

Birger Emanuelsen

Before They Disappear - An attempt to understand what children are

Før de forsvinner - et forsøk på å forstå hva barn er

Genre: Non-fiction

Category: Narrative non-fiction/ Essay

Publisher: Cappelen Damm

Year: 2024

Pages: 285

ISBN: 9788202822231

English sample translation available

Are our children small wonders and mysteries or just stepping stones to adulthood? How have we perceived and treated children throughout history? And how can we get closer to our own children before they grow up?

Birger Emanuelsen investigates and explores our perceptions of children. Through a wealth of sources, he writes about the value and importance of children, how we decide how to treat them, and what it really means to be a parent.

Before They Disappear is a well-informed documentary novel about the responsibility parents have to prepare their children for the world, and how they can approach doing this. But it is also an up close and personal tale about one of the most fundamental questions of life: What is a child?



Photo: Fartein Rudjord

Birger Emanuelsen (b. 1982) made his author debut in 2012, and has received several awards for his novels. He's from Southern Norway, where he lives with his wife and three kids. *Before they disappear* is his first non-fiction book.

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Interview

[Read our interview with the author here](#)



'This is for those of you who can't stand another banal self-help book.'

Vårt Land

'Birger Emanuelsen has written a poetic and scholarly book about childhood.'

Morgenbladet