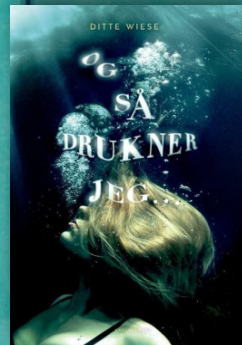
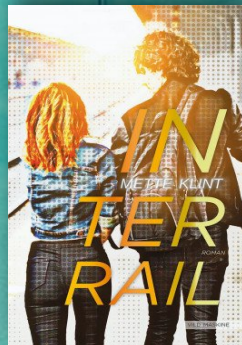
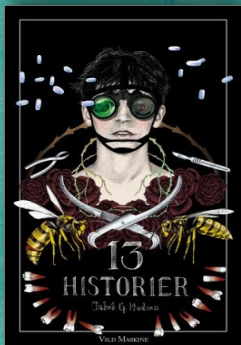
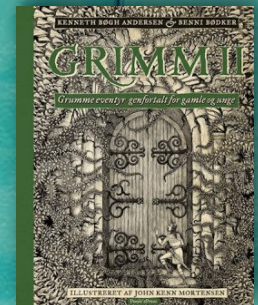
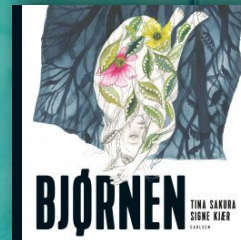
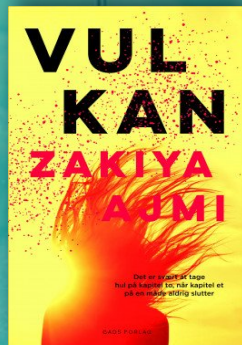
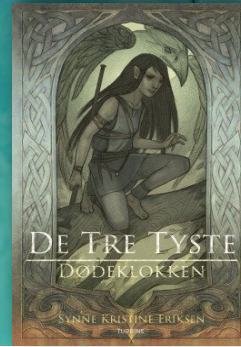
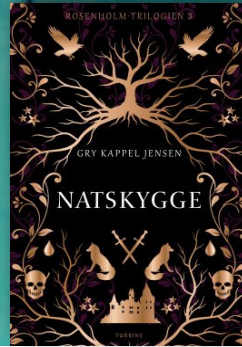
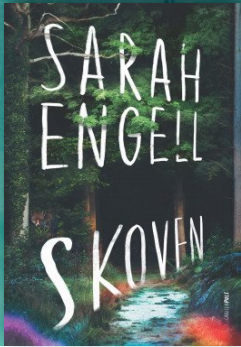




# YA Highlights

Spring 2022



Sarah Engell



## The Wood

### Skoven

Suspense, horror and entertainment in this "Science-gone-wrong" story - a point of departure from the Danish Queen of YA. Chosen as "Book of the Month for Young People" in DKs biggest book shop chain.

**Sarah Engell** is one of the most popular YA writers on the Danish scene, coining perfectly what it is like being young today, with no trace of moralisation or judgement. She is currently nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

## SYNOPSIS

16-year-old Ash has lost his mum to cancer and now lives alone with his dad. They don't see much of each other because his dad is all-consumed by a big research project and has been so since he lost his wife.

When Ash attends a graduation party in a big park North of Copenhagen, Emma is also there. Emma, who used to be his best friend, until Oliver came in the way. Emma, who he is falling in love with. In the park, the youngsters are warming up to go out for dinner later, and the atmosphere is loaded with anticipation. Until Emma goes for a wee and never returns.

Ash, Oliver and Ash's friend, Chili, go into the woods to find her, but she has disappeared into thin air and on top of that the three youngsters quickly lose their way. Why do they keep returning to the same place? And can it really be true that the forest is coming alive and is constantly expanding?

During their days in the wood, the youngsters discover that the research project led by Ash's father entailed adding human DNA to the trees – and the project has spun out of control. The wood is slowly but surely in the process of taking over and obliterating the city, and mankind as we knew it.

*The Wood* is not just a brilliantly composed suspense novel, but also a comment on the current climate crisis and human kind's conceited belief that we can control nature.

## REVIEWS

"Incredibly well-written novel which captures its reader from the first page with a tone of underlying creepiness. The novel contains many different themes from grief and love to humanity's interplay with nature, and it therefore appeals to a broad reader spectrum. The language is youthful and flowing and the vivid descriptions of nature and the characters make the novel come alive to the reader." – Mette Balle Christensen (Library Review)



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Forlaget Carlsen*

Published: *August, 2022*

200 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Film Rights: *Babel-Bridge*

Theatre Rights: *Babel-Bridge*

Available material: *English sample and synopsis*

## Territories Handled

World Rights (Babel Bridge)

"This is really scary! Sarah Engell beats many dystopias with her version of  
Doomsday"" – (Four hearts in Politiken)

Mette Vedsø



## Happy Happy

This *White Raven* 2022 book is a modern comedy of errors for 12 to 15-year-olds, about class differences, grasping the moment, daring to dream and standing up for yourself.

**Mette Vedsø** (b. 1968) studied chemistry and biotechnology, then trained at the Writer's School for Children's Literature. Since 2010, she has written several critically acclaimed children's books, including picture books and tween novels. Her work is suffused with an implicit understanding for children, especially the slightly displaced ones with big hearts – her observations and writing are moving, subtle and poetic.

### SYNOPSIS

Happy Happy is a novel about 13-year-old, Ubbe, who is accidentally given a super expensive golf set and in a mix-up starts frequenting the golf club in the lieber part of town. Ubbe is dead set to keep this a secret to his dad. Because Ubbe and his dad live in the ugliest house on the West Road with 44 bus lines in the front garden and his dad thinks golf is only for "rich pigs".

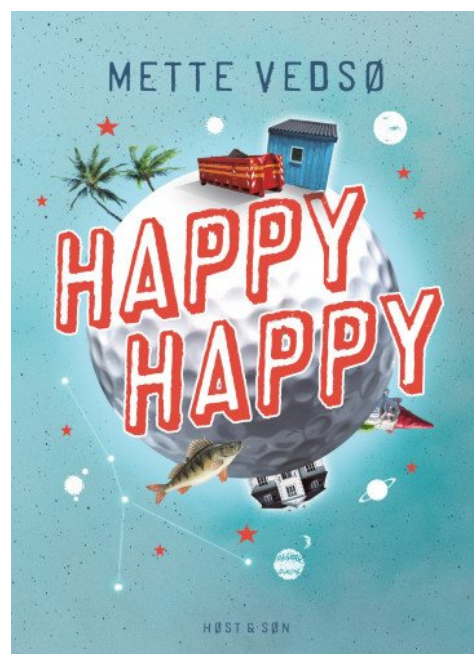
Mette Vedsø writes with warm humour about class differences, about daring to be true to yourself and putting your foot down – even if it hurts the people you love the most.

- Winner of the Orla Prize 2023 in the category "The Book I could see Myself in"
- Shortlisted for the IBBY Honour List 2024
- Included in the [White Ravens 2022](#) catalogue
- Nominated in the category "YA Novel of the Year" by the Copenhagen Libraries
- Nominated for the Orla Prize 2022 in the category "Best plot"

### REVIEWS

"Happy Happy is a soft form of social realism, a modern comedy of errors, where the reader is allowed to laugh about the characters" – (Weekendavisen)

"Mette Vedsø writes like only Mette Vedsø can. The book is intimate, warm and humorous" – (Library review)



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Gyldendal*

Published: *January, 2022*

144 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Realism*

Themes: *Belonging/Identity, Friendship, Family, Growing up*

Available material: *English sample and English synopsis*

### Territories Handled

World except: Danish

### Territories Sold

German: [Thienemann-Esslinger Verlag](#)

Lithuanian: [Terra Publica](#)

Slovene: [Mis Zalozba](#)

Gry Kappel Jensen



# Nightshade: the Rosenholm trilogy (3)

## Natskygge

WINNER OF THE BEST DANISH FANTASY  
NOVEL OF THE YEAR 2021 AWARD

*Nightshade* is the exciting and dramatic culmination of the Rosenholm fantasy trilogy, a bestselling Danish series full of magic, Nordic mythology, mystery and love, which takes the classic boarding school setting and turns it into its very own.

**Gry Kappel Jensen** is the author of the bestselling YA fantasy series, Rosenholm, published in Germany, Italy, Poland and US.

## SYNOPSIS

*"You took everything from me. You took my future, my story and my name. My life. But sweet is the revenge that I am owed. Revenge belongs to me..."*

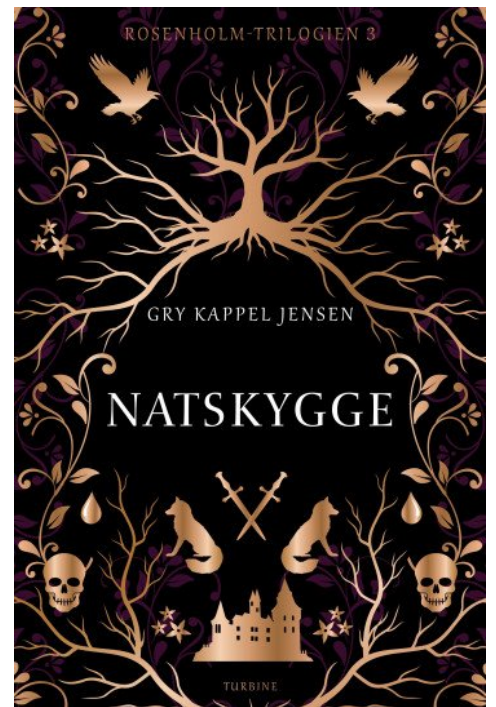
After two hectic years at the Rosenholm Boarding School, Kamille, Kirstine, Victoria and Malou have finally discovered who killed the young woman, Trine, back in the 1980s and tied her to a rootless destiny as a white shadow.

But nothing is over yet. The four friends want to disclose the killer and get him to admit his crime, but soon they discover that darkness is lodged deeper than they have thought and that none of them are safe. Step by step they need to solve the puzzle that rests deeply under the walls of Rosenholm. Before it is too late.

## REVIEWS

"Gry Kappel Jensen narrates with a firm grip of her story lines and a good understanding of the dramatic curve. The many shady deeds are revealed along the way with the help of Norse mythology and the many shade shifts of nature. The final culmination makes the Fall of the Walls of Jericho look like something involving Lego bricks. This is a great saga. A tour de force." – Steffen Larsen (4 hearts in Politiken)

"Kappel Jensen gives the timeless good vs. evil theme originality and fresh flourishes through the well-developed setting, atmosphere, and relationships. A riveting finale that ties up all the loose ends with aplomb." – (Kirkus)



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Turbine*

Published: *May, 2021*

598 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Fantasy*

Themes: *Love, Friendship, Belonging/Identity, Anger, Growing up*

Film Rights: *Nepenthe Film*

Available material: *English sample translation*

## TERRITORIES HANDLED

World except: Danish

## TERRITORIES SOLD

English (World): Arctis US, German: Arctis, Italian: Gallucci, Polish: Zielona Sowa.

Synne Kristine Eriksen



## The Silent Three: the Bell of the Dead (3)

### De tre tyste: Dødeklokken (3)

Synne Kirstine Eriksen's fantasy trilogy, *The Silent Three* is a sublime reading experience, absolutely on par with the big established writers within the genre. Packed with atmosphere, layers of meaning and the most beautiful, flowing language, this series is truly un-put-downable. *The Bell of the Dead* is the third and final book in the trilogy.

**Synne Kristine Eriksen** is a true storyteller - her writing envelops you and stays with you for a long time after you have put her books down. In her series, *The Silent Three*, she does what J.K. Rowling and George R.R. Martin did so convincingly before her: creates a universe that is completely her own, just lying there ready for you to dive in.

## SYNOPSIS

*Eternal dusk. An army on the march. Trees that whisper about death.*

*The Bell Maker, Myrhat, is scared.*

*Scared of the Twilight that never lets go.*

*Scared of the Shadows haunting her.*

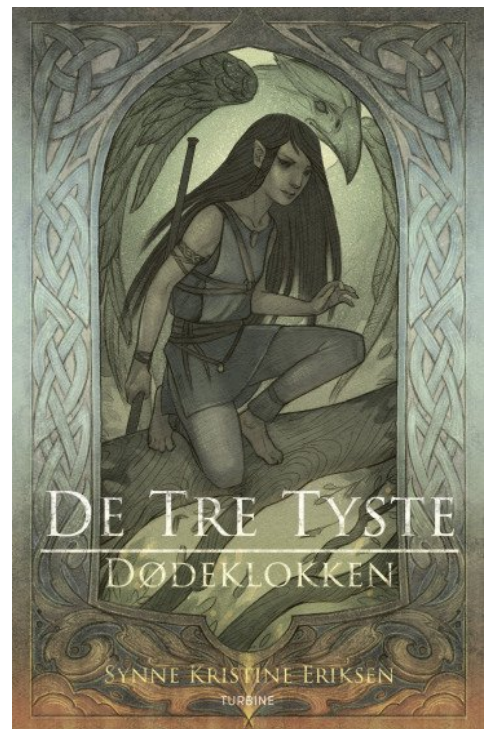
*Scared because Sigurd has rung one of the Magic Bells and now has lost his way in his own inner darkness.*

*The Bell of the Dead is the final book in the trilogy, The Silent Three.*

## REVIEWS

"A solid plot in a complete, compelling, medieval universe" – (*Fyens Stiftidende*)

"Here's an author with something urgent to say" – (*Weekendavisen*)



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: [Turbine](#)

Published: *September, 2019*

350 pages

Category: [Children's Books](#)

Sub-category: [YA](#)

Genre: [Fantasy](#)

Themes: [Love](#), [Friendship](#),  
[Belonging/Identity](#), [Loss/Grief](#), [Family](#),  
[Growing up](#)

Available material: *Danish original*,  
*English sample translation from the first book.*

## Territories Handled

World Rights (Babel Bridge)

## Territories Sold

Polish: Czarna Owca

Nina Lynggaard  
Jørgensen



## The Little Handbook on how to Handle Difficult Parents

### Den lille håndbog om håndtering af vanskelige forældre

*"I am soooo tired of listening to parents complaining that their children have entered the teenage phase. What if it was in fact the other way around? That is, not the teenager who has entered a difficult phase, but the parents?"*

**Nina Lynggaard Jørgensen** was fed up with parents complaining about their teenage kids. What if it actually wasn't only the teenager, but in fact also the parents, who were entering a new difficult phase of life? She set out to write a guide for teenagers to help them deal with their parents.

### SYNOPSIS

When Nina turned 13, the atmosphere was tense at her house. "No wonder", she was always told - she was now a teenager and would soon enter puberty. The word "teenager" was always used as a kind of swear word to explain anything bad happening. It became a bit of a thorn in her eye and she started to analyse the situation more closely. - And came to the conclusion that her parents were also in a challenging phase of their lives. She came to call this the "Parenty Phase" - a term covering the menopause for the mother and the midlife crisis for the father.

In her book she describes typical everyday situations and the potential for conflict between the generations and she gives tips on how to take the brunt off them: with humour and unfaltering honesty.



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Forlaget Muusmann*

Published: *October, 2019*

95 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Non-fiction*

Themes: *Growing up, Family*

Available material: *English sample, Full German translation*

### Territories Handled

World Rights (Babel Bridge)

### Territories Sold

German: *Arctis Verlag*

Norwegian: *Risk forlag*

Stine Spedsbjerg



## Disguised as Grown-up

### Forklædt som voksen

A young woman's path to independence as seen through Stine Spedsbjerg's vulnerable, funny and sharp pen.

The artist, **StineStregen**, has earned herself lots of fans with her original, recognisable illustration style.

## SYNOPSIS

After the success of IT WILL BE A LONG LIFE, aimed at teenagers, DISGUISED AS ADULT talks to the slightly older audience, 15+, and describes all the possible and impossible scenarios you end up in when you live in the twilight zone between child and adult.

How do you handle your parents, your friends, your lovers, when you look adult on the outside, but still don't feel very grown-up on the inside?

STINESTREGEN  
Forklædt som voksen



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Gads Forlag*

Published: *October, 2021*

144 pages

Category: *Graphic Novels*

Sub-category: *Crossover*

## Territories Handled

World except: Danish

Zakiya Ajmi



## Volcano

### Vulkan

A superbly well-written debut novel, about finding yourself and the right person to love.

Zakiya Ajmi is a widely celebrated debut author. She was nominated for the Nordic Literature Council's Children's Book Prize in 2022 and shortlisted for the Cultural Ministry's Children's Book Author Prize.

### SYNOPSIS

Nominated for the [Nordic Literature Prize](#) in 2022 and shortlisted for the Danish Cultural Ministry's Children's Book Author award 2021, bright young star, Zakiya Ajmi, has written an evocative tween novel about Anna, who is trying to start afresh with her mum, after her parents have had a violent break-up. They have spent some time at a crisis center, but have now got a flat of their own in another city.

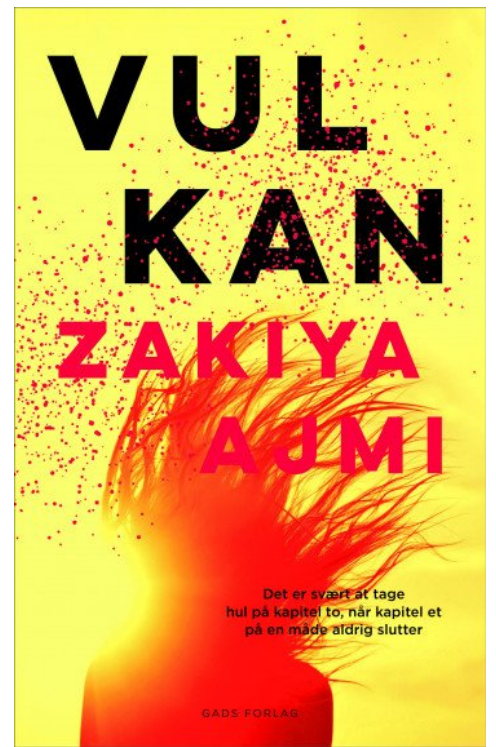
The novel is a love story, but as Anna has experienced in her short life, love between people can be expressed very differently. The love between her parents developed into something scary. For Chili, Anna's new friend at school, the love she feels for her boyfriend, Oscar, overshadows everything. But is it reciprocated? For Anna, her meeting with Idris becomes very special, but it is hard for her to find her way on the path to love, when she keeps getting entangled in other people's relationships. Anna wants to start afresh, but it can be hard to start chapter two, when chapter one in some way never ends.

[Here is what the Nordic Literature Council wrote about the book:](#)

*Volcano is a youth novel that explodes in many ways. Not only in the language, but also in its original structure which changes the traditional chronology by beginning and ending the book with Chapter Two. It is a rootless and insistent tale about place and displacement - told in its very own way. Dialogues, text messages and perplexed thoughts are mixed in an original composition, where not only what happens inside oneself, but also inside the middle of the earth, has its significance for the the characters in the book. Everything in the novel is about to explode.*

(...)

*Volcano is a social-realistic YA novel, narrated in a raw, poetic and whimsical way. A story about tripping and getting back up on your feet. There are hints at the traditional Bildungsroman in its classic structure here, with a close look at the feeling of belonging, Anna is homeless, a kind of nomad in her own life, and restlessness is a driving force both positively and negatively. Zakiya Ajmi has a rare and honest identification with a credible narrator that fortunately never becomes neither moralising or didactic. It is said that you learn from your*



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: [Gads Forlag](#)

Published: 2020

176 pages

Category: [Children's Books](#)

Sub-category: [YA](#)

Genre: [Realism](#)

Themes: [Love](#), [Growing up](#)

Film Rights: *Babel-Bridge Literary Agency*

Available material: *Full English sample translation, Full French sample translation*

mistakes, but what you perhaps learn most of all in this novel is to say sorry - and mean it.

The YA novel, *VOLCANO*, is most certainly a volcano. You are in every possible way branded by the energy in every single sentence and the particular vulnerability of the words that creeps in and stays with you. Zakiya Ajmi is a writer who wants to achieve something with her narrative. She wants to shake the old world so we can have a new one, in which we are able to talk about all the things we usually omit to discuss.

Part of **Books from Denmark**, Autumn 2021 (chosen by the Danish Arts Foundation).

## REVIEWS

"As an avid reader, it is a pleasure to glide through so many good sentences and funny imagery (..) a wild and original youth tale about life after a crisis center (...) a glowing portrait of young bewilderment and will (...) This is a book that wants to do a lot, and succeeds" – (5 hearts in *Politiken*)

"...an in turn well written and captivating youth novel about violence and boundary setting, but also about budding love and about finding oneself (...) there is a lot to take away and reflect yourself in for readers from approximately 13 and up " – (*The Learning Centre*)

## TERRITORIES HANDLED

World except: Danish

## TERRITORIES SOLD

Faroese: [Bókadeild Føroya Lærarafelags](#), Italian: [Camelozampa](#), Norwegian: [Samlaget](#), Slovene: [Zalozba Mis](#), Swedish: [Berghs](#).

Sarah Engell



## The Moment You Doubt

### Det øjeblik du tvivler

"This is #MeToo on wheels. And Sarah Engell oversees it with her falcon eye and embraces it with measured warmth. No violins. But power".

**Sarah Engell** is one of the most popular YA writers on the Danish scene, coining perfectly what it is like being young today, with no trace of moralisation or judgement. She is currently nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

## SYNOPSIS

Vigga is a talented skater; a young woman in a predominantly male sport who is used to standing up for herself. She spends all her spare time training intensively to prove that she is just as good as her male peers. That is until she meets William: he is handsome, he is cool and he is sharp. He sees beyond Vigga's armour and wants to do all he can to look after her. Also when she starts receiving threatening messages. And Vigga needs all the support she can get in what is to become the most challenging time of her life: who is the person behind the anonymous messages, who can she trust?

A powerful story - based on real stories of young women who urged the author to write their tale - about how quickly you can lose grip of your life - even if you are strong-minded and used to standing up for yourself.

## REVIEWS

"This is #MeToo on wheels. And Sarah Engell oversees it with her falcon eye and embraces it with measured warmth. No violins. But power." – (5 hearts in *Politiken*)



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Forlaget Carlsen*

Published: *June, 2020*

368 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Realism*

Themes: *Love, Bullying, Belonging/Identity*

Film Rights: *Monday Scripted*

Theatre Rights: *Babel-Bridge Literary Agency*

Available material: *Danish original, English sample translation and detailed synopsis in English.*

## Territories Handled

World Rights (Babel Bridge)

Tina Sakura Bestle  
Signe Kjær



## The Bear

### Bjørnen

*Carlsen's Illustrated Short-Stories* are brief, beautifully illustrated stories created by some of Denmark's very best authors and illustrators. Suitable as easy reading for older children.

**Tina Sakura Bestle** is an experienced Danish writer with a poetic and precise language. She has won the Danish Cultural Institute's 2022 Author Prize for the story, *The Bear*.

**Signe Kjær** knew she wanted to draw books from the age of seven. Today, she has illustrated over 30 books and in 2021 she was awarded the Ministry of Culture's Illustrator Award.

## SYNOPSIS

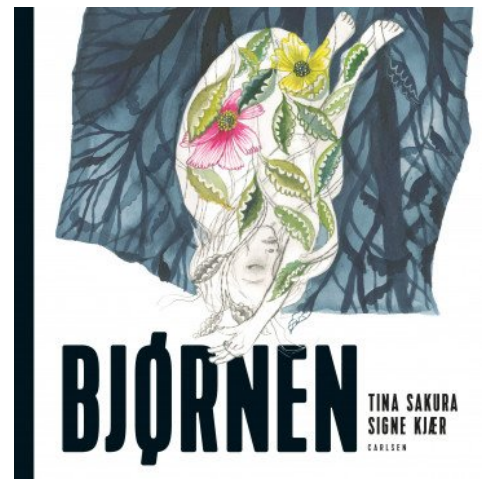
A powerful and passionate story about the importance of setting boundaries and reclaiming your power.

Carli has just started her A-levels when she and a group of other students are invited to an exclusive fresher's week party, hosted by the third-year boys. Carli is specially singled out among the many girls and feels flattered and excited about the evening.

But when the night ends up as a traumatic experience for her, only her own inner strength can heal her wounds. The bear in her awakes.

Part of **Books from Denmark, Autumn 2021** (selected by the Danish Arts' Foundation).

**Winner of the Danish Cultural Ministry's Author and Illustrator Prize 2022.**



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Forlaget Carlsen*

Published: *April, 2021*

48 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Realism*

Themes: *Bullying, Growing up, Courage*

Available material: *English sample*

## Territories Handled

World Rights (Babel Bridge)

## Territories Sold

Arabic: *Alturjman - Egypt*

**Benni Bødker**  
**Kenneth Bøgh Andersen**  
**John Kenn Mortensen**



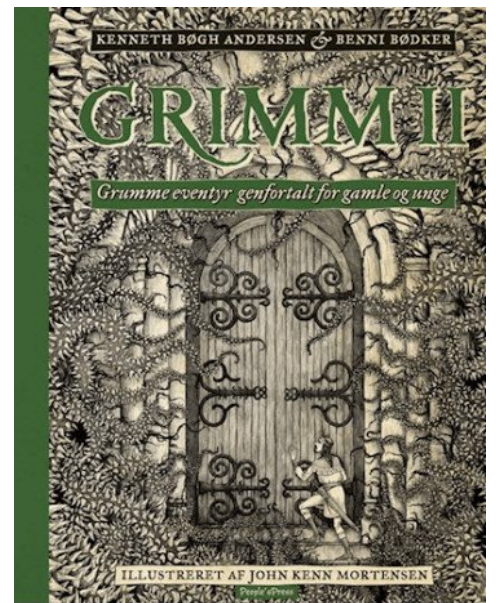
## Grimm II

The stunning sequel to Grimm I, providing us with another 10 sparkling retellings of the fairy tales, doing away with all Disneyfication.

**Benni Bødker** is one of Denmark's leading writers of horror fiction for children and YA. His books have been translated into 12 languages.

**Kenneth Bøgh Andersen** is a bestselling Danish author of horror, fantasy and sci-fi novels, translated into 15 languages.

**John Kenn Mortensen**, the Danish cult illustrator, celebrated by fans around the world for his incredibly detailed illustrations of monsters.



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Gyldendal*

Published: *October, 2019*

240 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Horror*

Available material: *English sample from the first book exists*

## SYNOPSIS

More scary retellings of Grimm's fairy tales, accompanied by John Kenn Mortensen's amazing drawings.

Contains:

- "Snow White"
- "The Hand with the Knife"
- "Bearskin"
- "Summer- and Winter Garten"
- "The Blue Light"
- "The Three Apprentices"
- "The Juniper Tree"
- "Simeli Mountain"
- "Maid Maleen"
- "Sleeping Beauty"

## Territories Handled

World except: Danish

## Territories Sold

English (World): *Fantagraphics*

Russian: *AST Mainstream*

Jakob G. Madsen



## 13 Stories

### 13 historier

Thirteen short stories that will make your hair stand on end. A completely normal day and a completely innocuous situation will turn into a nightmare for the protagonists of the collection.

**Jakob G. Madsen** is the author of 13 excellent, underplayed horror stories for the 10+ audience.

### SYNOPSIS

Brilliant underplayed horror with a strong sense of suspense and surprise.

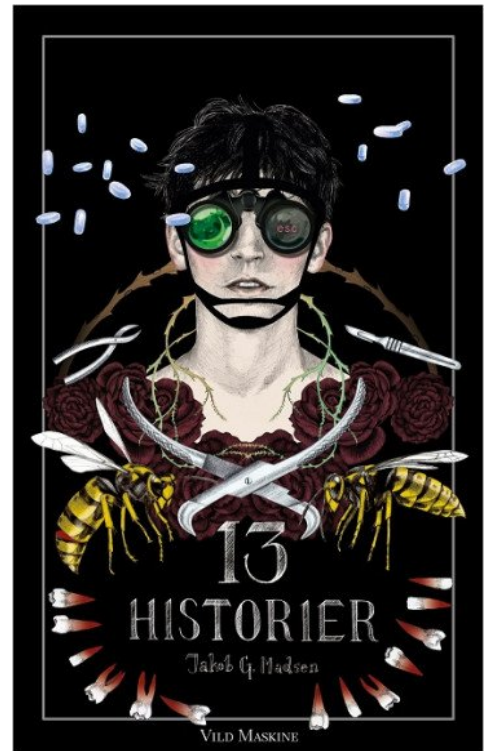
*A young girl with low self esteem is lured into a new shop on a side street with the most mesmerizing mannequin heads on display. She will never be the same again after that experience.*

*A boy is pressured by some older boys into climbing dizzying heights of a tree to pick up his lost football. On the branches high high up, he meets someone he will never forget again.*

*A gamer decides to ignore his mum and switches on his computer late at night for another round. The problem is only that damn wasp which seems to have entered his room. Severely allergic, he needs to keep an eye on it...*

The stories exist in individually published hardcover editions of 48 pages each with about 13 illustrations. The text has been treated so that it is easier to read and is aimed at reaching a different audience.

The stories furthermore exist as cinematic audio books, complete with original music and sound effects.



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Vild Maskine*

Published: *May, 2018*

164 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *Tween*

Genre: *Horror*

Themes: *Bullying, Anger, Belonging/Identity, Jealousy, Suffering, Courage*

Available material: *English sample translation*

### Territories Handled

World Rights (Babel Bridge)

Mette Klint



## Interrail

It goes straight to your heart! Mette Klint's simple, honest depiction of two young people who have left their old lives behind and meet coincidentally on a train in Europe. A Danish YA take on the movie, *Before Sunrise*.

Author of beautifully coined coming-of-age novel, full of nostalgia for the times when we could travel freely...

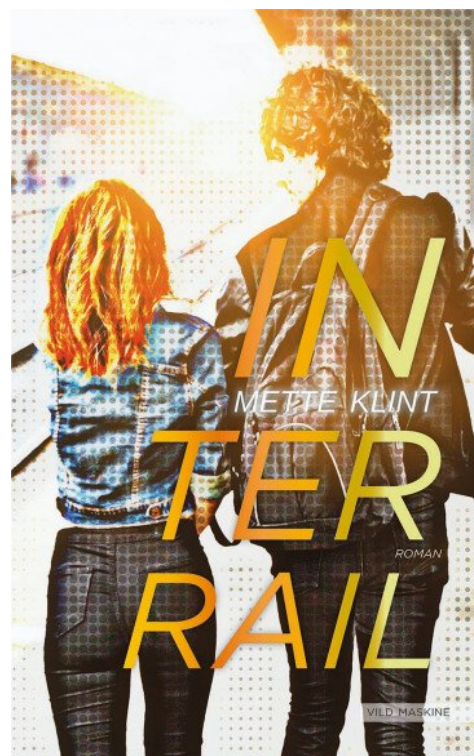
### SYNOPSIS

Junuz is leaving a turbulent year behind him; a year where he has got himself into life-threatening situations and destroyed relationships. He jumps on a train with an interrail ticket, nurturing a vague plan to seek out his father's roots on the Balkan.

Helena is crying after having parted with her boyfriend on the station platform. She is heading off to Italy to spend time with her Italian family for a month. But is it really an excuse to get away from the stifling life she has created for herself?

In the train, Junuz and Helena's seat reservations are right opposite each other and all she wants to do is disappear into the novel she has brought along. But then Junuz starts asking questions, annoying questions...

*Interrail* is a youth novel about courage, moral and ethics - about daring to take a chance to do something you believe in. Topics such as human trafficking and the war in Kosovo are intertwined with more classic youth book themes, such as identity, responsibility, love and family.



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Vild Maskine*

Published: *June, 2019*

229 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Realism*

Themes: *Love, Courage, Friendship, Belonging/Identity, Curiosity*

Available material: *Sample translation in English.*

### Territories Handled

World Rights (Babel Bridge)

Ditte Wiese



## ...and then I Drown

### ...og så drukner jeg

This is a powerful YA novel by the author of the acclaimed *Province Piss*, in which she once again proves her ability to give a voice – or rather a megaphone – to young people, so that focus can be placed on what they fight against nowadays.

**Ditte Wiese** coins the challenges of young people perfectly in her powerful novels, which are also optioned for film.

## SYNOPSIS

"Quick as a flash, cold shower, pony tail, beta blockers, coffee, green smoothie bowl on SnapStory and Instagram, car, psychology exam, A+, hug Miriam, change clothes, more beta blockers, car, parking, head on the wheel. And then deep breaths..."

Do your utmost, or you're a loser! This is the mantra of 18-year-old, Josephine, who tries to be as perfect and successful as her friends.

She has made a meticulous plan for her life: she has chosen a sensible degree, the right boyfriend and the correct diet. It is good and it is perfect. But something is stirring in her. Small waves of something wrong, which pushes her and keeps her awake. It drills into her brain and makes noises. Makes her forget things. Makes her forget to breathe.

What is wrong with her? Why can't she just stick with the plan?

The pressure is so big that Josephine is drowning. She doesn't dare to shout for help, because if she cannot manage everything, she is nothing.

**Selected for possible nomination by IBBY Denmark in the category: "Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2023".**

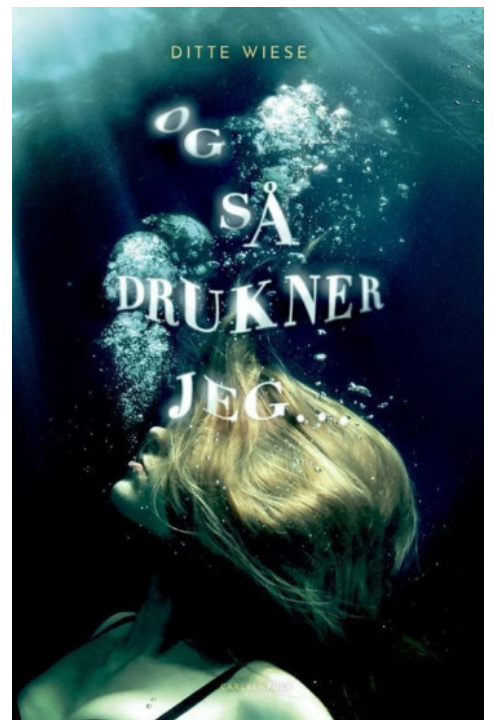
**Winner of the Mofibo Award for Best YA novel 2020.**

**Shortlisted for The Readers' Book Prize 2020.**

## REVIEWS

"A tsunami in book form (...) heart-breaking" – (4 hearts in *Politiken*)

"A painfully honest and engaging tale " – (*Folkeskolen* (Industry magazine for schools))



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## Territories Handled

World except: *Danish*

## Territories Sold

Estonian: *Paike ja Pilv*