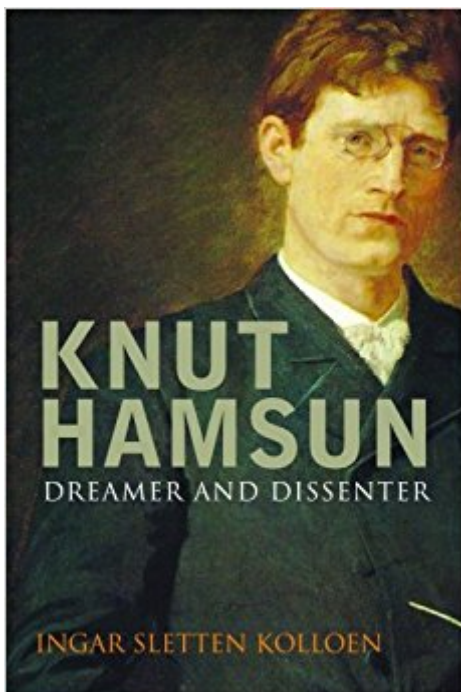


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Knut Hamsun: Dreamer & Dissenter



Synopsis

Norwegian writer Knut Hamsun (1859–1952), winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1920, was a man both brilliant and controversial. Lauded for his literary achievements by Hemingway, Gide, Hesse, and others, he also provoked outrage for his open collaboration with the Fascists during the German occupation of Norway and for his insistent refusal to renounce his Nazi sympathies. This gripping biography of Hamsun, now available for the first time in English, offers a nuanced account of this morally ambiguous man. Drawing on Hamsun's extraordinary private archives and on his psychoanalyst's notes, Ingar Sletten Kolloen delves deeply into Hamsun's personal life and character. In vivid and telling detail, he describes Hamsun's early years in a peasant farming family, his tempestuous and jealousy-racked second marriage, his erratic relationship with his children, and his infamous love affair with Nazi Germany, the roots of which Kolloen traces to Hamsun's earliest days. Much like the characters he created in novels such as *Hunger*, *Growth of the Soil*, *Mysteries*, and *Pan*, Hamsun was irrational, eccentric, strange, and compelling—a man uncomfortable in his own time.

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A very necessary biography of Knut Hamsun for the first time in English. Extraordinary private facts reveal his personal life and character. At one time, many years ago he was considered by some to be "the soul of Norway" because of his books written in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Later he was shown to be too much of an aggressive controversialist because of actions during the

1930's/40's. Ingar Sletten Kolloen, a well known and respected journalist of Norway's leading newspaper (AFTENPOSTEN) has produced this excellent biography with very little held back: it is definitive! Dag Stomberg St. Andrews, Scotland

Knut Hamsun is one of the greatest writers of all time. Nobel Prize for his writing in the 1920s
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