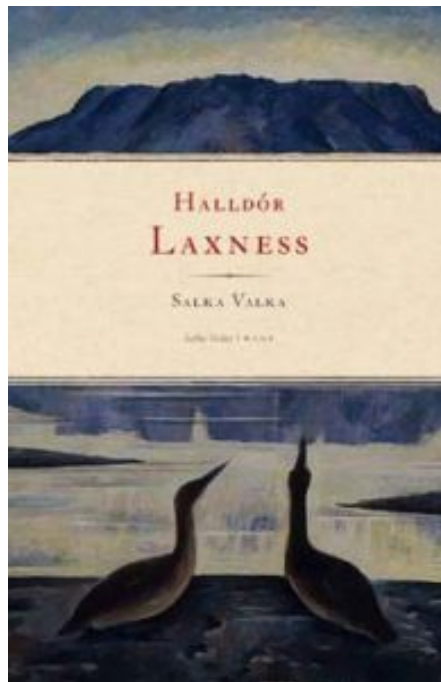




Salka Valka

Halldór Kiljan Laxness , Jyrki Mäntylä (Translator)

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Islantilaisen Halldór Laxnessin (1902-98) Salka Valka -romaanin tapahtumapaikkana on vähäinen kalastajakylä tunturien katveessa. Miten sellaisessa paikassa eletään ja kuinka kuollaan? Millaisia iloja ja suruja koetaan noiden himmeiden öljytuikkujen ympärillä? Tämä kylä tunnetaan nykyisin kaikkialla maailmassa, samoin nuori tyttö Salka Valka, joka saa raataa koko elämänsä kalanperkaamossa voidakseen aikanaan maksaa edes omat hautajaisensa. Ankeissa oloissa hän kasvaa rakkauteen, sankaruuteen, kohtaloonsa.

Salka Valka on Laxnessin viimeinen nuoruudenteos ja samalla hänen ensimmäinen kuuluisa islantilaiseepoksensa, josta hän sai vuoden 1955 Nobel-palkinnon. Jyrki Mäntylän vuonna 1966 suomentaman tekstin on tarkistanut Tapio Koivukari.

Suomessa Salka Valka on aina ollut Laxnessin suosituin teos. Siitä on tehty maailmalla lukuisia näytelmä-, elokuva- ja kuunnelmaversioita.

Salka Valka Details

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From Reader Review Salka Valka for online ebook

Jere says

If this book was a colour, it would be grey:
so barren and sort of depressive on the surface, but
having so much more, reflecting all other colours when
the sun shines through the clouds, like a lonely light of hope trying
to wipe away the rain on one's cheeks.

Enough of poor attempt at sounding poetic... Salka Valka is a beautiful piece of work, and everyone even remotely interested in Iceland should give it a chance. Also, women/girls should take Salka Valka as their rolemodel - rarely do I find such a strong female character in a novel.

If you enjoy Hayao Miyazaki's anime because of the strong female characters, this, I would say, is a perfect book for you.

Iida says

Islandic poetic grey misery.

Johanna says

Tämä hieno islantilaisklassikko valikoitui lukuun helmet -haasteen nobelvoittajaksi. Koska kävin kesäkuussa Islannissa lomalla oli helppo kuvitella mielessään kalastajakylä vuonon rannalla ja sitä ympäröivät tunturit. Tähän kylään Salka Valka saapuu äitinsä helmoissa pikkutyttönä, köyhänä irtolaisena. Uudet aatteet saapuvat laivojen mukana myllertämään myös pientä islantilaista kalastajakylää ja Salka Valkan elämää. Tämän aatteellisen taistelun keskeltä kirjasta huokuu suorastaan zenmäinen rauhallisuus. Elämä jatkuu, linnut pesivät, säät ja vuodenajat kiertävät kulkuaan aatteista huolimatta.

Ehkä paikka paikoin voimakas aatteellisuus vähän häiritsi ja meni jopa paasaamisen puolelle, siksi neljä tähteä viiden sijasta. Toisaalta juuri siitä syystä teos paitsi heijastelee aikaansa, antaa myös ajateltavaa nykyajan maailmanmenosta. Klassikkostatus on kyllä ansaittu ja muutakin Laxnessia pääsee lukulistalle.

Kristinn Logi says

Tók mig langan tíma að klára þessa bok, náði ekki að heilla mig því miður. Ég hef kannski ekki nægilegan þroska til að detta all in í Laxness, vonandi les afi þetta ekki

Thorlakur says

Það er sannkölluð unun að lesa svo vel skrifaða bók. Það eina sem þreytir er hvað fólk er viðskotailt og hryssingslegt í öllum samskiptum, en það var líklega ekki búíð að finna upp kurteisina þegar þessi saga gerist.

Crystal says

Salka Valka shows a vivid picture of an Icelandic fishing village. The main character is a feisty individual named Salka that lives through the economic changes in the village. In the beginning, everything feeds through the local store and the entire economic system is controlled by one man. This is later challenged due in part to Salka.

The story pulled me along and while I didn't always agree with Salka's thinking, I always admired her.

Helena Valtýsdóttir says

Love it - even better than I remembered.

Sera says

Salka Valka 2018'in ilk favorisi benim için. Gerçeklikle ?iirselli?in birle?ti?i romanlar hep bamba?ka bir güzellikte oluyor. Halldor Laxness bizi Özgür ?nsanlar'daki gibi ?zlanda'n?n tarihine tan?k ederken, bir kad?n?n ya?am?, toplumu, çocuklu?u, a?k? sorgulamas?n? büyük bir içtenlikle anlat?yor. Roman?n ilk yar?s?yla ikinci yar?s? aras?ndaki bariz ton fark? olmasayd? 5 y?ld?z verecektim. Salka Valka yeni kahraman?m.

Ingrid Verschelling says

Salka Valka is de zesde roman van Laxness (1902-1998) die door Marcel Otten in krachtig Nederlands is vertaald. Salka Valka was voor het eerst gepubliceerd in twee delen in 1931 en 1932 en is sindsdien meermalen herdrukt. Het begon als een manuscript, wat Halldór Laxness geschreven had voor een film voor Hollywood. Hij ging naar Los Angeles in 1927, vastbesloten scriptschrijver in Hollywood te worden, wat mislukte. Hij wilde Greta Garbo voor zijn personage Salka.

Salka Valka is een roman over een IJslands vissersdorpje. De hoofdpersoon is een sterk meisje Salka, die eigenlijk Salvör Valgerdur heet en dat alle veranderingen in het dorp overleeft. Eigenlijk is de roman Salka Valka een roman over politiek en over de liefde. Sigurlina, de moeder van Salka, droomt van een beter leven in Reykjavik. Salka komt als klein meisje en buitenechtelijk kind met haar moeder in het dorp aan, omdat het

geld op was, waarmee ze wilden vluchten naar Reykjavík, waar het leven vast veel beter was. Ze stoppen in het kleine vissersdorp Oseyri aan de Axlarfjord en gaan nooit meer weg. Ze overnachten bij Het leger des Heils. De bewoners zijn niet blij met hun komst en maken het hun behoorlijk moeilijk. De moeder van Salka, Sigurlina is niet zo'n sterke vrouw en laat zich door iedereen beïnvloeden. Salka is een sterk meisje en weet, dat God noch de mensen het individu helpen als het hem slecht gaat: hij moet zichzelf zien te redden. Ze leert lezen en schrijven en leert mensen doorgronden. Ook al wordt ze in het begin gepest, de mensen uit het dorp krijgen later respect voor haar. Ze is voor niemand bang. In het begin is ze akelig eerlijk, wat ook wel grof overkomt. Gaandeweg leert ze van haar fouten en leert ook manieren. Door hard werken en volharding komt Salka uit de armoede. Ze ontwikkelt zich tot een onafhankelijke vrouw. Ze verkrijgt zelfs een aandeel in een schip. In het begin was de enige winkel in het dorp met zijn rekening courant gecontroleerd door een man. Later ontstond er een coöperatie, mede dankzij Salva. Ze helpt andere mensen, die het moeilijk hebben. Haar enige zwakheid is haar liefde voor een zwakke man. Halldór Laxness was het pseudoniem van Halldór Guðjónsson, een IJslandse schrijver, die geboren was in Reykjavík in 1902. Na opgegroeid te zijn op de boerderij van de familie, reisde hij naar Europa en daar werd hij bekeerd tot het katholicisme en ging in een klooster. Hij was ontevreden met dit leven en ging naar de Verenigde Staten tijdens de depressie in de jaren dertig. Daar kwam hij onder de invloed van het communisme en hij keerde terug naar IJsland. In 1955 kreeg hij de Nobelprijs voor literatuur. Laxness overleed in 1998. Salka Valka's verhaal is een verhaal van eenzaamheid, wanhoop, politiek, armoede, vis en het leger des Heils, maar bovenal is het een verhaal over een liefde, die sterk genoeg is om het grootste offer te brengen. De IJslandse natuur wordt prachtig beschreven. Ik vond het vooral een politiek verhaal, over socialisme en communisme. In het tweede deel vermengt Laxness de opkomst van het communisme met de tragische liefde van de volwassen Salka Valka met haar knappe minnaar Arnald Björnszoon. Het slot, waarin Salka besluit alleen verder te gaan, is hartverscheurend. Dat vond ik het ontroerendste deel van het verhaal. Ik hield het dan ook niet droog. Ik zie wel een paar overeenkomsten met Salka. Ook ik kom uit een arm gezin. Ik wilde ook alleen maar broeken dragen, omdat ik me geen echt meisje voelde. Ik zag ook, dat ik goed moest leren, om voor mijzelf te kunnen zorgen. Gelukkig heb ik wel een goede man gevonden! Vier sterren voor dit met humor vertelde verhaal over een vissersdorpje in IJsland, maar het had ook over welk ander dorp kunnen gaan. Het is nog steeds actueel.

Sigga Lára says

Gef henni fimm, hún gaf mér svo mikið á sínum tíma en það er langt síðan ég las hana ... þarf að taka hana upp aftur.

Stórkostleg bók!

Bára Bryndís says

Erfið bók fyrir mig að lesa enda var ég ung og margt í bókinni stakk mig. En yndisleg engu að síður. Bók um siðferði og styrk og fátækt og óréttlæti. Í bókinni er setning sem hefur fylgt mér æ síðan "Hvað er það að hanga á krossi í einn dag fyrir mann sem á engin börn og vita þar að auki að maður deyr fyrir gott málefni?" og gerði endanlega út af við það að ég gæti tekið kristindóminn og karlrembu hans alvarlega. Mamman hennar Sölku Völku er ein mín uppáhaldspersóna, svo breisk, svo varnarlaus. Hefur verið mér samferða. Seinni hluti bókarinnar er lengra frá mér. Fyrirlitning höfundar á Arnaldi froðusnakk er svo algjör að það slekkur alla forvitni.

Laura Van den bossche says

World literature at it's best.

Laxness paints a captivating picture of Iceland in this "political love story"! I would not have wanted to read anything else while driving along the westfjords. It is also quite astonishing that Halldor Laxness was only in his twenties when writing this. Who knew a twenty-something man could write so beautifully about the inner life of a girl... Kudos my man.

Isabelle says

De bedoeling was om in de IJslandse sfeer te komen, en dit lukt misschien wel een beetje. Maar hij schrijft in een zware stijl, langdradig en absoluut geen vakantielectuur. Een arm vissersdorp in IJsland, over een zwakke moeder die haar heil zoekt in de godsdienst en een sterke dochter, over de opkomst van het communisme in IJsland.

Argos says

Oldukça basit bir a?k hikayesi de denebilir, ?zlanda'da ge?en bir k?lkedisi hikayesi taklidi de. Kitab?n ilk b?l?m? hem oldukça d???k edebi seviyede hem de s?k?c?. ?kinci yar?s? biraz daha toparlasa da geneli de?i?tiremiyor. Kitab?n hacimli olmas? da bir ?ans?zl?k kitap b?rakmayan sad?k okur i?in, b?rak?lm?yor ama kaybedilen zamana da yaz?k. Nobel Edebiyat ?d?l?n?n neden verildi?ini anlayamad???m yazarlardan birisini daha tan?d?m.

Sinem A. says

?zlanda da ge?en, yoksullu?un vatans?zl??? ile m?cadele eden Salka Valka n?n ?ok sade ama ?ok ?iirsel b?y?me, kad?n olma hikayesi ... G?zel bir tad? var...

Nelleke says

Beautiful book about Salka Valka, an independent woman and about the poor inhabitants of a small fishing village at the south coast of Iceland. All inhabtants are dependent of one man, who controls the economic and financial system. Salka refuses to become poor like the rest of the village and as a girl of 12 she wants to

earn her own money.

It is beautiful to read about the poverty of the inhabitants, the Icelandic landscape and of course about this strong independent woman

Elin Jonasdottir says

Did not read the translation, obviously.

Did read it while spending the summer in Oklahoma. Could not put it away.

Sigfríður Guðjónsdóttir says

Ein besta bók sem ég hef lesið um ævina.

Saga Sölku Völku vekur upp margskonar tilfinningar og oftast en ekki verður maður reiður þeim sem kringum hana standa.

Svona sögu skrifa engvir nema snillingar :-)

aya says

fatalist; what can easily be seen as defeatist is a complex understanding of human nature, its animal sexuality, its tendencies to take the path of least resistance, its intuition. beautiful, truthful.

Eric Hinkle says

Originally subtitled *A Woman in Pants* and *A Political Love Story*, *Salka Valka* is a stunning book about an extremely strong-willed girl-cum-young-woman named, of course, Salka Valka. So far it's probably my 3rd favorite Laxness, after IP and WL.

I'm sorry. I've been thinking over this book for weeks, since I finished, and I still cannot think of how to execute this review. This novel simply will not be contained in a few paragraphs; it will not be caged by trite responses and simplified feelings. It is a living, breathing creature, wild at times and tamed at others. But...here are a few attempts at half-descriptions of this masterly, spellbinding tome.

Salka is tough like no other. She begins saying at a young age that she doesn't feel like a girl, and she soon begins wearing pants - a shocking thing in the early part of the 20th Century, and all the more shocking in a tiny fishing village in Iceland. Due to her mother's newborn baby, she soon starts working for her own wages, helping with the fishermen and eventually owning a share in a boat.

Despite having a near-inflexible will, Salka also has a big heart and a definite soft spot, although she shows it to few. I find it astounding how easily and fully Laxness manages to get into the heads of young people in general, and here it's even the more astounding how convincingly he creates and expresses this powerful

woman. I've read reviews from a couple Icelandic women who half-jokingly wondered if Laxness might not be a woman in disguise... else, how could he know all the thoughts that go on in the heads of the fairer sex?

The scope and impact of this novel is so great that I really don't even know where to begin. It's an absolute epic. Laxness finished it in his late 20s, and I truly wonder how he could have lived so thoroughly and observantly to be able to write such varied and deep characters. He seems to know all about everyone, of all kinds of different people.

If there's one flaw of this book, it's that the 2nd half deals possibly a little too heavily (and detailedly) about socialist ideals -- and fairly temporally-specific aspects of it. However, as always, Laxness fully illustrates both sides of the argument(s) and doesn't clearly paint either party as heroes or villains. Indeed, he displays all the worts, pros and cons of the debate and shows what happens when foresight is forgotten.

Salka Valka is concrete proof that Laxness was 100% worthy of the Nobel and every other prize he won. In my opinion, he might be the greatest of the Nobel laureates. In any case, he speaks volumes to me and to a host of others, so let's just leave it at that. Find this book at all costs. A good library should have a copy.

NB.: While the English translation was translated from the Danish translation of the Icelandic original, this 1963 edition was revised by Laxness, so it's safe to say that it's probably fairly faithful. It certainly reads like the best of his other works, in terms of tone, poetry, lyricism, and everything else. So, fear not that the English version must be diluted or lost in translation!

Because this book is pretty rare in English, here's a hefty helping of some of my favorite passages:

"Life in Oseyri was lived in fish and consisted of fish, and human beings were a sort of abortion which Our Lord had made out of cooked fish and perhaps a handful of rotten potatoes and a drop of oatmeal gruel."

"It must be regarded as doubtful how far she understood how to kiss, for she only opened her mouth and shut her eyes. Death and love have so much in common."

"Nothing on earth is so blissful as the dream of a lover's presence when he is away."

"At last she realized that she was a young woman with a name and address in the midst of the universe and had had a letter from a young man. So wonderful a thing could hardly be imagined. 'Have you heard of anything like it?' she asked herself. [...] Her cheeks grew warm, and the heart in her breast sang like a bird on a bough. No, she could not bear it indoors, the roof of the attic was so low, and her happiness needed the open air under the stars."

"'What does hanging on a cross for twenty-four hours mean to a man who has no children,' I said, 'especially when he knows he's dying for a good cause -- indeed, that he's saving the whole world and then going straight into the best place in Heaven? What's that compared to the suffering I've had to put up with for months and years with the house full of children, when for many whole nights I've shrieked with pain unceasingly and without relief, and I'll soon be dead, and that without having anything to die for; and there'll be no heavenly Kingdom for me, for I know the children will go on crying when I'm dead, and swearing and quarrelling, and begging for milk they can't get.'"

"In Viking times it was the fashion to set out on open marauding expeditions, but we have become more polite; in our time they undermine public opinion through newspapers, and seduce poor people into taking sides against their own starving children. Nowadays they create public opinion by having abusive articles

written about the men who are working to get the children of the masses milk to drink, better housing and a proper bringing-up. In old days the same kind of people made a sport of pitching those same little children from man to man and catching them on spear-heads."

"She had a curious attitude towards human life in that she took every view seriously if only she could see it. When she changed her opinions, it was because she saw new expanses opening up before her mind's eye."

"God gives some people beautiful houses with electric light and central heating, and prettily furnished. God's only Son had no place He could call His own so long as He journeyed on earth. God does not regard furniture."

"She stood in a sunbeam wreathed in smoke from the coffee, with parted lips and disordered hair, bare neck and knees, and only that ragged piece of stuff to hide the riches of her body and soul."

"The sun...is the only luxury the poor obtain on reasonable terms when it shines just for once in a way."

"On one wall was a picture of the long-bearded General with his wife, on the other a picture of the short-bearded Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, unmarried."

"I have one feeling towards you which I have never had towards any other woman, not for any living being, and I am sure that even if the earth were inhabited by beautiful gods like those described in the Edda and in Homer, I should never come to have such a feeling for any of them. When I look at you, and even when I think of you, I feel that my most fervent wish is, and always must be, to die on your bosom - that you may sit by me when I draw my last breath."
