



Bov Bjerg, *Serpentinen*

Hardcover with dust jacket, 272 pages, 22 €

Claassen

A father, who is also the first-person narrator of the story, embarks on a journey back to his origins, to the place he hails from, the place where he got screwed up.

His son always appears in the novel only as “the boy.” Strange. Apparently, the father not only has a dysfunctional relationship to himself, but also to those around him.

Little by little, and not at all straightforwardly, the reader learns that the father is on a mission. It’s about breaking a curse. His great-grandfather killed himself, as did his grandfather, and his father. How do you escape, if, as we learn, you were bent, broken, and humiliated as a child? So many wounds.

And even if the father did manage to come to terms with his life – to make a cut, to leave the past behind. Who is he, if not a product of his biography? It’s a rocky road, for both the father and the son.

Edgar Rai