



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 (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.