
AUTHORS

Sara Stridsberg

Sara Stridsberg is one of Sweden's foremost authors and playwrights, who had her international breakthrough with the publication of *The Faculty of Dreams* in 2006. The novel received the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2007 and was longlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2019. Her novels have been translated into twenty-five languages to date and her plays have been widely performed all across Sweden, as well as internationally. Stridsberg has been awarded the European Union Prize for Literature, the Dobloug Prize, De Nios Winter Prize, the Selma Lagerlöf Prize, and more, and has been nominated for the August Prize five times. Between 2016 and 2018, she was a member of the Swedish Academy; the cultural institution responsible for awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature. As a theatre translator, Stridsberg has translated plays by Sarah Kane and Sam Sheppard, among others, and as a playwright she is currently under commission from the Stockholm City Theatre and House of Culture and the Royal Dramatic Theatre.

Titles

DISSECTING A SNOW SHOWER

The Royal Court at Stockholm, 1631: the princess Kristina has been raised to hold power as regent but is expected to marry before she can ascend the throne. But Kristina does not want to marry and become a mother, she wants to become king. As a snowstorm rages outside, Kristina wields her learning and razor-sharp intellect in battle against the expectations placed on her and the norms of her society, to protect her secret forbidden love and to gain the freedom to become something other than woman in a world where 'Nature destroys women. Women live like bats or owls, slaves, and have children like animals and die like worms.' Inspired by the life of Queen Kristina of Sweden, Stridsberg's 'Girl King' is a modern heroine struggling with the uneven distribution of power, in a highly poetic play that combines violent passions with moments of gentle respite.

MEDEALAND

Stridsberg's version of Euripides' *Medea* offers striking variations on literature's cruellest divorce. Here, Medea becomes an emblem of justified female rage, who refuses to 'get over it', to forgive, and reassemble her life according to someone else's wishes; the polar opposite to the sweet princess Jason has left her for. *Medealand* explores the titular character's relationship to her own late mother alongside

her relationship to her two sons and her new frightening status as childless mother and shows us just how close passion can be to hate, and desperate revenge fantasy to actual revenge.

THE ART OF FALLING

In a run-down mansion on the Atlantic coast, in the exclusive area of East Hampton, two aging socialites, mother and daughter, live out their days isolated from the world. Once part of the American aristocracy, Edith Ewing Bouvier, aka. Big Edie, and Edith Bouvier Beale, aka. Little Edie, now reside in impoverished squalor surrounded by rubbish, tinned food, and stray animals. Here they have created a reality of their own, an eccentric Beckett-like folie à deux in which they are both young, beautiful, and rich again. *The Art of Falling* a wonderfully absurd tragicomedy which takes as its starting point the real-life story of Jackie Kennedy's cousin and aunt as seen in the cult documentary *Grey Gardens*.