



Milk

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English sample



Mette Karlsen

Photo: Tove K. Breistein

Milk

Is it possible to live as an artist and also be a parent?

Beate is an artist-in-residence in Iceland, living in a converted dairy/artist's studio, when she meets Kjell. Before long, she discovers she is pregnant with his child. What adjustments will she be obliged to make to become a mother and what kind of mother can she manage to be?

Milk (Meieriet) is a low-key, sensitive story about a young woman's struggle to resolve the conflict between a longing for intimacy and the need for solitude, about fears of both post-partum depression and the commercialisation of art. The novel's sincere and vulnerable narrative voice finds expression for often unarticulated emotions, chronicling Beate's pregnancy and the early days of motherhood.

Mette Karlsen

Mette Karlsen's literary debut was in 2005 with the novel *The Window in the Dining Hall Overlooks the Fjord (Vindauga i matsalen vender mot fjorden)* for which she was awarded the prestigious Tarjei Vesaas debutant prize. In 2012 she received the Booksellers grant, Stig Sæterbakken's memorial award and Skien municipality's artist grant. The novel *Being Björk (Bli Björk, 2011)* was nominated for the Brage Prize. Karlsen's writing is characterised by a unique world-view, with a perspective ranging in scope from microscopic sensations to global issues, often expressed through a single gesture or phrase.