

## Jon Fosse – Where to Start Reading?

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**Jon Fosse**

*Morning and evening*

**Jon Fosse**



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Winje Agency, founded 2016, is representing authors of high quality in all genres, and publication rights for the Nobel Prize Winner in Literature 2023, Jon Fosse.

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*Collected Poems*

**Jon Fosse**

*Strong Wind*

**Jon Fosse**

*Someone Is Going to Come*

**Jon Fosse**

*The Dog Manuscripts*

**Jon Fosse**

*The Trilogy: Wakefulness (2007), Olav's Dreams (2012), Weariness (2014)*

**Jon Fosse**

*The Other Name. Septology I – II*

**Jon Fosse**

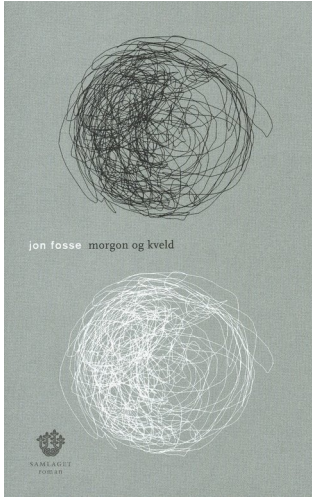
*I Is Another: Septology III – V*

**Jon Fosse**

*A New Name: Septology VI – VII*

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**BOOKS FROM  
NORWAY**



Det Norske Samlaget 2000  
117 pages  
Original title: *Morgon og kveld*  
ISBN: 9788252192667

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Jon Fosse

## *Morning and evening*

A child is born; he will be named Johannes, and will be a fisherman. An old man dies; his name is Johannes, he was a fisherman. This novel, written with the concentrated power of poetry, spans these two extremes of a human life, its language entering into the very process of being born and that of dying, when everything remains the same and yet is completely different. Between these two points, Jon Fosse gives us the details of an entire life, starkly compressed. Beginning with Johannes's father's thoughts as his wife goes into labor, and ending with Johannes's own thoughts as he embarks upon a day in his life when everything is exactly the same, yet totally different, *Morning and Evening* is a novel concerning the beautiful dream that our lives have meaning.

*"Morning and Evening is a simple story about life's most important questions—in fact, about nothing less than the meaning of life itself. Fosse conveys his speculations in profound and truly gripping language. It is almost impossible not to be brought deep into Johannes the fisherman's world."*

- Tone Solberg, Dagens Næringsliv

*"Jon Fosse has been compared to Ibsen and to Beckett, and it is easy to see his work as Ibsen stripped down to its emotional essentials. But it is much more."*

- The New York Times

*"A masterful short novel."*

- Terje Eidsvåg, Adresseavisen

## Jon Fosse

Jon Fosse is regarded by many as one of the most important authors of our time. His work has been translated into over 40 languages and there have been over 1000 productions of his plays worldwide. Fosse is the recipient of countless prestigious prizes, both in his native Norway and abroad. He made his debut as fiction writer in 1983 with the novel *Raudt, svart* (*Red, Black*), and has since written more than 30 plays, among them *Nokon kjem til å komme* (*Someone Is Going to Come*), *Draum om hausten* (*Autumn Dream*) and *Eg er vinden* (*I Am the Wind*). Besides novels and plays Fosse writes poetry, essays, short stories and children's books. Winje Agency is selling all his work, also plays, for publications all over the world.





Det norske Samlaget 2023  
71 pages  
Original title: *Kvitteik*  
ISBN: 9788234009815

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2007 Deutsche Jugendbuch Preis

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Jon Fosse

## *A Shining*

A man is driving, without knowing where he's going. He turns left and turns right, alternately, and finally enters a forest on road grooved with deep ruts. He doesn't stop until the car gets stuck in the mud, unable to move forward or back. It starts snowing, gets dark and cold, but instead of going for help, the man walks down a path in the forest—even though it has already gotten so dark that he can hardly see a thing among the trees; even though he thinks this is a foolish thing to do.

"I've probably never done anything worse than this, get my car stuck and then go looking for help in the woods, how could I think I would find any help in the woods, deep in the dark woods, just because of an idea, no, it's totally wrong to call it an idea, it was more like an impulse, something like that, something that just popped into my head. Foolishness, that's what it was. Pure folly. Stupidity. Sheer stupidity."

*A Shining (Kvitteik)* is a brilliant novel about the border between life and death.

*With A Shining, Jon Fosse has written a short masterpiece about death. A Shining is, simply put, great literature.*

- Marius Wulfsberg, Dagbladet

*... a beautiful story about a man whose car gets stuck in the snow. ... you don't read Fosse to decipher his symbols, but to be reminded of how wondrous our reality really is—beautiful and painful at once—and to take a step back, out of respect for the mystery.*

- Live Lundh, Morgenbladet

*If you're looking for winter reading one evening while the snow melts, A Shining is an excellent choice. You can feel the cold, see the snow, fear the coming darkness. Then discover something completely new in a second reading—a new image, a new association, even a bit of humor.*

- Gerd Elin Stana Sandve, Dagsavisen

*Jon Fosse has already set the bar high for this year in Norwegian fiction. [...] There is a lot of concentrated power and depth in this bouillon cube of a story. A Shining is like a concise echo of the masterpiece Septology.*

- Sindre Hovdenakk, VG

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## Jon Fosse

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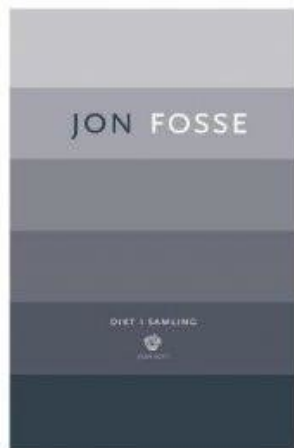
Fosse has received numerous prizes, both in Norway and internationally, and he is mentioned increasingly often as a likely contender for the Nobel Prize. He has currently finished a major seven-volume work of what he calls “slow prose”. Septology consists of three volumes: *The Other Name: Septology I – II* was published in 2019 to international praise and longlisted for the Booker International Prize. *I Is Another: Septology III – V* was published autumn 2020 and *A New Name: Septology VI – VII* in September 2021.



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Samlaget 2001  
339 pages  
Original title: *Dikt i samling*  
ISBN: 9788252174991

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2007 Deutsche Jugendbuch Preis

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Jon Fosse

## Collected Poems

Jon Fosse has time again showed how he masters the art of poetry. Throughout his prolific career, Fosse has written numerous books of poetry, now available in compilations. This edition includes *Angel With Watery Eyes*, *The Movements of the Dog*, *Dog and Angel*, and *New Poems*, and *Eyes in Wind*.

“When the four first collections of poems by Jon Fosse are to be seen as one, the images of fjords and mountains are inevitable; the rain, the dark, the shore, the movements of the waves. The same is the connection to long traditions in western literature and philosophy.”

(Tom Egil Hverven on the beauty of reading Fosse in such collections.)

and again the little boy sings:

if you hear my heart come

then let it leave again:

let the rain rain

let the sun see

let the wind blow

let my heart beat

(Extract from *The Movements of the Dog*, translate by May-Brit Akerholt.)

All of Fosse's poetry is available in various compilations; please inquire for more specific information.

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# Jon Fosse Sterk vind

Det Norske Samlaget 2021  
75 pages  
Original title: *Sterk vind*  
ISBN: 9788234006609

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Jon Fosse

## *Strong Wind*

Fosse Play with a New Twist

After an almost decade-long break from playwriting, Jon Fosse is writing for the theater again. *Strong Wind* is his first play after the long break. It is a dramatic poem, with the characters of The Man, The Woman, and The Young Man. They all live in the same a household, but which of them are together?

The Man comes home after a trip and The Woman has moved into a new house; they meet up there and a young man appears. He too has a relationship with the woman and seems to live in the house as well.

*Strong Wind* is a play about time, love, jealousy, fear of heights, and the urge for death, almost as in a bad dream. It is unmistakably a Fosse play, but at the same time is new and different, more reflective, containing within it an almost twisted truth.

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Samlaget 1996  
83 pages  
Original title: *Nokon kjem til å kome*  
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Jon Fosse

## *Someone Is Going to Come*

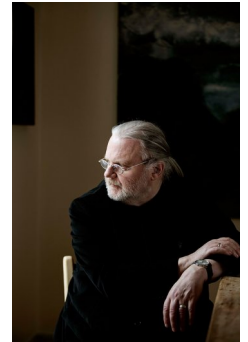
In *Someone is Going to Come* the two of them want to be together, just the two of them, so they leave the city and buy a remote house by the sea. But is it possible to do what they want to do? In their desire to be alone together they near flee the world of people but are followed by the anxiety that someone is going to come and disturb them. Won't somebody come? Surely someone will come.

*Someone is Going to Come* is Fosse first play. Written in 1996, with the world premiere held at The Norwegian Theatre and soon came to signify a new era within the contemporary theatre.

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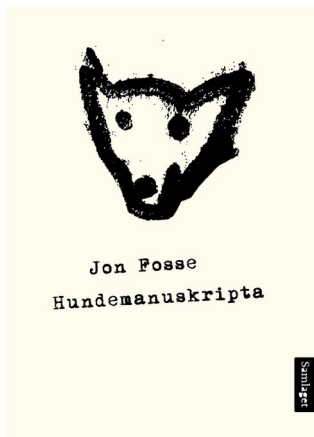


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Samlaget 2018  
150 pages  
Original title: *Hundemanuskripta*  
ISBN: 9788252196467

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Jon Fosse

## *The Dog Manuscripts*

*The Dog Manuscripts* is a collection of three short stories written by Fosse in the late 90s. The texts read beautifully with the quirky, light, and humorous flow quintessential to Fosse's style of writing. The three individual books, *Nei å nei* (*No, oh no*), *Du å du* (*My oh my*), and *Fy å fy* (*Dear oh dear*) is reprinted in a new beautiful collection after high demand. A modern cult book?

*Nei å nei*, is a chronicle about Websterr the Dog. He lives a calm and sheltered life with the old Oline. Websterr spends his life day dreaming of being Websterr the drifter, wandering through the world alone. One day, when Oline is inattentive he sees his chance and runs off in pursuit of adventures.

The second, *Du å du*, is the story of Olav, an elderly dog in a boathouse deep in the fjord. He has one friend, a bachelor as himself, living further up the mountain. But one day, when Olav is on his way to visit his only friend, he meets the most beautiful lady dog from the city. A lifechanging meeting?

The final story, *Fy å fy* takes place on a freighter, transporting sand and gravel between villages and towns. On board lives the skipper Moreld, with his shipdog Haktor, and not to mention the tramp, Einar. Haktor has learned how to accept Einar's dislike of him...

## Jon Fosse

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Jon Fosse is widely considered one of the world's most important living writers, with an ability to touch readers across time and place. Born in 1959 in Strandebarm, a small village in the western part of Norway, he lives today in the Grotten, an honorary residence in Oslo bestowed for life by the King of Norway, as well as in Hainburg, Austria, and Frekhaug, Norway. Fosse is an unusually prolific writer. He debuted in 1983, and has since published novels, volumes of poetry, essay collections, and children's books. His work has now been translated into more than 40 languages and his plays performed more than a thousand times around the world. In whatever genre he is writing in, Fosse's language is poetic and existential, rhythmic and lyrical.



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Samlaget 2007, 2012, 2014

239 pages

Original title: *Trilogien: Andvake* (2007), *Olavs draumar* (2012), *Kveldsvævd* (2014)

ISBN: 9788252189155



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Jon Fosse

## *The Trilogy: Wakefulness* (2007), *Olav's Dreams* (2012), *Weariness* (2014)



*Andvake*, *Olavs draumar* and *Kveldsvævd* start with Alida and Asle who come to Bjørgvin to find work and a place to live. Alida is in the advanced stages of pregnancy, but nobody is willing to give her and her boyfriend shelter. They become more and more discouraged as they walk around in the rain. They carry with them memories of a happier time, from when the two of them met and understood immediately that they were meant for each other. But painful memories also interfere and the echo of the Bible story is strong throughout.

The sequel *Olavs draumar* gives us a brilliant portrait of the love that the two young people share, rendered in a simple and potent language. It is a dreamlike, disturbing and claustrophobic story, similar to a Biblical allegory. They decide to leave Bjørgvin, but in *Kveldsvævd* Asle, who now decides to change his name to Olav, returns to Bjørgvin to purchase a gift for Alida. It does not turn out as he had hoped. The story in *Kveldsvævd* is told by old Ales, Alida's daughter. Through her we learn what happened to Alida and Asle, the couple who sacrificed their conscience to love. Asle was hung in Bjørgvin. Alida and their young son Sigvald accompany fellow townsman Åsleik back to Dylgja, the town that Asle and Alida left once upon a time.

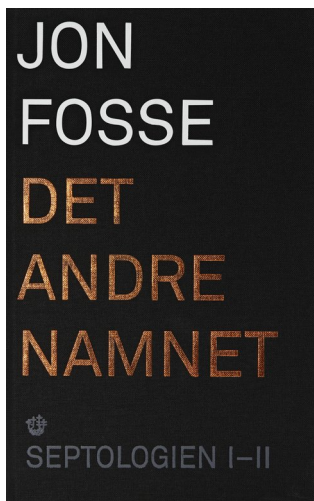
**Winner of the Nordic Council's Literature Prize 2015.**

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Det Norske Samlaget 2019  
450 pages  
Original title: *Det andre namnet, Septologien I-II*  
ISBN: 9788252196177

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Jon Fosse

## *The Other Name. Septology I - II*

Jon Fosse has completed a 1250 page prose work: *Septology*.

*The Other Name* will be launched this October at the Frankfurt Book Fair, shortly after Fosse's 60th birthday. The work as a whole is called *Septology* and the seven parts are being published in three volumes: *The Other Name*; *I is Someone Else* (parts III-V, 2020), and *A New Name* (parts VI-VII, 2021)

The main character and first-person narrator of *Septology*, Asle, is a painter and widower who lives in the house in Dylgja where he used to live with his wife Ales. He is now alone; almost the only people he still sees are his neighbor, Åsleik—an old-fashioned country fisherman—and his gallerist, Beyer, who lives in the city of Bjørgvin, a couple of hours' drive to the south.

Another Asle, also a painter, lives in Bjørgvin, and he and the narrator are doppelgangers, in a way, or perhaps two versions of the same person, the same life. The one who married Ales also became religious, and quit drinking, and became a successful painter; the other is on a harder path. It is a central event of Fosse's fictional universe when they meet. The action of the novel takes place during Advent, shortly before Christmas, with the lives of the two Asles told both in flashback and in the present.

*Septology* is about the nature of art, and God; about alcoholism and the passage of time. Like so much of Fosse's work, it treats of love, of death, of the sea.

*With Septology I-II, Jon Fosse has written a masterwork. Upon finishing it, one feels one has witnessed a monumental event, I think that the publication in 2019 will be a literary sensation. I would recommend this book to absolutely everyone.*

- Reader by Batzer Publishing House

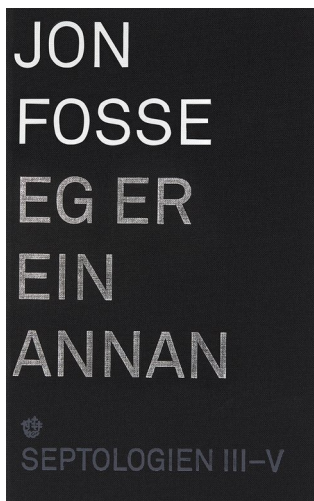
*...a strange mystical moebius strip of a novel, in which an artist struggles with faith and loneliness, and watches himself, or versions of himself, fall away into the lower depths. The social world seems distant and foggy in this profound, existential narrative ...*

- Hari Kunzru, author of *White Tears*

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Det Norske Samlaget 2020  
400 pages

Original title: *Eg er ein annan. Septologien III - V*  
ISBN: 9788252196191

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Jon Fosse

## *I Is Another: Septology III - V*

Asle, a painter, lives alone in Dylgja, north of Bjørgvin. He has almost no contact with anyone but his neighbor Åsleik, a bachelor fisherman and farmer. Another Asle lives in Bjørgvin, also a painter—the two Asles are friends, and doppelgangers in a way, leading two versions of the same life.

While the narrator, the first Asle, is getting his paintings ready for his Christmas exhibition at the Beyer Gallery in Bjørgvin, he finds his friend Asle lying in the snow. This Asle is an alcoholic and has collapsed. Asle brings him to the hospital, picks up and takes care of his dog.

Asle's life in Dylgja is told both in the present and in flashbacks to the past. This second volume of Jon Fosse's *Septology* gives us a glimpse into Asle's life as a boy and a teenager. There are fumbling kisses, smoking and drinking, amateur rock bands and fist fights, a nagging mother and a silent father. Beyer the gallerist discovers the young painter when Asle puts on a summer show in his hometown youth center. Meanwhile, the two Asles meet for the first time and soon both get admitted to art school in Bjørgvin. There Asle meets and falls in love with his future wife, Ales.

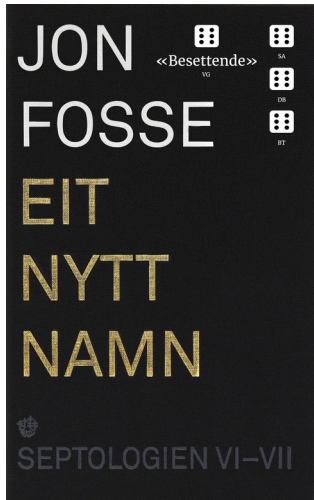
*Septology* is a hypnotic, magnificent novel about the nature of love, art, God, alcoholism, friendship, and the passage of time. There is death in the story, but also what it's like to be alive—the warmth of a dog in your lap, the pleasure of driving alone, how good bacon and eggs can taste.

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Samlaget 2021  
331 pages  
Original title: *Eit nytt namn. Septologien VI - VII*  
ISBN: 9788252196191

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Jon Fosse

## *A New Name: Septology VI - VII*

Asle is an aging painter and widower who lives alone on the southwest coast of Norway. His only friends are his neighbor, Åsleik, a traditional fisherman farmer, and Beyer, a gallerist who lives in the city. There, in Bjørgvin, lives another Asle, also a painter but lonely and consumed by alcohol. Asle and Asle are doppelgängers – two versions of the same person, two versions of the same life, both grappling with existential questions.

In this final instalment of Jon Fosse's *Septology*, the major prose work by 'the Beckett of the twenty-first century' (Le Monde), Christmas is approaching. Tradition has it that Åsleik and Asle eat lutefisk together, but this year Asle has agreed for the first time to celebrate Christmas with Åsleik and his sister, Guro. On Christmas Eve, Åsleik, Asle, and the dog Bragi take Åsleik's boat out on the Sygnefjord. Meanwhile, we follow the lives of the two Asles as younger adults in flashbacks: the narrator meets his lifelong love, Ales; joins the Catholic Church; starts exhibiting with Beyer, and can make a living by trying to paint away all the pictures stuck in his mind. After a while, Asle and Ales leave the city and move to the house in Dylgja. The other Asle gets married too, but his wedding ends with a sobbing bride and is followed soon after by a painful breakup.

*Jon Fosse takes his writing to places where no other Norwegian author can follow him.*

- Sindre Hovdenakk, VG

*Septology reeks of greatness. ... Jon Fosse has done it again. The series will remain a pre-eminent work in Fosse's oeuvre, and, dare I say, in the Norwegian canon. ... a depiction of growing up, of becoming an artist, a story about love and friendship, about loneliness and longing.*

- Ulla Svalheim, Vårt Land

*A beautiful final volume about art, yearning, and passion. Jon Fosse concludes his masterpiece Septology with outstanding novelistic art. – 6 stars (out of 6)*

- Gro Jørstad Nilsen, Bergens Tidende

## Jon Fosse

Jon Fosse is widely considered one of the world's most important living writers. Born in 1959 in Strandebarm, a small village in the western part of Norway, he lives today in the Grotten, an honorary residence, as well as in Hainburg, Austria, and Frekhaug, Norway.



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Fosse has received numerous prizes, both in Norway and internationally, and he is mentioned increasingly often as a likely contender for the Nobel Prize. He has currently finished a major seven-volume work of what he calls “slow prose”. Septology consists of three volumes: *The Other Name: Septology I – II* was published in 2019 to international praise and longlisted for the Booker International Prize. *I Is Another: Septology III – V* was published autumn 2020 and *A New Name: Septology VI – VII* in September 2021.



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