



The Legend of the Cat People

An Engineering Perspective of the 80s Chick-Lit Sensation by Margit Sandemo (with Cat Memes)

Dr. Helga Ingimundardóttir

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Dr. Helga

- Internet Cat-lady since 2012
- IRL Cat-lady since 2017
- PhD in Computational Engineering
- Podcast host and producer of ÍSKISUR (2016-2020)
- Previously Research Scientist at deCODE Genetics, Data Scientist at CCP Games and Head of AI Research at Travelshift
- Currently working as a Postdoc at the University of Iceland
- @tungufoss on Twitter



Helga heldur að hún
sé góður beatboxari

by Lóaboratorium*

*not commissioned, but befitting

About ÍSKISUR

- A literary and feline entertainment podcast*
- Discuss the erotic and surreal book series *The Legend of the Ice People* by Margit Sandemo
- Each episode covers part of a book from the series and concludes with a segment on internet cats



Grumpy Cat first meeting Lil Bub
Internet Cat Festival, 2013

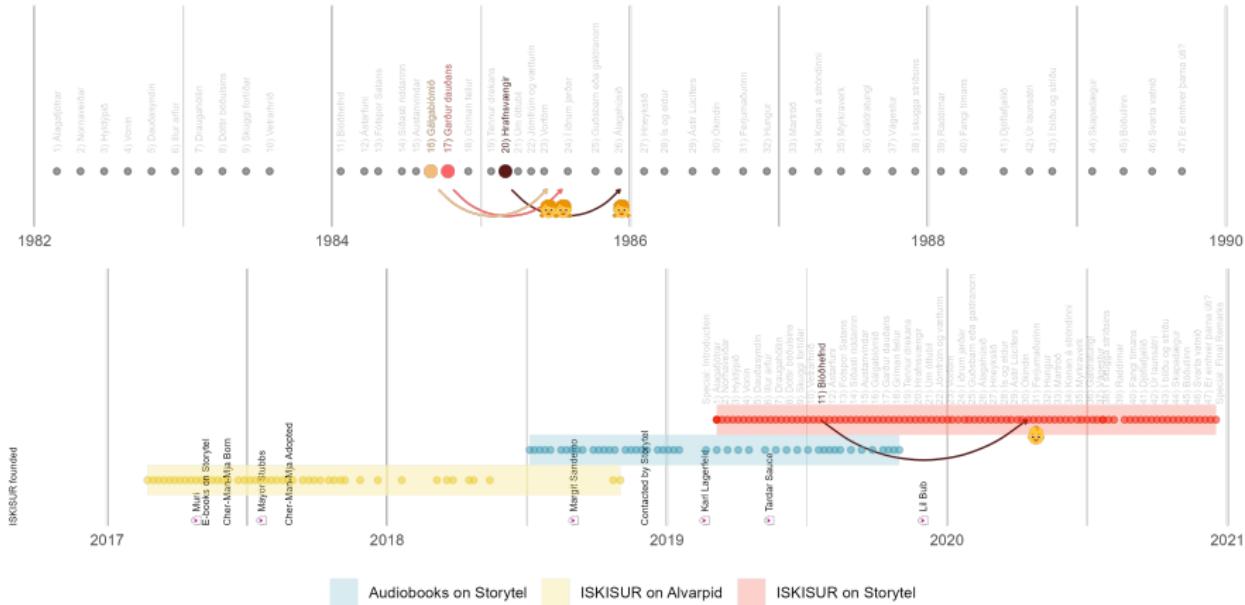
via @iamlilbub



Birna, Kristín, and dr. Helga

*None of the hosts are actually cats or literary experts.

Timeline for the Legend of the Ice Cat-People



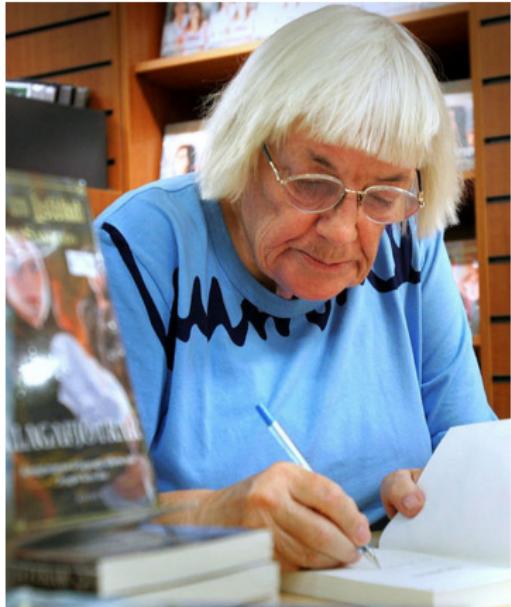
A large orange tabby cat is the central focus, sitting in a white plastic tub filled with a white powdery substance, likely detergent. The cat's front paws are submerged in the powder. In the background, a red barn with a dark wooden door and a single lit window is visible against a warm, golden sunset sky. The overall scene has a soft, nostalgic feel.

The Book Series in the 80s

Margit Sandemo, 1924–2018

- Norwegian-Swedish author
- Father was a Norwegian poet, Anders Underdal
- Claimed lineage to Nobel Prize-winning author Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson
- First published at forty years old
- Best-selling author in the Nordic countries since the 1980s

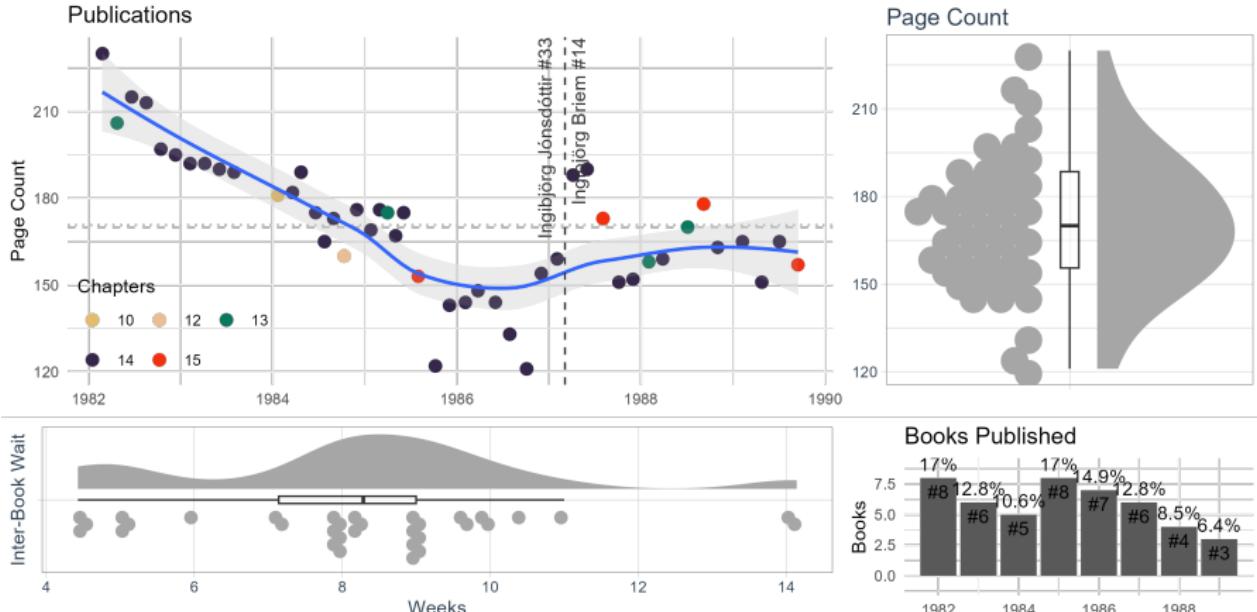
Notable Book Series	Years	n
The Legend of the Ice People	1982–89	47
The Warlock	1991–94	15
The Legend of the Realm of Light	1995–99	12



mbl.is/Þorvaldur Örn Kristmundsson

Margit signing *Álagafjötrar* in Eymundsson, 2007

Publications

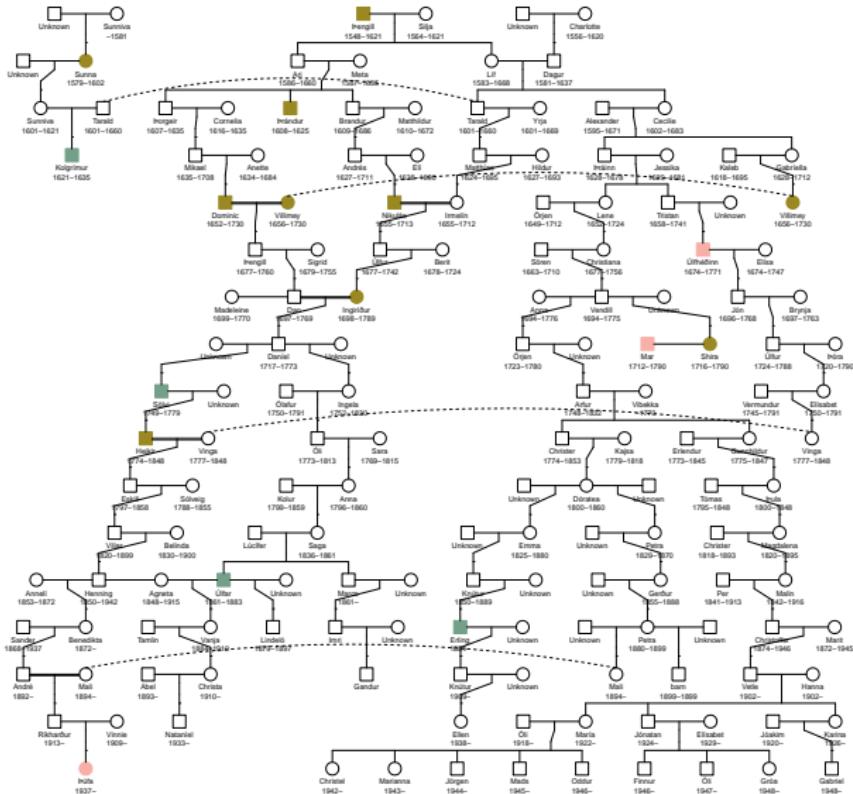


- 47 books, 652 chapters, 8,023 pages, 8 years
- Average book length: 170 pages (avg. 13.9 chapters)
- Released 1 book every 2 months (avg. 57.9 days), usually on Tue.

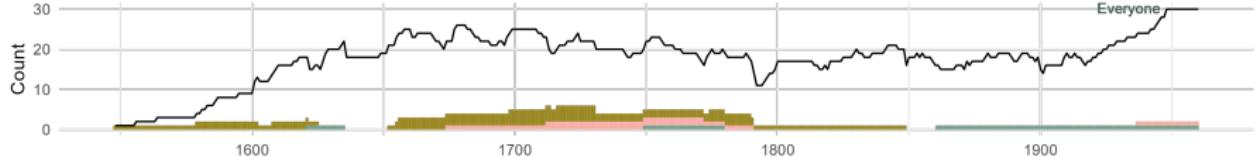
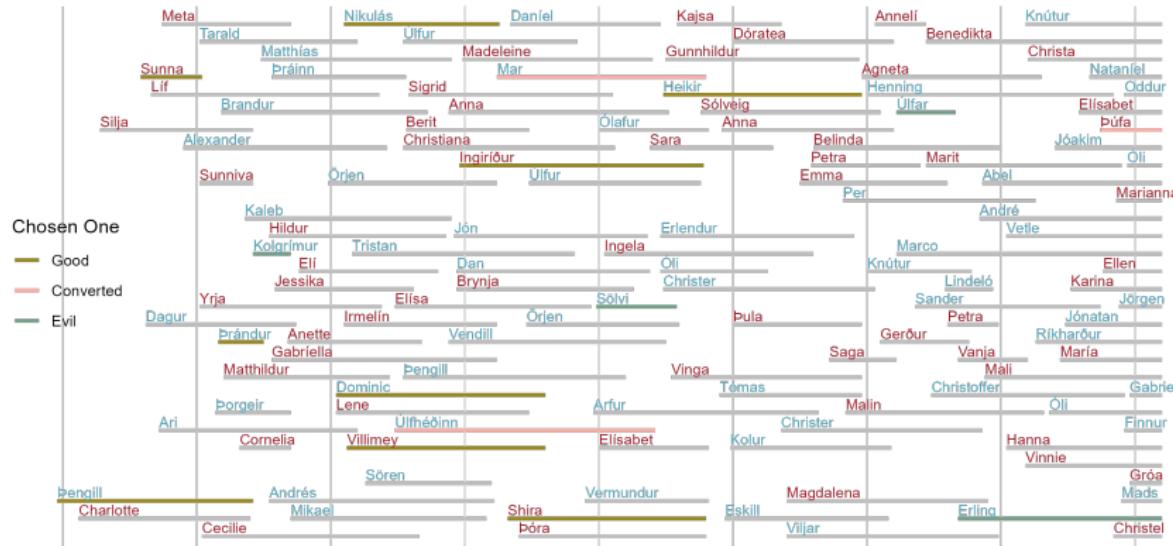
A woman with long red hair, wearing a red dress, is shown in a state of panic, running towards the viewer. She is being chased by a massive, fluffy orange cat that looms over her. The background features a snowy landscape with mountains and a small wooden cabin on the right.

The Ice People

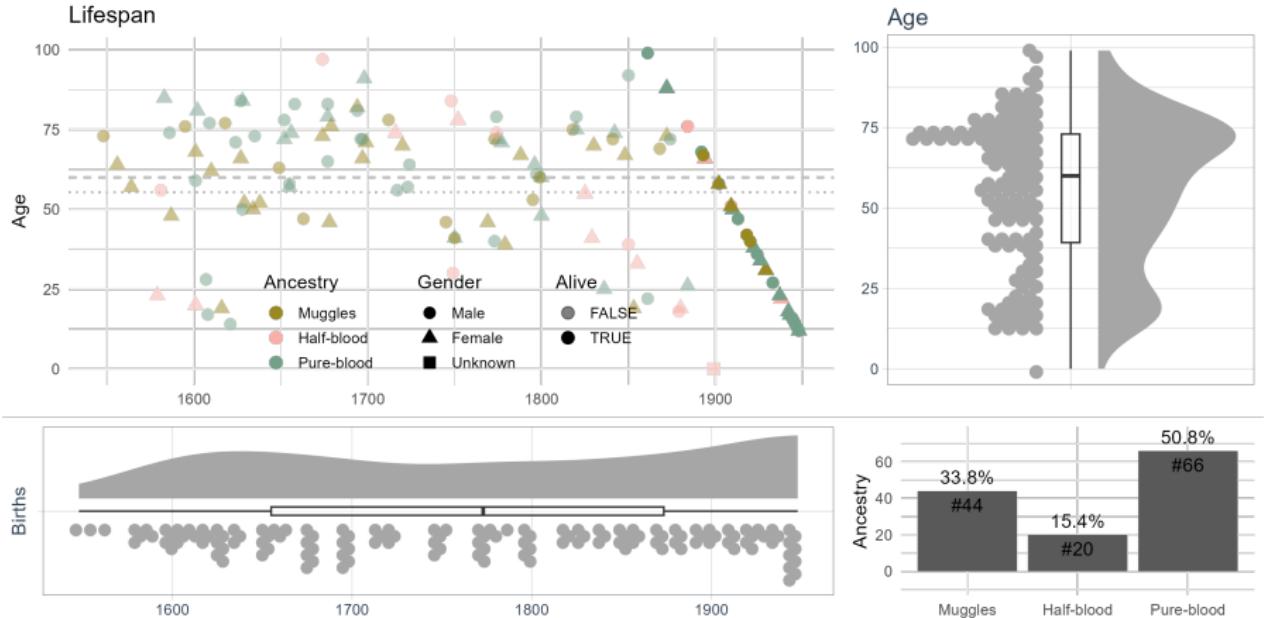
Ice People Family Tree



Ice People Family Gantt Chart

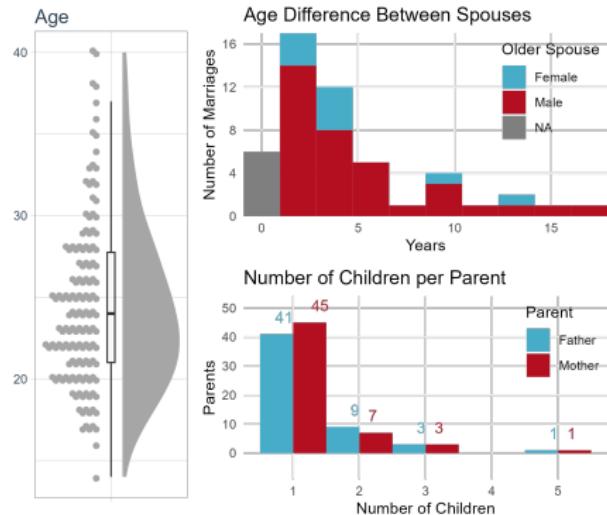
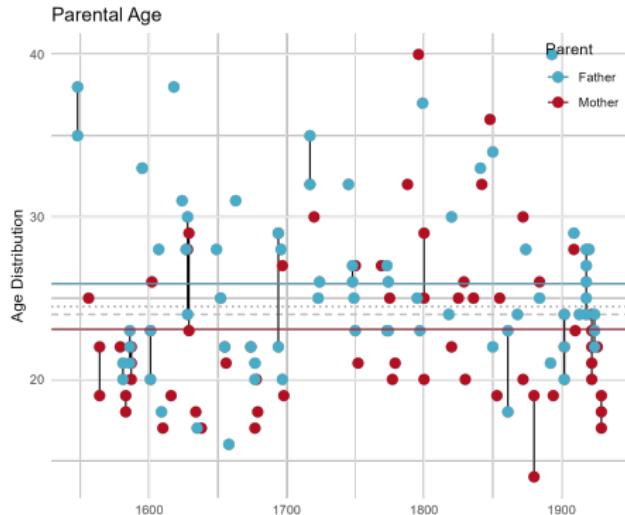


Lifespan of the Ice People

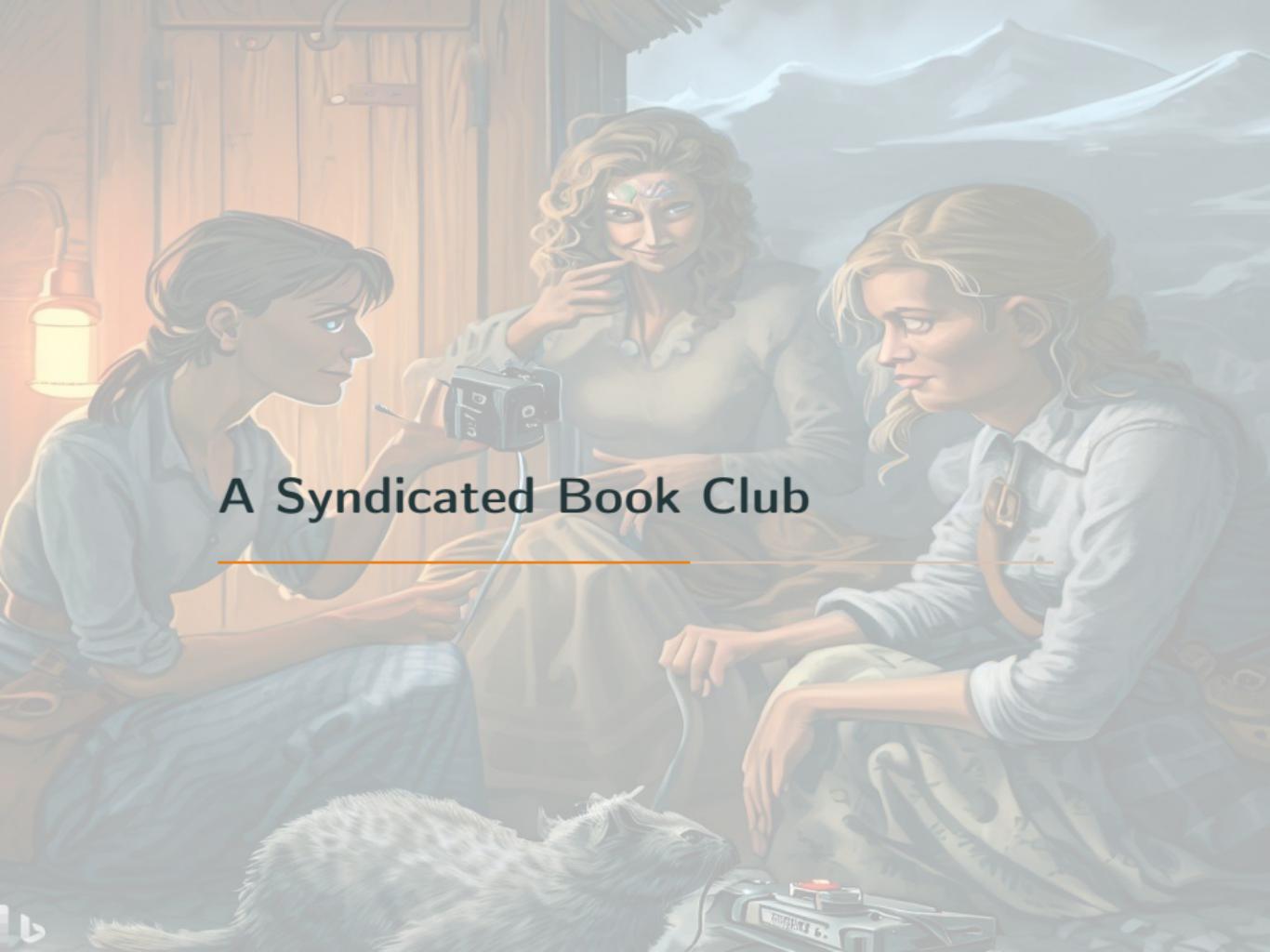


- Average woman lives 58.5 years (median 65, $n = 50$)
- Average man lives 62.5 years (median 71, $n = 49$)
- 1 centenarian, 4 people live to 90, 14 live to 80, 46 live to 70

Parental Age at Birth and Spouse Age Difference



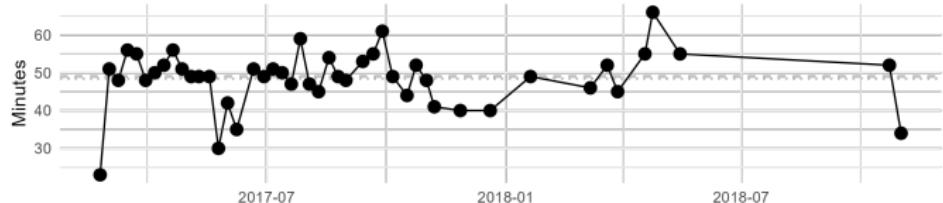
- 53 relationships described, 66 children born
- 85% of marriages have an older husband, age difference generally 3 years (max 17 years)
- Average age of mother at childbirth is 23.5 years (fathers 26.0)
- 22 kids have either no father ($n = 10$) or no mother ($n = 12$)



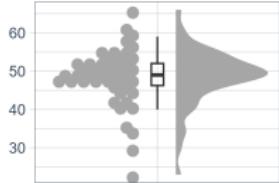
A Syndicated Book Club

Podcast: Hours Rambled

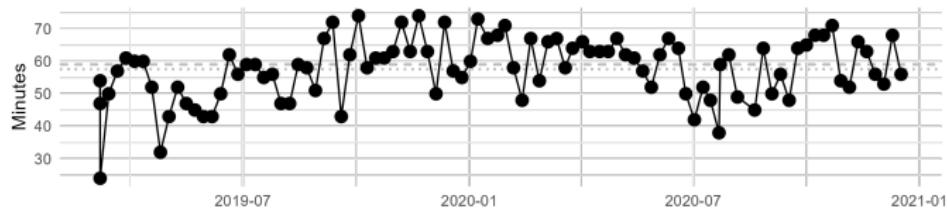
Podcast Length on Alvarpid



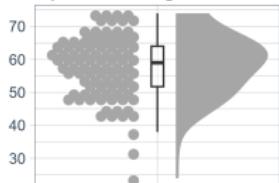
Episode Length



Podcast Length on Storytel



Episode Length



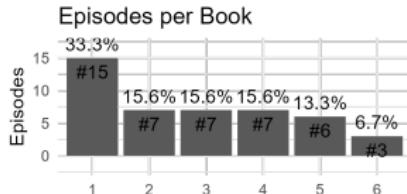
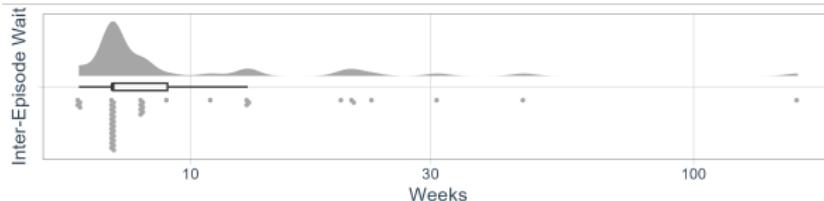
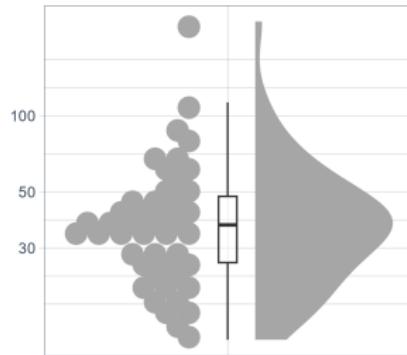
- Over a period of 45.8 months, there is 7,762 minutes of *quality* content, or 5.4 days of continuous listening.
- Average length is 57.6 minutes on Storytel (48.5 on Alvarpið), but never surpassing 75 minutes.

Podcast on Alvarpið: Listenership on nutiminn.is

Listeners on Mixcloud

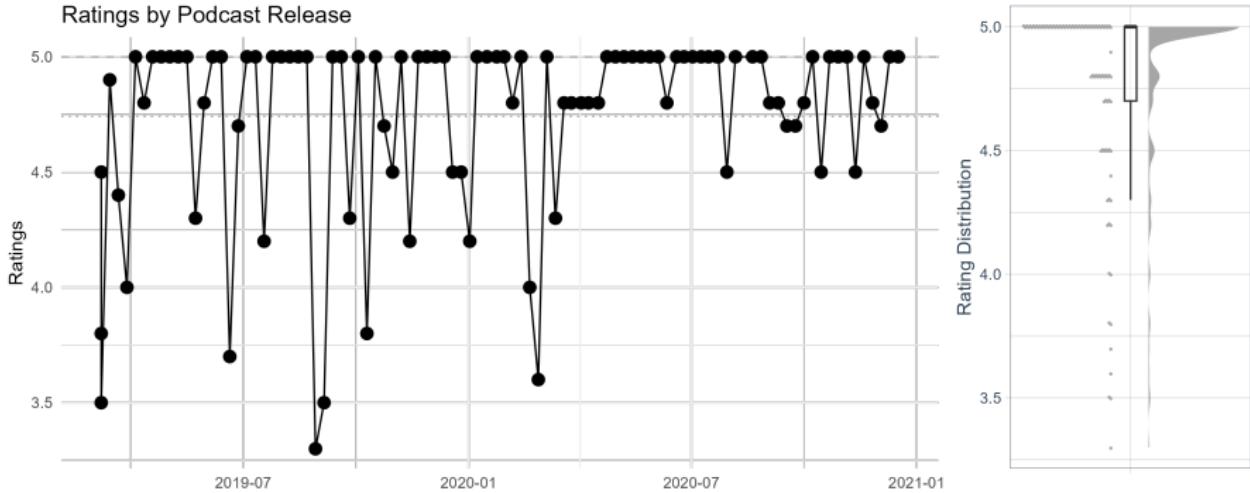


Streams



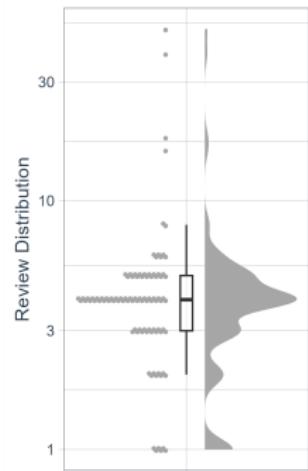
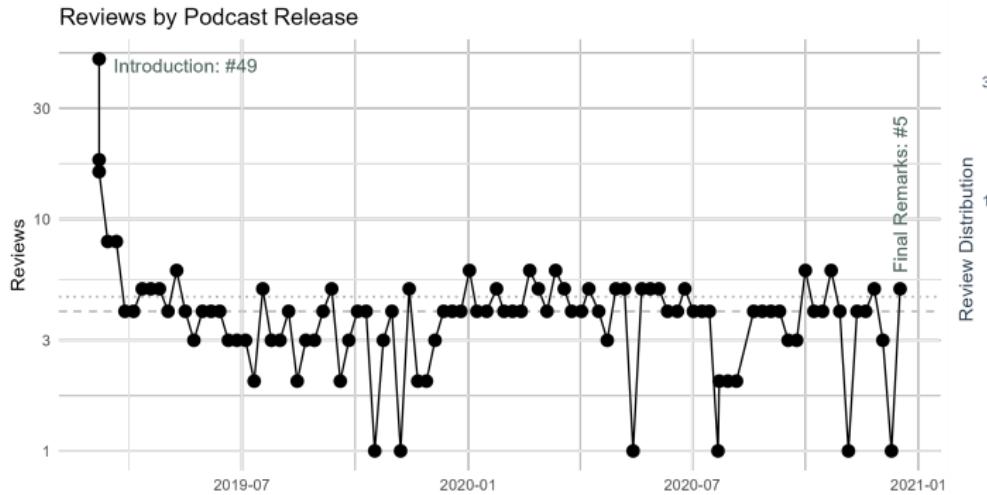
- 46 episodes, 20 months, 5.5 books
- 2,231 minutes – 37 hours – 1.5 days of continuous listening
- Roughly 1,040 streams per episode (thereof 40 in browser)

Podcast on Storytel: High Ratings



- Average rating: 4.74 out of 5
- 54 episodes with a perfect 5.0 score (56% of total)
- Only 4 episodes with a rating below 4.0 (worst case 3.3)

Podcast on Storytel: Low Reviews



- Number of reviews: 444 total (25,627 for the audiobooks)
- At least one active fan throughout the period
- Four regular fans who consistently provided review

Podcast Platform Comparison

	Episodes		Books		Total Running Time (hours)		Average Length (min)		Median Days to Next		Average Days to Next		Max Days to Next		Months Active	
Alvarpið	46	6	37.2	48.50	7	13.69	161	20.3								
Storytel	96	47	92.2	57.61	7	6.85	14	21.4								
	142		129.4											45.8*		

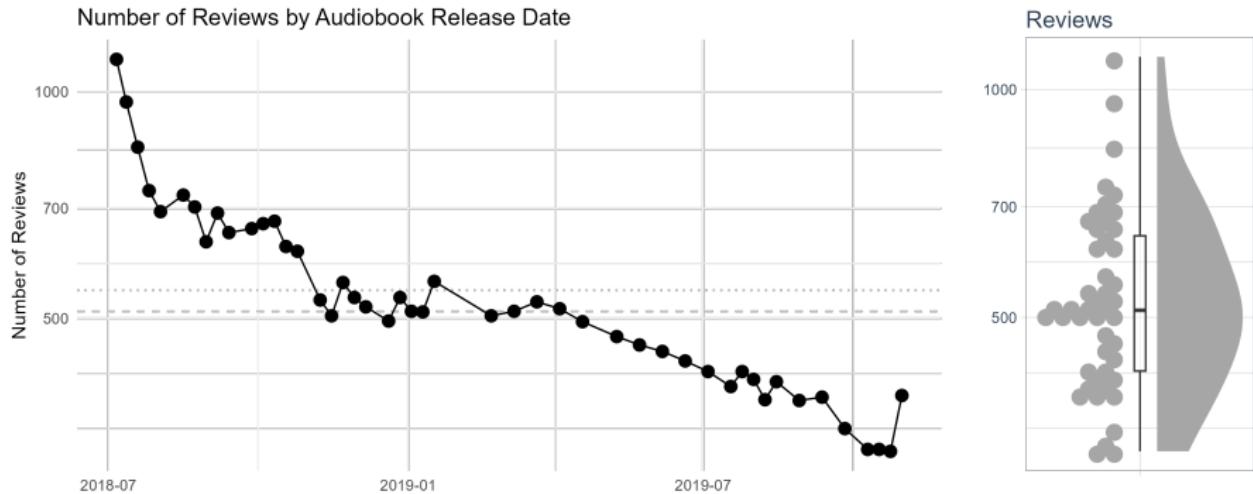
*4.1 months hiatus between Alvarpið and Storytel



A dramatic illustration featuring a woman with long red hair, wearing a dark tunic and breeches, riding a dark horse across a grassy field. She is looking back over her shoulder. In the background, a large, medieval-style castle with multiple towers and red roofs sits atop a hill under a sky filled with orange and pink hues of a setting sun. Several birds are scattered across the sky.

Audiobooks on Storytel

Audiobooks on Storytel: Active Fanbase

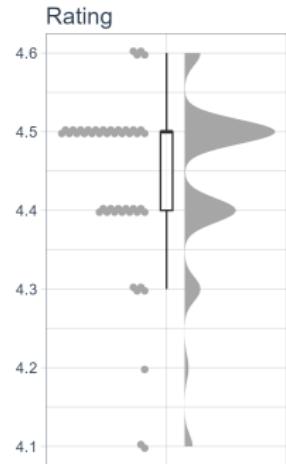
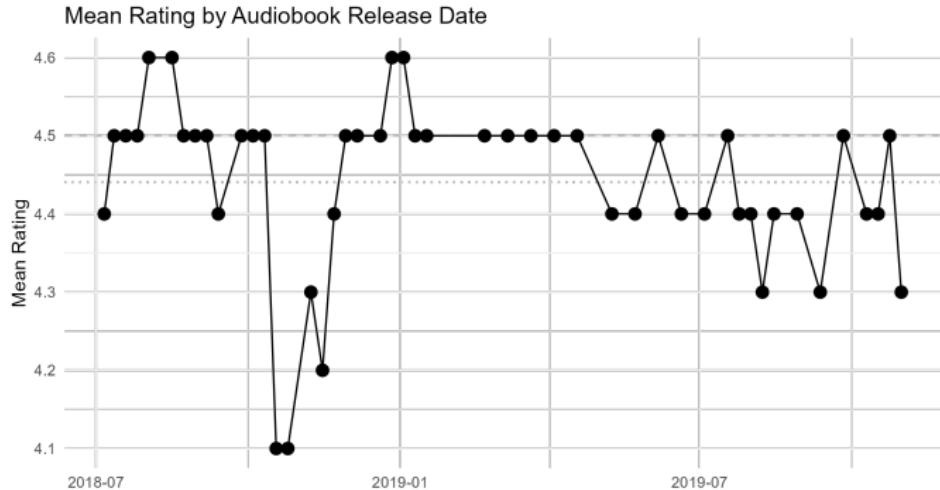


The series has a dedicated fanbase, with consistently high engagement.

A solid median review count of 511, and minimum of 333.

Releases on Thursdays, spaced 1–2 weeks apart, over 16-months.

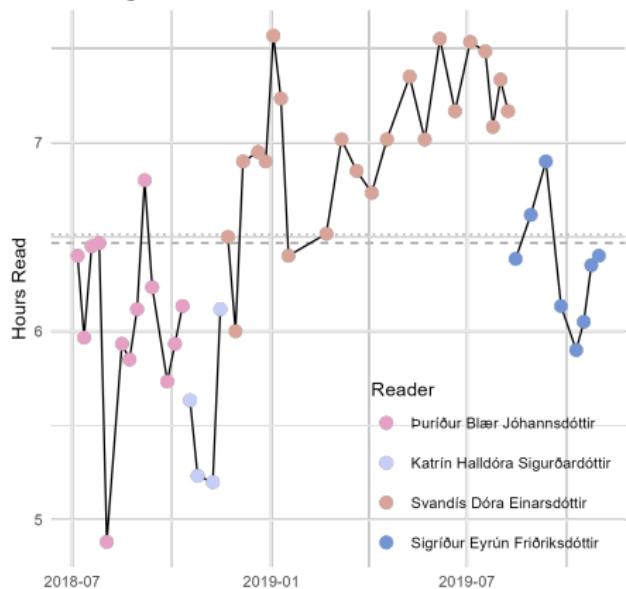
Audiobooks on Storytel: High Ratings



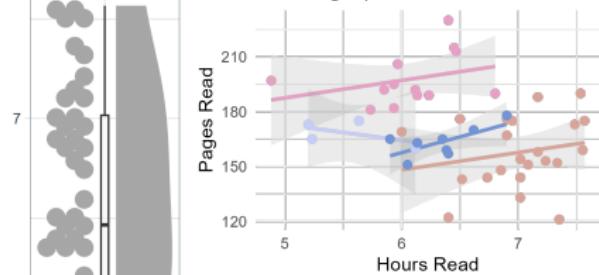
Overall high rating, an average 4.44 stars out of 5.

Audiobooks on Storytel: Our Narrators

Running Time



Reading Speed



Books Read



Over 18K min of romantic medieval fantasy – 12.8 days of cont. listening

Four distinct voices with varied styles & perseverance with Margit's prose

Play Him Off, Keyboard Cat

Feel free to contact me at helgaingim@hi.is
or @tungufoss on Twitter.

Get the source of this data analysis at:

[github.com/tungufoss/
iskisur-rek-data-beers](https://github.com/tungufoss/iskisur-rek-data-beers)

