Vigdis Hjorth
Line Norman Hjorth

Like It or Lump It. The Year We Got Cancer

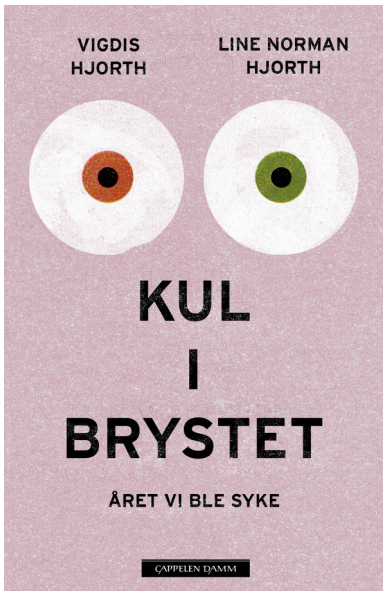
Kul i brystet. Året vi ble syke

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Narrative Non-Fiction
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2025
Pages: 396
ISBN: 9788202853945
English sample translation available

Like It or Lump It is a book about the sudden upheaval and change a serious diagnosis can cause.

In the spring of 2023, mum-of-two Line Norman Hjorth was diagnosed with breast cancer. Barely six months later her mother – author Vigdis Hjorth – received the exact same diagnosis. In this book, where the narrative switches between mother and daughter, we follow the two women through their treatment as both patient and next of kin. Two roles that were completely new for them both, and two roles which can be difficult to balance - and which mother and daughter manage in very different ways. They go through the highs and lows, both in terms of medical treatment and their parent-child relationship. But at least they both got new boobs as part of the process!

This is an exceptionally moving story – unsentimental and poignantly narrated.



'Mother and daughter Hjorth's story about having cancer is in every way heartbreakingly good.'

Dagbladet, 6/6 stars

'Mother and daughter Hjorth are not the first to write their way through an encounter with cancer, but the complexity of being both patient and next of kin at the same time gives their story a dimension of its own. And in times like these, it certainly doesn't hurt that readers get a well-written and deeply engaging insight into what a social masterpiece the Nordic health systems are.'

Stavanger Aftenblad, 5/6 stars

'[...] create a community with this book about their own experiences with cancer. [...] therapeutic reading.'

Klassekampen

Photo: Lina Hindrum

Vigdis Hjorth (b. 1959) has over several decades been one of Norway's most important authors. She published her debut in 1983 in form of the children's book *Pelle-Ragnar and the Yellow Building*, for which she received the Norwegian Cultural Council's Debut Prize. Since then, she has had a prolific and award-winning authorship, writing for both children and adults. She has won several awards in Norway and has been nominated twice for the Nordic Council Literature Prize so far, for *Will and Testament* (2016) and *Is Mother Dead* (2020).

Hjorth writes existential books about human conditions and life choices, and throws a sharp gaze at current topics in the contemporary time. With novels such as *Long Live the Post Horn!* (2012) she has made her mark as a fearless political author. Her big breakthrough came in 2016 with *Will and Testament*, which became an instant favourite among literature critics as well as a huge sales success. In this novel Hjorth writes about complicated family relationships, about violation and liberation in close relationships, and the right to own one's own story. *Will and Testament* was nominated for the National Book Award and Millions Best Translated Book Award when it was published in the US and the UK in 2019. In 2022 *Is Mother Dead* came out in English, and it was longlisted for the 2023 International Booker Award. Hjorth's novels have been translated into more than 30 languages.

Line Norman Hjorth is an associate professor in general literature at the University of Bergen. She also holds a master's degree in film studies from the University of Copenhagen. She made her debut as an author in 2021 with the non-fiction book *Credibility in the courtroom*, and has co-written books with her mother Vigdis Hjorth.

Foreign sales
China, Denmark, Turkey

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Interview
Read our interview with the authors here

Erling Kagge

The North Pole. The History of an Obsession

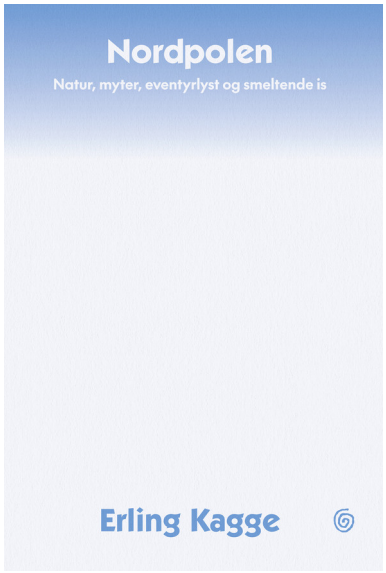
Nordpolen. Natur, myter, eventyrlyst og smeltende is

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Narrative Non-Fiction
Publisher: Kagge Forlag
Year: 2024
Pages: 438
ISBN: 9788248936527

Long before anyone traveled to the North Pole, people have had ideas about what was hiding under the North Star. Was it the Garden of Eden? A magical mountain? A place with eternal sun? It would take thousands of years before the North Pole was wrested from its secrets.

Author and adventurer Erling Kagge is the first to have skied to the North Pole, the South Pole and climbed Mount Everest. In this grand narrative about the world's northernmost point, he follows his own and others' tracks, and sets out on an expedition into the myths, literature and stories about what is at the top of the globe.

The North Pole is a thought-provoking book about nature and our own place in it. It is a personal account of curiosity and a desire for adventure, of life-threatening polar expeditions, climate change and geopolitics — for anyone who has looked towards the horizon and wondered what you will find if you just keep walking.



'Brilliant!'

Dagbladet, 6/6 stars

'Cold. Pain. Danger. Angry polar bears. Why do people go to the North Pole? The "adventure-lusting" explorer Erling Kagge, who ski-walked to the North Pole, vividly chronicles our obsession with the Arctic wilderness in his new book.'

The Times

'As Erling Kagge relates in his thrilling book, *The North Pole*, the world's northernmost point has been a lifelong and nearly fatal obsession'

The Daily Telegraph, 4/5 stars

'It's impossible to read Erling Kagge and not fall in love with the north pole. His enthusiasm is infectious and his adventures are epic.'

Elizabeth Kolbert, Pulitzer Prize-winning

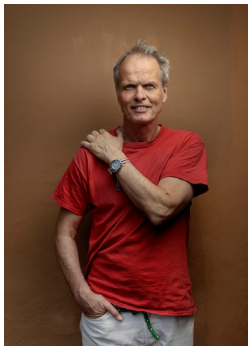


Photo: Agnete Brun

Erling Kagge has become something of a Renaissance man. A lawyer by training, he studied philosophy after exploring the world, starting his own publishing house, becoming a renowned collector of contemporary art, and latterly an author of slim but thought-provoking tomes. He has written books on exploration, philosophy and art collecting, all international best sellers and widely acclaimed by critics. His books are translated to 41 languages.

The New York Times described Kagge as "... a philosophical adventurer or perhaps an adventurous philosopher". Alain de Botton describes him as follows: "An author for our noisy times, full of a rare and deeply redemptive languor and perspective".

Foreign sales
Bengali (Sampark Publishing), Denmark (Politiken), France (Editions Paulsen), Germany (Insel Suhrkamp), Italy (Einaudi), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Poland (W.A.B./Foksal), Portugal (Bertrand), Sweden (Historiska Media), Taiwan (Locus), Turkey (Kolektif), UK & BCW rights (Viking, Penguin), USA (Harper One, Harper Collins), World Spanish (Penguin Random House)

Previous titles
The Philosophy of an Explorer (2019)
Walking. One step at a time (2018)
Silence in the Age of Noise (2016)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Author for "The Sixth Extinction"

Veronica Skotnes

North of the Winter Sun: What I Heard in the Waves

Det jeg leste i bølgene

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Narrative Non-Fiction
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2024
Pages: 210
ISBN: 9788202845773
English synopsis and sample translation available

Only by travelling the sea way can you truly understand the coast. For three years, Veronica Skotnes has sailed along the coast of Northern Norway, searching for people stories and nature experiences from the country's most remote and windswept region.

North of the Winter Sun: What I Heard in the Waves depicts a journey by boat, as well as an inner journey. Veronica Skotnes travels through polar nights and under the midnight sun, on the calm sea and through storms. She's all by herself on the deck of an old sailing boat.

The book emphasises a beautiful and dwindling part of Norway's coastal culture, alongside the author's own reflections, experiences and challenges from sailing in the Arctic.

'A fantastic travel report that strongly touches on the challenges of life and the present.'

Dagbladet BOK, 5/6 stars

'The travel depiction *I Read It In The Waves* is a tribute to the sea, and a declaration of love to all who live along our northernmost coast.'

Friluftsliv

'This is a book completely out of the ordinary. Poetic texts about the sea and the people on the islands in the farthest north. Warm human encounters, written with honesty. Anyone who is interested in the coast and coastal culture should get this book.'

Norsk Fyrforening

Veronica Skotnes (b. 1998) took to the sea at the age of seventeen, as crew on a schooner in the North Sea. Since then, the wind and ocean currents have taken her north of the Arctic Circle, where she now steers her own ship. For the past three years, she has been sailing and living in a boat along the coast of Finnmark, in the very north of Norway. Skotnes has a bachelor's degree in Arctic Outdoor Activities.

Foreign sales
Germany, Italy, United Kingdom (Akoya, Due 2026)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Sigri Sandberg

The Year of My Awakening

Det året eg våkna. Kva skjer med naturen - og oss?

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Narrative Non-Fiction
Publisher: Det Norske Samlaget
Year: 2025
Pages: 181
ISBN: 9788234015083
English sample translation available

Sigri Sandberg has spent much of her adult life writing about nature and the great outdoors, across a range of genres and publications.

But she has been too cowardly.

She has suppressed the fact that forests are burning, that the sea is rising, that we are up to our elbows in a climate crisis. She has ignored the fact that she, too, is part of nature – distancing herself from her own fear. In this book, she declares herself guilty of being a coward.

She writes her way into her fears, and into the facts – and crises – we are facing. What exactly is going on, and what is it doing to us?

Over the course of a year, Sigri writes from wherever she finds herself: in the north during winter, by the fjord in spring, by the sea in summer, and from the mountains in autumn. In addition to a personal narrative, the reader also encounters geological, biological, psychological, and philosophical perspectives on the problems we face.

But is it even possible to confront these urgent crises without unraveling entirely? Can we absorb the devastation without being destroyed by it? And, if so, is there a path forward?

This book seeks the answers to these questions.

'This is a book about trying to be brave and confronting your fears, but also about how difficult it can be to understand the scope of climate change. [...] sharpens the reader's perspective on how the climate crisis sneaks into our everyday lives and changes how we live them.'

Dagbladet, 5/6 stars

'We should be grateful for essayists like Sandberg, who attempt to bridge facts and emotions in the climate debate. [...] Her books truly inspire a desire to get out into nature.'

Klassekampen

Photo: Private

For over 20 years, Sigri Sandberg has worked for various Norwegian media outlets. She spent several years living on the Arctic island of Svalbard and has written 20 books, most of them about nature, wilderness philosophy, climate, and polar regions. *An Ode to Darkness* (2019), narrative non-fiction on light pollution, has sold to 11 languages.

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Linn Stalsberg

War is contempt for life. An essay on peace

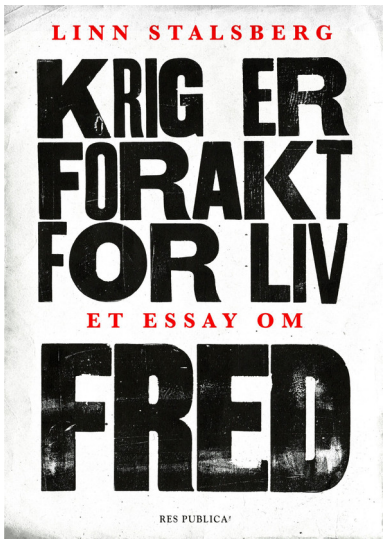
Krig er forakt for liv. Et essay om fred

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Essay
Publisher: Res Publica
Year: 2024
Pages: 247
ISBN: 9788282262736
English sample translation available

War is contempt for life. Winning a war means destroying as many people, houses and infrastructure of the enemy as possible. If we want to end all war, we must start talking about the realities of war and learn about all those who have fought for the cause of peace, writes Linn Stalsberg in this book.

The fight for peace can be based on religion, ideology or a political direction. Important tools are pacifism, non-violence and military refusal. What do we really know about the big ideas behind the struggle for peace ? How many of the brave people who refused to go to war, and who were punished for this, do we really know about?

The rampant militarization of our time is taking place in the middle of a major climate and natural crisis. There is hardly anything as destructive to the planet as the arms industry. Both the labor and women's movements have traditionally fought the cause of peace. Today, the peace movement must also ally itself with the environmental movement, in the fight for all living things. Peace is to create.



'The author is always there when we need her the most. This year, she is relevant as a counter-vote against war, rearmament and 'defense settlement.'

Klassekampen's selection of the year's best books

'I am greatly impressed by people who take up the fight against superior power and who refuse to believe it is hopeless. [...] Stalsberg has gone to great lengths in her 200-page essay. [...] Important thoughts'

Nettavisen, 5/6 stars

'There is no way to peace, peace is the way [...] a very important and good book [...] an absolutely necessary book - yes, perhaps more necessary than ever.'

Fri fagbevegelse

Photo: Eivind Voldner Rutle

Linn Stalsberg (b. 1971) is a sociologist and author of several books. She is a regular columnist in Dagsavisen and Agenda Magasin, and is a widely used speaker.

Foreign sales
German (Kommode Verlag)

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Kathrin Pabst

Granddad’s Bunker – A Family Story

Bestefars bunker. Hvorfor krigen ikke slipper taket : en generasjonsfortelling

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Biography / History
Publisher: Oktober
Year: 2024
Pages: 178
ISBN: 9788249528950

Kathrin Pabst's ancestors were living in Pomerania when, in the winter months of 1945, the Red Army advanced and pushed millions of German civilians out of the areas that would now fall to Poland. Throughout a long year on the run, the great-grandparents kept a diary describing the cold, hunger and disease, forced labor and systematic rape. But none of this was ever talked about in the family.
At the same time, their son, Kathrin's grandfather, was a Wehrmacht soldier in one of Hitler's elite troops. He too wrote a diary, but it does not mention acts of war in which he probably participated, and he never talked about them. Later in life, he would build a house with a bunker in the basement. Why would he do that? And how could he, who was so loving, fail to distance himself from Nazism and the crimes his own regiment must have committed?
Kathrin Pabst's personal story shows how traumatic events can leave their mark on several generations, and why it is so important to talk about even the painful memories.

Photo: StudioArt Media

Kathrin Pabst was born in Gummersbach in Germany and moved to Norway in 2001. She has a PhD in ethics and has many years of experience working with difficult and tabooed stories.

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Hilde Gunn Slottemo

Private Lives. A History

Privatlivets historie

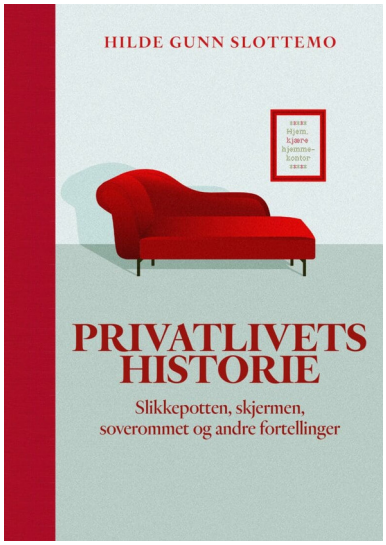
Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: History / Essay
Publisher: Humanist Forlag
Year: 2025
Pages: 206
ISBN: 9788282822824

"No, that's private," we tend to reply when faced with questions we prefer to avoid.
We don't read other people's diaries—certainly not openly. We are reluctant to enter other people's bedrooms. We often talk about "the sanctity of private life," where the private is something to be protected and preserved.

But what is considered private is not constant. Before industrialization, it was not uncommon for household members, including servants, to share a bed. For the housewife, the home was a workplace. And with the emergence of screens, the dynamic between the private and the public has once again changed: The world has entered our living rooms, and our living rooms have entered the world.

Through thirteen chapters on our private lives, Hilde Gunn Slottemo has written a new and different story about our recent history.

Hilde Gunn Slottemo is a professor of history.



'A highlight of the book is the depiction of how the combination of active social democratic policies and commercial forces transforms the role of the housewife in the post-war era. Slottemo illustrates how state campaigns and advertising function as public mirrors of the private sphere. Schematically, one could say that women transitioned from being unpaid domestic workers to becoming consumers and wage earners in the public sphere. I am reminded of Annie Ernaux's novel The Years, a book that, on an even more microscopic level, portrays similar changes in France. The focus on women's central role in societal transformations is a strong feature of *The History of Private Life*.'

Klassekampen

Photo: Lise Musum Stangvik

Hilde Gunn Slottemo is a professor of history at Nord University and vice chair of the Researcher's Union for the period 2025-2028. She is an experienced history communicator. She has written several articles and books, including the book *Et Fritt Ord. Stiftelse og samfunn, 1974-2024* (Aschehoug 2024), about the history of freedom of expression over the last fifty years. She has also written *En kort introduksjon til Norge på 1900-tallet. Forskjell og fellesskap* (Cappelen Damm 2021).

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Lene Ask

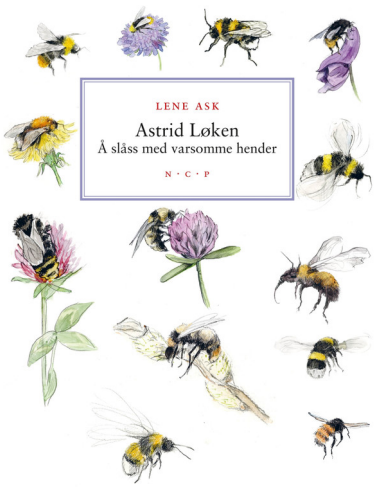
Astrid Løken. Fighting with gentle hands

Astrid Løken. Å slåss med varsomme hender

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category: Graphic Novel
Publisher: No Comprendo Press
Year: 2024
Pages: 168
ISBN: 9788282551182

Astrid Løken (1911-2008) was one of our foremost researchers on bumblebees in Scandinavia. Her work provides an important starting point for investigating changes occurring in the bumblebee fauna today. Løken warned against reductions in the bumblebee population.

While she was doing her major at the Zoological Laboratory at the University of Oslo in 1940, Løken was recruited for resistance work, and eventually as an agent in the intelligence organization XU. She became part of the central leadership and throughout the war she lived a double life, constantly in danger of being exposed. The XU agents were bound by a vow of silence that applied for many years after the war, so their efforts were long unknown.



'[...] further proof that Lene Ask is among Norwegian comics' most original and thorough documentarians [...] brilliantly manages to show both Astrid Løkens important role in the resistance struggle and pioneering work in international insect research in these 168 pages. It's an great achievement'

Dagens Næringsliv

'The irresistible combination of bumblebee research and resistance work during the war is respectfully depicted [...] "When the wild flowers disappear, the bumblebee disappears", writes Lene Ask [...] We need the bumblebees, and we can learn from them.'

Serienett

'[...] showcases Ask's rare talent for interweaving parallel narratives. [...] a story about the war that is experienced as refreshing and new'

Empirix

Photo: Julie Pike

Lene Ask (b. 1974) has published a number of graphic novels and children's books. For *Abide with me*, she was awarded the Best comic book of the year-prize, in 2022.

Previous titles
Abide With Me
Dear Rikard

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Interview
Read our interview with the author here