



# CRIME TIME

Find these books at retailers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Scandinavian specialty stores.

Along with hunting for eggs and consuming Kvikk Lunsj chocolate bars, reading crime stories is a popular Easter (*Påske*) tradition in Norway.

*Påskekrim*, as it's called, is said to date back to 1923, when, the Sunday before Easter, a Norwegian book publisher ran an advertisement in the local paper for a new crime novel. The ad was so believable, readers thought the story was real. The stunt stuck, and today the spring holiday is synonymous with thrillers. Here are some recent Nordic noir books to curl up with this year. BY TAYLOR HUGO



## "The Fifth Element"

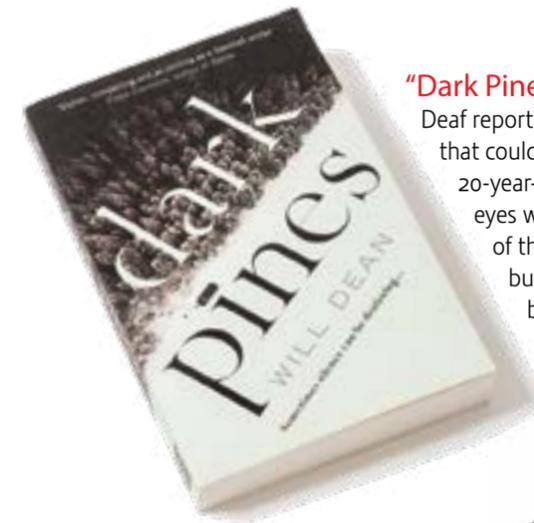
by Jørgen Brekke  
Police inspector Odd Singsaker is looking for his missing wife Felicia when he awakes in a prison off the northern coast of Norway. Shotgun in hand and a corpse lying next to him, he has no recollection of how he got there, but a corrupt cop, a cocaine-stealing college student or a hit man could hold the answers.

## "I'm Traveling Alone"

by Samuel Bjørk  
While battling her own personal demons, investigator Mia Krüger is working the case of a 6-year-old girl found hanging lifelessly from a tree. Dressed in doll's clothes — with a sign reading "I'm traveling alone" wrapped around her neck and the number 1 carved into her fingernail — the clues point to a connection with an unsolved abduction six years before.

## "Ordeal"

by Jørn Lier Horst  
After Sofie Lund's estranged grandfather dies, she inherits his house and possessions, including a mysterious locked safe bolted to the basement floor. Befriending an investigative journalist, the two discover the contents of the safe, unlocking evidence in two murder trials in what is chief inspector William Wisting's 10th case.

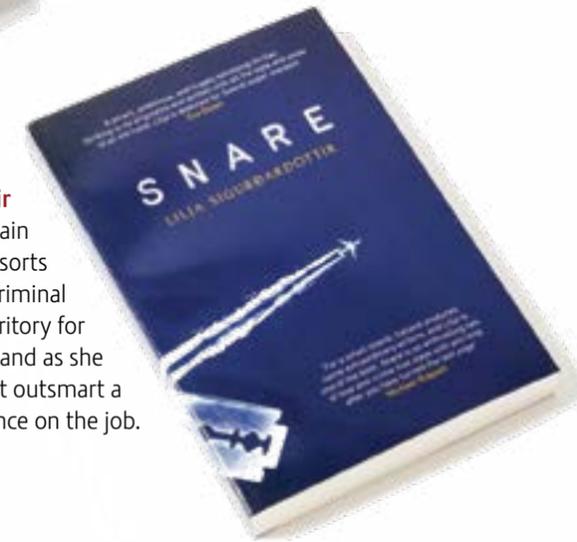


## "Dark Pines" by Will Dean

Deaf reporter Tuva Moodyson is hunting for the story that could launch her career. She hopes cracking a 20-year-old case, in which two bodies with missing eyes were found deep in the forest, will get her out of the small, fictional town of Gavrik, Sweden — but Moodyson must solve the case before she becomes the killer's latest victim.

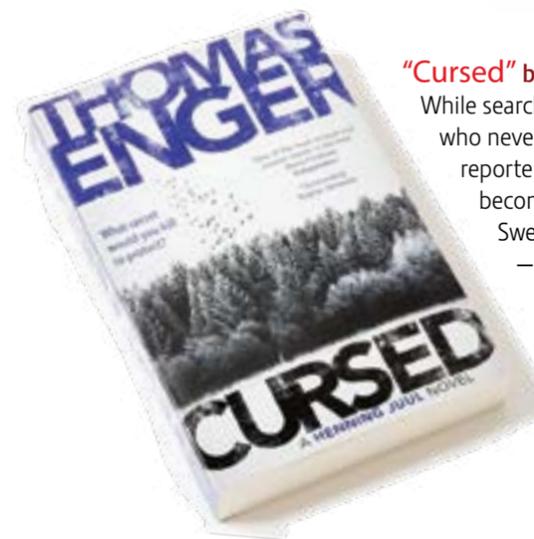
## "Snare" by Lilja Sigurðardóttir

Desperate to provide for herself and gain custody of her son after a divorce, Sonja resorts to smuggling cocaine into Iceland. The criminal world of Reykjavík is uncharted territory for Sonja — as is a relationship she ignites — and as she searches for a way out of trouble, she must outsmart a customs officer with years of experience on the job.



## "Cursed" by Thomas Enger

While searching for Hedda Hellberg, a missing woman who never returned from a retreat in Italy, crime reporter Henning Juul, starring in his fourth novel, becomes entrenched in the secrets of a wealthy Swedish family and the dark history of Europe — all the while coming closer to learning the truth about his own son's death.



## "The Running Girl" by Sara Blaedel

After a girl is severely injured when she's hit by a car at a school party gone awry, there's an attack on the local gang members responsible. Though everyone wants to point fingers at the girl's mother, detective Louise Rick doesn't believe the case is as straightforward as it appears.



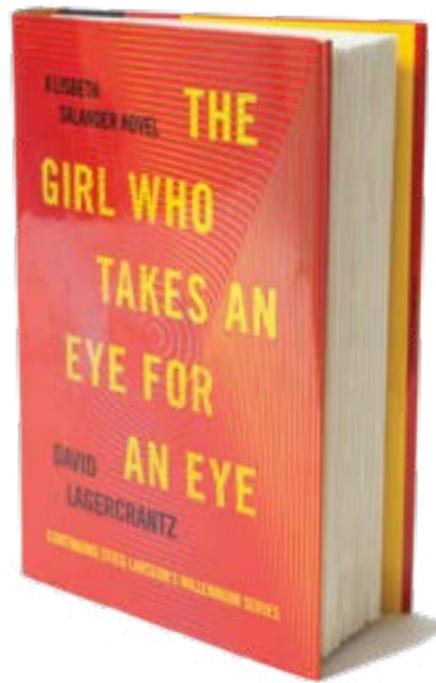
PHOTOS BY CATHLIN ABRAMS

# \* meet the authors

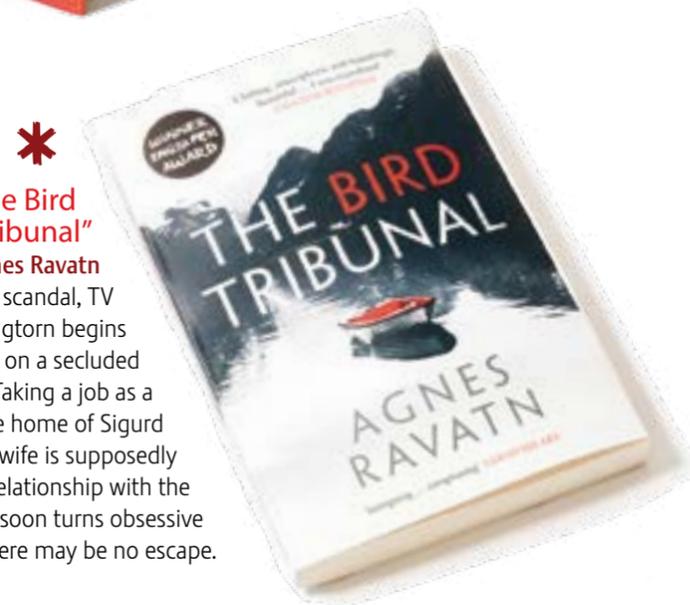
Growing up in Solna and Drottningholm, Sweden, **David Lagercrantz** studied philosophy, religion and journalism in school, after which he landed a job covering the crime beat for the national daily newspaper “Expressen.” Since debuting as an author in 1997 with a book about adventurer Göran Kropp, he has published a steady stream of fiction and nonfiction works, including novels that continue the late Stieg Larsson’s “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” Millennium series, which Lagercrantz took over in 2013. Lagercrantz and his wife, Anne, live in Stockholm with their three children.

**Agnes Ravatn** didn’t plan on becoming a writer. Born in Ølen, Norway, she initially studied music at the University of Bergen, but changed her career path after a creative writing course. Making her literary debut in 2007 with the novel “Week 53” — named a “Best Bergen Book” by art and current affairs newspaper “Natt & Dag” — Ravatn has gone on to write award-winning essay collections and her second novel, “The Bird Tribunal,” her first book to be translated into English. WHSmith recently named the 35-year-old one of 12 up-and-coming authors on its Fresh Talent list.

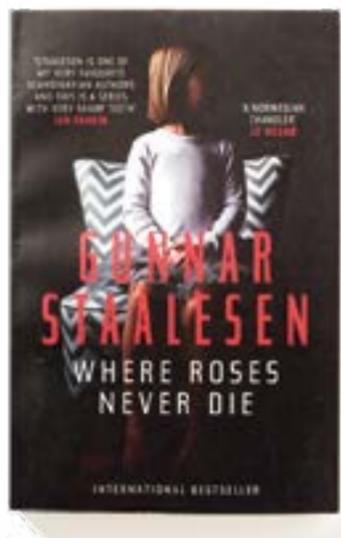
Born in Bergen, Norway, in 1947, **Gunnar Staalesen** made his literary debut when he was only 22 years old with his book “Seasons of Innocence.” Since then, the award-winning crime writer has published 20-plus books, selling more than 2 million copies in 24 countries. His Varg Veum detective series, whose first volume came out in 1977, is so popular that it has been made into 12 movies and there’s a life-sized statue of Veum in the center of Bergen, where Staalesen still lives with his wife.



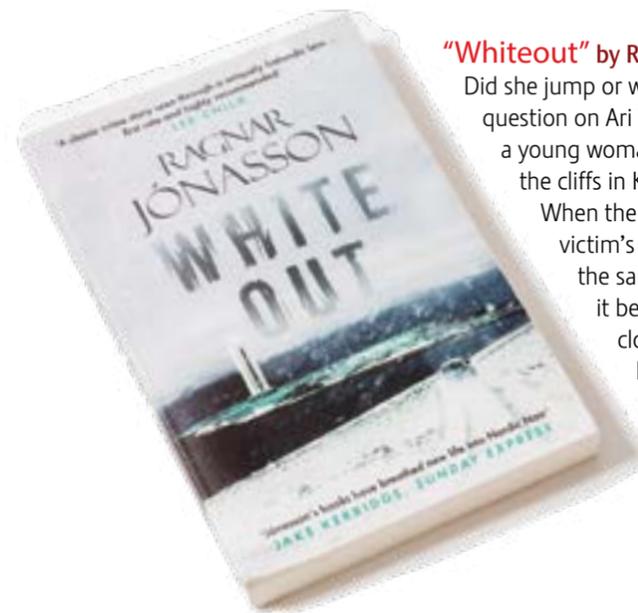
\* **“The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye”**  
by David Lagercrantz  
Thanks to a pseudoscientific experiment known as “The Registry,” Lisbeth Salander, “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” may finally uncover the secrets to her mysterious past, and she won’t let anybody — not a prison gang leader, a group of Islamists or her estranged sister — stand in her way.



\* **“The Bird Tribunal”**  
by Agnes Ravatn  
Following a scandal, TV reporter Allis Hagtorn begins a new life in exile on a secluded fjord in Norway. Taking a job as a caretaker for the home of Sigurd Bagge, whose wife is supposedly traveling, her relationship with the mysterious man soon turns obsessive — and there may be no escape.

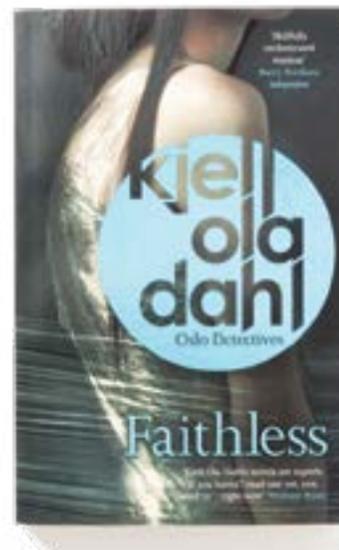


\* **“Where Roses Never Die”**  
by Gunnar Staalesen  
Twenty-five years after 3-year-old Mette Misvær’s disappearance from the sandpit outside her home, her mother is still desperate for answers. She enlists the help of private investigator Varg Veum, who begins to uncover concealed secrets, lies and events when another incident occurs.

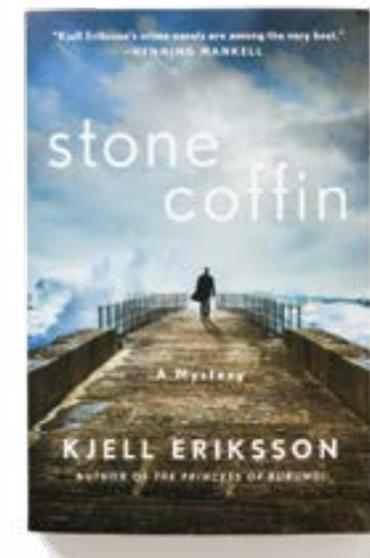


\* **“Whiteout”** by Ragnar Jónasson  
Did she jump or was she pushed? That’s the question on Ari Thór Arason’s mind when a young woman is found dead beneath the cliffs in Kálfsþamarsvík, Iceland. When the detective discovers the victim’s mother and sister died the same way 25 years earlier, it becomes a race against the clock to find the killer before he strikes again.

For more reading resources, check out Sons of Norway’s Cultural Skills program on literature at [sonsofnorway.com](http://sonsofnorway.com).

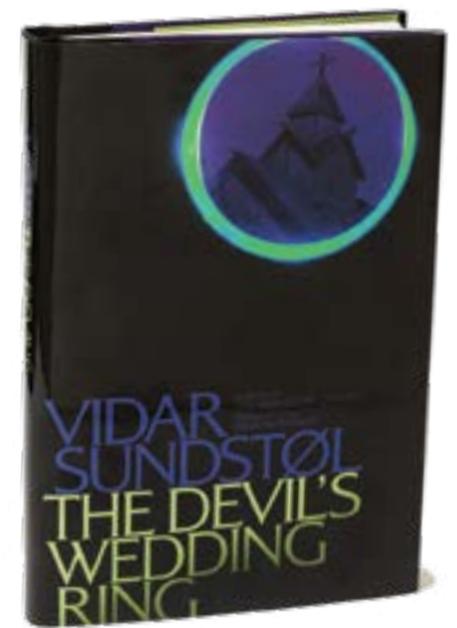


\* **“Faithless”** by Kjell Ola Dahl  
A murder hits close to home for inspector Frank Frølich, who discovers he knows the victim of his latest investigation. When another body is found — and with a string of coincidences linking other unsolved homicides — Frølich realizes that the key to unraveling the case and finding the killer lies in his own past.



\* **“Stone Coffin”** by Kjell Eriksson  
In the seventh novel of the Ann Lindell detective series, a young woman and her 6-year-old daughter are killed by a car. Was it an accident, or was someone purposely trying to run them over? Suspiciously, the woman’s husband disappears the same day, and during the investigation, it’s discovered that he’s leading a double life.

▼  
Learn more about Vidar Sundstøl in the November 2017 issue of *Viking*.



\* **“The Devil’s Wedding Ring”**  
by Vidar Sundstøl  
Compelled to return to his native Norway for the funeral of a former colleague, private investigator Max Fjellanger begins to examine the suspicious circumstances surrounding his death. He soon finds himself swept up in a dark world of ancient superstitions, religious cults and mythic rites — all linked to the disappearances of a folklore researcher and a student studying the pagan rituals of the 13th century Eidsborg stave church.