

Saga

L I T E R A R Y A G E N C Y



Illustration by Bård Sletvold Torkildsen from *Grisungen med den rette halen* by Hilde Myklebust 2024



Who are we?

Saga Literary Agency consists of acquisitional editor and literary agent Elen Betanzo and literary agent Merete Pharo. Betanzo also works as editor of children's books in Det Norske Samlaget, and has a degree in journalism and Nordic literature. Pharo has worked for several years in the book trade, and has a degree in history.

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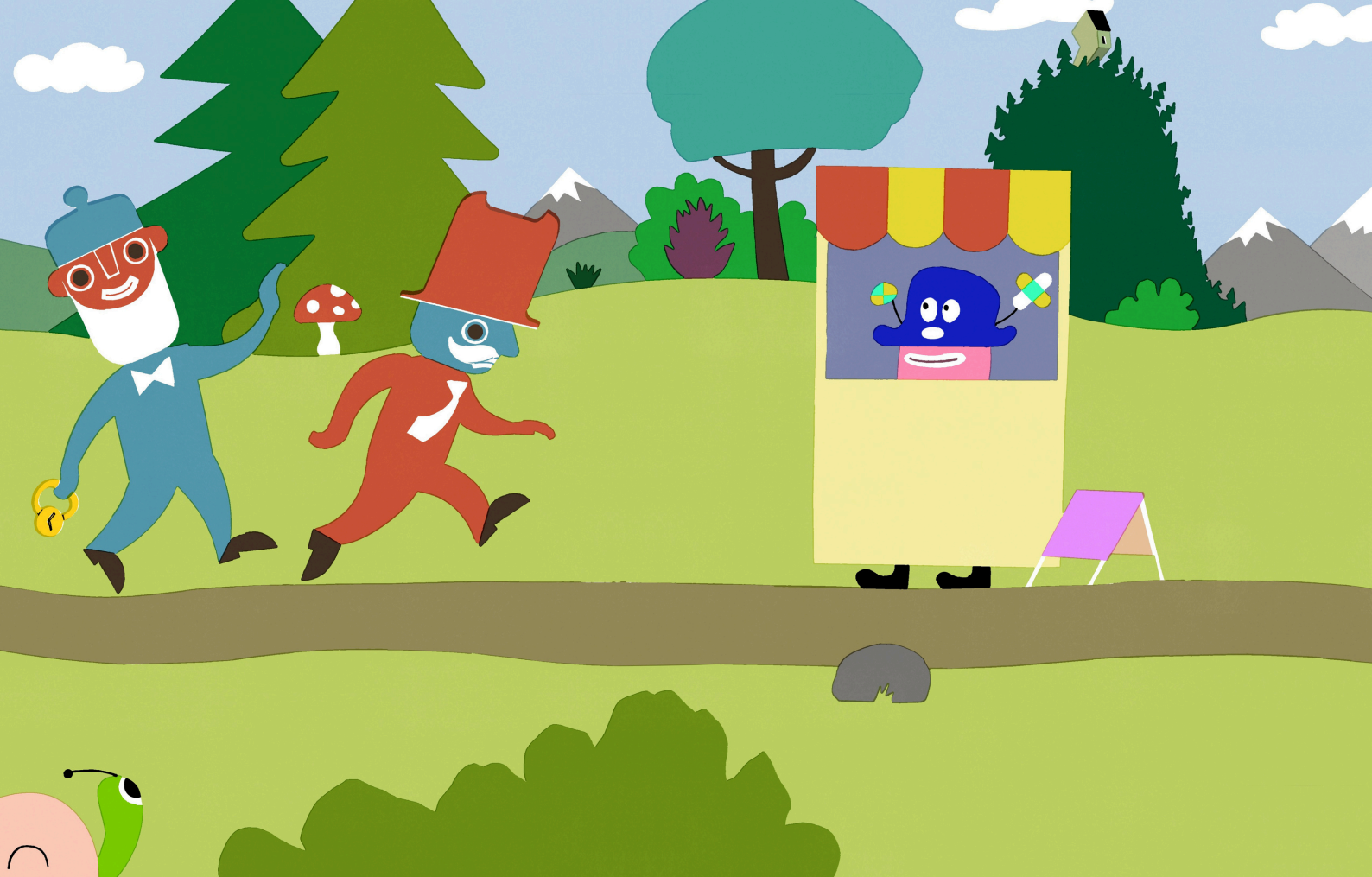


Illustration by Kari Stai, from *Jakob og Neikob og tidsmaskinen*, 2022

About

Saga Literary Agency is an independent in-house literary agency for children's books published by Det Norske Samlaget. Det Norske Samlaget is one of the oldest publishing houses in Norway, still remaining independent. It was established in 1868 with the purpose of publishing high quality literature in New Norwegian. Det Norske Samlaget has always taken great pride in their children's books, and Saga Literary Agency pays credit to a long-standing tradition of developing the best books for the most important audience – children and young adults. Det Norske Samlaget publishes approximately 100 titles each year, within the genres children's books, adult fiction, non-fiction and educational books, and is the proud publisher of Jon Fosse, Olav H. Hauge, Maria Parr, Elena Ferrante and Patti Smith amongst others.

Please contact us for further information and sample material. We work in cooperation with NORLA for translation and production support.



The Piglet with the straight tale

Hilde Myklebust & Bård Sletvold Torkildsen (ill.)

A warm and humorous picture book about being different by multi talent Hilde Myklebust, with charming illustrations by Bård Sletvold Torkildsen

Original title: Grisungen med den rette halen

Category: Picture book

Pages:

Format:

English sample: YES

One day, Piglet discovers something that utterly shocks him: He doesn't have a curl in his tail! All the other pigs have sprightly curled tails, but not Piglet.

He must get a curl in his tail, because that's what pigs are supposed to have, right?

The other animals on the farm aren't particularly helpful, and good advice is hard to come by. But then he meets a little girl who lives on the farm. Can she help Piglet, do you think?



«The Piglet with the Straight Tail» is a warm and humorous tale about feeling different, richly and charmingly illustrated by Bård Sletvold Torkildsen.

Hilde Myklebust (b.1979) is a well-established poet in Norway, and is also the author of award-nominated children's books and YA novels. Among her recent publications is the picture book *Ylva og villgeitene* (Ylva and the Wild Goats) illustrated by Akin Düzakin and the YA novel *Splindra* (Splintered). She is translated into several languages, including German.

Bård Sletvold Torkildsen is an illustrator and visual developer. *Grisungen med den rette halen* is his first collaboration with Hilde Myklebust.



The Night Club **Mona Vetrhus & Sebastian Meschenmoser (ill.)**

Step into a whimsical nocturnal adventure with *The Night Club*, a delightful children’s book by acclaimed poet Mona Vetrhus and prizewinning illustrator Sebastian Meschenmoser.

The Night Club follows the heartwarming escapades of Little Bear and his grandmother as they embark on a secret quest to find a night club. Armed with grandma’s old disco ball, this unlikely duo encounters a cast of colorful characters ready to party. This enchanting story celebrates the special bond between generations and passing on traditions.

Sebastian Meschenmoser’s stunning artwork brings the nocturnal world to life with vivid detail and whimsy. Each page is a visual feast, inviting children to explore the hidden wonders of the night alongside Little Bear and his grandmother.

The book offers a unique twist on traditional bedtime tales and sparks the children’s imagination.

Mona Vetrhus (b.1975) is a Norwegian poet. *The Night Club* is her debut as a children’s book author.

Sebastian Meschenmoser (b.1980) is an award-winning illustrator and artist. He is well known for his illustrations to the works of Michael Ende.



Original title: Nattklubben

Category: Picture book

Pages: 48

Format: 21,5x30 cm

English sample: NO





Nine Lies and the Quest for a Smile

**Marthe Holien Bø & Tiril Valeur
(ill.)**

Discover a heartwarming tale that will make you laugh, cry, and smile! In this beautifully illustrated children's book, young Klara embarks on a touching quest to bring joy back to her grieving mother.

Through a series of well-intentioned lies, Klara learns valuable lessons about honesty, family, and the healing power of laughter. This charming story delicately addresses loss and grief, making it relatable for young readers while offering comfort to those experiencing similar situations. With its perfect blend of humor and heart, "Nine Lies and the Quest for a Smile" is an essential addition to any child's bookshelf.

Marthe Holien Bø's sensitive storytelling, paired with Tiril Valeur's enchanting illustrations, creates a truly unforgettable reading experience. This book not only entertains but also opens up important conversations about emotions and truth-telling.

Original title: Ni løgner og jakta på eit smil

Category: 6-9 years

Pages: 130

Format: 15,5x20,5 cm

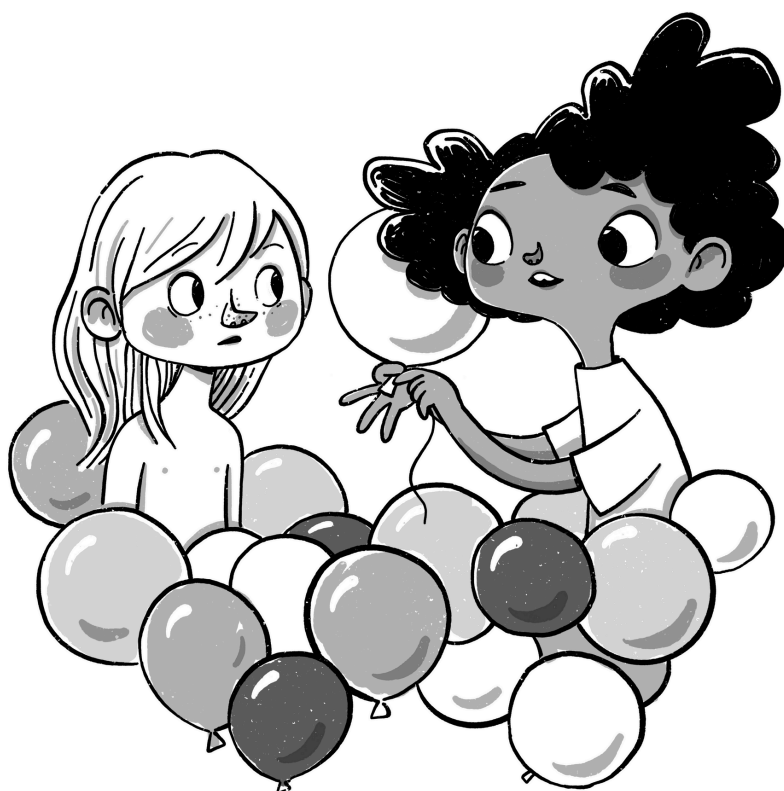
English sample: NO

Illustrations: B/W



Marthe Holien Bø (b.1984) is a media scholar and yoga therapist. "Nine lies and the quest for a smile" is her first children's book.

Tiril Valeur (b. 1975) is an illustrator, author and activist.



Kobb's house

Thoralf Fagertun

"Kobb's house" by Thoralf Fagertun is a wild and exciting adventure that celebrates treasure hunts.

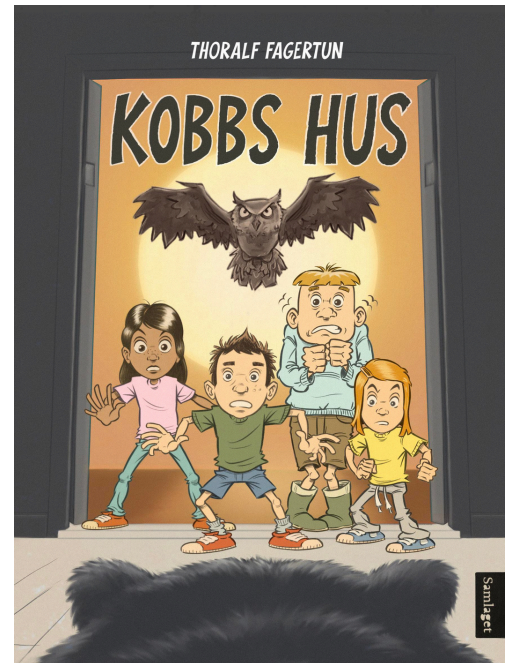
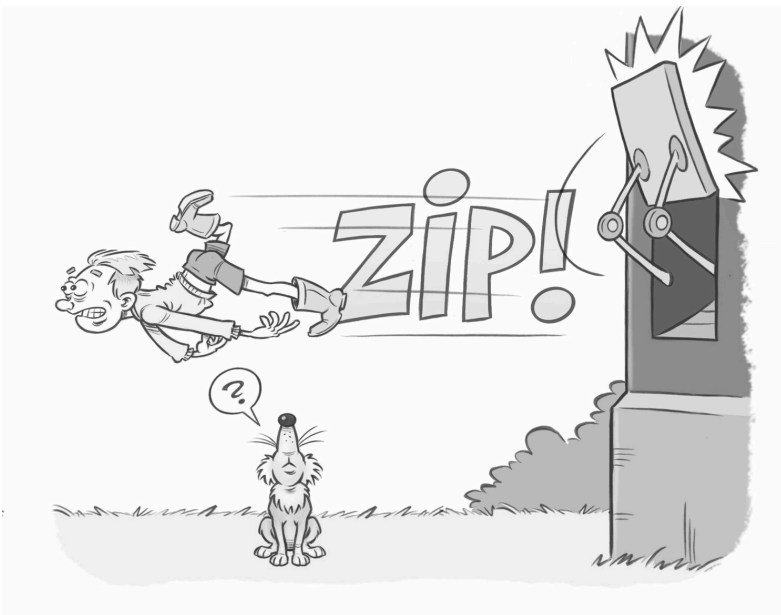
On an island barely visible from the mainland stands a large and strange house. The owner is the completely crazy treasure hunter Billy Kobb, whom no one has seen for ages. However, sounds come from the island, eerie roars that cannot be explained. The last people who went out there never returned. The island is dangerous.

When Ask and his friends Iris and Eik nevertheless row out to Kobb's house in the middle of the night, it's not because they particularly want to. The gang is going to help Daniela, a mysterious girl who appeared at the beginning of the summer vacation. She has a mission on the island. It will turn out that a visit to Kobb's house is stranger, more fun, and even more life-threatening than any of them could have imagined.

The book is illustrated by Ketil Selnes.

Thoralf Fagertun (b. 1980) is a Norwegian children's book author. His debut novel, "The Gnork Family" from 2022, was nominated the debutant prize, Trollkrittet, and to the Avid Reader award 2023. "Kobb's house" is his second book.

Ketil Selnes (b.1974) is an illustrator and graphic designer. He has illustrated several children's books.



Original title: *Kobbs hus*

Category: Middle grade

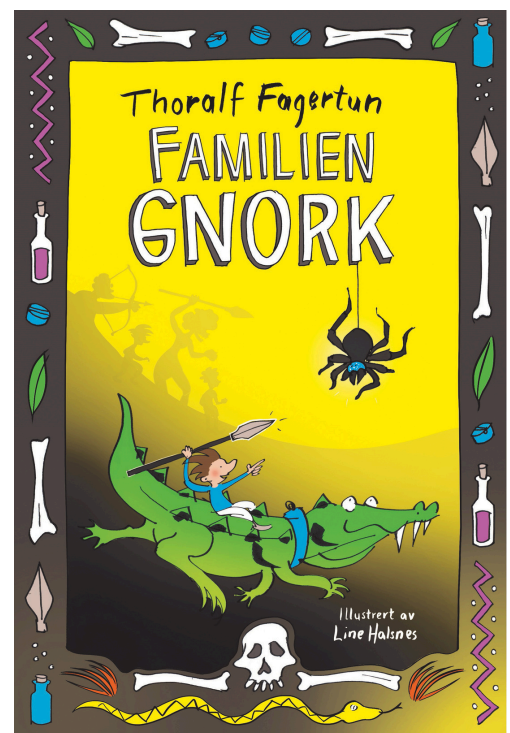
Pages: 149

Format: 13,5x20,5 cm

Illustrations: B/W

English sample: YES

Also by the author:





Code 6: Erase your existence

Harald Nortun

A thrilling story about hiding one's true identity, but most of all, what real friendship looks like

Kasper has never had a best friend. Then Stian starts in his class. Stian has a secret number and doesn't want to be photographed. What is he hiding?

Kasper and Stian live in a small village far to the north. Everyone knows everyone, and rumors spread quickly. When Kasper learns Stian's secret, he must keep quiet and lie to protect his friend. But distinguishing between friend and foe can be harder than you think.

Code 6: Erase your existence is an entertaining thriller, but also a story about what life on the run in Norway can be like today and how difficult it is to keep your identity hidden in a time when much of life happens on Snapchat, TikTok, and Instagram. But above all, Code 6 is about true friendship.

Code 6 is a former term for "strictly confidential address," and is one of the most intrusive security measures that exist in Norway. In some cases, individuals are given a new identity, with a new name and personal identification number. What is it like for a child who must live under Code 6?

Harald Nortun (b.1972) is an acclaimed Norwegian author and academic. He holds a master's degree in comparative literature and has worked as a university lecturer at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). Nortun made his literary debut in 2006 with the novel "Røverskogen" ("The Robbers in the wood") and has since established himself as a prominent voice in children's and young adult literature. He has been nominated to the Avid Reader award multiple times, as well as the prestigious Brage Prize. His works often explore complex themes with sensitivity and depth, earning him critical acclaim and a growing readership. His children's book *Eksperimentet* (The Experiment, 2015) is translated into four languages.

Original title: Kode 6. Ingen må vite kven du er

Category: Middle grade

Pages: 174

Format: 13,5x21cm

English sample: YES



I will destroy you

Therese Garshol Syversen

"I will destroy you is a gripping and provocative young adult novel that will keep readers on the edge of their seats.

Set against the backdrop of elite Swiss boarding schools and Oslo's high society, this thrilling tale follows 18-year-old Iben Maria Løvenskiold as her seemingly perfect life is shattered by tragedy.

When Iben's sister Alexa dies suddenly at a party, a disturbing video of her final hours surfaces online. Haunted by what she sees, Iben becomes obsessed with uncovering the truth and seeking justice, even as the police close the case. Driven by a fierce determination, she hatches a daring plan to infiltrate the group responsible and bring them down from within.

Author Therese Garshol Syversen masterfully explores the dark underbelly of privileged youth culture, delving into themes of consent, revenge, and the blurred lines of morality. With its pulse-pounding plot and complex characters, this novel offers both entertainment and profound insights into the challenges facing today's teenagers.

Therese Garshol Syversen (b.1988) is a Norwegian author and scholar. *I will destroy you* is Syversen's second novel, following her award-winning debut *Sting*. For her debut she was awarded the debutant prize "Trollkrittet" 2023. Her raw talent and unflinching approach to difficult subjects mark her as a rising star in contemporary young adult literature. Prepare to be captivated by this intense, thought-provoking story that will linger in your mind long after you've turned the final page.



Original title: Eg skal rive deg i filler

Category: Youth / YA

Pages: 185

Format: 13,5x21 cm

English sample: NO





On the Down-low Helene Guåker

A ground-breaking novel that explores sex, shame, and porn culture

Helene Guåker's latest young adult novel, *On the Down-Low*, is a brutally honest and timely exploration of teenage sexuality in the digital age. This provocative work delves deep into the complexities of desire, shame, and the impact of pornography on young minds.

At the center of the story is Agnes, a typical 16-year-old consumed by sexual thoughts and urges. As she navigates her awakening sexuality through porn consumption and encounters with boys, Agnes receives sex toys from her sister for Christmas, adding another layer to her sexual exploration. The novel doesn't shy away from the harsh realities of teenage life. Agnes falls in love, makes drunken mistakes, and faces cruel slut-shaming at school.

Through her journey, the book poses critical questions about the balance between sexual desire and emotional connection in adolescence. *On the Down-low* tackles the pervasive influence of pornography on youth culture. With recent studies showing that 52% of 13-18 year-olds have viewed online porn, and content becoming increasingly violent, Guåker's novel addresses the urgent need to discuss how this exposure shapes young people's views on sex and gender.

Helene Guåker (b. 1983) an acclaimed author of both YA and adult fiction, brings her signature raw style to this important topic. Her previous works have earned nominations for prestigious literary awards, including the Brage Prize and Critics' Prize. Her novel "Høgspenning livsfare" from 2020, ("Danger. High Voltage") is translated into Danish.

Original title: Ned i skjul

Category: Youth / YA

Pages: 184

Format: 13,5x21cm

English sample: NO



Ivar steps up

Arnfinn Kolerud

A funny and quirky story about landing your first summer job, growing apart and stupid older boys who hit on one's best friend

Ivar is twelve years old and has received a crushing message from his parents: the pocket money is turning around, now Ivar has to pay pocket money to mom and dad. From now on, it's Ivar's turn to contribute. Now Ivar has to get a summer job, but how does one actually do that? His friend Maja has got a real summer job at a café. She serves soup to guests and folds nice napkins. One day, an annoying boy shows up at the café. His name is Mons. But isn't Mons just a silly cat name? And why does Mons walk around carrying a silly paddle?

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Kolerud is known for his understated and humorous books for children, teenagers, and adults, and had great success with the children's book "Snillionen" ("The Million Kroner Kindness Competition" in 2017. The book was one of 12 selected books that were presented at the Berlinale film festival in Berlin in February 2018, as particularly suitable for film adaptation.

Translation rights sold to: Denmark

Arnfinn Kolerud (b. 1968) made his debut with *Just Don't Let the Snowplow Come* in 1996, and he received the Ministry of Culture's debutant prize for children's and youth literature for this book. Kolerud has been nominated for the Brage Prize and won the Critics' Prize.

"You've gotten an allowance for a few years now. A hundred kroner a week," Dad says.

"Yeah," Ivar replies.

"What do you think of that arrangement?"

"It's a nice arrangement," Ivar says.

"But now you're twelve years old."

Dad says twelve like it's a really big number. Like he's talking about floors in a house.

"So that's the end of that," he says.

"End?"

Ivar looks at his parents.

"No more allowance?"

Dad shakes his head.

"No, that'll continue. A hundred kroner a week."

"Good," Ivar says, but he can see that Dad is about to come out with a but.

"But," Dad says. "This summer, you will be paying us!"

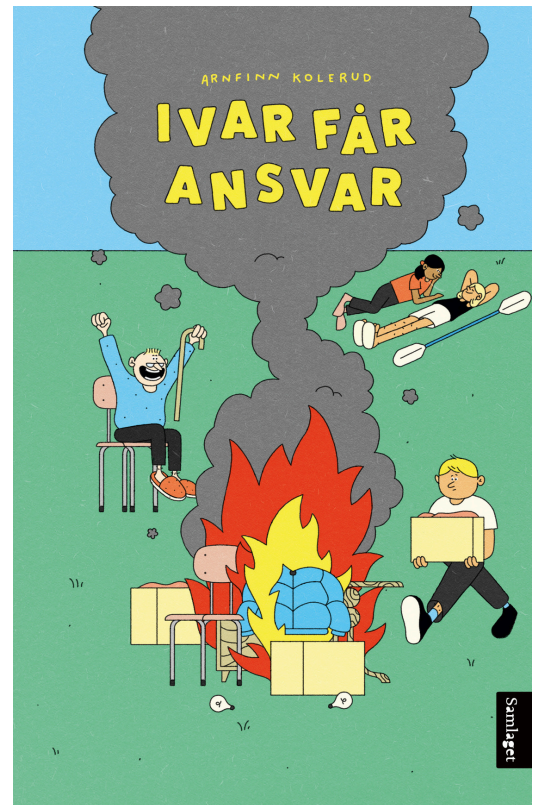
Mom nods to show they're in agreement on this.

Ivar looks at the big plate in the middle of the table. The plate is almost empty.

He's the one who emptied it.

"I didn't know that allowance gets reversed when you turn twelve," he says.

"Now you know," Mom says.



Original title: *Ivar får ansvar*

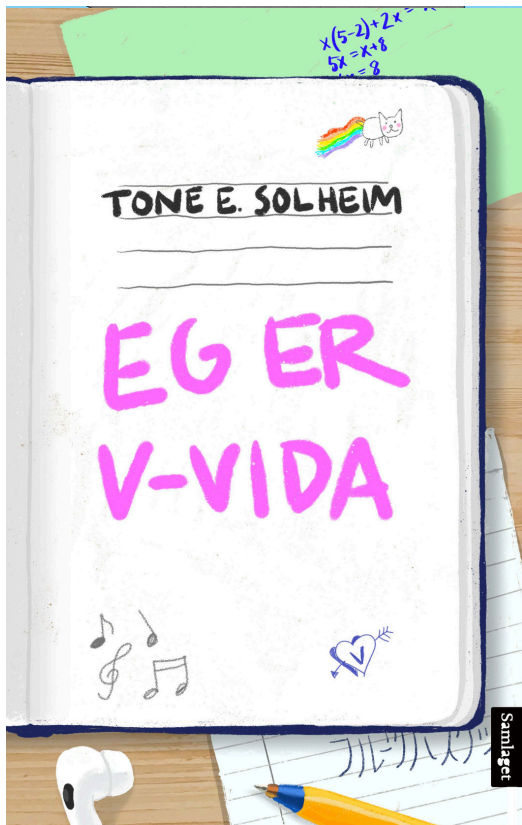
Category: Middle grade

Pages: 194

Format: 13,5x21 cm

English sample: YES





I am V-Vida

Tone E. Solheim

"I am V-Vida" is a warm and touching novel about finding your own voice, about first love, and about true friendship

Thirteen-year-old Vida stutters, a-a-a lot. And as if that wasn't enough, her best friend has just moved away, and Vida has to start ninth grade without her. Mom, as usual, doesn't understand anything and thinks Vida can easily make new friends. But how is Vida supposed to do that when she can't even say her own name?

One day, Viktor starts in Vida's class. Viktor has cerebral palsy and limps on one foot, but he is included right away. What is it that Viktor does that Vida can't? And is there something she can do to leave behind stuttering, awkward Vida once and for all?

"I am V-Vida" is a warm and touching novel about finding your own voice, about first love, and about true friendship.

Original title: Eg er V-Vida

Category: 13+

Pages: 222

Format: 13,5x21cm

English sample: YES



Tone E. Solheim (b. 1989) made her debut with the young adult novel "Svarttrasta syng om natta" ("The Blackbird sings at night") in 2021. For this, she received the Nynorsk Children's Literature Prize and was nominated for the Uprisen. The translation rights to the novel has been sold to Denmark. "I am V-Vida" is her second novel. Solheim is from Jølster and lives in Bergen.

"Hey!"

A boy's voice breaks the silence. I stop and look around but don't see anyone, just green hedges and empty houses. I close my eyes and try to listen extra hard, but all I can hear is the rustling of the treetops and the rushing from the main road a few streets over. Maybe the voice was just in my head? I open my eyes again, grab the towel I wrapped around my waist, and pull it up to my armpits. I'm about to keep walking when...

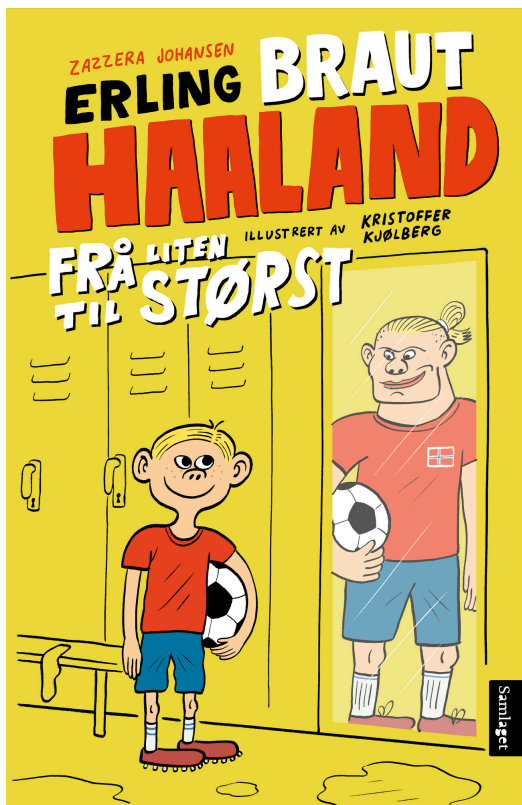
"Hello?"

There's that voice again!

I hold my breath and turn all the way around this time, my heart hammering wildly beneath my swimsuit. And this time, I see him. The boy. Sitting on the stairs of the big, yellow house, a skateboard in his lap.

He's wearing a green t-shirt with white writing and camo shorts. His light brown hair reaches almost all the way down to his shoulders.

I just stand there, staring at him, unable to process what's going on. I can't remember the last time someone said hi to me out of the blue. Could he be a mirage from the summer heat? I squint at him and try to blink him away, but the boy just squints back. He smiles at me with his head cocked to one side. It's a real boy for sure. I wonder who he sees when he looks at me? He probably sees a perfectly ordinary girl with brown eyes, dirty freckles, and curly dark hair. Maybe he notices that my skin's a little darker than his and that I've painted my toenails with apricot-colored nail polish. Maybe he sees me exactly as I am.



Erling Braut Haaland. From Tiny to Titan

Zazzera Johansen & Kristoffer Kjølborg (ill.)

How did Erling Braut Haaland train when he was young?
What inspired him, and who did he look up to?

Erling was once a budding football player, and in this book, you will learn what made him the best: the positive club environment, training routines and exercises, iron will and the joy of football.

This book is an absolute must for every young football player and Manchester City-fan. This is an easy to read with funny illustrations.

Original title: Erling Braut Haaland.

Frå liten til størst

Category: Middle grade

Pages: 94

Format: 15x20 cm

Illustrations: Color

English sample: NO

Ørjan Zazzera Johansen is from the same town as Haaland, Bryne, and still dreams about playing professional football.

This is Zazzera's second book for children about the world's biggest football phenomenon and Norway's biggest talent. His first book for children, "The Erling Braut Haaland story" from 2022, has gained him nominations to ARK children's book prize and The Avid Reader Award.

Also by the author:

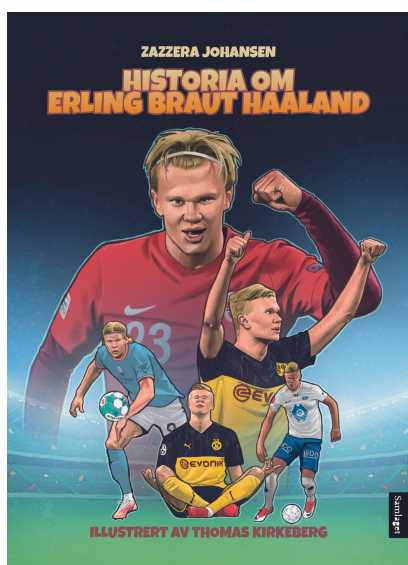


Illustration by Kristoffer Kjølborg

Saga and Storm and the King's Medal of Merit

Veronika Erstad og Ella Okstad (ill.)

Saga is the oldest of four siblings. She finds it annoying having to look after her younger siblings – she always has to watch them. Especially exhausting is her little 5-year-old brother Leon. Saga dreams of receiving the King's Medal of Honor and going to the Palace. Together with her best friend Storm, she plans to train the family dog to become a rescue dog. That's how you get the Medal of Honor, she has heard. But when they are about to start the training, everything is ruined when little brother Leon has to tag along. Then Saga gets an idea! What if they send Leon into the woods and get the dog to find him? Then they can finally get some peace and quiet. But suddenly Leon is really missing! "Saga and Storm and the King's Medal of Honor" is a warm and humorous story about wanting to be seen, good friends, and sibling love.

Illustrated by Ella Okstad

The Ghostly Cry

Guro Auganes og Line Halsnes (ill.)

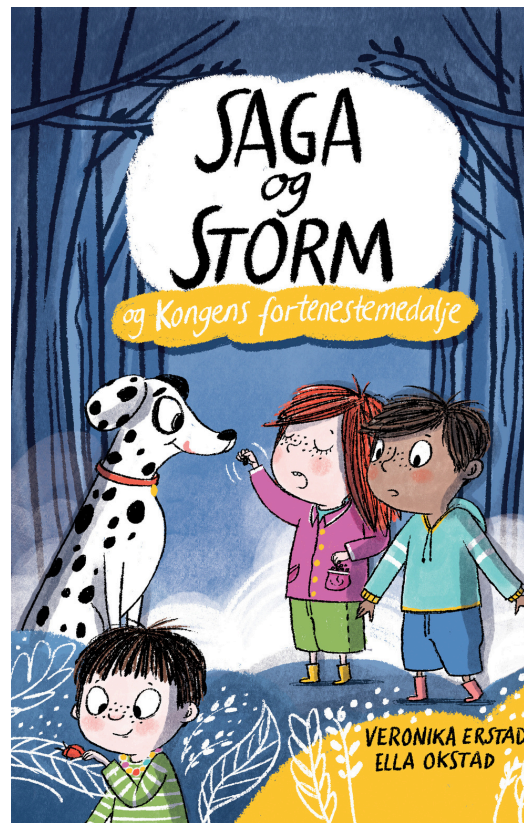
Eleven-year-old Julie dreads staying over at her grandparents' creepy old house for four days and three nights. She must get used to it before an upcoming overnight school trip.

But their home is dark and musty, with strange smells. And what's wrong with the yellow room where she'll sleep? Why does she feel dizzy in there? In the dead of night, a piercing scream wakes her up.

"The Cat's Wail" is a story about homesickness, secrets, waking with songs in your head – and maybe ghosts.

Illustrated by Line Halsnes.

"A nerve-racking chiller... Auganes masterfully employs classic tropes like a red door, cats, ghosts and creeping white fog, short chapters and a close narrative voice to create intensity."
Periskop



Original title: Saga og Storm og kongens fortjenestemedalje

Category: 6 +

Pages: 74

Format: 15x20 cm

Illustrations: B/W

English sample: NO



Original title: Katteskricket

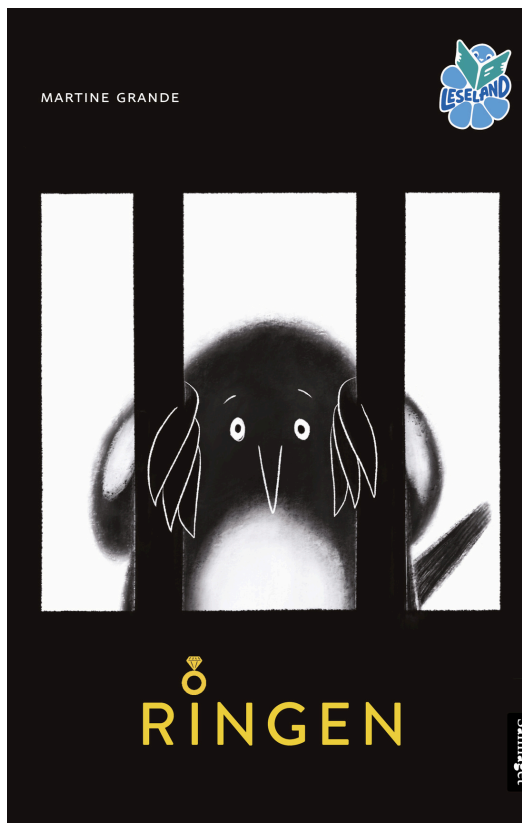
Category: Middle grade

Pages: 120

Format: 15x20 cm

Illustrations: B/W

English sample: NO



The Ring **Martine Grande**

Easy read for children who have just discovered reading

Humorous about right and wrong.

Sara is a magpie who loves to dress up. At home, she has thousands of beautiful jewelry and other decorations! But one day, she finds an unusually beautiful ring in her mother's jewelry box. What if she borrows it for her collection, just a little bit? Shouldn't that be all right?

The Ring is an easy read with simple text and charming illustrations, created to stimulate and inspire budding readers.

Original title: Ringen

Category: 6+

Pages: 35

Format: 13,5x20,25 cm

Illustrations: Color

Also by the author:



Big **Martine Grande**

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Oh, as long as I'm big enough, I'll drive a car, drink lots of soft drinks and buy exactly what I want in the store! This is how the older sister dreams in the picture book *Big*. Because what is it actually like to be an adult? If only she had been big, she would have done exactly as she wanted. It was supposed to be Saturday every day, and she was supposed to have a hundred pancakes for dinner. At the least!

Big is a story about what it means to be big, small and just right. The game of thought is lifted by rich, teeming and colorful illustrations with lots of details to delve into further.

Original title: Stor

Category: Picture book

Pages: 40

Format: 20,5x24,5

Saga

L I T E R A R Y A G E N C Y