



**RLA**

**Reykjavík  
Literary Agency**

**NEW BOOKS 2023**

***FICTION***

***CRIME FICTION***

***NON-FICTION***

The Reykjavík Literary Agency represents authors and titles in the field of literary fiction, crime fiction, classics, poetry, non-fiction and children's books from various Icelandic publishers.

RLA is owned by Forlagid, Iceland's largest publishing house, but operates independently. We have something to offer to publishers and production companies world-wide and a great expertise in handling translation rights for our authors, many of whom are amongst the most successful and critically acclaimed writers in Iceland. The Reykjavík Literary Agency sells rights world-wide, directly and through sub-agents.

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## SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS

A fund for the promotion of Icelandic literature operates under the auspices of the Icelandic Ministry of Culture and Business Affairs and subsidizes translations of literature. Click here for more info: [www.islit.is](http://www.islit.is)





**FICTION**

***A vivid tale following a woman at a crossroads, faced with the task of choosing a new path in life.***

## ***Asa Marin*** **Sea Heart**

Sjávarhjarta, novel, 2023

Dia has faced challenging times and encountered numerous setbacks. Throughout her troubles, her dream has been to travel to Cuba. So, when her ex-husband Vidar extends an invitation for a Caribbean cruise with a stop in Cuba, Dia eagerly accepts. The only catch is that the trip is focused on needlework, a hobby in which Vidar and the other travellers are interested, while Dia is decidedly not.

Things take an unexpected turn when a mysterious and flirtatious woman from Vidar's past appears on the ship, causing Dia to reevaluate her complicated relationship with Vidar. However, not everything is as it seems and soon Dia has to make a decision that will change the course of her life. **213 pp**

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Asa Marin (b. 1977) is an elementary school teacher and has travelled around the world as a tour guide. Her previous three novels are *Dear Suns* (2022), *Halfway Around the Globe* (2021) and *The Path of the Wind* (2015), all of which are about unexpected adventures in exotic places.

*"The book is structured in an entertaining way with the reader eager to get to each new letter in this scavenger hunt... Asa Marin brings a high degree of food writing to the page, and, in the spirit of Jenny Colgan and Nora Ephron, you're rewarded with recipes at the end... Characters are well developed, and the main three characters are very compelling. ... the perfect read to take on vacation ..."*

LESTRARKLEFINN / DEAR SUNS 2022



***A sharp and profound story that hilariously mirrors modern society through complex and vivid characters.***

## ***Audur Jonsdottir*** **Tom**

Högni, novel, 2023


Tom is a demographer in his fifties who works at The Future Institute to assess the impact of climate change on the environment and city planning of Reykjavik. His private life, on the other hand, has gone off the rails after a difficult divorce. He seeks relief in the arms of women in the bars of the town until it all comes to a head – suddenly Tom has become the most controversial man in the country and is shown no mercy on social media. Tom is forced to face himself and at the same time the past. **220 pp**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Audur Jonsdottir (b. 1973) is one of the most accomplished authors writing in Icelandic today. Her novels have aroused interest in Iceland, as well as abroad, for their rare blend of incisive candor and humor. She won the Icelandic Literary Prize for *The People in the Basement* and the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize for *Secretaries to the Spirits*. Both of these novels were nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize. Audur's novel, *Quake*, is probably her most successful publication to date and gathered a huge following among Icelandic readers of all ages, strengthening her position as an important writer of her generation. *Quake* was among World Literature Today's 75 most notable translations of 2022. Several films have been made based on her novels.

*"Audur is a great storyteller, writes incredibly well and ... so good at describing ordinary people – making ordinary people interesting ..."*

KILJAN/NATIONAL TV, ICELAND



HÖGNI  
AUDUR JÓNS DÓTTIR  
Spáldsaga  
„Væmi hjófundar og snilldarleg frásagnar-  
aðferð gera söguna ásteymanlega.“  
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (TM SKJALETA)

*A tragicomic, subversive novel about poets, football and the fiction of everyday life.*

*Bragi Olafsson*  
**Against the Course of the Game: Death of a Poet**

Gegn gangi leiksins: Ljóðskáld deyr, novel, 2022

It has been seven years since the poet Svanur Bergmundsson was released from prison, where he served a lengthy sentence for manslaughter. Meanwhile, Svanur's sister, Loa, has moved into an elderly care facility and put her apartment in central Reykjavik on the market. However, she allows her brother to live there until it is sold.

On a picturesque autumn day, a young couple arrives at Svanur's door, wanting to view the apartment. Svanur is preparing to watch an international football match on TV, but up ahead is another match, in which he will personally participate. The visit of the young couple gets a different ball rolling, and at half time, the game changes again.

**157 pp**

English sample translation available

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Bragi Olafsson (b. 1962) is an acclaimed writer known for his novels, plays, poetry, and short stories. With a unique blend of subtle humour and the portrayal of extraordinary elements in ordinary life, Olafsson's writing offers a thrilling and unconventional experience. His works are highly original and have garnered critical acclaim. His novel *The Ambassador* won the 2006 Icelandic Booksellers' Prize and was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

*"You won't be disappointed by Bragi Olafsson's latest book. Unpredictable and compelling, his storytelling keeps you engaged until the very end. A must-read for his fans and anyone seeking a unique literary experience."*

NATIONAL TV



**An engaging story about a lost genius who is a lifelong prisoner of his own obsession.**

**Einar Karason**  
**World Champion**

Heimsmeistari, novel, 2023

In the middle of the Cold War, representatives of East and West fought a battle at the chessboard in the small city of Reykjavík. A world title was at stake and the West won. The young winner was eccentric and uncompromising, but the locals sympathized with him and did not forget his achievement.

Years later, this fearless loner has run afoul of his home country's government and sits in a Japanese prison, lonely and disgraced. Then benefactors from the island in the north take matters into their own hands and retrieve the world champion from halfway across the globe - but the escape to Iceland is bought at a high price. **128 pp**

English sample translation available

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Einar Karason (b. 1955) is a novelist and one of the most popular authors and scriptwriters 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 novel *Storm Birds* (2018) and the rights have been sold in 15 countries.



***A succulent story about crime and punishment in a small Icelandic fishing village two hundred years ago.***

## ***Einar Mar Gudmundsson*** **Rightly Judged**

*Pví dæmist rétt vera*, novel, 2023

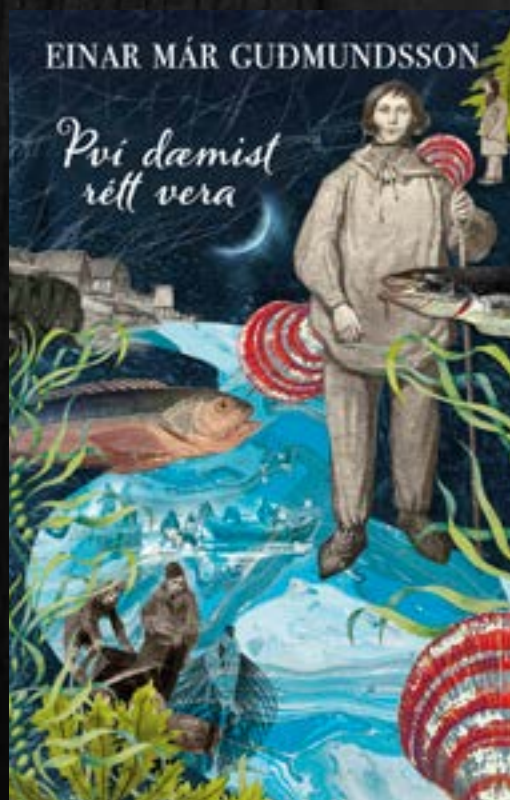
*... there is no recipe for stories, let alone novels, and neither for truth ...*

In Tangavik two hundred years ago, dangerous ideas run rampant; ideas about justice and equality. Secretly, people are plotting to free the rich from the wealth that weighs them down, but when it comes down to it, the authorities are not amused. Crimes threaten society's values, and it is vitally important to suppress dissent and rebellion; find the guilty, judge harshly and punish cruelly.

Many of the colourful threads from Einar's previous novel, *Poetic Criminology*, are spun forward in various directions: a desire for freedom is ignited and suffocated, imperfect characters run out of control, family ties prosper, the sequence of events collapses and jumps over years and centuries, fiction and history contend with truth and lies, right and wrong - and all of this comes together in a magically twisted web in the author's celebrated style. **273 pp**

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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





***A mesmerizing journey  
through mystical intrigue and  
transformative times.***

***Eiríkur Örn Norddahl***  
**The Natural Laws**

Náttúrulögmálin, novel, 2023

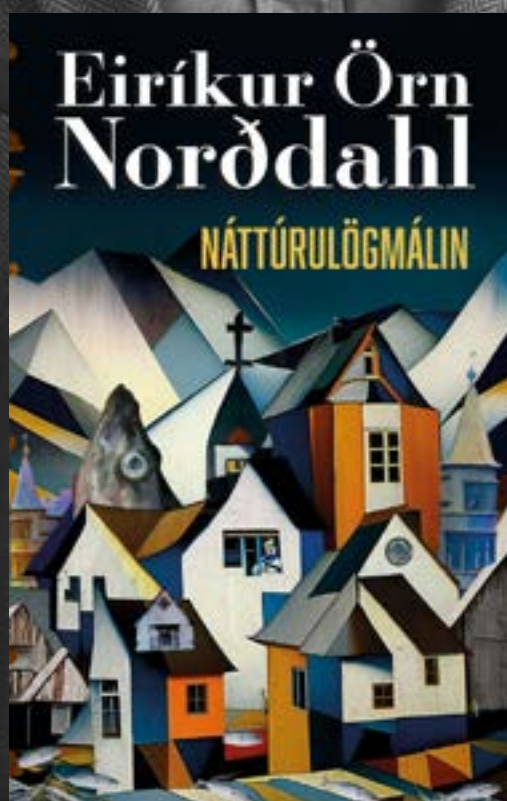
In the early summer of 1925, the youngest, most beautiful and most reluctant bishop in the history of Iceland summons the country's priests to the small town of Isafjordur. His purpose is to solidify the power of Christianity and suppress the spread of spiritualism. However, his schemes set off an unforeseen chain of events that span seven tumultuous days. Life in the town takes a sharp detour as inexplicable and catastrophic phenomena unfold, leaving the townspeople grappling with the question of whether the nature of these occurrences is scientific or divine.

*The Natural Laws* is a captivating novel with a glittering tinge of fantasy that offers a distinctive and carnivalesque portrayal of life in a small Icelandic town. Fact and fiction are juggled freely, capturing the town's atmosphere and local memories, to weave an exhilarating and thrilling narrative. **595 pp**

English sample translation available

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Eiríkur Örn Norddahl (b. 1978) has published poetry, essays, fiction, a cookbook and translations. He 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 Literature Prize. When *Evil* came out in France it was shortlisted for the Prix Médicis Étranger, the Prix Meilleur Livre Étranger and received the Transfuge award for best Nordic fiction. [norddahl.org](http://norddahl.org)



**A tragicomic love and travel story, teeming with colourful characters and humorous twists.**

## *Gudrun Brjansdottir* **The Cacao Quest**

Óbragð, novel, 2023

Hjalti finds himself at a crossroads, uncertain about his life's direction after a painful breakup with his girlfriend. Plagued by sleep troubles and haunted by imaginary bed bugs, he's on the verge of exhaustion. One fateful night he knocks on his neighbours' door to complain about party noise. Unexpectedly, he is warmly welcomed into a self-help group, where meditation and cocoa have a surprisingly positive effect on him. Before he knows it, Hjalti is on his way to a retreat in a remote part of Iceland with The Cacao Collective. However, among the glaciers and black deserts, he quickly realises that the group's charismatic leader doesn't think that the national park's rules apply to them, and the group quickly gets into trouble with the authorities – and then each other.

In *The Cacao Quest*, Gudrun Brjansdottir fearlessly examines her own generation with a blend of dark humour, tenderness, insight, and unflinching accuracy. The novel's main character is self-absorbed, burdened by climate concerns, and conflict-avoidant. However, despite his flaws, Hjalti's inherent goodness endears him to readers and like many others he is on a quest for that elusive, whimsical happiness. **252 pp**

SOLD TO: DENMARK (LINDBAK & LINDBAK)

English sample translation available

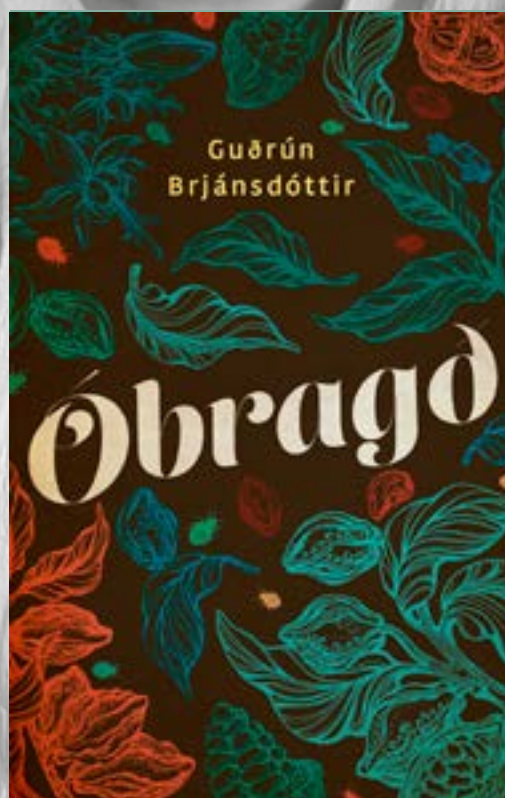
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gudrun Brjansdottir (b. 1995) received her B.A. in Icelandic from the University of Iceland, with a minor in Creative Writing and is graduating with an M.A. in Icelandic from the same university in October 2023. Gudrun won the Forlagid New Voices competition with her novella, *Autopilot*. She has previously published a book of poetry and a translation. *The Cacao Quest* is her first novel.



*"A fantastic book, showcasing a vibrant cast of characters that will leave readers in stitches."*

MORGUNBLADID DAILY



**A journey through loss, love, and  
the enigmatic embrace of fate.**

*Julia Margret Einarsdottir*  
**God is Searching for  
Salome**

Guð leitar að Salóme, novel, 2021

A hauntingly beautiful and tragicomic tale set against the backdrop of a small Icelandic town. The story starts with Salome's quest to reunite with her lost cat, but instead she soon finds herself searching her memory for the truth about the past. Within the confines of a hidden bar, she pours her heart into love letters to the mysterious Helga, a woman Salome has not spoken to for a decade. With vivid narrative joy, she seeks to understand her family history in a desperate attempt to finally identify the man behind the ghost who has been haunting her for years, and reveal what actually happened in her grandmother's garden, the night that changed everything.

We meet an unhinged fortune teller, a drunk organist, a drowned fisherman and the mysterious Helga, who Salome has loved from a distance for all these years. Against the tapestry of three generations' joys and conflicts, a nightmarish coming-of-age love story unfolds, deeply rooted in Icelandic reality. **388 pp**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Julia Margret Einarsdottir (b. 1987) holds an MA degree in writing from the University of Iceland and an MFA degree in screenwriting from the New York Film Academy. She's previously published a novel and a book of poetry, gaining significant recognition with her debut novel *The Queen of Jupiter* (2018). Alongside her writing, Julia is a director, producer, radio host and cultural journalist. She adapted the novel into a play which got rave reviews.

*"The writing style is decisive and coherent, seamlessly portraying the anxious woman who gazes at others with admiration, their qualities leaving her awe-struck."*

TMM

*"The text is charming and brimming with life ... the reader's interest is kindled from the very first pages, a feat executed with remarkable finesse."*

LESTRARKLEFINN



***A tale of passion, dreams,  
and the unpredictable  
forces of nature.***

***Nanna Rognvaldardottir***  
**The Fires Within**

Valskan, novel, 2023

Valka harbours grand aspirations for a fresh start in a foreign land. Her heart yearns for the allure of adventure in Copenhagen or the prospect of a luxurious life as a wealthy housewife, surrounded by an entourage of maids. However, the forces of nature take control – both the external forces that showcase their power through extreme weather, volcanic eruptions, and unforgiving landscapes, and the internal forces that reside within Valka, igniting intense passion and desires. While some of Valka's dreams will materialize, others will fade away into disappointment. Yet, when all is said and done, fortune may be lurking in the most unexpected of places.

Drawing inspiration from the life of her foremother, Valgerdur Skaftadottir, who was born in 1762, Rognvaldardottir masterfully intertwines historical sources with fictional elements to craft a mesmerizing tale. *The Fires Within* portrays the arduous struggles of life, while also illuminating the triumphs found in unforeseen resolutions, unwavering perseverance, and the enduring power of hope. **419 pp**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Nanna Rognvaldardottir (b. 1957) is an award-winning food writer, translator and editor. *The Fires Within* is her debut novel.



**An atmospheric  
and gripping tale of  
ostracism and dreams.**

## *Ofeigur Sigurdsson* **Fare, World, Farewell**

Far heimur, far sæll, novel, 2023

The robbery at Kambur is an iconic criminal case in Icelandic history. On a winter's night in 1827, four masked men violently broke into a farmstead called Kambur, tying up and brutally attacking its inhabitants, and stealing a great amount of money.

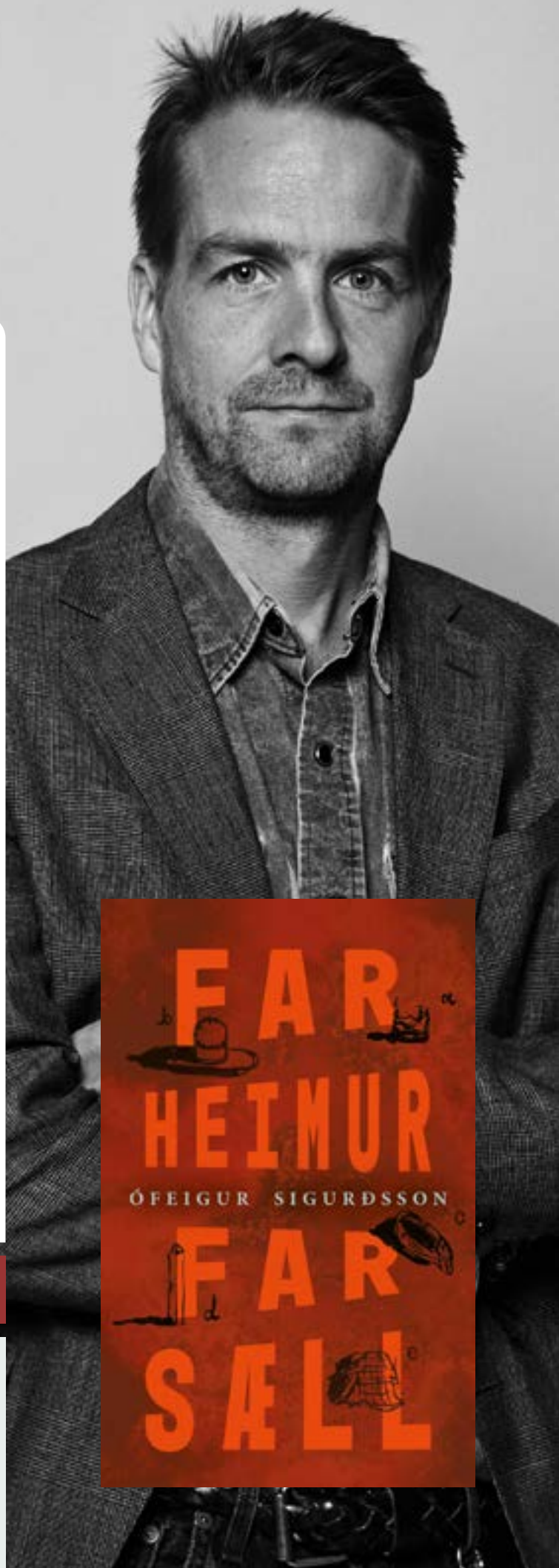
We follow the relentless pursuit of justice by the determined sheriff and his assistant as they investigate the case and attempt to root out the gang that is holding the whole society hostage in fear. However, this is no ordinary crime story. The narrative evokes an atmosphere akin to an American western, but set in Iceland in the early 19th century. The rain, mud, darkness, and hunger create an unbearable environment, while the text brims with imagination and a sense of urgency and tension. It traverses Iceland's history with poetic nuances, occasional facetiousness, and a deep sympathy for the plight of the common people.

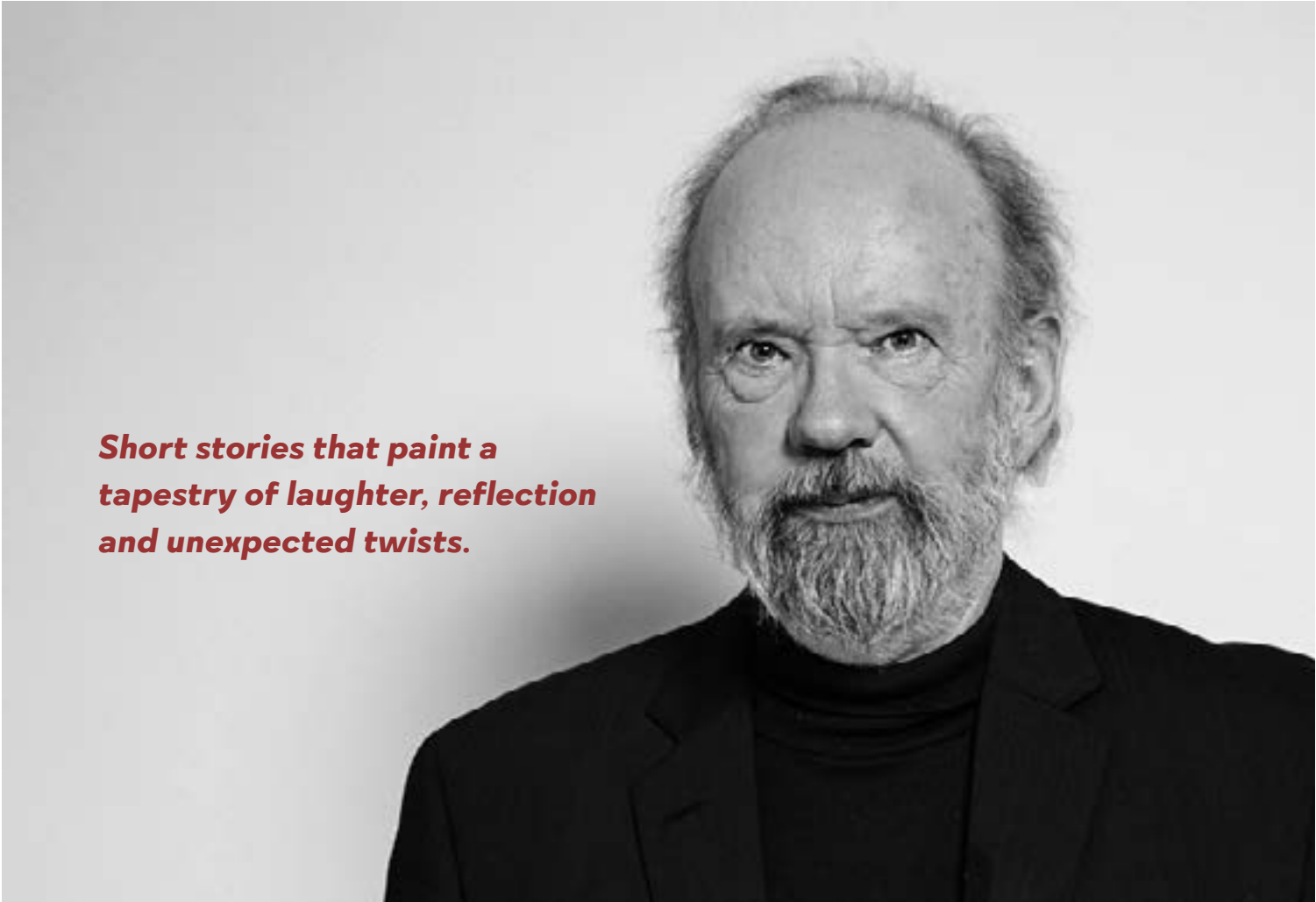
Amidst the investigation, ghosts, spectres, and other eerie creatures haunt the pages, none more prominent than the narrator himself—a deceased boy who roams in the form of a dog, visible only to some, yet witnessing everything. The criminal ringleader, Sigurdur, seems a mixture of a wight and a saga-esque hero. His counterpart is the indomitable heroine, Thuridur, a sharp-witted ship's captain, who plays a crucial role in solving the case with her exceptional insight. **332 pp**

English sample translation available

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ofeigur Sigurdsson (b. 1975) is a superbly entertaining and original author of prose and poetry. His books 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 Literary Award in 2014.





**Short stories that paint a  
tapestry of laughter, reflection  
and unexpected twists.**

*Olafur Gunnarsson*  
**The Arrow of War and  
Other Stories**

Herörin og fleiri sögur, short stories,  
2023

Olafur Gunnarsson's writing style is characterized by its concise nature and often infused with humour. The stories themselves exhibit a spectrum of tones, ranging from bright to dark, funky to frolicsome.

You will encounter a lawyer on his deathbed sharing a meat soup meal with his ex-wife, an individual from Alcoholics Anonymous seeking forgiveness from an old classmate, a furniture maker inviting his terminally ill daughter to witness the beauty of whale watching, and the secret societies The Red Rose and The Black Hand waging a bloody battle on a hilltop in Reykjavik. **129 pp**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Olafur Gunnarsson (b. 1948) is among Iceland's best story-tellers. He has authored poetry, short stories, and children's books, but he is particularly renowned for his novels. His literary contributions have garnered him numerous awards and accolades, including the Icelandic Literary Prize in 2003 for his notable work, *The Ax and the Earth*.



*A multi-generational family epic that mixes psychological insights and dynamic narratives with flights of magic and humour.*

## *Pedro Gunnlaugur Garcia* **Lungu**

Lungu, novel, 2022

Johanna finally decides to read the epic saga that her estranged father wrote about the origin and history of their family. In the sweeping narratives that unfold on its pages, tales of broken dreams, magic and forbidden love are woven together to expose a secret that has been kept in the shadows for a lifetime.

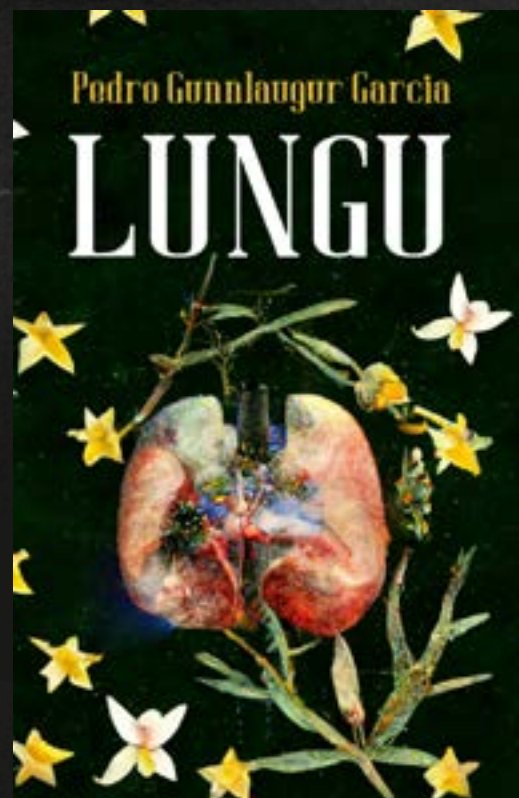
This is a family story of many generations that reaches far and wide in time and space. Humorous and compelling, but also melancholic, heartbreaking and brimming with storytelling power. We follow several characters that the reader often encounters at the moment their lives fall apart. Featuring life-saving olives, flying women, gigantic roosters and forbidden love, the story is propelled imaginatively from one generation to the next – encompassing many of life’s tragedies and fleeting moments of happiness. **391 pp**

SOLD TO: BRAZIL (NÓS), FRANCE (MÉTALIÉ), GERMANY (HOFFMAN UND CAMPE), POLAND (POZNAŃSKIE), PORTUGAL (GUERRA E PAZ)

English sample translation available

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pedro Gunnlaugur Garcia (b. 1983) was born in Lisbon to an Icelandic mother and Portuguese father. Raised mostly in Reykjavík, he graduated from the University of Iceland with a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a Master’s in Culture and Communication. He is known for his poignant and introspective works and exploration of the complexities of human relationships and the challenges of intimacy and communication.



***A novel about a search for light in the darkness of history and what motives ignite the fighting spirit of morally average people.***

*Sigrun Palsdottir*  
**Men: A Spring Night in Reykjavik**

Men: Vorkvöld í Reykjavík, novel, 2023

*The bottom drawer was notably deeper than the others. It resisted opening, though absent of locks or keyholes. Not locked then, just slightly resistant.*

A young flute player is hired as the cultural editor of an established newspaper and is relatively happy with his new job, until he is handed a rather peculiar task: to interview a former foreign minister of Iceland, who has been reclusive since being forced to leave office two decades past. Determined to contend with the political past of the former leader the young man resolutely goes to meet his interviewee. But soon after he arrives, he is faced with some nonsensical obstacles to overcome; eventually leaving him stuck in a gloomy corner of the minister's opulent home desperately looking for a source of light to investigate what he thinks he may have found there in darkness. **146 pp**

English sample translation available

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Sigrun Palsdottir (b. 1967) completed a Ph.D in the History of Ideas at Oxford University in 2001, after which she was a research fellow and lecturer at the University of Iceland. Since 2007 she has worked freelance as a writer and editor. Her books have been nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize, Icelandic Women's Literature Prize, The Hagthenkir Non-fiction Prize and The DV Culture Prize. Her book *Uncertain Seas* was chosen the best biography in 2013 by booksellers in Iceland. Palsdottir's novel, *Embroidery*, is the Icelandic winner of the European Union Prize for Literature 2021 and has been sold to over 10 countries.





***A gripping tale of friendship and resilience, hope and disappointment and unusual ways to stay afloat in life's tempestuous waters.***

***Sigrun Alba Sigurdardottir***  
**A Path Uncharted**

Sumarblóm og heimsins grjót, novel,  
2023

In the early decades of the last century, the prospects for a young girl in a small fjord in Iceland were limited to a life of marriage, motherhood, and labouring in the footsteps of her foremothers. However, Soley's path diverges from the expected as she embarks on a journey towards new horizons and progressive ideals. Fate intervenes, whisking her away from the fjord and thrusting her into a realm of shifting times and transformative ideas. When faced with the solitude of raising a newborn, she enters into a fateful agreement that brings both liberation and constraints.

Soley's indomitable spirit carries her through the tempestuous waves of setbacks and hardships, buoyed by the joy of living and the steadfast support of loyal friends. Amidst the trials, moments of contentment shimmer tantalizingly close, offering glimpses of elusive happiness. **295 pp**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Sigrun Alba Sigurdardottir (b. 1973) holds an MA in Modern Culture and Cultural Representation from the University of Copenhagen and also has a degree in History from the University of Iceland. Over the past twenty years, she has lived in Reykjavík and Copenhagen and worked as a scholar, lecturer and curator. She has published a number of academic articles and books about photography and has also written about historical topics, fine art and architecture. In *A Path Uncharted*, her first novel, Sigrun Alba draws inspiration from real events and characters.

*"A good book that can be recommended. It's accessible and well written and flows especially well – binge reading material for a fine summer's day."*

MORGUNBLADID DAILY



***A fiery and captivating story  
about extreme love and secrets,  
strength and surrender.***

## ***Steinunn Sigurdardottir*** **Shelter**

Ból, novel, 2023

Lineik Hjalmsdottir has ridden the waves of the big sea of life and is still standing strong despite painful loss and heavy trauma. But now the moment of truth has arrived. Her happy place in the countryside, the heartland that her parents built and nurtured, is quickly being engulfed by lava flowing from an erupting crater. Within a few days, it will disappear forever. Lineik sets out to meet the torrent that spares nothing – and the past at the same time: the memories, the love, the secrets and the great sorrows.

Steinunn Sigurdardottir has written many exceptional works that have enjoyed well-deserved popularity. Her shrewd view of human nature, cutting sense of humor and sparkling style captivate readers, and a new novel from her is always a sensation. **208 pp**

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Steinunn Sigurdardottir (b.1950) is one of Iceland's most highly acclaimed novelists and poets and 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.



***A multi-layered collection of short stories, where everyday people and events become more than they seem.***

***Thordis Gisladottir***  
**The Driving Style of the Natives**

Aksturslag innfæddra, short stories, 2023

This book comprises seven captivating short stories, each rooted in real-life experiences. The narratives encompass a diverse cast of characters, some of whom readers might recognize from their own lives. These stories offer glimpses into short periods or individual events in the lives of historical figures or even delve into the entirety of someone's existence.

While some events may appear mundane and trivial at first glance, the true essence lies in reading between the lines. Through these seemingly ordinary occurrences, the stories reflect broader and more intricate aspects of human experience, revealing the richness and complexity of life itself. **144 pp**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Thordis Gisladottir (b. 1965) completed a BA degree in Icelandic from the University of Iceland, pursued a MA in Literature and completed a Phil.lic. degree in Scandinavian Studies from Uppsala University in Sweden. She is a prolific writer and translator, with an impressive portfolio that includes children's and youth books, poetry collections, television scripts, and a novel for adult readers. Her unique style is characterized by playful lightness, eloquence, and humour, offering an innovative perspective on contemporary themes. Thordis was awarded the prestigious Tomas Gudmundsson Literature Prize in 2010 for her debut poetry book, *Other People's Secrets*. Since then, she has received numerous awards and nominations for both her original works and translations. Her poetry has been translated into several languages, including Swedish, German, Russian, English, and Finnish.

*"One of the wittiest and most entertaining contemporary Icelandic poets."*

MORGUNBLADID DAILY



**“Brilliantly written, the narrative cleverly plotted and exciting from beginning to end.”**

SKALD.IS (ON *UNDER YGGDRASIL*)

## *Vilborg Davíðsdóttir* **The Land of Night**

Land næturinnar, novel, 2023

The year is AD 902. After tragedy at home in Iceland, Thorgerd Thorsteinsdóttir sets sail to Norway where fate leads her into the arms of hunter and trader Herjolf Eyvindarson. Together, they journey to the principedom of the Kievan Rus. There, Varangian Vikings sail down the Dnieper River and across the Black Sea, taking furs and captive women to be sold in the Valley of Lamentations in Constantinople, the greatest city in Christendom. In the land of night, treachery and peril await. Why are the slave girls so frightened of the Seeress of Holmgard that they call her Baba Yaga? In an instant, Thorgerd is on her own, surrounded by enemies, and discovers that sometimes it takes more courage to live than die.

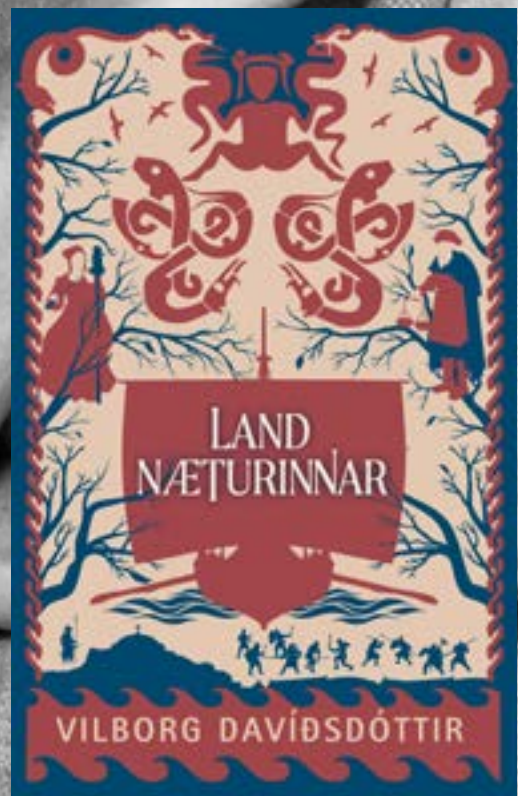
The previous book about Thorgerd, *Under Yggdrasil*, was nominated for the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize. In this gripping tale of adventure and fortitude, the author opens up the world of the Vikings in today's Russia and Ukraine and their amazing feats, crossing the dangerous Dnieper Rapids, now gone forever under the great dam of Zaporizhzhia. **366 pp**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vilborg Davíðsdóttir (b. 1965) has written ten novels, as well as a compelling memoir of loss. She has been critically acclaimed for her thorough research of historical sources, a flowing narrative style and fast-paced and intricately woven plots. Her books enjoy great popularity, lauded especially for casting light on women of the Viking Age.


*“A modern theme and excellent usage of the Icelandic Saga heritage make this a historical novel 21st century readers can relate to ... The book keeps the reader hooked to the last page as the narrative is masterfully plotted.”*

JURY OF THE WOMEN'S LITERATURE PRIZE  
(ON *UNDER YGGDRASIL*)





**CRIME  
FICTION**



*An intense and haunting crime story about broken dreams, misguided ideals and cold cruelty.*

*Arnaldur Indridason*  
**State of Misery**

Sæluríkið, crime novel, 2023  
Konrad Series #6

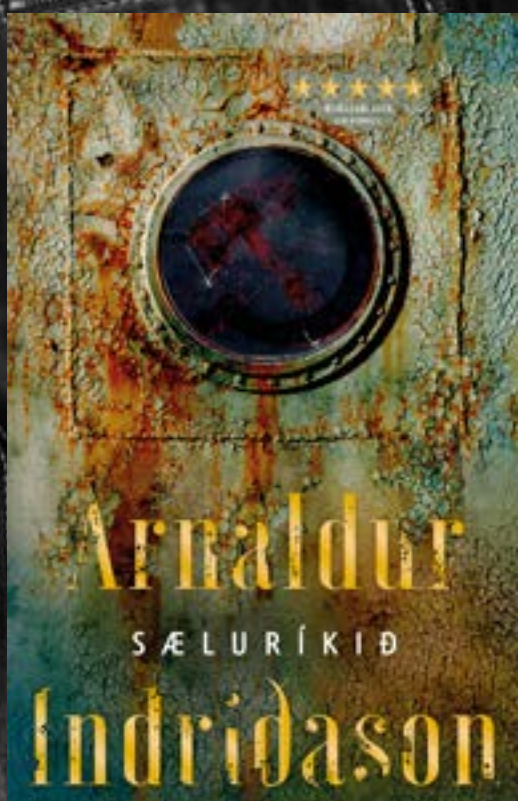
A tourist is found dead with head injuries by a lake close to Reykjavik. When it transpires that he is actually Icelandic and came to the attention of the police when his friend disappeared a few decades earlier, Konrad begins to connect the dots. He gets caught up in his own past; an old case he knows well causes an uproar within the police and his one-time friend, Leo, has gone into hiding. At the same time, the spirit of the Cold War haunts Konrad, the atmosphere of a society in chains, coloured by fury and factionalism. **286 pp**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Arnaldur Indridason (b. 1961) has long been Iceland's most popular writer and also enjoys great popularity abroad. *State of Misery* is his twenty-seventh novel. His novels have been translated into more than forty languages, sold in 18 million copies worldwide and have brought their author prizes and accolades around the world. Arnaldur's book, *The King and the Clockmaker*, was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2021.

*"Short, crisply written chapters move the action briskly along while keeping all the seemingly disparate pieces of the puzzle in the mix. Veteran Indridason weaves all these eerie elements together masterfully. Superb crime fiction from an acclaimed virtuoso."*

KIRKUS STARRED REVIEW, ON *THE GIRL BY THE BRIDGE*



**A Nordic crime thriller with a difference.**

## Joachim B. Schmidt **Kalmann**

Kalmann, crime novel, 2020

*Kalmann* is the self-appointed sheriff of Raufarhöfn, Iceland, and has everything under control. There's no need to worry. Day by day, he treks the wide plains which surround the almost deserted village, hunts Arctic foxes and lays shark bait in the sea — to catch the gigantic Greenland sharks he turns into the Icelandic fermented delicacy, hákarl. But inside Kalmann's head, the wheels sometimes spin backwards. One winter, after he discovers a pool of blood in the snow, the swiftly unfolding events threaten to overwhelm him. But with his naive wisdom and pure-hearted courage, he makes sure everything takes a turn for the better. There's no need to worry. How can anything go wrong with Kalmann in charge? He knows everything a man needs to know about life – well almost. **352 pp**

Crime Cologne Award 2021

Shortlisted for the 2023 Specsavers Debut Crime Novel Award

Shortlisted for the Petrona Award 2023, the best Scandinavian Crime Novel in the UK

Swiss Crime Fiction Prize 2021 (3rd place)

English translation available

SOLD TO: Arabic/World (Al Arabi); Czech Republic (Prostor); English/World (Bitter Lemon); France (Gallimard); Greece (Metachmio); Israel (Keter); Iceland (Forlagid); Italy (SEM Libri); Persian (Nam Books); Slovakia (Literárna bašta); Spain/world (Gatopardo)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joachim B. Schmidt (b. 1981), grew up in the Swiss canton of Grisons before emigrating to Iceland in 2007. His novels *Tell* and *Kalmann* were bestsellers, with *Kalmann* receiving the Crime Cologne Award and placing third for the Swiss Crime Fiction Prize. *Tell* was number one on the Swiss bestseller list and received the 2023 Grisons Prize for Literature. Schmidt, who has dual citizenship, lives with his wife and their two children in Reykjavík, Iceland.

*"He lets the Icelandic world shine from within ..."*

NZZ AM SONNTAG, ZÜRICH



Represented in Scandinavia by RLA, on behalf of Diogenes Verlag AG.

Pro Helvetia supports translations.

[www.translateswissbooks.ch/book/kalmann/](http://www.translateswissbooks.ch/book/kalmann/)



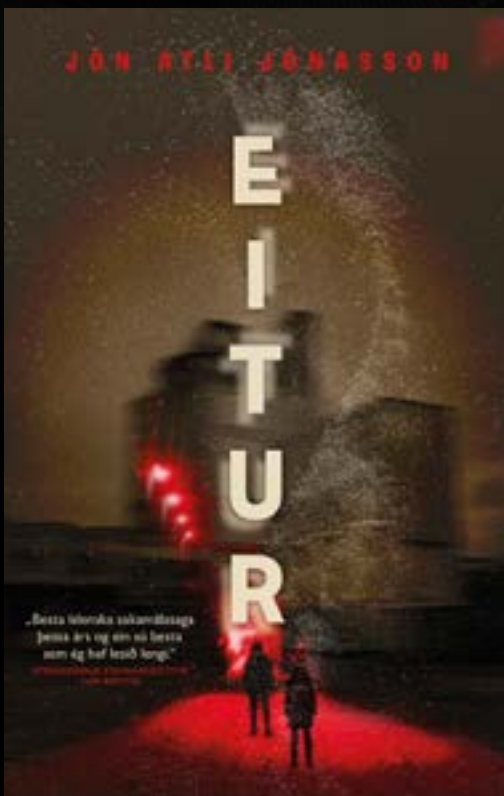
**A compelling and authentic story that delves into Iceland's raging opioid crisis and its violent underworld.**

## *Jon Atli Jonasson* **Toxic**

Eitur, crime novel, 2023  
Broken Series #2

Dora and Rado, the two dedicated detectives we got to know in *Broken*, have now taken different paths. Dora remains assigned to the detective's bureau at the Icelandic police force and is undergoing a 12-step program to overcome her serious addiction to pain medication. Rado, the son of Bosnian war refugees, now leads his own small narcotics unit. Recently, his mother passed away and he is now a single father. When Joel, the boyfriend of their former captain Ellidi, is discovered dead on the set of a TV series on the outskirts of Reykjavik, they join forces to investigate.

As the number of deaths continues to rise, they realize that a dangerous batch of a designer drug is circulating in the city. The novel takes place against the backdrop of Iceland's ongoing opioid epidemic, which has already claimed the lives of over 60 individuals this year, a statistic that places the country at the forefront of opioid and antidepressant drug usage in the Nordic region. **234 pp**



English sample translation available

SOLD TO: Germany (Fischer Verlag)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jon Atli Jonasson (b. 1972) has won the Icelandic drama prize numerous times, as well as the Icelandic Film Prize for best script. His plays have been performed worldwide. He's written several films, most notably *The Deep*, shortlisted for The 85th Academy Awards for best foreign feature 2015 and been nominated for The Nordic Film Prize on three occasions. He has written two novels, a short story compilation and a novella. He has various crime series projects in different stages of development with Warner Brothers TV in Germany, Turbine Studios in the U.K and La Belle Façon in France. His first novel, *Broken*, was sold in an auction in Germany, and the TV rights have been sold to Glassriver.



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

ANN CLEEVES

## *Jonina Leosdottir* **Coercion**

Pvingun, crime novel, 2023

Adam & Soffia Series #3

A murder occurs in a summer house at lake Laugarvatn, and Magga, the daughter of psychologist Adam and detective Soffia, becomes involved in the case. Complications arise when it is revealed that one of Adam’s clients has received a threatening letter connected to the murder. Reluctantly, Adam finds himself assisting his fiery ex-wife, Soffia, who is determined to solve the mystery. Meanwhile, Adam’s mother’s dementia worsens, and a hidden secret involving Jenny comes to light.

*Coercion* is Jonina’s twenty-first book and the third to feature Adam and Soffia. The first two have been warmly received by readers. Here she continues to weave a tangled mystery with an engaging cast of characters, each of whom brings a complex set of their own issues to the story.

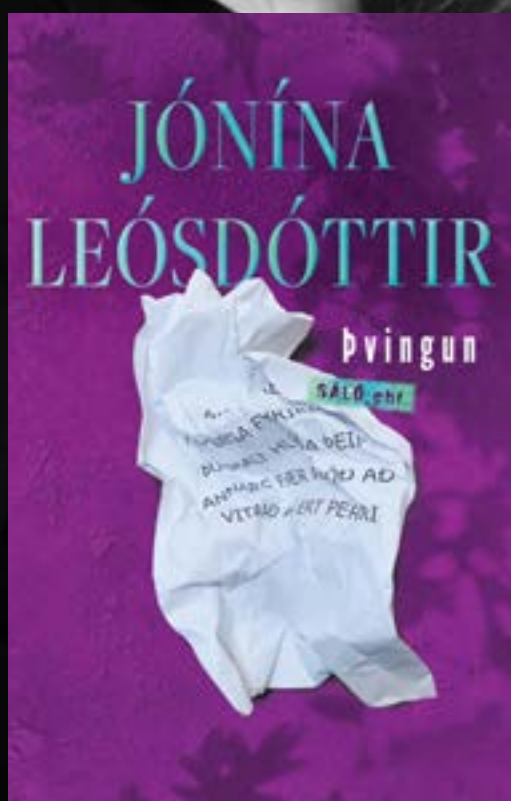
**304 pp**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonina Leosdottir (b.1954) has an excellent reputation for her books, including the series featuring sleuth Edda. Jonina 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. Leosdottir has written crime novels, biographies, novels (for adults and young adults), short stories and plays, and received many awards. [joninaleosdottir.com](http://joninaleosdottir.com)

*“Jonina masters the craft of creating a twisted plot and putting it all together...”*

LESTRARKLEFINN





***A clever and compelling thriller about threat and violence, deception and trust.***

## ***Lilja Sigurdardottir*** **Deep as Death**

Dauðadjúp sprunga, crime novel, 2023  
An Arora Investigation #5

Arora feels better since her sister's body was found in a hollow in a lava field in Reykjanes – she can finally stop searching. But the case is still unsolved, the boyfriend who was believed to have killed Isafold was found in the same place, also murdered. And when Arora learns of a gruesome detail about the discovery of the bodies, she nearly loses her grip on reality. To distract herself, she dives head-first into a money laundering case that her friend Daniel is investigating. However, she finds that there is more than meets the eye and once again all the leads point towards Engihjalli, the street where Isafold lived and died. **266 pp**

DAUÐADJÚP  
SPRUNGA

★★★★

★★★★

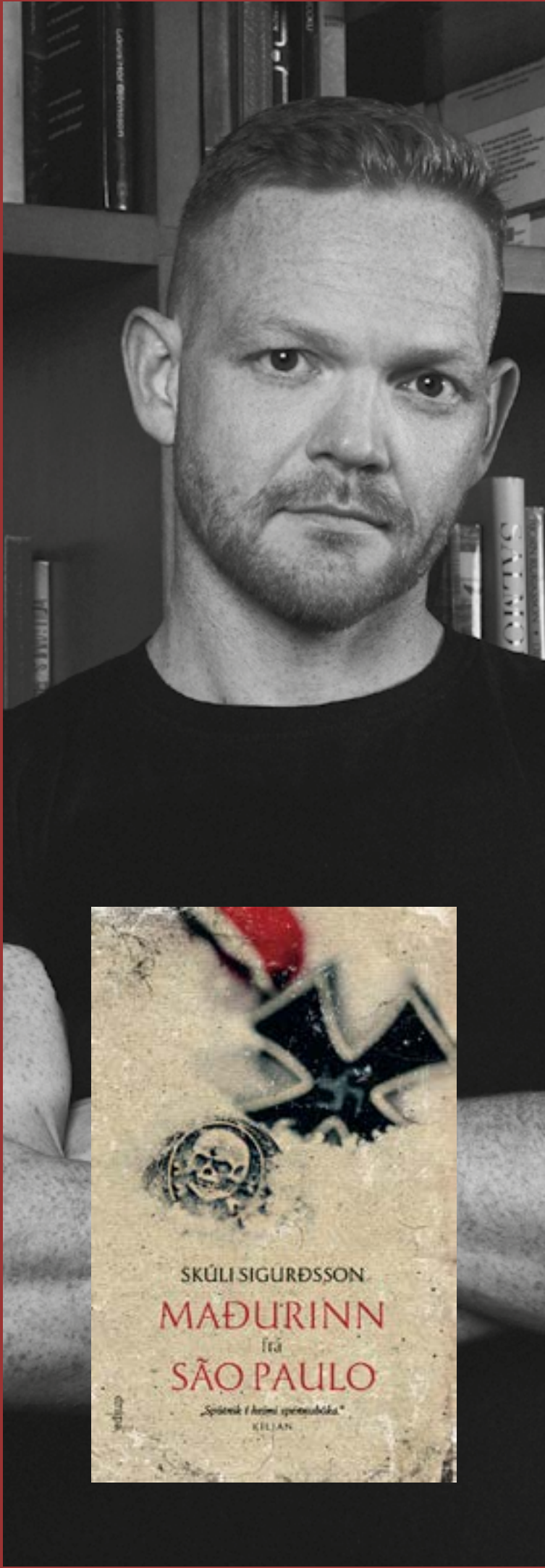
LILJA  
SIGURDARDÓTTIR

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lilja Sigurdardottir (b.1972) has written award-winning crime novels, plays and scripts for TV as well as highly popular podcasts. She has been nominated for the Glass Key, the Petrona Award and the CWA Dagger, the world's most prestigious crime fiction award. She won the Icelandic Drop of Blood Award (the Icelandic Crime Fiction Award) for two years in a row. *Deep as Death* is her eleventh crime novel and the fifth and last about the Icelandic-English Arora and detective Daniel. [liljawriter.com](http://liljawriter.com)

*"... the most exciting voice in Icelandic noir ... Lilja Sigurdardottir is rapidly becoming my favourite Icelandic writer. She doesn't waste a word as she creates her twisty mysteries and her sly sense of humour highlights her clear-eyed view of human nature."*

MARK SANDERSON, THE TIMES, UK



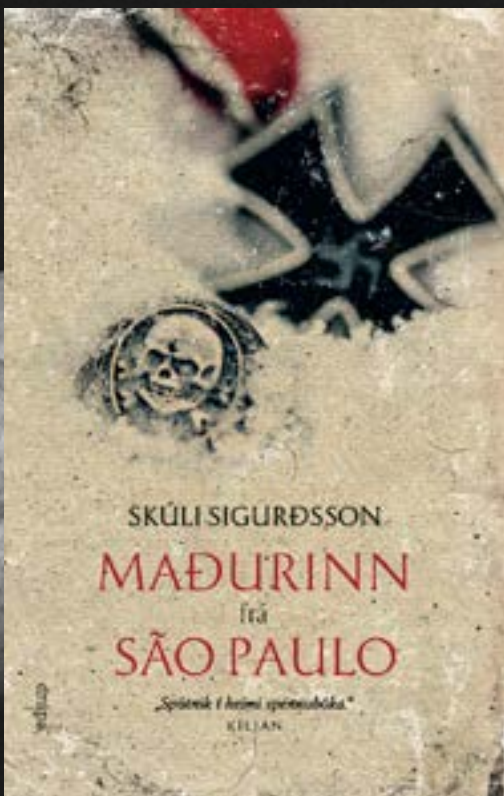
**A gripping tale of assassination and espionage, conspiracy and Nazis on the run.**

*Skuli Sigurdsson*  
**The Man from São Paulo**

Maðurinn frá São Paulo, thriller, 2023

In 1942, a field medic rescues a soldier from a burning tank and tends his wounds. The soldier's name is Karl Günther Schmidt, a conscript from Stuttgart, and the field medic is Doctor Josef Mengele. The two men meet again after the war, when they both relocate to Argentina.

In 1977 in Reykjavik, a young police detective, Hedinn Vernhardsson, is tasked with investigating a cold-blooded murder of a taxi driver, shot in the back of the head sitting in his car. The victim was a confirmed Nazi collaborator in Copenhagen during the war. The tenant of the dead man's spare room turns out to be one Karl Günther Schmidt. Soon Detective Vernhardsson finds himself entangled in something much larger than one man's murder, a grand international conspiracy with global repercussions. **382 pp**



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Skuli Sigurdsson (b. 1985) was awarded the Icelandic Crime Novel Award for his first novel *Big Brother*, which is also nominated for the 2023 Glass Key Award and has been sold to Finland and Sweden. A lawyer by education, Skuli worked as a journalist alongside his studies. He later studied international law and human rights in Costa Rica and worked for the United Nations in Jordan. Taking inspiration from the likes of Raymond Chandler, Ian Fleming and Alistair MacLean, he hopes to inject some intensity, stakes and panache into the Icelandic branch of Nordic Noir, in his interconnected stories.

*"A new voice has arrived in the world of Icelandic crime writing, in full force."*

JURY OF THE ICELANDIC CRIME NOVEL AWARD 2022  
(ABOUT *BIG BROTHER*)



**NON  
FICTION**



*An illuminating glimpse into  
the experience of being  
genderqueer in Iceland.*

*Elias Runi*  
**Kvár: What is Being  
Genderqueer?**

Kvár, graphic non-fiction, 2022

A pioneering documentary comic about being genderqueer that explores the gender dualism of our society and the experience of identifying as neither strictly male nor female, both simultaneously, or something else entirely. This book is the first-ever Icelandic documentary comic and marks a significant milestone in understanding and embracing genderqueer identities.

The narrative unfolds through heartfelt interviews with six genderqueer individuals, providing an intimate glimpse into their personal journeys and perspectives. Through their unique stories, readers gain insights into the diversity of genderqueer experiences and beliefs, challenging conventional gender norms.

*Kvár: What is Being Genderqueer?* fosters understanding and acceptance, creating a platform for dialogue and empathy. By giving voice to these individuals, the book amplifies their struggles and triumphs, empowering all readers to celebrate the beauty of gender diversity. **96 pp**

Nominated for the Icelandic Women's and Non-Binary Literature Prize

Icelandic Design Awards – Nominated for Series of Illustrations

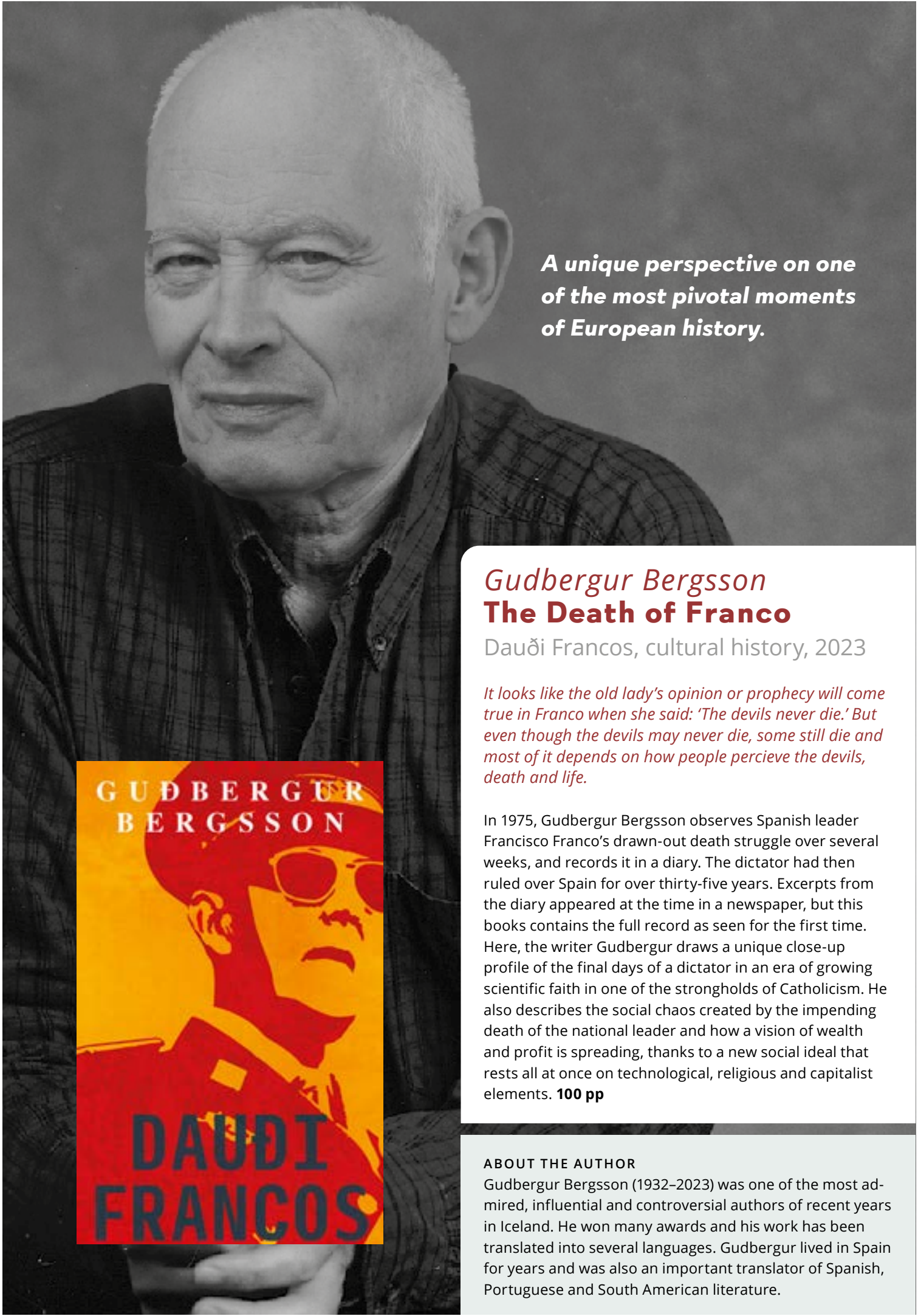
Icelandic Design Awards – Nomination for Student's Work

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Elias Runi (b. 1993) is an illustrator and comic book author holding a BA in graphic design from the Iceland University of the Arts and diplomas in drawing from the Reykjavik School of Visual Arts and in comics from École européenne supérieure de l'image in Angoulême, France.

[eliasruni.com](http://eliasruni.com)





***A unique perspective on one of the most pivotal moments of European history.***

***Gudbergur Bergsson***  
**The Death of Franco**

Dauði Francos, cultural history, 2023

*It looks like the old lady's opinion or prophecy will come true in Franco when she said: 'The devils never die.' But even though the devils may never die, some still die and most of it depends on how people perceive the devils, death and life.*

In 1975, Gudbergur Bergsson observes Spanish leader Francisco Franco's drawn-out death struggle over several weeks, and records it in a diary. The dictator had then ruled over Spain for over thirty-five years. Excerpts from the diary appeared at the time in a newspaper, but this book contains the full record as seen for the first time. Here, the writer Gudbergur draws a unique close-up profile of the final days of a dictator in an era of growing scientific faith in one of the strongholds of Catholicism. He also describes the social chaos created by the impending death of the national leader and how a vision of wealth and profit is spreading, thanks to a new social ideal that rests all at once on technological, religious and capitalist elements. **100 pp**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Gudbergur Bergsson (1932–2023) was one of the most admired, influential and controversial authors of recent years in Iceland. He won many awards and his work has been translated into several languages. Gudbergur lived in Spain for years and was also an important translator of Spanish, Portuguese and South American literature.



***A book for people of all ages,  
visible and invisible.***

***Hjorleifur Hjartarson (text)  
Ran Flygenring (illustrations)***  
**Elves**

Álfar, non-fiction?, 2023

Has your neighbour suddenly gotten rich in an unexplained way? Is your child suddenly acting like a beast? Is the house in ruins after Christmas? Are the devices always breaking down? Are birthmarks in the form of magic runes in the family? Do you maybe have an invisible friend?

Icelandic elves are unique among elven nations and have a deep and mysterious relationship with Icelanders in the real world. Here, a new light is shed on the Icelandic elf and the conflicted coexistence of hidden people and humans since the beginning of the country's settlement. Underworld trades, bloody Christmas parties, radical actions in environmental matters, romantic and forbidden loves in other worlds and exciting exploits of sheepmen and milkmaids come into play.

**SOFTCOVER, 17 x 22.5 cm, 184 pp, Age group: 5-105 years**



**ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Hjorleifur Hjartarson (b. 1960) holds a B.Ed. in education and has worked as a writer, publisher, translator, playwright and musician alongside his job as a music teacher. He's written a variety of exhibition notes and explanatory texts, for both museums and theatres. Along with all that he operates a two-man music theatre, whose political satires have been extremely well received and broadcast on national television.

Ran Flygenring (b. 1987) is an award-winning illustrator, writer and graphic designer. She has published books both in Iceland and Germany, where she has received the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, the German-French Youth literature prize and the Jahres-Luchs prize, the ALMA prize (Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award) and the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize.

[ranflygenring.com](http://ranflygenring.com)



## *Kristin Johannsdottir* **Don't Forget Me**

Ekki gleyma mér, memoir, 2017

He had been the love of my life, a blazing comet that lit up my world during the tumultuous era of the GDR's iron grip. With him, I had experienced the most enchanting days and electrifying nights, but then he abruptly disappeared from my life. The Wall came down, and still, there was no trace of him. Did he have something to hide?

In this poignant memoir, Kristin Johannsdottir recounts her experiences during the tumultuous times of 1987 while studying as a young woman in the GDR. This pivotal period left an indelible mark on her life, igniting more than two decades of questions about the fate of her lover. Could he have been an undercover Stasi operative, feigning affection? And what of their friends from that era? Did they too conceal hidden motives behind their camaraderie? **270 pp**

English sample translation available

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kristin Johannsdottir (b. 1960) served as the German-based news correspondent for the Icelandic State Broadcasting Service for several years. Presently, she holds the position of director at a volcano museum dedicated to preserving the memory of volcanic events in Iceland. *Don't Forget Me* is a moving memoir that recounts the hot nights of the Cold War in a crumbling dictatorship. This is a fascinating book that paints a haunting picture of the world that was and leaves no one untouched.

*"Political? Yes! World history? Yes! Love story? Absolutely! Erotic? Yes, a bit! Thriller? Yes! [...] This is a book you read in one sitting ..."*

ATLI RUNAR HALLDORSSON  
FRETABLADID NEWSPAPER





***A unique perspective on the planetary crisis, through personal, political and historical lenses.***

***Stefan Jon Hafstein***  
**The World as It Is**

Heimurinn eins og hann er, narrative non-fiction, 2022

The story starts when two lifelong friends are planning a fishing tour and one of them is called in last-minute to be diagnosed with lung cancer. The narrator is left alone, fishing in the chilly springtime in northern Iceland, reflecting on their friendship, life and memories. He is about to start a new job in Rome with the UN after a long career in development aid in African countries. The ruins of the fallen Roman empire speak directly to his reflections on the current state of the world: Are we heading in the same direction?

Three main storylines intertwine: The story of two friends and the fight with cancer is a testimony to enduring male bonding and friendship, the ruins of past grandeur speak to our modern times and the realization of a planetary emergency becomes a key mission statement of the story. **280 pp**

English translation available

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Stefan Jon Hafstein (b. 1955) is a well-known public figure in Iceland for his dynamic career. He was a long time media personality, journalist and editor to become elected politician. He progressed to an impressive list of posts overseas in development co-operation and diplomacy in Africa and is currently a Special Envoy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Iceland after serving as ambassador to the United Nations Agencies in Rome. This is his seventh book.

*"An excellent guide to the world as it is."*

KILJAN, NATIONAL TV



