

Stilton Literary Agency



Twin Fever

Original title: Tvillingfeber
Publisher: Samlaget 1998
Fiction / Novel

I just wanted to include a note about Brit's novel *Tvillingfeber* (Twin Fever) as well, as this is the book that initially sparked my interest in her writing. I first learned about Bildøen when a Norwegian editor handed me *Twin Fever*, which won both the Oslo and the Nynorsk Literature prizes and was further nominated for the Brage Prize for Norwegian literature in 1998. The novel portrays the nearly wordless relationship between a lonely Norwegian woman, Ida, and her great uncle at their summer cabin on a west Norwegian fjord over a period of time when Ida discovers from an old photograph that, along with her parents who went missing on an African development mission when she was a young child, she may also have had a twin sister that she never knew about.

The novel unfolds quietly, beautifully, as Ida struggles to deal with the meaning of her possible twin, of her missing family and of what it means to be alone with only a stoic Norwegian uncle and an unsolved family mystery. I was impressed at the subdued nature of the relationships portrayed in the short novel, the sensitivity to detail that captures the delicate atmosphere of modern characters, and the distinct Norwegian-ness of the story. As a foreigner reader, one comes away from *Twin Fever* with a taste of bracken sea salt and Norwegian gjeitost lingering among the senses, yet at the same time it is possible to identify with the very human emotions and reactions of Bildøen's contemporary characters.

-Becky Crook (Translator)

Brit Bildøen

Brit Bildøen (b. 1962) made her literary debut in 1991. In 1998 she had her literary breakthrough with the novel *Tvillingfeber* (Twin fever). For this she was nominated to the Brage Award for best novel and awarded the Oslo prize and Nynorsk literary Award. For her third novel, *Landfastlykke* (Landlocked), 2001, she was awarded the Melsom Prize and Sigmund Skard-scholarship. Both *Alt som er* (All there is), 2004, and *Mitt milde vesen* (My gentle self), 2006, have been praised by the critics. Her novel, *Seven Days in August* was longlisted for Dublin International Lit. Awards, and won the prestigious P2-lytternes Novel Prize 2014. In August 2020 she was awarded the Amalie Skram Prize. Bildøen has translated several novels and children's books, and is also a children's books author herself. In 2023 she was awarded with the Dobloug prize for her entire authorship.

Other titles

Yellow Warning (2023)
Across Land and Sea: A year with migratory birds (2020, September)
Three roads to the sea (2018)
Seven Days in August (2014)
Adam Hiort's Journey (2011)
Literary Salon (2009)
My gentle self (2006)
All there is (2004)
Landlocked Happiness (2001)