

DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION

DANISH LITERARY MAGAZINE

AUTUMN

2015

CARSTEN JENSEN

AWARDS

BOOKS IN BRIEF

KLAUS RIFBJERG

SMALL PUBLISHERS

ANNE LISE MARSTRAND-JØRGENSEN

RECENTLY SOLD

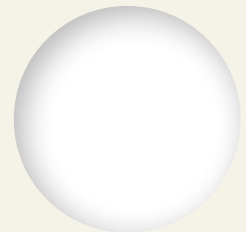
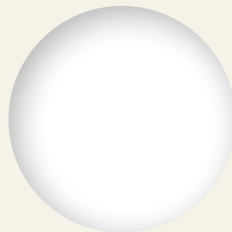
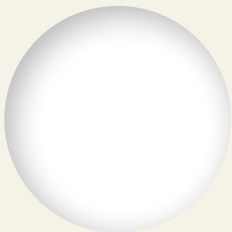
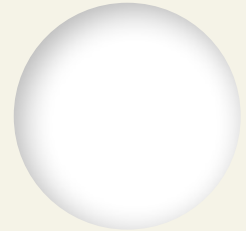
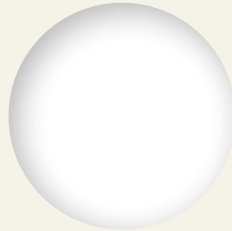
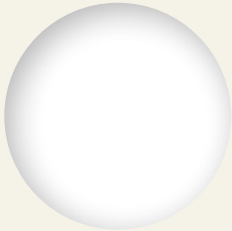
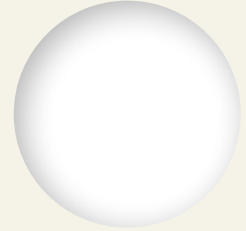
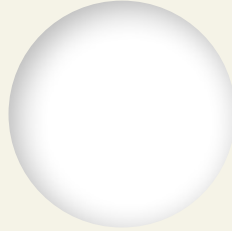
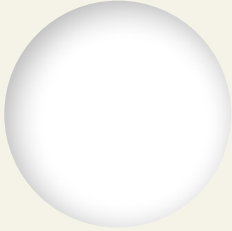
SUPPORT SCHEMES

WELCOME

Danish literature lost one of its titans this year, when Klaus Rifbjerg passed away at the age of 83. Few authors have made as great an impact on the literary landscape. Although his writing is unmistakably Danish, readers elsewhere appreciate Rifbjerg, too. Recently, his early masterpiece *Den kroniske Uskyld* (*Terminal Innocence*) – for generations, a

permanent fixture on the school curriculum in Denmark – was translated into English. This issue of *Danish Literary Magazine* includes an article by the book's translator. He writes about his literary love for the great Dane and about their final meeting, last year at Rifbjerg's home.

But we don't just celebrate past heroes in this issue – current and future literary stars also feature prominently. International bestseller Carsten Jensen is back with a long-awaited



novel about the war in Afghanistan and Anne-Lise Marstrand Jørgensen has written a fantastic historical novel about the Queen of Sheba's meeting with King Solomon of Israel.

We also paint a portrait of a rising star of Danish publishing – Gladiator, a small company but one that has rapidly established itself as one of the country's most important literary publishing houses. So the next time you see a book from Denmark, check whether the publisher is Gladiator. If it is, you may well

be holding a future classic in your hand – a new Klaus Rifbjerg, perhaps.

We are also pleased to bring you our regular summaries of important recent publications and titles sold abroad, as well as details of the Danish Arts Foundation's funding programmes for translators and publishers abroad.

Annette Bach
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CARSTEN JENSEN
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GREAT EXPECTATIONS OF NOVEL SET IN AFGHANISTAN

A knowledgeable, sharp, fearless and controversial social commentator? Or a fantastic popular writer in the grand tradition of epic storytellers? Carsten Jensen is both – and more. In his major new novel, he draws on all his talent to portray what war does to people living close together in constant danger, including how they deal with the fact that truth is always the first casualty of war. If you don't understand that, you won't survive. But if you lose your moral compass, how do you tell the difference between good and evil? A group of young Danish men and women feel these questions all too keenly after signing up to serve in Afghanistan. They are driven by a sense of justice and the need to test themselves in extreme circumstances, but they soon face a challenge for which no military training prepares anybody – and survival against all odds becomes their only mission. The roles of hunter and hunted change

constantly, until they no longer find it possible to distinguish between friend and foe, reality and fantasy. But who are they, deep down? What is the price of loyalty and comradeship? And what is the war about?

CARSTEN JENSEN, born in 1952, has published numerous novels, critical essays, articles and travel books, among others *Jeg har set verden begynde* (I Saw the World Begin) (1996) and *Jeg har hørt et stjerneskud* (I Heard a Shooting Star) (1997). *Vi, de druknede* (We, the Drowned) (2006) and *Sidste rejse* (Last Trip) (2007) made him one of Denmark's most widely read authors. *Vi, de druknede* (We, the Drowned) received many accolades, including a **starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, Best Novel of 2011 in the *Wall Street Journal* and Paperback of the Year 2011 in the *Independent***. It has **sold more than half a million copies worldwide**. Jensen is also an award-winning journalist and received the 2009 Olof Palme Prize for his "work, in word and deed, to defend the weak and vulnerable both in his own country and around the world".

“Carsten Jensen is unquestionably one of the most exciting authors writing in Scandinavia today. I always look forward hugely to his books. He is, in my opinion, an utterly unique storyteller.”

HENNING MANKELL ON CARSTEN JENSEN

Den første sten (The First Stone)

Gyldendal 2015, 500 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS: Copenhagen Literary Agency, Anneli Høier, anneli@chpla.dk

PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:

More than 20 countries

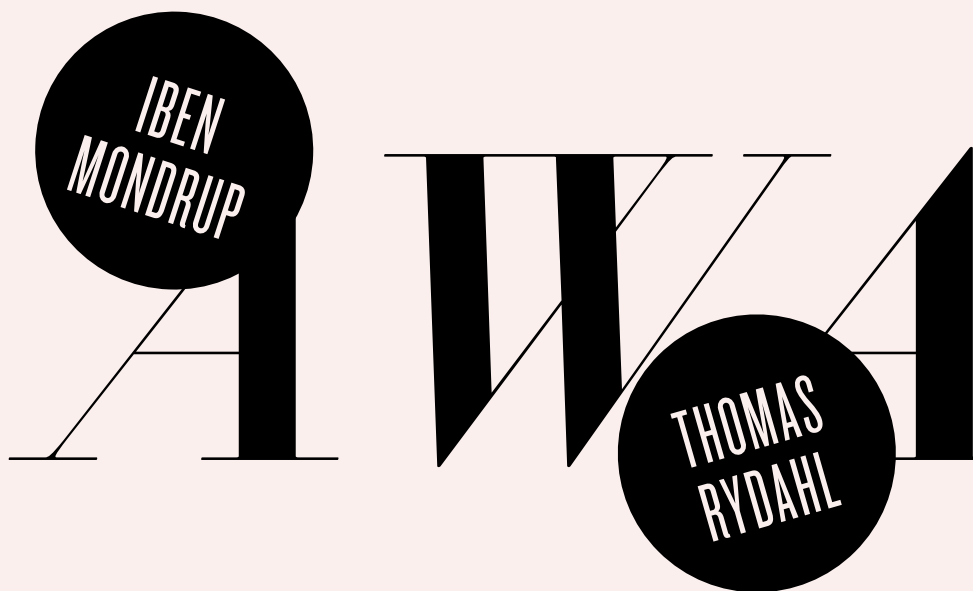
Carsten Jensen's award-winning *Vi, de druknede* (*We, the Drowned*) sold more than half a million copies worldwide, so his new novel *Den første sten* (*The First Stone*) is eagerly awaited. Set in Afghanistan, a country Jensen has visited and written about for many years, the novel seeks to pin down exactly what war does to people.

“When I look back, the executed man is lying stretched out on the ground. He’s been shot in the chest and he’s fallen backwards. The front of his tunic is red but there’s no blood spreading out from underneath him. This isn’t a movie. Here, the earth drinks up everything. The Taliban lowers his kalashnikov and waves the bus on. The engine starts with a roar. I feel a sudden warmth in my lap. One of the boys has given in to his terror and pissed on me. There’s something life-affirming about the heat of their bodies and the piss spreading across my thighs. I hold them both tight. The children don’t say a word. I don’t understand why they’re not screaming. Why the whole bus isn’t screaming. Why aren’t I screaming myself? Why this self-imposed silence, this paralysing self-control? It makes accomplices of us all.”

Excerpt from *DEN FØRSTE STEN* (THE FIRST STONE)

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Nordic Crime Novel Prize - Debut novel wins Nordic crime novel prize – and there’s more where that came from

The 2015 Glass Key Award for best Nordic crime novel has gone to Thomas Rydahl for *Eremitten* (The Hermit), the tale of Erhard Jørgensen, an ageing recluse.



PHOTO: NINNA FLOR

Since he left his family in Denmark 17 years ago, Erhard has been eking out a living on the Spanish holiday island of Fuerteventura. The novel starts with his discovery of a dead child in a cardboard box on the back seat of a car. Anything but a conventional detective, he investigates the death in his own unique way.

His debut may have been a huge success, but Rydahl isn't one for resting on his laurels. Far from it. Since then, he has already nearly completed *De Savnede* (The Missing), a stand-alone follow-up to *Eremitten* (The Hermit). The action takes place some years after the mystery of the dead child, and follows Erhard as he seeks to escape his self-imposed seclusion. And fails – there are just too many skeletons rattling around in his closet. Instead, he finds himself mixed up in a case where the cost may be too high, both for him and for a woman who despises him. It turns out that some crimes are

best left unsolved – and that there are some people who should stay missing.

THOMAS RYDAHL, born in 1974, graduated from the Danish Academy of Creative Writing in 1999. It took some time for him to complete his debut novel but when he did, it was a resounding success. *Eremitten* (The Hermit) had already earned him the 2014 Debutant Prize and the 2015 Harald Mogensen Prize for Best Danish Crime Fiction, before being awarded the 2015 Glass Key Award for Best Nordic Crime Fiction. The Spanish film company Atresmedia recently purchased the film rights to the book, which has also been sold for publication in the UK, USA, Japan, France, the Netherlands, South America and elsewhere.

Eremitten (The Hermit), Thomas Rydahl, Forlaget Bindslev 2014, 516 pages. **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Busch Agency, Trine Busch, trine@buschagency.dk. **ON THE WAY:** *De savnede* (The Missing) **PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:** Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom, United States.

RIDS

HARALD
VOETMANN

KAMILLA
HEGA HOLST

The Blixen Literary Award – A chilling portrayal of modern existential malaise

The 2015 Blixen Literary Award, a brand new Danish prize for a writer whose work demonstrates exceptional talent and international potential, has been awarded to Kamilla Hega Holst. In addition she has just been **nominated for the Danish Broadcasting Corporation's Best Novel Award**.

The jury said: "The author's new book *På træk* (In Transit) (2015) is an original and courageous tale that doesn't shy away from big, important questions about love, desire and identity in modern, Western life."

After a difficult relationship, ending in divorce, Kaya leaves her two young kids with her ex-husband and his new girlfriend in Copenhagen.

She visits Pattaya in Thailand to see her grandfather, a retired airline captain who, following the death of his wife, is now living with Mali, a Thai woman who used to be his maid. Kaya yearns to escape her sense of failure and disappointment, and to shake off her sorrow and the secret that weighs heavily on her shoulders. In Pattaya, she wakes up. The place is full of bars, massage parlours and sex workers. Everything is for sale, anything is possible.

The story moves between Copenhagen and Pattaya, between divorce in the past and escape in the present, viewed from Holst's unique perspective, which is at once critical and empathetic, in which being "in transit" is a basic element of the human condition. *Jyllands-Posten* wrote: "Kamilla Hega Holst is a sharp and dystopian observer of modern existential malaise in general – and love in particular."



PHOTO: ANNE WIE DREVES

KAMILLA HEGA HOLST, born in 1973, has published three novels and two children's books. She made her debut in 2010 with *En kærlighedshistorie* (A Love Story), which received an **award from the Danish Arts Foundation**. In 2013, she published the novel *Sort* (Black) and was presented with a three-year grant by the Danish Arts Foundation. She was also **awarded the Ministry of Culture's Children's Book Prize for *Den sovende sangerinde*** (The Sleeping Singer) (2003).

***På træk* (In Transit)**, Kamilla Hega Holst Samleren 2015, 294 pages. **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Gyldendal Group Agency, Jenny Thor, jenny_thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk

The Readers' Prize – A tale of childhood perils

“Iben Mondrup’s strangely beautiful new work sends a long shiver down your spine before taking root, like a nagging pain or boundless grief,” *Information* wrote when *Godhavn* (Godhavn) was published in 2014. Members of the Danish Broadcasting Corporation’s (DR) book clubs clearly agree, as they have awarded Mondrup the **DR Best Novel Award 2015**. They were particularly impressed by her portrayal of childhood, as personified by the siblings in *Godhavn* (Godhavn). Mondrup has the unique ability to put herself in the shoes of her young characters and see things from their point of view.

love. They take turns at telling the story of a single year in their lives, revealing how children of different ages – and with very different personalities – perceive the same situations. It is an approach that allows the reader to delight in Mondrup’s rare eye for detail and her affinity for the world of children and their dangerous games.

Iben Mondrup, born in 1969, has two previously published novels: *En, to, tre Justine* (One, Two, Three – Justine) (2012) and *Store Malene* (Big Malene) (2013). She received a three-year work grant from the Danish Arts Foundation in 2015.

Godhavn (Godhavn), Iben Mondrup, Gyldendal 2014, 264 pages. **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Copenhagen Literary Agency, Esthi Kunz, esthi@cphla.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:** France, United States

PHOTO: MORFEN HOLTUM



something [...] It adds a new dimension to one of Denmark’s most important authors. It deserves all the attention and all the readers it gets in the years to come.” In the acclaimed, award-winning trilogy, Harald Voetmann revisits the lives of fascinating figures in history and science. In *Vågen* (Awake), he focuses on the Roman naturalist and philosopher, Pliny the Elder; in *Alt under månen* (Everything under the Moon), the Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe. His latest novel, *Syner og fristelser* (Visions and Temptations), portrays the medieval monk Othlo of St. Emmeram, who, as he lies in bed, shuttles from heaven to hell, guided by an angry angel.

Harald Voetmann, born in 1978, made his debut in 2000 with the book *Kapricer* (Caprices). He received a three-year work grant from the Danish Arts Foundation in 2008.

Syner og fristelser (Visions and Temptations), Harald Voetmann Gyldendal 2015, 176 pages. **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Copenhagen Literary Agency, Monica Gram, monica@cphla.dk

The Critics Prize – Honouring one of Denmark’s most fascinating writers

Danish critics chose *Alt under månen* (Everything under the Moon) by Harald Voetmann as their favourite publication of 2014. The winning book was the second part of a trilogy that began with *Vågen* (Awake) in 2010 and has since concluded with *Syner og fristelser* (Visions and Temptations). *Information’s* review of the novel described Voetmann as one of Denmark’s most interesting writers: “Harald Voetmann’s latest historical novel is also his most human – and his best to date, which is saying

PHOTO: LIZETTE KABRE



Set on the west coast of Greenland, the novel follows three Danish siblings trying to adapt to small-town life. They face all sorts of challenges, from being the only Danes in their class, to saying farewell to friends, to falling in

BOOKS IN BRIEF

FICTION

A NORDIC MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGICAL REALISM

“Ida Jessen surpasses herself with six scintillating stories that illustrate the sometimes self-destructive love that women hold for their men and their sons,” said *Berlingske* about Ida Jessen’s 2013 short-story collection, *Postkort til Annie* (Postcard to Annie). Jessen’s new novel, *En ny tid* (A New Time), also revolves around a woman’s life. The year is 1904. A young free-school teacher arrives in a small Danish town and soon afterwards marries the local doctor, Dr Bagge. When he dies 23 years later, after a childless and not always happy marriage, Mrs Bagge embarks upon a new, independent life of her own. Written in diary form, the novel portrays a period of great upheaval, both for the protagonist personally and for society as a whole; this is a time when traditions and conventions are being broken down.

IDA JESSEN, born in 1964, writes about what happens when you see your whole life crumble in front of you. She isn’t interested in straight answers; her psychological realism has earned her a prominent position in the Nordic realist narrative tradition familiar from writers like Selma Lagerlöf and Kerstin Ekman. Having made her debut with the short-story collection *Under Sten* (Under Stone) in 1989, Jessen’s

breakthrough came with the trilogy of novels, *Den der lyver* (The One Who’s Lying) (2001), *Det første jeg tænker* (The First Thing I Think Of) (2006) and *Bornene* (The Children) (2009). The latter earned her **the Booksellers prize, the Golden Laurel and a nomination for the Nordic Council Literature Prize**. Her most recently published work was the short-story collection *Postkort til Annie* (Postcard to Annie) in 2013, which earned her **another nomination**

for the Nordic Council prize. Ida Jessen has also written numerous children’s books, and translated authors like Nobel Prize-winner Alice Munro, with whom she is often compared.

IDA JESSEN

En ny tid (A New Era) Gyldendal 2015, 208 pages
FOREIGN RIGHTS: Copenhagen Literary Agency, Esthi Kunz, esthi@cphla.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:** Australia, Estonia, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden

**NEW NOVEL BY
 AWARD-WINNING
 AUTHOR**

PHOTO: MIKLÓS SZABÓ



THE SECRETS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

“The positive surprise of the year.” “Great, fast-paced debut.” “Exceptional plot.” “Spectacularly good.” Just a few quotes from the rave reviews journalist Erik Valeur received when he made his debut as a fiction writer four years ago. Needless to say, his new novel, *Logbog fra et livsforlis* (Logbook from a Shipwrecked Life), has been eagerly awaited. The book is partly set in a white lighthouse that for centuries has been witness to shipwrecks and drowning seafarers. It is now home to a man with a strange secret. He grew up in the lighthouse with his mother, his grandparents and three yellow canaries, and under his pillow he kept Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*. Even as a child, he possessed knowledge no one should, but now it’s slipping out – and at the same time, the old woman who heads the most powerful family in the country disappears. Nobody can explain what happened; all they know is

that an empty birdcage was found on the windowsill of the nursing home where the elderly widow lived. *Logbook from a Shipwrecked Life* is part fable, part modern narrative, part thriller. It’s about children growing up with quirks that nobody knows how to handle; it’s about spirits, death and the Universe; it’s about powerful politicians, management gurus and media celebrities; and it’s about the secrets everybody tries to hide – from themselves and from each other.

ERIK VALEUR, born in 1955, is a journalist, media commentator and author of several books on topical subjects. He made his debut as a novelist in 2011 with *Det syvende barn* (The Seventh Child), which earned him **the Danske Bank Debutant Prize, readers’ prizes from *Weekendavisen* and the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, and the Danish Crime Academy prize for best thriller**. The book remained on the **Danish bestseller list for months** and has been **published in nine editions in the Netherlands**. *Logbook from a Shipwrecked Life* is Valeur’s second novel.

PHOTO: KISSEN MØLLERHANSEN



**LONG-AWAITED NOVEL
BY INTERNATIONAL
BESTSELLING AUTHOR**

ERIK VALEUR

Logbog fra et livsforlis

(Logbook from a Shipwrecked Life)

Politikens Forlag 2015, 504 pages **FOREIGN**

RIGHTS: Politiken Literary Agency, Nya

Guldberg, nya.guldberg@ppol.dk **PREVIOUS**

TITLES SOLD TO: Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, World Rights/Amazon Crossing

PHOTO: LASSE KROGH MØLLER



THE WHIMSICAL STORY OF THE SPEAKING CLOCK

In 1939, 8,640 lines of dialogue were recorded for the “speaking clock”, an automated phone service once used by Danes to find out the time. A 19-year-old Danish telephonist was chosen to be the voice of the service and, accompanied by two engineers, she travelled to Stockholm to make a recording for every ten seconds of the day. With subtle, understated humour, Broeng tells the story of how

FINDING YOURSELF – AND FOUR TROLLS

Nancy (Nancy) is the story of a 25-year-old woman trying to escape her upbringing on a small island, while dark forces attack the world as she knows it. Nancy is a cleaner in a residential facility for the mentally ill. She lives on the rocky island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea – as does the author, Dennis Gade Kofod, who often sets his works there. She has a boyfriend, Coach Thomas, whom she'd really like to dump, perhaps because of Albert. Albert goes to night classes with Nancy, and wants to be a doctor. Meanwhile, four trolls on the beach cook up a mysterious fog in a silver cauldron. It settles over the island and carries people off to sea, where they disappear. This is only the start, however; then the pixies emerge from the underground to retake the island, where Nancy is the only one left.

DENNIS GADE KOFOD, born in 1973, made his debut in 2005 with the novel *Anskudte dyr* (Wounded Animals), and is acclaimed for his realistic but unmistakably lyrical prose. His most recent work was the novel *Genfærd* (Apparition) (2013), which *Berlingske* called “a strange and beautifully written tale of death, grief and tangled family relationships”, and the graphic novel *Skifting* (Changeling) (2014), illustrated by Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard, which *Nordjyske* gave six stars out of six and called “disturbingly beautiful”. In 2015, Kofod received a three-year working grant from the Danish Arts Foundation.

DENNIS GADE KOFOD

Nancy (Nancy)

Rosinante 2015, 170 pages **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Gyldendal Group Agency, Jenny Thor, jenny_thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk

**“ONE OF THE
MOST TALENTED
YOUNG WRITERS
OF OUR DAY”**

GITTE BROENG

Froken Klokken (Miss Bell)

Forlaget Møller 2015, 179 pages **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Forlaget Møller, Jacob Møller Overgaard, jacob@moellerforlag.dk

modern time, quite literally, arrived in Denmark. The reviewers loved the novel, *Berlingske* giving *Froken Klokken* (Miss Bell) six stars out of six and declaring it: “A debut novel so stylish and strong that Gitte Broeng, if she was not before, must now be considered one of the most talented young writers of her day.”

GITTE BROENG, born in 1973, made her debut with the collection *Interior* (Interior) in 2006. Her short-prose collection *Plantetbyen* (The Planet City) (2011) has been compared favourably with some of Danish poetry’s most brilliant deadpan humourists.

**MAGICAL REALISM
FROM A SMALL
BALTIC ISLAND**



PHOTO: ANDERS BEIER



**DEBUT NOVEL BY
AWARD-WINNING
POET**

A MAN ON THE BRINK

Jesper isn't a happy chappy. He's middle-aged, single and unemployed, he smokes, and has long been on a downward spiral. The dreams of his youth have failed to materialise. All his ideals are gone. But one day he meets the beautiful and fascinating Julia, who turns his miserable life upside down. She takes him back to all the places in Copenhagen he has forgotten how to appreciate, and then invites him on a train journey through Europe, on a secret business trip to Switzerland, Alsace and Stuttgart. It all sounds too good to be true – and indeed, in time, Jesper finds himself in Copenhagen's murky criminal underworld, trying to get his hands on a weapon.

JAN SONNERGAARD, born in 1963, debuted with the short-story

COMPELLING COMING-OF-AGE TALE

Gauche but extremely gifted, Hans-Peter Frederiksen grows up in a nice Copenhagen suburb in the 1970s. As an adult, Frederiksen is in hospital suffering from psychosis, and a psychiatrist tries to unlock his memories of love, loneliness, a vague urge to travel and, in particular, the painful events that led to his breakdown. Frederiksen's life is depicted in a series of episodes that make up the bigger story of what makes a man – and a life. We find out about his uncomfortable experiences with the opposite sex, his alienation from the conformist middle-class environment in which he grew up, and his meeting with the pilot Morian and the children's librarian Anders,

each in their own way showing him a bigger world. We are also taken on other journeys – energetic, encyclopaedic tangents about space travel, language, sexuality and human evolution.

NIELS LYNGSØ, born in 1968, made his debut in 1992 with the novel *Væskers vandring gennem porøse vægge og hinder* (Liquids travelling through Porous Walls and Membranes), and has written numerous poetry collections.

NIELS LYNGSØ

Min ukendte bror (My Unknown Brother) Gyldendal 2015, 322 pages **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Copenhagen Literary Agency, Esthi Kunz, esthi@cphla.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:** Norway



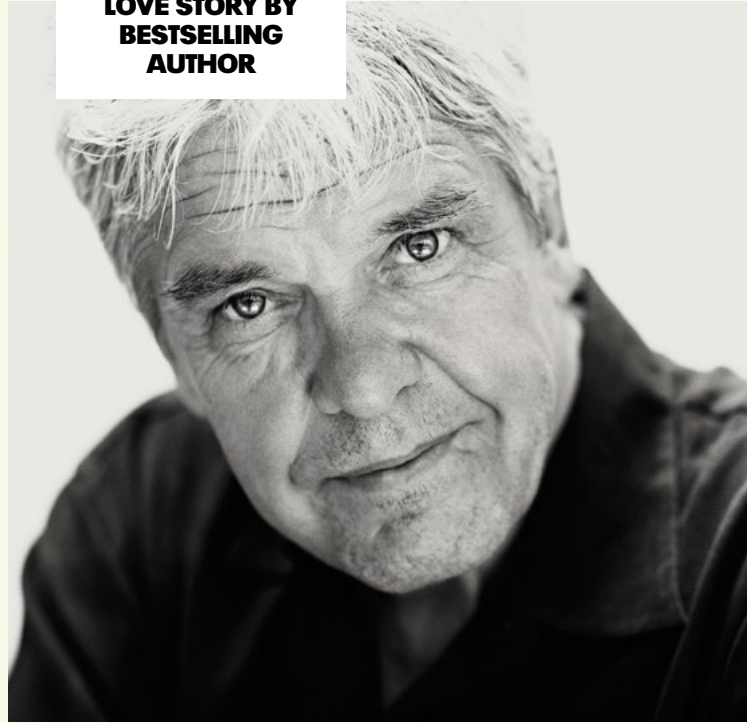
collection *Radiator* (Radiator) in 1997, which immediately made his name on the Danish literary scene. He has since penned several short stories and novels. Reviewing his most recent short-story collection, *Otte opbyggelige fortællinger om kærlighed, mad og fremmede byer* (Eight Edifying Stories of Love, Food and Foreign Cities) (2013), *Kristelig Dagblad* said: “The tone is still unmistakably Sonnergaard: plenty of dialogue, direct, immediate, a bit rough and ready without being deliberately sloppy, but full of detail, bordering on the meticulous. You really feel as if you’re there.”

JAN SONNERGAARD

Frysende våde vejbaner (Freezing Wet Roads) Gyldendal 2015, 300 pages **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Copenhagen Literary Agency, Monica Gram, monica@cphla.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:** Germany, Hungary, Iceland, the Netherlands, Serbia

IMAGINATIVE, CONTEMPORARY LOVE STORY BY BESTSELLING AUTHOR

PHOTO: SAKI HOFFMEIER



LITERARY ROAD-TRIP ABOUT A MIDLIFE CRISIS

PHOTO: ROBIN SKJULDBERG

FANTASTIC UNDERSEA ODYSSEY

Alexander is a researcher at the University of Copenhagen. Unexpectedly inheriting a large sum of money, he travels to Asia, where he meets the dangerous and mysterious mermaid, Ichi. They fall in love and she takes him on a journey under the sea, into a world as exciting as it is fantastic. Here, communication is without words, genders and identities are casually switched. Alexander is recruited for a secret submarine mission, inspired by sophisticated theories about our overcrowded planet and the chances of its survival. He ends up fleeing, only to crash headlong into even more perilous adventures in other parts of the world.

IB MICHAEL, born in 1945, debuted in 1970 with the novel *En hidtil uset drom om skibe* (A Previously Unseen Dream of Ships). Over the years, he has become **one of the most widely read Danish authors**, with many of his works proving that magical realism is alive, well and kicking outside Latin America. *Information* described his previous novel, *Himlen brændte* (The Sky was Burning) (2013), as equal parts political thriller, flighty science crime novel, love story, family chronicle, science fiction and peculiar tall story.

IB MICHAEL

En anden sol (A Second Sun) Gyldendal 2015, 392 pages **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Gyldendal Group Agency, Jenny Thor, jenny_thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:** Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United States

WHEN GOOD TURNS TO EVIL

Love isn't in short supply in the Haarder family, who live a quiet life among the fir trees on the little island of Hovedet. But what do you do when you're a sensitive type who gets hurt over and over again, and in the end you just can't take it any more? You cut yourself off from it all. Perhaps you hide the things that are dear to you and immerse yourself in them. Or, just perhaps, you report that your child has died. And then, what happens to a much-loved child

who grows up in a topsy-turvy world where good people are bad, right is wrong and the dead are still alive? A child who is not allowed to speak, and is kept hidden away from the world? Ane Riel's second novel for adults, *Harpiks* (Resin), is a beautiful tale of love, loyalty and caring. But it's also about the debilitating fear of loss, paranoia and unintentional evil.

ANE RIEL, born in 1971, has written several children's books. She made her debut as a writer of literature for adults in 2013 with the novel *Slagteren i Liseleje* (The Butcher of Liseleje), which is part "idyll noir", part gloomy depiction

of a painful 1950s childhood. It won her the **Danish Crime Writers' Association award for best debut**, and *Politiken* described it as "The big Danish crime fiction surprise of the year. An altogether different thriller, both morbid and magic."

ANE RIEL

Harpiks (Resin)

Tiderne Skifter 2015, 256 pages **FOREIGN**

RIGHTS: Copenhagen Literary Agency, Esthi

Kunz, esthi@chpla.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD**

TO: Germany

**A GRIPPING
FAMILY TALE**



PHOTO: ALEX NYBORG MADSEN



**AWARD-WINNING
GRAPHIC NOVEL
WITH INTERNATIONAL
POTENTIAL**

GRAPHIC NOVELS

**RAW, PERSONAL ACCOUNT
OF THE LIFE OF AN
IMMIGRANT**

“Halfdan Pisket’s *Desertøren* (The Deserter), published last year, was one of the most exciting works of Danish graphic art for a long time. *Kakerlak* (Cockroach), the second part of the planned trilogy, lives up to its promise,” declared *Politiken*, giving Halfdan Pisket five stars out of six for the biographical account of his father’s life in the shadow of the Armenian genocide. The protagonist is a

stranger in his own country, rootless and lost after being released from a Turkish military prison. An advert for guest workers in Europe is the trigger that encourages him to leave his traumatic past behind him, travel to Denmark and throw himself into a new life. Pisket’s taut, black-and-white lines convey a convincing, highly personal account of the lives of guest workers and immigrants. He leads readers through his father’s numerous failed relationships, dead-end jobs and epileptic attacks, leading to violence, drug dealing and jail – but also to things that are worth fighting for: love, friendship and children.

HALFDAN PISKET, born in 1985, studied at the Academy of Fine Arts. In 2014, he published the first volume of a planned trilogy about his father, *The Deserter*, which **won the Ping Award for comic of the year in 2014**. In 2015, Pisket became the first graphic novelist to be awarded the Danish Arts Foundation’s three-year working grant.

HALFDAN PISKET

Desertøren (The Deserter),

Kakerlak (The Cockroach)

Fahrenheit 2014, 2015, 108, 136 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS: Copenhagen Literary Agency,

Esthi Kunz, esthi@cphla.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES**

SOLD TO: Mexico

**BIGGEST UNSOLVED CRIME
IN SCANDINAVIA**

unsinkable until it failed to survive its maiden voyage in 1959. *Jyllands-Posten* gave the book five stars out of six, and said it was “an excellent account that portrays harsh reality but, through beautiful and moving testimony, does not forget the individual.”

LARS HALSKOV

Branden – gåden om Scandinavian Star (Scandinavian Star)

Politikens Forlag 2015, 352 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS: Politiken Literary Agency,

Nya Guldberg, nya.guldberg@jppol.dk

PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: Norway

PHOTO: POLIFOTO



NON-FICTION

**THE STORY OF A
SHIPWRECK**

On the night of 7 April 1990, 159 passengers perished when the ship *Scandinavian Star*, which was on route from Frederikshavn in Denmark to Oslo in Norway, went up in flames. Who started the fire – and why – has never been resolved. Nobody knows what really happened. Journalist Lars Halskov has written a fresh account of the events, based on the latest research, interviews and documents that point the spotlight on dubious businessmen, tax evasion and poor security. But he also focuses on the many people left behind by the fire, including those marked for life by the tragedy and in need of closure.

LARS HALSKOV, born in 1963, is a journalist. He has written several books, including another about a mysterious disaster at sea – *The Ship that Disappeared* (2008), about the Danish *Titanic*, the *Hans Hedtoft*. This was the Royal Greenland Society’s most modern vessel, considered

THE DNA DETECTIVE

“From the distant and formal to the absolutely personal, Kristoffer Frøkjær pulls together an assortment of fine stories and anecdotes, until bit by bit the reader gets a feel for the master of old genetic material,” *Politiken* said of *Eske Willerslev: Han gør det døde levende* (Eske Willerslev: New life in dead remains). Full of fascinating insights, the book paints a portrait of the wonderful uncompromising world of the Danish DNA researcher, Eske Willerslev and

reveals much about his private life and professional career. Even as a schoolboy, Willerslev tested the limits of what he could get away with and for a while made a living as a trapper in Siberia. Yet, by the age of 40, he had made scientific history many times. Often touted as a potential Nobel Prize-winner, his research into prehistoric DNA rewrote the story of the origins of humankind and provided fresh insights into why animals became extinct in prehistory. In the book, we learn how, in his eternal quest for relics of the past, Willerslev became a member of an Indian tribe, almost died when he was living in Siberia and searched for genetic material in the corpse of what was alleged to be an alien.

KRISTOFFER FRØKJÆR, science journalist, born in 1973, presents his book in the form of a road trip, which lends itself to a conversational approach in which he gives the floor to Willerslev, who willingly takes it. Frøkjær shrewdly uses the dialogue to tell the story of DNA in a way that appeals to scientists and laypeople alike.

KRISTOFFER FRØKJÆR

Eske Willerslev. Han gør det døde levende

(Eske Willerslev: New life in dead remains)

Gyldendal 2015, 256 pages **FOREIGN RIGHTS:**

Gyldendal, Axel Kielland, axel_kielland@

gyldendal.dk

**A FASCINATING
SCIENTIFIC ROAD
TRIP**



PHOTO: JES LARSEN

PHOTO: MORTEN HOLTUM



CRIME

THE RETURN OF OUR FAVORITE DETECTIVE

Detective Axel Steen is back on the force after a prolonged absence and gets assigned to a murder case. It soon becomes apparent that the victim has taken secrets about Denmark's counter-terrorism work with him to the grave. And this isn't a one-off. The body of another former intelligence officer is soon found.

JESPER STEIN, born in 1965, made his debut as a novelist in 2012 with the first volume about Axel Steen, *Uro* (Unrest), which earned him the **Danish Crime Academy Debutant Award**. *Bye Bye Blackbird* (Bye Bye Blackbird) was published in 2013 and *Akrash* (Akrash) in 2014. *Axel Steen vender tilbage* (Axel Steen Returns) is the fourth volume in the series.

JESPER STEIN

Axel Steen vender tilbage
(Axel Steen Returns)

Politikens Forlag, 352 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS:

Politiken Literary Agency,

Nya Guldberg,

nya.guldberg@jppol.dk

PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:

Czech Republic,

Germany, France, Iceland,

Italy, the Netherlands,

Norway, Sweden



PHOTO: LESKANER

THE PUZZLE OF THE REFUGEE SHIP

Dicte, a journalist, witnesses a disaster on the way to the Greek island of Gozo. A boat full of refugees capsizes and the tragedy is captured on film: seasick ferry passengers, dead Africans in the water – and the corpse of a young white woman. Suddenly Dicte becomes drawn into the mysterious case and is forced to confront the notion that white lives are worth more than black ones.

ELSEBETH EGHOLM, born in 1960, debuted in 1999 with the novel *De frie kvinders klub* (The Free Women's Club). The first book in the series about Dicte Svendsen was published in 2002. *Dødvægt* (Dead Weight) is the ninth in the series.

ELSEBETH EGHOLM

Dødvægt (Dead Weight)

Politikens Forlag 2015, 400 pages **FOREIGN**

RIGHTS: Copenhagen Literary Agency, Esthi

Kunz, esthi@cphla.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES**

SOLD TO: France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland,

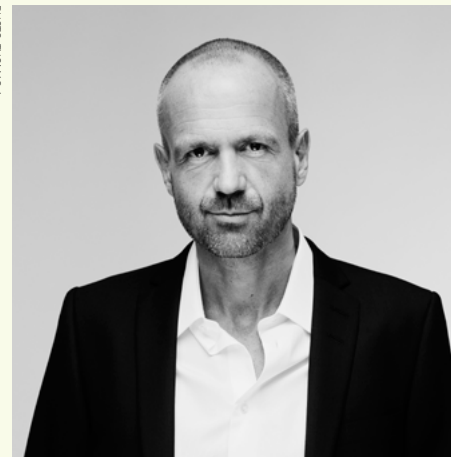
Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand,

Norway, Poland, Sweden, UK

GOD'S CHOSEN ONES

In *Afsporet* (Derailed) (2013), Michael Katz Krefeld invited the reader to accompany Detective Thomas Ravn to Stockholm. In *Savnet* (Missing) (2014) Berlin. Now *Sekten* (The Sect) takes us to a sparsely populated Danish island. An arson attack turns out to have links to a mysterious sect known as God's Chosen Ones – and to the upper echelons of Danish business. A wealthy coaching guru's quest to find his son, who joined the fanatical sect a decade ago, leads to the dramatic disclosure of a dark family secret.

PHOTO: THOMAS A.



MICHAEL KATZ KREFELD, born in 1966, made his debut in 2007 with the crime novel *For stormen* (Before the Storm), which earned him the **Danish Crime Academy's Debutant Award**. *Sekten* (The Sect) is the third volume about Ravn.

MICHAEL KATZ KREFELD

Sekten (The Sect)

Lindhardt and Ringhof 2015, 400 pages **FOR-**

EIGN RIGHTS: Salmonssons Agency, Julia Ange-

lin, julia@salmonssonsagency.com **PREVIOUS**

TITLES SOLD TO: More than 20 countries

DEATH OF A RESEARCHER

In Robert Zola Christensen's second crime novel, we reacquaint ourselves with intelligence officer Bent Kastrup. This time he's investigating the murder of a researcher who has been found brutally murdered in a Danish forest. The evidence points to a group of war veterans with rather too keen an interest in World War II, and to research circles eyeing the massive financial potential of genetic engineering. The investigation takes Kastrup to the Faroe Islands and into cyberspace, where he discovers things that perhaps should never see the light of day.

ROBERT ZOLA CHRISTENSEN, born in 1964, made his debut in 1997 with the novel *Kristinas tavshed* (Kristina's Silence). His most recent publications are the non-fiction *Hævn* (Revenge) (2013) and the crime novel *Is i blodet* (Ice in the Blood) (2013), which also features Bent Kastrup.

ROBERT ZOLA CHRISTENSEN

Adams forbandelse (Adam's Curse)

Gyldendal 2015, 300 pages **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Gyldendal Group Agency, Jenny Thor, jenny_thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk

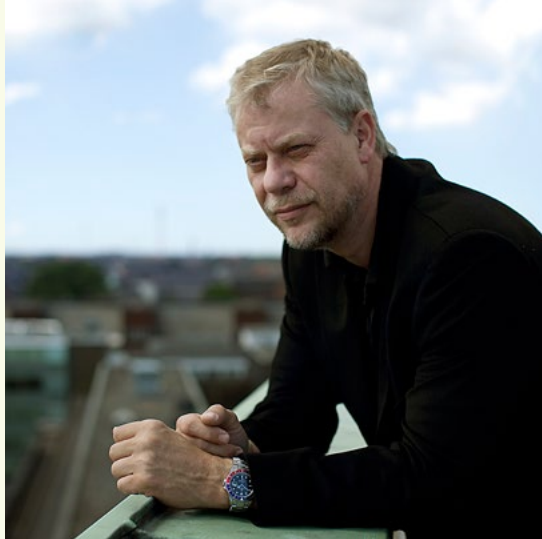


PHOTO: FLEMMING GERNYX

HIGH POLITICAL INTRIGUE

Deputy Inspector Lene Jensen and private detective Michael Sander cross paths again in Steffen Jacobsen's new novel, *Et bjerg af løgne* (A Mountain of Lies). Peter Holm, Nobel Oil's chief geologist, has just analysed his latest test drilling. His findings are eagerly received by the Danish government and the devolved government in Greenland, as well as the Chinese Development Bank, which is funding

the project. But shortly after returning to Copenhagen, Holm is found dead. It soon becomes apparent that huge financial and political interests are at stake. STEFFEN JACOBSEN, born in 1956, is a doctor and writer. Since his debut in 2008 with *Passageren* (The Passenger), Jacobsen has written a series of crime and suspense novels, most recently *Gengældelsen* (Retribution) (2014).

STEFFEN JACOBSEN

Et bjerg af løgne (A Mountain of Lies)

People's Press 2015, 387 pages **FOREIGN RIGHTS:** Busch Agency, Trine Busch, trine@buschagency.dk **PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO:** China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States



PHOTO: ULLA VOIGT

MISSING WITHOUT TRACE

In 1985, two Danish girls disappear from the ferry to England. Many years later, a photograph of them turns up in an English seaside resort. Journalist Nora Sand, a London-based writer for the Danish magazine *Globalt*, picks up the story. She returns to Denmark to research their background in a juvenile institution and

PHOTO: HAZEL THOMPSON

becomes entangled in the sinister case of a serial killer.

LONE THEILS, born in 1971, is a Danish correspondent based in London who writes for a range of Danish publications. *Pigerne fra Englandsbåden* (The Girls from the Ferry to England), her fiction debut, was inspired by a true story in which an American serial killer was found to be in possession of pictures of unknown girls.



LONE THEILS

Pigerne fra Englandsbåden (The Girls from the Ferry to England)

Lindhardt and Ringhof 2015, 328 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS: Nordin Agency, Lina Vozzi Salazar, lina@nordinagency.se

MYSTERY OF A FASHION BLOGGER

A young Copenhagen fashion blogger is killed, and Detective Jan Folmer of the murder squad is assigned to the case. His investigation takes him to a small Danish island where another murder has been committed. The case turns out to be anything but easy

for Folmer and his partner Frank Bolbro as they struggle to make headway in the world of the island's secretive residents – and yet soon they are looking into some eerie coincidences and connections.

MICHAEL LARSEN, born in 1961, really made his name with the 1994 thriller *Uden sikker viden* (Uncertainty). His most recent publication, *Æros natur* (Nature on Ærø) (2014), is a non-fictional account of the island on which part of his new thriller is set.

MICHAEL LARSEN

Mordet på øen (The Murder on the Island)

Lindhardt and Ringhof 2015, 400 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS: Lindhardt and Ringhof, Anne-Marie Christensen, amc@lrforlag.dk PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: more than 20 countries



PHOTO: MILLE LARVIK

THRILLER SET IN ANCIENT TIME

Grækeren (The Greek) is based on real events – the patrician Lucius Sergius Catilina's attempt to overthrow the Roman Republic and the famous lawyer Cicero's battle to stop him. In Athens, 63 years BCE, a boy is found murdered in a warehouse in Piraeus. Demetrios, the doctor, is summoned, and – very reluctantly – becomes involved in solving the mystery. All clues point to Rome, from where Demetrios has been sentenced to exile for life.

LASSE HOLM, born in 1968, made his debut in 1985 with the short-story collection *En fed koncert* (A Great Gig). He is also the author of a series of cartoons. In 2014, his novel *Romereren* (The Roman) was published, the first volume of a planned trilogy in which *Grækeren* (The Greek) is the second.

LASSE HOLM

Grækeren (The Greek)

Fahrenheit 2015, 419 pages FOREIGN RIGHTS: Fahrenheit, Paw Mathiesen, fahrenheit@email.dk PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: Germany



PHOTO: WOUTER VAN DAM



MEETING THE MASTER FOR THE LAST TIME

The great Danish writer Klaus Rifbjerg died this year. Irish translator Paul Larkin recalls meeting the great man a year before he died. He describes Rifbjerg's ceaseless war on mediocrity and why it wouldn't be entirely inappropriate to call him Scandinavia's Samuel Beckett.

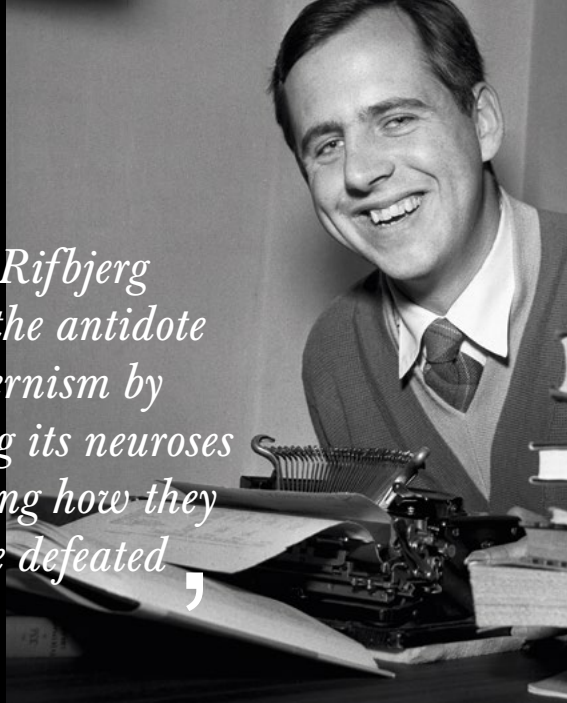
It's highly unusual for a translator of a novel to meet the author of that novel shortly before his death, but that's what happened to me when I met Klaus Rifbjerg in November 2013. The novel in question was *Den kroniske uskyld* ("Terminal Innocence" in my translation), a classic post-Second World War Danish text that is cherished even by the generations of schoolchildren who, until recently, were made to read it as part of the school curriculum since it was first

published in 1958. There was a poignancy in our meeting because I was aware that the health of both Rifbjerg and his wife was in decline; indeed, we discussed, amongst many other things, the difference between the words "chronic" and "terminal" in English. Klaus died in April 2015, not much more than a year after our meeting. In the course of his final year, he agreed to very few visits from people he didn't know, so I was one of the last. It almost certainly helped that I'm Irish.

Klaus spent a lot of time not just talking about the Hiberno-French dramatist Samuel Beckett but quoting him at remarkable length and roaring with laughter at the quotes and scenarios that Beckett presented. He was also quite clearly in awe of James Joyce and other Irish geniuses such as WB Yeats – like Beckett, a Nobel prize winner. Rifbjerg's torrent of words and praise of Irish writing crystallised a view that I had developed over a long time: that this giant of Danish letters didn't only have a supreme gift for language but also a reverence for the vocation of writing. Even in the silence of Beckett, he felt the call of history and a powerful sense of place. In my view, many Rifbjerg experts have missed the significance of his love of what he called the mystery of the Irish and the passion of our ancient conflict on "the little island that seems to produce literary geniuses with the same frequency that other countries produce mediocrities".* Note the word passion. Note the word mediocrity.

My revelation that day, sitting at the feet of the Master, was that he felt exactly the same about Scandinavia in general, and Denmark in particular, as Beckett did about Ireland. He left it but would never leave it. A break and a continuum at one and the same time. Modernist, sometimes even avant-garde, but always adhering to eternal absolutes – so by definition, never actually a modernist. In fact, Klaus Rifbjerg provided the antidote to modernism by caricaturing its neuroses and showing how they could be defeated.

“ *Klaus Rifbjerg provided the antidote to modernism by caricaturing its neuroses and showing how they could be defeated.* ”



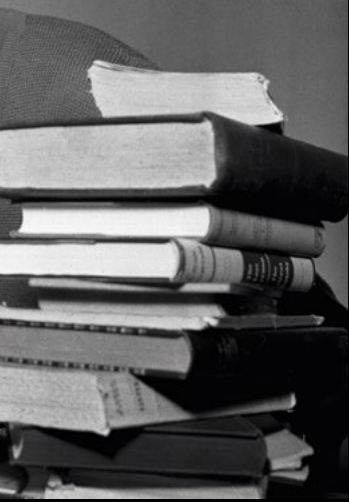
Why is this question important? Modernist. Classicist. Who cares? Can't we just enjoy Rifbjerg's works without worrying about these labels? Well of course we can, and we do, but our job as translators and cultural interpreters is also to mediate, and to fully reveal an author's achievement so that he or she can be fully understood; and my view is that the extent and range of Rifbjerg's magnificent light has been somewhat hidden under a late-modernist bushel.

Besides passion and mediocrity, another key word when considering Rifbjerg is "polemic". Klaus Rifbjerg, as the Danish Montaigne for the 20th century, was constantly present as an author in his own works, sometimes clearly speaking through, or side by side with, the narrator – the very opposite of modernism, of course. For a classic example of this one need only look at *Anna (jeg) Anna* (1969). Do we really believe that the eponymous Anna would ponder at

length on the fate of explorers like Columbus, Livingstone and Scott? Or that Misse in *Vejen ad hvilken* (1975) would obsess quite so much about the EU (or the Common Market as it was then)? Not at all. We recognise clearly that these are the author's concerns and his voice speaking through his characters. We readily accept this convention, the better to understand Anna or Misse or whoever the character might be, and their motivations.

And who can save Danes from the mediocrity of being neither here nor there? Again and again in Klaus's work, it's the grunts, criminals or peasants who live beyond the reaches of the ordered, bourgeois world of pensions and food regulations, and who act instinctively and are more natural, aware of themselves and direct in what they say and do. If you want a portrayal of idealised peasants, look no further than *Anna (jeg) Anna* and Anna's Sleeping Beauty interlude in the Alps. If you want an evocation of

PHOTO: BIRGE LASSÉN / SCANPIX



primal Nordic myths and Moby Dick, a fierce commitment to the simple unencumbered life, to love and love of place, fierce enough to die for, read *Nansen og Johansen* (2002) in which the tragic *Gunnar of Njáls Saga* and his fierce (indeed suicidal) commitment to place is invoked along with the recognition that we must go beyond place. *Marts 1970* (1970) contains yet another salute to the common man (Hother Christoffersen) and fires missiles at both the left and right of the political divide – alongside much hilarious dialogue and scenes. And

in many of these novels, Rifbjerg has a direct message. You can feel his empathy for people, urging his characters to be brave, to wake up, to be truly alive for every second of their existence, to go beyond themselves for that dream, that girl, that extreme of experience – just as Kierkegaard did.

Sitting before him in his ground-floor apartment, looking out onto the Øresund coast with Sweden in the distance, I felt the force not just of Klaus Rifbjerg's own huge beating heart but of all the Nordic North. The Loki-like devilment, the adventurous romance, even the challenge of *holmgang* if need be. The fierce individualism of the North that pulses at the core of Rifbjerg's work. He was the heart of the new Denmark, while also carrying easily its ancient erudition on his broad, heroic shoulders.

PHOTO: JONAS SKOVBERG FOHR / SCANPIX



MORE THAN 70 OF KLAUS RIFBJERG'S (1931–2015) BOOKS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN TRANSLATION. SOME OF THE MOST RECENT INCLUDE:

L'arbre Flottant – Poems de Klaus Rifbjerg, Volumes I & II (Collected Poems) (French, 2015). *Terminal Innocence* (Den Kroniske Uskyld) (English, 2015). *Anna (mina) Anna* (Anna (jeg) Anna) (Estonian, 2011). **70** *Epifanias* (70 Epifanier) (Spanish, 2009). *Strohtrockene Gedichte* (Knastørre digte) (German, 2009).

Rifbjerg received a host of awards, including the Grand Prize of the Danish Academy (1966), the Nordic Council Literature Prize (1970) and the Swedish Academy Nordic Prize (1999).

I am indebted to the authors of “Klaus på kornet” and in particular Frits Andersen and his essay “Rifbjergs romaner – en ny prosa” for expressing particular views about Klaus Rifbjerg that I have long held, and helping to crystallise my analysis in the above essay and elsewhere, though my interpretation is purely my own, as are any possible flaws in my arguments.

* “Den Sidste modernist”, *Digtere til tiden*, Klaus Rifbjerg., Spectre, Copenhagen 1999.

SMALL PUBLISHERS

Denmark's next literary sensation may well come from a publishing house with only one or two employees. More and more of them are popping up all the time, and they are publishing more and more of Denmark's important literature.

Most people abroad, even in the industry, will give you a blank look if you mention publishers like Bindslev, Basilisk and Gladiator. But you will get a completely different reaction if you talk about Thomas Rydahl, winner of the Glass Key 2015 for best Nordic crime novel, or the award-winning, critically acclaimed poet, Asta Olivia Nordenhof, or Josefine Klougart, one of Denmark's most promising and talented prose writers, who was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize twice before the age of 30.

Originally, Gladiator envisaged developing a catalogue of neglected Danish classics. But then, one by one, a succession of young writers knocked on its door. Josefine Klougart chose to have her fourth novel, *Om mørke* (About Darkness), published by the company; Jacob Skyggebjerg made his debut with Gladiator, with the wild and uncompromising autobiographical novel *Vor tids helt* (A Hero of Our Time); and Maja Lee Langvad's critically acclaimed debut novel, a critique of transnational adoption, *Hun er vred* (She is Angry), was a Gladiator publication. With writers of this calibre on their books, it's hard to avoid the company, which has matured rapidly into a substantial middleweight in Danish publishing.



From Gladiators modest office, Jakob Sandvad and Mads Kjeldgaard work hard around the clock, editing – as they put it – until their eyes bleed. They fight tooth and nail to protect their authors' freedom, to challenge industry myths and to make the financial and artistic processes transparent.

“We want to challenge the idea that a writer is ‘in a publisher’s stable’. We’re not after feudal relationships with our writers. It needs to be a relationship of equals. Authors have to want to be here,” explains Jakob Sandvad.

Freedom of movement is important for Gladiator, which only signs two-year contracts with authors. At the

end of the second year, they return to the negotiating – or renegotiating – table, and the process is completely transparent. Terms and conditions are the same for everyone, with no stars on massive royalties. Once the outgoings (as decided jointly by the publisher and author) have been recouped, 50% goes to the publisher and 50% to the author, irrespective of sales figures.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

It isn't just money that is shared equally. One of the first things new Gladiator writers learn is that responsibility is also shared.

BIG BOOKS



Gladiator authors spend some of this time teaching and attending literary events and readings, both their own and others'. And Gladiator consults with them all the way through the editing process.

"Publishers have always edited authors but never really talked about it," explains Mads. "We'd like to get rid of the angst that suffuses the business about touching an author's work. It's a myth that writers sit alone in a garret and submit a finished product. Many of our writers like to have a partner who is involved in the editing process at an early stage and isn't afraid to engage in a dialogue with them. As a writer, it isn't enough to be emotionally invested in your work, you have to be rational about it, too – and no book has ever been ruined by a bit of discussion."

"We want our authors to have a public profile," says Mads Kjeldgaard. "We know that readers are at least as interested in the author as in their work, so it is no use thrusting even the cleverest of marketing or sales department in between an author and a journalist or between an author and a bookshop."

Gladiator sees a blossoming literary atmosphere as an important part of what it's trying to achieve. Authors don't just hand in a manuscript to Mads and Jakob and receive an invitation to lunch when the book is published. The two editors want authors to spend time at their offices, for Gladiator to be a place where authors meet fellow writers and editors, and learn all the latest news from the world of literature.

"It's important that authors feel they belong with a publishing house, that they feel part of a group and have a sense of being an author even when between books," says Jakob. "An incredible amount of energy goes into the work done after a writer hands in a manuscript and before the book is published. It would be a shame not to make the most of it."

Gladiator was founded in 2013 by Hans Otto Jørgensen, author and former Rector of the Danish Academy of Creative Writing, and Jakob Sandvad, former editor at Gyldendal. It publishes little known and neglected Danish and foreign classics and new voices. **Read more at www.forlagetgladiator.dk**

OTHER SMALL DANISH PUBLISHERS OF NOTE

Arena www.forlagetarena.dk **Basilisk** www.basilisk.dk **Bindsevs Forlag** www.forlagetbindsevs.dk
Byens Forlag www.byensforlag.dk **Jensen and Dalgaard** www.jensenogdalgaard.dk
Kronstork www.kronstork.org **Møllers Forlag** www.moellerforlag.dk

“Hildegard II (Hildegard II) is an unusual portrait of a woman with a calling. Translated into modern language, she has a project that runs through every fibre of her being, and in which she becomes totally immersed. In the process, she also develops as a human being. Finding a language that doesn’t sound too archaic or too modern, too sugary sweet or crass in its presentation of medieval humanity as a battleground between God and the Devil – that is this novel’s great achievement. Making it relevant.”

POLITIKEN OM HILDEGAARD II

With her ambitious new novel, Anne Lise Marstrand-Jørgensen takes another giant step back through the ages, this time no less than 3,000 years. In doing so, she is able to delve into the netherworld between reality and myth in order to tell the tale of the meeting of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. King Solomon, the son of King David, rules over the land of Israel, the nation that was unified by his father. It is in Israel that Solomon meets the Ethiopian Queen of Sheba and the pair fall violently in love. Their meeting is even described in the Bible (some claim that the Song of Songs is King Solomon’s tribute to the Queen of Sheba), as well as the Koran and the Ethiopian Kebra Negast (The Glory of the Kings). In *Dronningen*

af Saba og Kong Salomon (Queen of Sheba and King Solomon), Marstrand-Jørgensen draws on the legends to tell a story of passion between two strong personalities and of the eternal themes of love, power and sex. As the author points out, it is sometimes easier to explore the big questions if you look at them in another time and another place.

ANNE LISE MARSTRAND-JØRGENSEN, born in 1971, made her debut in 1998 with the poetry collection *Vandring inden ophør* (Wandering before the End) and now has several collections of poetry and novels to her name. Her big breakthrough came with the two-volume literary biography of the medieval mystic,

composer and abbess, Hildegard of Bingen, which rescued one of the Middle Ages’ greatest female characters from historical obscurity. *Hildegard I* (Hildegard I) (2009) was awarded the Readers’ Prize by Weekendavisen and was followed by *Hildegard II* (Hildegard II) in 2010. Marstrand-Jørgensen’s most recent works, *Hvad man ikke ved* (What You Don’t Know) (2012) and *Hvis sandheden skal frem* (If Truth Be Told) (2013), tell the story of the fictional Horn family from 1969 to 1992.

Dronningen af Saba og kong Salomon (Queen of Sheba and King Solomon)

Gyldendal 2015, 500 pages **FOREIGN**

RIGHTS: Gyldendal Group Agency, Jenny Thor, jenny_thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk

PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway

PHOTO: ISAK HOFFMEYER

What do people know about themselves? What do they not know? Throughout time, blood, the mind and the pulse have formed an invisible network that is as real as any geographic formations – like ridges, canyons, valleys and rivers. Currents flow through the secret cavities of the mind and body. People are pulled along by them, whether they want to be or not. They shape our path for minutes, days, years, life after life after life, so that people with very different traits approximate each other because they share the same aspirations.

Excerpt from *DRONNINGEN AF SABA OG KONG SOLOMON (QUEEN OF SHEBA AND KING SALOMON)*

READ SAMPLE
TRANSLATION ON
DANISHARTS.DK/
SAMPLETRANSLATIONS

What shapes us as humans? And how do we, in turn, shape the age in which we live? These are the kind of questions that interest Anne Lise Marstrand-Jørgensen, whether she's writing about a recognisable modern family, Hildegard of Bingen in the Middle Ages, or the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon a thousand years BCE. And, as the reviews confirm, she is phenomenally successful at bringing vivid and relevant characters to life, regardless of time and place.

GOOD NEWS FOR LOVERS OF THE HISTORICAL NOVEL

RECENTLY SOLD ABROAD

DANISH FICTION

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ADDA DJØRUP

Den mindste modstand (The Least Resistance)

Thirty-something Emma has always tried to live her life in a way that lets her indulge in her favourite pastime – thinking. Just thinking for the sake of it. “Adda Djørup writes far better than virtually all of those authors who depend on the thrill of suspense. Reading her is, quite simply, an exquisite pleasure,” said *Jyllands-Posten* in a review of *Den mindste modstand* (The Least Resistance).

FOREIGN RIGHTS: Gyldendal Group Agency, Jenny Thor, jenny_thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk. **SOLD TO:** Macedonia



**TAGE SKOU-HANSEN***De nøgne træer (The Bare Trees)*

Tage Skou-Hansen's 1957 novel about occupied Denmark has long been recognised as a classic. It is the story of a group of young Danish saboteurs, one of whom falls in love with the beautiful Gerda, wife of the group's leader, Christian. At first glance, this existential-realist novel may appear to be about the Resistance struggle, but most people remember the love story.

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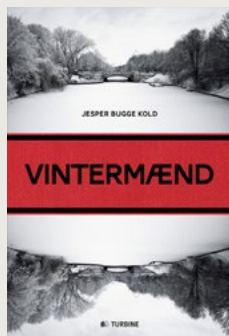
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JESPER BUGGE KOLD

Vintermænd (Winter's Men)

Brothers Karl and Gerhard lead a peaceful life in their native Hamburg until they are involuntarily swept up in the Nazi movement. Pawns in a game they don't accept but can't resist, they find themselves in a situation where the line between good and evil is blurred and minds begin to crack... *Politiken* described it as an "electrifying debut novel that tells its horrific story with a kind of cool fervour and empathy all the way to the last page".

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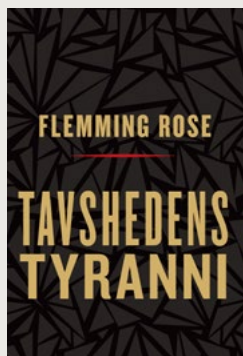
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FLEMMING ROSE

Tavshedens Tyranni (The Tyranny of Silence)

Flemming Rose, the editor of *Jyllands-Posten*, the newspaper behind the 12 caricatures that led to the Danish cartoons crisis, gives his side of the story; in his view, no good ever comes from a censorship arising from threats and intimidation. "Flemming Rose's *Tyranny of Silence* is passionately committed to its subject and written with intellectual clarity. He has written – in the best sense of the word – an ethical book," said *Berlingske*.

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METTE VEDSØ

Kaffe i kommoden (Coffee in the Dresser)

The third book in the series about Kamma and Kamal, a pair of happy animals. Kamma is lucky because she has her own porpoise, Lotto. Kamal isn't allowed to have animals, but fortunately she is allowed to help look after Lotto. But then Lotto falls ill. A review in *KultuNaut* said: "Mette Vedsø has found a convincing way to talk to kids about death. It is liberating that such a short, readable book dares tackle one of life's inevitabilities."

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CONTACT:
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- INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME
Support may be provided to foreign publishers, heads of festivals and the like who want to acquire an insight into contemporary Danish literature and visit Danish publishers, festivals etc., to strengthen networks and dialogue between the Danish and international literary partners.

There is no application deadline, and applications will be processed as quickly as practicable.

- SAMPLE TRANSLATION FUND
Foreign translators, theatres, and publishers may apply for support to finance sample translations of Danish literature.

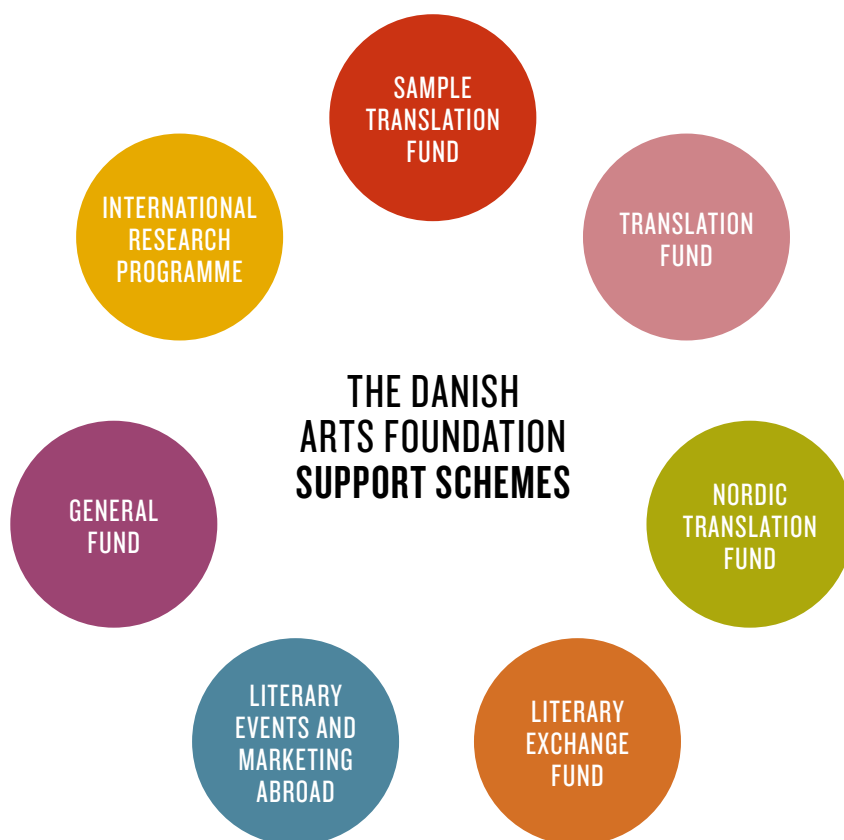
There is no application deadline, and applications will be processed as quickly as practicable.

- TRANSLATION FUND
Support is provided to foreign publishing houses that publish works translated from Danish. Support is provided for works of fiction, general works of non-fiction, comics/graphic novels, and children's literature translated by professional translators.

There are two annual application deadlines.

- NORDIC TRANSLATION FUND: INTER-NORDIC TRANSLATIONS
The fund is open to Nordic publishers wishing to publish a work translated from Danish to a Nordic language. Support for translations into Danish must be sought from within the country in which the respective work was originally published. The funds for Nordic translations are distributed on behalf of Nordic Culture Point's Culture and Art Programme under the Nordic Council of Ministers.

There are two annual application deadlines.



LITERARY EXCHANGE FUND

Support may be provided to defray travel and hotel expenses in connection with a **Danish author's** / **illustrator's** participation in literary festivals, readings and publication events abroad, if there is a formal invitation.

Support may be provided to foreign authors travelling to Denmark on the same basis. In addition, foreign translators of Danish literature may apply for support to defray travel expenses in connection with shorter stays in Denmark.

Professional translators may apply for travel grants in connection with specific translation projects as well as for supplemental linguistic and cultural training.

There is no application deadline, and applications will be processed as quickly as practicable.

LITERARY EVENTS AND MARKETING ABROAD

Subsidies for literary events and marketing Danish literature abroad. Applications for subsidies are accepted from **foreign publishers, diplomatic representations abroad, cultural institutions** and others who wish to promote and increase knowledge about Danish literature outside Denmark.

There are two annual application deadlines.

GENERAL FUND

Grants to **foreign publishers** publishing Danish literature abroad.

In a pilot project, the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Literary Project Funding has earmarked special funds to cover the cost of printing and production for foreign publishers wishing to publish Danish illustrated children's books in translation. Publishers can apply for a set grant of 1,000 euros.

There are two annual application deadlines.

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DANISH WRITERS OF FICTION AND POETRY

was founded in 1991 and has approximately
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kontor@skoenlit.dk / www.skoenlit.dk

THE DANISH PLAYWRIGHTS' AND SCREENWRITERS' GUILD

(founded in 1906) is an association for theatre,
radio, television and film scriptwriters.

It has approximately 300 members.

admin@dramatiker.dk / www.dramatiker.dk

THE DANISH BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION

is a trade association for Danish booksellers.

The association has approximately 380 members
and represents 90% of all Danish booksellers.

ddb@bogpost.dk / www.boghandlerforeningen.dk

THE DANISH WRITERS ASSOCIATION

is Denmark's oldest professional association for
writers and translators. It was founded in 1894 and has
approximately 1350 members. The association includes
the Danish Translators Association.

df@danskforfatterforening.dk / www.danskforfatterforening.dk

THE DANISH PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

(founded in 1837) is a trade association for individuals
and firms involved in the publishing industry.

The association accounts for approximately two-thirds
of the overall turnover from Danish publications,
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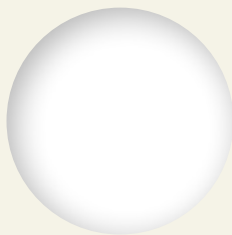
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