Lars Elling

The Princes of Pauper's Pond

Fyrstene av Finntjern

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Forlaget Oktober
Year: 2022
Pages: 360
ISBN: 9788249524808

Photo: Erik Hannemann

- 1985: Filip is 15. He spends his time playing football and listening to Bryan Ferry on his Walkman, but above all, he dedicates his life to drawing, constantly trying to draw a line that feels true. The family share their large house with Filip's grandparents. There is an apple tree close to the fence that drops its fruits into the neighbouring garden, feeding the never-ending strife between Filip's grandfather, Arnstein, and Arnstein's brother, Truls. It has been a long time since the brothers last spoke, but the apples aren't really the core of their conflict. There's something else at play, something buried deep beneath the silence.
- 1913: While Europe is in turmoil, Arnstein and Truls' Danish-German father ('The Kaiser') sends his sons out into the forest for the summer to toughen up. The brothers share the forest with a group of travellers and Forest Finns, log drivers and charcoal burners, but they quickly decide that they are the true rulers. The nights are cold and they're torn by hunger, but the princes of Pauper's Pond are as close as ever – spending the time fishing, gathering and hunting together in the large forest. But, back home in the large family house, the Kaiser is worried about their older brother, Totem, who is not quite of this world. One day, he decides that Arnstein and Truls will take Totem with them.

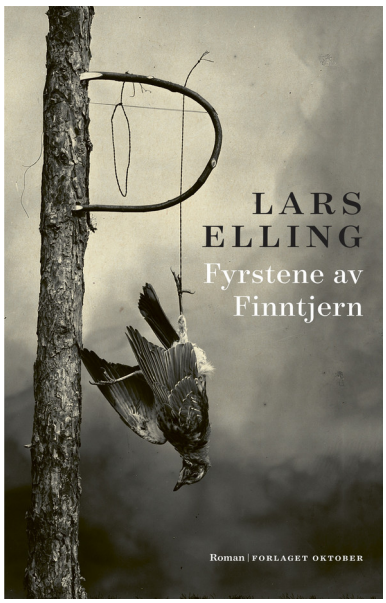
The Princes of Pauper's Pond is a colourful, wondrous novel about brothers being there for each other through thick and thin, about finding happiness out in the open landscape, and faithfully preserving your unhappiness.
Nominated for the 2022 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize and the Listeners' Prize

Lars Elling (b. 1966) is a writer and a visual artist. He is the author of two picture books and has also illustrated several children's books. Together with Bjørn Sortland he won the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis in 1996 for the book *Red, Blue and a bit of Yellow*, which he illustrated. *The Princes of Pauper's Pond* is his first novel.

Foreign sales
Danish (Grif), Dutch (Podium), French (Gallmeister), German (Penguin Verlag), Hungarian (Typotex Kiadó), Icelandic (Skuggi), Italian (21lettere), Russian (Foliant), World English (Orenda Books)

Rightsholder
Oslo Literary Agency
henrik@osloliteraryagency.no
+47 913 53 922
www.osloliteraryagency.no

Interview
Read our interview with the author here



'Reading Lars Elling's brilliant, fairy-tale-like, deeply original novel is pure joy (...) It's a long time since I read a Norwegian novel with more vibrant prose and more fascinating characters (...) The story is bursting with creative turns of phrase, wild stories and almost visual images.'

VG, 6 out of 6 stars

'Thrilling! (...) a magical, captivating story about brotherly love and closeness to nature (...) It's a joy to read Elling's image-rich, creative prose (...) a magical book about a magical universe'

Bok365, 6 out of 6 stars

Ingeborg Arvola

The Knife in the Fire - Ruijan rannalla/Songs from the Arctic Ocean

Kniven i ilden. Ruijan rannalla / Sanger fra Ishavet

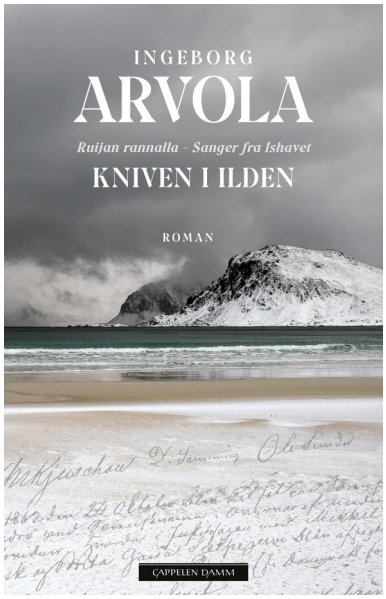
Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel (Vol. I in a series)
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2022
Pages: 448
ISBN: 9788202762742
English sample and synopsis translation available

The Knife in the Fire is a riveting historical novel about work and love, strong communities, and carefree erotica, the individual and the community.

The year is 1859. Brita Caisa Seipajærvi straps on her skis and takes the long road from Finland to Norway with her two children. Brita Caisa has been disciplined by the church for having an affair with a married man. She can heal animals and humans. The destination for their journey is Bugøynes, where the sea is said to be brimming with cod.

The Knife in the Fire is the first title in the *Ruijan rannalla/Songs from the Arctic Ocean* trilogy, about Finnish Kvens and the landscape they live in. Brita Caisa was the great-great-grandmother of author Ingeborg Arvola. Arvola's writing evokes the smell of blood after slaughtering reindeer, the taste of cloudberries, the feeling of coldness from the snow and heat from the fire.

Winner of the 2022 Brage Prize and the 2022 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize
Nominated for the 2023 Nordic Council Literature Prize, the 2022 Critic's Award, and the 2022 Youth Critic's Award



'A magnificent epic tale by Ingeborg Arvola. A fascinating and riveting read, with an ending promising for a future continuation. And yes, the publisher promises that there will be a trilogy.'

VG, 6 out of 6 stars

'A dramatic, poetic and steamy novel sets the bar high (...) It's been long since bodies and desire have been portrayed so nakedly and simply put, sexy, in a Norwegian book! A sensuous, realistic and very poetic novel.'

Klassekampen

Photo: Anna-Julia Granberg/Blunderbuss

Ingeborg Arvola (b. 1974) grew up in Pasvikdalen and Tromsø in the far north of Norway. She made her debut with the novel *Korellhuset*, published in 1999. She has since written a number of novels for children and adults. She has received the Cappelen Prize in 2004 and Havmannprisen in 2008. In 2019 she was awarded The Ministry of Culture Prize for Children's Books for her novel *Buffy By is Talented*, a book she was also nominated to the Brage Prize for.
In 2022 *The Knife in the Fire*, the first book in her trilogy *Songs from the Arctic Ocean*, was published to great acclaim.

Foreign sales
Croatia (Naklada Iris Illyrica), Denmark (Gutkind), Egypt (Al Arabi), Estonia (Eesti Raamat), The Faroe Islands (Sprotin), Finland (Gummerus), France (Paulsen), Germany (btb Luchterhand), The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Romania (Editura Univers), Sweden (Albert Bonniers)

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Cappelen Damm Agency
foreignrights@cappelendamm.no
Tel: +47 21 61 65 00
www.cappelendammagency.no

Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Roy Jacobsen

The Unworthy

De uverdige

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2022
Pages: 288
ISBN: 9788202774325
English sample translation available

In Roy Jacobsen's latest novel, *The Unworthy*, we follow a gang of boys and girls from an apartment building on the eastside of Oslo during the WWII German occupation. They live in poverty, but get by creatively swindling, stealing like magpies, falsifying documents and committing extensive burglaries. They don't shy away from exploiting the Enemy, either. With this pack of children, a lauded writer has rendered a brutally frank and warm portrait of a time, a place and an everyday life that thus far have been absent from the stories told of WWII. This is a Roy Jacobsen novel of best mark.

The Unworthy is wise, brutal and entertaining. A gem of a story, written by an author in his right element.

Nominated for the 2022 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize

'A worthy and powerful reading experience (...) Dramatic, interesting and exciting (...) a fantastic picture of an environment and a time that not everyone knows today.'

Nettavisen, 6 out of 6 stars

'About ignorance (...) "The Unworthy" has to be one of Roy Jacobsen's best novels.'

Klassekampen

'Brutal war novel (...) Roy Jacobsen is, as always, a master of details, environment and working methods.'

VG, 5 out of 6 stars

Photo: Therese Jægtvik

Roy Jacobsen (b. 1954) has, since his literary debut in 1982 with the short story collection *Prison Life*, evolved into an original, strong and analytical writer with special interest in the underlying psychology at play in human relationships and actions.

He is a storyteller with obvious political engagement. He has twice been nominated for the Nordic Council's Literary Award: for *The Conquerors* in 1991, and *Frost* in 2003. He was also short-listed for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award in 2009 for his novel *The Burnt-Out Town of Miracles*. He was shortlisted for The Man Booker International Prize in 2017 for *The Unseen* – as the first Norwegian author ever. His books have been published in 36 territories. Other important novels are *The New Water*, *Borders* and *Child Wonder*.

Foreign sales
Czech Republic (Pistorius & Olšanská), Denmark (Lindhardt & Ringhof), Estonia, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Sweden (Nordstedts), UK

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Cappelen Damm Agency
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Tel: +47 21 61 65 00
www.cappelendammagency.no

Interview
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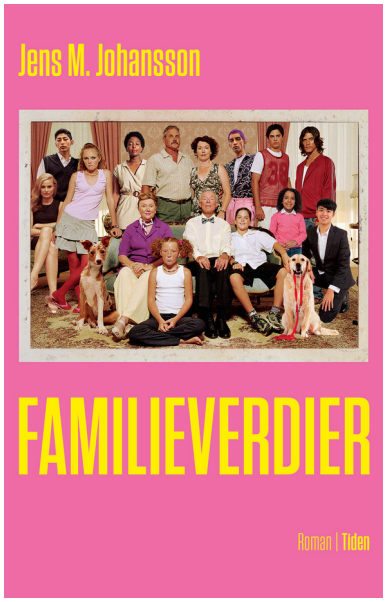
Jens M. Johansson

Family Values

Familieverdier

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Tiden
Year: 2022
Pages: 350
ISBN: 9788210058714
English sample translation available

Storm Sandberg is about to lose everything. But first, he's going to declare bankruptcy.
He convinces his wife that the big paddle hall came before its time – even though it's not the first time he's said the exact same thing about his business projects. But has she reached her limit? Can she keep putting up with all of his whims and financial problems?
He also has the worst parents in the world, including his mother, Gerd Bye – the famous theatre director. Once a month, she gathers her children, grandchildren, ex husbands, and their wives for utterly incomprehensible dinners where everyone talks and no one listens.With no money and no real prospects for the future, Storm stakes everything on one last bet to save his marriage, his finances, and his own honour: He decides he's going to set up the Greek tragedy *Medeia* as a musical – with a twinkle in his eye.
Family Values is a novel about the thin line between wealth and destruction, between community and loneliness. The result is furious, relentless, and incredibly entertaining.



'"Family Values" is a gentle satire written with energy and wit. Humor and gravity go hand in hand (...) What a hilarious book!'

VG

'You mustn't let liars like Storm into your life, but you should absolutely read this book about him (...) The talented Jens M. Johansson writes entertainingly about a guy who is so desperate to prove that he matters, but doesn't quite manage it.'

Stavanger Aftenblad

Photo: Baard Henriksen

Jens M. Johansson was born in Stockholm (1971) but grew up in Oslo where he went on to study journalism, literature and history of ideas. He has worked with investigative journalism, as a music critic and satirist. His work has resulted in several critically acclaimed novels and awards.

Awards
The Great Journalist Prize 2005
Tiden Publishing Prize 2004
Arne Hestenes Journalist Award 2000

Previous titles
Working Class Hero, 2019
A good Life, 2016
Weddings and Funerals, 2013

Rightsholder
NORTHERN STORIES
Astrid Dalaker
astrid@northernstories.no
Phone +47 99 69 19 50
www.northernstories.no

Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Trude Marstein

One's Own Children

Egne barn

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Gyldendal
Year: 2022
Pages: 336
ISBN: 9788205572249
English sample translation available

Photo: Julie Pike

It's June and Anja and her boyfriend Pål are on their way to the smallholding in Sweden that Anja still co-owns with her ex-husband Ivar. It's going to be a weekend of hard work – the cladding needs to be cleaned and painted. Ivar and his partner Solveig are there too, as are all the children.

When Lotte heard about joint weekend of work at the smallholding, she said:

'I don't get why you're coming too, I don't get why you and Dad are pretending to be friends.' We were eating dinner, her stabbing a meatball with her fork. She's fourteen.

'You hate each other's guts, can't you just carry on like that?'

The accusation brought me to the brink of tears. I could barely speak.
'We do not,' I said, 'and we never have.'

One's Own Children is about ambitions and disappointments, pretensions and revelations. About our search for belonging and meaning, for intoxication and transgression. About children and the power one has – and doesn't have – over them; about responsibility and a longing for freedom. And about the joy and love that arrives in flashes, almost at random.

'Marstein manages like few others to portray life in a family with children from previous marriages and let us in on the most private thoughts and relationships. She describes the constellation of the modern family with insight, empathy and intimacy. Her sharp, precise sentences give expression to everyday life, with its jumble of shattered dreams and ambitions, its many hopes and disappointments, our search for meaning and recognition, and not least the ambivalent feelings we can harbour for those closest to us, even our own children.'

Aftenposten

Trude Marstein (b. 1973) was awarded the Critics' Prize as well as the PO Enquist Prize for *Doing Good* (2006), which confirmed her prominent position among younger Norwegian authors.
She received the Tarjei Vesaas' Debutant Prize for *Strong Hunger, Sudden Nausea* (1998) and has written several novels as well as a book for children and a number of essays.

Foreign sales
Denmark (Gyldendal)

Awards
2007: The P.O. Enquist Prize
2006: The Critics' Prize
2004: The Doubloug Prize
2002: The "Hunger" Prize
2002: The Vestfold County Literary Prize
1998: The Tarjei Vesaas Debutant Prize

Previous titles
Selection:
Conscience, 2018
Home to Me, 2012
Nothing to Regret, 2009
Doing good, 2006

Rightsholder
Gyldendal Agency
foreignrights@gyldendal.no
+47 957 81 640
http://agency.gyldendal.no

Interview
Read our interview with the author here

Jan Grue

Trying and Failing
Prøve og feile

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Gyldendal
Year: 2022
Pages: 368
ISBN: 9788205566170
English sample translation and synopsis available

'Are you trying to ruin your life?' Hannah's friends say when she tells them she's having children with Magne.

Trial and Error is a novel about an almost completely normal couple. Like all parents of young children, Magne and Hannah have their challenges, but with Magne in a wheelchair even a trip to the beach at Huk turns into a gruelling odyssey. In spite of his master's degree in literary science, Magne has a poorly paid job as a hotel receptionist. But with his visible disability, he is at least a welcome expression of the hotel chain's benevolence and its diversity policy.

Magne and Hannah had intended to show the world – show the world that they could make it, show the world that it was possible.

But a lot can go wrong, and there are many ways to mess it all up.

'With his novel "Trying and Failing", Jan Grue completes an exceptional trilogy about disability and vulnerability. (...) Masterfully, Grue exposes the illusion that we all, even in Norway, have something within our reach that even comes close to resembling an equal life. (...) Grue affectingly demonstrates how complicated challenges for the disabled can really be – and how deeply problematic it is to pigeonhole people.'

VG, 5 out of 6 stars

Photo: Mathias Fossum

Jan Grue (b. 1981) holds a PhD in Linguistics and is Professor of Qualitative Research at the University of Oslo.

His work deals with embodiment - with what it means to be a body in an endlessly complex world.

Jan Grue is the author of a wide-ranging body of work in fiction, non- fiction, and children's literature. He made his debut with the short story collection *Everything Under Control* (2010), which was received with glowing reviews. He has since published a further four short story collections, the latest of which is *Vexations* (2019). His first novel, *The Best of All Possible Worlds*, came out in 2016. Among Grue's works for children is *Oliver* (2012), a fantastical story about living wheelchairs. His academic books include *Body Language*, on the subject of the representations of disability in a cultural and socio-analytical perspective, and *Theory in Practice*, a primer on critical analysis.

His book of autobiographical non-fiction, *I Live a Life Like Yours*, was published in 2018 to critical acclaim. The book went on to win the Literary Critics' Award and was nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize – as the first Norwegian non-fiction book in 50 years.

Foreign sales
Serbia (Izdavačka kuća ŠTRIK)

Previous titles
Selection:
If I Fall, 2021
Vexations, 219 (short stories)
I Live a Life Like Yours, 2018
The Best of All Possible Worlds, 2016 (novel)
Normalia, 2015
Oliver, 2012 (Children's picture book, ill. by Eivind Gulliksen)

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Gyldendal Agency
foreignrights@gyldendal.no
+47 957 81 640
http://agency.gyldendal.no

Interview
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Trine-Lise Rygh

You Are My Story

Du er min historie

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Vigmostad & Bjørke
Year: 2022
Pages: 207
ISBN: 9788241958892
English sample translation available

Photo: Leikny Havik, NTB

You Are My Story is a nuanced novel about a couple's marital challenges. The female protagonist of this novel is in a relationship that has gradually come apart at the seams. Her husband is depressed; he has always been so, living a bit to one side of everyone else. He leaves, disappearing down the road leading away from the house where they had hoped to find happiness. Sometimes he seeks out other partners.

You Are My Story describes a year in their marriage and gives us glimpses of the couple's common history through condensed flashbacks. The perceptive, beautiful, and painful story is evoked through a strong and pronounced literary voice.

'Sensational (...) a self-assured and stylistically cogent novel in the genre of soft realism, written in a suitably down-to-earth literary voice.'

Dagbladet, 6 out of 6 stars

'Painful, beautiful, and well-written about shouldering a heavy burden of care for another'

Stavanger Aftenblad, 5 out of 6 stars

Every now and then words fall short when seeking to describe a literary masterpiece.'

bokblogger.com, 6 out of 6 stars

Trine-Lise Rygh (b. 1974) has a bachelor's degree in Dissemination of Literature from the University of Oslo and has written articles for Harvestmagazine.no and other publications. She was awarded the Norwegian National Association for Language Consolidation's (Landslaget for språklig samling) literary prize for her debut novel *Hundedager* (*Dog Days*, 2020).

Foreign sales
Greece (Gema Publishers), Macedonia (Ikona Publishing House)

Rightsholder
Winje Agency
gina.winje@gmail.com
+47 91841150
www.winjeagency.com

Interview
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