

Icelandic works
nominated for
the Nordic Council
Literature Prize 2013



MIÐSTÖÐ
íslenskra
BÓKMENNTA
ICELANDIC LITERATURE CENTER

The Valeyri Waltz
by Guðmundur Andri Thorsson

Original title
Valeyrarvalsinn

Publisher
JPV / Forlagið, 2011

Genre
Short story cycle

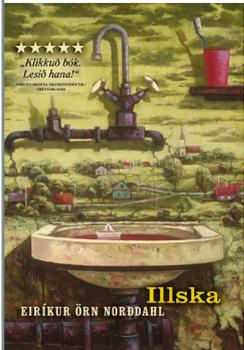
The Woman at 1000°
by Hallgrímur Helgason

Original title
Konan við 1000°

Publisher
JPV / Forlagið, 2011

Genre
Novel

Books from ICELAND



English working title

Evil
by Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl
(b. 1978)

Original title
Illska

Publisher
Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2012
540 pp

Genre
Novel

About the book

Evil is about the Holocaust and love, about Agnes, a Lithuanian raised in Iceland, her boyfriend Ómar, and the slaughter in 1941 of half of the residents of the small Lithuanian town of Jurbarkas. Two of Agnes' great-grandfathers were in the massacre—one shot the other—and three generations later Agnes has made the Holocaust the centre point of her own life. Her obsession leads her to Arnor, a literate Neo-Nazi. *Evil* is about Agnes who loves Omar who loves Agnes who loves Arnor.

About the author

Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl has written novels and poetry. He is also a translator, both of fiction and non-fiction, and has written articles about literature and social issues.

Website
www.norddahl.com

Awards and nominations
The Icelandic Literature Prize 2012 and The Icelandic Booksellers Prize for Best Fiction 2012.

Rights
The Forlagid Rights Agency

Contact
Úa Matthíasdóttir, ua@forlagid.is or
Valgerður Benedíktsdóttir, vala@forlagid.is



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 Center for translation subsidies. Authors, publishers and organizers of literary events can apply for support for Icelandic authors travelling abroad to promote their work. These are our selected publications from 2012.

Further information:

www.islit.is or email: islit@islit.is Our address is Hverfisgata 54, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland



English working title

Reykjavik Nights
by Arnaldur Indriðason
(b. 1961)

Original title

Reykjavíkurnætur

Publisher

Vaka-Helgafell / Forlagið, 2012
286 pp

Genre

Crime Novel

About the book

Reykjavik Nights is Arnaldur Indriðason's sixteenth novel and follows the first case of the policeman Erlendur, whom readers know from the author's earlier books. Indriðason's books have been immensely popular both in Iceland and abroad and have been published in over 40 languages.

About the author

Arnaldur Indriðason has the rare distinction of having won the Nordic Crime Novel Prize two years running, and winning 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*. Indriðason's novels have sold in more than ten million copies worldwide.

Rights

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English working title

Poet

by Einar Kárason
(b. 1955)

Original title

Skáld

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2012
236 pp

Genre

Historical novel

About the book

With *Poet*, Einar Kárason completes his series about the history of the powerful clan Sturlungar. In this novel he gives voice to the poet himself, who presents the reader with his experience of this riotous medieval period and shows us his innermost thoughts.

About the author

Einar Kárason is a novelist and one of the most popular authors and scriptwriters of his generation; best known for his Devils' Isle trilogy. His novel *Fury* (2009) was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize and awarded the Icelandic Literature Prize.

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English working title

Icelandic Kings

by Einar Már Guðmundsson
(b. 1954)

Original title

Íslenskir kóngar

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2012
256 pp

Genre

Novel

About the book

The Knudsen clan has ruled Tangavík for more than two centuries, built herring factories, warehouses and shops, sat on the town council, conducted choirs and women's associations. They have disappeared and then reappeared, been both immensely popular and detested, and everything in between. In *Icelandic Kings* Einar Már deals with the country's upper class with great wit and humour.

About the author

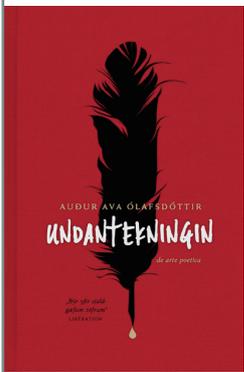
Einar Már Guðmundsson is one of the most widely translated Icelandic authors born in the post-war period. He has received awards and distinctions for his books, and in 2012 he received the Swedish Academy's Nordic Prize, dubbed "The little Nobel", for his contribution to literature.

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English working title

The Exception – de arte poetica

by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir
(b. 1958)

Original title

Undantekningin – de arte poetica

Publisher

Bjartur, 2012
288 pp

Genre

Novel

About the book

The novel begins on New Year's Eve when Maria's husband comes out of the closet after 11 years of marriage. Before the husband leaves he tells her that he has always been more into men but that she is his exception. She is left with their two-and-a-half-year-old twins and Perla, the female dwarf poet living downstairs.

About the author

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir published her first work of fiction in 1998. Since then she has written three more novels, a poetry book and a play and received numerous nominations and awards. Her novel *Afleggjarinn / Rosa candida*, published in France in 2010, enjoyed critical acclaim and became a bestseller.

Awards and nominations

Nominated for the Icelandic Literature Prize 2012.

Rights

Editions Zulma

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zulma@zulma.fr



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

About the book

One day Eyja wakes up in a small fishing village, married to a drunkard twenty years her senior. Strong and determined women on her mother's side decide to get the young woman away from her newly acquired husband and send her off to another country. An interesting, funny, intricate and intimate story about family relations, love, writing, and all the stories life gives us.

About the author

Auður Jónsdóttir has received numerous nominations and awards for her works. Four of her books have been nominated for the Icelandic Literature Prize, and she was awarded the prize for the novel *The People in the Basement* (2004), for which she was also nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize.

Website

www.jonsdottir.com

Awards and nominations

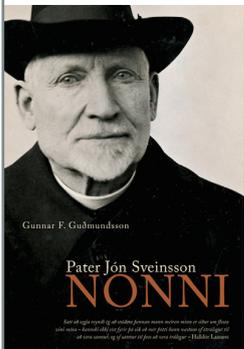
Received The Icelandic Women's Literature Prize 2012 (Fjöruverðlaunin) and nominated for the DV Daily Newspaper Culture Prize for Literature 2012.

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English working title

Pater Jón Sveinsson – Nonni

by Gunnar F. Guðmundsson
(b. 1952)

Original title

Pater Jón Sveinsson – Nonni

Publisher

Opna, 2012
526 pp

Genre

Biography

About the book

This is the first biography of the beloved Icelandic children's book author Jón Sveinsson, or Nonni, to be published in Icelandic. Nonni was born in Iceland in 1857 but sent abroad at a young age, became a Jesuit priest, and died in Cologne in Germany 1944. His children's books on the adventures of Nonni and Manni were extremely popular around the world. In 1988 a German-Icelandic TV series was created from the books, introducing new generations to the stories about Nonni and Manni. Nonni's books have been translated into 40 languages.

About the author

Gunnar F. Guðmundsson has written extensively about church history and religion, and worked as a teacher and archivist. He has received exceptional reviews for this heartfelt biography of the much loved children's books author Nonni.

Awards and nominations

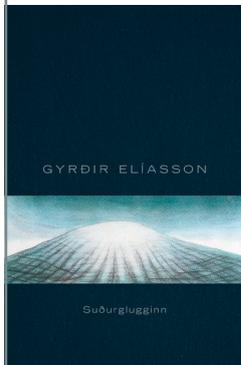
The Icelandic Literature Prize 2012 for Non-Fiction. Nominated for The Hagþenkir Non-Fiction Prize.

Rights

Opna publishing

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Sigurður Svavarsson, sigurdur@opna.is



English working title

The South Window

by Gyrðir Elíasson
(b. 1961)

Original title

Suðurglugginn

Publisher

Uppheimar, 2012
134 pp

Genre

Novel

About the book

A writer is staying in a summer-house close to a small village, working on a novel, but for days his typewriter is silent. During those silent days the writer notes down his reflections on life and living —and the reader gets to know a very interesting storyteller and the strange absence of people in his life.

About the author

Gyrðir Elíasson is one of Iceland's leading writers. He has been nominated and received numerous awards for his work. In 2011 he received the Nordic Council Literature Prize for his collection of short stories *Between the Trees*.

Awards and nominations

Nominated for the Icelandic Literature Prize 2012.

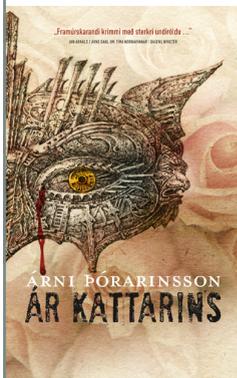
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English working title

Year of the Cat

by Árni Þórarinnsson
(b. 1950)

Original title

Ár kattarins

Publisher

JPV / Forlagið, 2012
300 pp

Genre

Crime Novel

About the book

What is the real motive behind a deadly attack outside a night club? Or behind a gruesome prank at a wedding which turns into a nightmare? Who is sending Einar obscene text messages? *Year of the Cat* is yet another intriguing episode of the series of criminal investigations involving Einar the journalist.

About the author

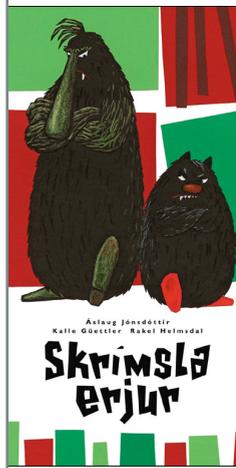
Árni Þórarinnsson's first novel, *The Night Has a Thousand Eyes*, was published in 1999, and since then he has produced more books about the investigating journalist Einar. His books have been translated to numerous languages and widely well-received.

Rights

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English working title

Monster Squabbles

by Áslaug Jónsdóttir (text and illustrations), Kalle Güettler (text) and Rákel Helmsdal (text)

Original title

Skrímslaerjur

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2012
32 pp

Genre

Children's book / Picture Book [2 – 6 years old]

About the book

The seventh book about the monsters. Now they are bored. They can't agree on what to do. What is it like for a monster in large shoes to hopscotch? In the heat of the moment harsh words are exchanged and even the gentlest of monsters lose their temper.

About the authors

Áslaug Jónsdóttir has received nominations and awards for her work as a writer and illustrator, among them The West-Nordic Children's Book Prize 2002 for the illustration of *The Story of The Blue Planet* with text by Andri Snær Magnason. This series is written in partnership between three authors from Iceland, Sweden and the Faroe Islands. It has produced seven popular award-winning books, all of which focus on human relations and situations which all children face at some time.

Awards and nominations

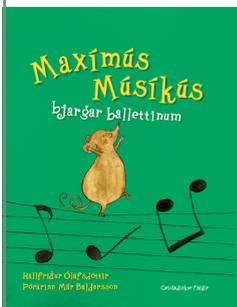
Nominated for the Nordic Council's Children's and Young People's Literature Prize.

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English working title

Maximus Musicus Saves the Ballet

(CD included)
by Hallfríður Ólafsdóttir and
Þórarinn M. Baldursson (illustrations)

Original title

Maxímús Músíkús bjargar ballettinum

Publisher

Mál og menning / Forlagið, 2012
48 pp

Genre

Children's book [4 - 9 years old]

About the book

The third book about the musical mouse, Maximus Musicus. Now Maximus introduces his readers to the ballet. The story revolves around the music of the *Mother Goose Suite* by Maurice Ravel, Glazunov's *Winter*, Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty Overture* and *Pas de deux*. The story ends with *Fire* by Icelandic composer Jórunn Vidar.

Website

www.maximusmusicus.com

About the authors

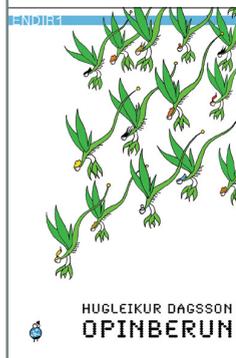
Hallfríður Ólafsdóttir (b.1964) is principal flautist of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. Þórarinn M. Baldursson (b.1977) is a violist in the Iceland Symphony Orchestra.

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English working title

End 1: Revelation

by Hugleikur Dagsson
(b. 1977)

Original title

Endir 1: Opinberun

Publisher

Ókeibæ, 2012
70 pp

Genre

Cartoon / Graphic Novel

About the book

This book speaks of the time when aliens invade the Earth and use the Book of Revelations as a guide on how to destroy mankind. This is what happens when science meets religion. The first book of three about the end of the world.

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

Raven's Eye

by Kjartan Yngvi Björnsson and Snæbjörn Brynjarsson
(Both b. 1984)

Original title

Hrafnsauga – Priggja heima saga

Publisher

Vaka-Helgafell / Forlagið, 2012
108 pp

Genre

Children's book / Young Adult [-10+ years old]

About the book

The initiation festival is coming soon, the day when the Master of Spells will tell Ragnar, Breki, Sirja, and their peers in the village what their roles and duties are to be. The children should be enjoying their last carefree days in the summer sun, but the future holds different things in store.

About the authors

Kjartan Yngvi Björnsson and Snæbjörn Brynjarsson have been friends since secondary school. Both are great fans of fantasy fiction. *Raven's Eye* is their first book and the first book in the Three Worlds series, a thrilling saga of blood-magic, hidden secrets, and forgotten fiends that threaten all three worlds.

Awards and nominations

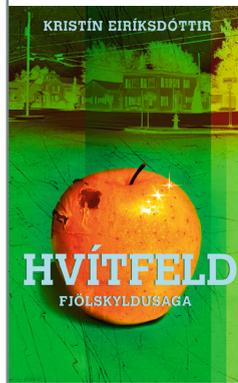
The Icelandic Children's Literature Prize 2012, The Icelandic Booksellers Prize for Best Young Adult Book 2012.

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English working title

White Fur

by Kristín Eiríksdóttir
(b.1981)

Original title

Hvítfeld – fjölskyldusaga

Publisher

JPV / Forlagið, 2012
295 pp

Genre

Novel

About the book

Jenny Hvítfeld has it all: looks, brains, and a career, or so it seems. She has been living in Texas, but when her sister dies she travels home to Iceland with her daughter Jackie. She meets her family after a long separation and starts to realize that her family history is toxic with lies; finally Jenny must face the past, and herself. *White Fur* is a powerful story about lies and delusion.

About the author

Kristín Eiríksdóttir made her mark on the Icelandic literary scene with her collection of short stories, *Doris Dies* in 2010. Her voice is considered one of the most original of her generation. *White Fur* is Kristín's debut novel.

Awards and nominations

Nominated for the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize 2012 (Fjöruverðlaunin).

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English working title

Love and Other Complications

by Rúnar Helgi Vignisson
(b. 1959)

Original title

Ást í meinum

Publisher

Uppheimar, 2012
194 pp

Genre

Short Stories

About the book

The fifteen short stories pose questions about the nature of personal exchanges, relationships and cohabitations. Rúnar Helgi Vignisson's literary language is often laced with humour, but more often than not his magic lies in the unsaid—that which the reader adds to these memorable stories.

About the author

Rúnar Helgi has had a long career as a translator and author, beginning in 1984 with his first novel *No Mean Thing / Ekkert slor*. Rúnar has earned accolades for his translations, which include the works of such authors as Ian McEwan and Philip Roth. Rúnar Helgi heads the creative writing program at the University of Iceland.

Awards and nominations

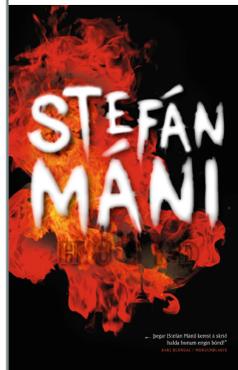
2012 DV Daily Newspaper Culture Prize for Literature

Rights

Uppheimar Publishing

Contact

uppheimar@uppheimar.is



English working title

The House Where Hell Sleeps

by Stefán Máni
(b. 1970)

Original title

Húsið

Publisher

JPV / Forlagið, 2012
590 pp

Genre

Thriller Fiction

About the book

The day before Christmas 1979 a house is ravaged by a fire in Kollafjörður, a tranquil bay north of Reykjavík in Iceland. A seven-year-old boy survives the fire, but his entire family perishes in the flames. In November 2007 detective inspector Hörður Grímsson is called to a house in Reykjavík where an old man is found dead in his basement covered in blood. Somehow the cases seem connected, and the psychic detective is suspicious about the boy, now grown up, who is the victim's nephew.

About the author

Stefán Máni has published more than 10 novels. In 2006 his novel *The Ship* became a national best seller and has since been translated into a number of languages.

Awards and nominations

Tindabíkkjan Award 2012 for Best Crime Novel of the Year.

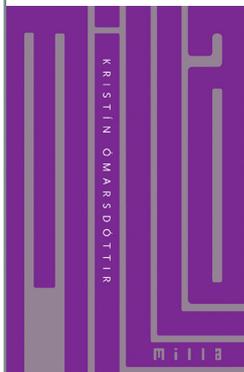
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English working title

Milla

by Kristín Ómarsdóttir
(b. 1962)

Original title

Milla

Publisher

JPV / Forlagið, 2012
314 pp

Genre

Novel

About the book

Milla is twenty-one years old and longs to have a life like any normal girl. At work she files data for “The Museum of the Ordinary Icelandic Family at the End of the Twentieth Century” but she has no idea what to do with her life and has a gnawing suspicion that the summer might be her last.

About the author

It is long since Kristín Ómarsdóttir developed her unique style, which is unparalleled in Icelandic literature. Kristín has written novels, poetry, short stories and plays and received numerous nominations and awards for her works.

Awards and nominations

Nominated for the Icelandic Literature Prize 2012.

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Website

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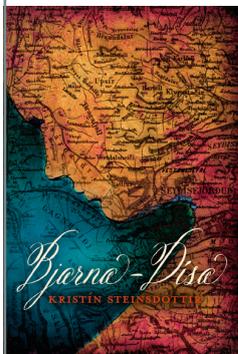
Anna Stein O'Sullivan, anna@aitkenalexander.com

Co-agents

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Valgerður Benediktsdóttir, vala@forlagid.is



English working title

The Lost Girl

by Kristín Steinsdóttir
(b. 1946)

Original title

Bjarna-Dísa

Publisher

Vaka- Helgafell / Forlagið, 2012
160 pp

Genre

Novella

About the book

It's building up to a blizzard the day Dísa and her brother, Bjarni, head up the mountain, but duty calls. They are farmhands in 18th century Iceland and must do as they are told. Bjarni is forced to leave his sister behind and go for help. Meanwhile Dísa sits alone in the relentless darkness, the endless void, for several days and nights—and the monsters start coming.

About the author

Kristín Steinsdóttir's numerous books have received a variety of awards, including The Icelandic Women's Literature Awards (Fjöruverðlaunin), which she received for the novel *Á eigin vegum / By Herself* (2006). The book was also nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize.

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English working title:

The Undesired

by Yrsa Sigurðardóttir
(b. 1963)

Original title

Kuldi

Publisher

Veröld, 2012
367 pp

Genre

Crime Novel

About the book

A young man is investigating whether boys were subject to abuse at the state-run treatment home, Krokur, back in the seventies, and bit by bit he learns that the home really had some dark sides. When something from the past starts haunting him and his daughter, he begins fearing for their lives.

About the author

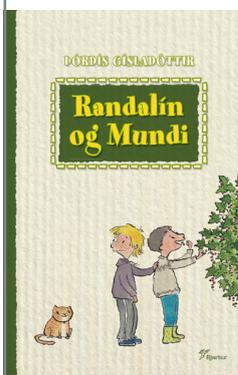
Yrsa Sigurðardóttir is the bestselling and award-winning Icelandic crime author of the Þóra Guðmundsdóttir series as well as several stand-alone thrillers. She made her crime fiction debut in 2005 with *Þriðja táknið / Last Rituals*, the first book in the Þóra Guðmundsdóttir series, and has been translated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

Rights

Salomonsson Agency

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info@salomonssonagency.com



English working title

Randalín and Mundi

by Þórdís Gísladóttir and Þórarinn M. Baldursson
(illustrations)
(b. 1965 & 1977 respectively)

Original title

Randalín og Mundi

Publisher

Bjartur, 2012
78 pp

Genre

Children's book [6 – 11 years old]

About the book

What lives in a box and eats a mouse every other Sunday? Is it allowed to tear up great books? How do you get to know a hypnotist? This is the story of two friends, Randalín and Mundi, who know the answers to these questions but do not know how to be bored.

About the authors

Þórdís Gísladóttir is, among other things, a poet and translator. *Randalín and Mundi* is her first book for children. Þórarinn M. Baldursson is an illustrator of children's books and a violist in the Iceland Symphony Orchestra.

Awards and nominations

The Icelandic Booksellers Prize for Best Children's books 2012 and The Womens Literature Prize for Children's books 2012 (Fjöruverðlaunin).

Rights

Bjartur publishing

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