

Udødelig (“Immortal”) Excerpt.

Udødelig is a novel by Amalie Kaeseler.
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This excerpt is translated from Danish to English by Amalie Kaeseler.

Prologue

The little girl stood alone, staring into the dark water. The wind was playing with her white summer dress, as it shone in the dark. The blond hair was flowing around her big, blue eyes, both her hands rested on her chest, and she could feel her heart beating. Slowly. She wasn't the least bit scared, only excited. Excited to see where she would end up, once it was all over.

The waves crashed against the grey concrete of the harbor. The water seemed different at night; dark and black, as if it was dirty or polluted. It seemed mysterious. Like a solid mass. So many things changed at night. Water, nature, animals, even humans changed appearance and behavior in the late hours of the dark. She knew that this had to be done at night. It was at night, that the world of mortals was right for this undertaking. During the day, it was too risky. At day, she could be seen by them. They would know that she had departed, and they simply could not. If they found out, it would all be in vain.

“Nobody is waiting for me,” she whispered to the dark water. Somehow she knew, that it listened. It was a friend, who would never disclose her secrets to anyone, even after she was gone. She let her blonde head fall back, and gazed into the sky above. The bright stars twinkled back at her, reflecting themselves playfully in her blue eyes. She didn't understand them, but she was sure they understood her. A tear made its way down her cheek and fell into the water below. “I am scared of the beautiful people on the other side...”

She looked over her shoulder. Not a single soul to see, at the harbour this late at night.

“I bet sister will cry for me tomorrow,” the girl told the water, with a sad smile. “She told me I was sure to go to heaven, but tomorrow she will cry a lot, because she was wrong. But she understands me. My big sister is the only person in the entire world who understands me.”

The little girl gazed back at the town one final time, before letting her body fall forward. Down into the dark waves, who swallowed her up with a hungry, splashy sound. Her eyes stayed shut. The water wasn’t cold. It wasn’t warm either. It was exactly like the water was meant to be: Perfect for her endeavour. Now she was certain that they couldn’t see her. The beautiful people.

All she could feel was the dark water, soaking her hair and dress. Her lungs wanted oxygen, but she didn’t want to give them any. She just wanted it over and done with, so she could move on. One of her hands still rested over her heart. The other was stretched out into the dark water, even though she knew no one would take it.

Everything was so quiet, here under the dark water. Completely void of all sounds, as if the sea wasn’t willing to let any of it’s secrets slip by accident. All those secrets, that had been given to it since the dawn of time. The only thing the girl could hear was the sound of her own slowing heartbeats.

She opened her eyes, in the hope of seeing the ivory gates of heaven open in front of her, but all she saw was the darkness surrounding her. She gave a sob, and the last thought that passed through her head, was of her sister who had always looked out for her. Then the final beats of her heart rang out, as the light in her blue eyes died out.