



Gyldendal Norsk Forlag 2018  
320 pages  
Original title: *De opplyste*

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#### OTHER TITLES

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Zombie Nation (2014)  
The Necromancer (2011)

Øystein Stene

## *The Enlightened*

The story takes place in a time where battle lines are drawn between believers and non-believers, where adherents of all religions have banded together against humanist atheists. All over the world, a battle is raging over truth and untruth, belief and doubt, life and death. Through the destinies of different characters, **The Enlightened** paints a multifaceted picture of the new world order, of people trapped in a network of ideologies and dogmas. What gradually emerges out of this narrative is no less than the possibility of humanity's shared existence.

**The Enlightened** can be read either as a utopia or dystopia, as an interweaving narrative, a mystery novel, or a collection of stories all dealing with the eternal question: Is there a God? Øystein Stene's existential zombie novel, *Zombie Nation* (2014) received rave reviews when it came out, and sold to the French publisher Actes Sud and the Polish press Zysk. In *The Enlightened*, the author again creates an alternative reality, a platform for the "big questions" about a topic that is relevant as never before

## Øystein Stene

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Øystein Stene (b. 1969) is a writer, playwright and director. He made his fiction debut with *Master of Patience* in 2003, which was followed up with *The Bearer of Shame* (2006) and *The Necromancer* (2011). In 2014 he published the acclaimed *Zombie Nation*. He has written and directed stage plays and feature movies, as well as a book on the history and art of acting. He teaches at The Academy of Theatre in Oslo.



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