

## SISSEL HORNDAL: MATTARÁHKKA'S JOURNEY



**Text and Illustrations:** Sissel Horndal  
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### SYNOPSIS

As the cold winds come up in autumn, the bear disappears into the forest and the birds gather in large flocks. It is the time, when daylight vanishes in the Far North. People become quiet and look up into the dark sky where the gods and goddesses are at home. And they have great plans: new life is set to come into the world. Everybody helps and it is Máttaráhkká (pronounced *Madderakka*), the foremother, who takes a ray of sunshine for her long journey to earth where she hands over the precious freight. Then, in early summer, when the snow has melted and the blueberries are ripe, new life is born in the hut near the lake ...

Máttaráhkká's Journey tells a story from the world of northern Europe's Sami people. The norwegian Sami artist Sissel Horndal refers to oral traditions handed down over the centuries, but tells and draws the story from a contemporary perspective.

### THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Sissel Horndal (\*1970) was born in the county of Nordland in Norway. She studied at the Bergen Art College and at the Nordland Art and Film School in Kabelvåg. Today she lives as a freelance artist and illustrator north of the Arctic Circle again. In addition to numerous awards for her works, she was also awarded Norway's Blix Prize in 2015 for her children's books.



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Contact: Baobab Books, Sonja Matheson, s.matheson@baobabbooks.ch, Tel. +41 61 333 27 25