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2022



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



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Children's  
illustrated  
fiction



Johanna Venho (b. 1971) is an author and poet who has written for both adults and children, receiving several awards for her books, including the Arvid Lydecken Prize for Children's Literature in 2003. Her adult novel *The First Lady* (2019) was nominated for the Finlandia Prize, Finland's most prestigious literary award. Sanna Pelliccioni (b. 1976) is an award-winning illustrator and children's author. She has published for example picture books *We Had to Leave* (2018), *I Remember You with Love* (2020) and *Matias and Everything that Was Far Away* (2021).



Johanna Venho & Sanna Pelliccioni (illustrations)

## *Forest Field Notes*

*“People are short-sighted.  
So, we must trust the trees.”*

Spruce has a journal where she draws and writes about things that come to mind while she’s in the forest. She recognizes the secrets of the forest better than anyone else.

She finds trees leaning against each other, bird’s nests, and caterpillar trails. Beneath the roots lies an elf door. She has seen a forest troll, a falcon, and a fawn. Spruce has saved all of her reflections, and the leaves she’s collected, in her field notebook.

Soon men wearing overalls and carrying measuring sticks start to appear in the forest. Her brother, Saku, tells her the area has been zoned. Machines drive into the forest and leave stumps and deep ruts behind.

Spruce decides to fight back, and she starts by tying notes to trees with twine. It’s a kind of protest.

That’s when she meets a boy with green eyes and twigs in his hair. He teaches Spruce something about the forest she never anticipated. She records all of it in her field notebook.

*Forest Field Notes* is a tender, magical story of the forest and the imagination that can be awakened by nature. The book about the importance of nature in our own surroundings will gain a companion, *Travel Field Notes*, when it’s published in 2023. This new addition will guide readers on a rail journey to protect the environment.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Travel Field Notes* (Matkamuistikirja, 2023)

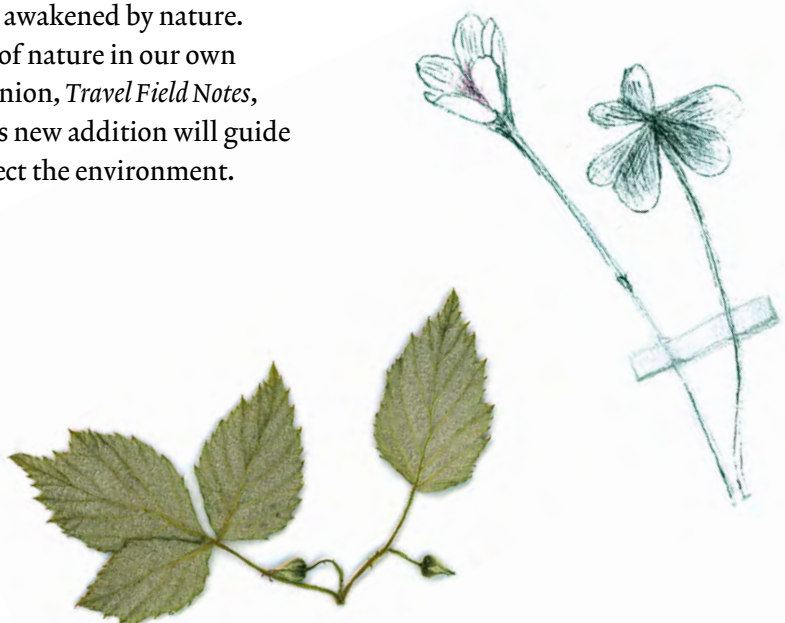


*Metsämuistikirja*

Teos Publishers, 2022, 40 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Children's  
illustrated  
fiction



Saara Kekäläinen (b. 1971) is an author known of her witty and anarchistic themes handled with abundant humour. She has written two children's books, *Penelope and the Perilous Porridge* (2022) and *The Princess Who Did a Runner* (2022). She publishes her adult novels with the pseudonym Olga Kokko. Netta Lehtola (b. 1996) is an illustrator who works widely in the field of visual media. A children's picture book *Fox Stories* (2019), illustrated by her, was a nominee for Finlandia Junior Prize.

Saara Kekäläinen & Netta Lehtola (illustrations)

# *The Princess Who Did a Runner*

*This little nipper wanted to be wise, strong, and wild –  
and wasn't going to wait around for a prince.*

Leona is a young princess who does a runner when she learns of the fate that awaits her: she must marry a prince in order to save her kingdom.

Leona jumps from one princess fairytale to the next in order to save herself from the age-old burdens of princesses that lurk around every corner – marriage and household chores. Along the way she meets many characters including a melancholic mirror, the species-changing Swanhilda, and princes with a penchant for glass shoes, menacing pouts, and rescue mission obsessions – not to mention seven adult men who are short of stature and don't want to learn to clean and cook for themselves. The kind-hearted Leona helps everyone, but on her own terms. This princess refuses to be gentle, humble, and kind, just because that's what's expected of a fairytale princess!

*The Princess Who Did a Runner* is a picture book full of sharp humour that will even offer big children and adults plenty of food for thought.

“OUCH!” shouted the prince, whose lips Leona had just smacked her head into.

“Another prince! This is all too much!” said Leona.

“I was just trying to wake you with a kiss,” explained the prince.

“Why would you even think about kissing someone who's asleep? Besides I'm already wide awake, thank you very much,” said Leona.

Translated by Tabatha Leggett



*Prinsessa joka lähti kälppimään*

S&S, 2022, 42 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation







Ilja Karsikas (b. 1978) is an illustrator and graphic designer known for his conversation-sparking children's books. *Storm and Light* (spring 2023) follows several picture books, including *The Unicorn* (2022) and *Under the Moon* (2020), a collaboration with Aki-Pekka Sinikoski. In addition to his visual work, Karsikas creates music and is involved in a number of artistic projects.



Ilja Karsikas

## *Storm and Light*

*“Curiosity calls the daredevil out for adventures,  
All the dreamer needs for adventures is the full moon.”*

Storm and Light are best friends and the most important people in the world to each other. But in personality they are total opposites. Storm hungers for wild adventures out in the world, while Light traverses imaginary paths and the world inside his head. Storm talks to anyone and everyone in any language imaginable, while Light reflects and ponders and creates a totally new language.

And although Storm ventures out into the world alone, she always comes back, bringing the starts of wondrous flowers to plant among the seeds of Light’s words.

“Does happiness live at home or out in the world?” Light asked.

“What about sadness? Where does it live?” Storm replied.

Light smiled. “In a contest between flavors, do potatoes beat chili peppers?”

“Is morning more beautiful in the Alps or from your own window?”

*Storm and Light* is a tender story of friendship and love. The individual stories of the characters interlace, and big questions of love and human connection overlap aphoristically with shared memories of a lovely summer day.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Under the Moon* (Kuun valossa, 2020)  
Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat

*The Unicorn* (Yksisarvinen, 2022)



*Myrsky ja Valo*

S&S, spring 2023, 40 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Children's  
illustrated  
fiction



Reetta Niemelä (b. 1973) is an award-winning poet and author of children's books. Three of her works have been nominated for Finland's most prestigious children's book award, the Finlandia Junior Prize, and her books have won the Arvid Lydecken, Tietopöllö, and Kaarina Helakisa Awards and been translated into numerous languages. Anne Vasko (b. 1969) is an author and an illustrator who has published dozens of children's books. Her picture book *Lion the Great* (2010) received the Rudolf Koivu Prize and was nominated for the Finlandia Junior Prize. In 2017 and 2021 she has been shortlisted for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. A series of books about a bear named Mur illustrated by Vasko (2016–2019) have been translated into 15 languages.



Reetta Niemelä & Anne Vasko (illustrations)

# *The Grandma Book!*

*Grandmas galore are the stars of this delightful picture book!*

The Ferris wheel rose above the city, high, majestic – and full of grandmas. The grandmas waved and waved and waved and waved when a whale swam slowly past.

Grandma Mole gazed out at the sky. Her thoughts were like clouds, they formed and dispersed before she could decide how she felt about things. About the Ferris wheel and whales, for instance. Or about her favorite things to do.

Grandma Moss and Grandma Mole are best friends. They spend a lovely day together in a fun city filled with all sorts of grandmas. But despite being such good friends for so long, there are some things they don't know about each other: things one of them thinks are fun aren't necessarily so for the other.

Written by Reetta Niemelä and superbly illustrated by Anne Vasko, this light-hearted paean to grandmothers everywhere will appeal to readers of all ages, from grandmothers to great-grandchildren.



*Mummojen kirja!*

S&S, April 2022, 32 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Children's  
illustrated  
fiction



Saara Obele (b. 1984) is an illustrator and graphic designer. She got the idea for *Playground Pals* (2021) when she was reading bedtime stories to her own family and realized how important it is for children to be able to see themselves in a book.



Saara Obele

# *Playground Pals*

*Come and meet  
the best pals ever!*

In this upbeat picture book for little children we meet the kids at their home yard – the brave superhero Toni, the immigrant scientist Samir, the spirited and nimble acrobat Matty, Princess Michael, Topi and his hobby horse, and many other unique children, each one their best and most beloved just as they are.

“Here you’ll meet so many great friends,  
and play lots of wonderful games.  
And everyone here is one of a kind  
– after all, none of us are the same!”

The delightful rhymes and lovable illustrations in this book are a paean to children and the uncomplicated joy of childhood. With these playground pals, everyone can be themselves, and everyone is included in the fun!



*Pikkuisen pihan porukka*

S&S, 2021, 32 pp.

**READING MATERIAL**

Finnish original, English translation





Children's  
illustrated  
fiction

Sanna Mander (b. 1980) is an illustrator and a graphic designer whose colourful illustrations have appeared in Finnish, Swedish, and English children's books. Among her numerous published works are *The Lost Key* (2017) which won both the Finlandia Junior Prize and Rudolf Koivu Prize, and *The Spectacular Book of Princesses* (2018), co-authored with Anna Sarve. *The Secret Life of Farts* (2019), written by Malin Klingenberg and illustrated by Sanna Mander, has been published in ten languages to date.



Sanna Mander

# *My Teeny-Tiny Witch*

*Everyone could use  
a cantankerous little witch!*

Harri is eight years old and spends alternating weeks with his mother and father.

Harri is basically a nice, responsible boy, but there's one thing that causes him trouble at times. You see, Harri's best friend is his very own little witch, Axe Rexona, who has the urge now and then to act up.

Axe is really fun and can conjure up all sorts of things with a matchstick wand. But when boredom strikes, the teeny-tiny witch goads Harri into doing naughty things. Harri doesn't want to be naughty, and the conflict can put him in ticklish spots. Suddenly Harri's trousers itch terribly, the lentil stew tastes like disgusting raisin soup, and Dad's new girlfriend turns out to be an alien in disguise. Sometimes things get even wilder and Harri gets the blame. When that happens, it's hard to make excuses about a teeny-tiny witch no one else can see.

Feelings flurry and the energy never lets up in this children's book written and delightfully illustrated by Sanna Mander.



*Min lilla häxa | Pikku pikku noitani*

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2021, 40 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonian, Ühinenud ajakirjad





Children's  
illustrated  
fiction

Ilja Karsikas (b. 1978) is an illustrator and graphic designer known for his conversation-sparking children's books. *Storm and Light* (spring 2023) follows several picture books, including *The Unicorn* (2022) and *Under the Moon* (2020), a collaboration with Aki-Pekka Sinikoski. In addition to his visual work, Karsikas creates music and is involved in a number of artistic projects.



Ilja Karsikas

# The Unicorn

*“At times the unicorn glowed, bright and supernatural, at times it faded until invisible as a ghost.”*

At the beginning of the week, Dad is always the best. But on weekends he goes out with his friends to hunt the Unicorn. Why can't Dad stay at home and have fun with the family?

Moa decides to take action. Maybe Dad will forget the Unicorn if Moa destroys everything that reminds Dad of it? Soon bottles of the colorful elixir used during the hunt swirl down the drain – along with a bottle of home-made raspberry juice. But a bottle of juice is small price to pay to have Dad spend his evenings at home and be in a good mood in the morning.

*The Unicorn* is a warm-hearted picture book about complicated conditions at home, family life and love. It is based on the author's own memories and childhood experiences in a lovely, caring, completely ordinary family.

“Mom and Dad always mess everything up,” Moa huffed to herself as she helped the ants with their construction project. Even having fun felt hard.

In that instant, something flashed past, racing from the forest toward the rock. Moa hesitated for a moment, then ran after it.

The Unicorn was fast, and its sweet, pungent scent hung over the whole woods.”



*Yksisarvinen*

S&S, 2022, 48 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Under the Moon* (Kuun valossa, 2020)

Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat

*Storm and Light* (Myrsky ja Valo, 2023)







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*

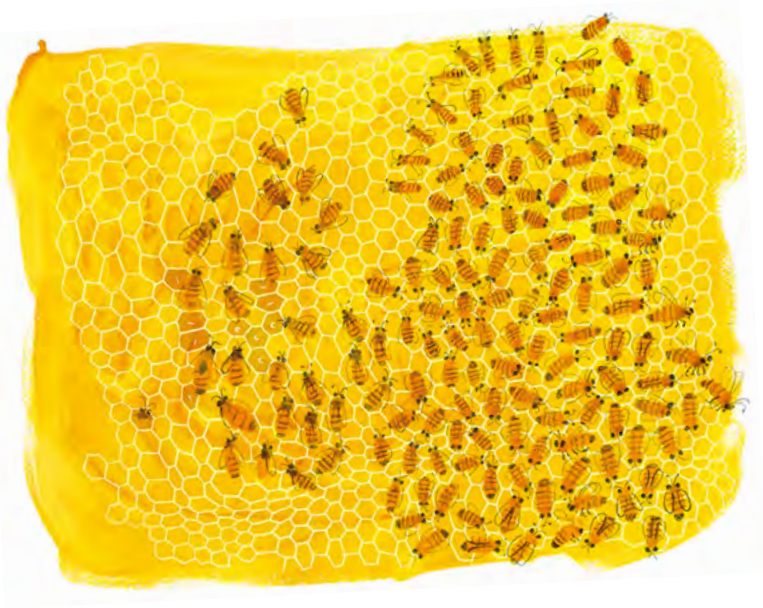
Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 48 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

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





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 15 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

## RIGHTS SOLD

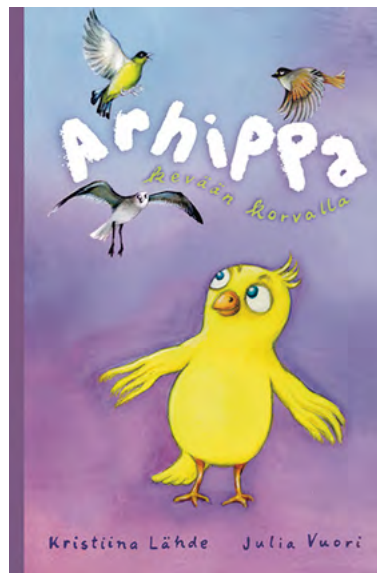
Estonia, Elust enesest





*Archie Goes South*  
*Archie the Canary #1*

*Arhippa. Nokka kohti etelää*  
WSOY, 2016, 30 pp.



*Archie in the Spring*  
*Archie the Canary #2*

*Arhippa kevään korvalla*  
Teos Publishers, 2019, 34 pp.



*Archie in a Tizzy*  
*Archie the Canary #3*

*Arhippa pyryharakkana*  
Teos Publishers, 2021, 34 pp.



Kristiina Lähde (b. 1961) is an award-winning poet, translator, and author. Julia Vuori (b. 1968) is a well-known illustrator and comics artist who also has received several awards of her work. Lähde and Vuori have created three children's books about Archie the canary: *Archie Goes South* (2016), *Archie in the Spring* (2019), and *Archie in a Tizzy* (2021).



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori (illustrations)

## *Archie the Canary*

*A warmhearted series about the unexpected friendship of a canary and a taxi driver, filled with humour and deep thoughts.*

The little canary Archie and the taxi driver Swisher are perhaps the most philosophical friends that there are in Finnish children's books. The two first meet when Archie is suffering from an illness and needs to see a doctor. But after listening to the little bird for a while there is no need for an appointment, after all: Swisher realizes what is wrong with her. She is dreaming of freedom.

This starts a series of day-to-day adventures for the two. From the southern beaches to the wintry streets of the north, there are bigger-than-canary issues to deal with: where is your place in the world, why is there sometimes a huge longing in your heart—and which things are those that are truly important in life.

Kristiina Lähde has written the stories with warm humour, big heart and deep understanding of the questions that are puzzling also the minds of small readers. Illustrated with bright and soft colours by Julia Vuori, the books about Archie the Canary are loved by children and grown-ups alike.

Swisher took a little book with a black cover out of his pocket, shyly cleared his throat, and read:

### FOR ARCHIE

Looking at the evening star,  
needing no place but where we are.  
I sit beside you and keep you warm,  
a friend to protect you from the storm.  
What matters is what's right here,  
it's simply as simple as that.

Translated by Lola Rogers



### READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English translations



### *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, 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. Elinä 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 #1–4); Estonia, Päike ja pilv (books #1–2); Hungarian, Koinonia (books #1–3); Lithuania, Nieko Rimto (book #1); Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Serbia, Pčelica (book #1); Slovakia, Ikar (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  
novels



© Anna Autio

Annastiina Storm (b. 1978) is a drama instructor and worked in theater before embarking on her career as an author. *We Are Filled with Light* (2017), Storm's debut novel, was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize. Her second novel, *Mirror, Mirror* (2019) intertwined fantasy and reality in a story about Snow White's daughter. *The Superhero's Son and Other Flying Objects* (2022) is Storm's first children's novel and brings together an action-packed story with lovable, quirky characters and a warm message.



Annastiina Storm

# *The Superhero's Son and Other Flying Objects*

*A fast-paced, heart-felt adventure about looking for a father and learning to fly.*

It's summer vacation, and ten-year-old Eevert has three items in his to-do list:

1. Learn to fly.
2. Save the city.
3. Find the head that's a perfect fit for the pilot's cap.

You see, Eevert has discovered he has a father – and not just any father, but a superhero! His father simply came and went so fast the only memento he left behind was a pilot's cap. Now Eevert has to find the head that fits the cap.

The city, on the other hand, needs to be saved from the dazzling, movie-star like Buber family, who have thrown everything into chaos by wrapping the city's residents in their stardust, making everyone forget what's important.

Eevert's superhero mission leads him into dangers he never could have imagined. Luckily he has the help of his friend Tilda and the lady with the low voice who lives upstairs, Mrs. Malmsten. And when the Bubers' daughter Ponilja learns how things truly stand, the children manage to stir up the Storm to End All Storms.

*“Then Eevert and Ponilja saw something that made time slow around them: Olga and Kunilja flew past, with Kunilja in front, her sumptuous dress billowing in the wind, and Olga behind, hanging from Kunilja's ankles.*

*For a split second, they looked each other in the eye: Eevert and Olga, and Ponilja and Kunilja. The looks stretched between them like taut rubber-bands until they drifted too far apart. The flying cereal bowl continued south toward the sea, and Kunilja sped north with Olga at her ankles.”*



*Teräsmiespoika ja muita lentäviä asioita*

S&S, 2022, 240 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



Children's  
novels



© Heli Sorjonen

Tomi Kontio (b. 1966) is an established poet and author who has received numerous awards for his works. His first children's book, *Wings to the Other Side of the World* (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. In 2022, children's novel *My Dad Is a Hipster*, will continue their collaboration.



Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

## *My Dad Is a Hipster*

*“When I close my eyes, I see herds of bearded beanieheads, sometimes bumping into each other.”*

Nuutti and his friend Selma first hear about hipsters in fourth grade: it turns out that Selma’s mother has called Nuutti’s father a hipster. Nuutti doesn’t understand. What on earth is a hipster? Could his father really be one? They need to find out.

After applying an eclectic mix of research methods and spying the kids come across a lot of curious facts: most often, a hipster will deny being a hipster; a subspecies of a hipster is a *blender*; a hipster can try to conceal his hipster identity by changing his Cousteau beanie for a *mysse* cap; Selma’s mother is missing content in her life; Nuutti’s father provides content, at least from kale, ginger and fungus; and the headmaster of the school is longing for a particular stew his grandmother used to make.

The new children’s novel by Finlandia Junior-awarded Tomi Kontio catches the essence of being a kid. Solving the hipster issue grows into a warm-hearted story of longing, remembering, family and friendship. The beautiful illustrations by Elina Warsta are especially appealing for the young readers.

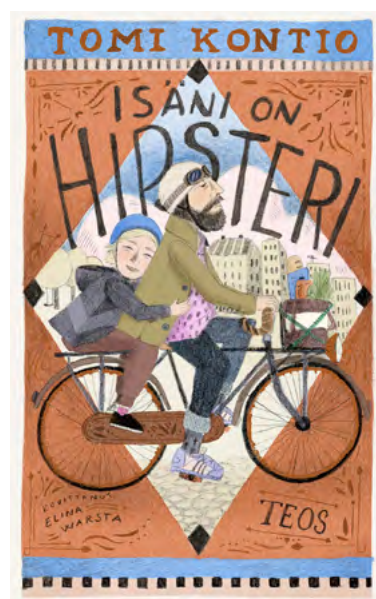
### ALSO AVAILABLE

*A Dog Called Cat* series, see pp. 22–23.

*Wings to the Other Side of the World, Austra-Asia #1* (Keväällä isä sai siivet, 2004)

*The Last Children of Austra-Asia, Austra-Asia #2* (Austraasian viimeiset lapset, 2005)

*The Earth’s Brother, Austra-Asia #3* (Maan veli, 2005)



*Isäni on hipsteri*

Teos, 2022, 112 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



## 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

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Straarup; World English,  
Pushkin Press; Italy, Edizioni EL;  
Poland, Widnokrag

Eva Frantz

## *Raspberry Hill | Queen of the Night*

*Ghosts and crime for middle grade readers by Finland's rising crime queen.*

Finland's rising crime queen Eva Frantz has become known also for her novels for children, all of them featuring supernatural events and adorably creepy suspense. *Raspberry Hill* and *Queen of the Night* are both set in early 20th century, to settings perfectly suitable for ghosts, and they are sure to keep the middle-grade reader glued to the pages.

In *Raspberry Hill*, young Stina, suffering from a lung disease, ends up treated in a sanatorium in the middle of the healing countryside. The building is vast and full of long corridors and echoes. It is also a very lonely place, until one day Stina meets Ruben. The boy starts turning up when they should be sleeping, taking her to nightly expeditions to forbidden parts of the building.

Little by little Stina starts to realize that everything is not quite right in the sanatorium. Why isn't her mother writing back to her? Why do the nurses seem so afraid? What really happened in the fire? And what is Ruben trying to warn her about?

In *Queen of the Night*, 12-year-old Viktor has moved to Helsinki from Paris and is missing home. However, when his mother, an opera singer, gets the role of the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, things start to look up. Viktor makes friends with Agnes, the stage designer's daughter, who seems to have psychic abilities.

Soon it starts to seem there is something spooky and malevolent hidden beneath the foundations of the theatre—and peculiar accidents keep happening in the theatre, particularly to the Queen of the Night. Is Viktor truly ready to intervene and save his mother before it's too late?



*Hallonbacken*

*Raspberry Hill*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 150 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English translation / English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; World English,  
Pushkin Press; Russia, Eksmo; World  
Spanish, Fondo de Cultura



*“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 *The Raspberry Hill*

My head was swimming with thoughts of burials and graves, when suddenly I noticed I wasn’t alone at the stone wall. Someone was standing not far away, looking straight at me. It was an old woman. There was something frightening about her even though she was small, barely taller than me. It must have been her eyes, so pale blue that they looked almost white. Her hair was white too, sticking out in wisps from under a thick knitted hood. She looked just like a witch in a fairy tale.

“Rich girl or poor girl?” she asked in a hoarse, raspy voice.

I didn’t make a sound. The old woman looked impatient.

“We-ell? Which are you? A rich girl or a poor girl?”

“A poor girl,” I mumbled.

The old woman shut her eyes and shook her head. Then suddenly she took a few steps towards me, frighteningly fast. My impulse was to run but it felt as if my boots were pinned to the grass.

“As soon as you get the chance, run away from here,” the old woman hissed, her eyes open wide. “Poor children don’t fare well here. Just ask them.” And she nodded meaningfully towards the church and graves. Then she turned on her heel and waddled off down to the lake.

*Raspberry Hill*

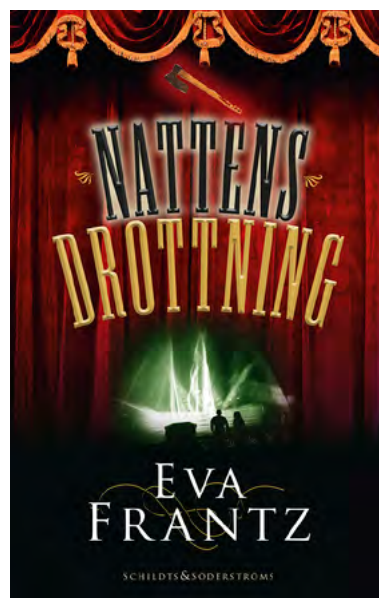
Translated by A.A. Prime

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).

#### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Mystery of Helmersbruk Manor* (*Hemligheten i Helmersbruk*, 2021)

Rights sold: World English, Pushkin Press



*Nattens drottning*

*Queen of the Night*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 150 pp.

#### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English translation / English sample,  
English synopsis

#### RIGHTS SOLD

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



## 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)

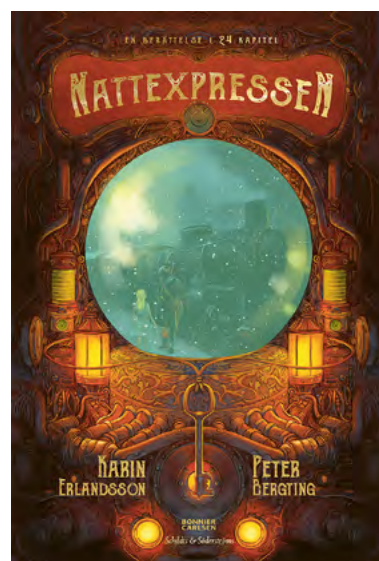
# Night Express

*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



© 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 over 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.

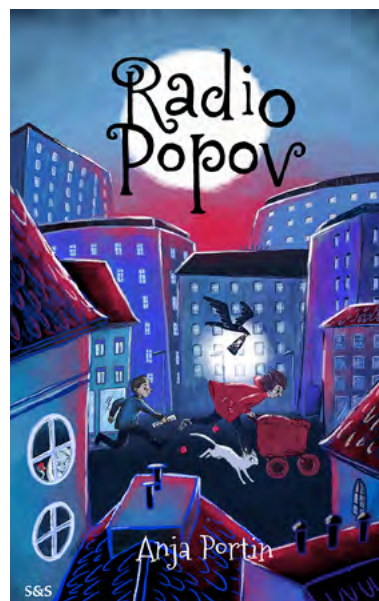
Thus begins an unforgettable adventure that changes everything, and not just for Albert. Sneak turns out the eccentric Amanda Lehtimaja, a paperwoman who is one of the Sharp Ears. At Amanda's home Alfred finds an old radio transmitter designed by a Russian physicist, A. S. Popov. He starts making a secret, 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; German, Ars Edition; Greece,  
Psichogios; Hebrew, Locus; Hungary,  
Cerkabella; Italy, Salani; Latvia, Janis Roze;  
Lithuania, Alma littera; Netherlands,  
Ploegsma; Norway, Mangschou; Poland,  
Widnokrag; Russia, Samokat; Slovenia,  
KUD Sodobnost International; World  
Spanish, Nórdica Libros; Turkey, Can Gocuk



Children's  
novels



© Katja Lössönen

Tomi Kontio (b. 1966) is an established poet and author who has received numerous awards for his works. His first children's book, *Wings to the Other Side of the World* (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.



Tomi Kontio

# *Wings to the Other Side of the World*

*A cracking fantasy adventure about a family that flew away, deceitful adults, and a clever escape.*

Twins Tomi and Timo Kokko live in quiet Thrushridge. One May morning, their lives are suddenly turned upside down: the earth starts to shake, the sky turns red, and their Dad grows a pair of enormous wings. After announcing he is leaving for Austra-Asia, their Dad vanishes into a hole that opens in the garden and closes up behind him.

When the boys' mother and sister also disappear mysteriously, Timo and Tomi end up in Loveless, a prison-like institution run with an iron fist by the stern Raakel Sneery. They discover all the children and adolescents being held at Loveless have strange abilities or experiences and realize this is the reason they are being held captive too.

The only solution is to break out. But no one has ever escaped from Loveless over the walls – and how can they even reach Austra-Asia, when their Dad needed wings to get there?

*Wings to the Other Side of the World* is a warm, funny, fast-paced children's adventure that champions children's freedom and individuality. Upon publication, it won Finland's most prestigious children's book award, the Finlandia Junior Prize.



*Keväällä isä sai siivet, Austra-Asia #1*

Tammi, 2000, 264 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Last Children of Austra-Asia, Austra-Asia #2 (Austraasian viimeiset lapset, 2002)*

*The Earth's Brother, Austra-Asia #3 (Maan veli, 2005)*



Children's  
novels

© Katri Lassila

Leena Krohn's (b. 1947) writing forms an impressive body of work. She has developed her ideas from the visible and the invisible, from consciousness and self, death and life, reality and illusion, good and evil. Her sly humor and lucid language speak of our existence in very strange realms with courage and intelligence. She has been awarded the Finlandia Prize in 1993 for *Mathematical Creatures or Shared Dreams*, and nominated for it for *Hotel Sapiens* (2013). *Tainaron* (1985) was a nominee for the World Fantasy Award and International Horror Guild Award, and *The Bee Pavillion* (2006) for the Nordic Council Literature Prize. One of the greatest visionaries in Finnish literature, Krohn's works have been translated to over 20 languages.



Leena Krohn

# *The Pelican's New Clothes – A Story from the City*

*A children's classic about a friendship  
between a lonely boy and a bird.*

A pelican lands on a beach and becomes fascinated by the way humans live. The bird dresses like a human, gets an apartment, finds work at the opera, falls in love, lives just like anyone else. Grown-ups don't notice anything, but children see right through the pelican's disguise. Before long, the pelican meets its neighbor, ten-year-old Emil, who has recently moved to the city with his mother. Emil comes to serve as the pelican's guide into the world of humans.

But when Emil goes to the countryside to stay with his father, things go awry. The residents of the city realize the pelican is a bird and imprison it at the zoo. Luckily Emil and his friend Elsa come to the rescue.

Originally published in 1976, *The Pelican's New Clothes* is a classic of Finnish children's literature: an enchanting fantasy adventure touching to readers of all ages. It is a story of two strangers who meet in the big city and become friends, a story of dreams, disappointments, and joy. *The Pelican's New Clothes* has been translated into fourteen languages and adapted for the screen as a full-length movie.

*"Reminiscent of Roald Dahl's work, it's a book that deserves to be called a classic."*

Los Angeles Times

*"This is one of those children's books that is unafraid to tackle philosophical questions such as the true nature of personhood – ultimately leading to a bittersweet ending."*

Strange Bookfellows literature blog



*Ihmisen vaatteissa*

WSOY, 1976, 156 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Otečestvo; World English, Cheeky Frawg; Estonia, Eesti Raamat; Germany, Fischer; Hungary, Móra; Italy, Salani; Japan, Shinjusha; Korea, Golden Age; Latvia, Preses Nams; Lithuania, Niek Rimto; Norway, Gyldendal; Poland, Dwie Siostry; Russia, Samokat; Sweden, Fripress



## Young adult novels



© Jennifer Granqvist

Ellen Strömberg (b. 1987) is an author and one of the best-known bloggers among Swedish-speaking Finns. Her first novel, the coming-of age story *Chasing Water* (2018), garnered praise from critics and readers, and was followed by *The Itch* (2019) and the children's book *Maggan All Year Round* (2020). In her latest work, *We'll Just Ride Past* (2022), Strömberg returns to writing about adolescents and that stage of life when the future is wide open. Strömberg lives in Jakobstad in the Ostrobothnia region of Finland.



Ellen Strömberg

## *We'll Just Ride Past*

*This perceptive, realistic novel dives into the world of 15-year-olds on the cusp of the rest of their lives.*

It's spring of ninth grade. Manda and Malin are best friends in a small town where nothing ever happens. The girls are known as the Bicycles, because they're always riding around looking for excitement, be it people to hang out with, a party, a little love—everything goes.

When the hottest guy ever in Malin's opinion gets a job at the local pizzeria, life feels like it's finally starting. But is the interest mutual, or is Malin too ordinary? And is she herself really that interested in the end?

In *We'll Just Ride Past*, Strömberg captures that phase in a young person's life when they see themselves as an adult, when spending time with the family is agony and it's natural to change the way you dress and the music you listen to every week.

*"There is a brilliant touch, which makes this one of the most authentic novels I've ever read. Strömberg's prose is quick, fun and suggestive, making the novel also one of the best this spring."*

Dagens Nyheter

*"Ellen Strömberg has written a young adult novel in which you can nestle and enjoy, many times, like a song you want to listen to on repeat."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

*"Strömberg is skilled at stealthily smuggling in acute observations about friendship, adolescence, and growing up as a young woman. A simple story with a whole other level in between the lines."*

Nuori Voima literary magazine  
on *Chasing Water*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Chasing Water* (*Jaga vatten*, 2018)

*The Itch* (*Klåda*, 2019)



*Vi ska ju bara cykla förbi*

Schildts & Söderströms | Rabén & Sjögren, 2022, 251 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample, English synopsis



Young adult  
novels



© Mikko Palonkorpi

Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen (b. 1977) divides her time between Helsinki and Reykjavik. Her poetry and YA books have won numerous prizes, such as the Kalevi Jäntti Prize for her poetry collection *Happy Cow Poems* (2009) and the Finlandia Junior Prize for *Light Light Light* (2011). In 2020, she published her first novel for adult readers, *As I Saw Them*, to widespread critical acclaim.



Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen

# *Light Light Light*

*An astoundingly immediate novel about painful, intoxicating, complicated adolescence.*

It's the summer of 1986. Frustrated, bored fourteen-year-old Mariia lives in a small town with her father, mother, and brother. Their brown house is also home to silence, as each family member processes Mariia's mother's illness in their own way.

The Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine has exploded, and so does Mariia's life when she meets the radiant Mimi. Mimi lives with her grandmother, aunt, and two great-uncles in a household they refer to as Mayhem. A fierce, passionate, desperate love flares up between Mariia and Mimi. Hot summer days at the beach and '80s hits mingle with death, old age, illness, and fear of radioactive fallout.

But the girls' lives are filled with light light light.

Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen's Finlandia Junior Prize-winning *Light Light Light* is a heart-wrenching romance and a story of impossible choices made at the age of fourteen. The protagonist Mariia has to write to survive, even though she hates it; as a result, she ends up telling her story in ways that surprise the reader and give the book depth.

*"Light Light Light does not nod to its young characters from the world of adults; rather its voice comes, unaltered and alive, from a painful, head-spinning, complicated adolescence in which young people ultimately need to be protected from adults and their blindness."*

Finlandia Junior Prize statement

*"Thanks to its porosity, [Light Light Light] is an easy read: fragmented, self-referential, ironic. In the hands of a literature-loving teenager who sulks attentively during language arts class, it is a work oozing with street credibility."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Valoa valoa valoa*

Karisto, 2011, 175 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Swedish translation,  
English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Turbine; Sweden, Gilla Böcker



Nonfiction



Siberian jay, illustrated by Tuomas Kärkkäinen

Juha Kauppinen (b. 1975) has written about nature and the environment for the last twenty years. As an author, he has won the State Award for Public Information, and as a journalist, the Bonnier Grand Prize for Journalism. In 2019, he published the acclaimed, prize-winning book *Diversity: Stories of Loss*. His book *Awakenings: How I Became an Environmental Activist*, on the rise of the environmental movement and opposition to it, was published in 2021. *The Essential Biodiversity: Pathways to the Natural World* (2022) is his cross-over take on the most important questions of our time.



Juha Kauppinen

# *The Essential Biodiversity*

*Why are humans and nature on a collision course –  
and what are the consequences for both?*

*The Essential Biodiversity: Pathways to the Natural World* is written for those who want a better understanding of biodiversity loss and a quick, accurate overview of the scale of issues we are facing.

*The Essential Biodiversity* takes us from the depths of the ocean four billion years ago to the critical questions of our day. Focusing on specific environments and species, Kauppinen illustrates the interdependence that characterizes the natural world and the reciprocal relationships that weave together the web we call life. Understanding this background makes it easier to grasp how changes in conditions – such as global warming – impact this web of life.

What sets *The Essential Biodiversity* apart is that it also looks for solutions to biodiversity loss. It answers the questions “What should be done now?” and “What I can do to prevent biodiversity loss?” The answers are surprising and provoke fresh thinking.

In this approachable work, award-winning author Juha Kauppinen links biodiversity loss to climate change and draws a clear picture of the essence of ecological crisis. The book is a great introduction to our planet’s most critical question both to adult and young readers.

If enough pieces are lost from the kaleidoscope of life, it stops being an infinite mystery and becomes something painfully limited and comprehensible.



*Monimuotoisuus. Lyhyt oppimäärä*

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 132 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis,  
English translation



*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.



*The Shadow Guest,  
The Hues #3*

*Varjovieras*  
S&S, 2022, 184 pp.



*Danger in the Colour Spa,  
The Hues #4*

*Vaara värikylylässä*  
S&S, 2022, 196 pp.



Vuokko Hurme & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

## 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* 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.

In *The Shadow Guest*, 6-year-old Forrest is enthusiastically practicing using his colours: green, blue and yellow. On one of their excursions to the nearby forres, the family comes across a surly, mysterious man who is half black, half white, just like his house and garden. At the same time, Greyness is spreading.

In *Danger in the Colour Spa*, Ruby and Skye spend their autumn vacation with Bruno's family. They travel to relax at a colour spa, but it soon turns out there is something strange going on. Has also this something to do with greyness?

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

Vuokko Hurme (b. 1979) is an author of children's fiction and nonfiction. Before The Hues series, she has written a middle-grade series Rotation.



The Hues series has so far four books: *Ruby's Secret* (2020), *Many-Coloured Mansion* (2021), *The Shadow Guest* (2022) and *Danger in the Colour Spa* (2022).

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Italy, Mimesis (book #1)





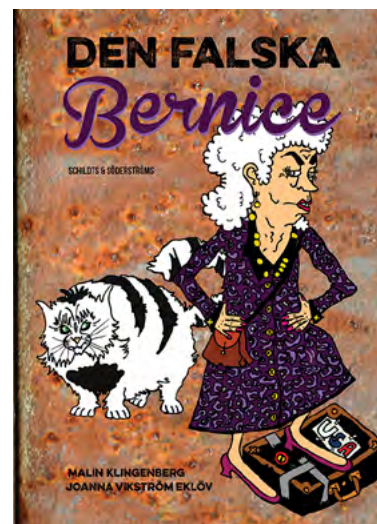
*Patrik and the Senior Squad,  
The Senior Squad #1*

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



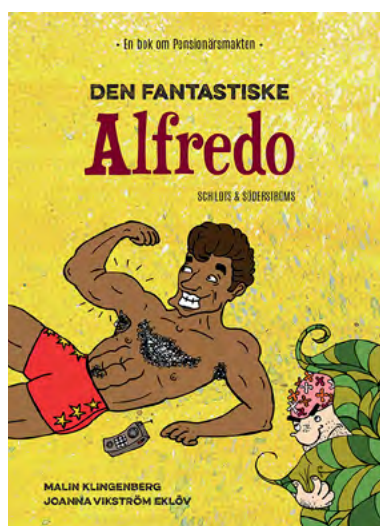
*Irene and the Moneyhoover,  
The Senior Squad #2*

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



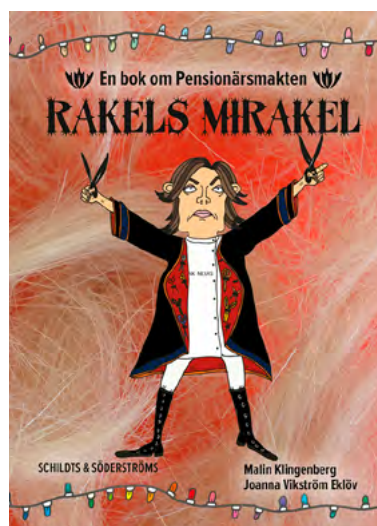
*Fake Bernice,  
The Senior Squad #3*

*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.*

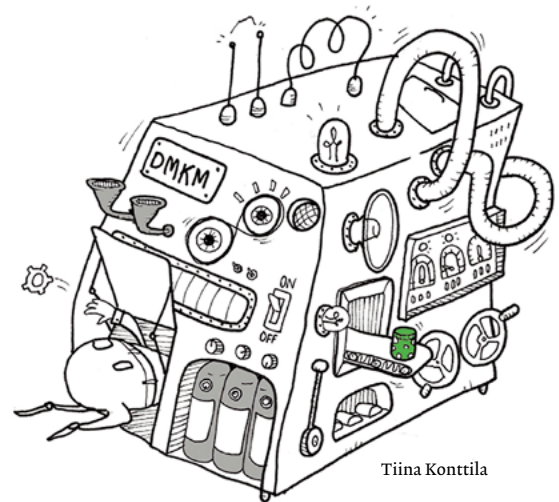
In a small-town school a boy sits in a class room, deep in thought. He's called Patrik, and today will be the most exciting day of his life, although he doesn't know it yet.

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.*

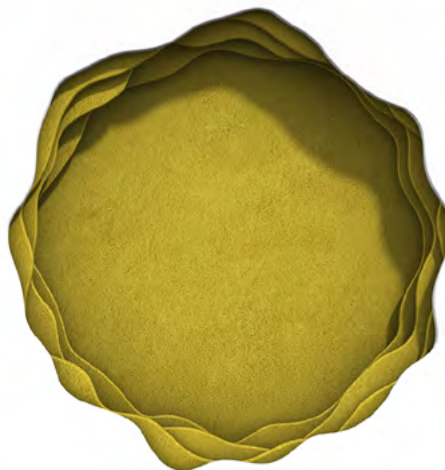
There is a kingdom where the bottom of the ocean is covered with colourful pearls. There is one pearl that everyone wants – the eye gemstone. The story says that whoever finds it will never need to long for anything anymore, and generation after generation people have left their families to search for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



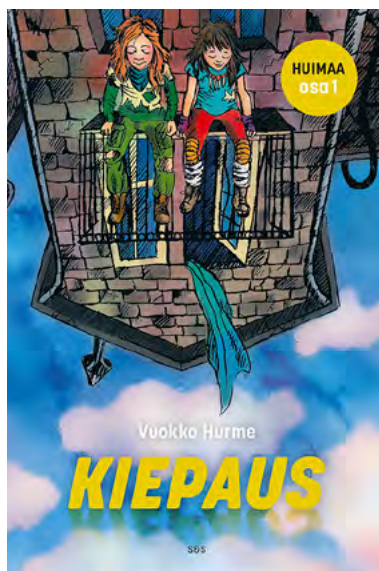
Song of the Eye Gemstone spans four books: *The Pearl Fisher* (2017), *The Bird Master* (2018), *The Scaler of the Peaks* (2019) and *The Victor* (2019).

### 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 (books #1–3), 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.

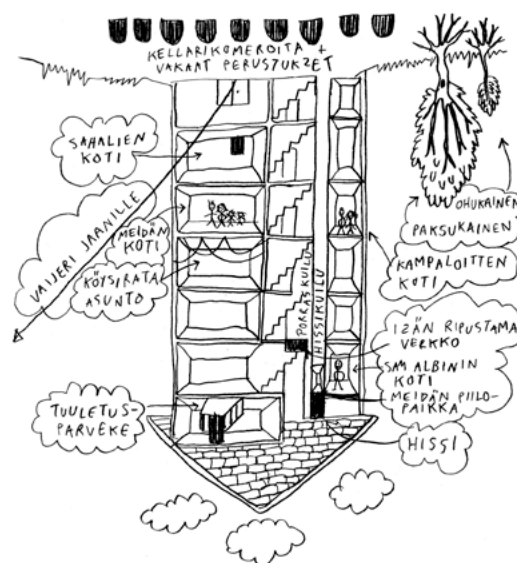
In fact, Lenna and her best friend Jaan have just the right amount of fun and excitement – until the supply of fresh water begins to run out.

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),



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)



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





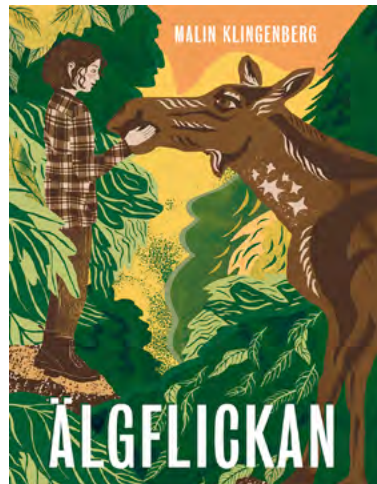
Anna Härmälä

*Postcards from Granma Flyaway*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 32 pp.

**RIGHTS SOLD**

Turkey, Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



Malin Klingenberg

*Elk Girl*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 190 pp.

**RIGHTS SOLD**

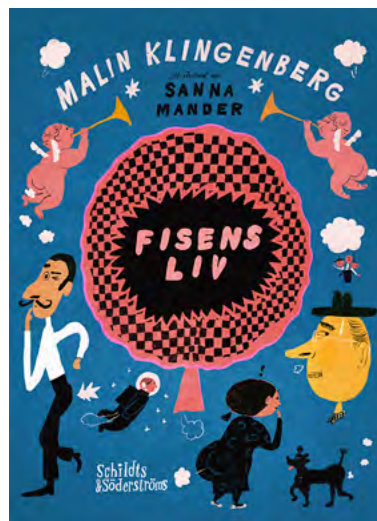
German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata  
Naturae



Helmi Kekkonen & Aino Louhi

*Topsy-Turvy Anna*

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.



Malin Klingenberg & Sanna Mander

*The Secret Life of Farts*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 32 pp.

**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



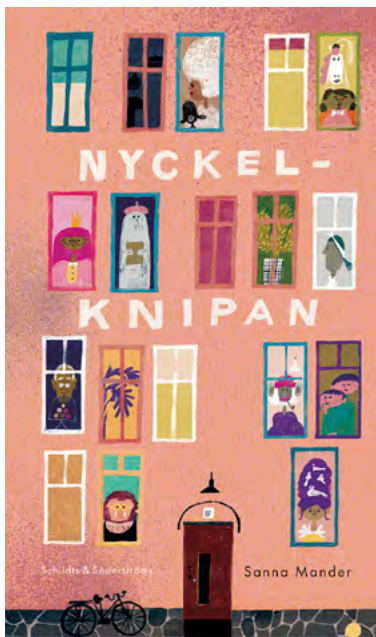
Tuomas Kärkkäinen

*The Illustrated Book of Awelings*

S&S, 2021, 42 pp.

**RIGHTS SOLD**

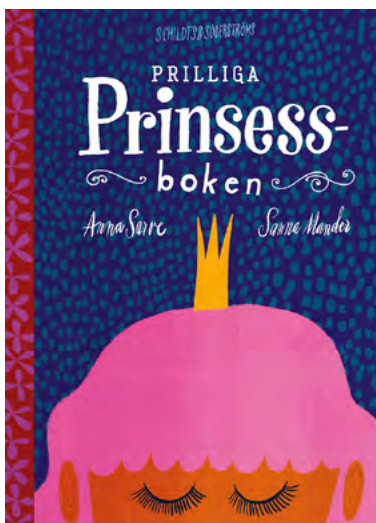
Estonia, Elust enesest



Sanna Mander

*The Lost Key*

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2017, 40 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)



Hiroko Motai & Marika Maijala

*Million Billion Santa Clauses*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2014, 40 pp.

#### 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



Sanna Pelliccioni

*We Had to Leave*

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.



Sanna Pelliccioni

*I Remember You with Love*

Teos Publishers, 2020, 40 pp.

#### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Toledo



Anja Portin & Sanna Pelliccioni

*Matias and Everything that Was Far Away*

S&S, 2021, 36 pp.





Karoliina Pertamo

*Bunny Likes*

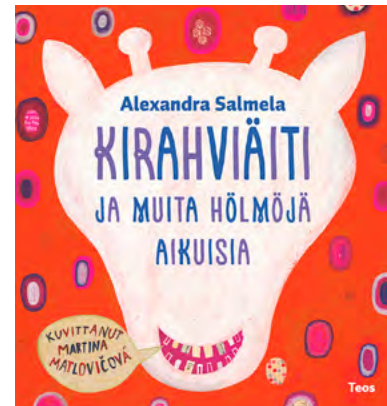
Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2018, 18 pp.



Hannamari Ruohonen

*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites*

S&S, 2018, 30 pp.



Alexandra Salmela &  
Martina Matlovičová

*Mother Giraffe and Other Silly Adults*

Teos Publishers, 2013, 94 pp.

#### RIGHTS SOLD

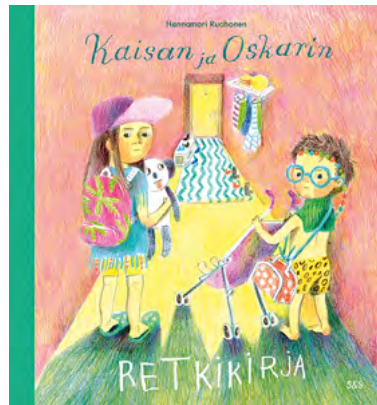
Czech, Albatros; Hungary, Scolar; Serbian,  
Obodsko slovo; Slovakia, Artforum; Turkey,  
Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



Hannamari Ruohonen

*My Lost Mother*

S&S, 2017, 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.



Aki-Pekka Sinikoski &  
Ilja Karsikas

*Under the Moon*

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



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.

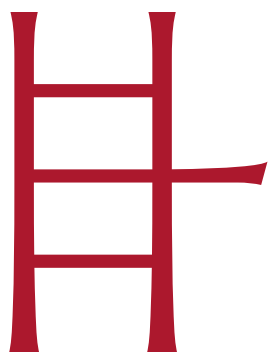


Virpi Kaarina Talvitie,  
Anna Sofia Urrila, Henna-Kaisa  
Wigren & Kirsi-Marja Zitting

*Close Your Eyes Iris!*

S&S, 2019, 42 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](http://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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