



> ROSA CANDIDA

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir

*Original language: Icelandic
August 2010, 336 pages*

150 000 copies sold in France !

Shortlisted for the Prix Fémina 2010
Shortlisted for the Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle 2011

*'The almost initiatory journey of a young man with a passion for botany whose mother has just died.
A magnificent Nordic tale.'* – André Clavel, L'Express

Young Arnljótur is about to leave home, his autistic twin brother, his eighty-year-old father and the crepuscular landscape of lichen-covered lava. His mother had a car accident. As she lay dying in a mass of twisted metal, she somehow found the strength to phone her loved ones and give calm advice to her son who listened, unaware that these were the last words of a dearly beloved mother. For between them, there was a bond: the garden and the greenhouse where she grew a rare, eight-petalled species of the *Rosa candida*. It was there also that Arnljótur made love to Anna, a friend's girlfriend, in a fleeting moment of the night; and in his innocence, left her with child.

As he heads for an old rose garden in the continent, with two or three cuttings from the *Rosa candida* in his luggage, Arnljótur is unknowingly on the way to an encounter with Anna and her little daughter, there in another Eden forgotten by the world and kept by a monk who loves the cinema.

The Author

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir published her first work of fiction, *Upphækkuð jörð* (*Raised Earth*), in 1998. Since then, two more novels have followed in its wake, as well as the poetry book *Sálmurinn um glimmer* (*The Psalm of Glimmer*), published in early 2010. Ólafsdóttir's work has attracted praise for its fresh perspective on everyday life.

Her two subsequent works, *Rigning í nóvember* (*L'Embellie*) and *Afleggjarinn* (*Rosa candida*), enjoyed universal critical acclaim. *Rosa candida* received in Iceland the DV Culture Award, The Prize for Icelandic Women's Literature, and a nomination for the Nordic Council's Literary Award. The panel of judges for the DV Award stated that the novel succeeded in casting off the fetters of convention: "This work strikes a new note on the Icelandic scene."

RIGHTS SOLD IN:

Czech Republic (Albatros), **Denmark** (Athene Forlaget), **Italy** (Einaudi), **Germany** (Suhrkamp), **The Netherlands** (MM Boeken), **Spain** (Alfaguara), **English world rights** (Amazon crossing), **Romania** (Trei), **Taiwan** (Aquarius), **Slovaquia** (Slovart), **Bulgaria** (Colibri), **NORWAY** (Pax) and in **Portugal** (Marcador).

NEW! Rights sold in Latvia (Janis Roze)!

English text available

ROSA CANDIDA - PRESS

'An incontestable literary achievement, Rosa candida proves that extreme subtlety is sometimes expressed in the simplest terms. The author's craving for detail and minor events, whose fleeting beauty nourishes the memory of the characters and the reader, is contagious.'

Nils C. Ahl, *LE MONDE DES LIVRES*

'What could be more charming than this novel, a bubble of delicacy and authenticity that floats up from a world that has forgotten such words.'

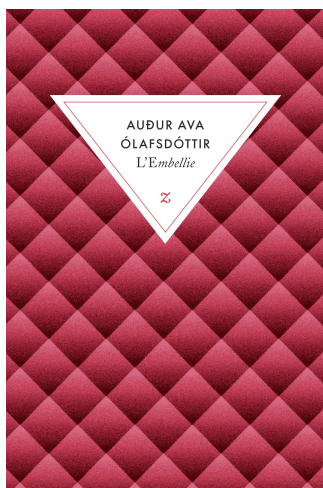
Jeanne de Ménibus, *ELLE*

Such delicacy is the miracle of this Rosa candida, whose petals we pluck almost in a dream, but no, this book really exists. Audur Ava Olafsdottir wrote it and you simply must read it.

Valérie Marin la Meslée, *LE POINT*

'Death, desire, roses, the alchemy of a novel that surprises us at each turn of the page and leaves readers with fervent admiration for the woman who wrote it.'

Yves Simon, *PARIS MATCH*



> L'EMBELLIE

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir

*Original language: Icelandic
August 2012, 400 pages*

By *Rosa candida's* writer, 150 000 copies sold
in France and 12 translations around the world !

After the successful *Rosa candida* (Zulma, 2010), the famous Icelandic author Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir takes us on a tour of her "land of ice and fire" in a book full of warmth and humour. At the wheel of a rickety old car, a 30 year-old, recently divorced woman; in the passenger seat, a five year-old, slightly handicapped boy who's been 'loaned' by a friend. The moving encounter of two beings in search of love.

In a dark Icelandic November, exceptionally mild this year, to the point of flooding the country in rain, the narrator sees her husband leave without a word of warning. At the same time she receives a request from her best friend, Audur: to look after Tumi, her five-year-old son, for the next few months.

Nevertheless, fortune smiles on the heroine: she wins a summer chalet and a small fortune on the national Loto. After the break-up, she would rather have gone on a long journey of consolation to far-off lands. But incapable of saying no to anything or anyone, she takes Tumi with her. Soon she sets off on a tour of Iceland with the strange little fellow, almost a deaf mute with two magnifying glasses for spectacles.

In *L'Embellie* - an initiatory novel if ever there was one - the relationship between the traveler and her little companion, increasingly crazy, caring and poignant, is a source of constant enchantment. As is her incredibly candid and light-hearted – one might almost say amorous – attitude to life's ups and downs, be they ephemeral, burlesques or dramatic. The reader slips into *L'Embellie* with a sort of shared exultation that is sustained throughout the book and lingers on long after reading.

THE AUTHOR:

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir published her first work of fiction, *Upphækkuð jörð* (*Raised Earth*), in 1998. Since then, two more novels have followed in its wake, as well as the poetry book *Sálmurinn um glimmer* (*The Psalm of Glimmer*), published in early 2010. Ólafsdóttir's work has attracted praise for its fresh perspective on everyday life. *Rosa candida*, published by Zulma in 2010, enjoyed universal critical acclaim. Rights were sold in 14 countries. *L'Embellie* was awarded by the Reykjavik's Literary Prize when it was first published in Iceland.

RIGHTS SOLD IN:

Spain (Alfaguara), **Italy** (Einaudi), **Germany** (Suhrkamp/Insel)

ABOUT *ROSA CANDIDA* (2010)

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