

# LITERARY AGENCY



Illustration by Åshild Irgens, from Oskar og eg by Maria Parr, 2023



# 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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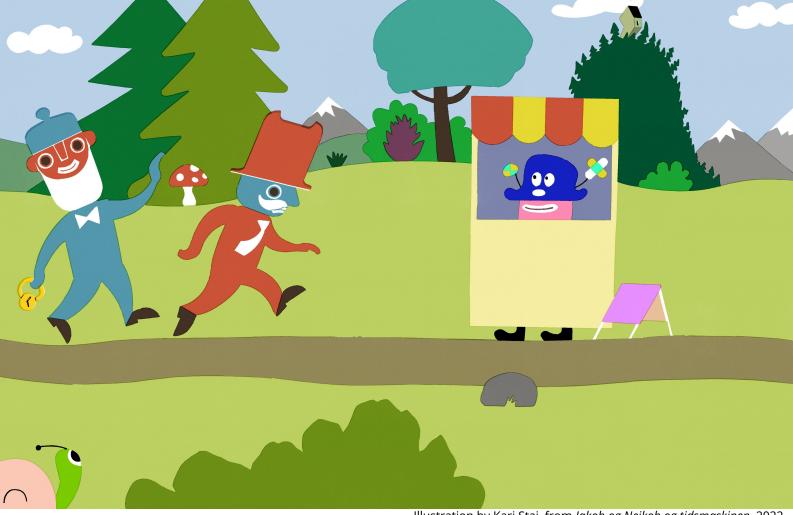


Illustration by Kari Stai, from Jakob og Neikob og tidsmaskinen, 2022

# 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.



Original title: Oskar og eg Category: 6-9 years Pages: 197 Format: 148x199 mm English sample: YES







### Os*kar og eg / Oskar and me* Maria Parr & Åshild Irgens (ill.)

#### A tribute to everyday and family from literary super star Maria Parr

In Oskar and Me we meet older sister Ida and her little brother Oskar. It is Ida who tells the story, but the wild and headstrong Oskar plays the main role in her stories. The book is about longing for a trampoline, about river safaris in the spring sun and missing vampires in the autumn darkness. About cabins that are smaller than one remembers and cupcake kiosks that are nicer than expected, about change and loss. And about pretend play and real play.

Maria Parr has written a fast-paced and warm read-aloud story about growing up and seeing life in a different light than one did before. Oskar and Me is a tribute to everyday life, to sibling relationships and to all the places we are.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Åshild Irgens.

**Translation rights sold to**: Italy, Germany, Serbia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Denmark, Russia, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Spain and Slovenia.

#### Awards and nominations:

Winner of the Brage prize for Best children's book 2023 Nominated Bookseller's Award 2023 Nominated Critic's Award Best children's book 2023 Nominated Ministry of Culture Illustration Prize 2023

#### **Reviews:**

*"The novel Oskar and Me is a treasure."* Karen Frøsland Nystøyl, Vårt Land

"The book is like a box of candy with everything that is good: familiar scenes, new expressions and a multitude of images, both in the language and in the illustrations." Janne Karin Støylen, Bergens Tidende

*"Everyone should have a book by Maria Parr in their life."* Anne Cathrine Straume, NRK

"Maria Parr's new children's book is pure gold – and Parr consolidates her position as one of the best children's book authors in Norway." Kristine Isaksen, VG

"New book by Maria Parr – lucky everyone who grows up with such stories!" Anna Marta Vinsrygg Vadstein, Nynorskbok

*"In Oskar and me, ordinary things happen to ordinary children. But Maria Parr portraits a larger universe in their small village."* Silje Bekeng-Flemmen, Klassekampen

Oskar was going to start school soon. I wondered how it would go. He's the youngest of his age group and can't sit still on a chair unless we're having pancakes for dinner.

'Oskar's just the way he should be,' said Dad. 'It's not Oskar there's anything wrong with.'

I agreed with Dad, but I was still a bit worried. I think our parents have forgotten how much we have to sit still at school.

At the end of July, Oskar got a school bag. I thought in a way it might make him look more like he was ready for school, but it was really the opposite. Oskar absolutely had to have a bag that was meant for ages ten plus. He looked like a tortoise.

'Isn't it a bit big?' I whispered to Mum.

'It's Oskar who's small,' Mum sighed.

As for Oskar, he wasn't worried in the slightest about school. He couldn't wait.

'You'll be there, after all,' he said. 'And, anyway, watch this!' Then he put on his new bag and strutted around the living room with a swagger.

'Seriously. There's space for all sorts in here. Books. Rocks. Imagine if we find an injured animal. Hey presto! There's space in here.'





### *Vaffelhjarte /Waffle hearts* Illustrated by Bo Gaustad

#### A true classic about friendship

Awards: The Dutch Zilveren Griffel and the French Prix Surciere. Nominated to The Brage Prize 2005. Translation rights: Russia, Sweden, France, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Faroe Islands, Denmark, Serbia, Japan, Catalonia, China, Ukraine, Portugal. United Kingdom, USA, Czech Republic, Iceland, South Korea, Sami language, Estonia, Bulgaria, Italy, Hindi, Lithuania, Slovenia, Georgia, North Macedonia, latvia, Spain and Turkey

### *Tonje Glimmerdal / Astrid the Unstoppable* Illustrated by Åshild Irgens

#### A masterpiece

**Awards**: The Brage Prize 2009, The Critics Awards 2009. Nominated to the Ministry of Culture's Prize and the Bookseller's Prize.

**Translation rights**: Bulgaria, Belgium, Catalonia, Georgia, Germany, Sweden, Russia, France, Iceland, India, Denmark, Poland, Chzech Republic, Hungary, China, North Macedonia, Ukraine, Slovenia, Estonia, Faroe Islands, South Korea, Spain, Italy, England, Serbia, USA, Turkey.

#### Keeperen og havet / The Goalie and the Sea

# An intense and action-packed return to the friends from Waffle hearts

#### Awards: The Brage Prize 2017

**Translation rights**: Belgium, Bulgaria, Catalonia, Denmark, England, Estonia, Faroe Islands, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland, Sweden, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine.

### Ivar får ansvar / Ivar steps up Arnfinn Kolerud

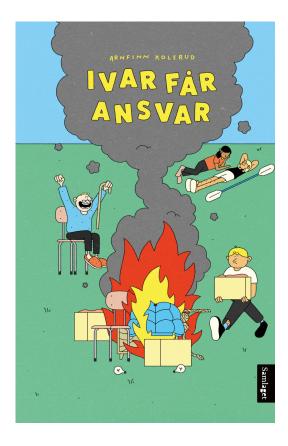
#### A funny and quirky story about landing your first summer job, growing apart and stupid older boys who hit on one's best friend

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?

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.

**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," lvar 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: 13,5x21cm English sample: YES







Original title: Eg er V-Vida Category: 13+ Pages: 222 Format: 13,5x21cm English sample: YES





### *Eg er 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.

**Tone E. Solheim** (b. 1989) made her debut with the young adult novel *Svarttrasta syng om natta* 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.

## Steinalderen / The Stone Age Eirin Holberg & Åshild Irgens (ill.)

In this book, you are taken back 10,000 years in time, all the way to the end of the Ice Age when the Stone Age began in Scandinavia. You will hear about stone carver schools, living atop one's own trash, and the time when a monstrous wave devastated the Norwegian coast. The book also provides a recipe for making your own musical instrument from the Stone Age.

*The Stone Age* is written by archaeologist Eirin Holberg and illustrated by award-winning Åshild Irgens, who, with her warm and humorous style, has recreated an exciting world vastly different from our own. The book is suitable for both reading aloud and for children to read by themselves.

**Eirin Holberg** (b. 1972) is an archaeologist and author. She has published and contributed to a number of historical works and academic literature for universities and colleges.

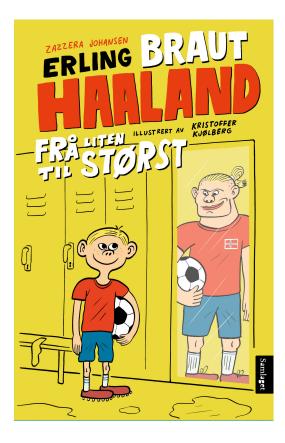
**Åshild Irgens** (b. 1976) has a master's degree from the Oslo National Academy of the Arts and has illustrated numerous children's books for various publishers.



Original title: Steinalderen 10 000 år gamle tyggisar og hovudskallar på stong Category: Non-fiction Pages: 79 Format: 21x21 cm English sample: NO

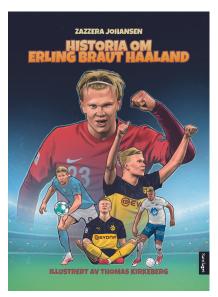


Illustration from the book, the chapter says "At school in the Stone Age"



Original title: Erling Braut Haaland. Frå liten til størst Category: Middle grade Pages: 94 Format: 15x20 cm English sample: NO

#### Also by the author:



### Erling Braut Haaland. Frå liten til størst / Haaland. From Tiny to Titan Zazzera Johansen & Kristoffer Kjølberg (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.

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.



Illustration by Kristoffer Kjølberg

### Saga og Storm og kongens fortenestemedalje / Saga and Storm 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

### *Katteskriket / The Ghostly Cry* Guro Auganes og Line Halsnes (ill.)

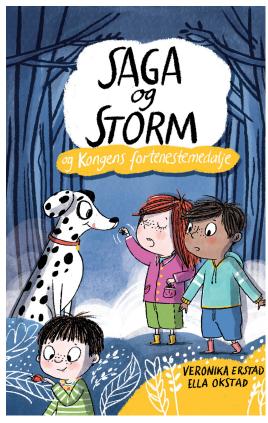
Eleven-year-old Julie dreads staying over at her grandparents' creepy old house for four days and three nights. She must get used to it before an upcoming overnight school trip.

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.

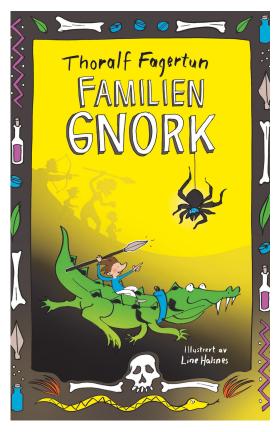
"A nerve-racking chiller... Auganes masterfully employs classic tropes like a red door, cats, ghosts and creeping white fog, short chapters and a close narrative voice to create intensity." Tuva Vik, Periskop



Original title: Saga og Storm og kongens fortenestemedalje Category: 6 + Pages: 74 Format: 15x20 cm English sample: NO



Original title: Katteskriket Category: MIddle grade Pages: 120 Format: 15x20 cm English sample: NO



Original title: Familien Gnork Category: Middle grade Pages: 184 Format: 15x20 cm English sample: NO



## Familien Gnork/The Gnork Family Thoralf Fagertun

Jungle medicine, best friends and the most important football match in the world!

Tom misses his best friend Martin, who is half-dead in hospital. Together they would have won the incredibly important football match against their abominable archenemy Preben and his team, but without Martin all will surely be lost. When the Gnork family moves from the jungle to Tom's boring small town, a spark of hope is lit. If Tom does the Gnork family a favour, they will make him a natural miracle cure that will restore Martin's health and make him fit for the match. As they attempt to make the medicine, crocodiles, cats and whales are all roped in as guinea pigs, with unexpected con- sequences, and all the while Preben and his evil plans lurk in the shadows...

*The Gnork Family* is a wacky and cheerful tale about friends, enemies, spider hunts, flying crocodiles and home-made medicines with unbelievable side effects. And football, of course.

#### Illustrations by Line Halsnes

Nominated to the Avid Reader Award 2023/2024 and the Debutant Prize Trollkrittet.

"Funny scenes follow each other in finely punctuated chapters that at the same time have a clear tension curve. Are you still in doubt about which book should be under the tree for all children between the ages of nine and eleven?" Astrid Fosvold, Periskop

"The Gnork family is a fast-paced story about friendship, football, large crocodiles with sparkling teeth, flying blue whales and annoying rich boys. (...)The humorous story constantly takes new turns and surprises the reader time and time again!" Nynorskbok.no

"The Gnork family is a novel about grief and friendship, cooked together in a big pot where cuddly crocodiles, huge spiders and a rocking tiger are natural ingredients. Out of this wild mixture comes a story so crazy and full of charm that there is nothing else to do but look forward to the next book from Thoralf Fagertun." From the nomination text for the Debutant Prize Trollkrittet.

Translation rights sold to: Denmark.

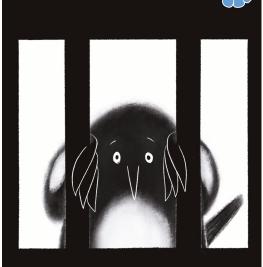
## *Ringen / The Ring* Martine Grande

#### 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?

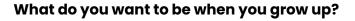
*The Ring* is an easy read with simple text and charming illustrations, created to stimulate and inspire budding readers.



### <sup>8</sup> RINGEN

Original title: Ringen Category: 6+ Pages: 35 Format: 13,5x20,25 cm

#### Also by the author:



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: 20,5x24,5cm



# PØLSETJUVEN



Marianne Gretteberg Engedal

# POLITITJUVEN



Marianne Gretteberg Engedal

#### VERDAS RIKASTE TJUV



Marianne Gretteberg Ergedal

Samlaget

## *Kjell-trilogien / The Bill-trilogy* Marianne Gretteberg Engedal

The picture books about Kjell have become a huge success in Norway, and the rights to the first book have been sold to several countries.

Kjell is born into a family of thieves, but Kjell does not like to be a thief. And when the family forces him to steal from his best friend, Sausage-Per, Kjell runs away to the forest. There, he meets a whole bunch of people who do not want to be what they were born to be. *Pølsetjuven* (The Sausage Burglar) is a fun and original story about finding out who you are and daring to stand up for yourself.

Gretteberg Engedal followed up the success with "*Polititjuven*" (The Police Burglar), and here the reader is presented with a real love triangle when the police girl Perit starts in the class, and becomes best friends with Sausage-Per. "Polititjuven" deals with prejudices and true friendship, and poses the big question: is it possible to steal a best friend?

The last book in the trilogy about Kjell is "*Verdas rikaste tjuv*" (The World's Richest Burglar). Kjell's family has finally accepted that Kjell does not want to be a thief, but says he must find something else to do instead. Therefore, Kjell has to join the band. The boring existence in the band changes completely when Recorder-Bob starts, for he is just the coolest boy in the world and he plays the recorder like a god. How will Kjell get his attention? At the same time, Kjell's family comes into a lot of money, they will surely not notice if Kjell takes some money from them to buy gifts for Bob? But what happens? Kjell did not want to be a thief? And can good friends be bought with money?

The books about Kjell are considered modern picture book classics in Norway, and have taken both readers and critics by storm. Marianne Gretteberg Engedal is a popular illustrator under the artist name Skinkeape, but these books are the only ones she writes herself under her own name. She has won a whole range of awards for the books about Kjell.

Marianne Gretteberg Engedal (b.1986) is an illustrator, author, and cook. She illustrates books and for magazines under the artist name Skinkeape.

**Translation rights sold to**: Denmark, China, Lithuania, South Korea and Sweden.



### Jakob og Neikob / Yesper and Noper Kari Stai

Yesper and Noper are the best of friends even though they are very different. Yesper says YES to everything, and Noper says NO to everything.

Author and illustrator Kari Stai has captured the hearts of children and critics alike with its delightful tales of an unlikely friendship between two contrasting personalities. The series has garnered critical acclaim, with the first book winning the 2009 Debutant Prize from the Norwegian Ministry of Culture. Stai was also awarded the prestigious Brage Prize for children's literature in 2012 for "Jakob og Neikob. Tjuven slår tilbake."

The books have been translated into several languages, including German, and have found an international audience drawn to their universal themes and endearing characters.

With its imaginative storytelling, relatable characters, and profound insights into friendship and personal growth, the Jakob og Neikob series is a must-read for children and adults alike.

**Kari Stai (b. 1974)** is an illustrator and author, known foremost for her prize winnning six books about the duo, Yesper and Noper (Jakob og Neikob). The tales of these two have become quintessential, modern classics of children's literature. They have been translated to several languages and adapted to theatre.









Original title: Du veit ingenting Category: 13+ Pages: 174 Format: 13,5x21cm English sample: YES

## *Du veit ingenting / Erika first* Sigrid Agnethe Hansen

Tina is 16 years old and in her last year at secondary school. She has a little sister, Erika, who is not like other little siblings. She can suddenly get stuck and demand a lot of the parents» time and energy. Tina wishes she had a sister who didn't create scenes for the smallest thing. But when someone one day says something bad about Erika, Tina reacts. Because if she doesn't stand up for Erika, who will? In addition, Tina has another problem. While everyone around her starts to fall in love, Tina doesn't feel anything, neither for boys nor girls. When her best friend Anna suddenly falls head over heels in love with a boy, Tina is left completely alone.

*Erika first* can be read as a follow-up to the critically acclaimed youth book *Seen this?* from 2020. It is a tender, humorous and original story about not quite fitting in, about friendship, about courage and about sibling relationships.

Translation rights sold to: Denmark



Original title: Ser du dette? Category: 13+ Pages: 140 Format: 13,5x21cm English sample: YES Anna has just moved to a new home with her parents. Back to the village where her dad grew up, where Anna's grandma still lives. But rumours travel faster than a car can drive. A rumour doesn't care about kilometres, speed limits or travel itineraries. A rumour just wants to get where it's going. And once it arrives, it will try to reach out to as many people as it possibly can... Anna is running from one such rumour. She made up her mind to start over and to come back to school. A new school, with new friends. But how will she manage to keep her new life under control when she spends her every waking moment worrying that her past will catch up to her?

Seen this? tells the story of Anna and a nude photo that has been spread around the Internet. A tale of putting your heart in the hands of someone, who stamps it into one thousand pieces. A tale of being 15 years old and struggling to trust anyone again.

Translation rights sold to: Denmark, South Korea and Latvia.

**Sigrid Agnethe Hansen** (b. 1989) is a journalist and works as a digital content producer. She is the author of two critically acclaimed books.

## *Splintra / Splintered* Hilde Myklebust

The summer after tenth grade stretches out before Mia and her group of friends, long and free. Soon they'll be going to high school and will be split up, scattering in different directions. But they have this summer together, here and now. During the vacation, Mia and Are grow close in a new way, and it's difficult to tell the difference between friendship and what may be love. Autumn arrives and Mia moves into dorm. She blossoms in her new environment on the music programme, throwing herself into musicals and concerts, dorm life, parties and new friends.

Then Are gets ill. Very ill.

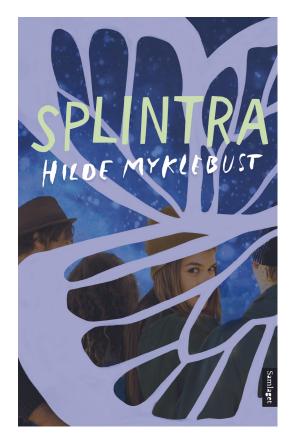
Splintered is a vibrant novel about friendship, about how it's possible to be both happy and sad when something really wonderful and something really awful happen at the same time. Hilde Myklebust has created an intimate, rich story about intense emotions.

The book was nominated Best children's book in the Brage awards and Uprisen 2023.

Selected White Raven 2023

Translation rights sold to: North Macedonia and Germany.

**Hilde Myklebust (b.1979)** is well-established as one of the most important young poets in Norway. In May 2020, she was awarded "Diktartavla" ("The Poet's Writing Desk"), a prize given to a significant New-Norwegian poet. This prize was funded by the internationally recognized poet Olav H. Hauge. Myklebust has written three critically regarded collections of poems. She has also created picture books, most recently Ylva and the Wild Goats (Ylva og villgeitene), 2020.



Original title: Splintra Category: 13+ Pages: 287 Format: 212x138 mm English sample: YES



