

## Olaug Nilssen

The One Needful Thing

*Yt etter evne, få etter behov*

Samlaget 2020

191 Pages

ISBN: 9788234003394

English sample translation available

FICTION  
NOVEL



PHOTO: BENT R. SYNNEVÅG

Who will shoulder a responsibility that nobody can really manage?

In *The One Needful Thing* the reader gains insight into the daily life of a wholly ordinary family that has ceased to be ordinary. Lea lies in bed playing Hay Day on her iPad and wonders whether she has chronic fatigue syndrome. Her sister Rakel balances along a tightrope in her role as the primary care provider for intellectually disabled Benjamin, for whom Lea no longer has the strength to be a mother. Gudrun, the sisters' mother, is focused on being there for her third daughter Linda and her family. One day when Benjamin is dropped off at home after spending a weekend in respite care, Rakel is not there to receive him.

*The One Needful Thing* is both humorous and serious, a continuation of the themes explored in *A Tale of Terrible Times* from 2017: Who will shoulder a responsibility that nobody can really manage in the age of individualism? And can a balance be found between freedom and obligation within the community, or even among the members of the same family?

### Winner of the 2020 P2-listeners' Novel Prize

Nominated for the 2020 Brage Prize, the 2020 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize and the 2021 Young Readers' Critics' Prize

Olaug Nilssen (b. 1977) made her real breakthrough in 2005 with *Turn Me On, Dammit* (*Få meg på, for faen*). The book breaks taboos in relation to young people and sexuality and defined a whole generation. Since then she has written books in many genres and made her mark as an unusual and important voice in Norwegian literature.

### FOREIGN SALES

Denmark (TURBINE forlaget), The Netherlands (Uitgeverij Oevers)

### AWARDS

The 2021 Fritt Ord Foundation Prize  
The 2017 Brage Prize

### PREVIOUS TITLES

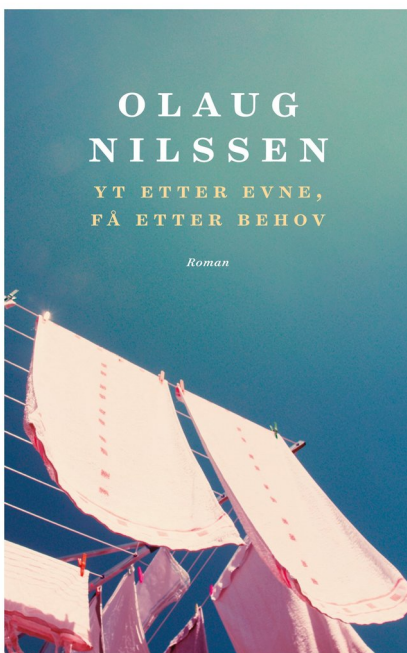
Selected:  
*A Tale of Terrible Times*, 2017  
*Big And Ugly*, 2013

### RIGHTSHOLDER

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### VIDEO

[See YouTube for the author's presentation](#)



'Intense and essential reading (...)  
One of the highlights of the  
autumn book releases!'

*Bergensavisen*, 6 out of 6 stars

'So ruthlessly and  
compassionately written that the  
reader gasps for breath. (...)  
There is no shortage of joie de  
vivre in Nilssen's most recent  
books, but it is communicated  
through gritted teeth.'

*Dagens Næringsliv*

'Enraged and humorous with  
something important to get off its  
chest.'

*Bergens Tidende*, 5 out of 6 stars