

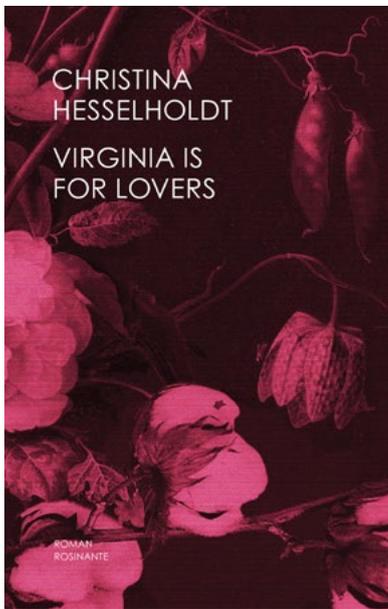
PHOTO: ROBIN SKJOLDORNS

/ Christina Hesselholdt Virginia Is For Lovers

In 1985, Derek and Nancy Haysom were brutally murdered in their home in Virginia. Their daughter Elizabeth Haysom and her German boyfriend Jens Söring were sentenced to life for the double murder after a long investigation and a harrowing trial. Elizabeth claimed that it was Jens Söring who carried out the murders. Jens Söring, however, claimed that the only reason he originally took the blame was to protect Elizabeth, and also because he thought that he, as the son of a diplomat, would be able to claim immunity, but that it was actually Elizabeth who murdered her parents. The question of who actually committed the crime remains unsolved.

‘Mr Up Front’, the novel’s narrator, chooses to describe the novel as fiction built on the skeleton of reality. He views himself as a paparazzo who preys on the lives of famous people and on the enormous public appetite for secrets and mysteries. Mr Up Front finds himself confronted with a murder mystery ... but in reality, it is the time before the double murder – what provoked it – that intrigues him.

CHRISTINA HESSELHOLDT (b. 1962) has a Masters in Literary Criticism and trained at Danish Writer’s Academy, where she herself later taught for many years. Her first book, *The Kitchen, the Tomb and the Landscape* was published in 1991. Her most recently published works are *Companions* (2015) and the documentary novel *Vivian* (2016) about the street photographer Vivian Maier, which have both been sold to various European publishers. Christina Hesselholdt has won several literary prizes for her novels; most recently The Critic’s Prize (2010) and the Danish Broadcasting ‘Best Novel’ Prize 2017 for *Vivian*.



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l.laluyaux@rcwlitagency.com

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CONTACT

Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces / Literature
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 2,
1553 Copenhagen V, Denmark
Tel. +45 3373 3373
litt@slks.dk
www.danisharts.dk