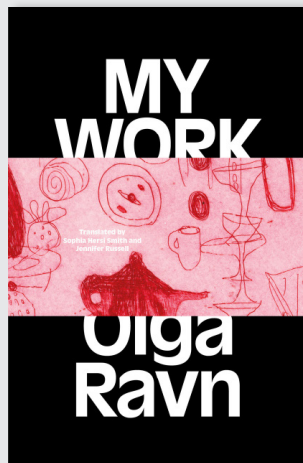


## MY WORK by Olga Ravn

Translated from the Danish  
by Sophia Hersi Smith  
and Jennifer Russell

A *TIME Magazine* most anticipated  
book of autumn 2023

Winner of the *Politiken Literature Prize*



From the acclaimed author of *The Employees*, a radical, funny, and mercilessly honest novel about motherhood

After giving birth, Anna is utterly lost. She and her family move to the unfamiliar, snowy city of Stockholm. Anxiety threatens to completely engulf the new mother, who obsessively devours online news and compulsively buys clothes she can't afford. To avoid sinking deeper into her depression, Anna forces herself to read and write.

*My Work* is a novel about the unique and fundamental experience of giving birth, mixing different literary forms – fiction, essay, poetry, memoir, and letters – to explore the relationship between motherhood, work, individuality, and literature.

Publication: 1 September 2023  
Description: 220 × 141 mm  
392 pages  
Hardcover with belly band  
ISBN: 978-1-915267-17-7  
Design: Laura Silke  
Artwork: Anna Stahn  
Price: £16.99

OLGA RAVN (b. 1986) is a Danish novelist and poet. Her novel *The Employees*, translated by Martin Aitken, was nominated and shortlisted for numerous prizes, including the International Booker Prize and the inaugural Ursula K. Le Guin Prize for Fiction. In collaboration with the Danish publisher Gyldendal she edited a selection of Tove Ditlevsen's writings that relaunched Ditlevsen readership worldwide.

SOPHIA HERSI SMITH AND JENNIFER RUSSELL are translators living in Copenhagen. Together, they have translated writers such as Tove Ditlevsen and Marianne Larsen. Their work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Asymptote*, *EuropeNow*, *Poetry International*, and on stage.



Photo: Lærke Posselt

### Praise for *MY WORK*

»This novel from Olga Ravn, this new golden notebook, needs to be read by absolutely anyone who has known the quiet madness and claustrophobic happiness of the interior, especially mothers who also long for a life of literature. But this novel absolutely needs to be read by everyone else as well. Oh Olga Ravn, always inventing new forms, you are a genius, how do you do it?«

– Kate Zambreno

»Olga Ravn writes dazzlingly about the task of motherhood and the task of writing. Reading Ravn's book, you run through the whole gamut of human emotion, as though you too were a new mother: tears, laughter, anger, fear, pain, frustration. This is powerful writing that's hard to put down... perhaps because you sense that 'this text is meant to keep me alive'.«

– *Politiken*

»*My Work* is ferocious, horrific, elegant, insightful, irreverent, and funny. Can a woman still be a person after motherhood? Of course not, Ravn argues, or rather, admits. And in prose, poems, and journal entries, she documents all the absurdity and repulsiveness of growing a creature in your body and then raising it. It is a magnificent and satisfying meditation. One of the most honest and revelatory works of fiction about motherhood I have ever read. Ravn's writing is ecstatic, philosophical, and addictive.«

– Heather O'Neill

»Olga Ravn has not only added a highly personal and literary page-turner to her body of work: she has made a brave and important contribution to literary history and social debate, which since the 1970s has been in dire need of writing that incorporates lived experience.«

– *Børsen*