

On a remote forest farm in northern Sweden, the static of Lars Ruth's unsettled mind is fizzing. Voices. Sightings. Encounters, real and imagined, hint at a fractured and fragmentary life. Something is falling apart – something coming together.

*The Invention of Lars Ruth* is an intimate, visionary exploration of psychic disquiet. Its themes, of remembrance and aloneness, spiral around an evasive, haunting figure. But who is Lars? His voice is the echo to a volatile mind, aware of its disintegration, fearful of imminent collapse. Only by re-imagining his place in the natural world and the mysterious creatures in it, can Lars Ruth secure his newly awakening self.

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PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS BY GEORGE MESSO

POETRY

*Violades & Appledown*, 2012

*Hearing Still*, 2009

*Entrances*, 2006

*From the Pine Observatory*, 2000

TRANSLATIONS

Orhan Veli: *Complete Poems*, 2016

İlhan Berk: *The Book of Things*, 2016

İlhan Berk: *New Selected Poems 1947–2008*, 2016

*Contemporary Turkish Women Poets*, 2015

İlhan Berk: *Letters & Sounds*, 2014

Birhan Keskin: *& Silk & Love & Flame*, 2013

Gonca Özmen: *The Sea Within*, 2011

*İkinci Yeni: The Turkish Avant-Garde*, 2009

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“Who, travelling through the void,  
does the breath-spent here,  
to one among the worlds, translate?”

—Paul Celan,  
*translated by Ian Fairley*

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THE INVENTION OF LARS RUTH

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## Lars & Lars

When Lars Ruth  
came to visit

he said  
first  
someone else is here

who  
*you've never met*  
and second

*he's in me*  
by which

*I mean*  
*let's find*

*the other you*  
*to greet him*

and the four  
of us sat

at this very table  
Lars there and me

fingering my tie  
exchanging glances

# Oared

The foetus knows everything  
said Lars  
but slips from its dark  
into ignorance  
like a boat  
drifting over a shoal.

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## Lockers and Lars

The lake's ingenuity  
for hiding things.

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## A Dwelling Place for Lars

We sat  
with morning in the room

until the grey walls turned blue  
and the breath went out of him.

No slowing down  
or sudden exhalation

of a dying wish. Just  
my father, dead.

And when I drew the blind  
all the breathing creatures

were gathered  
and pressed to the window.

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