



The Invisible Library

Original title: Det usynlige biblioteket

Publisher: Forlaget Oktober, 2015

Genre: Novel

Pages: 224 pages

English sample

Foreign rights

British English, American English:

Seagull Books

Bulgarian: MATCOM

Swedish: Heidruns Förlag

Turkish: Kutu



Thorvald Steen

Photo: Trine Hisdal

The Invisible Library

Longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award 2020

The year is 323 BC. King Alexander of Macedonia – for posterity known as Alexander the Great – lies poisoned and paralysed in his palace in Babylon. He is 32 years old, has had Aristotle as a mentor and is the greatest military commander the world has ever seen.

At the other end of the palace, Phyllis sits locked in a room. She is the cook for the king's army and was arrested by the new rulers. All of her adult life she has lived in the field – for a long period of time as Alexander's lover.

Who has poisoned the king? Phyllis is allowed to live as long as she writes down everything she knows about Alexander. She begins a rich and brutal story of the war's violent daily life, about the planning of the expansion into the Arabian Peninsula, about an invisible library containing marvellous manuscripts and discoveries, and about the passion between a cook and a king.

In his seventh historical novel, Steen yet again renews the genre. *The Invisible Library* is an existential and inspired novel that goes to the heart of the human experience – who are we in war, in love, during the final days of life?

Steen paints a razor-sharp picture of a man on the edge of the cliff... A spectacular and thrilling historical novel that yet again proves Steen is unsurpassed in this genre

Adresseavisa

Steen once again shows that he masters the difficult balance of tying the historic grandeur to the intimate humane. His fiction is creative and resourceful.

Dagsavisen

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.