



### BOB

Original title: BOB  
Publisher: Gutkind, Danmark, 2021  
Genre: Novel  
Pages: 118 pages  
English sample

### Foreign rights

Dutch: Querido  
German: Dörlemann Verlag  
Swedish: Norstedts  
Norwegian: Forlaget Oktober



### Helle Helle

Photo by Mikkel Carl

## BOB

"Out moves Bob and I with him to Vanløse".

So begins Helle Helle's new novel *Bob* published in January 2021.

Bob's not sure what he wants to do.  
His girlfriend's wrapped up in her uni course.  
She's the 'she' from *they*.

Meanwhile, he's got a bit of part-time at the Seamen's Home, when he's not doing up their new bedsit and losing himself in Copenhagen street names. Most of all he wants a future with her. She's the novel's narrator. But all she talks about is Bob's life – especially the bits that don't involve her.

"Just think, at some point we're going to get married and have kids. He'd uttered the same sentence before, most recently last week, and afterwards he'd thought: I'm not going to say that again for a very long time. Only now he already had."

*Helle Helle's new novel is quite simply brilliant ... With uncomplicated ingenuity, she shows us the difference between wanting to be free and being free.*

- Berlingske, 6 stars

*A classic Helle Helle novel ... carries forward and renews (the oeuvre) ... In BOB she dazzles with the comedy of its situations and words, brilliant as a circus acrobat whose great artistry is to perform her stunts with an effortless shrug.*

Information

## Helle Helle

Helle Helle is a graduate of the Danish Academy of Creative Writing and the author of a number of novels, as well as two collections of short fiction. She is one of scandinavia's most original writers, with a career spanning almost three decades, from her debut *Example of Life* (1993) to her most recent novel, *BOB* (2020).

Helle Helle's breakthrough novel, *Rødby-Puttgarden*, was awarded the Danish Critics' Prize for Literature, since when she has received her native country's highest literary accolades, including the Per Olov Enquist Prize, the Golden Laurels of the Danish Booksellers' Association, the Grand Prize of the Danish Academy, and the Holberg Medal. Her books have been translated into 22

languages.