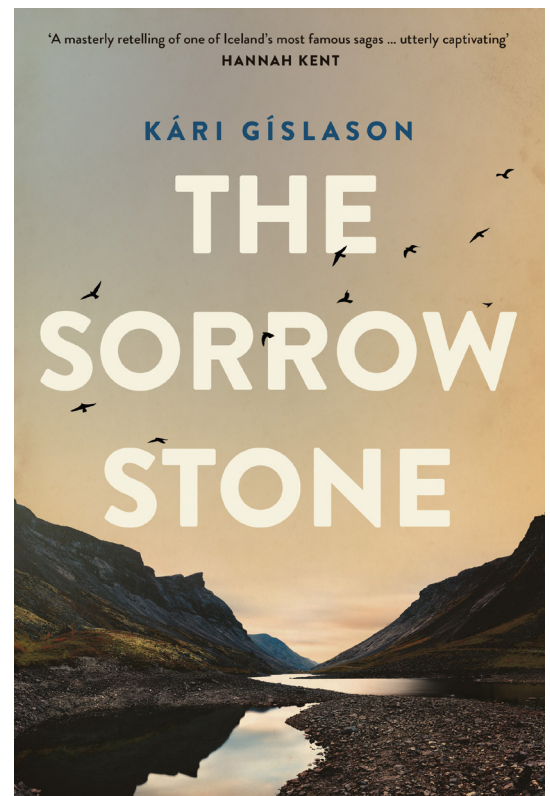


An epic and compelling novel that reimagines the fate of one of Iceland's famous women of history.

After committing an audacious act of revenge for her brother's murder, Disa flees with her son through the fjords of Iceland. She has already endured the death of her loved ones. Now she must run to save her son, and her honour.

In a society where betrayals and revenge killings are rife, all Disa has is her pride and her courage. Will it be enough for her and her son to escape retribution?

Dramatic and urgent in its telling, *The Sorrow Stone* celebrates one woman's quest, against the dramatic backdrop of the Icelandic countryside. In this gripping novel, the co-author of the bestselling *Saga Land* takes a sidelined figure from the Viking tales and finally puts her where she belongs – at the centre of the story.



BOOK DETAILS

C-format paperback | 978 0 7022 6552 5
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'A masterly retelling of one of Iceland's most famous sagas ... I found it utterly captivating.'

Hannah Kent

'This epic tale transported me to another time and place entirely.'

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'An enthralling, rich and bloody saga filled with revenge, betrayal, passion and murder.'

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Questions

1. Life in early Iceland was violent and dangerous. How does the constant presence of threats – from the weather, the landscape and other people – affect the choices Disa and others make?
2. There were no towns in Iceland in the tenth century; it was very much a country of farms and fishing stations. How does isolation and domestic closeness affect characters and events in *The Sorrow Stone*?
3. What do Disa and her brothers have in common? What personality traits distinguish them?

[MORE QUESTIONS OVER PAGE](#)

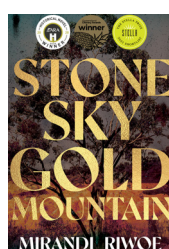
Questions

4. Disa likens Sindri to both Grim and Gils. Who is he most similar to and why?
5. Disa's mother and her aunt, Inga, offer very different role models for her. What do you make of their relationships?
6. Disa and the other characters in *The Sorrow Stone* are made to choose between family and romantic love on numerous occasions. How do you think people prioritise their relationships today?
7. This novel is a response to older stories. Have you read any other books that revisit history or put women at the centre of a previously male story?
8. How do Disa's relationships with other women influence the decisions she makes?
9. Disa ends her marriage to Bork by simply announcing her divorce in front of witnesses. What other customs did you notice in the story that seem very different from and perhaps even better than those of the twenty-first century?
10. In Viking Age society, women's most powerful weapon was usually well-chosen words rather than swords and spears. How do the women in *The Sorrow Stone* use words to force others to act?
11. Grey Blade is described as a cursed weapon, and is at the centre of many violent encounters in *The Sorrow Stone*. Is it responsible for the revenge killings, or do those involved have a say in their fates?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kári Gíslason is a writer and an academic who lectures in Creative Writing at QUT. Kári was awarded a doctorate in 2003 for his thesis on medieval Icelandic literature. His first book, *The Promise of Iceland* (UQP, 2011), told the story of return journeys he's made to his birthplace. His second book was the novel *The Ash Burner* (UQP, 2015). He is also the co-author, with Richard Fidler, of *Saga Land: The island of stories at the edge of the world* (HarperCollins, 2017), which won the Indie Book Award for Non-Fiction in 2018.



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