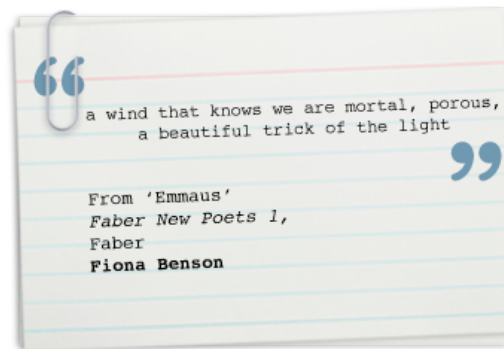




Good Morning! It's Friday on November 04, 2011.

Literature for everyone in the South West

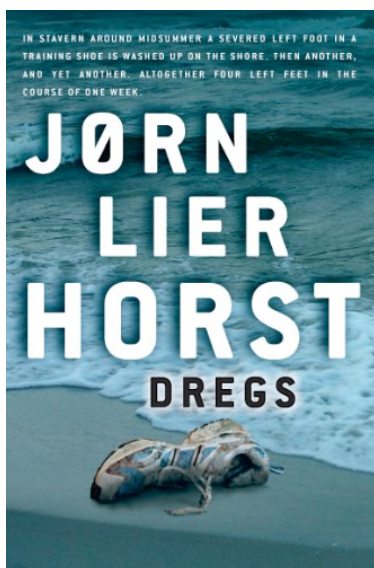


Home
Community
Grassroots
literature
Book of
the month
SW Writer profile
About us
Read SW
Our patron
Interview
Publishers
Fundraising
Links



book of the month

Dregs
by Jørn Lier Horst



JORN LIER HORST FOTO AV CHRISTIAN ELGVN

Jørn was born on 27th February 1970, in Bamble, Telemark, Norway. He has worked as a policeman in Larvik since 1995. His debut novel, *Key Witness* was published in in 2004, and is based on true murder story. This was the first in *The William Wisting* novel series which also includes *Disappearance of Felicia* (2005), *When the Sea Calms* (2006), *The Only One* (2007), *The Night Man* (2009) and *Dregs* (2011). Jørn has also written a book for children about police investigation procedures, and has been actively involved in giving talks in schools to raise awareness and improve community involvement. Jørn will also be appearing at Plymouth International Book Festival in 2012. Cyprus Well caught up with Jørn.

Dregs is the sixth book in the William Wisting series. Will there be more in this series? Are there plans for the earlier books to be translated into English?

The seventh novel about William Wisting has just been released in Norway. It is entitled *Closed for the Winter*. Such crime series tend to come in a number around ten. I have specific plans for three more novels, but have no plans for the tenth novel to be the last. Whether my previous novels will be translated into English is probably dependent on how this first one is received, but I know my agent has had discussions about it.

Are there writers who have particularly inspired you, and the way you write?

One of my first encounters with crime fiction was police insepctor Martin Beck. The Swedish authors Sjöwall and Wahlöö mean a lot to me and mean a lot for Scandinavian crime

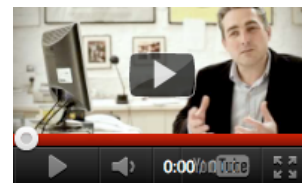
Calendar

South West
What's On



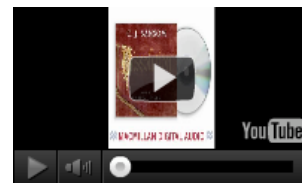
Book of the Month Clips

The Redeemed by M.R. Hall



Dissolution by C.J. Sansom

Pan Macmillan



Innocent by Scott Turow

Hachette Book Group



Dark Matter by Michelle Paver

Pan Macmillan

The Death of King Arthur by Peter Ackroyd

Penguin

literature. Most important is Henning Mankell - I would not be the writer I am without Henning Mankell, and my main character William Wisting would not be who he is without Kurt Wallander. Probably I would not have been the police officer I am without Mankell and Wallander: My first encounter with them both was the book *Faceless Killers* which was published in Norwegian in 1993. I read it during study time at Police College, and thought that I would like to be a police officer like Wallander, an upright and good detective who led the work on major cases. A policeman with a conscience, integrity and humanity and an involvement in his community beyond the individual, a true commitment to my fellow human beings. In this way, Mankell not only left its mark on me as a writer, but shaped my career to the role I currently have as chief investigator.

You're head of investigations at your local police office. Have you drawn on your own experience throughout the series?

My writing began in a way on my first day at work: 8 December 1995. It was the day a 71-year-old man was killed in his house in Stavern, not far from where I live today. My first mission as a newly qualified policeman was standing outside the scene to keep watch. Later in the evening I dropped in on the scene and saw for myself how it had been until the man was slain. For a young police officer it was a very special feeling to step over the threshold into a murder scene, knowing that I went in the footsteps of an unknown assassin.

The killing has been described as one of the most bizarre and brutal murders in recent Norwegian criminal history. What really happened at that time is still not known and the killer has not been found. This murder mystery has since engaged me so much that my first crime novel is based on those events (*The Key Witness*, 2004) a real unsolved crime mystery, but including - in the fictional version - a solution. *The Key Witness* is my only novel that is based on reality.

Being a cop means that I can drop in behind the barrier tapes, go over the thresholds and on to the crime scenes. I can walk in the footsteps of perpetrators and victims, see the remains of a merciless struggle. I can step into the room that has been closed and offers unexplored secrets. That's where I like to take my readers. Part of my job is to get to know the killers, to be in a position where I can know how they think. I also talk to crime victims and their families. At the same time I know the good side of police work. It makes it easier for me to create believable characters and stories.

Have you always been interested in writing crime stories?

When I grew up there were radio plays for children every Saturday night. Most often, I was so impatient to hear the sequel that I wrote it myself. Generally I thought that my version was better than the one I had to wait a week to hear. I have, in other words always enjoyed writing. However, I remember the night I began to write what eventually became my debut book. I was home in bed and completed a Norwegian crime novel. So I folded it up, threw it into the wall and groaned loudly that I could do better myself - whereupon my wife said to me: Why don't you do that then? So I turned off the lights, lay down and it took me half an hour before I stood up and began to write.

Can you tell us a bit about what you're working on at the moment?

Closed for the Winter is just out in Norway. The novel is once again on the southeast coast of Norway, and the story opens at the end of the summer season, at the beginning of autumn, when the nights are drawing in and the mists come swirling in from the sea. The summer visitors have gone, and the summer cottages are being shut up for the winter. This bleak setting takes on a sense of unease and fear as the first murder victim is discovered and Wisting himself is set upon, and his car hijacked. And the sinister atmosphere is heightened by the mysterious phenomenon of dead birds dropping from the sky.

Can you describe your writing environment and practice – do you have a particular place where you write, or time of day, number of words, for example?

I am not a writer who needs inspiration to write - for me it's about finding time between work and family. I do that most easily from at 4.30 in the morning until the rest of the house wakes up and it's time to go to the police station - where you never know if you can go home when the day actually ends at 4pm.

When you have a germ of an idea for a piece of writing, how do you begin to plan for the writing stage. Do you map events in advance, for example, or do you simply begin?

I am systematic and methodical when I plan a novel, and use the spreadsheet program Excel, where I let each chapter have a column where I fill in the action and have little reminders of what I need, and where I keep other notes about the content. That way I keep track of all the threads and in which chapter they are nested. And as I always get questioned, I do know how it will end - the stories sometimes have their own ways, take



their own route and the scene changes all the time on the road.

Do you have any advice for our readers who may wish to see their work published?

There are many ways towards a book publication, as many as there are authors. To expose yourself to literature - popularly known as "reading" - and to read a lot - is one of the most useful bits of advice for a young writer.

At Cyprus Well, we are keeping an eye on developments in the digitizing of books, Ipads, Kindles etc. As an author, how do you view these developments?

As with other social development, the art of printing has evolved radically, from Gutenberg to today's high-tech production process. Paper reading medium is about to be sharply challenged by digital and electronic reading technologies. As a technological development I think it is exciting, and I want to be a part of.

Ebooks are still a new medium, a new way to create reading pleasure. An electronic text you can read on your mobile phone, iPod, PC or Kindle might be a more exciting and pleasurable way to present literature, perhaps particularly for young boys who often fall from reading books in their early teens.

Thank you very much.

Book of the Month Archive

June 2010 Derek Landy: *Skulduggery Pleasant Dark Days*

July 2010 Scott Turow: *Innocent*

August 2010: Julia Green: *Drawing With Light*

September 2010: C J Sansom: *Heartstone*

October 2010: Of Love and Hope

November 2010: Michelle Paver *Dark Matter*

December 2010 Peter Ackroyd *The Death of King Arthur*

January 2011 Andrew Taylor *The Anatomy Of Ghosts*

February 2011 Jill Mansell *To The Moon And Back*

March 2011 Aminatta Forna *The Memory of Love*

April 2011 M.R. Hall *The Redeemed*

May 2011 Jussi Adler-Olsen *Mercy*

June 2011 Philip Marsden *The Levelling Sea*

July 2011: Imogen Robertson *Island of Bones*

August 2011: Simon Scarrow *The Legion*

September 2011: Rachael Boast *Sidereal*