

Agnes Ravatn

The Bird Tribunal

Fugletribunalet

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TV-presenter Allis Nordavatn leaves her husband and job in the capital, following a public sex scandal. A job as a housekeeper and gardener for a man who lives in a house well off the beaten track gives her the opportunity to retreat, and she looks forward to days filled with gardening, cooking and her own writing. But her employer is not an old man in need of help and care, as expected. It is Sigurd Bagge, a forty-year-old who wants her to look after his house and garden until his wife returns from her travels. He wants her to serve him three meals a day, look after the garden and apart from that, leave him in peace. Within this tiny world, the insistence that there should be no contact between them becomes unnatural and strained. Bagge often forgets his own instructions, and they sit up drinking wine and talking through the night. The following morning he then re-establishes the formal arrangement. Allis loses sight of her personal project, her fascination for Sigurd Bagge takes over, and the question gradually arises: who is Sigurd Bagge and what does he want from Allis? *The Bird Tribunal* begins as a gentle story and builds into a consuming drama about life and death. Awarded a 2016 PEN Translates award, The P2 Listeners Novel Prize 2014, The Norwegian Youth's Critic's Award 2013 and the Norwegian Book Blogger Award 2013 (Novel of the Year). Shortlisted: 2017 Petrona Award.



'Agnes Ravatn's language is precise and beautiful ... The ending quite literally has you gripped in its claws.'

Dagbladet

'... towards the end, you start to recognise the outlines of a great novel, you see how Ravatn has built up the story in a way that allows it culminate in a dramatic fashion. And while doing this, she manages to say something about shame, desire and atonement that feels genuinely new.'

Dagens Næringsliv



Photo: Agnete Brun

Agnes Ravatn is an author and columnist. Since her first novel in 2007, Ravatn has published several critically acclaimed and award-winning essay collections, and is known for her unique, witty voice and sharp eye for human fallibility. Ravatn's second novel, *The Bird Tribunal*, is a strange and captivating story about shame, guilt and atonement.

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