

Thomas Seeberg Torjussen

A Better Man

Ølhunden Berit

N NORLA Selected Title

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English sample translation available

Tom is a lonely man who blames feminism for everything that is wrong with society - and with his own life. By day he works in his mother's clothing store, and by night he spews venom and bile online. The worst of it is directed at the high-profile stand-up comedian Live, who eventually collapses under Tom's relentless harassment.

When hackers expose Tom's identity, he suddenly becomes the most hated man in the country. Forced to go into hiding, he shaves off his beard, dresses in women's clothes, and is reborn as Berit. In this new role, he encounters a warmth and empathy he has never experienced before.

It is a burlesque and entertaining journey in which we follow Tom from a simple larva, through a grotesque butterfly, to something resembling a human being.

We also meet Tom's neighbor Audun, an only seemingly modern father of young children, in a novel that plunges headfirst into debates about gender roles, loneliness, and masculine sexuality - and that gives a face to the thousands of anonymous haters we recognize from the dark corners of the internet and newspaper comment sections.

The novel is based on the TV-series *Ølhunden Berit* (*A Better Man*), written and directed by the author, so far sold to; Germany (ZDF), Denmark (DR), Sweden (SVT), Finland (YLE) and Iceland (RUV).



Thomas Seeberg Torjussen is a Norwegian filmmaker, writer and director of series, feature films and theatre. His series have received many accolades, including an International Emmy nomination for *Koselig med peis* (2011) and the Rose d'Or, Prix Jeunesse and Kidscreen Awards for *ZOMBIELARS* (2017–2019). Both series, which Torjussen wrote and co-directed, were also winners of the Gullruten Award for Best TV Drama. Torjussen directed three episodes of *Kampen For Tilværelsen* (2014), which won him a Gullrute Award for Best Director. Thomas created, wrote and directed the sci-fi series *DOMÉ 16* which premiered in late 2022 and won him a Rose D'or in 2023.

A Better Man is his first novel.

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