



### they

Original title: de  
Publisher: Rosinante, 2018  
Genre: Novel  
Pages: 156 pages  
English sample

### Foreign rights

Czech: Pasena  
Dutch: Querido  
English (NA): New Directions  
English (UK): Akoya Publishing  
German: Dörlemann Verlag  
Norwegian: Forlaget Oktober  
Swedish: Norstedts

### Awards

Nominated for the Nordic Prize for Literature 2019  
Nominated for the Danish Broadcasting Corporation's Book Award 2019



### Helle Helle

Photo by Mikkel Carl

## they

She and her mother have lived in many places in the small town, currently over the hairdresser's. It's a corner flat, and doesn't look like much from the outside. It's always been just the two of them. In April, her mother finds something wrong with her body. October feels very long while they wait for a response from the hospital. Meanwhile, she starts high school. Here she meets Tove Dunk, Hafni, Bob, Desert Boots and a host of others. *they* is a depiction of mother-daughter relationship, a story about sickness and love and going to high school in the early 80's.

*Every sentence is significant, and you have to take time to imbibe the moods and read the details and their indirect characteristics, what they reveal about the characters and their thoughts.*

Nordjyske Stiftstidende

*Helle Helle's minimalism isn't boring; it crackles with mystery. It's the everyday, and yet it's insistently beautiful. A book ... I'd like to re-read immediately.*

Weekendavisen

*You laugh and laugh, cry and cry. Not bawling or sobbing, but quiet and intense. That's what it's like reading Helle Helle.*

Politiken, 6/6 stars

## Helle Helle

Helle Helle (b. 1965) 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 three decades, from her debut *Example of Life* (1993) to her most recent novel, *Hafni Says*, published to rave reviews in 2023. Her books have been translated into 24 languages.