

BOOKS

Lars Saabye Christensen, *Vizionare (Visning)*, București: Editura UNIVERS, 2014, 239 p.

In 1976 the Norwegian writer Lars Saabye Christensen made his literary debut with a collection of poems entitled *Historien om Gly (The Story of Gly)*, being awarded with *Tarjei Vesaas' debutantpris*. Additionally, he has written plays, film scripts and books for children. However, Christensen is best known for his novels *Maskeblomstfamilien* (2003), *Halvbroren (The Half Brother, 2001)*, *Gutten Som Ville Være*

En Av Gutta (The Boy Who Would Be One of the Boys, 1992), *Herman* (1988). The moment Lars Saabye Christensen's novel *Beatles* appeared on the market in 1984, it sold over 200,000 copies of the Norwegian edition. To put it differently, the novel *Beatles* was a roaring success and brought in Norway one of the greatest commercial triumphs. In a similar manner, the novel and the best-seller *Halvbroren (The Half Brother, 2001)* which was awarded the Nordic Prize 2002, has sold over 200,000 copies in Norway.

The novel *Vizionare (Visning)* is set in the 90's, in Oslo and has in its centre two



main characters, Will Bråten, an imaginative playwright, and Cathrin art director at an advertising agency. Even if they have been together for four years, there were obvious signs that their relationship was not working and they steadily found out that they did not have the same *POV (point of view)*. As a solution for their problems, they decided to view several apartments, without being interested in buying them. The two characters used these

apartments on the pretext of playing a dangerous and erotic game, until Cathrin disappeared. In other words, this novel is based on two important themes that are loss and longing. The open-ended novel is built on the literary device of the *story within a story* formed of seventeen chapters and more than twenty-nine scenes of the second version of the screen play written by Will and entitled *Vizionare (Visning)*. In addition, the novel consists of several intertextual references and allusions to different books, films, writers and songs, namely: the British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie (b. 1947) and his novel *The Satanic Verse*, the American novelist Ern-

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est Hemingway (1899-1961), the American novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) with his short stories entitled *The Pat Hobby Stories*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961) which is Will and Cathrin's favourite film, the British actress Audrey Hepburn (1929-1993) as Holly Golightly who starred alongside the American actor George Peppard (1928-1994) as Paul Varjak in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, the American novelist Truman Capote (1924-1984), the author of the short novel *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, the American actor Robert De Niro (b. 1943), the American singer and songwriter Thomas Alan "Tom" Waits (b. 1949) and his song *Broken Bicycles*.

Along with Will and Cathrin, the readers have the opportunity to become more familiar with the setting of the novel and its surroundings, being guided by an imaginary map of Oslo with its streets and famous places. Moreover, besides the protagonists and their relatives, the author refers also to a heron and a Golden Retriever called Ca De-Obicei (As Usual). Additionally, there is a preference for the yellow colour. For instance, the estate agent had a funny and almost yellow suit. Similarly, the day she disappeared, Cathy wore a pair of yellow wool gloves and a yellow hat.

The novel *Vizionare (Visning)* was translated into Romanian by Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu who is the head of the Department of Scandinavian Languages and Literatures at the Faculty of Letters of "Babeş-Bolyai" University, from Cluj-Napoca. She has published *Velkommen!*

– *Manual de conversație în limba norvegiană (Welcome! – Norwegian Conversation Textbook)* and numerous articles in Romanian and international academic journals. She is a dedicated professor of Norwegian Language and Literature and a well-known and gifted translator from Norwegian into Romanian. Among her translations are *Lars Saabye Christensen. Vizionare (Visning)* (2014); *Henrik Ibsen. Când noi, morți, înviem (Når vi døde vågner)* (2009); the anthology entitled *Nușele norvegiene.ro* (2005); *Lars Saabye Christensen. Beatles* (1996, 2008). The Romanian translation of the novel *Vizionare (Visning)* was published in Romania with the help of NORLA (Norwegian Literature Abroad).

When referring to the manner in which the novel *Vizionare (Visning)* was translated, Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu uses her translator's abilities to create the suitable cultural framework in which the action of the novel takes place, by giving a series of explanatory notes. With the help of these extra explanations, the translator provides a better understanding for the Romanian readers, by giving the proper equivalents of the Norwegian cultural-bound terms. To put it differently, Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu is a transcultural mediator between Norwegian and Romanian culture, being able to pass beyond the cultural borders, thus succeeding in translating the right message and the appropriate sense of the novel.

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