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**Silje Bekeng-Flemmen**

## *Welcome to the Zoo*

*About how everything begins, and the total, all-consuming transformation entailed in bringing a life into the world. A world on the edge of the precipice.*

Lisa never wanted to be a mother. So when she suddenly finds herself wanting to become one after all, it feels like a biological ambush. Now she's standing here with an unrecognisable body, a sense of terror and a love that requires a new language. With her partner and children and baby – the current end point of over three billion years of evolution.

*Welcome to the Zoo* is a story about humans and other animals. About mothers, daughters and female friendships; symbioses and despair. It is a novel about the beginning of all things, and the complete transformation that bringing life into the world entails.

*A funny, sharp and exceptionally well-written debut. I don't think I've ever read anything on this subject that hits a thousand small nails on the head in the way that this book does.*

- NRK

*Silje Bekeng-Flemmen is an experienced journalist, and this is particularly evident in her use of language. She manoeuvres easily and lithely through the kingdom of metaphor.*

- Dagbladet

*The absent-minded, reflective narrative style, interspersed with questions and quotes, is obviously inspired by Maggie Nelson, and is also reminiscent of another American author – Jenny Offill.*

- Morgenbladet

*Welcome to the Zoo is at its best when it devotes itself to the specific details of life with small children, and to the reflections that stem from it.*

- Klassekampen Bokmagasinet

*Prose, at times gorgeous, encompassing animals, imagined catastrophes, children who light up others' faces, and a good many exacting emotions and descriptions for those of us who have been through it all before.*

*5 out of 6 stars*

- BOK365

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## Silje Bekeng-Flemmen

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Silje Bekeng-Flemmen (b. 1984) is a critic, journalist and assistant editor at *Bokmagasinet Klassekampen*. *Welcome to the Zoo* is her first novel.

