



Johan Harstad

Max, Mischa and the Tet Offensive



Friendship, exile, love, war and art: Johan Harstad's breathtaking new epic has it all.

Max Hansen is sleepless in the Midwest. He is a theatre director on tour across the US. It's possible that he has turned into an American. He hasn't been home for over 20 years.

If it was up to him he would never have left the place he was born, a suburb to Stavanger on the west coast of Norway, where kids could make as much noise as they wanted while their fathers were working on the oil rigs in the North Sea, and where a heavy silence descended on the houses when they returned. But no one gets what they want.

Max, Mischa and the Tet Offensive is a novel about the applicability of Vietnamese guerilla warfare in everyday life, about those who have been to war and those who have demonstrated against them: about hyperrealist paintings of washing machines and girls who look like Shelley Duvall; about the sun out on Fire Island and a sought-after working copy of *Apocalypse Now*. But more than anything this is a novel about the question anyone who has ever left home sooner or later has to ask himself: How long do you have to be away before it becomes too late to go home?

Open your eyes wide! This is a novel which aims high, overflowing with the joy of storytelling, sharp reflections and a deep knowledge of the human being (...) Brutally clever!

6 out of 6 stars
- VG, NO

A gigantic novel about war, love, flight and art which takes your breath away (...) Harstad brings to life the most complex themes with a literary ease, orality and originality which make this a hypnotical read.(6 out of 6 stars)

- Dagbladet, NO

A novel can do so many interesting things to you. It can induce laughter and tears, reflection and doubt, forgetting and remembering, understanding and empathy, impatience and irritation. Harstad's novel does all of this. I have only one thing to say: Respect!

- Aftenposten, NO

Johan Harstad creates magic with the novel's epic possibilities. (...) There are many types of novels, and then there's - I'm tempted to say -

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AWARDS

The National Ibsen Award 2014 for the play *Osv*.
The Oslo Award 2012
The Brage Award 2008
The Youth Critic's Award 2007
Bjørnson-scholarship 2003

OTHER TITLES

Blissard - En bok om Motorpsycho, non-fiction
(Falck Forlag) 2012

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Osv., play 2010
Bsider, plays & texts 2008
Darlah – 172 timer på månen, novel (Cappelen Damm) 2008
Hasselby, novel 2007
Buzz Aldrin, hvor ble det av deg i alt mylderet?, novel 2005
Ambulanse, short stories 2002
Herfra blir du bare eldre, texts 2001

Norwegian Johan Harstad's 1,066 pages long Max, Mischa & The Tet Offensive. (...) Goddamn impressive.

6 out of 6 stars

- Politiken, DK

Max, Mischa & The Tet Offensive is not a single page too long. (...) Johan Harstad has an admirable ability to convey social and cultural inspirations that over the years form Max's view of the world and itself. (...)

- Weekendavisen, DK

This year's Great American Novel is written by a Norwegian. (...) The novel contains all the elements that characterize a classic, and then some, for the author and playwright Johan Harstad is a rarely generous person. The novel (...), and it's not a page or a paragraph too much.

6 out of 6 stars

- Jyllands-Posten, DK

An engrossing novel that makes you work for it and leaves you exhausted, but impressed.

- De Volkskrant, NL

The literary event of the year.

5 out of 5 stars

- Het Nieuwsblad, NL

It's entertaining and smart, compassionate and cheeky, sharp and rousing – simply a great novel.

- Deutschlandfunk Kultur

[A] new In Search of a Lost Time, a double Buddenbrooks for the very last generation, who was a child in the pre-digital age and who wrote letters to their parents from the holiday camp and played their favorite films on clunky VHS-tapes.

- Die Zeit

Harstad's novel moves powerfully and effortlessly between Norway and America and redefines the relationship of home, belonging and identity. Max, Mischa & the Tet-offensive is ambitiously constructed and spectacular in style.

- Fatin Abbas, author of The Interventionists

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Johan Harstad

Johan Harstad (b. 1979) offers a wholly original voice and is one of the most obvious talents published by Gyldendal for many years. He made his debut 21 years old, with a contribution to the anthology *Postboks 6860* in 2000, releasing his first collection of prose works, *From here on you just get older*, in 2001. Then followed a collection of short stories, *Ambulance*, in 2002 received with critical acclaim.

In 2005 he published his first novel, *Buzz Aldrin, what happened to you in all the confusion?*, which was later adapted into a TV-series. Another novel *Hässelby*, followed in 2007. In 2009 Johan Harstad was employed as the first house play write at Norway's Nationaltheatret. He has published two volumes of plays, *BSIDES*, 2008 and *Etc.*, 2010. Translation rights to Harstad's previous titles have been sold to 22 countries.

