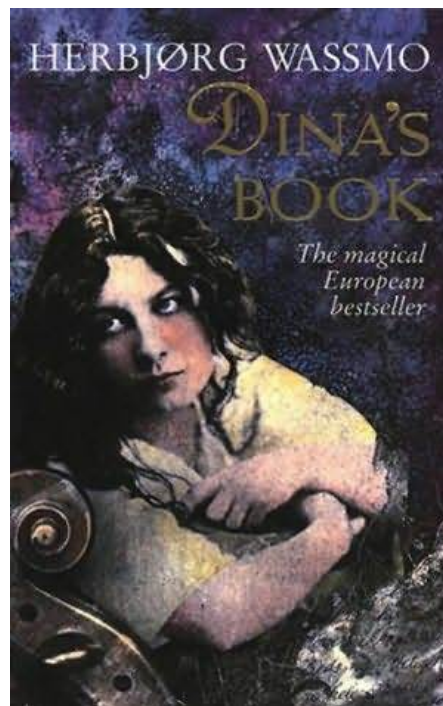




Dina's Book

Herbjørg Wassmo

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On the scale of *Gone with the Wind* and *War and Peace*, this grand, sweeping epic will enthrall readers just as Dina bewitches everyone she meets.

Set in Norway in the mid-nineteenth century, *Dina's Book* presents an extraordinary heroine. Beautiful, eccentric, and tempestuous, Dina carries a terrible burden: at the age of five she accidentally causes her mother's death. Blamed by her father and banished to a farm, she grows up untamed and untaught. Nobody leads the child through her grief, and the accident remains a gruesome riddle of death. Her guilt becomes her obsession: her unforgiving mother haunts her every day.

After several years of exile, and at the insistence of the local pastor, her father takes Dina back. By now she has become like a wolf cub. Her father has remarried, to a younger woman whom she detests, and a strict discipline begins. A tutor is brought in; coarse language is replaced by polite conversation, climbing to the top of the trees by music. But the efforts have little effect. Private and closely guarded, Dina nonetheless is able to manipulate those around her, while her unconventional behavior and erotic power both enchant and ensnare.

At sixteen Dina is married off to wealthy fifty-year-old landowner Jacob, a friend of her father who has fallen completely under her spell. Jacob dies under mysterious circumstances, and Dina becomes mute. When finally she emerges from her trauma, she runs Jacob's estate with an iron hand. But still Dina wrestles with her two unappeased ghosts: Jacob and her mother. Until one day a mysterious stranger, the Russian wanderer Leo, enters her life and changes it forever.

Dina's Book Details

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From Reader Review Dina's Book for online ebook

Eva says

Muistaakseni luin tämän kirjan ensimmäisen kerran ollessani yläasteella. Sitten olen lukenut sen muutaman kerran uudelleen ja aina se tekee vaikutuksen. Vasta myöhemmin huomasin, että "Dinan kirja" on alunperin julkaistu samana vuonna, kun minä synnyin! Pidän tätä suorastaan enteellisenä, niin läheinen tästä romaanista on tullut.

"Dinan kirja" on samalla kertaa armoton ja kaunis tarina naisesta, joka ei pääse eroon menneisyydestään. Lapsuuden tragedia aiheuttaa Dinalle trauman, joka heijastuu monin tavoin hänen loppuelämäänsä 1800-luvun Pohjois-Norjassa. Dina on samaan aikaan älykäs ja hurja, ihminen jota kukaan ei käske tai neuvo. Hän on villi-ihminen, nuori morsian, leski ja kestikievarin emäntä, joidenkin mielestä jopa noita. Varmaa on lopulta vain se, että Reinsnesin emäntää ei hallitse kukaan muu kuin hän itse, elämässä ja kuolemassa.

"Dinan kirjassa" kiehtoo vahva, omalaatuinen tarina ja pohjoisen luonnon karun kaunis kuvaus. Olisikin mielenkiintoista kuulla, mitä mieltä eteläisemmissä maissa asuvat lukijat ovat Herbjorg Wassmon esittelemästä Pohjois-Norjasta. Suomalaisena pystyn hyvin eläytymään pakkaseen, reellä ajamiseen ja syrjäisen tilan elämään vain joitakin esimerkkejä mainitakseni, mutta miltä Dinan maailma näyttää vaikkapa italialaisen lukijan silmin? "Dinan kirjassa" on jotakin hyvin pohjoismaalaista ja rajua aina realistisista henkilöhahmoista silottelemtomaan kerrontaan asti. Kirja on paikoitellen jopa synkkä, mutta Wassmon vertauskuvallinen tyyli pitää otteessaan. Nimenomaan tyylillisesti Wassmo erottuu sankasta kirjailijoukosta ja nimenomaan edukseen.

Osana "Dinan kirjaa" ovat lainaukset Raamatusta, koska pyhällä kirjalla on Dinalle omanlaisensa merkitys. Vai onko Raamatulla merkitystä kirjailijalle, koska Wassmo viittaa siihen usein? Lukijana en aivan saa kiinni Raamatunkohtien tarkoituksesta, vaikka ne ilmeisesti ovat jonkinlaisia vihjeitä tarinan kannalta. Raamatullisuus tekee romaanista paikoitellen raskaan, vaikka yleisesti ottaen teksti etenee hyvin ja on kiinnostavaa lukea.

"Dinan kirjasta" vuonna 2002 tehty elokuva "I am Dina" ei aivan yllä alkuperäisteoksen tasolle, mutta on sekin komea elämys. Norjalais-ruotsalainen näyttelijä Maria Bonnevie tekee temperamenttisenä Dinana elämänsä roolin. Dina on Cosmopolitan-lehden esittelyssä nostettu jopa vahvaksi, esimerkiksi naishahmoksi, vaikka hänen mielenterveytensä jättää toivomisen varaa. Cosmopolitanin toimittajan arvio osoittaneekin lähinnä sen, että pintapuolisella tarkastelulla Dinan tarina ei pääse oikeuksiinsa. Tarttuakseni vielä Helsingin sanomien arvioon elokuvasta, olen täysin eri mieltä kuin HS: "I am Dina" ei ole "kunnon viihdettä". Herbjorg Wassmo on kirjoittanut ennen kaikkea draaman, tai jopa trillerin.

Katrian says

The story of Dina is as ferocious as its heroine. The story's set in 19th century Norway when the role of the woman was vastly different from today's women in the same country. Even Ibsen's Nora pales next to the independence of Dina, who can run a household and estate, wrap men around every finger of her both hands, and expose injustice and dishonesty wherever she goes. For a woman -- and human -- Dina is like a force of nature, and she feels incredibly real through the pages of a mere book which only goes to show the power of literature. Every woman should learn something from her as far as I'm concerned. The prose is enchanting

and wild like Norway's nature, as cheesy as it may sound, and captivates me every time. I hope other readers will enjoy this masterpiece as much as I did!

Dina says

It's been a while since I read a book with such a thrill! This one is so, so exciting, and deep, real, authentic, unpredictable, empowering, all at the same time, that's a rare combination... There are no profound quotes in it, no showing off - only life as it is.

Dina does what she has to. Fullstop.

But the end is brutal. I hate what she did.

Alatea says

Book is simply occupied by the main character. Everything around Dina becomes a blur when she is near - she is beautiful, strong, passionate, wild. But the book itself - as beautiful as it is - blurs out and there is nothing left except Dina and her charming character. There were moments when I adored her, moments when I cared for her, moments when I hated her. Her wilderness is gripping and breathtaking. She stands out of the story and her lonely figure makes her one of the strongest female characters in the literature.

Loederkoningin says

Impressed with Wassmo's beautifully written story of a wild unadapted girl, growing up into a powerful yet traumatized (read: fairly crazy) woman in the North of Norway, during the first half of the 19th century. Besides creating a dreary atmosphere for her heroine - Dina - the author introduces a bunch of interesting characters and their often amusing ways of trying to deal with Dina, as well.

Bibi says

I couldn't get into the story easily. The main character has such a strange personality and acts so oddly (all for explainable reasons, but still...), that I had difficulty relating to her. This resulted in me not really caring about what happened next. A shame, because the writing style and the pace are very appealing. The story, despite a good start, couldn't move me much.

Denise Plank says

I chose to read this book due to the high ratings I saw and was curious about the main character, due to descriptions of her in reviews. I wish I hadn't. It was awful. I did not appreciate the jerky writing and all the sentence fragments, which made the narrative very hard to read, didn't appreciate all the references to the

male "organ", but the author's descriptions and metaphors were redeeming factors. I found parts of the book to be uninteresting and nearly gave up before finishing the book several times--kinda think I would have been better off if I had stopped. I would not recommend the book.

Lilija says

Man patiko. Nors dažnai skandinavų literatūros tiesiog nesuprantu, bet ši istorija greit mane „vyniojo“. Ryškūs ir labai skirtingi portretai lydi skaitytojų nuo pradžios iki paskutinio puslapio: laukinis charakteris ir namų židinys. Nepažabota aistra ir visiškas nusižeminimas. Kvailumas ir išmintis... Norvegijos dvaro kasdienybė, įvairinkystė, prekyba, intrigos... Mane taip pat žavėjo moterų portretai: Dinos, motušės Karenos, Stinos...

Skaitant susidaro įspūdis, kad kai kurie personažai valdomi kažkokios neįmanomos stichijos, jie tarsi valdo savo likimus, bet kartu yra visiškai bejuliai. Ką jau sakyti apie skaitytojų, - jausmas, tarsi stebėtum gerą trilerį... bet su daugmaž nuspėjama pabaiga. Gaila, mano knygos pabaiga neįskaudino, nors laukiau paskutinio smūgio ir, deja, nesulaukiau. Todėl 4/5.

O perskaityti verta. Todėl kitas dvi trilogijos dalis tikrai skaitysiu.

Beje, Dina man asociavosi su amerikiečių dainininke Lana Del Rey

<https://encrypted-tbn2.gstatic.com/im...>

BellaGBear says

Wassmo has a beautiful writing style especially in the original way she describes the thoughts and actions of her characters. Her amazing flawed characters is another positive thing in this book. I have finished the book, but I keep thinking about why characters, especially Dina, did certain things in the book. I won't say what because that would be a spoiler. I am very happy I bought this book in a library sale because I do not know if I would have read it otherwise.

The setting of this book also helped a lot to make me love this book. It is set in a trading post in the upper north of Norway, more north would mean ending up in the sea. Icy settings and the poles always fascinate me and I would love to visit those places one day if it was not terrible for the environment. So any suggestions of books set in icy atmospheres?

I might check out the other parts in this series as well because I want to know how life evolves for these people in the north north of Norway.

Tiffany says

I'm a sucker for anything Norwegian so I liked this novel, set in the mid to late 19th century, when the coastal steamer had just started making Northern Norway accessible year round.

But our heroine, Dina, bugged me. I had a hard time believing she was so completely irresistible to all men. And I got frustrated as she rejected the love of several decent men. When her "true love" finally came along, it was hard for me to see what was so special about him. Also, the sex scenes got really boring after a while. I recommend this book mostly to those interested in Norway and the Arctic.

Lolanta says

<https://lolantaczyta.wordpress.com/20...>

Slymandra says

[Around the World challenge: Norway] From Bergen to Tromsø, this is the perfect wintertime read, the kind that immerses you in Scandinavian icy landscapes. This is the story of a strong and wild woman, Dina, who's above men's judgement and exposes dishonesty and injustice without a second thought whenever they cross her path. She might be difficult to like at first, because she's selfish and unsympathetic, but she's undaunted and unconventional and I grew fond of her quite quickly. The style is terse but I didn't bother me because it fit the atmosphere. I also liked the slight supernatural elements of the story. Overall it's not mind-blowing literature but it was an interesting and original story.

Sandra says

Sadly couldn't get myself to finish this one. It's a fascinating story, but the writing style really annoyed me. I've tried reading this on and off, but I just can't get over it. It's sad, but I'll just settle for a summary or the movie or something. No point trying to get through something that I dislike so much when it has this many pages..

Vaiga says

Ši knyga mane ir sunervino, ir suintrigavo, ir nustebino. Bet svarbiausia, kad rezultate man ji patiko. Stilius lengvai skaitomas, bet ne?prastas. Temos fundamentalios, bet nenuvalkiotos. Personažai labai keisti, bet tuo ir ?dom?s. Labai seniai jau turiu ši? knyg?, bet tik dabar prisiver?iau paskiatyti, tod?l, kad man jos pavadinimas visuomet atrod? labai kvailas. V?liau istorija j? paaiškino ir priekaišt? nebeturiu. Bet štai šio leidimo viršelis tai visiška pieva - man tie bateliai visiška Dinos priešingyb? - labai keistas ir atstumiantis viršelio dailininko pasirinkimas.

S. says

This is a dramatic story about Dina, who at the age of 5 inadvertently causes a vat of hot lye to engulf her mother, causing her excruciating death. Dina is then neglected by her father, a sheriff, who doesn't know what to do with her, and spends her life haunted by her mother's screams and ghostly presence. While Dina's in her early teens, her father finds a tutor for her who's a bit of a godsend, teaching her arithmetic and music. He also learns about the tragedy, and tells the girl her mother is better off, having gone to a better place, which in a way makes Dina feel it's ok to mete out her own biblical justice for years to come. She's able to do so by the power she acquires through marrying a rich merchant at age 15, whom she soon sends to his

death.

There is an appeal in the strong female character - undaunted, unconventional, feminist, brave. She's also not very easy to like. I had to ask myself several times if I was being unfair and if I'd give a man more leeway, but no: if anything, I'd probably hold all that 'lording it around' more against a man than a woman. And Dina has a good point in a lot of cases, but she is selfish and often unsympathetic.

The good points about this story are the characters, the plot and the Norwegian landscape. It's a sensuous book full of hot meals, birch branches, rowan berries, snow, fires, the smell of stables, blood, sex, and the sea. It has some satisfying moments.

On the downside I wasn't crazy about the style. A bit of short internal monologue is frequently interjected that invariably starts "I am Dina," followed by what Dina could do or her experiences. It's a little over the top, as if Dina were a goddess declaring herself. And the sex scenes were awkward, as sex scenes often are, sometimes dressed up in metaphors about "spears" and "fish" such. I was soon judging guys by the size of their penises.

This was a good wintertime read and engaging, but I didn't think it was a great work of literature. If you are interested in potent female characters, Norway or the shipping trade, it's worth a read.

Adelein says

Dinan kirja sijoittuu 1800-luvun puolivälin Pohjois-Norjaan. Päähenkilö Dina on vahvatahtoinen nainen, joka ei suostu alistumaan kenenkään muun toiveisiin.

Minulla kesti jonkin aikaa totutella Herbjørg Wassmon kieleen: lauseet ja virkkeet ovat lyhyitä ja välillä jopa vajanaisen tuntuisia, mikä synnyttää hakkaavan kiihkeän rytmin. Kirjan alku kuitenkin on kiinnostava ja vei minut mukanaan. Kuitenkin Jacobin kuoleman jälkeen tapahtumatahti tuntuu hyytyvän ja aloin kyllästyä kirjaan.

Dina oikuttelee eikä ajattele muiden ihmisten tunteita, mutta siitä huolimatta hän onnistuu lumoamaan lähes kaikki kohtaamansa miehet. Myös tähän piirteeseen ehdin kyllästyä.

Takakannen tekstin *Dina on nuori tamma*, *Dina on noita ja enkeli* perusteella kuvittelin, että kirjassa olisi mukana ripaus fantasiaa. Niinpä yllätyin, kun kyseessä on "puhtaasti" historiallinen romaani. Pohjoinen luonto ja ajankuva tulevat kuitenkin mukavasti esille.

Vahvasta alustaan huolimatta *Dinan kirja* oli pettymys.

Jim Fonseca says

Dina's had a tough life. She accidentally killed her mother when she was five years old and her father, blaming Dina, basically abandoned her to grow up wild, almost like a feral child. When the father remarries some years later, his new wife can't stand this strange daughter and they marry her off to an older farmer. A

few years later the farmer dies in another “accident.” Dina is now a mature, strange woman, with a child, that she lets run wild like herself. She has no interest in domestic matters, drinks too much wine, goes horseback riding in men’s trousers and smokes cigars with the men in the drawing room. She has sex with the farm hands and there is an accusation of lesbianism. Now consider that the setting is rural Norway among isolated coastal fjord farming villages in the mid-1850’s. Calling her behavior “scandalous” in that era is putting it mildly.

Dina has a good head for math and music and she runs the village store in addition to being mistress of the farm, almost like a plantation, that she inherited from her husband. Eventually a mysterious Russian visitor arrives by boat (the coastal farming towns are connected by sea) and he captures her heart. But nothing with Dina works out the way it is supposed to. A great historical novel by a woman author, translated from the Norwegian with a lot of local color and intriguing twists of phrase. Some examples: “The summer of 1844 arrived. It was filled with ants and light and had no meaning.” “The story, told in a few simple words, filled the air. It settled like a film of dust on their faces.” “Dina had closed her face. But her fingers were sly weasels in white winter coats.”

Dianne Marshall says

I have finished this book. I did wonder why I was reading it at times but it also had a compulsive element - which is probably why I was reading it. The end was very cryptic and it felt either that all the strands came together or the opposite - that it just raised a whole lot of other issues that if it was the end of a TV series you would want to know that they were going to make another one. I wasn't satisfied I'm afraid. I would be interested in hearing other people's comments on this book.

Camille says

Avant de lancer le traîneau vers le gouffre, dans lequel elle fera périr son mari, Dina a fait en sorte que son cheval puisse s'en libérer. Ces limons vides, la pièce de bois qui rattache l'animal au siège du traîneau, représentent alors le rapport de la jeune femme au monde, plus présente envers l'animal qu'envers l'homme, n'accordant son empathie qu'au diabolique d'un cheval prénommé Lucifer, plutôt qu'à son mari, avec lequel elle a été unie devant Dieu.

C'est ainsi que s'ouvre "les Limons vides", le premier tome du Livre de Dina, de l'auteure norvégienne Herbjorg Wassmo.

Les pages suivantes nous emmènent sur les traces de Dina, nous ramenant dans son enfance, à l'accident qui l'a menée à tuer sa mère, recréant sa jeunesse et son éducation, dessinant ce qui a amené notre personnage à tuer Jacob dans les premières pages. C'est le portrait d'un personnage féminin hors du commun, d'une beauté sauvage et originale, d'une femme qui vit en dehors des règles, qui se crée dans un lien authentique avec les grands espaces, la musique du violoncelle, et la sexualité débridée. Dina veut vivre, au-delà du féminin et au-delà de l'humain, comme les objets qui composent un monde qui lui est propre.

""- Tu t'exposes ! dit-il en se frottant la jambe.

- Ben, si j'avais été un cheval ? Ou un bateau ? Alors j'aurais eu l'droit d'me montrer ? Alors que la Dina, elle

doit rester invisible ?
Jacob n'insista pas." p. 72

Dina ne voit pas le monde comme les autres personnages le voient, et les autres personnages détestent ou adorent Dina. Le lecteur aussi, déteste ou adore Dina, et accorde plus ou moins de confiance à la vision qu'elle nous donne de son monde. Et lorsque, devenue adulte, Dina entr'aperçoit des fantômes, l'émergence du fantastique dans l'espace du roman est traitée avec une telle subtilité, que le lecteur doute. Ces fantômes existent-ils vraiment dans mon livre ?

C'est progressivement que Dina apprivoise la mort, et c'est autour de cet apprivoisement que le roman se construit, pour revenir dans les dernières pages, comme une boucle qu'on referme, au récit de la mort de Jacob.

Leila says

Sp?c?ga gr?mata.
