

Gran is a simple story that captures the loving relationship between a grandparent and grandchild, growing old, dying and the naturalness of having to say goodbye.

The wonderful, brightly-coloured illustrations by Anna Margrethe Kjærsgaard capture Gran's exuberance and joy for life.

Full title in Danish and English summary and English translation in pdf available upon request.

32 pages

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Gran,

by Patricia Ryan, Illustrated by Anna Margrethe Kjærsgaard

Meet a sprightly grandmother, her granddaughter, her cat and her blooming dahlias in a touching story of growing old and preparing to say goodbye.

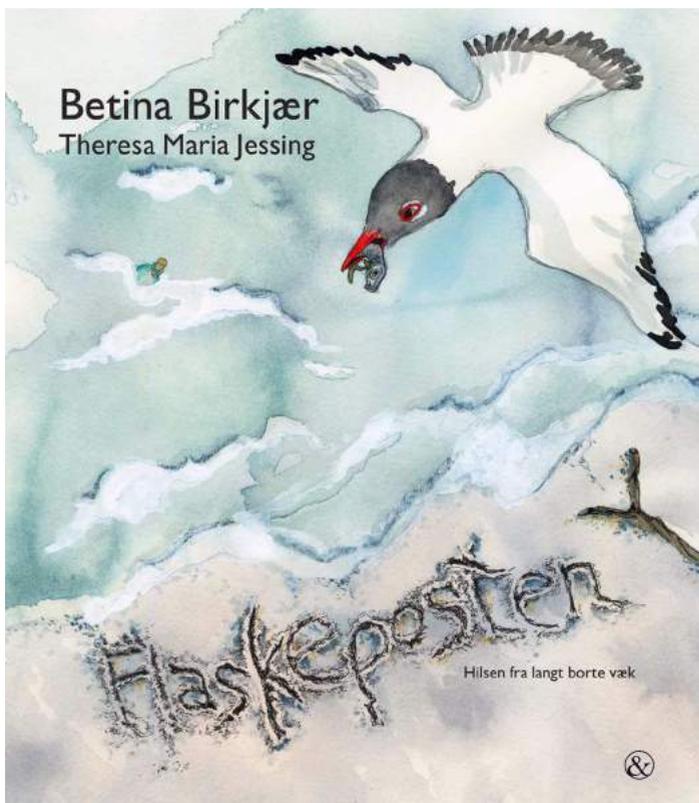
Gran accepts her ageing with grace and gratitude. She loves to laugh. She laughs at almost everything, but her heart goes out to people who are suffering.

Every time her granddaughter, Maria, comes to visit, Gran comments on how much she has grown, until eventually she realises, it's not that Maria is still growing, it's that she – Gran – is shrinking!

It's a beautifully-illustrated book about getting older and smaller (except for your ears). We see Gran getting ever tinier in comparison to Milly the cat, who takes on giant-like proportions. But next to granddaughter Maria, Milly is just a normal-sized feline. The significance is not lost. Gran's place in the world may be diminishing, but she has the last laugh. The final illustration shows her looking down on her beloved granddaughter and cat, as big as the universe and at one with the stars.

Gran is written by 90-year-old Patricia Ryan and illustrated by her long-time (and many years younger) friend Anna Margrethe Kjærsgaard.

One day, I will crumble completely, and the wind will carry me away over the sea. And Gran laughed.



A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE is written by author Betina Birkjær, whose book COFFEE RABBIT SNOWDROP LOST (illustrated by Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard and translated by Sinéad Quirke Køngerskov) was a 2022 Kirkus Prize Young Readers' finalist. Illustrator Theresa Maria Jessing applies a watery and subdued use of colour and light in A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE in images that capture and evoke the many meteorological elements of a walk on the beach.

And readers – children – are very welcome to write to the author by letter or by bottle. Her address is included.

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A Message in a Bottle – A greeting from far away

By Betina Birkjær illustrated by Theresa Maria Jessing

A beautifully imaginative picture book about the simplicity of making a great wish on a shooting star, about all that may lie between heaven and earth and about being open to what we may find in life.

To whoever found this book: perhaps you can help me?

*When you see a shooting star, you have to make a wish.
Did you know that?*

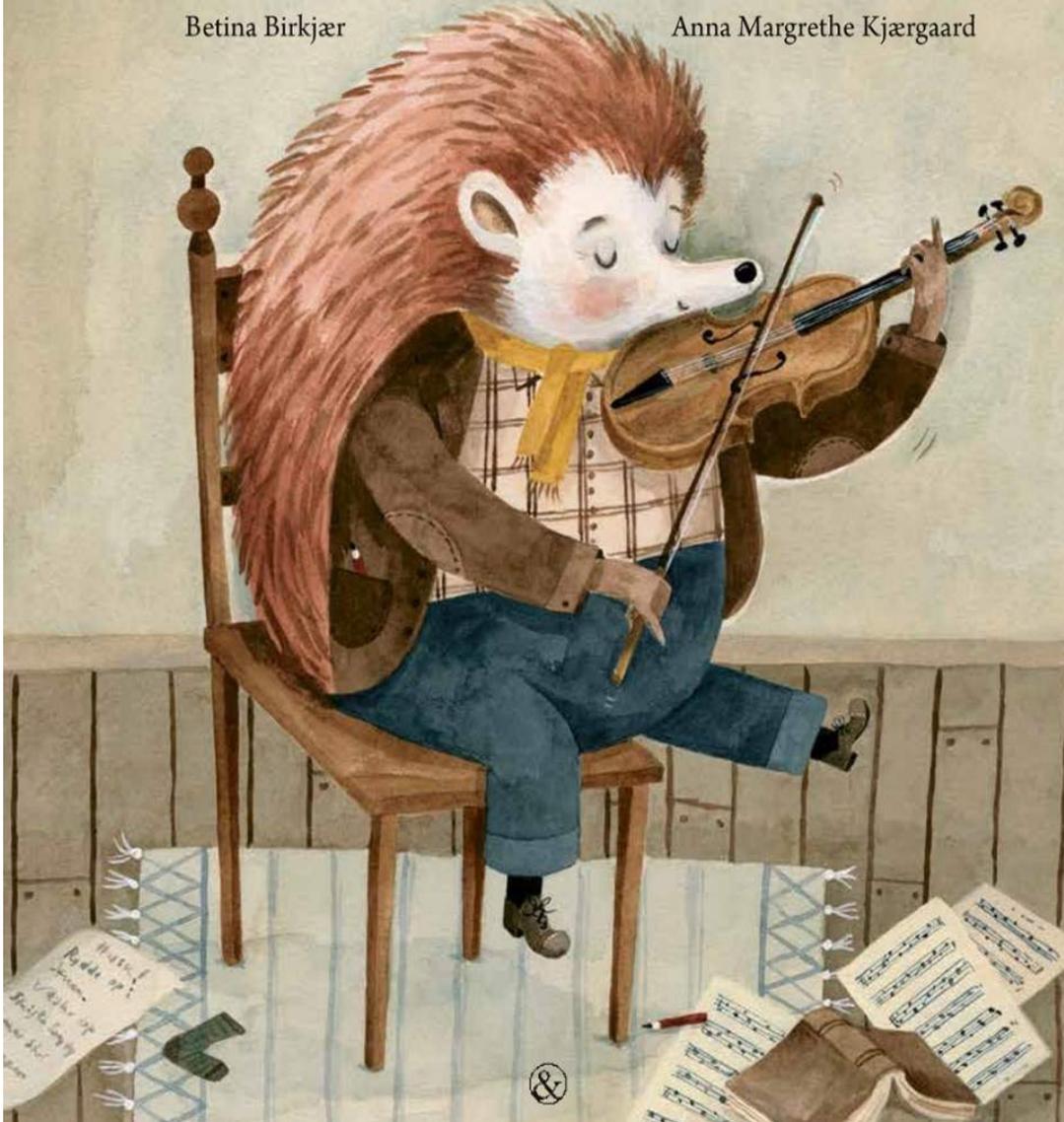
Can you help her? Do you know what it is?

In A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE, we meet a young girl who is a finder – she finds all sorts of trinkets and curiosities whenever she strolls along the strand, looking down – pretty rocks, a bird's wing, amber, fossils. But what she really longs to find is a message in a bottle. For as long as she can remember, she finds everything else but no letter in a bottle, until she gives up ... and then, one day, there it is – sticking up out of the sand. But she doesn't see the bottle and trips over it. When she gets it home and prizes out the paper, she finds something else in the bottle. But what is it? The author needs help, so she asks readers to send their suggestions for what it might be by letter – or preferably by bottle.

Mr. Prickly

Betina Birkjær

Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard



Mr. Prickly

From the author and illustrator of Coffee, Rabbit, Snowdrop, Lost comes yet another beautifully penned and illustrated story. In Mr Prickly, Betina Birkjær and Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard combine their arts to tell the tale of a hedgehog trying to get ready to hibernate.

Mr Prickly sighs over the many chores that he needs to complete before he can take his long winter sleep. It's an awful lot of things for a hedgehog. He tries to get it all done but becomes so overwhelmed that the words on his to-do list get all jumbled and muddled up. Worried that there's so much to do and so little time to do it, poor Mr Prickly hears only his heart beating loudly and a banging in his head that feels like a squirrel is cracking open a nut on it.

(56 pages)

Full title in pdf and English translation available upon request.

Betina Birkjær debuted as an author in 2014. She has a degree in drama and trained as a scenic artist at the School of Stage Arts at Cantabile 2. From 2004 she has worked as performer and as installation artist from 2011 onwards. Also, in 2005 she began working with the Spanish theatre group Teatro de Los Sentidos This year, she became artistic director of Luna Park Performing Art.

Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard (b. 1972) is an illustrator. She trained at the Danish School of Design and Akademia Sztuk Pieknich in Poland. In addition to easy readers and educational material, she has illustrated several picture books and illustrated stories. She has won numerous awards, including the Danish Ministry of Culture illustrator award. Previous titles sold to: Chile, Korea, France

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New illustrated children's book

Monster Scared

By author **Betina Birkjær** and illustrator **Zarah Juul**

A lot of children are monster-scared – scared of monsters in a big way. There is nothing more dangerous than a monster – they can lurk anywhere: in the bathroom, in the wardrobe and outside the window.

This is *Monster Scared*. We meet a little boy who is convinced that there is a huge super-creepy monster living in the attic, who is building a trap to get him. He has to make a lot of noise to keep the monster away.

Author Betina Birkjær depicts how a monster that we can't see or hear grows bigger and scarier in our imagination, how the slightest sound or shadow is a sign that the monster is there, and how safety – a parent's bedroom or the light switch – can seem miles away.

Mum manages to lure the boy up to the attic, so he can see that the attic is so small that a giant monster couldn't possibly be living up there – enabling the child to let go of his monster anxiety. But he can't let go of the idea that there is a monster in the attic, because there *is* a monster in the attic – a very cute little monster.

Monster Scared is eerily illustrated – in a charming way – by Zarah Juul. There are monsters in the dark, just like in a child's imagination, but Juul has dotted fun little details throughout.

A book highly recommended to anyone who is – or has been – monster-scared. So, to everyone.

(32 pages)

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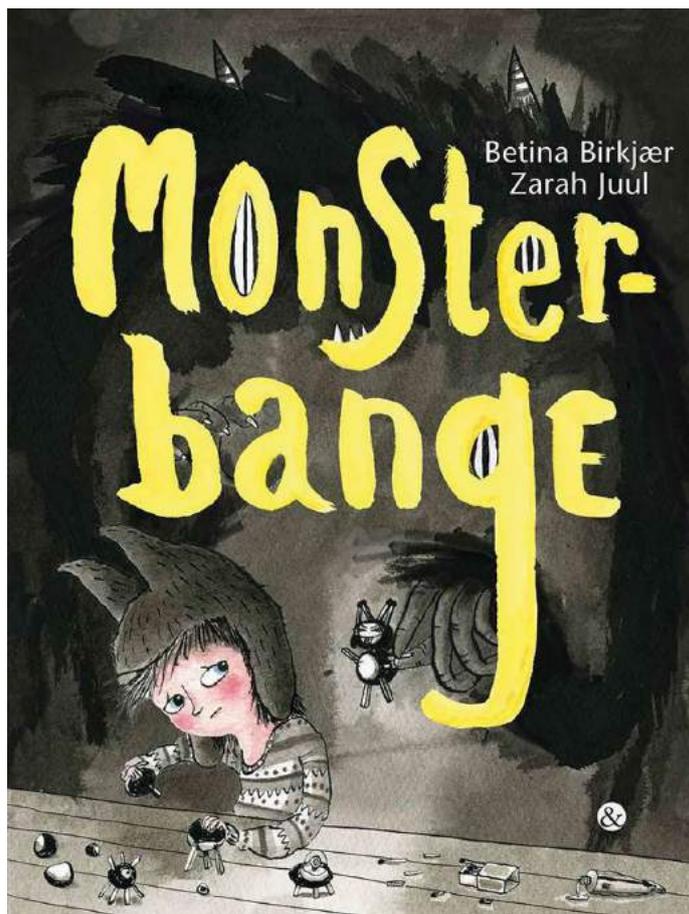
If you would like to learn more about our books, please contact us.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

All the best,
Lars Sidenius

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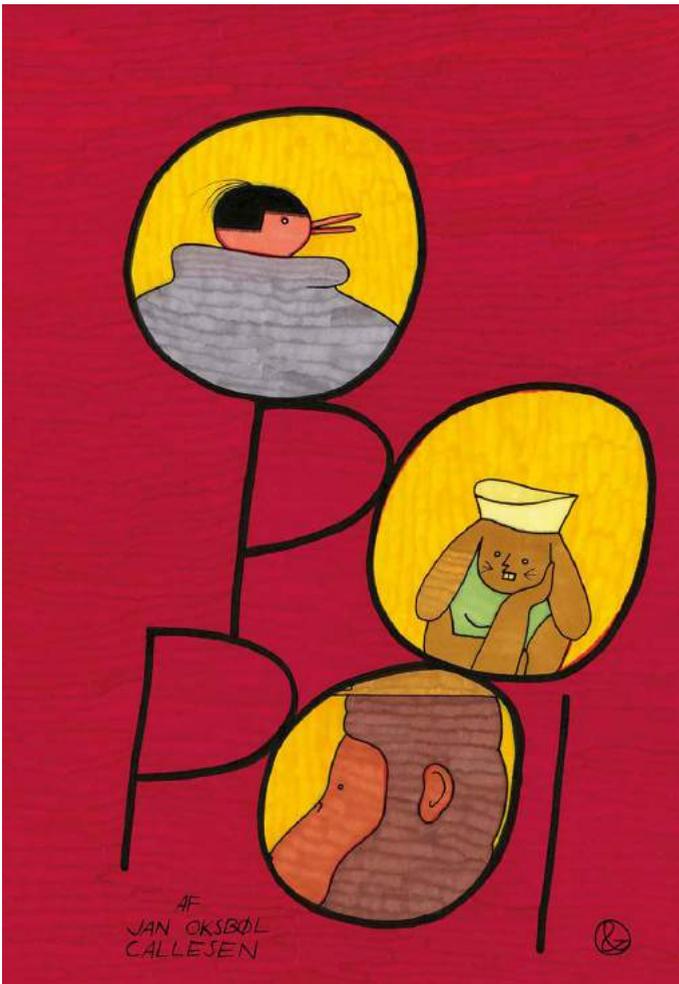
O PO POI has been nominated for the Nordic Council's Children's Book Prize 2022!

Full title in Danish and English summary and English translation in pdf available upon request.

52 pages

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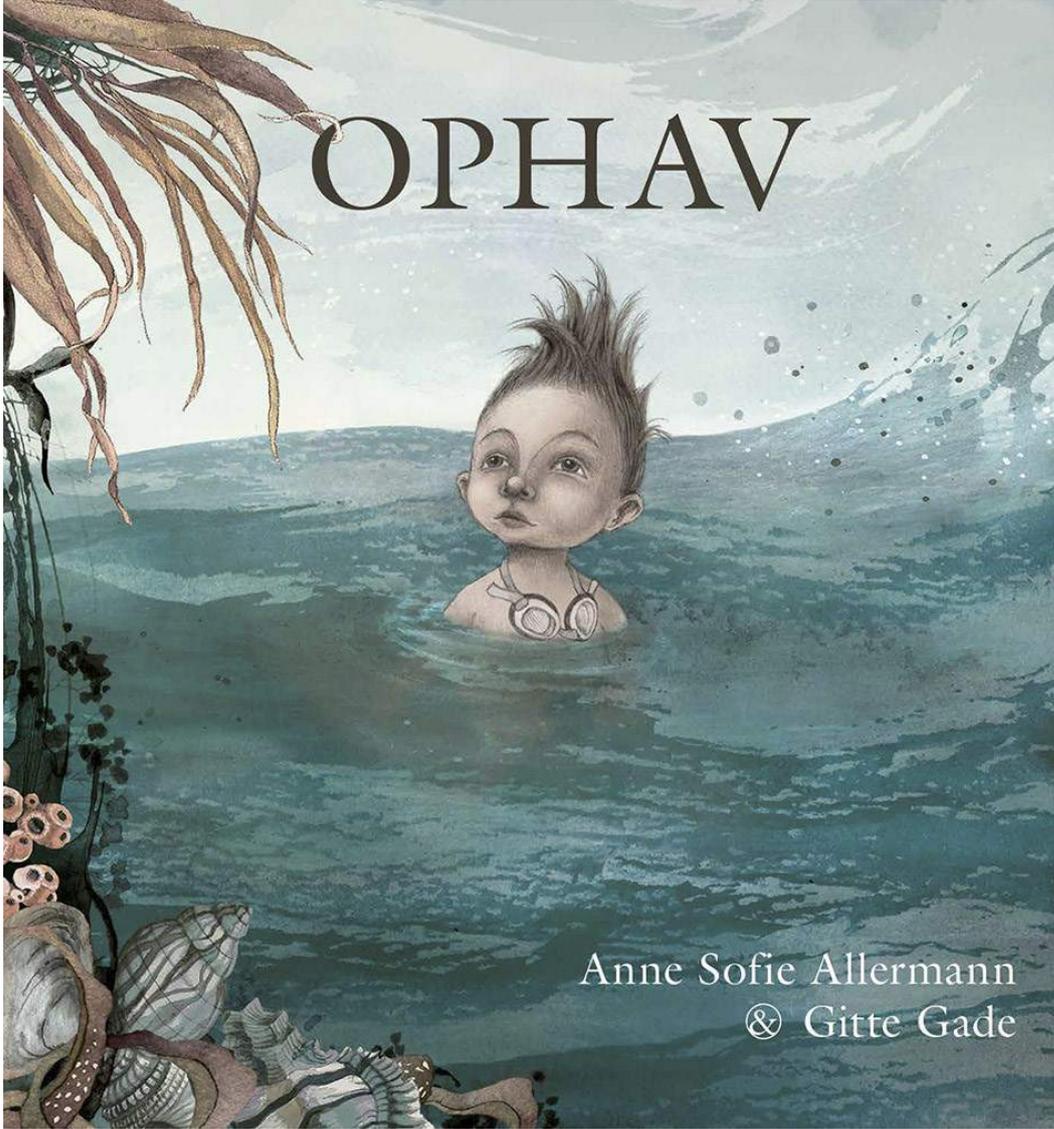


O Po Poi

by Jan Oksbøl Callesen.

Where picture books meet art and a touch of the absurd. O PO POI is a colourful take on Greek tragedy – in which o-po-poi is a chorus line. In O PO POI, we meet three friends, a monkey, a rabbit and a duck, who are out sailing in a little boat that is perhaps rocking towards its own comical and ironic tragedy. In the boat, the three friends talk about two cats and a town where, one day, the moon falls to the ground. We learn that the townsfolk are so alarmed by the development that, panicked and confused, they try to push the moon into the sea. All the while, the cats mock the 'idiots' who live in the town – little knowing that their superior attitude will be the cause of their own demise.

O PO POI is in fact three stories in one and Callesen has intertwined and built up each one to expose and convey one of humanity's great weaknesses: our habit of taking too much notice of what other people do and should do, and too little of what we ourselves do. It is a book that takes its reader seriously and allows for repeated readings and discussions with children about the plot and the themes. For instance, O PO POI opens up philosophical and ethical dialogue on taking responsibility and considering consequences when it comes to our actions – such as with climate change or watching where we are going. A wonderful three tales in one picture book told in an explosion of colour. (52 pages)



OPHAV

Anne Sofie Allermann
& Gitte Gade

ORIGIN

By Anne Sofie Allermann and Gitte Gade

An exceptional and subtle book that offers children a gentle way to approach major life questions: Where do I come from? What are my origins?

ORIGIN is probably not a word in a child's everyday vocabulary, but the concept of origins – knowing where you come from – is not new to them. Morgan is not the only child to ruminate on such thoughts. Even adults do. Humans seek connections. Connections frame our lives and help us to understand. Most of us know what it is to seek answers. And not being able to find them can cause uneasiness.

Morgan likes to hold his breath and dive into the water in the bathtub. He swims with dolphins and takes in life under the sea. His deep dive into his imaginative underwater world reflects his active thoughts about his father. A person he never knew and probably never will know. But Morgan starts to realise that everything in the universe is connected. At school, Morgan would like to play families with Aviaja, where he can be the father. Undoubtedly symbolic of him working through his thoughts.

Morgan's mother is interesting too. A positive source of love who guides and supports him. She knows she cannot give him all the answers, but she supports him as and when needed as much as she can. She understands that we can't always prevent our children from getting hurt physically or emotionally, but we can help them back on their feet when they do.

ORIGIN is a breathtaking, beautifully illustrated story full of water and life. Muted colours and marbling effects add to this thoughtful picture book about discovering yourself as part of the world and accepting the infinity that you can't fathom.

– *Was it my dad you were talking to? Morgan asks.*
– *Why do you think that? Mum responds.*
– *I want my dad to come.*

Mum smiles and wraps the duvet snugly around Morgan.

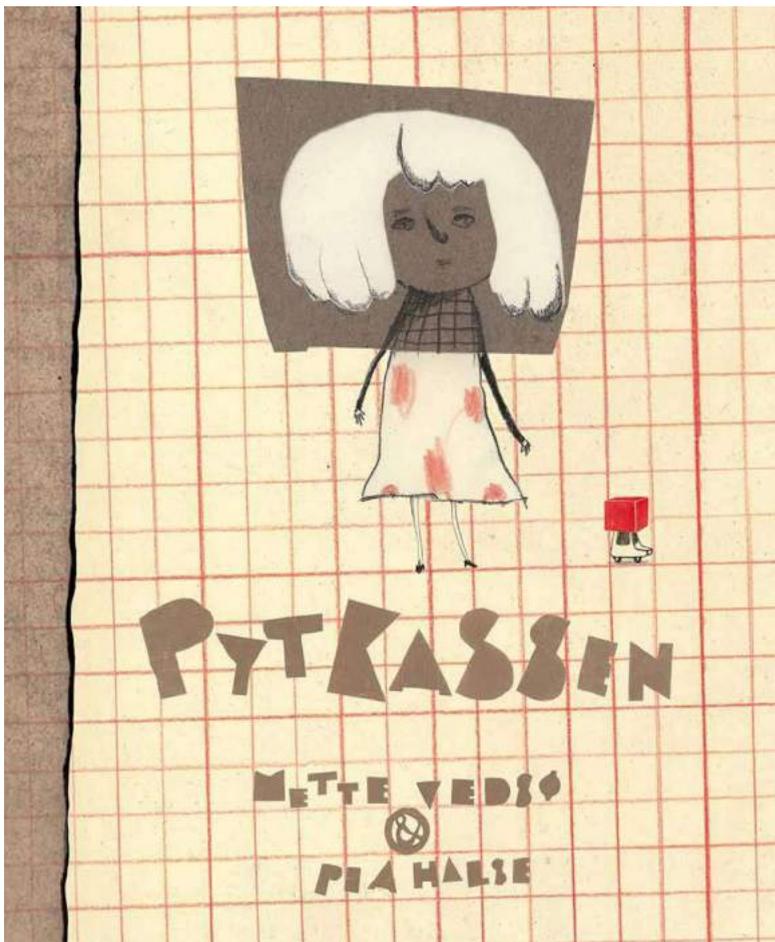
– *We do not know him, honey. You remember that.*

Anne Sofie Allermann captures the universally great in the ordinary and mundane. Starting from the immediate and the humble, she transforms everyday situations into something magical that requires reflection, yet is presented in accessible language. Award-winning Gitte Gade's illustrations are so stunning that you get lost in a dreamlike state. The illustrations support the dreamlike feel of the story and ensure that Morgan's philosophical questions do not become too abstract, but are instead transformed into a real experience sprinkled with an almost otherworldly glow.

48 pages + parchment paper. Full pdf and English and American translation available

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Since 2011 Mette Vedsø has published more than 50 books for children and young adult. In 2022 the novel 'HAPPY HAPPY' was included in The White Ravens. In 2020 the novel 'Når hjertet er en elpisker' was included in The White Raven. In 2018 the novel 'Hest Horse Pferd Cheval Love' won the Cultural Ministry Literature prize and was also nominated for the Blixen award and for the Nordic Council Literature Prize. In 2017 she received the 3-year Danish working grant in literature from the Danish Arts foundation.

The Nevermind Box By Mette Vedsø and Pia Halse.

What should you do when you have lost your job and the whole world suddenly feels sad and grey? A beautiful, heart-warming and slightly melancholic story about a “never mind” box.

It can be difficult to identify new beginnings when the life you know and are comfortable in suddenly changes. Some people adjust quickly, others don't. Never mind, it will all work out in the end.

THE NEVERMIND BOX is a touching, quirky little story of courage about a lady who works at a cardboard box factory that suddenly closes. The employees each receive a cardboard box as a parting gift.



Her former colleagues seem to quickly find inspirational use for their boxes – one fills it with books and so gets a job in a bookstore; another glues feathers on it and becomes a hat maker. But the lady doesn't know what to do with either her life or her cardboard box. Everyone tells her it will all work out in the end, but the lady is inconsolable and very negative. The weather is miserable, the neighbour is noisy, her dress is stained, her hair is ruined and, to top it all, the dog has peed on the carpet. Eventually her husband has had enough of all her complaining and he tells her to go for a walk. That only makes matters worse – it's raining and now she is completely soaked.

When she returns home, they argue. And their quarrel leads to her seeing the box in a new light:

'NEVER MIND THE SOCKS! PUT THEM IN THE BOX!' shouted the man.

'Never mind the socks? Put them in the box?' said the lady.

'Oh, never mind, put them ... never mind ...' said the man, and there was silence for a while.

They stared at each other. STARED.

'The never mind box,' they whispered in unison.

'OH ... THE NEVERMIND BOX.'

It doesn't matter that her socks are wet. Never mind!

Pia Halse's distinctive, almost abstract illustrations, are a story in themselves. The lady is there. A grey and colourless line drawing with a sad face. The world around her is without outline. Halse's illustrations give the story a surreal touch and they encourage readers to get better at saying "never mind" and getting on with their lives. At the heart of THE NEVERMIND BOX is a take on the law of attraction – what you send out into the world is what you get back. A very clever book about life and not taking it too seriously. Mette Vedsø is a fantastically intuitive writer who is extremely good at observing people, and Pia Halse's beautifully poetic illustrations frame the story delightfully.

The Danish Arts Foundation. Denmark's largest arts foundation. We work to spread the arts to a wide audience all over Denmark, to promote Danish art internationally, and to pave the way for talented artists.

We support creative thinking and innovative ideas by funding more than 6,000 artists and art projects every year.

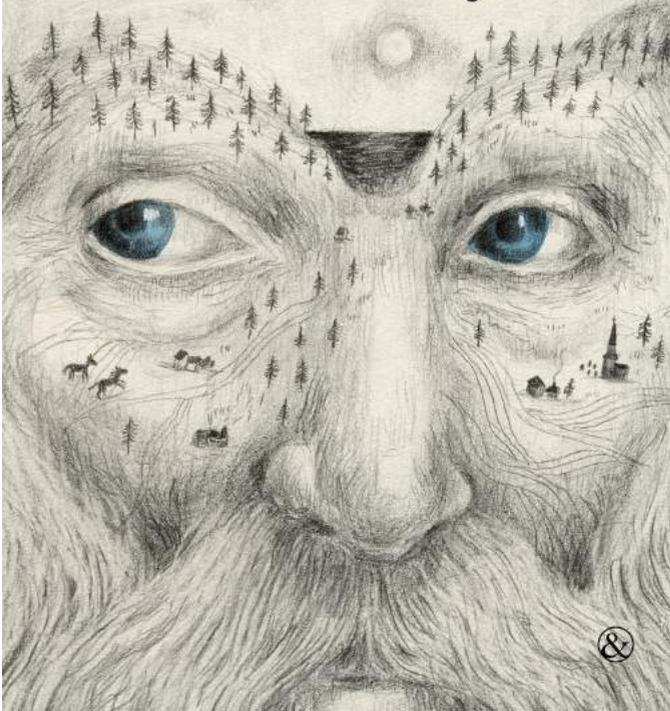
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A N D T R A N S L A T I O N

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Kathrine Assels
Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard

En tangloppeeksperts store tanker om små skabninger



Author **Kathrine Assels** holds a BA in Film and Media Studies and an MA in Children and Youth Culture. Assels has written an array of books primarily for children and young people, but also for adults. Several of her books have been nominated for various awards, and in 2019 she won the Children's Book Award from the Ministry of Culture Denmark.

Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard illustrator. She trained at the Danish School of Design and Akademia Sztuk Pięknych in Poland. In addition to easy readers and educational material, she has illustrated several picture books and illustrated stories. She has won numerous awards, including the Danish Ministry of Culture illustrator award. Previous titles sold to: Chile, Korea, France, USA, Norway

An Amphipoda expert's great thoughts on little creatures

By Katherine Assels and illustrator Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard

Nominated for the Karen Blixen Prize 2023!

The Amphipoda expert in question is the Polish naturalist and physician Benedykt Dybowski, a former political prisoner, who found himself at the centre of some controversy when the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature rejected two names he had given to two Amphipoda. One, *Gammaracanthusktyodermogammarus loricatobicalensis*, was once considered the longest-ever scientific name, but the committee found it discordant and too difficult to use.

The book conveys the absolutely wonderful story of bestowing scientific names on tiny elusive species of Amphipoda. At its heart is Benedykt Dybowski's passion for and lifelong dedication to his research and work. He yearns to complete his scientific mission: finding the last two names. *An Amphipoda expert's great thoughts on little creatures* is a beautiful, philosophical tale about life, about biodiversity and creatures great and small. 

Benedykt Dybowski believed that “if you are small and have a short name, you risk being completely overlooked. But when a long name accompanies a small size, a certain balance in things is ensured”. Therefore, Amphipoda should have very long names, “especially those species that live in Lake Baikal, the world’s deepest lake, in Siberia. They are not much bigger than ants and can all too easily drown in the crowd. Without a proper name, such Amphipoda are just specks. Full stops. Close to nothing”. The quest for the names torments his dreams and every waking moment. He forgets to eat because he uses his food to form letters. The text, the poignant illustrations – and Dybowski himself – convey this all-consuming mission.

Virtually every image in the entire book is in black and white. Only the old naturalist’s twinkling, opal blue eyes light up and shine with clarity and intensity from among the pages. The reader practically makes eye contact with his blue eyes. Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard’s delicate pencil lines, shading and limited use of colour both carry the story and supplement the text – the details of Dybowski’s bookcase, the Lake Baikal cup of coffee. Even the cover image of his face – it is impossible to say where Benedykt Dybowski ends and Lake Baikal begins and vice versa.

Similarly, the long title of the picture book reflects its exquisite beauty and simple poetry. Against the backdrop of a starry sky on the shores of Lake Baikal in Siberia, Benedykt Dybowski comes up with the last two names: *Zienkowicykytodermogammarus zienkowiczi* and *Gammaracanthuskytodermogammarus loricatorbaicalensis*.

“Benedykt Dybowski wants the Amphipoda, by virtue of their names, to stand out and be seen and remembered. He wants it to be like looking at them under a microscope when you read their names. That the names are like magic formulas that cause the Amphipoda to unfold, so you no longer see them as small, invisible creatures, but rather immediately understand what quite fantastically complex and wonderful creatures they are.”

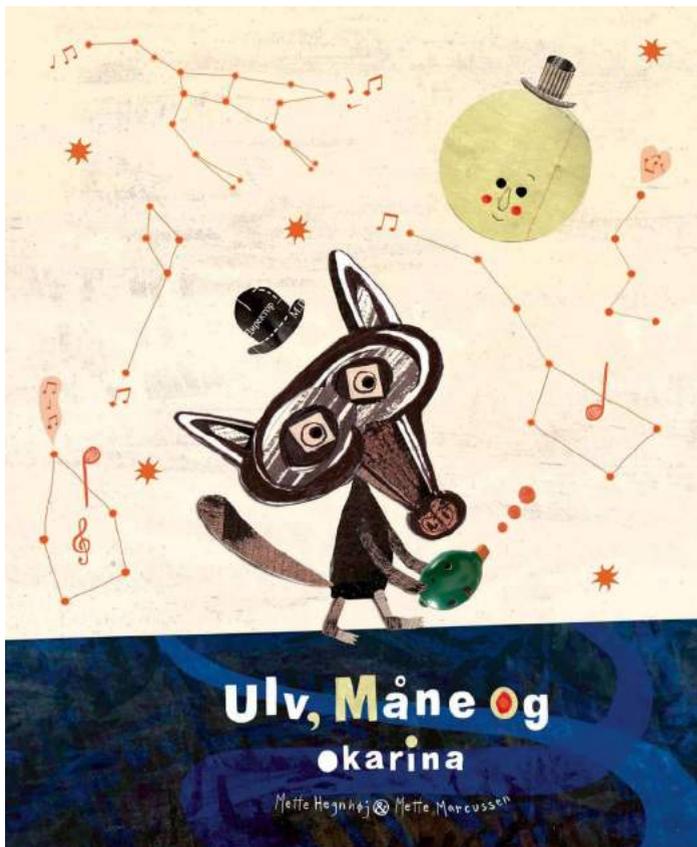
An Amphipoda expert’s great thoughts on little creatures is a work of exofiction, highly recommended for curious young readers. Supporting immersion and togetherness, the book opens up conversations on the climate crisis, biodiversity and nature right down to the amphipodan level!

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A story about overcoming fears, bringing a little happiness to the world and not judging a book by its cover.

For young readers and listeners, there is plenty to look at, discover and talk about in the distinct artwork. Mette Marcussen's imagination is wondrous, and her creation is a pleasure to look at it. Her exceptional illustrations support Mette Hegnhøj's humorous, lightly rhyming text.

THE WOLF, THE MOON AND THE OCARINA is written by two award-nominated and award-winning creators: Mette Hegnhøj and Mette Marcussen. Danish newspaper *Kristeligt Dagblad* awarded **THE WOLF, THE MOON AND THE OCARINA** six stars and *Politiken* gave it five hearts.

The Wolf, The Moon and The Ocarina

By Mette Hegnhøj and Mette Marcussen

THE WOLF, THE MOON AND THE OCARINA is a bedtime story. Wolf with the round bowler hat knows what people in town say about him – 'The wolf is coming!' But Wolf is actually quite gentle in nature. He is more afraid of humans than they are of him. That is why he only goes out at night to play his song on the fine ocarina. Fortunately, the Moon is there to keep an eye on Wolf and light the way for him, and hopefully the reader is too. That would make Wolf happy! After following the many paths, Wolf finds a warm place to sleep on the forest floor. Zzzzzz.

An ocarina is a wind instrument that was invented in Italy. Its shape resembles a goose's body, which is why it is called *ocarina* – Italian for 'little goose'. (32 pages)

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