



Liv forlag 2024  
325 pages  
Original title: *Svikere*  
ISBN: 9788283304299

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Espen Skjerven  
He can be contacted via  
[www.espenskjerven.com](http://www.espenskjerven.com)

#### AWARDS

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The Norwegian Silver Dagger Award  
(Sølvkniven) 2025

#### OTHER TITLES

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The Crime Series:  
Traitors (2024)  
The Kleptocracy (2022)  
Blood is Thicker Than Water (2021)  
Slaughter (2019)

Novel:  
Nothing to Hide (2025)



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[www.espenskjerven.com](http://www.espenskjerven.com)

## Espen Skjerven

### *Traitors*

Detective Tom Grayston has been called back to his home region in Sandnes and Stavanger to assist in a case where the body of a deceased business leader has been dug up and disappeared. He was no ordinary man, but the CEO of an oil company that had been involved in a corruption and environmental scandal.

Tom and his colleagues face an intense hunt for the culprits, who will stop at nothing in carrying out their plan to save the world.

Traitors (Svikere) is an environmental thriller that touches on themes such as conspiracy theories, the environment, and extremism.

The novel was published in 2024 by Liv Forlag and is the fourth in the crime series.

Traitors won the Norwegian Silver Dagger Award (Sølvkniven) for Best Crime Novel of 2024. The jury wrote in its statement:

“It is rock solid and has a well-composed plot. Skjerven writes convincingly and manages to engage on absolutely every level. The environmental issues addressed are more topical than ever, making the publication highly relevant. And it is exceedingly entertaining. We in the jury could not have found a more worthy winner, who spices his work with both fact and fiction. Traitors has all the ingredients to succeed in the book market, and we believe it can reach far beyond Norway’s borders, for the language, plot, and story are of the highest quality.”

*This is crime fiction at the very top shelf (rating 6/6).*

- Anne Lise Johannessen, [Hverdagsnett.no](http://Hverdagsnett.no)

*What a reading feast (rating 6/6).*

- Tine Sundal, [bookblogger](#)

*“...brilliantly put together” (rating 6/6).*

- Anita Ness, [bookblogger](#)

*Espen Skjerven is on his way to becoming one of our foremost crime writers (rating 6/6).*

- Simen Ingemundsen, [Randaberg24](#)

*A well-written and intense crime novel with several surprising twists. It keeps the reader’s pulse up. One of those rare books that makes time disappear, and suddenly you’re on the last page—pure magic. Fantastic entertainment for darker evenings. Highly recommended (rating 6/6)*

- Isa Berg, [bookblogger](#)

*Espen Skjerven is definitely among the very best crime writers in Norway (rating 6/6)*

- Alicesfavoritebooks, Instagram

*Skjerven is one of my favorite crime writers.*

- Mariann Tokle, blogger

*This was a fantastically exciting and easy-to-read book that I just flowed through (rating 6/6)*

- Hilde Sæther, bookblogger

*A real page-turner.*

- Beate Ellingsen, bookblogger

## Espen Skjerven

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Espen Skjerven works as a district court judge at Sør-Rogaland District Court. He has a background as a prosecutor in the national investigative units Økokrim and Kripos, as well as a business lawyer/litigator.

Skjerven has written four books in the crime series about police officer Tom Grayston: *Slaughter* (Slakt 2019), *Blood is Thicker than Water* (Blod er tykkere enn vann, 2021), *The Kleptocracy* (Kleptokratiet, 2022), and *Traitors* (Svikere, 2024).

*Traitors* won the Norwegian Silver Dagger Award (Sølvkniven), for best release of 2024.

Book reviewer Tor Hammerø in the newspaper Nettavisen reviewed the *Kleptocracy* and wrote: "Espen Skjerven has taken a giant step up into the Norwegian crime literature elite."

*Nothing to Hide* (Ingenting å skjule, 2025) is Skjerven's first work of fiction.



Espen Skjerven

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