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Original title: *Stella Polaris*
A book in the *Håkon Haakonsen series*
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Myriam H. Bjerkli

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Stella Polaris

A book in the Håkon Haakonsen series

The couple Stella and Aleksander are trapped in a relationship filled with constant arguments and alcohol. One day, when Stella goes to pick up their son from kindergarten, the child welfare services have already been there before her. Drunk and desperate, Stella decides to find her son, and she takes Aleksander's car. It's a decision that will cost the small family dearly. The accident she causes sends Aleksander to prison, and Stella into the arms of a stranger. But she is a mother, and a mother will do anything to get her child back. What neither of them knows is that someone is carefully watching their every move...

The book is easy to read and captivating, pulling you in from the very first page. Whether you're looking for a quick read with a well-told story or a solid crime novel, this is great reading. The language is excellent, and the story is hard to put down.

- Therese Eskelund, Østlandsposten

... a powerful yet realistic close-up of people with destructive and derailed emotional lives, where each individual, in their own way, appears both as a manipulative perpetrator and a victim.

- Finn Stenstad, Tønsberg Blad

It is simply a joy to read Bjerkli's new book. It is a chilling, realistic, and believable crime novel, a rare masterpiece. One can almost feel the drama and seriousness that unfolds between the covers. It's so well-written that I felt my pulse quicken and the hairs on my neck stand up.

- Simen Ingemundsen, Bygdebladet

Myriam H. Bjerkli's new crime novel is a true child welfare thriller. The tension is there from the very first page, a creeping sense of unease...

- Tarald Aano, Stavanger Aftenblad

With this book, Myriam Bjerkli has established herself at the forefront of our authors, blending crime with meaningful novels that offer a female perspective. Myriam Bjerkli writes well, wrapping the plot in an exciting and highly fascinating story.

- Kjell Moe, Kulturspeilet

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www.bjerkli.no

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After previously publishing four other books, Myriam H. Bjerkli made her debut as a crime author in March 2017 with the novel *Little Wagtail*, a book that was nominated for the Maurits Hansen Prize – New Blood.



In February 2019 “Stella Polaris” was released, which was nominated for the "Silver Knife" – a crime award given annually during the crime festival "Bloody Serious in the Village" in Randaberg.

She was also nominated for the same prize in 2022 for her next novel, “The Fall of the Angel”, and in 2023, she was awarded the prize for “Green-eyed Monster.”

“Green-eyed Monster” was also nominated for the Riverton Prize that same year.

Bjerkli has contributed to several anthologies, journals, and newspapers with interviews, poems, short stories, and essays, and has won various writing competitions. Among her wins were NRK’s Easter Crime Serial competition in 2003, NRK P2’s SMS Poetry competition in 2004, and NRK/Bokprogrammet’s Poetry competition in 2006.

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