

## Tor Åge Bringsværd

Release the Handle As You Turn  
*Slipp håndtaket når du vrir*

2012

FICTION  
NOVEL



PHOTO: BERIT SANDBERG

A warm-hearted story about friendship and love across all boundaries. But this is also a social satire in the same tradition as Gulliver's Travels and its Nordic counterpart, Nils Klim's Journey to the Underworld – a burlesque narrative that shifts between different realities, interconnected by black holes through which we move from Here to There in a terrifying twinkle of an eye! I stared at the burning currant bush. Tried to catch a glimpse of who had hidden behind it. And I couldn't stop myself from addressing her.

- "Lady," I said cautiously. "Excuse me for asking ... but I was under the impression that the Nameless One usually materialised in briar bush and not a currant one?"

- "Too true," the voice replied. "But can you spot any nearby briars?"

- "No," I admitted.

- "There you are, one has to make the best of what's at hand," the voice said.

"And in my view, the currant bush is a perfectly good option. Burns just as well, too!"

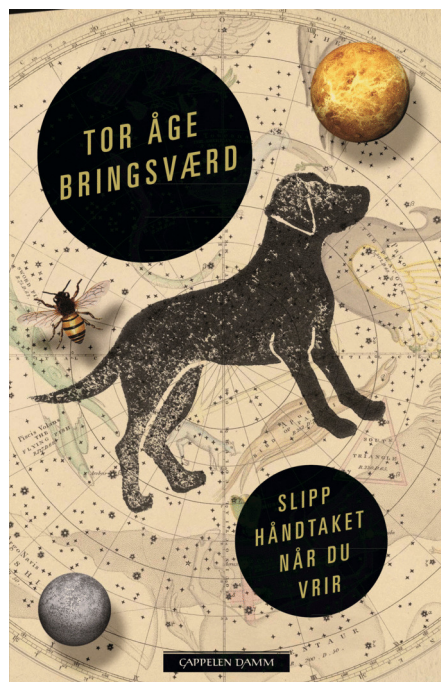
"- Blessed Lady," Jensen said unhappily, closing his eyes and burying his snout in the grass.

"- Never mind Jeremiah. He isn't himself these days."

- "Is that so?" The voice sounded concerned. "Who is he now?"

I'm standing at the window, looking out over the city. It is larger than ever. Like a huge octopus. Now the lights are going out. The long tentacles turn grey, one after the other. We're slowly enveloped by darkness. All the same, I remain where I am. Anita comes along, approaches me carefully and puts her muzzle on my right shoulder. I look into her large, dark eyes.

- "But we'll never make it together," I whisper to her. "Because I'm waiting for



Tor Åge Bringsværd is an award-winning and productive prose- and playwright who writes for all ages. His works have been translated into 23 languages, and his plays have been staged in 12 countries. He writes fiction and non-fiction for both children and adults.

### SELECTED AWARDS

Arts Council Norway Honorary Award, 2010

The Brage Prize - Honorary Award, 2009

The Norwegian Ibsen Award, 1999

The Norwegian Academy Prize, 1999

The Dobloug Prize, 1994

The Norwegian Critics' Prize, 1985

The Aschehoug Prize, 1979

The Riverton Prize, 1978

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someone else.”

Anita twists her head round and licks my face.

- “You mean the female who walks on two legs and can wiggle her toes?” she asks sadly.

- “That’s right,” I reply. “She is the one for me.”

Anita speaks on, but because my ears are located on my ankles it’s hard to pick up all she says.

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