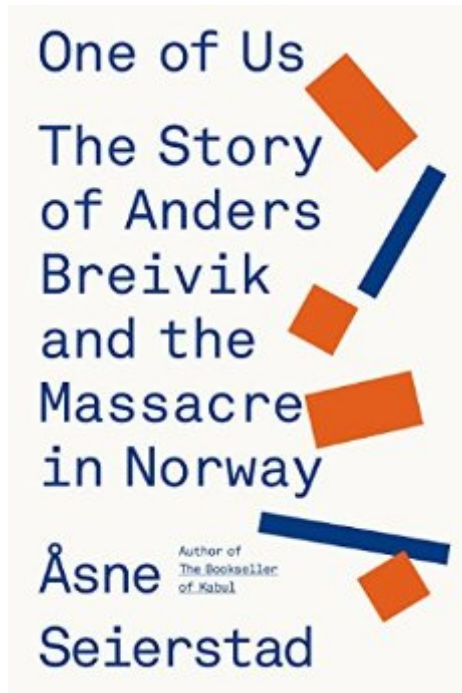


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One Of Us: The Story Of Anders Breivik And The Massacre In Norway



Synopsis

A harrowing and thorough account of the massacre that upended Norway, and the trial that helped put the country back together. On July 22, 2011, Anders Behring Breivik detonated a bomb outside government buildings in central Oslo, killing eight people. He then proceeded to a youth camp on the island of Utøya, where he killed sixty-nine more, most of them teenage members of Norway's governing Labour Party. In *One of Us*, the journalist Åsne Seierstad tells the story of this terrible day and what led up to it. What made Breivik, a gifted child from an affluent neighborhood in Oslo, become a terrorist? As in her bestseller *The Bookseller of Kabul*, Seierstad excels at the vivid portraiture of lives under stress. She delves deep into Breivik's troubled childhood, showing how a hip-hop and graffiti aficionado became a right-wing activist and Internet game addict, and then an entrepreneur, Freemason, and self-styled master warrior who sought to "save Norway" from the threat of Islam and multiculturalism. She writes with equal intimacy about Breivik's victims, tracing their political awakenings, aspirations to improve their country, and ill-fated journeys to the island. By the time Seierstad reaches Utøya, we know both the killer and those he will kill. We have also gotten to know an entire country—famously peaceful and prosperous, and utterly incapable of protecting its youth.

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July 22 2011 afternoon, Oslo, raining. Anders Breivik parks a car in the centre. It is a bomb. The bomb explodes at 15.25. He is already on his way to a little island called Utoya. It sits in the fjord outside the capital. It is hosting a youth festival. He lands at 17. 07. The killing begins. At 18.27 it is finished. 77 people are dead. How do you write about that afternoon? What kind of a book can deal with such outrage? First, the title. The killer is not the One of Us. One of Us refers specifically to Bano Rashid killed on Utoya. A refugee from Iraq she came to Norway and wanted to belong to be One of Us. This book is really about her and so many others. The author does deal with the life of Breivik. She reports the details that she was able to verify. She does not argue a particular motivation for his act. Different factors are brought out â “ no single one is highlighted, though many and all may have contributed. Interwoven with this are life stories, all too short, of those who really mattered on that day, â œ the beating heart at the centre of the case â • in her words. Contrasts are drawn sharply between them and the man who defiled them. Simon Saebo, a natural leader, attended national Labour Congress at 15 years of age. Bano, born in Kurdistan, heart in Norway, adored by her little sister, Kara. Jon Lervag, a spring in his step because he has learnt that his wife is expecting, their first - the spring that brings alongside the car at the very moment. This is what the book is about â “ loss and loss and loss 77 times over. So we feel it. The author describes in cold, chilling prose just what this man did. The sentences are short . They chronicle his steps back and forth on the tiny island hunting down his terrorized victims.

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