

Lajla E. Lorentzen

# Settlement Damage

## Setningsskade

Genre: Non-Fiction  
Category: Novel  
Publisher: Forlaget Margbok  
Year: 2013  
Pages: 216  
English sample translation available

Bjørn lives alone in a house he has built himself, and one day the house begins to shift. This is catastrophic for Bjørn, who is a retired heavy-current engineer, obsessed with carpentry and measurements. The house is lopsided; something in the foundation has begun to slip. What does it mean and who is responsible? Bjørn asks himself. Is he the one who has done something wrong?

Meanwhile Bjørn is helping his niece and her husband build a garage, a job he commits himself to with a vengeance. He represses everything he has to do at home and settles in at the home of his niece and her husband for the entire summer. This becomes a strain for the family, who fail to communicate their feelings of having been invaded – and as the crisis builds, Bjørn's personal settlement damage and history rise to the surface.

*Settlement Damage* is a portrait of a special human being, an oddball many might say. Others would perhaps describe him as having slightly autistic characteristics. There's nothing wrong with me, Bjørn says. The wheels just turn a little more slowly and I can't read what's written between the lines. Ephemeral love is something he doesn't understand; concrete affection, on the other hand – as a handyman and a man of action it is more natural for him to associate love with manual tasks. Love is found in the hands is Bjørn's recurring mantra and life motto.

Winner of publisher Margbok's novel competition "Periferi" in 2013.

"A fiction debut resting on a rock solid foundation of literary ingenuity." Dagsavisen

"The coincidence between the mental and bodily processes is nonetheless rhetorically effective and the portrait of Bjørn is one of a kind."  
Dag og Tid

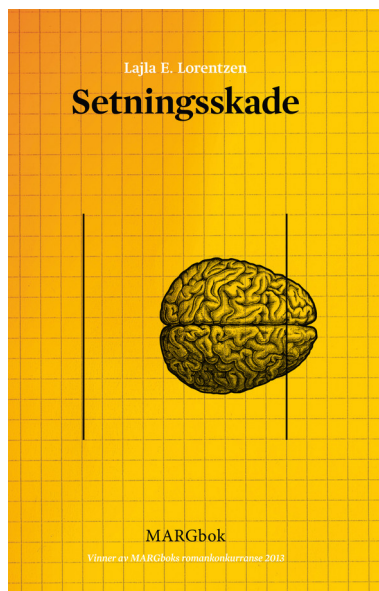


Photo: Eli Berge

*Settlement Damage* is Lajla Elisabet Lorentzen's debut novel. The novel emerged victorious in publisher Margbok's novel competition Periferi 2013, and was the only debut novel nominated for the "P2-radio listeners novel prize 2014". The jury named *Settlement Damage* the third best novel of the year in Norway, following *Fugletribunalet (The Bird Tribunal)* by Agnes Ravatn, and *De usynlige (The Invisible)* by Roy Jacobsen. For a debut author Lorentzen has received not only an unusually large number but also favourable reviews in the Norwegian press and her style has been compared with that of Carl Frode Tiller and Jon Fosse.

Lorentzen is a literary scholar with a professional background within publishing and public relations.

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