



FABULOUS BOOKS

Gunnar Helgason
Spot Kicks From Hell

Children's Book

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gunnar Helgason (b. 1965) is a popular actor, well-known for all kinds of entertaining material for children.

Amongst other things he has directed a popular children's program on Icelandic State TV. *Spot Kicks from Hell* (orig. *Víti í Vestmannaeyjum*) is his fifth book.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Nornin og dularfulla gauksklukkan, 2010: JPV

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Goggi og Grjóni, 1992: Mál og menning

SPOT KICKS FROM HELL (2011)

Jon Jonsson and his teammates are one of the visiting teams on a football tournament in the Westman Islands, a small island south of Iceland. The islands lie in the middle of one of the most volcanic regions on earth, and the pitch where the tournament is taking place stands under the slopes of a sleeping volcano. Scientists have warned that an eruption is coming. But where?

Jon doesn't think much of his own football skills, but he can feel his confidence growing as the tournament unfolds. During the tournament, he gets to know a local boy, Ivar, and witnesses domestic violence when Ivar's father beats his son. Although Ivar is on the enemy team, Jon and his friends decide to do everything in their power to help him.

The local police, however, refuses to believe them, taking the father's side instead. Jon considers himself a wimpy kid, but faced with real fear and violence he grows up faster than he would have thought possible, and in the end, justice prevails.

The tournament spans three immensely exciting days in difficult circumstances, and the final match has to be played amidst volcano ashes, as thousands of kids and parents watch the final penalty shoot-out.

Packed with suspense, humour and warmth, this is the first book in *The Great Football Saga* trilogy.

Illustrations by Rán Flygenring.

8+ years. 264 pp.



REVIEWS

“The style is boyish and suits the material perfectly, and the story is great ... The pace is maintained throughout, and humour is never far off, although things turn tough for the characters every now and then ... Simply put, this is a splendid children's book suitable for all children. What's more, grownups reading to their children won't be bored either.” **(Morgunblaðið daily)**

“*Spot Kicks From Hell* is an entertaining, funny, exciting, and generally an extraordinary children's book. I often laughed out loud, and expect that all young football fiends will have a similarly good time. The book is also required reading for all football parents on how to behave – or not behave – on the court's sidelines.” **(Katrín Jónsdóttir, captain of the Icelandic women's football team)**

“The characters ring true and the style is vivid and natural. A good read for boys, as I verified with one nine-year-old specimen, who declares this to be exciting stuff.” **(Fréttatíminn weekly newspaper)**

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