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Therese Tungen

The Other Side of The River

Karnanne's life is falling apart again. The first time was when her sister, Alicia, vanished almost thirty years ago. Now Karnanne has been betrayed by her husband, and she returns to the village she once fled.

Tverrbygda is a place where the river runs fierce at the bottom of the valley, hemmed in by steep mountains. The village itself is a mix of rural calm and a western frontier town – a society with its own laws, where people are as harsh and silent as the landscape.

Karnanne sets out to finish her master's thesis on an old legend, about young girls lured into the mountain by ancient beings and changed forever. But as she digs into the past, her own wounds are torn open. The villagers insist that Alicia's death was an accident, but memories and whispers suggest otherwise.

As long-buried secrets resurface, Karnanne begins to suspect that someone wanted her sister gone. The past still lives in the valley like a dark force. And those who have been "inside the mountain" see what others cannot. Perhaps that includes Alicia. Perhaps it also includes Karnanne herself.

Therese Tungen

Therese Tungen (b. 1977) is from Kvam in Gudbrandsdalen

and lives in Oslo. A former editor at Samlaget and literary critic for Morgenbladet and Klassekampen, she studied writing at Bø and the Aschehoug Writers' School. Her critically acclaimed debut short story collection, Once They

Were Wolves (2017), was nominated for the Norwegian Youth

Critics' Prize and awarded the Aschehoug Debut Grant and

the Bjørnson Grant. Her follow-up, Love and What Resembles It (2019), was nominated for the 2020 EU Prize for

Literature. In 2022, she published the acclaimed Turn Around: Edvin's Book. Her new novel, The Other Side of the River, will be published in autumn 2025.





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