



PHOTO: GUTENBERG

# / Karen Fastrup Hungerhjerte

One night I found myself in the emergency psychiatric ward. I had no idea how I got there. They called it a short-term psychosis. What had I done?

Did she threaten her partner with a kitchen knife? She can't remember. She remembers someone yelling that she was fucking crazy. It's night time. She's sitting in the psychiatric 'crisis room'. She had walked around the parking lot, looking for her partner, naked.

Just a few days ago, she was a woman with a man and a house in Copenhagen. A long time ago, she was a child of the '70s with a mixed-up family. Now she's no longer in her own body. She knows how normal, decent people are supposed to behave. They are calm and understanding. But she feels like a wild animal is trapped inside her head - waiting with pent-up fury for the moment it can leap.

Inspired by the works of J. P. Jacobsen and Rainer Maria Rilke, Danish author **KAREN FASTRUP** (b. 1967) is especially known for her deeply sensual prose style, often dealing with themes of desire, love and the body. Fastrup is also a highly acclaimed translator; her most recent translations include Sally Rooney's *Conversations with Friends* and Claire-Louise Bennet's *Pond*. Her latest novel, *I Am Something You Say*, is based on the author's own experience in emergency psychiatric care.



FICTION

# Karen Fastrup / Hungerhjerte (I Am Something You Say)

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Politiken

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*Books from Denmark* is a new initiative from the Danish Arts Foundation, taking over from the previous publication, *Danish Literary Magazine*. Twice a year, *Books from Denmark* will present a ‘right now’ selection of the best and most interesting Danish fiction, non-fiction and Children and Young Adult literature. All titles are selected by the Committee for Literary Project Funding, with literary quality as the key selection criteria.

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#### SUPPORT FOR TRANSLATORS

The Danish Arts Foundation supports the work of translators in different ways. This includes support for translations to and from Danish, sample translations, mentor support for translators, events and network support for translators, travel grants for translators and research travel for publishers.

#### DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION

The Danish Arts Foundation works to promote Danish art and artistic creativity, both in Denmark and abroad. The Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces is the administrative arm of the Danish Arts Foundation.

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