



Seal Woman

A NOVEL BY SOLVEIG EGGERZ

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Description: In the rubble of post-war Berlin, artist Charlotte flees her past and everything she's lost by responding to an ad calling for 'strong women who can cook and do farm work' in Iceland. But painful memories and ghosts follow Charlotte as she struggles to make a new life in a raw and rugged landscape. This debut novel celebrates the power of storytelling and art as ways to reassemble the fragments of Charlotte's broken self and move her—and everyone she loves—toward peace.

Background: The novel is historical fiction set in Germany and Iceland during and after World War II. In the late 1940s some three hundred Germans, most of them women, fled bombed-out German cities and crossed the rough North Atlantic to work on farms in a rugged and beautiful country. They were responding to an advertisement placed by the Icelandic Agricultural Association for farm laborers. Adjustment to primitive farm conditions was difficult. Seal Woman's protagonist, Charlotte, leaves Berlin to escape the past, but Holocaust ghosts continue to haunt her. Living by the sea, she faces a new struggle for survival.

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