

Tarjei Vesaas

The Birds

Fuglane

Genre: Fiction

Category: Novel

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Year: 1957

Pages: 208

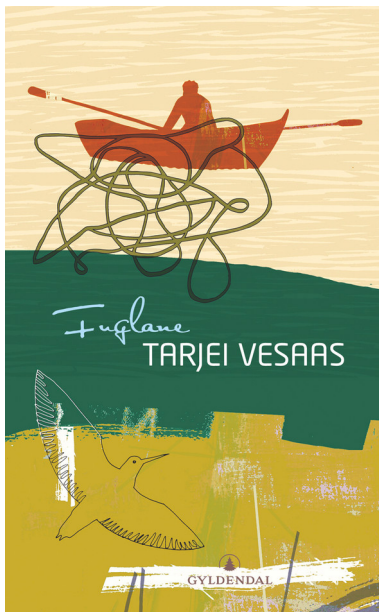
English editions available. Full translation to Spanish available

The Birds might be Tarjei Vesaas' masterpiece. No other character has been portrayed with as much care and empathy as Mattis. Helpless in everyday life and useless as a worker, Mattis in some ways still understands more than the sharper ones.

Nature reveals secrets to Mattis. He can decipher the language of birds. He can read the letters that the woodcock writes to him with its beak and feet. And he can articulate the deepest questions of life: "Why are things the way they are?" he asks the friendly farmer's wife who offers him coffee when he has again failed in doing the work he has been asked to do.

No-one can offer any answers, but the author tells the story in such a way that the reader comes to share his empathy for Mattis, while still understanding Mattis's sister Hege and all those who want to help Mattis, but who can't reach aa the way in to him.

In 1967 *The Birds* was made into a film by the Polish director Witold Leszczynski.



'The best Norwegian novel ever'

Karl Ove Knausgård

'A Masterpiece.'

Ian McEwan

'Read, read read "The Birds" by Tarjei Vesaas ... This is the highlight of his life.'

Politiken, 6/6 hearts

'Vesaas's prose, spare and straightforward, soars with a poignancy of feeling ...'

worldliteraturetoday.org

'This is a quiet novel that deserves much more attention.'

thebookbindersdaughter.com

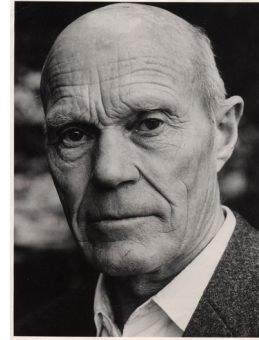


Photo: Gyldendal Norsk Forlag

Tarjei Vesaas (1897–1970) was a modernist who maintained a degree of technical experimentation throughout his work. He is regarded as one of Scandinavia's foremost twentieth-century writers and was the first Norwegian to win the Nordic Council's Prize.

For his collection of short stories, *The winds* (*Vindane*, 1950), he won the Venice Prize in 1953, which resulted in his international breakthrough. He wrote several novels, two collections of short stories and collections of poetry. In 1964 he was the first Norwegian to receive the Nordic Council's Prize.

Tarjei Vesaas' novels have been translated into 28 languages.

Foreign sales

Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Faroe Islands, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain (incl. Catalan), Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA

Previous titles

The Seed (*Kimen*), 1940
The House in the Dark (*Huset i mørkret*), 1945
The Bleaching Yard (*Bleikeplassen*), 1946
The Tower (*Tårnet*), 1948
The Signal (*Signalet*), 1950
Spring Night (*Vårnatt*), 1954
The Birds (*Fuglane*), 1957
The Fire (*Brannen*), 1961
The Ice Palace (*Is-slottet*), 1963
The Bridges (*Bruene*), 1966
The Boat in the Evening (*Båten om kvelden*), 1968

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