



JAN MICHALSKI PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

First selection of the Jury – Edition 2011

Sjón

The Blue Fox

There is a fairy tale quality to the novel *The Blue Fox* by the Icelandic author Sjón. Right from the start, the reader is made aware not only of the presence of the fox, but also what its presence might mean to those around it, especially the humans who populate the landscape in which the fable is enacted.

There are human characters in the novel: a local man named Baldur Skuggason, pastor-turned-hunter keen on tracking down the movements of the fox through the snowy woods. There is also a young herbalist and nature-loving hippie named Fridrik Fridjonsson, who has come home with a view to settling his late parents' estate and who is planning to return to his lotus-eating in 17th century Copenhagen. But when by chance he encounters „a simple“ girl named Abba foraging in the outhouse of his parents' building for food, he changes his mind and chooses to remain.

The narration is done skillfully and there is a lot of poetry in this novel – Fridjonsson claims that in his travels he has seen the universe, which according to him, “is made of poetry.” Baldur, meanwhile, kills the fox, consumes its heart and wears its fur.

The Blue Fox won the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

Nuruddin Farah

Member of the Jury

16.02.2011



Sjón

The Blue Fox – novel – Telegram Books - 2008