



My Men

My Men is a work of fiction inspired by actual events, about Brynhild, a Norwegian servant girl, who emigrated to America in the late 19th century and became Bella Sørensen, then Belle Guinness of La Porte, Indiana. After her death, Belle was discovered to be America's first female serial killer, but Kielland writes, in an urgent language, about a broken person, one who is always yearning, about going to the ends of the earth, about those who refuse to lose themselves; those who shall live and those who must die. *No one who loves with their whole self can survive.*

One of NORLA's Selected titles autumn 2022.

My Men

Original title: Mine menn
 Publisher: No Comprendo Press, 2021
 Genre: Novel
 Pages: 200 pages
 English sample

Foreign rights

Brazilian - Portuguese: Todavia Publishing House
 Chinese: Thinkingdom Media Group
 Croatian: Petrine Knjige d.o.o.
 Danish: Gads Forlag
 Dutch: Uitgeverij Oevers
 English (NA): Astra Publishing House
 English (UK&CW): Pushkin Press
 French: Dalva
 German: Tropen
 Italian: Sellerio
 Polish: ArtRage
 Portuguese: Dom Quixote
 Russian: Corpus
 Serbian: Kontrast
 Spanish: Galaxia Gutenberg
 Swedish: Natur och Kultur

Awards

The Stig Sæterbakken Memorial Award 2021
 The Doubloug Prize 2022

"One of the best young authors we have ... She writes about a broken person but one who is always yearning, a woman of perilous inner abysses.... Kielland approaches her ferocious main character with the utmost seriousness, writing her into existence with sentences full of an infectiously reckless triumph. The narrative voice in the novel is one of absolute solitude, but in spite of Brynhild's inability to live a good life there is also affirmation in Kielland's urgent language. ... Kielland makes Brynhild tragic rather than cold-blooded. By tethering her rage to typically female experiences, My Men vindicates her, in a sense ... There is a dynamic feminist element in Kielland's story of desire Kielland is a writer who prevails through insisting on warmth as well as violence."

Carina Elisabeth Beddari, Morgenbladet

"Gripping, unique, and amazingly well-written ... [Kielland] paints a nuanced portrait of this woman who defied the limited social opportunities granted to her and took her life into her own hands ... An exceptionally good book."

Ulla Svalheim, Vårt Land

"Who writes like this? The book recalls modernist precursors, with prose bordering on poetry and almost tactile, at the very least sensual, as if the words are getting stuck to your fingers. More than anything else it is this great sensuality—this aesthetic experience, to put it a bit pretentiously—which makes My Men, and Kielland's writing in general, unusual and extraordinary"

Even Teistung, Bokmagasinet, Klassekampen

"When Victoria Kielland writes her way into the emotional life of one of the world's worst mass murderers ... Kielland infuses the real events with her imagination, expressed in a powerful poetic prose that is uniquely hers – so powerful that you forget what the main character of the book is capable of. This double-sided quality also characterizes the plot, one of the most beautiful and also most gruesome that I have ever read ... The book reads beautifully while also creating a sense of experiencing everything for the first time ... a feat both bold and refreshing. Kielland doesn't hold back; she plunges headfirst into one of the darkest corners of history."



Victoria Kielland
Julia Marie Naglestad

Joakim Tjøstheim, Dagbladet

My Men, superbly translated by Damion Searls, is a portrait of a woman trying, and failing, to escape her punishing trajectory. Bit by bit, day by day, we see, and come to understand, what has made Belle Gunness a killer.

Sarah Weinman, The New York Times Book Review

A short, sharp shock of a book... The intense, progressively feverish quality of the novel is far closer to the visceral interiority of Clarice Lispector or Jean Rhys than anything by Jo Nesbø or Stieg Larsson... A singular novel of unusual power from a fearless and remarkable writer.

Carys Davies, The Guardian

Victoria Kielland

Victoria Kielland's first book, the short prose collection *I lyngen 2013 (In the Heather)* was shortlisted for the Tarjei Vesaas Debutant Prize. In 2016, Kielland's first novel *Dammyr* (>Marsh Pond"), was shortlisted for the Youth Critics' Prize. *My Men* is her breakthrough novel, published to rave reviews in Norway in 2021, awarded The Thorleif Dahl Prize and The Dobloug Prize, awarded by the Swedish Academy, and is an international success, so far sold to 14 languages.