



### Unwanted Behaviour

Original title: Uønska åtfærd

Publisher: Det norske Samlaget, 2023

Genre: Novel

Pages: 215 pages

English sample

### Awards

Nynorsk Literature Prize 2017

The Brage Prize 2017

The Dobloug Prize 2019, awarded annually by the Swedish Academy

The Fritt Ord's Prize 2021



Olaug Nilssen

Photo: Bent René Synnesvåg

## Unwanted Behaviour

Where do we draw the line for what we should sacrifice for a child?

Katrine is married to Gunnar, and they have two children, Jostein and Janne. The son's intellectual disabilities and care needs completely dominate family life. The daughter's needs are lost in the shuffle, but she also finds herself in a vulnerable position when Jostein enters puberty and he begins acting out in sexually inappropriate ways.

*Unwanted Behaviour* illustrates how difficult it is for a family to take care of everyone when one child demands everything. In her struggle to protect her son, Katrine risks losing it all – her marriage, her relationship to her daughter, and herself.

*Olaug Nilssen writes with warm and empathetic insight. She portrays human beings as they are, without judgement.*

Gerd Elin Stava Sandve, NRK

*A novel of fury about a family in crisis.*

Maja Troberg Djuve, Dagbladet

*Let us take in the feeling of hopelessness when compassion and care are not enough.*

Leif Tore Sædberg, Bergens Tidende

*Olaug Nilssen will hopefully reach many readers with her novel about a mother who sees only the needs of her most vulnerable child.*

Astrid Fosvold, Vårt Land

*Here there are scenes that are incredibly painful, while there is also hope, humour and knowledge.»*

Ole Jacob Hoel, Adresseavisen

## Olaug Nilssen

Olaug Nilssen (1977) made her literary breakthrough with *Turn me on, Dammit* in 2005. The book had a defining significance for an entire generation. Since then she has written books in different genres and made her mark as a unique and important voice in Norwegian literature. In her novel *A Tale of Terrible Times*, for which she was awarded the Brage Prize, she writes with unusual openness about the experience of being a mother of a child with disabilities. In her novel *The One Needful Thing*, published in 2020, she continues to

explore the themes of *A Tale of Terrible Times*.

In 2021, Nilssen received The Fritt Ord's Prize, along with Bjørn Hatterud and Jan Grue. They were awarded the prize in recognition of their important critical contribution to illuminating the impact of cultural stigmas on the situation of persons with disabilities in Norway.

Her new novel *Undesirable Behaviour* was published in 2023.

In 2024, she received the prestigious Amalie Skram Prize for her authorship.