

Johanna Thydell: *A Dice Missing*

Age: young adult. Translated by Susan Beard

'If you hear somebody screaming it is me. I am Puck. I am sixteen and I am scared'.

This is the story about Puck. She will do anything she can, not to lose control, not to let anyone come too close, not show who she really is. But once, a long time ago she was eleven, and lived with her mum and dad and goldfish in a semi-detached house in a small town somewhere. A normal girl in a normal family you may think. But things are far from normal in the semi-detached house where Puck lives. It is also the story about the dad who disappeared and the mother who stayed behind. About what it is like to be scared of angry voices, scared that people may disappear. It is a story about deceit and anger, but also about friendship, love and, perhaps, atonement.

Johanna Thydell lets the sixteen year old and the eleven year old speak alternatively – and in the space in between the image of Puck emerges – the image of who she was and who she became and about a life where there is a dice missing. Johanna Thydell was born in 1980. In 2003 she was awarded the prestigious 'August Prize' for her first novel *The Stars Shine in the Ceiling (I taket lyser stjärnorna)*, which tells the story of a young girl who loses her mother to cancer, something which happened to Thydell herself at the age of 13. *The Stars Shine in the Ceiling* has been translated into eight languages and is about to be made into a film. *A Dice Missing* is Johanna Thydell's second novel.



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