

## Helene Uri

Clearing out  
*Rydde ut*

Gyldendal Norsk Forlag 2013  
272 Pages

**FICTION**  
**NOVEL**



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN ELGVIN

Linguist Ellinor Smidt receives an unexpected offer to take an academic post in Finnmark. As part of a research project on dying languages she is assigned to study the language of the coast Sami. The writer Helene Uri also receives an unexpected call. The voice in the other end introduces herself as a relative. During their conversation, Helene Uri learns that her own great grandfather belonged to the coast Sami people. That is something her family has never spoken about. One story is fiction, the other is fact. Together they constitute a gripping novel about southerners and northern lights, about language and family, about words and belonging. And about how things and people can disappear forever.

-- While Helene Uri was writing the story, her mother died – and this novel is also part of her grieving process. Uri manages to transform the two stories into an interesting and well composed novel.

Helene Uri holds a PhD in linguistics and worked for twelve years at the University of Oslo as an Associate Professor before she left to become a full time writer. She made her literary debut in 1995 with a novel for adolescents, *Anna on Friday* and published her first novel for adults *Deep Red 315* in 2001. *Honey Tongues* was published to acclaim the following year: *Bergens Tidende* described it as a book which “tears apart the myth that all children are kind”.

Now a full time writer, she holds a doctorate in applied linguistics, and continues to write on the subject in newspapers and journals. The time she spent as an academic at the University of Oslo and other educational institutions provided her with a wealth of material upon which she drew to write Norway’s first campus novel, *The Best Among Us* published in 2006. This novel stayed on the National bestseller list for 52 weeks and has become a cult novel, sold in 80, 000 copies. *The Righteous* followed in 2009, a modern family drama in the wake of Ingmar Bergman, a story about people who hurt each other because they love each other.

In 2011 she published *Bitches (Kjerringer)*, a devilish, wise and witty book about four women taking action and doing something about the kind of the men who use women as foot stools...

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"Convincing solemnity and stylish simplicity."

*Aftenposten*

"From a literary point of view, this is one of Helene Uri's most exciting books (...) executed with a living presence and an inquisitiveness that is bound to spellbind."

*Hamar Arbeiderblad*