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 NORLA Selection

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Jan Roar Leikvoll

## *The bovara monastery*



Fantastic novel set in an Italian monastery

Jan Roar Leikvoll has been compared to international writers such as Cormac McCarthy, and his uncompromising and critically acclaimed authorship is among of the most exciting literature in Norway. With *The Bovara Monastery* Leikvoll completes his three first novels, that started with *Eit vintereventyr* (*A Winter Story*, 2008) and *Fiolinane* (*The Violins*, 2010).

The critics wrote: "Totally ruthless! Joyless gnawing of bones, callous copulation and unrestrained brutality. A masterpiece that cuts to the marrow. Jan Roar Leikvoll is a blazing literary talent." 6 on the dice (the daily VG).

Frrok is a gardener in a monastery in the village called Bovara. When his friend Fiori abandons gardening in order to work on a book in the tower, Frrok is left alone with the harvesting and keeping the garden in order. His whole life turns upside down when a young prostitute from the village knocks on the monastery door and asks for Fiori. Frrok decides to help her. He hides her in the cellar, and suddenly realizes that he has the power over life and death.

English sample translation available

## Jan Roar Leikvoll

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Jan Roar Leikvoll (1974-2014) had, despite his depiction of dreadfulness and humiliation in his first two novels, managed to give the main character hope and vision.

Leikvoll had an authorship with an assured style. He attended the writer's academy in Bergen.

*The Bovara Monastery* is a fantastic novel about power, betrayal and love. Once again Leikvoll combines the beautiful with the gruesome in a uniquely original novel within Norwegian literature.

Leikvoll won considerable attention for his two previous novels – and in this novel he demonstrated once again that he was an original storyteller who dared to follow his own paths.



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