Living Rock

*Living Stone* is a collection of extraordinary short prose collected from works spanning the past decades, originally published in various literary magazines.


"The stones sing and they don’t sing. Even when the fog is gone the stones lie there, leaning against each other, they lie there so nicely, as though they have been put together by a wonderfully dexterous stonemason, they lay there like that after the avalanche too. Falling apart. (...) I am in the room behind the wall of stones, my stones, other people’s stones, and there is light in there, the strong invisible light from the sky, from the stones. The light of nothingness. The light of nothingness is in the stone. The light of love is in the stone.”

Extract from *Dreamed in Stone*, translated by Damion Searls.

**Jon Fosse**

*Jon Fosse awarded The Nobel Prize in Literature 2023*

Jon Fosse, born in 1959, is widely considered one of the most important writers of our time. For almost forty years he has written novels, plays, poems, stories, essays, and children’s books. His award-winning work has been translated into more than fifty languages, and his plays have been staged over a thousand times all over the world.

Jon Fosse grew up in Strandebarm, a small village in the western part of Norway, he lives today in the Grotten, an honorary residence in Oslo, as well as in Hainburg, Austria, and Frekhaug, Norway.

Fosse’s longest work of prose to date is *Septology* (2019–21), which he started during a break from playwriting and after converting to Catholicism in 2013. Fosse has called his method of writing *Septology* “slow prose”: a style of shifting levels, scenes, and reflections, the exact opposite of fast-paced drama. Its seven parts have been published in three volumes: *The Other Name*, *I Is Another*, and *A New Name*. It is a suggestive, magnificent narrative about the nature of art and God, about alcoholism, friendship, love, and the passage of time. *Septology* is translated into over 20 languages and is critically acclaimed worldwide.
For *Septology*, Jon Fosse has received numerous awards, including the Brage Prize and the Critics’ Prize. He has also been shortlisted for the international Booker Prize and the American National Book Award.

Furthermore, the hiatus in playwriting is over; Fosse is once again writing for the theater. Since 2020, three new plays have premiered. Jon Fosse’s most recent prose work, the novel *Kvitleik (A Shining)* was released in spring 2023 — a luminous narrative exploring the boundary between life and death.

In 2023, Fosse is also celebrating a literary milestone, marking 40 years since his debut with the novel *Raudt, svart (Red, black)*.

Fosse is the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2023 and has received numerous prizes, both in Norway and internationally through the years.