



Tiden Norsk forlag 2016
170 pages
Original title: *Det som en gang var jord*

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AWARDS

2006 Nordic Council Children and Young
People's Literature Prize

OTHER TITLES

2003: Den veven av hendelser vi kaller verden
2005: Krusedullen
2006: Gjengangeren
2008: Mnem
2009: Barsakh : Emilie, Samuel og Gran
Canaria
2012: En fremmed i verden
2012: Verdensredderne
2014: De som ikke finnes

Simon Stranger

What Once Was Earth

The city is occupied, with a wall put up around it. Only a minimum of groceries is let through. There is no way out or in, except one. Secretly, Mikael is digging a tunnel to the other side. No one has any need for his doctorate, but he can dig, and he can carry his weight.

When the tunnel opens, the city blossoms once again. The citizens have food to choose from, and Mikael sees a glimmer of joy in the eyes of Miriam and Isak, his wife and their eight year old son. Maybe their love might still survive.

The hope to escape and start over is awoken, but, as the possibility emerges, Mikael, too, has to make a choice of renouncing everything he stands for.

But in the situation he is in, is there really any choice?

What Once Was Earth describes a world not unlike our own. It is a story about not letting go, about the longing for what is lost, and about keeping hope, even in the darkest darkness.

«A magnificent piece of art, the novel reads like a chamber play in 17 chapters and three sections, with a nuclear family constituting the three main actors.

The language is sparse, transparent, and the plot thrilling, emotionally as well as physically.»

- Jan Askelund, Stavanger Aftenblad

Simon Stranger

Since his debut in 2003, *Den veven av hendelser vi kaller verden* (That Web of Incidents We Call the World), Simon Stranger (born 1976) has written a number of novels and books for youngsters, been nominated for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize for *De som ikke finnes* (Those Who Don't Exist), and translated into twelve languages. *What Once Was Earth* is his ninth book.



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