names of contemporary European literature.”
EL PAIS

“An extraordinary and original writer.”
A.S. BYATT, GUARDIAN

Moonstone—The Boy Who Never Was
Mánasteinn—Drengurinn sem aldrei var til, novel, 2013

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

The sixteen year old Mani Steinn lives for the movies. Asleep he dreams the pictures in variations where the tapestry of events is threaded with strands from his own life. Awake he lives on the outskirts of society. But then the “Spanish influenza” epidemic comes ashore and forces thousands of the townspeople into the sick bed, killing hundreds.

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

132 pp

• The Icelandic Literary Prize 2013
• DV Cultural Prize for Literature 2013
• The Icelandic Booksellers’ Prize 2013
• The Red Feather for the most curious sex scene in Icelandic literature 2013
• Nominated for the PEN America Literary Awards 2016
• Nominated for the Best Translated Book Award (BTBA) 2017 (US)
• Listed as One of the Best Novel of the Year in US 2016 by Financial Times
• 29th Annual Lambda Literary Award Finalist 2017
• Selected as one of the best Contemporary Scandinavian Literature 2017 by Booker International shortlistee Dorthe Nors
• Nominated for the Dublin Literary Award 2018

Sold to:
The Netherlands (De Geus); Sweden (Alfabeta); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (S. Fischer); USA/Philippines/Canada (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); Spain/South America ( Nórdica); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Payot & Rivages); Czech Republic (Dybbuk); Faroe Islands (Sprotin); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa (Sceptre); Norway (Orkana); Slovakia (Slovart); Slovenia (Cankarjeva Založba); Finland (Like); Denmark (C&K forlag); Serbia (Geopoetika); Spain ( Nórdica Libros); Galicia (Rincoceronte Editora); Turkey (Monkl); Italy (Federico Tuzzi Editore); Ukraine (VYDAVNYTSTVO)

Available in English
Theatrical rights sold to The National Theatre of Iceland
The year is 1635. The earth is still at the centre of the universe, the chambers of the heart are two, birds hatch from seaweed, unicorn horns are in demand as luxury goods and stones are used as medicine.

The artist and wordsmith Jonas Palmason the learned is sentenced for spreading the knowledge of witchcraft and sent into exile on a tiny islet, Gullbjarnarey, off the east coast of Iceland. The novel From the Mouth of the Whale is based on the life and mental world of this self-educated Icelander who can be said to have incorporated the seventeenth century Iceland. It tells of the chilling aftermath of the Lutheran Reformation, the exorcism of a walking corpse in the remote county of Snæfjallastrond, secret Virgin Mary rituals, the massacre of Basque whalers in the western fjords and a family on the run in times when neighborly charity had become obsolete. In his exile Jonas the learned reflects on his life, and the reader follows him on his journey as he braces the storms of the heart and the mind in the age of From the Mouth of the Whale. 239 pp

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2008
- Shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2012
- Shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2013

Sold to:
Brazil (Planeta); UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa (Telegram/Saqi Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (S. Fischer); Spain/South America (Nórdica Libros); Sweden (Alfabeta); Denmark (C&K Forlag); The Netherlands (De Geus); Lithuania (Apostrofa); USA/Philippines/Canada (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); Turkey (Monkl); Hungary (Magvető); Finland (Like); Romania (Polirom); Albania (Aleph Klub); Macedonia (Antolog)

English translation available
The Blue Fox
Skugga-Baldur, novel, 2003

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

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

Sold to:
UK/Australia/New Zealand/South Africa/ (Telegram/Saqi Books); Germany/Switzerland/Austria (S. Fischer); Spain (Nórdica Libros); Sweden (Alfabeta); Denmark (C&K Forlag); The Netherlands (De Geus); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro); Galicia (Rinoceronte Editora); Poland (sloowo/obraz terytoria); Lithuania (Apostrofa); The Czech Republic (Argo); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Payot & Rivage); Italy (Mondadori); Faroe Islands (Nylendi); Finland (Like); Norway (Tiden); Serbia and Montenegro (Balcancult Foundation); Turkey (Monkl); Hungary (Magvető); Russia (Corpus); Bulgaria (Locus Publishing); Finnish puppet theatre rights (Piellos); Lebanon and Arab speaking world (Dar-al-Saqi); USA/Philippines/Canada (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); China (Yilin Press); Macedonia (Antolog); Greece (Nefeli); Romania (Editura Polirom); Slovenia (Cankarjeva Zalozba); Croatia (VBZ); Brazil (Hedra); Estonia (Pegasus); Latvia (Mansards); Albania (Aleph Klub); Ukraina (Lilia Serhiivna)

English translation available

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

*THE TIMES*

The Whispering Muse
Argóarflísin, novel, 2005

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

An opera based on the novel was premiered in Copenhagen in 2013.

- The Icelandic Bookseller’s Prize in 2005

Sold to:
Basque country (Pasazaite Liburuak); Czech Republic (Dybbuk); Denmark (Athene/audio Den Grimme Ælling); Faroe Islands (Nylendi); Finland (Like); Norway (Tiden); Spain (Nórdica Libros); Turkey (Monkl); UK (Canongate); USA (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

English translation available
“Jonsdottir has a clear eye, writes with an unaffected style, and creates convincing dialogue.”

FRETTATIMINN (ON REYKJAVIK CAFÉ)

Honour
Heiður, novel, 2018

Heidur McCarron hasn’t seen her brother since the summer of 1980, when their father took then seven-year-old Dylan to Northern Ireland. When Dylan suddenly contacts Heidur to ask for help after 28 years of silence, she finds herself at a crossroads in her complicated family life and embarks on a search for answers to questions about the past – why her father gave up a peaceful family life in Reykjavík to return to his homeland and defend the honor of his people.

Honour is a poignant account of the struggle between fighting for the rights of an entire people and the happiness of one’s own family, set against the backdrop of a conflict that gripped Northern Ireland for decades – and perhaps still does.

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

Morgunbladid Daily

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

Frettatiminn Weekly

Reykjavik Café
Korter, novel, 2012

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

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

Reykjavik Café follows the lives of four young Reykjavik women who have little in common except for their city-centre surroundings and their place of sanctuary at Café Quarter. An effervescent tale of love and life that spans the whole spectrum of human emotions. Chapters in English available. 360 pp

Sold to:
Germany/Switzerland/Austria (Suhrkamp);
Italy (Marsilio)
Chapters in English available
STEINUNN G. HELGADOTTIR
(b.1952) is a visual artist and well-known Icelandic poet and prose writer. She received The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize 2016 for her novel Voices From the Radio Operator’s House. Helgadottir’s work has been exhibited at solo and group art exhibitions around the world. She has also curated numerous art exhibitions in several museums and galleries in Iceland.

“All the text is brimming with humanity…”
THE JURY OF THE ICELANDIC WOMEN’S LITERATURE PRIZE 2017
(ABOUT VOICES FROM THE RADIO OPERATOR’S HOUSE)

“All well-written, hilarious in parts, and challenges the reader to consider whether blood is really thicker than water.”
VIKAN WEEKLY

All My Father’s Children
Samfeðra, novel, 2018

Some people don’t make life any more complicated for themselves than they have to—they live and let live. But Janus is not one of these people. Upon discovering that he has eleven half-siblings with whom he shares the same father, he embarks on a journey to find all of them, a journey that takes him far and wide across the country. These meetings have mixed results—not everyone’s willing to meet a brother they didn’t even know existed.

But Janus doesn’t let that stop him and wanders from one place to another, entering the everyday realities of these unknown relations, all of whom are swimming around in their own worlds like fish in a bowl.

A skillfully woven family drama filled with characters the likes of whom rarely find their way into novels, but who nevertheless are surprisingly familiar. 271 pp
“... juicy and full of surprises and entertaining anecdotes ... a good and joyous debut of a new novelist ... Helgadottir is a professional artist ... well-written, sophisticated and intriguing work.”

MORUNBLADID DAILY

Voices from the Radio Operator‘s House
Raddir úr húsi loftskeytamaninsins, novel in stories, 2016

“I began to suspect that my stories were perhaps of the kind silence cannot hide.”

A lonely radio operator communicates over the airwaves in between writing literary fiction. He becomes suspicious when other writers mysteriously pre-empt him in publishing his books. With the help of science he manages to turn defence into attack. 287 pp

- Selected as one of the 10 New Voices from Europe 2017
- The Icelandic Women’s Literature Prize 2016

A young man sets out to look for eleven half-brothers and sisters, all born in the same year; a love-shy bookseller haunts and spies on new readers; two very different sisters run a kiosk in the centre of old Reykjavik while a bunch of down-and-outs drink themselves into a new and feathered existence.

Chapters in English and Spanish available
One chapter is included in Lunch Ticket Magazine, US
STEINUNN JOHANNESDOTTIR
(b.1948) studied drama in Stockholm and worked as an actress for some years. *Gudridur’s Journey* was on the bestseller list in Iceland for months and has been reprinted every year after its first publication.

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

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

Endowment

Heimanfylgja, novel, 2010

This captivating novel, set in 17th century Iceland, narrates formation years at the episcopal see at Holar of Hallgrimur Petursson, the writer of the nation’s favourite hymns. Characterised by passion, love and conflict, the story of Hallgrimur Peturson is set against the backdrop of dramatic contemporary events: volcanic eruptions, political power struggles, and raids by pirates. People and places, both real and invented, come alive as they appear in the story. Gradually we see a unique personality emerging, grappling with major setbacks. His poetic talents cost him dearly, yet also serve as his solace and salvation.

Steinunn Johannesdottir weaves an imaginative and sympathetic portrait from the limited sources that exist on Peturson’s early years and development. Among her previous works is the novel *Gudridur’s Journey*, which tells the amazing tale of Peturson’s wife, who was among those captured by Algerian raiders and sold into slavery. 350 pp

Gudridur’s Journey

Reisubók Guðríðar Símonardóttur, historical novel, 2001

In 1627 one of the most dramatic and terrifying events in Icelandic history occurred, the so-called Turkish Raid, when sea raiders from a distant world took some 400 Icelanders prisoner, and transported them south across the sea to be sold into slavery on the Barbary Coast. Among them was Gudridur 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); France/Switzerland/Luxembourg/Canada (Gaia)

Chapters in English available
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.

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

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY

“The style of this book is unusually rich and composed of dissimilar elements, harsh realistic descriptions and poetic inspiration from the world of the Edda and myth... Svava 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 Literature Prize
- The Henrik Steffens Prize 1997

Sold to:
- Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Saga Verlag);
- Norway (Cappelens forlag);
- Sweden (Norstedts); Denmark (Rhodos);
- Finland (Otava); France (Corti);
- Lithuania (Tyto Alba); Italy (Giardini);
- UK/USA (Norvik Press)
Sverrir Norland is a truly worthy representative of his generation. He has created an unusual style and has full control of the form he chooses in the story.”

FRETTABLADID

In Plain Sight

Fyrir allra augum, novel, 2016

“Life’s so strange,’ she said. ‘Maybe this is the beginning of a beautiful story. Maybe this is the beginning of a sad story—or even a nightmare. It’s so hard to figure people out from first impressions, you know?... We can only uncover someone’s true self a little bit at a time. Which is kind of a scary thought...’ I’d never gotten into this kind of philosophical discussion during foreplay and so I just murmured, ‘Uh...yeah,’ and tried to make it sound like I was thinking. The only thing on my mind was pulling down her skinny jeans—her thighs were mountain valleys that I longed to get lost in.”

Ulfur is sitting in the university library and studying for a test when Disa Eggerts turns around and starts asking him personal questions. This conversation marks the start of an extremely awkward, yet hilarious love affair. During the course of their relationship, Ulfur watches spell-bound as Disa reaches meteoric heights on both the Icelandic hip hop and literary scenes. Meanwhile, however, his own life is in shambles. Sverrir Norland made a name for himself with his first book, Masters of Anxiety, which was considered a breath of fresh air on the Icelandic literary scene. In his latest work, Sverrir paints a provocative portrait of this generation of young people who live their lives in plain sight—who don’t hesitate to lay themselves bare online, free their nipples in front of the whole world, and who find themselves (or not) on Tinder. 171 pp
“A story written with obvious ambition and considerable skill, so it is evident that good things may be expected of the author.”

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

“An excellent book.”

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

Masters of Anxiety
Kvíðasnillingarnir, novel, 2014

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

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

Set in Reykjavík and London, this charming novel artfully weaves local and global themes into a gripping present-day story, giving an authentic picture of how Icelanders live on their tiny island, and how they cope with the larger world surrounding them. Readers are invited to breathe in the aroma of mud at Hostel Turf, catch a touch of bluesy whining at the Asylum for the Impotent, and then kick back at the Haven for Lonely Boys.

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

- Recipient of the Icelandic Literature Center’s 2014 New Voices Grant
“Within, he felt the quake that had woken him. The feeling was not unlike walking over a wooden bridge that sways under your feet, looking to toss you into the currents below.”

Businessman Benedikt Valkoff wakes up in the middle of the night in his house in Reykjavik. It’s his birthday but the day also marks another anniversary. Thirty-three years ago his little sister disappeared while their parents were out. Nobody knows what happened to her – or so the story goes.

It is a time of reckoning. The girl who disappeared is still very much there; a heavy stone in the hearts of her parents and brother, a mystery to those who joined the family later on. At the end of the day, after travels back through space and time, the hour of truth is upon them. Wide reaching realist fiction and a story full of wonder and menace.

294 pp

SOLVI BJORN SIGURDSSON (b. 1978) has published numerous interesting novels, poems, and non-fiction, and has been nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize. He has also translated a variety of novels and poetry. Solvi is without a doubt one of the sharpest pens of his generation, and this ambitious novel is both wide reaching realist fiction and a story full of wonder and menace.

“The Flower – a Tale of a Crime
Blómið – saga um glæp, novel, 2016

“Simply amazing! Immensely well written. I can recommend this book without hesitation. It is extremely good.”

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

“... a terribly good stylist, his wealth of imagination is immense ... The story begins elegantly, with unexpected twists that keep the reader glued to the page...”

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

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW)

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

NORDEA LITERARY MAGAZINE

The Last Days of My Mother
Síðustu dagar móður minnar, novel, 2009

Hermann, 37 years old and listless, has his life turned upside-down when his rapier-tonged, usually intoxicated mother is diagnosed with cancer. They embark on a picaresque journey to Amsterdam to get her a special treatment, and to bond over all the booze they can imbibe. Wickedly funny and profound, this is a mother-son novel for the twenty-first century. 225 pp

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

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

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

INROCKUPTIBLES

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Wreath
Sveigur, novel, 2002

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

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2002

Sold to:
France (Actes Sud); Italy (Iperborea)
Morning Verse in the Grass
Morgunþula í stráum, novel, 1998

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

• The Icelandic Literary Prize 1998

Sold to:
Sweden (Bra böcker); Denmark (Borgen/Vindrose); France (Actes Sud); Italy (Iperborea); Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Osburg Buch Verlag); Spain (Nórdica)

Chapters in English and a synopsis available

“Thor 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 in the sagas, recollections, and consciousness of the Icelanders.”

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER

The Grey Moss Glows
Grámosinn glóir, novel, 1986

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

• The Nordic Council Literature Prize 1988

Sold to:
Denmark (Vindrose); Norway (Gyldendal); Finland (Otava); Sweden (Wiken/Bra böcker); Germany (Kleinheinrich/Paperback rights: Ullstein); France (Actes Sud); Italy (Iperborea); Turkey (Ayalak Adam Kultur); UK (Marc’s Nest, published under the title Justice Undone); Bulgaria (List); Lithuania (Lithuanian Writers’ Union Publishers); Spain (Nórdica); Portugal (Cavalo de ferro)

Sold to:
Denmark (Vindrose); Sweden (Wiken); France (Actes Sud)

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
As one can easily gather from the title of the book, *Anecdotes of the Reverend Thorarinn and Others* is a collection of anecdotes of Reverend Thorarinn and others. Most of these fragments could certainly be called short stories, but more than of few of these episodes are...anecdotes. At any rate, the collection is chock-full of memorable characters, saga-worthy happenings, and stories of all stripes—some bitter and some comical, some deadly serious and some simply spellbinding.

These thirteen tales range widely in their subject matter. We’re told of resourcefulness and innovation, of piety and sanctity, of unusual family traits, of dime novels and tabloids and childhood transgressions, of people blind to the consequences of their actions, and of the art of storytelling itself—and that’s just getting started. For, of course, there’s also the story of the Reverend Thorarinn himself.

Author Thorarinn Eldjarn has written numerous unforgettable volumes of poetry, fiction, and short stories, an impressive body of work that will be still more enriched by the episodes in his newest collection. 147 pp
“The text is exceedingly well crafted, there is a great deal of humour in the narrative and still more grotesque description.”

FRETTABLADID

“Eldjarn is a great stylist and subtle humorist.”

KILJAN, ICELANDIC STATE TELEVISION

Here Lies a Poet
Hér liggur skáld, historical novel, 2012

Each night, when Hallbjorn the sheepherder lies down to sleep in the paddock, he thinks of the poem he would like to create; it is about Thorleifur Poet of the Earl who, as the story goes, lies underneath the very spot where the sheepherder sleeps. „Here lies a poet,” he starts but doesn’t get any further because Thorleifur himself lends a hand – in a dream, since he has been lying dead in the ground for two hundred years.

“The story goes “ – Ah, yes, how does the story go? Ancient tales are told of Thorleifur and his kin in Svarfadardalur, of fierce battles between the chieftains in the valley, premonitions and monsters, a fateful trip to Norway, cruelty and killing, potent poetry of vengeance, and an inhuman murder in Thingvellir.

Thorarinn Eldjarn recounts and makes up Thorleifur’s fateful tale; he spins, weaves, and fills in the gaps to craft a powerful and impressive story of a modest poet who doesn’t waver in the face of a daunting but important task: fighting evil. 165 pp

Sold to: Germany/Austria/Switzerland (Conte Verlag)
Chapters in English available
“**The Baron** is a beautifully crafted book and a historical novel of the best possible kind.”

*Morgunblaðið Newspaper*

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

*Frettabláið Newspaper*

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**The Baron**

*Baróninn, historical novel, 2004*

This gripping novel is based on the fantastic but true story of the tragic life of Baron Charles Gauldrée Boilleau, a mysterious French/American musician and son of a French diplomat, turned farmer and entrepreneur in remote and backward Iceland in 1898–1901. Baron Boilleau was a multifaceted man and the book gives us a vivid portrait of the “belle époque” of the Euro-American bourgeoisie, and how a man’s artistic aspirations and ideals of progress become shipwrecked once they hit the barren shores of a backward Icelandic society. Sophisticated, a cellist and composer, educated in a British boarding school and with a second home on the Italian Riviera, Boilleau tries to establish a dairy in Iceland at the turn of the 1900s. 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

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**The Blue Tower**

*Brotahöfuð, historical novel, 1996*

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

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

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

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

*Publisher’s Weekly*
The Evacuation of Iceland

Kaldakol, novel, 2017

“It all began very early on a Monday in mid-June. By five o’clock roads leading inland had been closed to traffic, and the rescue squads had all been activated. The first passengers took off at around seven o’clock in nine Airbuses heading for an airport in central Europe. At eight o’clock, ships began to set sail from harbours all around the country. The evacuation of Iceland had begun.”

Katla Ran works at an unambitious job at an ad agency when an old friend phones from Berlin and offers her an exciting job with a dizzying salary. On offer is the largest promotion of Iceland of all time, the planning of which is well under way at the Templehof airport, overseen by the investment company Kaldakol. Relieved, Katla leaps from a cooling romance in Reykjavik to a city she once called her home, and which keeps a secret no one knows except her. A few days later, tremors make themselves known in the capital city of Iceland, and the civil protection agency prepares to evacuate the country. A comical yet gruesome dystopian portrait of the tiny Icelandic nation and its place in the modern world, Kaldakol focuses on a fictional scenario, though upon closer scrutiny it corresponds with the present day in many respects. 300 pp

(Thórarinn Leifsson b.1966) graduated from the Icelandic Academy of Arts. In the same period he worked as a street painter in Western Europe. After graduation from art school he worked as an illustrator, billboard painter, and graphic designer. Leifsson is known for his imaginative books which have been published in various languages, and also for his humorous columns in Stundin which, more often than not, shed light on the country and nation. totil.com

“An extremely funny social critique that raises a multitude of questions about Icelandic society.”

FRETTABLAĐIÐ

“The most important book of the year. Five volcanoes at the starting line, and only one author who knows best where to go.”

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

In 1986, an Icelandic youngster disappears when on vacation in Europe. He is last heard of in southern Spain, where he claims to make a living painting pictures on the sidewalks. When he fails to write home for several months his sister and mother catch a plain down south to try to find him. When they arrive in Andalusia they experience a sickening fear of what their search may reveal...

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

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

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

*Said by Martin Seymour-Smith*

The Stones Speak
Steinarnir tala, novel, 1956

*The Stones Speak* is Thorbergur Thordarson’s elegiac portrayal of his childhood and youth on the farm of Hali in Sudursveit, an isolated rural area of southeastern Iceland, in the late 19th century. It reveals his reverence for the beauty of the Sudursveit countryside and his enduring love of his family and neighbours and their language, history, and culture. It is a sometimes witty and funny, sometimes wry and sad, sometimes contemplative and mystical, but always affectionate portrait of a time, a place and a people, all of which have long since passed away. *The Stones Speak* is not only an enchanting work of art, but also a vitally important witness to the way of life on an Icelandic turf farmstead in the 1890s. 255 pp

*English translation available*
“The narrator’s voice is powerful and original, like the story itself – ironic where appropriate but also loving and comforting. The text is very impish and the style beautiful and magical.”

JUDGES’ CITATION FOR THE WOMEN’S LITERARY PRIZE

Girl with a Head
Stúlka með höfuð, novel, 2015

“He taught me to stick to my guns and get angry so that I wanted to break free from my chains. That’s the thrill—what makes life exciting. To sin and break free of your chains and suffer the punishment. It’s a line dance on an awful line, to want to stand at the boundaries and stretch them out so that the world might change for the better. To muddle along and be happy in a world where almost no one can be.”

In Girl with a Head, Thorunn relates what it was like growing up in Reykjavik’s rock ‘n roll and hippie era, including her parents’ difficult divorce, which dampened her youthful happiness for a time, the freedom of student life in Sweden and Mexico, communes, lovers, and a colorful cast of fellow travellers. This candid narrative interweaves heartache and happiness, gaiety and deep regret.

Girl with a Head is a stand-alone continuation of Girl with a Finger and Girl with a Belly, in which Thorunn uses historical documents to poetically relate the lives of her mother and foremothers. Both of these books earned great praise from critics as well as various other recognitions. 320 pp
“And now comes his justification in the wider sense. He says that perhaps he deserves this for meddling with things that are no concern of his, but the thing is, you’re created with this desire or pleasure, which is also the very strongest influence on you of all the pleasures, or at least, that is how it is with him.”

In Girl With a Belly the author expresses her heartache through the voice of Erla Thordis Jonsdottir. In her account, the dead come alive as a Pandora’s box of forgotten family afflictions and secrets is opened. A High Court judgement, shipwreck, world wars, the effects of syphilis, the everyday life of yesteryear – all are intertwined with poetic ingenuity. 441 pp

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

Girl With a Belly
- a Family Saga Based on Documents From the Metal Cabinet
Stúlka með maga, novel, 2013

Girl with a Finger
Stúlka með fingur, novel, 1999

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

• The DV Cultural Prize for Literature 1999
• Nominated for the Nordic Literature Prize 2001

Sold to:
Sweden (Publish America)

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

WORLD LITERATURE TODAY
The Lion Has Many Ears
Mörg eru ljónsins eyru, novel, 2010

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

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

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2010

Cold Blood
Kalt er annars blóð, novel, 2007

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

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

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2007

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

MORGUNBLADID NEWSPAPER (ON COLD BLOOD)
TRYGGVI EMILSSON (1902 – 1993) was born at Hamarkot, a small farmstead in Northern Iceland, and was the fifth of eight children. His mother died when Tryggvi was only six years old, after which his home was broken up and he was sent into foster care. His childhood was characterized by drudgery and poverty, and at the age of 17, he went into service on a farm. Tryggvi Emilsson published poetry and prose works, but it’s his autobiography that ensures that his name will be remembered and celebrated for as long as the Icelandic language is spoken and read.

“This book provides truly compelling evidence that the childhoods of Asta Sollilja, (a character in Independent People by Nobel Prize winner Halldor Laxness) and Maxim Gorky are far closer to us in history than we generally realize.”

THJÓDVILJINN DAILY

Poor People
Fátækz fólk, novel, 1976

When it was first published in 1976, Poor People inspired a great deal of interest and discussion among readers, not only for its brilliant use of language, the remarkable rendering of its characters, and its overall style, but more particularly for the extraordinary story it told. This is the story of the poor in Iceland before the age of social welfare, back when it was possible to deprive hungry families with many children of food because the wealthy merchant needed his payment. Back when small children were indentured into strangers’ service, when no one thought twice about sending hungry youngsters on a two-day walk to the nearest general store in terrible weather so that they might try to get provisions on credit. Emilson’s account of his youth in Iceland in the early 20th century—including the loss of his mother, and the awful time he spent in service as a child—has lost none of its power and magic today. In fact, its message may be even more vital now than when the book was first published.

378 pp

• Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 1978

Danish and German translations available

“It’s strange, but although this is assuredly a tear-jerker, it’s still pretty an ‘enjoyable read.’ [...] And in spite of its dark sides, it’s lovely. I give myself leave to call it ‘sorrowfully beautiful.’”

POET KRISTJAN FRA DJUPALAÈK / DAGUR DAILY
“I can recommend this book for anyone who likes enjoyable thrillers and especially those who are interested in history and the Second World War.”

MORGUNBLADID

The war in Europe finds its way to Iceland with a Nazi invasion in the spring of 1940. Apart from the town drunks who make a ruckus at the harbour, most people adapt quietly to the New Order, profits are made and local Fascists march in the streets. Sigurdur Jonasson, a young employee of the Telephone Company in Reykjavik, despairs of any sort of resistance appearing and his previously militant Marxist girlfriend has withdrawn into depression.

But what do the Nazis really want in Iceland? And what are some of their foremost scientists doing in the highlands? When Hitler’s friendship with Stalin dissolves in the East and there are indications of an approaching conflict with the American forces in Greenland, Sigurdur and his friends head into the desolate interior to find and destroy a possible Nazi superweapon that may well determine the outcome of the war.

The novel is inspired by other works in the genre, including Fatherland by Robert Harris, Making History by Stephen Fry, The Plot Against America by Philip Roth and The Man in the High Castle by Philip K. Dick (also a TV series). 438 pp
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

“A wonderful first book from this author.”

FRETTABLADID NEWSPAPER

English translation available
AD 883. Olaf the White, king of Dublin, is dead and the dominion of the Norsemen in the British Isles is shaken to its foundations. His son, Thorsteinn the Red, struggles to maintain control of Caithness, Scotland, where the natives are growing increasingly defiant. Life is fleeting and no one knows what Fate has in store. In the blink of an eye, Audur Ketilsdottir finds herself alone, surrounded by enemies and responsible for her son’s young children. Making a narrow escape, she sets sail for the newly discovered land at the edge of the world, where rivers and lakes are said to writhe with fish, glacial peaks are silhouetted against the skies, and the earth itself spews fire. On the south coast of Iceland, Celtic slaves revolt and pay dearly for it. The new land is consecrated in blood. One survives, a Briton who has lost everything to Olaf the White and his kin.

With this standalone novel, firmly based on true history, Vilborg Davidsdottir brings to a close her trilogy about the remarkable Audur Ketilsdottir, a woman without equal in Viking Age Iceland. The previous two installments, Audur and Crimson Skies, were exceptionally well-received by readers and critics alike, with the first earning a nomination for the Icelandic Literature Prize. 300 pp

“... a very convincing picture of life during the times in which the story takes place. ... Audur is revealed very much alive, an independent, hot-tempered, proud and daring woman.”

EYJAN.IS (ABOUT AUDUR)
Crimson Skies
Vígroði, historical novel, 2012

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

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

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

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

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2009
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 2005

On the Cold Coasts
– A Novel
Galdur – skáldsaga, historical novel, 2000
The year is 1419. Ragnfridur and Thorkell are betrothed as children, by decision of their high-ranking parents. But Ragnfridur becomes pregnant by an English castaway, and after this Thorkell leaves to study at the Sorbonne in Paris. While he is away, unrest grows in Iceland. The Norwegian authorities feel threatened by the growing English presence in Iceland. When Thorkell returns, and falls in with the English bishop of Holar, John William Craxton, he meets up with the bishop’s housekeeper, Ragnfridur, and her young son...
192 pp

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