



# **Following the Animal: Power, Agency, and Human-Animal Transformations in Modern, Northern-European Literature**

*Ann-Sofie Lönngrén*

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Literary transformations from human to animal have occurred in myths, folklore, fairy tales and narratives from all over the world since ancient times, and have always provided a narrative space for depictions of power, agency, and the radical nature of change. In *Following the Animal*, these transformations are analysed with regards to their use in modern literature from northern-most Europe, with specific attention being paid to the insights they provide regarding the human-animal relationship, both generally in the industrialized West, and against the background of more specific circumstances in the Nordic area. In three analytic chapters, focusing respectively on Swedish author August Strindbergs novel *Tschandala* (1887), Finnish author Aino Kallass novel *The Wolfs Bride* (1928), and Danish author Karen Blixen/Isak Dinesens short story *The Monkey* (1934), along with discussions of a range of other authors and texts, the reader is introduced to several traditions of literary production that both connect to, and differ from, Anglophone and other literature in fascinating ways. In addition to the insights it provides concerning the uses of human-animal transformations in modern Nordic literature, and their significance in relation to the question of the animal, *Following the Animal* also offers literary scholars and students alike a series of useable and transferable strategies for approaching texts from a more-than-anthropocentric, human-animal studies perspective. In phrasing and employing the interpretational method of following the animal over the texts surface, up metaphorical elevations, down material wormholes, and in constant dialogue with previous research, this book contributes greatly to both human-animal literary studies specifically, and to the field of literary scholarship generally, in both an international and northern-European context.

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