Marta Breen
Sunniva Fluge Hole (ill.)

Born Free
Født fri

Genre: Children and Young Adults
Category: Illustrated non-fiction
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2025 - Due medio Oct
Pages: 120
ISBN: 9788202871208
English sample translation available

Religious control and women's fight for freedom – an important book for young readers

Born Free is a fascinating and thought-provoking graphic novel about the impact religion has had, and continues to have, on women's freedom. It explores how religious practices have restricted women's rights and shaped their lives across different cultures and societies.

In the wake of the women-led uprising in Iran and the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, religious control over women's lives has become more visible than it has been in decades. Acclaimed feminist and author Marta Breen places these current events in a broader historical and global context, showing how religious fundamentalism continues to threaten women's rights even in Western societies.

Based on thorough research, *Born Free* tackles topics such as forced marriage, education bans, dress codes, and female genital mutilation in a respectful yet direct manner. The book's core message is clear: everyone has the right to decide over their own life, while also respecting freedom of religion, as long as it does not violate basic human rights.

Born Free is a vital book that encourages reflection and conversation about the role of religion in society and the position of women within the world's faiths. Sunniva Fluge Hole's striking illustrations make complex topics accessible for readers aged 12 and up.

The book builds on Marta Breen's international bestsellers *Women in Battle* and *The Fall of the Patriarchy*, sold to 28 and 12 countries respectively. While these dealt with general discrimination against women, *Born Free* focuses specifically on religious oppression and control over women's bodies and lives.

Nominated for the 2025 Ministry of Culture's Best Non-Fiction Award

Photo: Åsmund Holien Mo

Marta Breen (b. 1976) is a writer, journalist and one of Norway's most profiled feminists. She made her debut in 2006 with the book *Girls, Wine and Song*, about Norwegian women through times in Music. She has since established herself as a notable non-fiction author. Her book *Women in Battle* (2018), illustrated by Jenny Jordahl, has been sold to over 20 territories.

Sunniva Fluge Hole is a creative and experienced illustrator and character concept designer, with many years experience within visual storytelling and design.

Foreign sales
Denmark

Previous titles
Aasta Hansteen, 2023
Kvinnenes by, 2022
Patriarkatet faller, 2021
Hvordan bli (en skandinavisk) feminist, 2020
Kvinner i kamp, 2018

Rightsholder
Cappelen Damm Agency
foreignrights@cappelendamm.no
+47 21 61 65 00
cappelendammagency.no

Interview
Read our interview with the authors here