



The White Bathing Hut

The White Bathing Hut is a unique story of a family coming to grips with carrying a serious hereditary illness and a history of denial, concealment, and shame. It is an essential book from a leading literary voice in Norway.

A phone call from an unknown cousin unravels a family secret. After a life spent in a wheelchair, the long-lost cousin could hold the key to his illness and history shared with a family kept hidden? Why did his mother keep silent about the existence of his uncle, his cousin, and even the name of his grandfather? It is just before advent, and his mother is old. Will it be possible to go on living without reconciliation and understanding?

The novel brings the reader to consider fundamental questions of honesty and human worth. *The White Bathing Hut* was acclaimed as the publication of the year by several critics, and successfully adapted for the theatre in 2020.

Thorvald Steen narrates betrayal without condemnation and writes about the shame, individual consequences and ethical choices associated with carrying a serious hereditary illness. Intense and dynamic... The story embodies all notions of a thriller – shady motives, danger, suspense, and a revealing climax -- while the uncannily captivating core is the mother-son relation... The dramatic conversations between mother and son are painstakingly understated, the reader feels the unreleased screams stuck in both their throats. It is a powerful, unsentimental, and loyal portrayal of what shame does to a family as it passes through the generations.

Weekendavisen, Denmark

I heard Thorvald Steen's novel The White Bathhouse was a supposed a gem. It turned out to be wrong. It is a punch in the gut, and I cannot recall last I was this moved.

Svenska Dagbladet, Sweden

A novel about our time's contempt for weakness ... naked and gripping.

Dagens Nyheter, Sweden

Thorvald Steen

Thorvald Steen's (b. 1954) literary career began in 1983, and he has since produced a diverse body of work spanning a variety of genres. Translated into 30 languages so far, Steen has received praise and prizes for the quality of his authorship in Norway and abroad.

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 Danish: Turbine
 Faroese: Sprotin
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 Hungarian: Polar
 Singhalese: Ashirwada
 Swedish: Heidruns Förlag

Awards

NORLA Selected Title Autumn 2017



Thorvald Steen

Photo: Trine Hisdal