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## The Cold Song Linn Ullmann

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The Cold Song Graywolf Press

The island of Otterøy, a rural backwater of Norway, provides the setting for Book Two of Tiller's multi-award winning Encircling trilogy. Its singular premise continues: an enigmatic central character, David, has lost his memory and his friends and family write letters at the

behest of his psychiatrist about the lives they once USA

shared. The encircling narratives offered by two childhood friends and the midwife who attended his birth, reveal both the roots of his waywardness and, in a shocking twist, the traumatic secret of his identity. Tiller uses a carefully scored polyphony of voices to present this epic saga of dysfunctional lives misshapen by poverty. As in the work of our own Ken Loach or Mike Leigh, its strength lies in its close domestic focus.

Encircling: Book 2 is an intimate and modern portrait of Norwegian life that is both searingly honest and uncomfortably true. Encircling 2 is the second volume of a multi-award winning trilogy, published to acclaim in Norway.

Brains Through Time Oxford University Press,

The brilliant first novel in the Encircling Trilogy, a searing psychological portrait of a man by his friends David has lost his memory. When a newspaper ad asks his friends and family to share their memories of him, three respond: Jon, his closest friend; Silje, his teenage girlfriend; and Arvid, his estranged stepfather. Their letters reveal David's early life in the small town of Namsos, full of teenage rebellion, the uncertainties of first love, and intense experiments in art and music. As the narrative circles ever closer to David, the letters interweave with scenes from the present day, and it becomes less and less clear what to believe. Jon's and Silje's adult lives have run aground on thwarted ambition and failed intimacy, and Arvid has had a

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lonely struggle with cancer. Each has suspect motives for writing, and soon a contradictory picture of David emerges. Whose remembrance of him is right? Or do they all hold some fragment of the truth? Carl Frode Tiller's masterful opening novel to the Encircling Trilogy won the European Prize for Literature, the English PEN Award, and the Hunger Prize. Encircling, with David as its brooding central enigma, confronts the relativity of memory in an audacious and daring novel that reveals the shape of a life and leaves us wanting more.

#### The Cold Song Head of Zeus Ltd

In this antic riff on Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*, the Reverend Tom Marshfield, a latter-day Arthur Dimmesdale, is sent west from his Midwestern parish in sexual disgrace. At a desert retreat dedicated to rest, recreation, and spiritual renewal, this fortyish serial fornicator is required to keep a journal whose thirty-one weekly entries constitute the book you now hold in your hand. In his wonderfully overwrought style he lays bare his soul and his past—his marriage to the daughter of his ethics professor, his affair with his organist, his antipathetic conversations with his senile father and his bisexual curate, his golf scores, his poker hands, his Biblical exegeses, and his smoldering desire for the directress of the retreat, the impregnable Ms. Prynne. A

testament for our times.

#### *Looking for Mr. Goodbar* Other Press, LLC

In a saga sparkling with wisdom, wit and style, Linn Ullmann explores the emotional terrain of marriage and motherhood with wicked humour and a tender eye for human frailty. 'Striking . . . a haunted, melancholy story of wandering parents and wayward children, and the ways they permeate one another's past and future' Sylvia Brownrigg, Independent 'A wonderful novel . . . Ullmann has an extraordinary touch' Gaby Wood, Observer 'A seriously well-written meditation on seduction, family, and the need to find a home. It ranges in style from carnivalesque debauchery to stone-cold, limpid realism, all apparently glittering with an insouciant application of fantasy' Herald

#### *Mother, Mother* Hamish Hamilton

Every summer throughout their childhood, Erika, Molly and Laura, half-sisters by different mothers, gather on the magical Baltic island of Hammarso to stay with their charismatic father, Isak. Until one year when a childhood betrayal causes an incident of such senseless cruelty that it alters forever each sister's life.

#### *Unquiet: A Novel* Penguin

Winner of the Cervantes Prize Carlos Fuentes, one of the world's most acclaimed authors, is at the height of his powers in this stunning new novel—a magnificent epic of passion, magic, and desire in modern Mexico, a rich and remarkable tapestry set in a world where free will fights with the wishes of the gods. Josu é Nadal has lost more than his innocence: He has been robbed of his life—and his posthumous narration sets the tone for a brilliantly written novel that blends mysticism and realism. Josu é tells of his fateful meeting as a skinny, awkward teen with Jeric ó, the vigorous boy who will become his twin, his best friend, and his shadow. Both orphans, the two young men intend to spend their lives in intellectual pursuit—until they enter an adult landscape of sex, crime, and ambition that will test their pledge and alter their lives forever. Idealistic Josu é goes to work for a high-tech visionary whose stunning assistant will introduce him to a life of desire; cynical Jeric ó is enlisted by the Mexican president in a scheme to sell happiness to the impoverished masses.

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On his journey into a web of illegality in which he will be estranged from Jericó, Josué is aided and impeded by a cast of unforgettable characters: a mad, imprisoned murderer with a warning of revenge, an elegant aviatrix and addict seeking to be saved, a prostitute shared by both men who may have murdered her way into a brilliant marriage, and the prophet Ezekiel himself. Mixing ancient mythologies with the sensuousness and avarice and need of the twenty-first century, *Destiny and Desire* is a monumental achievement from one of the masters of contemporary literature.

*The Last One* Simon and Schuster  
In a hospital bed, small-time private detective Ray Lovell veers between paralysis and delirium. But before the accident that landed him there, he'd been hired to find Rose Janko, the estranged daughter of a traveling Gypsy family, who went missing seven years earlier. Half Romany himself, Ray is well aware that he's been chosen more for his blood than for his investigative skills. Still, he's surprised by the intense hostility he

encounters from the Jankos, who haven't had an easy past. Touched by tragedy, they're either cursed or hiding a terrible secret—the discovery of which Ray can't help suspecting is connected to Rose's disappearance... Seamlessly toggling between Ray's past and present, and the perspective of the missing woman's young nephew JJ, Stef Penney builds a gripping page-turner that doesn't let go until its shocking end.

Lawn Boy Bloomsbury Publishing USA

“If *Catcher in the Rye* has lost its raw clout for recent generations of Internet-suckled American youth, here is a coming-of-age novel to replace it.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) The first days of summer: Jim Praley is home from college, ready to unlock Tulsa's secrets. He drives the highways. He forces himself to get out of his car and walk into a bar. He's invited to a party. And there he meets Adrienne Booker; Adrienne rules Tulsa, in her way. A high-school dropout with a penthouse

apartment, she takes a curious interest in Jim. Through her eyes, he will rediscover his hometown: its wasted sprawl, the beauty of its late nights, and, at the city's center, the unsleeping light of its skyscrapers. In the tradition of Michael Chabon's *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, *A Map of Tulsa* is elegiac, graceful, and as much a story about young love as it is a love letter to a classic American city.

Like a *Sword Wound* Europa Editions  
A “magical, marvellous” epic of an empire in collapse: Book one in the acclaimed Ottoman Quartet by the award-winning Turkish author and political dissident (La Stampa, Italy). Tracking the decline and fall of the Ottoman empire, Ahmet Altan's Ottoman Quartet spans fifty years from the end of the nineteenth century to the post-WWI rise of Atatürk as leader of the new Turkey. In *Like a Sword Wound*, a modern-day resident of Istanbul is visited by the ghosts of his ancestors, finally free to tell their stories “under the broad, dark wings of death.” Among the characters who

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come to life are an Ottoman army officer; the Sultan's personal doctor; a scion of the royal house whose Western education brings him into conflict with his family's legacy; and a beguiling Turkish aristocrat who, while fond of her emancipated life in Paris, finds herself drawn to a conservative Muslim spiritual leader. As their stories of intimate desire and personal betrayal unfold, the society that spawned them is transforming and the sublime empire disintegrating. Here is a Turkish saga reminiscent of *War and Peace*, written in lively, contemporary prose that traces not only the social currents of the time but also the erotic and emotional lives of its characters.

“An engrossing novel of obsessive love and oppressive tyranny, a tale of collapse that dramatizes the fateful moments of an empire and its subjects.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Girl Canongate Books

One of the New York Times Book Review's 100 Notable Books of 2014! Ullmann's characters are complex and paradoxical: neither fully guilty nor fully innocent Siri

Brodal, a chef and restaurant owner, is married to Jon Dreyer, a famous novelist plagued by writer's block. Siri and Jon have two daughters, and together they spend their summers on the coast of Norway, in a mansion belonging to Jenny Brodal, Siri's stylish and unforgiving mother. Siri and Jon's marriage is loving but difficult, and troubled by painful secrets. They have a strained relationship with their elder daughter, Alma, who struggles to find her place in the family constellation. When Milla is hired as a nanny to allow Siri to work her long hours at the restaurant and Jon to supposedly meet the deadline on his book, life in the idyllic summer community takes a dire turn. One rainy July night, Milla disappears without a trace. After her remains are discovered and a suspect is identified, everyone who had any connection with her feels implicated in her tragedy and haunted by what they could have done to prevent it.

*The Cold Song* is a story about telling stories and about how life is continually invented and reinvented.

Encircling 3 Hachette UK

The best novel yet from award-winning, Booker Prize – shortlisted Magnus Mills – a hilarious and surreal exploration of power, fanaticism, and really, really good records. I remained convinced that my original theory was correct: there were some records that were never heard on planet Earth unless I (or James) happened to be playing them. Two men with a passion for vinyl create a society for the appreciation of records. Their aim is simple: to elevate the art of listening by doing so in forensic detail. The society enjoys moderate success in the back room of their local pub, *The Half Moon*, with other enthusiasts drawn to the initial promise of the weekly gathering. However, as the club gains popularity, its founders' uncompromising dogma results in a schism – and soon a counter group forms. Then the arrival of a young woman called Alice further fractures the unity of the vulnerable society. As rifts are forged and gulfs widen, Magnus Mills, the master of comic deadpan, humorously examines the surreal nature of ordinary lives.

See *What Can Be Done* Other Press,

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From the acclaimed author of *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*, a deeply personal and insightful account of being a girl, woman, and mother in a world that sees the feminine as less than. Born in 1959 to a middle-class family, Laurence Barraqué grows up with her sister in the northern city of Rouen. Her father is a doctor, her mother a housewife. She understands from an early age, by way of language and her parents' example, that a girl's place in life is inferior to a boy's: Asked for the 1964 census whether she has any children, her father promptly responds, "No. I have two daughters." When Laurence eventually becomes a mother herself in the nineties, she grapples with the question of what it means to be a girl, to have a girl, and what lessons she should try to pass down or undo. Masterful in her analysis of the subtle and obvious ways women are undermined by a sexist society, Camille Laurens lays out her experiences of the past forty years in this poignant, powerful book. *Girl* is at once intimate and sweeping in its

depiction of the great challenges we face, such as equalizing the education system and transmitting feminist values to the younger generations.

*A Map of Tulsa* Harper Collins

Set in the ancient city of Smyrna, this historical novel follows the intertwining fates of four families as their peaceful city is ripped apart by the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire.

*This House is Haunted* Vintage

1867. On a dark and chilling night Eliza Caine arrives in Norfolk to take up her position as governess at Gaudlin Hall. As she makes her way across the station platform, a pair of invisible hands push her from behind into the path of an approaching train. She is only saved by the vigilance of a passing doctor. It is the start of a journey into a world of abandoned children, unexplained occurrences and terrifying experiences which Eliza will have to overcome if she is to survive the secrets that lie within Gaudlin's walls...

*The Devil's Star* Anchor

Deception—the lies we tell ourselves and the lies we tell others—is the subject of this, Tove Jansson's most unnerving and unpredictable novel. Here Jansson takes a darker look at the subjects that animate the best of

her work, from her sensitive tale of island life, *The Summer Book*, to her famous Moomin stories: solitude and community, art and life, love and hate. *Snow* has been falling on the village all winter long. It covers windows and piles up in front of doors. The sun rises late and sets early, and even during the day there is little to do but trade tales. This year everybody's talking about Katri Kling and Anna Aemelin. Katri is a yellow-eyed outcast who lives with her simpleminded brother and a dog she refuses to name. She has no use for the white lies that smooth social intercourse, and she can see straight to the core of any problem. Anna, an elderly children's book illustrator, appears to be Katri's opposite: a respected member of the village, if an aloof one. Anna lives in a large empty house, venturing out in the spring to paint exquisitely detailed forest scenes. But Anna has something Katri wants, and to get it Katri will take control of Anna's life and livelihood. By the time spring arrives, the two women are caught in a conflict of ideals that threatens to strip them of

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their most cherished illusions. Stella Descending Crown Tom Perotta ' s Little Children meets Alice Sebold ' s The Lovely Bones in this suspenseful and beautifully wrought story of a seventeen-year-old girl who vanishes on the eve of her departure for college, as told through the alternating perspectives of her neighbors. What happened to Linsey Hart? When the Cornell-bound teenager disappears into the steamy blue of a late-summer morning, her quiet neighborhood is left to pick apart the threads of their own lives and assumptions. Linsey ' s neighbors are just ordinary people—but even ordinary people can keep terrible secrets hidden close. There ' s Linsey ' s mother, Abigail, whose door-to-door searching makes her social-outcast status painfully obvious; Mr. Leonard, the quiet, retired piano teacher with insomnia, who saw Linsey leave; Reeva, the queen bee of a clique of mothers,

now obsessed with a secret interest; Timmy, Linsey ' s lovelorn ex-boyfriend; and George, an eleven-year-old loner who is determined to find out what happened to his missing neighbor. As the days of Linsey ' s absence tick by, dread and hope threaten to tear a community apart. This luminous new novel by the acclaimed author of The Orphan Sister explores coming of age in the shadows of a suburban life, and what is revealed when the light suddenly shines in. . . .

City on Fire Graywolf Press

Ten years of infertility issues culminate in the destruction of music therapist Zoe Baxter's marriage, after which she falls in love with another woman, Vanessa, and wants to start a family; but her ex-husband, Max, in the grips of an anti-gay pastor, stands in the way. Includes a CD of songs created for the novel. (This title is being re-listed in Forecast). 1.5 million first printing.

A Blessed Child Pan Macmillan  
Oslo is sweltering in the summer heat

when a young woman is murdered in her flat. One finger has been cut off and a tiny red diamond in the shape of a pentagram—a five-pointed star—is found under her eyelid. Detective Harry Hole is assigned the case with Tom Waaler, a colleague he neither likes nor trusts. He believes Tom is behind a gang of arms smugglers—and the murder of his partner. But Harry, an off-the-rails alcoholic, is barely holding on to his job and has little choice but to play nice. Five days later, another woman is reported missing. When her severed finger is found adorned with a star-shaped red diamond ring, Harry fears a serial killer is on the loose. Determined to find the killer and expose the crooked Tom Waaler, Harry discovers the two investigations melding in unexpected ways. But pursuing the truth comes at a price, and soon Harry finds himself on the run and forced to make difficult decisions about a future he may not live to see. One of the brightest stars of Scandinavian crime writing, Jo Nesbø has been compared to Ian Rankin, Michael Connelly, and Henning Mankell. His novels are bestsellers

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throughout Europe, acclaimed by critics and revered by aficionados of thrillers and mysteries. Brilliantly plotted and paced, *The Devil's Star* shows Nesbø at his absolute best, combining powerful emotional resonance with truly stunning suspense.

A Month of Sundays W. W. Norton & Company

Praised across Scandinavia as a "literary masterpiece," "spellbinding," and "magnificent," *Unquiet* reflects on six taped conversations the author had with her father at the very end of his life. He is a renowned Swedish filmmaker and has a plan for everything. She is his daughter, the youngest of nine children. Every summer, since she was a little girl, she visits him at his beloved stony house surrounded by woods, poppies, and the Baltic sea. Now that she's grown up and he's in his late eighties, he envisions a book about old age. He worries that he's losing his language, his memory, his mind. Growing old is hard work, he says. They will write it together. She will ask the questions. He will answer them. When she finally

comes to the island, bringing her tape recorder with her, old age has caught up with him in ways neither could have foreseen. *Unquiet* follows the narrator as she unearths these taped conversations seven years later.

Swept into memory, she reimagines the story of a father, a mother, and a girl—a child who can't wait to grow up and parents who would rather be children. A heartbreaking and darkly funny depiction of the intricacies of family, *Unquiet* is an elegy of memory and loss, identity and art, growing up and growing old. Linn Ullmann nimbly blends memoir and fiction in her most inventive novel yet, weaving a luminous meditation on language, mourning, and the many narratives that make up a life.

Sing You Home HMH

BUSTLE BEST BOOK OF THE WEEK  
PICK NAMED A BOOKSHOP.ORG

RECOMMENDED READING OF THE

SEASON In this charming, deeply atmospheric novel set against the Amalfi Coast of the 1950s, two women form an intense and lasting friendship that embodies the paradoxes of Italian society. Inspired by her own adventurous, unconventional life, actress

and writer Goliarda Sapienza's recently rediscovered novel takes the reader to the sun-drenched town of Positano in southern Italy. There, while working on a film, Goliarda encounters the captivating Erica, a beautiful widow called "Princess" by the locals, who has been the object of much speculation. As the two women grow closer in spite of their different personalities, they gradually reveal more about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences, and the ghosts from their pasts that continue to hang over them. Writing the story of their transformative friendship thirty years later, Goliarda offers a profound reflection on love in its many forms, and opens a window onto an enchanting time and place that lingers in the mind. And this unlikely bond, forged between a leftist idealist and a traditional aristocrat, acts as a microcosm of Italy, illuminating its complex, competing impulses.