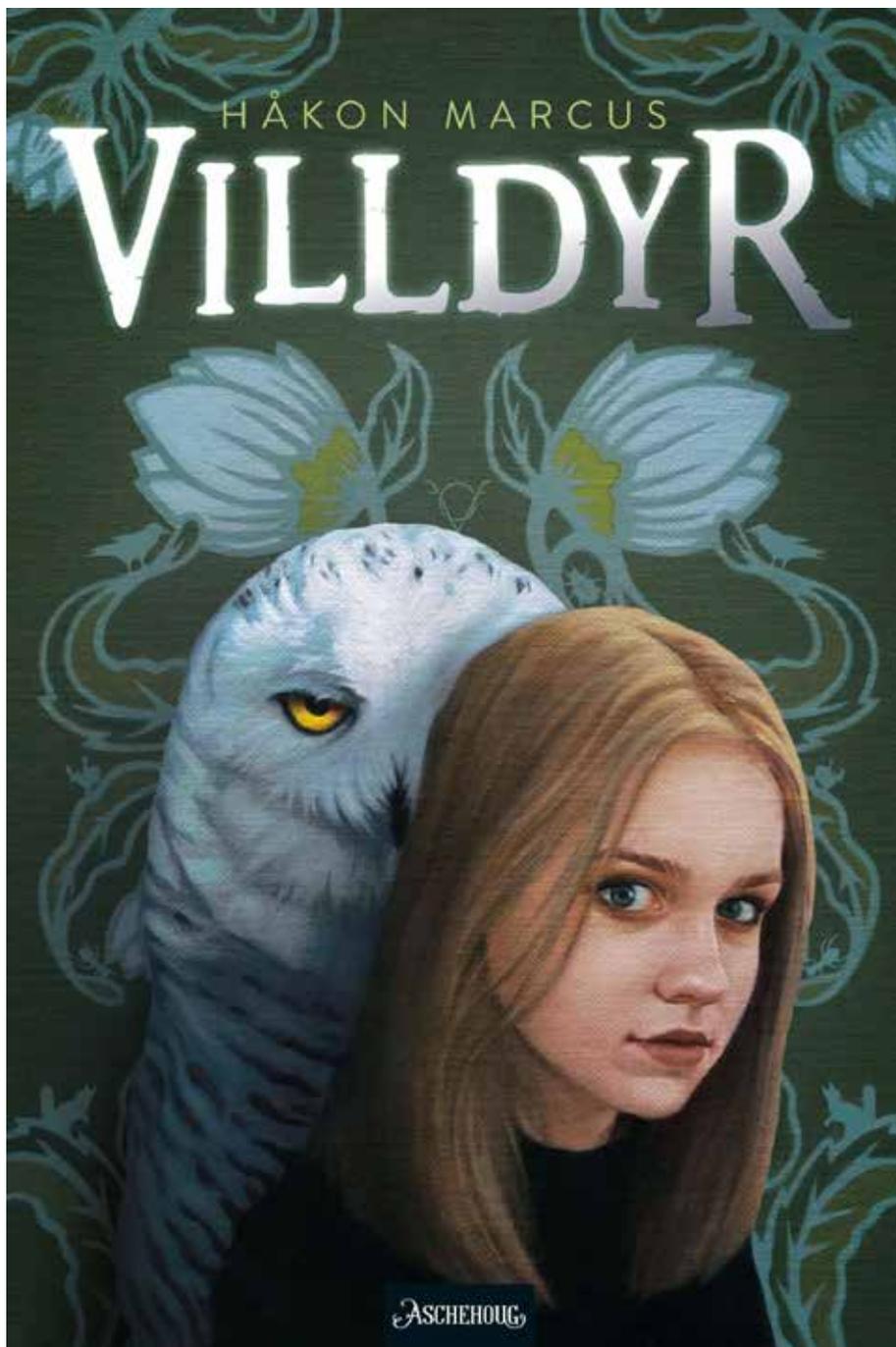


OSLO LITERARY AGENCY

Children and Young Adult



RIGHTS LIST

FALL 2023

Norway will be Guest of Honour at:

Cairo Book Fair 2024

Leipzig Book Fair 2025

Bologna Children's Book Fair 2026

Apply for translation grant and production grant:

www.norla.no

Content

Graphic novels

4 - S.G. Bjørdal

5 - Kjersti Synneva Moen

Illustrated children's books

6 - Maja Lunde & Lisa Aisato (ill.)

8 - Vegard Markhus

9 - Gudrun Skretting & Eivind Gulliksen (ill.)

10 - Ingunn Thon & Maja Kjellstad Aanonsen (ill.)

Middle grade novels

11 - Mari Grydeland & Kristin Storrusten

12 - Marianne Kaurin

13 - Mina Lystad

14 - Håkon Marcus

Young adult novels

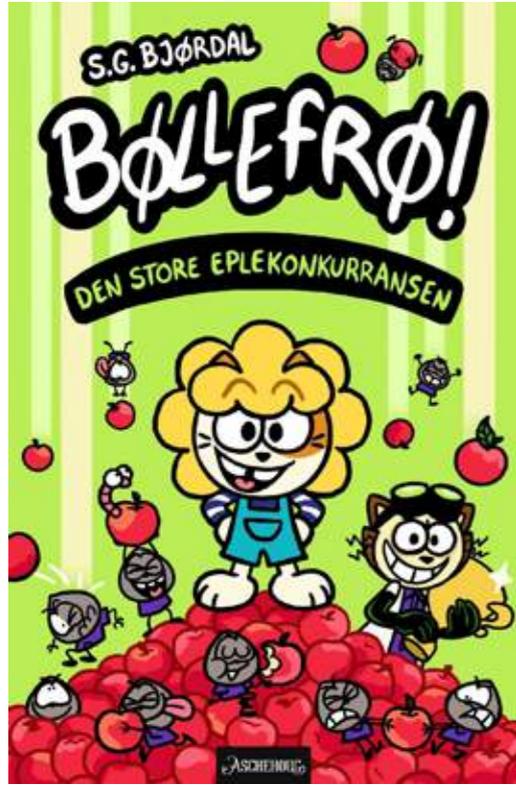
20 - Randi Fuglehaug & Anne Gunn Halvorsen

Nonfiction

22 - Halvor Mjaugedal

23 - Katharina Vestre & Linnea Vestre

S. G. Bjørdal
Rascal. The Apple Contest



Original title: *Bøllefrø! Den store eplekonkurransen*
 Publ.: 2023
 Graphic novel • 14,0 cm X 21,5 cm • 150 pp
 Age: 6 - 9
 Publisher: Aschehoug

Sidsel will stay with Uncle Pål for a few weeks and she is NOT looking forward to it. Uncle Pål is a busy inventor and has never time for any fun. Luckily Uncle Pål has a plan: that Sid will assist him winning the apple competition. There's just a small snag: Uncle Pål wants Sid to help him cheat. Something she absolutely refuses. But that does not stop Uncle Pål. He simply MUST win, with or without Sid's help. When he invents the "rascal": ten assistants who are not afraid of using dirty tricks, Sid decides to take matters into her own hands. Uncle Pål can't win! Not if Sid can stop him!

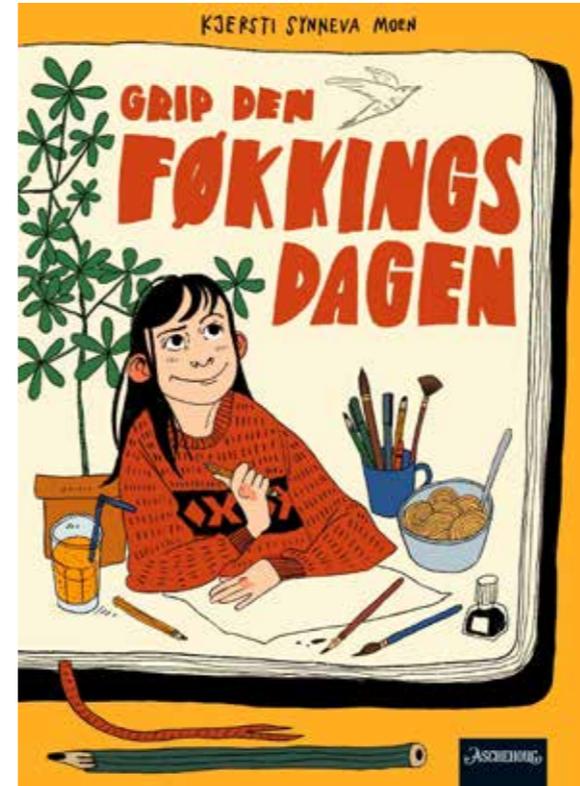
For everyone who loves the *Dog Man* series!



S. G. Bjørdal (b. 1995) is a cartoonist. She has a degree in visual communication and studies in graphic novels. *Rascal. The Apple Contest* is her debut. Bjørdal lives at Nøtterøy, Norway.

Photo: Agnete Brun

Kjersti Synneva Moen
Seize the Fucking Day



Original title: *Grip den føkkings dagen*
 Publ.: 2023
 Graphic novel • 17,0 cm X 23,0 cm • 210 pp
 Age: 13+
 Publisher: Aschehoug
 Foreign rights: Danish (Straarup)

Material: full English PDF

Amalie is moving away from home to a studio apartment she'll share with her best friend. Amalie has been accepted at the art class at high school and is finally starting a new and adult life. But nothing turns out as she expected. She is no longer the best in class at drawing and mum calls every single day being sad. And the one person that Amalie had counted on disappears just when she needs her the most.

A story about feeling lonely for the first time in life, about understanding the meaning of clichés, and about becoming your own best friend.

... a distinguished graphic novel artist has arrived.
 erikvalebrokk.no

... a new strong contribution to the rich variety of graphic novels in Norway ... Amalie's story will hit many teenagers and those who have been a teenager.
 Dagens Næringsliv

... there's a deep warmth in the way Moen looks at the world.
 Klassekampen

Kjersti Synneva Moen (b. 1995) is an illustrator and a cartoonist. *Seize the Fucking Day* is her first graphic novel. Moen grew up in a small place in the middle of Norway, now she lives in Oslo.



Photo: Agnete Brun

Maja Lunde & Lisa Aisato (ill.) The Windmaker



Original title: *Vindmakeren*
 Publ.: 2023
 Hardcover with jacket
 Full-color illustrated children's book
 192 pages • format 24,0 cm x 27,0 cm
 Age: 9 - 12
 Publisher: Kagge
 Foreign rights:
 Danish (Turbine), German (btb PRH), Polish (pending offer), Slovakian (Tatran), Swedish (Bonnier Carlsen)

Material: full English PDF

A story that gives you a feeling of summer all year round, with salty sea, seagull cries, strawberries, and everlasting friendship.

A terrible war has finally ended in the country where Tobias lives. While the adults stay behind to work in the city, the children are sent to the countryside for the summer. Tobias hopes he will go to a farm where there's plenty of butter and milk and fresh vegetables but he ends up on an island far out by the sea to live with Lothe, a grumpy and quiet fisher. When Tobias discovers a closed off room full of drawings in Lothe's house, his curiosity is awakened. Soon he unravels an old mystery full of painful secrets.

THE SEASONS' QUARTET

Maja Lunde and Lisa Aisato are praised for their unforgettable stories and sumptuous full-color illustrated books. *The Snow Sister* was an instant hit and a record-breaking success. Printed in 250,000 copies and published in 31 territories, it has earned several nominations and international awards. *The Snow Sister* film will be produced by Anonymous Content. Maja Lunde is co-producer and will adapt the script for film.

The Snow Sister (winter), *Lilly and the Sunkeeper* (spring), *The Windmaker* (summer), the autumn book is scheduled for publication 2025. All titles are stand-alones.

... magnificent.
 VG, 6/6 stars

... literary miracle of a book.
 Dagbladet, 6/6 stars



The Snow Sister



Lilly and the Sunkeeper

Beautiful ...
 Dagbladet, 5/6 stars

... reads like a Hollywood thriller.
 Aftenposten

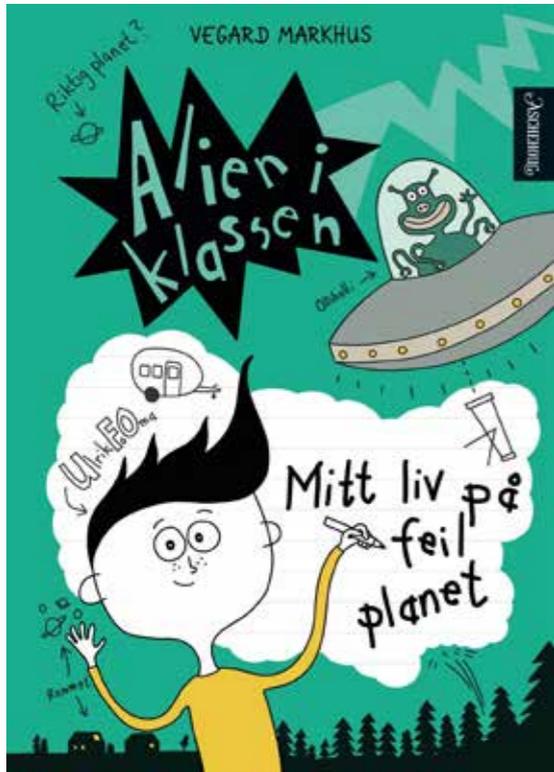


Maja Lunde (b. 1975) is the most successful Norwegian author of her generation. Her books are translated into 40 languages and has sold more than 4 million copies. Her novel for adults, *The History of Bees*, won the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize and was the most sold book in Germany in 2017. She writes books for children, young adults, adults, and script for film and TV. Lunde lives in Oslo, Norway.

Lisa Aisato (b. 1981) is an award-winning and bestselling author, illustrator, and artist. Her books are published in more than 30 territories. The coffee table art book, *All the Colors of Life*, a bestseller and the winner of the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize, hit Der Spiegel's bestseller list in 2022. Aisato runs her own gallery at Hvaler Islands on the South East coast of Norway where she lives.

Photo: Oda Berby

Vegard Markhus Alien in the Class. My Life on the Wrong Planet



Original title: *Alien i klassen. Mitt liv på feil planet*
 Publ.: 2023
 Illustrated b/w children's book • 21,0 cm X 15,0 cm • 180 pp
 Age: 6 - 9
 Publisher: Aschehoug

There's a lot of indications that Ulrik F. Oma is living on the wrong planet. There are no signs of intelligent life in his class and everything is chaos at home. On top of that, the bully Bob makes Ulrik feel like trash. One evening, a mysterious zigzag light streaks across the sky. The next day, a girl with unusual talents joins the class. Who is she? Can Ulrik make a friend? Will Ulrik ever be able to fight Bob and the others at school?

Alien in the Class is a book for everyone who has ever felt alone, for those who prefer drawings before difficult words, and for those who wonder if there is life in outer space. And that's probably the most of us...

Easy-to-read and humorous
for young readers.

This is a "Put your hands in the air" book. A book to cheer for... the successful combination of creative abundance in a tight, easy-to-read format makes you wish you could be prime minister for a day so you could put "Alien in the Class" in the backpack of every first-grader ...

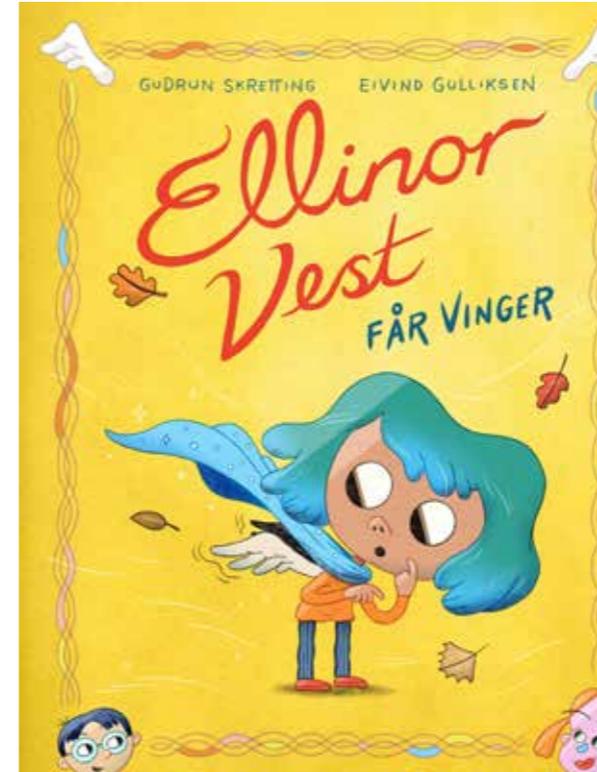
Janne Karin Støylen, Bergens Tidende 5/6 stars

Vegard Markhus (b. 1983) is an author and illustrator of picture books and children's books. For *Timothy loses himself* he received the Norwegian Children and YA Literary Prize. He lives in Bergen, Norway.



Photo: Øyvind Sundfør Stokke-Zahl

Gudrun Skretting & Eivind Gulliksen (ill.) Ellinor West With Wings



Original title: *Ellinor Vest får vinger*
 Publ.: 2023
 Illustrated children's book • 22 cm X 28 cm • 52 pp
 Age: 6 - 9
 Publisher: Aschehoug

One day Ellinor West wakes up with wings. Wings! Having wings isn't as fun as one might think. They mostly get in the way, and Ellinor would rather nobody see them. Mom and Dad sew her cloaks and pretend as if she doesn't have wings. But she does. And suddenly, one day, they start to flutter...

Heartwarming and thought-provoking.

A story about being different
and about friendship.

Gudrun Skretting (b. 1971) is an author of awarded and bestselling children's books and adult fiction. Skretting has studied creative writing and literature at the Norwegian Institute for Children's Books. She is a classical pianist educated at The Norwegian Academy of Music. She lives in Oslo, Norway.

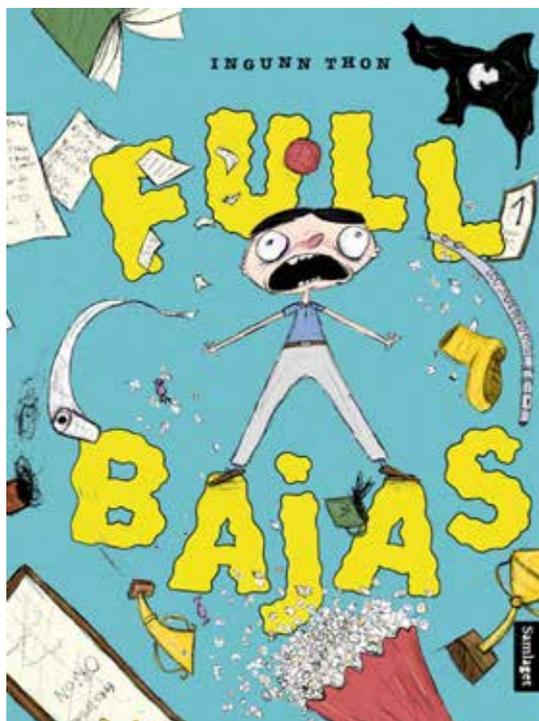


Eivind Gulliksen (b. 1973) is an illustrator. He has studied illustration at Falmouth College of Arts in Cornwall, UK. Gulliksen lives in Drammen, Norway.



Photo: Oda Berby

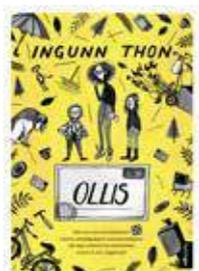
Ingunn Thon & Maja Kjellstad Aanonsen (ill) Perfectly Imperfect



Original title: *Full bajas*
Publ.: 2023
Illustrated children's book • 15,0 cm X 20,3 cm • 140 pp
Age: 6 - 9
Publisher: Samlaget

Orion Sigerstad is perfect. He is so perfect that he has never used a rubber in his entire life because he never misspell. He doesn't even know where the principal's office is because he has never misbehaved. And he plays the flute so perfectly that he will be the youngest student ever at the Exceptional Music Conservatory. All he needs to do is to prove it at the concert! But on the day of the concert, Orion wakes up and has become a complete buffoon. Instead of saying good morning nicely to his parents, he yells at them. He writes "PEE" as the answer to a math task and he throws a ball on the gym teacher. Maybe the worst part is that he doesn't play a single correct note on the flute. Orion doesn't understand what is happening to him. Can he fix it in time for the important concert?

A story about how to be perfectly imperfect.



Shortlisted for the 2021 CILIP Carnegie Medal (UK)
Shortlisted for the 2018 Premio Strega (Italy)

Ollis
Original title: *Ollis*
Published in 11 territories

Ingunn Thon (b. 1986) works as a script writer and puppeteer in The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation. She has also been a children's tv-host and a radio reporter. She has a degree in creative writing and journalism, and studies at Screenwriting School at New York Film Academy. Thon lives in Oslo, Norway.



Maja Kjellstad Aanonsen (b. 2000) is an illustrator with a bachelor degree in animation. She lives in Oslo, Norway.

Mari Grydeland & Kristin Storrusten A Kiss for Christmas



Original title: *Et kyss til jul*
Publ.: 2023
Middle grade novel • 200 pp
Age: 9 - 12
Publisher: Aschehoug

Zoë is not the kind of girl who falls in love. She's way too busy hating the new place she's moved to. First Sunday of Advent she meets Telia, who always falls in love but needs a sidekick to ever experience a first kiss. All of a sudden Zoë gets entangled in an adventure filled with drama, misunderstandings, choirboys, and sweet secret kisses in the Christmas night.

A feel-good Christmas love story.

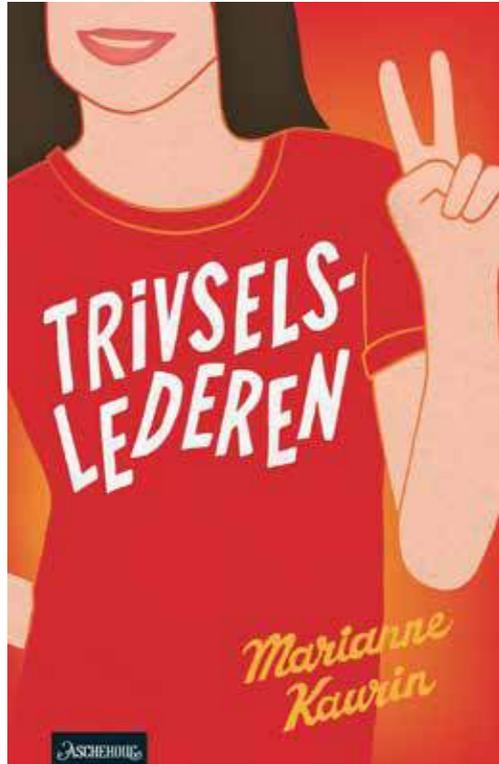
Mari Grydeland (b. 1976) is an author, critic, and journalist. She has worked as a host at the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, and as a magazine editor. She writes children's books and books for adults.

Kristin Storrusten (b. 1986) is a journalist and an author of children's books and books for adults.



Marianne Kaurin

Inken for Class President



Original title: *Trivselslederen*
Publ.: 2023
Middle grade novel • 230 pp
Age: 9 - 12
Publisher: Aschehoug
Foreign rights: German (WooW Books)

Now that Inken finally is in her last year in elementary school, she wants to become as popular as Iselin. Inken's plan is to be elected as the class' president. Unfortunately, there's one person who can ruin her plan: the new girl Alba. Soon, there's an intense election campaign in class 7B, and the war rages. And when her worst rival moves into her bedroom, Inken is forced to resort to creative tricks.

A story about wishing for a sister
and dealing with an enemy.

From the winner of the
Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis



Awarded Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis 2021



Our Own Little Paradise
Original title: *Syden*
Published in 18 territories

Marianne Kaurin (b. 1974) has earned international literary awards for her books for children and young adults. Kaurin has studied creative writing and literature at the Norwegian Children's Book Institute. She lives at Nesodden, close to Oslo, and works as an editor of children's books.

Mina Lystad

Klara



Original title: *Klara*
Publ.: 2023
Middle grade novel • 190 pp
Age: 9 - 12
Publisher: Aschehoug

Sofie finds an old diary hidden in a cabinet. Miriam is clairvoyant and has moved from the other side of the country to get rid of her dreams. The same day Sofie finds the diary, Miriam's nightmares return. It feels as if the diary has been waiting for Sofie, that there is a special connection between her and the girl who writes it. The boundaries between the living and the dead blur, and Sofie and Miriam become more and more uncertain about what is a dream and what is reality. The girl who writes the diary wants something from them. Slowly, Miriam understands that something terrible is about to happen.

A story about the supernatural,
unexpected friendships,
and profound grief that spans centuries.

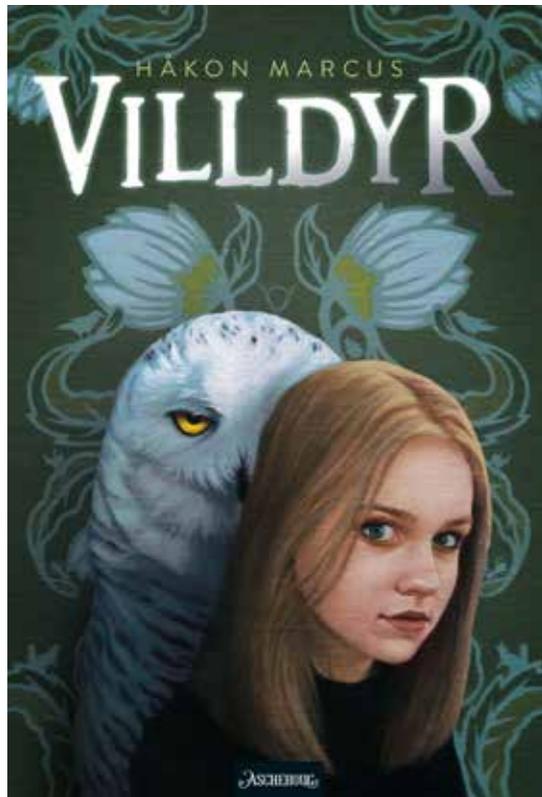


Mina Lystad (b. 1983) is a journalist, scriptwriter for television, a photographer, and a blogger. She is an author of bestselling and awarded children's books, published in 10 territories.

Photo: Agnete Brun

Håkon Marcus

Feral



Original title: *Villydyr*
Publ.: 2023
Middle grade fantasy novel • 350 pp
Publisher: Aschehoug
Foreign rights:
Danish (Straarup, 2-book deal in auction), Swedish (pending auction)

Material: English excerpt and extended summary

Hiderunners are wild animals that can take human form. They live among us in secrecy, while they fight for territories, power, and wilding – the ancient power that compels nature to obey them.

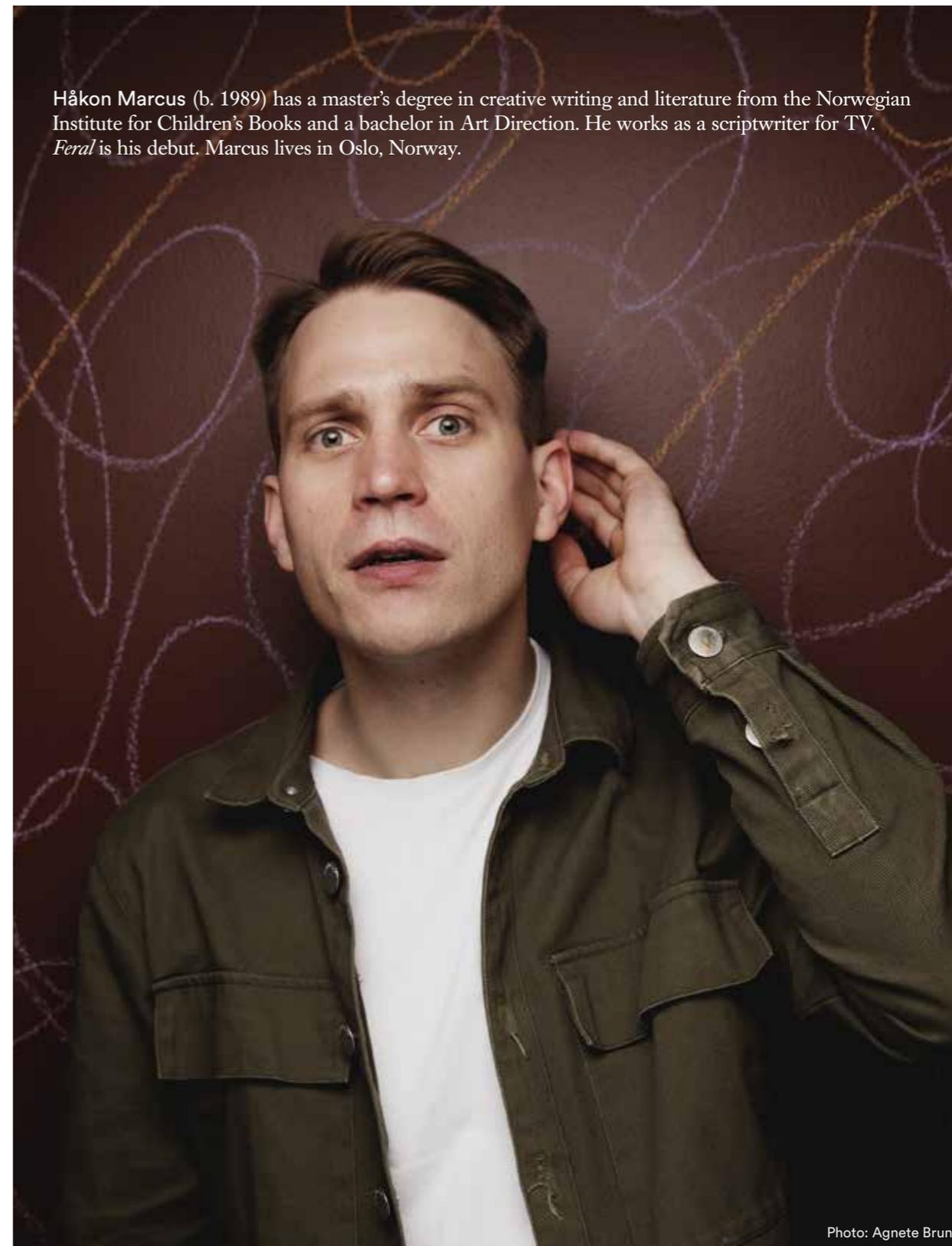
Embla knows nothing of this. She has enough to deal with: a new school, an insufferable older sister, and parents who always interfere. When mysterious things start to happen around her, Embla discovers that she has a crucial role to play in the dangerous power struggle between the animal clans. Together with her new hiderunner friends, Embla soon finds herself braving a magical wilderness fraught with danger. She must uncover her true identity, before a dark order of owl witches can catch her in their razor-sharp talons.

**It's a dash of "Nevermoor", a touch of "Hunger Games",
but ultimately, it's pure "Feral".**

Christine Lyngdal, former bookseller in charge of children's book, Barnebokbloggen.no

Feral went straight in on the bestsellerlist!

First volume in a new fantasy 4-book series for middle grade readers



Håkon Marcus (b. 1989) has a master's degree in creative writing and literature from the Norwegian Institute for Children's Books and a bachelor in Art Direction. He works as a scriptwriter for TV. *Feral* is his debut. Marcus lives in Oslo, Norway.

Photo: Agnete Brun

Feral by Håkon Marcus

Chapter 1 - excerpt The Dung Beetle

Translated from the Norwegian by Lucy Moffatt

Embla Wilde couldn't possibly be the same species as her parents. Something must have happened to her at birth, she was sure of it. A genetic mutation, maybe, or a planetary alignment that had messed with the balance of the cosmos, somehow making Embla turn out different. Nothing else would explain how she could be related to the three people she lived with at 21B Stormire Road.

Her mother, whose name was Karin, earned a living giving motivational lectures to small and medium-sized businesses. Why anyone would pay for this was a mystery, since she gave the same lectures for free to everyone she spoke to, whether they liked it or not.

Her father, Helge, was a tall, sinewy financial adviser who always wore garish cycling gear at home and was sun-tanned all year round. He thought everyone should spend as much time outdoors as he did, especially people who didn't like being outdoors. *There's no such thing as bad weather*, he always said, *only bad people*.

Embla also had a sister called Madeleine, and she was the worst of them all. Madeleine was about as perfect as it's possible to be at the start of Year 10: she was the best player on the handball team, got top marks in every subject and was the prettiest girl in the entire school. Madeleine was so popular that she even had *enemies* – a fact of which she was very proud. She always said that no one loved her more than they did.

Embla wasn't like any of them. Even though she had lived with them for nearly thirteen years, she hadn't become particularly interested in the great outdoors or motivating employees in medium-sized businesses, and she wasn't in the least bit popular. In fact she had never had a single friend.

That last point wasn't strictly true: for three wonderful months before the summer holidays, *Fernanda* had been in her class. It was almost incredible how similar they were, and they could spend hours discussing the lyrics of classic rock songs, who was the coolest god in Greek mythology and which classmate would die first in a Battle Royale. Everything was more fun with Fernanda – doing homework, wandering along the road in the evenings or sneaking into the hall at the library to watch horror films on the big screen. In class, Fernanda would shove her glasses high up on her pointy nose and whisper things that were just as dark as what Embla was thinking, and then the pair of them would snigger quietly in the back row.

But on the last day of primary school, Fernanda arrived with terrible news. She was moving to another part of Norway, way up north, to live with her father for a while.

"Secondary school is going to be crap without you," Embla said. What she wanted most was to cry, but she never did that in front of other people.

Fernanda smiled and lowered her fiery eyes, so that all Embla could see was her black eyeliner. It was razor sharp and made her look much older than anyone else in their year.

"You'll do much better than you think – I'm sure of it. There's something special about you, Embla. I've always known it."

Before she left, they gave each other friendship amulets (that was Fernanda's idea) and swore to stay in touch forever.

But over the summer, Embla quickly noticed that their messages grew shorter, rarer and took longer and longer to write, and eventually they had stopped entirely a week earlier with a "What are you doing?" which Fernanda still hadn't even read. Embla couldn't blame her: she was probably caught up in new stuff, after moving to a new place. Still, it hurt to think about it, and that's why Embla was trying to avoid doing any thinking at all this summer.

Luckily, Embla had plenty of hobbies to help her push away her thoughts. She wasn't very good at any of them, but it often helped to sit alone with her guitar, practising chord progressions. She'd also got plenty of use out of the professional artists' pencils she'd bought in June. Countless dark-grey artworks, each more morbid than the last, covered the walls of her room. The aim was to make Madeleine pull faces and call her "mentally

s disturbed", and she'd had a certain amount of success with this at the start of the holidays. Now, however, the hock value had worn off a bit, and so had Embla's interest in drawing.

On this particular morning, Embla was sitting with music in her ears and her nose in a book, trying to shut out the real world. At ten past nine, unfortunately, her music was drowned out by her father's shouting. She pulled out an earbud to see what was going on.

"... down here for a minute? Mum and I want to have a word with you."

"Sure," she said, clambering out of bed like a daddy longlegs.

Over the past year, she had grown tall and gangly and, as she tucked her dirty blonde hair behind her ears, she thought again about dyeing it black. It seemed more appropriate somehow, for the lonely girl who hated everyone to have black hair. She pulled on a hoodie she could hide in. Embla didn't really want to waste her time on superficial stuff like that. Besides, she knew that a change of hair colour would never be approved by the court of Mum and Dad.

When she came into the kitchen, the breakfast table was set – but not with food. Instead of cheese and salami and plates, it was piled high with party gear. Gaudy paper hats, plastic cups, glitter, pennants printed with pumpkins, and uninflated green and black balloons.

Embla looked in surprise at her parents, who were sitting on the other side of the table wearing mysterious smiles. A shudder ran down her spine: whatever this was, she didn't like it.

At last her father opened his mouth.

"Today is a special day, isn't it!"

"Is it?" Embla replied. She peered sceptically at a roll of poisonous green streamers. "I thought Halloween was in October."

"Secondary school, Embla!" her mother said in the intense voice she used for her lectures. As she raised a hand to gesticulate, a bunch of designer bangles clicked down her arms like beads on an abacus. "It represents the transition from childhood to adult life – in my lectures, I like to call it *the mission of transition*. This means that a very special task lies ahead of you, and that task is *change*. Finding out who you are. Gaining the new tools you'll need to tackle all the challenges you will come up against. You'll face setbacks, so it's important for you to be prepared. Only then can you rise up and meet reality."

Nervously, Embla drew a hand into one arm of her hoodie, but didn't say anything. She didn't much enjoy being force-fed motivation.

Dad took over.

"Anyway, your mother and I have had a bit of a think, and we believe Doctor Brodtkorb has a point: you do need to get out of your own head."

"And how exactly will ... curly drinking straws help with that?"

"Don't be so sarcastic," Mum said. "We've decided that the healthiest thing for you right now would be to throw a party. I know it's short notice, but listen: You can start inviting new friends the minute you meet them. Tactical, direct, straight down to business. That way, you'll establish yourself as an alpha-female who can lead the pack. Just like your sister. Look, we've made some invitations that match your lovely personality!"

Happily, she held out some sheets of black writing paper in a fan. They were decorated with childish drawings of skulls wearing pink ribbons.

Embla picked out the top sheet and started to read:

Birthday Party

Do you want to come to my party? I'll soon be turning 13 and I'm having a big party at my Mum and Dad's this weekend. And of course YOU are invited!

Where: 21B Stormire Road on Hellerud Hill.

When: Friday the 23rd of August

PS: It's gonna be spooooooky!

Embla started from the top and read it once again, feeling as if a cold pressure was building up inside her body.

Mum and Dad were always trying to interfere in her life, but this time they'd gone too far. Did they really think she was going to throw a party barely a *week* after starting at a new school? Did they even know her?

"You can have it out in the garden," Dad suggested. "Or in the forest!"

"Or the den in the basement," Mum broke in, pinching Dad's arm.

"Wherever you have it, we promise we'll keep out of your hair," Dad said with a smile. "That should be a bit of an incentive. Any other thirteen-year-old would be thrilled at the idea of a parent-free party."

Embla opened her mouth but didn't know what to say, so she shut it again, stupidly. She wasn't *any other thirteen-year-old*, she was *Embla*. When would they understand that?

Mum sent a worried look Dad's way "You can't just slink through your teenage years without challenging your comfort zone," she said. "Take the invitations with you in your school bag and see if you can find some people to hand them out to today, okay?"

"I don't start school until tomorrow," Embla replied automatically.

This whole conversation was making her feel sick – not just the abrupt hijacking of her social life, but also the ridiculous Scooby-Doo decorations they'd bought.

Mum jumped up at once and went over to the fridge, where she placed a finger on an information sheet that had recently been stuck up on the door.

"Monday 12:00. Getting-to-know-you day for Year 8s."

"We don't *have* to go to that."

"YOU have to go to it," Dad said, so sharply that Embla jumped. "It's all very well being different, but if you're too different, there's no way back, see? You end up crazy. Like those American kids who shoot their classmates!"

Embla started to laugh but stopped when she saw Mum's face.

They weren't joking.

"If you don't try to break out of this antisocial behavioural pattern of yours, we'll have to force you out of it. You will go to school today, you will meet some new people and you will invite them here on Friday. That's an order."

Embla's mood was pitch black when she kicked open the front door an hour later. How was she meant to hand out invitations without looking like a complete moron? She pulled one of them halfway out of her backpack and cringed at the sight of it. *It's gonna be spooooooky!*

As she walked down the driveway, she made up her mind. No way was she actually going to invite anyone. She could just tell her parents no one had said they'd come. It wouldn't even be a lie: after all, if she didn't ask anyone, no one would say anything at all. Not that she was afraid anyone would accept the invitation: the people from her old class wouldn't come to her birthday party if she held a knife to their throats.

Embla glanced back at the house to make sure no one was watching her from the windows. While she was at it, she could just pretend to be going to the getting-to-know-you day too.

So, instead of walking out onto the street, Embla dumped all the invitations in the bin, sneaked back into the garage, climbed carefully up onto the workbench behind the car, and then clambered up between the roof beams. She'd often used this hiding place over the summer, when there was a bit too much self-development going on, or when Madeleine was busy vlogging. It had become a pretty cosy reading nook once she'd laid a few planks across the beams to sit on, and brought up a cushion to lean against. She made herself comfortable, hung her backpack on a thick nail, and took out a battered library book and her mobile phone.

It was half-past eleven. All she had to do was spend a few hours sitting here, and she still had plenty of *The Mysterious Island* left to read.

Embla had nearly finished three chapters when she suddenly heard the front door slam. She opened her mouth and started to breathe long, steady, noiseless breaths. Embla was good at hiding, and knew it was better to breathe quietly than to hold your breath. If Dad was planning to fiddle with his bike, he could be at it forever. Luckily it was Mum who came into the garage this time. Shortly afterwards, the car crunched out onto the gravel and vanished out of sight, so Embla could pick up her book again and find her way back to where she'd left off.

It wasn't long before her reading was interrupted once more, this time by a deep buzzing. All summer she'd had regular visits from big black beetles beneath the rafters, and here came another one. Maybe they had a nest nearby. Beetles lived in nests, didn't they? This one had a shell that glinted violet as it skimmed past the bare light bulb in the ceiling and landed on the beam in front of her.

How odd. A beetle had landed on exactly the same spot last week. Could it be the same beetle? She put down her book and stared.

"Hey, you!" she said, feeling foolish the moment the words left her mouth. The beetle didn't appear to notice her. Instead, it gave a little hop along the beam and folded its wings together. It was pretty close, now. Embla wasn't much afraid of insects, and thought for some reason they were less unpleasant the bigger they were. She stared at the beetle's shiny black body as it crawled forward and felt its way up onto her book, which lay open on the page she was reading. It hesitated for a moment, then lifted each leg, one after another, and turned around so it had its back to her.

And then the beetle started to move the letters.

Embla had seen words blend into each other when she was tired, but this wasn't the same thing at all. The D, which had been the first letter in the upper left-hand corner, now lay on top of the two letters that came after it. Embla's muscles tensed. Was this really happening? Was she dreaming?

With a few kicks of its hind legs, the beetle rolled up the first three words until they were just a bundle of wet ink in front of the fourth. The paper where they had once been was as white and blank as the margin of the page.

Embla noticed that one of her hands was shaking, and pinned it against the ceiling to hold it still. *How on earth was this possible?* Unable to take her eyes off the beetle, she saw it continue to work its way along the first line, rolling up word after word into a black ball of scribbles beneath it. A dung ball of letters. When it got to the end of the line, it changed direction and rolled onward. She stared, hypnotized, as the ink vanished from the page, leaving white paper behind it.

When it had rolled up the whole of the first paragraph, the beetle stopped.

Embla regained some control over her own thoughts. There was no need for her to be afraid, was there? This beetle might be big, but it was quite small compared with her. She could easily swat it away, jump down between the beams and hurl herself through the door to the laundry room before it could ... could do what, exactly?

As she pondered her plan, the beetle started to move again. Now it was rolling the whole great ball of letters over the middle of the blank area, and a line of words came into view as it moved:

Keep your hEad down, embla! figure out wHich animal you are

Embla almost let out a shriek, but forced herself to swallow it.

Her brain had packed in – that was the only explanation. Yes, it had simply short-circuited and started playing back dreams in broad daylight. But Embla could feel the reality of the world around her: the smell of woodwork and soil and petrol from the leaking outboard motor in the corner, the feeling of the clothes on her body and of her jaw, taut with tension. These were details she couldn't have noticed in a dream. She blinked and saw that the beetle had written another sentence:

The scaRabs are all mine, follow them if you get lost

The first word in this sentence was difficult, and she had to read it several times before she realized what it said. Scarabs. She was sure that scarabs were a kind of dung beetle.

"You're a scarab, aren't you? Can you understand what I'm saying?"

The scarab didn't give any indication of having heard her. It just carried on rolling the glistening ball of ink, which was now smaller than before. Embla didn't give up.

"How do you know my name?"

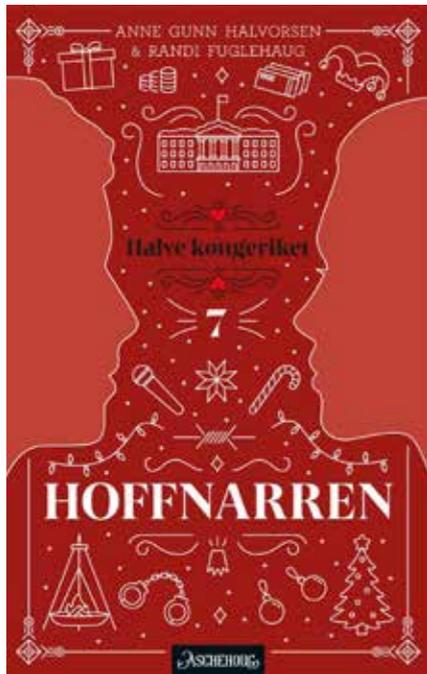
The beetle stopped for a moment then carried on. Another row of words glued itself to the paper:

i'll Come to meet you, sTay with the citizens for now

The words didn't make sense. Nothing about this whole situation made sense – beetles that wrote, letters that could be lifted off the paper they were printed on ... how could it be possible?

Randi Fuglehaug & Anne Gunn Halvorsen

Royalteen 7. The Jester



Original title: *Halve kongeriket 7. Hoffnarren*
 Publ.: 2023
 Young adult novel • 200 pp
 Publisher: Aschehoug

Arnie has never looked forward to Christmas as much as this year. He's head over heels in love with Margrethe, he will finally appear as the princess' official "companion" at the Christmas ball and his financial problems are history. When his father's finances once again start to waver, Arnie's December becomes bleak. The cheerful guy who usually take away everyone else's worries now has more than enough problems of his own. He can't confide in Margrethe, as he's afraid of losing the girl he loves and of putting her in danger.

A modern love story
 about identity, being an outsider,
 and finally finding harmony.

It's like John Green had written Gossip Girl.
 @johanna_skrivare on instagram, about the *Royalteen* series



Photo: Netflix film poster

THE ROYALTEEN SERIES:

Winner of the 2020 YA prize - *The Heir*
 Nominated for the 2023 YA prize - *Royal Blood*

Sold in pre-empts, auctions,
 and multi-book deals in 14 territories

The films, *Royalteen 1. The Heir* and
Royalteen 2. Princess Margrethe,
 streamed on Netflix, went straight into
 the Top 3 list!

Original titles: *Halve kongeriket*. #1 *Arvingen* (2020, 270 pp), #2 *Drømmepriinsen* (2021, 208 pp), #3 *På tronen* (2021, 312 pp), #4 *Audiens* (2022, 300 pp), #5 *Blått Blod* (2022, 230 pp), #6 *Dronningen* (2023, 240 pp), #7 *Hoffnarren* (2023), #8 *Kroningen* (tbp 2024)

Reading material: full English ms #1, English excerpt #2, English summaries #1 - #8, English reviews #1, Norwegian ms #1 - #7

Foreign rights:

Bulgarian (Perseus, 6 books), Catalan (Planeta, 3 books), Danish (Gyldendal, 3 books in auction), Dutch (Unieboek, Het Spectrum, 3 books), Finnish (WSOY, 4 books in auction), French (Hachette Romans, 4 books in pre-empt), German (Arena, 3 books in auction), Hungarian (Scolar, 3 books), Italian (DeA Planeta, 2 books in auction), Polish (Jaguar Bonnier, 4 books in pre-empt), Romanian (Univers, 2 books in pre-empt), Russian (AST, 2 books), Ukrainian (Ranok, 3 books), World Spanish (Planeta, 3 books).

Film rights: Netflix



Funny, feel-good royal goodies plus teenage issues. ... I jump out of my chair - and literally scream for a follow-up... This book simply must be a hit.

Dagbladet, 5/6 stars,
 about *Royalteen 1: The Heir*

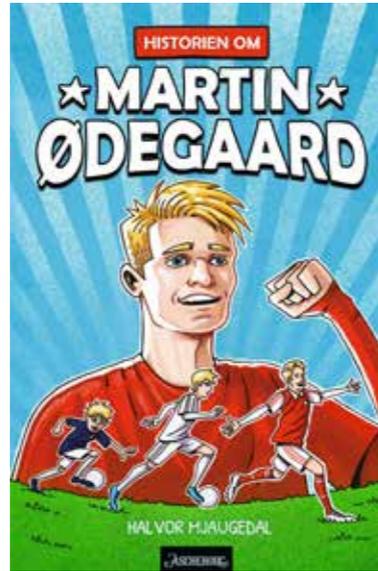
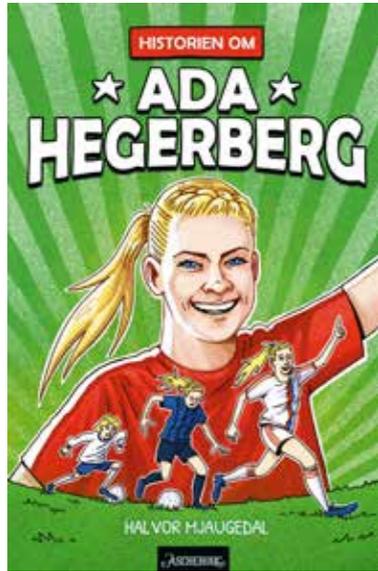
Anne Gunn Halvorsen (b. 1984) is a journalist and a critic. She has written several non-fiction books for young adults and adults. Halvorsen lives in Oslo, Norway.

Randi Fuglehaug (b. 1980) is a journalist, editor, and author of fiction and non-fiction books for children, young adults, and adults. Fuglehaug lives in Oslo, Norway.

Photo: Agnete Brun

Halvor Mjaugedal

The Story of Football Heroes series



Original titles:
Historien om Ada Hegerberg
Historien om Martin Ødegaard
 Publ.: 2023
 Illustrated b/w nonfiction
 13,0 cm X 20,0 cm • 128 pp
 Age: 6 - 9
 Publisher: Aschehoug

Easy to read

Fully illustrated

Perfect for everybody who loves football

Ada Hegerberg is the first woman ever to receive the Ballon d'Or, the world's best footballer award. She has the record of scoring most goals of all time in the Champions League. At the age of 16 she played her first game for the national team. She has been with Olympique Lyonnais (Lyon) since 2014.

Martin Ødegaard was 15 years old and the youngest player ever to have played in a European Championship qualification match in football, playing for Real Madrid. Today he is the team captain at Arsenal.

In this easy to read illustrated series about football heroes, you'll get to know young footballers, what helped them to become among the world's best players, and maybe be inspired to play football.

The Story of Erling Braut Haaland is scheduled for publication 2024.

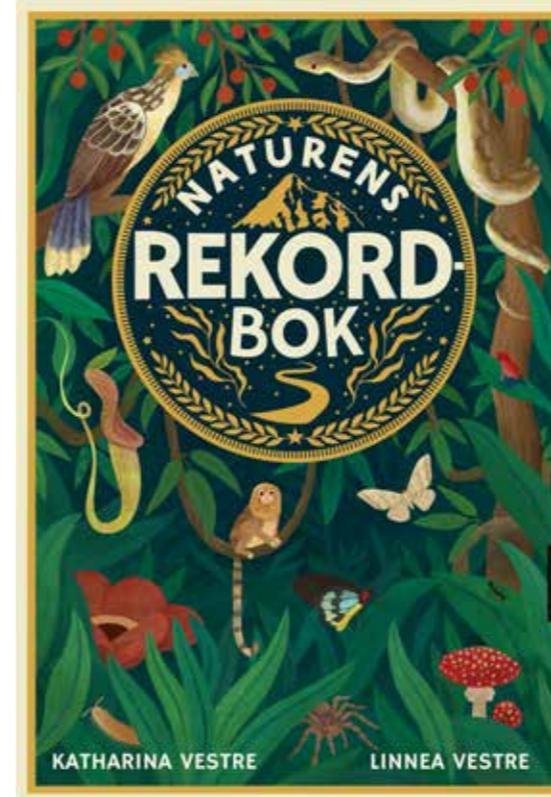
Halvor Mjaugedal (b. 2000) is an illustrator, animator, and graphic designer. He has a degree from Oslo National Academy of the Arts. Mjaugedal lives in Oslo, Norway.



Photo: Oda Berby

Katharina Vestre & Linnea Vestre

The Nature Book of Records

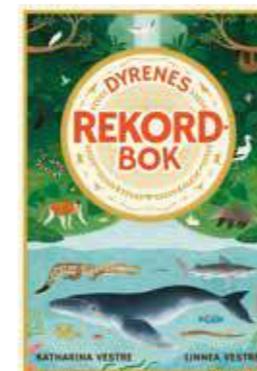


Original title: *Naturens rekordbok*
 Publ.: 2023
 Illustrated nonfiction • 24,5 cm X 34,0 cm • 90 pp
 Publisher: Aschehoug

The full-color illustrated nonfiction children's book, *The Nature Book of Records*, takes you on a journey to the most incredible places on Earth, from icy snowscape to the secret forests of the sea. Discover fish that climb the trees, giant stink flowers, and mushrooms that glow in the dark. Learn where the world's tallest trees grow, and which animal has the most popular poop.

Edutainment for everyone who wants to learn about the most incredible places on earth.

Full of fun facts, and every spread is illustrated and designed to give the reader a new experience.



The Animal Book of Records
 Original title: *Dyrenes rekordbok*
 Published in 13 territories

... my five-year-old is glued to the book from the first page ... and has come dragging with it several times, in the touching way children come dragging with books.
 Klassekampen

Katharina Vestre (b. 1992) has a PhD in cell biology from the University of Oslo. Her popular science book, *The Making of You. A Journey from Cell to Human* (2018), is translated into 23 languages.

Linnea Vestre (b. 1993) has studied at the Art Academy in Oslo. She works as an illustrator, musician, designer, and visual artist.



Photo: Hildur Augustsdottir