Ellen Viste

Tales of the Wind. The Air on Earth - and Everything It Carries

Vindens historier. Om luften i verden og alt den fører med seg

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Popular Science
Publisher: Kolombia
Year: 2023
Pages: 383
ISBN: 9788234714399
English sample translation and synopsis available

When the winds of the world move the air, it's never just air. There's something in the air. *Tales of the Wind* revolves around the air and everything it carries along with it.

Through narratives from science, history, and journeys in nature, we come to understand why the air rarely stays still, and how the constant flow of seeds, water vapour, pollutants, and microbes shapes the world. Columbus sought out a route to Asia but found trade winds heading for America. Vasco da Gama defied centuries of logic and battled the monsoon. You'll read about a Briton who explored sandstorms in a Ford Model T, about how Japan used the wind to bomb the United States, about Jesuit monks who were the first to predict hurricanes, and about how Vilhelm Bjerknes' young meteorologists revolutionised international weather forecasting from the tiny Norwegian city of Bergen.

Ellen Viste has spent years searching for stories about wind and weather. Is there a place where the wind never blows, and which part of the world has the strongest winds? Who exhaled the air you inhale? How long did it take for the radioactive waste from Fukushima to travel around the world, and will that incessant headwind ever let up? In Tales of the Wind, the reader finds a quest for order in a world of uncontrollable forces.

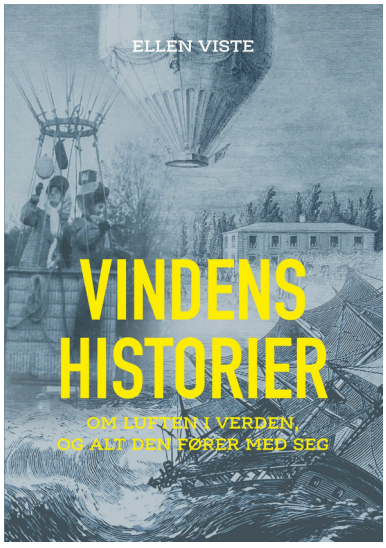

Photo: Bjørn Damsgård

Ellen Viste (b. 1973) is a meteorologist and former climate researcher, now working with climate science communication. She has a PhD in meteorology from the University of Bergen. Her experience in the dissemination of weather and climate science extends back to the 1990s. She lives in Bergen – a city known for its rain and as the cradle of modern weather forecasting.

Foreign sales
Italy (Aboca), Spain (Barlin Libros), Sweden (Bokförlaget Max Strøm)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Bjørn Hatterud

Bjerke Tower Block - thirteen years on the third floor

Blokka på Bjerke

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Essay/Memoir
Publisher: Det norske Samlaget
Year: 2023
Pages: 201
ISBN: 9788234010668

In *Bjerke Tower Block* Hatterud tells the story of the majority population from the unique perspective, of a disabled gay man, who begins his adult life scratching out an existence on disability benefits, and goes on to become a board member of Arts Council Norway. For thirteen years, from 2009 – 2022, Bjørn lived in a tower block in the poor, working class neighbourhood of Bjerke on the east side of Oslo. Bjørn befriended several of his elderly neighbours, such as the traumatised wartime sailor Bjarne next door, and Ester on the ground floor, who grew up among the toxic landfills on the Langøyene Islands on the Oslo Fjord.

During the thirteen years at Bjerke, Bjørn overcomes the poverty and social exclusion defining his life, achieving cultural recognition and acclaim as a writer, art curator and public intellectual. Bjerke has in course of these thirteen years gradually become an attractive and expensive neighbourhood. Hatterud reveals some of the untold consequences of Norway's oil wealth for the outlying, low-income neighbourhoods of Oslo. The depiction of Bjerke's sociocultural evolution combines the keen observations of the author with historical facts and personal experiences from his own life. The book offers a fresh, queered perspective on the Norwegian national narrative, the critical reception has been overwhelmingly positive. Hatterud writes with precision, insight, and warmth about life and the people he met in the tower block he will soon leave behind.

'It is incomprehensible that someone could be so good at reeling off cultural and sociological considerations, but Hatterud is world-class'

Randaberg24

'Bjørn Hatterud has so to speak created his own genre. He has a love for communities that are falling apart or at least changing.'

NRK

'Hatterud's descriptions of the street life of Bjerke, and the tower block where he lived are brilliant.'

Dagens Næringsliv

Photo: Agnete Brun

Bjørn Hatterud is an Oslo based writer, musician, and art curator, who grew up gay and disabled in a working-class family in a small Norwegian rural community. He has experienced national success with his first two critically acclaimed books, *Mot normalt* (*Against Normality*, 2018) and *Mjøsa rundt med mor* (*Me, Mum and Mjøsa*, 2020). In his books Hatterud writes of his life's extraordinary trajectory, and of how growing up as an outsider led him to forge a pathway into art, literature and non-mainstream culture – the spaces where he discovered identity and freedom. *Bjerke Tower Block* is his third book, which confirms his position as one of Norway's leading narrative non-fiction writers. Hatterud is awarded The Fritt Ord Prize and The National Book Critics' Award for his writing.

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson

Forests. On trees, people and thousands of other phenomenal species

Skogen

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Popular Science
Publisher: Kagge
Year: 2023
Pages: 279
ISBN: 9788248933069
English sample translation available

For a tree, life after death isn't just a hope but a reality. This is a book about forests; forest nature, species diversity and people; about the span from the millimetric perspective of an insect's short life – lived in its entirety beneath a scrap of bark – to the miles-wide expanses of sylvan landscapes where our exploitation of forests has shaped cultures and societies over hundreds of years. By weaving together ecology, history, politics and culture into an overarching narrative, the book offers readers an insight into a profoundly fascinating ecosystem, and give them a basis for understanding the role forests play in today's nature and climate crisis.

The first chapter describes the characteristics of a forest. The next deals with forest fires and storms. A third chapter looks at one of the most living things in the forest: dead trees. In the fourth you'll find examples of strange and surprising interactions between dead trees and other species. The fifth chapter is about how it isn't always easy to be a rare species in the forest, while chapter six hops like a hare through history, showing how timber has been used over the centuries. The seventh chapter covers ecosystem services other than timber. In chapter eight, we roam through the cultural undergrowth, defined as all the aspects of forests that rouse emotions and inspire expansive thoughts – be they myths, beliefs, pictures, books or just forests themselves. Or their absence. The ninth chapter is devoted to the ongoing debate about forests, before we round off with the tenth chapter, which is all about time, perspective and the shifting baselines in the forest.

Nominated for the 2023 Brage Prize and the 2023 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize

'No book I have read on the subject in recent years resembles *SKOGEN* by Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson. The book is a masterpiece of popular science.'

Klassekampen

'Wonderful and Terrifying. Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson's book about the forest should be obligatory reading in every home.'

Dagbladet

Photo: Celina Øier

Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson is a professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) in Ås, Norway, as well as a scientific advisor for The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research NINA. She has a Doctorate degree in conservation biology and lectures on nature management and forest biodiversity. Her research focuses on insect ecology. Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson has been appointed Honorary Doctor of Forest Sciences at the Faculty of Forest Sciences at SLU in Sweden. In recent years, she has written five books about insects and nature. These critically acclaimed books have been translated into more than 25 languages and are sold all over the world. In addition she has studied history and is interested in outreach activities, runs a science blog and is a regular guest on the popular science radio program EKKO - Abel's Tower on NRK P2. In 2020, she received the Award for Excellence in Communication of Science from The Research Council of Norway.

Foreign sales
Hungary (HGV), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Sweden (Polaris), World Spanish (Barlin Libros)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Dag O. Hessen

Tracking the Wolverine

Jervesporet

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Popular Science/Memoir
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2023
Pages: 224
ISBN: 9788202677008
English sample translation available

One day in February 1972, Dag O. Hessen is on a ski trip with his father in the mountains when they come across a wolverine track in the snow. The young Dag convinces his father to follow the trail, but after half an hour of searching the imprints of the predator disappear down a steep passage and they have to give up on their hunt. 50 years later he's back at the same place to pick up on the trail of the animal that escaped him. His father is now long gone, but the mountains are still there and somewhere out there is a wolverine.

Tracking the Wolverine is Hessen's most personal book so far. It's a portrait of Norwegian nature's most fascinating and shy animal, so compact in its wildness and power that there is hardly anything like it. Seeing the animal in its natural habitat is a rarity only very few people get to experience. The wolverine, and the desire to meet the wild animal, is the framing of the story taking place in the mountainous nature. But this is also a story about time passing and changes we cannot prevent: A childhood long gone, close family members who have passed, the wild nature and a natural diversity which is about to weather away. And at the bottom of all of this lies a deep affection and respect for nature and biology, presented by one of Norway's most respected non-fiction authors.

"Hessen, the poet, rises to his full height. He is our Thoreau, anno 2023."

Vårt land

"It would surprise me if [this book] isn't at the top when the score is settled for this year's best non-fiction titles. ... The book deserves a spot alongside the author's own favorites on the cabin bookshelves: Zappfe, Thoreau and Ingstad."

Klassekampen

Photo: Anne Valeur

Dag O. Hessen (b. 1956) is a Professor of Biology at the University of Oslo. He is a distinct voice in the debate on topics like evolution, climate, ecology and biology as a way of understanding humanity. He has written many scientific works on themes like ecology and evolution, and has also published a number of popular science books about evolution, biology and the environment. He has received several awards for his promotion of popular science.

Foreign sales
Canada, Switzerland

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Tove Gravdal
Dag Nylander

Out of the Jungle. About the peace process in Colombia

Ut av jungelen

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Contemporary History
Publisher: Spartacus
Year: 2023
Pages: 319
ISBN: 9788243014862
Full English sample translation and introduction available, plus a sample translation in Spanish

Out of the Jungle is a comprehensive account of one of the most intense and complicated peace processes in modern history, which led to an agreement between the Colombian government and the guerilla group Farc in 2016.

Dag Nylander was the lead Norwegian diplomat who accompanied the peace process. He was the prime witness and a key participant in all parts of the process, including risky missions to remote guerilla-controlled areas in Colombia. He obtained the trust of both parties and played a crucial role in nudging and smoothing the process through its many difficult phases. The Colombian peace accord ended five decades of war which had led to half a million dead and millions of refugees. The accord has since been a frequent reference for political leaders worldwide when appealing to diplomatic solutions to conflicts.

The insights from this long and complex negotiating process highlights what it takes to bring peace to armed conflicts, which is relevant in the midst of the war in Ukraine. Ongoing peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the remaining armed groups in the country also brings new relevance to the 2016 peace agreement.

"A splendid introduction to how you can end a civil war."

NRK

"(...) it conveys a recognition of the benefits of quiet and longterm trust-building work, but it is first and foremost an action man-story."

Morgenbladet

Photo: Tove Gravdal (Katinka Hustad), Dag Nylander (Mats Bakken)

Dag Nylander (b. 1969) is the director of NOREF (Norwegian Center for Conflict Resolution). Prior to joining NOREF, he was director and Head of the Section for Peace and Reconciliation in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Throughout his career he has held several diplomatic positions, most notably as a mediator and Norwegian special envoy to Colombia. From 2010 to 2016 he led the Norwegian facilitation of the peace process between the Colombian government and the FARC. This work built on the foundations laid from 2006 to 2008, when he headed the Norwegian embassy in Bogotá. In 2017 he was appointed the United Nations Secretary-General's personal representative on the border controversy between Venezuela and Guyana. Dag is a jurist by education and has practiced both as a lawyer and an assistant judge.

Tove Gravdal (b. 1963) has been a journalist since 1982, working for leading Norwegian newspapers like Aftenposten and Morgenbladet, based in Oslo, Paris and New York, covering international politics, culture and social affairs. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology, and has studied at the National Defense College. She has worked as a press officer for The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has been an election observer in different countries, most recently in Albania in 2023. She has been a part-time consultant for NOREF (Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution), and she is a frequent lecturer, moderator and public commentator on international affairs.

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Interview
Read our interview with the authors here

Thomas Hylland Eriksen

Seven Meanings in Life. The threads that connect

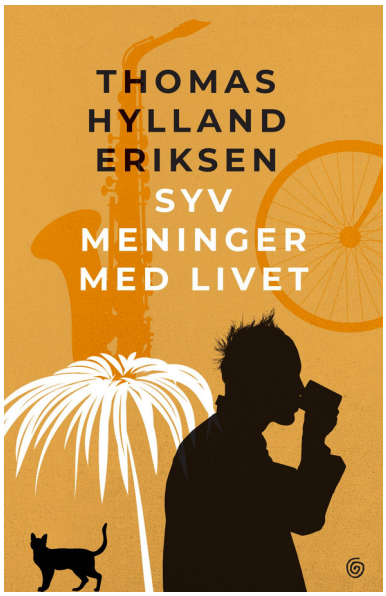
Syv meninger med livet

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Essay
Publisher: Kagge
Year: 2022
Pages: 191
ISBN: 9788248929680
Full English sample translation available

The myriad invisible threads that connect us humans to each other, but also to everything around us, form a vast and ever expanding tapestry, enabling each of us to add our tiny voice to the great planetary choir that stretches back in time and forth in space. This is a book about these threads and how they make human lives meaningful.

The meanings in life are sustainable, climate-neutral and often free. They consist in relationships. After finishing the first draft of this book, the author realised that what he had done was to compose a long essay about the threads that connect us humans to each other, and also to everything around us. Together, these filaments create an immense tapestry, a meshwork that enables each of us to be a tiny voice in a great planetary choir that stretches back in time and forth in space. These threads are what makes life meaningful, and the book will show you why and how.

The book was a bestseller in Norway from the moment it was published in autumn 2022.



"(...) an incredibly exciting book that I almost read in one stretch (...)"

Per Jacobsen, publisher at EC Editions, Denmark

"Hylland Eriksen writes well about the value of longing and about how the society of abundance creates distinctive existential challenges."

NRK

Photo: Yngve Vogt

Thomas Hylland Eriksen is Professor of social anthropology at the University of Oslo and the author of numerous books on anthropological and cultural issues, including *Small Places, Large Issues* and *Tyranny of the Moment*, which have both enjoyed tremendous success in Norway and abroad. From 1993 to 2001 he was affiliated with the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at the University of Oslo. His research spans ethnic relations, nation building and cultural dynamism in multicultural societies and he has written several books on such subjects. He has carried out field work in Mauritius and Trinidad.

Foreign sales
Denmark (EC Edition), Korea (Gilbut Publishing), Italy (Kamicose), World Arabic (Oxygen Publishing)

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Video
Interview with Thomas Hylland Eriksen

Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Trond Bredesen

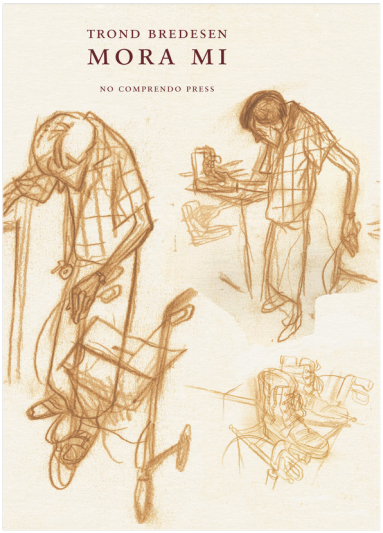
My Mother
Mora mi

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Graphic Novel
Publisher: No Comprendo Press
Year: 2023
Pages: 160
ISBN: 9788282551120

Photo: Trond Bredesen

In this graphic novel, Trond Bredesen depicts his mother who suffered from dementia and had to move into a retirement home at the end of her life. He does this honestly and unsentimentally, with humour and love.

"The idea for and work on this book started when my mother moved into the institution. I began to write down what she said and did when we visited her and talked on the phone. I took photos and films and hurriedly scribbled down sketches to remember the time, place and situation. Mum's confused comments, an unappetizing toilet chair and a bedside table with medicines, chocolate, energy drinks and diapers became interesting motifs and script ideas. In two years, I had a pile of documents that slowly turned into this book." - Trond Bredesen



Trond Bredesen (b. 1956) was educated at Fachhochschule Münster in Germany. Illustrator since 1984. He has created award-winning illustrations in all categories: packaging, stamps and books. *My Mother* is his debut as an author.

Foreign sales
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Interview
Read our interview with the author here