

Hilde Hagerup

You Alone. The Story of Gunvor Hofmo and Ruth Maier

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A brutally beautiful love story based on real events.

You Alone is a powerful and moving young adult novel based on the true story of Gunvor Hofmo and Ruth Maier. It's a tale that reveals both the brightest and darkest experiences a young person can face.

Oslo, November 26, 1942: As the D/S Donau pulled away from the dock, Gunvor Hofmo stood alone. Just moments earlier, she had seen her beloved Ruth Maier for the last time. Ruth never returned to Gunvor. Only days later, she was killed in Auschwitz. What happened would shape Gunvor Hofmo's life and poetry more than anything else.

You Alone is a deeply emotional and brutally beautiful novel that brings readers close to Hofmo and Maier in the time just before they met and during their relationship in wartime Norway.

Hilde Hagerup breathes life into a defining story from Norwegian history. With precise and lyrical language, she brings the story of Gunvor Hofmo and Ruth Maier into the present. Hagerup shows us that their story remains hauntingly relevant in a world where right-wing populism and extremism continue to spread.

You Alone is a story that will break your heart but also offer a profound hope for the future and for love.

Winner of the 2025 Brage Prize and the 2025 Riksmål Society Literature Prize for Children and Young Adults



Photo: Anna Julia Granberg - Blunderbuss

Hilde Hagerup (b.1976) is an award-winning and acclaimed author. She writes books for children, young adults, and adults. Her works have been translated into numerous languages.

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Interview
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