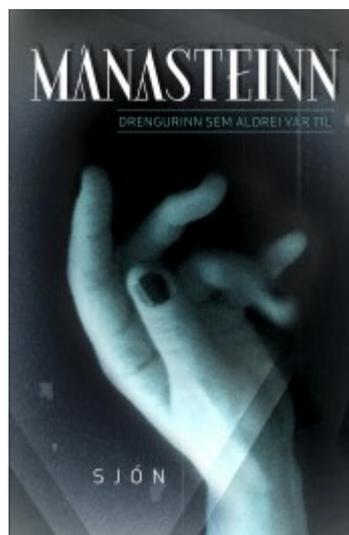




SJÓN is the internationally critically acclaimed author of, among other works, *THE BLUE FOX*, *FROM THE MOUTH OF THE WHALE*, *THE WHISPERING MUSE*, and most recently *MOONSTONE: The Boy Who Never Was*.

Born in Reykjavík in 1962, he is an award-winning novelist, poet, and playwright. His novels have been translated into 30 languages, and he has been awarded Nordic Council's Literature Prize, and The Icelandic Literary Award, and has been shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, and shortlisted for the 2013 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

Also a lyricist, he has written songs for Björk, including for her work *Biophilia*, and was nominated for an Oscar for the lyrics he co-wrote (with Lars von Trier) for *Dancer in the Dark*. He lives in Reykjavík, Iceland. Please visit www.sjon.siberia.is



MOONSTONE - The Boy Who Never Was (Mánasteinn)

The year is 1918 and from Reykjavik people sees how the erupting volcano Katla colours the sky night and day. Life in the small capital carries on as usual despite the natural disaster, shortage of coals and the Great War that still rages out in the big world.

The kid Máni Steinn lives for the movies. Asleep he dreams the pictures in variations where the tapestry of events is threaded with strands from his own life. Awake he lives on the outskirts of society.

But then the 'Spanish influenza' epidemic comes ashore and forces thousands of the town's people into the sick bed, killing hundreds. The shadows of existence deepen. The black wings in Máni Steinn's breast beat faster. Cold draught blows between worlds in a place where life and death, reality and imagination, secrets and revelations fight for dominance.

Published in Iceland November 2013 (English translation available July 2015)

Winner of the Icelandic literary award 2013

Named Best Icelandic Novel of the Year (2013) by the Icelandic Bookseller's Association

Winner of the DV Newspaper's Cultural Award

Translation rights sold to:

**Czech Republic: nakladatelství
dybbuk**

Denmark: C&K Forlag

Faroe Islands: Forlaget Sprotin

Finland: Like Kustannus oy

France: Payot & Rivages

Germany: S. Fischer Verlag

Holland: Uitgeverij De Geus

**North America and Canada: Farrar,
Straus & Giroux**

Slovakia: Slovart Publishing

Sweden: Alfabeta Bokförlag

UK: Sceptre

Review quotes MOONSTONE:

Iceland:

"Moonstone is an eclectic display of light and shadows, beaming from the burning hot projection booth of a master illusionist." - **Úlfhildur Dagsdóttir**, literature.is (top literary critic)

"Novel of the year."

Kolbrun Bergthosdottir / Morgunbladid daily

******* (five stars out of five)**

"A masterful, intricately woven story with unforgettable images, an intense style, and a unique hero. The reading experience of the year."

Fridrika Benonysdottir / Frettabladid daily

"The book can be read again and again, and still one can find something new. The text is clear, accessible, and very readable. There is never a redundant word and every one of them is carefully chosen. The story is written with great artistry as the author plays with rhythm, perception and the boundaries of realism and surrealism. If there is anything to criticise, it is how the author makes it hard for us to put the book down, not because there is something left unsaid, but simply because it is a joy to read. An amazing book."

Ingibjorg Dogg Kjartansdottir / DV daily

Denmark:

*****A small, poignant novel about the greatest things. (six out of six stars) – **Politiken**

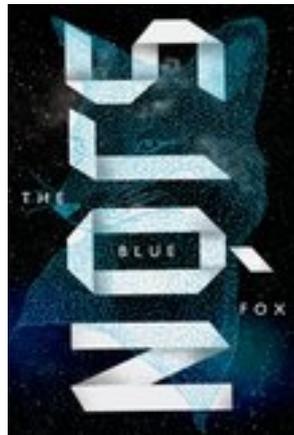
*****Concentrated enjoyment (five out of five stars) – **Berlingske Tidende**

***** Sublime Sjón. (six out of six stars) - **Weekendavisen**

Finland:

”The themes of this novel could easily have been inflated to a work thick as a brick but Sjón believes strongly in reader and compactness. When the author leaves something untold the reader fills in the blanks in his or her mind, sometimes unsure and embarrassed but willingly. In the end Sjón even wraps the story in saga-like form and connects it to his family history. The result is a package full of surprises.” – Risto Löf, **Savon Sanomat**

”A fascinating story about an exotic country in the time of plight. Sjón manages to distill great emotions into short sentences.” – Martta Kaukonen, **Iltalehden Iloa**



THE BLUE FOX (Skugga-Baldur)

Set against the stark backdrop of the Icelandic winter, an elusive, enigmatic fox leads a hunter on a transformative quest. At the edge of the hunter’s territory, a naturalist struggles to build a life for his charge, a young woman with Down syndrome whom he had rescued from a shipwreck years before. By the end of Sjón’s slender, spellbinding fable of a novel, none of their lives will be the same. Winner of the 2005 Nordic Council Literature Prize - the Nordic world’s highest literary honor - *The Blue Fox* is part mystery, part fairy tale, and the perfect introduction to a mind-bending, world-class literary talent.

Published in Iceland in 2004

Awarded the prestigious Nordic Council Literature Prize 2005

Shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2009

Translation rights sold to:

Arabic: Dar Al-Saqi	North America: Farrar, Straus & Giroux
Brazil: Hedra	Norway: Tiden
Bulgaria: Locus Publishing	Poland: Slowo-Obraz Terytoria
China: Yilin Press	Portuguese (Portugal only): Cavalo de Ferro
Czech: Argo	Romania: Editura Palirom
Denmark: C & K Forlag	Russia: Corpus
Estonia: Pegasus	Serbia and Montenegro: Balkankult Foundation
Faroe Islands: Forlagid Nylendi	Spanish (Spain only): Nórdica Libros
Finland: Like Kustannus Oy	Sweden: Alfabeta Bokförlag
France: Payot & Rivages	Turkey: Dogan Kitap
Galician: Rinoceronte Editora	UK: Telegram Books
Germany: S. Fischer Verlag	
Greece: Nefeli Publishing	
Holland: Uitgeverij DeGeus	
Hungary: Magveto Publishing House	
Italy: Mondadori	
Lithuania: Apostrofa	
Macedonia: Antolog	

Review quotes THE BLUE FOX:

“When I need something epic and lyrical I call upon Sjón . . . *The Blue Fox* is a magical novel.”

Björk

“*The Blue Fox* describes its world with brilliant, precise, concrete colour and detail Comic and lyrical.” **A. S. Byatt**, *The Times* (London)

“Enchantingly poetic . . . Spellbinding . . . Magical . . . Exceptional . . . Require[s] that one use the loose descriptive ‘thriller’ too.” **Nuruddin Farah**, *The Independent*

Rarely does an author come loaded with such impressive indie and establishment credentials. As Björk's long time collaborator, Sjón was nominated for an Oscar for his lyrics for the film *Dancer in the Dark*. Renowned throughout Iceland for his numerous plays and poetry collections (the first of which was published when he was just sixteen), in 2005, *Skugga-Baldur (The Blue Fox)* was awarded the Nordic Council's Literature Prize the Nordic equivalent of the Booker.

Bile might start to rise in certain quarters at the thought of musical hipsters who think they can pull off a novel. But in this beautiful, tiny book, Sjón has produced the literary equivalent of a snowflake, a hundred page riff on the literature, landscape and history of Iceland which reads more like an epic poem, albeit with one striking piece of modernity thrown in.

Sarah Hesketh, **Ready Ready Book**

'Book of the year? I shall cut to the chase. This is an exceptional book. Truly stunning. I adored every one of the 112 pages. I strongly suspect I shall spend most of the rest of the year recommending it to anyone who will listen, and probably anyone who won't. Stop reading this review and go and buy it now. You'll thank me later. *The Blue Fox* is short, and deceptively simple.

On the surface it follows two loosely connected stories set across a few days in Iceland during winter 1883. The priest Baldur Skuggason is on a hunting trip, tracking the elusive titular blue fox through a biting blizzard. The biologist Fridrik Fridriksson is preparing the funeral of his maid, Abba, who had Down's Syndrome. What makes *The Blue Fox* so special is both the poetry of the language and the way that the stories build cumulatively, scene by scene. The effect is almost hypnotic. I never wanted it to end, but end it did with a subtle twist that brought the strands together neatly and cleverly.'

Scott Pack Me and My Big Mouth



THE WHISPERING MUSE (Argóarflísín)

Already celebrated far beyond his native Iceland, the novels of Sjon arrive on waves of praise from writers, critics, and readers worldwide. Sjon has won countless international awards and earned ringing comparisons to Borges, Calvino, and Iceland's other literary superstar, the Nobel Prize winner Halldór Laxness. *The Whispering Muse* is his masterpiece so far.

The year is 1949 and Valdimar Haraldsson, an eccentric Icelander with elevated ideas about the influence of fish consumption on Nordic civilization, has had the extraordinary good fortune to be invited to join a Danish merchant ship on its way to the Black Sea. Among the crew is the mythical hero Caeneus, disguised as the second mate. Every evening after dinner he entrances his fellow travelers with the tale of how he sailed with the fabled vessel the *Argo* on its quest to retrieve the Golden Fleece. What unfolds is a slender but masterful, brilliant, and always entertaining novel that ranges deftly from the comic to the mythic as it weaves together tales of antiquity with the modern world in a voice so singular as to seem possessed.

Published in Iceland in 2005

Named Best Icelandic Novel of the Year (2005) by the Icelandic Bookseller's Association

Translation rights sold to:

Denmark: C & K Forlag
Denmark audio: Den Grimme Ælling
Faroe Islands: Nylendi
Finland: Like Kustannus Oy
Holland: Uitgeverij De Geus
Norway: Tiden

North America: Farrar, Straus & Giroux
Spanish rights in Spain only: Nordica Libros
Sweden: Alfabetabokförlag
UK: Telegram Books

Review quotes THE WHISPERING MUSE:

'Funny, strange, provoking and disturbing; darkness with a light touch.'
Times Literary Supplement

'The Whispering Muse is a quirky, melodic, ticklish, seamlessly-translated, lovingly-polished gem of a novel. Sjón's work deserves space on any self-respecting bookshelf of European fiction.'

David Mitchell

'Sjón writes like a man under a spell, filled with enchantment and magic and great wit. He is a rogue of the first order.'

Keith Donohue

'The Whispering Muse is a wonderful story about stories, evoking comparisons to Borges, Nabokov and Calvino while remaining a complete original. Sly, dry and elegant, with a diamond brilliance'

Chris Wilson

“Sjón is the trickster that makes the world, and he is achingly brilliant.”

Junot Díaz

'An extraordinary, powerful fable - a marvel.'

Alberto Manguel

'An extraordinary and original writer'

A.S. Byatt

Long-term fans of Sjón, the Icelandic bard whose projects have included lyrics for Björk, volumes of surrealist poetry and several prizewinning novels, will recognise this trademark interweaving of myth and postmodern playfulness ... *The Whispering Muse* is essential reading.

Guardian

'Once again, Sjón has chosen an unusual subject, interwoven the fantastical with the ordinary, and produced a complex and strangely compelling work of fiction.'

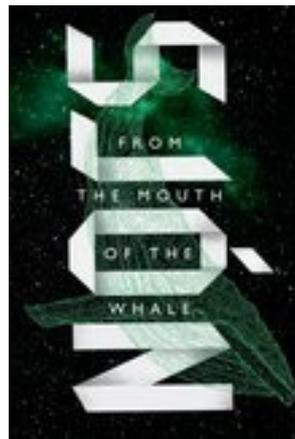
Huffington Post

'When a poet such as Sjón writes a novel, the reader may expect the elliptical in both senses of the word - economy and ambiguousness ... Seamlessly translated by Victoria Cribb.'

World Literature Today

'The Whispering Muse, a marine fable of rare beauty and originality, is sure to inspire the urge to return to Sjón's writing for the verve, humor, and verbal artistry one is sure to find in it.'

Quarterly Conversation



FROM THE MOUTH OF THE WHALE (Rökkurbysnir)

From the Mouth of the Whale is an Icelandic saga for the modern age. The year is 1635. Iceland is a world darkened by superstition, poverty, and cruelty. Men of science marvel over a unicorn's horn, poor folk worship the Virgin in secret, and both books and men are burned.

Sjón introduces us to Jónas Pálmason, a poet and self-taught healer, banished to a barren island for heretical conduct, as he recalls his gift for curing "female maladies," his exorcism of a walking corpse on the remote Snjáfjöll coast, the frenzied massacre of innocent Basque whalers at the hands of local villagers, and the deaths of three of his children. Pálmason's story echoes across centuries and cultures, an epic tale that makes us see the world anew.

Published in Iceland in 2008

Nominated for the 2012 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize

Shortlisted for the 2013 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

Translation rights sold to:

Denmark: C & K Forlag

Finland: Like Kustannus Oy

Germany: S. Fischer Verlag

Holland: Uitgeverij De Geus

Hungary: Magveto

Lithuania: Apostrofa

Macedonia: Antolog

North America: Farrar, Straus &

Giroux

Spain: Nordica Libros

Sweden: Alfabetabokförlag
Turkey: Dogan Kitap

UK: Telegram Books

Review quotes FROM THE MOUTH OF THE WHALE / RÖKKURBYSNIR:

"Something strange and wonderful has washed up on our shores for these long winter's nights." **Washington Post**

The British Kashmiri author **Hari Kunzru** names "**From the Mouth of the Whale**" as his book of the year in an interview with the Booktrust.

Read the whole interview with Hari about his own great novel "Gods Without Men", aliens, deserts and gods in search of humans on the [Booktrust's](#) website.

"From the Mouth of the Whale" is a fascinating, unsettling experience and Victoria Cribb is to be commended for capturing the author's unique voice in her English translation." **Publishing Perspectives**

"From the Mouth of the Whale" is one of The Scotsman's *Books of the Year*, chosen by Nick Barley, director of the Edinburgh Book Festival

"Wild, hallucinatory and bleak, *From the Mouth of the Whale*, by Icelandic novelist and poet Sjón, is one of the most captivating and challenging books I read this year."

"From the Mouth of the Whale" is reviewed in the Publishers Weekly:

"From the Mouth of the Whale" is "a blithe, rhapsodic novel [...] a work charged with lyrical energy and metaphysical purpose".

"Sjón is a poet, and the aesthetic excitement is his own. He is an extraordinary and original writer. And his translator, Victoria Cribb, is also extraordinary in her rendering of the roughness and the elegance, the clarity and the oddity of this splendid book." **A.S. Byatt, the Guardian**

"Sjón is the trickster that makes the world; and he is achingly brilliant. *From the Mouth of the Whale* is strange and wonderful, an epic made mad, made extraordinary." **Junot Díaz**

"Hallucinatory, lyrical, by turns comic and tragic, this extraordinary novel should make Sjón an international name. His evocation of seventeenth century Iceland through the eyes of a man born before his time has stuck in my mind like nothing else I've read in the last year." **Hari Kunzru**

"The narrative is kaleidoscopic and mesmerizing, comic and poignant by turns." **Times Literary Supplement**, April 2011

Foreign rights: Trine Licht, Licht & Burr Literary Agency: tl@licht-burr.dk