

New Fiction

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Vigdis Hjorth

Is Mother Dead

Annicken R. Day

Fly, Butterfly



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368 pages
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ISBN: 9788202671822

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Vigdis Hjorth

Is Mother Dead



Johanna, an artist, has spent the last three decades living in the US with her husband and their son. After her husband dies, Johanna returns to her native Norway. A gallery has invited her to create a retrospective exhibition, with a new, commissioned work as its centrepiece.

Johanna rents an apartment by the fjord, and a small cabin in the woods on the outskirts of the city. As she traverses the city, back and forth between the two places, she searches for a sense of direction in the work ahead of her, and for a discovery to bridge her past to the present.

What remains of the life Johanna left behind in Norway, several decades ago? What is she expecting to find upon her return? And what if that something should choose not to appear?

Vigdis Hjorth's novel *Is Mother Dead* is a riveting, immersive story about the most fundamental longings and disappointments of our lives. In her unmistakable voice, the author blends deep psychological insight and keen empathy with perspectives from art and literature. At the heart of this novel lies the question of what it means to come to terms with one's past, when neither making amends nor letting go is an option.

'(...) an intergenerational bust-up that sends sparks flying. It's profoundly shocking, brutally honest, and intelligently conceived. The literary exploration of the mother-daughter relationship in Is Mother Dead is both universal and courageous – and delivered with linguistic aplomb and stylistic confidence displaying Hjorth's usual quality.'

- Dagbladet

*'Vigdis Hjorth is back at her best, with a raw and painful book (...)
Brave and uncompromising.'*

- Dagsavisen

Vigdis Hjorth

Vigdis Hjorth (b. 1959) has made an exciting literary career and has written many popular books for both children and adults. Today she is an award-winning author and one of Norway's most interesting, contemporary writers.



She has won a number of prizes and awards, amongst them: The Gyldendal Prize in 2011, the Critics Award in 2012, The Honorary Brage Award and the Amalie Skram Award in 2014, The Aschehoug



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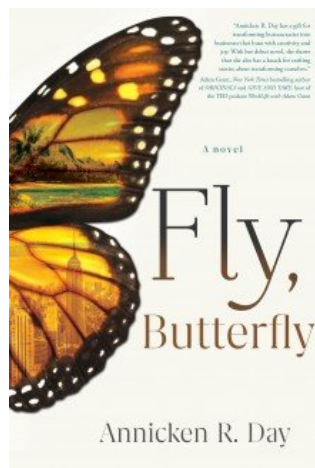
Award in 2015 and the Booksellers Prize in 2016.

Her books have been published in 27 countries.



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Cappelen Damm 2020
320 pages
Original title: *Fly, Butterfly*
ISBN: 9788202668822

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Annicken R. Day

Fly, Butterfly

Maya Williams is an ambitious, hardworking New York Business Woman, stymied on her way up the corporate ladder by sexist, male executives. But when she is sent to a conference in Hawaii and expected to lie on stage, she does the unthinkable – she tells the truth. After the event she has a break down on the beach, and then decides to stay in Kauai'i for a few days. After all: she was just fired. In Kauai'i she meets people who open her eyes to different ways of thinking and being, she begins to see life, work, love – and her self – in a whole new light. All of a sudden she has a vision of wanting a life that might be totally different from what she thought.

When Maya returns to the corporate world as an executive, can she implement her new philosophies and still succeed? And will her personal and professional metamorphosis ultimately bring her the happiness and freedom that she dreams of?

Fly, Butterfly is a page turner that draws you in and makes you nod furiously, laugh deeply and then sob with empathy. This is a powerful novel that has the energy to inspire change.

- Amy Brann - Author of Engaged, Make Your Brain Work and Neuroscience for Coaches.

Annicken R. Day has a gift for transforming bureaucrazies into businesses that buzz with creativity and joy. With her debut novel, she shows that she also has a knack for crafting stories about transforming ourselves.

- Adam Grant - New York Times bestselling author of Originals and Give and Take.

Annicken R. Day

Annicken R. Day has worked with corporate culture for more than 20 years, i.e. as President of Culture at Norwegian Tandberg, and Cisco. Since 2012, she has been running her own company, Corporate Spring, where she leads her team in helping leaders and teams all over the world in building great places of employments and engaged corporate cultures. She is also a globally renowned public speaker, having written articles for Huffington Post and Business Insider, and co-authored the book Creative Superpowers.



Her first novel, *Fly, Butterfly*, is a story that in many ways reflect Annicken's own experiences, philosophy of life and personal choices: Choosing the heart over the head, trust over fear, and keeping the courage to live one's own life on one's own terms.



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When Annicken is not travelling, she splits her time between Norway and California.



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