



Clara's Book

Clara's Book by author Inge Duelund Nielsen and illustrator Gitte Gade is a poignant, thoughtful story for children about a girl no one sees, and her friendship with a tree, named Frode, and a bus driver named Patricia.

Clara is practically invisible. On the school bus, in class, at break time. Nobody cares about Clara. Only the bus driver, Patricia, sees her and cares about her, but the more she tries to help, the worse things become. Clara moves away, and when she does, she leaves behind her book for Patricia to finish.

At school, Clara is ignored and excluded from games. She witnesses the fun and interaction the other children have snatching Sajsa's "ugly" hat, and with innocent child-logic, she asks Patricia to knit a really ugly hat for her, secretly hoping it will gain her acceptance in their games, but to no avail.

A beautifully illustrated tale of a quiet girl, with a vivid imagination, who goes to a bullying-free school, but is disregarded by the other children, who only first notice Clara the day she doesn't come to school, because that is the day everything changes. Frode is gone. Where the tree once stood is a gaping hole. Even the colours – and the air – are different.

Gitte Gade's sublime artwork lovingly captures and complements Clara's story, imagination and close relationship to nature. Images and words work poetically and empathically, as one, to convey this tender tale of bullying and loneliness.

Clara's Book is a deeply touching book for young and old about friendship, empathy, imagination, finding courage and taking flight. (72 pages. Full title in Danish and English translation in pdf available upon request.)

