
Fabian Kölle
Bók Önnu
Anna's Book
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Your first book in Icelandic. With English translation.

Anna's Book

Volume 1

Language: English

Learning language: Icelandic

EN IS

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This book was written for language learners. First try to read the Icelandic text before using the translation.

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Preface

Learning a new language isn't easy. It has a small life of its own: curiosity, lightness, secrets, but also concentration, practice, mistakes, and days when you feel stuck. Sometimes you think you have understood how it works. Sometimes you feel frustrated because important words have slipped away. As soon as you know the basics, something new appears, and suddenly it feels as if you're starting again. That's completely normal. Every step forward counts. One day you'll look back and realise how far you have come. You can be proud of that.

When I began learning a new language, I wanted to read real, connected stories as soon as I could. I didn't want only grammar exercises and word lists. I wanted to read: to step into a story and improve almost without noticing. More than anything, I wanted to feel that the language already belonged to me a little.

But I found very few books that matched my level. Perhaps you know that feeling too.

Many language learners eventually reach for children's books. Not because they are especially interested in children's books, but because there is so little literature written for people who are still learning. The problem is that children's books are written for children, not for language learners. Even when the pictures look inviting, the vocabulary can be surprisingly demanding, while the subjects don't always speak to teenagers or adults. They are often very short as well. You read slowly, and yet the book is over before it has really

given you much.

But you don't lack life experience. You have memories, interests, opinions, feelings, and a view of the world. Perhaps you study, work, have children, or enjoy travelling. Perhaps you're interested in politics, history, literature, or music. You don't need to discover the world all over again. You're learning a new language so that you can describe it in different words.

I wrote this book for you.

Anna's Book isn't a language course, and it isn't a textbook. It's meant to give you what I was missing then: a story you can read, even while ordinary novels are still too difficult.

It tells the story of Anna, who is ten years old at the beginning, in language that follows your learning path. At first, the sentences are short and simple. From volume to volume, the language grows very gradually. Anna grows older, and your language grows with her. You meet the same characters, places, and words again and again until they become familiar. Little by little, new words, new structures, and new ways of expressing yourself are added.

The story begins in the present tense, because that is the tense you meet most often at the beginning. Later, past and future forms gradually appear. If you haven't learnt them yet, you can simply keep reading. You don't have to understand everything at once. In time, these forms will become familiar too, just as the first pages will one day feel natural to you.

Above all, I want to give you confidence.

You shouldn't be afraid to turn the page. If you understand one page, you'll understand the next one too. And if something is unclear, you'll always find the translation directly below. That means you don't have to interrupt the flow of reading. You can stay with the story, so that reading feels like reading again.

One day Anna will be an adult. She will think, feel, and speak like an adult, and you'll accompany her on that path. One day you too will reach a level where you can read novels written for native speakers. When that happens, this book will have done its job. It won't have brought you to the goal. You'll have done that yourself. But I would be glad if it could walk beside you for part of the way.

And perhaps, one day, you'll begin another language. Then you'll open this book again. In French. In Japanese. In Italian. Whatever the language, Anna will be ten years old again. Ozzy will be a young dog again. And perhaps it will feel a little like meeting old friends.

I have great respect for everyone who has the courage to learn a new language. I hope this book makes that path a little easier for you.

I wish you every success with your learning, and a great deal of pleasure in reading.

Introduction



Ég er Anna. Ég er tíu ára. Ég bý með fjölskyldunni minni í húsi. Húsið er með garð. Í garðinum er stórt tré. Mér líkar tréð.

> I'm Anna. I'm ten years old. I live with my family in a house. The house has a garden. In the garden there is a big tree. I like the tree.

Við eigum líka lítinn hund. Hundurinn heitir Ozzy. Mér þykir mjög vænt um Ozzy. Hann er mjög fljótur. Ég leik mér oft við hundinn. Ég kasta bolta, og Ozzy hleypur hratt á eftir.

> We also have a small dog. The dog's name is Ozzy. I like Ozzy very much. He is very fast. I often play with the dog. I throw a ball, and Ozzy runs after it quickly.

Hann færir boltann oft aftur til mín. Stundum færir hann hann ekki aftur. Þá hleyp ég um garðinn og leita að boltanum. Ozzy leitar líka að boltanum. Við finnum hann, og Ozzy geltir.

> He often brings the ball back to me. Sometimes he doesn't bring it back. Then I run through the garden and look for the ball. Ozzy looks for the ball too. We find it, and Ozzy barks.

Hann er klár hundur. Stundum finnur Ozzy boltann hraðar en ég. Þá geltir hann. Þá veit ég: Boltinn er þar. Ég hleyp til Ozzy og sé boltann. Þannig leikum við okkur oft saman.

> He is a clever dog. Sometimes Ozzy finds the ball faster than I do. Then he barks. Then I know: the ball is there. I run to Ozzy and see the ball. That is how we often play together.

Ég á líka bróður. Hann heitir Mats. Bróðir minn er fjórtán ára. Hann er fjórum árum eldri en ég. Hann er stóri bróðir minn. Mats leikur sér líka stundum við Ozzy.

> I also have a brother. His name is Mats. My brother is fourteen years old. He is four years older than I am. He is my big brother. Mats sometimes plays with Ozzy too.

Stundum hleypur Mats um garðinn, og Ozzy eltir hann. Þá hlaupa þeir báðir. Stundum kastar Mats líka boltanum, og Ozzy færir hann aftur.

> Sometimes Mats runs through the garden, and Ozzy follows him. Then they both run. Sometimes Mats also throws the ball, and Ozzy brings it back.

Ozzy finnst mjög gaman þegar Mats leikur sér við hann. En Ozzy sefur líka mikið. Hann er ungur hundur og þarf að sofa mikið. Hann er tveggja mánaða.

> Ozzy likes it very much when Mats plays with him. But Ozzy also sleeps a lot. He is a young dog and needs to sleep a lot. He is two months old.

Ozzy sefur í körfunni sinni eða í garðinum. Karfan hans er inni í húsinu. Hún er í stofunni. Á sumrin sefur Ozzy oft í garðinum. Mats segir að á veturna sofi Ozzy í stofunni.

> Ozzy sleeps in his basket or in the garden. His basket is in the house. It is in the living room. In summer Ozzy often sleeps in the garden. Mats says that in winter Ozzy sleeps in the living room.

Þá er of kalt í garðinum. Á veturna geta hundar leikið sér í garðinum, en þeir geta ekki sofið í garðinum. Nú er sumar. Á sumrin getur Ozzy sofið í körfunni sinni.

> Then it is too cold in the garden. In winter dogs can play in the garden, but they can't sleep in the garden. Now it is summer. In summer Ozzy can sleep in his basket.

Hann getur líka sofið í garðinum. Í garðinum er nógu hlýtt. Ozzy getur sofið þar sem hann vill. Hann leggst niður og sefur. Ozzy er mjög sætur þegar hann sefur.

> He can also sleep in the garden. It is warm enough in the garden. Ozzy can sleep wherever he wants. He lies down and sleeps. Ozzy is very sweet when he sleeps.

Ég leik mér oft við Mats inni í húsinu. Stundum förum við í feluleik. Ég fel mig, og Mats leitar að mér. Eða Mats felur sig, og ég leita að honum.

> I often play with Mats in the house. Sometimes we play hide-and-seek. I hide, and Mats looks for me. Or Mats hides, and I look for him.

Það er auðvelt fyrir mig að finna Mats. Hann er stór og auðvelt er að sjá hann. Ég þekki alla felustaðina í húsinu. Ég er minni en Mats. Það er erfitt að finna mig. Stundum leitar Mats mjög lengi.

> It is easy for me to find Mats. He is tall and easy to see. I know all the hiding places in the house. I am smaller than Mats. It is hard to find me. Sometimes Mats looks for a very long time.

Honum líkar það ekki. Þá kallar hann, og ég segi: Hér er ég. Hann kallar aftur, og ég segi aftur: Hér er ég. Hann kemur nær. Þá finnur hann mig. Við hlæjum.

> He doesn't like that. Then he calls, and I say: Here I am. He calls again, and I say again: Here I am. He comes closer. Then he finds me. We laugh.

Seinnipartinn borðum við saman. Mamma, pabbi, Mats og ég. Við sitjum við borðið í stofunni og borðum og tölum saman. Oft eru kartöflur, gulrætur og núðlur.

> In the afternoon we eat together. Mum, Dad, Mats, and I. We sit at the table in the living room and eat and talk. There are often potatoes, carrots, and noodles.

Mér finnst núðlur bestar. Mamma eldar oft núðlur, pabbi eldar oft kartöflur. Mamma eldar sjaldan kartöflur. Henni líkar þær ekki svo vel. En Mats finnst kartöflur góðar.

> I like noodles best. Mum often cooks noodles, Dad often cooks potatoes. Mum rarely cooks potatoes. She doesn't like them very much. But Mats likes potatoes.

Kartöflurnar og gulræturnar vaxa á akrinum. Það er okkar eigin akur. Við eigum bóndabæ. Pabbi er bóndi. Hann vinnur oft á akrinum. Mamma á litla búð.

> The potatoes and carrots grow in the field. It is our own field. We have a farm. Dad is a farmer. He often works in the field. Mum has a small shop.

Hún vinnur sem afgreiðslukona. Hún selur kartöflurnar okkar og gulræturnar okkar í búðinni. Hún selur líka egg og hunang. Hún selur mjólk og ost. Hún selur marga hluti í búðinni.

> She works as a shopkeeper. She sells our potatoes and carrots in the shop. She also sells eggs and honey. She sells milk and cheese. She sells many things in the shop.

Pabbi vinnur á akrinum. Hann ræktar grænmeti eins og kartöflur og gulrætur. Grænmetið vex í jörðinni. Það þarf mikið vatn og sól. Stundum rignir ekki.

> Dad works in the field. He grows vegetables like potatoes and carrots. The vegetables grow in the ground. They need a lot of water and sun. Sometimes it doesn't rain.

Þá gefur pabbi plöntunum vatn. Seinna er grænmetið orðið nógu stórt. Þá keyrir pabbi traktornum yfir akurinn. Hann tekur grænmetið upp úr jörðinni. Þá getum við borðað það.

> Then Dad gives the plants water. Later the vegetables are big enough. Then Dad drives the tractor across the field. He takes the vegetables out of the ground. Then we can eat them.

Eða mamma selur það í búðinni. Pabbi sækir líka mjólk frá kúnum. Hann býr til smjör og ost úr henni. Það tekur langan tíma þar til osturinn er tilbúinn. Pabbi þarf að bíða lengi.

> Or Mum sells them in the shop. Dad also gets milk from the cows. He makes butter and cheese from it. It takes a long time until the cheese is ready. Dad has to wait a long time.

Smjörið er tilbúið fyrr. Pabbi bakar oft brauð. Mér finnst brauðið hans mjög gott. Ég borða það oft með smjöri og osti. Þá hugsa ég um kýrnar sem gefa okkur mjólkina.

> The butter is ready faster. Dad often bakes bread. I like his bread very much. I often eat it with butter and cheese. Then I think of the cows that give us the milk.

Við lækinn - By the Stream



Í dag er laugardagur. Ég fer með Mats í skóginn. Ozzy er líka með. Hann hleypur á undan okkur. Mats og ég viljum fara að læknum. Við viljum sjá fiska. Ég er með tösku.

> Today is Saturday. I go into the forest with Mats. Ozzy is with us too. He runs ahead of us. Mats and I want to go to the stream. We want to see fish. I have a bag with me.

Í töskunni er brauð og vatnsflaska. Ef við erum svöng getum við borðað brauð. Ef við erum þyrst getum við drukkið vatn. Mamma segir: Ozzy á ekki að borða brauð.

> In the bag there's bread and a bottle of water. If we're hungry, we can eat bread. If we're thirsty, we can drink water. Mum says Ozzy shouldn't eat bread.

Við eigum ekki að gefa Ozzy brauð. Ozzy getur drukkið vatn úr læknum. Hann þarf ekki vatnið okkar. En það er líka eitthvað fyrir Ozzy í töskunni.

> We shouldn't give Ozzy bread. Ozzy can drink water from the stream. He doesn't need our water. But there's also something for Ozzy in the bag.

Það eru tvö hundakex í töskunni. Mats og ég megum ekki borða hundakexin. Við viljum heldur ekki borða þau. Ozzy á að borða þau. Seinna.

> There are two dog biscuits in the bag. Mats and I aren't allowed to eat the dog biscuits. We don't want to eat them either. Ozzy should eat them. Later.

Skógurinn er ekki langt í burtu. Við förum oft í skóginn. Þar eru mörg há tré. Við heyrum fugla. Ozzy hleypur á milli trjánna. Stundum stoppar hann.

> The forest isn't far away. We often go into the forest. There are many tall trees there. We can hear birds. Ozzy runs between the trees. Sometimes he stops.

Þá horfir hann á okkur. Eftir það hleypur hann áfram. Það eru margir stígar í skóginum. Mamma vill að við höldum okkur á stígunum.

> Then he looks at us. After that he runs on again. There are many paths in the forest. Mum wants us to stay on the paths.

Við eigum ekki að hlaupa inn í miðjan skóginn. Öll trén eru lík. Það er erfitt að finna leiðina aftur. Fyrir Ozzy er það auðvelt. Oft heldur hann sig nálægt okkur.

> We shouldn't run into the middle of the forest. All the trees look similar. It's hard to find the way again. For Ozzy it's easy. Often he stays close to us.

En stundum hleypur hann inn í miðjan skóginn. Við köllum á hann. Hann kemur fljótt aftur. Hann þekkir leiðina. Hann er klár hundur.

> But sometimes he runs into the middle of the forest. We call him. He comes back quickly. He knows the way. He's a clever dog.

Ozzy kemur fyrstur að læknum. Ég er önnur, Mats er þriðji. Við setjumst á bakkann. Ozzy drekkur úr læknum. Vatnið er mjög tært. En ég sé enga fiska.

> Ozzy is the first to arrive at the stream. I'm second, Mats is third. We sit down on the bank. Ozzy drinks from the stream. The water is very clear. But I don't see any fish.

Kannski eru fiskarnir hræddir við Ozzy. Mats tekur lítinn prik af bakkanum. Hann leggur það í lækinn. Prikið flýtur á vatninu. Við stöndum upp og fylgjum prikinu.

> Maybe the fish are afraid of Ozzy. Mats takes a small stick from the bank. He puts it into the stream. The stick floats on the water. We stand up and follow the stick.

Ozzy finnst það mjög gaman. Hann dillar skottinu. Við sjáum að hann er glaður. Prikið flýtur hraðar. Ozzy geltir

og hleypur á eftir. Mats og ég verðum að hlæja.

> Ozzy likes that very much. He wags his tail. We see that he's happy. The stick floats faster. Ozzy barks and runs after it. Mats and I have to laugh.

Þá festist prikið á milli tveggja stórra steina. Við komum nær. Prikið hreyfist ekki. En ég sé fisk. Nei, það eru þrír fiskar! Þeir synda nálægt steinunum.

> Then the stick gets stuck between two big stones. We come closer. The stick doesn't move. But I see a fish. No, there are three fish! They swim close to the stones.

Ozzy sér þá líka. Hann vill leika sér við fiskana. En Mats segir: Nei, Ozzy! Ozzy skilur það. Hann fer ekki út í vatnið. Hann er áfram á bakkanum.

> Ozzy sees them too. He wants to play with the fish. But Mats says, "No, Ozzy!" Ozzy understands that. He doesn't go into the water. He stays on the bank.

Við horfum lengi á fiskana. Þeir eru dökkir, en glansa í sólinni. Þeir eru ekki hræddir við okkur. Af því að við erum róleg og hreyfum okkur ekki. En ég verð svöng.

> We watch the fish for a long time. They're dark, but they shine in the sun. They're not afraid of us. Because we're quiet and don't move. But I get hungry.

Ég segi: Mats, ég er svöng. Mats segir: Já, ég líka. Við setjumst á stóran stein. Steinninn er nógu stór til að við getum setið hlið við hlið.

> I say, "Mats, I'm hungry." Mats says, "Yes, me too." We sit down on a big stone. The stone is big enough for us to sit next to each other.

Ég tek brauðið úr töskunni. Ozzy horfir á mig. Hann vill líka fá eitthvað að borða. En brauðið er ekki fyrir Ozzy. Mats gefur honum hundakex.

> I take the bread out of the bag. Ozzy looks at me. He wants something to eat too. But the bread isn't for Ozzy. Mats gives him a dog biscuit.

Ozzy verður glaður og dillar skottinu. Ég deili brauðinu með Mats. Ég gef Mats stórt stykki, og hann segir: Takk, Anna. Brauðið hans pabba er mjög gott.

> Ozzy is happy and wags his tail. I share the bread with Mats. I give Mats a big piece, and he says: Thank you, Anna. Dad's bread is very tasty.

Allt er gott þegar maður er svangur. En brauðið hans pabba er sérstaklega gott. Við borðum hægt. Sólin er hlý á húðinni minni. Ozzy er búinn að borða hundakexið sitt.

> Everything tastes good when you're hungry. But Dad's bread is especially tasty. We eat slowly. The sun is warm on my skin. Ozzy has already eaten his dog biscuit.

Hann liggur hér við fæturna á mér. Ég held að hann sofi. Tveir fiskar eru enn þarna. Ég heyri fugl. Hann situr í tré, en ég sé hann ekki. Mats horfir á lækinn.

> He's lying here next to my feet. I think he's sleeping. Two fish are still there. I hear a bird. It's sitting in a tree, but I can't see it. Mats looks at the stream.

Hann segir: „Mér líkar skógurinn.“
Ég spyr: „Af hverju?“
„Af því að það er svo rólegt hér. Í þorpinu heyrum við og sjáum marga menn. Hér heyrir maður bara fuglana, vatnið og vindinn.“

> He says, "I like the forest."
> I ask, "Why?"
> "Because it's so quiet here. In the village we hear and see many people. Here you hear only the birds, the water, and the wind."

„Já,“ segi ég. „Mér líkar skógurinn líka.“
Við sitjum enn um stund, svo stöndum við upp. „Komdu,“ segir Mats. Hann tekur töskuna. Ozzy vaknar. Við göngum hægt aftur til þorpsins.

> "Yes," I say. "I like the forest too."
> We sit for a while longer, then we stand up. "Come on," says Mats. He takes the bag. Ozzy wakes up. We slowly walk back to the village.

Á leiðinni hittum við frú Rossi. Hún er frá Ítalíu. Ozzy verður glaður að sjá hana. Hann hleypur til hennar. Frú Rossi klappar honum.
„Halló!“ segir frú Rossi. „Hvert eruð þið að fara?“

> On the way we meet Mrs Rossi. She's from Italy. Ozzy is happy to see her. He runs to her. Mrs Rossi pets him.
> "Hello!" says Mrs Rossi. "Where are you going?"

„Við erum að koma frá læknum,“ segir Mats. „Nú förum við aftur heim.“
„Fallegt,“ segir frú Rossi. „Það er frábært veður fyrir gönguferð.“
Hún heldur á körfu í hendinni.

> "We're coming from the stream," says Mats. "Now we're going back home."
> "Nice," says Mrs Rossi. "It's wonderful weather for a walk."
> She's holding a basket in her hand.

„Hvað er í körfunni?“ spyr ég.
„Mjólk, egg, ostur og hunang,“ segir frú Rossi. Hún hlær. „Ég keypti það hjá mömmu ykkar.“

> "What's in the basket?" I ask.
> "Milk, eggs, cheese, and honey," says Mrs Rossi. She laughs. "I bought them from your mother."

Mats og ég brosum.
„Sjáumst fljótlega,“ segir frú Rossi.
„Bless,“ segir Mats.

> Mats and I smile.
> "See you soon," says Mrs Rossi.
> "Bye," says Mats.

Frú Rossi heldur áfram. Ozzy horfir á eftir henni um stund. Svo hleypur hann aftur til okkar. Þorpið er ekki lengur langt í burtu. Ég get þegar séð húsið okkar.

> Mrs Rossi walks on. Ozzy watches her for a while. Then he runs back to us. The village isn't far away now. I can already see our house.

Pabbi vinnur enn á akrinum. Ég sé traktorinn hans. Mamma stendur fyrir framan búðina og talar við mann úr þorpinu. Ég þekki hann.

> Dad is still working in the field. I see his tractor. Mum is standing in front of the shop and talking to a man from the village. I know him.

Hann heitir herra Hansen. Herra Hansen á kött, Mimi. Mimi er orðin gömul og vill ekki leika sér lengur. En henni líkar mjög vel þegar ég strýk henni.

> His name is Mr Hansen. Mr Hansen has a cat, Mimi. Mimi is already old and doesn't want to play anymore. But she likes it very much when I pet her.

Þá malar hún. Mimi getur malað mjög hátt. Mér líkar þegar Mimi malar. Þá veit ég að hún er glöð. Hún er sæt.

> Then she purrs. Mimi can purr very loudly. I like it when Mimi purrs. Then I know that she's happy. She's sweet.

Við förum að búðinni. Mamma sér okkur og brosir.
Hún spyr: „Var gönguferðin skemmtileg?“
„Já,“ segir Mats.
„Við sáum fiska,“ segi ég.

> We go to the shop. Mum sees us and smiles.
> She asks, "Did you enjoy the walk?"
> "Yes," says Mats.
> "We saw fish," I say.

Mamma gleðst. „Þá var þetta góður dagur,“ segir hún. Ég hugsa um skóginn og sólina, um Mats og Ozzy, um lækinn og fiskana og brauðið. Hún hefur rétt fyrir sér. Þetta var góður dagur.

> Mum is pleased. "Then it was a good day," she says.
> I think of the forest and the sun, of Mats and Ozzy, of the stream and the fish and the bread. She's right. It was a good day.

This is where the sample ends.