

Hot titles Spring 2023

KIRSTEN HAMMAN – THE GEORGE COMPLEX (LITERARY FICTION)

Nominated to Weekendavisen's Literature Prize as well as the The Nordic Council's Literature Award. Once upon a time he was a successful author, selling books in droves, beloved by readers and critics alike. Now he's just a middle aged man with writer's block. But that is not the worst of it. The worst is that his wife has started writing a novel and it has been accepted by a big publishing house, and they are guaranteeing that it is going to be a huge bestseller.

Georg is panicking and in his desperation he decides to: a) Sabotage his wife's book b) Write a bestseller before his wife does, even if that means he has to plagiarize his way to it. A raving, paranoid and embarrassingly honest crisis novel about how far you are willing to go for success. A bloody marriage drama with voodoo, murder and devilry - and all the grim feelings that can be just as difficult to shake as a nasty cold. This is the author's elegant way of forcing her readers to confront the feelings we seldom talk about, but all suffer from and easily recognize in others.

Benchmarks: Honoré de Balzac's "Human Comedy"

Rights sold: Denmark (Gyldendal)

Published by: Gyldendal, 2022 **Reading material:** Danish edition, English summary, English sample translation

IDA JESSEN – THE BASTARD (LITERARY FICTION)

50,000 copies sold! The year is 1754. A horse-drawn wagon is pulled across the windy, desolate heathlands of Jutland. A captain sits at the helm. His name is Ludwig von Kahlen and he has come to bring the winds and sandy soil to heel. He wants to prove that the desert can be reclaimed. No one knows who owns this barren no-man's land. But Schinkel, the cruel landowner of Hald, believes that it is his - and he spares no means to bring down his will. Then one summer day, the mysterious Ann Barbara wanders across the moors and shifts the fates of all those who cross her path. A western from the Jutland heath from a time when the land was still to be conquered. It's about a fierce and uncompromising man and the woman who became his ally. An intense and dramatic story of the struggles against the raw forces of nature, of big dreams and even bigger sacrifices, of revenge and discipline, love, loss and the purest of evil.

Rights sold: Denmark (Gyldendal), Poland (Wydawnictwo Replica), Sweden (Historiska Media)

Published by: Gyldendal, 2020 **Reading material:** Danish edition, English summary, English sample translation

Other: Adapted into a major motion picture starring Mads Mikkelsen (*Hannibal*), and can be seen in movie theaters this fall.

ELIN PERSSON – THE SUMMER (LITERARY FICTION)

Winner of the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize 2021 debuts with a literary novel! When Lea's dad falls in love with a new woman, Zofia, Lea gets a sister in Jelena. Jelena is everything Lea is not: outspoken, indomitable, independent and provoking. In a loaded game where no one is picked out as a perpetrator, Elin Persson writes about a difficult topic with great integrity. The images that appear are strong and move the story forward, it creates an interwoven story about power and sexuality, and how a summer can play a decisive role for one's future life.

Benchmarks: Andrea Abreu's *Donkey's Belly*

Rights sold: Sweden (Wahlström&Widstrand)

Published by: Wahlström&Widstrand, 2023 **Reading material:** Swedish edition, English summary, English sample translation

JOHN AJVIDE LINDQVIST – THE SUMMER OF '85 (LITERARY FICTION/SUPERNATURAL)

The inimitable John Ajvide Lindqvist is back with a fairytale-esque novel that will give you both chills and put you in a state of nostalgia. Set in the Summer of 1985, in the lead-up to the Live Aid gala, a group of childhood friends make an incredible find. A siren, tied up on a secluded beach. It's a beast with human features, and described in true Ajvide-fashion nothing short of terrifying. They decide to bring the creature with them. Very soon, it is starting to seem that the siren has a disruptive effect on the group. What is it actually capable of and why had someone left it to die?

Option publishers: Denmark (Modtryk), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Finland (Gummerus), World English (Quercus), Germany (dtv), Italy (Marsilio), Poland (Zysk), Spain (Almuzara), World Portuguese (Alaúde Editorial)

First published by: Ordfront, Sweden 2023 **Reading material:** Swedish edition, English summary

HANNE VIBEKE HOLST – WARRIOR WITHOUT A MASK (UPMARKET COMMERCIAL)

Copenhagen 1930, the city is buzzing with jazz and hushed conversations about the troubled world order when 18-year-old Sonja against her mother's wishes applies to a Copenhagen art school. Drawn into a circle of young artists and poets, fired up by idealism and free-spirited experimentation, she is in love and everything seems possible. The rejuvenating power of art and eroticism is the real answer to the nazism that is marching its way through Europe. The brush shall become her weapon. When the war breaks out things turn serious. How far is she willing to go for her radical ideas - and for love. Would she risk her life, if that was asked of her? A dramatic story about the sculptor Sonja Ferlow Macoba and a vivid historical depiction of Denmark between two wars and occupied Paris. It is about Sonja's uncompromising struggle for art and love and her eternal strife to bind herself to something greater and find her place in the world - as a woman, an artist and a warrior.

Rights sold: Denmark (Gyldendal), Sweden (Albert Bonnier)

Published by: Gyldendal, 2022 **Reading material:** Danish edition, English summary, English sample translation

ELIN GRELSSON – NOTHING WILL GROW OVER ME (UPMARKET COMMERCIAL)

Nothing Will Grow Over Me is a well written love story for and in our time. We meet Jenny, who has recently moved from a small village in the north of Sweden to Stockholm, with a five year plan where the deadline has passed several times. Instead of a career and a room of her own she has a temporary job and a sublet apartment. She meets Sebastian, who writes a thesis about the working class and he proves to be her complete opposite: he moves with confidence in the world, is well traveled and has oceans of cultural capital. To him Jenny's background seems like an exotic asset, but what does he know about that? About her life and the cost of things?

Benchmarks: Sally Rooney, Johanna Hedman's *The Trio*, *The Worst Person in the World*

Rights sold: All rights available

Published by: Natur & Kultur, Sweden 2023 **Reading material:** Swedish edition, English summary

MARCUS JARL – ABOUT A SISTER (UPMARKET COMMERCIAL)

About a Sister, we meet Julia, a neonatal nurse who performs miracles at work but whose personal life is in shambles. Due to extraordinary circumstances she finds herself in possession of a secret that can alter someone else's life completely. Marcus Jarl delves into the complexities of love, relationships and moral dilemmas. The story is a perfect blend of commercial and literary, tackling themes such as sisterhood and secrecy. Get ready to be taken on an emotional rollercoaster as you dive into this page-turning, tear-jerking read.

Rights sold: Sweden (Norstedts), **Option publishers:** Norway (Bonnier Norsk), Denmark (Lindhardt og Ringhof)

Published by: Norstedts, Sweden 2023 **Reading material:** Swedish edition, English summary, English sample translation

ELSEBETH EGHOLM – THE RED BIRD (PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE WITH A STRONG LOVE STORY)

New gripping psychological suspense from a true plot master. A young love blossoms between Sally and Silas, sprung from their passion for nature and drawing birds. Then one dark event tears them apart, and when they meet again 25 years later, they are no longer the same two people. Sally is recently widowed and an injured hand prevents her from going back to work as a midwife. Silas has become a world renowned artist. Their love is still deep and intense, but between them large questions loom. What really happened that evening when 15-year-old Sally was found naked in a ditch after a party? Who knows the truth? Who has been lying for all these years?

Benchmarks: Romy Hausmann, Alex Dahl, Jodi Picault

Rights sold: Denmark (Gyldendal)

Published by: Gyldendal, 2022 **Reading material:** Danish edition, English summary, English sample translation

Other: Author of the novels of very successful TV-series *Dicte* (Prime Video, Disney+)

JOHANNES SELÅKER – DELIVER US FROM EVIL (SUSPENSE)

Deliver us from Evil is the first installment of the new series, *Bloodline* where we get to follow the troubled journalist Selma Halilovic. A teenage girl broadcasts her own suicide on Instagram. She has recently been reported missing by her parents, members of a fundamentalist christian group named Light of God. While the horrific clip goes viral, the area around the northern city Umeå is shaken by a number of mysterious acts of vandalism. It began as advanced pranks that many found amusing, but as they escalate the humor turns to horror and the pranks turn dangerous, fatal even. Selma Halilovic puts pieces together that no one else has. As she dives deeper into her work Selma is forced to confront demons from her past. Will she be able to solve the mystery before she goes too deep down the rabbit hole and gets lost forever?

Rights sold: Sweden (Forum) **Option publishers:** Czech Republic (Nakladatelství Práh s.r.o.), Denmark (People's), Estonia (Varrak), Finland (WSOY), Germany (Ullstein Buchverlage), The Netherlands (A.W Bruna), Norway (Kagge Forlag), Poland (Czarna Owca).

Published by: Forum, Sweden 2023 **Reading material:** Swedish edition, English summary, English sample translation

MORTEN HESSELDALH – PUTIN'S DAUGHTER (SUSPENSE)

Theis Brodersen's career as a top official minister has ended. The war in Ukraine and the world's arm wrestling with Russia is just a distant rumble. Until the day an old friend – the Russian ambassador of Denmark – shows up and asks him for a favour. It includes Vladimir Putin's daughter and twelve Danish foreign soldiers who have been captured in the Ukrainian war zone.

Rights sold: Denmark (Modtryk)

Published by: Modtryk, 2023 **Reading material:** Danish edition, English summary

TOR HÅKON HÅVARDSEN – THE GALLOWS DANCE, VIKTORIAHAVN SERIES BOOK 1 (HORROR)

Jenny Ness is no ordinary girl. She has a power lurking within her. A dark, dangerous power. The quiet Theodor Ness lives in a, seemingly, loveless marriage with his wife Margareth. When they have little Jenny she receives all of Theodor's love. Jenny is not like other children. She is often found alone and never seems to fit in anywhere. Then one day something in her bedroom starts to whisper to Jenny, and inside her, the cold and the darkness grows. One summer day when Jenny is 12 years old, events suddenly take a fateful and macabre turn... The forces unleashed over the sleepy island, Viktoriahavn, on this day will change the lives of the little family and everyone who lives there, forever. *The Gallows Dance* is a scary and nerve-racking thriller where darkness and mystery are cleverly combined. Every page is so intense it will take your breath away.

Rights sold: All rights available. No option publishers.

Published by: Panta Forlag & Bonnier Norsk, Norway 2020- 2022 **Reading material:** Norwegian edition, English summary, English sample (1)

MATS SÖDERLUND – SPLENDID BE THE EARTH - ABOUT THE MOUNTAINS, THE CLIMATE AND EVERYTHING NOT YET LOST (ESSAY/NARRATIVE NON-FICTION)

In *Splendid Be the Earth* we find one of the most important books this spring: it's a declaration of love to the ecosystems that are now threatened by destruction, while also being an engaging plea for everything we haven't yet lost. With his own passion for the mountains as a starting point, Mats Söderlund writes about the history and presence of the mountains. Parallel to this we read testimonies from the people living near and around these mountains, and how their lives are affected and conditioned by the weather – the conflicts of the climate crisis have already caused an open wound. We also follow the meteorologist Manne Hofling who, in 1917, went straight into a snowstorm at the observatory in Pårte, the cutting edge of Swedish meteorological research, and was never to be found. What made him do it, against all his better judgment?

Benchmarks: *The Gospel of Eels* by Patrik Svensson, *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert, *Wanderlust* by Rebecca Solnit, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Rights sold: all available. No option publishers.

Published by: Weyler, Sweden 2023 **Reading material:** Swedish edition, English summary, English sample translation

ROBERT KARJEL – LEAVING KABUL (NARRATIVE NON-FICTION)

Leaving Kabul is a unique insight in the dramatic events that took place during the summer of 2021. The Taliban's reconquering of Afghanistan was a fact. Under chaotic circumstances foreign powers left the country. Thanks to his unique network, Robert Karjel gained access to all parties involved in the Swedish evacuation, institutions that rarely open their doors to the public, and he has spoken to the people that were there to live it. From seasoned ambassadors and members of the special operations unit to Afghans forced to leave everything behind and try to find refuge

It is a story with dramatic turns, heartbreaking destinies and the perfect example of how life is stranger than fiction. And also about how the dedication and hard work of a few people can have a massive impact on the life of so many.

Rights sold: Sweden (Bazar) **No option publishers.**

Published by: Bazar, Sweden 2023 **Reading material:** Swedish edition, English summary

TOR HÅKON HÅVARDSEN – FIVE FEET UNDER & POST MORTEM (NON-FICTION)

Norwegian author, songwriter, musician, and funeral director. His goal is to work towards a greater openness and understanding about death. With 70 000 followers on TikTok, the account is a fascinating extension of his non-fiction debut *Five Feet Under* which answers questions like what happens to the dead body from the moment we die until our body is actually lying in the grave? And what is life like when you work with death as a profession? With charm, compassion, and expertise, Håvardsen provides insights into funeral customs and bizarre experiences. His second non-fiction book *Post Mortem* provides answers to every question that might come up after watching or reading a true crime. He doesn't spare one single macabre detail as he takes us to bloody crime scenes, the medical examiner's table, into the crematorium's oven, and all the way down into the mysterious grave. It's a book for anyone who feels a simmering hunger to learn more about death, written with a critical eye, empathy, and compassion - but not without shock effects and morbid humour.

Rights sold: All rights available. **No option publishers.**

Published by: Panta Forlag & Bonnier Norsk, Norway 2019 & 2023 **Reading material:** Norwegian edition

CARINA BERGFELDT – A GOOD DAY TO DIE (NARRATIVE NON-FICTION)

276 times reverend Jim Brazzil has sat in death's waiting room. He has listened to confessions in the eleventh hour - the last moment of the condemned, when everything bubbles up to the surface one has to share. Now Jim is the one dying, ready for his last confession. And award winning Swedish journalist and talk show host Carina Bergfeldt has been granted the privilege to listen to his story. They spend two weeks together in his house in the Texan countryside where he shares his unique wisdoms on death and sorrow, hope, atonement and love. Through the unusual stories of reverend Jim Brazzil Carina Bergfeldt tries to understand herself and her experiences better. How are we supposed to live our lives? Can one always be forgiving? And what day is actually a good day to die?

Rights sold: Sweden (Forum) **No option publishers.**

Published by: Forum, Sweden 2023 **Reading material:** Swedish edition