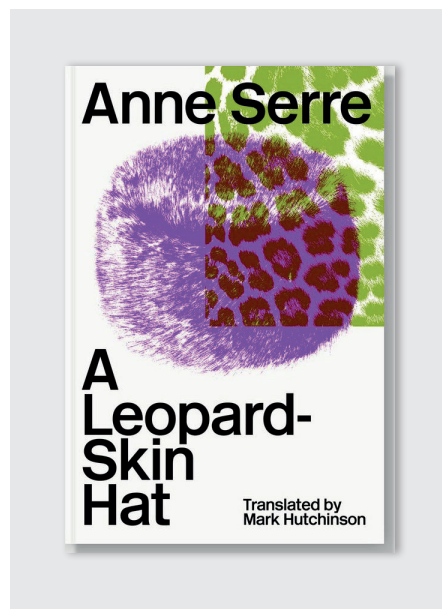


## A Leopard-Skin Hat by Anne Serre

Translated from French  
by Mark Hutchinson



*A Leopard-Skin Hat* may be Anne Serre's most moving novel yet. Hailed in *Le Point* as a 'masterpiece of simplicity, emotion and elegance,' it is the story of an intense friendship between the Narrator and his close childhood friend, Fanny, who suffers from profound psychological disorders

A series of short scenes paints the portrait of a strong-willed and tormented young woman battling many demons, and of the narrator's loving and anguished attachment to her. Serre poignantly depicts the bewildering back and forth between hope and despair involved in such a relationship, while playfully calling into question the very form of the novel.

Written in the aftermath of the death of the author's little sister, *A Leopard-Skin Hat* is both the celebration of a tragically foreshortened life and a valedictory farewell, written in Anne Serre's signature style.

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Description: 185 × 125 mm  
112 pages  
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Design: Studio Ard  
Price: £10.99

ANNE SERRE (b. 1960) is the author of seventeen works of fiction. Her first novel, *Les Gouvernantes* (*The Governesses*) was published in 1992 and praised by *La Croix* for its 'remarkable economy of style'. Among her distinctions are a 2008 Cino del Duca Foundation award and the 2020 Prix Goncourt de la Nouvelle for her short-story collection *Au coeur d'un été tout en or*. *A Leopard-Skin Hat* is the fourth of her books to appear in English.

MARK HUTCHINSON was born in London in 1957 and lives in Paris. Among his many translations from the French are René Char's *Hypnos: Notes from the French Resistance* and *The Inventors and Other Poems*, and Emmanuel Hocquard's *The Library at Trieste* and *The Gardens of Sallust*.



### Praise for *A Leopard-Skin Hat*

»I love Anne Serre, translated by Mark Hutchinson, for the rippling unreality of her prose. Reading her is like watching a mirage flicker in and out of focus.«  
– Merve Emre

»Readers will be moved by this probing story about the unknowability of others.«  
– *Publishers Weekly*

»The story of Fanny and the Narrator is a story about our impulse to understand one another and about the way in which unknowability is what makes someone interesting; it is about, in fact, the relationship between unknowability and the desire to know, neither existing without the other, as a narrator does

not exist without a story nor a story without a narrator... Exuberantly anti-realist and avowedly fictional.«  
– *The Brooklyn Rail*

»In her ability to dip down, over and over, into her secret life, and emerge with a small, sparkling patch of that whole cloth, Serre strikes me as extraordinarily lucky... Serre's primary subject, as always, is narration, and it's thanks to this obsession that *A Leopard-Skin Hat* sidesteps memoir, not only by replacing siblings with friends and adopting a male Narrator but by plunging into the volatile spacetime of writing.«  
– *The Baffler*