Photo: Fartein Rudjord

Kathrine Nedrejord (b.1987) is an author of both adult fiction, books for children/YA and theatre plays. She made her debut in 2010 with the novel *Transit*, which received glowing reviews. In 2019 her acclaimed novel *Transformation* was awarded the Havmann Prize. Its follow-up, *Criminal and Punishment*, was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2023.
Her books for children and young adults have earned several nominations for prestigious literary awards, among them the IBBY Honor list and two-time nominated for the Ministry of Culture's Literary Prize. The German edition of the YA *Sara's Secret* was awarded Book of the Month. Nedrejord was recently the house dramatist at the National Theatre in Oslo. She lives in France.

"Nedrejord is an author who never shies away, and there is a steadfastness, a fearlessness, and an intellectual power in Nedrejord that can bring to mind the novels of Dag Solstad. She crushes conventions in her writing, and with *The Sami Problem* she has written a novel that could stand as a modern classic."
From the Oktober Prize jury statement

**Foreign sales**
Croatian (Naklada Ljevak), Danish (Gads Forlag), English/North America (University of Minnesota Press), English/UK (Akoya), German (Eichborn Verlag), Hungarian (Metropolis), Polish (Bo.wiem), Romanian (Casa Cartii de Stiinta), Serbian (Presing), Swedish (Tranan)

**Awards**
Winner of the P.O. Enquist Prize 2025
Winner of the Hunger Prize 2025
Winner of the Brage Prize 2024
Winner of the Oktober Prize 2024
Nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2023
Winner of the Havmann Prize 2019

**Previous titles**
Alt for flokken, 2024 - YA novel
Forbryter og straff, 2022
Det finnes ingen sannhet, 2024 - YA novel
Lappjævel, 2020 - Children's novel
Det Sara skjuler, 2019 - YA novel
Forvandlinga, 2018
Slepp meg, 2018 - YA novel
Hvem er jeg når du er borte?, 2016 - YA novel
Trengsel, 2014

Kathrine Nedrejord

# The Sami Problem

## Sameproblemet

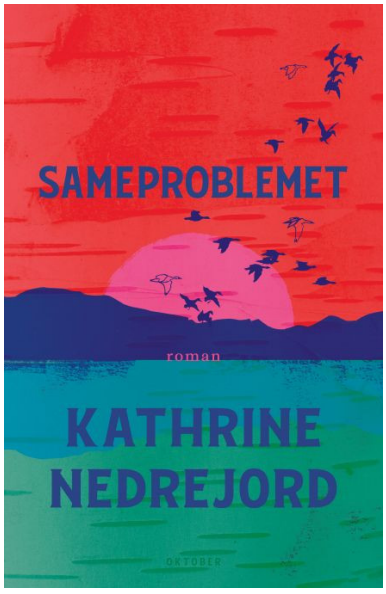
**Genre:** Fiction
**Category:** Novel
**Publisher:** Forlaget Oktober
**Year:** 2024
**Pages:** 402
**ISBN:** 9788249528875
English sample translation available

Marie has just become a mother for the first time. She lives in France, far away from her roots. When her áhkku – her mother's mother – dies, she travels alone home to Finnmark, Norway's northernmost county, to attend the funeral.

On her way back to her hometown, she decides to write áhkku's story. It quickly turns into a story about the women in her family, about how oppression has marked the lives of her great-grandmother, her grandmother, her mother and herself, and about how her Sami background has shaped her worldview.

*The Sami Problem* is an investigation into what it means to be a Sami, a woman, a mother, daughter and granddaughter. It is a powerful novel about Sami culture, language and identity, and a both furious and clear-eyed reckoning with oppression, discrimination and bigotry towards one of Europe's major indigenous peoples.

**Winner of the 2024 Brage Prize for Best Fiction and the 2024 Norwegian Youth's Critic's Prize**
Nominated for the 2025 Havmann Prize, the 2024 Listeners' Novel Prize and the 2024 Critics' Prize




'Fearless and furious. Kathrine Nedrejord's new novel is a Sami indictment against the Norwegian majority society's oppression, invisibility, mockery, and racism [...] Marie Engmo's narrative voice is sometimes subdued, but just as often intense and furious [...] With this novel, Kathrine Nedrejord once again demonstrates her insistent will to analyze the difficult issues surrounding victim and perpetrator. She convinces, both in language and temperament.'

Dagbladet, 6/6 stars

'She describes the northern Norwegian nature so closely that we almost feel the cold, clear air on our skin ... Nedrejord does not let us forget. The novel is both a manifesto and a valuable informative book that should be read by everyone'

Transitt, 2010

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**Interview**
Read our interview with the author here

NRK, 6/6 stars