

Åshild Og Atle Næss

An ocean of languages

Et hav av språk

2007

287 Pages

NON-FICTION
POPULAR SCIENCE

Atle Næss was born in 1949 and grew up in Askim, a small industrial community 55 kilometres east of Oslo. He graduated from Oslo University in 1976, and worked as a teacher until 1987, including a period as Lecturer of Norwegian at Odense University, Denmark (1980-83). Since 1987 he has been a full-time writer.

His first novel was published in 1975. He has published eleven novels, three books for children/adolescents, two biographies, a collection of essays, and several other books, reflecting a fairly broad field of interests. Among them is a history of speed-skating, a book on Ibsen's years in Italy, and a personal guide to Italian painting. His occupation with Italy is reflected in a number of books, both fiction and non-fiction.

SELECTED PREVIOUS TITLES:

Roten av minus en (Square Root of Minus One), novel 2006
Edvard Munch. En biografi, biography 2004
Innersvinger (Inner track), novel 2002
Da jorden sto stille (When the World Stood Still), biography 2001
Den tvilende Thomas (Doubting Thomas), novel 1997
Kraften som beveger (The Power that Moves) novel 1990
Sensommer (Late summer), novel 1987

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This is a story about a father and daughter, about the world's extraordinary kaleidoscope of languages, and about a long journey to one of the world's most inaccessible places. The author Atle Næss accompanied his daughter, language researcher Åshild Næss, on a field trip to the Reef Islands in Melanesia in the South Pacific. Call them nerds, if you will, but they know they're not alone in considering language one of the most delightful and fascinating topics around. Their fascination only increases as they dig more deeply into linguistics and discover the staggering number of ways in which a language can be put together. This is a book for all those who think language is fun – and who want to know exactly how many ways there are in various languages to shuffle around the words in "The dog bit the postman" and how many words there really are for "snow" in Eskimo languages.

Atle Næss (b. 1949) has written a number of critically acclaimed books since his debut in 1975. He often draws on history for his material, and won the Brage Prize in 2001 for his biography of Galileo Galilei. Åshild Næss (b. 1974) is a linguist at the University of Oslo. This is her first book.

A literary road movie from the thriving world of languages, combined with witty and thought-provoking descriptions of huge cultural differences.
Throw of the dice: 5 (Fredrikstad blad)

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