

Inside the Gate offers readers a rare glimpse into Sigrid Undset's life at her home, Bjerkebak, now a museum and national landmark in Lillehammer, Norway. Immensely protective of her privacy, Undset filled the timbered house with books and created a writing space where she authored many of her famous works, including *Kristin Lavransdatter*. There she also raised her three children, tended to her beloved garden, and welcomed close friends and family members during three decades of personal joys, sorrows, and hard work.

Drawing on a wealth of historical documents and vivid photographs, Nan Bentzen Skille's lively narrative presents an intimate portrait of Sigrid Undset's intense emotional life and creative endeavors, with Bjerkebak at the center of it all. For readers who have long admired Undset's literature, *Inside the Gate* provides new insight into the life and work of the Nobel Prize winner.



NAN BENTZEN SKILLE is a Norwegian author who has written extensively about Sigrid Undset. In 1997, she cofounded the Sigrid Undset Society and assisted the Maihaugen Museum with the restoration of Undset's historic home in Lillehammer, Norway.

TIINA NUNNALLY is the award-winning translator of Sigrid Undset's novels *Kristin Lavransdatter*, *Jenny*, and *Marta Oulie* (Minnesota, 2014). Her many translations from the Scandinavian languages include Vidar Sundstøl's *Minnesota Trilogy* (Minnesota, 2013–15).

SKILLE
INSIDE THE GATE
SIGRID UNDSET'S LIFE AT BJERKEBÆK

Inside the Gate



SIGRID UNDSET'S LIFE
AT BJERKEBÆK

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS

Printed in U.S.A.

Cover design by Laura Shaw Design, Inc.

Cover photograph by Alvilde Torp / Bjerkebak

\$19.95

ISBN 978-1-5179-0496-8



9 781517 904968

MINNESOTA

Nan Bentzen Skille

TRANSLATED BY TIINA NUNNALLY