

Stilton Literary Agency



The Invisible Library

Original title: Det usynlige biblioteket
Publisher: Oktober Forlag 2015
Fiction / Historical Novel
52000 Words
Full English translation available

The year is 323 BC. Alexander the Great has strychnine poisoning. He lies paralysed in Babylon. Phyllis, his lover, has been arrested and will be permitted to live as long as she writes down everything she knows about the king for the new ruler. She reveals several details of the final months of Alexander's campaign and of his teacher Aristotle's presence in Babylon.

This period in Alexander's life is rarely discussed by historians. This novel starts to tell us why. *The Invisible Library* is a novel, but Steen bases his text on facts where they can be found. Where they cannot, he writes based on what is probable. And finally, where he encounters gaps, he weaves fiction into the mix. His methods are reminiscent of Hilary Mantel's. Several of his novels have anticipated later discoveries by historians.

Steen worked on the novel for six years after he made new discoveries about the final months of Alexander's life in Babylon. Adresseavisen writes: 'Steen paints a razor-sharp picture of a man on the brink. It is a spectacular and exciting historical novel that once again shows that Steen is unrivalled in this genre.' Dagsavisen writes: 'The precise articulation and the characteristics of people and landscapes contributes to the close atmosphere and drive in the narrative.'

Foreign rights

Matcom, Bulgaria
Seagull, World English
Heidrun, Sweden
April, Turkey

Thorvald Steen

Thorvald Steen is one of Scandinavia's leading authors, translated into 26 languages. His international breakthrough came with the novel *Don Carlos* (about Charles Darwin). This and other novels have been critically acclaimed bestsellers. *Camel Clouds* had 22 print runs in Turkey. *Constantinople* and *The Weight of Snow Crystals* were bestsellers in Norway. The same applies to *The Little Horse*, about Snorri Sturluson, bestsellers in Iceland and Russia.

Thorvald Steen has received numerous prizes including the Swedish Academy's Doubloug Prize, the Saga Prize (Iceland), the Ján Hollý Prize and the Comenius Medal (Slovakia). Steen was chairman of NORLA and the Norwegian Authors' Union for many years, and a board member for PEN International.

Other titles

Sometimes you're absolutely correct (2015)
Balance (2012)
Lionheart (2010)
The Longest Leap (2008)
The Weight of Snow Crystals (2006)
Kamelskyer (2004)
Den Lille Hesten (2002)
Konstantinopel (1999)
Don Carlos/Giovanni (1993)