

FICTION



PHOTO: SEETH MUCOLAS

/ Sofie Jama

Et andet menneske, et andet liv

An epic story about three refugees from very different wars set in different time periods - the Somali Civil War, the Syrian Civil War and World War II - and how they end up crossing paths whilst in exile in Denmark.

Baraka, is a Muslim with a strong faith, circumcised according to Somali tradition, and proud of it. The circumcision hasn't dampened her sexual desire and she lives with the joy of other people's desire for her.

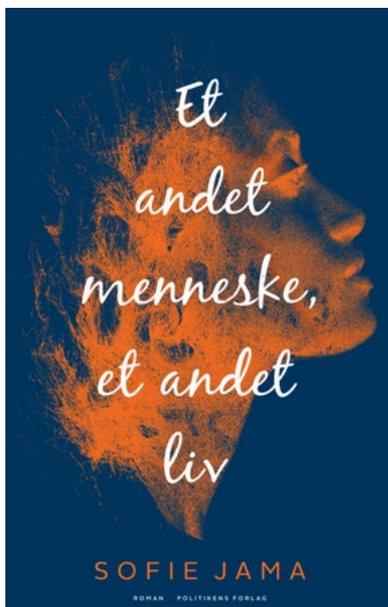
Baraka escapes Somalia with her mother and siblings, and they end up in Denmark. She meets Esther, an elderly Jewish woman who confides to Baraka her story of her own transformation from Czech Holocaust survivor to the upper-class woman 'Rosa'.

Baraka gets a job with the Red Cross and meets a young Palestinian boy, Umar, who has escaped the war in Syria and to whom Baraka feels inexplicably strongly attached.

An unbreakable pattern begins to emerge between these three people, each from their own part of the world and each from their own time.

SOFIE JAMA was born in Somalia in 1982 and came to Denmark as a teenager. She has studied cultural communication and the Arabic language at Aarhus University. She currently works as a translator for the Danish authorities and as an author. She writes regularly for the Danish newspaper *Information*.

Jama's writing can be compared with Taiye Selasi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Yaa Gyasi, all of whom write about the everyday lives of African people – with many borders being crossed, both geographical and cultural – and also about past and present lives.



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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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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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