
Inspector Erlendur

Inspector Erlendur Sveinsson is the protagonist of a series of Icelandic detective novels by Arnaldur Indriðason.

Strengths

Experienced
Talented
Dedicated
Compassionate

Weaknesses

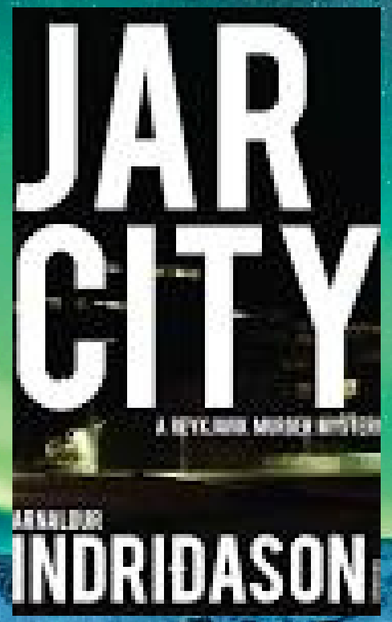
Gloomy
Antisocial
Stubborn
Struggles with personal relationships

Erlendur is continually haunted throughout the series by the disappearance of his little brother in a blizzard when the pair were children.

Friends, family, colleagues

Erlendur gets on well with his fellow detectives Elínborg and Sigurður Óli, and has a good relationship with his boss Marion Breem.
His relationship with ex-wife Halldora and children Eva Lind and Sindri is more difficult - in particular Eva Lind is a drug addict and the two have a strained relationship.

There are eleven Erlendur novels, of which nine have been translated into English:

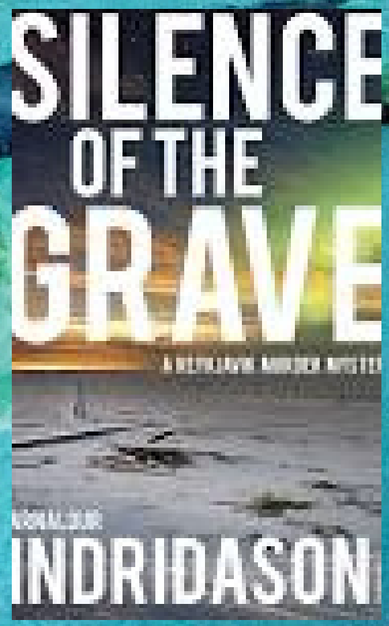


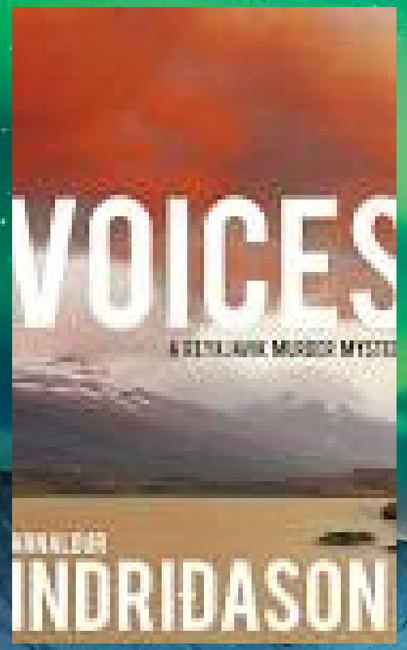
A skeleton is discovered on a building site, leading to long-forgotten secrets being uncovered.

Silence of the Grave **(2001)**

Jar City **(2000)**

Erlendur and colleagues investigate the murder of a lonely old man with a disturbing past.





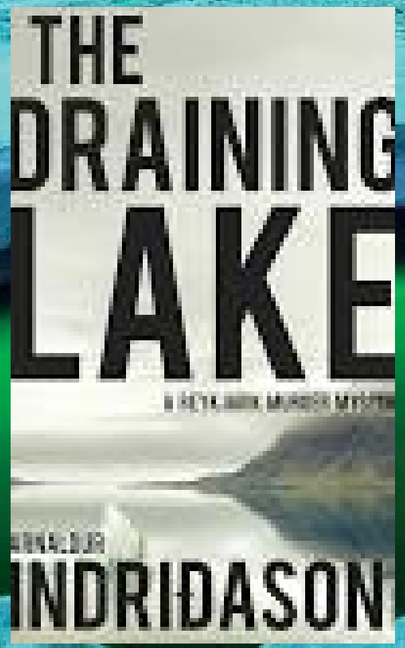
A body found in a lake reveals historic Cold War conflicts.



***The Draining Lake* (2004)**

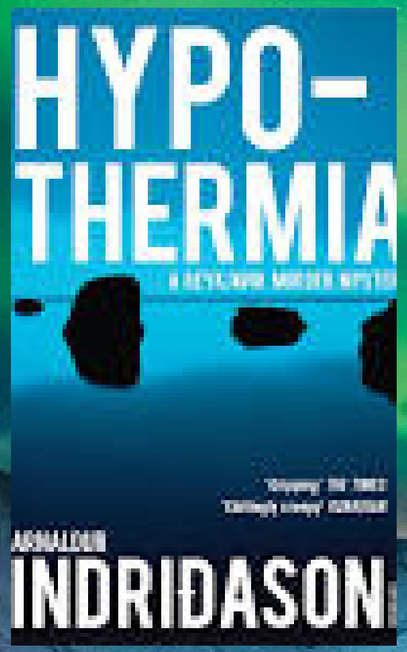
***Voices* (2002)**

Christmas in a grand Reykjavik hotel turns sour when Santa is stabbed.

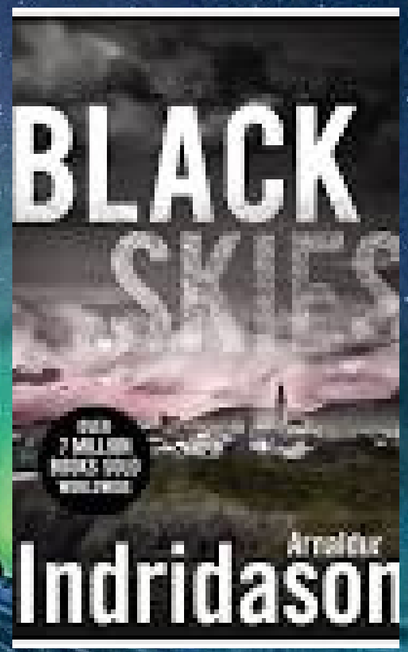


***Arctic Chill* (2005)**

A young boy is found frozen in his own blood, revealing dark truths about Icelandic society.



Erlendur's colleague Elinborg takes the stage in this novel, chasing the killer of a date rape predator.



***Outrage* (2008)**

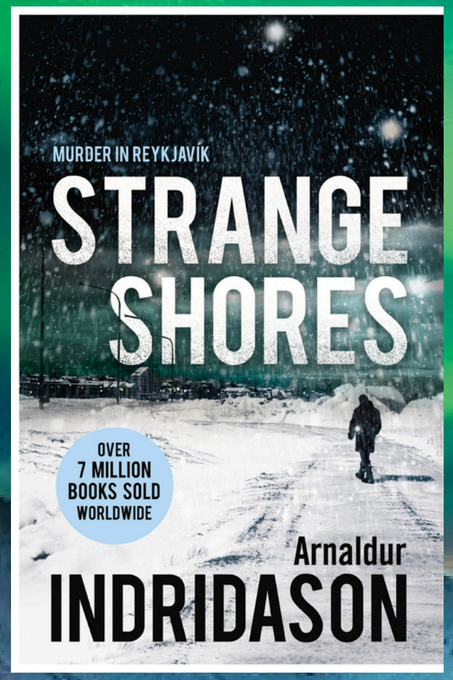
***Hypothermia* (2007)**

Erlendur doesn't believe a woman found hanged committed suicide, and is determined to find out what really happened.



***Black Skies* (2009)**

Another colleague, Sigurdur Oli , takes charge in this investigation into the murder of a blackmailer.



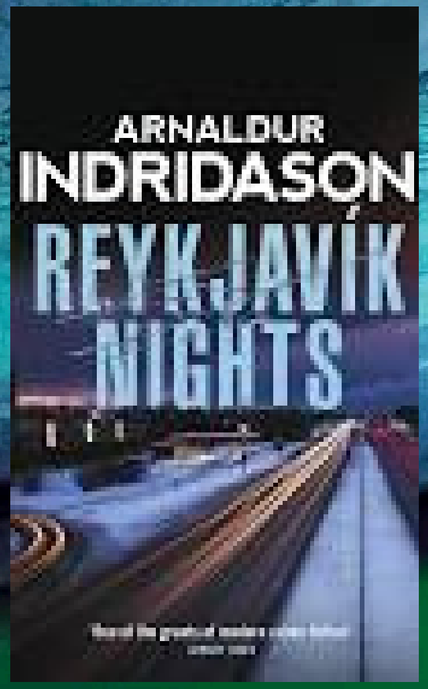


***Strange Shores* (2010)**

In the final Erlendur novel, the detective investigates the disappearance of a woman who went missing many years ago, which helps him try and work out what happened to his own brother.

Ingvar Eggert Sigurðsson as Erlendur in the 2006 film *Jar City*

There have also been three prequels, of which two have been translated into English:



Reykjavik Nights (2012)
As a new member of the police force, Erlendur becomes obsessed with the drowning of a homeless alcoholic called Hannibal.

Into Oblivion (2014)
Erlendur investigates the death of a man who worked at the American military base at Keflavik.

