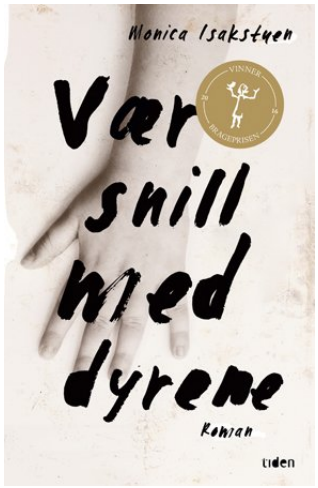

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AWARDS

Brage Prize 2016

OTHER TITLES

2008 – Sånn, borte
2009 – Avstand
2011 – Alltid nyheter
2014 – Om igjen

Tiden Norsk Forlag

www.tiden.no/

Monica Isakstuen

Be Kind to the Animals

Brilliant novel about divorce and mother-daughter relationship
A small family of three is falling apart. They couldn't make it. Karen couldn't make it. Many voices emerge, from friends to family therapists, with supposedly helping words: Shared custody. Mediation. Distribution. Attachment. Predictable behaviour. Transit phase. Children are robust creatures. Karen listens to them, the way a modern woman is supposed to, while everything inside her is rebelling. No, the child is mine. I'm it's mother. There is nothing modern about me.
Still, the questions arise: To what degree is the role as a mother connected to being a family? Is the daughter still hers when she is with her father? If you're a mother one week, what are you the next? With sharpness and warmth, Isakstuen portrays a mother who fears she has failed her child. Be Kind to the Animals is a raw, acute and harrowing novel about being in the ruins of a marriage with the one you care about the most – every other week.

«An extraordinary reading experience. The voice is analysing and at the same time self-critical and self-revealing – and lyrical. Sometimes there is also a touch of humour in the presentation, although muted. Monica Isakstuen shows herself as a great stylist, yet again.»
- Hamar Arbeiderblad

«An incredibly beautiful and good description of a life dilemma, I'm impressed by both content and form. The world needs to see this book.»
- Sissel Gran, psychologist an marital therapist

«Brilliant novel about divorce and mother-daughter relationship.»
- Demokraten

Monica Isakstuen

Monica Isakstuen (born 1976) made her debut in 2009. Be Kind to the Animals is her third novel.