



## Through Three Rooms

### An Asbjørn Krag mystery

#### Sven Elvestad

A new translation by Lucy Moffatt  
With an introduction by Nils Nordberg

**"A vile crime is being planned," he said.  
"And heaven knows, it may even have been executed."**

When an old schoolfriend whisks private detective, Asbjørn Krag away by train to an isolated snow-covered manor house, his curiosity is aroused.

John Aakerholm, a wealthy landowner with peculiar tastes, refuses to disclose why he is utterly terrified. Every evening at midnight he retires to bed, locking himself within three different chambers - and access is strictly forbidden. When a shocking murder takes place, Krag must use his sharp wit and skills to uncover the killer before he strikes again....

A brilliantly ingenious story, ***Through Three Rooms*** amply displays Elvestad's gift for storytelling and style. Available in English for the very first time, this book will delight fans of vintage crime fiction.

## About the Author

Kabaty Press's edition of ***Through Three Rooms*** will bring the father of Norwegian crime fiction to a new generation. Originally published in 1915 in Norwegian, there has never been an English translation of ***Through Three Rooms*** - until now.

**Sven Elvestad** (1884-1934) was born Kristoffer Elvestad Svendsen and also wrote under the pseudonym Stein Riverton. During a golden age for Norwegian crime fiction, Elvestad reigned supreme as the King of Crime in northern Europe. He wrote close to 100 books, with several published in as many as 17 languages. His masterpiece *The Iron Chariot*, published in 1909, anticipated by 16 years a twist later used by Agatha Christie in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Elvestad became an international celebrity. With a tall and distinct appearance, as well as a passion for food, drink and tobacco, he was popular with painters and cartoonists. He changed his name after being caught embezzling from his employer as a young man and took up a second career as a journalist. He was the first foreign journalist to interview Adolf Hitler and often played a colourful part in his own stories, once spending a day in a circus lion's cage.

Although reprints of his books have been few and far between in the years since, his pseudonym inspired the name of the Norwegian Crime Writers' Association, Rivertonklubben, the Riverton Club, a society for the cultivation and improvement of crime writing. A special honorary Riverton prize is reserved for distinguished service for Norwegian crime fiction. There is also an honorary international Riverton prize which is given out occasionally, among its recipients are PD James, Maj Sjöwall and Henning Mankell.



## Format and availability

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## **Praise for *Through Three Rooms***

"(A)n entertaining country house mystery novella...(t)he pace is fast and the story an enjoyable example of the traditional murder mystery."

**Martin Edwards, novelist and author of *The Life of Crime***

"(A) brisk, pacey and thoroughly entertaining page-turner by one of crime fiction's unsung heroes. It's a good old-fashioned thriller that benefits immeasurably from a concise, skilful translation, and is well worth rediscovering."

**Tom Mead, author of *Death and the Conjuror***

"Like the expert marksmanship displayed in this story, Riverton shows excellent aim in picking off our (genre-trained) assumptions about the mystery enclosed. Fortunately police detective Asbjørn Krag, Norway's answer to Sherlock Holmes, is not so dazzled by the 'inexplicable and the mysterious' in this country house murder mystery."

**Kate Jackson, author of *How to Survive a Classic Crime Novel* and [www.crossexaminingcrime.com](http://www.crossexaminingcrime.com)**

## **Praise for Sven Elvestad**

"The founder of the modern Norwegian crime novel and a great writer."

**Jo Nesbø**

"The Edgar Allan Poe of Scandinavia."

**NY Times Book Review**

"Remarkable ingenuity...the style is fascinating."

**The Sydney Morning Herald**

"The author is well known on the continent as a writer of detective fiction, and the foreign atmosphere gives his book a freshness too often lacking in the home-grown article."

**The Illustrated London News**

"The author is well-known on the continent as a master of detection fiction."

**Belfast Newsletter**

## **About Lucy Moffatt**

*Through Three Rooms* has been translated from Norwegian by Lucy Moffatt, an award-winning translator (Norwegian and Spanish into English). She won a 2014 John Dryden Prize for her translation of an excerpt of a novella by Hans Herbjørnsrud and she was awarded the NORLA Translator's Award in 2020. @LucyTranslator.

## **About Nils Nordberg**

Nils Nordberg is a Norwegian crime writer, anthology editor and audio play director. He has worked for the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation since 1969, and for Radioteatret since 1973. He is regarded among Norway's leading experts on crime fiction.

## **Promotion of *Through Three Rooms***

*The publication of Through Three Rooms is partially funded by Norwegian Literature Abroad (also known as NORLA). Through Three Rooms is launching as part of the Scandinavian Mystery Classics series (Kabaty Press), encouraging readers to rediscover great crime writing from outside of the UK. Kabaty Press is a digital-first publisher who aims to 'bring the world to your bookshelves through translation.'*

**Lucy Moffatt and Nils Nordberg are available for interview.  
For more information or to request a press copy please contact  
Hannah Hargrave: 07855050137/ [hehargrave@gmail.com](mailto:hehargrave@gmail.com).  
A full media kit is available at [www.kabatypress.com/media](http://www.kabatypress.com/media).**