

## Katharina Vestre Linnea Vestre

### The First Mystery *Det første mysteriet*

Aschehoug 2018  
 150 Pages  
 Full English sample translation available

*The First Mystery* tells the story of you (and me and everyone), from conception to birth, from the first primitive cell divisions – until nine months later, when we fight our way out of an overly narrow opening as ready-made human children.

Did you know that the expression ‘The rabbit died’ (indicating that a woman is pregnant) stems from pregnancy tests during the 1920s, where the doctors injected the woman’s urine into a rabbit and later studied the changes in its ovaries; Or that the tiny male sea worm ‘Bonellia viridis’ spends his entire life inside the much larger female, as her personal sperm donor.

These are two of the very many strange facts you’ll find in *The First Mystery*.

The story of you - before you were born, where Katharina Vestre tells us all about the miraculous process that takes place inside a mother’s womb.

*The First Mystery* is popular science, history of science, storytelling and public education at its best. Charming, entertaining, fun, accessible, inclusive and knowledgeable.

Nominated for the 2018 Brage Prize

NON-FICTION  
 POPULAR SCIENCE



PHOTO: HILDUR ÁGÚSTSDÓTTIR

Katharina Vestre (b. 1992) is a Doctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Biosciences at the University of Oslo. *The First Mystery* is her literary debut. The book is illustrated by her sister Linnea Vestre (b. 1993).

#### FOREIGN SALES

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"Exciting and astounding visual story about our creation (...) she has an incredible ability to explain complex phenomena in an understandable and appetising way."

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