

Helene Uri

Honey Tongues *Honningtunger*

Gyldendal 2002
224 Pages

**FICTION
NOVEL**



PHOTO: NINA KAMMERSTEN

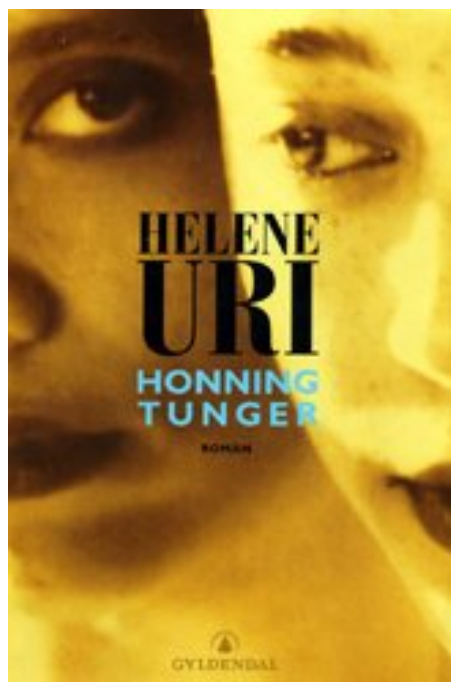
The honey tongues of the title belong to four friends in their thirties who have known each other since school. They make up a 'sewing circle' where no sewing is done, but much exquisite food is lovingly prepared and consumed and increasingly bitchy gossip exchanged.

The novel follows their three-weekly meetings over six months, as they take turns to entertain each other; the readers are privy to their thoughts and memories and discover how apparently innocent actions are motivated by emotional hang-ups with their roots in childhood traumas. The tension builds towards a gourmet trip to Copenhagen to celebrate their friendship, where during an eight-course meal the masks drop and undisguised fear and loathing are revealed. Shocking secrets are unearthed as the balance of power subtly shifts from one member of the group to another.

Brilliantly observed, this is female bonding at its worst, manipulative and psychotic, exposing the dependency and deceit behind the compassionate and affectionate façade.

"Sublime katzenjammer. It's elegant — told with a stringency and in a playful language which simply is impressive. — With minimal effects maximal impressions are created. It itches and bites and oozes on the pages..." (Politiken, Denmark)

"Honey Tongues is a sharp satire about women, elegantly executed."



Helene Uri, who is a doctor of linguistics, left a promising career and her position at the Institute of Linguistics at the University in Oslo to become a full-time writer. She has written novels, children's books and books about language and linguistics. The novel *De beste bland oss* (*The Best Among Us*, 2006) attracted widespread attention.

PREVIOUS TITLES

(Selected)

Anna på fredag, young adults 1995.

Den store faktaboka om språk, non-fiction 1998.

Dyp rød 315, novel 2001.

Engel av nylon, novel 2003.

Dråpen som fikk alt til å skje, children's book 2003.

Hva er språk, non-fiction 2004.

De beste blant oss, novel 2006.

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Praise for *De beste blant oss* (2006):

“Uri is totally in control of the narrative; with her clever use of foreshadowing and secrecy she creates the classic ‘must find out what happens’- effect”
(Dagens Næringsliv)

“Incredibly funny. An intelligently entertaining book.” (Dagbladet)