Lars Vegas Nielsen (born 18.01.1968). Freelance illustrator since 1996, doing illustrations for newspapers, magazines, periodicals and a wide range of books for children, teenagers and adults. Resident illustrator with the newspaper Berlingske Tidende during the years 1996-2000 and, since 2005, with the books supplement of the Danish weekly Weekendavisen. As well as illustrating a variety of schoolbooks and storybooks he has published three picture books of his own. Was awarded the Danish Ministry of Culture's Illustrator Prize in 2007 for the picture book Sebastian’s Monster, written by Martin Glaz Serup. Occasional guest speaker, guest lecturer and external examiner at the Danish Design School in Copenhagen. Lars Vegas Nielsen works with a technique in which handmade collages of black and white drawings, clippings and photocopied items from various pictorial sources are digitally scanned, processed and combined with hand-coloured backgrounds, stencils and other similar collage pictures to produce the final illustrations. A selection of his work can be viewed on his website at www.larsvegas.dk.
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Danish Literary Magazine's main aim is to provide foreign publishers, literary agents and translators with information on trends in Danish literature and on the various forms of literary funding available from the Danish Arts Council. It also provides an introduction to a host of Danish writers and thinkers. In this issue, for example, you can make the acquaintance of the writer Karen Blixen – not to mention her father, soldier and writer Wilhelm Dinesen, who has now been accorded his very own biography – and physicist and Nobel laureate Niels Bohr. A hundred years ago this year Karen Blixen left Denmark for her farm at the foot of the Ngong Hills in Kenya and a new edition of her collected letters has been published to mark this centenary. It is also a hundred years since Niels Bohr published his famous atomic model, and this anniversary is as well celebrated with a special anthology. Among many other treats and appetizers Danish Literary Magazine heralds the return to the book scene of three previous recipients of the BogForum First Novel Award and presents a literary fly-past of this autumn’s new publications, including fresh offerings within two of the most popular genres of the moment: erotic literature and crime fiction.

We wish you happy reading and look forward to welcoming you back to the next issue of Danish Literary Magazine, to be published in the spring of 2014.

Annette Bach
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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EDITOR
Lars Sidenius
lsi@kulturstyrelsen.dk

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS
Søren Beltoft
sbe@kulturstyrelsen.dk
Lærke Carl Rydal

TEXT
Lotte Kirkeby Hansen

TRANSLATION
Barbara Haveland

DESIGN
NR2154

COVER ILLUSTRATION
Lars Vegas Nielsen

CONTACT US
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 2, 1553 Copenhagen V, Denmark
Tel. +45 3373 3373, litteratur@kunst.dk
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Traditionally, autumn is the season when publishers unveil the latest offerings from their top authors and other potential bestsellers. And this year is no exception.

Anne Lise Marstrand-Jørgensen, who made her definitive breakthrough to a wider readership with her books on Hildegard von Bingen, now presents an independent sequel to the family chronicle Hvad man ikke ved (What You Don’t Know) from 2012, a novel which focuses on the relationship between men and women and on sexuality down through the generations. Again, in Hvis Sandheden skal frem (If The Truth Were Told), the story revolves around the Horn family. This time the consequences of the sixties’ ideals of liberation and openness are brought home to the Horns.

HANNE-VIBEKE HOLST also goes back in time in her latest book: more specifically to 1936, when her father was born. In the biographical novel Knud den Store (Knud the Great) she paints a portrait of her father, the Danish modernist poet Knud Holst, whose dreams did not always measure up to the realities of his life. Dreams, of the most prosaic, everyday sort, also come crashing down around the ears of many of the characters in

IDA JESSEN’S idA JESSEN’S new batch of short stories. There are many irrational forces at work in the situations in which Jessen’s characters find themselves in Postkort til Annie (Postcard to Annie) – circumstances that are both familiar and extreme. Read more about Postcard to Annie elsewhere in this issue. Few are likely to find anything familiar about the universe created by

IB MICHAEL in Mørkestof-perlen (The Pearl of Dark Matter). Michael blends fact and fiction, time and space in this scientific tall tale, which describes one of the greatest natural disasters in history. In 1908 an explosion occurred in the atmosphere above Siberia. The blast from it was 650 times greater than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima and this event was to have crucial consequences for one young man, Sergei – and, a hundred years later, for a terminally ill nuclear physicist of Russian descent.
NEWS FROM DENMARK

FROM MARK

CHRISTIAN MØRK

who already has several crime novels to his name, has also drawn on actual historical events, in his case the Second World War, for his major new novel De forhatede (The Despised). In the present-day strand of this novel, Kaj Broderen has been allowed access to his dead sister’s flat in Copenhagen, where he hopes to find hidden evidence of his family’s complicity in the deaths of other people during the war. The earlier strand, which runs from 1938 to 1946, describes the somewhat shady activities and secrets of Kaj and his family, which Kaj – if he finds the right evidence, and if he dares – could reveal.

LONE ABRAS

on the other hand, has chosen a thoroughly modern setting for her third novel, Politisk roman (Political Novel), a satirical look at society and refugee policies. In Political Novel the problems start to pile up in a perfectly ordinary Danish family when the nice, respectable dentist husband takes it into his head to harbour an illegal immigrant. Lone Abruas made her literary debut in 2009 with the critically acclaimed Føtexsøen (The Føtex Lake) and her second novel, Den svære toer (The Difficult Second Book), provides a graphic description of the problem faced this autumn by no less than three out of the four latest recipients of the First Novel Award: namely, the difficult and often eagerly anticipated second book.

KASPAR COLLING NIELSEN

winner of the 2011 First Novel Award presents a chilling futuristic vision of the state of the nation following the financial crisis of the early 2000s, which brought out the worst in the Danish people. And finally, last year’s winner,

MARTIN KONGSTAD

winner of the prize in 2009, has just published the novel Fryser jeg (Am I Freezing), a raw and brutal refutation of the monogamous relationship, while in Den danske borgerkrig 2018-24 (The Danish Civil War 2018-24) gets to grips with the problem of facing up to a troubled past in her novel, Forbandede yngel (Slaughtered Pigs). Read more about these three authors – and other autumn highlights – in Books in Brief.
**CRIME FICTION**

One crime writer who many Danes have been longing to hear from again is

**SISSEL-JO GAZAN**

They need wait no longer. Her new novel, *Svalens graf* (The Swallow’s Graph) is an independent sequel to her scientific crime novel *Dinosaurens fjær* (The Dinosaur Feather), which sold more than 100,000 copies in Denmark alone. This time, young scientist Marie Skov is faced with a murder disguised as suicide and dirty dealings in connection with child vaccination in Africa. Marie becomes caught up in struggle to save thousands of lives – not least her own. Fortunately, however, she has the assistance of detective-superintendent Søren Marhauge, who bends the law considerably in order to help her. In the thriller *En hellig alliance* (A Holy Alliance), written under the pseudonym

**A.J. KAZINSKI**

Anders Rønnow Klarlund and Jacob Weinreich have gone behind the scenes of the royal houses of Europe. Recently fired journalist Eva Katz becomes unwittingly involved in a murder within the Danish royal family. Her investigation of this leads to the discovery of a centuries old alliance intent on reinstating monarchies all over Europe. Last year

**JESPER STEIN**

published his first novel, *Uno* (Unrest), to great critical acclaim. He is now back and in sparkling form with the second volume in his series featuring Assistant Commissioner Axel Steen. In *Bye Bye Blackbird*, when one of his old cases is raked up, Steen finds himself chasing off in pursuit of a sadistic killer and rapist who is on the loose in Copenhagen. As usual, though, Steen is also wrestling with ever-growing problems on the home front, where an escalating hash habit and a tricky relationship with his ex-girlfriend are in danger of affecting his handling of the case.

**ØBRO & TORNBJERG**

 winners of the crime fiction competition run by Politikens Forlag in 2010 with *Skrig under vand* (Screams Under Water), are now out with their third book on profiler Katrine Wraa. While working on a documentary film Wraa comes across a photograph, taken in Leningrad in 1972, that turns her life upside down. It is a picture of her mother, Eva, together with three men, one of whom has her arm around her. Of the other two, one proves to be an unscrupulous businessman, the other a Danish Minister for Energy, and Katrine embarks on the most personal investigation of her career ...

**JULIE HASTRUP**

who made her debut in 2009 with the crime novel *En torn i øjet* (Until You Perish) has now reached the fourth volume in her series featuring Rebekka Holm, an officer with the Danish Police Flying Squad. In *Portræt af døden* (Portrait of Death) Rebekka is assigned to a case in which two middle-aged women have been killed shortly after one another. It turns out that their deaths are linked to the popular dating site www.cougardating.dk, through which elderly women can meet much younger men. And finally we have a first-timer in the crime genre in

**ANE RIEL**

already an established children’s book author, whose *Slagteren i Liseleje* (The Butcher of Liseleje) will be appearing in bookshops soon. At the heart of a collection of oddballs and misfits in the small seaside town of Liseleje is Judith, charming and generous, who regales the rather more down-at-heel characters of the town with cognac and nightly dinners. It turns out, though, that Judith’s hospitality is prompted not by sisterly love, but by loathing ... Read more about the very latest crime releases in *Books in Brief.*

**CHILDREN’S BOOKS**

There is good news too for the very youngest book-lovers. The highly productive and unfailingly spot on team of

**KIM FUPZ AAKESON & CATO THAU-JENSEN**

have produced yet another picture book for the very young. Alvin, the little boy in *Det satans ukrudt* (That Damn Weed), has his problems, but he’s hoping that God – who has just moved in next door and looks like a film star – can help him with these. And maybe he actually can. Because this story has a happy ending – as, fortunately, such stories for the youngest age group have a way of doing. The same cannot necessarily be said of *Bormenagt – da verden gik under* (Child Power – When The World Came To An End), another straight-from-the-hip collection of absurd animal fables from

**ANDERS MORGENTHALER**

Here, though, Morgenthaler strikes a slightly more serious note: when their
school is closed and their teacher sent home, the animals have to take matters into their own hands. This book is ideal for reading aloud or as an early reader. So too is *Lille Allan og dobbeltgængerskolen* (Little Allan at the Doppelganger School), the second volume in duo

Peter Frödin’s & Line Knutzon’s series about Little Allan. In this book Little Allan is home alone when things start to get really scary: the bushes outside are staring at him and the parked cars look anything but harmless ... There is also good news for slightly older, series-hungry readers:

**Lene Kaaberbøl**

has just published the fifth and second last volume in her *Wild Witch* series. *Fjendeblod* (Enemy Blood) continues the story of the young girl Clara, her love for animals and her struggle to survive as a wild witch in a world in which magic is not exactly child’s play. The supernatural also plays a central part in

**Nicole Boyle Rødtnes’**

fantasy trilogy. This follows the adventures of three girls in the Danish provinces. All three have elvish blood in them and, like the elves of the classic Nordic folk songs and tales, they have the ability to dance people to death or drive men crazy with one look of the eye ... The first two volumes of the *Elverskud* (Elf Stock) trilogy, *Skæbnedans* (Dance of Destiny) and *Søsterpagt* (Sister Pact), have already been published and are aimed at readers of twelve and upwards. In the young adult fiction category we have a new title from

**Jesper Wung-Sung**

Skolen (The School), in which a headmaster has only just given all of the pupils in his school the day off when three black-clad men suddenly appear and announce that no one is to leave the school grounds. Before the day is over the school has been completely fenced off and parcels containing food, medicine and body bags have been air-dropped into the playground – but no one knows why.

**Glenn Ringtved & Sanne Munk**

have also written a novel for young adults, one which gets to grips with the big existential questions in life. *Du og mig ved daggry* (You and Me at Daybreak), is a touching love story about two sweethearts who are pulled out of Aalborg harbour handcuffed together and with smiles on their dead lips. What is their story? What drove them to this? The story goes back in time and the dead girl explains, clearly and calmly, how it all came about – while trying every now and again to whisper good advice in the ears of those left behind.
Frankly, it is very difficult for me to see all that I can do in the world. I have, as I think I wrote, wondered whether I might take cooking classes in Paris for a year or two, and then perhaps get a place in a restaurant or a hotel. But I really don’t know; in these hard times there may not be all that many places. So, during these difficult months, I have occupied myself with what we siblings do when we don’t know what else to do, - I have started to write a book.

In 2013 it will be 100 years since 28-year-old Karen Christenze Dinesen, better known as the writer Isak Dinesen or Karen Blixen, left for Kenya to become a coffee farmer.
“Frankly, it is very difficult to see anything at all that I can do in the world. I have, as I think I wrote, wondered whether I might take cooking classes in Paris for a year or two, and then perhaps get a place in a restaurant or a hotel. But I really don’t know; in these hard times there may not be many places. So, during these difficult months, I have occupied myself with what we siblings do when we don’t know what else to do—beginning to write a book.”

(From a letter to her brother, Thomas Dinesen, 10.04.1931)
Denmark’s great storyteller, Karen Blixen (1885-1962), made her official literary debut in 1934 in the United States, with the English edition of Seven Gothic Tales, which she published under the pseudonym of Isak Dinesen. The Danish edition appeared a year later. Her 17 years on the coffee farm in Kenya represented the key experience of her life, and one which she recounted in the autobiographical Out of Africa (1937) and later, in Shadows on the Grass (1960).

A number of Karen Blixen’s works have also been turned into films, among them Babette’s Feast (1950), directed by the Danish-French director Gabriel Axel in 1987; The Immortal Story, directed by Orson Welles (both stories from Anecdotes of Destiny); and Out of Africa, directed by Sidney Pollack in 1985.

Karen Blixen went to Kenya with her future husband, her Swedish half-cousin Baron Bror von Blixen-Finecke, from whom she was later divorced. In 1931, the year that also saw the death of her friend and lover Denys Finch Hatton, she had to sell the farm, which had been in financial difficulties for years, and go back to Denmark. In her suitcase when she returned home she had several of the seven stories which would later constitute her real literary debut, namely Seven Gothic Tales, which was published in the United States in 1934. During her seventeen years on the farm at the foot of Ngong Hills she wrote countless letters to relatives, friends and acquaintances in Denmark. These lengthy missives did much to shape her as a writer, her time in Africa serving therefore as a kind of literary apprenticeship during which she gathered most of the experiences and insights to which she would later give artistic form.

The first edition of Karen Blixen’s letters saw the light of day in 1978. This two-volume edition contained many omissions, in terms of both complete letters and parts of letters. And included only one letter addressed to Blixen herself.

Such omissions have been remedied in this new four-volume edition, which was resoundingly applauded by all of the Danish literary critics and described glowingly as “a chapter of wisdom and dearly bought experience”, “a marvellous work”, “brilliant and unique”.

The new edition contains all of the letters now known to have been sent by Karen Blixen from Africa and includes the suicide note which she wrote, but never sent – for years the object of much speculation: did it actually exist? It does and is reproduced here. Here too are letters to Karen Blixen, from – among others – Bror Blixen, Denys Finch Hatton and her brother Thomas Dinesen. The notes volume also contains annual reports from the family company that owned the farm and two hitherto unpublished travel journals from Karen Blixen’s mother’s visits.

This new collection shows Karen Blixen to have been a unique combination of strength and frailty, and her life in Africa much more varied and nuanced than previously thought. Where the earlier edition placed more emphasis on her elegant social life, this one offers a greater insight into a daily routine that entailed a lot of hard work – for the baroness too – and in which financial worries, dust and drought bulked much larger than dinner parties and sundowners.
Karen Blixen’s works have been translated into more than thirty different languages, including English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. FOREIGN RIGHTS: Gyldendal Group Agency, Jenny Thor, jenny_thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk
For some years now Tom Buk-Swienty has devoted his life to the study of a blue-blooded adventurer, soldier, hunter, politician and writer by the name of Wilhelm Dinesen – a man who, as it happens, was also the father of the world-famous writer Karen Blixen. Here he explains why:

“I ‘met’ Wilhelm Dinesen on Dybbøl Hill in Southern Jutland when I was working on my two books on the Danish-Prussian War of 1864. I read a book he had written about his part in the war, *Fra Ottende Brigade* (From the Eighth Brigade) and I was fascinated by its literary verve and the power of the narrative. It made me want to know more about him, although at that point I had no idea that he had any connection with Karen Blixen.

Wilhelm Dinesen was living at a time of great change, and one dominated by the dissolution – through the loss of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein – of the Danish unitary state. Dinesen was fascinated by all of the new things that were happening around him, but he also yearned for the permanence and, not least, the peace of an earlier age. He lived a hectic and adventurous life and seemed always to be in the thick of things, at the heart of contemporary historical events. He was a scion of a noble Danish family with a great literary tradition, so his story is in itself a slice of Danish history. But when we follow him out into the world and through the wars in which he fought, we are also working our way through the history of Europe.

There is no doubt that Dinesen was changed forever by the Danish-Prussian War. It turned him into an adrenalin junkie; he was at one and the same time addicted to the thrill of war and repelled by it. Both poetry and war were in his blood and the inner conflict thus engendered was to colour his whole life.

Wilhelm Dinesen is one of the central characters in the screen adaptation of Tom Buk-Swienty’s books on the Danish-Prussian War of 1864, *Slagtebaen Dybbel* (Slaughterhouse Dybbel) (2009) and *Dommedag Als* (Apocalypse Als) (2010) - a work which has been described as “A masterpiece by a man who has the written word in the palm of his hand.” More than 200,000 copies of Buk-Swienty’s books have been sold in Denmark, and based on these bestsellers both a film and a television series premiere in 2014. The second volume of the significant biography about the aristocrat and adventurer Wilhelm Dinesen is due to be published in the autumn of 2014, and it depicts Dinesen’s journey to the United States, to Turkey and back home to Denmark where he marries and settles down – and dies.
Wilhelm Dinesen story is a study in the effects of war on people. He grew up in an age when war was regarded as something romantic and was himself a product of the old view of war, which said that men went to war to win ‘la gloire’. But, as he discovered, the real thing was a very different matter. The gap between our idea of war and the realities of war is a highly intriguing one, and Dinesen’s story is the clearest possible proof of this fact. His war was of a quite different sort than the warfare of today. But the discussion as to what it does to a person to find themselves in life or death situations never ceases to be relevant.

The story of Wilhelm Dinesen’s life also gives some insight into Karen Blixen, since he remains the great tragic and enigmatic figure in her life. He took his own life in a rooming house in Copenhagen when he was 49 years old and she was only ten. She harked back, throughout her life, to her father and his world and was fascinated by the idea of following in his footsteps. Her works are full of stories from his life: in Seven Gothic Tales, for example, she has clearly drawn some of her inspiration from the world of the landed gentry to which Wilhelm Dinesen belonged and from the many amazing encounters and adventures he had in his travels across Europe in the company of eccentric aristocrats.”
In her latest book, *Knud den Store* (Knud the Great), Hanne-Vibeke Holst has taken as her subject her own father’s life. This biographical novel – part Künstlerroman, part love story – follows the fortunes of her father, writer Knud Holst, born in 1936, the son of two farm workers in the northernmost reaches of Denmark. At a very early age Knud Holst won great acclaim in modernist circles as a poet and short-story writer, but the path from his humble beginnings to the upper echelons of society was anything but smooth. *Knud den Store* (Knud the Great) is the story of a man who has it all – and throws it all away. On the surface he seemed to have everything going for him, professionally and in his private life, with his marriage to the police commissioner’s daughter and the three lovely girls she bore him. But he himself was blind to the recognition he received. His social life suffered, as did his writing. He lost his wife, lost all contact with his three daughters. Hanne-Vibeke Holst’s first book, the teen novel *Hejsa Majsa!* (Hey May!) appeared in 1980. Since then she has produced a long succession of books, including the trilogy *Kronprinsessen* (The Crown Princess) (2002), *Kongemordet* (The Regicide) (2005) and *Dronningofret* (The Queen Sacrifice) (2008). Her last novel, *Undskyldningen* (The Apology) has sold more than 100,000 copies in Denmark alone.

In 1908 one of the greatest natural disasters in history occurred: an explosion in the atmosphere over the Siberian tundra near the Podkamennaya Tunguska River. The blast from this explosion was 650 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima and the event remains a mystery to this day. This explosion forms the basis for Ib Michael’s new novel *Mørkestof-perlen* (The Pearl of Dark Matter), a tale that blends fact with fiction and ranges across time and space. The reader follows the progress of young Sergei, who witnesses the explosion at close quarters and subsequently experiences fateful changes in himself, both physical and spiritual. Much later in life he returns – by the most convoluted ways and after many changes of identity – to Tunguska, where he takes part in a scientific study of the event. And thus the scene is set for a surprising conclusion; one in which the present plays a notable role in the form of cancer sufferer Irina, a nuclear physicist who has inherited a wealth of material relating to her forefathers, whom she has long wanted to write a book about. Ib Michael made his literary debut in 1970 with the novel *En hidtil uset drøm om skibe* (A Hitherto Unseen Dream of Ships) and has been one of Denmark’s most productive and popular authors ever since. His big breakthrough came in 1984 with the novel *Kilroy, Kilroy*. 

*HANNE-VIBEKE HOLST* 

*Knud den Store* (Knud the Great), Gyldendal 2013, 400 pp. PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Sweden. FOREIGN RIGHTS: Lars Ringhof Agency, Esthi Kunz, esthi@ringhof.dk

*IB MICHAEL* 

*Mørkestof-perlen* (The Pearl of Dark Matter), Gyldendal 2013, 300 pp. PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom. FOREIGN RIGHTS: Gyldendal Group Agency, Sofie Vollér, sofie_voller@gyldendalgroupagen
It is ten years since he left his wife and son, sold all his worldly goods and moved to the country. He's sixty now, and living a quiet, reclusive life with his dog, his radio – and a none too lovely secret that he has harboured all his adult life. But that is well buried, doesn't intrude – well, there are plenty of jobs about the place to keep him busy, and then of course there's the weekly trip into town to do his shopping. Such is the quiet, solitary life of Simon Glinvad's first person narrator until the day when he receives a phone call that turns his whole life upside down, transporting him back to a summer day when he was fourteen, the day when everything changed. There is little drama to be found in the present-day thread that forms the framework of Glinvad's wistful and sensuous Min grønne himmel (My Green Sky), but it is there in the bridge between past and present – and, not least, in the novel's depiction of the relationships between fathers and sons, something which prompted one reviewer to compare Glinvad to Norwegian writer Per Petterson. Simon Glinvad's first book, the novel Petersborg Express, was published in 2005. This was followed in 2008 by a second novel, Jetlag, and in 2010 by the edition of short stories Krager i træet (Crows in the Tree).

What happens to a welfare state in crisis? Kaspar Colling Nielsen presents his own, highly personal, possible scenario in the novel Den danske borgerkrig 2018-24 (The Danish Civil War 2018-24). During the years 2018 to 2024 a state of emergency prevailed in Denmark. There were running battles in the streets, police officers were decapitated in broad daylight and bankers were an endangered species. All of this was witnessed by a 25-year-old man who, 450 years later, looks back on his long life. This man – now 475 years old, exceedingly rich and kept alive by sophisticated stem-cell therapy – relates the events of the civil war to Geoff, who is 350 years old, the rich man's best friend – and a Border collie. Colling Nielsen's character has many regrets about the war, and feelings he cannot forget, including those associated with his first love. The old man's tale forms the backdrop to an account of how the financial crisis of the early 2000s brought out the worst in the Danes and how it changed Danish society for good and all. Kaspar Colling Nielsen made his literary debut in 2010 with the short-story collection Mount København (Mount Copenhagen) for which he won that year's First Novel Award along with praise for its visionary inventiveness. The Danish Civil War 2018-24 is his second book.
Anne-Cathrine Riebnitzsky won the 2012 First Novel Award for *Den stjålne vej* (The Stolen Road), a novel set in modern-day Afghanistan. Her second novel, *Forbandede yngel* (Slaughtered Pigs), aroused interest this spring, even before its publication, when it won the major fiction competition run by Politikens Forlag. This time Riebnitzsky has chosen Denmark as the setting for a harrowing, yet poetic depiction of one woman’s struggle to come to terms with her past. In a plane on the way home from Afghanistan the central character Lisa decides to tell her story to Andreas, a doctor. And it is a grim account. Of a robbery, a neatly stage-managed death and a suicidal younger sister; of a mother who cries too much and a father who uses his fists; of going to war, jumping out of planes, travelling far and still being caught. But it is also the story of four inseparable siblings, of love and the will to survive. Anne-Cathrine Riebnitzsky is a graduate of the Danish Writers’ School, but she is also a language officer with the Danish army and has served in Afghanistan both as a soldier and as an advisor to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Her first book was a work of non-fiction, *Kvindernes krig* (The Women’s War) from 2010, in which she described her work with Afghan women.

In his first novel journalist and author Martin Kongstad explodes the myth of the monogamous relationship with the story of Mikkel Vallin, who has been fired from his job as a food critic and abandoned by his girlfriend for a bestselling author from the provinces. It isn’t long, though, before he falls for Diana Kiss, a young bisexual Hungarian artist. Inspired by Diana’s dissolute life Mikkel decided to challenge the traditional concept of the couple and try to live free and go with the flow. “Goodbye to couple hood and thanks for nothing,” as he says in the novel. But this proves to be easier said than done. A steamy summer by the Danish coast develops into a free love free-for-all, but when the fine art market collapses and Diana Kiss’s career is threatened, Mikkel has to fight to set his love free – and still hold onto Diana. Martin Kongstad has worked for many years as a journalist with a number of newspapers and magazines and written several works of non-fiction. He made his fictional debut in 2009 with the collection of short stories *Han danser på sin sans grav* (He Dances on his Son’s Grave), winner of that year’s First Novel Award. *Fryser jeg* (Am I Freezing) is his second work of fiction and his first novel.
LARS VON TRIER'S LEGENDARY FILM COMPANY

There are a lot of stories told about award-winning Danish film director Lars von Trier, creator of such films as *Breaking the Waves*, *Melancholia* and *Antichrist* – so many that they can occasionally overshadow his actual work. Nor is his work the focus in Anne Mette Lundtofte’s *Zentropa*, a book which goes behind the scenes of the film company set up in the 1990s by von Trier and his trusty sidekick producer Peter Aalbæk Jensen. In addition to von Trier’s own films Zentropa has produced works by numerous other Danish directors, including Susanne Bier and Thomas Vinterberg. The company started out with high ideals of creating a democratic, creative artists’ collective. But according to Lundtofte’s sources this rapidly evolved into what she describes as ‘a megalomaniac movie industry mastodon’. There is certainly never a dull moment in an account full of swollen egos, great art and descriptions of all the lives that have been affected, for good or ill, by their encounters with Zentropa’s two founders, Lars von Trier and Peter Aalbæk Jensen.

EXIT SANTA CLAUS

It is the busiest month of the year in Santa Claus’s workshop and everything is ready for the off when evil forces suddenly seize power and kill Santa himself. Meanwhile, twins Katrine and Frederik and their good chum Jesper receive a visit from one of Santa’s elves. They are too late to save Santa, but the four may still be able to prevent the dark and deranged events that have been set in motion, even when they suddenly find that they are all that stands between evil incarnate and the total destruction of the world ... This is not a classic children’s advent story from Kenneth Bøgh Andersen’s hand, but a fantasy novel in 25 chapters which just happens to be set in the days leading up to Christmas, so this tale of the death of Santa Claus can easily be read all year round. Kenneth Bøgh is originally a teacher by profession, but has been working full-time as a writer since 2007. His writing career began with the fantasy trilogy *Slaget i Caïssa* (The Battle of Caïssa) and he has been awarded the Orla Prize for best children’s book no less than three times. Bøgh Andersen has a large and faithful following, not least among Danish boys, thanks in part to his six-volume series *Den store djævelkrig* (The Great Devil War) and to his books about superhero Antboy, which have just been turned into a film.

Anne Mette Lundtofte

FOREIGN RIGHTS: Gyldendal Group Agency, Jenny Thor, jenny_thor@gyldendalgroupagency.dk

Kenneth Bøgh Andersen

*Julemandens død* (Santa's Death), Høst & Søn 2013, 368 pp.
PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: Germany, Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden.
FOREIGN RIGHTS: Gyldendal Group Agency, Louise Langhoff Koch, louise_langhoff_koch@gyldendalgroupagency.dk
Young biologist Marie Skov’s promising career in scientific research collapses when her professor is suddenly found dead. Because, with him gone, Marie is the only one who knows the shocking secret of the huge store of data on child vaccinations in Africa that the professor had collected before his death. According to the police, he had taken his own life – but police superintendent Søren Marhauge refuses to believe this and decides to take both the case and the law into his own hands, in an effort to discover why the professor died and unravel the tangled secrets of the past – secrets which, it transpires, are closely interwoven with his own life ... Sissel-Jo Gazan published her first book, Når man kysser i august (When You Kiss in August) in 1995. Svalens graf (The Swallow's Graph) is an independent sequel to Gazan’s breakthrough novel Dinosaurens fjer (The Dinosaur Feather) from 2008, which was read by more than 100,000 Danes and chosen as Danmarks Radio’s Crime Novel of the year. Its success is due in part to the fact that it goes beyond the basic detective story plot to tackle such themes as love, death, remorse and forgiveness – as does its sequel, which is both a fast-paced scientific thriller and a novel about deeply personal relationships and issues, about lovers, divorce and joint child custody.

Eva Katz has just been fired from her job as a journalist with a leading Danish newspaper and her life has more or less ground to a halt – until, that is, she is hired to work in a kindergarten. This, she hopes, will mean a fresh start for her. But in the kindergarten she meets a small boy who will eventually turn her whole world upside down. Eva begins to suspect that he has been witness to a macabre murder which the authorities have chosen to regard as suicide. Things are complicated still further by the fact that the boy comes from a family with close links to the Danish royal family: his mother is a lady-in-waiting to the Danish Crown Princess. Eva soon becomes convinced that she is looking at a crime in which the Danish royal family is deeply involved – one which can be traced back to a 200-year-old alliance dedicated to the restoration of monarchies all over Europe. En hellig alliance (A Holy Alliance) is the third book from A.J. Kazinski, the pseudonym of writer duo Anders Rønnow Klarlund and Jacob Weinreich. Kazinski’s first book, Den sidste gode mand (The Last Good Man), appeared in 2010 and was awarded the Danish Crime Academy’s First Novel Diploma for that year as well as the French Prix Relay for 2011. The duo’s second book Søvnen og døden (The Sleep and The Death) was published in 2012.

Svalens graf (The Swallow’s Graph), Gyldendal 2013, 480 pp.
PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States. FOREIGN RIGHTS: Salomonsson Agency, Niclas Salomonsson; info@salomonssonagency.com

En hellig alliance (A Holy Alliance), Politikens Forlag 2013, 494 pp.
PREVIOUS TITLES SOLD TO: Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States. FOREIGN RIGHTS: Politikens Forlag; Nya Guldberg, nya_guldberg@jppol.dk
**NEW CRIME SERIES FROM KATZ KREFELD**

Michael Katz Krefeld’s last novel, *Sort sne falder* (Black Snow Falling) was voted best crime novel of the year in 2012 by the Danish Crime Academy, which also nominated it for the Scandinavian crime writing award the Glass Key. With his latest book, *Afsporet* (Derailed), Katz Krefeld launches a brand-new crime series featuring policeman Thomas “Raven” Ravnholdt. Raven is on sick leave following the brutal murder of his girlfriend during a break-in at her home. He has retreated to his houseboat on one of Copenhagen’s canals along with his elderly bulldog, but is rudely shaken out of his mourning by a request from a close friend for help in finding a young Eastern European girl who has been missing for a couple of years. All the signs are that she is still alive and his investigation into her disappearance drives “Raven” back to his old office and down into the Copenhagen underworld. And when the trail leads to Stockholm he is forced to abandon his solitary exile … Michael Katz Krefeld made his entrance onto the Danish literary scene in 2007 with the crime novel *Før stormen* (Before the Storm), for which he received the Danish Crime Academy’s First Novel Award. *Derailed* is his fifth novel.

**THE BATTLE FOR GREENLAND’S RESOURCES**

Nukaaka Nielsen is head of the Greenlandic Directorate for Raw Materials – and as such she has some say in who should be allowed access to the valuable raw materials lying beneath the surface of Greenland. She knows that decisions made by her can greatly affect the global balance of power. So, when she receives an anonymous e-mail warning her against allowing the Chinese to enter the battle for the island’s mineral resources, she dismisses it as pure political harassment. But shortly afterwards, when she discovers one of her close colleagues murdered, she is forced to take the threats seriously. While Nukaaka is struggling to protect herself and her three-year-old son, an ambitious, but hard-pressed businesswoman, Caroline Kayser, shows up in Nuuk: two women with a shared past, one which causes them to become embroiled in a web of politics, murder and big business. And Caroline can forget all about the idyllic romantic holiday that she had been so looking forward to. Helle Vincentz is a journalist by profession and has previously worked as a business reporter. She made her literary debut in 2010 with the first volume in her series on Caroline Kayser, *Den afrikanske jomfru* (The African Virgin). This was followed in 2012 by *Den filipinske pirat* (The Filipino Pirate). *Nukaakas kabale* (Nukaaka’s Puzzle) is the third volume in the series.
Niels Bohr was the first scientist to propose a model describing the orbits of electrons around the atomic nucleus. Among other things, this theory did much to explain why the periodic table is as it is. Nowadays, everyone has heard of chemical elements and the periodic table, so from a modern point of view it can be hard to understand just how radically different Niels Bohr’s ideas were in his day and how original his scientific views were. He was the first to combine direct experiment with advanced atomic theory, and his findings proved to be correct – even if, as has since been shown, his method does have its weaknesses. Over the years, however, it has also proved to be an excellent prediction tool and much of the subsequent research into atomic models and quantum mechanics would have been inconceivable were it not for Niels Bohr’s discoveries.

During the Cold War, Niels Bohr and some of his fellow scientists were invited to take part in the American-British project to create the first atomic bomb, and although Bohr was greatly in favour of atomic energy and believed in nuclear weapons as a deterrent he also warned, most notably in an open letter to the United Nations in 1950, against the danger of a nuclear arms race.

In 1920, with the support of the Danish state, Niels Bohr founded the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen. Here he brought together scientists from all over the world, thus creating an unusually fertile breeding ground for research.

**NIELS BOHR** (1885-1962), Danish physicist. His life’s most important scientific work, which would win him international renown, was brought to fruition with the publication, in three separate parts in *The Philosophical Magazine*, of his paper on the quantum theory of the atom. Bohr’s theory is based on the hypothesis that only a discrete set of stable or stationary states exists in nature, although previously it had been thought that electron orbits constituted a continuous mass. Niels Bohr received many honours in his life, not least among them the Noble Prize for Physics in 1922. In 1957 he was the first person to be awarded the Atoms for Peace prize.

*This year sees the centenary of the publication by Danish physicist and Nobel laureate Niels Bohr of his revolutionary atomic model. The event will be marked with a new anthology, Bohr på ny (Niels Bohr: Another Look), a study in words and pictures of every aspect of this distinguished Dane’s life and work, and one which illustrates his brilliant contribution to contemporary Danish and international science, politics and philosophy.*
While many of today’s physicists are indebted to Niels Bohr, so Bohr owed a debt to those who had gone before him, among them the great English mathematician and scientist Isaac Newton (1642-1727), known as the father of classical physics. It was Newton who discovered the principle of gravity and united the two disciplines of mathematics and natural science. But he also had his more philosophical side, one which questioned the established order of things – and debated the existence of God. This fascinating man of science has now been given his own book in Danish Isaac Newton. Geniet og mennesket (Isaac Newton. The Genius and the Man), written by Carl Henrik Koch, who analyzes Newton’s thinking and his life in a biography hailed by reviewers as a splendid, trailblazing literary milestone.

To Bohr, who was known to be of an inquiring, playful and not least generous nature, it did not matter who made what discoveries, as long as discoveries were made, and people still talk of how much emphasis he placed in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech on the tremendous contribution made by his fellow scientists.
RECENTLY SOLD ABROAD

FEBRUARY 2013 - AUGUST 2013
Villy Sørensen (1929-2001) was one of the key figures of the modernist movement in Danish literature. The subject matter of his stories was often weighty or even downright dire, but his depictions of the modern individual, torn between function and existence, were always notable for their wit and their exuberant language. His Sære historier (Strange Stories) from 1953 testifies to his close kinship and identification with a writer such as Samuel Beckett and his plays, while Sørensen himself cited Hans Christian Andersen, Søren Kierkegaard and Thomas Mann as his masters.
Olga Ravn exploded onto the Danish literary scene in 2012 with the volume of poetry Jeg æder myself som lyng (I Eat Myself Like Heather), a passionate, lyrical collection that deals with freeing oneself from the role of young girl, but not knowing what to be instead. Ravn’s debut collection was roundly applauded by the Danish critics, drawing from them such glowing tributes as: “Bursting with talent. A debut that leaves one wanting more.” “Ambitious and well-wrought collection of poetry that will have a long-standing place on bedside tables and in reading nooks.” And “You simply must buy and read Olga Ravn’s poems, they have tremendous drive and are full of poetic qualities.”
Simon Pasternak has previously co-written crime fiction with fellow author Christian Dorph. Now though he has gone solo, with *Dødszoner* (Death Zones), a raw and brutal novel that allows no room for hope. *Death Zones* follows the fortunes of two childhood friends, Heinrich and Manfred, both serving in the German army in the small town of in the small town of Lida in Belarus in July 1943. Meanwhile, only a few hundred kilometers away the Battle of Kursk is raging. In the words of the reviewer in the newspaper *Information*: “Simon Pasternak writes divinely and in *Death Zones* he has produced a small miracle of a first novel.”

Lene Kaaberbol is possibly best known for her series for younger readers, *The Shamer Chronicles*, but over the past five years she has also written a number of very successful crime novels together with Agnete Friis. The latest of these is *Nattvergalsens død* (Death of the Nightingale). In this, the third volume in their series on Nina Borg, the Red Cross nurse sets out to solve a murder mystery that proves to have its roots in a famine-ridden village in the Ukraine during the Stalin era. According to the newspaper *Politiken's* reviewer: “Few crime writers manage to balance the standard elements of the Scandinavian crime thriller as well as Lene Kaaberbol and Agnete Friis.”
More and more people are now choosing to live in cities. This has not led, however, to any loss of interest in gardening and fortunately there are many ways in which you can give your green fingers free rein in the city. In Byhaven (The Urban Garden) Dorte Kvist provides a handbook for all those who have to make do with a balcony, a roof terrace or a backcourt. It is full of inspiring ideas for anyone who would like to see berry bushes in the park, salad greens in the gutter or chickens on the bike-shed roof.

Paleo restaurants, serving the sort of food our stone-age ancestors ate, are the new ‘in’ thing, and anyone wishing to follow this trend here in Denmark need only turn to Thomas Rode’s new cookbook Stenalderkost (The Caveman Diet). The main ingredients in Rode’s recipes are fruits, nuts, berries, eggs, fish, meat and vegetables. The Caveman Diet also contains a section in which Thomas Rode provides tips on exercise and changes in diet that can help to give you more energy in your daily life.
RECENTLY SOLD

DAHISAN CHILDCIORS BOOKS

CHINA
BEIJING YUANLIU CLASSIC
CULTURE
EGON MATHIESEN
ABEN OSVALDO AND ANDRE
FINE HISTORIER
BEIJING YUANLIU CLASSIC
CULTURE
EGON MATHIESEN
MIS MED DE BLÅ ØJNE
GUANGZHOU BRIGHT BOOKS
CECIL BODKER
SILAS OG BENGODIK

GERMANY
HANSEER VERLAG
JANNE TELLER
ALT
KLETT KINDERBUCH
CATO THAU-JENSEN
KANULD PÅ MAMMUTSLETTE
KLETT KINDERBUCH
DANIEL ZIMAKOFF
ROBERTO OETINGER
OLE LUND KIRKEGAARD
GUMMI TARZAN

HYUN BOOKS
MATS LETEN
FINN HERMAN
KIDS-M/ICARIAS AGENCY
KIM FUPZ AAKESON
LILI BØRSTER TÆNDER
KIDS-M/ICARIAS AGENCY
KIM FUPZ AAKESON
LILI ERL VILD MED GAVER

LITHUANIA
NIEKO RIMTO
JAKOB MARTIN STRID
DEN UTROLIGE HISTORIE
OM DEN KÆMPESTORE
PÆRE

ICELAND
BÓKABEITAN
KENNETH BÖGH ANDERSEN
DJÆVELENS LÆRLING

OFTLAGID
OLE LUND KIRKEGAARD
HODJA FRA PJORT

FORLAGID
PETER MADSEN
VALHALLA 4+5

FRONT VERLAG
JESPER CHRISTIANSEN
RONIN 3+4

FRONT VERLAG
LINE KYED
DJÆMONEN

FRONT VERLAG
DANIEL ZIMAKOFF
FC MESSI

KOREA
HYUN BOOKS
IDA JESSEN
DA CARL HAVDE DET SJØVT

HYUN BOOKS
MARIANNE IBEN HANSEN
AXEL ELSKER BILER

NYON BOOKS
JAN KJÆR
KONG NEOS LØVER 2

NORWAY
ENGLESTAD
SIRI MELCHIOR
RITA OG KROKODILLE –
FISKETUREN

ENGLESTAD
SIRI MELCHIOR
RITA OG KROKODILLE –
SKOVEN

FRONT VERLAG
JESEF RABASTEN
RJN 3+4

FRONT VERLAG
LINE KYED
DJÆMONEN

FRONT VERLAG
DANIEL ZIMAKOFF
FC MESSI

STABELFELDT
ASTRID HEISE-FJELDGR
JAGTEN PÅ JOE, KYS OG
KANEL 4

OLLE LUND KIRKEGAARD

There can hardly be a child in Denmark who doesn’t know Ole Lund Kirkegaard’s classic children’s book *Gummi Tarzan* (Rubber Tarzan). Rubber Tarzan is the story of young Ivan Olsen, a little shrimp of a boy. The big boys at school always plays the wet trousers on him and his dad thinks he’s a pathetic little drip – hence his nickname. But one day Ivan meets a witch who offers to grant him one wish, and he glimpses the opportunity to stop being a little shrimp and revenge himself.
Big Malene is the name of a mountain overlooking the town of Nuuk in Greenland. But it is also the title of Iben Mondrup’s erotic novel about Justine, a photographer who – acting on an inexplicable urge – borrows a house in Nuuk for the summer. Justine is restless; she goes on photo safari in the local market and buys whale meat, which she then takes pictures of, eats and lays on her bare skin. She goes hillwalking and meets Mette and Jesper, a couple who keep seeking her out and importuning her. She also explores the house she has borrowed and in it she finds a pile of pornographic pictures of a naked man; a man she just happens to run into later on the street...

Iben Mondrup is an artist as well as a writer, and one who employs the most striking imagery. She brings the full sensory and physical apparatus to bear in constructing a tight narrative with a realistic framework in which to present a picture of the individual as a sexual being: both predator and prey. But – the realistic frame story notwithstanding – the world she creates in Store Malene (Big Malene) inhabits the border between dreaming and waking, between reality and fantasy; and in this limbo Iben Mondrup uncompromisingly explores the way in which body language and sexuality are inextricably bound up with the fact of being mortal flesh.

Big Malene is the independent sequel to the novel En, to, tre – Justine (One, Two, Three – Justine) (2012), a book which left the newspaper Weekendavisen’s reviewer completely bowled over: “Quite staggeringly good! Iben Mondrup shows herself to be a white-hot and insistently primal writing talent. A thoroughly brilliant new novel and an incredibly original new voice. And for that, a thousand thanks.”

The subject of the erotic and of various levels of consciousness is also addressed by Karen Fastrup in her latest book, Udfordringen (The Challenge), which takes place thousands of kilometres to the south of Greenland, in the African country of Tanzania. Here, six writers have been brought together by an unknown person who has placed a house at their disposal. Everything has been taken care of, everything has been paid for, all the six writers have to do is to write at least one erotic story during their stay.
As soon as one of them finishes a story they have to read it aloud to the others, but it soon becomes apparent that their tales are starting to intertwine and become entangled with the lives of their authors, thus turning the writers themselves into characters in each other’s erotic tales – just as their real lives are becoming equally entangled.

In *The Challenge* the story is framed and narrated by an American writer, Maggie – the only one of the six who never gets round to writing her own story, but who instead functions as the book’s meta-voice, discussing coercion and boundaries in both life and art and edifying moral literature as opposed to the immoral, corrupt – i.e. erotic – sort...

Karen Fastrup made her literary debut in 2000 and her last book, *Begravelsen* (*The Funeral*) (2008) was, like *The Challenge*, notable for its sensual images. In the words of the reviewer in the newspaper *Politiken*: “*The Funeral* is a rewarding read that combines captivating character sketches with lovely sensuous descriptions of the Småland countryside in a picture which asserts that life consists not only of what was – but also of all that might have been.”
Morten Chemnitz, born 1984, recently published his first collection of poetry, *Inden april* (Before April), an exploration in six parts of the progress through autumn, a hard winter and incipient thaw to just before April. Critics have called Morten Chemnitz’s literary debut “robust, sophisticated and distinctive”, “clement and uncompromising” and praised his eminently sensitive style of language and his reinvention of Danish nature poetry.

*About the author*

Morten Chemnitz, born 1984, recently published his first collection of poetry, *Inden april* (Before April), an exploration in six parts of the progress through autumn, a hard winter and incipient thaw to just before April. Critics have called Morten Chemnitz’s literary debut “robust, sophisticated and distinctive”, “clement and uncompromising” and praised his eminently sensitive style of language and his reinvention of Danish nature poetry.
The tree on the corner of the little street and the street in shade.

Through mid-morning and as the sky grows bluer. The white of the building in the white light of the sun. In the morning more muted.

On the pavement with the morning. The slow blue above the rooftops.

Some of the sun in the early. Over and above a little before winter. In the fleeting repetition in the street of the gaze opposite. In the sun in the street in the early winter.

In a not yet us. Sunlight on the red brick opposite.

In the first rime first covering the roofs.

As with the tree with a band of winter sun before.

On the paving a band of sun broken by the shadows of the boughs. And at the end of the street the low red low in the clouds. That the clouds share with the clouds.

In the early of the day. The street in the low sun.

The bare boughs giving the sunlight back. The bright gleams in the black. On the corner of the street the bright gleams of the low sun repeated in the boughs of the trees.

That the tree shares with the sun.

The eaves of the buildings edged with sunlight.

Early in the winter and brighter in the street. With that care for the light that winter shows. And each apart in the early winter. Beneath the already leafless boughs of the trees.

In winter trees the winter trees’ each other.

At the end of the street where the street opens out the sun strikes the ground.

The gleaming boughs in the tree gleam with the damp of the winter morning. In the blue and with some of the sun over it. Across from winter with the winter.

And in repetition the hope of an each other.
Marianne worried when their mother wasn’t there. Not on the two afternoons a week when she was working, because then you could always pop down to the co-op to see her. But every Tuesday evening when her mother went to choir singing. The sight of an upturned cup on a saucer and a buttered roll made Marianne’s heart sink. Soon their mother would come out of the bathroom with lipstick on and her hair freshly combed, glowing from within, so happy about something that had nothing to do with them. She would take her basket from its hook and wrap the cup in a napkin. She would kiss them quickly, kiss them, kiss their eyes. “Now you’re not to cry. I’ll be back soon.” But still they howled and their mother laughed and hugged them and off she went. 

That door closing. Those footsteps on the pavement. The moment they faded away the world seemed no longer such a nice place. But why should that be? It wasn’t as if they’d been left alone. Their father was in the living room, watching the news, one weary hand propping up his motionless cheek. Her mother had taught her to think about other things. “Think about that summer when we were at the beach. I will be back,” she had said. “Believe me, I’ll be back. Don’t you worry.”

It was true. She always came back.
The death of a friend and a less than happy marriage. A murder in a small village and two distraught, bereaved girls. A quarrel between two people who possibly no longer love each other. Memories of carefree student days and the chance events that determine the course of a person’s life. A mother who loves, but by no means understands her shiftless son. And a small town in which everyone knows everyone else – or so it seems – and revelations of secrets and subterfuge come as a shock.

Everyday life and its minor yet highly charged dramas, these form the core of the latest offering from Ida Jessen’s hand. The six long short stories in Postkort til Annie (Postcard to Annie) take up again the threads of a critically acclaimed and award-winning body of work that now spans almost a quarter of a century.

In Postcard to Annie Ida Jessen has honed to perfection her own quite unique form of psychological realism, in a work in which, once more, the women take centre stage; in which secrets, irrational forces and often anything but sensible explanations prevail – and in which, yet again, she proves herself to be a brilliant depictor of people who find themselves in situations that are both familiar and far-out.

As Ida Jessen said in an interview given on publication of her most recent novel Børnene (The Children): “Those books that I find most inspiring are books that remind me of what it means to be human, something which also involves how we treat our fellow human beings. I want, with my books, to draw attention to those difficult everyday situations in which you ask yourself: ‘Am I doing the best I can?’”

Ida Jessen, born 1964, published her first work, the short story collection Under sten (Under Stone), in 1989. Her major breakthrough came with the three independent, but linked, novels dealing with life in the small town of Hvium: Den der lyver (Merciless Lies) (2001), Det første jeg tænker på (My First Thought) (2006) and Børnene (the Children) (2009) - this last winning her, among other prizes, the Danish booksellers’ own prize, the Golden Laurel, not to mention a full six stars out of six in the newspaper Berlingske and the following verdict from its reviewer: “Everything that Ida Jessen writes is better than good.”

Other works by Ida Jessen include the novel ABC (2005), which deals with a man’s fight to be allowed to see his young son, Ramt af ingenting – en glemmebog (Hit by Nothing – A Book of Forgetting) (2012), a book about life and the thoughts that follow upon a divorce, and a number of children’s books. In 2012 she was made a member of the Danish Academy.
A trophy wog speaks out, a family knot is tightened and slackened – and two young women try, each in their own way, to find their feet in the world and in adult life. Meet just four of the brand new and widely dissimilar voices which this year join the chorus of established Danish authors.

Two of the newest voices on the Danish literary scene have already made themselves heard in public. Maren Uthaug (born 1972) has made her mark as a current affairs commentator through a number of brutally honest and highly regarded columns, her blog and, most recently, a daily cartoon strip in the newspaper Politiken. Hassan Preisler (born 1969) is an actor, public speaker and instructor of mixed-race parentage, and as such has participated on discussions on integration and cultural diversity in countless different settings. Preisler’s first novel, Brun mands byrde (Brown Man’s Burden) is part rollicking autobiographic fiction, part controversial social satire. In it he takes issue with the tiresome burden of being the eternal token immigrant in his own country.

Maren Uthaug sticks to a more realistic sphere in her first novel Og sådan blev det (And So It Was), which tells the story of the stormy marriage between Norwegian Knut and Sami Rihtta, which results in a daughter, Risten. When Kurt moves to Denmark to live with a Danish woman, Grete, he takes Risten, now seven, with him. Not until she is an adult and a mother herself does Risten go to visit her real mother, Rihtta, and delve into the family’s rich store of secrets and hidden truths. Amalie Laulund Trudsø (born 1988) is studying Danish...
"September, October, November, she counts, December, January, February, March, April. Across from her, the girl is struggling to get out of her wheelchair and under the barrier. She screams as if in pain every time she tries to do so. The barrier and her wheelchair are her prison, and she is desperate to escape. The girl's struggle is a metaphor for the girl's inner turmoil and the barriers she faces in her life.

She takes a quick walk round before going back out, into the sunshine, and sitting down at the far end of the broad steps. With her forehead resting on her knees she feels the heat like a large hand between her knees. The mountain of suitcases ranged against the wall. Waiting to be unpacked and pushed under the bed, flat and empty."
and rhetoric at the University of Copenhagen; she is in the midst of writing her final year dissertation and has also just published the critically acclaimed Koordinater (Coordinates), a collection of 60 subtle, sparkling, hilarious and hare-brained prose pieces about Copenhagen: about standing on one’s own two feet and moving to the city; about opening up to the city and letting it in – and about experiencing love, helplessness and loss for the first time. There are plenty of first-time experiences, too, for young Viktoria, the narrator in Pura Vida, the fictional debut of Caroline Albertine Minor (born 1988), a graduate of the Danish Writers School. ‘Pura vida’ is a Costa Rican term and a motto of sorts for restless spirits, of whom this novel’s young central character meets more than a few on her gap year in Paris – which suddenly stretches to three years and takes her, among other places, to New York and Buenos Aires. But for all her unlimited freedom, her life does not seem to be unfolding. In fact it appears, instead, to be closing in on her.
“This is where I am left on my own for the first time, here I stand, teetering on the kerb in trainers on a Sunday afternoon. Thoughtlessly they present me with the city, the film it lays over nature, in all its disparate elements: stone, plastic, metals. They hand it to me then turn away. There’s a two-way pull: towards the red tail lamps veering left down Österborgade and towards the August-spangled surface of the lake. There’s more than one sort of light to turn to. There’s the hushed boundary of the chestnut trees amid the city’s roar and the silhouette of an area taking shape: my first place. I walk through to the backyard and up a stairway worn by the feet of other ages; thrill to the feel of the dents in the wood. See the paint, peeling off, the age rings in the boards that scuff under my feet. This is how nature makes its presence felt here and yet I find myself wondering: how to learn the names of flowers in the city? or: how to find peace? as I fumble the first new-minted key out of my trouser pocket and let myself into a kitchen that is also a living-room, a bedroom and a hallway. Four yellowish-white, flaking walls and a mattress to start with, a window and out there the city, the streets, the roads wet with rain, hot from car tyres and feet, life as it is lived there.”

Extract from Koordinater (Coordinates)
The Danish Critics’ Guild Prize – Accolade for strange and wonderful short stories

"Unlike most Danish writers – except perhaps her own great idols, Herman Bang, Gustav Wied and Agnes Henningsen – Pia Juul has a voice that is all her own: wry and rapt, droll and direct, witty and doleful. And all of the qualities we have come to love as being essentially ‘Juulian’ are also present in Af sted, til stede (Out of Place, In Place), a collection that ranges in form from straightforward short stories to the briefest aphorisms and episodes." So read the citation from the Danish critics on the presentation to Pia Juul, earlier this year, of the Danish Critics’ Guild Prize. Also nominated for the prize were Kristian Bang Foss, for his novel Døden kører Audi (Death Drives an Audi) and Harald Voetmann, for his novel Kødet letter (The Flesh Takes Off).

Out of Place, In Place consists of 55 short stories and episodes – the longest amounting to ten pages, the shortest to just three lines – which together present a highly convincing depiction of the complexity of everyday life and the often very mixed gamut of human emotions. She focuses on comings and goings, on closeness – and, not least, on the attendant paradox: that one can be close when parting, distant when close at hand, physically present but mentally elsewhere.

Other recent titles from Pia Juul include Mordet på Halland (The Murder of Halland) (2009), which was hailed as a welcome new take on the classic crime novel, and Samlede digte (Collected Poems) (2012), which prompted one
reviewer to call Pia Juul “a funky, funny Baudelaire, born 1962”.

The Danmarks Radio Fiction Prize – Yet another award for Greenland novel

Kim Leine was showered with awards in 2012 for his impressive epic novel Profeterne i Evighedsfjorden (The Prophets of Eternal Fjord) and still the accolades keep coming. In the spring of this year Leine was awarded the Danmarks Radio Fiction Prize, chosen as winner by the many DR reading groups all over Denmark, which nominate titles and vote for them. The other two finalists for the 2013 prize were Anne-Cathrine Riebnitzky for Den stjælne vej (The Stolen Road) and Stig Dalager for Det blå lys (The Blue Light).

It is only six years since Kim Leine first broke onto the Danish literary scene. Prior to that he spent 15 years working as a nurse in Greenland. The Prophets of Eternal Fjord, his fourth novel, follows the progress of clergyman Morten Falck, sent to Greenland as a missionary in the late eighteenth century, only to have his ideals and illusions shattered there.

As the judges pointed out in their motivation for the award, every single detail in Kim Leine’s novel is carefully thought out, thus making The Prophets of Eternal Fjord one of those rare novels that the reader can, quite literally, move into and inhabit.
Kim Leine has also been nominated for the Nordic Council Prize for Literature.

**The Readers’ Book Award – Readers acclaim neuro-thriller**

“I have tried to write a novel that is not just a good story, but also a study of a character which I have endeavoured to render so seductive that readers will be completely won over by it.” So said Christian Jungersen earlier this year when he was presented with the Readers Book Award. And he appears to have succeeded in his mission: In 2012 Jungersen’s third novel, Du forsvinder (You Disappear), was the best-selling novel in Denmark.

You Disappear is the story of Frederik, a teacher who has been diagnosed as having a brain tumour. This causes changes in his personality. Frederik lives with Mia, who is forced to admit, somewhat bitterly that their relationship has probably improved since Frederik became ill. But when she discovers that he has for years been embezzling from his school, stealing millions of kroner, Mia begins to wonder who the real Frederik is – and how much can be put down to his illness.

The idea behind the Orla Prize is that it should be the children’s own literary award and so the children themselves are responsible for selecting, nominating and voting for titles. The verdict of the children’s jury which chose this year’s winner was short and to the point: “This is an exciting book, quickly read and really well written.”

Jørn Jensen’s Cold Blood series is aimed at 10-12 year olds. There are now 23 books in the series, which can not only be read for pleasure, but is also ideal for use in schools.

**The Orla Prize – Children award prize to crime novel**

The current crime wave has also hit younger readers, who have awarded this year’s Orla Prize to a volume in the popular Koldt blod (Cold Blood) series: Koldt blod. Hvor er Laura? (Cold Blood. Where is Laura?). In simple, accessible language author Jørn Jensen tells the story of Laura, who disappears without trace on her way home from riding school. The big question is, has she been kidnapped - or killed? Suspicion soon falls on a local eccentric and two of Laura’s friends decide to pay him a call, to see what they can find out …

The Danish Ministry of Culture’s Children’s Book Prize – Tough read rewarded

Like so many other sixteen-year-old girls, Maj has problems with her love life and with scheming school friends. But she also has problems with her mother, who is an alcoholic, and her father, a war veteran suffering from post-traumatic
stress disorder. The family moves from place to place, too often for Maja, who is forced to be the adult in her family – until the day when she goes through the ice and ends up in a coma.

In Komatøs (Coma Girl) Ronnie Andersen has written an intense and realistic novel that looks at how much one person can actually cope with. But he also presents us with a vivid and sensitive portrait of a young girl. In its motivation the jury pointed, among other things, to Ronnie Andersen’s ability to forge a narrative notable for its “faithfulness, linguistic energy and enormous insight into the way in which individuals under pressure think and act.”

2013 sees the inaugural presentation of the Nordic Council Children and Young People’s Literature Prize. It has been a long-held wish of the Nordic Ministers of Culture that literature for younger readers should also come under the auspices of the Nordic Council Session, in order to support and promote literature for children and young people in the Nordic region. The prize will be presented on October 30th 2013. Each of the Nordic countries has nominated two candidates for the Children and Young People’s Literature Prize. The Danish nominees are Kim Fupz Aakeson and Eva Eriksson (illustrator) for Søndag (Sunday) and Oscar K and Dorte Karrebæk (illustrator) for Biblia Pauperum Nova.

Sunday tells the story of Torsten, who is about to become a big brother and who – prompted by ominous hints from his worst friend – is worried that his parents will love the little pink baby more than him; that they might not have enough love for two children. He wonders whether it might help if, for example, he started tidying his room and going to bed without complaint.

Oscar K’s and Dorte Karrebæk’s bible for the poor in spirit, Biblia Pauperum Nova, presents, in words and pictures, a subjective, singular and critically acclaimed version of the Bible in which author and illustrator take a both sympathetic and critical look at the foundation of our religious tradition and allow a variety of different voices – from that of the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard to modern-day folk singers – to mingle with those of the four evangelists.

The Danish nominees for this year’s Nordic Council Prize for Literature are Kim Leine and Josefine Klougart, nominated for Profeterne i Evighedsfjorden (The Prophets of Eternal Fjord) and Én af os sover (One Of Us Is Sleeping) respectively.

Nordic Council Children’s and Young People’s Literature Prize – New Nordic book award
SUPPORT SCHEMES

THE DANISH ARTS COUNCIL’S COMMITTEE FOR LITERATURE WORKS TO PROMOTE FAMILIARITY WITH DANISH LITERATURE AT HOME AND ABROAD AND HELPS FACILITATE LITERARY EXCHANGE PROJECTS BETWEEN DENMARK AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME
Support may be provided to foreign publishers, heads of festivals and the like who wants to acquire an insight into contemporary Danish literature and visit the Danish publishers, festivals etc., to strengthen network and dialogue between the Danish and international literary partners.

There is no application deadline, and applications will be processed as quickly as practicable.

SAMPLE TRANSLATION FUND
Foreign translators, theatres, and publishers may apply for support to finance sample translations of Danish literature.

There is no application deadline, and applications will be processed as quickly as practicable.

TRANSLATION FUND
Support is provided to foreign publishing houses that publish works translated from Danish. Support is provided to works of fiction, general works of non-fiction, comics/graphic novels, and children’s literature translated by professional translators.

There are four annual application deadlines.

NORDIC TRANSLATION FUND: INTER-NORDIC TRANSLATIONS
Support may only be sought for the translation of works from Danish. Support for translations into Danish must be sought from within the country in which the respective work was originally published. The funds for Nordic translations are distributed on behalf of the Art and Culture Program of Nordic Culture Point under the Nordic Council of Ministers.

There are four annual application deadlines.

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR TRANSLATORS
Professional translators may apply for travel grants in connection with specific translation projects as well as for supplemental linguistic and cultural training.

There are four annual application deadlines.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES, DEADLINES AND ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED AT DANISHARTS.DK

CONTACT:
THE DANISH ARTS COUNCIL’S COMMITTEE FOR LITERATURE
LITTERATUR@KUNST.DK
WWW.KUNST.DK
LITERARY EXCHANGE FUND
Support may be provided to defray travel and hotel expenses in connection with a Danish author’s participation in literary festivals, readings and publication events abroad, if there is a formal invitation.

Support may be provided to foreign authors travelling to Denmark on the same conditions. In addition, foreign translators of Danish literature may apply for support to defray travel expenses in connection with shorter stays in Denmark.

There is no application deadline, and applications will be processed as quickly as practicable.

PROMOTION GRANTS
Foreign publishers can apply for grants for the promotion of Danish literature abroad.

There are four annual application deadlines.

GENERAL FUNDS
Normally, support is only provided for events, publications, and seminars in Denmark. In exceptional cases, however, the Danish Arts Council’s Committee for Literature may subsidize the publication abroad of Danish works in translation and events, that have a special focus on Danish literature.

In a pilot project the Danish Arts Council’s Committee for Literature has earmarked special funds to cover the cost of printing and production for foreign publishers wishing to publish Danish illustrated children’s books in translation. Publishers can apply for a set grant of 1,000 euros.

There are two annual application deadlines.
THE DANISH ARTS COUNCIL WORKS TO PROMOTE ART IN DENMARK AND DANISH ART ABROAD.

THE DANISH LITERATURE CENTRE IS THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARM OF THE DANISH ARTS COUNCIL’S COMMITTEE FOR LITERATURE.

www.danisharts.dk

ORGANISATIONS

DANISH WRITERS OF FICTION AND POETRY
was founded in 1991 and has approx. 200 members
kontor@skoenlit.dk / www.skoenlit.dk

THE DANISH PLAYWRIGHTS’ AND SCREENWRITERS’ GUILD
( founded in 1906) is an association for theater, radio, television and film scriptwriters.
It has approx. 300 members.
admin@dramatiker.dk / www.dramatiker.dk

THE DANISH BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION
is a trade association for Danish booksellers.
The association has approx. 380 members and represents 90% of all Danish booksellers.
ddb@bogpost.dk / www.boghandlerforeningen.dk

THE DANISH WRITERS ASSOCIATION
is Denmark’s oldest professional association for writers and translators. It was founded in 1894 and has approx. 1350 members. The association includes the Danish Translators Association.
df@danskforfatterforening.dk / www.danskforfatterforening.dk

THE DANISH PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
( founded in 1837) is a trade association for individuals and firms involved in the publishing industry.
The association accounts for approx. 2/3 of the overall turnover from Danish publications, including multimedia.
danskeforlag@danskeforlag.dk / www.danskeforlag.dk
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