

# March 2024

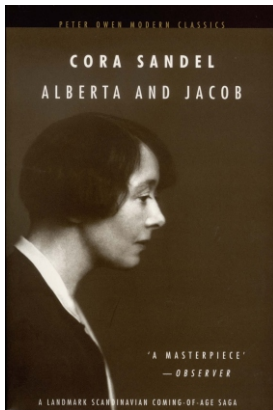
This is the first in a trilogy of semi-autobiographical novels. It covers one year (1904-1905) in the life of Alberta Semler. She lives in a small Northern

Norwegian town, clearly based on Tromsø, where Sandel and her family lived. Jacob is her younger brother. They live with their parents and they do not get on with their parents nor do mother and father get on, which makes for a difficult life.

Life is fairly hard, even for the bourgeois Semler family. It seems that the Semlers have had financial problems so the two necessary constituents – food and warmth – are in short supply.

Text: TheModernNovel.org

Picture: Peter Owen Publishing



**Sara Cecilia Görvell Fabricius** (1880-1974), better known by her pen name Cora Sandel, was a Norwegian writer and painter who lived most of her adult life abroad. When she was 12 years old, her family moved to Tromsø, where her father was appointed a naval commander.



Cora Sandel started painting and at 25 years of age moved to Paris to develop her artistic skills. She married the Swedish sculptor Anders Jönsson, with whom she had one child. In 1921, the family returned to Sweden, where the couple separated in 1922.

During her years in Paris, Sandel helped support the family with short stories and sketches published in Norway. However, her first novel and first tome in the trilogy, *Alberte and Jakob*. This began the semi-autobiographical Alberta trilogy. The Alberta trilogy traced the protagonist's emotional development juxtaposed with the men in her social circle.

Text/Picture: Wikipedia