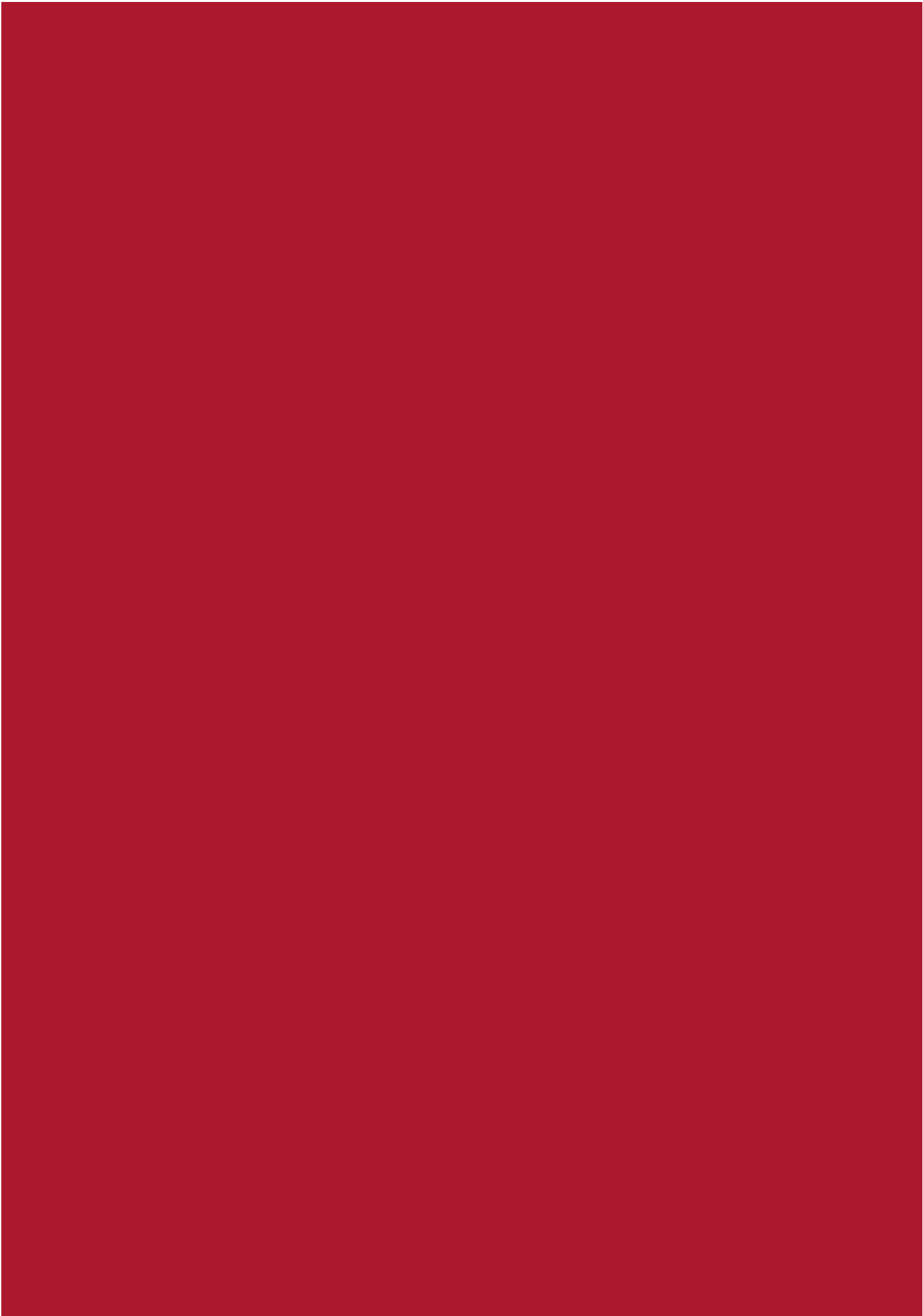




Spring
2021



Helsinki Literary Agency *Children's and Young Adult List*



Cover illustration from Miikka Pörsti & Anne Vasko's *Gorilla*

Children's and Young Adult List

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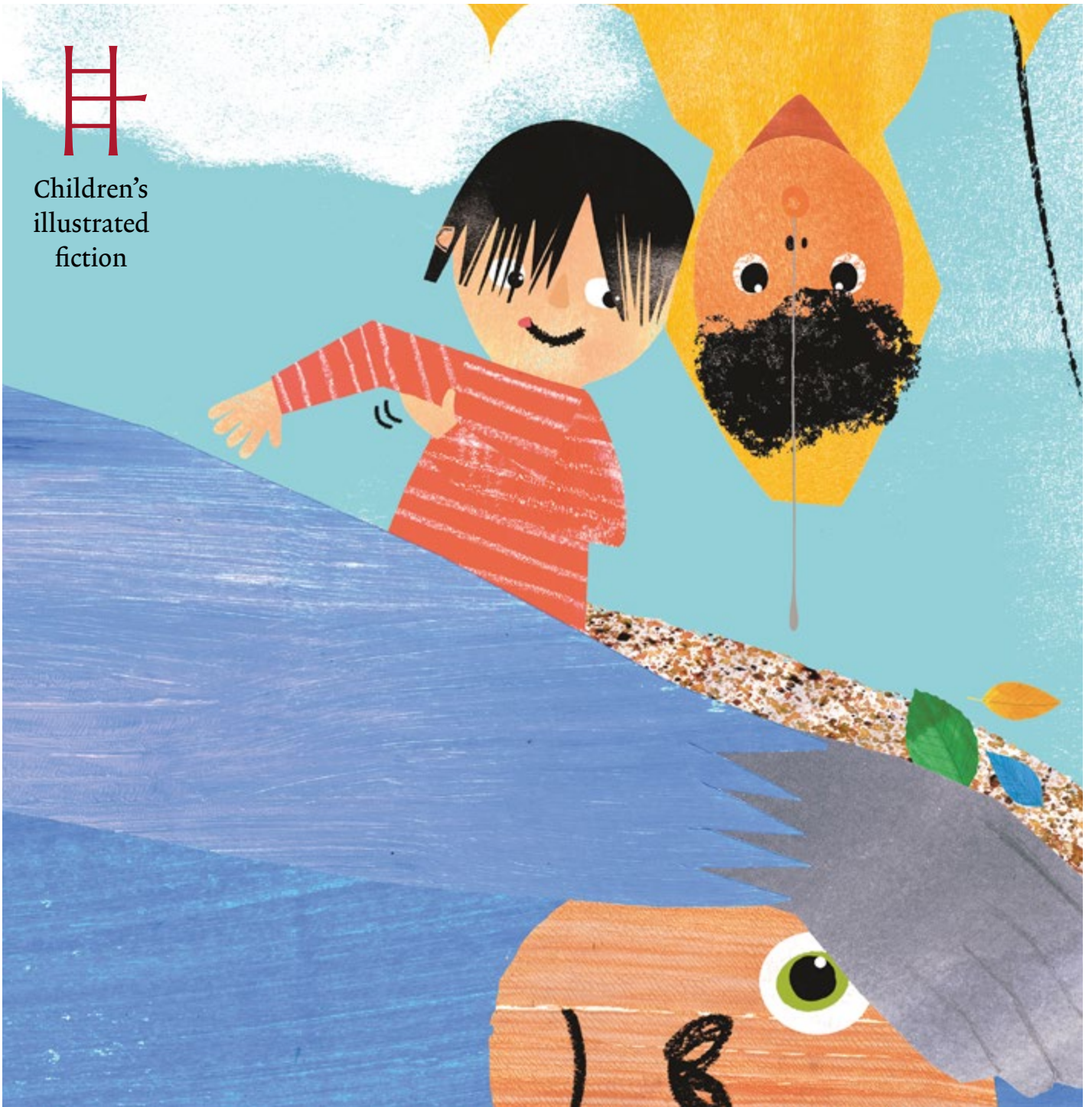
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Backlist highlights

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Children's
illustrated
fiction



Miikka Pörsti (b. 1983) is a Helsinki-based author who works in the cultural field. His debut volume, the children's novel *A Party for Everyone* (2016), was a delightfully humorous portrayal of Fox-Peter, who gets a new playmate—Muhis from Iraq. Anne Vasko (b. 1969) is an author and an illustrator. Her picture book *Lion the Great* (2010) received the Rudolf Koivu Prize, and in 2017 she was shortlisted for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The books about a bear called Mur, illustrated by Vasko (*A Bear Called Mur*, 2016; *Mur and the Blueberry*, 2018, and *Mur and the Star*, 2019) have been translated into more than ten languages.

Miikka Pörsti & Anne Vasko

Gorilla

A humorous story about feelings, friendship and not breaking apart.

Eino has a special quirk: he easily goes to pieces.

It happens when anything saddens him. Once Eino broke down when he heard that there were children who had no guests at their birthdays. Eino can also crack when he's afraid – or laughs fit to burst.

Gorilla, who goes to the same playgroup, beats his chest and frightens Eino whenever he gets a chance – and then Eino shatters to pieces even more easily. But one day something happens that makes Gorilla himself break completely, and after that everything changes.

An original, funny and moving picture book about feelings and how to deal with them stresses the importance of friendship.



Gorilla

S&S, 2020, 32 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Tuomas Kärkkäinen (b. 1983) is a graphic designer and illustrator whose work has been published widely in the media. He has also illustrated nonfiction books and received the Beautiful Book Prize for his designs for poetry collections in 2019. Inspired by natural catalogues and bestiaries, *The Illustrated Book of Awelings* is his first book for children.

Tuomas Kärkkäinen

The Illustrated Book of Awelings – A Field Guide for Spotting Creatures

*Have you ever wondered why birds often rest on statues' heads or
what is the parentage of concrete roadblocks?*

And how on earth do street lamps break? If you ask grown-ups these questions, they often just go, “I don’t really know” or “They just do”. The reason for this is that they have not heard of awelings.

You cannot blame grownups for not knowing about them, for awelings are extremely difficult to spot. In fact, it is impossible to see them, because they are masters of hiding – but not seeing something does not disprove its existence.

The Illustrated Book of Awelings is an enchanting book about awelings living in cities, who offer explanations for humming pipes, broken kerbstones, splashes on walls and noisy traffic lights. The book, written as a catalogue, introduces the creatures with spellbinding names who leave these footprints: amplus, shackhie, hazeantler, jemmyvaulter...

With tips and tasks, the readers are taught to spot the most fascinating phenomena in an urban environment. Never before has a children’s book presented stony cities in such spellbinding guise!

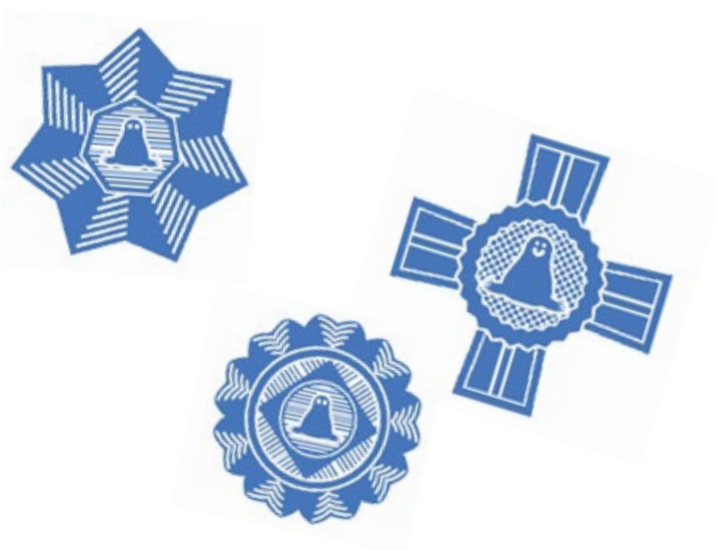


Suomen ämminkäiset värrikuvina

S&S, 2021, 42 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Malin Klingenberg (b. 1979) is the author of the hugely popular Senior Squad series, awarded with the Runeberg Junior Prize in 2017. In 2018 she published her first young adult title, *Elk Girl*, to a wide critical acclaim. *The Secret Life of Farts* is her first rhyming book. Sanna Mander (b. 1980) is an illustratror and a graphic designer whose colourful illustrations have appeared in Finnish, Swedish and English children's books. She has authored the Finlandia Junior Prize and Rudolf Koivu Prize winner of 2017, *The Lost Key*, and together with Anna Sarve *The Spectacular Book of Princesses* (2018).

Malin Klingenberg & Sanna Mander (illustrations)

The Secret Life of Farts

*A fart is something your parents have never let you talk about.
Now there is an entire book dedicated to a fart's life!*

While everyone is taught since childhood it is impolite to bring up our gassy part of life in public, it is still something almost every creature on earth experiences daily. You might be a mountaineer trying to conquer Mount Everest, a sportsman in the Olympics or just a simple cook – a fart is impossible to escape.

The Secret Life of Farts is a cheerful and honest verse book that takes the young readers on a fun adventure exploring a phenomenon that many adults find tricky to talk about without getting embarrassed. With its vivid language and hilarious illustrations the book is a delight to the children who are constantly pondering curiosities of our daily life that no one is willing to explain to them.

The book is written by acclaimed children's author Malin Klingenberg, who has previously published the Pensioner Squad series, and illustrated by Finlandia Prize-winning Sanna Mander, known for witty children's books.

ALSO AVAILABLE

The Senior Squad series (books #1–6, 2010–2020)
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus (books #1–4)

Elk Girl (Älgflickan, 2018)
Rights sold: Germany, dtv;
World Spanish, Errata Naturae



Fisens liv

Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 32 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,
English translation

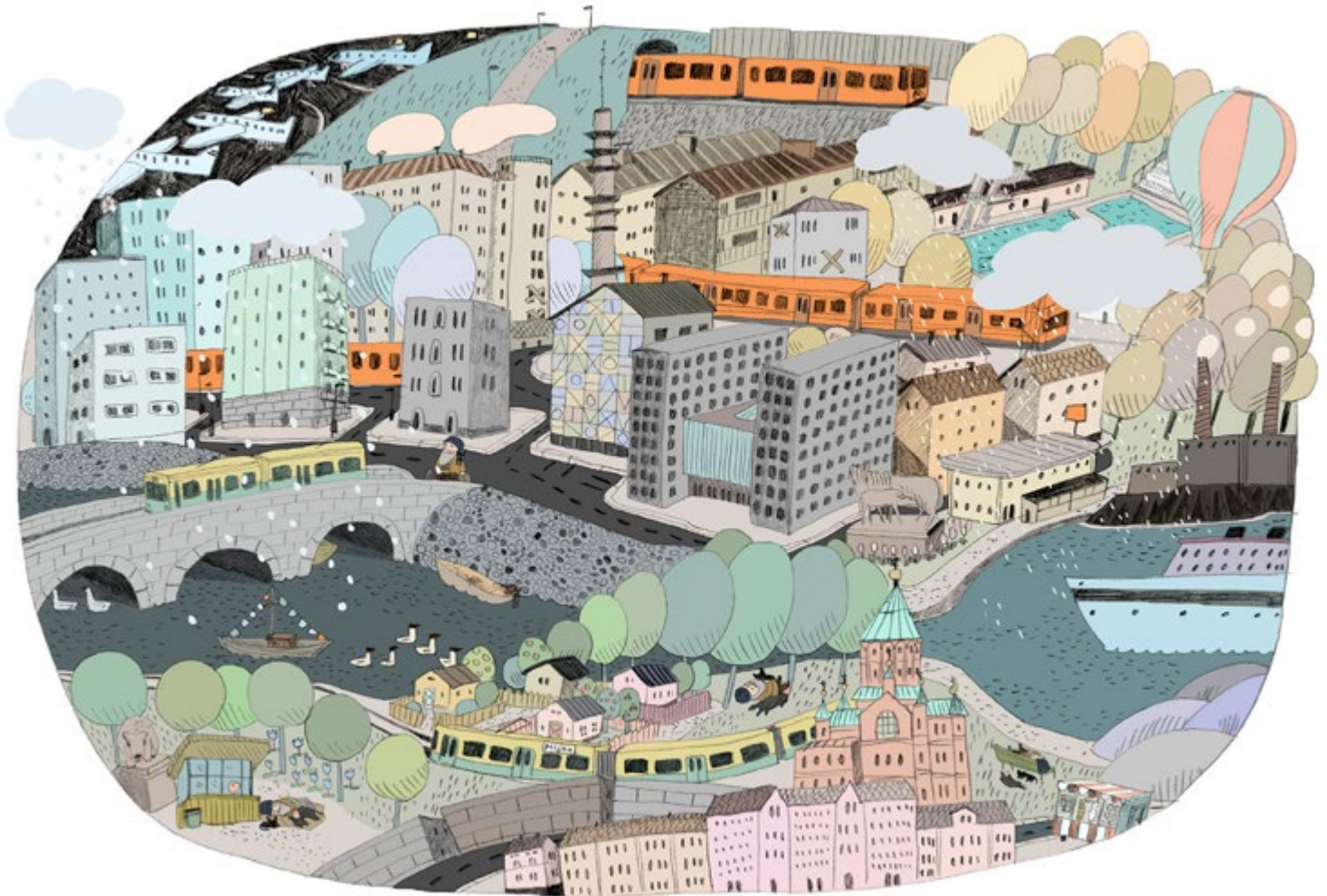
RIGHTS SOLD

China (simplified), Ginko | Post Wave;
Czech Republic, Paseka; World English,
Pushkin Press; Estonia, Tänapäev;
French, Helvetiq; German, Helvetiq;
Italy, Carlo Gallucci Editore; Sweden,
Rabén & Sjögren





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Tomi Kontio (b. 1966) is an established poet and author. He has received numerous awards for his novels and poems. His first children's book, *Daddy Grew Wings in Spring* (2000), won the Finlandia Junior Prize and was awarded the LukuVarkaus Prize by a children's jury. Kontio's poetry has been translated into many languages. Elina Warsta (b. 1979) is an illustrator and graphic designer. Several of the book covers she has designed have won prizes in the Most Beautiful Book of the Year competition. Books she has illustrated have been published also in France, Japan and Latvia.

Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home

A warm-hearted story about three friends whose friendship, fairness and variety make them shine.

A dog called Cat, a cat called Dog and a homeless man called Weasel are best friends. They've got next to no worldly possessions but their lives are filled with friendship and love towards everyone and everything.

One day at a railway station Cat runs into a small girl who gets worried for the raggedy group of three and asks them whether Cat has no home. When the girl disappears into the crowd, Cat's heart is filled with longing. Even though she loves roaming freely, winter can be cruel, and the endless wandering tough. She realises she is longing for a safe home.

Weasel says the three are fine as they are, but Cat and Dog disagree. 'Friendship can't keep you warm', Dog meows to Weasel. The group starts to look for a home. Will they find it, or will the underpasses and vestibules be forever their fate?

A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home is the third book by poet Tomi Kontio and illustrator Elina Warsta, in the series about a dog called Cat. The first instalment, *A Dog Called Cat* (2015) was nominated for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize and got the IBBY honourable mention. The second one, *A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* (2019) was nominated for the Finlandia Junior Prize and was chosen as an audience favourite.

ALSO AVAILABLE

A Dog Called Cat (*Koira nimeltään Kissa*, 2015)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Lithuania, Niekio Rimto; World Spanish, Lata de Sal

A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat (*Koira nimeltään Kissa tapaa Kissan*, 2019)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv



Koira nimeltään Kissa kaipaa kotia

Teos Publishers, 2020, 32 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Pauliina Vanhatalo (b. 1979) is a writer who has published numerous novels, autofictional works and popular fiction. *Kerttu the Pincher* is her first children's book. Anna Emilia Laitinen (b. 1983) has illustrated many books, several of them for French and Italian publishing houses. She is a winner of the Finnish Illustration Association's Kaiku Prize. *Kerttu the Pincher* is the fifth children's book she has illustrated.

Pauliina Vanhatalo & Anna Emilia Laitinen (illustrations)

Kerttu the Pincher

*Kerttu K has two hands and ten fingers,
and at the tip of each finger is a long nail.*

Kerttu thinks her family is mostly completely boring: her mother, her father, and her brother too. No one listens to her, understands her or pays her enough attention. But Kerttu has her methods: when she isn't noticed, she pinches people!

In the end the rest of the family has had enough, and Kerttu loses her lovely long nails. She is very cross – but luckily her mum understands the reason.

Pauliina Vanhatalo's first children's book bears the message that we all have our own inner worlds, which need space and which make us unique. Anna Emilia Laitinen's water-colour illustrations are tender and charming.

“There's something I should have told you,” Mum says, wiping the tears from Kerttu's cheek.

It sounds like a secret. And maybe it is, a bit, for Mum tells her that there is another world inside everyone. It is a world of imagination, thinking, planning, dreaming and play. Memories are kept there. That's where you look for answers to questions. And it's where dreams come from.”



Nipistäjä-Kerttu

S&S, 2019, 46 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Sanna Pelliccioni (b. 1976) is an award-winning illustrator and children's author. Maami Snellman (b. 1970) is a literary arts teacher and children's author. Kiti Szalai (b. 1971) is a Finnish language and literature teacher.

Sanna Pelliccioni & Maami Snellman & Kiti Szalai

I Remember You with Love

When Alma and Diego celebrate the Day of the Dead, they feel heavy with sadness and buoyant with joy.

When Alma's beloved grandmother dies, the world becomes a quiet place. Her mother sits at the window, looking out. Her father's days weigh on his shoulders as he goes to the store, cooks a meal.

One day Alma's classmate Diego approaches her at recess and says that, like her, he misses his *abuelo*—his grandpa, who died in the spring. Soon Diego and his family invite Alma and her parents to a big party where they remember the dead.

Celebrating the Mexican *Día de Muertos*, Alma and her family experience a new way to grieve and remember loved ones who have died in this story, joyful in its sadness and sensitively illustrated by Sanna Pelliccioni.

“As they sit around the table they tell all the best stories of Alma's grandma and Diego's abuelo. Memories flutter through the room, climb up the wallpaper, peep out from between the curtains.”

“The book offers another, beautiful way to face death. Death does not have to create a dark and gloomy cloud that covers all, but it can be faced with joy. [...] The book is beautiful with its dark shades, a bit mystical, especially warm. The crayon illustrations take the reader to a journey from one culture to another.”

Sivukukkasia blog



Muistan sinua rakkaudella

Teos Publishers, 2020, 40 pp.

READING MATERIAL

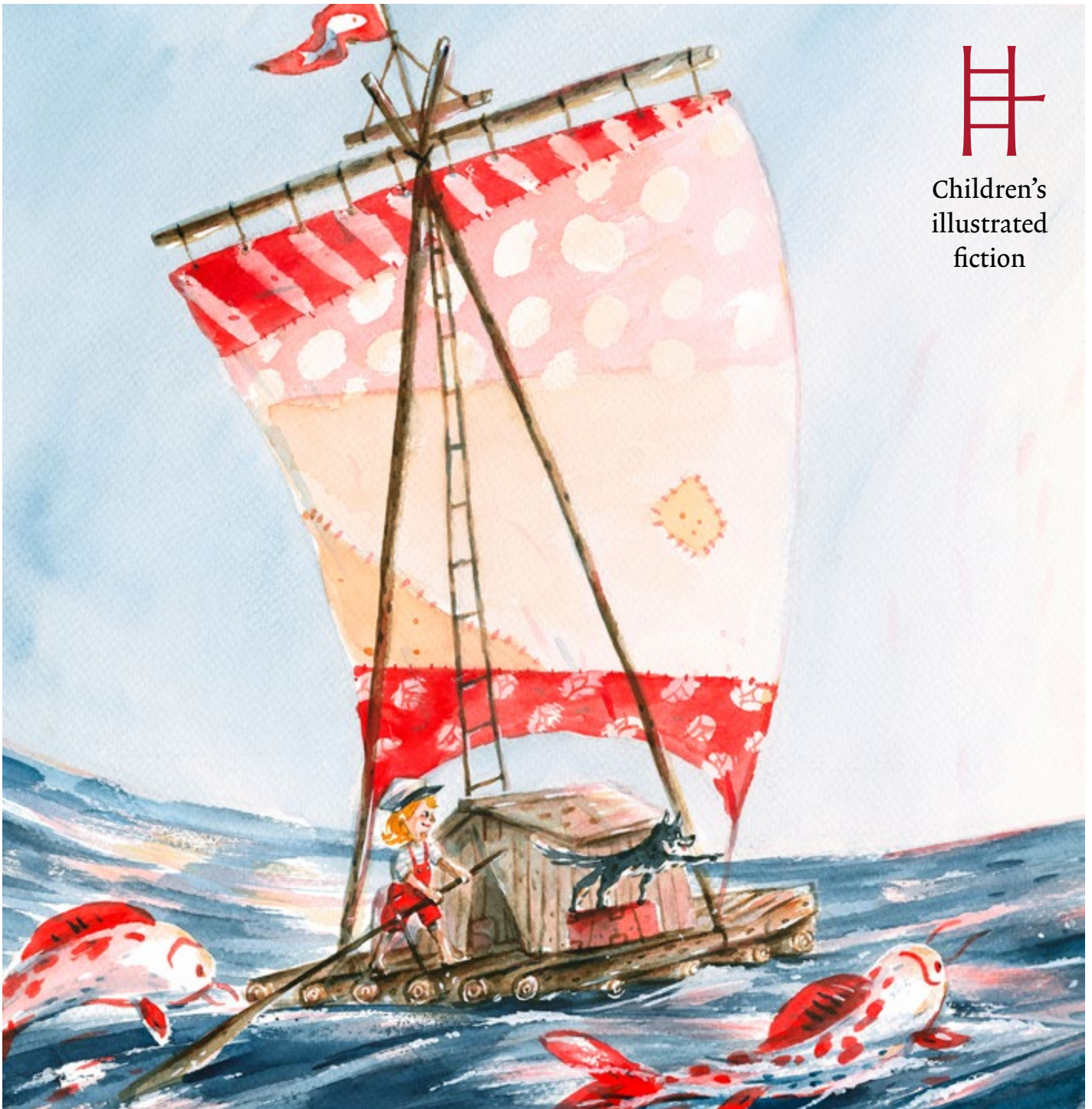
Finnish original, English translation

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Toledo

ALSO AVAILABLE

We Had to Leave (Meidän piti lähteä, 2019)



Children's
illustrated
fiction

Aki-Pekka Sinikoski (b. 1978) is a photographer. His photos have been exhibited in Sydney, New York and Moscow. *Under the Moon* is his first book for children. Ilja Karsikas (b. 1978) is an illustrator who works in the field of art and visual design. He has illustrated several children's books.

Aki-Pekka Sinikoski & Ilja Karsikas (illustrations)

Under the Moon

A sensitive and wistful book about existence, the purpose of life, and a strange adventure.

“When I was little, my mum flew to the moon. She worked at the circus. That night they shot her up in the air, like always. But it wasn’t an ordinary night; it was a night full of magic. Once my mum was in the air, she never came down, she simply went on flying. Through the tent, past the clouds, all the way to the moon. That’s where she’s sitting now. Looking down at us and smiling.”

The evening bath takes the child of the story to a deserted island where odd friends reflect on life while they make fish soup and pancakes. In between they play chess and look for things to find on the beach.

But then God rings up and says that it’s time to go home as Dad is waiting.

Aki-Pekka Sinikoski makes his debut as an author with a warm and philosophical text that receives a precise and personal accompaniment from Ilja Karsikas’ watercolour illustrations. In *Under the Moon*, they create a magical world where sadness, but also beauty and absurdity, have a place. This sensitive and wistful book about the meaning of love, existence and the purpose of life brings to mind children’s classics of world literature like Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*.



Under månen | *Kuun valossa*

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S 2020, 40 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish original,
English translation





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Hiroko Motai (b. 1972) is a Japanese author who one morning as a student woke up with the story of a million billion Santa Clauses in her head. Marika Maijala (b. 1974) is an illustrator and graphic designer who has illustrated several children's books by different authors. She has been awarded twice the Rudolf Koivu Prize and nominated twice for the Finlandia Junior Prize.

Hiroko Motai & Marika Maijala (illustrations)

Million Billion Santa Clauses

*Captivating Christmas story
for all the small and big ones.*

A long time ago, there was only one Santa Claus in the world. And there were very few people and very few children in the world as well. Santa Claus could easily hand out all the world's presents in a single night.

As years went by, the number of people grew. The number of children grew, too. The sack of presents became too heavy. So Santa Claus asked if there might be two of him.

Two Santa Clauses were twice as fast as one, but only half the size.

As more years went by, more and more people and children came along and the number of Santa Clauses grew and grew—and at the same time all the Santas grew smaller and smaller.

Finally there were a million billion Santa Clauses in the world, invisible to the eye and obviously too small to carry presents. What happened then?

"The biggest Christmas book surprise has come in the form of a Japanese–Finnish collaboration. In a word: captivating."

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

"Beautifully rugged, transparent crayon illustrations determine the appearance of this wonderful book. The tiny pieces of text are either within the illustrations or in the margins. The illustrations change from totally gray images of a city to an almost empty page drawn with a controlled and amusing style."

The Most Beautiful Book of the Year Award board



Million Billion Santa Clauses

Schildts & Söderströms, 2014, 40 pp.

READING MATERIAL

English original

RIGHTS SOLD

Catalan, Pastel de Luna; Czech, K-A-V-K-A; China (simplified Chinese), Guanxi Normal University Press; Complex Chinese (outside mainland China, incl. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan), Yeren Publishing House; Denmark, Turbine; Finland (Finnish & Swedish), Schildts & Söderströms; Dutch, Clavis; France, Cambourakis; Germany, Fischer; Greece, Patakis; Italy, Terre di Mezzo; Japan, Anonima Studio; Korea, Woorinabi; Poland, Dwie Siostry; Spanish, Pastel de Luna





Children's
illustrated
nonfiction



Lina Laurent (b. 1979) is a journalist and beekeeper. She lives part of the year in the village of Parkkuu in southern Finland, where she keeps not only bees, but also chickens, sheep and sometimes even pigs. *Secret Gardeners* is her first book for children. Maija Hurme (b. 1976) is an illustrator of children's books. Her book *Shadowed* (2018) was nominated for the Finlandia Junior Prize, while *Bat Boy* (2014) and *Rustle Bustle Buff* (2015) were nominated for the Arvid Lydecken Prize. In 2015 she received the Finnish State Award for Information Publication for *Children's Own Yearbook* (2015). Her Helsinki allotment has in part inspired *Secret Gardeners*.

Lina Laurent & Maija Hurme

Secret Gardeners

*Being a farmer –
in the middle of a city!*

Three friends—Luna, Bianca and Billy—have discovered a secret place hidden behind a rickety fence. No one else knows about it and no one else owns it, except possibly Amy. Amy loves growing things and plants seeds wherever she can.

What kind of place is it really, though, and who's the strange man with the bike who turns up when you least expect it?

Secret Gardeners is a story about friends who become urban farmers. It's also a fact book for children that tells them all about seeds, microbes, compost and bokashi, carbon sequestration in soil, harvesting and beekeeping—and about no-dig gardening!

This is a fast-paced but profound story with plenty of tips for living closer to nature in a fun way.



Plats på jorden

Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 48 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation





*Animal Scalebook,
Scalebook #1*

Eläinten mitalla
Teos Publishers, 2016, 36 pp.



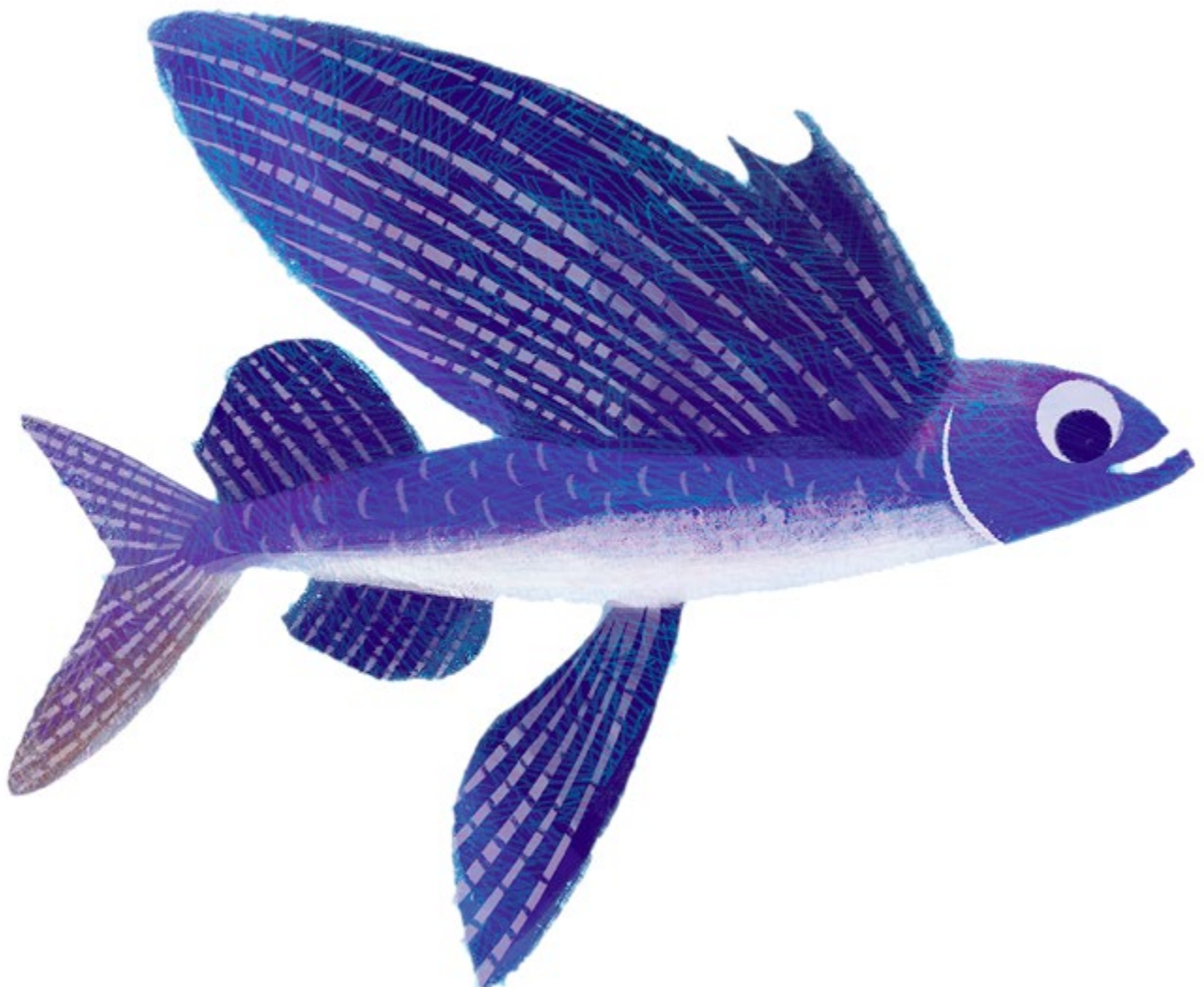
*Dinosaur Scalebook,
Scalebook #2*

Dinosaurusten mitalla
Co-authored by Carlos da Cruz
and Maija Karala.
Teos Publishers, 2018, 46 pp.



*Fish Scalebook,
Scalebook #3*

Kalojen mitalla
Co-authored by Carlos da Cruz
and Maija Karala.
Teos Publishers, 2019, 46 pp.



Carlos da Cruz

Scalebook series

The vividly colourful scalebooks put things – and us humans! – in proportion by scaling different animals to everyday objects and distances.

Carlos da Cruz's scalebooks are inspiring children's science books about the amazing size of animals. Some creatures make human beings feel like giants, others like Tom Thumb.

In *Animal Scalebook* we encounter the spiky hedgehog, snuffling along the ground, and the giraffe as it reaches for the highest branches of the tree. Along the way we also meet sea blubber, with its hundreds of stinging tentacles, dozens of metres long, and the white rhinoceros, which can run faster than the world's fastest human!

In *Dinosaur Scalebook* you learn how large was a micro-raptor, one of the smallest dinosaurs, and how small is a human compared to the largest found fossil of a dinosaur. But which dinosaur had feathers similar to a chicken?

In *Fish Scalebook* the focus is in the oceans, lakes and rivers of the world. Which kinds of fish live in the water, out of the human sight? Which fish can have inspired the stories about sea monsters? What surprises are there in the bottoms of the oceans?

Carlos da Cruz (b. 1972) is a French-born illustrator and graphic artist who lives in Finland. He has loved comics and drawing since he was a little boy. Later he studied graphic design, among other things, in Paris. Since moving to Finland he has worked on teaching materials and non-fiction books for children. In 2011 da Cruz was awarded the Cockerel Prize for his work as an illustrator.



The scalebook series started with *Animal Scalebook* in 2016 and was followed by *Dinosaur Scalebook* in 2018. The third one, *Fish Scalebook*, came out in autumn 2019. *Dinosaur Scalebook* and *Fish Scalebook* are co-authored by Carlos da Cruz and Maija Karala.

READING MATERIAL

French original (book #1), Finnish originals (books #1–3), English translations (books #1–3)

RIGHTS SOLD

France, Circumflexe (book #1), Complex Chinese (excl. Mainland China), Children's Publications (book #2)





The book's writers, Anna Sofia Urrila (b. 1980), Henna-Kaisa Wigren (b. 1977) and Kirsi-Marja Zitting (b. 1982), are sleep-deprived mothers at the busiest time of their lives. They are also sleep researchers who met when they were working on their doctoral theses in the same research group at the University of Helsinki. Virpi Kaarina Talvitie (b. 1961) is an award-winning illustrator who, in addition to dozens of story books, has provided the illustrations for numerous textbooks and children's nonfiction works.

Virpi Kaarina Talvitie, Anna Sofia Urrila,
Henna-Kaisa Wigren & Kirsi-Marja Zitting

Close your Eyes, Iris!

*Why do you have to go to sleep, even if you're not a bit tired?
How do fish sleep, and do horses really sleep standing up?*

Iris is cross. She's in the middle of a game, and her mother, tired out by the baby, is angrily telling her to go to bed. Why are grown-ups allowed to stay up later? And who on earth is the Sandman?

Her dreams take Iris with them into the forest, to a farm, under the water and finally to the mountains. Along the way, the young reader finds out new facts about sleep. When Iris wakes up in the morning, everything looks bright again – even mother has cheered up.

Close your Eyes, Iris! is a book about the fascinating and still largely unknown world of sleep. Many exciting aspects of sleep receive a child-level explanation which will also interest adult readers: Do also jellyfish sleep, and how, as they don't have brains or eyes? How can bears sleep all winter? How do sleep and sleeplessness affect the human body? And why is it sometimes really difficult to wake up?

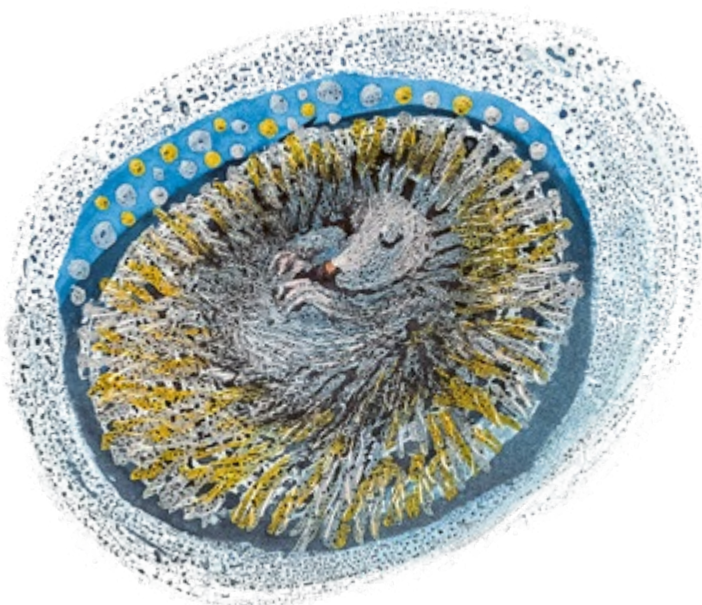


Silmät kiinni, Silmu!

S&S, 2019, 42 pp

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Children's
novels



© Miikka Pirinen

Anja Portin (b. 1971) is a Helsinki-based writer who has previously written children's books, essays, non-fiction and a novel (*Obituary*, 2019). She has studied comparative literature and law at the Universities of Helsinki and Turku, and has worked as a journalist and an editor.

Anja Portin

Radio Popov

What if you were all alone in the world – but one night you discovered that the Sharp Ears always hear you when you sigh?

Nine-year-old Alfred lives virtually alone. His mother has disappeared long ago, and his father, who stays away on business trips, doesn't always seem to remember that Alfred exists. One night, Alfred sets off in the company of the mysterious Sneak, who puts things through letter-boxes – not just newspapers, but apples, woollen socks and sandwiches.

Thus begins an unforgettable adventure that changes everything, and not just for Albert. Sneak turns out the eccentric Amanda Lehtimaja, a paperwoman who is one of the Sharp Ears. At Amanda's home Alfred finds an old radio transmitter designed by a Russian physicist, A. S. Popov. He starts making a secret, nightly radio broadcast that all the other forgotten children in the city listen to.

But how can Amanda and Alfred help the children, and what will Alfred's father do when he notices that his son is gone? And who exactly are the Sharp Ears?

Radio Popov is an exciting and humorous, warm-hearted story that brings to mind the most beloved classics of children's literature, like the novels of Astrid Lindgren and Roald Dahl. It was rewarded as the best children's book of the year with Finland's biggest literary award, Finlandia Junior Prize.

“Some stories start with a trivial little whimsical idea, like someone deciding to find out if they would sleep better on the hallway floor than in their own bed. Like I decided to do one night.”



Radio Popov

S&S, September 2020, 288 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; Denmark, Staarup & Co.;
Estonia, Ühinenud ajakirjad; Greece,
Psychogios; Italy, Salani; Latvia, Janis Roze
Publishers; Lithuania, Alma littera; Nether-
lands, Ploegsma; Russia, Samokat



Children's novels



Karin Erlandson (b. 1978) is a Finnish author writing in Swedish, who has previously published a four-part series of children's novels called *Song of the Eye Gemstone*. The first novel of four, *Pearl Fisher* (2017) received the Runeberg Junior Prize and was nominated for the The Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize, similarly to the fourth novel *Victor* (2019). Erlandsson has also published three adult novels, the first of which, *Mink Farm* (2014) received a nomination for The Nordic Council Literature Prize. Peter Bergting (b. 1970) is one of Sweden's most famous illustrators. He has done illustrations and covers to numerous books for children, young adults as well as general fiction.

Karin Erlandsson & Peter Bergting (illustrations)

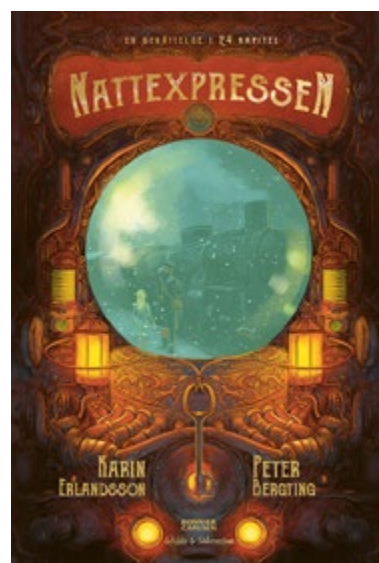
Night Express

*All aboard a magical express train heading towards Christmas –
in 24 chapters!*

Dania's granny lives in an old station building next to a disused railway. Every year Dania, her big sister Nanda and their parents move to their grandmother's for December in the run-up for Christmas. Granny has become older and more forgetful during the past years, and sometimes she speaks nonsense. One evening Granny seems exceptionally absent-minded, and then she disappears from her room. The same night Dania hears something and sneaks out to see what is going on. Not believing her eyes, she sees an express train is pulling up at the station.

Dania manages to stop the night train and the adventure begins. She boards the train that returns every night. On the train she meets Konrad, a boy her age, and it soon transpires that everyone on the night train has lost someone they love. But what is the purpose of the key Dania's Granny has been so insistent on? And who has actually lost whom?

An enchanting and wildly riveting story brimming with the magic of Christmas has been a success both in Finland and Sweden. It was awarded Runeberg Junior Prize, Finland's second biggest children's book award.



Nattexpressen

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 223 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Sinisukk; Lithuania, Alma Littera



Children's
novels



© Marica Rosengard

Eva Frantz (b. 1980) works as a journalist at Finnish national broadcasting company. Frantz debuted with a cozy crime novel *Summer Isle* in 2016. Since then she has been working on a crime series that has three novels so far: *The Blue Villa* (2017), *The Eighth Maiden* (2018), which was awarded as the best crime novel of the year and nominated for the Nordic Glass Key Award, and *Out of the Game* (2020). Runeberg Prize-winning *Raspberry Hill* (2018) was her first book for middle grade readers, followed by *The Queen of the Night* (2021).

Eva Frantz

Queen of the Night

*A finely-crafted mystery story for children,
steeped in the sinister atmosphere of a theatre.*

It's 1915, and 12-year-old Viktor dreams of leaving Helsinki. He lives with his mother and grandmother in a lovely apartment in the centre of the city, but out in its courtyard, it's the tough boys who rule, led by Algot, the caretaker's stern son.

Back when Viktor lived in Paris, his mother Margareta was a successful opera singer. In Helsinki, she gets the role of Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* and things start to look up. Viktor also finds he enjoys spending time at the theatre and makes friends with Agnes, the stage designer's daughter, who seems to have psychic abilities.

But who is the woman singing so eerily outside his mother's room? And why do peculiar accidents keep happening in the theatre, particularly to the Queen of the Night?

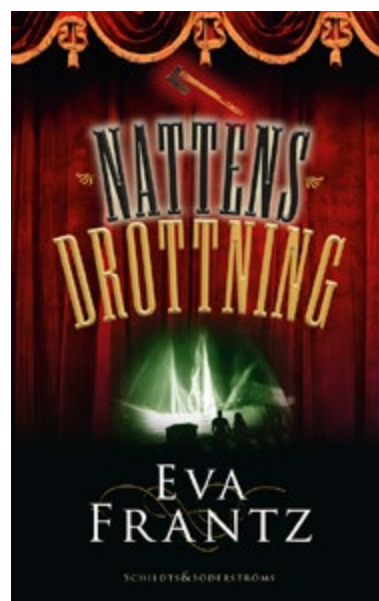
There's something spooky and malevolent hidden beneath the foundations of the theatre. But is Viktor truly ready to intervene and save his mother before it's too late?

Queen of the Night is Eva Frantz's second book for children. Her first, *Raspberry Hill*, won the Runeberg Junior Prize in 2019. Like *Queen of the Night*, it is also set in the early twentieth century and mixes mystery, suspense and horror.

ALSO AVAILABLE

Raspberry Hill (Hallonbacken, 2017)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Pushkin Press



Nattens Drottning

Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 150 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

World English, Pushkin Press (optioned)



Children's
novels



Ellen Strömberg (b. 1987) is an author and one of the most well-known bloggers among the Swedish-speaking Finns. She lives in Jakobstad in Finland's Ostrobothnia. Her first novel, *Chasing Water* (2018), has garnered praise from critics and readers. Her second novel, *The Itch*, came out in autumn 2019. *Maggan All Year Round* (2020) is her first children's book. Elin Löf (b. 1991) is an illustrator and artist based in Jakobstad. Inspired by children as an audience and by their role in the world often designed for adults, *Maggan All Year Round* is the second children's book she has illustrated.

Ellen Strömberg & Elin Löf (illustrations)

Maggan All Year Round

A warm-hearted story about Maggan's first year at school.

Maggan loves her Mum and Grandpa PG, but she doesn't have a best friend her own age. Maggan is a bit worried about that. How do you really know when you are best friends with someone? Can you like several people at the same time?

Maggan, seven years, reflects on this and many other things during her first year at school. As the year progresses from autumn to winter to spring and autumn, a number of things happen: Maggan finds a new friend, and Grandpa PG finds a girlfriend. Maggan realises that everyone is really a bit peculiar, and she finds yet another new friend. She also learns that Grandpa cries so easily because if you cry, sadness can't build a lump in your stomach.

"To think that you're eight years old now," says Grandpa PG, his lip trembling. "I remember when you were just a little sprout and Johnny and I saw you for the first time. To think that he got to see you..."

"Is this where he starts crying?" Ebba whispers to Maggan. Maggan nods.

Ellen Strömberg's new chapter book contains four warm-hearted, seasonal stories about Maggan. The texts are perfect for reading aloud – or reading alone for those who've already cracked the reading code. The book, illustrated by Elin Löf, was nominated for the Runeberg Junior Prize.



Maggan året runt

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 139 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,
English synopsis



NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2019



Children's
novels



Alexandra Salmela (b. 1980) is an author and dramaturge who writes both in Finnish and Slovak. She won the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize with her debut novel *27, or Death Makes an Artist* (2010). Her first children's book *Mother Giraffe and Other Silly Adults* (2013) was nominated for the Arvid Lydecken Prize and the Torch-Bearer Prize. Linda Bondestam (b. 1977) is one of the best-known Nordic illustrators. *Animals No-One Has Seen Except Us* (2016) written by Ulf Stark and illustrated by Bondestam, won the Nordic Council's Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature, was on the shortlist for the August Prize and von the Snowball Prize for the best illustrated book in Sweden in 2016.

Alexandra Salmela & Linda Bondestam (illustrations)

Fantasticle Friend

*“Bean-Bean froze in ski position.
He had never seen Toughie so close up.”*

Bean-Bean hates miserable Wednesdays. That is when he has to walk through the park alone, and in the park lurks Toughie.

Today things go very wrong. When Toughie bullies Bean-Bean, her essential device is broken. As a punishment, Bean-Bean’s beloved rag bird Stormbeard gets prisoned in the highest branches of a tree. Luckily, in the bus Bean-Bean bumps into a lion-maned cheetah, a genuine, living, imaginary friend. Together they hasten to save Strombeard.

The atypical adventure takes the friends into a forest to bounce on a trampoline in the appearance of fantastic fruit, and into the drains where they end up at the mercy of mutant monsters and mammoths.

Alexandra Salmela and Linda Bondestam’s book is a crazy, funny and brilliantly colourful story about the power of the imagination and the courage to be yourself – whether you are a child using words in a funny way, an elephant in mammoth’s clothing or a self-absorbed, constantly blabbering cheetah.

“I’m Cheetah,” he said.

“What do you mean, cheetah?” Bean-Bean examined the creature in wonder. Around his face flourished a magnificently thick lion’s mane. “But you look just like a lion.”

“Well?” snapped lion’s mane. “The cheetah is fastest of all. It can run a hundred and twenty kilometres an hour; it’s faster than this bus, which can go... well, round forty-two or forty-four kilometres an hour, at this moment at least, and compared to that the cheetah is three times as fast and I’m the fastest of all cheetahs. Or nearly.”

ALSO AVAILABLE

Mother Giraffe and Other Silly Adults (Kirahviäiti ja muita hölmöjä aikuisia, 2013)

Rights sold: Czech, Albatros; Hungary, Scolar; Serbian, Obodsko slovo;

Slovakia, Artforum; Turkey, Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



Mielikutitusystävä

Teos Publishers, 2019, 120 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample



Young
Adult
Novels



© Karolina Isaksson

Malin Klingenberg (b. 1979) is a Swedish-speaking author from Finland who has written six books of The Senior Squad series: *Patrik and The Senior Squad* (2010), *Irene and the Moneyhoover* (2013), *Fake Bernice* (2015), *The Fantastic Alfredo* (2016), *Rakel's Miracles* (2017) and *The Magnificent Senior Match* (2020). *The Fantastic Alfredo* was awarded with Runeberg Junior Prize in 2017. In 2018 Klingenberg published her first young adult title, *Elk Girl*, that has received wide critical acclaim. In 2019 Klingenberg came out with a rhyming book *The Secret Life of Farts*, illustrated by Sanna Mander.

Malin Klingenberg

Elk Girl

*How to grow up, deal with changes –
and tame an elk?*

Johanna is just starting the seventh grade and trying to find her place in the new school. Things aren't as they used to be just a few weeks before – her best friend Sandra is now hanging out only with the most popular girls in their year, doing anything to get their approval.

Fortunately Johanna has a little forest den, where she can be herself and do what she loves: watch the wildlife. By chance, she befriends an elk. Soon she discovers that there are others too who appreciate the things that matter most to her.

Malin Klingenberg writes in a serious but light-hearted way about being a teenager in the throes of changes. And about taming an elk.

Elk Girl is a touching young adult novel from Malin Klingenberg, following her popular middle grade novel series about the adventures of *The Senior Squad*. Critics and readers alike have heaped praise on the book.

“Elk Girl takes a firm hold of the confusing and tangled everyday life. Humorist Klingenberg ladles absurdities into the story, like taming an elk with popcorn, but lets the seriousness shimmer in the background. The result is brilliant.”

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

ALSO AVAILABLE

Patrik and The Senior Squad, The Senior Squad #1 (*Patrik och Pensionärsmakten*, 2010)
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

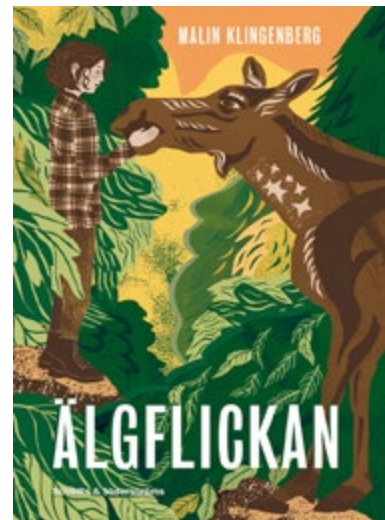
Irene and the Moneyhoover, The Senior Squad #2 (*Irene och Sedelsugen*, 2013)
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

Fake Bernice, The Senior Squad #3 (*Den falska Bernice*, 2015)
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

The Fantastic Alfredo, The Senior Squad #4 (*Den fantastiske Alfredo*, 2016)
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

Rakel's Miracles, The Senior Squad #5 (*Rakels mirakel*, 2017)

The Magnificent Senior Match, The Senior Squad #6 (*Den stora seniorkampen*, 2020)



Älgflickan

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 190 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample

RIGHTS SOLD

Germany, dtv; World Spanish, Errata
Naturae



*Ruby's Secret,
The Hues #1*

Tiukun salaisuus
S&S, 2020, 199 pp.



*Many-Coloured Mansion,
The Hues #2*

Kirjava kartano
S&S, 2021, c. 180 pp.



Vuokko Hurme

The Hues series

*What if you could move objects
by willpower?*

Ruby's family has a secret: they have wonderful powers of colour. The Hues are able to control the colours of their own possessions, and they can handle them and move them about by willpower. Ruby's colour is red and her big sister Skye's is blue, while their little brother Forrest is still looking for his colour and practising hard.

Ruby's Secret, the first book in the Hues series, begins when the Hues, hiding their secret skills, move once more into a new neighbourhood. But this time something is different: Ruby no longer wants to be an eternal outsider. She decides to make an impression on her new friends – at all costs.

In *Many-Coloured Mansion*, the focus is on Ruby's sister Skye. When the family takes a trip to a mansion in the archipelago, Skye gets to know Bruno, who can control the colour brown. With their friendship, she starts to learn about Greyness, the creature that thrives on the borders of evil and ambushes those who are not like the others.

Each one of the Hues books has its own colour, used by Reetta Niemensivu in her expressive line drawings.

"Despite its many contemporary themes, Ruby's Secret does not remain in thrall to them. Extreme sensitivity, prejudice and power-play among friends emerge from the plot without underlining or undue emphasis. Tension is raised little by little and hints about future developments are sprinkled patiently to engage the child reader."

Lastenhyllý literature blog on *Ruby's Secret*



Reetta Niemensivu

The Hues series has so far two books: *Ruby's Secret* (2020) and *Many-Coloured Mansion* (2021).

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

Vuokko Hurme (b. 1979) is an author of children's fiction and non-fiction. Before *The Hues* series, she has written a middle-grade series *Rotation*, which has three books: *Upside Down* (2017), *Right Side Up* (2018) and *About-Turn* (2019).



*Patrik and the Senior Squad,
The Senior Squad #1*

Patrik och Pensionärsmakten
Schildts & Söderströms, 2010, 120 pp.



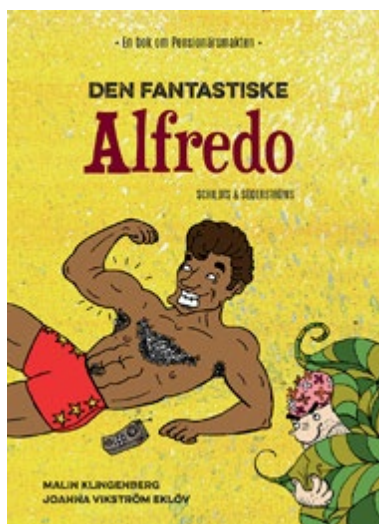
*Irene and the Moneyhoover,
The Senior Squad #2*

Irene och Sedelsugen
Schildts & Söderströms, 2013, 136 pp.



*Fake Bernice,
The Senior Squad #3*

Den falska Bernice
Schildts & Söderströms, 2015, 148 pp.



*The Fantastic Alfredo,
The Senior Squad #4*

Den fantastiske Alfredo
Schildts & Söderströms, 2016, 168 pp.



*Rakel's Miracles,
The Senior Squad #5*

Rakels mirakel
Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 192 pp.



*The Magnificent Senior Match,
The Senior Squad #6*

Den stora seniorkampen
Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 258 pp.

Malin Klingenberg

The Senior Squad series

A witty and hilarious middle-grade series about retired people fighting crime.

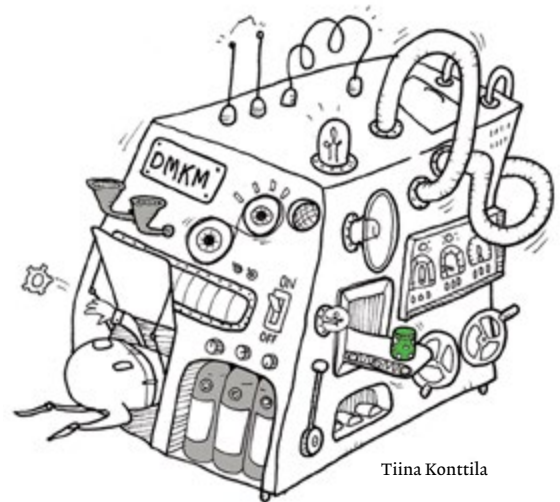
In a small-town school a boy sits in a class room, deep in thought. He's called Patrik, and today will be the most exciting day of his life, although he doesn't know it yet.

Soon enough the class tearaway, Irene, bullies Patrik into escaping from school. When he ends up on a wrong bus full of pensioners, it appears that one of the senior citizens has been kidnapped – and a group of villains are very interested in taking the other pensioners out of the game too...

In the Senior Squad series pensioners are living a secret life scuppering the evil plans of lowlifes with the help of two clever children, Patrik and Irene. The series includes six books: *Patrik and The Senior Squad* (2010), *Irene and the Moneyhoover* (2013), *Fake Bernice* (2015), *The Fantastic Alfredo* (2016), *Rakel's Miracles* (2017) and *The Magnificent Senior Match* (2020).

The Senior Squad series has been praised for its crazy humor, quirky characters and action-filled plots that are perfect for young readers. The fourth novel of the series, *The Fantastic Alfredo*, was awarded with Runeberg Junior Prize in 2017.

Malin Klingenberg (b. 1979) is a Swedish-speaking author from Finland who has written six books of The Senior Squad series. In 2018 Klingenberg published her first young adult title, *Elk Girl*, that has received wide critical acclaim. In 2019 Klingenberg came out with a rhyming book *The Secret Life of Farts*, illustrated by Sanna Mander.



Tiina Konttila

The Senior Squad series has six books. Originally written in Swedish, the series is also being published in Finnish.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample

RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus (books #1–4)



*The Pearl Fisher,
Song of the Eye Gemstone #1*

Pärlfiskaren
Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 243 pp.



*The Bird Master,
Song of the Eye Gemstone #2*

Fågeltämjaren
Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 310 pp.



*The Scaler of the Peaks,
Song of the Eye Gemstone #3*

Bergsklättraren
Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 255 pp.



*The Victor,
Song of the Eye Gemstone #4*

Segraren
Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 302 pp.

RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2018

WINNER OF A CHILDREN'S NOVEL COMPETITION BY SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS PUBLISHERS

NOMINEE FOR THE ARVID LYDECKEN PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2018 & 2020

Karin Erlandsson

Song of the Eye Gemstone series

*A grand take of friendship, longing – and a kingdom of stories
by an award-winning author.*

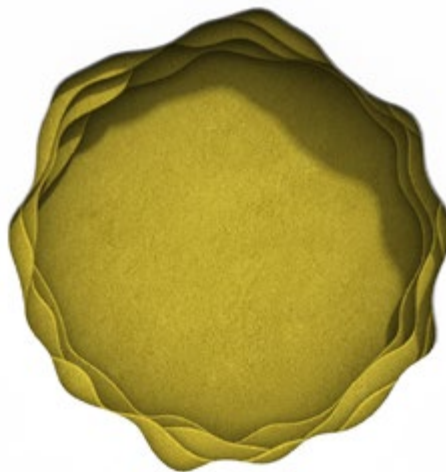
There is a kingdom where the bottom of the ocean is covered with colourful pearls. There is one pearl that everyone wants – the eye gemstone. The story says that whoever finds it will never need to long for anything anymore, and generation after generation people have left their families to search for it, never returning.

Two girls set out for the hunt: Miranda who believes herself to be the most skilled pearl fisher of all, and small Syrsa who has a rare ability: she can hear the pearls singing, whispering, murmuring... Their page-turning adventure grows in the series of four books to epic proportions: to a grand tale of friendship and what truly matters in life.

The exciting, multi-layered story, located in skilfully constructed world with forests, mountains, fields and seas has been praised by readers and critics.

“Erlandsson masters the elements with virtuosity. Easily and naturally she lets the story billow onwards. It is full of descriptions of the mythical landscapes of the world. It is sharp and clear. It is compelling. [...] Karin Erlandsson’s children’s novel has a broad and obvious appeal, it grows beyond the traditional adventure novel – it challenges the conventions, and at the same time she gimmicks with the genre extremely stylishly. This is a long-awaited start for the return to the children’s novel that follows the Finland-Swedish literary tradition in the very best way.”
Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

Karin Erlandsson (b. 1978) works as a journalist in Åland. She is an awarded author, whose works include also adult fiction and nonfiction. In addition to the Song of the Eye Gemstone series, she has published a middle-grade stand-alone novel *Night Express* (2020) with illustrator Peter Bergting.



Song of the Eye Gemstone spans four books: *The Pearl Fisher* (2017), *The Bird Master* (2018), *The Scaler of the Peaks* (2019) and *The Victor* (2019).

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample, English synopsis, Spanish sample

RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus (books #1–3); World English, Dedalus (books #1–2), Estonia, Sinisukk (book #1), Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin (books # 1–4)



*Upside Down,
Rotation #1*

Kiepaus
S&S, 2017, 248 pp.



*Right-Side Up,
Rotation #2*

Kaipaus
S&S, 2018, 320 pp.



*About-Turn,
Rotation #3*

Keikaus
S&S, 2019, 309 pp.



Vuokko Hurme

Rotation series

A clever and mind-boggling trilogy set in three different worlds – told by the authentic, wise voice of an eight-year-old girl.

Lenna has lived all of her eight years in a city called Kardum. Kardum used to be a normal city just like any other, but long before Lenna was born, the world turned upside down.

The earth is now where the sky used to be. And there is a dizzying drop into nothingness where the ground used to be.

The incident that everyone refers to as “The Rotation” has changed everything, but people have learned to get along in their upside down world. They move from house to house with the help of ropes and special gear. They enjoy simple lives without running water or electricity.

In fact, Lenna and her best friend Jaan have just the right amount of fun and excitement – until the supply of fresh water begins to run out.

Beneath the sky there is Mabal, a world built from all the things that have fallen from Kardum. There you don’t have to be afraid of falling into the sky anymore, but instead you have to worry about what falls from the sky: trash, sand, and even houses and boulders.

And there’s another danger. Mabal rests on a thin surface. Anyone who digs too deep below the surface will fall – no one knows where. That is no one, until Lenna and Jaan one day end up there: in the old Kardum that still lives in the age before the Rotation. When they realize that there is only a week to the Rotation, they have a choice to make: should they try to save the old world?

“The world and characters Hurme has created captivate the imagination.”
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

Vuokko Hurme (b. 1979) is an author of children’s fiction and nonfiction. After publishing the Rotation series, she has written two books of The Hues series: *Ruby’s Secret* (2020), nominated for the Runeberg Junior Prize, and *Many-Coloured Mansion* (2021).



Rotation consists of three books: *Upside Down* (2017), *Right-Side Up* (2018) and *About-Turn* (2019).

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Rahva Raamat (books #1–3);
Turkey, Can (books #1–2),



Eva Frantz

Hallonbacken

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 150 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus



Kari Hotakainen

Children's Book

Siltala Publishing, 2016 [1990], 130 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Tänapäev



Maija Hurme & Anssi Hurme

Under Covers

Schildts & Söderströms, 2012, 30 pp.



Maija Hurme & Anssi Hurme

Batboy

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2014, 28 pp.



Maija Hurme & Anssi Hurme

Shadowed

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2018, 40 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Cesta domů



Anna Härmälä

Kort från Farmor Flyttfågel

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 32 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Turkey, Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



Helmi Kekkonen & Aino Louhi

Topsy-Turvy Anna

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.



Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta

A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat

Teos Publishers, 2019, 40 pp.



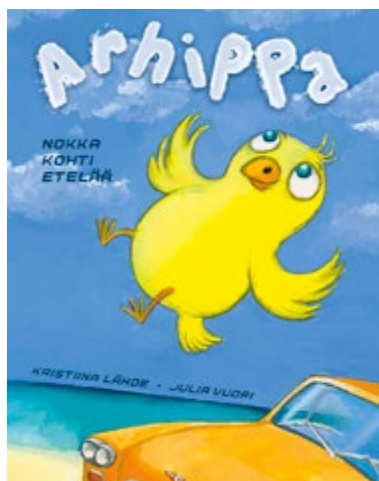
Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta

A Dog Called Cat

Teos Publishers, 2015, 32 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

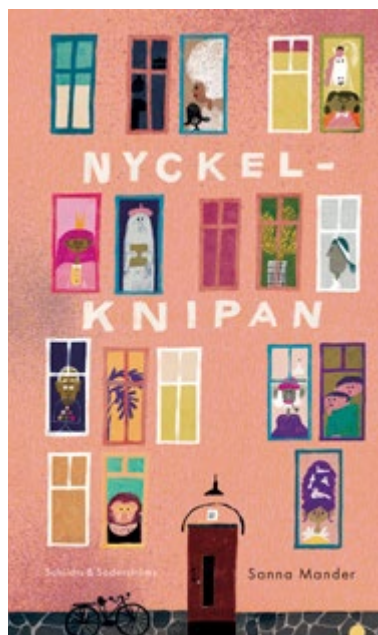
Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv;
Lithuania, Nieko rimto; Spain, Lata de Sal



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori

Archie Goes South

WSOY, 2016, 30 pp.



Sanna Mander

The Lost Key

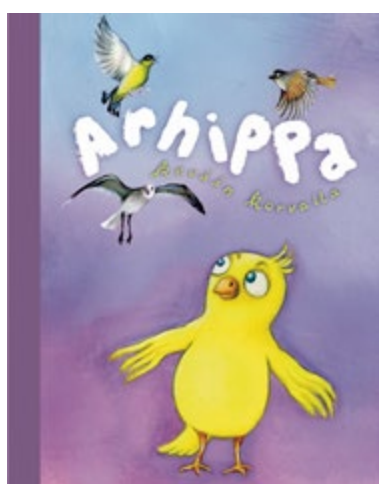
Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2017, 40 pp.



Sanna Pelliccioni

We Had to Leave

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori

Archie in the Spring

Teos Publishers, 2019, 34 pp.



Sanna Mander & Anna Sarve

The Spectacular Book of Princesses

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 72 pp.



Karoliina Pertamo

Bunny Likes

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2018, 18 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Postimees Kirjastus (Eesti Meedia);
Hungary, Naphegy Kiadó (Kossuth)



Hannamari Ruohonen

My Lost Mother

S&S, 2017, 30 pp.



Hannamari Ruohonen

Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites

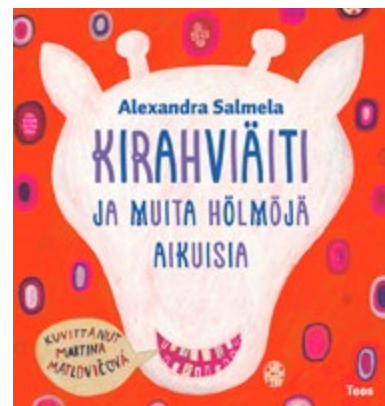
S&S, 2018, 30 pp.



Hannamari Ruohonen

Kaisan ja Oskarin retkikirja

S&S, 2019, 32 pp.



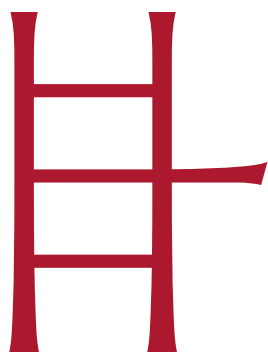
Alexandra Salmela &
Martina Matlovičová

Mother Giraffe and Other Silly Adults

Teos Publishers, 2013, 94 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Albatros; Hungary, Scolar; Serbian,
Obodsko slovo; Slovakia, Artforum; Turkey,
Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



Helsinki Literary Agency is an agency with a strong list of the best Finnish fiction, nonfiction and children's authors. Founded in the beginning of 2017, the agency is a joint venture of four independent Finnish publishing houses: Gummerus, Schildts & Söderströms, Siltala and Teos. The agency represents a wide range of prominent, award-winning authors writing both in Finnish and Swedish.

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Gummerus

Gummerus, founded in 1872, is Finland's third largest trade publisher with a list of 200 titles each year. It is owned by Swedish Storytel. (For titles published in Sweden, get in touch with Norstedts Agency, www.norstedtsagency.se.)

Schildts & Söderströms

Schildts & Söderströms is Finland's largest Swedish language publisher with a history dating back 1891. Its imprint s&s publishes books in Finnish.

Siltala Publishing

Siltala, founded in 2008, publishes about 40 titles a year. Its list includes both literary fiction and nonfiction.

Teos Publishers

Teos Publishers, founded in 2003, publishes about 45 new titles annually. The focus is on literary fiction, but the list includes also nonfiction and children's titles.

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Colophon

This booklet was designed and

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The text face is **TEFF** Lexicon No. 2

created by Bram de Does in 1992.

Prizewinners

Since 2010, the authors represented by HLA have received a fair share of the most prestigious literary prizes in Finland.

2021

Runeberg Prize | Marisha Rasi-Koskinen, *REC*
Runeberg Junior Prize | Karin Erlandsson, *Night Express*

2020

Finlandia Prize | Anni Kytömäki, *Margarita*
Finlandia Junior Prize | Anja Portin, *Radio Popov*

2019

Runeberg Junior Prize | Eva Frantz, *Raspberry Hill*
European Union Prize for Literature | Piia Leino, *Heaven*

2018

Runeberg Prize | Marjo Niemi, *The Mother of All Losses*
Runeberg Junior Prize | Karin Erlandsson, *The Pearl Fisher*

2017

Finlandia Prize | Juha Hurme, *Headland*
Finlandia Junior Prize | Sanna Mander, *The Lost Key*
Runeberg Junior Prize | Malin Klingenberg, *The Fantastic Alfredo*

2016

Finlandia Prize | Jukka Viikilä, *Watercolours from a Seaside City*
Runeberg Prize | Peter Sandström, *Autumn Apples*
European Union Prize for Literature | Selja Ahava, *Things That Fall From the Sky*

2013

Finlandia Prize | Riikka Pelo, *Our Earthly Life*

2012

Finlandia Prize | Ulla-Lena Lundberg, *Ice*

2011

Finlandia Junior Prize | Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen, *Light, Light, Light*

2010

Finlandia Prize | Mikko Rimminen, *Red Nose Day*

Among earlier prizewinners are

Runeberg Prize 2009 | Kari Hotakainen, *The Human Part*
Finlandia Prize 2003 | Pirkko Saisio, *The Red Letter of Farewell*
Finlandia Prize 2002 | Kari Hotakainen, *The Trench Road*
Finlandia Junior Prize 2000 | Tomi Kontio, *Daddy Grew Wings in Spring*
Runeberg Prize 1999 | Ulla-Lena Lundberg, *Rain*
Runeberg Prize 1998 | Mari Möro, *Gifts of a Gentle Night*

