



“Antell’s bread and butter is the mix of fact and fiction; she masters it skillfully.”

Turun Sanomat newspaper on *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill* by Ann-Christin Antell



“The book is a masterful statement for nature.”

Karjalainen newspaper on *Margarita* by Anni Kytömäki



“Striking in the sharpness of its psychological analysis [...] brings to mind *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger.”

Le Monde on *Off the Ground* by Antti Rönkä



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

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *Before the Birds* by Merja Mäki



“A mystery can’t get any more cosy than this, the tension is gentle with suitably titillating riddles, there is no violence and no fast-paced action.”

Kirjan pauloissa literature blog on *Tongues Like Knives* by Eppu Nuotio



“[...] an entertaining romance piquantly spiced with literary research and a soupcon of murder mystery.”

Maaseudun tulevaisuus newspaper on *The Death of Romance* by Niina Mero

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Historical fiction



Merja Mäki

Merja Mäki (b. 1983) is a writer and teacher of Finnish language. She published seven books for children and young adults before writing her first novel, *Before the Birds* (2022), an instant critical and commercial success that was also awarded the Torch-bearer Prize.



Anneli Kanto

Anneli Kanto (b. 1950) is an award-winning author and screenwriter. She has written several well-received historical fiction novels. Her latest novel, *The Rat Saint* (2021) became the readers' and critics' favourite, and was nominated for the Runeberg Prize.



Anni Kytömäki

Anni Kytömäki (b. 1980) was originally trained as a nature surveyor. As a novelist she is known for her grand, episodic novels *Goldheart* (2014), *Stone Weaver* (2017) and *Margarita* (2020), the latter of which was awarded the Finlandia Prize.



Minna Rytisalo

Minna Rytisalo (b. 1974) is an author who writes prose that has been described as delicate yet strong. Her award-winning novels portraying women in history, *Lempi* (2016) and *Mrs. C.* (2018), were critical and commercial successes.



Ann-Christin Antell

Ann-Christin Antell (b. 1973) worked as a librarian before embarking on her career as an author and publishing the best-selling historical romance series *Cotton Mill* (2020–2023). The final installment of the series, *The Rival of the Cotton Mill*, will be published in 2023.



Milja Kaunisto

Milja Kaunisto (b. 1976) is a Finnish author living in France. In her best-selling historical novels, she explores the mechanisms of power. *Purple Guillotine* (2016–2018) is her second, well-received historical fiction series.

Merja Mäki

Before the Birds

*“We’ll be back in Karelia.
By spring, before the birds.”*

It’s February 1940 in Finland’s eastern province of Karelia. Alli flees the bombing of Sortavala and skis across frozen Lake Ladoga to the island where she was raised. She has two wishes: to escape the war and to follow in her father’s footsteps and become a fisherman despite of her mother’s firm resistance.

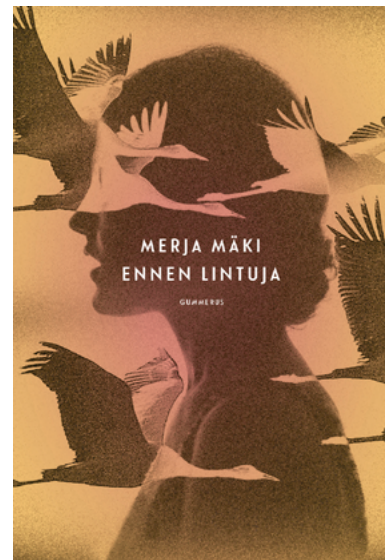
But life does not respect Alli’s wishes. The Winter War ends in a heavily bought peace that cedes much of Alli’s beloved Finnish Karelia to the Soviet Union. She must leave her home behind and embark on an onerous trek across the new border. When she reaches her new Finnish home, she must endure alms from her father’s kin, unfamiliar customs, and her work at a military hospital.

Back In Karelia, only empty shores await the migrating birds. Can a fisherman’s daughter accustomed to the crashing waves and incessant winds of Lake Ladoga lay down roots amid the flat expanses of Ostrobothnia? And what makes a place home—love for others or familiar landscapes?

“Before the Birds draws us in, putting us at the mercy of Lake Ladoga’s waves and the frigid winds of its shores. It violently jostles us into an icy sled ride under dark skies. It has our stomachs hollowing out in hunger. It forces us to continue persevering at the mercy of others without hope or any promise things will turn out for the better. And the book does all this with such force we are battered as we are swept along in the flow of events. [...] Merja Mäki’s language is expressive and interesting. The text smolders with emotion.” Kulttuuritoimitus culture magazine

“Mäki does such a vivid job leading the reader on the evacuees’ journey that one feels one is there oneself, freezing and feet covered in bloody blisters. [...] The novel expands my understanding of what it means—and how it feels—to leave everything behind.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



Ennen lintuja

Gummerus, 2022, 416 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

France, Leduc; Sweden, Historiska
Media; Ukraine, Astrolabe

TORCH-BEARER PRIZE 2022

BESTSELLER #1 IN AUDIO

TOP 20 BESTSELLER

Anneli Kanto

The Rat Saint

In this sensory, color-saturated novel by a master of historical fiction, a brickmaker's foster daughter grows into an artist.

It's the dawn of the 16th century, and a small village in southern Finland sees the arrival of a curious trio possessing special skills and knowledge: they are church painters in an era when artists were unheard of in the remote north. The arrivals are Master Martinus, who is responsible for practical arrangements, the stern, impatient artistic soul Andreas Pictor, and their apprentice, Vilppu.

The church-painting begins, but the scaffolding is shaky. There's an accident, and Vilppu falls. A woman is called in to take his place: Pelliina, foster daughter to the local potter and brickmaker. To her fellow villagers, Pelliina is an odd duck who has the evil eye; to the painters, she is an artist in the making, a peer.

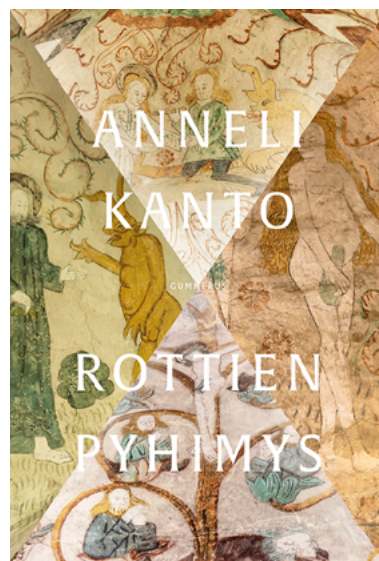
As the history of the world from Paradise and the Fall to the Final Judgment takes shape on the walls of the church, romance, envy, treachery, and crime occur, and a life reaches a turning point. One story ends and another begins.

Anneli Kanto, a master of the historical novel, has written a *Künstlerroman* about a woman who chooses to model her self-portrait on Kakukylla, the saint who protects against rats and mice. In Finland, the novel has already sold almost 30,000 copies.

"Kanto's work is quite the encyclopedia of medieval life. [...] A pungent surge of sounds, smells, lights, work, and ingredients of the day crash into us. The evocative curses and insults would leave Captain Haddock of Tintin comic book fame a sorry second.

Above all, The Rat Saint is the story of an artist developing to maturity, Pelliina's coming-of-age novel, and a lofty hymn to forbidden, impossible love."

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



Rottien pyhimys

Gummerus, 2021, 409 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Hungary, Metropolis Media

Anni Kytömäki

Goldheart | Stone Weaver | Margarita

Grand, episodic novels celebrating nature and humans as a part of it.

Anni Kytömäki writes grand stories with touching human fates, often addressing our relationship with nature. In her writing, epic narrative and brilliant character description are combined with a touch of magical realism, minute nature descriptions and fresh, crisp language.

Her three novels have been widely acclaimed, topping the charts and winning awards. A masterful storyteller, Kytömäki weaves the lives of her characters together with the life of nature.

In *Goldheart* (2014) it is spring 1917, the year of great political turmoil in Finland. The son of a wealthy forest owner looking for a new direction heads to the Northern wilderness. A working class girl moves to the city from a cabin in the woods and starts to write. Next spring, when he returns to Helsinki, Finland has become independent and she an outlaw. *Goldheart* grows into a dramatic and tragical, yet light and hopeful family saga in which several time planes intertwine. It won several awards and nominations.

Stone Weaver (2017) follows three people in different eras, connected to each other by blood, fate and place. A page-turning read, the *Stone Weaver* is a story about how the choices of previous generations affect the next, the destinies of strong individuals, and about love, life and nature intertwining in an almost mysterious way. The novel was a critic favourite and top ten bestseller.



Kultarinta

Goldheart

Gummerus, 2014, 644 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

World French, Rue de l'échiquier

READING MATERIALS

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Margarita (2020) takes place in the 1950s Finland, where the future seems bright, even if the shadow of the war is still close. In the post-war climate with rapidly growing forest industry and pro-birth policies, the fates of a masseuse, forester and soldier intertwine. *Margarita* won Finlandia, the biggest literature prize in Finland, and has sold over 80,000 copies.

“If you read Goldheart as the depiction of the birth of nature conservation in Finland, then in Stone Weaver Kytömäki writes a fictional history of the birth of folklore. It lives through generations, in unexplored rock piles, burnt-out ruins and grassy paths. Nature hides, nature reveals – and Kytömäki writes a human-sized story that serves as a window to the mood of the whole nation.” Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

“Margarita is a literary pearl – or rather, a freshwater pearl mussel hiding a surprise. The text is an example of high-quality literature in the best tradition of Finnish environmental writing, stimulating the reader’s little grey cells. At the same time, the novel is a portrayal of a new way of thinking, brought up by the era of crises.”

2020 Finlandia Prize shortlist jury

The carpet of pine needles stretches like the muddy bottom of an ocean, the spruces undulate all around like a high, dark body of water. We seem to have been walking along the path for hours. We have crossed so many moss paths and circled so many black-water ponds that the scent of the wild rosemary that flourishes on their shores has made my head spin.

Margarita

Translated by David McDuff



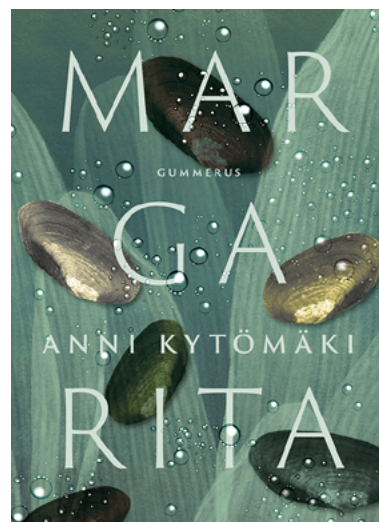
Kivitasku

Stone Weaver

Gummerus, 2017, 645 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

World French, Rue de l'échiquier (optioned)



Margarita

Margarita

Gummerus, 2020, 582 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Ühinenud Ajakirjad; World French, Rue de l'échiquier (optioned); Hungary, Polar; Lithuania, Tyto alba

Minna Rytisalo

Lempi | *Mrs C.*

*Historical novels of women,
choices and boundaries.*

Rytisalo charmed the literary crowd with a bang with her debut novel *Lempi* that became a critical and commercial success. She writes delicate yet strong prose, with a rhythm reminiscent of a beating heart.

Lempi (2016) is a novel with a singular voice about love, thirst for life, happenstance, and fate. There is one summer of happiness and youthful play, then the war breaks out. Viljami leaves for the front, and Lempi, who is carrying their first child, stays behind with a maidservant. When the war soon ends, everything has changed.

Lempi was shortlisted as the favourite book by German-speaking booksellers in Switzerland and was nominated for numerous literary awards in Finland. It was voted by Finnish bloggers as the best novel of 2016, and won the Thank You for the Book Prize and the Botnia Prize.

Mrs C. (2018) paints a fictive portrait of the early days of a Finnish icon, an author, journalist, businesswoman and women's movement activist Minna Canth (1844–1897). The first Finnish woman on several fronts, she was a trail-blazer, full of vigour and ideas. In *Mrs C.* Rytisalo describes her protagonist's early years as a daughter of a working class family who got the chance to study, her happy marriage to her teacher, many pregnancies and miscarriages and her passion and fiery spirit.

Mrs C. topped the bestseller list and was awarded the Torchbearer Prize and the Bonnier's Book Prize.



Lempi

Lempi

Gummerus, 2016, 234 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Germany, Hanser; Hungary, Polar;
Latvia, Jumava; Lithuania, Alma Littera;
Norway, Pax; Sweden, Bakhåll

READING MATERIALS

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

#2 BESTSELLER

BOTNIA PRIZE 2017

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK PRIZE 2017

NOMINEE FOR THE FAVOURITE BOOK BY GERMAN-SPEAKING BOOKSELLERS IN SWITZERLAND 2019

“Lempi is a novel that is mature and masterly. It is narrated torturously patiently, its choice of narrators is innovative, and its language is breathtakingly beautiful. The drama builds perfectly towards the end to its climax.”

Keskisuomalainen newspaper on *Lempi*

*“The book ripens page by page. A soulful poeticism, already familiar from her debut novel *Lempi*, always comes before preaching and commentary. At its best, the novel shines with Rytisalo’s ability to skilfully combine big thoughts and small details of daily routines, to picture the action and personal thoughts at the same time.”*

Parnasso literary magazine on *Mrs. C.*

Lempi, that means love, and tender, mild, warm, I thought, and I could hear it all in your voice. Are you going to paint the windows, you asked, raising your head, looking straight at me, no, just the wood, I said, and you smiled with your whole face, can such radiance really exist and you almost laughed out loud, are you intending to paint the whole forest and is it big, then you said something to your sister, who sniggered I told you so or something like it, it’s just as if there were something between you two. You will come again, you said as you handed me the packet, your fingers touched mine, the water dripping from the icicles outside, I said I’ll come if I’m asked, somehow I managed to be part of that light banter, and you went on, well maybe you will be asked, asked nicely, oh like this, and there it was, suddenly on the cheek, the touch of a girl’s lips. That’s how it happened.

Lempi

Translated by Hildi Hawkins



Rouva C.

Mrs. C.

Gummerus, 2019, 367 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis



Ann-Christin Antell

Cotton Mill trilogy

Bestselling romantic series about three generations of strong-minded women.

Cotton Mill trilogy has all a reader hungry for romance can wish for. There are strong-willed women, overbearing, yet irresistible men, huge historical movements providing the background and, naturally, complications and resolutions of the human affairs.

While getting thrown into the sprouting love-affairs the reader gets taken also to a time trip from the 1880s' Grand Duchy of Finland to the oppression years at the turn of the century, and finally to the first years of Finnish independence. As a setting, the cotton mill provides a great view to the process of industrialization but also to the process of women gaining a strong foothold in society – and in business.

#1 bestsellers in Finland, the first two books of the trilogy have sold over 70,000 copies so far.

In *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill* (2021), it's the sunset of the 19th century in Finland, then an autonomous area of the Russian empire. In the city of Turku, the young widow Jenny Malmström devotes her energies to improving the status of women and the living conditions of factory workers. Doing this, she is set up against Fredrik Barker, the arrogant son of a cotton mill owner, who seems to represent everything Jenny is fighting against. But all of the sudden Jenny finds herself between a rock and a hard place: should she listen to her principles – or her heart?

In *Heir to the Cotton Mill* (2022) it is the dawn of the 20th century. Jenny's adult foster daughter, Martta, returns from Sweden to her childhood home, Turku. The new director of the cotton mill, the agreeable dandy Robert, introduces Martta to Turku society, while Juho, a childhood friend who works at the shipyards, also appeals to her with his rough-hewn charms. As a working-class girl fostered in a bourgeois home, Martta feels lost: how can she build herself a life between these two different worlds?



Puuvillatehtaan varjossa

The Shadow of the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #1

Gummerus, 2021, 335 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, People's Press; World French, Marabout; Iceland, Storytel; Sweden, Storytel

READING MATERIALS

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

In *Rival to the Cotton Mill* (2023) it is the roaring 20s in the city of Turku. At the cotton mill, the fire-spirited Paula Barker finds herself facing a challenge. Her family has owned the prosperous mill for decades, but now the future seems very uncertain. When it turns out that Rikhard Falke, the young and strong-headed owner of Littoinen baize factory, plans to take over Paula's legacy, she decides to save the mill. But could it be the threat turns to something totally different?

Jenny let the letter fall on to her lap and looked ahead of her with empty eyes. For a second she felt bitter. If Fredrik had really loved her, he would not have cared about the factory or his father but would have found a way for them to be together. She folded the letter slowly and put it back in its envelope. But things like that only happened in fairy-tales. People seldom dared to take risks when their own welfare or the interests of their family were threatened. She understood that well. Perhaps she herself would not have dared, if she had been in Fredrik's position. She could not judge anyone.

Jenny hid the letter in a locked box beneath her bed. That was that. The matter was closed. She dragged herself to the kitchen to peel the potatoes and tried to harden her mind, but the peelings were mixed with tears.

The Shadow of the Cotton Mill
Translated by Hildi Hawkins



Puuvillatehtaan perijä

Heir to the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #2

Gummerus, 2022, 368 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, People's Press; World French, Marabout; Iceland, Storytel; Sweden, Storytel



Puuvillatehtaan kilpailija

Rival to the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #3

Gummerus, 2023, 352 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, People's Press; World French, Marabout; Iceland, Storytel; Sweden, Storytel

Milja Kaunisto

The Purple Guillotine trilogy

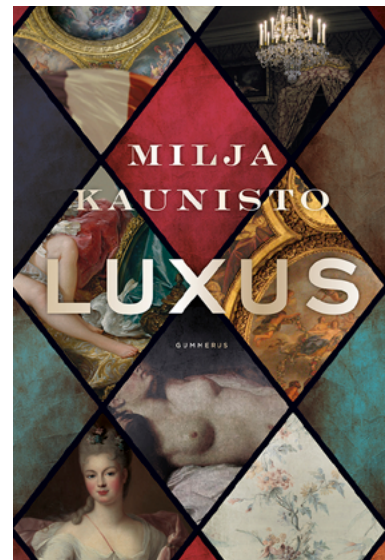
Bestselling historical novels diving into the dark sides of the revolutionary Paris.

Milja Kaunisto's historical novels, set in revolutionary France, give the reader a rich tapestry of adventure, intrigue and romance. Historically accurate, the novels offer a fascinating, candid view of the era when the aristocracy got stripped of its power and revolutionaries rallied on the streets of Paris.

Deluxe (2016) introduces the reader to Isidore Boreal, an underprivileged boy who scavenges garbage bins for food, Marie-Constqance de Boucard who lives in opulence, and Marquis de Sade who lives imprisoned by his demons. When the revolution begins in 1792, they all meet in Maison de Luxe, a luxurious brothel in the heart of Paris where the revolutionaries hold meetings. In order to survive, each of them must give something away, be it their ideals, virtues or possessions.

Corpus (2017) follows the story of Isidore and Marianne: the first now works as an executioner's apprentice and the latter, although stripped from her status and name, has found a safe harbour in Maison de Luxe. Death smoulders in the ruins of the old kingdom, and any passerby could be death's advocate. The reign of terror has begun.

In *Status* (2018), Marianne has become a countess and madame of a brothel, the symbol of the republic and an enemy of the revolution. Isidore is an executioner, a guard and a protégé of the leader of the revolution, Maximilien Robespierre. When the tide of the revolution turns, Isidore could gain a position of his dreams. But he also must choose his path at the crossroads of past and future. As his map he has a single word: MARIANNE.



Luxus

Deluxe, Purple Guillotine #1

Gummerus, 2016, 550 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Poland, Proszynski Media

READING MATERIALS

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

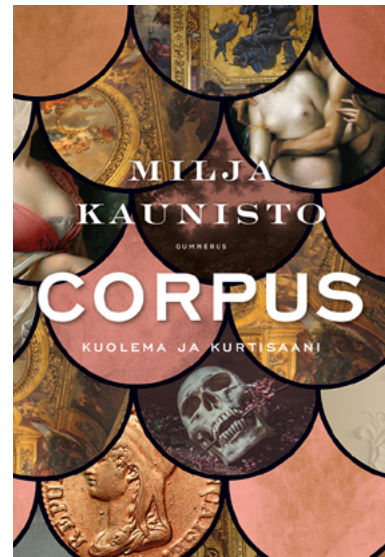
“Kaunisto, who lives in France herself, describes the places and customs of the time with care, without exaggeration. [...] Kaunisto’s language is clear and salacious, and she describes bodily functions, especially in the realm of sexuality, with a delightful candor.” Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

“Kaunisto has created an incredibly fine combination of fact and fiction in her historical novels. Her characters have features of real historical figures – but not so many that it would prevent her from using her imagination and from connecting the characters and their incredible lives to the real historical events and people. [...] As a whole the Purple Guillotine series is a magnificent trilogy.” Kirsin kirjanurkka book blog

Sade nodded, got up and dressed. “More. That’s exactly it. Once someone has experienced the luxury this house of pleasure has to offer, they won’t want to experience anything else. It’s a place that will draw those in power, those striving for power, those who want power and those who covet the ones thirsting for power. It’s a place that rules the rulers. They will relax, become trusting and reveal what’s happening in the country, who is an enemy, who is a friend, who is both. Who is rising and who is falling. In which direction the rope of the gallows is swinging. This is a sinking ship, Marianne, and we have to know exactly where we’re wading, so we won’t drown.

Deluxe

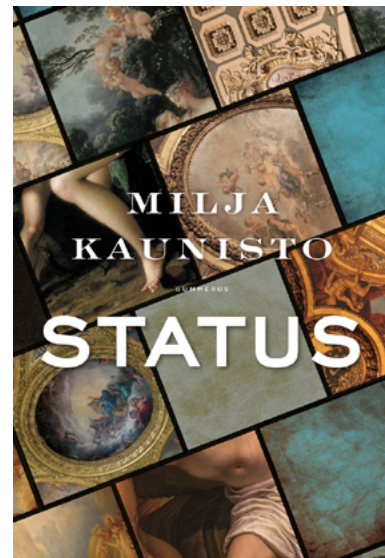
Translated by Mia Spangenberg



Corpus

Corpus, Purple Guillotine #2

Gummerus, 2017, 584 pp.



Status

Status, Purple Guillotine #3

Gummerus, 2018, 496 pp.

Upmarket fiction



Pauliina Rauhala

Pauliina Rauhala (b. 1977) works as a teacher and lives in the city of Oulu. Her debut novel *Heavensong* (2013) became the best-selling Finnish debut ever and won several awards. *Harvest* (2018) is her second novel, also a bestseller.



Anna Englund

Anna Englund (b. 1980) studied writing at the Critical Academy and has a degree in microbiology. Her debut novel *Pine Coat* (2022) portrays forbidden love in the 1930s, and it was nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, given to the best debut of the year.



Niina Miettinen

Niina Miettinen (b. 1978) is a dramatist, writer and publishing editor. Her first novel, *Israel Girl* (2013), was nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literary Prize. *Wild Rosemary* (2019) is her second novel.



Antti Rönkä

Antti Rönkä (b. 1996) debuted with *Off the Ground* (2019) that became a literary sensation and was longlisted for the Runeberg Prize. His second novel *Nocturno 09:07* (2022) is an auto-fictional story about sexual shame.



Sisko Savonlahti

Sisko Savonlahti (b. 1982) is an author and journalist from Helsinki. Her debut novel *Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change* (2018) was a bestseller and nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize. *I Must've Wanted This* (2021) is her second, much-anticipated novel.



Anni Saastamoinen

Anni Saastamoinen (b. 1986) is a journalist and author whose debut novel *The Sensible Life of Sirkka* (2020) was an audio book favourite. Her second novel *But Then Again* (2022) is a tragicomical story of two lives suddenly twisted off their place.

Pauliina Rauhala

Heavensong | Harvest

Praised, poetic novels dealing with vast questions, set in a religious community.

In her novels loved by readers and critics alike, Pauliina Rauhala uses lyrical, natural and flowing language to cover big themes. What is the ethical ground of parenthood? At what point does love and care transform into control?

The all-time bestselling debut novel in Finland with sales of over 77,000 copies, *Heavensong* (2013) is a love story dissecting the complex inner and outer demands of a woman living in a happy marriage in a conservative religious community. The novel was awarded the Christian Book Prize and Kaarle Prize.

Harvest (2018) dives into a religious community's past and the marks it has left on present. The story of one family deepens into a portrayal of spiritual control – and longing for love. The novel was the number one bestseller in Finland, and it was nominated for Finland's biggest literary award, the Finlandia Prize, as well as the Botnia Prize.

"It is not just a gripping story about a breakdown of a mother tired out by the religious community's demands but also a description of her husband's confusion, the challenging of the rules and his radical personal choice in the end."

Savon Sanomat newspaper on *Heavensong*



Taivaslaulu

Heavensong

Gummerus, 2013, 284 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Latvia, SIA

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis, German sample, French sample

KAARLE PRIZE 2014

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK PRIZE 2014

CHRISTIAN BOOK OF THE YEAR 2013

TOP 10 BESTSELLER

“[...] unsettling and courageous. It’s a lyrical call for help, a story of survival and love.”

Turun Sanomat newspaper on *Harvest*

A devout woman’s toiletry bag always contains pregnancy test sticks. She does not buy them singly at a pharmacist’s but in packs of five for twenty Euros. Because my periods are annoyingly irregular, I do a pregnancy test almost every month except when we have not made love or I already know I am pregnant. I can predict my future without making a phone call costing five Euros per minute on top of the standard rate, without a horoscope or observing the position of the planets. The window of the test stick is a crystal ball that tells me my future. One line means freedom - at least for another month. Two lines equals imprisonment. Dear God, please let it be one line.

Heavensong

Translated by Fleur Jeremiah



Sunninkantajat

Harvest

Gummerus, 2018, 367 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Anna Englund

Pine Coat

*A novel about death and
a love that defies limits.*

The year is 1931. Elena carries on the tradition of coffin-making in a rural village: her husband handles the carving, Elena sews the cushioning, and her elderly mother-in-law does what she can. Death is a daily colleague, and life flows along calmly in its familiar channels.

But when a strange woman from the capital arrives to buy a coffin, everything is thrown into disarray. Love is a force that changes a person, but can one demolish the entire framework of a life in its pursuit?

Pine Coat is Anna Englund's highly praised debut novel, which pulses with the rhythms of the 1930s. Englund paints the past and present of her hardscrabble characters with a light, warm, and deft hand, hopefully and optimistically.

"Also spare, considered, and polished are the book's contents. There is nothing extraneous in it, and yet it contains everything. This little book is a big read."

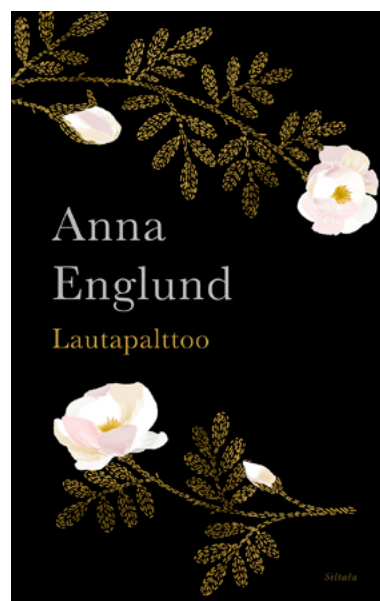
Anna magazine

"With a delicate pen, Anna Englund draws forth the internal lives of secondary characters as well. There's not a trace of beginner's fumbling, let alone searching for a voice. [...] In some remarkable yet very dignified way, Englund's opus succeeds in being optimistic without falling into childish hope. [...] A book that rises from the black keys of angst to beauty."

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

"Death sounds like a grim topic for a debut novel, but Anna Englund also celebrates life and love. From the extremes of existence a dialogue between the grotesque and ethereal beauty develops, seasoned with a comforting dash of gallows humor and central Ostrobothnian dialect. [...] Englund depicts her characters delicately and captures the ambiances of the era."

Kaleva newspaper



Lautapaltnoo

Siltala Publishers, 2022, 227 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Niina Miettinen

Wild Rosemary

Three siblings, three different stories, and three lives changed by the arrival of a woman.

It is the 70s in the easternmost parts of Finland. Olga has broken loose from her job and lover and headed to a small town, where she takes a temporary job in the local funeral home. There she meets Hannu, an artist who tries to capture the mating displays of the black grouse in his sketches—he is enchanted by the instinctive mating and nesting of the birds.

Hannu's sister Anja has been taking care of the home farm, sharing the work with their condescending brother Pietari. When their mother dies, Anja loses her purpose in life.

Then Olga breezes in through an old spruce tree hedge. She breaks all the accustomed rules, attracting everyone's attention. Within Anja flutters an uncontrollable joy.

Set in the bog and fell landscapes of northern Karelia, *Wild Rosemary* vividly charts the different manifestations of passion and love, the seeping of colour into the grey. *Wild Rosemary* opens new dimensions in people, both dramatically and subtly. Miettinen's prose is characterised by an enchanting sensuousness; she gives a voice to the quiet and sees through the harsh talk.

“Wild Rosemary outgrows all preconceptions, convincing the reader with its strong, vivacious narration. Miettinen took the reader by surprise already in her debut, the widely acclaimed Israel Girl, with her ability to write about the past as if she had lived it, without any distance. Especially the dense, illustrative details are excellent, as is the stylized narration, which uses the dialect.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



Suopursu

Teos Publishers, 2019, 264 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Antti Rönkä

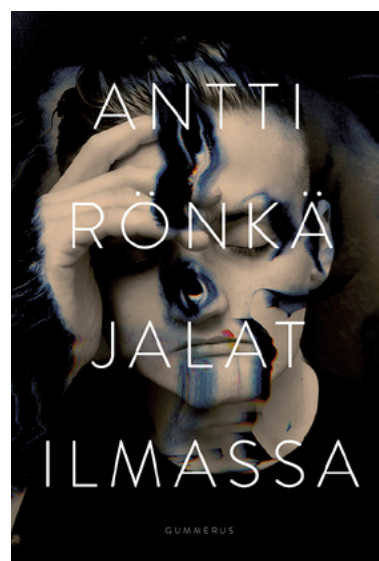
Off the Ground | Nocturno 09:07

*Searing honesty and vulnerability
by a young male voice.*

Antti Rönkä does not shy away from sensitive subjects in his heart-rending autofictive novels. He became a literary sensation with his debut novel *Off the Ground* and continued to examine shame and vulnerability in his second novel *Nocturno 09:07*.

In *Off the Ground* (2019), a young man is about to start his university studies in a new town. He would like to join the others for lunch and nights out but he feels unwanted and uninvited. Even though the years spent being bullied are in the past, the shame still weighs heavy on his shoulders. The bullies' words never let him forget how worthless, insignificant and ugly he is. He can either shut the doors to the world and escape, or face his fears head on and reveal his true vulnerable self. The novel rose to the top ten bestseller list and received several literary awards and nominations.

In *Nocturno 09:07* (2021) Rönkä tackles the sensitive subject of sexual shame and growing into a man. The protagonist's youth is stamped by a sexual shame that takes on various forms of self-hatred. In another layer of the novel, the first-person narrator observes Antti's struggles. The narrator understands he must kill the side of himself that is ashamed of everything if he wants to be free. Rönkä examines the experience of sexual shame with cutting precision, and shows how another person's acceptance and recognition can make the weight easier to bear.



Jalat ilmassa

Off the Ground

Gummerus, 2019, 224 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

France, Payot & Rivages

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK PRIZE 2020

LONGLISTED FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2020

TOP 10 BESTSELLER

“The significance of the subject matter will not make a novel good. But Antti Rönkä’s first novel is excellent despite its loaded subject. This young man, cut to the quick, writes often shockingly but sometimes with joyous acumen. [...] The no-frills novel fulfills valiantly the only quest for literature: seeing the world through someone else’s eyes.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *Off the Ground*

“Told in the first person, Off the Ground by the Finnish author Antti Rönkä is striking for both the sharpness of its psychological analysis and its cruelty. It is a dissection of scalpel-like precision, and a painful one. [...] There is something in this masochistic analysis that brings to mind Notes from Underground (1864) by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and The Catcher in the Rye (1951) by J.D. Salinger. [...] The novel is an impressive debut that became a phenomenon in Finland.”

Le Monde on *Off the Ground*



Nocturno 21:07

Nocturno 09:07

Gummerus, 2021, 192 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

Sisko Savonlahti

Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change | I Must've Wanted This

The unenthusiastic voice of a generation captures the pains and numbness of urban millennial women.

Sisko Savonlahti's stand-alone novels follow a woman in her thirties struggling to live her life according to the invisible and visible standards set up by society. They are no success stories. The protagonist does not grow as a person, nor does she manage to kickstart a spiral of positive thinking.

Savonlahti's compact, laconic prose with minimalist repetitions has charmed many readers across media and converted more than a few screen addicts into readers.

Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change (2018) was nominated for a best debut prize. It became a literary sensation that has sold over 50,000 copies in Finland alone. *I Must've Wanted This* (2021) has already sold over 20,000 copies.

In *Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change* (2018), a woman in her thirties finds herself numb in her flat in the cusp of spring. She is brooding over her ex-boyfriend, unable to do the things she thinks she should be doing and wishing she would have as much enthusiasm for job hunting and dating as for perfect crisp and dip combinations.

In *I Must've Wanted This* (2021), the woman is lying down at the gynaecologist's. She has got everything she wants. A boyfriend, a dog, a lovely home – and now, an IUD. But achieving those things has not got her rid of her self-loathing. Why did she have to jump through so many hoops to get to this point? Why did she spend all that time and energy to get a man? What was the point of all the efforts to fulfil the impossible beauty standards? And above all: was it worth it?



Ehkä tänä kesänä kaikki muuttuu
Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change

Gummerus, 2019, 304 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Sweden, Norstedts

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

“Savonlahti is a master in her acute portrayal of women’s mental and physical issues, bathing in the underachiever’s anxiety, garnishing it with dark humour.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

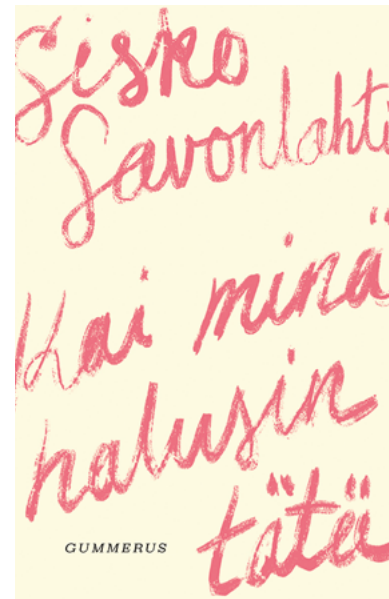
I don’t know what a writer like me can write about anymore. I don’t have anything to offer youth-oriented magazines, because I’m no longer “just a little over twenty”. I don’t understand young people. I’ve already played my “I can be the cool aunt who gives advice to teenagers” card – I’ve written widely circulated articles about things like how to shake off self-esteem problems, how to quit living off your parents’ money, how to stop worrying about how many Instagram followers you have, and how to explain to your boss that the reason you’re late is that you had to go in for an x-ray to find out whether or not you remembered to take your tampon out before you went to bed.

“Are the things that you write based on your own personal experiences?” people ask me.

“Not at all,” I reply.

Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change

Translated by Lola Rogers



Kai minä halusin tätä

I Must've Wanted This

Gummerus, 2021, 296 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Anni Saastamoinen

The Sensible Life of Sirkka | But Then Again

*Minute observations of ordinary life
and its ordinary troubles.*

Anni Saastamoinen's humorous and warm debut novel *The Sensible Life of Sirkka* (2019) established her as an illustrator of contemporary urban solitude and singularity. Her skill in depicting the quotidian and the happiness that can be found within reach has made her readers' favourite. Saastamoinen's trademark language is compact and inventive with abrupt turns and statements. *The Sensible Life of Sirkka* has been compared to Gail Honeyman's *Eleanor Oliphant Is Absolutely Fine*.

The Sensible Life of Sirkka (2019) portrays a middle-aged woman, who is brisk, dull and ordinary. Sirkka is the neighbour no one notices, the bland, conscientious woman at work whose personal life is entirely unknown to her coworkers. Diving into the sensible life of Sirkka, Saastamoinen has created a warmly humorous and touchingly genuine story about being different, about loneliness, about how happiness and contentment can sometimes be found very near at hand.

In *But Then Again* (2022) Luigi's marriage has recently ended. Laila, whose best friend has died tragically, lives on the opposite side of town. Everyone else seems to be able to carry on with their lives, but Laila is still as attached to her loss as Luigi is to his. The two lost and insecure souls are searching for a purpose, until one day he empties his beer on her and the encounter forces them both out of their shells. With dark humour, melancholy and surprising comfort, Saastamoinen portrays two thirtysomethings recovering from grief.



Sirkka

The Sensible Life of Sirkka

Kosmos, 2019, 188 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

“A clever story about how the most radical thing today can be settling for what you have, instead of chasing big goals.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on
The Sensible Life of Sirkka

“A clever story about how the most radical thing today can be settling for what you have, instead of chasing big goals.”

Seura magazine on *But Then Again*

Sirkka is a walk-on, an extra in a crowd scene, a woman drinking coffee in a coffee shop (no speaking lines), a passerby on the street (no eye contact), someone who pushes the elevator button just before you do, because elevator buttons should be pushed in a timely manner and a person shouldn't waste time standing around daydreaming. Sirkka is the Sirkkaest of all the Sirkkas, the best extra there is, a mole that disappears into the crowd, a garden gnome. She is both someone and no one.

The Sensible Life of Sirkka
Translated by Lola Rogers



Ja mutta että sitten
But Then Again

Gummerus, 2022, 218 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Modern romance



Niina Mero

Niina Mero (b. 1982) wrote romance novellas for many years before debuting with *Death of Romance* (2019) that proved a commercial success. *Wounds of Love* (2021) is her second romance novel.



Eppu Nuotio

Eppu Nuotio (b. 1962) is a well-known author, actor, teacher, translator, director, and playwright. Her best-known literary works include cozy crime novels and romance novels *But I Love You* (2015) and *Love Like a Strange Land* (2021).



Ville Hytönen

Ville Hytönen (b. 1982) is a Finnish author and translator living in Tallinn. He has published ten poetry collections and twenty children's books as well as radio plays and nonfiction works. *The Heat of the Plum* (2019) is his second novel.

Niina Mero

The Death of Romance | Wounds of Love

*Smart, suspenseful romance
with a fresh touch.*

Niina Mero examines new ways of romance writing, breaking clichés and expectations and marrying elements of deadpan humour and mystery into complete, satisfying reading experiences. Her refreshing takes on romance novels have been reader-favourites and sold over 20,000 copies in Finland.

In *The Death of Romance* (2019) Nora, a moody, tattooed PhD student who loves the English Romantic poets above all else, receives an invitation to her sister's wedding in Oxford. Allergic to bridal fuss, she accepts reluctantly, only to find herself swept up in the gothic spell of her future in-laws' manor and the musty-library romance of the university town. Before long, Nora discovers a hidden family secret and learns that English manners can conceal fateful truths. In Mero's unputdownable debut, Bridget Jones meets Jane Eyre in a goth detective story.

Wounds of Love (2021) is a stand-alone sequel to *The Death of Romance*. English Special Forces soldier Benedict has come to Finland to visit his brother Dorian, but in his baggage, he carries a heavy secret. At a summer cottage in a beautiful lake district love starts to blossom, but the happiness of the summer days and nightless nights is disturbed by his past. What kind of future can a man as hurt as him hope for? Written from a male perspective and dealing with trauma related stress and self-acceptance, *Wounds of Love* shows us that heroes can be flawed, vulnerable and broken. You don't need to be perfect to be worthy of love.



Englantilainen romanssi

The Death of Romance

Gummerus, 2019, 383 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Catalan, Calanish; Estonia, Rahva Raamat; World Spanish, Calanish; Sweden, Sekwa

READING MATERIAL

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

*“Niina Mero’s debut novel *The Death of Romance* is compulsory reading for all lovers of England and British literature. [...] The novel is an entertaining romance piquantly spiced with literary research and a soupçon of murder mystery.”*

Maaseudun Tulevaisuus newspaper

*“You know that feeling when you don’t really know what to do because you’ve read something so good? I liked *Wounds of Love* even more than Mero’s debut, if possible. There is something really attractive about Mero’s way of telling a story, and this book showed that she can write with skill also about serious topics. If you’ve been looking for a book for the summer that not only entertains but also gives you something to think about, you can stop looking. I couldn’t find anything that I needed more of.”*

Päivän kirja book blog

For me, England was a mythical island where I was forbidden to set foot under pain of breaking the spell. I could almost feel the soft mist rising from the moors, smell the old books mouldering in the Bodleian, hear the waves crashing against the white cliffs of Dover, taste the bergamot in the tea served in delicate Paragon bone china. In England, the drunks slurring in the gutter would all sound like Richard Armitage and bluebells would spring up in my footsteps. If I never saw the place, no one could ever take the dream away from me.

The Death of Romance

Translated by Lola Rogers

???



Romanssin sankari

Wounds of Love

Gummerus, 2020, 366 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Eppu Nuotio

Love Like a Strange Land

Known for her best-selling depictions of relationships, Nuotio's latest work has readers buzzing with delight.

When she comes across a middle-aged man harassing teenage girls, Henrietta steps in to defend them. In her zeal, the altercation turns physical, and the police are called.

While questioning Henrietta at the station, officer Markus Reetama realizes something mystical is taking place. He is used to maintaining a strict line between his work and his personal feelings, but an inexplicable attraction compels him to discover who this woman sitting across from him is.

So begins a titillating love story that both Henrietta and Markus resist—in vain.

Best-selling author Eppu Nuotio's romance *Love Like a Strange Land* makes no bones about being straightforward, light-hearted literature and yet manages to avoid clichés. Nuotio depicts interpersonal relationships authentically and honestly, while observing how difficult it can be to balance one's own dreams with the those of another person.

"The book entertains and charms, but all the ingredients come from deep within, including the stings."

Kirjavinkit book blog
on *But I Love You*

"Nuotio writes about relationships accurately and effortlessly, in an engaging idiom, even lightly."

Kulttuuritoimitus online
magazine on *Maggie and Me*



Niin kuin vierasta maata

Gummerus, 2021, 200 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Eppu Nuotio & Tiina Brännare

The Wager

*A rambunctious, raucous road trip
packed with action, sex, and danger.*

The bet Kiti won is the highlight of her 40th birthday – and the end of an agonizing three-year relationship. Carrying a freedom-guaranteeing stash of money, Kiti jumps on a northbound train and heads for an amazing, carefree summer vacation in Lapland.

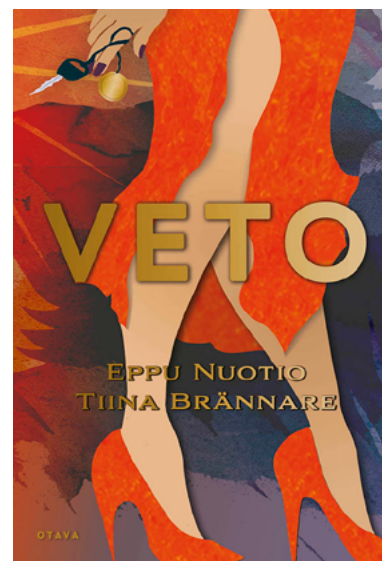
The easy-going mood evaporates when Kiti realizes she's been a gullible fool and various parties, including the police, are after her. The lovely tingle of excitement transforms into a less-pleasurable itch when Lapland's bloodthirsty mosquitoes begin feasting on her southern flesh. And on top of everything else, the boyfriend Kiti left behind appears to be a much more serious threat than she ever imagined...

As Kiti speeds through Lapland's light-filled nights in an RV, she has the good fortune to make two friends, by all signs genuine ones. The bag of cash may be burning a hole in her vacation and the mysterious shadow trailing her may be getting close – but luckily there's still time for romance.

This new novel by best-selling author Eppu Nuotio and Tiina Brännare is a fast-paced, entertaining, and insanely fun novel about a grown woman who takes life into her own hands, even if that means making a mistake or two, and surprises herself and readers by behaving in ways traditionally reserved for men.

“[The Wager] is pure entertainment. The concoction includes generous fistfuls of chick-lit and crime fiction and is heavily spiced with emancipated sex, earthy humor, absurd twists, unexpected decisions, and madcap bungling.”

Kirstin kirjanurkka literature blog



Veto

Otava, 2022, 238 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Ville Hytönen

The Heat of the Plum

Magic realism, lazy days of passion, and human destinies fuelled by plum wine in the post-war Balkans.

Srdjan, a Serbian man who grows plum trees, is as wan and apathetic as Sarajevo after the war. His everyday life is, however, transformed by a lunch at a restaurant when he meets Zorana, a vivacious Bosnian woman. She's everything that he isn't: colourful, wild and without boundaries.

The ill-matched pair is irresistibly drawn to each other, and the tensions of the recent war are released in a passionate relationship. Zorana starts painting a portrait of the invisible Srdjan, and the man's features become stronger both in the picture and in reality.

The Heat of the Plum is charged with eroticism; it's a love story told by a mystic blackbird and it's filled with plum wine and idle days of passion. Ville Hytönen knows the region well and moves the story, with its echoes of magic realism, from the mountain village of Knez Zelo to Belgrade while painting a clear picture of the Balkans and a mental landscape tested by war.

"The Heat of the Plum demonstrates stylistic virtuosity in its prose and as a Künstlerroman." Aamulehti newspaper

"The Heat of the Plum is convincing in its musical language that stresses the unity of contrasts. The aesthetics of wasteland and derelict buildings meets the mystical experiences of blackbirds, 'the Yugoslav gods'. Rarely is a book filled so abundantly with smells, tastes, sounds and colours. The same richness applies to the food and drinks of the Balkans, its vividly described history and the air of melancholy that wafts above everything."

Parnasso literary magazine

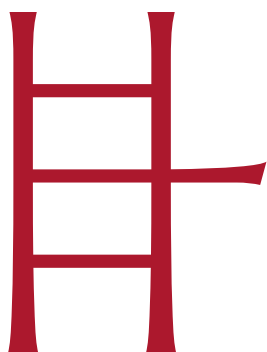


Luumun polte

Gummerus, 2019, 262 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample



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

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Gummerus

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

Schildts & Söderströms

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

Siltala Publishing

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

Teos Publishers

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

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Colophon

This booklet was designed and
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