

HELGA FLATLAND

ENGLISH WORKING TITLE

IF YOU CAN STAY, REMAIN. LEAVE, IF YOU MUST.

ORIGINAL TITLE

BLI HVIS DU KAN. REIS HVIS DU MÅ.

NOVEL

Three young boys who have been friends since childhood decide to enlist in the Norwegian armed forces in Afghanistan. None of them return. Why did they go? What about the ones they left behind? What influence our choices – whether we stay or leave?

The novel is about growing up in, being surrounded by and breaking loose from a safe place that no longer feels safe. *If You Can Stay, Remain. Leave, If You Must* is a mature debut with a well tuned literary voice.

Aschehoug 2010
176 Pages

PRAISE

"A thoroughly prepared and successful literary debut (...) it is well written and explores major subjects with gentleness."

Dagsavisen

"[Helga Flatland] manages to write about an ordinary and secure childhood in Norway without excluding the big, wide world, and does this in an original way (...) Her prose is sober, often lyrical."

Dagbladet

"A well composed and thorough story for four voices. Two of the young men, a mother and a neighbour act as spokesmen in four separate parts. The result is a complex and nuanced portrait of life in a small village, of bonds and frictions between people, and of the young men's struggle to find their place (...) Flatland writes with a great sense of detail and nuance. It is well done and promising."

NRK

"Helga Flatland has written a fine novel about childhood. Her debut speaks of a great literary talent, a love of writing, and an ability and desire to write thoroughly."

Fædrelandsvennen

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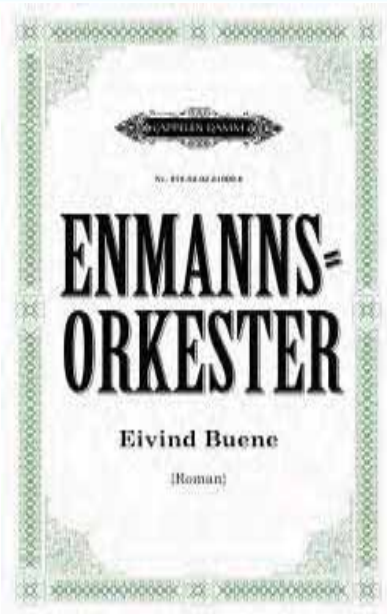
HELGA FLATLAND

Helga Flatland is a copywriter with a bachelor degree in Norwegian language and literature. She currently lives in Oslo. *If You Can Stay, Remain. Leave, If You Must.* is her literary debut.



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EIVIND BUENE

ENGLISH WORKING TITLE

ONE MAN BAND

ORIGINAL TITLE

ENMANNSORKESTER

NOVEL

One Man Band is composed as a musical piece, seducing the reader into a spectacular crescendo never before seen in a Norwegian first novel. The book alternates between five characters, each with their own unique voice. They all find themselves in a defining moment of their life:

The conductor Tristan Szabo never fulfilled his great ambitions. Now he tries to escape from the world of classical music.

After the worst hangover ever, Sondre Sæter starts to document every single day of his life – an obsession which drives him into insanity.

Johannes Hellweg is a violinist who fulfils the obligations his musical talent has laid upon him, at the same time sacrificing love.

Arvid Pettersen refuses to deal with his cancer diagnosis. Instead he shuts down his life, little by little, until finally embracing death.

Anna is involved in an affair, a passion so strong it makes her husband and children irrelevant.

In a masterly way Eivind Buene lets these five voices come together in a violin concert by Alban Berg.

Cappelen Damm 2010

240 Pages

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Photo: Eirik Helland Urke

EIVIND BUENE

(b. 1973)

Eivind Buene studied composition and pedagogy at the Norwegian Academy of Music. He was the permanent composer at the Oslo Sinfonietta and Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra. *One Man Band* is his first novel.



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KJERSTI ANNESDATTER SKOMSVOLD

ENGLISH WORKING TITLE

THE FASTER I WALK, THE SMALLER I AM

ORIGINAL TITLE

JO FORTERE JEG GÅR. JO MINDRE ER JEG

NOVEL

Mathea Martinsen has never been good at dealing with other people. But one thing she has learned. They are not like her. Now, as an old woman, she suddenly experiences a great grief, and she is struck by the fear that she will die before anyone will know that she has lived. Mathea digs out her old wedding dress again, bakes some sweet cakes and goes out among the others.

Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold's first novel stands out for its humorous earnestness and unusually inventive prose.

Winner of the Tarjei Vesaas First Book Award 2009
Nominated for the 2009 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize

Oktober 2009
125 Pages

English sample translation available

So far sold to: USA

PRAISE

"An astounding literary debut (...) nothing less than scorching poetry."
Aftenposten

"Original and moving. Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold portrays with absurd insight the horrible and fascinating aspects of nearing death (...) Skomsvold has created a character adorably absurd both in her language, thoughts and actions."
Dagbladet

"Skomsvold catches the reader off guard with creative twists until the very last page, and she proves herself as a sparkling cornucopia of imaginative prose and human warmth. Merciless and funny at the same time."
5/6, VG

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Photo Finn Ståle Felberg

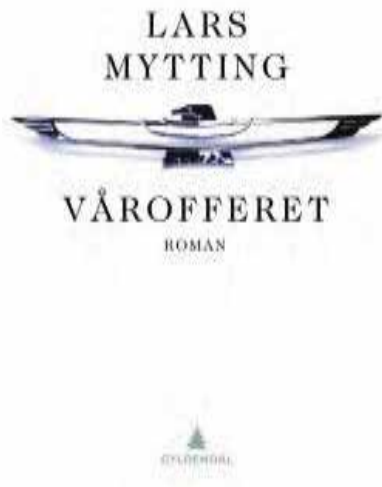
KJERSTI ANNESDATTER SKOMSVOLD
(b. 1979)

Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold is from Oslo.
The Faster I Walk, The Smaller I Am is her first novel.



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LARS MYTTING

ENGLISH WORKING TITLE

SPRING SACRIFICE

ORIGINAL TITLE

VÅROFFERET

NOVEL

It is late March and a mild zero degrees as Lieutenant Aksel Størmer arrives in Messingdalen, the village which in heathen times sacrificed a human being to make spring appear.

Aksel is there to wind up the area's old military camp, but his friendship with a neglected child gets him entangled with a repressed family drama.

Why does the room fall silent when he turns up in Chow Chow Inn? Why will no one talk about what has happened to Iver Tallaksen?

Gradually, the dark woodland village lets go of its mysteries. Soon people start pulling him into their lives, demanding a tougher, more heroic courage of Aksel than the war he was on his way to.

Gyldendal 2010 (May)
350 pages

English sample translation available

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Photo: Christian Elgvin

LARS MYTTING (b. 1968)

Lars Mytting made his debut with the novel *Horsepower* in 2006, which, with translations to German, Danish, Swedish and Finnish became a bestselling first novel. He has earlier worked as a feature journalist and publishing editor (as well as casual work on a mink farm, as a farmhand, and in a car stereo shop).

The starting point of his novels is the modern Norwegian village, with a particular passion for car repair shops, military camps and other masculine environments rarely portrayed in Norwegian literature.

**FOREIGN SALES
 PREVIOUS TITLE**

Denmark
 Finland
 Germany
 Sweden


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LINE BAUGSTØ

ENGLISH WORKING TITLE

RAINY SEASON

ORIGINAL TITLE

REGNTID

NOVEL

As a teenager Gro lived a few years in Tanzania with her family, where she fell madly in love with John. Although she has not seen him again since, she has never managed to forget about her high school sweetheart.

Her stay on the African continent marked the young woman on several levels, and Gro has since had a dream of doing development work of some sort – the intense feeling of being needed somewhere in the world, never left her.

One spring afternoon in 2005, Gro, now a 37 year old freelance journalist and mother of two, receives a phone call from Sri Lanka. An NGO is building a large peace centre on the east coast, in an area badly ruined by the tsunami, and Gro's husband, who is an architect, is offered a job.

Gro is delighted by this opportunity, and so the family moves to Sri Lanka a few months later. However, Gro has an ulterior motive: She has reason to believe that John lives in the country, and harbours a secret dream of meeting him again.

In Sri Lanka, the political situation is taking a turn for the worse, and not everyone welcomes the idea of a Norwegian peace centre. The Norwegian aid workers complain about corruption and unreliable maids – and Gro has no idea of how to get in touch with John.

Rainy Season is a gripping love story, a naked portrayal of a rootless and confused woman who is seduced by her own good intentions, and a sharp and insightful analysis of what Western aid can – and cannot - achieve under unfamiliar conditions.

Oktober 2010 (May)
Approx. 280 Pages

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Photo: Torunn Nielsen

LINE BAUGSTØ (b. 1961)

Line Baugstø made her literary debut with the novel *Reise i gult lys* (Travelling in Yellow Light) in 1986. Since then she has published two short story collections, five novels and three children's books.

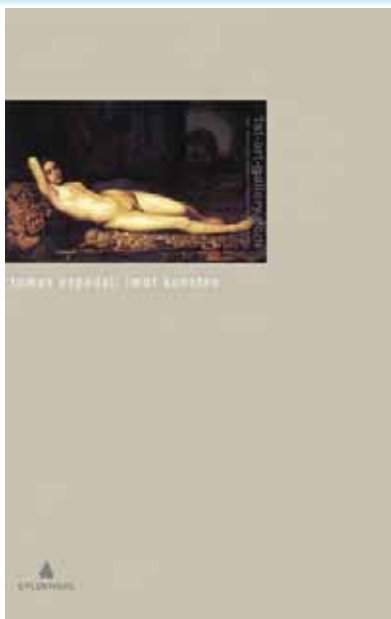
**FOREIGN SALES
 PREVIOUS TITLES**

Faroe Islands
 Germany
 Sweden



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TOMAS ESPEDAL

ENGLISH WORKING TITLE

AGAINST ART

ORIGINAL TITLE

IMOT KUNSTEN

NOVEL

In contemporary Norwegian fiction Tomas Espedal's work stands out as uniquely bound up with the author's personal experiences. His last book, the prize nominee *Walk*, introduced us to the wanderer Tomas. *Against Art* is a novel that focuses on the author; on how a boy approaches art and eventually becomes a writer. It is about the profession of writing, about routines, responsibility and obstacles. But it is also a story about being a father, a son and a grandson; it is about a family and a family's stories and about how preceding generations mark their successors. And it is a story about choices and changes, about motion and rest, about moving to a new place and about living.

Against Art has been awarded the Norwegian Critics' Award 2009 and The Gyldendal Prize 2009. It was also nominated for the Nordic Council's Literary Prize, as was in fact Espedal's previous book *Walk*.

Gyldendal 2009
176 pages

So far sold to: Denmark, UK/US/India

PRAISE

"Tomas Espedal has a personally centred literary project that he pursues and expands with fascinating force and consistency."
Stavanger Aftenblad

"A lyrical style that captures both fleeting and enduring moments of happiness, but dwells to an even greater extent on the loss and grief that will and must follow. Espedal's writing sparkles, some of his lines shine out, rich in association."
Aftenposten

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Photo: Helge Skodvin

TOMAS ESPEDAL
(b. 1961)

Tomas Espedal made his debut in 1988. He has published short prose and novels alike, and was a prize-winner in 1991 of the joint Radio P2/Book Club Novelists' competition. His previous book *WALK (Or the art of living a wild and poetic life)*, 2005 was shortlisted for the Nordic Literature Prize.

SELECTED PREVIOUS TITLES

GÅ, eller kunsten å leve et vilt og poetisk liv, short prose, 2006
Brev (et forsøk), novel, 2005
Dagbok (epitafer), novel, 2003
Biografi (glemsel), novel, 1999
Blond (erindring), novel, 1996
Hotell Norge, novel, 1995
Hun og jeg, novel, 1991
Jeg vil bo i mitt navn, novel, 1990
En vill flukt av parfymere, novel, 1988

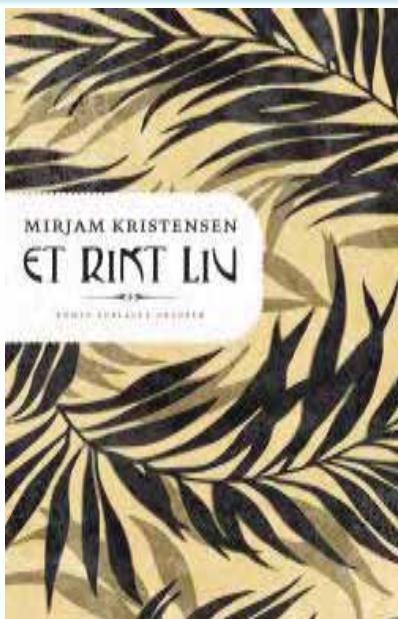
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MIRJAM KRISTENSEN

ENGLISH WORKING TITLE

A FULL LIFE

ORIGINAL TITLE

ET RIKT LIV

NOVEL

A young woman riding her bicycle is hit by a car, and the driver flees the scene. Isak visits his neighbour, the Russian woman Dahlia, to get something off his chest: he was the driver. They get to know each other and each other's stories. When Isak gets seriously ill and dies, Dahlia is burdened by a terrible secret. How can she tell people about what's happened? She starts writing and gets in touch with Isak's widow and daughter. However, it still seems impossible for her to open up.

A Full Life is a soul searching novel about being exiled in the most profound way, and being the only one who knows.

Oktober 2009
235 pages

PRAISE

"With her fourth novel, *A Full Life*, Mirjam Kristensen steps into the literary elite. In her latest novel, she manages to combine maturity and insight with a well written story that offers surprising and unexpected literary choices and turns."

Dagsavisen

"A Full Life is a rich novel that will be picked out of the book shelf several times. Not just for you to read: When you want to lend a book to everyone you know, you can tell that it has affected you."

Klassekampen

"A brilliant novel. The writer has total control over her literary devices and truly has a story to tell (...) I wish the novel will never end (...) Kristensen has written an excellent novel, a novel I will read again. I can't wait."

Adresseavisen

"... one of the best and most meaningful books I have read in a long time ... simple, but intense, and suspenseful from the first page to the last ... there are few contemporary novels I can recommend stronger than this book. Buy it and read it! It will grip you and do something with you."

Dagen

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MIRJAM KRISTENSEN
(b. 1978)

Mirjam Kristensen is from Lyngdal in Norway. She made her debut in 2000 with the novel *Dagene er gjennomsiktige* (The Days are Transparent) for which she received Tarjei Vesaas' First Book Award. For *De som er ute i regnet* (Those Who are Out in the Rain) she received Sørlandets Literature Prize. In 2007 she received Bjørnson's Scholarship.

PREVIOUS TITLES

En ettermiddag om høsten, novel, 2006

Dagene er gjennomsiktige, novel, 2000

De som er ute i regnværet, novel, 2001

FOREIGN SALES OF PREVIOUS TITLES

France
Germany



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