

**BJØRNAR PEDERSEN
& EGIL BIRKELAND**

DODE TING



ASCHEHOUG



04341077087-8

Some times **DEAD**
THINGS are
worth more than a
human life



English title: Dead things

Former journalist and radio personality Elmer Henriksen is making a living as a pirate taxi driver and doing odd jobs at a seedy hotel for derelicts. He actually feels he could be doing worse.

Then the night watch at the shelter, an ex-drug addict, is killed when her apartment building burns down. The owner of the shelter is convinced that her landlord is behind the fire, and asks Henriksen's help to prove it.

Henriksen starts digging, reluctantly, and to his own surprise uncovers a link between the Oslo City Council and a shady real estate deal involving municipal property.

Simultaneously, his own recent past is starting to resurface in the

form of an old acquaintance with a newly developed taste for heroin and a burning desire to know why Henriksen has taken such a giant leap down the career ladder.

Before he knows it, Henriksen finds himself in a squeeze between two corrupt politicians, a consortium of extremely cynical businessmen and a stupid, but unscrupulous debt-collector. It seems there is only one way out of this mess, and to find it he has to go all the way down to the bottom of the pit.

With a dark sense of humor, satirical precision, and the occasional outburst of violent action, Pedersen & Birkeland draws an image of the Norwegian capital in the 1990's as a city where dead things have higher value than human lives.





Bjørnar Pedersen born (1962) and Egil Birkeland (born 1964) made their literary debut in 2000 with their satirical tongue-in-cheek crime novel *Hillman Hunter*, based upon their fictitious radio DJ-personality made popular on Norwegian radio in the 1990s. *Dead Things* (2008) is their second novel together, with a much darker mood and a more serious and realistic bent about corrupt politicians and the gangster underworld of Oslo, although still with characteristic humorous dialogue and colourful characters conveyed in a deadpan narrator's voice..

The writers have both been writing for radio and television for many years. Pedersen is a well known Norwegian radio host. Egil Birkeland is also a successful comical actor in satirical TV series.



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