

Morten Strøksnes

# Shark Drunk. The Art of Catching a Large Shark from a Tiny Rubber Dinghy in a Big Ocean through Four Seasons

## Havboka

Genre: Non-Fiction  
Category: Travelogue  
Publisher: Forlaget Oktober  
Year: 2015  
Pages: 320  
English translation of excerpt published in Granta, April 2013. German sample available

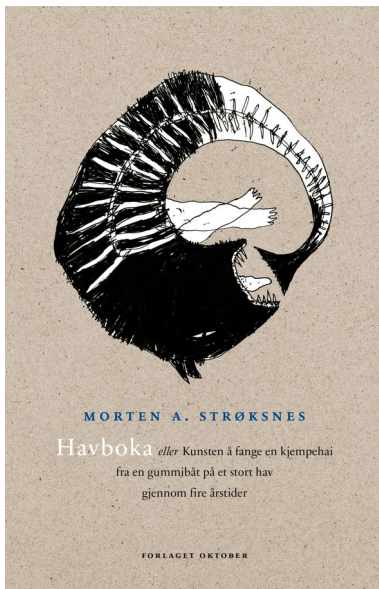
A book about a mission, the famous Lofoten islands and the art of catching a shark from a tiny rubber dinghy. More than anything: It is a book about the ocean.

At the great depths off Lofoten, rated by National Geographic as the third most attractive islands in the World, the great Greenland shark swims. This shark can grow up to eight meters long and weight considerably more than one ton. The meat of this shark contains a poison that when consumed is known to make people or dogs intoxicated.

*Shark Drunk* is the story of two friends who become obsessed with bringing an iconic monster up to the surface. One is the author and the other is the artist Hugo Aasjord. Hugo lives on the small island Skrova in Lofoten, in a large old fish factory that is under restoration. He has been at sea his entire life.

With *Shark Drunk*, Morten Strøksnes has written a superbly enjoyable book, full of knowledge, enthusiasm and excitement. Strøksnes attempts to acquire the ocean's swaying language through uses of poetry, science, history, ecology, fiction, mythology - or the almost obsolete language older local fishermen still use to describe the sea. The result is a salty and entertaining book.

Winner of the 2017 Wanderlust Adventure Travel Book of the Year, the 2015 Brage Prize, the 2015 Norwegian Critics' Prize, the Reine Ord Prize 2016 and the Book Blogger Award 2016.



'A masterpiece, nothing less. (...) It is these storytelling pulls and compositorial tactics from reality itself, that place *Shark Drunk* amongst classics such as Johan Bojer's *The Last of the Vikings* and Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.'

Bergens Tidende

'Superb non-fiction. *Shark Drunk* is sensationally good. (...) The book is a stunning display of essayistic writing.'

Vårt Land



Photo: Cathrine Strøm

Morten Strøksnes was born in Northern Norway in 1965 and lives in Oslo. He is a Norwegian intellectual historian, journalist, photographer and author.

Following studies in Oslo and Cambridge, Strøksnes embarked on a journalistic career. He has written reportages, essays, portraits, columns and reviews for most major Norwegian newspapers and magazines, and is a frequent contributor to public debates. Strøksnes has published four critically acclaimed books of literary reportage and contributed to several others.

#### Foreign sales

Bulgaria (Janet 45), Catalonia (Angle Editorial), China (simplified - Penguin Random House), Croatia (Fraktura), Czech republic (Argo), Denmark (Don Max), Faroe Islands (Sprotin), Finland (Gummerus), France (Gallimard), Germany (DVA), Hungary (Jelenkor/Libri Kynövkiado), Iceland (Bjartur), Italy (Iperborea), Japan (Kagaku Dojin Publishers), The Netherlands (Meridiaan Uitgevers), Poland, Romania (Polirom), Russia (Corpus Books), South Korea (Business Books), Spain (Ediciones Salamandra), Sweden (Leopard Förlag), Taiwan (Locus Publishing), UK (Jonathan Cape), USA (Alfred A. Knopf Inc.)

#### Awards

The Brage Prize for best non-fiction title, 2015. The Norwegian language-award (Språkrådets pris), 2011.

#### Previous titles

A Murder in Congo, 2010  
The Tequila Diaries, 2012

#### Rightsholder

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'What an achievement!'

Klassekampen