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Cecilie Enger

A Minute's Silence



As a young woman, Åsta Petersen-Cooper left Norway with a desire to put her former life behind her. She brimmed with dreams of an international lifestyle of language, literature and fascinating conversations, and of a happiness in which she could both love and be loved. She's now 73, living in Warsaw, and in a faltering marriage with a British diplomat. She suffers a stroke which seriously impairs her ability to speak. All she's left with is the Norwegian of her childhood, which no one around her understands, and far too much time to wonder why life never turned out the way it was meant to.

A Minute's Silence is a novel about recognition and identity, about which memories live within us and which ones disappear, and about wanting to escape from your own background – and perhaps also from yourself.

Cecilie Enger

Award winning writer with strong portraits of female characters.

Cecilie Enger was born in 1963, and has studied history, Norwegian and journalism. She also works as a feature journalist when she is not writing critically-acclaimed novels. Her first novel *Necessity* was published in 1994 and was warmly received by critics. Her big break came with *Mother's Gifts* in 2013, which sold internationally and earned her the Booksellers' Prize that year. She is perhaps best known for biographical and historically-inspired novels as well as strong portraits of female characters.



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