SUBLUNAR by Harald Voetmann

Translated from the Danish by Johanne Sorgenfri Ottosen

Winner of the Danish Critics' Prize for Literature



In the 16th century, on the island of Hven, the pioneering Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe, is undertaking an elaborate study of the night sky

A great mind and a formidable personality, Brahe is also the world's most illustrious noseless man of his time. Told by Brahe and his assistants – a filthy cast of characters – *Sublunar* is both novel and almanac.

Alongside sexual deviancy, spankings, ruminations on a new nose – flesh, wood, or gold? – Brahe, a choleric and capricious character, and his peculiar helpers take painstaking measurements that will revolutionize astronomy, long before the invention of the telescope. Meanwhile, the plague rages in Europe...

The second in Voetmann's triptych of historical novels, *Sublunar* is as visceral, absurd, and tragic as its predecessor, *Awake*, but with a special nocturnal glow and a lunatic-edged gaze trained on the moon and the stars.

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160 pages

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HARALD VOETMANN (b. 1978) was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize and has written novels, short stories, poetry, and a monograph on the Roman poet Sulpicia. He also translates classical Latin literature, notably Petronius and Juvenal. Awake is the first in his series of three historical novels: the second, Sublunar, centres on the sixteenth-century Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, and the final book, Visions and Temptations, introduces the eleventh-century German mystic Othlo of St. Emmeram.

JOHANNE SORGENFRI OTTOSEN is a Danish translator. She currently lives in Copenhagen where she also works as an illustrator and literary editor.



Praise for SUBLUNAR

»Reading Voetmann's books makes me feel so alive. His voice is like no other, his hold on his material masterful.«

- Olga Ravn

Praise for AWAKE

»No one else can describe ancient life with such beauty and humour, while never sparing you from the gross and terrifying pain of being human.«

- Naja Marie Aidt

»Vivid, earthy, by turns hilarious, gross, and tragic, but always powerfully engaging. Reading and rereading this book remains a rare pleasure.«

- Susanna Nied

»With a scholar's knowledge and a poet's playfulness, Harald Voetmann brings us into the mind and times of its protagonist, Pliny the Elder. Visceral and lyrical, entertaining and provoking, it evokes a dazzling world on the brink of destruction, resounding with our own conflicted age.«

- Sjón

»This is an interesting book. The writing is beautiful. A fine translation by J.S. Ottosen.«

- Patti Smith

»If you start reading Awake at night, you may end up continuing until morning... A novel like no other.«

- TLS