

# Morgunblaðið

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## An exciting mix of a detective and Lisbeth Salander



Óttar Geir Borg

Seasoned scriptwriter Ottó Geir Borg to write a screenplay of Hilma, Óskar Guðmundsson's crime thriller.

“A standard suicide investigation takes an unexpected turn when Detective Hilma finds a connection to other suicides and accidents. Despite the roots of these cases being firmly embedded in the past, Hilma finds herself in a race against time with a ruthless criminal hot on her heels.” This is the publisher’s description of Óskar Guðmundson's book Hilma, which was published on April 30th in 2015 and immediately topped the bestseller charts in Iceland.

Óskar's book gained some recognition when the production company New Work ehf (which have previously released the film Falskur Fugl, which was also based on a novel) snapped up the film rights to the book before it even reached the printers.

Þórómar Jónsson is attached to direct, but he also produces the film. Þórómar has already read a first draft of the script and in his own words “just couldn't put it down...it's a breathtaking tale of a character that no one will forget.”

Ottó Borg has been brought onboard to write the script. His previous works include writing Dorks and Damsels (2007), Brim (2010) as well as adapting the play Gauragangur to the big screen, and recently finished writing the script Ég Man Þig by Yrsa Sigurðardóttir.

“In short, Þórómar contacted me and asked me if I wanted to read this book with the idea of adapting it into a screenplay. The book turned out to be really good, particularly the eponymous protagonist. Her ordeals in this book are incredible, I was fascinated by tackling a character both this strong and this fragile, an exciting mix of a detective and Lisbeth Salander,” says Ottó Borg.

Ottó states that more strong female characters are needed in Icelandic films, and adds that he puts extra effort into his work when dealing with projects of this scale and quality. He's already started work on the screenplay and the story layout is complete. “I've let Óskar and Þórómar read the first draft and they seemed very pleased. It's a sizable departure from the novel, which weighs in at 400 pages. I wanted to take the book in another direction and get things going sooner.” Ottó also adds that the characters alone are material enough for a series of novels.

“My biggest task right now is staying loyal to Hilma within the confines of the script. I've only written about 20 pages, and ahead of me is 6-8 months of work. People often want to rush these things, but in situations like these that's not a good idea. It usually tends to come back and bite you once shooting starts, like the structure of the script being unsound or characters saying the wrong things. It's cheaper to have one scriptwriter puttering away at a script in the corner, rather than 20 guys on a film set.”



Hilma, by Óskar immediately topped the bestseller charts in Iceland.