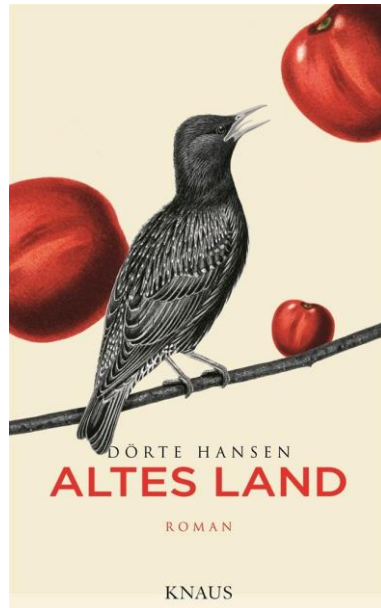


## Two women, an old house and a kind of a family

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**Dörte Hansen** was born in 1964, learned several languages such as Gaelic, Finnish and Basque and was awarded a PhD in linguistics. She then turned to journalism, spent several years working as an editor for *NDR* and is now an author for radio and print. *Altes Land* is her first novel.



Dr. Dörte Hansen  
**The Old Country**  
[Altes Land]  
Novel

Knaus  
288 pages  
Format 13,5 x 21,5 cm  
February 2015  
Selected by *New Books in German*

Five-year-old Vera has fled from East Prussia to the North German region *Old Country* with her mother in 1945. They find refuge in an old farmhouse. But for the whole of her life Vera has never felt at home in the big, chilly house, yet she cannot bring herself to abandon it. Then, sixty years later, her niece, Anne, suddenly appears at her front door. She has fled with her little son from a suburb in Hamburg, where ambitious wholefood parents carry their kids through the streets like trophies – and where Anne's husband loves another woman. Vera and Anne are alien to each other and yet they have more in common than they realise.

With sharp eyes and dry wit, Dörte Hansen tells of two lone wolves who surprisingly find something they never looked for: a family.

For all readers of Anne Gesthuysen and Katharina Hagen.

### Press

"In German novelist Dörte Hansen's wry, tender debut, two women take shelter from their wounds in their family's tumbledown farmhouse." *Infinite Reads*

"Frequently humorous, *This House Is Mine* nevertheless strikes deep chords of isolation and abandonment. [It] is as challenging and comforting as rural life itself." *Infinite Reads*

"A beautiful, profound novel about the families we are born

into and the ones we create." *Tatjana Soli, New York Times  
bestselling author of The Lotus Eaters*