

INCREDIBLE
SWEDISH
COMICS
2024



SWEDISH COMICS ON THE MOVE!

Swedish comics have evolved through more than two centuries, and despite influences from major comics cultures around the world, have always kept a distinct quality of their own.

Today, the comics scene in Sweden is incredibly diverse, with hard hitting autobiography, social realism and political satire as well as engaging science fiction, horror and adventure stories – and much, much more. It's easy to see that comics in Sweden are right now experiencing a veritable golden age, and the rest of the world is starting to take notice. Artists like Kim W. Andersson, Peter Bergting, Daria Bogdanska, Niklas Eriksson, Maria Fröhlich, Anneli Furmark, Åsa Schagerström, Moa Romanova and Liv Strömquist, to name just a few, are right now making inroads in countries all over the world.

But there is much more where that came from, and the Swedish Arts Council is ready and willing to support publishers in other countries who want to get going publishing Swedish comics. This catalogue contains examples of contemporary Swedish comics, as well as information on how you can apply for grants to translate and publish Swedish comics.

So, welcome to a brave new world of comics!

Fredrik Strömberg

The Swedish Comics Association

Swedish Comics Astonish the World!

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THE SWEDISH COMICS ASSOCIATION



The Swedish Comics Association was founded in 1968 and is the foremost organization promoting the knowledge and understanding of comics in Sweden. The objective of the association is to spread knowledge of the unique characteristics of comics and support and develop the comics culture in Sweden.

The activities that the association pursues include publishing the magazine *Bild & Bubbla* (Picture & Balloon) – Scandinavia’s oldest and most prominent journal about comics, along with various books about comics. The association also administrates the prestigious Urhunden awards, runs The Swedish Comics Archive and organizes festivals, exhibitions, lectures, debates and much more.

The Swedish Comics Association has its headquarters in Malmö and local chapters in several other cities in Sweden. The activities of the association are aimed at children, adolescents and adults – from the curious reader to the professional practitioner.



© Johanna Bolin



DARIA BOGDANSKA

Daria Bogdanska arrived from Poland to Sweden as a young adult in order to attend the Comic Art School of Malmö – and ended up making a major graphic novel about her experiences. As an immigrant, Bogdanska had to take low-paying jobs waiting tables in order to make a living, and upon realizing just how bad working conditions were, decided to form a union to fight the restaurant owners, and won!

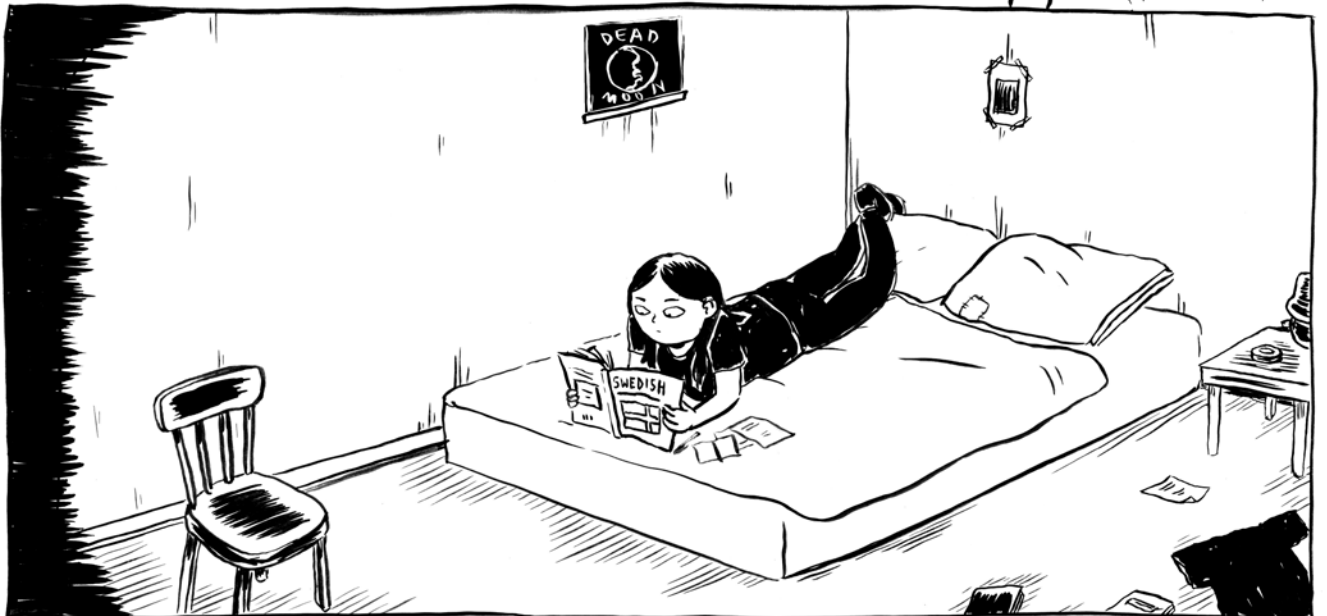
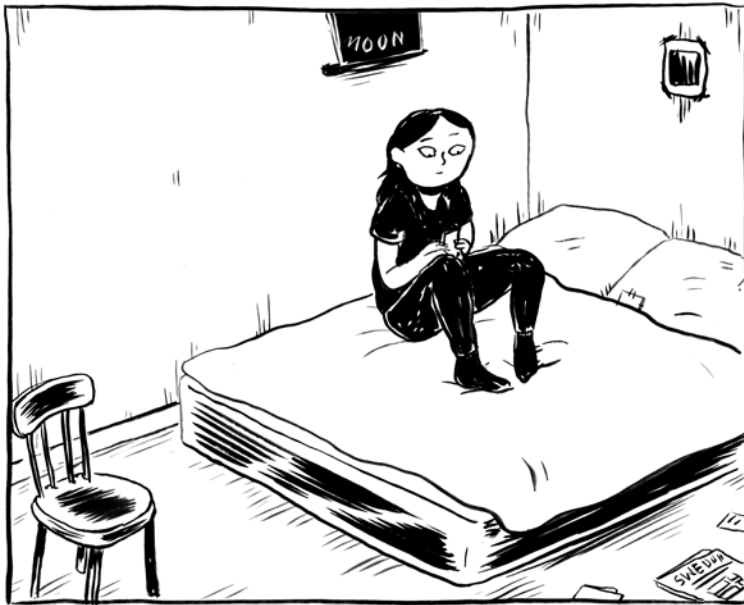
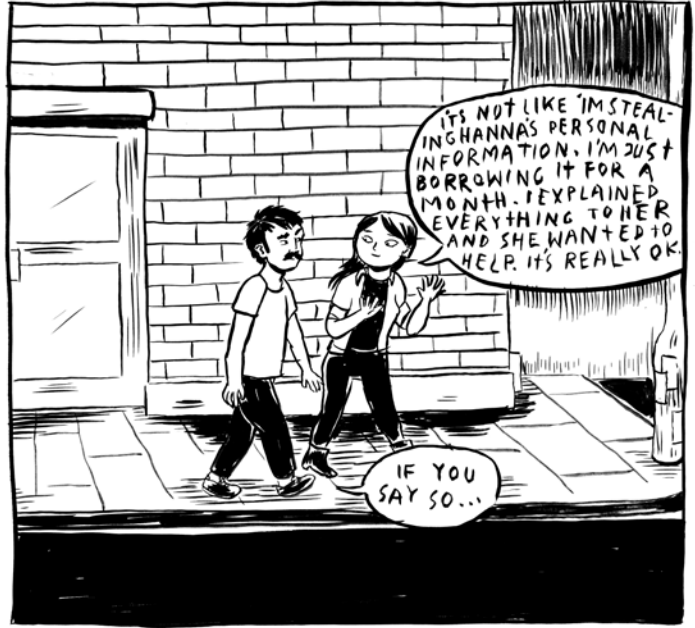
Bogdanska has a shaky, personal line, reminiscent of styles utilized in alternative comics cultures in both Europe and the US, with an emphasis on the contrast between black and white and expressive, engaging representations of the character's emotions.

Daria Bogdanska has, so far, only made one graphic novel, *Wage Slaves*, but this real-life undercover journalism story about the exploitation of immigrant workers, which is also about the life and loves of a young person in a urban environment in the 21st century, has clearly captured the imagination of readers all over the world.

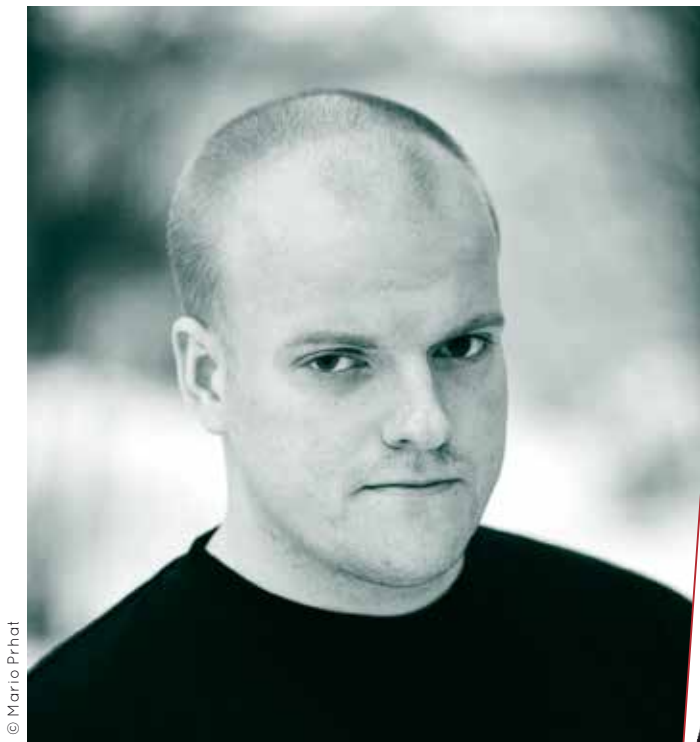


Daria Bogdanska's graphic novel *Wage Slaves* has been translated into several languages since it first made its debut in 2016.

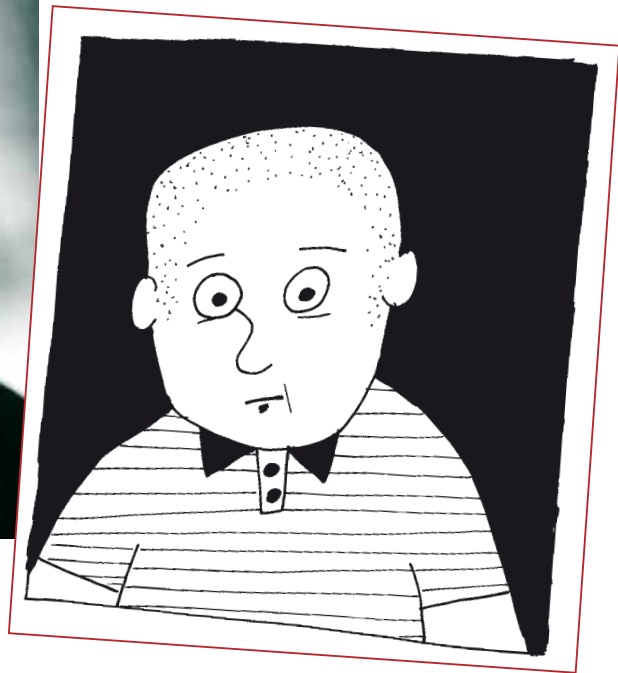
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A page from *Wage Slaves*.



© Mario Prhat

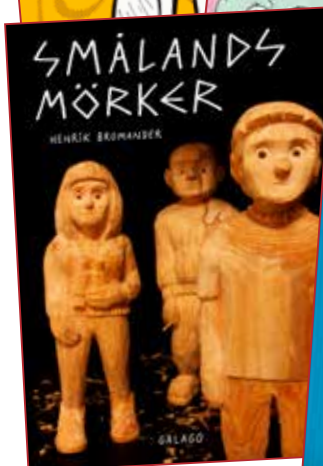


HENRIK BROMANDER

Henrik Bromander is a comics artist, author and writer of plays. The protagonists of Bromander's graphic novels are often people living on the outskirts of society, outcasts, loners and losers, through which Bromander pitch perfectly captures the zeitgeist. Bromander also writes novels and plays, and his graphic novels have been adapted for TV.

Bromander's style is direct and efficient, with a shaky, personal line in the underground tradition. The characters are often heavily caricatured, and much emphasis is put on emotions and body language.

Bromander has written and drawn several critically acclaimed graphic novels, including *Smålands mörker* (The Drakness of Småland), *Kurs i själoutplåning* (Course in Self-depreciation) and *Shahid/Skärvor* (Shahid/Shards).



Bromander has written several critically acclaimed graphic novels.

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© xxxxxxxx



ELIAS ERICSON

Elias Ericson is a comics artist and illustrator mostly known for telling stories about young people, often with themes of LGBT, mental illness, and the problems you might face being different from the norm.

Ericson made his debut in 2013 with the critically acclaimed graphic novel *Åror* (Oars), about a 16-year-old who is trapped in the wrong body. Ericsson followed up with the graphic novel *Diana & Charlie*, a story of two young friends trying to help each other through the rough period of being teenagers and transgender. Ericson has also created the children's book, *Blompojken* (The Flower Boy), about a boy who isn't like all the other boys.

Ericson draws in black and white, and the style shows inspiration from modern »alternative« comics from the US. The style is very personal and effectively communicates the feelings and emotions of the characters, as well as the relationships between them.



Elias Ericson's books have been translated into French, German, and Spanish.

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A page from the graphic novel *Diana & Charlie*.



© Alfred Johansson



BIM ERIKSSON

Bim Eriksson is a comic artist, illustrator, writer, and fine artist. She made her debut in 2016 with the critically acclaimed *Det kändes lugnt när mina känslor dog* (It felt alright when my feelings died), a collection of short stories and cartoons about feminism, love, abuse, and sisterhood.

However, Eriksson's biggest hit to date is indisputably the 2021 graphic novel *Baby Blue*, a dystopian story set in an Orwellian future society where failure, grief and mental ill-health are banned, and the government enforces »happiness« on all citizens.

Eriksson's style is a distinct, line-based and with characters whose often-exaggerated bodies and features emote their feelings rather than attempting mimetic representation.

Eriksson's comics and visual narratives have been published in international newspapers and magazines like *Le Monde diplomatique*, *Internazionale* and *Galago*. She also made one of the comics on the German anthology *Thank you for a Lovely Day*, interpreting a song by the Australian band The Go-Betweens.



The graphic novel *Baby Blue* has been published in Swedish, French, Italian, German, Spanish and Turkish, with English and Portuguese editions forthcoming.

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A page from the graphic novel *Baby Blue*.



© Kalle Assbring



PELLE FORSHED

Pelle Forshed is an illustrator of children's books as well as a comics artist who made his debut with the widely popular comic strip *Stockholmsnatt*, about nightlife and clubbing in the Swedish capital of Stockholm.

Forshed uses a minimalistic style that captures the essence of a character or an object with a few lines that directly communicate the ideas. This makes the comics a breeze to read, even though they sometimes address difficult topics.

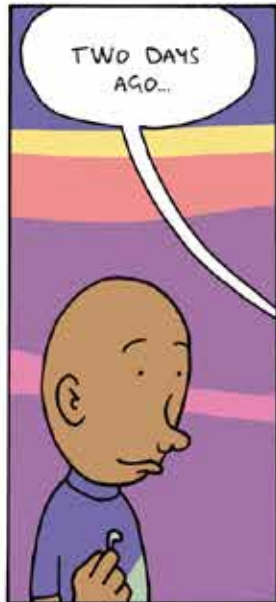
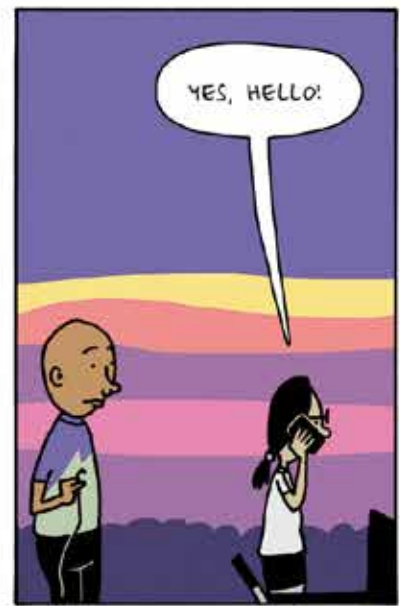
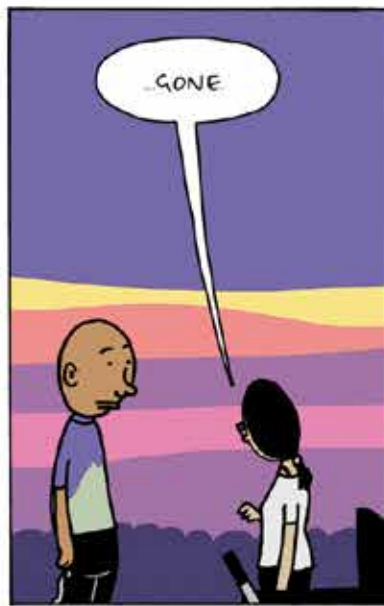
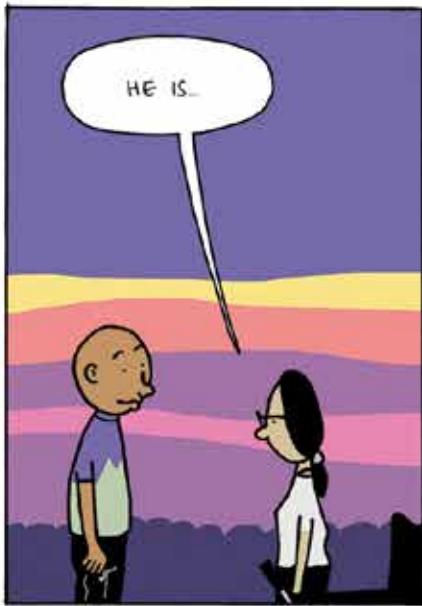
Pelle Forshed has created graphic novels for adult readers,

such as *De anhöriga* (The Relatives) and *Under tiden* (Meanwhile), as well as a children's book series about the character Fjodor. His early comic strip *Stockholmsnatt* (Night in Stockholm) has also been collected into one hefty volume.



Forshed's graphic novels have been translated into French and Korean.

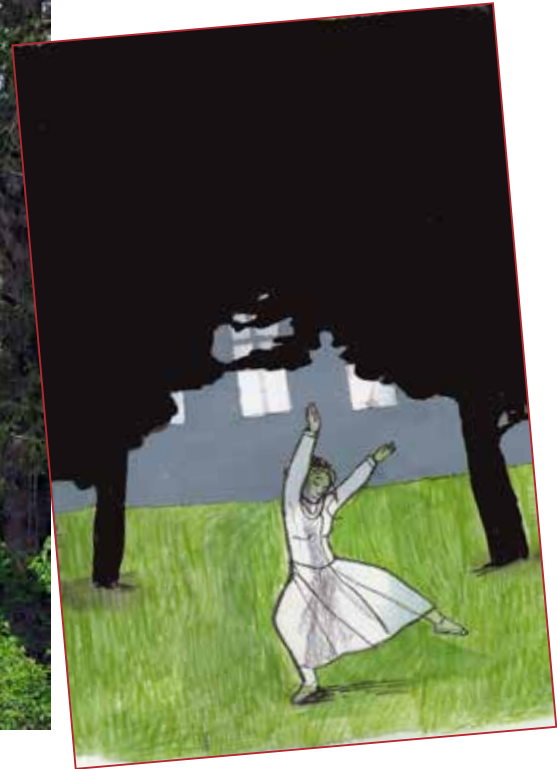
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A page from the graphic novel *Under tiden* (Meanwhile).



© Anneli Furmark



ANNELI FURMARK

Anneli Furmark is a comics artist, illustrator and painter. Furmark writes and draws graphic novels with quiet, socially realistic stories that focus on the inner lives and relationships of the protagonists. Her books regularly garner accolades and awards in Sweden, often winning the award for best Swedish graphic novel.

Furmark has a deeply personal, artistic style that combines semi-realistic drawings with an expressive hand coloring using watercolors. The page layouts are often regular, making for a reading that focuses on the storytelling.

Furmark has drawn more than ten critically acclaimed graphic novels, of which many have been translated into several languages, including English, French and German.

Several of Anneli Furmark's graphic novels have been published in Swedish, Finnish, English, German and French.

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A page from the graphic novel *Red Winter*.



© Anders Berg



SIMON GÄRDENFORS

Simon Gärdenfors is a comedian, rapper and TV personality, as well as a successful comics artist. His cartoons and graphic novels often create quite a stir when published and seldom leave readers unmoved.

Gärdenfors has a cute style that clashes with the realistic and sometimes provocative content. The style resonates with Gärdenfors' interest in retro candy packaging and advertising, evident not only in the character designs, but also in the choices of colors and designs of pages and book covers. Taking this interest to their logical conclusion, his latest collection of autobiographical short-stories, *Hobby*, was sold in a specially designed, pink box, which also contained a cute action figure of Gärdenfors.

Simon Gärdenfors has created several graphic novels, often based on events in his own life, such as experiencing a young friend dying (*Död kompis/ Dead Friend*), of knowing compulsive liars (*Lura mig!/ Fool me!*), or hitchhiking across Sweden (*The 120 Days of Simon*).

Simon Gärdenfors' graphic novels have been published in Brazil, France, Italy, Spain and the US.

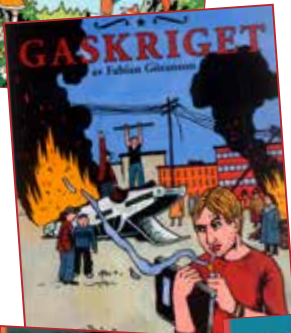
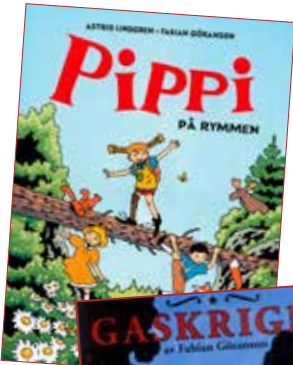
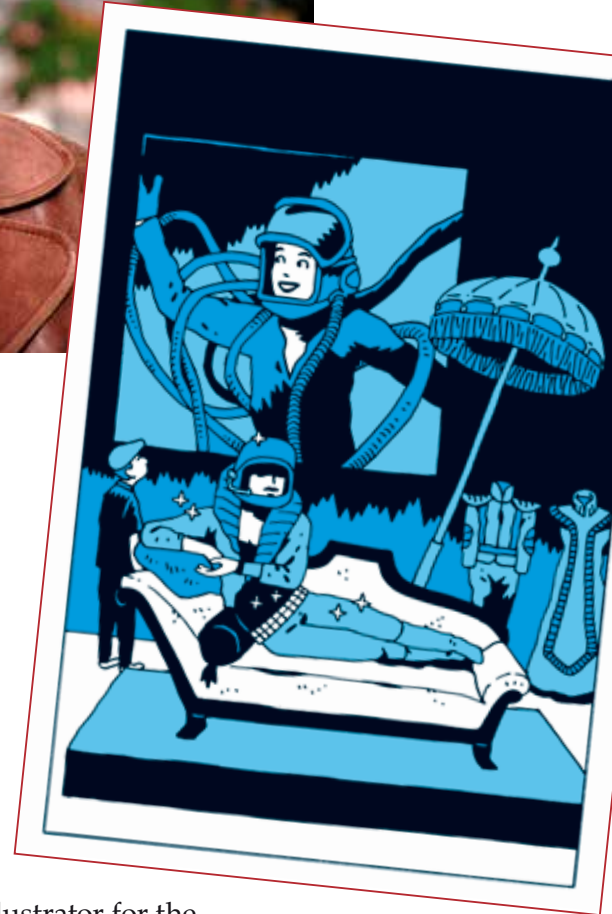
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A page from the graphic novel *Död kompis* (Dead Friend).

© Johannes Klennell



FABIAN GÖRANSON

Fabian Göranson is a comics artist, illustrator and creator of children's books. He started out his career making autobiographical comics, and has since produced everything from literary adaptations to traditional adventure albums, only to return to the autobiographical genre form the critically acclaimed *The Dream of Europe*. Göranson has also been chosen as the new illustrator for the

classical stories with Astrid Lindgren's Pippi Longstocking.

Göranson has a clean, semi-realistic style with a retro feeling to it. He often uses an earthy, toned down flat coloring that adds to the retro feeling and gives the art a distinct look.

Fabian Göranson has created several graphic novels, including *Inferno* – an adaptation of one of August Strindberg's stranger novels, and *The Dream of Europe* – a travelogue in the comics format depicting that state of the European union right now.

Graphic novels by Fabian Göranson have been translated into French.

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DIETHNES HOTEL IS A BEAUTIFUL
TURN OF THE CENTURY VILLA,
ALBEIT SLIGHTLY WORN DOWN
AND DESOLATE



LIKE TWO SNAKES WE SHED OUR
SKINS AND HIT THE STREETS.



AHTENS IS MARKED BY A
SUN-DRENCHED BRUTALITY.



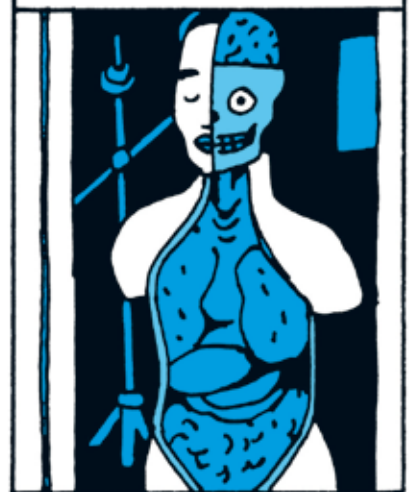
IS THAT HIPSTERS OR
JUST REGULAR HOBOS
GOING THROUGH THE
TRASH CANS?



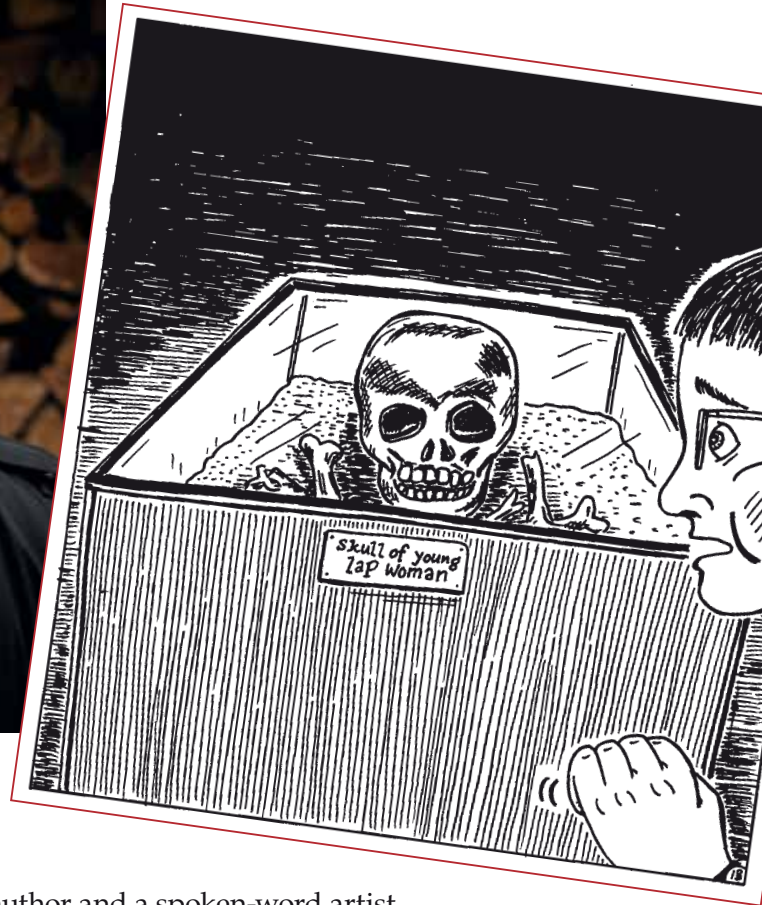
A TOXIC MIX OF DECAY AND LUXURY
SIDE BY SIDE.



LIKE A FASHION MODEL
TURNED INSIDE OUT,
EXPOSING HER INTESTINES



© Johannes Kleenell



MATS JONSSON

Mats Jonsson is a comics artist, author and a spoken-word artist who also creates children's books. Jonsson has been making autobiographical comics since the 1980s, with the stated intent of covering all aspects of his life, from childhood to himself becoming a parent and beyond. His latest graphic novel, the critically

acclaimed *När vi var samer* (When we were Sami), has created a debate about the indigenous people from the northern parts of Sweden, Norway and Finland.

Jonsson has an underground inspired style with a personal, faux naïve line and an effective use of black and white.

Jonsson has created six graphic novels: *Unga norrlänningar* (Young Northerners), *Hey Princess* (published in the US), *Pojken i skogen* (The Boy in the Woods), *I detta satans rum* (In this Goddamn Room), *Mats kamp* (Mats' Struggle), *Nya Norrland* (The New North) and *När vi var samer* (When We Were Sámi).

Mats Jonsson has published several graphic novels, of which *Hey Princess* has been translated into English.

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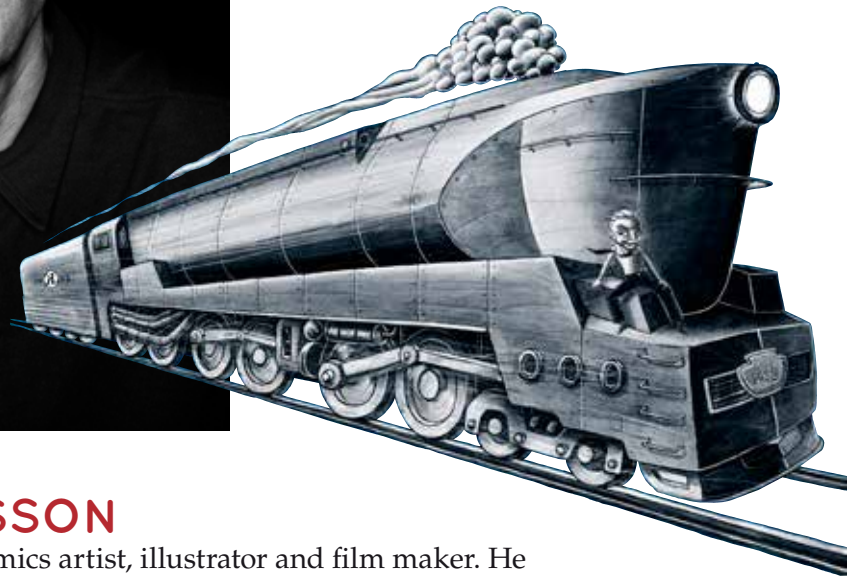




A page from the upcoming graphic novel *När vi var samer* (When we were Sámi).



© Johan Bergmark



canimus



KNUT LARSSON

Knut Larsson is a comics artist, illustrator and film maker. He has, since the 1990s, created several critically acclaimed comics and graphic novels. Larsson has been published in magazines and anthologies all over the world. He has professed a deep admiration for the filmmaker David Lynch and an affinity between his works and Larsson's dreamlike, allegorical and often surreal comics is often evident.

Larsson has a distinctly personal style, combining a sleek, three-dimensional design, cute characters with huge, soulful eyes, and bizarre, often wordless, eerie situations.

Larsson's books are often meticulously designed, with a retro feel to both the art and the design. He has created seven graphic novels such as *Canimus*, *City of Crocodiles* and *Aniara* (an adaption of the classic sci-fi story by Harry Martinson) as well as short story collections such as *Lokmannen* (The Locomotive Man) and *Dödens ö – drömmar från andra sidan* (Isle of the Dead – Dreams from the Other Side).

Knut Larsson has published several graphic novels and short story collections, which have been published both in English and French.

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A typically strange, dreamlike scene from Larsson's book *Dödens ö* (Isle of the Dead).



© Xxxx Xxxx

COCO MOODYSSON

Coco Moodysson is a comics artist mostly working in the autobiographical genre. Her first book, *Coco Platinum Total*, a collection of comics from self-published fanzines, garnered praise for honest depictions of life as a teenage girl. Moodysson's graphic novel *Aldrig godnatt* (Never Goodnight) has been adapted into the major motion picture *Vi är bäst!* (We are the Best!) by Coco's husband, the filmmaker Lukas Moodysson.

Moodysson has a distinct, faux naïve style that utilizes the contrast between black and white to great effect. Her main character often breaks through the fourth wall and addresses the reader directly, commenting on what is going on in the story.

Moodysson has created several short story collections and graphic novels, including the aforementioned *Aldrig godnatt* (Never Goodnight) – about her growing up in the 1980s and *Jag är ditt fan in i döden* (I'm your until death) – about the cult following of the singer Robert Smith and The Cure. Moodysson's latest book, *Mörkt album* (Dark album), depicts a mid-life crisis and mental illness.

Coco Moodysson has created five graphic novels, of which *Aldrig godnatt!* (Never Goodnight!) has been published in English.

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A page from Moodysson's latest graphic novel *Mörkt album* (Dark Album), about mental illness and trying to find your way in life.



© Clara Lidström



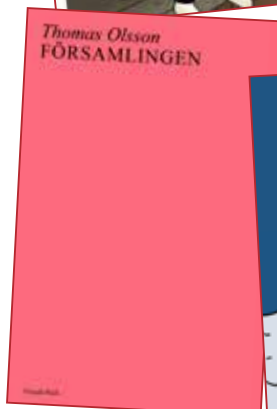
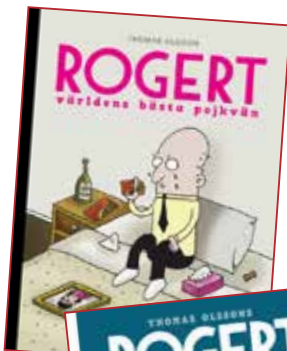
THOMAS OLSSON

Thomas Olsson is a comics artist but also a prominent editor and publisher in Sweden, currently heading Kaunitz-Olsson, publishing new Swedish graphic novels.

Olsson has created the character Rogert, a self-centered man who always seems to say whatever he thinks, as well as the graphic novels *Församlingen* (The Parish) – about growing up in a religious environment, and *Det är inte meningen att man ska vara här* (You are not Supposed to be Here), about Sir John Franklin's ill-fated journey searching for the Northwest passage in 1843.

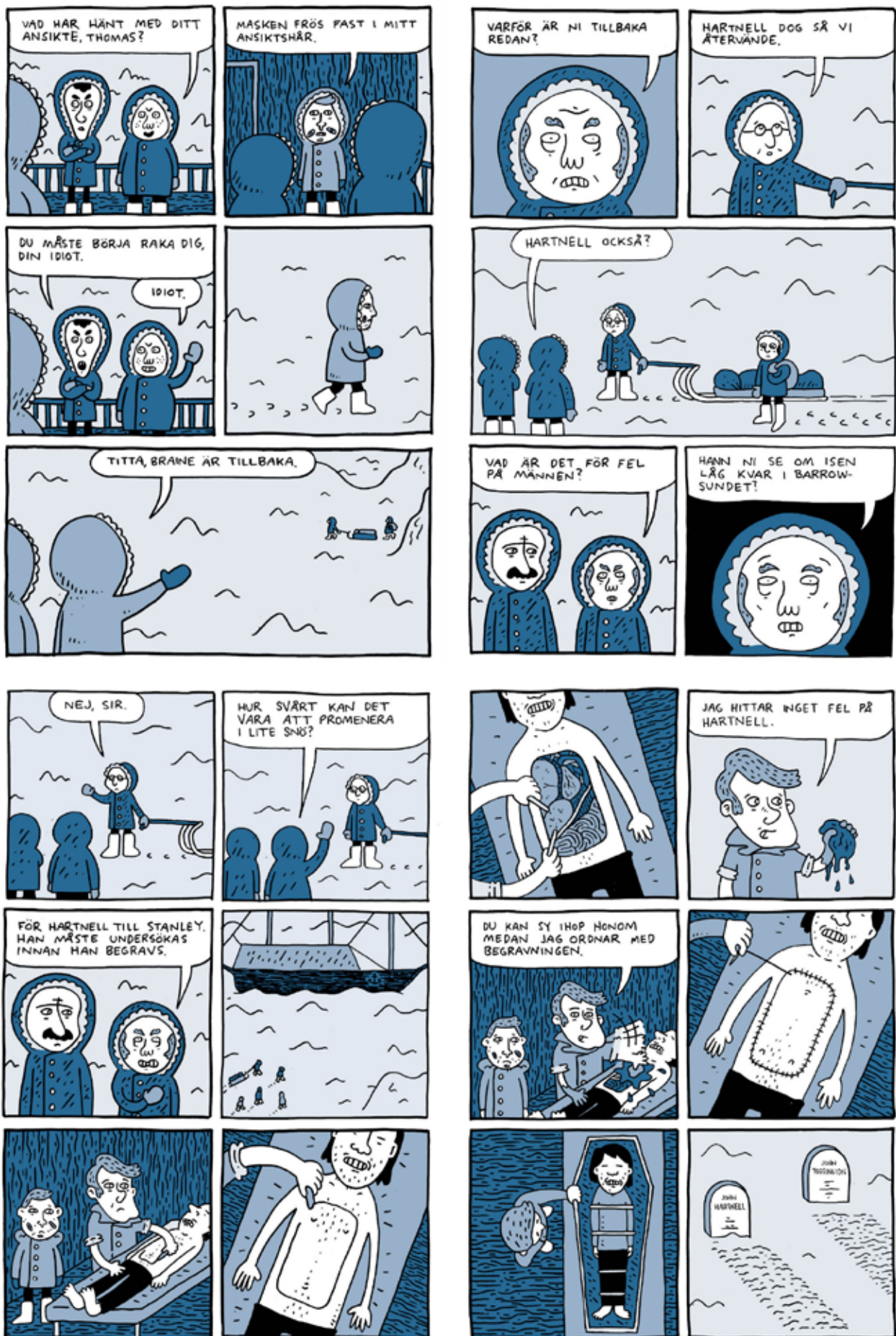
The style of Olsson is heavily caricatured, often depicting characters with large heads and expressive features. The coloring of his graphic novels is to great effect based on shades of a single color.

Olsson's comics about the characters Rogert have been collected into two volumes. His two graphic novels have both been translated into French.



The two collections with the comics about Rogert, and the two graphic novels that Olsson has created.

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Pages from the graphic novel *Det är inte meningen att man ska vara här*
 (You are not Supposed to be Here).

© Fredrika Eriksson



MOA ROMANOVA

Moa Romanova is a comics artist, an illustrator and a painter. Her debut graphic novel *Alltid fucka upp* (translated as *Goblin Girl* for the English edition) garnered a lot of attention and received several awards in Sweden. Romanova followed that with *On Tour*, a documentary comic about touring with the Swedish band Shitkid. Romanova's third book, *På glid* (*On the Skids*) is a follow up of sorts to *Goblin Girl*.

Romanova has an expressive, sometimes almost surreal style that combines character designs that change with the mood of the story and a 1980s esthetic in design and colors.

Romanova's debut graphic novel *Alltid fucka upp* has been published in several languages all over the world. Her second book, *On Tour*, was originally published in English. Romanova's most recent book, *På glid*, is so far only available in Swedish.



Romanova's first book, *Alltid Fucka upp*, has so far been translated into eight different languages.

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A page from the graphic novel *På glid*.



© Anna Widoff

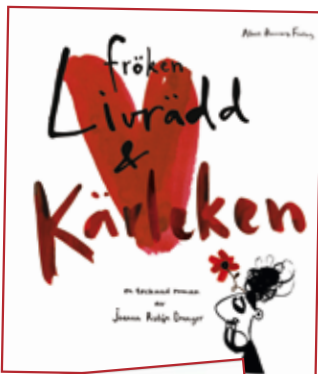


JOANNA RUBIN DRANGER

Joanna Rubin Dranger is, among other things, an author, illustrator, and animator. As a comics artist, she has created several critically acclaimed graphic novels, often based more or less directly on her own experiences. Rubin Dranger has worked as a professor at the University of Arts, Crafts and Design (Konstfack) in Stockholm, and have received numerous awards for her comics, illustrations, and animations.

Rubin Dranger has a distinctive, black and white style, with iconic character designs and few details, creating a direct communication with the reader. In her books, Rubin Dranger frequently uses a design with one image/panel per page, making for an immersive, page-turning experience

Joanna Rubin Dranger has published several children's books, as well as six graphic novels, including: *Miss Scaredy-Cat and Love* and *Miss Remarkable and Her Career*. The latest book, *Remember Us to Life*, documents Rubin Dranger's journey to find out about her Jewish ancestors, and their fate during the 20th century.



Some of all the graphic novels Joanna Rubin Dranger has created. *Miss Scaredy-cat and Love* has been published in Norway, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Japan and the US. *Remember Us to Life*, the latest of her books, has so far been published in Swedish and Norwegian.

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- Oh yeees!
Sonia's boy.

I try to grasp this. Sonia's boy. That's Perla's grandchild. My mom's cousin, Azriela's cousin. But I never heard of a child at all.



- Is this him
too? Perla's
grandchild...what
was his name?



-Yes, that's him
and Perla. I don't
know his name.
No, I don't.



- What about the
father of the child, do
we know anything
about him?

- No, no,
nothing.



Joanna Rubin Dranger's latest book *Remember Us to Life*, won the prestigious Nordic Council Literary Prize, a first for a graphic novel.



© Galago

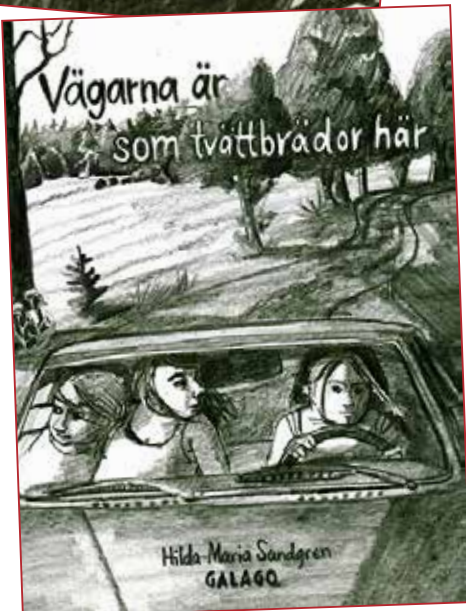


HILDING SANDGREN

Hilding Sandgren seemingly came from nowhere and won the most coveted Swedish comics award, *Urhunden*, for her debut graphic novel *Det som händer i skogen* (What happens in the Woods). Sandgren tells sincere stories about growing up in the countryside, about being young and trying to find yourself in a world that seems to have decided on your roles beforehand.

Sandgren draws images in pencil and does not ink, which gives a feeling of spontaneity and sincerity suitable to these realistic tales.

Sandgren has completed two connected volumes *Det som händer i skogen* (What happens in the Woods) and *Vägarna är som tvättbrädor här* (The Roads are like Wasboards here), which have been translated into French.



There are, so far, two volumes in the book series by Hilding Sandgren, which have been published in French.

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A page from the graphic novel *Vägarna är som tvättbrädor här* (The Roads are like Wasboards here).



© Sara Appelgren



ÅSA SCHAGERSTRÖM

Åsa Schagerström (née Grennvall) is a comics artist, illustrator and textile artist. She has been making autobiographical and realistic graphic novels since the 1990s, making her a forerunner for both the autobiographical and the feminist trends in Swedish comics.

Schagerström's style is distinct in black and white, using a faux naïve way of representing characters and object, combined with a regular page layout.

Schagerström has made twelve graphic novels to date, often garnering rave reviews. Her graphic novel, *Urmodern* (The Great Mother) was made using embroidery.

Schagerström has created several graphic novels, some of which have been translated into French, Finnish, Italian and Korean.

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MUM ONLY EVER HIT ME ONCE.



IT FELT GOOD.

I WAS 6 AND I'D COME INSIDE WITH DIRTY SHOES AND TRAMPLED MUD ON HER NEWLY SCRUBBED FLOORS. SHE THREW ME OUT ON THE DOORSTEP AND GAVE ME A SLAP.



IT DIDN'T HURT.

BUT I STARTED TO CRY, MOSTLY BECAUSE I KNEW I WAS ENTITLED TO. THIS WAS 1979, AND THE LAW AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN HAD JUST BEEN PASSED. I KNEW ALL ABOUT IT AND I ALSO KNEW THAT MY MUM HAD DONE SOMETHING ILLEGAL.



SO I CRIED AND CRIED, AS IF THIS WERE MY ONLY CHANCE TO GET SOME CRYING DONE. THE SLAP HAD GIVEN ME THE RIGHT TO SHOW MY FEELINGS.

MY MUM IS INCAPABLE OF SAYING SORRY, OR ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS, OR EVEN GIVING ME A HUG.



BUT SHE DID ADMIT SHE'D BEEN WRONG AND THAT WAS A MAJOR VICTORY FOR ME.



LIV STRÖMQUIST

Liv Strömquist is a comics artist and an animator, but also works in radio and TV. Her books are regularly the bestselling graphics novels in Sweden and several of her comics have been made into plays. Strömquist was recently given an honorary doctorate at Malmö University for her efforts as communicator of scientific facts and theories.

Strömquist has a unique storytelling style, where she examines phenomena in our society, often through a feminist lens, discussing directly with the reader. Even though her stories are based on serious themes, she always strives for having each panel contain something humorous, whether in the image or in the text.

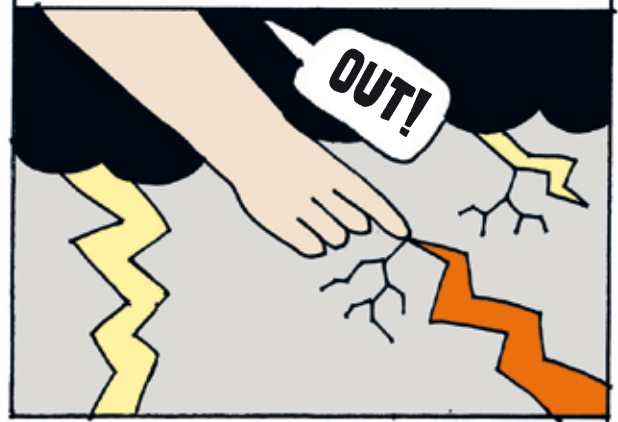
Strömquist has created ten graphic novels, including *Fruit of Knowledge* and *The Reddest Rose Unfolds: Romantic Love from the Ancient Greeks to Reality TV*, which have been translated and published all over the world.

Strömquist has created ten graphic novels, which have been published into 23 languages.

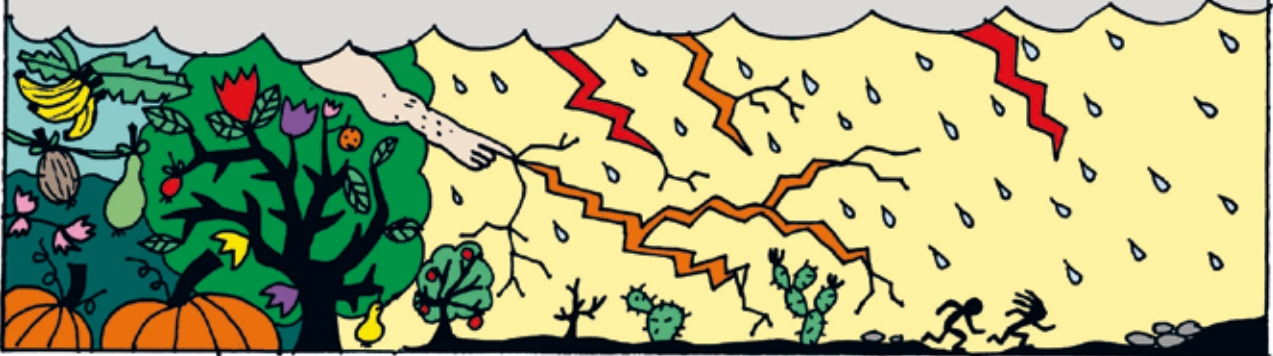
Web: galago.se/forfattare/liv-stromquist
Mail: alessandra@am-book.com
Instagram: @leifstromquist

I ONCE READ THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GUILT AND SHAME IS THAT WE FEEL GUILT FOR SOMETHING WE'VE DONE, BUT WE FEEL SHAME FOR WHAT WE ARE.

When God saw that the humans had eaten the forbidden fruit, he became angry and drove them out of the Garden of Eden.



ADAM AND EVE SAW THAT THEY WERE NAKED. THEY WERE ASHAMED OF THEIR GENITALS. THEY WERE FORCED TO MAKE BIKINIS OUT OF FIG LEAVES.



Eve says:

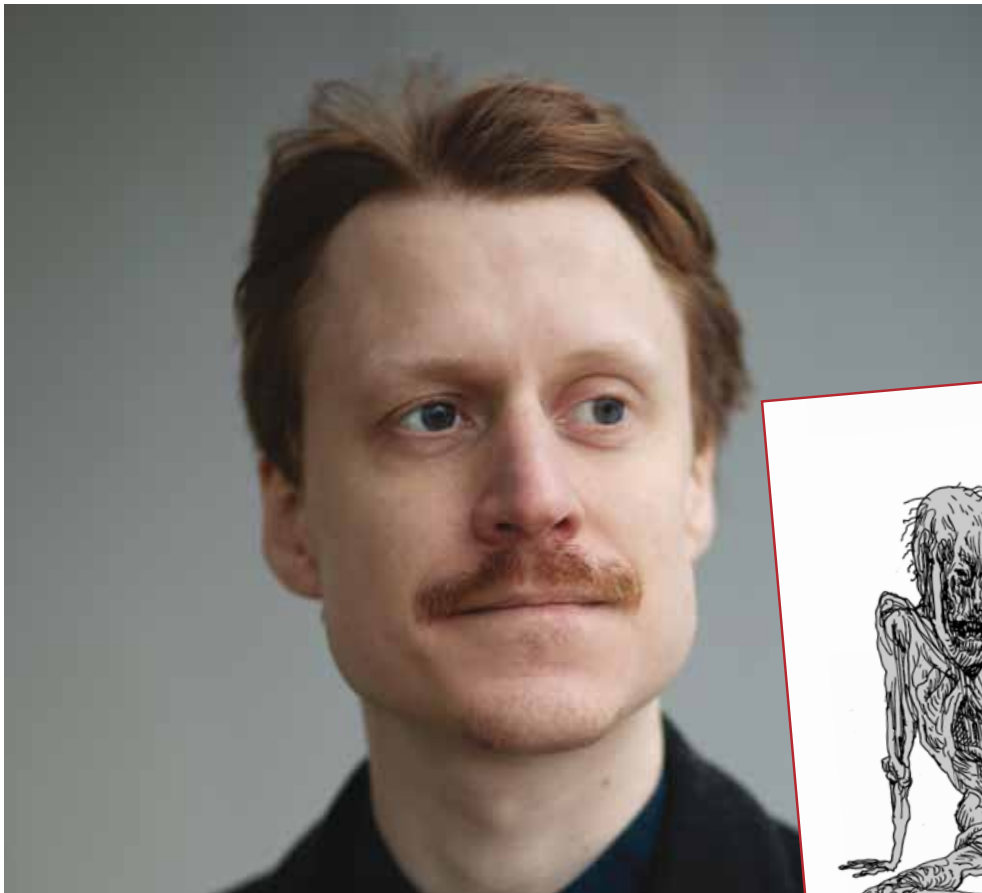
When I got my first period, I didn't dare ask my mom to buy me pads.



Instead, I put toilet paper in my underwear and tried to tape it in place, which obviously didn't work too well.



© Anna Drvnik



ERIK SVETOFT

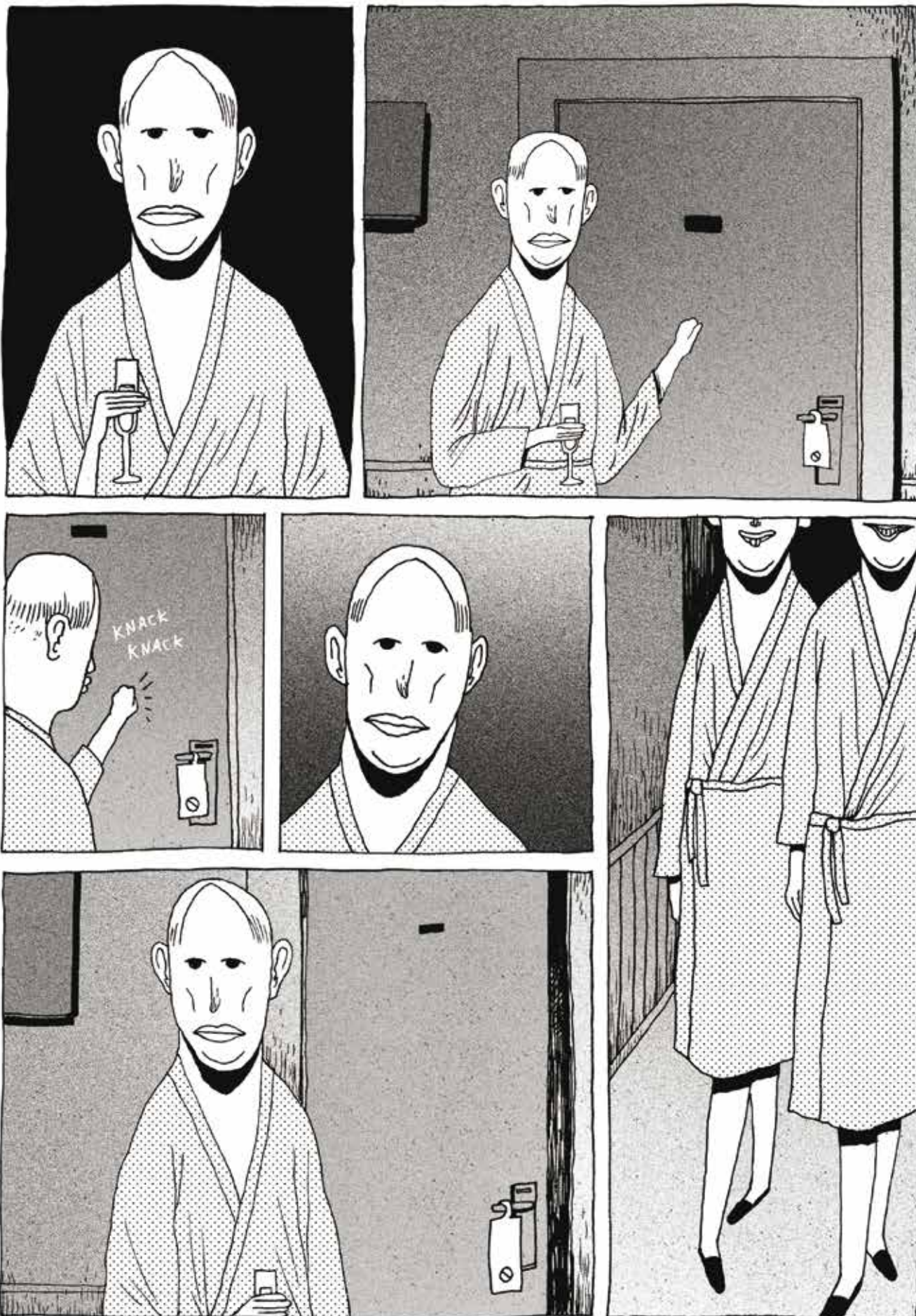
Erik Svetoft is an illustrator, animator, and of course comics artist. He has a classical arts education and creates comics that are like none other. Svetoft's latest book, the graphic novel *Spa*, has been translated all over the world, and a film version is in the works.

Svetoft has a unique, often extremely detailed style, built up from a multitude of thin lines. Svetoft's characters often have exaggerated physiognomies, verging in the grotesque, and his backgrounds are full of details, making you want to peruse each panel for a long time.

Svetoft has published several comics collections, such as *Limbo*, *Hakken*, *Mondo* and *Koloss* – as well as the internationally successful graphic novel *Spa*. So far, *Spa* has been published in Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, and the US.

Some of the comics collections and graphic novels by Erik Svetoft.

Web: eriksvetoft.com
Mail: eriksvetoft@gmail.com
Instagram: [@eriksvetoft](https://www.instagram.com/eriksvetoft)



A page from the critically acclaimed graphic novel *Spa*.

© Johannes Samuelsson



ALMA THÖRN

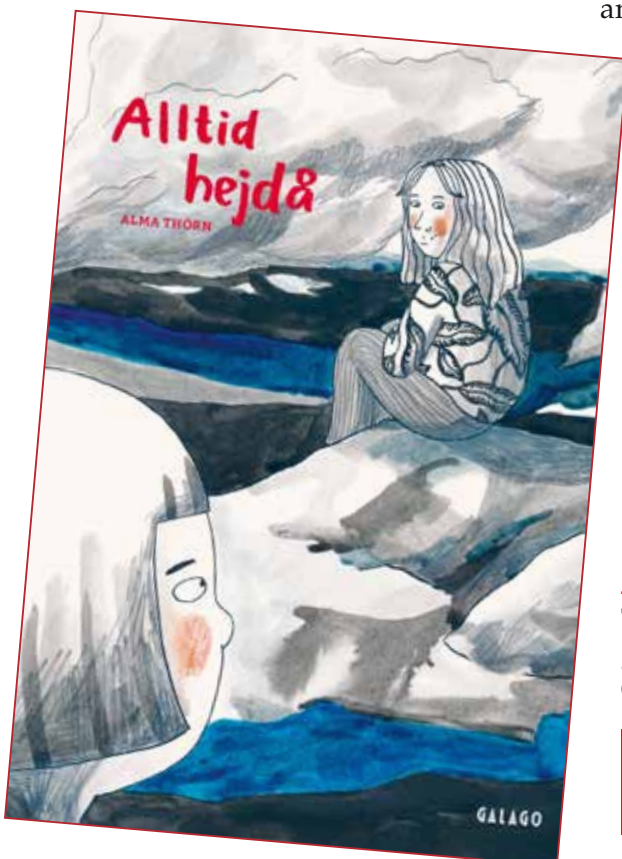
Alma Thörn is a young comics artist who made a great splash with her debut graphic novel *Alltid hejdå* (Always goodbye), which was nominated for the August award – the most highly regarded literary award in Sweden.

The autobiographical and biographical *Alltid hejdå* focuses on the grief and problems that a breakup between parents can cause for their children, as seen through the eyes of Alma, and her mother who experienced the same thing when she was a child.

Alma Thörn tells her heart-wrenching stories in subdued scenes and images. To differentiate between the stories about her mother and those about herself, she uses a sepia tone for the former stories, to great effect.

The graphic novel *Alltid Hejdå* is a hefty volume, weighing in at more than 300 pages.

The cover for the critically acclaimed graphic novel *Alltid hejdå* (Always Goodbye).

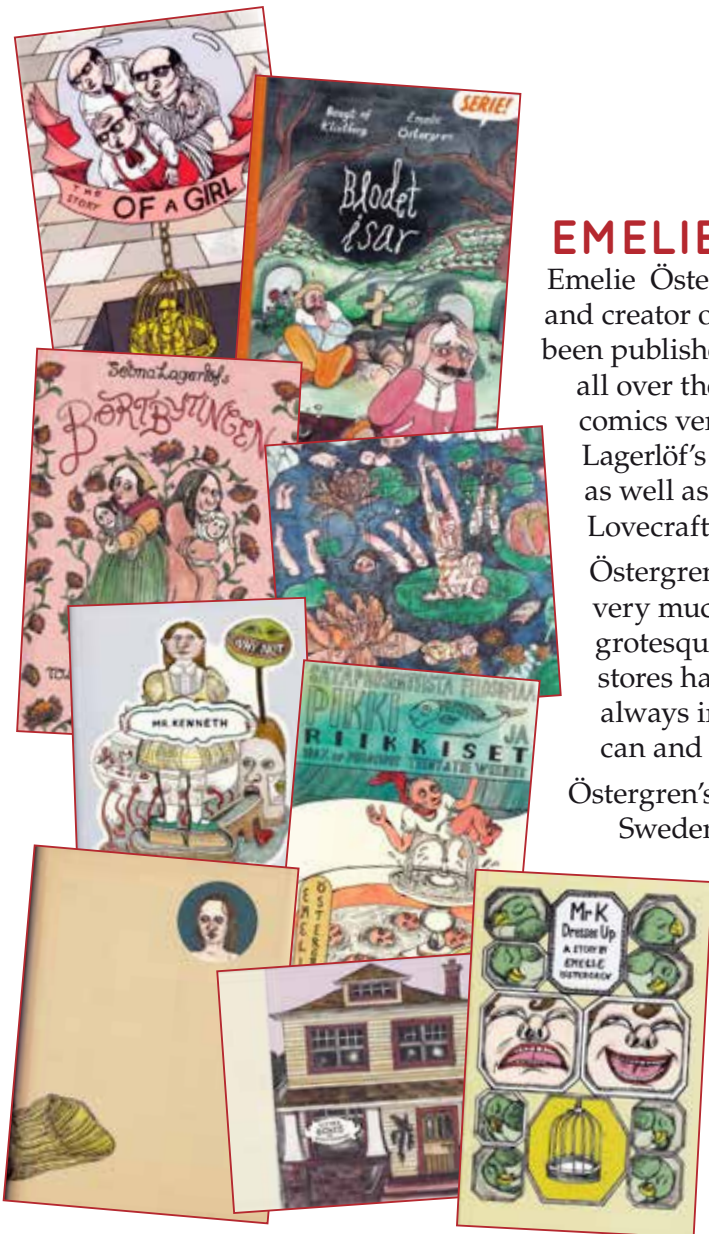


Web: galago.se/forfattare/alma-thorn
Mail: thornalma@gmail.com
Instagram: @almaritarserier



A page from the graphic novel *Alltid hejdå* (Always Goodbye).

© Magnus Liam Karlsson



EMELIE ÖSTERGREN

Emelie Östergren is a comics artist, illustrator and creator of children's books. Her comics have been published in comics magazines and journals all over the world. Östergren has also created comics versions of the Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf's novel *Bortbytingen* (The Changeling) as well as a short story by American author H.P. Lovecraft.

Östergren has an avant-garde style that is very much her own. Her characters are often grotesque with exaggerated features and her stories has a surreal quality, as if the reader is always in Alice's Wonderland and anything can and will happen.

Östergren's books have mostly been published in Sweden, although many of them, especially the more expressive, avant-gardist graphic novels, in English.

Some of all the books by Emelie Östergren.

Web: [emelieostergren](http://emelieostergren.com)
Mail: emelie.ostergren@gmail.com
Instagram: [@sockmonstret](https://www.instagram.com/sockmonstret)



From the book *Little Boxes*.

SWEDISH LITERATURE EXCHANGE

The Swedish Arts Council works to promote Swedish literature and drama in translation. Under the name Swedish Literature Exchange, we do this through grants, information, networking, translator activities, and attendance at book fairs and other meeting places for literature exchange.

Grants for translation of Swedish literature

If you would like to publish a book translated from Swedish you can apply for a grant from the Swedish Arts Council.

The translation grant covers part of the costs for translating Swedish fiction, nonfiction, poetry, children's books, narrative nonfiction and comics/graphic novels. You can also apply to cover licensed stage performances of full length Swedish plays. The applied sum should correspond to the sum agreed with the translator according to the translator contract.

You can also apply for a maximum of SEK 10 000 for production costs for fully illustrated colour illustrated books. but only for fully illustrated four colour picturebooks, non-fiction or comics and graphic novels. Non- or partly illustrated books or books with black and white illustrations (except in some cases, such as comics) are not eligible for production support. The grant cannot cover copyright costs.

Irrespective of genre, the work must be of high quality in terms of both language and literary qualities. The grant is meant to support translation of contemporary works, but could also be given to classics. Priority will be given to introduction of the work of contemporary Swedish authors into languages where there are no or few previous translations of that author's work.

You cannot apply for handbooks, popular psychology, self-help, gardening, cookbooks, travel guides or academic works.

Grants for travel, promotion and themed events

This grant covers a wide range of activities, also in digital format, for example:

- Invite Swedish authors, illustrators, playwrights for book launches, book tours, panel talks, literary festivals – the grant can cover costs for travel, accommodation, performance fees
- Arrange reading events for unpublished books or theatre plays – the grant can cover translation costs for a sample of the text being read, but also for inviting the author, (see above), and for producing material in conjunction with the event.
- Promote the books that might need an extra push – the grant can cover some marketing costs.
- Arrange workshops or seminars for translators from Swedish into other languages – the grant can cover costs for a workshop/seminar leader, guest lecturers, some material costs in conjunction with the workshop/seminar. The length could be a full year or just one or two days.
- Produce publications on Swedish literature and drama – it could be online magazines, blogs, special issues in papers, overviews over the Swedish literary scene. The grant can cover fees for contributors, marketing, some production costs.
- Arrange larger events around Swedish literature, such as a Guest of Honourship at a bookfair or a festival – the grant can cover costs for the invited authors and illustrators, as well as costs for the Swedish stand, and some marketing material and events at the fair/festival.

For more information, see www.swedishliterature.se.

CONTACTS

PUBLISHERS

Albumförlaget

Albumförlaget publishes adventure comics, both translations from French and original comics from Swedish, all in the traditional album format.

albumforlaget.se
jonas@albumforlaget.se

Apart

Apart mainly publishes translations of trade paperbacks in series such as *The Walking Dead* and *Game of Thrones*, but also original Swedish comics.

apartforlag.se
info@apartforlag.se

C'est Bon Kultur

C'est Bon Kultur has published an anthology since 2001, *C'est Bon Anthology*, focused on experimental and innovative works by artists from all over the world.

cestbonkultur.com
info@cestbonkultur.com

Cobolt

Cobolt is a publisher focusing mainly on translating traditional French-Belgian comics albums into Swedish, but also publishes original Swedish comics in the album format.

coboltforlag.se
kontakt@coboltforlag.se

Egmont

The largest publisher of comics in Sweden and Scandinavia. Mainly handles international licenses, such as Disney, but also local Swedish comics.

storyhouseegmont.se

Epix

Epix publishes comics from all over the world and have done so since the 1980s, with a minor part being original Swedish comics.

epix.se

Hegas

A publisher specializing in easy to read books for young readers, including comics.

hegas.se
info@hegas.se

Galago

Galago is one of Sweden's leading publishers of alternative comics collections and graphic novels and has been around since 1979. Their focus is on social realism and political satire and most of their comics are created in Sweden.

galago.se
galago@ordfront.se

Kaunitz-Olsson

Kaunitz-Olsson publishes original Swedish as well as translated graphic novels, but also art books and novels.

kaunitz-olsson.com
thomas@kaunitz-olsson.com

Kartago

Kartago is another major publisher of graphic books with images that conveys both entertaining and intelligent views on contemporary society, books that may inspire new ideas and new thoughts.

kartago.se
kontakt@kartago.se

Lystring

Lystring translates and publishes alternative comics, e.g. the works of Simon Hanselmann.

lystring.com
lytsring@ownit.nu

Mooz

A Swedish subsidiary to the Danish publisher Zoom, focusing on traditional French-Belgian albums.

forlagetzoom.dk
info@forlagetzoom.dk

Natur & Kultur

A major Swedish book publisher, with a section for graphic novels, including books by Henrik Lange.

nok.se
info@nok.se

Nosebleed Studios

Nosebleed Studio is a collective of Swedish manga artists, publishing their own original manga books, as well as how-to-books and translated editions of Asian-inspired comics.

nosebleed-studio.com
contact@nosebleed-studio.com

Placenta

A publishing house focusing on publishing online content including comics, into the book form.

placenta.se
info@placenta.se

Sanatorium

Publishes an eclectic mix of sequential and non-sequential art.

sanatorium.se
info@sanatorium.se

Stevali Kids

Publisher and agent who represents among others, the comics artists Per Demervall, Patric Nyström and Johan Wanloo.

stevali.se
info@stevali.se

ASSOCIATIONS AND AGENTS

AM Book

Am-Book is a literary agency that represents cartoonists, including Swedish artists such as Daria Bogdanska, Henrik Bromander, Simon Gärdenfors, Liv Strömquist and Alma Thörn.

am-book.com
alessandra@am-book.com

Bulls Press

Bulls Press is a syndicate that sells editorial material and commercial rights to newspapers, magazines and publishers.

bulls.se
info@bulls.se

The Comics Archive

The biggest archive for comics history in Northern Europe, situated in Malmö.

seriearkivet.se
kontakt@seriearkivet.se

Dotterbolaget

Dotterbolaget is a feminist comics network for women and transgender people, organising exhibitions and other events.

dotterbolaget.blogspot.se
info@dotterbolaget.com

Grand Agency

A literary agency that represents Swedish comics artists such as Karl Johnsson and Henrik Lange.

grandagency.se
lena@grandagency.se

Rights & Brands

Rights & Brands is an agency that represents several Nordic comics, including Nyström's & Demervall's Siri the Viking.

rightsandbrands.com
info@rightsandbrands.com

Serieteket

Serieteket (The Comics Library) is Sweden's only library devoted to the ninth art. It is the foremost meeting place for comic fans and offers a wide range of comics and art books as well as a vibrant programme with author/artist talks, film screenings and comics in concert.

kulturhusetstadsteatern.se
ola.hellsten@stockholm.se

Strand Comics

An agency specialized in Nordic comics strips, with Swedish artists like Ellen Ekman and Lina Neidestam among their creators.

strandcomics.no
haakon@strandcomics.no

The Swedish Comics Association

The Swedish Comics Association works to spread knowledge about the unique characteristics of comics and develop the Swedish comics culture. The activities of the Association includes publishing the journal *Bild & Bubbla*, presenting comics award Urhunden, organizing festivals, exhibitions, lectures, debates and much more.

serieframjandet.se
info@serieframjandet.se

Tusen Serier

Tusen Serier (A thousand comics) is a project to make Swedish comics culture more inclusive by supporting Swedish artists with an immigrant background.

tusenserier.com
info@tusenserier.com

FESTIVALS

All Swedish comics festivals are free of charge for visitors and welcome international exhibitors.

AltCom

C'est Bon Kultur organises the international comics festival AltCom biannually in Malmö, together with Tusen Serier. The focus is on alternative comics, with an international outlook.

altcomfestival.se
altcomfestival@gmail.com

Malmö Seriefest

Seriefest is organised by a group of independent comics artist and librarians. The focus is on small-press and self-published fanzines, with the booths manned by the artists themselves.

seriefest.blogspot.se
seriefest@gmail.com

Seriefest i väst

Seriefest i väst is a comics festival in the city of Gothenburg, which is organized by the Swedish Comics Association and takes place in the autumn every year,

serieframjandet.se
info@serieframjandet.se

Sis

Stockholms internationella seriefestival (Stockholm International Comics Festival) is the major comics festival in Sweden, organised by Serieteket at Kulturhuset in Stockholm every spring. Apart from a wide variety of public discussions, interviews and lectures it includes the biggest marketplace for comics in Sweden.

seriefestivalen.se
ola.hellsten@stockholm.se

Uppsala Comix

Uppsala Comix is a yearly festival held every spring in the town of Uppsala, with a comics market, signings etc.

uppsalacomix.se
info@uppsalacomix.se

The comics scene in Sweden is incredibly diverse, with hard-hitting autobiography, social realism and political satire as well as engaging science fiction, horror and adventure stories, and much, much more. It's easy to see that comics in Sweden are experiencing a veritable golden age, and the rest of the world is starting to take notice.

This brochure gives you a brief insight into the current state of Swedish comics and provides information on support for translation and projects as well as contact details to publishers, festivals and relevant organisations.

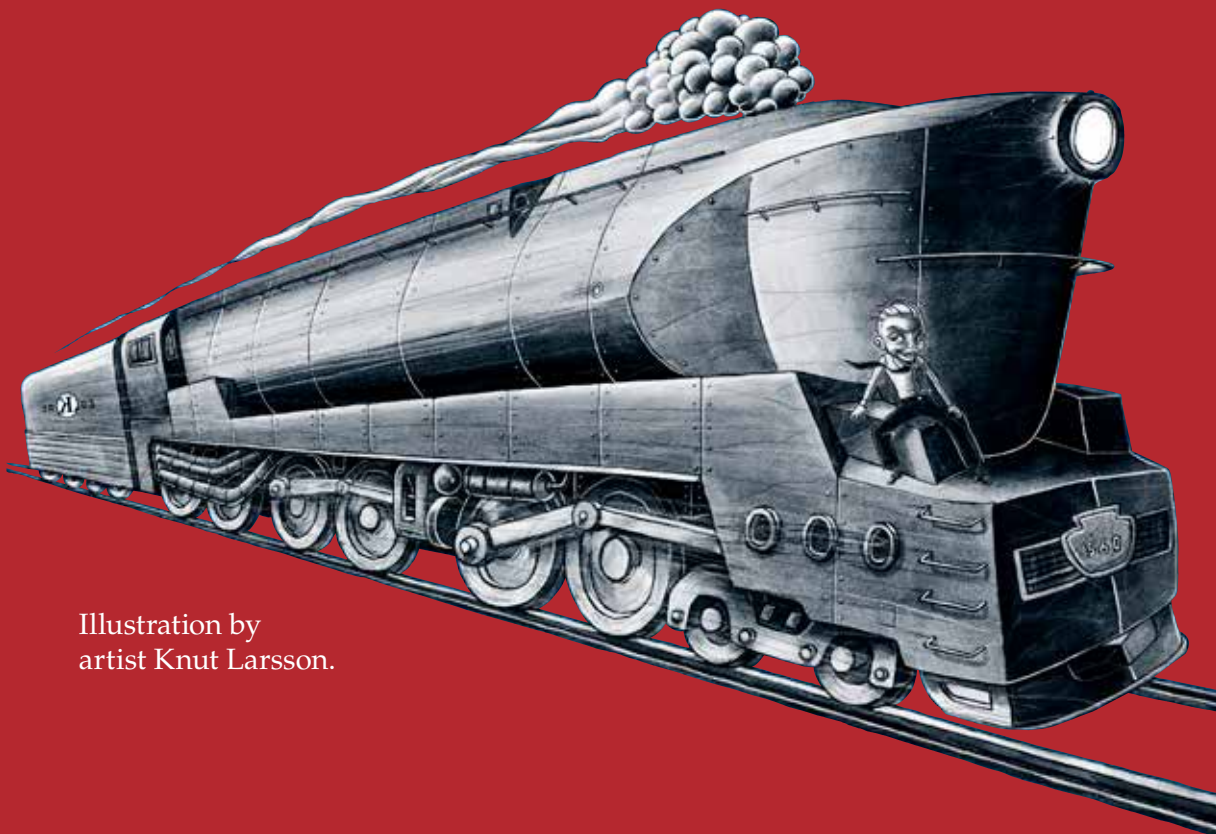


Illustration by
artist Knut Larsson.



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Nordic Council
of Ministers

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ARTSCOUNCIL