

Author: *X*
LAXNESS, Halldor Kiljan

Title:

DEN GODA FROKEN OCH HUSET

Submitted by:

Raben & Sjogren

Stockholm, Sweden

Instructions for return:

BWK

Disposed of:

1) *Book Part* 2)
10/1/57
EL

MANUSCRIPT RECORD

Date Received *9/6/57*

Resubmitted

Resubmitted

☐ Typescript
☐ Complete

☐ Partial

No. of pages *93*

☒ Book

Published by: Raben & Sjogren

☐ Proofs

Published when: 1933

Other:

Illustrations:

Additional material submitted (date and nature):

*See comes with
Lindberg's list*

Contract or option terms:

By whom read:	Name	Date sent	Date returned	Fee
	<i>JUEN AHMAN</i>	<i>9/17/57</i>	<i>9/20/57</i>	<i>520 - pd 9/23</i>

Final Decision

(See over for report)

REJECT

mm 9-26-57

Rejected by:

BWK

Date:

9/27/57

Accepted by:

Date:

This novelette is a very charmingly told satire of life in and around a clergyman's family in a small Icelandic village. The time is not made explicitly clear, but would seem to be in the early part of this century.

The central figure is Rannveig, younger daughter of the Dean, "the good young lady" of the title (which means, "The good young lady and the House"). She is a solid, sunny young woman who at the advanced age of thirty is sent to Copenhagen, the way better-class girls should, but comes back ahead of the intended time, engaged - and pregnant. Unhappily, her Danish groom dies at home before the wedding prepared in Iceland can take place, and she bears her son out of wedlock. To her sorrow, the baby is spirited away and sent back to his grandmother in Denmark, and Rannveig continues the good works for the poor families of the community for which she has been justly esteemed in the past.

The seven immaculate years which would have made her a virgin again, in the local view, are not allowed to pass. Her time comes again, and this time she is married off in the very nick of time to a man who is, unfortunately, not the father of her new child, nor a very eligible mate; he is just the best that can be found in a hurry. The result is a long feud with Rannveig's dowdy elder sister, the wife of one of the pillars of the little society, which ends only ten years later, when Rannveig's daughter dies. The elder sister, who has kept the blinds down in her window overlooking Rannveig's house ever since her shame, and her garden gates nailed shut and barbed-wired, and forbidden her own children to play with Rannveig's girl, now finds that Decency has at long last been restored, drops her snobbery and goes for the first time in all these years to greet her bereaved sister in her house.

Only 93 small pages long, this story in itself would obviously present publication problems for you. But it is a very good and well-told story, human and yet incisive in its reaction towards old and stale class prejudice, in the microcosm that is a fishing village on the Icelandic coast. It is one of several long short stories from a collection published under the title "Fötatak manna" ("Men's Steps"), and if any of the other stories in this collection are nearly of the same quality, I think that you ought definitely to look into the possibility of bringing this work by Iceland's Nobel Prize Winner before the American public.

Iven Ahman