

Martin Baldysz

The Silence Beneath

Stille grender

Genre: Fiction
Category: Crime/Thriller
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Sunnmøre, on the Norwegian west coast, Autumn 1902. The body of Hedda Fosen — the daughter of a wealthy landowner — is found brutally murdered in the remote valley of Mardalen.

Johan Ryer, a newly appointed senior constable from Ålesund, is sent to investigate. His unlikely assistant? His outspoken and fiercely independent sister, Sonja.

Cradled between fjords and mountains lies a tight-lipped village where what goes unsaid weighs heavier than what's spoken. Powerful forces clash beneath the surface — and something dark has been set loose.

We follow the unconventional investigator duo Johan and Sonja Ryer — he precise, gentle and detail-oriented; she intuitive, bold, and unimpressed by authority. A classic murder mystery in a historical setting — featuring strong characters, quiet suspense, and the peculiar unease that only a remote Norwegian fjord village can hold.

This is the gripping start to a new historical mystery series, introducing brother-and-sister sleuths Johan and Sonja Ryer.



Photo: Helle Frogner

Martin Baldysz debuted with the novel *Winter Crawlings* (*Vintertrang*) in 2013, and is also the author of the historical series *Breaking Waves* (*Brenninger*), with 16 books published so far. In 2022, his novel *The Cairns* was published to critical acclaim. Martin owns a farm in western Norway, where he lives with his author wife and two children.

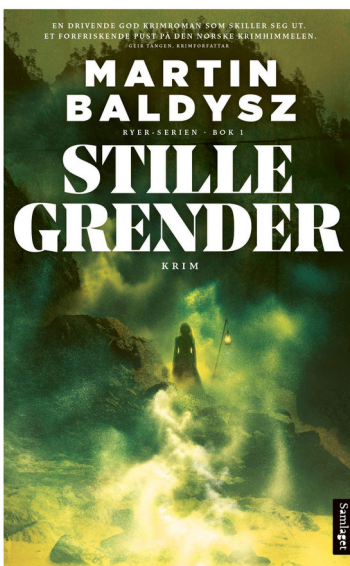
The Silence Beneath is the first book in his new historical crime series.

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Interview

[Read our interview with the author here](#)



'A gripping crime novel that stands out for its setting, plot, characters and prose. A refreshing new voice in Norwegian crime fiction.'

Author Geir Tangen

'*Stille grender* is a magical story. [...] I'm already looking forward to the next book in the series.'

Tine Sundal

'I read with eagerness to the last page. I want to be part of the game [...] I was genuinely excited to see how it would end, and I am genuinely looking forward to the next book about the investigators Ryer.'

Framtida