



Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was: A Novel

By Sjón

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Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was: A Novel By Sjón

The mind-bending miniature historical epic is Sjón's specialty, and *Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was* is no exception. But it is also Sjón's most realistic, accessible, and heartfelt work yet. It is the story of a young man on the fringes of a society that is itself at the fringes of the world--at what seems like history's most tumultuous, perhaps ultimate moment.

Máni Steinn is queer in a society in which the idea of homosexuality is beyond the furthest extreme. His city, Reykjavik in 1918, is homogeneous and isolated and seems entirely defenseless against the Spanish flu, which has already torn through Europe, Asia, and North America and is now lapping up on Iceland's shores. And if the flu doesn't do it, there's always the threat that war will spread all the way north. And yet the outside world has also brought Icelanders cinema! And there's nothing like a dark, silent room with a film from Europe flickering on the screen to help you escape from the overwhelming threats--and adventures--of the night, to transport you, to make you feel like everything is going to be all right. For Máni Steinn, the question is whether, at Reykjavik's darkest hour, he should retreat all the way into this imaginary world, or if he should engage with the society that has so soundly rejected him.

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Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was: A Novel By Sjón Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“*Moonstone* is Sjón’s slim, simmering masterpiece. Vibrant and visceral, briskly paced but meditative, unsettling yet droll and flecked with beauty, it is a pitch-perfect study of transgression, survival, and love.”

?**David Mitchell**

“Sjón’s *Moonstone* is a marvel of a novel, queer in every sense of the word?an impeccable little gem.”

?**Rabih Alameddine**

“[Sjón’s] prose is full of striking and poetic scenes . . . [*Moonstone*] resonates both as an allegory about society and sex, as well as a historical glimpse of a time when pandemic and war pressed upon Iceland from the south.”

?**Publishers Weekly**

“Concise, magical, and elegiac . . . Sjón is a minimalist genius, achieving so much with so little. And this work is brilliantly translated.”

?**Brian Kenney, *Booklist***

"*Moonstone* is a slender but beautifully wrought novel, rich with meaning and interpretations that reward the reader's patience . . . Sjón has achieved a tremendous feat of empathy and understanding."

?**Dale Boyer, *The Gay & Lesbian Review***

“[Sjón] delivers a quiet but compelling literary intervention into Iceland’s past . . . Written in magically incantatory prose.”

?**Nathan Smith, *Lambda Literary***

“This small, strange, disquieting novel lingers in the mind for a long time.”

?**Kerryn Goldsworthy, *The Sydney Morning Herald***

“A glittering fable of sex and cinema . . . Though [*Moonstone*] is a deeply felt novel, Sjón’s prose is never histrionic or overwrought, balancing rage and hallucination (there are echoes of Artaud and Ballard) with a gentleness of spirit, an affection for precision and the small scale. The result is sure to delight his fans and convert many new ones.”

?**Hari Kunzru, *The Guardian***

“The Icelandic novelist Sjón has already written three elegant, troubling historical fables?a kind of surrealist world history?and in his new novel *Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was*, translated by Victoria Cribb, he’s up to something at once similar and more uncanny. It tells the story of Máni Steinn, a gay man in Reykjavík in 1918. But it’s really an homage to the dreamlike aesthetic of Sjón’s artistic ancestry?presided over by Louis Feuillade’s great silent movie serial, *Les Vampires*.”

?**Adam Thirlwell, *The Times Literary Supplement***

“A magical book, the work of a great illusionist. You see the historical moment unfurl, luminous with desire and imagination and the flames of an erupting volcano, dark with repression, disease and death. You see it all through the poetic, poignant images of Máni Steinn’s story. And then in a final flourish you see it all vanish in a way that makes it unforgettable.”

?Adam Foulds

“We should count ourselves fortunate to live in the age of Sjón?and double lucky for the lyrical English translations of his work by Victoria Cribb. For the past three decades the Icelandic author has been steadily building up an oeuvre that is never less than unpredictable, disarming and visionary . . . When Mani dreams, or slips into influenza’s feverish hallucinations, his visions of facial features, erotic encounters and the collision of the human and the technical operate in the same register as Luis Bunuel’s *Un Chien Andalou* or Hans Richter’s *Ghosts Before Breakfast* . . . Such magic is always handled by Sjón with restraint so that it seems as natural as the book’s quotidian details, those fine-grained descriptions of life in an town that, overnight, can find itself blanketed with volcanic ash, turning the world as hushed and monochromatic as the frames from a silent film.”

?Patrick Flanery, *The Times Literary Supplement*

“*Moonstone* is in some ways Sjón’s most straightforward book?but there is a wonderful netherworld quality to its ashen Reykjavík . . . Sjón’s work borders not only Bulgakov’s but also that of Jose Saramago.”

?Chris Power, *The New Statesman*

“A masterful, intricately woven story with unforgettable images, an intense style, and a unique hero. The reading experience of the year.”

?*Frettabladid* [Iceland]

“*Moonstone* is an eclectic display of light and shadows, beaming from the burning hot projection booth of a master illusionist.”

?Úlfhildur Dagsdóttir, *literature.is* [Iceland]

“Novel of the year.”

?Kolbrun Bergthosdottir, *Mordunbladið Daily* [Iceland]

“[*Moonstone*] can be read again and again, and still one can find something new. The text is clear, accessible, and very readable. There is never a redundant word and every one of them is carefully chosen. The story is written with great artistry as the author plays with rhythm, perception and the boundaries of realism and surrealism. If there is anything to criticize, it is how the author makes it hard for us to put the book down, not because there is something left unsaid, but simply because it is a joy to read. An amazing book.”

?Ingibjorg Dogg Kjartansdottir, *DV Daily*

About the Author

Sjón is the author of, among other works, *The Blue Fox*, *From the Mouth of the Whale*, and *The Whispering Muse*. Born in Reykjavík in 1962, he is an award-winning novelist, poet, and playwright, and his novels have been translated into thirty-five languages. Alongside his work as a writer, Sjón has taken part in a wide range of art exhibitions and music events. His longtime collaboration with the Icelandic singer Björk led to an Oscar nomination for his lyrics for the Lars von Trier movie *Dancer in the Dark*. He lives in Reykjavík.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dirk Sullivan:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to

fill your current free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was: A Novel can be very good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Jerry Linton:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer may unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was: A Novel.

Sandra McLean:

Within this era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list is usually Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was: A Novel. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

James Williams:

Guide is one of source of expertise. We can add our understanding from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen need book to know the revise information of year in order to year. As we know those publications have many advantages. Beside most of us add our knowledge, also can bring us to around the world. From the book Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was: A Novel we can get more advantage. Don't that you be creative people? To become creative person must want to read a book. Merely choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't end up being doubt to change your life with this book Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was: A Novel. You can more appealing than now.

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