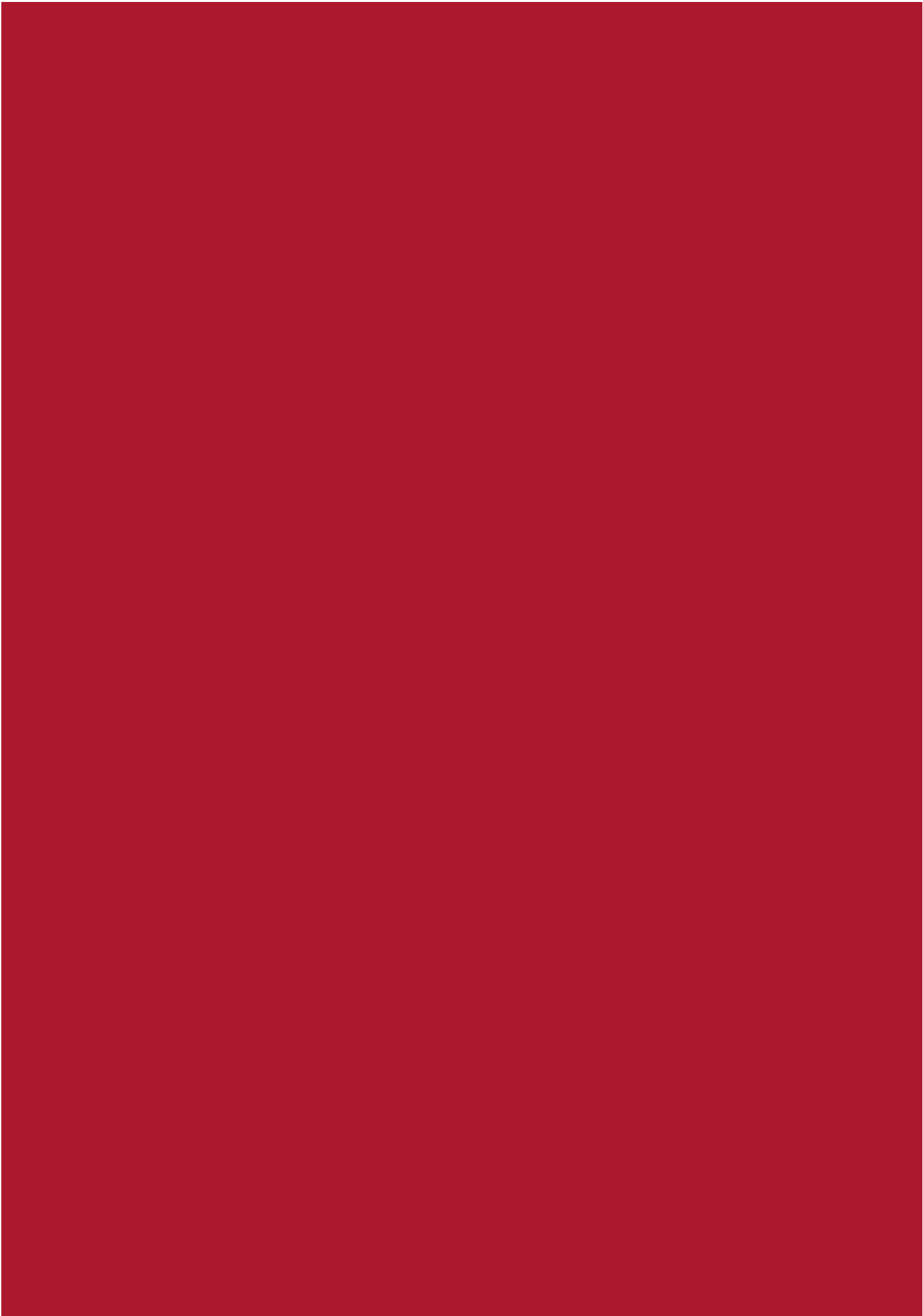




Autumn
2021



Helsinki Literary Agency *Children's List*



Cover illustration from Maija Hurme & Lina Laurent's *Secret Gardeners*

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Children's
illustrated
fiction



Anja Portin (b. 1971) is a Helsinki-based author who has written children's books, essays, nonfiction, and a novel (*Obituary*, 2019). She studied comparative literature and law at the Universities of Helsinki and Turku, and has worked as a journalist and an editor. Her young adults' novel *Radio Popov* (2020) received the Finlandia Junior Prize and has been sold to twenty areas. Sanna Pelliccioni (b. 1976) is a children's author, illustrator and graphic artist who has worked with numerous children's books as author and illustrator. Her work includes the wordless book about refugees, *We Had to Leave* (2018), and *I Remember You with Love* (2020), which discusses the feelings of losing a loved one.

Anja Portin & Sanna Pelliccioni (illustrations)

Matias and Everything that Was Far Away

What's far away can actually be really close by...

Matias is a little boy who looks at the dark sky at night and wonders what it must be like far away. What would the Moon look like, close up? Where does the Sun go at night? And what's beyond the stars?

Matias decides to find out. He goes to the city to get an education, taking with him a cat called Moonmoon.

The years go by, the Sun and the Moon continue to make way for one another, and Matias's thoughts soar higher and higher. But how to find someone to share them with?

Matias and Everything that Was Far Away is a poignantly beautiful story about human curiosity and longing. It is written by Finlandia Junior Prize-winning Anja Portin, who was inspired by the astronomical magic-lantern pictures made by her great-grandfather in the early 20th century. Sanna Pelliccioni, a versatile artist who has illustrated dozens of children's books, conjures up magical images from some of these enchanting old slides.

At night, in his dreams, Matias wanders through space, in deserted landscapes, searching for something, without really knowing what.

“How easy it is to walk here. Mountains, valleys, ice, strange ravines... What can this place be? Does anyone live here, anyone I could drink a cup of tea with?”



Matias ja kaikki se mikä oli jossain kaukana

S&S, 2021, 36 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation



Children's
illustrated
nonfiction



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 (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* (2021) is her first book for children.

Maija Hurme & Lina Laurent

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

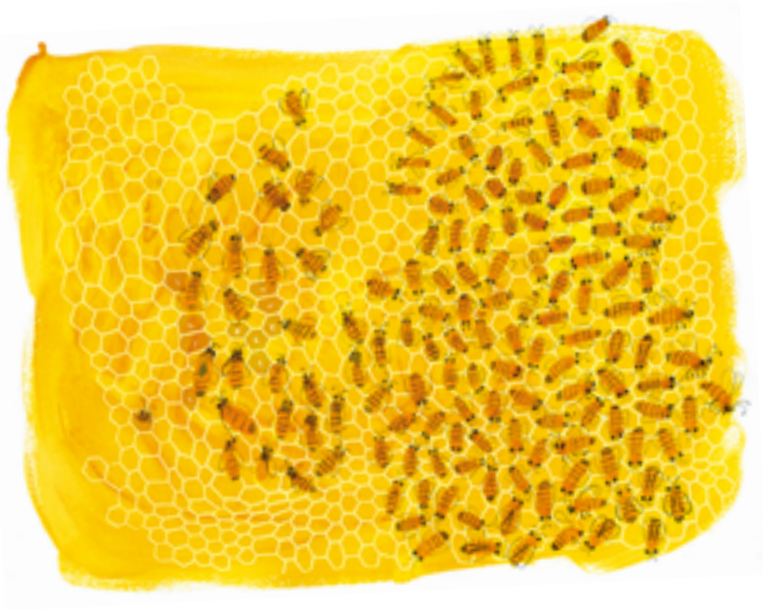
Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 48 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation

RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Host; World English, Pajama Press;
Estonian, Ühinenud ajakirjad





A Dog Called Cat

Koira nimeltään kissa
Teos Publishers, 2015, 32 pp.



A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat

Koira nimeltään Kissa tapaa kissan
Teos Publishers, 2019, 40 pp.



A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home

Koira nimeltään kissa kaipaa kotia
Teos Publishers, 2020, 32 pp.



A Dog Called Cat and the Wonder of Christmas

Koira nimeltään Kissa ja joulun ihme
Teos Publishers, October 2021, 40 pp.



Tomi Kontio (b. 1966) is an established poet and author who has received numerous awards for his works. 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 in several areas. *A Dog Called Cat series* (2015–2021), consisting of four stand-alone books, is Kontio's and Warsta's celebrated collaboration.

Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

A Dog Called Cat series

A disarmingly beautiful picture book series about accepting difference and the importance of friendship.

A Dog Called Cat (2015) tells the story of a small puppy, whom her mother names Cat because Cats are independent, and the mother knows the puppy will end up alone. But the dog called Cat feels just lonely, not independent, until she meets a man called Weasel.

In the second book, *A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* (2019) the dog called Cat and the man called Weasel encounter a cat of an adventurous disposition. The cat, whose name has often changed during the vagabond years, becomes a cat called Dog and a third party to the true friendship they share.

The only problem the friends have is that they have no home. Even though they love roaming freely, winter can be cruel and the endless wandering tough. In *A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home* (2020) Cat's heart is suddenly filled with longing, and she realizes the friends need to find a haven.

In *A Dog Called Cat and the Wonder of Christmas* (2021) the dog called Cat, the cat called Dog and the man called Weasel are walking in the empty streets of the snow-crusted city where everyone has retreated to celebrate with their nearest and dearest. There they realize how fortunate they really are.

The four-book series about three friends with a rougher lot in life deals with seeing people without prejudice and the importance of looking beyond the surface. The bitter-sweet, humorous books show life in all its guises and tell that even those of us with a rougher lot can experience joy and happiness.



A Dog Called Cat series spans four books: *A Dog Called Cat* (2015), *A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* (2019), *A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home* (2020) and *A Dog Called Cat and the Wonder of Christmas* (2021).

READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English translations

RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Raketa (books #1–2); Estonia, Päike ja pilv (books #1–2); Lithuania, Nieko Rimto (book #1); World Spanish, Lata de Sal (book #1); Sweden, Epix (book #1, books #2–3 optioned)

IBBY HONOUR LIST 2016

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2016

NOMINEE FOR FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2019

AUDIENCE FAVOURITE OF THE FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE NOMINEES 2019



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: amplius, 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.



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; South Korea,
Changbi; Sweden, Rabén & Sjögren





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; China (simplified Chinese), Guanxi Normal University Press; Complex Chinese (outside mainland China, incl. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan), Yeren Publishing House; Czech, K-A-V-K-A; Denmark, Turbine; Estonia, Tänapäev; 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; Ukraine, Yakaboo





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Sanna Pelliccioni (b. 1976) is a children's author, illustrator and graphic artist. Her work includes the extensive *Onni* series of children's books, and she has also illustrated numerous children's books by other authors. *We Had to Leave* (2018) is Pelliccioni's first wordless children's book.

Sanna Pelliccioni

We Had to Leave

*This book is a bit scary,
but it has a happy ending.*

We Had to Leave tells, in pictures, the story of a family fleeing war to find a place of safety.

The book has no text – readers can invent the words themselves. The child can take the leading role as narrator. They can decide how the story proceeds, how it begins and how it ends.

This book does, indeed, have many stories – some of them more, some less scary. The story is determined by who tells it, what mood they are in, what they have experienced and what they know.

Telling stories increases a sense of community, and develops language and imagination. The wordless book is suitable for children of all ages. It is also good for immigrants: the wordless book can be read with others on a basis of equality.

“This picture story is an excellent way of dealing with a refugee family’s journey to seeking asylum. The wordless tale progresses convincingly through the power of Pelliccioni’s gently expressive drawings. The subject may cause uncertainty in adult readers, but there is no need to over-explain things; the picture story demands adults simply to listen.”

Aamulehti newspaper

“Despite the familiar storyline Pelliccioni succeeds in creating an original story with her expressive illustrations and lively colour palette.”

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper



Meidän piti lähteä

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Wordless original

ALSO AVAILABLE

I Remember You with Love (Muistan sinua rakkaudella, 2020)

Rights sold: Estonia, Toledo



Children's
novels



© Anna Autio

Anja Portin (b. 1971) is a Helsinki-based author who has written children's books, essays, nonfiction, and a novel (*Obituary*, 2019). She studied comparative literature and law at the Universities of Helsinki and Turku, and has worked as a journalist and an editor. Her young adults' novel *Radio Popov* (2020) received the Finlandia Junior Prize and has been sold to twenty areas.

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.

Translated by Hildi Hawkins



Radio Popov

S&S, September 2020, 288 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; Catalan, Nórdica Libros; China (simplified Chinese), New Buds; Czech, Portal; Denmark, Straarup & Co.; Estonia, Ühinenud ajakirjad; France, Milan; Greece, Psychogios; Hebrew, Locus; Hungary, Cerkabella; Italy, Salani; Latvia, Janis Roze Publishers; Lithuania, Alma littera; Netherlands, Ploegsma; Norway, Mangschou; Poland, Widnokrag; Russia, Samokat; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost International; Spanish, Nórdica Libros; Turkey, Can Çocuk



Children's novels



Eva Frantz (b. 1980) is an author and a journalist. Her first book for middle-grade readers was the Runeberg Prize-winning *Raspberry Hill* (2018), followed by *Queen of the Night* (2021) and *The Mystery of the Helmersbruk Manor* (2021). Frantz has also authored an award-winning adult crime fiction series about senior constable Anna Glad. Elin Sandström (b. 1988) is a Swedish illustrator and graphic designer with an eye for the supernatural and ghostly.

Eva Frantz & Elin Sandström (illustrations)

The Mystery of Helmersbruk Manor

*A thrillingly exciting winter ghost story
to start the Christmas season.*

One dark evening early in December 1975, 12-year-old Flora Winter and her mother arrive in the small seaside village. Christmas is coming, but Flora is not feeling Christmassy: Dad is gone, and Mum has brought along her typewriter to work on her book. They don't even have any Christmas decorations with them.

When the pale winter sun rises the next morning, Flora realises that they are staying in the gatekeeper's old cottage on the edge of a big park. In the middle of the park is an abandoned manor.

But is the manor really abandoned? Why does Flora hear the clip-clopping of hooves in the night, even though there is no sign of any horses? Who keeps leaving figures from an old nativity scene around the park? And who on earth is Egon, the boy in the green hat who appears in the park now and then and seems to want to make friends with Flora?

Flora starts investigating the mystery of the von Hiem manor – and soon realises that she only has until Christmas to solve it.

Eva Frantz's new spine-tingling ghost story, gripping and heartfelt, is told over 24 chapters and is a good reading in the run-up to Christmas. The novel is illustrated by Elin Sandström.

“Eva Frantz’s book has all the right elements that a page-turner for an avid young readership should have: a proper suspenseful plot and supernatural twists.”

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper on *Raspberry Hill*

ALSO AVAILABLE

Raspberry Hill (Hallonbacken, 2018)

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

Queen of the Night (Nattens drottning, 2021)

Rights sold: Denmark, ABC forlag; World English, Pushkin Press (optioned)



Hemligheten i Helmersbruk

Schildts & Söderströms | Bonnier Carlsen,
2021, 267 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,
English synopsis



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 four 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 | Bonnier Carlsen,
2020, 223 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Host Brno; Denmark, Straarup & Co.;
Estonia, Sinisukk; Lithuania, Alma littera;
Poland, Dwukropek; Russia, MIF; Slovakia,
Ikar



Children's
novels



© Marica Rosengård

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 about senior constable Anna Glad 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 *Queen of the Night* (2021) and *The Mystery of Helmersbruk Manor* (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?

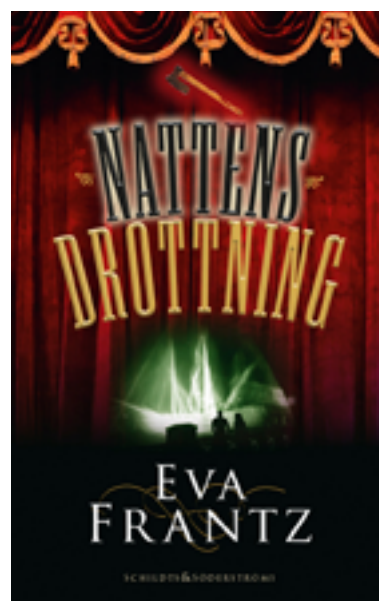
There's something spooky and malevolent hidden beneath the foundations of the theatre. But is Viktor truly ready to intervene and save his mother before it's too late?

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

Denmark, ABC forlag; World English,
Pushkin Press (optioned)



*Ruby's Secret,
The Hues #1*

Tiukun salaisuus
S&S, 2020, 199 pp.



*Many-Coloured Mansion,
The Hues #2*

Kirjava kartano
S&S, 2021, 188 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.

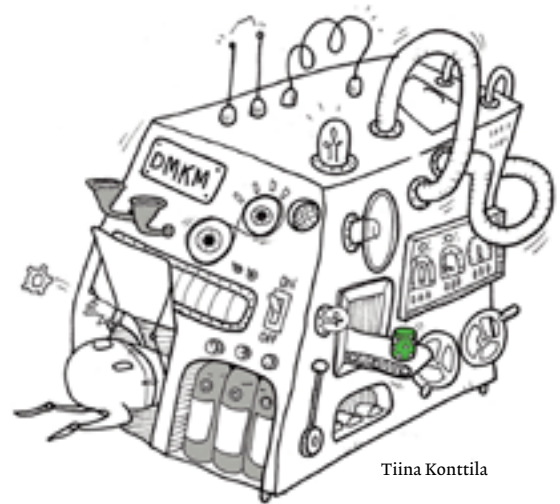
In a small-town school a boy sits in a class room, deep in thought. He's called Patrik, and today will be the most exciting day of his life, although he doesn't know it yet.

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 originals, Finnish translations, 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.*

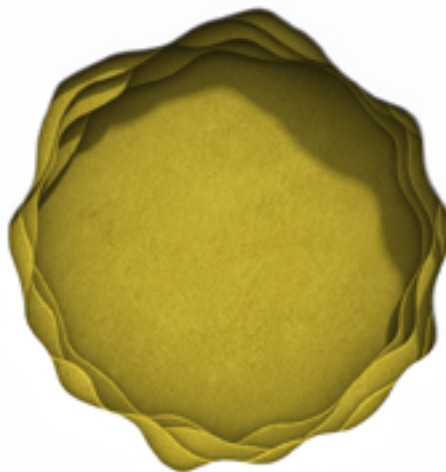
There is a kingdom where the bottom of the ocean is covered with colourful pearls. There is one pearl that everyone wants – the eye gemstone. The story says that whoever finds it will never need to long for anything anymore, and generation after generation people have left their families to search for 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 #1–4), Estonia, Sinisukk (book #1–2), Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin (books # 1–4)



*Upside Down,
Rotation #1*

Kiepaus
S&S, 2017, 248 pp.



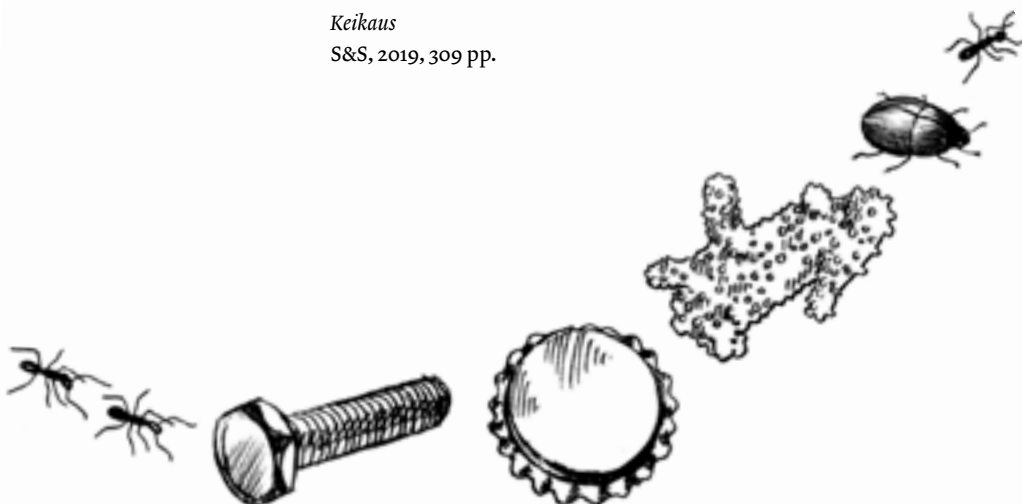
*Right-Side Up,
Rotation #2*

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



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),



Carlos da Cruz

Scalebook series

Teos Publishers, 2016–2019

Animal Scalebook (2016), *Dinosaur Scalebook* (2018), *Fish Scalebook* (2016)

RIGHTS SOLD

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



Eva Frantz

Raspberry Hill

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 150 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; World English,
Pushkin Press; Russia, Eksmo



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

Postcards from Granma Flyaway

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 32 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Turkey, Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



Helmi Kekkonen & Aino Louhi

Topsy-Turvy Anna

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.



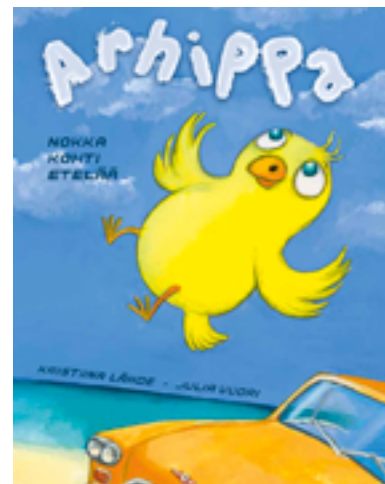
Malin Klingenberg

Elk Girl

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 190 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

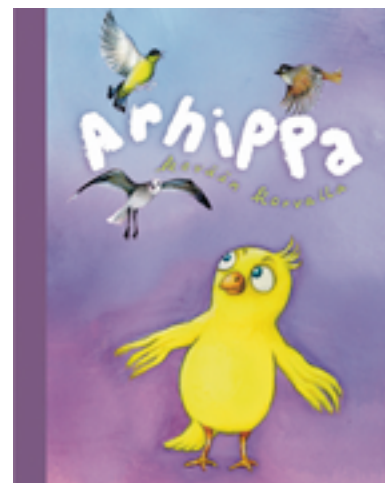
German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata Naturae



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori

Archie Goes South

WSOY, 2016, 30 pp.



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori

Archie in the Spring

Teos Publishers, 2019, 34 pp.



Sanna Mander

The Lost Key

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



Sanna Pelliccioni

I Remember You with Love

Teos Publishers, 2020, 40 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Toledo



Hannamari Ruohonen

My Lost Mother

S&S, 2017, 30 pp.



Sanna Mander & Anna Sarve

The Spectacular Book of Princesses

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 72 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

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



Karoliina Pertamo

Bunny Likes

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



Hannamari Ruohonen

Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites

S&S, 2018, 30 pp.



Hannamari Ruohonen

Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Outings

S&S, 2019, 32 pp.



Alexandra Salmela &
Linda Bondestam

The Fantastickle Friend

Teos Publishers, 2019, 120 pp.



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

Close Your Eyes Iris!

S&S, 2019, 42 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)



Ellen Strömberg &
Elin Löf

Maggan All Year Round

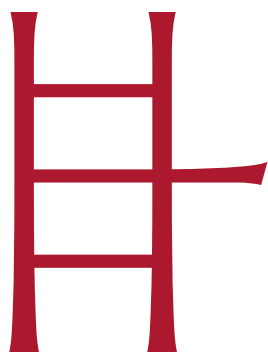
Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 139 pp.



Pauliina Vanhatalo &
Anna Emilia Laitinen

Kerttu the Pincher

S&S, 2019, 46z pp.



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 Book of Farewells
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
Finlandia Prize 1992 | Leena Krohn,
Mathematical Creatures, or Shared Dreams



