

Books from Iceland 2014



English working title
**Moonstone – The Boy
Who Never Was**
by Sjón
(b. 1962)

Original title
Mánasteinn – Drengurinn sem aldrei var til

Publisher
JPV / Forlagið, 2013
132 pp.

Genre
Novel



Awards and nominations
The Icelandic Literary Prize 2013,
The Icelandic Bookseller's Prize,
The DV Newspaper Literary Prize.

Rights
Literary agent: Licht & Burr

Contact
Trine Licht, tl@licht-burr.dk

About the book
The year is 1918 and from Reykjavík the erupting volcano Katla can be seen colouring the sky night and day. Life in the small capital carries on as usual despite the natural disaster, shortage of coals and the Great War that still wages in the big world. The sixteen year old kid Máni Steinn lives for the movies. Asleep he dreams the pictures in variations where the tapestry of events is threaded with strands from his own life. Awake he lives on the outskirts of society. But then the “Spanish influenza” epidemic comes ashore and forces thousands of the townspeople into the sick bed, killing hundreds.

About the author
Sjón has published numerous poetry collections and seven novels, as well as written plays, librettos and picture books for children. His long-time collaboration with the Icelandic singer Björk led to an Oscar nomination for his lyrics for the Lars von Trier movie *Dancer in the Dark*. In 2005 Sjón won the prestigious Nordic Council Literature Prize for his fifth novel *The Blue Fox* which in 2009 was nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. Sjón's poems have been translated into more than twenty languages. His latest novel, *From the Mouth of the Whale*, was shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2012.





English working title

The Woman With the Yellow Bag

by Vigdís Grímsdóttir
(b. 1953)

Original title

Dísusaga. Konan með gulu töskuna

Publisher

JPV / Forlagið, 2013
384 pp.

Genre

Novel

About the book

When it's finally revealed that Dís Gríms from Kleppsvegur will get to write her own book, she tells her story plainly. The book tells the very powerful story of a ten-year-old girl who is exposed to violence and locks herself into a dungeon of silence and hiding games. This is Dís's story, a story of violence, honesty and generosity.

About the author

Vigdís Grímsdóttir has received widespread recognition for her work and her books have been translated into several languages. Vigdís has won many prizes for her writing, including the Icelandic Literary Prize. Two of her novels have been adapted for the stage in Sweden and Iceland, and one of her novels, *Cold Light (Kaldaljós)*, has been made into a major motion picture.



Awards and nominations

Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2013 and the Icelandic Women Literature Prize.

Rights:

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English working title

Dignity

by Guðmundur Andri Thorsson
(b. 1957)

Original title

Sæmd

Publisher

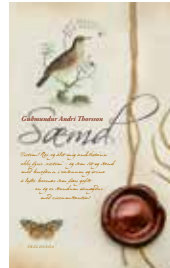
JPV / Forlagið, 2013
175 pp.

Genre

Novel

About the book

Towards the end of 1882, Ólafur Árnason, a student at the Latin School, filches a book from his schoolmate. In charge of the school is one of the country's most distinguished scholars, Björn M. Ólsen, who regards it as his life's work to drag the nation out of ignorance and wretchedness, a task that requires harshness and discipline. A story of crime and punishment, bravery, the nature of power, class division, the poet's role in society – and honour.



Awards and nominations

Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2013.

Rights:

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About the author

Guðmundur Andri Thorsson is a writer and the director of the literary magazine TMM and a columnist for Iceland's biggest newspaper, besides working as an editor for a publishing house. He has also translated several works of fiction into Icelandic. His novel *The Valeyri Waltz* was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.



English working title

The Man from Manitoba

by Arnaldur Indriðason
(b. 1961)

Original title

Skuggasund

Publisher

Vaka-Helgafell / Forlagið, 2013
316 pp.

Genre

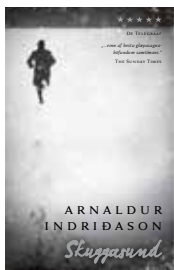
Crime

About the book

An old man is found dead in his apartment in Reykjavik. On his desk are newspaper clippings going back to the Second World War about a brutal murder: a girl was found strangled behind the National Theater, which at the time was a storage facility for the American Army. This is Arnaldur's 17th book. Here he treads unknown paths following a new character; both during the present and during the World War.

About the author

Arnaldur Indriðason has the rare distinction of having won the Nordic Crime Novel Prize two years running. He is also the winner of the highly respected and world famous CWA Gold Dagger Award for the top crime novel of the year in the English language, *Silence of the Grave*. Arnaldur's novels have been published in over 40 languages and sold in more than 10 million copies worldwide.



Awards and nominations

Premio RBA de Novela Negra 2013.

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English working title

The Exchange

by Yrsa Sigurðardóttir
(b. 1963)

Original title

Lygi

Publisher

Veröld, 2013
401 pp.

Genre

Crime

About the book

Four Icelanders take a trip to a lighthouse on a cliff in the Atlantic Ocean only accessible by helicopter. An Icelandic family returns to their house after a home exchange, only to find the American guests have disappeared. A police woman comes across a fragment of an old police report of a case in which her husband was interrogated as a young boy. Three threads come together in a spine-chilling story where nothing is as it seems.

About the author

Yrsa Sigurðardóttir is the bestselling Icelandic crime author of the Þóra Guðmundsdóttir series as well as several stand-alone thrillers. She made her crime fiction debut in 2005 with *Þriðja táknið / Last Ritual*, the first book in the Þóra Guðmundsdóttir series, and has been translated into more than 30 languages.



Rights:

Salomonsson Agency

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English working title

Fair Fish

by Sveinn Kjartansson & Áslaug Snorradóttir (photography)
(b. 1963 & 1967)

Original title
Fagur fiskur

Publisher
JPV / Forlagið, 2013
223 pp.

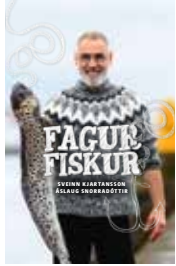
Genre
Nonfiction / cooking book

About the book

This entertaining and unusual cookery book contains recipes and facts about seafood, and aims to encourage people to eat more fish, and to convince the reader that preparing fish can be exciting and straightforward, whether cooking for a feast or for everyday. This is the book of the TV series produced by chef Sveinn Kjartansson and photographer Áslaug Snorradóttir and others.

About the author

Sveinn Kjartansson is a chef and the owner of the restaurant Borðstofan in the centre of Reykjavik. He has lived and worked both in Iceland and abroad, in Oslo and Amsterdam. Sveinn Kjartansson has participated in three food and lifestyle series on Icelandic national TV and is one of the authors of a popular book of fish recipes for the supermarket Hagkaup.



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English working title

Dreamsword

by Kjartan Yngvi Björnsson & Snæbjörn Brynjarsson
(b. 1984)

Original title
Draumsverð

Publisher
Vaka-Helgafell / Forlagið, 2013
555 pp.

Genre
Fiction 10+ years

About the book

Dreamsword is the second book in the Three Worlds series, a thrilling saga of blood magic, hidden secrets, and forgotten fiends that threaten all three worlds. The first book, *Raven's Eye*, won the Icelandic Children's Literary Award in 2012 as well as the Booksellers Prize for best Young Adult fiction book in the same year.

About the authors

Kjartan Yngvi Björnsson and Snæbjörn Brynjarsson have been friends since secondary school. Both are great fans of fantasy fiction. Kjartan has a degree in Literature and is now studying creative writing. Snæbjörn writes for the stage and is currently studying Japanese. *Dreamsword* is their second book together in the Three Worlds series.



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English working titles

Cruelty & Wolfheart

by Stefán Máni
(b. 1970)

Original titles
Grimmd | Úlfshjarta

Publisher
JPV / Forlagið, 2013
451 pp. | 300 pp.

Genre
Crime (Cruelty) | Fiction 15+ (Wolfheart)

About the book *Cruelty*

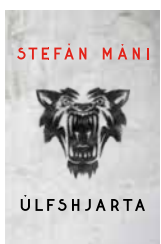
After murdering one of the leaders in a criminal gang, William Smári Clover is chased both by investigator Hörður Grímsson and the vengeful criminals. When Smári learns that his friend's newborn baby has been kidnapped he decides to help her, even though it puts his life at risk. Smári is now the hunter and the hunted, trying to stay a head of the wolf-pack while saving the boy.

About the book *Wolfheart*

Alexander is a 19-year-old highschool dropout. He works on a Coca-Cola delivery truck, rents a small apartment and owns an old BMW. Life is simple and days are all the same. But when he goes to the movies with his best friend's little sister he sets in motion a course of events he cannot control – maybe because he is fighting unhuman forces that have been around for thousands of years.

About the author

Stefán Máni is the author of 13 novels. In 2006 his novel *The Ship* became a national best seller and has since been translated into a number of languages.



Rights
Nordin Agency

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English working title

Icelandic Model Book

by Guðbjörg Kristjánsdóttir

Original title
Íslenska teiknibókin

Publisher
Crymogeia, 2013
178 pp.

Genre
Nonfiction

About the book

Model books or exempla were compiled by most artists in the Middle Ages and in the early Renaissance to use in their work. Very few of them have survived and only 30 such medieval manuscripts are known in Europe today. In Scandinavia, only one survived: The Icelandic Model Book.

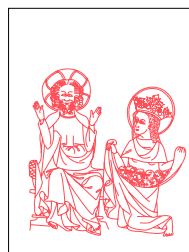
About the author

Dr. Guðbjörg Kristjánsdóttir is the director of Gerðarsafn – Kópavogur Arts Museum and an art historian from Sorbonne University in Paris. Guðbjörg has studied the Icelandic Model Book for decades.

Awards and nominations
The Icelandic Literary Prize for nonfiction 2013 and nominated for the Hagthenkir nonfiction Prize.

Rights
Crymogeia Publishing

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English working title

Randalín and Mundi in Secret Grove

by Þórdís Gísladóttir
(b. 1965)

Original title

Randalín og Mundi í Leynilundi

Publisher

Bjartur, 2013
91 pp.

Genre

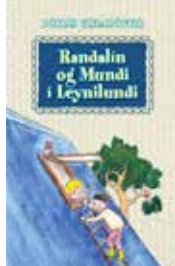
Children's fiction (6-11 years)

About the book

Randalín and Mundi get to spend a few days with their friends who live in an old summer house in the outskirts of Reykjavík. There the two friends discover interesting people and animals, among them adult twin sisters who breed dogs and make artworks, a quiet ornithologist and a runaway convict! This is the second book about the adventures of Randalín and Mundi.

About the author

Þórdís Gísladóttir is, among other things, a poet and a translator. This is her second book about the friends Randalín and Mundi. Þórdís received the Icelandic Booksellers Prize and the Icelandic Women Literature Prize for her first book about Randalín and Mundi. Þórarinn M. Baldursson is an illustrator of children's books and a violist in the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra.



Rights

Bjartur Publishing

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English working title

Mói – Cowboy in Arizona

by Kristín Helga Gunnarsdóttir
(b. 1963)

Original title

Mói hrekkjusvín - Kúreki í Arisóna

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2013
89 pp.

Genre

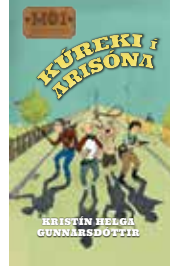
Children's fiction (8+ years old)

About the book:

Mói's real name is Marteinn Jörundur Marteinnsson. His best friend and personal protector is Gun-Joe, an extremely tall and invisible cowboy. We follow Mói and Gun-Joe in their adventures involving homemade tires and trying to sail to America on an iceberg!

About the author

Since her debut in 1997 Kristín Helga Gunnarsdóttir has become one of the most popular children's book writers in Iceland. For *Ghost Trail* she received the West-Nordic Children's Book Award and was nominated for the Nordic Children's Book Prize. Kristín Helga has received and been nominated for the Reykjavik City Children's Book Award and four of her books have been chosen Book of the Year by library visitors of 6 to 12 years.



Rights

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English titles

I Hate Dolphins & My Pussy is Hungry

by Hugleikur Dagsson
(b. 1977)

Publisher

Ókeiba / Forlagið, 2013
222 pp. | 224 pp.

Genre

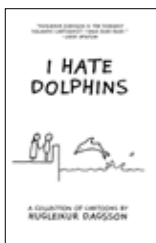
Cartoons

About the books

Hugleikur Dagsson is the most famous cartoonist in Iceland. Iceland is very cold, very bleak and very expensive. The only things to do there are drink and kill whales. *My Pussy is Hungry* and *I Hate Dolphins* are the newest collections of cartoons by Hugleikur Dagsson.

About the author

Hugleikur Dagsson can be called Iceland's uncrowned prince of the graphic novel. His work has received a great deal of praise both in Iceland and abroad, although some people look on his comic strips as childish scribbles. Hugleikur has also written for the stage and screen as well as being a popular stand-up comedian.



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English working title

Saga in the Night

by Eva Einarsdóttir &
Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir (illustrations)
(b. 1976 & 1979)

Original title

Saga um nótt

Publisher

Töfraland / Bókabeitan, 2013
26 pp.

Genre

Children's book / Picture Book

About the book

Little Saga is afraid of the dark, but Mom tells her not to worry. Together, they weave a magical world of stories that finally lulls Saga to sleep, and carries her into the land of dreams.

About the author

Eva Einarsdóttir is a city councillor for the Best Party at The City of Reykjavík. This is her first book. Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir has written and illustrated a number of books.



Rights

Bókabeitan Publishing

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English working title

Fish Have No Feet

by Jón Kalman Stefánsson
(b. 1963)

Original title

Fiskarnir hafa enga fætur

Publisher

Bjartur, 2013
358 pp.

Genre

Novel

About the book

This is the stage: the steep mountains of the eastern fjords in Iceland. And Keflavik. The town that has been called Iceland's darkest place. Here you have a big family story, beginning in the early 20th century continuing up until today. It is the story of people who love and suffer, who are searching and running away, a story about pain and loss, violence and a sea full of fish that you are not allowed to fish.

About the author

Jón Kalman Stefánsson has been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize twice for his works and received the 2005 Icelandic Literary Prize. In 2011 he was awarded the prestigious P.O. Enquist Award. He is best known for his trilogy consisting of *Heaven and Hell*, *The Sorrow of Angels* and *The Heart of Man*. The foreign rights for the trilogy has been sold to numerous countries world-wide. *The Sorrow of Angels* is longlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2014.



Awards and nominations

Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2013.

Rights

Leonhardt & Hoier
Literary Agency

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English working title

1983

by Eiríkur Guðmundsson
(b. 1969)

Original title

1983

Publisher

Bjartur, 2013
302 pp.

Genre

Novel

About the book

„I was dreaming when I wrote this, so forgive me if it goes astray“ – Prince, 1999. The year is 1983 and we follow a 12 year old boy in a small town in the Western Fjords of Iceland discovering the world of adults and falling in love for the first time. This is a story about the search for oneself, desire, dreamlike ships, old hot air balloons and love, told under the soundtrack of pop music from the early eighties.

About the author

Eiríkur Guðmundsson is well known for his work for the National Broadcasting Service (or RÚV), mainly on the cultural radio programme Víðsjá. 1983 is his fourth novel.



Awards and nominations

Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2013.

Rights:

Bjartur Publishing

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English working title

Breathless

by Ragnar Jónasson
(b. 1976)

Original title

Andköf

Publisher

Veröld, 2013
267 pp.

Genre

Crime

About the book

Just before Christmas a young woman is found dead beneath steep cliffs in a remote cove in the northern part of Iceland. Police officer Ari Þór Arason arrives the day before Christmas to investigate the case, only to learn that 25 years ago the baby sister of this young woman and their mother fell to their death from these very same cliffs. *Breathless* is the fourth book in the Dark Iceland Crime Series.

About the author

Ragnar Jónasson is a lawyer in Reykjavik and the author of five crime novels and has translated fourteen Agatha Christie novels into Icelandic. Ragnar is also the co-founder of the Reykjavik international crime writing festival Iceland Noir.



Website

www.ragnarjonasson.com

Rights

Leonhardt & Hoier
Literary Agency

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English working title

Johanna and I

by Jónína Leósdóttir
(b. 1954)

Original title

Við Jóhanna

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2013
279 pp.

Genre

Memoir

About the book

Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir and Jónína Leósdóttir were both married when they first met in 1983, and neither had ever been involved with a woman. A fateful political tour in 1985 would mark the beginning of their tumultuous relationship, which for years was kept under wraps, Icelandic society being considerably homophobic at the time. After a long and often difficult journey, Jóhanna and Jónína moved in together in 2000 and ten years later they updated their civil union to a legal marriage. By then, Jóhanna had become the Prime Minister of Iceland, making the two women the world's first same-sex prime ministerial couple – provoking interest around the world.

About the author

Jónína Leósdóttir has a degree in Literature from the University of Iceland. She is a novelist, playwright and former journalist and the author of a dozen plays, six novels, two biographies and numerous articles.



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Icelandic works nominated for the Nordic Council Children's and Young People's Literature Prize 2014:



English working title

Stína

by Lani Yamamoto
(b. 1965)

Original title

Stína stórasæng

Publisher

Crymoegea, 2013
40 pp.

Genre

Illustrated Children's book

About the book

Stína is a girl who is always freezing and is so frightened of the cold that she spends all her time, energy and imagination keeping the cold out and avoiding having to go out into the cold. Stína's work sketches are particularly fun, showing the different tools and instruments she has thought of making to keep herself warm and prevent the cold from getting in.

About the author

Lani Yamamoto was born in the United States and has studied psychology and comparative religious studies. She has a background in documentary films and her series of Albert books have been published in 12 languages. She lives in Reykjavik with her husband and two children.

Awards and nominations

The Icelandic Women Literature Prize in children's books category. Nominated for the Nordic Council Children's and Young People's Literature Prize 2014. Dimmalimm Prize 2013 for best Icelandic children's book illustrations.

Rights

Crymoegea Publishing

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English working title

Timebox

by Andri Snær Magnason
(b. 1973)

Original title

Tímakistan

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2013
296 pp.

Genre

Children's book (10+ years old)

About the book

When things are looking bad and economists predict a massive financial crisis, Filippa's family is lucky – they can crawl into their black boxes and wait for better times. But one day, her box opens and she is confronted by an abandoned city in ruins, with everyone stuck in black boxes waiting for things to get better. Filippa meets a strange old lady in a house full of children and archaeological artefacts. The old lady tells them a story of a greedy king who conquered the world but yearned to conquer time. There seems to be a connection of some sort between the old woman's story and Filippa's world. She and her friends must find the link, which will hopefully show them how to fix the world.

About the author

Andri Snær Magnason has written novels, poetry, plays, short stories, essays and CDs. His children's book, *The Story of the Blue Planet*, was the first children's book to receive the Icelandic Literary Prize in 1999 and has been published in more than 20 countries. Andri Snær has been active in the fight against the destruction of the Icelandic Highlands. He received the Alfred Toepfer Kairos Prize in 2010.

Awards and nominations

Icelandic Literary Prize in Children's and YA category, The Icelandic Booksellers Prize in YA category. Nominated for the Nordic Councils Children's and Young People's Literature Prize 2013. Nominated for the West Nordic Children's Book Prize 2013.

Website

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Rights

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Icelandic works nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2014:



English working title

Secretaries to the Spirits

by Auður Jónsdóttir
(b. 1973)

Original title

Ósjálfrátt

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2012
384 pp.

Genre

Novel



English working title

Evil

by Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl
(b. 1978)

Original title

Illska

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2012
540 pp.

Genre

Novel

The role of the Icelandic Literature Center is to support the publication of Icelandic works of literature and the publication of literary works translated into Icelandic. Its role is also to raise awareness of Icelandic literature, both within Iceland and abroad, and promote its distribution – as well as to nurture literary culture in Iceland.

Foreign publishers of Icelandic books can apply to the Icelandic Literature Center for translation subsidies. Authors, publishers and organizers of literary events can apply for support for Icelandic authors travelling abroad to promote their work. *Books From Iceland 2014* recommends highlights from various categories of books published in Iceland in 2013.

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