

## **Karlas Umweg (Charlotte's Detour)**

Charlotte Detour is in her early twenties and not exactly pretty. In the mid-eighties, she is accepted into the New York School of the Arts as a gifted piano student.

On the third night of her lonely existence in the big city she fills in for a „sick“ (drunk) student at a concert exam as the page turner for a pianist accompanying the singer. Jessica Patterson III is beautiful, successful and surrounded by admirers. This wife of a factory owner ends up taking Charlotte along with her on tour. She is supposedly hired „just“ to be the page turner, but soon her job description changes.

Jessica Patterson III has a large group of male admirers, a handsome husband, a mansion protected by a Great Dane, a spoiled baby and a dominant mother. All of it has to be organized! Charlotte slowly goes from page turner to Jessica's personal assistant. She moves into Jessica's mansion where she officially becomes an unpaid housekeeper.

Charlotte puts her career on the backburner, because she admires and worships Jessica. And when she discovers her true feelings for William, the cuckold, she is willing to completely forget her own career. As Jessica's shadow she is constantly present in the Patterson home without bothering anyone. She runs all of her beloved Jessica's errands. Whether she is picking up a forgotten glove at a lover's house or wresting Jessica's pantyhose from another, Charlotte „stands by her man“. One day Jessica is given a gig at Carnegie Hall as „Carmen“, a role that is tailored to suit her. Charlotte must come along again, if nothing else to keep arriving lovers and definitely the domineering mother off the stressed singer's back! When Jessica turns hysterical and the doctor gives Charlotte sedatives to calm her, Charlotte shares them fair and square with the mother, the husband and all the lovers. Each one of them wants to take care of Jessica. This results in Jessica sleeping in the changing room during the overture to „Carmen“. Charlotte's big chance has finally arrived ...

This ninth novel by Hera Lind appeared in October 2005.