



Down to the Dogs

Original title: Ned til hundene
 Publisher: Samleren, Denmark, 2008
 Genre: Novel
 Pages: 197 pages

Foreign rights

Bulgarian: Roboread EOOD
 Czech: Paseka
 French: Le Serpent à Plumes
 German: Dörlemann
 Italian: Atmosphere Libri
 Japanese: Chikuma - shobo
 Dutch: Contact
 Norwegian: Forlaget Oktober
 Polish: Slovo/Obrz Terytoria
 Swedish: Lindelöws Bokförlag

Awards

Nominated for The Nordic Council Literature Prize 2009.
 Awarded the P.O. Enquist Award 2009.



Helle Helle

Photo by Mikkel Carl

Down to the Dogs

A woman with a trolley gets off the bus somewhere in Zealand. She has left her husband and is looking for a place to cry.

She is picked up by John and Putte, two kind strangers, who let her sleep on their sofa. Over the course of a week, she is absorbed in a world of pixies and lotto coupons, coffee and sponge cake and bike rides in jumpsuits. And dogs to take care of. And then there is Putte's brother, Ibber, with strong arms and the smooth torso.

Life with John and Putte is both comfortable and strange and holds a story which, little by little, is revealed to the woman with the trolley.

It is not very often that I encounter a book which reminds me of what drew me to literature in the first place. Down to the Dogs is such a novel.

Information, Denmark

The prose of Helle Helle is cut with a diamond's precision. It oozes casual language of everyday life, she listens with the ear of a master like the Danish impressionist Herman Bang, full of unspoken meaning which during the novel slowly is put together. Very well done.

Politiken, Denmark

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.