

The last ten years the more conservative aspects of the national character have been highlighted, but they have always been there. There still is a lot of cultural prejudice in Denmark," he thinks. Not that he has suffered from such prejudices himself. "Never. Quite the contrary. People would wonder why on earth I was here, coming from London!"

Danified, but...

After 25 years in Denmark, Golzen thinks he is "danified," but that this is a thin veneer. "When I am in England, I find myself in a very strange situation of being a tourist and at the same time being very much at home. I miss the language, I miss the fact that no one I have met after 1987 has an idea of my life before that." It was relatively easy for him to leave England. "I am a second generation immigrant: my mother is from South Africa, and my father's family fled Germany just before the Second World War broke out. So there are not many direct family members in Britain to come home to. But the way you have been brought up is home, and if

I went to England for a year, the last 25 years would pale much more quickly than you would think," he says.

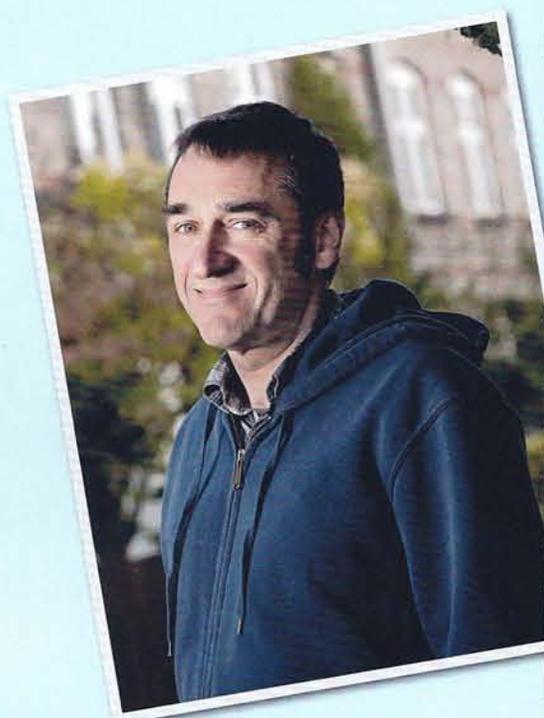
As for his advice to foreigners living in Denmark: "Learn the language. You don't know what the future holds, and it can't do any harm. Also, join a club! If you like football, volleyball, anything — do yourself a favour and join a club. On a personal level, Danes are very friendly and if you prove yourself as not being a jerk, you'll get accepted. It is a fantastic way to start your network."

Book: *Xenophobe's Guide to the Danes*

by Helen Dyrbye, Steven Harris
and Thomas Golzen
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Music:

www.luminousbluevariables.com



Thomas Golzen is the co-author of the *Xenophobe's Guide to the Danes* and lives in Copenhagen

Book review: **Susan moves to Denmark**

BY REBECCA RASMUSSEN

Susan moves to Denmark is an English language book targeted at children of foreign employees and is aimed at helping them understand their move to a whole new environment.

Written by a Dane, Helle Granhøj, and with wonderful illustrations by Jørgen Eivind Hansen, the book is a great starting base for youngsters who want to know more about Denmark and its traditions. The simple story begins with a young girl named Susan as she adjusts to life in a foreign land. The family have moved to Denmark for her father's job and she is asking questions to her mum, who gently explains all that is going on around them.

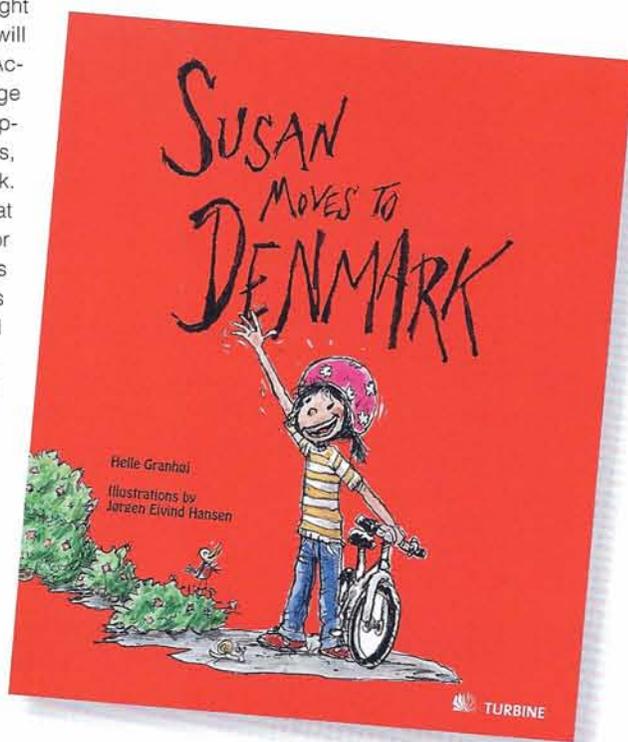
The family go through the usual start of finding a home to live in, beginning international school and making new friends in the neighbourhood. Along the way, Susan finds a lot of things that are different to home. Here, in an extract from the book, Susan goes to her friend's house for the first time. "Susan looks out of the window and can still see the sunshine. 'Why light candles when it's completely light outside?' Susan asks. 'Because it's cosy. In Danish, we have an expression called *'hygge'*, and we think it's nice to light candles, even in the daytime,' Charlotte says. Susan thinks it is strange ... but cosy!"

Learning about Denmark

Susan experiences the fun side of Danish life... learning to count to ten in a different language

and taking walks along the beach — something she is not used to in her own country. The book covers every aspect of Danish life that a typical expat family might experience and hopefully will answer a lot of questions. Accompanying each double page spread on topics such as shopping, play, school and sports, are fun facts about Denmark. For example, did you know that the average Dane rides his or her bicycle for 595 kilometres during a year? Or that Danes are the only people in the world who eat *pålægsschokolade*, thin slices of chocolate which go on top of bread?

At the end of the book is a section for adults packed full of tips to help their children integrate into life in Denmark. Author Helle, owner of Expat Management, wrote the book after experiencing life abroad in four countries with her family. She advises adults to be patient, to explain cultural differences between Denmark and their home country, to take part in local activities and to show enthusiasm for the country, school and new classmates.



Susan Moves to Denmark, released on the 23 November, is on sale in bookshops for 229 Kr.