

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2023

PICTURE BOOKS
EARLY READERS
MIDDLE GRADE
YOUNG ADULT
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







Benny Sif Isleifsdottir (text) Linn Janssen (illustrations) A Unique Christmas Tree

Einstakt jólatré, picture book, 2023

Do all Christmas trees have to look the same? Unnsteinn does not think so. What do you think?

On Advent, the entire family embarks on a journey into the woods, searching for the perfect Christmas tree. Each member gets to have a say in selecting the tree, but it is Unnsteinn's decision that prevails. Benny Sif Isleifsdottir weaves a heartwarming tale about finding beauty in uniqueness, accompanied by Linn Janssen's charming illustrations that bring the story to life.

HARDCOVER, 21.6 x 27 cm, 40 pp Age group: 2–6 years

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Benny Sif Isleifsdottir (b. 1970) is well-known to readers for her historical novels about working-class Icelandic women who must continually fight for their place in the world. She completed a master's degree in Folkloristics from the University of Iceland and in 2018 she received an Emerging Writer grant from the Icelandic Literature Center for her first novel. Her novel, *Daughters*, was nominated for the European Union Literature Prize 2021. A *Unique Christmas Tree* is her third book for children.

The German illustrator Linn Jansen graduated from The Reykjavík School of Visual Arts in 2022. Linn uses collages to capture the magic of the chaos of everyday life, that parents and children know so well.





Birgitta Haukdal (text) Anahit Aleqsanian (illustration) Lara Goes to a Christmas Ball

Lara Series #17 Lára fer á jólaball, picture book, 2023

Lara is a cheerful child who loves learning new things. Her stuffed animal Leo is with her every step of the way, and together they have all sorts of adventures.

Advent is a fun time, there are cosy moments with the family preparing for Christmas but also a little excitement in the air. Atli comes knocking at Lara's door and they go to a Christmas Ball together. There, a fun guest arrives.

Lara Loses a Tooth

Lara Series #18 Lára missir tönn, picture book, 2023

Lara always looks forward to going to gymnastics. It's so much fun to jump on the trampoline and do all sorts of exercises. But today Lara has a hard time concentrating because she has a loose tooth. Does it hurt when the tooth falls out? And what are you meant to do with it?

HARDCOVER, 15.5 x 21.5 cm, 40 pp Age group: 2–6 years

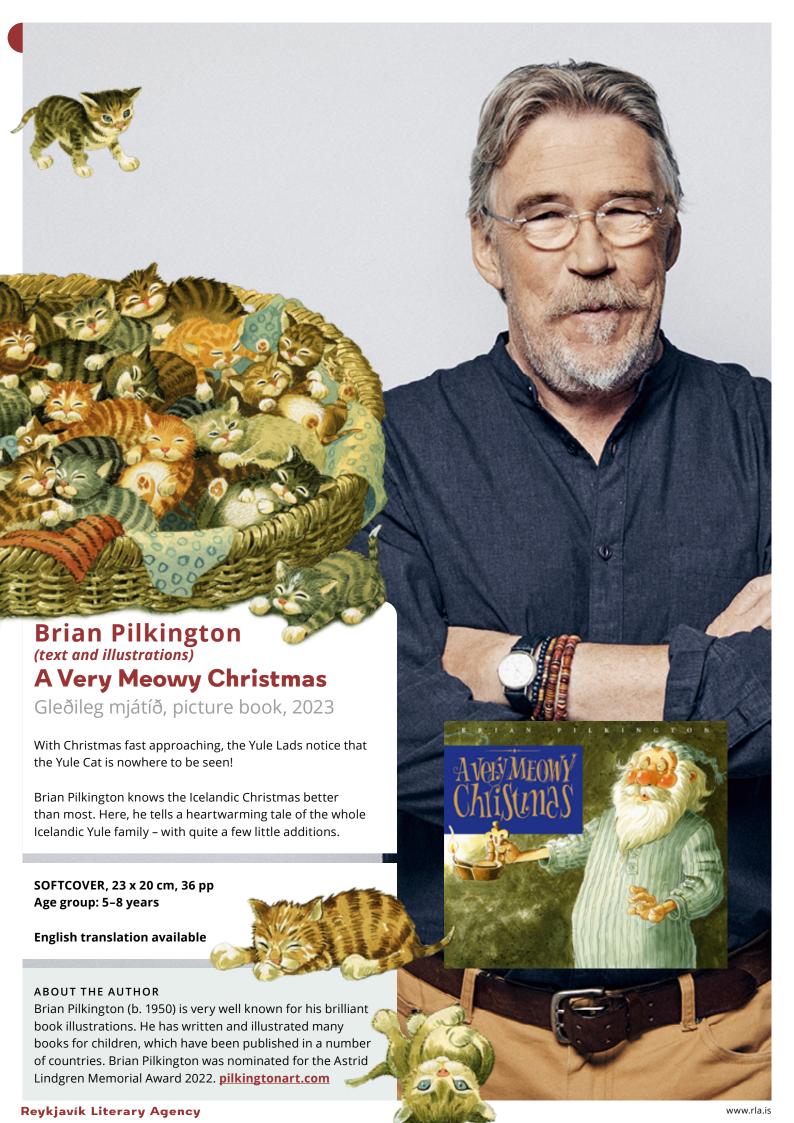
English translations available of *Lara Visits the Farm* and *Lara Goes Swimming*

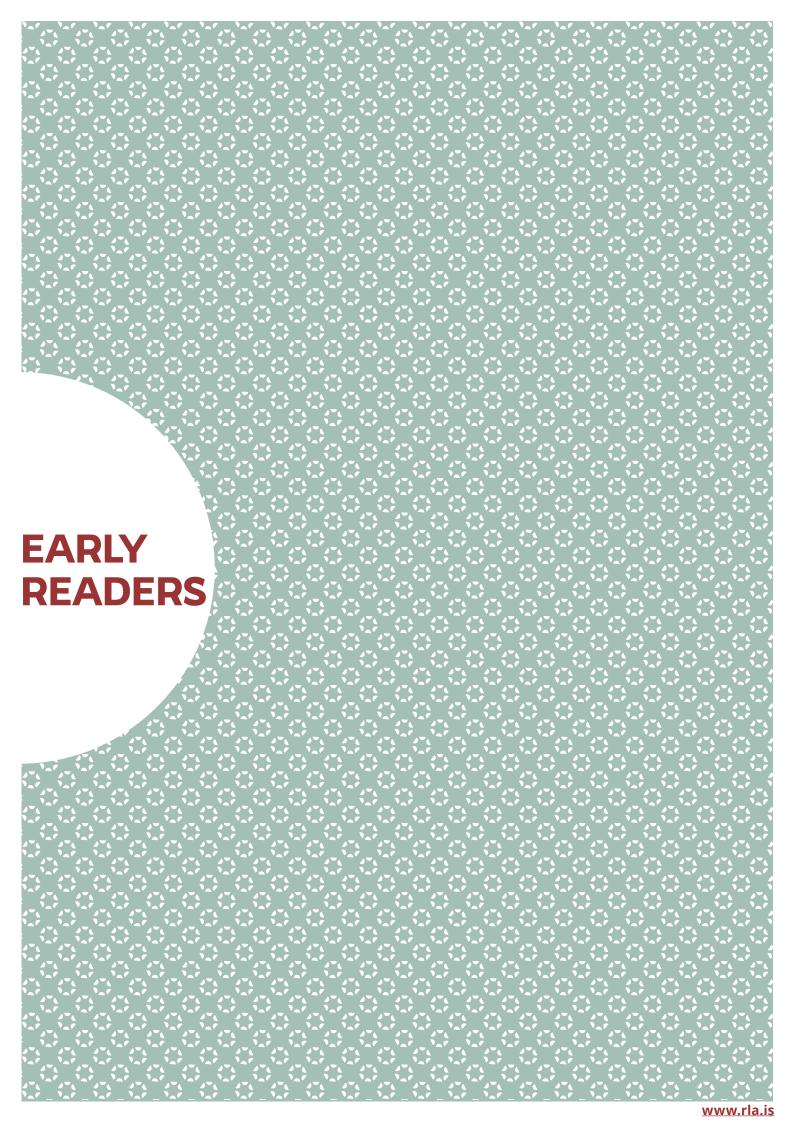
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

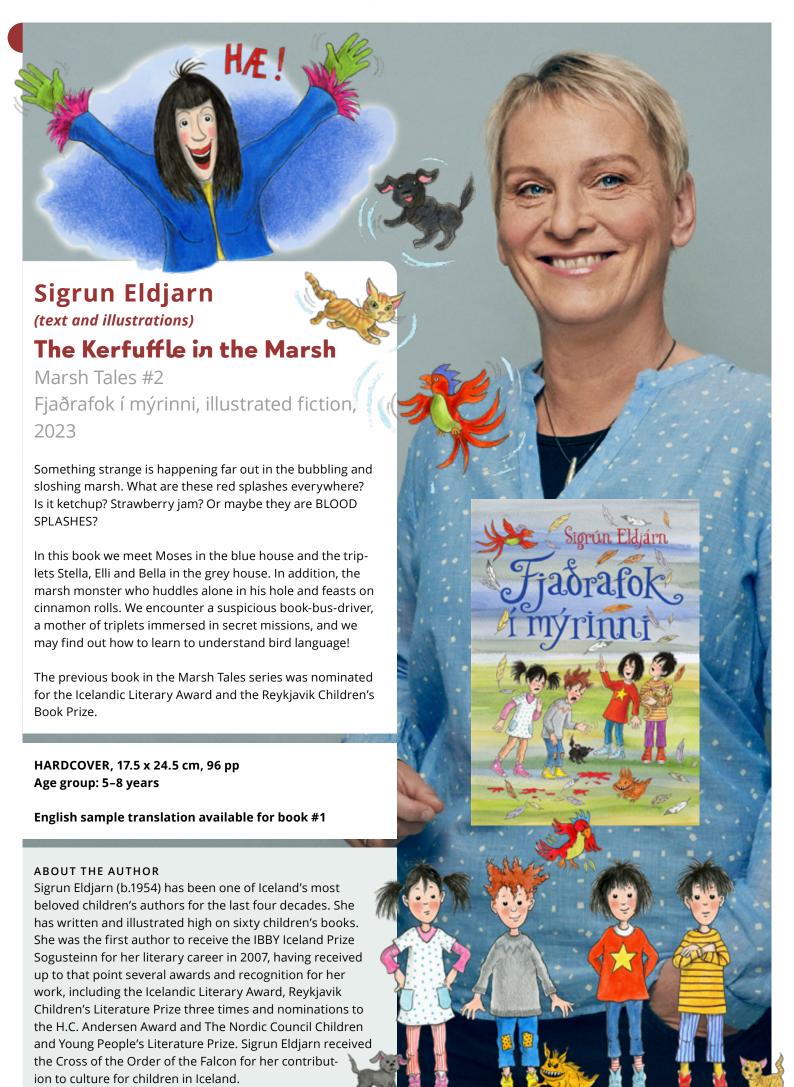
Birgitta Haukdal (b. 1979) is a bestselling author and a celebrated pop singer who has represented Iceland in the Eurovision Song Contest. The Lara-series is ever popular and now counts 18 titles.

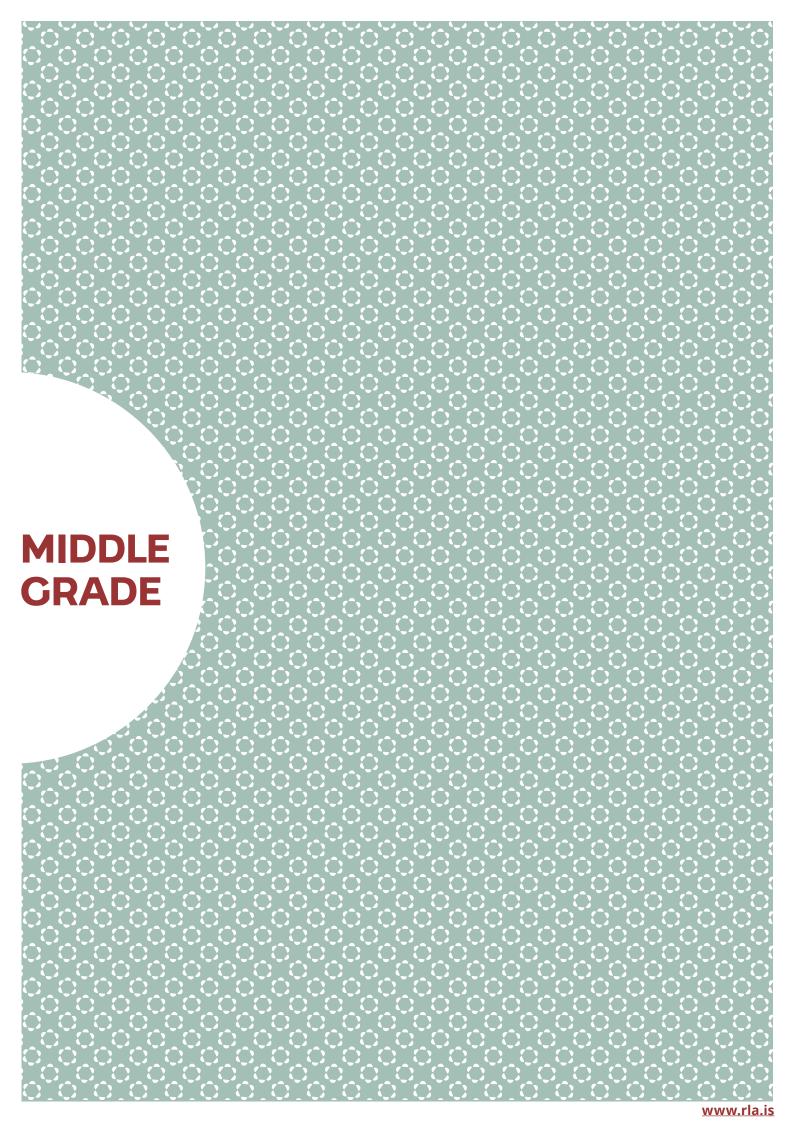
Anahit Aleqsanian is an Armenian book illustrator who has illustrated over 100 children's books from all over the world.













ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Tomas Zoega (b. 1993) and Solrun Ylfa Ingimarsdottir (b. 1996) won the annual Christmas Story competition of the Reykjavik City Library in 2020.

Tomas is a PhD student at the University of Oslo where he researches the climate impacts of volcanic eruptions.

Solrun is a violin player, illustrator and animator. She lives in Copenhagen and recently completed an MA degree in Violin at the Royal Danish Academy of Music. She has illustrated children's books and made two stop motion short films.

Bjork Jakobsdottir (text) Freydis Kristjansdottir (illustrations)

Flame

Hero #2

Eldur, illustrated fiction, 2023

It's like the earth itself stops breathing. Something terrible stirs underneath. We can all feel it as we look at the glacier. Then BANG!

A thrilling story about the friendship between a girl, Bjorg, and her mare, Hero. When the glacier erupts, a desperate search for Hero and the other horses ensues. They must have run away, but where to?

Flame is the sequel to Hero, which got rave reviews.

HARDCOVER, 13 x 20 cm, 168 pp Age group: 9-12 years

English sample translation available for book #1

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Bjork Jakobsdottir (b. 1966) has written and directed popular theater performances for all ages. She became acquainted with horses as a child, and her sensitivity for their feelings and expressions make this story about Hero both powerful and enchanting.

The story is reflected in the beautiful and moving illustrations by Freydis Kristjansdottir (b. 1965). She holds a diploma from The Icelandic College of Art and Crafts. In 2021 she received the Reykjavik Children's Book Prize.

"... an excellent book that hold the reader from start to finish ..."

MORGUNBLADID DAILY (ON BOOK 1: HERO)

"... stays with the reader for a long time and plays on a whole range of emotions. The book is a deserving read for all ages."

LESTRARKLEFINN (ON BOOK 1: HERO)





Gunnar T. Eggertsson (text) **Fifa Finnsdottir**

(illustrations)

Starlight

Mystic Mountain Series #3 Stjörnuljós: Furðufjall #3, fantasy, 2023

The exhilarating conclusion to this adventurous and lavishly illustrated series.

Ima finds herself trapped within the ruins of an ancient palace when suddenly a mysterious white cat appears, guiding her deep into the heart of the mountain. Meanwhile, Andreas is abducted by the elves and to make matters worse, his nemesis, the prince, has found Unseen Isle and sets out to seek revenge. The fate of the island now rests in the hands of Ima and Andreas, as they must unravel the mountain's mysteries and unite its inhabitants against their enemies.

HARDCOVER, 14 x 21.5 cm, 336 pp Age group: 9–12 years

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Gunnar Theodor Eggertsson (b. 1982) is the author of award-winning children's and YA titles including *The Stone Animals* and *Dead Disa*. He holds a master's degree in Film Studies from the University of Amsterdam and a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Iceland, specialized in animal studies. He has also written stories for video games.

Fifa Finnsdottir lives in Stockholm where she works as a video game developer and environmental activist. Her focus is on mixed media techniques and creating 2D environments, characters, moods and styles from scratch.

"The story is exciting, mysterious and gripping."

LESTRARKLEFINN (ON BOOK 2: NIGHT FROST)

"The world that the author has created is enchanting and dangerous, exactly as fantasy worlds should be ... I'm looking forward to the next book."

FRETTABLADID DAILY (ON BOOK 2: NIGHT FROST)





Dear reader!

Who would have thought that motor-cross would be the answer to all our problems? Whether it's Thor's nonsense, Bella's TER-RIBLE trouble or that Dad CAN'T SEEM TO STOP performing love poems about ... well, mum's body? It all gets better when you put on your helmet and googles and give it your all. And whose idea was this motor-cross-craze? Mine! Stella Erlings, or, well, Siggi and Bella's. OMG just read it yourself.

The Stella's Bonkers Family Series has earned its place among Iceland's most popular children's books. Each of the books has won Iceland's Children's Choice Book Award and the first, *My Bonkers Mum!*, also won the Icelandic Literary Prize. The book was adapted into a popular stage play, and the audience — just like the other Stella fans around Iceland — cheered for more. And now they have yet another story.

HARDCOVER, 12.5 x 20 cm, 206 pp Age group: 9–12 years

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gunnar Helgason (b.1965) is a beloved actor and well known for all kinds of entertaining material for children which has enjoyed great popularity for many years. In the past few years Helgason has published several extremely wellreceived children's books, including the seven-part series about Stella and her family. The first book, *My Bonkers Mum!*, won him the Icelandic Literary Prize and the Children's Choice Book Prize has been bestowed upon him six times. Gunnar Helgason was nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2022. gunnarhelgason.co.uk

"The author has this x-factor, the spark needed to entertain readers."

VIKAN (ON PROFESSOR DAD)

Reykjavík Literary Agency





Gunnar Helgason (text) **Ran Flygenring**

(illustrations)

Do Not Kill!

Alexander Daniel Hermann Dawidsson #3 Bannað að drepa, illustrated fiction, 2023

Finally, Alexander Daniel Hermann Dawidsson is happy with life. He has two new great sisters, Soley and Maney, a huge family that all live together in a new house and a great Easter break with the huge family.

However, he doesn't have a best friend, a chance to become Reykjavik football champion or the expectation that anyone will be killed ... or that someone already has been! It's going to be an unforgettable Easter holiday for Alexander and his huge, loud family. They're going to mix together Icelandic, Polish and Thai traditions. But then a new boy starts in the class who can't control his temper. Not at all. But Alexander's ADHD could save the day! Because he notices EVERYTHING and knows that you DO NOT KILL!

HARDCOVER, 14 x 21 cm, 196 pp Age group: 9-12 years

English sample translation available for Book #1

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Gunnar Helgason (b. 1965) is a popular actor and well known for all kinds of entertaining material for children which has enjoyed great popularity for many years. In the past few years Helgason has published several extremely popular children's books, including the seven-part series about Stella and her family. The first book, My Bonkers Mum!, won him the Icelandic Literary Prize and the Children's Choice Book Prize has been bestowed upon him six times. Gunnar Helgason was nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2022. gunnarhelgason.co.uk

Ran Flygenring (b. 1987) is an award-winning illustrator 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, besides being nominated for the German Academy of Children's and Youth Literature Illustration prize Serafina and the ALMA prize (Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award). ranflygenring.com



MORGUNBLADID DAILY (ON DO NOT LIE!)



Ran Flygenring

(text and illustrations)

Volcano

Eldgos, illustrated fiction, 2022

On an impromptu bring-your-kid-to-work day, Kaktus goes on a bus trip with tour guide and mother extraordinaire Brá. Together with a group of eccentric sightseers they venture on a classic day tour of waterfalls, furry horses and post-card perfect landscapes. But their day takes an unexpected twist when Kaktus spots something glowing red hot in the distance...

Award-winning author and illustrator Ran Flygenring is a true volcano aficionado. After trekking to the eruptions on Reykjanes peninsula nearly two dozen times, she now brings to life the dazzling volcanic spectacles she experienced there in the thrilling and sometimes perilous events of this book.

HARDCOVER, 22.5 x 30.5 cm, 72 pp Age group: 9–12 years

English and Norwegian translations available

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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, besides being nominated for the German Academy of Children's and Youth Literature Illustration prize Serafina, the ALMA prize (Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award) and the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize. ranflygenring.com

"At first glance, Volcano may seem like a lively and straightforward story about a mother, her son and oblivious nature, but it goes a lot deeper than that. The story makes one think about prejudice, foolishness, danger and fear, and about the importance of taking responsibility for oneself in encounters with nature."

RATIONALE, NORDEN.ORG



Thordis Gisladottir (text) Thorarinn M. Baldursson (illustrations)

Randalin and Mundi Series

Randalín og Mundi, illustrated fiction, 2012–2019

An exciting and hilarious book series about a mischievous and curious pair of friends. They have many adventures, start a band, seek out a hypnotist and find out about various secrets, but above all they realise that things are not always as they seem at first.

The author has a knack for tackling frightening issues, whether they involve rat pizzas or zombies, in an easy-going manner full of subtle humour.

There are four books in the series, each of which contains independent stories about these playful friends, and these popular stories were recently made into a TV-series. The exhibition rights have been sold to the Nordic countries. The TV-series was awarded the Edda Prize, The Icelandic Film and TV Prize and selected as the Children's Programme of the Year at the Sögur – the Icelandic Children's Choice Award.

HARDCOVER, 17.5 x 26 cm, 75-105 pp Age group: 9-12 years

SOLD TO: Hungary (Book 1)

Swedish sample translation available of Book #1

The Icelandic Booksellers' Prize (Book 1)

The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize (Book 1)

Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize (Book 3)

Nominated for the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize (Book 3)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

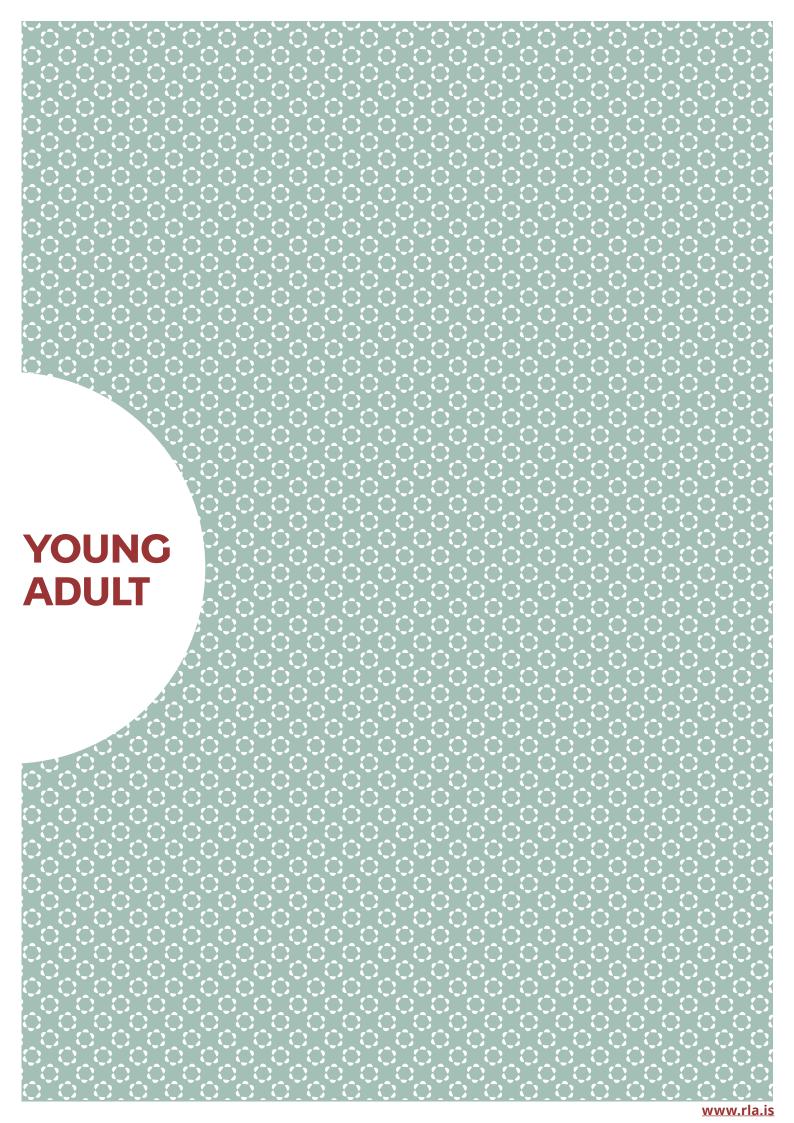
Thordis Gisladottir (b. 1965) is a prolific writer and translator, with an impressive portfolio. Her unique style is characterized by playful lightness, eloquence, and humour, offering an innovative perspective on contemporary themes. She has received numerous awards and nominations for both her original works and translations.

Thorarinn M. Baldursson (b. 1977) is an illustrator, poet and viola player with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. He has been nominated for the Reykjavik Children's Literature Prize.

"... written in a light, mischievous and almost careless style that calls to mind Ole Lund Kirkegaard's books."

BORN OG MENNING







Elias Runi (illustrations)

The Haunted Mall

Smáralindarmóri, illustrated fiction, 2023

A cracking story for reluctant readers that look for thrills and maybe a little bit of horror.

Friends Floki and Patti sneak under the cover of darkness into a closed construction site, where a huge shopping centre is being built. Suddenly, Patti is gone, as if the darkness has swallowed him. After this night, nothing will be the same. A year later, Lotta is with her friends in the newly opened mall when suddenly she starts running and they lose her. What really happened to her? Stories about hauntings in the shopping centre increase, some people see mysterious creatures, a boy and a girl, and on October 10 every year, on the anniversary of the shopping centre, something strange happens...

SOFTCOVER, 15 x 21 cm, 103 pp Age group: 13-16 years

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Brynhildur Thorarinsdottir (b. 1970) is a prolific and multiaward winning author of books for children and teens. She has an MA in Icelandic Literature, lectures at the Faculty of Education at the University of Akureyri and is the head of the Children's Literature Centre.

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. He has written and illustrated a number of books in recent years and been nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize, The Icelandic Design Prize and the Icelandic Women's and Non-Binary Literature Prize. eliasruni.com





Olafur Gunnar Gudlaugsson The Necromancy

The Last Warlock #3 Návaldið, YA, 2023

The end is nigh. A sensational occult thriller for YA readers of all ages.

Hildur, Theodora and Baldur are exhausted and distraught after the invasion from Tule. They mourn their mentor Hannes and their friend Bjarni is stuck in an alternate dimension where the horrific Necromancy is loose. The final battle with the ultimate death approaches, but the protagonists' powers are greater than they suspect.

HARDCOVER, 14 x 21.5 cm, 336 pp Age group: 13+ years

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Olafur Gunnar Gudlaugsson (b.1964) was awarded the 2021 Icelandic Children's Literature Award for Lightbringer, the first installment of The Last Warlock trilogy. The Necromancy is the last instalment in the series, a page-turning thriller for young people of all ages.

"The story is, like the first book, really engaging and multifaceted ... I await the final chapter eagerly."

MORGUNBLADID DAILY (ON OVERLORDS)

"Supernaturals should delight readers who enjoy a good fantasy novel and those who enjoyed Lightbringer will not be disappointed with this continuation."

FRETTABLADID DAILY (ON OVERLORDS)



Margret Tryggvadottir **Proud**

Stolt, young adult, 2023

A fast paced and exciting story written in the Nordic Noir tradition that examines queer issues and modern society.

Blaer gets a summer job at a small hotel in the countryside. She is quickly charmed by Felix, who is also working there, but never finds the right opportunity to tell him she is trans. Soon, however, she starts doubting herself and doesn't know who she can trust. Is there anything to the rumour that she needs to be wary of Felix? And who is the gorgeous but ill-tempered Bella, her colleague? Blaer soon discovers that an unsolved disappearance is connected to Felix and the house that she lives in, but the victim's relatives' lack of interest surprises her.

HARDCOVER, 14 x 21 cm, 280 pp Age group: 13+

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

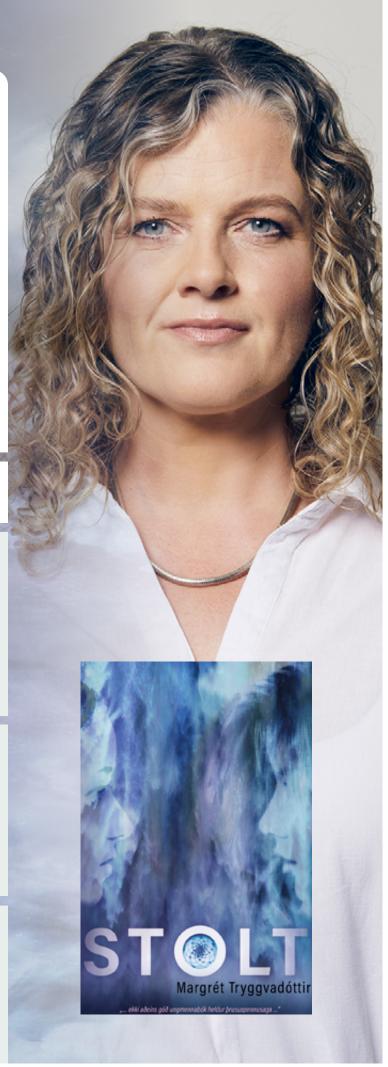
Margret Tryggvadottir (b. 1972) is a literary scholar with a master's degree in cultural management and a former member of parliament. She has published a variety of books that have received many awards and nominations, among them the Icelandic Literary Prize, the Icelandic Women's Prize for Fiction, the Reykjavik Children's Literature Prize and The Gudrun Helgadottir Children and Young People's Literary Prize.

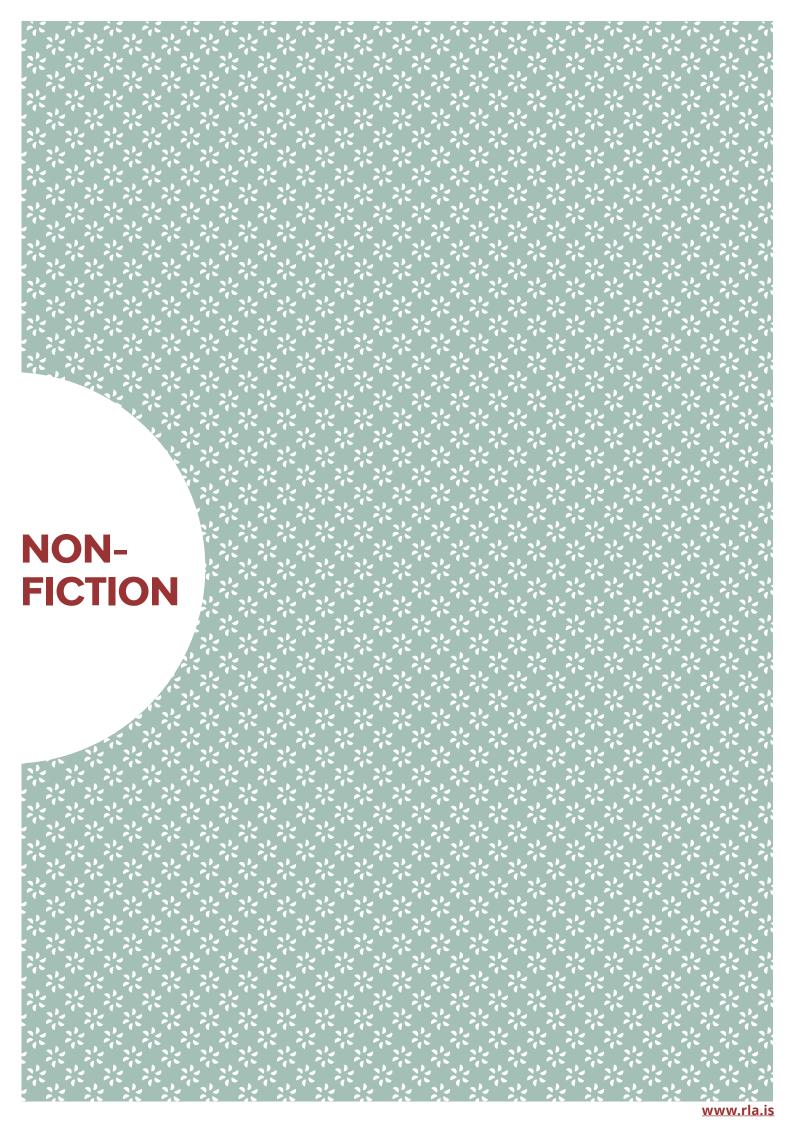
"... deals with complex issues that concern us all and does so in a sensitive and compelling way. This is a book ideal for teaching ... as it is both exciting and likely to provoke intellectual discussions about identities, ethnicity, sexuality and gender identity."

TMM (ON STRONG)

"The fact that the protagonist is trans is not the story's central topic nor a device used to push the plot forward but rather an element that is both natural and true to the story's reality."

FROM THE JURY'S COMMENTS, THE GUDRUN HELGADOTTIR CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PRIZE 2021 (ON STRONG)







Oops! Mistakes That Changed the World

Science Literacy #3 Úps! Mistök sem breyttu heiminum, science, 2023

We all make mistakes. Mess something up completely, fall head-first when we least should and make a massive blunder. But instead of beating ourselves up about it we should instead open this book and read all about the many different people who made mistakes that lead to great things. That maybe even saved lives. Or brought us popcorn.

Oops! Mistakes That Changed the World is the third instalment in the easy-to-read and hugely popular Science Literacy series, which contains fun information and playful facts from the world of science.

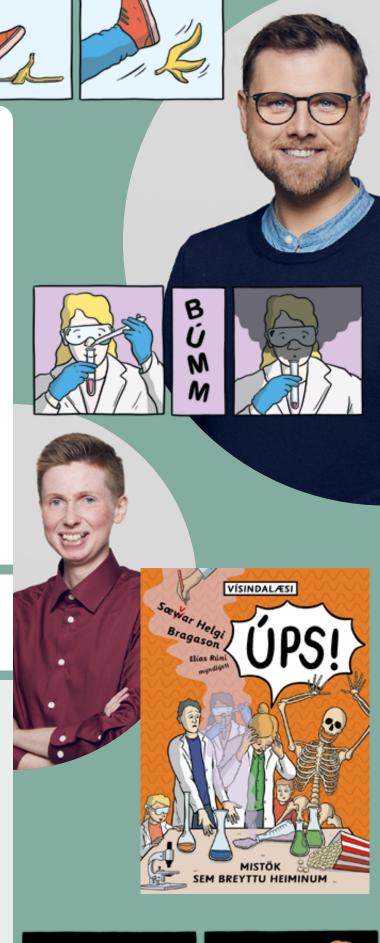
HARDCOVER, 14.8 x 21 cm, 73 pp Age group: 5–10 years

English translation available

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Saevar Helgi Bragason (b. 1984) is the editor of the Astronomy Web, an Icelandic website dedicated to astronomy and astronomy education. He is also the president of the oldest and largest stargazing organization in Iceland. He has spent years observing the heavens and is one of the most experienced stargazers in the country. Saevar ensured that all schoolchildren in Iceland received a pair of viewing glasses with which to watch the solar eclipse on March 20, 2015—and he's already started counting down to the next one.

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. He has written and illustrated a number of books in recent years and been nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize, The Icelandic Design Prize and the Icelandic Women's and Non-Binary Literature Prize. eliasruni.com









Natural Disasters on Earth is the fourth instalment in the easy-to-read and hugely popular Science Literacy series, which contains fun information and playful facts from the

world of science.

HARDCOVER, 14.8 x 21 cm, 80 pp Age group: 8–12 years

English translation available

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Saevar Helgi Bragason (b. 1984) is the editor of the Astronomy Web, an Icelandic website dedicated to astronomy and astronomy education. He is also the president of the oldest and largest stargazing organization in Iceland and is one of the most experienced stargazers in the country.

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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.

ALFAI

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

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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, besides being nominated for the German Academy of Children's and Youth Literature Illustration prize Serafina, the ALMA prize (Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award) and the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize. ranflygenring.com

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.

