Pedro Carmona-Alvarez

Chiquitita

Chiquitita

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Kolon
Year: 2023
Pages: 186
ISBN: 9788205588400
English and German sample translations available

Photo: Eva Lene Gilje Østensen

Marisol is a middle-aged woman who is looking back on her life, at the young woman she once was, the woman who once broke down in front of a painting of a small dog in a big city museum.
Marisol is a young woman on holiday with her boyfriend, her first love. They are in a museum in a big city and looking at a painting of a sinking dog. Her boyfriend wants her to tell him about her life, her childhood, and the refugee child she once was. But she breaks down.

Marisol is a child living with her mother and father in a city by the ocean. The parents are young, stylish, and living lives at the heart of the zeitgeist. The child often stays in her grandmother's home, where she lives for long periods of time during her childhood, surrounded by aunts and uncles. Then the country collapses. She is picked up in the middle of the night and the small family must flee over the mountains into the bordering country. But they are not permitted to remain there, and while they wait for another country to admit them, they must live in a refugee camp full of shadows and ruptured stories.
Then they come to Norway.

Chiquitita is a melancholy, poetic story about fleeing for one's life, about the passage of time, and about the things in life that don't disappear and come back to haunt us. A novel about impossible stories, trauma and violence, but also about hope and light and love.

Winner of The Riksmål Society Literature Prize for 2023

Pedro Carmona-Alvarez was born in La Serena, Chile in 1972. As a ten year old he and his family fled to Argentina, and later the family moved to Norway. He made his debut with a collection of poetry in 1997, and has since then published several prize winning books, most notably the Sult Prize 2005, the Norwegian Poetry Book Club Prize 2005, the Diktartavla 2010, the P2-Radio-listeners Novel Prize 2012 and most recently the Triztan Vindtorn's Poetry Prize 2022. *The Weather Changed, Summer Came and So On* was longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award in 2017.

Foreign sales
Brazilian Portuguese (Nós Editora), British English (Akoya publishing), Dutch (Uitgeverij Oevers), German (Luchterhand), Hungarian (Polar Egyesület), Serbian (Serbian: Blum Izdavastvo)

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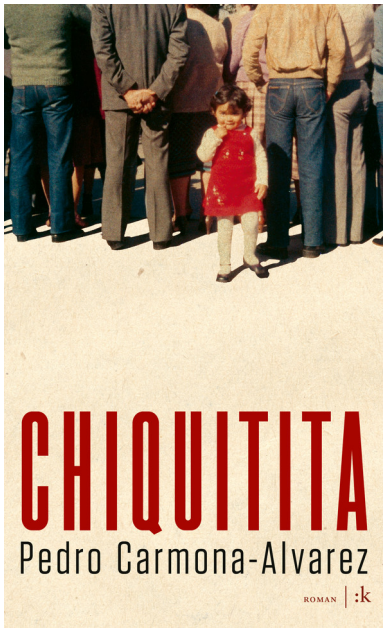
Interview
Read our interview with the author here



'A unique literary project (...) gives voice to all children who have been compelled to flee, forming yet another intricate facet within a unique literary undertaking – evocative of the shifting patterns seen through a kaleidoscope.'

Bergens Tidende

'Through his meticulous and inventive use of language, Carmona-Alvarez has crafted a profoundly thought-provoking piece of literary art, deepening the reader's comprehension of the enduring impact of displacement on the human psyche.'

Dagens Næringsliv

Monica Isakstuen

The Little Girls

De små jentene

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Gyldendal
Year: 2023
Pages: 244
ISBN: 9788205584617
English sample translation available

Of course, to outsiders it seems idyllic
a little, white-washed cabin, partially concealed
by a few clusters of
windblown pine trees

People are moving in there; the holidaymakers are waking up. Soon this summer morning will be under way, filled with longings and needs, but also with rules and handed-down admonitions. Love and scorn, side by side. Do this, not that; speak like this, not like that; and how do you behave? The rebukes threaten to consume the day. But then it opens up, in the imagination or in life, and something is finally able to happen.

The woman in *The Little Girls* wants to be liberated from ghosts, to connect with her daughters in a sincere way; she dreams of genuine intimacy across roles and ages. Perhaps that's not possible, but you're still allowed to hope.

"Let's not beat around the bush: *The Little Girls* is a really good book, a wise, funny and moving story of motherhood, grief and longing for closeness. Not least, it is told with refinement, and astonishingly balanced for a novel told from a first-person point of view."

Morgenbladet

"A new example of Monica Isakstuen's gift for finding ever new, original, and clever ways of putting evergreen themes into words."

Dagsavisen

Photo: Julie Pike

Monica Isakstuen (b. 1976) made her literary debut in 2009. Her 2014 novel *Replay* about pianist Joyce Hatto and the greatest fraud in classical music earned rave reviews, with VG naming it "one of the best books of the year". She won the 2016 Norwegian Book Award Brageprisen for fiction for her novel *Be Kind to The Animals*.

Her books and plays have been translated into several languages.

Foreign sales
Denmark (Turbine)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Brit Bildøen

Yellow Warning

Gult farevarsel

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Det Norske Samlaget
Year: 2023
Pages: 229
ISBN: 9788234011375
English sample translation and synopsis available

Photo: Tove Breistein

On the way up to Innsetra, Dorte begins to regret: Why did she insist on celebrating her old parents' golden wedding anniversary here, far off the beaten track, late in October? She had to persuade the family, and now it is up to her to make this a special weekend. Soon everyone is gathered. Parents, twin brother, sister, her husband and their dog. And it will be a special weekend. The weather rages, a landslide blocks the road, and suddenly there are two men with hunting rifles standing at the reception.

Yellow Warning is a novel about bad weather, beasts and betrayal. In a perfectly ordinary family, unexpected events cause some of them to do things they never thought they could - or would - ever do.

"Brit Bildøen has written a novel that succeeds in building up to a burlesque, yes, wild, climax."

Adressavisen

"Really exciting and well-composed crime story."

Morgenbladet

"The reader is engaged. Very engaged! (...) The thriller element that gradually emerges, makes the book exciting."

Dag og tid

Brit Bildøen (b. 1962) made her literary debut in 1991 with a collection of poetry *Bilde av menn* (*Images of Men*). In 1998 she had her literary breakthrough with the novel *Tvillingfeber* (*Twin Fever*). For this she was nominated to the Brage Award for best novel and awarded the Oslo Prize and Nynorsk literary Award. For her third novel, Landfastlykke (Landlocked), 2001, she was awarded the Melsom Prize and Sigmund Skard scholarship. Both *Alt som er* (*All There Is*), 2004, and *Mitt milde vesen* (*My Gentle Self*), 2006, have been praised by the critics. Her novel, *Seven Days in August* was longlisted for Dublin International Lit. Awards, and won the prestigious P2-lytternes Novel Prize 2014. In August 2020 she was awarded the Amalie Skram Prize. Bildøen has translated several novels and children's books, and is also a children's books author herself. In 2023, she was awarded the Dobloug Prize.

Foreign sales
Brazil (Piparote), France (Belfond), Germany (btb Verlag/Penguin Random House), Russia (Corpus)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Heidi Mittun-Kjos

Girls in Trees

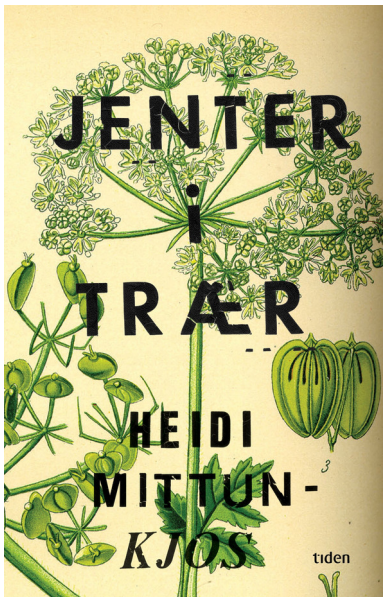
Jenter i trær

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Tiden Norsk Forlag
Year: 2023
Pages: 283
ISBN: 9788210059155
English sample translation available

Photo: Ida Gøytil

Aunt Magni is to be buried on the island she comes from. That is the self-imposed mission of her niece. Magni's urn in her luggage, she travels back to the house where she spent the summers of her childhood. Hoping to make amends for old sins, she is confronted with the deceiving squiggles in her family lines, in a landscape where her family have been leading an unfair battle against their lots in life for generations. Searching for closure turns out to be very difficult indeed.

Girls in Trees is an uproarious, devil-may-care, sensuous story of kids who grow up, kids who are hidden, and kids that never existed. It's a novel of loss and loneliness, but also about the moments of departure and freedom that contain the possibility of a different life.



"Masterful. (...) Mittun-Kjos weaves together themes and wordings to create a splendid thicket that it is delightfully difficult to untangle oneself from. The small things in life are elevated to and integrated with the big things in a characteristic and controlled manner, in a forceful story of the value in what is and what will be."

Dagbladet, 6/6 stars

"(...) the gripping story of a family, written in a lyrical prose. (...) The result is a gripping and very well-written book."

Stavanger Aftenblad

Heidi Mittun-Kjos (b. 1972) was born and grew up in Oslo. She is the creative director of a design and advertising agency, and has attended Gyldendal's Academy of Creative Writing. *Girls in Trees* is her second novel.

Foreign sales
Danish (Straarup & co)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Lotta Elstad

Xiania 1

Xiania - Klara

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel (Vol. I in a trilogy)
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2023
Pages: 320
ISBN: 9788202798437
English sample translation available

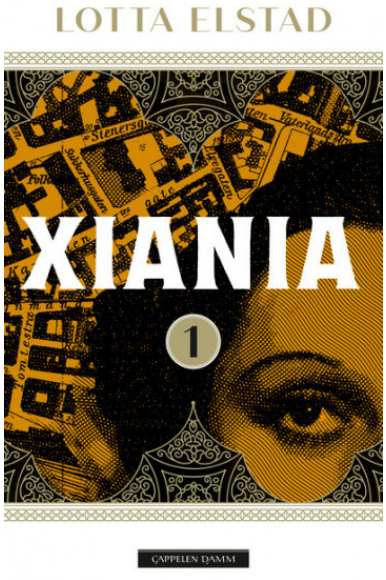
Photo: Oda Berby

Lotta Elstad (b. 1982) is a writer, journalist, historian and non-fiction editor. She has since her debut in 2008 published several acclaimed books, both narrative non-fiction and novels.

Xiania is a burlesque, snappy and vivid feminist novel set in Oslo (then Christiania), 1922. Klara is 19, a housemaid, and pregnant after a very forgettable evening in a woodshed. After a nearly fatal attempt at self-induced abortion, Klara goes to a doctor who hands her a note with an address in the capital, Christiania (Xiania), and the password SOMETHING ELSE. Klara arrives to find a hat shop, believed to be a brothel, which in reality is an undercover cellar abortion clinic run by the mysterious Madame Zavarella. Klara gets the abortion and falls into a six-week-long half-coma, after almost dying from blood poisoning. When Klara is back on her feet, Madam Zavarella suggests that Klara stays. Klara, feeling she owes Madame Zavarella her life, accepts.

This marks the beginning of a whirlwind of events and characters. The rent Klara pays at Madame Zavarella is shockingly high, but is more than covered by the salary from the job she helps Klara get: A housing post with the bohemian and well-off Freddie. Klara enters the strange and fascinating milieus of 1920's Xiania: Revolutionary communists, the bourgeouise and booze smugglers, from late-night dancing in the marble halls of Hotel Bristol, to the stinking sewage worker strikes in the burrough of Vaterland. And before she knows it, Klara finds herself entangled in affairs she never could have foreseen.

Xiania 1: Klara is the first book in this forthcoming trilogy, written in a fresh, snarky and contemporary tone.



"Not only does the author have a keen eye and a sensitive nose for the less appealing sides the urban life, she also has a downright poetic approach to the hedonism and zest that is often associated with the roaring 20's ..."

Vinduet

"*Xiania 1* is an unusually charming novel ... more than anything it's a story with great drive, told with bounce in its language."

NRK

Foreign sales
Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof - three book deal), Hungary (Polar Egyesület)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Simon Stranger

The Museum of Murderers and Rescuers

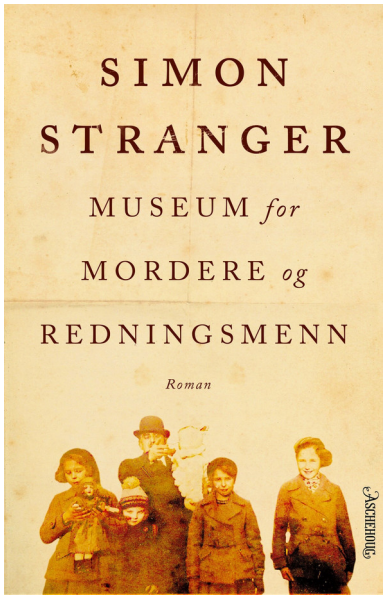
Museum for mordere og redningsmenn

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Aschehoug
Year: 2023
Pages: 366
ISBN: 9788203398377

This is the story of the heartrending journey of Rakel and Jacob Feldmann in 1942, a Jewish couple betrayed by the very border guides they entrusted with their lives. Parallelly, it recounts the harrowing tale of Ellen Glott's family, stripped of their home, possessions, and future aspirations, only to be driven into exile to evade the chilling grip of extermination. Fast forward two generations, and a twist of fate entwines these histories: Ellen's grandchild is poised to wed the author, Simon Stranger. As Stranger delves deep into a piece on the Norwegian genocide, he stumbles upon revelations about his own lineage, shedding fresh light on a bleak chapter of contemporary history.

The novel's structure emulates that of a museum. Each chapter unfolds like a room, brimming with artifacts, photographs, and remnants of the past. Collectively, they fashion a tapestry grounded in reality, with every fragment narrating a tale so astonishingly grim that it defies belief. *The Museum of Murderers and Rescuers* stands as a testament to the profound polarities of human experience, the weight of guilt and accountability, and the profound truth that, at times, our survival hinges on the benevolence of strangers.

Nominated for the 2023 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize



"Painful reading. The parallels to events in today's Europe make the book one of the year's most important."

Adresseavisen, 6/6 stars

“A dramatic and painful story of Jewish persecution ... Stranger demonstrates his mastery of this documentary fiction technique superbly.”

Bok365, 5/6 stars

"Stranger has done a remarkable job of showing us some blank spots in our history extremely gripping and challenging."

Dagbladet, 5/6 stars

Photo: Agnete Brun

Simon Stranger (b. 1976) made his debut in 2003, and has since written books for children, young adults and adults. His 2018 novel *Keep Saying Their Names* won the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize and has been an international success, with rights sold in more than 20 territories.

Foreign sales
Azeri (Qanun), German (Eichborn)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Tore Renberg

The Lung Float Test

Lungeflyteprøven

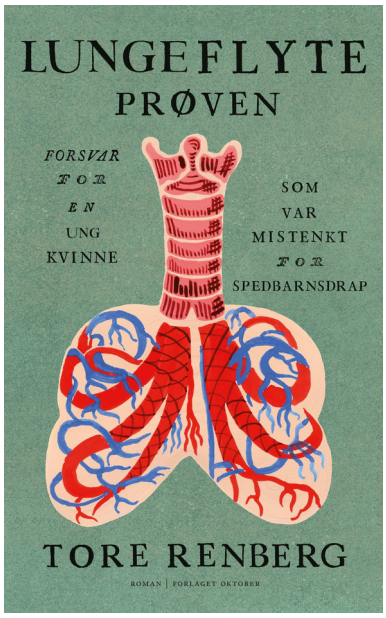
Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Forlaget Oktober
Year: 2023
Pages: 558
ISBN: 9788249523740

Photo: Petter Sandell

Saxony, 1681: Fifteen-year-old Anna Voigt stands accused of murdering her newborn baby. In an era where countless women have met their end at the hands of the executioner for similar crimes, the authorities are eager for a conviction. However, Anna's case diverges from the norm. The physician assigned to assess the infant introduces a groundbreaking scientific procedure, the lung float test, in hopes of determining whether the child was stillborn – just as Anna insists. Will this test be the key to Anna's salvation?

In Renberg's captivating novel, readers are immersed in the tale from the perspectives of a diverse cast of characters: from the attorney who champions Anna's defense, to the cook who discovers the lifeless infant, to the executioner who subjects Anna to torment, and, of course, Anna herself. *The Lung Float Test* is a riveting narrative that showcases the tension between archaic beliefs and burgeoning enlightenment, all set against the rich, dramatic backdrop of the baroque era. The case on which the story is based is real and is considered the beginning of forensic medicine.

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



"An outstanding historical novel (...) The result is impressive, not to mention overwhelming"

Stavanger Aftenblad, 6/6 stars

"A macabre literary feast (...) let yourself be carried away"

VG, 6/6 stars

"A brilliant novel about the final convulsions of the Inquisition. (...) Rich, lavish, generous"

Adresseavisen, 6/6 stars

"a triumph of a book (...) a page-turner about crime and punishment (...) an exhilarating literary feast"

Dagbladet, 6/6 stars

Tore Renberg (b. 1972) is one of Norway's most beloved, versatile and critically acclaimed authors and the winner of numerous literary awards. He made his debut in 1995 with the short story collection *Sleeping Tangle* and has since written several bestselling, highly praised novels, as well as children's books.

Foreign sales
Danish (Gutkind), Dutch (De Bezige Bij/Oevers), German (btb), Hungarian (Typotex Kiadó), Italian (Fazi Editore), Serbian (Albatros Plus)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Nikolaj Frobenius

Swan Song / Extinction

Svanesang (2021) Utryddelsen (2023)

Genre: Fiction
Category: Thrillers
Publisher: Gyldendal
Year: 2021 / 2023
Pages: 283 / 186
ISBN: 9788205540071 / 9788205584938
English sample translation and synopsis available

Swan Song is a psychological thriller where a world of wealth and harmony is transformed into nerve-racking horror. After an enormous celebration for his 70th birthday, real estate baron Adrian Swan disappears on a hike in the mountains while his friend and colleague is found brutally killed in the same area. Adrian's three grown children are all left in despair and disbelief. The youngest son – journalist Jonathan – starts digging into the family's history in the hope of finding answers. He soon discovers that his father is not who he appeared to be. Jonathan's world falls apart, the discoveries call into questions not only of his family but also his own identity. As he gets closer to an answer, it gets even more dangerous for the people he loves the most.

Extinction is the sequel to *Swan Song*, delving even deeper into the theme in this compelling and emotional psychological thriller. Jonathan is numb with grief and guilt and wants to find the truth about the fire and get justice for his son. He works as an investigative journalist and as part of his job Jonathan travels to Marbella to investigate what happened to Norwegian investor Ove Lekmann. He disappeared from the "Costa del Sol" without a trace only to reappear six months later, distraught and with an alleged amnesia. Interviewing him, Jonathan finds that Lekman's story has many improbabilities. Slowly he realizes that Lekman's disappearance might be connected to the long series of events that ended in the fire that killed Eden, his son.

"(...) Extinction addresses themes of hatred, the thirst for revenge, and attitudes toward violence as a solution – all through a well-constructed narrative. (...) The novel is a thrilling page-turner with believable characters and actions."

Stavanger Aftenblad

Photo: Christian Elgvin

Nikolaj Frobenius (b.1965) is a highly merited novelist and screenwriter. His books are sold to more than twenty languages. Frobenius has also written several film scripts, including the thriller *Insomnia* (1997), which was subsequently produced by Christopher Nolan in a new Hollywood version, starring Al Pacino, Hilary Swank and Robin Williams.

Foreign sales
The first book in the series, *Swan Song*, has been sold to Denmark (Straarup)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here