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LITERARY FICTION
CRIME FICTION
NON-FICTION

Please note that a fund for the promotion of Icelandic literature operates under the auspices of the Icelandic Ministry of Education and Culture and subsidizes translations of literature. For further information please write to: Icelandic Literature Center Hverfisgata 54 | 101 Reykjavik Iceland Phone +354 552 8500 islit@islit.is | www.islit.is

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ASA MARIN
BENNY SIF ISLEIFSDOTTIR
BJORN HALLDORSSON
EIRIKUR ORN NORDDAHL
ELISABET JOKULSDOTTIR
GUDRUN BRJANSDOTTIR
GUDRUN INGA RAGNARSDOTTIR
JONAS REYNIR GUNNARSSON
KRISTIN MARJA BALDURSDOTTIR
KRISTIN STEINSDOTTIR
OFEIGUR SIGURDSSON
SIGURBJORG THRASTARDOTTIR
STEINUNN SIGURDARDOTTIR
THORA KARITAS ARNADOTTIR
VILBORG DAVIDSDOTTIR

A powerful story about the harsh reality of a small village in Iceland. You will meet tough women, delicate souls, thinkers and thugs, who all have their own hopes and dreams, triumphs and sorrows.



Benny Sif Isleifsdottir Daughters

Hansdætur, novel, 2020

In a small village in the Westfjords of Iceland at the turn of the 20th century, everyone knows their place. Nobody has ideas above their station and a single mother of three children has no chance. Her daughter, Gratiana, yearns for different times and a better life. She rejects the obligations placed on her, she wants to wear trousers, prefers wine over water, and she wants Sella to be allowed to sing and Rannveig to go to school.

340 pp

English sample translation available

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Benny Sif Isleifsdottir (b.1970) has written for children as well as adults, *Daughters* being her second novel. She completed a Master's degree in Folkloristics from the University of Iceland in addition to a certificate program in Youth and Community Studies from Saint Martin's College. In 2018 she received an Emerging Writer grant from the Icelandic Literature Center for her first novel. These grants are awarded yearly to assist in publishing novels by authors just taking their first steps into the world of writing, and to encourage them to continue down this path.

"Especially well written ... an impactful book and a fun read ... hard to put down."

FRETTABLADID

This story is about one man's obsession over one woman, but it is also a love story about work and about place, about how we find and/or make meaning in human existence and what it takes for this meaning to be either removed or rendered useless.

Eirikur Orn Norddahl The Bridge Over Point Road – A Love Story

Brúin yfir Tangagötuna, novel, 2020

If not for his neighbour Gyda, Halldor's life would be rather glum. But even though there are only nine-and-a-half steps from his door to hers, the path there is strangely convoluted. Like most everybody else, they're waiting for life to strike them with purpose, impregnate them with meaning – for love to drop in their laps like the snow pouring down from the heavens.

217 pp

SOLD TO Sweden (Rámus)
English sample translation available

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eirikur Orn Norddahl (b.1978) was awarded The Icelandic Literary Prize and The Icelandic Booksellers' 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

"...before I finish with this incredibly intriguing book let me say that Eirikur Orn, in addition to being a bold and original author, has a particularly impressive command of the language, the key tool of any writer."

BJORN THOR VILHJALMSSON,
NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE



Elisabet Jokulsdottir

The Chill of the April Sun – a Story of Love, Madness and Solace

Aprílsólarkuldi (Eitthvað alveg sérstakt)
– Frásögn um ást og geðveiki og
huggun, novel, 2020

The Chill of the April Sun tells of the sudden loss of a father and how the shock reverberates through his daughter's life. The story is told from the perspective of Vedis, a student and single mother; chronicling the love that finds her almost as unexpectedly and her descent into mental illness, all in a split-second that seems to last an eternity. Rich with imagery and sensitivity, Elisabet tells an intensely personal story, based on parts of her own life.

143 pp

SOLD TO Sweden (Thorén & Lindskog)
English and Russian sample translations available

The Icelandic Literary Prize 2020
Nominated for The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize 2021

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elisabet Jokulsdottir (b.1958) has received several awards and recognitions for her work. A two-time recipient of the Women's Literature Prize, for *The Locksmith's Good Advice* and for *No Dance by Ufsaklettur*, which became a nominee for the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2016. Jokulsdottir was also a candidate in the 2016 presidential election.



"The writing style is unique but accessible and flows beautifully. Each word matters and none are superfluous. Elisabet received the Icelandic Literary Prize for this novel and it's well deserved."

MORGUNBLADID DAILY


"... a powerful story, which the author is indeed successful in delivering. ...The story's build-up and style are in perfect harmony and the piece hits the mark, so to speak."

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE

ÍSLENSKU
BÓKMENNTA
VERÐLAUNIN

2020

*What happens between people
when words fail? When the
connections to language break
down, where do you turn?*



A gripping modern tale that deals in a realistic manner with the consequences of abuse and finding a way back from inside this dark room.

Gudrun Brjansdottir Autopilot

Sjálfstýring, novella, 2020

Here I sit, having turned my life upside down because of a few fingers in the wrong place for just a moment.

Life seems spread out in front of this talented, young woman. She has good friends, a loving family, and will be on her way to an exciting entrance exam at a prestigious foreign music school. But after what her friend does at a Christmas party, she experiences only a strange numbness and disassociation with herself and those closest to her. The book won the 2020 New Voices competition sponsored by Forlagid.

76 pp

SOLD TO Denmark (Lindbak&Lindbak)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gudrun Brjansdottir (b.1995) received her B.A. in Icelandic from the University of Iceland, with a minor in Creative Writing. *Autopilot* is her first novel, having previously published a book of poetry and a translation.

"Well-written, interesting and highly beneficial to our society... the story attests to Gudrun Brjansdottir's great talent. It is of good quality, convincing, and hopefully we won't have to wait too long until we have another book in our hands with her name on it."

BOKMENNTIR.IS

An original and well-crafted story of a journey which takes an unexpected turn.

Gudrun Inga Ragnarsdottir Plan B

Plan B, novel, 2020

Gyda is a prolific writer who despite her best efforts has never been published. She finally has a terrific idea for a great novel, but gets writer's block. To work through it, she begins writing about her own life, Plan B.

341 pp

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gudrun Inga Ragnarsdottir (b.1983) is a long-time writer who graduated from the University of Iceland with a Master's in Creative Writing. *Plan B* is her first novel. She received an Emerging Writer grant from the Icelandic Literature Center to work on the story.

"Plan B is a witty story, full of humour and honesty."

RAGNHILDUR THRASTARDOTTIR, MOGUNBLADID DAILY

"Plan B is an excellent debut, well-written, funny, and interesting [...] The result is unusual and an unusually entertaining novel."

BRYNHILDUR BJORNSDOTTIR, FRETABLADID DAILY

A subtly funny and sometimes ambiguous story about when everyday life is turned on its head and death comes knocking.

Jonas Reynir Gunnarsson Death of a Forest

Dauði skógar, novel, 2020

I imagine myself shooting through the night on a motorcycle. That I'm driving out of the town and letting myself disappear into the darkness. I'm as good as gone. This is why I went to Spain, to disappear.

It has been raining nonstop for several days when the forest slides down the hillside, setting off a series of events in the life of the landowner and family father, Magnús. As everything starts to fall apart, it becomes clear that Magnús doesn't know how to deal with his problems or the people in his life. Shortly afterward he discovers the bombs. 180 pp

English sample translation available

The Icelandic Booksellers' Prize 2020 (3rd place)
Nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize 2020

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonas Reynir Gunnarsson (b.1987) studied Creative Writing MA at the University of Iceland. His previous novels, *Connecting Flight* and *Starfish*, garnered much attention, the former being nominated for the DV Culture Award. His poetry book *Big Oil Tankers* received the Tomas Gudmundsson Literature Award and the collection *Laundry Day* was recipient of the May Star Poetry Prize. Jonasreynir.com



"The flow of the novel is delightful ... The book is hard to put down and Jonas Reynir manages to captivate the reader and keep them in anticipation about what happens next."

MORGUNBLADID

"The tone is reminiscent of stories like The Stranger by Camus ..."

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE



Love, secrets, drama and a great twist – it's all there! And it's riveting! A page-turner to the very end.

Kristin Marja Baldursdottir Street of the Mothers

Gata mæðranna, novel, 2020

In the evenings, Marin sits behind the glass window of the ticket office, drawing and letting her mind wander. She is on her way out into life following her graduation, uncertain of what awaits her and what she wants for herself. Her search for a room to rent leads her from house to house, from one woman to another. They all have stories and dreams, but around them hover men with their own ideas. *Street of the Mothers* takes place in the 1960s, and the roles of the sexes are clear. On this street the women are in charge; it is their world, with children and laundry, staring and gabbing – but also secrets and unsaid words, love and lovelessness.

243 pp

SOLD TO Denmark (Gyldendal)
English sample translation available

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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.

"Kristin Marja is a great novelist, definitely one of our best. She shows it in this story."

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV

"Street of the Mothers is an outstanding novel, stylish, thought-provoking and substantial in its depiction of Marin's life and circumstances."

WEEKENDAVISEN, DENMARK



The streets fill with foreign soldiers and vehicles, new buildings rise all around and out in the fjords lie giant battleships – but the threat looms: enemy planes with bombs that spare no one.

Kristin Steinsdottir Over My Hometown

Yfir bænum heima, novel, 2020

It's spring in a small village by the sea. Work is sparse and everyone is struggling to make ends meet. Young people dream of a brighter future, while the older allow each day's pain and pleasure to suffice. But when the war comes to the village, the world war itself, everything changes.

Over My Hometown tells of the people from Hakot, friends and neighbors in Seydisfjord. Ásta is fifteen when the war hits, excited about the novelties but needing to set her dreams aside: going to Reykjavik to study dance. Her sister Thruda has small children and is at once strong-minded and terror-stricken. Her mother Runa takes everything in stride but the stress is taking its toll on her. Each generation responds to the situation in their own way, but the war, its perils, and changes to the town leave a deep impression. Kristin Steinsdottir has a particular knack for creating convincing and entertaining characters, writing with warmth and sensitivity about their destinies and everyday lives.

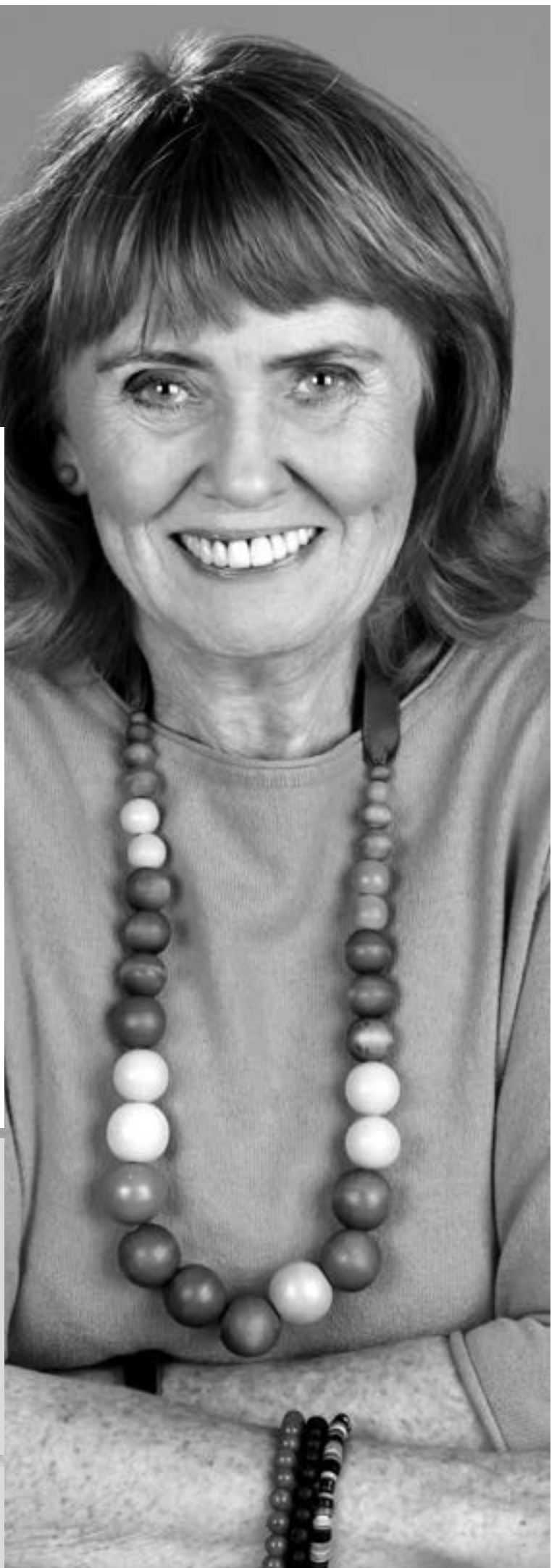
317 pp

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kristin Steinsdottir (b.1946) is the highly acclaimed and award-winning author of 40 books for both adults and children. Her novels have earned great praise both in Iceland and abroad, including The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize for high quality innovative works by women, which she received for the novel *By Herself*. The book was also nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize. Steinsdottir has received the highest order of the Republic of Iceland, the Order of the Falcon, for her contribution to Icelandic literature.

"A heart-warming story..."

MORGUNBLADID DAILY



Obtrusive, funny and titillating stories where all sorts of ordinary people deal weakly with imminent threats and unconscious fears.

Ofeigur Sigurdsson Warning Signs

Vabodar, stories, 2020

Every so often an original theory sprouts from the moldy banality and insipid work madness in small, isolated, and inbred fishing villages. Not often but it happens. A light flickers in the depths and lures its prey.

Warning Signs is a collection of closely and loosely connected stories of dreams and omens, specialized research and ambitious plans, apes and seagulls, poets and scientists, books and knives, unsettled lands and a bewildered people. 197 pp

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ofeigur Sigurdsson (b.1975) is a superbly entertaining and original author of prose and poetry. His novels and poetry have been widely celebrated. *A Novel of Jon* won the European Union's Literary Award in 2011, and the bestseller *Oraefi: The Wasteland* snatched up the Icelandic Literature Award in 2014.

"It's a brilliant, ecstatic, hallucinatory arabesque consisting of nested tales of decreasing reliability and increasing self-awareness."

DAVID SEARCY, THE LITERARY HUB (ON WASTELAND)

"Fun stories, many of them full of black humour, which leave readers behind with a subtle chill."

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE



The stories are tragic yet tragicomic and the reader can perceive the story behind the story and the proximity of the unsaid.

Sigurbjorg Thrastardottir Mothers of Astronauts

Mæður geimfara, flash-fiction, 2020

This is a colourful collection of short stories about man's attempts to take flight – and our niggling awareness of gravity's inevitability. Readers get acquainted with depression in the family of an astronaut, mothers of debt collectors, the vastness of space, Mickey Mouse and Marilyn Monroe, to name a few things.

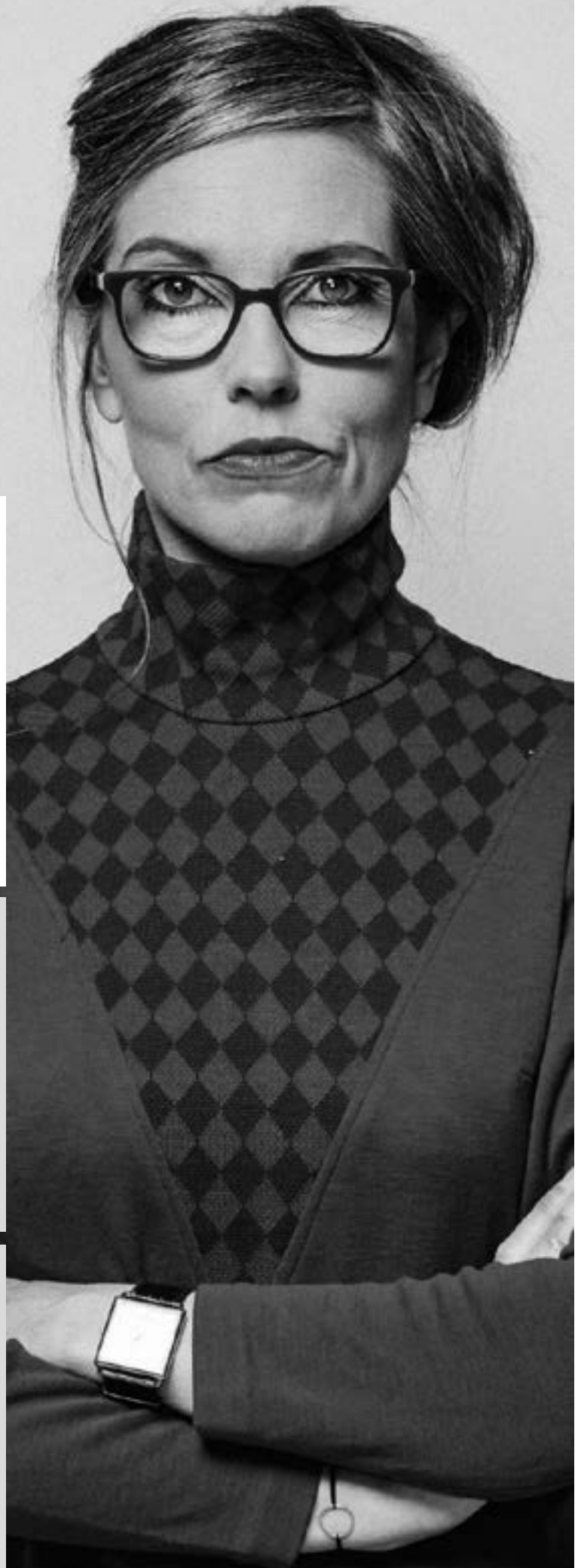
144 pp

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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, Metro-poetica, that researched European cities for many years. Thrastardottir's narrative poem, *Candle-light Vigils* was nominated for the 2009 Nordic Council's Literature Prize and has been published in German and Swedish.

"...here you can find some fantastical tales, adventures, polemics and surrealism, all mixed together... These stories contain a great amount of human understanding that is portrayed in such a natural way that, at first, you may think that serious issues are being depicted lightly. However, you will come to realise, especially with repeated reading, that the seriousness of the matters discussed cuts much deeper."

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE



A travelogue through Iceland and into the soul, in search of love and oneself.

Steinunn Sigurdardottir Place of the Heart

Hjartastaður, novel, 2020

(previously published 1995)

Harpa Eir flees the city to save her daughter from the questionable company she is keeping. With mother and daughter in tow, it is Harpa's friend who drives the car, the heading set for the family estate in the east. But the journey soon turns into more than saving her child, because unknown to her, Harpa Eir is on her way to a meeting with the truth about herself.

Place of the Heart is a powerful travel story where the road leads not only past the majestic nature along the roadside, but also the barren landscape of the mind. Inside the car and out, the trio face various challenges while all around them swarm haunting memories and characters from the past, both alive and dead.

400 pp

SOLD TO World English (Amazon Crossing)

PREVIOUS SALES (RIGHTS ARE FREE)

Denmark (Rosinante); Finland (Otava); France (Denoël);
Germany (Rowohlt)

The Icelandic Literary Prize

Nomination for the Nordic Council Literary Prize

Nomination for the European Aristeion Literary Award

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steinunn Sigurdardottir (b.1950) is one of Iceland's most highly acclaimed novelists and poets and has sustained a writing career since 1969, as well as a distinguished career in journalism. She has contributed greatly to the international recognition of contemporary Icelandic literature, being one of the most frequently translated living Icelandic writers. Her first novel, *The Thief of Time* was made into a French feature film and later adapted to the stage by The National Theatre of Iceland. Sigurdardottir's book about President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir was an all-time bestseller in Iceland. Her latest book of non-fiction is *Heida, The Mountain Farmer*, a true story that is being published by leading European publishing houses.



"This book is a gem."

VIGDIS GRIMSDOTTIR

Thora Karitas Arnadottir Bloodstone

Blóðberg, historical novel, 2020

Thordis Halldorsdottir was sentenced to die at Parliament in Thingvellir in 1618. Her supposed crime was to have had a baby with her brother-in-law, Tomas Bodvarsson. This was considered incest and punishable by death, according to the laws in Iceland at the time. However, this was never proven.

Bloodstone is a novel based on the story of the young girl from the North, the first woman in Iceland to be drowned at Parliament. She swore an oath that she was still a maiden, but gave birth to a child five months later, and argued her case at Parliament for ten years before a verdict was issued.

176 pp

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Thora Karitas Arnadottir (b.1979) has worked as a writer, in theater, and in television. *And the Swans Began to Sing*, based on a true story, was published in 2015 and well received by readers. *Bloodstone* is her first novel.

"A romantic story from a cruel time. A tender read told from the perspective of a young woman from a better social class in the Northlands. A magical setting between reformation (1550) and absolute monarchy (1662)."

THORUNN JARLA VALDIMARSDOTTIR

*"Thora Karitas possesses a unique courage when it comes to dealing with the unbearable aspects of human existence. Her book **And the Swans Began to Sing**, from 2015, left us readers raw. And here she is again with a story that sheds light and increases awareness of the abuses of power that have shaped us for centuries, and to a large extent is still with us today."*

GUDRUN EVA MINERVUDOTTIR



"A very talented author, who has great knowledge of Old Norse sources from which she weaves her gripping story."

THORA INGVARSDOTTIR, UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

Vilborg Davidsdottir Under Yggdrasil

Undir Yggdrasil, historical fiction, 2020

The year is 900, the place, Iceland, newly settled by Nordic Vikings.

Thorgerd Thorsteinsdottir gave birth to twins barely a grown-up herself, but she had to wait a long time to have the child she had most yearned for, Thorkatla. All the more tragic are the events following the Assembly, when the little girl is seven years old – events no one can understand. Thorgerd chooses to seek support from the Norns who decide the fates of men under Yggdrasil, the Tree of Life, rather than from the White Christ of her grandmother, and the quest for truth leads her to setting sail from Iceland, east across the ocean, and eventually, on a seeress's journey into the Underworld and the Realms of the Dead.

Under Yggdrasil is a gripping novel inspired by the Icelandic Sagas, as was Vilborg Davidsdottir's acclaimed trilogy of novels on Aud the Deep-Minded, the first of which was nominated for the Icelandic Prize for Literature. Davidsdottir's historical novels have been tremendously popular over the last decades, especially as they throw a new and unexpected light on the lives of women in the Viking Age. 329 pp

Nominated for The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize 2020

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vilborg Davidsdottir (b. 1965) is a distinguished Icelandic author, with background in journalism and ethnology. She has written nine novels, as well as a compelling memoir, critically acclaimed for her thorough research of historical sources, crisp and clear language, a flowing narrative style and fast-paced and intricately woven plots. davidsdottir.is

"The past meets the present in a captivating way in this book, bringing together the fascinating setting of the Viking Age and contemporary descriptions of the inner life of the characters. I have always wanted to read an Icelandic Saga filled with feelings, and this is it."

ANDRI M. KRISTJANSSON, NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE (ON OCEAN ROAD)



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ARNALDUR INDRIDASON
JONINA LEOSDOTTIR
LILJA SIGURDARDOTTIR
OTTAR M NORDFJORD
STELLA BLOMKVIST



A poignant and complex crime story about abuse and helplessness, enormous sacrifices, and grave misdeeds.

Arnaldur Indridason Wall of Silence

Pagnarmúr, crime novel, 2020
Konrad Series #4

A brutal secret is discovered bricked up behind a cellar wall in a stone house in Reykjavik, where it has lain for decades encased in silence. Konrad, a former police officer, seeks to shed light on this past evil, but police immediately direct their attention to him: why didn't he tell the truth about events on the day his father was murdered? What has he been keeping quiet about all these years?
310 pp

SOLD TO France (Métailie)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Arnaldur Indridason (b.1961) has the rare distinction of having won the Nordic Crime Novel Prize two years running. He is also the winner of the highly respected and world famous CWA Gold Dagger Award for the top crime novel of the year in the English language, *Silence of the Grave*. Indridason's novels have sold over 15 million copies worldwide, in over 40 languages, and have won numerous well-respected prizes and received rave reviews all over the world.

"He is not called the king of Icelandic crime fiction for nothing ... a superior author."

LITERATURE.IS

★★★★★ *out of five*
"Wall of Silence is like a plant with many branches and a strong trunk."

MORGUNBLADID DAILY



“Another original voice from Iceland. Jonina Leosdottir brings wit, pace and a fantastic central character to her story-telling.”

ANN CLEEVES

Jonina Leosdottir The Faceless Woman

Andlitslausa konan, crime novel, 2020
Edda Series #5

On New Year's Eve, Edda is invited to a wedding at Thingvellir National Park for people she hardly knows. She asks her neighbor Finn to come along while her granddaughter, Dagny Edda, photographs the ceremony with her friend. They all become entangled in an investigation into a terrifying crime committed outside the little church. The investigation shines an unexpected spotlight onto the party organized by the Prime Minister at the old Thingvellir farmhouse and upsets the young girls' mysterious New Year's Plans.

The Faceless Woman is Leosdottir's fifth book about Edda, her struggles with complex criminal cases, and relations with her family, which are sometimes no less complex. 329 pp

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonina Leosdottir (b.1954) studied modern languages and Latin at college, attended Essex University and graduated from The University of Iceland with a BA-degree in English and Literature. Her latest work is the Edda crime series – about the retired Edda who refuses to succumb to the boredom of retirement and instead finds herself involved in solving crime time and again. Unforgettable characters that you will wish were your best friends.

joninaleosdottir.com

“We need our yearly dose of Edda. She is simply spookily addictive.”

FB/VIKAN



A fast-paced and exceptional crime drama with unexpected twists and turns.

Lilja Sigurdardottir Red as Blood

Blóðrauður sjór, crime novel, 2020
Aurora Series #2

When entrepreneur Flosi arrives home for dinner he finds his house in shambles and his wife Gudrun missing. A letter is waiting for him on the kitchen table saying she has been kidnapped, and if Flosi doesn't agree to pay an enormous ransom she will be killed. He cannot turn to the police, and after a few detours gets in touch with Aurora, who specializes in finding hidden assets, and Daniel, a detective. Together they try to get to the bottom of it without anyone catching on. Could Gudrun's kidnapping be connected to international organized crime and money laundering – or is the explanation closer to home: an affair and intense jealousy?

A stand-alone continuation of the story *Cold As Hell* with Aurora and Daniel as main characters, the tension between them no less intense this time around.

314 pp

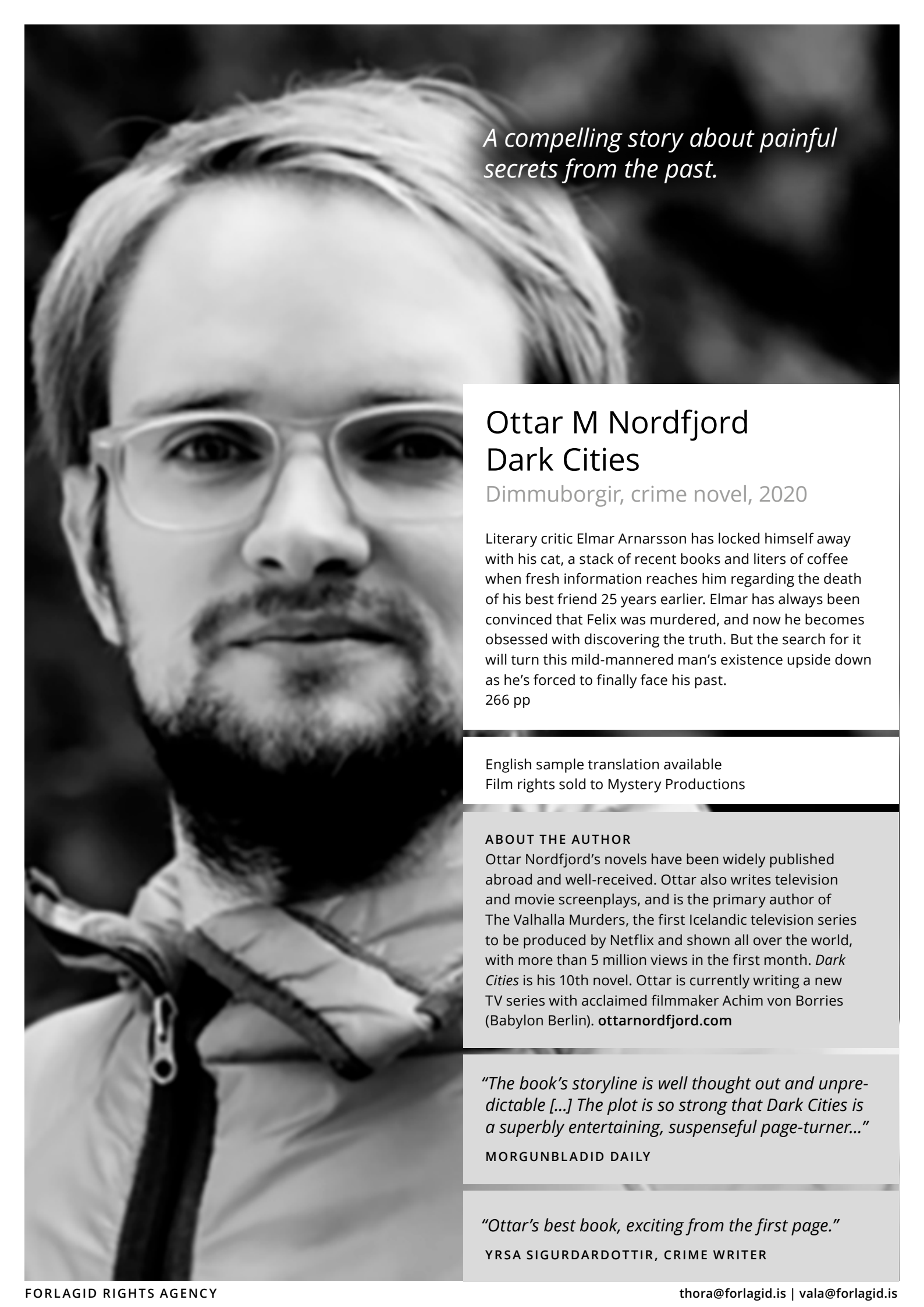
SOLD TO UK (Orenda Books)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lilja Sigurdardottir (b.1972) is an award-winning playwright, and an author of many crime novels. She has won the Icelandic Crime Novel Award for *Cage* and *Betrayal*, and both titles represented Iceland at the Nordic Crime Novel Awards. Sigurdardottir has also been longlisted for a CWA International Dagger Award, Prix du Meilleur Polar at Points and Edinburgh International Book Festival's First Book Award. The film rights to her Reykjavik Noir trilogy (*Snare*, *Trap* and *Cage*) have been bought by Palomar Pictures in California. liljawriter.com

"An excellent mystery novel with interesting characters and a fascinating plot."

FRETTABLADID DAILY



A compelling story about painful secrets from the past.

Ottar M Nordfjord Dark Cities

Dimmuborgir, crime novel, 2020

Literary critic Elmar Arnarsson has locked himself away with his cat, a stack of recent books and liters of coffee when fresh information reaches him regarding the death of his best friend 25 years earlier. Elmar has always been convinced that Felix was murdered, and now he becomes obsessed with discovering the truth. But the search for it will turn this mild-mannered man's existence upside down as he's forced to finally face his past.

266 pp

English sample translation available
Film rights sold to Mystery Productions

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

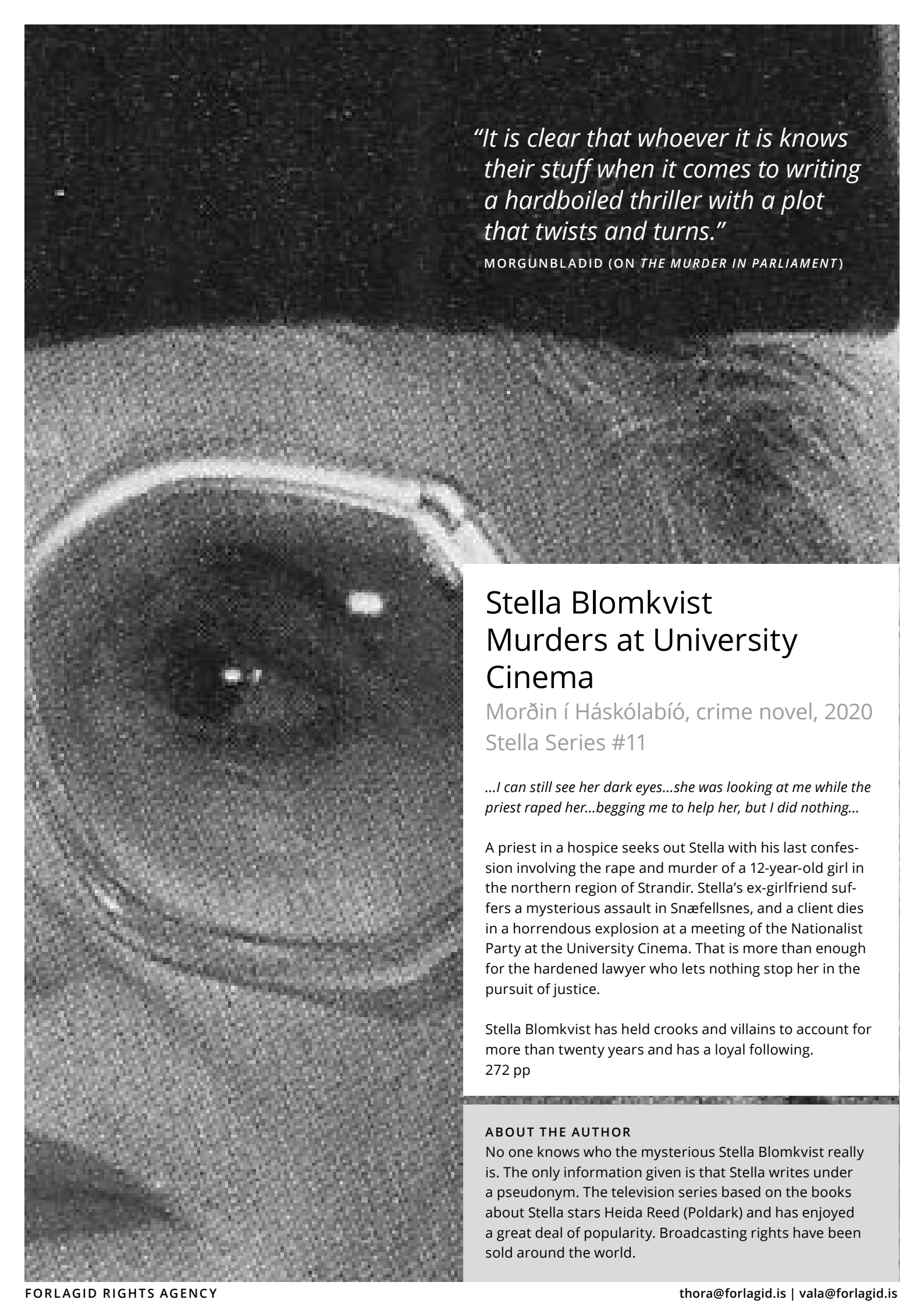
Ottar Nordfjord's novels have been widely published abroad and well-received. Ottar also writes television and movie screenplays, and is the primary author of *The Valhalla Murders*, the first Icelandic television series to be produced by Netflix and shown all over the world, with more than 5 million views in the first month. *Dark Cities* is his 10th novel. Ottar is currently writing a new TV series with acclaimed filmmaker Achim von Borries (*Babylon Berlin*). ottarnordfjord.com

"The book's storyline is well thought out and unpredictable [...] The plot is so strong that Dark Cities is a superbly entertaining, suspenseful page-turner..."

MORGUNBLADID DAILY

"Ottar's best book, exciting from the first page."

YRSA SIGURDARDOTTIR, CRIME WRITER



"It is clear that whoever it is knows their stuff when it comes to writing a hardboiled thriller with a plot that twists and turns."

MORGUNBLADID (ON *THE MURDER IN PARLIAMENT*)

Stella Blomkvist Murders at University Cinema

Morðin í Háskólabíó, crime novel, 2020
Stella Series #11

...I can still see her dark eyes...she was looking at me while the priest raped her...begging me to help her, but I did nothing...

A priest in a hospice seeks out Stella with his last confession involving the rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl in the northern region of Strandir. Stella's ex-girlfriend suffers a mysterious assault in Snæfellsnes, and a client dies in a horrendous explosion at a meeting of the Nationalist Party at the University Cinema. That is more than enough for the hardened lawyer who lets nothing stop her in the pursuit of justice.

Stella Blomkvist has held crooks and villains to account for more than twenty years and has a loyal following.
272 pp

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

No one knows who the mysterious Stella Blomkvist really is. The only information given is that Stella writes under a pseudonym. The television series based on the books about Stella stars Heida Reed (Poldark) and has enjoyed a great deal of popularity. Broadcasting rights have been sold around the world.

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ESSAY
NARRATIVE NON-FICTION
MEMOIR
HISTORY
CRAFTS

A clever and informative journey through the conundrums of modern life. Guaranteed to set your mind spinning.

Bergur Ebbi Screenshot

– an essay on our worship of technology and its impact on human identity and our collective perception of the future – almost not as pretentious as it sounds –

Skjáskot, essay, 2020

Have we all been uploaded to the cloud? In *Screenshot*, Bergur Ebbi sets out to look at technology from a human perspective. Or humanity from a technological perspective. What are the connections between fake news and artificial intelligence? How does it feel to live in a world where all our thoughts are categorized, rated, and commented on? Ancient people feared the world would end in fire and destruction — but what if it doesn't? Maybe what we should fear is that nothing will ever be deleted or forgotten again.

208 pp



In English

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bergur Ebbi (b.1981), poet, journalist, and stand-up comedian, writes with sensitivity and enthusiasm about present realities – what matters to us, who we are, and where are we going?

"When Bergur Ebbi talks, you shut up, because he's either about to say something fun or something interesting and most likely both."

HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON

"Bergur Ebbi is the new type of writer that plays with moods – drawing culture, politics, morals and the mundane in to one mix; for a better perspective of what is happening in the world."

JON GNARR



Icelandic crystals became the key to answering one riddle after another on the nature of light, electricity and magnetism, crystallography, organic chemistry, and the microscopic structure of the physical world.

Kristjan Leosson and Leo Kristjansson Iceland spar – the crystal that changed the world

Silfurberg – Íslenski kristallinn
sem breytti heiminum, narrative
non-fiction, 2020

From the 17th to the 20th Century, scientists made numerous breakthrough discoveries that significantly influenced the development of the natural sciences. Few are aware, however, of the central role played by certain crystals from Iceland in many of these developments.

Over a 250-year period, a single quarry at the farm Helgustadir in East Iceland was the only place in the world that supplied crystals of sufficient size and clarity for scientific research and for the construction of high-quality optical instruments. Hundreds of tons of optical calcite, otherwise known as Iceland spar or locally as *silfurberg* (silvery rock), were exported and used in a wide range of applications and in the research of some of history's most prominent scientists – from Huygens and Newton to Pasteur, Arago, Faraday, Maxwell, and Röntgen, to name a few. The Icelandic crystals became the key to answering one riddle after another on the nature of light, electricity and magnetism, crystallography, organic chemistry, and the microscopic structure of the physical world. Research involving Iceland spar crystals helped shape the modern sciences that profoundly influence the lives of most of humankind, including many of the technologies that have become an integral part of our daily lives.

288 pp

Chapters in English available

Nominated for the Hagthenkir Non-Fiction Prize 2021

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Scientists Leo Kristjansson and Kristjan Leosson have researched this fascinating story for many years and here describe their findings in a clear and especially accessible manner.

Readers get a look below the surface as Vigdis shares her thoughts on the role of a head of state and the various tasks that go along with it.

Steinunn Sigurdardottir Alone in the President's Chair

Ein á forsetavakt, memoir, 2020

(previously published 1988)

When Vigdis Finnbogadóttir became president of Iceland in 1980, no woman had ever before been democratically elected as head of state – anywhere in world. As if that weren't enough, it was also considered strange for an unmarried woman and single mother to serve in such an office.

Alone in the President's Chair by Steinunn Sigurdardottir was first published in the fall of 1988 and garnered much attention, as for the first time people got a glimpse into the daily life of the president. In her book, Steinunn describes with considerable insight seven days in the life of Vigdis: travels both abroad and domestically, state dinners and meetings, internal squabbles, child rearing and her sparse free time. The book is now being reissued, with minor revisions and a new introduction and epilogue by the author, to mark the 90 years since Vigdis' birth and the 40 years since she was elected president of Iceland.

188 pp

SOLD TO

Denmark (Holkenfeldt)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steinunn Sigurdardottir (b.1950) is one of Iceland's most highly acclaimed novelists and poets and has sustained a writing career since 1969, as well as a distinguished career in journalism. She has contributed greatly to the international recognition of contemporary Icelandic literature, being one of the most frequently translated living Icelandic writers. Her first novel, *The Thief of Time* was made into a French feature film and later adapted to the stage by The National Theatre of Iceland. Sigurdardottir's book about President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir was an all-time best-seller in Iceland. Her latest book of non-fiction is *Heida – A Shepherd at the Edge of the World*, a true story that is being published by leading European publishing houses.



A seasonal portrait of an Icelandic superheroine.

Steinunn Sigurdardottir Heida – A Shepherd at the Edge of the World

Heiða – fjalldalabóndinn, memoir, 2016

Heida, named after the one-and-only Heidi of literary fame, is a solitary farmer, with a flock of five-hundred sheep on the farm Ljotarstadir in a remorseless area bordering Iceland's highlands. One of Heida's nearest neighbors is Iceland's most notorious volcano, Katla, which has repeatedly driven away the inhabitants of Ljotarstadir ever since people first started farming there in the twelfth century. The heroic tale of this charismatic young woman, who had a chance to work as a model in New York, is divided according to the four seasons. Heiða tells of her struggles with herself and the powers of nature with deep feeling, keen wit and humor, weaving the narrative with anecdotes of her animals and farm work. Heida's energetic narrative is interspersed with her deftly-composed quatrains, as well as her insightful reflections on Icelandic nature.

316 pp

THE WOMEN'S LITERATURE PRIZE IN ICELAND
THE ICELANDIC BOOKSELLERS' PRIZE

SOLD TO

Denmark (Klim); Egypt (Al Arabi); Finland (Like); France (Seuil); Germany (Hanser); Norway (Gloria); Italy (Mondadori); Poland (Kobiece); United Kingdom (Quercus/John Murray); Serbia (Clio); Spain (Capitan Swing); The Netherlands (HarperCollins)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

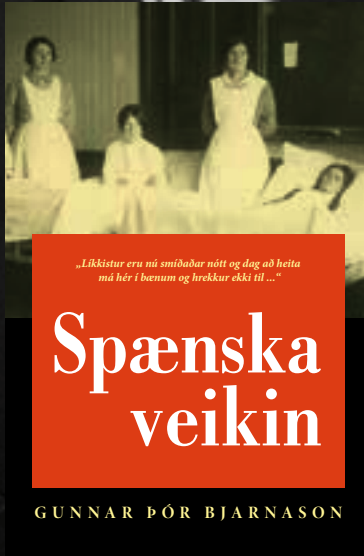
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Was it possible to defend against this horrific global plague using specific disease prevention?

And in what ways is the Spanish flu comparable to the viral pandemic that has raged across the globe in 2020?



Gunnar Thor Bjarnason The Spanish Flu

Spænska veikin, history, 2020

The Spanish flu was the most destructive pandemic in history, arriving on Iceland's shores in the midst of the Katla volcanic eruption, during one of the most eventful years of the twentieth century, 1918.

Hundreds of Icelanders perished in only a few weeks, mostly young people in the prime of their lives, more women than men. Countless children lost their parents. These were harrowing times, with almost relentless funeral processions and tolling of church bells.

This book tells the story of the people of Iceland, for example a trawler fisherman who returns from sea to find life in Reykjavik all but extinguished, and a beloved singer who dies, leaving her infant daughter behind. We see several memorable individuals – doctors, nurses, midwives, and others who battled heroically against “the great plague”, often to little effect.

320 pp

The Icelandic Booksellers' Prize 2020 (2nd place)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gunnar Thor Bjarnason is the author of several historical novels and has received multiple recognitions for his work. In 2016 he was awarded the Icelandic Literature Prize for his book *When Civilization Went to Hell – Icelanders and the Great War 1914–1918*.

The book emphasizes both the variety of stranded colour patterns and the many different techniques so that all knitters can find a pair to knit at any level of complexity.



Gudrun Hannele Henttinen Icelandic Mittens – 25 Traditional Patterns Made New

Íslenskir vettlingar – 25 nýjar útfærslur á gömlum mynstrum, crafts, 2020

Icelandic Mittens – 25 Traditional Patterns Made New is a contemporary interpretation of a collection of 19th and 20th century mittens and gloves that are housed in the Textile Museum in Blönduós in the north of Iceland. These carefully rewritten patterns and charts allow for the preservation of a tradition that celebrates both the utility and the beauty of these knitted mittens and gloves. 276 pp

In English

SOLD TO World English (Trafalgar Books); Finland (Tammi); Norway (Samlaget)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gudrun Hannele Henttinen, trained as a textile teacher and has taught knitting for many years. For more than a decade she has also been the owner of Storkurinn, a wool store in Reykjavik.



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