

Kristine Rui Slettebakken
Nora Brech (ill.)

Billie and Bo / Billie and Bo and the Phenomenal Christmas

Billie og Bo / Billie og Bo og den heidundrandes jula

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Novel (series)
Publisher: Gyldendal
Year: 2023-24
Pages: 200
English sample translation available

Billie and Bo

"The first time I saw Billie, she was dead. Dead as a dodo, lying at the edge of a ditch one Thursday morning on the way to school."

Nine year old Bo has decided not to ever have a best friend again. When Billie joins Bo's class and choose him as her friend, there's nothing he can say about her decision. Besides, Bo finds it pretty nice to have a completely fearless friend.

But what do you do when what is fun and exciting suddenly goes a little too far?

Billie and Bo and the Phenomenal Christmas

Billie and Bo love December! When they discover an old kicksled in the basement, they love December even more. The city is snowy and white, and soon Billie and Bo start the best ever Christmas Club to bring about the Christmas spirit. And it is needed, because not everyone is happy during the Advent season. It's a mystery why Billie's father doesn't like Christmas. Bo never stops hoping that Santa on Christmas Eve can be someone else than the neighbor, for example the father he never met. It looks like it's going to be an extraordinary December. Maybe it is true what Billie says, that Christmas is the time of year when our heart sings.

Illustrated in b/w by Nora Brech.

Winner of the 2024 Brage Prize



'Sparklingly good [...] takes good care of the legacy from Astrid Lindgren'

NRK, 5/6 stars

'Sympathetic and warm [...] offers a golden read experience with both energy and feelings.'

Dagbladet, 5/6 stars

'The author transforms existence from boring to fun, from grey to sparkling.'

The Brage Prize jury statement



Photo: Julie Pike

Kristine Rui Slettebakken (b. 1977) has written several award-winning children's books. In 2024 she was the winner of the Brage Prize, Norway's national book award, for her second book about Billie and Bo. For her debut she was nominated for the Norwegian Children & YA Authors' Association First Book Prize. For her second book she received the Ministry of Culture Literature Prize and was nominated for the two prestigious awards, the Brage Prize and the ARK's Children's Book Prize. In 2023 she received the prestigious The Norwegian Booksellers' grant. Slettebakken has studied creative writing and literature at the Norwegian Institute for Children's Books. She is an actor, theatre instructor, and narrator of audio books.

Rui Slettebakken is one of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna", as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Foreign sales

Both books sold to: Danish (Straarup & co.), Italian (Mondadori), Swedish (Lilla Piratförlaget), Ukrainian (The Old Lion Publishing House)
First book also sold to: Georgian (Sulakauri)

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