



Kristina Aamand



## If Words were my Weapon

**For enden af din pegefinger**

Nominated for the *Deutscher Jugendliteratur Preis* 2019 - "Preis der JugendJury" - and translated into German and Swedish.

**Kristina Aamand** is a Danish writer of children's and adult fiction, especially acclaimed for her YA writing.

### SYNOPSIS

A raw and gripping YA novel about falling in love with the wrong person and the price we sometimes have to pay for following our heart.

17-year-old Sheherazade feels caught between her mother's expectations of her as a good Muslim girl and her classmates, who live very different lives. Trying to keep her head above water, she writes fanzines about the refugee experience in Denmark - her mum would rather that she became a doctor.

Sheherazade is her father's daughter, but when he is hospitalised, it gets harder for her to cope with the pressure and when she meets Thea, suddenly a new world opens up. Sheherazade falls in love, but is she willing to pay the price?

### REVIEWS

"Kristina Aamand accompanies her young protagonist in an elegant and eloquent manner in her compact novel (...) With her refined and authentic style of writing, the author emphasises the direct manner of the young Muslim woman and offers a differentiated view of her confusing reality (...) Like a red thread through the narrative, the impressive collages (zines), made of pictures and words, creatively connect emotions and thoughts. This many-faceted coming-of-age story encourages individuality and self-esteem." – (The German *JugendJury* committee)

"The fact that young Sana Bakkoush was the central character of the last season of the successful Norwegian TV series *Skam* is a clear indicator that times are changing. This also holds true for literature. People are finally starting to tell the stories of those who have so far been given little attention: girls from Muslim families. *Skam*'s Sana and Sheherazade, the protagonist of this multicultural novel, show how difficult it is for a girl or a woman to negotiate life between two conflicting worlds: family life ruled by traditional values and the completely different customs and norms of the outside world. Their lives are minefields.



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Forlaget Carlsen*

Published: *November, 2016*

250 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Realism*

Themes: *LGBT, Love, Belonging/Identity, Family, Growing up*

Film Rights: *Babel-Bridge Literary Agency*

Theatre Rights: *Babel-Bridge Literary Agency*

Available material: *Danish original, English sample translation, detailed synopsis in English, German and Swedish translations.*

Sheherazade manages to strike a balance between both; yet when she falls in love with a girl – Thea, the daughter of a well-off, leftist intellectual family – everything starts toppling over. Kristina Aamand narrates this story with a knack for self-irony and a clear socially critical edge." – (*The White Raven Prize* committee)

## TERRITORIES HANDLED

World Rights (Babel Bridge)

## TERRITORIES SOLD

German: Dressler, Italian: Camelozampa, Serbian: Urban Reads, Swedish: Natur & Kultur.