

**Esildis**

**In English**

Title	<i>Old Man's Body Craves for Sun</i>
Author(s)	Lauri Lippmaa
Format	Serial narrative TV series / a full feature
Genre	A comedy drama
Target audience	45+
Logline	After the wild welcoming party by the villagers in his recently bought Apulian vineyard and seaside villa, a Norwegian scrooge discovers he has gout, the Aristocratic disease that forbids him from enjoying great wine, delicious meats and succulent seafood he has always loved. His expected basking-in-sun style retirement turns into a nightmarish prospect that forces him to re-evaluate his future and find other joys of life he wasn't even aware of.
Synopsis	<p>There are rumours in a local seaside village that one of the more elegant villas with a vineyard, which has been on sale for years, has finally been sold to a Norwegian named THORBJØRN (an ancient Viking name, Thor meaning "thunder" and "bjørn", bear). The villagers, who have maintained the villa during the selling period wait for his arrival.</p> <p>Each of the three main characters – GHISOLABELLA (25), ALESSANDRA (48), and FRANCESCA (65), the three generations of women of the same family – depicts him in her mind completely differently, although they all share the stereotypical traits in their visions – that a charismatic, true Viking-like Norwegian giant aristocrat would arrive. When the day of handing over the household nears, an old foreign pensioner arrives in the village; by bus. None of the women would even suspect that this is Thorbjørn, the new owner of the villa, therefore they initially shrug him off, thinking he's a complete nuisance on the day the new owner should arrive.</p> <p>Once it turns out that actually the man is Thorbjørn, things turn wildly comical when all the stereotypes about wanting to please someone too eagerly emerge.</p> <p>Thorbjørn will ask the ladies to remain the keepers of his villa, since they've done such a good work; besides, he doesn't know anyone in the village and would not want to see anyone either, for that matter. He likes to keep things quiet and take it slowly. The women try and convince Thorbjørn to use another tactics and organise a house-warming party where he would meet all kinds of villagers.</p> <p>Thorbjørn reluctantly agrees, but with conditions – although he generally rejects the idea, he might want to give it a second thought</p>

when the women will promise to organise a small and decent gathering with only some of the nicest people in the village. He says that his “idiot” son will come to visit his new villa over the weekend. The ladies promise to obey his orders to the point. Thorbjørn agrees to the idea of inviting only a handful of people over, and says he will trust the small reception to the ladies. He reiterates that he believes in a notion that less is more.

To Thorbjørn’s utter surprise and dismay, the women will invite almost the whole array of villagers over to welcome him as the newest member of their community into their village. The lavish and wild folksy-type party with dancing and everything in between ensues. At first reluctantly thrust into meeting all the principal influential people, Thorbjørn, to his great surprise, learns, with the help of more and more wine, of course, that he actually likes it – fun and joyous mood, friendliness and beautiful people are the exact opposites of the cold and introverted nature of all of the Nordic peoples, he reasons.

He will get into his storytelling mode and says that for long he has been a traveller, who has sailed the world, but after retiring and living almost five years at home now, in Northern Norway, he has decided to follow the role model of his fellow countryman, the legendary explorer and ethnographer Thor Heyerdahl and his conviction that although he loves his country until the day he’ll die, an old man with his old body needs sun, and therefore he should go and actually die someplace warm. Hence, he’s decided to come to Italy, as had Heyerdahl done more than a half a century ago.

Thorbjørn will also reveal his plans with the vineyard, telling everyone he has put all his life’s savings into it, to follow his dream in full – he loves wine and good eating, and where could he find a better place than the rural idyllic scene of Apulian village near Adriatic Sea. The villagers applaud to his speech, because the man seems to be bringing money and jobs into the village. Everyone’s happy.

The next morning Thorbjørn will wake up in terrible pains. He’s wasted, still drunk, having somewhat enjoyed the party too much. Total hangover... But he has another surprise in store, waking up next to the youngest of the three women, the beautiful Ghisolabella! He is aghast, yet for a first time in decades he also feels that he is a virile man. But as Ghisolabella is still in her sleep, Thorbjørn realises upon stepping on the floor that his pains are not only in his head. The hangover will pass, but there’s something more sinister to his excruciating pain - his foot is so swollen and sore, he can’t even step on it.

Ghisolabella wakes up and is a bit frightened, realising where she is and what she has done. They decide to keep their tryst in secret. She will go and call Alessandra and Francesca and they suggest for him to go and see the doctor, pondering where he might have fallen or strained his ankle so bad.

	<p>Thorbjørn will learn from the village doctor that unfortunately there will be no good news for him. He has developed gout! He will have to go on a very strict diet and refrain from drinking wine, beer, or any other alcoholic beverages, but also coffee. On top of that he should stop eating many a good food, including several kinds of meat, seafood, etc. This shocks Thorbjørn – his life seems to have come to an end.</p> <p>The doctor will say, however, that there’s something that he can do. Swim, take long walks in countryside, and also... find love and dance. This is Alessandra’s specialty and a chance for her to strike a good relationship with Thorbjørn, who has never in his life danced before. But Ghisolabella vows to herself not to leave the matters as they are.</p> <p>To make relationship matters even worse, MAGNUS, Thorbjørn’s “idiot” son, finally arrives - a tall and handsome man with a Viking charisma that alone could kill all the mountain trolls.</p>
Themes	<p>The series will humorously deal with themes of aging; death and illness; living one’s life fullest; loss of being unable to enjoy what you want, and finding solace in doing other things; love and romance; coping with multiple admirers; but also other topics, such as locals versus immigrants, them and us.</p> <p>It should also be noted that pride for local cuisine, wine and traditions are to be found throughout the series, making these elements the central point of the villagers’ identity, something Thorbjørn occasionally seems to be lacking.</p> <p>And, of course... women talk about men, men talk about women, then they mingle and along the way will constantly misunderstand each other.</p>
Author's Notes	<p>The main protagonist is THORBJØRN (60+), a retired Norwegian topographer and a lifelong arm-chair adventurer, who has travelled the world over only in his mind, reading tons of books and watching scores of nature, wildlife and lifestyle films from the safety of his beloved arm chair. After the death of his wife decades ago he has grieved and led a Spartan life of “save every penny imaginable”, until his body and joints began to dislike the harsh Northern Norwegian weather. Then he decided to sell his house, and put the rest of his savings in a good use – to try and live life before dying at its fullest someplace warm.</p> <p>His decision to come to Apulia was based on his expertise knowledge of topography (scouting and finding the seemingly perfect location for retiring), secret love for wine (buying a vineyard), an idolised lavish lifestyle he never had (purchasing a villa), and treating himself as if he were a royal – to come to Italy, as his long time idol Thor Heyerdahl had done half a century ago. The ethnographer and adventurer Heyerdahl has actually said that “although he remains</p>

patriotic and will always love his native land, the old man's body needs warmer climate" than is on offer in Norway. Thus Thorbjørn has decided that he, too, should go and die someplace warm. But before dying with style there's both physically and mentally painful hell to be crossed. And after hell there will be life as he has never known. With style. Albeit in different style.

Thorbjørn will face his own inner fears, encounter the friendly and not-so-friendly side of the villagers, and will also come at loggerheads with the state institutions when a glitch in Norwegian pension system says that Thorbjørn doesn't even exist.

GHISOLABELLA (25), ALESSANDRA (48), and FRANCESCA (65) - The three generations of women of the same family that have maintained the villa and vineyard while it was on sale. Now Thorbjørn has asked them to stay and has employed them to help him run his household. The three women will have constant clashes over Thorbjørn with each other.

MAGNUS (30), Thorbjørn's son. Educated, Masters' degree in Business Administration. He will come to live with his father to mend their ties because he has found a well-paid job in a local sports car industry. He's everything the women thought Thorbjørn might be – Magnus is tall, handsome, built like a true Viking warrior. But he's also a cunning, snus-chewing lothario. It remains to be seen whether Thorbjørn actually is his biological father.