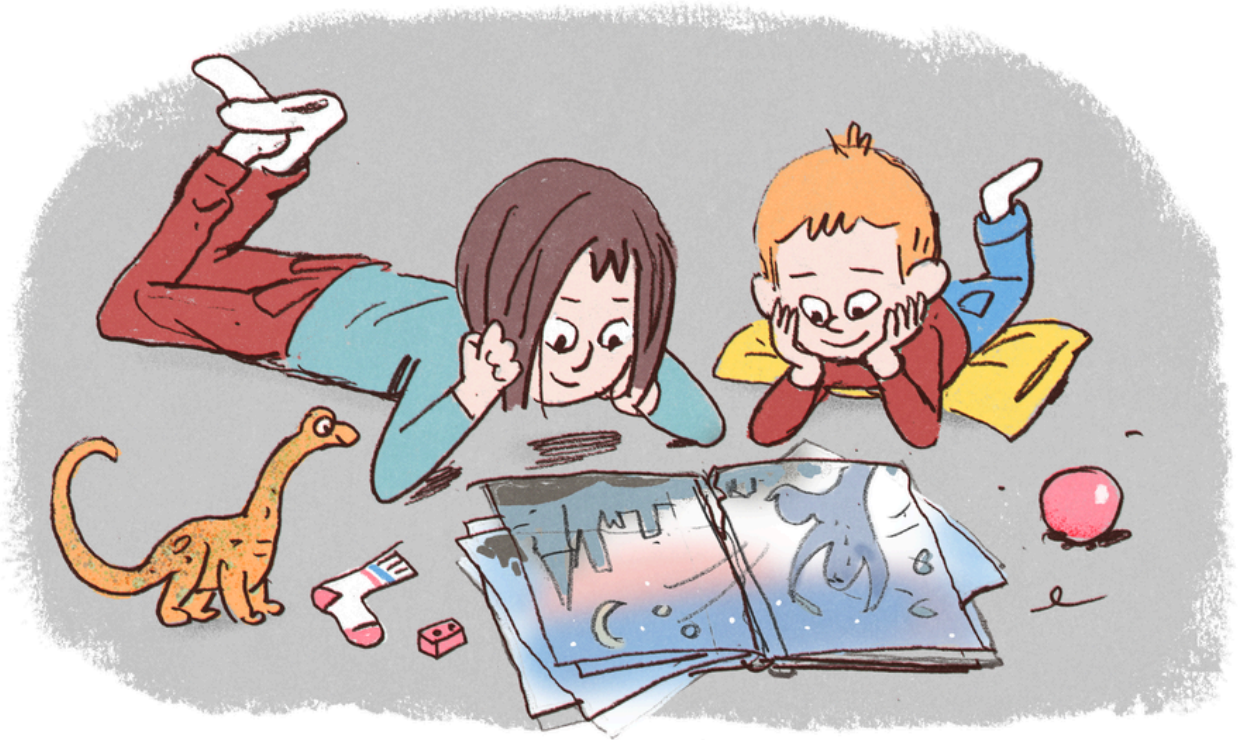


Saga

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

FALL 2025





Who are we?

Saga Literary Agency consists of acquisitional editor 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 in the book trading business for several years, and has a degree in history.

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EG TAR TAK RUNDT HANDA TIL PAPPA.

«DÅ HAR EG EI LØYSING», SEIER EG.

«HAR DU?» SPØR PAPPA.

«EG KAN OGSÅ LUKKE AUGA. OG SÅ KAN EG TENKE AT
EG MØTER DEG INNE I TANKANE VÅRE, BERRE DU
OG EG. DÅ ER DU IKKJE ALEINE», SEIER EG.

«DET HØYREST FINT UT», SEIER PAPPA.

«OG SÅ KAN VI OPNE AUGA SAMAN», SEIER EG.



Illustration from What is on your mind? by Brynjulf Jung Tjønn and Skinkeape (ill.)

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 cooperate with NORLA for translation and production support.



Oskar and Me-series Maria Parr & Åshild Irgens (ill.)

Oskar and Ida's universe, created by the award-winning duo Maria Parr and Åshild Irgens, is a warm, relatable, and humorous depiction of childhood in a small Norwegian village. Through the eyes of big sister Ida, readers follow her mischievous little brother Oskar on everyday adventures: longing for a trampoline, river safaris, mysterious autumn vampires, and cupcake kiosks that are both fantastical and familiar. These stories celebrate sibling relationships, change, and playful exploration—blending pretend play with real-life growth.

Both books are fast-paced read-alouds, richly illustrated by Åshild Irgens, and have quickly become favorites among readers and critics. The first title, «Oskar and Me, and All the Places We Are», won the prestigious Brage Prize and the Nynorsk Children's Literature Prize, and was nominated for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize, the Critic's Association Prize and the Premio Strega Ragazzi 2025 in Italy. The series is also internationally successful, with rights sold to 20 countries and plans for a TV adaptation underway—proof of its universal appeal and captivating storytelling.

Maria Parr and Åshild Irgens show that great children's literature blossoms from the magic of everyday life, offering readers worldwide a chance to fall in love with Oskar, Ida, and all the places they are.



Oskar and Me, and All the Places We Are (2023)

Translation rights sold to: Italy, Germany, Serbia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Denmark, Russia, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Georgia, France, Spain, Slovenia, Faroe Islands, Poland, Belgium and Sweden.

Awards and nominations:

Nominated for The Bookseller's Award 2023

Nominated for The Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize 2023

Winner of the Brage Prize 2023

Nominated for Critic's Association Prize

White Raven 2024

Premio Strega Ragazzi 2025

Reviews Norwegian press:

«The novel Oskar and Me is a treasure.» Karen Frøslund 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, Nynorsk bok

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

Oskar and Me, and All the Things We Have (2025)

Translation rights sold to: France, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Estonia

Review Norwegian press:

«Good as gold. (...) Perfect good night-stories. Maria Parr is one of the most talented authors of children's books in Norway.»
Anne Cathrine Straume, NRK

«A Norwegian Emil in Lönneberga. (...) This series sets the standard for the reading aloud-genre.» Kristine Isaksen, VG

«In Maria Parr and Åshild Irgens' second book about Ida and Oskar, the good qualities from the first book are both carried forward and further developed – and the sibling pair is established as a new dynamic duo in Norwegian children's literature.»
Ingrid Senje, Barnebokkritikk.no

Format: 15x20 cm





Original title: Ein måne i magen og andre dikt
Category: Picture book
Pages: 40
Format: 21x21 cm
English sample: No

I Ate the Moon, And Other Poems Anker Eysajan and Hilde Hodnefjeld (ill.)

Playful poems about a child's imaginative life

Curly is a lively and imaginative boy who loves to play. In «I Ate the Moon, And Other Poems» we follow Curly through an ordinary day from the moment he wakes up until he goes to bed. Along the way, he dresses the grumpy wind in many scarves, he transforms into a super frog, and for supper he eats the whole moon!

Anker Eysajan makes his debut with his witty and whimsical poems that reflect the fantasy worlds children create in their everyday play and reveal the magic in the ordinary. The collection of poems are accompanied by playful and imaginative illustrations by **Hilde Hodnefjeld**.



Lucy Can Do Anything: The Circus

Ida Eva Neverdahl

New picture book series for toddlers

Ida Eva Neverdahl is a creative powerhouse and has had great success with her graphic novels about the friendly Viking antihero Floke. This fall she makes her debut as a picture book artist with the first book in the toddler series "Lucy can do anything", about a confident and imaginative little girl named Lucy. Lucy can do anything and everything, and in this first book she wants to start a circus. The lack of acrobats, clowns and circus animals is no obstacle for Lucy – she can use insects and bugs! But what happens when you bring insects and bugs inside?

«The circus» is the first book in a planned series meant to entertain and inspire the youngest readers.

Ida Eva Neverdahl (b.1993) is author of graphic novels and illustrator. She has made online comics and series for more than a decade under the name @jellyvamps on Instagram with a large international audience.



Original title: Lucy klarer alt.
Sirkuset

Category: Picture book 0–3 years

Pages: 50

Format: 18x18 cm

English sample: NO





Saga and Storm-series Veronika Erstad & Ella Okstad (ill.)

Charming and funny series about friendship, jealousy and dogs

Saga and Storm are best friends, and for Saga, Storm is the best friend anyone could ever wish for. He is calm and cautious when Saga's imagination runs wild and they end up in dramatic situations, like that time Saga's little brother went missing in the forest when they were meant to keep an eye on him and Saga was too occupied with training the family dog Jippi to become a rescue dog. Sadly, Jippi's rescue abilities are poor, and he runs away from Saga and Storm, and finds interest in the neighbour's cute dog. All this trouble when Saga just wanted attention from her parents for doing a good deed. «Saga and Storm and the King's Medal of Honor» is a warm and humorous story about wanting to be seen, true friendship and siblings.

In the second book Saga and Storm's friendship is put to a test when a new girl joins their class, and she wants to decide everything. One day the new girl decides that boys and girls can't be friends, and few days later she decides that Saga and Storm should be boyfriend and girlfriend. But Saga doesn't want to be with Storm in that way, and neither does Storm. And worse still, the new girl gets to pick the cutest puppy from the neighbour's litter after Jippi's rendez vous in the forest. «Saga and Storm will NOT be boyfriend-girlfriend» continues to examine themes of friendship and jealousy, as well as depicting peer pressure and to stand up for one self. The Saga and Storm-series is perfect for young readers who wants engaging stories about friendship with short chapters and charming illustrations.

Veronika Erstad (b.1979) is a child welfare educator and author. She has written books for children and adults.

Ella K. Okstad (b.1973) is an illustrator and graphic designer. She has illustrated books in Norway and in the UK.

Format: 15x20 cm

Translation rights sold to: Denmark



Alien Undercover-series Ingunn Thon, Christian Wiik Gjerde and Jens Kristensen (ill.)

The night before the new school year Jacob is woken by a helicopter landing in his backyard. It is the Prime minister, and she has an important mission for him: he has to take responsibility of the new neighbour, Ramona. She is an alien, and her true identity must not be revealed! The mission is proven to be a very difficult task as Ramona doesn't know anything about social conduct and how to behave in school.

«Alien undercover» is a popular audio book-series by the talented duo Ingunn Thon and Christian Wiik Gjerde. They have adapted the manuscript to print, and each episode equals one chapter. The first book, «The New Neighbour», is out this fall. Season two is published winter 2026.

Ingunn Thon (b.1986) made her debut with the best-selling novel «Ollis» in 2017. The book was nominated for the ARK award and has been translated into several languages, including English. She is a journalist and creative writer and has worked for NRK for many years.

Christian Wiik Gjerde (b. 1981) made his debut with «Search for the Four-Leave Clover» in 2016, and was published in many countries, including Germany and Russia. He has worked as a journalist, creative writer and a librarian.

Jens Kristensen (b. 1975) is an illustrator and artist. He has illustrated several children's books, editorials and advertisements.

Format: 15x20 cm

Pages: 136





Original title: Tarjei, 13 år

Category: Middle grade

Pages: 130

Format: 19x26 cm

Illustrations: B/W

English sample: Yes



Toby, 13 years Anja Dahle Øverbye

Award-winning graphic novel about being thirteen, torn between your parents and in love for the first time

Toby is thirteen, but his world is coming apart. His parents are newly divorced. Now Toby is forced to shuttle between two homes, juggling the awkward reality of his mother's new boyfriend and the longing for life with his father in the old house. Nothing feels right anymore – and nobody seems to notice the storm of feelings he's caught up in.

In this award-winning graphic novel, Toby retreats to the familiar treehouse in the woods with his best friend Sam, not sure how to fit in at school, or anywhere at all. Through everyday scenes full of tension and heartache readers witness Toby's struggle to make sense of complicated family routines, forgotten gym bags, and the growing pains of adolescence. New feelings for his classmate Aisha only make everything more confusing.

«Toby, 13 Years» is a nuanced portrait of contemporary childhood, tackling divorce, puberty, and emotional isolation with honesty and artistic depth. Anja Dahle Øverbye's expressive grayscale illustrations and understated dialogue resonate powerfully with anyone who has felt out of place, whether child or adult. Perfect for fans of introspective comics and coming-of-age stories, this book invites readers to see – and feel – the world through a child's eyes.

Winner of the Critics' Prize for Children's and YA Literature, and nominated for Norway's most beautiful illustrated books.

Anja Dahle Øverbye (b.1981) is a visual artist, illustrator and author of numerous award-winning graphic novels. «Toby, 13 years» is her first graphic novel for middle grade. Her works are translated into French, English, Russian, Ukrainian, Czech, and Polish.

Coming-of-age

Portrait of an anxious thirteen year old

A rare emotional portrait of a boy



Reviews Norwegian press:

«In Anja Dahle Øverbye's new graphic novel, the subtle shades she uses in her illustrations work in perfect harmony with the emotions expressed through both words and images. Øverbye is a true master of grayscale.» Anne Schäffer, Numer

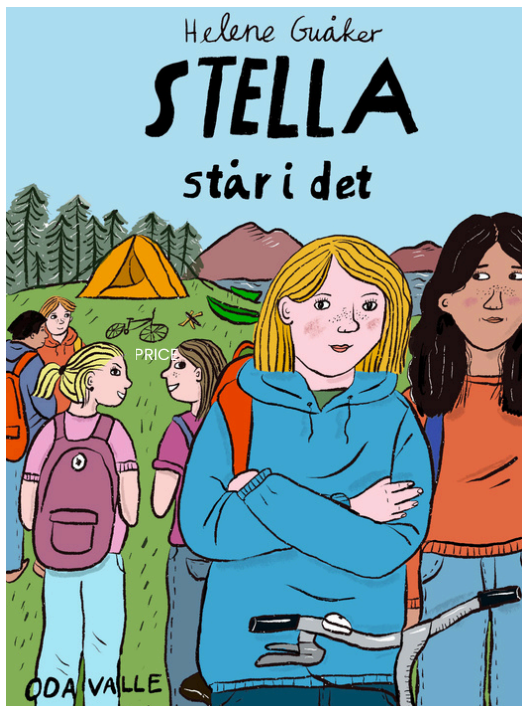


«An outstanding children's book! It's remarkable when a story contains so many believable, complex characters that you want to keep reading about them. Despite all its everyday complications, there's never a dull moment. The book is emotionally rich and wise.» Kristine Isaksen, VG

«With sensitivity and precision, Øverbye portrays how everyday routines shift for a child experiencing their parents' separation. Toby's conversations with his mother—and with his father—reveal what it's really like to be a child of divorce.» Ruth Halstensen, Empirix

«With *Toby, 13 years*, Øverbye lays bare the challenges of divorce and adolescence in a moving and insightful way, all while maintaining a high level of artistic craft. This is her finest comic yet.» Egon Låstad, Periskop

«*Toby, 13 years* must be one of the best books about divorce involving children I've ever encountered. Stories like this are so important in a world that often portrays boys as tough and emotionless. In this book, Øverbye sets out to capture how children experience divorce—and it's powerful, evocative, and deeply moving.» Francine Mbanza Jensen, Serienett.no



Stella faces it Helene Guåker and Oda Valle (ill.)

Birthday party plan B

Stella lives with her mother in a small apartment in the best block in the best neighbourhood. Her best friend Rania lives two doors down the corridor. Stella and her mother don't have much money because Stella's mother doesn't have a job, but they have enough, and they always have warm dinner on the plate. But when Stella's mother invites the entire class to celebrate Stella's birthday, Stella gets nervous. What will the class think of their small apartment? And what if they get sick from the food her mother finds on her regular dumpster diving? And worse still, what if her mother gets her migraines and has to take to bed and they have to cancel the birthday party? Stella and Rania have to make a plan B!

Guåker depicts how Stella is affected by the mother's small income and the true value of community in a heartwarming and charming novel for middle grade. The novel is illustrated by Oda Valle.

Helene Guåker (b. 1983) is an author and poet and has written books for both adults and YA. She has been nominated for the Brageprize for two of her YA novels and is a critically acclaimed writer.

Heartwarming, charming and funny
Depicts growing up with little money
Standing up for yourself



On a Scale Of One To Ten

Ann Helen Kolås Ingebrigtsen

Empowering YA novel about body complex issues and confidence

Miriam is 16 years old and is starting high school after the summer holidays. She and her twin sister will start the same grade, and they can't wait to get new friends and embark upon new adventures together. But Miriam is also suffering from severe pain in her leg after an injury when she was a baby and has mastered the art of masking her pain and crippled walk. Just before the holidays she is given a devastated message from the doctors: she will have to undergo an amputation of the leg.

Simultaneously she meets the handsome boy Torjus, and for the first time she experiences the thrill of being in love and feeling free from her body complexes. She keeps her upcoming surgery a secret fearing that Torjus will dump her once he realises that she has a prosthesis and that she is not like other 16-year-olds.

«On a scale of one to ten» is a powerful and personal account of living with body complex issues; about feeling different and growing confident. Furthermore, the novel is also a good read about falling in love for the first time, the unbreakable bond between two sisters and how TikTok can provide a positive community.

Ann Helen Kolås Ingebrigtsen (b. 1980) is the author of three YA novels and a teacher in high school. Ingebrigtsen made her literary debut with «Anger» in 2020 which was awarded the Book blogger award and Unread award.

Body complex issues

First love

Close relationship between sisters



Original title: På ein skala frå éin til ti

Category: Youth / YA

Pages: 160

Format: 13,5x21cm

English sample: No





Sharp Edges Therese Garshol

A new page-turner from literary shooting star Therese Garshol

Life is set on pause for 17-year-old Maja after her father's sudden death. She doesn't have the energy to deal with her strict mother who works in the police and most of all, she is sick and tired of the macho hockey jocks she is surrounded by at school. This changes when Adam starts her class. Maja is captivated by him, regardless of all the signs and people telling her to stay away from him. Adam distracts her from her sorrow and constant quarrels with her mother, and she finally experiences moments of joy. Fast forward and what seemed to be a dream has turned into a nightmare. A young man has been killed, and Maja has to tell her story to the police. It turns out that Adam was keeping secrets from her, but perhaps Maja is not to be trusted either.

Original title: Skarpe kantar

Category: Youth / YA

Pages: 185

Format: 13,5x21cm

English sample: No

«**Sharp Edges**» is a thriller that keeps the reader hooked from the first sentence. Therese Garshol is one of the most talented and exciting new voices of YA novels in Norway, and has won several awards, including the high standing Uprisen 2025 for best YA novel.



Therese Garshol (b.1988) is an author and a scholar. «Sharp edges» is her third YA novel, following her success with «Sting» and «I will destroy you». For «Sting» she was awarded the debutant prize Trollkrittet 2023, and for «I will destroy you» she was awarded Uprisen and nominated for the Critic's Award. Her raw talent and unflinching approach to difficult subjects marks her as a rising star in contemporary young adult literature.

Page-turner

Psychological thriller

Seventeen, Almost Eighteen

Andrea Rudland Haave

Mia has just moved from a small, close-knit town to Oslo, where she feels adrift and out of place in the big city. Everything changes when she matches with an older man on Tinder—he is charming, experienced, and makes her feel seen and special. Swept off her feet, Mia quickly moves in with him. But soon, red flags begin to appear. He becomes increasingly controlling, jealous, and manipulative. As the relationship turns suffocating, Mia must find a way out—but escaping proves far more difficult than she ever imagined.

«Seventeen, Almost Eighteen» is a gripping and unsettling young adult novel about being young, vulnerable, and in love. It explores the complexities of psychological abuse in close relationships and the struggle to break free from a destructive bond.

The novel stands out for its honest portrayal of power imbalances, emotional manipulation, and the subtle signs that can accumulate over time. Through Mia's story, readers gain insight into how difficult it can be to recognize and leave a harmful relationship, and how crucial friendship and support are when life becomes overwhelming.

Reviews:

"Andrea Rudland Haave has succeeded with her debut. *Seventeen, Almost Eighteen* is a prime example of what a young adult novel should be. (...) Haave writes incredibly well—so well that she makes crafting a novel seem almost effortless. "

Magnus Rotevatn, Framtida.no

"Andrea Rudland Haave makes a solid debut with a young adult novel about a difficult, yet important, topic. (...) *Seventeen, Almost Eighteen* can provide valuable insight into what to watch out for, and offers hope that it is possible to break free from a painful and challenging relationship."

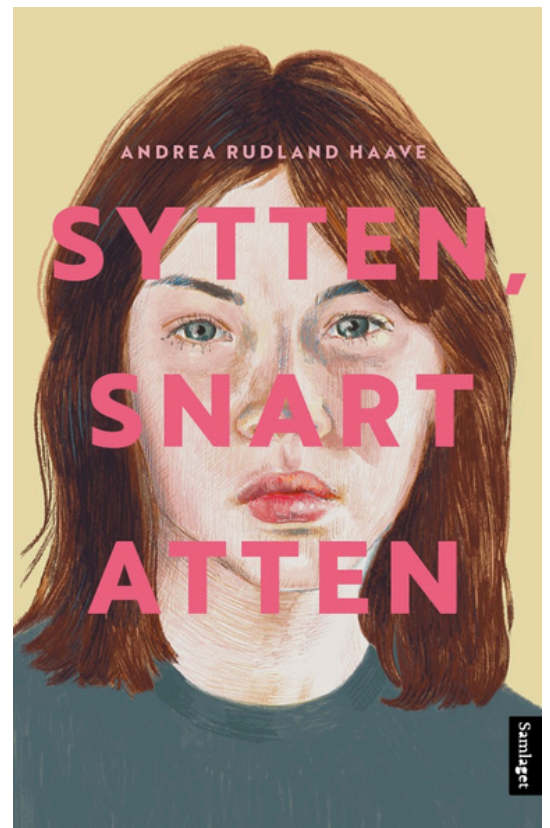
Inger Marie Kjølstadmyr, Barnebokkritikk

"Rarely have I seen a young adult novel with such a credible and insightful portrayal of the experience of psychological abuse. (...) This is her first book. It reveals a raw storytelling talent and a strong instinct for psychological drama. (...) *Seventeen, Almost Eighteen* is an important book that provides a chilling insight into toxic relationships. I have no doubt it could be essential reading for those who need it most."

Silje Bekeng-Flemmen, Klassekampen

Psychological abuse
Coming of age

Andrea Rudland Haave (b.1992) is an actress and author. *Seventeen, Almost Eighteen* is her first novel.



Original title: Syttén, snart atten

Category: Youth / YA

Pages: 164

Format: 13,5x21cm

English sample: No

