Cathrine Sandmæl

Girls
Jenter

Genre: Children and Young Adult
Category: Graphic Novel
Publisher: Egmont Kids Media
Year: 2024
Pages: 144
ISBN: 9788242975225
English synopsis and sample translation available

Photo: Torbjørn Sandmæl

Eli has recently moved to a suburban town just outside of Oslo. She makes friends with a group of girls who love manga and admire her for her drawing skills. One of the other girls in the group is called Nina. When Eli jokingly kisses Nina at a birthday party, she thinks she's developed a crush – or wonders if she has. Because what is it really like to have a crush on someone? And did Nina only kiss back as a joke, or was it serious? *Girls* is a funny and poignant coming-of-age book about friendship and discovering who you are – both on your own and in relation to others.

Winner of the 2024 Ministry of Culture's Best Graphic Novel Award
Nominated for the 2024/2025 Avid Reader Award (Bokslukerprisen) and the 2024 Trollkrittet Prize (Norwegian children's/YA book writers' debut prize)

'Cathrine Sandmæl succeeds well in breaking with clichés in her first illustrated young adult novel.'

Klassekampen

'Girls is an impressive comic debut that shows that Cathrine Sandmæl has a huge understanding of - and control over - the graphic novel genre.'

Empirix

'Congratulations to Cathrine Sandmæl for a great and inspiring comic!'

Serienett.no

'The comic Girls is a charming and warm coming-of-age story about the search for love and identity.'

Dagens Næringsliv

Cathrine Sandmæl (b 1991) is an illustrator and author living just outside of Oslo. She has a bachelor's degree in illustration from the University of Wolverhampton and another in visual communication from the University of South-Eastern Norway. As an illustrator, she has been professionally active since 2013 and worked on several books for Cappelen Damm and Gyldendal. This is her first graphic novel.

Sandmæl is one of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna", as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Foreign sales
Denmark

Rightsholder
TNT – an imprint of Bonnier Norsk Forlag
Tonje Tornes
tonje.tornes@bonnierforlag.no
+47 92869374
bonnierforlag.no

Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Julia Kahrs

The Storm is Coming

Familien Brattbakk

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Novel
Publisher: Gyldendal Norsk Forlag
Year: 2022
Pages: 256
ISBN: 9788205486164

Photo: Julie Pike

Gørja seems to be a completely ordinary place, with a school, a shop and a kiosk. But there are also secrets in Gørja that the adults cannot – or will not – explain. There have been two child disappearances from Gørja, and both times a storm raged through the streets and the forest, and across the lake and the sky. Now a new storm is brewing – and Sam's family has only just moved here.

A wild, exciting and highly original story from Julia Kahrs.

Winner of the 2022 Brage Prize, the 2022 Norwegian Critics' Prize and the 2022 "Boksluker-prisen" (Avid Reader's Award)
Nominated for the 2022 Ark's Children's Book Prize

'This family is so strange and different that the novel becomes completely unpredictable and incredibly fun to read. It's also exciting, since the storm is approaching and some children usually disappear with it. The book is full of absurd situations and laconic comments — this isn't a book to leave behind half-read at the cabin. A crystal-clear 6 out of 6!'

VG, 6/6 stars

'Wildness and mystery from one of our most original children's novelists.'

Periskop.no

Julia Kahrs (b.1985) made her debut with the adventure novel *The Silver Foxes* in 2009. Since then, she has written several novels for the intermediate level, where she is not afraid to enter the absurd and grotesque. Her books are often described as unpredictable, magical-realistic and wild.

Kahrs had her big breakthrough with *The Storm is Coming* in 2022, for which she received the Brage Prize and the Norwegian Critics' Prize.

Julia Kahrs is one of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna", as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Foreign sales
Denmark (Straarup & Co.), The Netherlands/Frisian language (Utjouwerij DeRyp), Germany (Oetinger)

Rightsholder
Gyldendal Agency
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https://agency.gyldendal.no

Gøril Sæther
Oda Valle (ill.)

The World of Pets. Everything You Need to Know About Our Animal Friends

Den store boka om kjæledyr

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Non-fiction
Publisher: Aschehoug
Year: 2025
Pages: 128
ISBN: 9788203454882

A perfect book for everyone who is dreaming of getting a pet or just enjoy reading about animals.
Many children want a pet. The animals we call pets don't really come from the pet shop. They come from the desert, the sea, high mountains and the rainforest.

To *pet* means to *cuddle*. But many pets are not so cuddly. Some pets are more like a hobby animal. Or maybe we instead should call them family pets? After all, these animals live at home with a human family. Some say companion animals, because animals keep us with company.

It's fun to have a pet! You get a good animal friend and memories for life. But there's also a lot to think about. Do you want to change drinking water, pick up poop and make sure your pet doesn't get bored? Not just for a few weeks, but for many years? And do you know what kind of equipment you need to keep a cat, a rabbit, a dog or a budgie?

In *The World of Pets* you can read and learn about pets that live in our homes. It's a great introduction of all kinds of pets: the most common and the more unusual. It's a guide that give you the basis of knowledge for choosing the pet that is perfect for you. Or just knowledge for animal lovers. A book to enjoy by young readers again and again.

Pets in the book:
guinea pig * cat * dog *rabbit * chinchilla * lizard * walking-stick insect * birds * rat * mini pig * fish * ferret * reptile * hamster * turtle

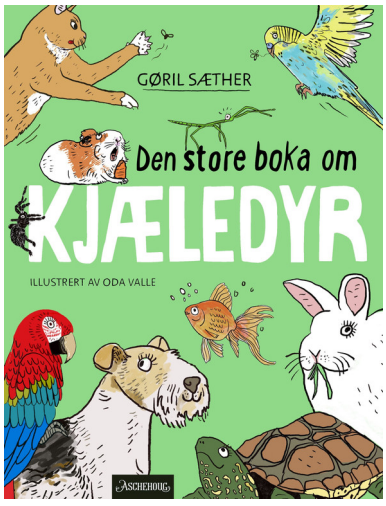

Photo: Agnete Brun

Gøril Sæther (b. 1978) is a journalist and is engaged in animal welfare. She has studied creative writing of non-fiction for children and has a master's degree in German literature from the University of Oslo.

Sæther is one of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna", as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Oda Valle (b. 1983) is an illustrator, author, and cartoonist. She has a bachelor's degree in visual communication from Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, and studies in educational theory and practice in design, art, and craft from the University of Bergen. Valle lives in Os outside Bergen.

Foreign sales
Danish (Straarup), Finnish (Otava)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author and illustrator here

Fabian Christensen

Buddy
Kompis

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Young Adult Novel
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2024
Pages: 262
ISBN: 9788202814557

Photo: Maria Kleppe Vihovde/Cappelen Damm

If it wasn't for his best buddy Mikkel, Jørgen would probably have died of a stomach ulcer. Or loneliness. Or making an absolute fool of himself in front of the prettiest girl at school. But as long as Mikkel has his back, things are mostly fine, according to Jørgen.

Still - it's not easy to be fourteen and living in the shadow of your picture-perfect best friend. During their last days of 9th grade, Jørgen and Mikkel's friendship will be put to the test in more ways than one.

At the same time, Jørgen must navigate his crush on Mikkel's cousin, becoming the joke of a TikTok meme, and some deadly serious family matters.

And in the end, maybe the time has finally come for Jørgen to be Mikkel's lifesaver.

Buddy is an impressive debut by Fabian Christensen, the winner of Cappelen Damm's New Voices Manuscript competition 2023. It's a novel full of heart, dramatic twists and turns - and plenty of awkward, situational comedy that will have you both cringing and howling with laughter. All the while underscoring the importance of honest conversations.

Fabian Christensen (b. 1994) is a trained actor who has appeared in numerous theatre, film and TV productions. Buddy is his first children's book. He was the winner of the Cappelen Damm "New Voices" script competition in 2023.

Christensen is one of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna", as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Foreign sales
Denmark

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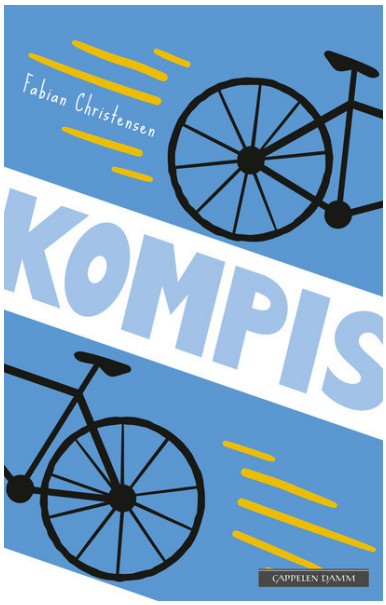

Arne Lindmo
Ida Skjelbakken (ill.)

The Trollheim Series

Trollheim

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Illustrated children's series
Publisher: Figenschou Forlag
Year: 2022-2025
Pages: 155-200
English sample translations and synopsises available

Photo: From the left: Arne Lindmo and Ida Skjelbakken. Photo: Adrian Nielsen/NORLA

A highly illustrated, page turning, new book series in colors for middle grade children. This is the story of three children having to face mythological creatures and old Norse legends to save the world from ancient darkness.

TROLLHEIM 1 - *Secret of Castle Crow*: It's the first day of school after the summer holidays, and Adam is the new kid in class. He walks to school through the forest with his new neighbor, Tobias. On their way they run into Tara, a girl in their class, who decides to enter an abandoned, old house. When Tara doesn't turn up for school, the boys go looking for her.
Awarded the 2022 ARK Children's Book Prize (11 000 children in the jury) and the 2022 Ministry of Culture's award for best illustrations

TROLLHEIM 2 - *The Avenger from Helheim*
Winner of the 2022 Ministry of Culture's award for best illustrations

TROLLHEIM 3 – *Underground Mission*

TROLLHEIM 4 - *Vampires and demons*
Best Children's Book of the Year 2023, Norli Junior reading contest (30 000 children in the jury)

TROLLHEIM 5 - *The Spider Queen*

TROLLHEIM 6 - *The Curse in Troll Forest*

TROLLHEIM 7 - *The Journey to Atlantis*

TROLLHEIM 8 - *The Witch of the Water Spirit's Marsh*

Stand alone Christmas title: *The Christmas Heist* by Lindmo & Skjelbakken

Arne Lindmo loves to write exciting stories inspired by Norwegian fairy tales and myths, a theme that has fascinated him since he was a boy. He has worked for many years as a teacher and even then used to make up small, scary stories that he constantly told the students in class, to keep the students awake during the class. Occasionally, his stories kept individual students awake at night as well.

Lindmo is one of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna", as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Norwegian illustrator **Ida Skjelbakken**'s photographic style brings the book's characters and battle scenes to life in a cinematic way. Her execution is impressive and her style fits the fantasy genre perfectly!

Foreign sales
Denmark (Turbine forlag), Finland (Otava), Poland (Kropka), Russia (AST), Slovakia (Slová)

Rightsholder
Figenschou Publishing
Anitra Figenschou
anitra@figenschouforlag.no
+47 92606318
figenschouforlag.no

Interview
Read our interview with the author here

'Good series of books like these are actually hard to find!'

- Oskar, 10 years

'The book is cool and pretty! We think the illustrator has magical colors and pencils!'

- Beren and Heidi, 11 years

Reidar Müller
Sigbjørn Lilleeng (ill.)

Life is Dangerous! The Amazing Story of the Evolution of Life from Bacteria to You

Livet er livsfarlig! Den utrolige historien om livets utvikling fra bakterier til deg

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Non-fiction
Publisher: Aschehoug
Year: 2024
Pages: 180
ISBN: 9788203399688
Full English sample translation available

Follow Liv and Iggy's marvelous time travel through the history of life. You'll meet dreadful dinosaurs, giant dragonflies, enormous scorpions, huge sea monsters and loads of other scary and strange creatures. Entangled in this story is the amazing evolution of humans – from bacteria to you.
Did you know that you descend from a tiny little animal that looks like a bogy? Or a strange looking fish? Have you ever reflected why you are you and that it's an unbroken chain from life's origin to you? Along the way things could have gone wrong - because life is dangerous!

Illustrated by Sigbjørn Lilleeng.

Nominated for the 2024 Ministry of Culture's Best Non-Fiction Prize, the 2024 Brage Prize and the 2025 Best Graphic Novel

'A tremendous journey through evolution. [...] exemplary imparting of knowledge for young as well as for adult readers. [...] While reading, I'm struck by how little I know, and how much I learn. A perfect book to read aloud [...] the illustrations are so rich and entertaining in themselves that the book can be read over and over again.'

Aftenposten

'On the surface it's about dinosaurs and lizards, but on the other hand, the subtext is about learning and motivation. The book is almost as much about the teaching method as what you learn.'

Klassekampen

Photo: Astrid Waller

Reidar Müller (b. 1971) has a ph.d. in geology as well as a degree in journalism and has written regularly about science for newspapers. He is the author of several acclaimed popular science books for adults.

Sigbjørn Lilleeng (b. 1983) is an award-winning and acclaimed illustrator and artist of graphic novels and cartoons. He has studied at art school and has a degree in illustrations from Kristiania University.

Müller and Lilleeng are two of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna, as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Foreign sales
Chinese (simplified - Tianda Culture), Czech (Host), Danish (Straarup & co.), Dutch (Uitgeverij Luitingh-Sijthoff), English/World (Albatros), German (Thienemann-Esslinger), Italian (Editoriale Scienza), Polish (Zysk), Romanian (Bookzone SRL), Spanish (B de Blok/PRH Spain), Swedish (Alfabeta Bokförlag)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Pernille Tufte Radeid
Jannicke Hansen (ill.)

Unsolved Mysteries from Around the World

Uløste mysterier fra hele verden

NORLA Selected Title

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Non-fiction
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2024
Pages: 120
ISBN: 9788202793418
English sample translation available

In *Unsolved Mysteries from around the World* readers will find out about all kinds of sinister and unexplained happenings from every corner of the world – and get a chance to dig around in all the clues and evidence.

Who was Jack the Ripper, the murderer who killed several women on the streets of London in 1888? What happened to the Sodder children who vanished without a trace after a fire in West Virginia on Christmas Eve in 1945? And is Himeji Castle in Japan really haunted?

Unsolved Mysteries of the World is a collection of 33 mysterious, unsolved spooky stories that are guaranteed to raise the hairs on the back of readers' necks – young and old alike! Illustrator Jannicke Hansen has filled the book with mysterious, eerie, spooky drawings that will absorb and fascinate young readers.

Illustrated by Jannicke Hansen.

Winner of the 2024 Ministry of Culture's Illustration Award

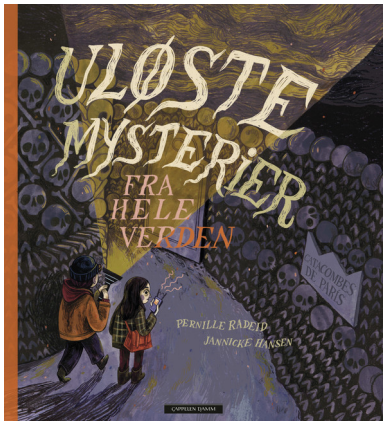

Photo: Per Heimly

Pernille Tufte Radeid (b. 1987) is known as a screenwriter and host for several spooky and mysterious podcasts. She has written two children's books about unsolved mysteries.

Tufte Radeid is one of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna", as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Jannicke Hansen is a fulltime illustrator. She was nominated for the Ministry of Culture's Illustration Prize in 2023 for her illustations in *Unsolved Mysteries*.

Foreign sales
Denmark, Germany, Sweden

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www.cappelendammagency.no

Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Kristine Rui Slettebakken
Nora Brech (ill.)

Billie and Bo / Billie and Bo and the Phenomenal Christmas

Billie og Bo / Billie og Bo og den heidundrandes jula

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Novel (series)
Publisher: Gyldendal
Year: 2023-24
Pages: 200
English sample translation available

Billie and Bo
"The first time I saw Billie, she was dead. Dead as a dodo, lying at the edge of a ditch one Thursday morning on the way to school."

Nine year old Bo has decided not to ever have a best friend again. When Billie joins Bo's class and choose him as her friend, there's nothing he can say about her decision. Besides, Bo finds it pretty nice to have a completely fearless friend.

But what do you do when what is fun and exciting suddenly goes a little too far?

Billie and Bo and the Phenomenal Christmas
Billie and Bo love December! When they discover an old kicksled in the basement, they love December even more. The city is snowy and white, and soon Billie and Bo start the best ever Christmas Club to bring about the Christmas spirit. And it is needed, because not everyone is happy during the Advent season. It's a mystery why Billie's father doesn't like Christmas. Bo never stops hoping that Santa on Christmas Eve can be someone else than the neighbor, for example the father he never met. It looks like it's going to be an extraordinary December. Maybe it is true what Billie says, that Christmas is the time of year when our heart sings.

Illustrated in b/w by Nora Brech.

Winner of the 2024 Brage Prize

'Sparklingly good [...] takes good care of the legacy from Astrid Lindgren'

NRK, 5/6 stars

'Sympathetic and warm [...] offers a golden read experience with both energy and feelings.'

Dagbladet, 5/6 stars

'The author transforms existence from boring to fun, from grey to sparkling.'

The Brage Prize jury statement

Photo: Julie Pike

Kristine Rui Slettebakken (b. 1977) has written several award-winning children's books. In 2024 she was the winner of the Brage Prize, Norway's national book award, for her second book about Billie and Bo. For her debut she was nominated for the Norwegian Children & YA Authors' Association First Book Prize. For her second book she received the Ministry of Culture Literature Prize and was nominated for the two prestigious awards, the Brage Prize and the ARK's Children's Book Prize. In 2023 she received the prestigious The Norwegian Booksellers' grant. Slettebakken has studied creative writing and literature at the Norwegian Institute for Children's Books. She is an actor, theatre instructor, and narrator of audio books.

Rui Slettebakken is one of the participants chosen for NORLA's development programme for new literary talents "New Voices", under the headline "On the Way to Bologna", as a part of Norway as Guest of Honour at Bologna Book Fair 2026.

Foreign sales
Both books sold to: Danish (Straarup & co.), Italian (Mondadori), Swedish (Lilla Piratförlaget), Ukrainian (The Old Lion Publishing House)
First book also sold to: Georgian (Sulakauri), German (Woow Books)

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