

loli

Catalogue 2022



‘Ah, how good it is to be among people who are reading!’

So writes Rainer Marie Rilke in *The Journal of My Other Self* (tr. M.D. Herter Norton and John Linton, 1930). And even better is it to be among people who are reading with bold curiosity, with all their senses turned on. More and more, we are finding our readers, and you are finding us. What we seem to have in common: we think of literature as a space we can go to find something unexpected, something that tilts our gaze enough so that we see things from a new angle. But literature is also a space of recognition; like when the searching gaze finds the eyes of another who’s looking straight back at you. How long do you dare hold the gaze of a stranger? Good thing that when reading a book, we can read the same sentence over and over. It’s not as excruciating.

Signe Gjessing’s exquisite **TRACTATUS PHILOSOPHICO-POETICUS**, delivered in Denise Newman’s discerning translation, offers many sentences on which to linger. Recently, Kit Fan lingered

on one in *The Guardian*, writing that ‘Gjessing finds poetry and freedom in the philosopher’s restrictive lexicon: “3.121111 Worlds are roses in a children’s edition.”’ This slim but powerful volume updates and reimagines Ludwig Wittgenstein’s seminal *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, marrying poetry with philosophy to test the boundaries of reality. The result? A work of ‘generative insight and beauty’, as poet Ralf Webb describes it. 2022 marks many firsts for Lolli, and this, a full work of poetry, is one of them.

THREAD RIPPER by Amalie Smith, tr. Jennifer Russell, is our first publication of a second book by an author (although many more are on the way!). You will know from *Marble* (just re-issued in a second edition) that Smith is an author and artist interested in reviving women’s histories, weaving the past with the present. **THREAD RIPPER** takes this interest even further. It is a brilliantly innovative novel about weaving, programming, and pioneer-

ing women, and the book object itself threads together two strands that run in parallel on right and left sides. As Elinor Cleghorn has said, the novel is ‘a mesmerizing choreography of textile and technology, archive and memory’. In it we encounter Ada Lovelace, the 1830s mathematician and inventor of computer programming, as well as mythical figures such as Penelope, the faithful wife of Odysseus, who wove and unpicked a shroud to put off her 108 suitors.

‘Ah, how good it is to be among people who are reading’. This sentiment stayed with me throughout my reading of Harald Voetmann’s startlingly grotesque and erudite **AWAKE**; as Sjón puts it about Voetmann, he writes ‘with a scholar’s knowledge and a poet’s playfulness’. The novel follows the movements of another avid reader (and that’s a vast understatement), namely Pliny the Elder, as he obsessively and sleeplessly dictates new chapters of his *Natural History* – until the moment his own story is fatefully overshadowed by Vesuvius’ eruption. How is this one a first? We’re publishing a trilogy. **AWAKE** is the first of Voetmann’s sequence of novels on humankind’s inhuman compulsion to conquer nature – a theme as ambitious as it is painfully relevant in our present times. And as Patti Smith has it, it is ‘a fine translation by J.S. Ottosen’.

Finally, we’re publishing our first Swedish novel, which is also our first hardcover book – and what a first. Johanne Lykke Holm’s neo-gothic **STREGA** builds like an incantation, which makes for an ominous and deeply enthralling experience – one that is difficult to shake off after reading. And so are sentences like these: ‘I knew a woman’s life could at any point be turned into a crime scene. I had yet to understand that I was already living inside the crime scene, that the crime scene was not the bed but the body, that the crime had already taken place.’ Saskia Vogel once compared the texture of Holm’s prose to a Viennese sugar sculpture, which seems precisely right, and Vogel has done a superb job maintaining its distinctive qualities in her English translation.

We hope you will enjoy these four remarkable works of literature in translation. Thank you for reading our books, and special thanks to our subscribers! Your support is cherished and helps us navigate the ever-challenging landscape of independent publishing with a sense of equanimity and community.

Denise Rose Hansen
Publisher

TRACTATUS PHILOSOPHICO-POETICUS by Signe Gjessing

Translated from Danish by
Denise Newman



An exquisite, lyrical reimagining of Wittgenstein's philosophical work of 1922, from a rising star on par with Inger Christensen

Ludwig Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, often noted as the most important philosophical work of the 20th century, had a broad goal: to identify the relationship between language and reality, and to define the limits of science.

Following on from Wittgenstein 100 years later, Signe Gjessing updates and reimagines the *Tractatus*, marrying poetry with philosophy to test the boundaries of reality. Stunning, knowing, and revitalising, and glinting with

stars, silk, and ecstasy, this is poetry which exacts the logical consequence of philosophy, while locating beauty and significance in the nonsense of the world.

Publication: 14 April 2022
Description: 190 × 112 mm
41 pages
ISBN: 978-1-9196092-8-7
Design: Studio Ard – Chuard
& Nørregaard
Price: £8.99

SIGNE GJESSING (b. 1992) is a Danish poet. She graduated from the Danish Academy of Creative Writing, *Forfatterskolen*, in 2014. She has published several collections of poetry and a novella, and is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including the prestigious Bodil & Jørgen Munch Christensen Prize for emerging writers. *Tractatus Philosophico-Poeticus* is her first work to appear in English.

DENISE NEWMAN is a poet and translator based in San Francisco. She is the author of five poetry collections and the translator of *Azorno* and *The Painted Room* by Inger Christensen, and by Naja Marie Aidt, *Baboon*, winner of the PEN Translation Award, and *When Death Takes Something From You Give It Back: Carl's Book*, a semi-finalist for the National Book Award.



Photo: Robin Skjoldborg

Praise for *TRACTATUS PHILOSOPHICO-POETICUS*

»Signe Gjessing's highly original reconfiguration of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* unfolds at once logically and lyrically on the trembling cusp where philosophy and poetry intersect. Her witty, haunting propositions shimmer between the profound and the puzzling, and beautifully enact Wallace Stevens's assertion that "Life's nonsense pierces us with strange relation".«

– **Mark Ford**

»Fuelled both by logic and intuition, luxuriance and clarity, ecstasy and precision, this long poem unfurls, fractal-like, to amass moments of confounding, generative insight and beauty.«

– **Ralf Webb**

»Signe Gjessing is a wild voice in new Danish poetry, always closely connected to the symbolic tradition and cosmos.«

– **Naja Marie Aidt**

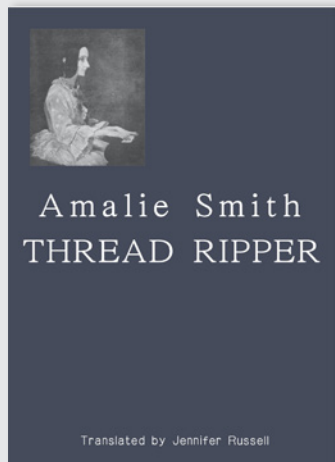
»Gjessing finds poetry and freedom in the philosopher's restrictive lexicon: "3.121111 Worlds are roses in a children's edition." The book, however, is wilder and more generous than a straightforward satirical pastiche. It generalises without being bland, condenses without being narrow, and philosophises without being poetical... An enchanting pocketbook, both mind-bending and mind-straightening.«

– **Kit Fan, *The Guardian***

THREAD RIPPER by Amalie Smith

Translated from Danish by
Jennifer Russell

LRB Bookshop Spring Pick
The London Magazine Editor's Pick



An artist in her thirties weaves and unravels connections between the loom and the computer, DNA and technology, dreams and decisions

Thread Ripper is a double-stranded novel about weaving, programming, and pioneering women. A tapestry-weaver in her thirties embarks on her first big commission: a digitally woven tapestry for a public building. As she works, devoting all her waking hours to the commission, she draws engrossing connections between the stuff that life is made from – DNA, plant tissue, algorithms, text, and textile – and that which disrupts it – radiation, pests, entropy, and doubt. In the novel's second strand, we meet Ada Lovelace, the 1830s mathematician and pio-

neer of computer programming, and mythical figures such as Penelope, the faithful wife of Odysseus, who wove and unpicked a shroud to put off her 108 suitors.

Contemplative yet clear-sighted, and reviving women's histories, Amalie Smith's bracing hybrid of a novel bares the aching interwovenness of art and life.

Publication: 1 June 2022
Description: 210 × 150 mm
224 pages
Softcover Original
978-1-9196092-9-4
ISBN: 978-1-9196092-9-4
Design: Line-Gry Hørup
Price: £12.99

AMALIE SMITH (b. 1985) is a Danish writer and visual artist. A graduate from the Danish Academy of Creative Writing and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Smith has received numerous awards for her work, including the Danish Arts Foundation's prestigious three year working grant. *Thread Ripper* is her second novel published in English translation. *Marble* was published by Lolli in 2020.

JENNIFER RUSSELL has published translations of Amalie Smith, Christel Wiinblad, and Peter-Clement Woetmann. She was the recipient of the 2019 Gulf Coast Prize for her translation of Ursula Scavenius's 'Birdland', and in 2020 she received an American-Scandinavian Foundation Award for her co-translation of Raket Haslund-Gjerrild's *All the Birds in the Sky*.



Photo: David Sørenholm

Praise for *THREAD RIPPER*

»A dreamy, spacious book which threads together many exquisite components: the languages of data, irradiated gardens, computer bugs, sensate plants, the experience of longing. It tells stories of what it's like to live now, in our hybrid bodies, and it gives the oldest technologies new life.«

– **Daisy Hildyard**

»A mesmerizing choreography of textile and technology, archive and memory. With cellular precision, Amalie Smith weaves connective tissue between selfhood and history through vital, tactile accumulations of affect and imagery. Innovative, intricate and achingly bodily, *Thread Ripper* is a rare treasure.«

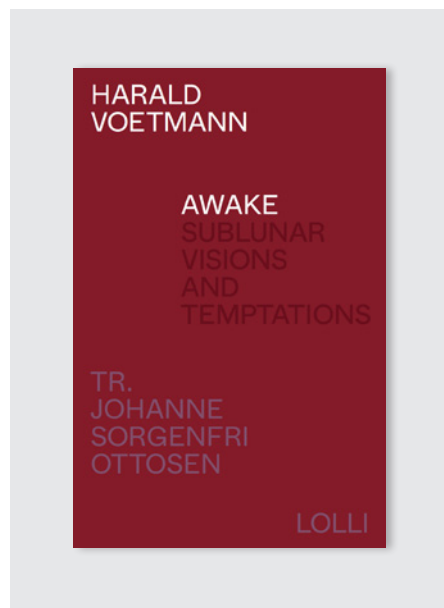
– **Elinor Cleghorn**

»Made of interconnected texts that summon stories from the recent past, personal memory and obscure historical periods, *Thread Ripper* is an absorbing and compulsive read. Moments in bended time are summoned or recalled by a single mind, and woven together, electrified like a neural network. Amalie Smith's book reflects how it feels to be inside a generative mind and a body, and celebrates the desire to ask provocative questions without the need for definitive answers.«

– **Alice Hatrick**

AWAKE by Harald Voetmann

Translated from the Danish by
Johanne Sorgenfri Ottosen



Harald Voetmann's eye-opening English debut, *Awake*, is the first book of his erudite and grotesque trilogy about humankind's inhuman will to conquer nature

In a shuttered bedroom in ancient Italy, the sleepless Pliny the Elder lies in bed obsessively dictating new chapters of his *Natural History* to his slave Diocles. Wheezing, imperious, and prone to nosebleeds, Pliny doesn't believe in spending his evenings in repose. No – to be awake is to be alive. There's no time to waste if he is to classify every element of the natural world in a single work. By day, Pliny the Elder carries out his civic duties and gives the occasional disastrous public reading. But despite his astonishing ambition to catalogue everything from precious metals to the moon, Pliny the Elder still takes

pleasure in the common rose. After rushing to an erupting Mount Vesuvius, Pliny perishes in the ash, and his nephew, Pliny the Younger, becomes custodian of his life's work. But where Pliny the Elder saw starlight, Pliny the Younger only sees fireflies.

In masterfully honed prose, Voetmann brings the formidable Pliny the Elder (and his pompous nephew) to life. *Awake* is a comic delight about one of history's great minds and the not-so-great human body it was housed in.

Publication: 25 August 2022
Description: 198 × 129 mm
144 pages
Softcover Original
ISBN: 978-1-915267-09-2
Design: Clara Birgersson
Price: £12.99

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 centres on the sixteenth-century Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, and the final book 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 *AWAKE*

»Reading Voetmann's books makes me feel so alive. His voice is like no other, his hold on his material masterful. You will never read anything like *Awake* – a hardcore, pulsating portrait of a first-century Roman weirdo. A wonderful and unpleasant treasure.«

– Olga Ravn

»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.«

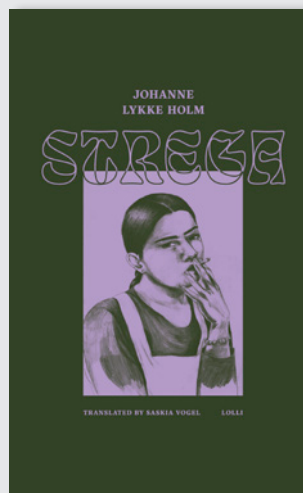
– Patti Smith

STREGA

by Johanne Lykke Holm

Translated from Swedish
by Saskia Vogel

*Nominated for the Nordic Council
Literature Prize 2021
Shortlisted for the European Union
Prize for Literature 2021
Winner of an English PEN Award*



Powerfully inventive and atmospheric, *Strega* is a modern gothic story of nine young women on the cusp of inheriting society's submission to violence, and the age-long myths that uphold it

With little boxes of liquorice, hairbands, and notebooks in her bag, Rafa arrives at the remote Alpine town of Strega to work at the grand Olympic Hotel. There, she and eight other girls receive the stiff uniforms of seasonal workers and are taught to iron, cook, and make the beds by austere matrons. In spare moments between tasks, the girls start to enjoy each other's company as they pick herbs in the garden, read in the library, and take in the scenery. But when the hotel suddenly fills with people for a raucous party, one of the girls disappears. What follows are deeper revelations about the myths

young women are told, what they are raised to expect from the world, the violence they are made to endure, and, ultimately, the question of whether a gentler, more beautiful life is possible.

A monument to long-dead maids and their shrouded knowledge, Johanne Lykke Holm's luminescent and jagged prose, delivered in Saskia Vogel's incisive translation, resonates like a spell that keeps exerting its powers long after reading.

Publication: 1 November 2022
Description: 216 × 138 mm
184 pages
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-9196092-2-5
Design: Ateljé Grotesk
Price: £14.99

JOHANNE LYKKE HOLM is an author and translator. Nominated for both the Nordic Council Literature Prize and the European Union Prize for Literature, she is establishing herself among the most promising up-and-coming literary authors in Sweden. She has also translated Yahya Hassan, Josefine Klougart, and Hiromi Itō into Swedish.

SASKIA VOGEL is an author and translator from Los Angeles, now living in Berlin. *Permission* (2019), her debut novel, was published in five languages and longlisted for the Believer Book Award. The Swedish edition was translated by Johanne Lykke Holm. She is Princeton University's Fall 2022 Translator in Residence.



Photo: Khastayar Naderhvandi

Praise for *STREGA*

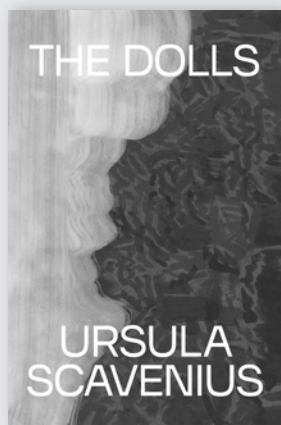
»*Strega* is the kind of book Lolita would write if she wrote like Thomas Mann. This book is sprawling with heart-shaped mirrors in wet grass, peach-coloured bedding, neon lights, knives. All the paraphernalia of patriarchal violence. Johanne Lykke Holm is from the school of Fleur Jaeggy and Frank Wedekind, she uses the young women as her stage and transports you to another world, where everything is scenography. As uncompromising and brilliant as she is disturbing, I am forever devoted to the cult of her.«

– Olga Ravn

»The prose is a treasure to explore. No one can fail to see its beauty. *Strega* is a shield of 184 pages. And behind it? A slow-acting poison. A spell, a rite of passage, a black diamond.«

– *Göteborgs-Posten*

2021 TITLES

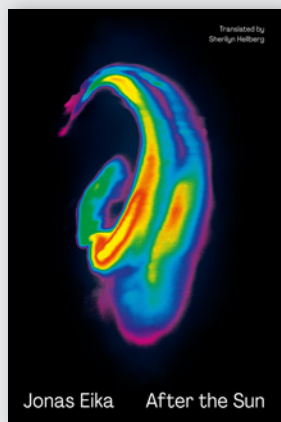


THE DOLLS by Ursula Scavenius

Translated from Danish by
Jennifer Russell

»This is one of the most extraordinary
pieces of writing I've ever read.«
– Editor's Pick, BBC Radio 4

Publication: 21 October 2021
Description: 198 × 129 mm, 144 pages,
Softcover Original
ISBN: 978-1-9999928-4-2
Design: Laura Silke
Price: £12.99



AFTER THE SUN by Jonas Eika

Translated from Danish by
Sherilyn Nicolette Hellberg

*Winner of the Nordic Council
Literature Prize 2019*
*Longlisted for the International
Booker Prize 2022*
*Longlisted for the Republic of
Consciousness Prize 2022*

»After the Sun is an inventive and
exciting book – a true original.«
– Zadie Smith

Publication: 24 August 2021
Description: 198 × 129 mm, 158 pages,
Softcover Original
ISBN: 978-1-9999928-5-9
Design: Kasper Vang
Price: £12.99

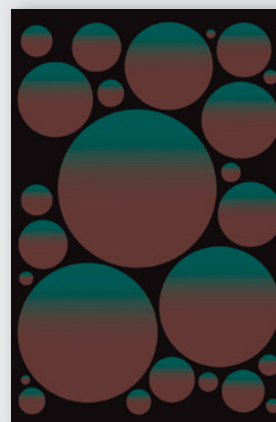


SEVASTOPOL by Emilio Fraia

Translated from Portuguese by
Zoë Perry

»A truly beautiful book that is hard to
describe without using words like
precision, subtlety and, mostly, wisdom.«
– Alejandro Zambra

Publication: 1 June 2021
Description: 198 × 129 mm, 144 pages,
Softcover Original
ISBN: 978-1-9999928-3-5
Design: OK Studio
Price: £12.99



ADORABLE by Ida Marie Hede

Translated from Danish by
Sherilyn Nicolette Hellberg

»An urgent, brutally tactile novel that
grows boundless in the mind.«
– Mara Coson

Publication: 1 June 2021
Description: 185 × 125 mm, 146 pages,
Softcover Original
ISBN: 978-1-9999928-9-7
Design: Chloe Scheffe
Price: £12.99

Lolli Editions is an independent publisher based at Somerset House in London. We publish radical and formally innovative fiction that challenges existing ideas and breathes new life into the novel form. Our aim is to introduce to the Anglophone world some of the most exciting writers that speak to our shared culture in new and compelling ways, from Europe and beyond.

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