

Cecilie Enger

Breathe for Me
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Gyldendal 2017
256 Pages

FICTION
NOVEL



PHOTO: TRUDE RÖNNESTAD

Can you forgive yourself for the pain you inflict on others?

Almost-sixty-one-year-old anesthesiologist Carla Ruud drives from Oslo to her hometown to visit her mother at the nursing home. With her in the car is a young woman, Synne, who is heading in the same direction. On the icy road, Carla loses control of the car and they end up driving off a cliff. Despite all her medical experience, Carla cannot save Synne's life.

Breathe for Me is a pensive novel from the author of the best-seller *Mother's Gifts*. A novel about three generations of women - Carla's mother aged 90, Carla herself, and Carla's daughter, Ingrid aged 31 - about the vulnerability of being dependent on those closest to you and about losing control over your own life. One can withstand pain as long as it has a purpose, but what about when it does not have any? And the day you no longer feel like anybody needs you, who are you then?

Cecilie Enger was born in 1963, and has studied history, Norwegian and journalism. She also works as a feature journalist when she is not writing critically-acclaimed novels. Her first novel *Necessity* was published in 1994 and was warmly received by critics. Her big break came with *Mother's Gifts* in 2013, which sold internationally and earned her the Booksellers' Prize that year. She is perhaps best known for biographical and historically-inspired novels as well as strong portraits of female characters.

FOREIGN SALES

Denmark (Jensen & Dalgaard)

AWARDS

(Selected):

The Norwegian Bookseller's Prize 2013

Shortlisted for the 2013 Critics' Prize

2008 The Amalie Skram Prize for best

female fiction writer

2007 The Neshorn Prize, for the book of the year.

Nominated for the 2000 Brage Prize

1994 Nota Bene Cultural Prize

PREVIOUS TITLES

SELECTED:

Mother's Gifts (2013)

The Chamber Maid (2011)

Storming Heaven (2007)

Look in Mercy (2003)

The Henriksen Brothers (2000)

Extremity (1996)

Necessity (1994)

RIGHTSHOLDER

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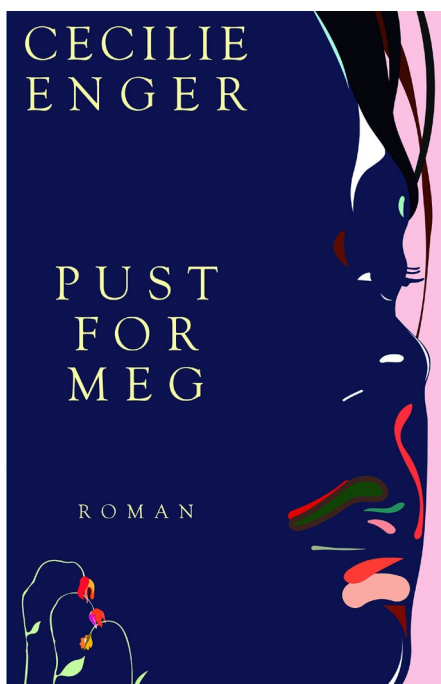
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'Her light, pleasant style deepens the existential thematic depth, which makes the novel almost impossible to read and just as impossible to put down. This is just amazingly pensive, thorough and well-written.'

Dagbladet

'Well-written, hearty prose.'

VG

'Enger's book feels fresh, almost surprisingly original. (...) In a quiet way it manages to wake the reader to new reflections on the inevitable pain of life.'

Aftenposten