



“A stylish and refined concept.”

Reader, Why Did I Marry Him literature blog on *The Dead Still Speak* by R. & R.



“Eva Frantz’s writing has a pleasant flow [...] her tone is often light and, at times, absolutely brilliant.”

Ny Tid magazine on *Out of the Game* by Eva Frantz



“A seamlessly written, fast-paced novel that combines crime mystery with dystopian visions of the near future.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *Apogee* by Piia Leino



“The novel expands my understanding of what it means—and how it feels—to leave everything behind.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *A Gift to My Mother* by Jouko Heikura



“[Readers] will be delighted by the narration that stops every now and then to marvel at the small occurrences and luxuries of everyday life.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *The Showy Strangler* by Eppu Nuotio



“On the crime fiction market that has already seen everything uncountable times, the starting point of *How It Feels to Kill* is exceptionally interesting.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *How It Feels to Kill* by Villy Lindfelt

Contents

Detective novels

- 6 SARI RAINIO & JUHA RAUTAHEIMO *Mortui non silent series*
- 8 EVA FRANTZ *Anna Glad series*
- 10 J. P. PULKKINEN *Vantaa series*
- 12 J. M. ILVES *Bordertown series*

Thrillers

- 16 JOUKO HEIKURA *A Gift to My Mother*
- 17 VILLY LINDFELT *How It Feels to Kill*
- 18 TUOMAS VIMMA *Left Bank | Codename Taiga*
- 22 PIIA LEINO *Apogee*

Literary mysteries & thrillers

- 22 LAURI MÄKINEN *50/50*
- 23 LAURI MÄKINEN *Beginning of the End in D-minor*
- 24 LAURI MÄKINEN *Shrewd as Snakes, Innocent as Doves*
- 25 EVA FRANTZ *Summer Isle*

Cozy crime

- 28 EPPU NUOTIO *Ellen Lähde Investigates series*
- 30 EPPU NUOTIO *Raakel Oksa Sets It Right series*
- 32 MIRJAM LOHI *Mrs. Suominen Arranges series*

Detective novels



Sari Rainio & Juha Rautaheimo

Sari Rainio (b. 1975) is an editorial director and a detective story buff, and her co-author Juha “Nerves of Steel” Rautaheimo (b. 1952) is an investigator who worked for the Violent Crimes Unit of Helsinki Police for forty years.



Eva Frantz

Eva Frantz (b. 1980) is an author and a journalist. She has written five crime novels, and received the Clew of the Year Award and the nomination for the Nordic Glass Key Award. She has also published internationally recognized suspense for middle-grade readers.



J.P. Pulkkinen

J. P. Pulkkinen (b. 1959) is an author and a journalist who has published several literary novels and essays. His crime fiction series, set in the city of Vantaa, has been received with rave reviews and praise for its societal sharpness.



© Fisher King Productions

J.M. Ilves

J.M. Ilves is a pseudonym for author Jussi Siirilä (b. 1967) and scriptwriter, director and film producer Miikko Oikkonen (b. 1975), the creator of the internationally successful *Border-town* television series, sold to over 180 countries.

Sari Rainio & Juha Rautaheimo

Mortui Non Silent series

Cozy crime meets police procedural in a shamelessly nostalgic whodunnit series set in Helsinki of different seasons.

Meticulous police work and forensic pathology are in focus, balanced with evenings of good food and board games, when the complacent detective Ville Karila and the eccentric medical examiner Viola Kaario come together to solve mysteries. Bound together with an old secret, the duo's strange relationship and zingy chemistry is one of the many puzzles of the books.

In the novels, authentic depictions of real police work come together with cozy settings of different Helsinki locations. Each of the novels takes place during a holiday – be it Christmas, Midsummer or Easter – and hence the reader is immersed into the atmospheric settings and epicurean pleasures of different seasons. Hidden in the stories are not only nods and winks to the works of crime classics but also actual, real crimes that have happened in Finland.

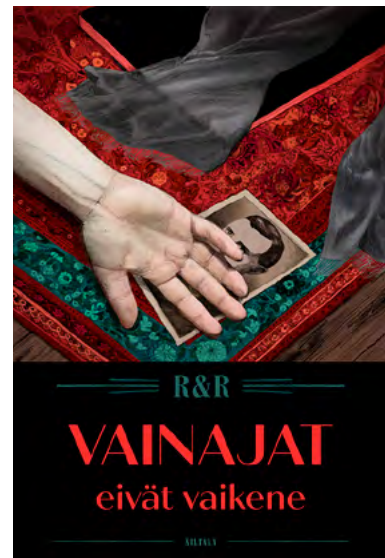
Praised for its complex characters and pleasingly slow pace of events, the series is “modern Maigret” for readers who like their mysteries cozy but credible.

In *The Dead Still Speak* (2021), Karila and Kaario investigate a death of a woman who has been living in thrall to a threatening Casanova. But as a second body turns up, the case turns more complicated. Could a victim be the perpetrator – and the true culprits get away scot-free?

In *Death Comes for the Dead* (2023), the secret Kaario has been keeping from Karila is still gnawing their friendship – as is her own mission to put a few things straight. But there is also a new case at hand. The roots of a violent death of a man already declared dead a decade before seem to lead to an old tragedy.

“This is an absolutely marvellous old-school detective novel! Credible characters and depictions of Helsinki [...] What I loved the most was the beginning and the ending, and everything inbetween.”

Tuijan lukuhetki literature blog



Vainajat eivät vaikene

The Dead Still Speak, Mortui non silent #1

Siltala Publishing, 2021, 477 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Ühinenud ajakirjad (book #1)

READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English samples,
English synopses

“The narration is unhurried and rich, and at times, slightly old-fashioned in the style of proper cozy crime.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

“The wintery landscape of Helsinki also has a leading role in the story, and the author duo does a great job in painting a beautiful picture. Most importantly, the plot is captivating and, though unhurried, still gripping. Nothing in the story is self-evident!”

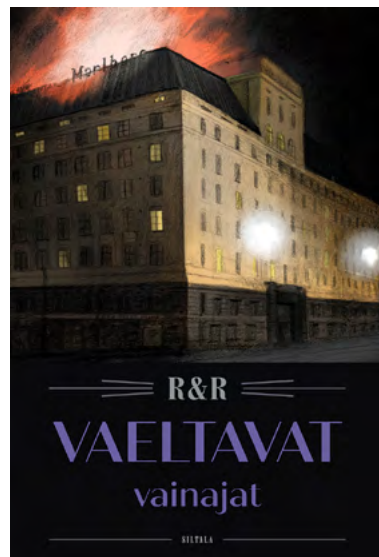
Paulan lukuhetki literature blog

Karila couldn't decide how serious Viola was. Sometimes he simply could not understand her. So instead, he turned his attention back to the game board, sighed deeply, and began to remove the letters he had just added. He had been counting on that brassiere, lying in wait all night for the moment when he could impress his opponent with *strophium*. He had actually had this word in mind on their previous game night but had never had the opportunity to use it. Karila would look up Latin words ahead of time for their contests, especially ones that weren't the most obvious in light of their rules. He imagined that he was giving the impression of someone with a broad proficiency in Latin, but Viola had long since unmasked his strategy.

Now she watched with a familiar frown as her friend tried to come up with a new word to replace the one she had rejected. She almost felt bad for him. Who knew how long he had been waiting to work in the Latin word for bra? If past experience held now, Viola would be waiting until the end of the world. Ville never had a backup plan. Actually, sometimes it felt like he was more focused on coming up with surprising words than on playing to win.

The Dead Still Speak

Translated by Owen F. Witesman



Vaeltava vainaja

Death Comes for the Dead, Mortui non silent #2

Siltala Publishing, 2023, 476 pp.

ALSO AVAILABLE

No Mercy from the Dead, Mortui non silent #3
(*Vainajat vailla armaa*, 2024)

Reflection of the Dead, Mortui non silent #4
(*Vainaja veden peilissä*, 2025)

The Last Dead Man, Mortui non silent #5
(*Viimeinen vainaja*, 2026)

Eva Frantz

Anna Glad series

Tangled threads of tricky crimes solved by an imperfect, middle-aged female constable trying to find her way in life.

The series of stand-alone whodunnits present the reader senior constable Anna Glad, who comes across not only crimes but also very relatable everyday problems of an ordinary woman. With a touch of romance and humour, Eva Frantz has created a heroine whom it is hard not to like.

In the novels, Frantz deals with issues of our social media era: hate speech, grooming, and isolation. The crimes are hideous, but the violence is not excessive, and with the small disasters that keep appearing in Anna Glad's personal life there is a delicate balance between suspense and coziness.

Awarded with the Clew of the Year Award and with sales of so far over 55,000 copies only in Finland, Anna Glad novels are the top of Finnish crime fiction.

The Blue Villa (2017) starts with a chilling scene, typical of Eva Frantz. Five-year-old Bruno wakes up in the middle of the night to a noise. He goes downstairs to find his mother Becca – but she doesn't wake up. As the investigation takes off, dark and dangerous things from her past start to surface.

In *The Eight Maiden* (2018), an early morning's winter-swimmer gets the fright of his life when he bumps into something in the ice-cold water. Anna Glad is soon tangled in deeds brought on by the vicious culture of physical abuse which always flourishes around money and power.

Out of the Game (2020) is a jigsaw puzzle of a crime novel: A mother encounters a terrible surprise when she peeps at her baby in the stroller. An elderly opponent of a cycle lane goes missing, leaving behind only blood tracks. The American wife of a local ice-hockey legend is surrounded by an atmosphere of secrecy. Anna Glad, very late in her first pregnancy, seems to be running out of time to solve all the mysteries.



Blå villan

The Blue Villa, Anna Glad #1

Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 255 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Gyldendal (books #1–3);
Estonia, Rahva Raamat (books #1–2),
German, Aufbau (books #2–3), Sweden,
Sekwa (book #3)

READING MATERIAL

Swedish originals, Finnish translations,
English samples, English synopses

In *I Will Never Let You Take My Child* (2023) Anna Glad is trying to get her routines as a mother and a policewoman running. While her partner Tomas seems to be very occupied with the family problems of his new friend Mimmi, Anna Glad needs to put together pieces that don't seem to belong together: where has the school secretary disappeared, why is the sewer in the most popular playground of the town flooding strangely, and is there some hidden art in a building that will soon be pulled down?

"Eva Frantz's writing has a pleasant flow [...]; her tone is often light and, at times, absolutely brilliant."

Ny Tid newspaper on *The Eight Maiden*

"In her third novel, Frantz changes the season; enough with the dazzling greenery and Finland-Swedish cottage coziness. The winter has come and the night is long."

Svenska Yle on *Out of the Game*

"There is something unusually refreshing in Anna Glad. Maybe the fact that she is so human?"

Dagens nyheter newspaper on *Out of the Game*

The last small uphill climb to the semi-detached houses was a challenge, but she managed it. All was still quiet in the buggy when she stopped, dug out her key from her pocket and lifted up the piece of cotton.

"So, little miss Tuuli, home again..."

Saara's neighbour, a retired primary school teacher called Margit Bergholm, was standing shakily on a ladder, cleaning the kitchen window. She nearly tumbled off the ladder when she heard Saara screaming.

"Good lord, what's going on?" Margit called to her.

She was both shaken and angry; she could easily have done herself an injury.

Saara was standing on the pavement as if she'd been turned to stone, looking with horror into the buggy.

Out of the Game

Translated by Tracy Hurford



Den åttonde tärnan

The Eighth Maiden, Anna Glad #2

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 318 pp.



För han var redan dö

Out of the Game, Anna Glad #3

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 417 pp.



Ungen min får du aldrig

I Will Never Let You Take My Child, Anna Glad #4

Schildts & Söderströms, May 2023, c. 360 pp.

J. P. Pulkkinen

Vantaa series

*A hardboiled crime series set in the city of Vantaa –
a rough-edged boomtown with brutal charm.*

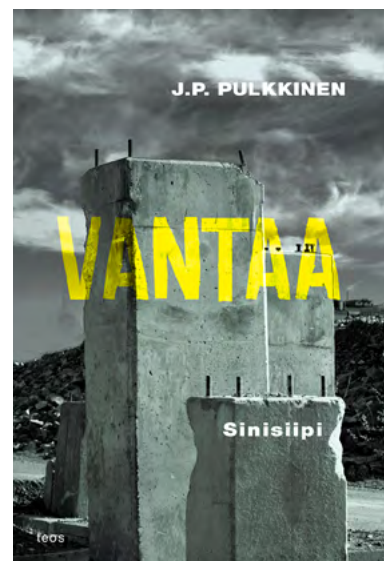
J. P. Pulkkinen's crime series is set in the city of Vantaa – a rough-edged metropolis just north of Helsinki city limits, where the building boom shows no sign of stopping. The realistic milieu grows to one of the main characters of the series, creating a special atmosphere and a tone for the novels.

The well-drafted setting is combined with credible characters and a complex web of relationships between people of today and the past. The main characters are police detective Timo Markkula and his rookie partner, Liina Vahtera. Refreshingly sober, sane and normal, despite some secrets in their past, the two come across hideous murders.

The Large Blue (2018) takes off with a flashback to 1971. Two eleven-year-olds sneak out to watch race car drivers in training. An accident happens, and it's also witnessed by a local construction tycoon. Forty years later the other of the boys, Timo Markkula, has become a police detective, the other has inherited the tycoon's empire – and ended up on the other side of the law, as it turns out. In an investigation accompanied by an escalating deathrate it soon becomes clear that the city has been built during the past decades with reckless disregard of the cost.

The White Crow (2019) starts with a brutal murder: a disputed politician is beheaded in an elevator. In the politically heated surroundings of Vantaa, there are not only web warriors and hatemongers – but now also a cold-blooded killer. The investigation lands on the shoulders of Liina Vahtera and Timo Markkula, who has recently only narrowly escaped death and is still in recovery.

In *The Red Cupboard*, 8-year-old Helmi's mother disappears. The mother's life is littered with alcohol, men and a lot of bad luck and indifference – but as Liina and Timo dig deeper, they find also genuine evil.



Sinisiipi

The Large Blue, Vantaa #1

Teos Publishers, 2018, 336 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English samples,
English synopses, German translation
(book #1)

"J.P. Pulkkinen has an eye and an ear for nuance. With a few choice words he paints a whole mental landscape, quite unlike to the usual straightforward and story-driven mainstream Finnish crime fiction."

Kauppalehti Optio Magazine

"Pulkkinen describes his Vantaa with rough tenderness. The town lives and breathes and it has depth and edginess just as a good central character ought to have."

Aamulehti newspaper

Time stands still, and time leaps forward. He is stuck in place and can't get anywhere. He imagines himself hunched over, shuffling under the highway, and then he is already on the other side. After the tunnel, the old brick buildings look like a wall with the nineteen seventies on the other side, or some other even more distant past, when they built buses here. There is a delicate green in the birch trees, and some memory makes him whistle and wave his hands. On the side of the road grows cow parsley, mugwort, and some prettier plants, and his spirits begin to rise before his journey is interrupted. A hare stands frozen in the grass like the hare statue in front of the shopping center. The pills are starting to kick in.

Turning onto a familiar straightaway, in seconds he arrives. The only obstacle is a gate with a lock dangling from it. He knew to expect this, though. They sealed the property and put their own locks on. [...]

Halfway through dropping from the fence, he remembers what the idiot from Korso said. The only thing he wanted to remember from all of his harangues.

Men from Vantaa are like rocks. They don't know why they're falling, but they want to keep on doing it.

The White Crow

Translated by Owen F. Witesman



Valkoinen varis

The White Crow, Vantaa #2

Teos Publishers, 2019, 288 pp.



Lapsi punaisessa komerossa

The Red Cupboard, Vantaa #3

Teos Publishers, 2021, 266 pp.

J. M. Ilves

Bordertown series

Novels behind the Netflix success series take the reader to the borderland between Finland and Russia.

A Finnish town right by the Russian border. A detective with hopes of a new start. A crime with connections to the east... This is the starting point of the Bordertown series, which as a television series has been sold to 180 areas, making it the most successful Finnish noir series ever.

The lead in the novels is played by detective inspector Kari Sorjonen, one of the most respected officers at the National Bureau of Investigation in Finland. Sorjonen is a Sherlock of an investigator, with an almost eerie ability to see connections and put together puzzles, but in his private life he is more of a Watson, mostly lost in the less complex network of feelings and relations.

In the first novel of the series, *Doll's House* (2016), Sorjonen has just moved with his family to an idyllic small town near the border of Russia to lead a quiet, peaceful life to help his wife recover from a brain cancer. However, the crimes seem to be less idyllic even there, and soon Sorjonen finds himself tangled in human trafficking across the Russian border – the traces of which seem to lead high to the town's leadership.

The Endgame (2017) takes off even with more vigor, as Sorjonen's 18-year-old daughter Janina wakes up on a sailing boat – covered with blood. A body of a middle-aged man is found abroad, and all the evidence seems to point at the girl. A cat and a mouse play with the serial killer is about to begin.

By the third Bordertown novel, *Five Finger Exercise* (2018), Sorjonen has come to realize that the small town attitudes, political shenanigans and frontier crimes can be even harder to handle than the illegal activities in the capital. An exceptionally cold-blooded double murder sets off an investigation on both sides of the Eastern border. When the crime connects to Sorjonen's nearest and dearest, the stakes rise. He's up against a killer with nothing to lose. And an even more sinister man behind him...



Sorjonen. Nukkekot

Doll's House, Bordertown #1

Gummerus, 2016, 283 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books #1–3); Germany, Suhrkamp (books #1–2); Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go (books #1–4)

READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English samples (books #1–3), German translations (books #1–2)

In *The Man-Beast* (2019) someone is taunting detective inspector Sorjonen. The murders under investigation are theatrical, as if someone were committing brutal crimes in order to leave a message. It's hard for Sorjonen to get any definite leads, as he is not himself. His wife has died of cancer, and grief and guilt feelings are undermining his ability to act. In addition, the murderer's victims appear to be innocent, unlike their neighbours and relatives. And why does the whole dirty game seem to revolve around Sorjonen himself?

"Doll's House is an entertaining crime novel. The two authors behind the pseudonym write with short chapters and with an intriguing plot. The proportions of surprise and suspense are just right, and there is even humor. A very good opening to a crime series."

Luetut kirjat literature blog on *Doll's House*

"Sorjonen is without doubt the most sympathetic detective inspector I have ever encountered. Even being exceptionally skilled at his job he feels most awkward and vulnerable in his relationships and keeps making common, simple mistakes. That makes Doll's House especially approachable."

Suomi lukee literature blog on *Doll's House*

"A proper crime novel with lots of Russian spices and character."

Kymen Sanomat newspaper on *Five Finger Exercise*

"The father has a restraining order," Lena adds. "He assaulted and threatened Sonja while they were going through the divorce."

"Do you suspect the father?" I ask innocently.

Niko glances at Lena, and a guarded look comes over his face. He seems to be afraid of some kind of trap. He's not completely wrong, either. He's a sharp kid.

"That has to be our starting point," he says finally, having examined the situation from every angle. "Familicide is the most likely explanation."

I nod.

"Of course that's the starting point. But after that?"

Niko looks anxious.

"What do you mean after that?"

"After the father has been found innocent."

Five Finger Exercise

Translated by Mia Spangenberg



Sorjonen. Loppupeli

The Endgame, Bordertown #2

Gummerus, 2017, 331 pp.



Sorjonen. Viiden sormen harjoitus

Five Finger Exercise, Bordertown #3

Gummerus, 2018, 324 pp.



Sorjonen. Ihmispeto

The Man-beast, Bordertown #4

Gummerus, 2019, 314 pp.

Thrillers



Jouko Heikura

Jouko Heikura (b. 1961) is a writer and journalist living in London. He has published three novels before his thriller *A Gift to My Mother* (2020), a superb dive into one family's dark past.



Villy Lindfelt

Villy Lindfelt (b.1976) is a writer and lawyer. His debut *How It Feels to Kill* (2020) has been praised for its psychological depth, chilling tension and fluent narration.



Tuomas Virmas

Tuomas Virmas's (b. 1979) debut *Helsinki 12* (2004) made him the interpreter of urban life. After that, he has become known for his shamelessly entertaining, super-charged, humor-sown and unassailably absorbing novels.



Piia Leino

Piia Leino (b. 1977) has written five novels so far, gaining international reputation already with her second novel, dystopian thriller *Heaven* (2018), which was awarded the European Union Prize for Literature. Her novels are captivating visions of the future.

Jouko Heikura

A Gift to My Mother

A carefully guarded secret, a hushed crime – and a gift that turns the lives of mother and son upside down.

The old, Finnish born mother of a middle-aged lawyer Timothy Stone has a terminal cancer. When he finds a letter addressed to him in her papers by accident, a secret she's guarded her whole life is revealed to him.

Timothy, now in the middle of a divorce, has been brought up by the most important person in his life, his mother who lost her own family in her youth. Now he decides to give her a special Mother's Day surprise – even though organising it calls for dubious means and extreme measures.

Jouko Heikura's *A Gift to My Mother* is a seamlessly built, addictive and riveting combination of family drama and psychological thriller, peppered with credible, multi-faceted characters. The dark and devious story set in London, the author's home town, poses questions about whether the end justifies the means, and the times it is right to act wrongly.

"Heikura abridges and concentrates on the plot, resulting in a tight psychological thriller that is also his best novel yet."

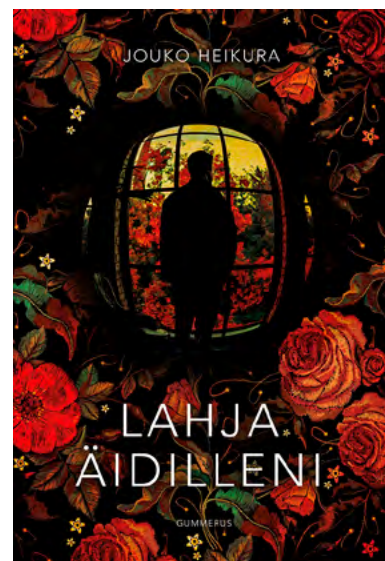
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

"Here's a splendid summer crime novel to satisfy various tastes! A drop of crime, a slice of family saga and a pinch of suspense in perfect measure. Heikura's writing flows enjoyably. He doesn't flourish or try too hard but instead lets the story take the reins. And what a ride, with an impressive plot that starts to unfold in a well-heeled part of London. [...] I shall not open the story one iota further, so as to leave the reader to discover the delicious family secrets."

Ilta-Sanomat newspaper

"Heikura has managed to write a novel that is a touching portrait of a family, an impressive personal story and an entertaining thriller."

Satakunnan Kansa newspaper



Lahja äidilleni

Gummerus, 2020, 253 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation,
English synopsis

Villy Lindfelt

How It Feels to Kill

An addictive thriller debut about the darkest desires possible.

Technology lawyer Mia Lund is desperately trying to scour new clients for her solo law firm, all the while striving to survive the challenging life of a single parent. A message from Mia's former client Robert Holmster gets her hopes up momentarily. The company founded by Holmster, AR Combat Technologies, is globally recognized, and an assignment might wipe away Mia's financial troubles for a long while.

However, the meeting with Holmster goes against her plans. The mentally unstable Holmster tells Mia something she can hardly believe, and offers her an assignment that is both disturbing and unusual. As she accepts the lucrative assignment against her professional principles, she gets drawn back into the world she has managed to avoid for a decade, a world tinged with violence.

Villy Lindfelt's debut crime novel offers the reader a surprising premise, interesting characters, brilliant plot twists and foreboding on the autumnal streets of Helsinki.

"How It Feels to Kill has a hardboiled name. Equally hardboiled is the beginning of the novel, written as a thriller that deliberately uses cinematic effects in its style. The mood of the story stays focused even though Lindfelt is in places like best-selling Liza Marklund, meticulous with his detail."

Ilkka-Pohjalainen newspaper

"Villy Lindfelt's debut thriller How It Feels to Kill opens to an interesting setup with delightful psychological depth. [...] The detailed, fluent narration builds suspense while successfully hooking the reader. [...] The whole works well, it is composed, and although dealing with the darkest volitions and wishes, it is not particularly dismal or brutal. [...] So convincingly does Lindfelt weave the criminal web in his novel that hopefully a sequel will follow."

Keskisuomalainen newspaper



Miltä tuntuu tappaa

Siltala Publishing, 2020, 280 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Tuomas Vimma

Left Bank | Operation Taiga

A delicious Parisian flair. A fever-pitch, tightly wound action thriller. And a lethal weapon straight from the Finnish reserves.

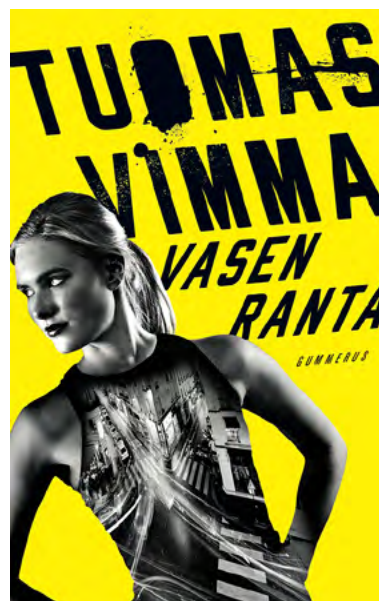
In the action-packed thrillers by author Tuomas Vimma the women are strong, the bouts are hard-fought, and reading enjoyment is assured. In the core of both novels is one question: can a Finnish woman warrior's tenacity hold out when a superpower's highly-tuned machinery of violence is trying to hunt her down?

Left Bank pits French special forces against a female lieutenant in the Finnish reserves, mixes in an old fugitive Corsican separatist and adds loads of local spice and humor. The stand-alone sequel *Operation Taiga* even tightens the tension, resulting into an action thriller unlike any you have read before—a surely targeted grenade toss of a book.

To add to the thrill, the author himself has gotten into chameleonic adventures in his background research for the novels—including hiring a burglar to break into Brussels' central prison.

In *The Left Bank* (2017), a nail bomb explodes at an outdoor café in central Paris. A Finnish woman perishes in the attack, and her twin sister, Katariina Päivänsalo, arrives to settle her estate. Soon Katariina's path crosses with Maxime, a Parisian wedding photographer, who learns he has just taken the most important and most lethal photo of his life on the morning of the explosion. Soon Maxime and Katariina find themselves led by the gorgeous drug dealer Camille through the Paris catacombs, pursued by an enemy who'll stop at nothing.

In *Operation Taiga* (2020), Katariina has been placed at the top of France's enemies list, not least because of her newly found father, the notorious Corsican terrorist Le Renard. With a contract killer on her heels, she eludes the clutches of separatists and mafiosos in Corsica and escapes to a Parisian bordello owned by the Mexican mafia, eventually becoming the guest of drug dealers from Antwerp.



Vasen ranta

Left Bank

Gummerus, 2017, 304 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

“The women in the novel are active and independent. This is typical for Tuomas Virmas, but it’s still a rare treat, especially in an action thriller. Virmas plays with the usual story lines and plot twists of the genre in other ways, too: the motifs of fugitives in extremity, secret conspiracies, and terrorism are crafted with care, but also with humor. [...] The result is a truly clever and fast-paced thriller. What’s lost in realism is made up for in his exuberantly affectionate portrait of the many faces of Paris.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *Left Bank*

“Virmas’s best weapons as author are having the nerve, being bold and capable to surprise the reader time and time again.”

Kuiske literature blog on *Operation Taiga*

“It was pure pleasure to read – a rare occasion! – about women in action, using all the means available with no second thoughts, women that just fire away, also very literally, in their roles as lead characters and heroes.”

Mummo matkalla literature blog on *Operation Taiga*

At two minutes to the hour, young Leroy parked his scooter along a narrow cobblestone street in the Second Arrondissement, a stone’s throw from the Centre Pompidou. On the double he headed for the outdoor terrace of the corner cafe. Without slowing his steps, Maxime swung his camera bag around and dug out the latest model Canon DSLR. After reaching his station, he snapped two quick shots and then remembered that the camera’s memory card was full of precious pictures from the previous day’s gig. However, there was still one minute until go time, and with the smooth ease of muscle memory, he slipped the customer’s SD card into the coin pocket of his jeans and inserted a new card into the camera.

Where he stood fifteen meters away from the restaurant, the shockwave of the explosion hit Maxime like a ginned-up accusation of child molestation. Ripped his shirt off, it threw all eighty-seven kilos of him against the wall of the nearby public toilet. Screws and nails mowed dozens of passers-by to the ground.

If Maxime hadn’t lost consciousness instantly, he might have appreciated the precision with which one of the electroplated sheet metal screws tore a jagged hole in the steel wall of the toilet only a few centimeters from his left ear and another made a direct hit on the Kevlar shell of his camera bag directly over his heart.

Left Bank

Translated by Owen F. Witesman



Koodinimi Taiga

Operation Taiga

Gummerus, 2020, 332 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Piia Leino

Apogee

A visionary's chillingly timely sci-fi crime novel takes place in a world altered by ecological catastrophe and technology.

It's 2045. Earth's march toward ecological catastrophe has continued, and the environmental movement is radicalizing. A community of eco-activists has just committed mass suicide in Sweden. Neighboring Finland has yet to see such nihilism.

So when the owner of a chain of clothing stores dies in a freak smart-device accident, the police do not initially suspect a crime. But suspicions form elsewhere. Journalist Aaro Kangas is assigned to look into the potential radicalization of an ecological community at Tammilaakso and unwittingly ends up at the heart of an ambitious plan for annihilation. The investigation quickly turns incredibly personal – and incredibly dangerous.

The sci-fi crime novel *Apogee* is set in an era when ecological catastrophe and new technology have reworked reality into an unrecognizable state. Where is humankind's place in a world where machines do almost everything more effectively? Should we be afraid? If so, of what?

"A seamlessly written, fast-paced novel that combines crime mystery with dystopian visions of the near future."

Keskisuomalainen newspaper

ALSO AVAILABLE

Ugly Cashier (*Ruma kassa*, 2016)

Heaven, (*Taivas*, 2018)

Rights sold: Albania, Muza Publishing; Bulgaria, Perseus; Croatia, Vuković & Runjić; Czech Republic, Větrné mlýny; German, Schenk Verlag; Hungary, Scolar; Italy, Voland; Lithuania, Aukso žuvys; North Macedonia, Artkonekt; Poland, Widnokrag; Serbia, Kontrast; Slovenia, Pivec; Ukraine, Astrolabe

Overtime (*Yliaika*, 2019)

The Heirloom Chronicles (*Aarteidesi aikakirjat*, 2022)



Lakipiste

S&S, 2021, 239 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; Hungary, Metropolis
Media

Literary mysteries & thrillers



Lauri Mäkinen

Lauri Mäkinen's (b. 1978) has written three novels in which a whodunit mystery or international espionage are set on the stage of 20th century history. Mastering the details, the eras, and the tension, Mäkinen is one of the most skilled authors of literary suspense.



Eva Frantz

Eva Frantz (b. 1980) is an author and a journalist. She has written five crime novels, and received the Clew of the Year Award and the nomination for the Nordic Glass Key Award. She has also published internationally recognized suspense for middle-grade readers.

Lauri Mäkinen

50/50

*When the truth finally emerges,
it is too devastating to face.*

It is autumn 1941, and the Continuation War is being fought in northeastern Finland. Military detective Härmä discovers a crashed aeroplane; a red star shines in its tail. The crew of the plane are dead, and the four Soviet spies carried on it have vanished. The hunt begins.

A short time later, three of the spies have been killed. Härmä has captured a woman and a man found wandering in the woods. The woman is badly wounded, the man is naked and covered in tattoos. Both tell their own stories. Which one is telling the truth, or is either, or are they both? And above all: which one is the missing Soviet spy, faced with the death penalty?

Lauri Mäkinen's second novel offers the reader a masterful combination of a war story, a whodunnit with creeping suspense and historical fiction with a storyline that moves with ease from peacetime Helsinki to the lives of Finnish immigrants in Canada, and from the battlefields of the war to a Soviet prison camp steeped in cruelty.

"Survival and what a man can and will do to survive is one of the main themes of the novel. The way the novel builds this theme is what makes it one of the most magnificent reads of the autumn. [...] The plot moves between the suspicions and the guilt both the suspects carry so fast that you feel like reading the crescendo of a Hercule Poirot mystery."

Aamulehti newspaper



50/50

Siltala Publishing, 2017, 320 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

ALSO AVAILABLE

Shrewd as Snakes, Innocent as Doves (Älykkäät kuin käärmeet, viattomat kuin kyyhkyset, 2015)

The Beginning of the End in D Minor (Lopun alku D-mollissa, 2022)

Lauri Mäkinen

The Beginning of the End in D Minor

A blood-curdling panorama of espionage, power and freedom in the fateful years of world history.

In his new book Lauri Mäkinen, who has previously hooked his readers with two suspense novels, tells a masterful story that brings together strands from the Spanish Civil War to the Second World War, interweaving the ideologies of the late 1930s and early 1940s.

The Finn Nalle Malmi fights in the Spanish Civil War at Belchite in 1937. In 1938 Berlin the actress Lena Dolgorukov has become a favourite in National Socialist Germany. In Tokyo in 1939 a spy-ring radio operator, Max Clausen, is seeking to escape his double life. In 1940 Moscow General Arslan Ibragimov has risen to a dangerous rank as purges have swallowed up his predecessor as head of military intelligence, and in 1941 Minister Joseph Goebbels strengthens his position in his east Prussian bunker.

Alongside the spy adventure, the book traces how people themselves change as they seek to change the world.

“A skilfully constructed novel about matters of importance.”

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

“An impressive and well-researched panorama of the game of mirrors and delusions that is espionage.”

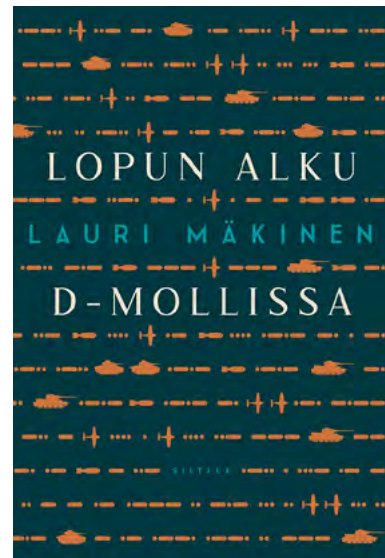
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

“A breath-taking, blood-curdling, skilfully written, masterly tapestry that ends in a hefty surprise.”

Kirjoja hyllystäni literature blog

“The world of espionage and intelligence Mäkinen has created is amazingly fascinating and believable—I hope to see it in his future books, too. 5 stars.”

Seura magazine



Lopun alku d-mollissa

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 542 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

ALSO AVAILABLE

Shrewd as Snakes, Innocent as Doves (Älykkäät kuin käärmeet, viattomat kuin kyyhkyset, 2015)

50% (50%, 2017)

Lauri Mäkinen

Shrewd as Snakes, Innocent as Doves

A nightly fire. A burned woman, a dead body. A struggle to save souls that turns into a struggle to stay alive.

Southwestern Africa, Ovamboland, November 1924. Chapel built by Finnish missionaries burns in the middle of the night. A badly burned woman lies in the yard, and an unknown charred corpse sits inside the chapel.

The event turns old pastor Tobias Johansson's calm last years in the missionary field from a peaceful routine into a chaos. In an attempt to save an innocent woman from a death sentence, the pastor manages to discover secrets that eventually change his faith, as well as of the whole missionary station.

Shrewd as Snakes, Innocent as Doves is a clever murder mystery that takes its reader to the 20s Ovamboland and the missionary workers' colourful everyday life. Lutherans, Catholics and Anglicans struggle for territories and for local inhabitants' souls and missionaries deal with kings' courts. All this added to the personal motives of the characters constitute a spicy thriller.

Shrewd as Snakes, Innocent as Doves is Lauri Mäkinen's first novel, which was awarded as the best crime debut of the year and nominated for both Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize and the Christian Book Prize.

"Lauri Mäkinen's novel breaks genre boundaries in a courageous and fertile way. The book is not only a crime story, but also a mix of relationships and drama. Shrewd as Snakes, Innocent as Doves is an enjoyable reading experience, a dive into the past, particularly into the power struggle between religions and peoples."

Turun Sanomat newspaper



*Älykkäät kuin käärmeet,
viattomat kuin kyyhkyset*

Siltala Publishing, 2015, 438 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

ALSO AVAILABLE

50% (50%, 2017)

The Beginning of the End in D Minor (Lopun alku D-mollissa, 2022)

Eva Frantz

Summer Isle

An island paradise in summer becomes the scene of a Christie-style murder mystery.

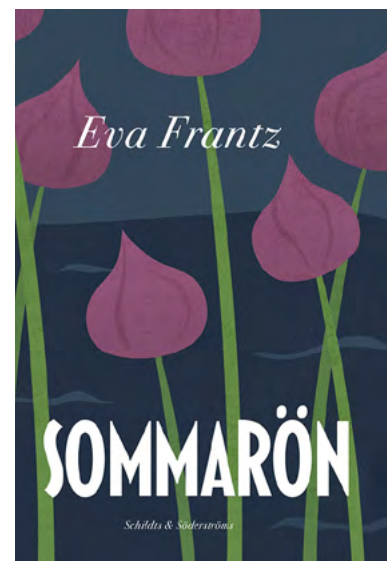
It's a hot summer on the Åland archipelago, and insurance company Axelsson's summer cottages are filling up with vacationing workers and their families. Everyone is looking forward to socializing, grilling, having cold drinks, swimming in the sea, and enjoying the sun.

In the middle of the week, someone finds old slides showing vacationers from the 1970s. Everyone gets together to watch them – but one slide has gone missing. The next night a storm rises, and a dense fog descends over the island. The internet connection is broken, phones no longer work, and the vacationers find themselves isolated from the rest of the world. And soon it appears that there is a murderer in their midst...

Summer Isle is a classic tale of suspense in which the sunny summer's shadows are darker than black, in the best tradition of Agatha Christie and Maria Lang. Facts that seem trivial turn out to be crucial; the subtly built tension of the plot keeps readers in its grip; and the nostalgic shots of the summer fun in the 70s set the scene for nail-biting suspense.

"Eva Frantz knows how to write classic crime fiction. It's not just her ability to create intrigue, but also the psychological clairvoyance she employs to create her characters using small, everyday things, like dialogue. [...] The cosy and the horrific are naturally intertwined and meet on Summer Isle. [...] Frantz's language is a pleasure, and it mingles with the things she describes without making a number of itself."

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper



Sommarön

Schildts & Söderströms, 2016, 266 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,
English sample

ALSO AVAILABLE

Anna Glad series, see pp. 8–9

Cozy crime



Eppu Nuotio

Eppu Nuotio's (b. 1962) is the bestselling author of cozy crimes series *Ellen Lähde Investigates* (2017–2019) and *Raakel Oksa Sets It Right* (2022–). Her extensive body of work includes also stand-alone novels, children's books, plays and television scripts.



Mirjam Lohi

Mirjam Lohi (b. 1961) has written five novels. Her series, *Mrs Suominen Arranges* (2018–2020) has been described also a “mama-lit”: feel-good with some romance, tender intrigue and a lot of joys of everyday life.

Eppu Nuotio

Ellen Lähde Investigates series

The best-selling series mixing feel-good and crime, starred by a lady in the prime of her life.

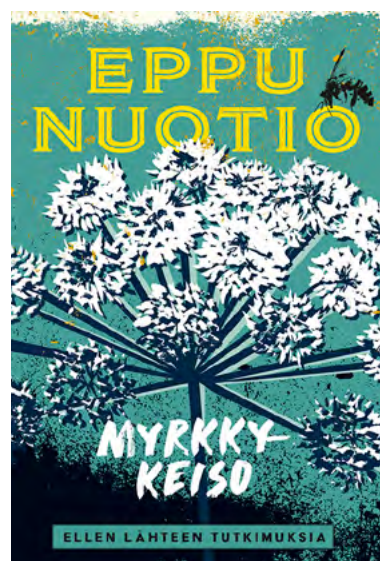
This three-book series of stand-alone cozy mystery is a blithe and entertaining read. The top author of the genre in Finland presents in the books the modern-day Miss Marple, Ellen Lähde. Widowed not too long ago, she has decided to make the best of her retirement days gardening, traveling, helping her dearest and nearest – and poking her nose into all that seems a bit out of place.

Best-sellers in Finland, the novels have charmed the readers with the mix of gentle suspense, romance, and fresh and joyful approach to even the most mundane things there are in our daily lives.

In *Those Deadly Bells* (2017), an energetic working-life mother supervising the renovation of her summer cottage on the side of writing a dissertation disappears from the face of the earth. Ellen soon finds herself in the epicenter of events – looking at maps to find out where a body could be hidden.

In *Tongues Like Knives* (2019), Ellen is touring the gardens of Andalusia and gets invited to a Spanish-Finnish wedding party with her charming new acquaintance, Carlos. Next morning, however, the party has turned into tragedy, which gets deeper and deeper as the young couple returns to Finland.

The Showy Strangler (2020) is set in Berlin, the home of Ellen's son and his family. There is another Finn in the city as well: a well-known movie director, a celebrity also in Germany. When his ex-wife ends up the victim of a brutal crime, Ellen is on the scene and sure something fishy is afoot.



Myrkkökeiso

Those Deadly Bells, Ellen Lähde Investigates #1

Otava, 2017, 252 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Latvia, Petergailis

READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English sample,
English synopses

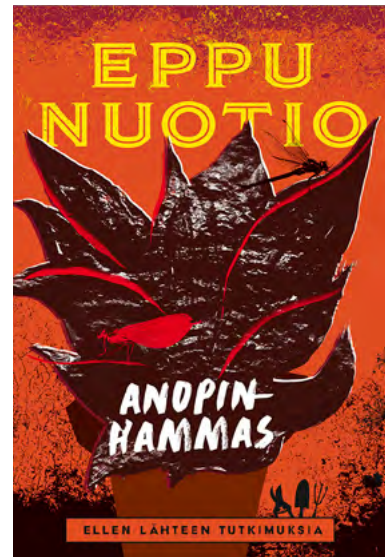
“In the present blood-and-dystopia-saturated entertainment industry, the cozy detective novel Nuotio offers is a breath of fresh air. [...] The book’s sweetness, warmth, and mundanity are a joy, as is the romance that blazes up between two pensioners: Ellen Lähde and the Andalusian Carlos.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

Work on the utility room-slash-hallway behind the house hasn’t even started. Everything is in the same state as last month. Timo doesn’t know what to think. He’s spoken to Mirkka God knows how many times and thought the building work was well under way. He goes back inside. He is overcome with a sense of being orphaned. The feeling hits him with such force, he has to sit down. The dog jumps up onto his lap. Nappi pants and whines and buries his nose under Timo’s arm. Timo looks at his watch and tries to act as if nothing is amiss. As if everything is as it should be. But he knows.

Those Deadly Bells

Translated by Ruth Urbom



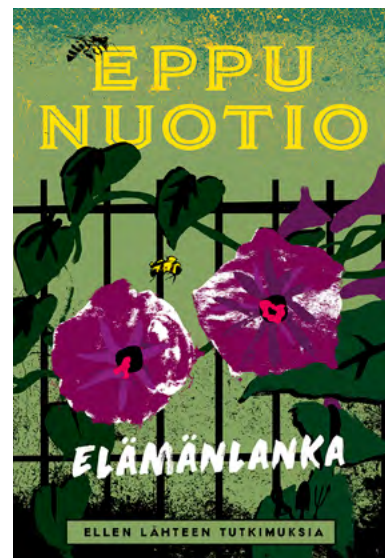
Anopinhammas

Tongues Like Knives, Ellen Lähde Investigates #2

Otava, 2019, 254 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Latvia, Petergailis



Elämänlanka

The Showy Strangler, Ellen Lähde Investigates #3

Otava, 2020, 285 pp.

ALSO AVAILABLE

The Buttercup Dress, Raakel Oksa Sets It Right #1 (Leinikkimekko, 2022)

The Silver Locket, Raakel Oksa Sets It Right #2 (Hopeamedaljonki, 2023)



Eppu Nuotio

Raakel Oksa Sets It Right series

An outgoing carpenter remodels homes and unravels mysteries in a new series by the master of Finnish joie de vivre.

In Raakel Oksa Sets It Right series carpenter Raakel Oksa renovates apartments in Helsinki and stumbles into mysteries of the past. The appeal of the stories lies in the mundane, yet vivid everyday moments woven together with nostalgic puzzles. The books are cleverly connected to Nuotio's another best-selling cozy crime series, Ellen Lähde Investigates.

In *The Buttercup Dress* (2022), Raakel Oksa is commissioned to remodel an old apartment in Helsinki's Töölö district. When demolishing a wall, she discovers a metal box containing a severed braid and a dress with buttercup pattern. The curious finds will not leave Raakel alone, and she starts digging into the building's history. Before long, a decades old disappearance comes to light: a young woman who came into the city to study violin for the summer vanished without a trace. Raakel chats up old residents of the neighbourhood and learns that freedom and first love were not the only things the girl from the countryside found in the city: heat-struck Helsinki was also teeming with dangers.

In *The Silver Locket* (2023) Raakel Oksa helps her half-brother's mother, Ellen Lähde, to sort through an estate of a deceased woman, Kaarina Louko. Her apartment is revealed to be full of stuff, stacks of clutter everywhere. As Raakel and Ellen go through Kaarina's belongings, strange things begin to emerge from Kaarina's life. In the summer of 1975 Sinikka, Kaarina and Mauno were an inseparable trio, until Sinikka got a job at the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe in Finlandia Hall, no longer spending the hot summer days with her friend and fiancé at the Munkkiniemi beach. As Kaarina and Mauno grow closer together, an impending, fateful event will soon change all their lives.



Leinikkimekko

The Buttercup Dress, Raakel Oksa Sets It Right #1

Gummerus, 2022, 233 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Storytel (optioned); Island, Storytel (optioned); Sweden, Storytel (optioned)

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

“The Buttercup Dress is an adorable, tender crime novel which intrigues at least those who appreciate old homes, but it’s story is by no means bagatelle.”

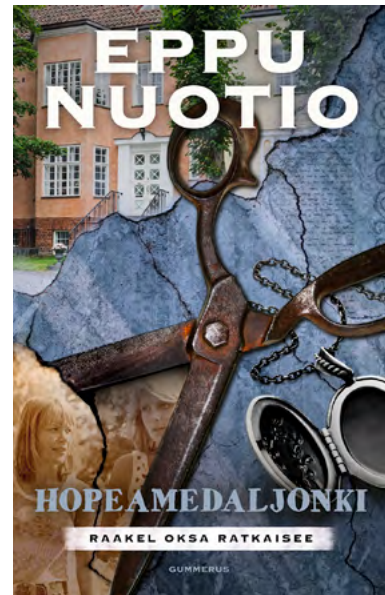
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper
on *The Buttercup Dress*

“Nuotio writes in her familiar, recognisable and fluent style, with an emphasis on dialogue. The book leaves a light-hearted impression – which is not an easy feat at all. Despite the two timelines, the plot is easy to follow. Nuotio’s characters are relatable, with their human strengths and weaknesses. [...] Waiting for the sequel!”

Kirsin kirjanurkka literature blog
on *The Buttercup Dress*

As soon as she walks in, Raakel has a peculiar feeling. As if there were someone in the apartment. A faint smell of lilies of the valley hangs in the air and she can hear a violin playing somewhere. There’s a violinist living in the building, it seems. Raakel can’t tell if it’s coming from upstairs or down, or from somewhere on this floor, but it’s beautiful. Sad and beautiful.

The Buttercup Dress
Translated by Lola Rogers



Hopeamedaljonki

The Silver Locket, Raakel Oksa Sets It Right #2

Gummerus, March 2023, c. 234 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

ALSO AVAILABLE

Those Deadly Bells, Ellen Lähde Investigates #1 (*Myrkkykeiso*, 2017)

Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Latvia, Petergailis; Sweden, Storytel

Tongues Like Knives, Ellen Lähde Investigates #2 (*Anopinhammas*, 2019)

Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Latvia, Petergailis; Sweden, Storytel

The Showy Strangler, Ellen Lähde Investigates #3 (*Elämänlanka*, 2020)

Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Sweden, Storytel

Mirjam Lohi

Mrs Suominen Arranges series

*Love, everyday comedy and gentle suspense
in a good-humoured new mama-lit series!*

Sointu Suominen is a dreamy, loving and slightly muddle-headed mum who decides to change her house-wife days to a successful career as a real-estate agent. Drawing her strength from interior design, tea-drinking and harmonious living, Mrs Suominen likes to think she provides her clients all the services they need – not only selling their apartments, but also ironing out the creases in their lives.

Full of love, humour and tender suspense, Mrs Suominen Arranges series boasts a magnificent narrative as well as hilarious characters from a husband working in security to peculiar neighbours. Each volume has a mystery plot connected with love – which also affects the relationship between Mrs Suominen and her husband, Sampo.

In *The Case of the Risen Dough* (2018), an old lady receives a letter that turns her world upside-down. The next day, a bowl of risen dough is found in the apartment, together with the lady, who has died wearing a festive evening gown. When Mrs Suominen gets the job of selling the apartment, she notices that she also needs to solve the case of the risen dough.

In *The Secret of the Rose* (2019), Mrs Suominen is getting her new career as a real-estate agent going. There obviously aren't quite as many clients as there could be, but on the other hand, isn't tea-drinking and solving little mysteries also nice?

When Sointu's elderly acquaintance Alma moves into a retirement home, Sointu ends up helping her to deal with the sore events of her past. There is a gentleman that needs to be found who once shook Alma's life, and a book that needs to be returned to him – a book, which was left unread with fateful consequences.



Valuneen taikinan tapaus

The Case of the Risen Dough, Mrs Suominen Arranges #1

Teos Publishers, 2018, 256 pp.

READING MATERIALS

Finnish original, long English sample (book #1),

English synopses (books #1–3)

In *The Riddle of the Mug* (2020) there is a family crisis right next door to Mrs Suominen: her neighbour finds an unfamiliar mug with a strange, bright red lipstick stain in her flat. As conflict mounts and the ghosts of the past rise into view, the only solution seems to be for the couple to separate and put their flat on the market. When, on top of everything, Sampo's wallet mysteriously disappears, it is clear that something strange is going on in their dream neighbourhood.

"After all the international crime the world needs local exoticism and tangled relationship between people. The florid and humorous narration is chuckling at all manners of posturing in front of others. It replaces goals and productivity with tea and sympathy. Fortunately, The Case of the Risen Dough is first in an entirely new series of books – it truly leaves its readers with a warm feeling."

Turun Sanomat newspaper on
The Case of the Risen Dough

"Mirjam Lohi's narration is colourful and fools around a bit. It leaves the reader with a purr of happiness."

Kirjavinkit literature blog on
The Case of the Risen Dough

"The Secret of the Rose is a warm, entertaining read for our covid times. Funny, sweet romance and chick-lit style misunderstandings."

Kirjan jos toisenkin literature blog on
The Secret of the Rose

Ester tears the envelope open. The writing paper is the same faint violet colour as the envelope and smells of something sweet. Perfume?

A bunch of roses is printed on one of the bottom corners.

The date is months ago.

The first line says Dear Ester.

Reading a couple of sentences is enough. Her eyes grow dim and she cries out, falling to her knees. "Good God!"

She looks at the letter again, tries to read it, reads, word by word, tries to understand, doesn't understand, understands all the same, but surely not, this cannot be true. She looks at the loopy letters that don't stay on their lines, there are no lines, she looks away, doesn't see anything, doesn't understand, understands everything, throws the letter away, the letter has teeth, it bites. She picks it up again, WHY, goes on reading, the letter is a flushing toilet, it sucks her in, she cannot help reading it without being pulled, helpless, into the current."

The Case of the Risen Dough
Translated by Mia Spangenberg



Ruusun salaisuus

The Secret of the Rose, Mrs Suominen Arranges #2

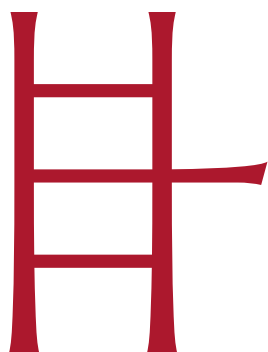
Teos Publishers, 2019, 256 pp.



Luumumukin arvoitus

The Riddle of the Mug, Mrs Suominen Arranges #3

Teos Publishers, 2020, 294 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.

Helsinki Literary Agency

Pohjoinen Hesperiankatu 13 B 15 a
FI-00260 Helsinki, Finland
www.helsinkiagency.fi

Urpu Strellman

Literary Agent (CEO)

M +358 40 737 5535
urpu@helsinkiagency.fi

Urtë Liepuoniütë

Literary Agent

urte@helsinkiagency.fi

Viivi Arela

Literary Agent

viivi@helsinkiagency.fi

Assistant

assistant@helsinkiagency.fi

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.

Exclusive co-agents

China

Grayhawk Agency | Clare Chi
clare@grayhawk-agency.blogspot.com

Eastern & Central Europe

*Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia &
Hertzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia,
Czech Republic, Georgia, Kosovo,
North Macedonia, Moldova, Monte-
negro, Romania, Russia, Serbia,
Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine*
Agentia Literara Livia Stoia | Oana Vasile
oana.vasile@liviastioiaagency.ro

Greece

Ersilia Literary Agency | Αυγή Διαφύλαξη
childrensbooks@ersilialit.com

Italy

Piergiorgio Nicolazzini Literary Agency | Maura Solinas
maura.solinas@pnla.it

Japan

Tuttle-Mori Agency | Ken Mori & Fumika Ogihara,
ken@tuttlemori.com
fumika-ogihara@tuttlemori.com

Poland

Book/lab | Piotr Wawrzeńczyk
piotr@literatura.com.pl

Spanish, Catalan, Basque, Galician, Portuguese (excl. Brazil)

Casanovas & Lynch Literary Agency | Marina Penalva
marina@casanovaslynch.com

Turkey

Anatolia Literary Agency | Amy Spangler
amy@anatolialit.com

Colophon

This booklet was designed and
set into type by Petri Latvala.
The text face is TEFF Lexicon No. 2
created by Bram de Does in 1992.

