

# TWO NORWEGIAN DETECTIVE NOVELS

Two contemporary novels exploring the impact of Nazi collaboration and the consequences of unpurged guilt

## COURSE #:

22F-NDN

## FORMAT:

Seminar

## MODERATOR:

Gerald Goldman

## DATE & TIME:

Wed - 1:30 - 3:30 PM

10 Weeks

Starting on 9/28/2022

## LOCATION:

Applewood  
Amherst

## MAX NO. OF PARTICIPANTS:

16

## AUDITORS

## ACCEPTED:

No

## MAX NO. OF AUDITORS:

0

## PURPOSE:

Participants will read and discuss themes in the novels of two contemporary writers whose stories are rich in compelling characters, brilliant plotting, and provocative social questions.

## DESCRIPTION:

Jo Nesbo's novel *The Redbreast* examines the roles played by pro-Nazi and anti-Nazi Norwegians during World War II. He uses flashbacks to pro-Nazi soldiers facing Russian invaders, as well as the mysterious assassinations in present time of collaborators and their skinhead admirers.

Derek Miller in *American by Day* sends his Norwegian chief inspector to upstate New York in search of her missing brother. While there she witnesses the divide separating black and white communities, the roles police play in exacerbating these divisions, and the ways they are exploited by politicians.

Both novels examine the nature of personal and collective memory, regret, and resentment. Both demand blood for blood. And both require the main character to expose the repressed memories in order fulfill the demand for closure.

## ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Participants will lead a discussion on chapters selected from each of the two novels with the aid of a list of themes provided by the moderator.

## RESOURCES:

Jo Nesbo, *The Redbreast* (HarperCollins 2007)

Derek Miller, *American by Day* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018)

## ABOUT THE MODERATOR:

The moderator has led many seminars on European and American literature.