

STINE PILGAARD



Ten Wild Horses

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"I'm happily married," I say. "We're not together because we have children and a house, but in spite of both of those things."

A woman moves to Husum so her children can grow up with grass beneath their feet. Over by the soccer fields, an angel wanders around in a hoodie, and on Esther's playground, the parents gather and eat mud pies. There are deadly spinning roundabouts, interrupted sexual encounters, and unexpected visits from Pakistan. You have to ask yourself whether it's worth the risk of walking barefoot in the discount supermarket, and where exactly you stand in the great cycle of life. As you approach forty, it becomes perfectly clear: you have a responsibility, even if it isn't entirely obvious what that responsibility entails. Some dream of opening a pizzeria, while others simply want a steady income. The job applications pile up, the soccer balls keep flying, and the weeping willow sings beneath the sky over Husum.

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Stine Pilgaard

Stine Pilgaard (1984) is from Aarhus, Denmark. She attended Forfatterskolen, the Danish creative writing academy, and she has master's degrees in Danish Literature and Media Studies. *My Mother Says* (2012) was her first novel and was nominated for the prestigious Danish Broadcasting Corporation Literature Prize. She has since published two bestselling novels, including the 2020 bestseller *The Land of Short Sentences*, which won the prestigious Golden Laurel for best novel of 2020 and has been sold to 14 markets.