***Swan Song* (2021) and *Extinction* (2023)**

**Nikolaj Frobenius**

Nikolaj Frobenius belongs to the absolute "top tier of Norwegian literature" (quote by Marta Norheim). He has been nominated multiple times for the Brage Prize and has won international and national honors and awards. His work has been translated into 19 languages. His literary career spans across various genres, and he has also successfully written for film and television. For instance, he wrote the highly acclaimed TV series about Lørenskog, which premiered in 2022. He also provided the screenplay for the Norwegian thriller classic "Insomnia," directed by Erik Skjoldbjærg, which was later remade in Hollywood with Al Pacino in the lead role.

Nikolaj Frobenius crafts a rich narrative that transcends mere satire of affluence. In *Swan* *Song* and *Extinction,* he offers readers a penetrating exploration of wealth, revenge, and paranoia. The Svane family, despite seemingly being infinitely wealthy and successful, emerges as multifaceted modern individuals navigating a labyrinth of lies, vulnerabilities and uncertainties. As the tension escalates, readers are invited to step into their shoes, witnessing their struggles and confronting their shared humanity in the face of extraordinary circumstances. *Swan Song* and *Extinction* present not just a family saga but a poignant reflection on the intricate lives of individuals whose choices spiral into unforeseen consequences.

The critics have been enthusiastic – the portrayal of the battle between inner and outer demons is familiar territory for Frobenius. There is a subdued, laid-back atmosphere in *Extinction* that amplifies the dark content. As expressed in one of the inner monologues: "They say that revenge is sweet, but hatred is ecstasy, silent and vigilant, shy".

***Swan Song*** delivers a gripping psychological thriller that delves into the enigmatic world of real estate magnate Adrian Svane and his affluent family in the opulent heart of Norway. When Adrian vanishes during a mountain escapade in Jotunheimen, his family is thrust into disarray. The once-vibrant patriarch has vanished, leaving behind a puzzle of questions. As the unsettling mystery deepens, Adrian's close associate is found brutally murdered in the mountains, shrouding his fate in shadows.

In the midst of this tumult, Adrian's youngest son, Jonathan, a journalist, embarks on a mission to unravel the shrouded truth. Yet, as he peels back the layers, he uncovers hidden facets of his father's past, casting doubt upon the authenticity of their shared history. Jonathan's world crumbles, a labyrinth of paradoxes emerges, and the specters of his father's untold past emerge, threatening the very foundations of his family.

As Jonathan uncovers evidence of his father's entanglement in corruption, as well as a menacing debt to a shadowy figure from the past—Ernst Damm—the conflict escalates. Soon, the embers of unrest ignite into a blaze that consumes Adrian Svane's legacy.

Extinction carries Jonathan through the aftermath of a catastrophic fire that claims the life of his son during a brutal assault on his ancestral estate. Grief-stricken and haunted, Jonathan immerses himself in his role as a financial reporter. Assigned to cover the mysterious disappearance of a young investor on the Costa del Sol, he stumbles upon a connection between Ernst Damm and a fugitive harboring in Marbella, evading the grasp of justice. A dark tide of trauma surges anew, and fueled by his need for vengeance, Jonathan sets aside his principles, plunging headlong into a vendetta against this dangerous criminal.