

WOMEN'S FICTION

Steinunn Sigurdardottir

Steinunn Sigurðardóttir (Reykjavik, 1950), is a highly acclaimed Icelandic novelist and poet. She worked as a journalist and radio reporter, but quit her job in 1982 to focus on her writing. Steinunn Sigurðardóttir has contributed greatly to the international recognition of contemporary Icelandic literature, being one of the most frequently translated living Icelandic writers. She was a member of the jury of the *IMPAC Dublin Literary Award* and chair of the *Icelandic Writers Association*. Her works have been translated, among others, into Swedish, German, French, Danish and English. In 1995 she received the Icelandic Award of Literature.



“Sigurðardóttir's humour and playful, extremely imaginative style make reading her work a real treat.”

— *Politiken*

“Steinunn Sigurðardóttir is a master of irony.”

— *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

“Steinunn Sigurdardottir can be mentioned in one breath with the great Halldór Laxness.”

— *Kölnische Rundschau*



STEINUNN SIGURDARDOTTIR: GEANDAKONUR (WOMEN OF QUALITY)

María Hólm is an Icelandic volcanologist travelling by plane to Paris. On the other side of the aisle a woman with very long black hair is watching her approvingly. Next morning María Hólm spots the lady when she is having café au lait in her local bar. Who is this Donna, with the strange voice - ranging from soft to coarse? And what does she want with María Hólm - the lady who was returned by the glacier.

In her new novel, *Women of Quality*, Steinunn Sigurðardóttir, takes her readers on an unexpected journey, distinguished with her best qualities: squealing irony, knife-sharp writing style, fiery humour, and a unique insight into the world of love and erotic.

Bjartur 2014; 230pp

ENGLISH SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Rights sold: **Iceland** (Bjartur), **France** (Editions Héloïse d'Ormesson)

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**STEINUNN SIGURDARDOTTIR:
FYRIR LISU (FOR LISA)**

Martin Montag met a young girl, Lisa, when he was a medical student in a psychiatric ward. He has never been able to forget her story and one day he decides to be firm and to forget about her, but it triggers events so that he loses all control. The result is a thriller, farce and tragedy.

For Lisa is an independent sequel to *Yoyo*.

Bjartur 2012

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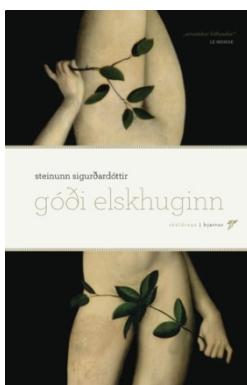


**STEINUNN SIGURDARDOTTIR:
JÓJÓ (YOYO)**

Martin Montag, radiologist in Berlin, has saved the life of Martin Martinetti and finds in him a soulmate and a friend. Hidden under the surface, both men carry a dark secret from the past. A memory, triggered by an X-ray the shape of a yo-yo, takes Martin Montag back to the traumatic incident that was inflicted on him when he was a child. A drama unravels about betrayal and deception, brilliantly told by Iceland's most acclaimed author.

Bjartur 2011

Rights sold: **Iceland** (Bjartur), **Germany** (Rowohlt), **France** (Editions Heloise d'Ormesson), **UK** (World Editions)
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**STEINUNN SIGURDARDOTTIR:
GÓÐI ELSKHUGINN (THE GOOD LOVER)**

A man returns to Reykjavik in deepest winter and watches a woman through the window of her bed room. After she has switched off lights he lays down a rose in front of her door.

The name of the man is Karl and Una is his childhood sweetheart. He spent years in the US, making a fortune, and now he is back, to woo her again. But today it's too late. He turns around, looking out for the next warm bar and ends up in the house of another woman...

Bjartur 2009

Rights sold: **Iceland** (Bjartur), **Germany** (Rowohlt), **UK** (World Editions), **Denmark** (Gyldendal), **Macedonia** (Antolog Publisher)
Rights available: World



**STEINUNN SIGURDARDÓTTIR:
SÓLSKINSHESTUR (THE SUNSHINE HORSE)**

After 25 years Lilla, „the small one“, encounters her lover from her youth. He invites her to his cottage over the weekend and they both hope to approach each other again and to find common ground - it was a drastic incident which let their love end back then.

Seeing each other now brings back memories from the past, good ones, but also not so good ones: the little brother, of whom Lilla had to take care of so very early. Her mother who wasn't able to love her own children. The German nanny Magda, who meant so much to Lilla – until she left the family. But one thing is for sure: Lilla finally wants to become a sunshine child!

Mál og menning 2006;
212pp

„Artful, devoured and baffling.“ *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

Rights sold: Iceland (Mál og menning), Germany (Rowohlt), France (Editions Heloise d'Ormesson), Sweden (Wahlström & Widstrand), Denmark (Gyldendal)

Rights available: World



**STEINUNN SIGURDARDÓTTIR:
HUNDRAÐ DYR Í GOLUNNI (A HUNDRED DOORS CLANGING IN THE WINDS)**

More than 20 years have passed since Brynhildur left Paris where she was a student at Sorbonne. But a short stay in the capital and an unexpected adventure brings back long forgotten memories of her youth, amongst them the love from which she escaped. Why does one can't identify luck when it comes around? Why all those anguish and force of attraction only on her side?

A moving novel about love and eroticism, natural abilities and their ferociousness. There are only few authors equal to Steinunn Sigurdardóttir when it comes to explore the nature of love!

Mál og menning 2004;
144pp

Rights sold: Iceland (Mál og menning), France (Editions Heloise d'Ormesson), Sweden (Wahlström & Widstrand)

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**STEINUNN SIGURDARDÓTTIR:
JÖKLALÉIKHÚSIÐ (THEATER AT THE GLACIER)**

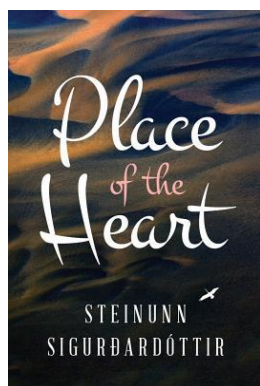
A group of amateur actors in rural Iceland decides to a bodacious plan! It's Anthon Chekhov's 140th birthday and they want to bring on stage his play "The Cherry Orchard".

Soon they begin to construct a theater only for this occasion and they even pay to have a director flown to the scene. But all of a sudden the residents of the village become eccentric; they love, hate and fight...

Mál og menning 2001;
280pp

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Rights available: World



**STEINUNN SIGURDARDOTTIR:
HJARTASTAÐUR (PLACE OF THE HEART)**

Single mother Harpa has always been a misfit. Her physical appearance is unique among Icelanders: so small she self-deprecatingly refers to herself as a dwarf, so dark-skinned she doubts her genetic link to her father, so strange she nearly believed the children who mistook her for a mythical creature of the forest. Even as an adult, she struggles to make sense of her place in the world.

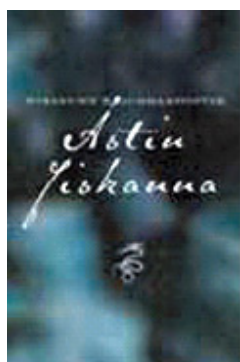
So when she sees how her teenage daughter, Edda, has suffered since the death of her best friend, Harpa sees no choice but to tear her away from her dangerous social scene in the city. She enlists the help of a friend and loads her reprobate daughter into a pickup truck, setting out on a road trip to Iceland's bucolic eastern fjords.

As they drive through the starkly beautiful landscape, winding around volcanic peaks, battling fierce windstorms, and forging ahead to a verdant valley, their personal vulnerabilities feel somehow less dangerous. The natural world, with all its contrasts, offers Harpa solace and the chance to reflect on her past in order to open her heart.

Mál og menning 1995,
374pp

**English MS
available**

Rights sold: **Iceland** (Mál og menning), **Germany** (Rowohlt), **Denmark** (Rosinante), **Finland** (Otava), **US** (AmazonCrossing), **US Audio** (Brilliance), **France** (Denoel), **Ethiopia** (Hohe Publisher)
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**STEINUNN SIGURDARDOTTIR:
ÁSTIN FISKANNA (THE LOVE OF FISH)**

Samanta is reasonable, well-behaved and a confident single. Her secret passion though are Sanskrit poems which she translates.

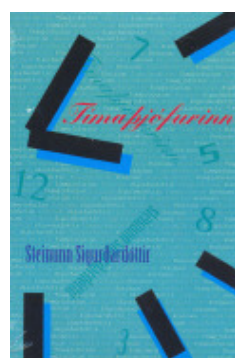
But then she meets her real-live darling, a young manager called Hans Örylggson. They swim around each other for years, like the fish do, but can't let go from each other. It's very late until Samanta finally learns to accept the power of this love. Too late?

"There's probably no plea for more love more powerful than this." *Brigitte*

Iðunn 1993, 107pp

CZECH SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Rights sold: **Iceland** (Iðunn), **Germany** (Rowohlt), **German Audio** (Jumbo), **Denmark** (Rosinante), **Sweden** (Trevi)
Rights available: World



**STEINUNN SIGURDARDOTTIR:
ÍMATHJOFURINN (THE THIEF OF TIME)**

Alda from Reykjavik is a wise and self-confident woman. She has broken many hearts, when she finally finds in Anton her counterpart: After a short intensive affair he leaves her. And suddenly Alda knows how it feels to be the one who is left behind. She cannot forget and is still in love...

"You really have to be a fiend if you don't read this book in just one night". Die Welt

Iðunn 1986, 189pp

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