

Olaug Nilssen

The One Needful Thing

Yt etter evne, få etter behov

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
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English sample translation available

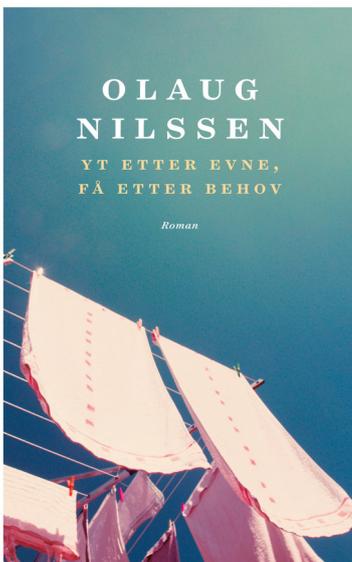
Who will shoulder a responsibility that nobody can really manage?

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



'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



Photo: Bent R. Synnevåg

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

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Video

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