

***The Whispering Muse* by Sjon
Farrar, Straus and Giroux (April 30, 2013)**



Fish, myth, and pith form the foundation of this quick, quirky tale from celebrated Icelandic author Sjon. It's 1949 and a merchant ship embarks upon its maiden voyage. At the captain's dinner table, competing tale-tellers vie for the attention of their fellow travelers. The first is our tedious narrator, a retired journal editor who takes great pride in his theories and lectures on the connections between a fish-based diet and Nordic strength. But his oratorical skills (not to mention his subject of choice) pale in comparison to those of the ship's first mate, who in mysterious first-person detail shares the enthralling exploits of Jason and the Argonauts. Sjon artfully weaves the two together to comprise his own compellingly spun story; one that is over far too soon. --[Robin A. Rothman](#)