



Bonnier Norsk Forlag 2023
567 pages
Original title: *De stjernekyndige*
ISBN: 9788234717413

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Vetle Lid Larssen

The Stargazers



A historical page-turner inspired by actual events. Three men. A dizzying goal. A desperate journey through Norway. In 1767, Maximilian Hell, imperial court astronomer in Vienna, is given a surprising task: To travel as far north and east as it is possible to get in the known world to observe the passage of Venus. It's a 5,000 kilometre journey, under brutal conditions, to the most inhospitable place on Earth, Vardø in Norway, with one overriding goal in mind: to determine the Earth's distance from the sun. It is an expedition that will take several years, equipped with the most advanced technology of the time, followed with a keen eye by the planet's scientific elite, faced with unsolvable problems: logistics, isolation, internal contradictions and violent forces of nature. But Maximilian Hell has God on his side; and the not so successful Norwegian Jens Finne Borchgrevink as his personal guide.

'Simply put a very good novel.'

- Nettavisen

'A rare event. Vetle Lid Larssen is superb at capturing the spirit of the times through language, characters, details, thoughts, smells and moods.'

- Dagbladet

'A wild novel.'

- VG

'An adventurous story about brilliant and ambitious people in a very demanding environment.'

- Adresseavisen

'God, power, prestige and a breakneck expedition. These are the ingredients of Vetle Lid Larssen's successful novel.'

- Vårt Land

Vetle Lid Larssen

Vetle Lid Larssen has written several essays and novels. Including the bestselling docudrama *1001 night*, the autobiographical *How to love a father – and survive*, the historic epic *The last travel of Lucy* – which was Norway's third most sold novel in 2021 – and in 2023 the critically acclaimed *The Stargazers* with three months on the bestsellerlists.



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