

Stilton Literary Agency



Bleak Summer

Original title: Mørk Sommar
Publisher: Samlaget 2020
Fiction / Novel

Historian Matteus Olstad is woken by the police knocking on his door. His closest neighbour, Olivia Havnen, has been murdered during the night, smothered in her own bed. That same day, Sofia, Olstad's ten-year-old niece, arrives to stay with him for the summer. Olstad tries to finish his definitive book on Nes Municipality while the police are working on the murder case. He feels increasingly more singled-out among the many suspects, but his bright and inquisitive niece wants to help solve the murder. The plot of the village mystery thickens and thickens while the forest, in which it is said the mysterious Ulvika Man roams, looms ominously in the background.

Bleak Summer is an entertaining murder mystery, full of remarkable happenings, colourful characters, and scenes and dialogues written in classic Hovland style.

Ragnar Hovland

Ragnar Hovland (b. 1952) is one of the most unique voices of Norwegian literature. With a surplus of playful ideas, odd characters and popcultural references to film and music, his fiction writing is always full of surprises. Soon after making his literary debut he achieved a cult status among many readers and younger novelists. Several authors are clearly inspired by his use of humour, irony and intertextuality.

Hovland has won all prestigious literary prizes such as: The Brage Prize (A motorbike through the night), The Critics Prize (A winter's journey and Outlawed), Deutsche Jugendliteraturpreis and Aschehoug Prize last year (for his authorship).

Some of his novels have been translated into German, French, Italian and English.

Other titles

Silent Night (2011)
Paradise (1991)