

B&V

**B&V** Literary Agency  
- A department of Bjartur & Veröld Publishing House, Reykjavík



In 2008 the publishing houses of Bjartur and Veröld were united under the direction of Pétur Már Ólafsson, each imprint maintaining its originality. Hand-in-hand, Bjartur & Veröld is the second largest publishing house in Iceland, committed to publishing smart, interesting titles designed to enrich people's lives.

**Bjartur Publishing** was founded in 1990. The company's original focus was on translations of world literature, but its publication of contemporary Icelandic works has been steadily increasing. A turning point for Bjartur was the acquisition of the rights to the Harry Potter novels in 1999, and in 2003 the acquisition of rights to the Da Vinci Code for Denmark as well as Iceland, and the subsequent opening of its Danish branch, Hr. Ferdinand. After the merger with Veröld, Bjartur separated from Hr. Ferdinand in 2008, focusing on the Icelandic market and the promotion of its authors abroad.

**Verold Publishing** was founded in 2005, publishing Icelandic fiction and non-fiction, translated fiction, biographies, illustrated books and children's books.



### **Contact us**

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### **Bjartur**

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## **Jón Kalman Stefánsson (1963)**

Jón Kalman first gained recognition for his poetry, but since 1996 he has published 7 novels. The latest one, *Heaven and Hell*, is being published in Germany (Reklam), France (Gallimard) and UK (MacLehose Press). The second part of the novel will be published this autumn and is widely anticipated.



## Heaven and Hell - part II

(COMING, 2009)

### Heaven and Hell

(Himnaríki og Helvíti, 2007)

There's a short way between life and death. Sometimes just an overcoat.

The story happens more than a hundred years ago, in the West, by a fjord, between high mountains, where the sea is sometimes so mellow that you can go down to the beach and pet it.

### Summer Light, Enter Night

(Sumarljós, og svo kemur nóttin, 2005)

We're not going to talk about the whole village, won't go into each house, but we will talk about the desire that ties together days and nights. A play based on Jón Kalman's book, Summer Light, Enter Night, was produced last winter at The National Theatre of Iceland. The book also received the The Icelandic Literary Prize and was nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize .

### Review excerpts:

"Ein Buch wie eine Perlenuaust, unter deren rauer Schale sich ein strahlender Schatz verbirgt." - **Spiegel online**

"Jón Kalman Stefánsson schreibt das Buch des Jahres". - **Frankfurter Neue Presse**

"Grandios." - **BuchMarkt**

★★★★★ - **Páll Baldvin, Fbl Newspaper**

"Fine prose, great style..." - **Egill Helgason, Channel 1, TV**

### Awards

Nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize for Summer Behind the Slope in 2001.

Nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize for Of Tall Trees and Time in 2004.

Received The Icelandic Literary Prize for Summer Light, Enter Night in 2005.

Nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize for Summer Light, Enter Night in 2007.

### Literary agent

Leonhardt & Hoier  
c/o Monica C. Gram  
monica@leonhardt-hoier.dk

### International publishers

Croatia - Fraktura  
Denmark - Per Kofod  
Estonia - Atlex  
France - Actes Sud  
Greece - Kastaniotis  
Hungary - Magvető Kiado  
Italy - Feltrinelli  
Korea - Minumsa  
Netherlands - Querido  
Norway - Gyldendal Norsk  
Spain - Anagrama  
Spain (Catalan) - Anagrama  
Sweden - Bonniers

## Sjón (1962)

Sjón has written 7 novels, 11 books of poetry, lyrics, a libretto and movie scripts. He was nominated for an Academy Award for his song lyrics for the movie *Dancer in the Dark*, received the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 2005 for the novel *The Blue Fox*, recently nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. Publishing rights for his most recent novel, *The Twilight of Marvels* have, for instance, been sold to Denmark (C&K Forlag), UK (Telegram) and Germany (Fischer).



### Literary Agent

Licht & Burr  
c/o Trine Licht  
tl@licht-burr.dk

### International publishers

#### The Wispering Muse:

Denmark: Athene  
Faroe Islands: Forlagid Nýlendi  
Finland: Like  
Holland: De Geus  
Norway: Tiden  
Sweden: Alfabeta

#### The Blue Fox:

Denmark: Athene  
Czech: Argo Publishing House  
Faroe Islands: Forlagid Nylendi  
Finland: Like  
France: Payot & Rivages  
Galician: Rinoceronte Editora  
Germany: S. Fischer Verlag  
Holland: De Geus  
Italy: Mondadori  
Lithuania: Apostrofa  
Norway: Tiden  
Serbia & Montenegro: Balkankult Foundation  
Spanish (Spain only): Nórdica Libros  
Sweden: AlfaBeta  
Turkey: Meram Yayincilik  
World English: Telegram Books

## The Twilight of Marvels

(Rökkurbýsnir, 2008)

In the year 1635 the Earth is still the center of the universe, the heart's compartments are two, birds hatch out of seaweed, unicorn horns are a popular luxury and stones are good for cures. The author and painter Jónas "the Learned" Pálmason is arrested for spreading witchcraft and sent to exile on the island of Gullbjarnarey.

## The Whispering Muse

(Argóarflísín, 2005)

The year is 1949 and an elderly Icelander with elevated ideas about the influence of fish consumption on Nordic civilisation has had the singular good fortune to be invited to join a Danish merchant ship on its way to the Black Sea. Among the crew is an experienced old sailor called Caeneus. Every evening after dinner he tells his fellow travellers the tale of how he sailed with that fabled vessel the Argo, under the leadership of Jason, on the Argonauts' great quest to retrieve the Golden Fleece from Colchis.

### From reviews:

"Twilight of Marvels is a joy to read, accessible to all readers, the narrative exciting and popular ... Good reading!" – **Sigurður Hróarsson, Fbl Newspaper**

"Twilight of Marvels is an ingeniously crafted and beautiful work (...) a reading experience that is most like a fairytale that the reader wishes would last as long as possible."

– **Úlfhildur Dagsdóttir, bokmenntir.is**

"An intensely magical book." – **Mannamál, Channel 2, TV**

## Literary Prizes

Nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize for *The Blue Fox*, 2009.

The Icelandic Bookseller's Prize for the Novel of the Year for *Argóarflísín*, 2005.

The Nordic Council's Literature Prize for *The Blue Fox*, 2005.

The DV Newspaper Culture Prize / Literature for *With a Quivering Tear*, 2002.

The Icelandic Broadcasting Service Writers Fund for contribution to Icelandic literature, 1998.

The DV Newspaper Culture Prize / Literature for *Made in Secret* (a.k.a. *Your Eyes Saw Me*), 1995.

## Other Prizes

*Skuggaleikur* (Shadow Play), an opera by Karólína Eiríksdóttir with libretto by Sjón, based on the short story *Skyggen* (the Shadow) by H. C. Andersen, is nominated for the Nordic Council Music Prize, 2008

Nominated for an Academy Award in the category Best Original Song for the song *I've Seen It All* from the film *Dancer in the Dark*, 2000

Nominated for a Golden Globe Award for the song *I've Seen It All* from the film *Dancer in the Dark*, 2001

## Yrsa Sigurðardóttir (1963)

Yrsa Sigurðardóttir is the “new queen of crime fiction”. Her debut, *Last Rituals*, has been published in thirty languages. Yrsa is a civil engineer and lives in Reykjavik.





**Last Rituals** sells in thirty languages and has received rave reviews around the globe. “You will now have to remember two very good Icelandic crime writers. Arnaldur Indridason ... [and] Yrsa Sigurdardottir.” – **THE TIMES**

**Foreign Sales:** UK: Hodder; US: William Morrow / HarperCollins; GERMANY: Fischer; SPAIN: Santillana – Suma; DENMARK: Aschehoug; NORWAY: Damm; SWEDEN: Damm; FINLAND: Otava; ICELAND: Verold; HOLLAND: De Fontein; ITALY: Sperling & Kupfer – Mondadori; GREECE: Diigisi; LITHUANIA: Mintis; RUSSIA: AP-U Factory; POLAND: Muza; CZECH REPUBLIC: Metafora; SLOVAKIA: Columbus; THAILAND: Matichon; ISRAEL – Hebrew: Kinneret Zmora Dvir; ROMANIA: Humanitas; BRASIL: Objetiva/Suma; LATVIA: Kontinent; SLOVENIA: Učila; BULGARIA: Prozoretz; PORTUGAL: Difel / Gotica; ESTONIA: Varrak; TAIWAN: China Times; HUNGARY: Animus; JAPAN: Shueisha; TURKEY: Koridor Yayinlari; SERBIA: Leo commerce

**My Soul to Take** was Yrsa’s first book to become a bestseller abroad, both in Germany and Austria.

**Foreign Sales:** UK: Hodder, US: William Morrow / HarperCollins, GERMANY: Fischer, ITALY: Sperling & Kupfer; GREECE: Diigisi; POLAND: Muza; SPAIN: World Spanish: Santillana – Suma; DENMARK: Aschehoug; SWEDEN: Damm; NORWAY: Damm; FINLAND: Otava; CZECH REPUBLIC: Metafora; SLOVAKIA: Columbus; PORTUGAL: Gótica

**Ashes to Dust** “A brilliantly plotted crime novel ... Ashes to Dust is thrilling right from the start to the end.” [www.kistan.is](http://www.kistan.is), **cultural website**

★★★★★ – **Frettabladid, daily newspaper**

**Foreign Sales:** GERMANY: Fischer; GREECE: Diigisi; POLAND: Muza; SPAIN (World Spanish) Santillana – Suma; DENMARK: Aschehoug; SWEDEN: Damm; NORWAY: Damm; CZECH REPUBLIC: Metafora; SLOVAKIA: Columbus.

### **Veins of Ice:**

“The plot is tightly woven; it is subtle but Yrsa succeeds in creating a suspense full of paranoia and isolation, keeping the reader astonished and excited by various means: occult, horrible consequences of alcoholism and the desperation of the aboriginals, whom she treats with praiseworthy respect and understanding; she writes about bullying in an isolated work site and work group. Her story treats the endangered natural environment, looks back into history, and ends in a brilliant, accomplished manner. This is very good stuff.” – **Frettabladid, daily newspaper**

**Foreign Sales:** GERMANY: Fischer

## Jón Hallur Stefánsson (1959)

Jón Hallur Stefánsson is a master of many trades: a skilled songwriter, excellent poet, radio broadcaster; in recent years he has earned a reputation as a sound designer for the theatre. Bjartur Publishing and Jón Hallur have a long and varied relationship, which started with Jón Hallur's translation of a collection of short stories by Julio Cortázar. His first crime novel earned him the nick-name "Crown Prince of Crime," and his second novel was equally successful.



## The Incendiary

(Vargurinn, 2008)

On a cold winter night a house is set on fire in Seydisfjörður, a small town on the east coast. Detective Valdimar Eggertsson is sent from Reykjavík to investigate the case. More buildings are burned down and the inhabitants of this peaceful town realize that they are under threat. Is this just an ordinary pyromaniac or does he have different motives? To stop this horror, Valdimar Eggertsson must make his way through a net of gossip, lies and passions.

## The Bough that Breaks

(Krosstré, 2005)

A complex, thrilling, and masterfully well-written crime story that grips the reader from the beginning through to the very last page. An architect in his early forties is found fatally wounded at his summer cottage near Lake Þingvallavatn. The detective Valdimar Eggertsson is put on the case. It soon becomes evident that the injured man is tangled in a web of lies and deceit in which his family, lover and co-workers are both victims and participants.

### Review excerpts:

“The story is an absolute pleasure and one is jealous of those suspense addicts who have yet to read it.” – **Silja Aðalsteinsdóttir, [www.tmm.is](http://www.tmm.is), cultural website**

“Krosstré is what good crime stories should be.”

– **Ingbjörg Sigurðardóttir, [www.kistan.is](http://www.kistan.is), cultural website**

“In 2005, Jón Hallur Stefánsson entered the world of crime fiction as a fully mature writer with *The Bough that Breaks* ... *The Incendiary* is a very well-written crime novel where the beasts that you find in society can be interpreted in various ways.”

– **Mbl newspaper**

“[Jón Hallur Stefánsson] shortens the darkness which Icelanders are experiencing nowadays with a skilfully plotted crime novel and suspense that makes the blood boil.”

– **Víðskiptabladid, business newspaper**

“Sharp and entertaining crime novel.” – **Channel 2, TV station**

## Literary Agent

Licht & Burr

c/o Trine Licht

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## International publishers

Denmark: Gyldendal

France: Gaia Editions

Germany: Ullstein Buchverlage – lead title List Fall 2007 (2-book deal)

Holland: De Geus

Norway: Cappelen



## Lilja Sigurðardóttir (1972)

Lilja Sigurðardóttir is a computer technician in Reykjavík. She has a degree in educational theory. **Steps**, her first crime novel, will be published by Bjartur in October 2009.

### **Steps**

A man who had been active in the AA organization is found crucified in a church in Reykjavík. The AA is not very forthcoming in its cooperation with the authorities, so the police needs to find its own source within the organization. A police detective approaches Magni, the detective's ex who is just out of rehab, and asks him for help. While Magni is struggling with his recovery and the abused bodies pile up, it becomes more and more apparent to him that the villain is following the AA's twelve steps in his deeds. And step by step he is getting closer and closer to Magni himself ...



## Ragnar Jónasson (1976)

Ragnar Jónasson is a lawyer in Reykjavik. Having translated more than a dozen of Agatha Christie's bestsellers he decided to write his own crime novel. His debut, **Past Tense**, will be published in October 2009 by Verold.

### **Past tense**

When Ari Thor Arason receives a sky-high credit card invoice from an English bank his world is turned upside down. The name on the invoice is his father's – who disappeared a decade ago, when Ari was just a boy. Ari Thor Arason embarks on a journey to find out the truth about a strange claim, a loving father who abandoned his family – and himself.

## Hermann Stefánsson (1968)

Hermann is a prolific columnist, a web-blogger, and a former editor of an extensive internet magazine on culture. He has been called one of the funniest and most original authors of our time.

### Oblivion

(Algleymi, 2008)

A man wakes up in a hospital with amnesia. What happened? Was there an accident? Was it an accident? Who was the stranger that saved his life? –In this exhilarating story readers are led into a world where mysterious persecutions seem to be tolerated, key events from world history appear in a different context, mysterious manuscript from the middle ages comes into light, running away is inevitable – and then there is the biggest physics experiment of all times that is performed in CERN in Switzerland.

### Review excerpts

“A provocative novel ...a pathfinder in literature.”

– **Hjalti Snær, Channel 1, radio**

“The style, wording and metaphors are powerful and entertaining”

– **Fríða Björk, Mbl Newspaper**

“Entertaining contemplations about time travelling, literature, the imagination, brain damage and special aspects of quantum physics.”

– **Gunnþórunn Guðmundsdóttir, bokmenntir.is, culture web**

“Hermann’s novel is extremely strong, however one categorizes or defines it.” ★★★★★

– **Kristján Hrafn**

### Blinking light - Review excerpts:

(Stefnuljós, 2005)

“Consistent, well-written and very exciting at times. Also an ironic summary of contemporary Iceland, whether in communications, politics or culture.”

– **Sigríður Albertsdóttir, DV**

“Entertainingly organized chaos that spreads over contemporary society and world literature”

– **Jón Yngi Jóhannsson, Kastljós, Channel 1 TV)**

“... the strengths of the novel are clear. It is mostly well-styled, full of entertaining ideas and a vibrant atmosphere.”

– **Halldór Guðmundsson, Fbl Newspaper**

## Óskar Árni Óskarsson (1950)

A respected poet and novelist, Óskar Árni has translated many jewels of world literature. Óskar Árni is a master of short prose.

### Silhouettes – From a Journey

(SKUGGAMYNDIR – úr ferðalagi, 2008)

A poet goes on the road, recalls scenes of past events to meet with old times and lost generations. Snapshots from contemporary reality and the past make a powerful story of travelling through time and space.

### Review excerpts:

“Exceptional grasp on the short-prose style. Whether melancholy, sarcastic or viewing the comic side of things the author writes sparse lines filled with more magic than many can gather in whole books.”

– Brynjólfur Þór Guðmundsson, DV, newspaper

“Extremely good reading” ★★★★★

– Próstur Helgason, Lesbók, Mbl Newspaper

“An exquisite journey with the master of short prose.”

– Mannamál, Channel 2, TV

“One of the best books of the year.”

– Kolbrún Bergþórsdóttir, Kiljan, Channel 1 TV

### Literary Prizes

Writer in residence at VATNASAFN / LIBRARY OF WATER (Roni Horn/Artangel) - 2009

Nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize, 2008

Poetry Prize for the poetry book Loftskip, 2006

National Radio's Literature Prize, 2004

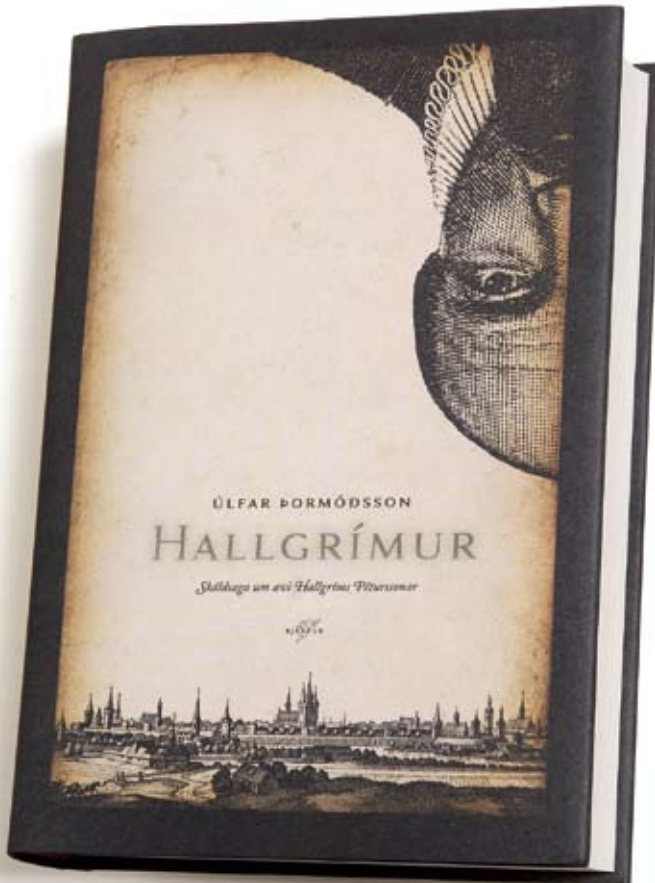


## Úlfar Þormóðsson (1944)

Úlfar Þormóðsson has written novels and books on various subjects. His last three novels take place in the 17th century. He takes a new and fresh approach to the past, based on many years of research.

### Hallgrímur

Hallgrímur is about the turbulent and dramatic life of Hallgrímur Pétursson, a priest and poet who is one of the biggest names in Icelandic literature. Pétursson chose to travel new and sometimes dangerous paths in both his writings and personal life. At the same time Hallgrímur is a description of the 17th century in Iceland, with its fear of witchcraft and struggles against the powers of evil and merciless nature.





## Sindri Freysson (1970)

Sindri Freysson is a journalist and a writer of poetry, short stories and two critically acclaimed novels.

### **Daughter of My Mothers**

(Dóttir mæðra minna, COMING 2009)

In Daughter of My Mothers the world is at war. English soldiers seize a small fishery town where 17 year old Kristin lives. She is arrested along with her mother and they are accused of having aided a German spy. Kristin is transported to England where she is taken to the horrifying Holloway-prison. As London burns in the night, Kristin reconstructs the fascinating tale of her two mothers, one of whom quarter of a century earlier fled oppressive poverty to England, the other a German refugee in Iceland whose entire life has been a struggle against prejudice, but who is now enjoying the imprisonment a bit too much.



## Bergsveinn Birgisson (1971)

In the spring of 2003, Bergsveinn sent Bjartur a manuscript in the mail. The next autumn his first novel was published and was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize. Bergsveinn is now Doctor artium from University of Bergen, where he is lector in Old-Norse literature and philology.

### **Manual on the Mentality of Cows – A Research-Based Novel**

(Handbók um hugarfar kúa – skáldfræðisaga - COMING 2009)

A young culturist moves back home to Iceland after years of studying abroad. Culturists are not in high demand but through some connections he gets an assignment writing a script for a documentary on the Icelandic cow for the Farmers Association and some other parties with interests in cattle breeding. The culturist can not help but discover, through his research, that the fate of men and cows are an intertwined web and that directions in cattle breeding are linked with social developments.

### **Landscape is Never Awkward**

(Landslag er aldrei asnalegt, 2003)

### **Review excerpts**

“A sharp, philosophical, old-fashioned and very Icelandic tale ...”

– **Steinunn Inga Óttarsdóttir, Mbl Newspaper**

Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize



## Eiríkur Guðmundsson (1969)

Eiríkur is a well-known radio broadcaster for a cultural program on the National Radio where he has shared his thoughts on modern life and its calamities for the past decade.

### The Professionals

(Kunnáttumenn, COMING 2009)

A story about extremely young outsiders living at the outskirts of the habitable world ...”

### Under the Sky

(Undir himninum, 2006)

Writer, translator and radio broadcaster Eiríkur Guðmundsson has for some time had difficulties distinguishing between reality and fiction – not that he thinks himself to be a white whale or a plantation owner in the South, always drunk falling from his horse - but it seems that reality has not managed to make a distinction between him and something that belongs neither to reality nor fiction. When Eiríkur drops a postcard out of his attic window, there is no turning back.

### 39 Steps on the Way to Damnation

(39 þrep á leið til glötunar, 2004)

Written in an attempt to stop the progress of Fascism in the world, includes his central findings that are at the same time terrifying and hilarious, intense as well as plainly absurd.

### Review excerpts

“In 39 steps the reader might be reminded of Dostoyevsky’s Notes from the Underground ... it is an intriguing book ... a real joy to read and certainly worth the effort.”

– Jón Ólafsson, Mbl Newspaper

“Under the sky is a sheer joy to read and the story is at once funny, ironical, personal, and melancholy.”

– Mbl Newspaper

“The text is fun and weird. It would get five stars from me if I gave them

– Fbl Newspaper

## Sigurjón Magnússon (1956)

Before the publication of his first novel, *Good Night, Silja* in 1999, Sigurjón worked as an insurance salesman. Sigurjón has received excellent reviews for his four novels.

### Barbed Wire

(Gaddavír 2006)

A young country priest is conducting a funeral. The dead man was often seen leaning against the barbed wire of his property, gazing into the blue. As the priest stands over the coffin, he can see marks on the deceased man's hands. The young priest narrates the story of the man who held the barbed wire with his bare hands.

### Review excerpts

"Barbed Wire is a smooth, conventional, well-written novel about the human condition."

– Geir Svansson, *Mbl Newspaper*

"Sigurjón is prone to using a narrative method where individual incidents stand for a greater context.... This should not surprise anyone. Sigurjón has proved before that he uses this method with ease, and is capable of depicting emotions and the world that lives in his work in a powerful way."

– Björn Þór Vilhjálmsson, *Mbl newspaper*



## Pórdís Björnsdóttir (1978)

Pórdís has published many books of poetry, among others her co-production with Jesse Ball, Vera & Linus (2006).

### Story of a Blue Summer

A young woman goes to live in the house of her deceased grandmother for the summer, in a remote small town. She gets to know an old man who lives in a museum of clocks.

### Review excerpts

“The author does not reach too far, as is all too common in first novels. She is sparse and manages to interweave the threads necessary to create a memorable and interesting story. A testimony to the talent that the author has already shown and a sign of a promising future.

– Úlfhildur Dagsdóttir, [www.bokmenntir.is](http://www.bokmenntir.is)

“A long lasting moment of fantasy ... a dark-blue love song to life.”

– Ása Helga, Channel 1 Radio



## Ingunn Snædal (1970)

Bjartur has published two of Ingunn's books of poetry and both of them have been big hits and had long runs on bestseller lists, where poetry is otherwise rarely seen!

### **Godless People - a Few Thoughts on Glacial Rivers and Love**

(Guðlausir menn – hugleiðingar um jökulvatn og ást, 2006)

"The poem's style is clear and simple, the poet speaks directly to the heart, spares neither herself nor others and shares with the reader both painful and sweet experiences."

Selection Committee, TG Literary Prize

### **The Absence of Trees - Road Poetry**

(Í fjarveru trjáa – Vegaljóð, 2008)

★★★★ - Fb1 Newspaper

★★★★ Mbl newspaper

"If I were to describe Ingunn Snædal's poems in two words, these two are probably the best ones: fun and honest."

Hjalti Snær, Channel 1 Radio.

### **Literary Awards**

Received the Tómas Guðmundsson Literary Prize for Guðlausir menn, 2006

Nominated for The Icelandic Literary Prize, 2006



## Kristín Svava Tómasdóttir (1985)

Kristín Svava Tómasdóttir is a poet living in Reykjavík. *Cursed Caresses* is her first published book.

### **Cursed Caresses**

(Blótgætur 2007)

“There is something raw, wet and extreme in the contemporary atmosphere; these poems point in an overexcited and power-driven way to some culture on the verge of revolution that is still without a clear opponent and is not least directed inwards; but also something a little weird and beautiful.”

– Ástráður Eysteinnsson, *Fbi Newspaper*



## Jón Óskar Sólnes (1962)

Jón Óskar Sólnes is a former Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission. His book is unique on the market, covering war in Sri Lanka in detail, with first-hand knowledge.

### **A Powderkeg in Paradise**

(Púðurtunna í Paradís, COMING 2009)

A tale of an epic struggle in Sri Lanka, a remote corner of the world, a tale of the integral terror of war and the suffering of a desperately poor population of a failing state. It is a tale of one of the most resilient and ruthless fighting groups the world has witnessed, a tale of nationalist politics and bigotry, a tale of great opportunities for a lasting peace dismissed by two parties locked into a seemingly endless war, completely blinded by their hatred of one another. The book contains photos that have never been seen.





## Lára Ómarsdóttir (1971)

Lára Ómarsdóttir is a well-known journalist and a mother of five. She has gone through hard periods of unemployment that have forced her and her family into extensive economic cutbacks in order to be able to survive.

### **Economy and Happiness**

(Hagkvæmni og hamingja, COMING 2009)

A book about how to survive tough cutbacks in living standards without becoming a depressed victim. To be able to do this one has to have a balanced mind and be optimistic. Thus, the book is also about how to think positively and constructively when one is penniless. The book is based on the author's own experiences as her family had to start a new life with extensive cutbacks when she and her husband lost their jobs a few years ago. They conquered their difficulties, bringing them closer to each other and making them richer in other ways.

## Sigmundur Ernir Rúnarsson (1961)

Sigmundur is a well-known writer and poet. He was a leading TV news reporter for more than twenty-five years and is a soon-to-be MP.

### **The Story of Magnea**

(Magnea, 2008)

Magnea Gudmundsdottir is an ordinary woman whose destiny is to lead an extraordinary life. Three of her four children have died from the same rare disease. How can one deal with such destiny? How is it possible to bear the unbearable? This is a heartwarming story of a mother who sacrifices everything for her children, hoping that one day they will be able to lead a normal life.

**#1 Bestseller**

## Porvaldur Þorsteinsson (1960)

A visual artist, writer and teacher, Þorvaldur has written four books about the wonderful Betterby, a novel, plays (such as *And Björk, Of Course ...*) and a “Pocket Theatre” – much acclaimed radio plays, about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

### The books about our Betterby

(Blíðfínnur I - IV, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004)

The leading character of these magical and sometimes philosophical tales is the winged Betterby, who lives in a fascinating fairytale world, inhabited by various gentle or fierce creatures. In each of the books, Betterby undertakes hazardous journeys that test his courage, ingenuity and friendship. Þorvaldur Þorsteinsson's narrative style is warm and intimate, which as one reviewer puts it: “seems so close as to be almost whispering in your ear”.

“The story of Betterby is one of the most remarkable children's books to come out in Icelandic for many years and I wouldn't be surprised if it became a classic of Icelandic children's literature.” **MBL Newspaper**

“This little book ... has what it takes to warm the hearts of young and old ... a flawless work of art.” **Sigi Zeus, Suddutsche Zeitung**

### Literary Prizes

1998 BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR 1998 - Prize from Reykjavik City for the book „My name is Betterby but you can call me Bobo“

2000 BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR, 2000 - Prize from the Booksellers' Guild for „Are you Betterby...“

2000 THE NATIONAL RADIO'S LITERATURE PRIZE

2002 Nominatet for the NORDIC CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRIZE for the Betterby books.

2002 BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR, 2002 - Award from the Booksellers' Guild for „Betterby – the Journey to Targia“

### International publishers

Spain - EDICIONES SIRUELA, Madrid

Greece - PSICHOGIOS PUBLICATION

Denmark - ROSINANTE

Sweden - KABUSA BÖKER

Germany - VERLAGSGRUPPE BERTLESMANN GMBH

\*P is pronounced as “TH”

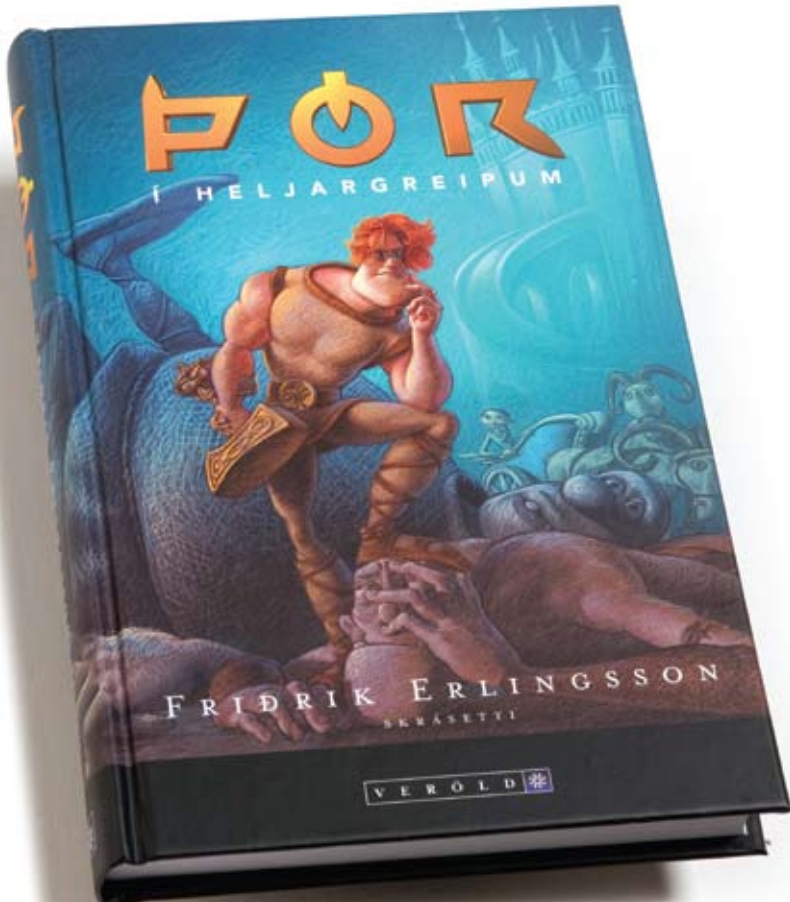
## Friðrik Erlingsson (1962)

Author of the prize-winning children's book, *Benjamin Dove*, which was filmed with great success.

### **Thor – the Wrath of Hel**

(Þór í heljargreipum, 2008)

An exciting adventure with characters from Nordic mythology. Thor is an ordinary blacksmith in the World of Men who doesn't know that he is the son of Odinn, the King of Gods. When Thor receives Mjöllnir, the most powerful weapon in the whole world, an exciting chain of events starts, leading to a dramatic end where Thor must choose between saving the life of his friend or his father's kingdom. The 3D animation company CAOZ is developing a feature based on the story of Thor to be released by the end of year 2011.



- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**  
**Alaa Al Aswany**  
**Mark Alpert**  
**Niccolò Ammaniti**  
**Paul Auster**  
**David Benioff**  
**Emily Brontë**  
**Dan Brown**  
**Georgia Byng**  
**Italo Calvino**  
**Ottavio Cappellani**  
**Bernardo Carvalho**  
**Raymond Carver**  
**Philippe Claudel**  
**J.M. Coetzee**  
**Zizou Corder**  
**Dave Eggers**  
**Gustave Flaubert**  
**Cornelia Funke**  
**Robert Goddard**  
**Roderick Gordon & Brian Williams**  
**Gunter Grass**  
**Rawi Hage**  
**Olav H. Hauge**  
**Judith Hermann**  
**Bohumil Hrabal**  
**Kazuo Ishiguro**  
**Lloyd Jones**  
**James Joyce**  
**Janosch**  
**Hitomi Kanehara**
- Daniel Kehlmann**  
**Danilo Kis**  
**Ray Kluun**  
**Hanif Kureishi**  
**Selma Lagerlöf**  
**Jhumpa Lahiri**  
**Stieg Larsson**  
**Jonathan Lethem**  
**Erlend Loe**  
**Yann Martel**  
**Ian McEwan**  
**Magnus Mills**  
**Haruki Murakami**  
**Pablo Neruda**  
**Amélié Nothomb**  
**Per Petterson**  
**DBC Pierre**  
**Marcel Proust**  
**Philip Roth**  
**J.K. Rowling**  
**Roberto Saviano**  
**Andrea-Maria Schenkel**  
**Erik-Emmanuel Schmitt**  
**Dai Sijie**  
**Isaac B. Singer**  
**Sasa Stanišić**  
**Rupert Thomson**  
**Colm Tóibín**  
**Walt Whitman**  
**Oscar Wilde**  
**William Carlos Williams**