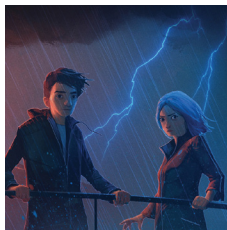
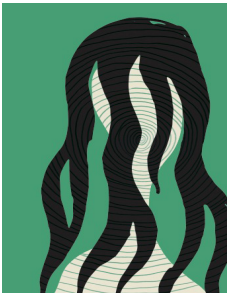
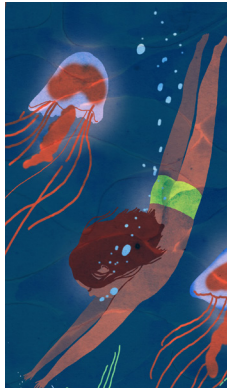


Saga

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

children's and YA news

spring 2023



Saga Literary Agency is an 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 Samlaget Agency pays credit to a long-standing tradition of developing the best books for the most important audience – the children and young adults.

Saga Literary Agency consists of Elen Betanzo and Merete Pharo. Betanzo also works as editor of children's books in the publishing house, 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.



Merete Pharo



Elen Betanzo



Format: 12,8 cm × 20,5 cm, 188 pages.

Åshild Moldskred

Trollmoll

Trollmoll

The things you can't see!

Birk and his mother move away from town to live with his grandfather, who lives on a wind-swept island off the west coast of Norway. He misses his mates and can't bear the thought of a boring life in the country. But then mysterious things begin to happen... Birk's bedroom suddenly starts to smell like rotten meat, the sound of angry fiddle-playing can be heard from the garden and at night it feels as if there's someone watching him...

Ada, who lives next door, tells Birk about an ancient legend of a ghost who killed children: the Trollmoll. People stopped believing in that story a long time ago, though. Could something like that really be haunting his grandfather's house?

Birk must come to realise that the ghost who kills through song and dark sorcery is not merely the stuff of scary stories.

And what is he to make of Nila, the hoarse-voiced girl in his class who is as beautiful as a siren and smells of the forest?

Trollmoll is a charming and creepy tale with warm-hearted characters and spine-chilling ghosts.

Åshild Moldskred (born 1978) is a well renowned author of children's books. Her earlier books are *Dark times*, *Dangerously Quiter* and *Just Do It!*



Format: 26,5 cm × 21 cm, 40 pages.

Kari Stai

IS IT TRUE THAT

Er det sant at

A girl misses her father

Rakel is a bubbly little girl who loves to express herself in the classroom.

But what will they be doing at school today?

We're going to make Father's Day cards, the substitute teacher says.

Rakel slumps down to hide under her desk.

But who's that over there, sitting under his own desk?

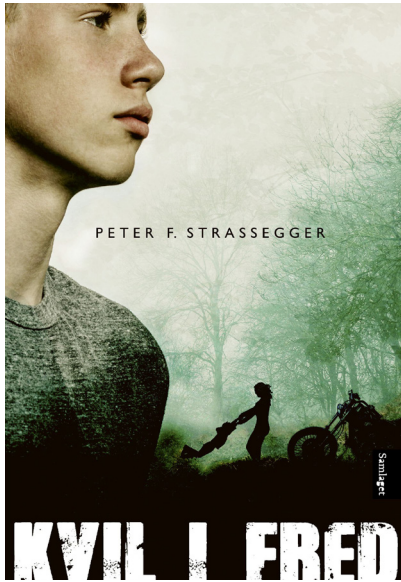
Is it Mikal, the new boy?

Doesn't he want to write a Father's Day card either?

And what's going on with the substitute teacher, who suddenly looks rather scared?

Is It True That is about telling stories. It's a tale of fathers, longing and love. Can new friendships blossom when we share secrets with one another?

Kari Stai (born 1974) is an author and illustrator. She has won numerous awards, including the Brage Prize and the debut prize of the Norwegian Department of Culture. Stai is best known for her *Yesper and Noper* books; the stories about these characters have been described as modern classics of children's literature. The first book has been sold to thirteen countries. In 2021, she released her first illustrated book for children, *So, So Happy*, which received the Department of Culture's illustration prize.



Format: 13,5 cm × 21 cm, 128 pages.

Peter F. Strassegger

Rest in peace

Kvil i fred

Settling up accounts

Per and his friend Oskar are in year 10 and they steal beer, spray graffiti and get into fights. At home, Per and his father are struggling with grief after the death of Per's mother. Why can't they manage to talk about what happened? And why is Per angry with his father?

Per and Oskar smoke weed and drive stolen cars. Then one day they are stopped by the police, who ask them to provide an account of the lives they have lived up until now.

Per, however, has not managed to put everything behind him yet. He has to settle another account first. He may regret it, but he has to do it. Something is driving him and he can find no peace. But who is it who isn't resting in peace?

Peter F. Strassegger was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize and the Norwegian Youth Literature Award for his previous young adult novel, *Alexander the Great*. His new novel takes the same topic and landscape as its starting point: boys on the wrong side of the tracks in a small village in western Norway.

Peter F. Strassegger (born 1984) was born in Austria and lives in Norway, where he works as a psychologist. In 2012, he received the Tarjei Vesaas First Book Award for his novel *Stasia*.



Format: 24 cm × 15,5 cm, 60 pages.

The book is illustrated by Mari
Kanstad Johnsen.

Ruth Lillegraven

Summer of swimming

Badesommar

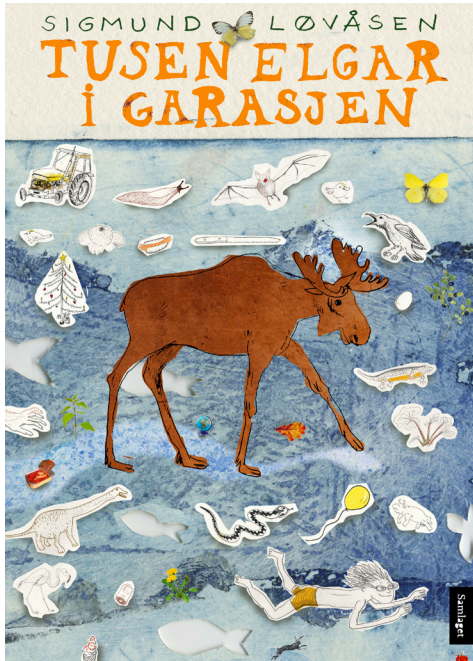
Diving in to the water

Summer of Swimming is a beautiful collection of narrative poetry about diving into the water, written by bestselling and award-winning poet Ruth Lillegraven.

This collection of poetry follows the life of a girl who is still in her adolescence and tries to maneuver a world that is constantly changing. Together with her newborn brother and her grandmother whose old age has made her weary of life, the three of them are waiting for the summer and learning how to swim.

Summer of Swimming is about being young and old, about being afraid and dare to jump into the deep end. This is Lillegraven's third collection of poetry for children and middle grade after the success with *I am I am I am* and *The Green Forest*.

Ruth Lillegraven (born 1978) is a poet and writer for both children and adults. She was nominated to The Brage Prize for her first collection of poetry for children, *I am I am I am*.



Format: 16,5 cm × 23 cm, 48 pages.

Illustrated by Hilde Hodnefjeld.

Sigmund Løvåsen

A thousand moose in the garage

Tusen elgar i garasjen

Sparkling poetry for children and adults of all ages

Do you have Chinese iron in your blood? Is that Jesus's pee you're drinking? Does the blowfly like to blow? And do you really have Europe's biggest big toe?

These are some of the questions that may or may not be answered in this poetry collection. *A Thousand Moose in the Garage* takes us on a journey with ravens and salamanders, dinosaurs and bats, rusty tractors and ants in pants as companions.

Have you ever ridden a dead moose through the forest? That's what we thought.

Sigmund Løvåsen (born 1977) is an author of numerous novels, plays, children's books, biographies and poetry.



Format: 13,5 cm × 20,5 cm, 36 pages.

Ida Eva Neverdahl

Skateboarding in space

Rulling i rommet

Skateboarding tricks from another planet

Amika and her dog Bård are out skateboarding one evening. All of a sudden, a strange craft lands in front of them and two space dogs emerge from it! They invite Amika and Bård back to their planet. Bård has to show them how skateboarding is done on Earth, but how exactly does a space dog skateboard?

Skating in Space is an entry in Samlaget's Lese-land series, aimed at children who are learning to read. These are great stories with simple text and charming illustrations that have been created to engage and inspire budding readers.

Ida Eva Neverdahl (born 1993) is a graphic novelist and illustrator. She has created web series, as well as comic strips for various newspapers, and is the author of several books for children and young adults, including the comic books *Floke* and *Jojo* picture book series.



Tor Arve Røssland

SURVIVAL – THE VOLCANO AWAKENS

Vulkanen vaknar

A new children's adventure series

It is a few years from now and the world has changed beyond recognition. Both town and country have vanished beneath the rising seas. Millions of people are fleeing the coast. Others are running from burning heat. Yet others from war.

The research vessel *Bluenose* is looking for fish and other vital foodstuffs in the Atlantic Ocean. Alongside the crew and the researchers on board are two Norwegian 13-year-olds, Jamal and Eira. Both of their fathers work on the ship. Jamal is really interested in the work being done, while Eira is there against her will. When the ship capsizes in a brutal warzone, Jamal and Eira understand that their small squabbles have become trivial faced with stormy seas, men with machine guns and awakening volcanoes.

Format: 13,5 cm × 21 cm, 200 pages.

The book is illustrated by
Nikolai Lockertsen.

The Volcano Awakes is the first book in the *Survival* adventure series and takes the reader to a near future where humankind is at risk of extinction.

Tor Arve Røssland (born 1971) writes books for children and young adults, and is perhaps best known for his children's horror series *Black Mathilda*. He has been nominated five times to the Norwegian Youth Literature award.

ILLUSTRATED NOVEL
13+ YEARS



Format: 13,5 cm × 21 cm, 190 pages.

The book is illustrated by
Nikolai Lockertsen.

Tor Arve Røssland

SURVIVAL 2 – ICE CAGE

Overleve 2 – Istid

Ice-cold summer

In *Survival 2 – Ice Age* we reunite with our 13-year-old heroes Jamal and Eira. After their dramatic journey on the research ship *Bluenose*, which was attacked by the warship *Georgia* and nearly capsized, they have arrived in Bergen. Eira wants to stay on land and leave everything that happened behind her, while Jamal is planning to go along on the next voyage. It's summer and everyone is expecting warm and pleasant weather.

But enormous quantities of black ash have been spewing out of a volcano on Jan Mayen island. The ashes block out the sun and soon rain and sleet begin to fall. The temperature falls well below freezing, and the researchers are uneasy.

What is really happening to the climate?

Tor Arve Røssland (born 1971) writes books for children and young adults, and is perhaps best known for his children's horror series *Black Mathilda*. He has been nominated five times to the Norwegian Youth Literature award.



Format: 13,5 cm × 21 cm, 223 pages.

The book is illustrated by
Nikolai Lockertsen.

Tor Arve Røssland

SURVIVAL 3 – THE LAST WAR

Overleve 3 – Den siste krigen

Dramatic conclusion to the Survival (adventure series)

After researchers released enormous quantities of volcanic ash on Jan Mayen island in an attempt to stop global warming, the opposite has happened: an new ice age has begun. Soon it will be impossible to live in the northern hemisphere. Along with their parents and another select few, Jamal and Eira flee to the research vessel *Blunose* to head towards southerly shores. It should be possible to live in the islands of Micronesia, but even there the edge of the terrifying ice threatens to swallow up every single island.

The Americas are moving ever closer to the Alliance, and an invasion seems unavoidable. Not to mention, no one knows what the Chinese States are planning. Who has the most powerful fleet? Who will win the war? Is it possible for humanity to survive at all?

Tor Arve Røssland (born 1971) writes books for children and young adults, and is perhaps best known for his children's horror series *Black Mathilda*. He has been nominated five times to the Norwegian Youth Literature award.

Saga

LITERARY AGENCY

