



Tiden Norsk forlag 2016  
380 pages  
Original title: *Et godt liv*

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Please contact:  
Richard Aarø  
Tiden Norsk forlag  
richard.aaro@tiden.no

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#### AWARDS

Arne Hestenes Journalist Award (2000)  
Tiden Publishing Prize 2004  
The Great Journalist Prize 2005

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#### OTHER TITLES

Bisettelsen har funnet sted (2002)  
Trøst (2004)  
En liten historie om lengsel (2007)  
Den andre (2010)  
Døde fedre-biografier og memoarer (2012)  
Bryllup og begravelser (2013)



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Jens M. Johansson

## *A Good Life*

Jens M. Johansson's big breakthrough in Norway, shamelessly praised by critics and readers are already calling the novel a Norwegian Elena Ferrante.

The novel revolves around Else. We follow her from when she is born on the day before the Second World War breaks out, and to her death. Simon is the narrator. He is married to Else's youngest daughter. Katja has always been furious with her mother. And now – when Katja and Simon's marriage is falling apart – he starts to piece together Else's forgotten life. Simon's pursuit through letters, diaries, small notes and receipts gradually becomes more desperate. He has to understand Else in order to understand Katja, to save their marriage. But most importantly – he is afraid he will inflict his son Leon with the unhappiness he feels in his own marriage. The novel describes Else's social climb and a world in quick transformation: a world war, a sexual revolution. It shows how minor details are crucial to a human's destiny. It is a book about the fragile choices we make in our lives, about expectations and betrayal. And a moving story about love, marriage, family and a sense of belonging.

*«Jens M. Johansson's new novel is an intense, wellwritten, well-documented story of our fragile lives, our longing for meaning and love. Look forward to a deep and meaningful reading experience!»*

- VG

*«A good life is a brilliant novel. It should be Jens M. Johansson's big breakthrough.»*

- NRK

*«Jens M. Johansson writes with a deep understanding of life's central questions. With this novel, he positions himself as one of the leading novelists in today's Norway.»*

- Dag og Tid

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- Dag og Tid

## Jens M. Johansson

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Jens M. Johansson (born 1971) made his debut in 2002. In 2013 he published *Bryllup og begravelser* (Weddings and Funerals), which was named best book of the year by many critics. *A Good Life* is his fifth novel.



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