



## 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 Dobloug Prize 2022  
 New York Times Best Crime Book 2023  
 Wall Street Journal Best Mystery Book 2023  
 Longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award 2024  
 Shortlisted for Internationaler

*"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

*Kielland plumbs Belle's inner life through jaggedly rhythmic prose, where what should be obvious is sometimes opaque and what's often shrouded — female rage — takes center stage.*

New York Times Best Crime Book 2023

*The author affords [Belle Guinness] a rich and terrifying inner life in this horrific, sustained portrait of a traumatized human soul.*

Wall Street Journal, Best Mystery Books 2023

Literaturpreis 2024



**Victoria Kielland**  
Julia Marie Naglestad

*“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.”*

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 16 languages and longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award.