

Settling down with a good read

The princess preparing for the photo session with Scanorama.



From the princess, we find out what it is really like to grow up with a royal title.

At this time of year, there is nothing quite like reading a good story to transport you away from the long, dark days of winter. And this issue is packed with good reads that I think will literally help to transport you somewhere else quickly.

FIRST WE HAVE A STORY ABOUT THE QUEEN OF STORYTELLERS. THERE ARE FEW MORE BELOVED FIGURES IN SCANDINAVIAN LITERATURE THAN ASTRID LINDGREN. And while we all know the Pippi Longstocking stories Lindgren created, few of us know the struggles with poverty and single motherhood that the author had to endure before becoming famous. Johan Erséus' tale about Lindgren in *Mommie Dearest* is a heartwarming look into the real-life story that influenced her writing.

Next in our collection of stories is a fairy tale. Norway's Princess Märtha Louise has been in the news quite a bit lately for all sorts of rather controversial reasons related to her angel school. But in the story Inger Merete Hobbelstad writes about her in this issue, we also find out that she is a collector of fairy tales. That somehow seems like a fitting pursuit for a princess, doesn't it? And like any good tale, this article also delves into the real-life story of the princess, and we find out what it is really like to grow up with a royal title.

Still another good story can be found in *The Pole of Cold*. Writer and photographer Livia Monami traveled to Siberia to winter with the nomads there. Not only did she survive temperatures of minus 53 degrees, but she also came out with a deep respect for the Dolgans and their way of life, as well as an appreciation of the wide-open spaces they inhabit. It's a fascinating read about a lifestyle so very different from what most of us experience. (And perhaps it makes winter in Scandinavia not look so bad after all...)

Finally, for a very true get-away-from-it-all feeling, check out *Blowin' in the Wind*. Here you will see some great kitesurfing photos and read about what it is like to try this sport in Tarifa, Spain.

Enjoy the reading!

SANDRA CARPENTER

Editor in chief

sandra.carpenter@sasmedia.se

SCANORAMA

PUBLISHER

Magnus Lindvall

EDITORIAL

EDITOR IN CHIEF (acting)

Sandra Carpenter
(responsible under Swedish press law)

SENIOR EDITOR

Thomas Sjöberg

ART DIRECTOR

Annika Sundström

LAYOUT

Annika Olbin

PICTURE EDITOR

Ann Sundblad

COPY EDITOR

Jennifer Palley

e-mail: firstname.lastname@sasmedia.se

DEPARTMENT EDITORS

Charles Ferro, Rob Hincks,
Inger Merete Hobbelstad, Evan Rail, Risto Pakarinen

Tel: +46 8 797 03 00, Fax: +46 8 797 53 15

DISTRIBUTION

Carina Wuolikainen Eklund

e-mail: distribution@sasmedia.se

PRODUCTION

Annica Sunnerfors

Tel: +46 8 797 03 45, Fax: +46 8 797 53 15

e-mail: annica.sunnerfors@sasmedia.se

SAS MEDIA ADVERTISING SALES

Sweden/Finland

SALES DIRECTOR

Catarina Berggren

Kerstin Adell, Display adv

Christina Arrhénborg, Display adv

Joakim Lind, Display adv

Annika Stiernspetz, Sales & booking coordinator

Tel: +46 8 797 03 00, Fax: +46 8 797 53 15

e-mail: firstname.lastname@sasmedia.se

INTERNATIONAL SALES DIRECTOR

Anita Wollroth

anita.wollroth@sasmedia.se

Tel: +46 8 797 03 47, Fax: +46 8 797 53 15

Norway

Mona Hellund

Siri Danielsen

Siri Sømme

Tel: +47 22 70 32 40, Fax: +47 22 70 32 41

e-mail: firstname.lastname@aspectus-media.no

Denmark

Ulrik Brostrøm

Morten Petersen

Tel: +45 33 85 30 09, Fax: +45 33 85 30 01

e-mail: firstname.lastname@sasmedia.dk

Scanorama is published by

SAS Media AB

SE-195 87 Stockholm, Sweden

www.sasmedia.se

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Lennart Löf Jennische

SAS Customer relations

www.sas.se/feedback

Scanorama is distributed ten times a year by SAS.

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