



Siss and Unn

Original title: Siss og Unn
Publisher: Forlaget Oktober, 2008
Genre:
Pages: 175 pages
English sample

Awards

Nominated to the Critics Prize in 2008



Inger Bråtveit

Pernille Marie Waldvik

Siss and Unn

Siss and Unn is a poetic novel about the fragile friendship between the two young girls, and Mummy Big, whose sorrows and loneliness eat her up inside. It is composed of short chapters ending with an omniscient narrator voice, akin to a choir commenting on the story. Bråtveit weaves together elements inspired from the Greek tragedies in a dialogue with Terje Vesaa's *The Ice Palace*, in a truly unique style. Through narrative voices, she intertwines distinct writing techniques – old and new, biblical speak and psalms, Swedish and New Norwegian, cultural references and allusions to other literature – creating thoughtful reflections and an original novel. When merged with the complex psychology of the characters, it becomes a feminist perspective that is at once intense and different.

Siss and Unn is a conscious and intelligent novel about mothers and daughters, through survival and hardships.

"A burning, intense novel of crystal and ice [...] sad and beautiful."

Dagsavisen

Inger Bråtveit shows what a conscious, stylish and brilliant author she is. And one could be tempted to say: What a brave author!

Bergens Tidende

"A solid novel about writing your own script and daring to improvise in your role [...] The book's textual universe is fragmented and bleeding all through the novel."

Adresseavisen

Inger Bråtveit

Inger Bråtveit is one of Norway's most exciting younger authors and the recipient of several awards and grants, including New Norwegian Literature Prize and the Bjørnson Scholarship. She made her debut as an author in 2002 with the novel *Mouth towards a Frozen Fjord*. Her second novel, *Siss and Unn*, was nominated for the Norwegian Critics Prize for Literature in 2008.

After a poetry collaboration with notable Swedish author Cecilia Hansson, *The Love Project*, Bråtveit published her third novel *Alice A4* in 2015, nominated for the Young Readers' Critics' Prize.