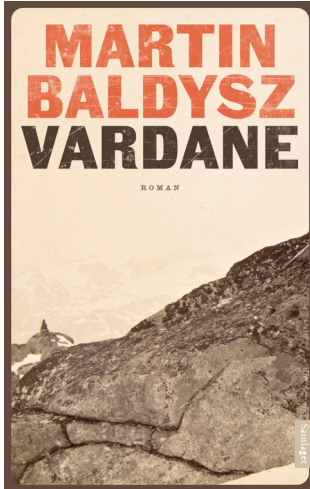Martin Baldysz

THE CAIRNS

Original title: *Vardane*
Publisher: Samlaget, 2022
Category: Fiction
Pages: 133

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17-year-old farmgirl Kirsten Nesse brutally killed a man before disappearing into the high mountains. Over a year after rumors have begun to swirl: Kirsten has been spotted.

People are afraid. Houses have been broken into and things are missing. Sebastian Ribe, the village priest, reports for service: He must save the murderess and bring her down to the village. He asks Reidar Skåren to help him track her down. Reidar, once the independent Mountain Man, now referred to as "Skymingen" (a lonely shadow of a person), accepts. Helping the priest will be a good opportunity to redeem himself.
The Cairns is a novel about the demons burning within, about unexpected friendship. And perhaps most importantly, it's about three people who – without knowing it themselves – are each lost in their own way.

A unique, beautiful, old-fashioned story about a hulder, a priest, and a lonely mountain man. (...) Baldysz is skilled at conjuring up the beauty and dangers of the mountains.

Dagbladet

There's magic here. (...) *The Cairns* **is a scant 130 pages but becomes many more if you add everything that's written between the lines.**

Stavanger Aftenblad

This is a mysterious, magical, and compelling journey in which the past and present of the three protagonists are woven both into each other and into nature. (...) It is eerie and beautiful, gruesome and heartbreaking.

Dag og Tid

Martin Baldysz

Martin Baldysz debuted with the novel *Winter Crawings* (*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.