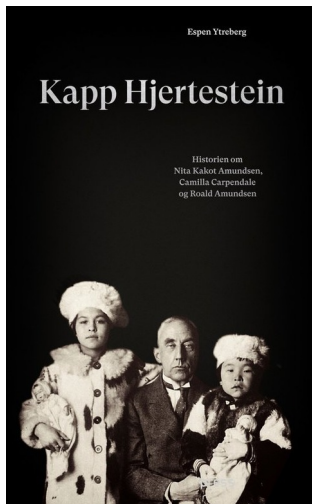


Espen Ytreberg

CAPE HEARTSTONE

THE STORY OF NITA KAKOT AMUNDSEN, CAMILLA CARPENDALE AND ROALD AMUNDSEN



Original title: *Kapp Hjertestein*
Historien om Nita Kakot Amundsen, Camilla Carpendale og Roald Amundsen
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In January 1921 the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen took over responsibility for a four-year-old girl from the Siberian Chukchi people. He named her Nita. Three months later he took charge of another girl from Chukotka—11-year-old Camilla Carpendale, daughter of a local trader. At this time Amundsen's fame as the conqueror of the South Pole spanned the globe.

Nita and Camilla were the closest Roald Amundsen ever came to establishing his own family. For almost three years, they lived together on journeys across the globe and in Amundsen's home outside of Oslo. Diaries, letters and newspaper reports tell of their strong mutual affection in these years. Nita and Camilla learned Norwegian, went to school and made friends. Then in 1924 Amundsen sent them back alone to an uncertain destiny in Siberia. They never saw Norway again.

In *Cape Heartstone*, Espen Ytreberg tells the full story of these three intertwined lives, and the forces that shaped, them for the first time. Through an attentive and original use of historical sources—written, filmed and photographed—Ytreberg reveals a unique story and places it in a broader context. *Cape Heartstone* is a thoughtful, tender and often surprising book about colonialism and globalisation, modernity and migration, family and prejudice, and ultimately about the abiding and fleeting sides of love.

Literature is in many ways a revolt against nature. It insists on the meaning of the meaningless, turns towards a thinking subject in the void that is birth and death, it remembers the dead. Authors can bring forth people from the darkness, lift them up, and say "They were right here, they walked our paths, squinted at our very sun".

Espen Ytreberg is that writer.

Peter Froberg Idling, Klassekampen

Espen Ytreberg

Espen Ytreberg is a professor at the Department of Media and Communication at the University of Oslo. Ytreberg has been a visiting researcher at CNRS-Paris, Université de Paris II and the Department of Communication Studies, University of Iowa. He has written several books, his latest a novel about Roald Amundsen.

