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Elisabeth Beanca Halvorsen

## *Maidens, Vienna and Elegy. About Elfriede Jelinek's writing*

When the Austrian writer Elfriede Jelinek won the Nobel Prize in Literature, the world was baffled. Jelinek who? Why her? Elisabeth Beanca Halvorsen had then just finished her master thesis *The Phenomenon Elfriede Jelinek* and soon after became the translator of Jelinek's novels and plays into Norwegian. In *Maidens, Vienna and Elegy* Halvorsen draws up the big lines in the Austrian writer's work and presents us with a highly unconventional depiction of Jelinek's background, and how she works with language. The book's skeleton is the play *The Death and the Maidens*, where Jelinek's fictional characters meet face-to-face with other Nobel Prize winning authors, such as Sigrud Undset, Selma Lagerlöf and Doris Lessing.

*"You'll struggle to find literary conveying, of this kind – anywhere else!"*

- Stavanger Aftenblad

*"...form-conscious, non-fiction: Halvorsen stages a liberation class where characters from Jelinek's pieces converse with Simone de Beauvoir and Sigrud Undset. Just turn on the disco-ball and read about Simone and Nora (Helmer) who tear around drinking gin fizz while debating liberation strategies."*

- Klassekampen

*"This year's best, in the category 'Literary Non-fiction.'"*

- Klassekampen

## Elisabeth Beanca Halvorsen

Elisabeth Beanca Halvorsen

Halvorsen (born 1979) is a Norwegian writer, playwright and translator of German literature. Her latest book is *Doris Lessing. En litterær forfølgelse* (*Doris Lessing. A literary Pursuit*) (Gyldendal 2016). She lives in Oslo and Vienna.



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