



Spring  
2023



Helsinki Literary Agency *Best of the Best*



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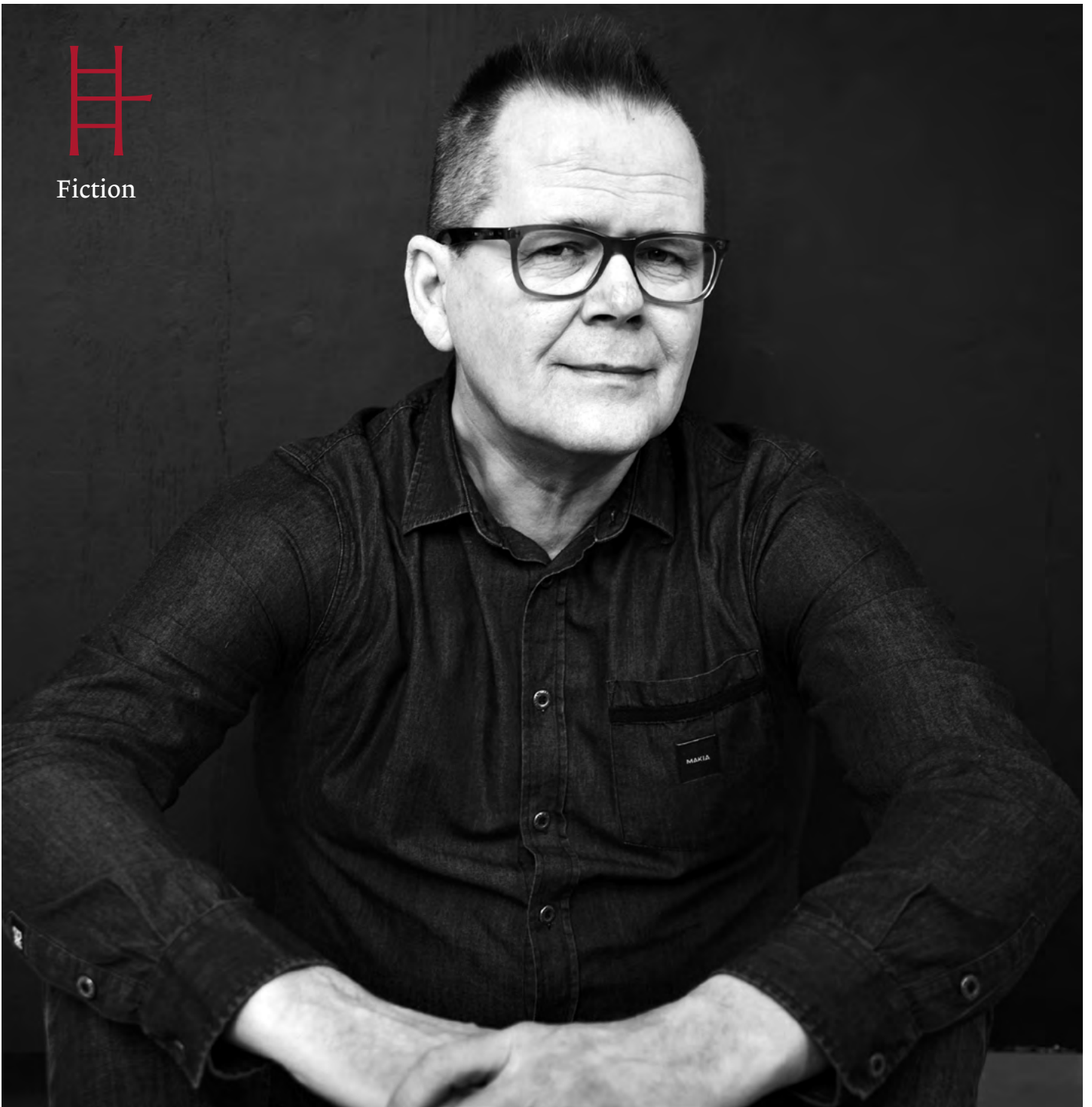
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Fiction



© Laura Malmivaara

Kari Hotakainen (b. 1957) brought his distinctive, personal voice to the Finnish literary scene in 1982. Since then he has published over 20 works comprising novels, poems, and books for children and young people. He has received the Nordic Council's Literature Prize, the Finlandia Prize, the Prix du Courrier International and the Prix Coup du Coeur, amongst others. His novels have been translated into more than 20 languages. He's first nonfiction book, *The Unknown Kimi Räikkönen* (2018) is the best-selling Finnish nonfiction work of all times with over 200,000 sold copies in Finland and over 100,000 abroad. It has been sold to 13 languages so far.

Kari Hotakainen

## *The Human Part*

*A fearlessly tragic and deeply humorous novel about how we buy and sell things – with rhetorics.*

A writer buys a life from Salme Malmikunnas, an 80-year-old former yarn seller. You can get a lot for 7,000 euros. Salme opens up and tells him everything the way she wants to remember it – the silence of her husband, Paavo, the accident that befell her daughter Helena, Maija’s marriage, and Pekka’s success in business.

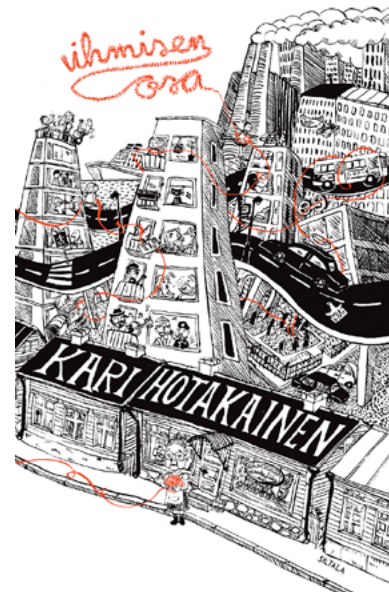
But will the author tell the story like they’d agreed? Can he resist the urge to write about subjects that are off limits? And is Salme telling the truth?

True to its title, the novel asks what the human lot is. Its rich cast of characters answers this question in many voices. The novel takes the pulse of the present and builds on the past to portray a world where buying and selling are the order of the day. It sheds light on eternal truths about working life, both then and now. More than anything else, it’s talk that makes business run today. Instead of things like yarn, we now sell images. And when the words run out, it’s time for action.

*The Human Lot* shows Kari Hotakainen at the top of his craft. It is a rich, wide-ranging novel full of honest wisdom. It’s disarmingly moving and deeply humorous. The novel fearlessly grapples with today’s world and tries to understand it, a task that is not possible without laughter or tears.

*“A humane, disconcerting and pleasurable text. In other words, a truly beautiful novel.”*  
Le Monde

*“The undoubted pinnacle of Hotakainen’s oeuvre [...], a sharp, incisive depiction of the age. Hotakainen, who has a reputation for being something of a funny man, is an angry, clenched moral fist.”*  
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Ihmisen osa*

Siltala Publishing, 2009, 276 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation,  
French translation, Italian translation,  
Spanish translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech Republic, Dybbuk; Denmark,  
Gyldendal; English, Maclehose Press;  
France, J. C. Lattes; Hungary, Libri; Italy,  
Iperborea; Norway, Cappelen Damm;  
Spain, Meettok; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost  
International; Sweden, Brombergs



Fiction



© Liisa Valonen

Selja Ahava (b. 1974) is an author, a dramaturge and a scriptwriter. Her lauded debut novel *The Day the Whale Swam through London* (2010) was a nominee for the Helsingin Sanomat Literary Prize, and it won the Laura Hirvisaari Prize (The Bookseller's Literary Prize) in 2010. Her second novel, *Things that Fall from the Sky* (2015) was awarded the European Union Prize for Literature in 2016, and it was nominated for the Finlandia Prize, the Torch-Bearer Prize, the Warwick Prize and the Dublin Literary Award. It has been sold to 26 areas so far. In 2017 she published *Before My Husband Disappears* and in 2020 *The Woman Who Loved Insects*, both to wide critical acclaim.

Selja Ahava

# Things that Fall from the Sky

*A novel about real life stories  
with the most unexpected endings.*

On a sunny summer day, a block of ice falls from the sky and kills a woman on her home veranda. Her family, the 8-year-old daughter Saara and her father, move in with their Auntie who has won the lottery. Not long after, Auntie wins the jackpot for a second time and falls into a deep three-week sleep. When she wakes up, she is struck by questions: why me, why again, what next. She starts to correspond with a Scottish fisherman who has been hit five times by a lightning.

After four years, Saara and her father move back to their old house with the father's new partner who is pregnant. The house comes back to life and carries its own seeds of secrets.

*Things that Fall from the Sky* builds on the unexpected and unlikely turns in life—that are still totally possible. There is always someone who is in the wrong place, something that happens at the wrong time.

*“The premise underscores the arbitrariness, absurdity, excess, and fatefulness of life. It is so unsettling that it makes you laugh. That is Ahava’s intention as well. These are all aspects of life that are true and recognizable. Through overstatement and juxtaposition, Ahava succeeds in depicting the human mind, for which any unexpected change can be disastrous, can throw one off the rails, or at the very least force one to reflect on existential questions.”*

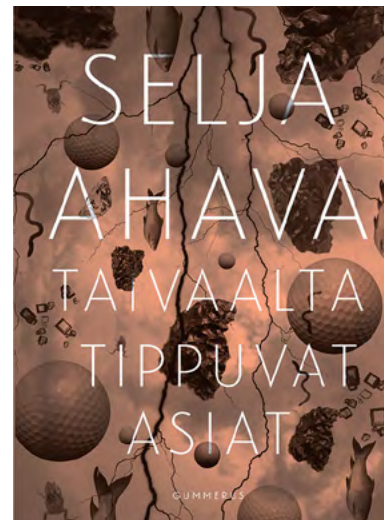
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Day the Whale Swam through London* (Eksyneen muistikirja, 2010)  
Rights sold: Germany, Mare Verlag

*Before My Husband Disappears* (Ennen kuin mieheni katoaa, 2017)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Colibri; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Poland, Relacja; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost International; Option publisher: World English, Oneworld

*The Woman Who Loved Insects* (Nainen joka rakasti hyönteisiä, 2020)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Colibri; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; France, Bleu & Jaune (optioned); Hungary, Polar; Italy, Elliot; Poland, Relacja; Turkey, Timas



*Taivaalta tippuvat asiat*

Gummerus, 2015, 223 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation,  
German translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Albania, IDK; Arabic, Page Seven; Armenia, Guitank; Bulgaria, Colibri; China, Citic; Croatia, Vuković & Runjić; Czech Republic, Pavel Dobrovský—Beta; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Dutch, Alfabet; World English, Oneworld; Estonia, Post Factum (Eesti Meedia); France, Bleu & Jaune; Georgia, Agora; Germany, Mare Verlag; Hungary, Typotex; Latvia, Lauku Avize; Lithuania, Homo liber; Macedonia, Magor; Poland, Relacja; Serbia, Štrik; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost International; World Spanish, Editorial Bercimuel; Swedish, Bakhall; Thailand, Library House Bangkok; Turkey, Timas; Ukraine, V. Books XXI

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2016

EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2016



Fiction



© Laura Malmivaara

Juhani Karila (b. 1985) is a journalist and an author. Karila won the J.H. Erkko Award in 2010 with a text that the jury called “phew!” prose. *Gorilla* (2013), Karila’s first collection of short stories, won an enthusiastic reception and second place in the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize competition. His second collection, *The Death of the Apple Crocodile* (2016), introduces more absurd stories. Karila’s first novel *Fishing for the Little Pike* (2019) was awarded the Kalevi Jänntti Prize, Tähtifantasia Prize, and the Lapland Literature Prize. It was also nominated for the Kuvastaja Award, the Prix Michelin in France, the Internationaler Literaturpreis in Germany, and the Boy-Żeleński Award in Poland.

Juhani Karila

## *Fishing for the Little Pike*

*The story of three days spent trying to catch a fish while fooled and foiled by an assortment of primeval nature beings.*

Elina Ylijaako has returned to her home village in Eastern Lapland, as she does every year. She has three days to catch a pike. When a water sprite emerges from the pond and other ancient creatures soon join the game, Elina's fishing trip turns into a life-or-death adventure.

Meanwhile a police sergeant named Janatuinen is searching for Elina on suspicion of murder. But first the sergeant has to survive a fishing trip of her own with a local forest imp and make it through hex-night—a carnival of the dead that even the most hard-blooded witch in the village knows to avoid.

Mysterious creatures wander the tundra bogs like machines set in motion long ago that nobody knows how to turn off. An ancient demon finds a new home in the mayor. A farm hand who refuses to die starts sprouting branches and oozing menace. And in a little pond in the middle of the swamp lives the fish that everything depends on.

*Fishing for the Little Pike* is a linguistically virtuosic novel, at once love story and mythical fantasy, that will make you choke with laughter one minute and turn deadly serious the next. It has sold over 30,000 copies in Finland.

*"The novel, peppered with small side stories, delights with the avalanche of mythical creatures, but even better is the gently ironic description of local people. The dialectal language of the colourful characters and their balmy reactions to what happens paint a picture of a worldview where even the most fanciful things are taken as they are."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Gorilla* (Gorilla, 2013)

*The Death of the Apple Crocodile* (Omenakrokotiilin kuolema, 2016)



*Pienen hauen pyydystys*

Siltala Publishing, 2019, 282 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Arabic, Al Arabi; Bulgaria, ICU; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Dutch, Koppernik; English, Pushkin Press (UK & Commonwealth), Restless Books (USA & Canada); Estonia, Hea Lugu; World French, La Peuplade; Germany, Homunculus; Hebrew, Locus; Hungary, Metropolis Media; Italy, Fazi Editore; Lithuania, Aukso žuvys; Poland, Marpress; Russia, Livebooks; Sweden, Bookstrap; Turkey, İthaki



Fiction



© Stefan Bremer

Mikko Rimminen (b. 1975) is a lauded writer who started his literary career as a poet. He has written four other novels: *Park Life* (2004), *The Block* (2007), Finlandia Prize-winning *Red Nose Day* (2010), and *Tag* (2013). Rimminen's books have been translated into over ten languages and they have sold only in Finland so far over 60,000 copies.

Mikko Rimminen

## Red Nose Day

*A bittersweet, crushingly desolate and uproariously funny story about human love.*

Irma is living by herself in Hakaniemi, an area of Helsinki. Her days roll by and every now and then she even gets a phone call from her unmarried son.

In order to put a stop to her solitary life she starts knocking on doors in her neighbourhood and in Kerava, a nearby city where she ends up on a bus by chance.

Because Irma needs a reason for being on strangers' doorsteps, she cooks up a story for herself – she tells them she's conducting a survey. Her somewhat odd questions, weird methods of investigation and flimsy explanations make the neighbourhood suspicious and the police gets interested. Irma starts shaking in her shoes. What are they thinking?

She mustn't escape; after all, she's grown fond of her interviewees. Every moment she's more in danger of getting caught and her ways of solving the problem become more and more unusual.

Finnish literature has not yet seen a female character this verbose, or written with such tender melancholy. In 2010 *Red Nose Day* won the Finlandia Prize, the highest annual literary prize awarded to a novel in Finland. It has sold approximately 50,000 copies.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Park Life (Pussikaljaromaani, 2004)*

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Kniha Zlin; Georgia, Merebashvilykesson; Germany, Kiepenheuer & Witsch; Latvia, Dienas Grāmata; Netherlands, De Arbeiderspers; Russia, Text Publishers; Sweden, Alfabet

*The Block (Pölkky, 2007)*

*The Tag (Hippa, 2013)*

Rights sold: Germany, dtv

*The Most Natural Thing in the World (Maailman luonnollisin asia, 2017)*

*If It Looks Like It (Jos se näyttää siltä, 2019)*

Rights sold: Hungary, Polar



*Nenäpäivä*

Teos Publishers, 2010, 330 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
German translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Turbine; France, Actes Sud;  
Georgia, МТР; Germany, dtv; Hungary,  
Polar; Italy, Atmosphere Libri; Latvia,  
Jumava; Norway, Solum; Russia, Text  
Publishers; South Korea, Yidab Publishing



Fiction



© Cata Portin | Förlaget

Ulla-Lena Lundberg (b. 1947) is an acclaimed Finland-Swedish author who has published more than twenty works of fiction and nonfiction. She has been awarded numerous prizes for her work, including Finland's State Literary Prize in 1971, 1982 and 1992, the Swedish Academy's Finland Prize in 1990, the Finlandia Prize for her novel *Ice* in 2012 and the Runeberg Prize in 1998. She has been shortlisted for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize three times and the Finlandia Prize four times.

Ulla-Lena Lundberg

## Ice

*A quietly epic journey into a life and mindset of an island community, filled with humor and empathy.*

It is the summer of 1946, the war has ended a couple years ago. A novice Lutheran priest, his wife and baby daughter arrive at a windswept island off the coast of Finland. In the summer the islanders, a self-sufficient community of fisher folk turned reluctant farmers, are building a health care center, a bridge and the future. But when the winter comes, ice builds itself into all the free spaces there are.

With each season, the young family's love of the island and its disparate and scattered inhabitants deepens, and when the winter brings ice, new and precarious links appear.

Told in spare, simple prose that mirrors the islanders' unadorned style, *Ice* is a story as immersive as it is heart-rending. The novel won the Finlandia Prize in 2012 and has sold over 100,000 copies in Finland.

*"Ice is the climax of Lundberg's quality work. [...] The stunning novel revives the ability for empathy so far it almost hurts. [...] Ice is like the creation story."*

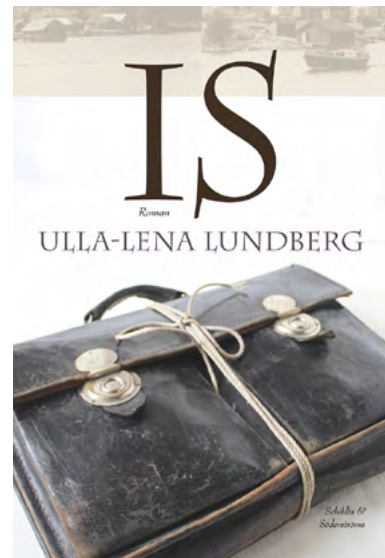
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Ice is the absolute literary jewel of the year. [...] It is a grand novel. You can read it as a gripping story of people and their fates, as a condensation of the tensions in a community, but also as an allegory of the mankind."*

Aamulehti newspaper

*"Ulla-Lena Lundberg has written a nuanced, ruggedly beautiful novel. [...] The book doesn't let its reader off easily, but neither does life."*

Kainuun Sanomat newspaper



*Is*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2012, 364 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish edition,  
English edition

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Izida; Croatia, Hena-com;  
Denmark, Gyldendal; English, Sort of  
Books; Estonia, Eesti Raamat; Germany,  
Mare; Hungary, Széphalon Könyvműhely;  
Norway, Heinesen; Polish, Marpress;  
Sweden, Albert Bonnier

### ALSO AVAILABLE

See the backlist





Fiction



© Liisa Valonen

Anni Kytömäki (b. 1980) was trained as a nature surveyor. Her debut novel *Goldheart* (2015) was nominated for the Finlandia Prize and Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, and it was awarded the Kaarle Prize, Tampere City Literature Prize and Torch-Bearer Prize, given to the Finnish title with the most potential to succeed abroad. It also won the bloggers' best book of the year award, Blogistan Finlandia. In 2017, Kytömäki published the bestselling and critically acclaimed *Stone Weaver*, once more awarded the Tampere City Literature Prize. Her third novel *Margarita* (2020) received the biggest literary prize in Finland, Finlandia.

Anni Kytömäki

# Margarita

*As soon as a pearl fisher opens a shell, it dies. When a person's shell is disturbed, the consequences can be equally drastic.*

Senni gives massages to the summer tourists at the baths, just as her father used to. The summer makes her long for snowy, faraway fjords, but a rainy night unexpectedly changes everything.

Mikko is a soldier returning to the front line after his time at a field hospital. He's destined not to leave his post again, even though he's worried the last battle will be soon at hand.

Antti is examining woods in the occupied Karelia as well as Finland. After the war is over he will decide which forests to raze and which to save.

*Margarita* is story about the untold history of forests and people. In the 1940s and 50s forests, men and women were shouldered with well-meaning duties. However, the success stories have another side to them. Fulfilling the societal obligations turns the characters' lives with fateful consequences.

*Margarita* was awarded the Finlandia Prize, and it has so far sold over 85,000 copies.

*"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

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Goldheart* (*Kultarinta*, 2014)

Rights sold: France, Rue de l'échiquier

*Stone Weaver* (*Kivitasku*, 2017)

Rights sold: France, Rue de l'échiquier (optioned)



*Margarita*

Gummerus, 2020, 582 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

France, Rue de l'échiquier (optioned);  
Hungary, Polar; Lithuania, Tyto alba

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2020

#1 BESTSELLER

BLOGISTAN FINLANDIA 2021

LONGLISTED FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2021



Fiction



© Liisa Takala

Riikka Pelo (b. 1972) is a professor in the master's writing program at the University of the Arts in Helsinki. Her debut novel *The Heaven-Bearer* was awarded with the Tiilikivi Prize and nominated for the Runeberg Prize and the Christian Book of the Year Prize. *Our Earthly Life* (2013) was awarded with the Finlandia Prize. Pelo's third novel, *All that Is Alive*, came out in autumn 2019.

Riikka Pelo

## *Our Earthly Life*

*Finlandia Prize winning novel about a poet's and her daughter's fates in the shadow of the Soviet state apparatus.*

*Our Earthly Life* tells the story of the Russian poet Marina Tsvetaeva (1892–1941), her daughter Alya and their attempt at establishing a contact with each other in the two decades before the outburst of the Second World War.

While Alya toils in a forced-labour camp in Kom, Marina is thousands of kilometres away, evacuated in Jelabuga. The secret police is pressing both to surrender what still holds them together as human beings. During a single day, both will have to decide how to go on with their lives.

*Our Earthly Life* is a forceful and shockingly beautiful description of humanity, despair, love, betrayal and writing. It is an unforgettable story about a family internally cracked but determined to maintain its unity when Stalin's terror is set to destroy it. The novel won the Finlandia Prize in 2013, and it was a nominee for the Runeberg prize. It has sold over 50,000 copies in Finland.

*"All in all Our Earthly Life tells about dozens of loves. [...] Throughout the novel Riikka Pelo plants precise, beautiful, peaceful details about our earthly life amongst the bad and sad things. [...] This is a beautiful, grand novel about immensely difficult things."*  
Parnasso literature magazine

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Heaven-Bearer (Taivaankantaja, 2006)*  
Rights sold: World Spanish, Fiordo Editorials

*All that Is Alive (Kaikki elävä, 2019)*



*Jokapäiväinen elämämme*

Teos Publishers, 2013, 526 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation,  
English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech Republic, Kniha Zlin; Estonia,  
Tänapäev; Germany, C.H. Beck



Fiction



© Marek Sabogal

Jukka Viikilä (b. 1973) is a poet, writer, dramaturge and a teacher of creative writing. His first poetry collection *Poems* (2008) was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, and his debut novel *Watercolours from a Seaside City* (2016) was awarded with the Finlandia Prize and the Kaarle Prize.

Jukka Viikilä

## *Watercolours from a Seaside City*

*Jukka Viikilä's Finlandia Prize winning novel is an extraordinarily beautiful journey into the landscape of a city and the mind of an architect.*

In 1816, German architect Carl Ludvig Engel arrives in Helsinki to begin what will become his life's work: to design Finland's capital.

*Watercolours from a Seaside City* is Engel's fictive diary, which vividly brings the Helsinki of the early 19th century to life. It draws a portrait of a man who mirrors himself in the slowly growing capital and the people in it. For Engel, building a city illuminates life.

*Watercolours from a Seaside City* was awarded with the most prestigious literary award in Finland, the Finlandia Prize. The novel has since been the #1 bestseller in Finland, with so far 44,000 copies sold.

*"This book is a true gem. This windy city defines the landscape of its architect's soul. Viikilä paints large pictures with small brush strokes: brief diary entries grow into a city, and into Engel's life story."*

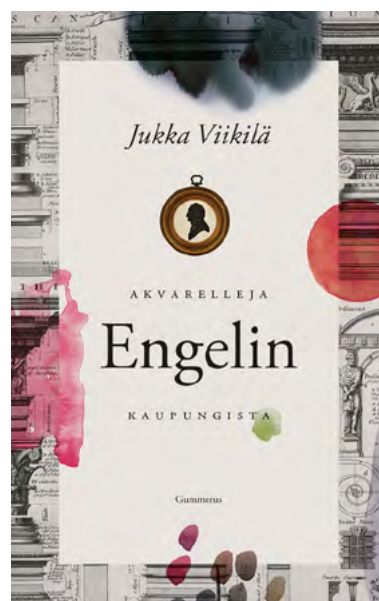
The Finlandia Prize jury

*"As one might expect, one of the best offerings of this excellent novel is language. Viikilä's sentences are crystallized and clear. The novel is comprised of interesting observations of life and art, paradoxical in one way or another – there is enough of them for a slim volume of aphorisms."* Parnasso literature magazine

*"Jukka Viikilä has written a fascinating novel. [...] He looks into Engel's mind and thinking with grace. The aphoristical, vivid narration paints a picture of a builder of a city, who's professional pride you can but admire."* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Viikilä's language is clear and precise, and the descriptions of the time and milieu are true and visual."*

Turun Sanomat newspaper



*Akvarelleja Engelin kaupungista*

Gummerus, 2016, 215 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Post Factum (Eesti Meedia);  
France, Gallimard; Serbia, Akademska  
Knjiga



Fiction



© Marek Sabogal

Minna Rytisalo (b. 1974) writes prose that has been described as delicate and yet masterful and strong, with a rhythm like that of a beating heart and breathing. Her debut novel *Lempi* (2016) was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, the Runeberg Prize and the Lappi Literature Prize, and it won the Blogistania Finland Prize, Thank You for the Book Prize and Botnia Prize. Rytisalo's bestselling second novel, *Mrs C.* (2018) has been nominated for the Lapland Literature Prize, the Torch-bearer Prize and Bonnier's Grand Journalism Prize as Book of the Year. She works as a high school Finnish teacher and writes columns about literature.

Minna Rytisalo

# Lempi

*Love. Jealousy. Hate.*

*The consequences of an action from which there is no escape.*

One summer and half a year, youthful play, a fairy tale-like happiness. But then war breaks out. Viljami leaves for the front, and Lempi, who is carrying her first child, stays behind with a maidservant. When the war soon ends, everything has changed, forever.

*Lempi* is a novel with a singular voice about love, the thirst for life, happenstance, and fate. Rytisalo writes with a timeless but completely fresh and controlled language as she describes the tragedy that's the turning point in the lives of three people. In the end the book shows how the main characters of their own lives are just supporting characters in the lives of others.

Minna Rytisalo's bestselling debut novel has been praised by critics and readers alike for its rich language and well-balanced tension. It was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, the Runeberg Prize and the Lappi Literature Prize. It won the Blogistania Finlandia Prize, voted by Finnish bloggers as the best novel of 2016, the Thank You for the Book Prize awarded by the Finnish Booksellers', Librarians' and Libraries Association, and the Botnia Prize. The novel has sold over 34,000 copies so far.

*"Rytisalo has created a precious tapestry where the feelings of the protagonists are timeless, dependless of place and totally fresh, as always in the best of fiction. The novel as a whole is excellently drafted and the language is amazingly balanced at all times."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Lempi is one of the books that seem to have been created easily, as if the perfect text would just have flown from the author's fingertips to the paper and set itself in a ready form. The novel is effortlessly stylish, a complete whole."*

Aamulehti newspaper



*Lempi*

Gummerus, 2016, 234 pp.

#### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
German translation

#### RIGHTS SOLD

Germany, Hanser; Hungary, Polar; Lithuania,  
Alma Littera; Norway, Pax

BOTNIA PRIZE 2017

BLOGISTAN FINLANDIA 2016

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK PRIZE



Fiction



© Marica Rosengård

Piia Leino (b. 1977) has worked for almost two decades as a journalist at the Finnish news agency, STT. She has a master's degree in social studies, and she has studied creative writing at the renowned Critical Academy in Helsinki. Leino's first novel *The Ugly Cashier* (2016) deals humorously with reality TV and the pressures that women face. She gained international reputation already with her second novel, dystopian thriller *Heaven* (2018), sold to over 10 areas and the winner of the European Union Prize for Literature and the Helmet Prize. Also Leino's third novel, the highly praised *Overtime* (2020) is set in the 2050s Finland, where the sustainability gap has been solved ruthlessly. Her latest book *Apogee* (2021) is a sci-fi crime novel, a stunningly fresh, stand-alone sequel to these visions of the future.

Piia Leino

# Heaven

*A story of a divided country – and of a future that has forgotten the past.*

*Heaven* takes place in Helsinki, a city state, former capital of Finland, in 2058. Society has collapsed after a civil war, and a nationalist movement called Light has seized the power. Political dissidents have fled to the North. All borders are closed and contact with the outside world is non-existent. No one entertains any visions of a brighter future anymore.

Instead, Light has given its citizens Heaven: a virtual reality. The old world lives on in Heaven, more vivid and beautiful than it ever really was. Heaven is addictive, but it can only be accessed by people with enough money and standing. Common people lead their lives under oppression and misrule.

Akseli works at the university trying to find out the cause of the epidemic of apathy. People hardly leave their apartments, they don't talk to each other, no babies are born.

When Akseli is given total access to Heaven, he's soon about to be consumed by the virtual reality – until he meets a woman called Iina. The meeting in Heaven is so powerful that they decide to meet in reality, too. After that, everything changes.

*Heaven* deals with topical issues: climate change, growing inequality within a welfare state, technological inventions and their growing power, and nationalist movements. Winner of the European Union Prize for Literature as well as the publisher's novel competition, *Heaven* has gotten glowing reviews. It has also been nominated for Helmet Literature Prize, given to a future classic by the libraries in the metropolitan area of Helsinki.

#### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Ugly Cashier* (*Ruma kassa*, 2016)

*Overtime*, (*Yliaika*, 2019)

*Apogee* (*Lakipiste*, 2021)



*Taivas*

S&S, 2018, 250 pp.

#### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis, German sample

#### 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, Widnokraj; Serbia, Kontrast; Slovenia, Pivec; Ukraine, Astrolabe



Fiction



© Laura Bök

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

Leena Krohn

# *Tainaron*

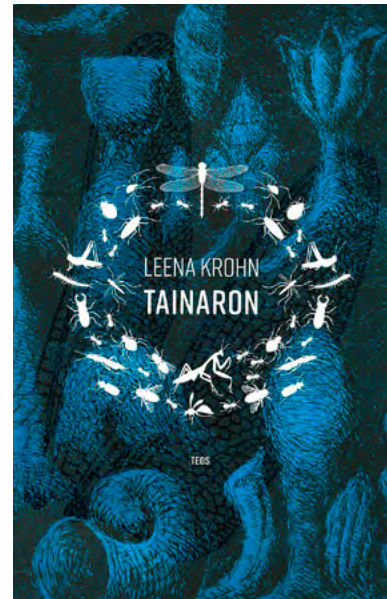
*Look closely. Look again.  
This is Tainaron.*

The inhabitants of Tainaron are insect-like, but their experiences and actions seem strangely familiar. We read about them in letters whose recipient remains nameless.

The writer has arrived on a white ship to a constantly changing city located in volcanic region but does not remember why. Suffering from homesickness, the writer is also enchanted by the new surroundings and its inhabitants, such as Longhorn, the suspicious Miss Pumilio, the Guardian of the Oddfellows, the Rhinoceros Beetle and the Psammotettix.

In the novel unprecedented metamorphoses are witnessed, strange coincidences are enjoyed and the possibilities of existence pondered. The descriptions are often accurate depictions of the ways of life of particular species, but at the same time allegories of our own, familiar everyday world.

*Tainaron*, which was first published in 1985, was the breakthrough work of the prize-winning author Leena Krohn, whose subsequent career has taken her readers on long explorations of uncharted realities. The new edition of *Tainaron* (2006) includes two letters that were not included in the original work.



*Tainaron*

Teos Publishers, 2006 (1985), 138pp.

#### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

#### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Avgust; Croatia, Hangar7; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Dutch, Wilde arbeien; World English, Prime Books | Cheeky Frawg; Estonia, Aniara; French, Éditions Corti; Greece, Kastaniotis; Latvia, Preses Nams; Poland, Świat Książki; Spanish, Nórdica Libros; Sweden, Fripress

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 books have sold over 100,000 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?



*Puuvilletehtaan 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

Ann-Christin Antell (b. 1973) studied history and archaeology and worked as a librarian before embarking on her career as an author. Her debut novel *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill* (2021) climbed to the top of the Finnish bestseller lists, as did its sequel, *Heir to the Cotton Mill* (2022). The final installment in the Cotton Mill series, *Rival to the Cotton Mill*, is the much-anticipated final novel of the trilogy, scheduled for early 2023.



*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

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.

Pirkko Saisio

## *The Helsinki Trilogy*

*One of the all-time masterpieces of Finnish literature from the working-class writer, queer icon and renaissance artist Saisio.*

Pirkko Saisio's autofictional trilogy carries the reader through the childhood, adolescence and adulthood of a girl who wanted to be a boy and started calling herself "her" when she was eight years of age.

The trilogy starts with *The Lowest Common Multiple* (1998). In the beginning of the novel, the main character, "she", is already a middle-aged mother. When her father dies, things get shoved off their place. Her memories take her back to her childhood in the 1950s – to a story, which is also about to change.

In the second novel, *The Backlight* (2000), it is 1968, and the main character is travelling to Switzerland to work in an orphanage. With episodes from her grammar-school years, the reader follows her navigating the conflict between a leftist upbringing, Christianity, and her awakening sexuality.

*The Red Book of Farewells* (2003) starts in the politically turbulent 1970s. The main character begins her studies in the Theatre Academy, falls in love with a woman, and enters an adult life where there are to be farewells every now and then.

The strong themes of the trilogy – the relationship between an individual and the society, sexuality and being queer, and finding your voice – are told in a fragmentary, lyrical style, descriptive of Saisio. As the background, there is Helsinki, changing as the decades go by.

Each of the three novels was nominated for Finland's biggest literary award, the Finlandia Prize, *The Red Book of Farewells* finally gaining it. The books have sold over 80,000 copies in Finland alone.



*Pienin yhteinen jaettava*

*The Lowest Common Multiple*

WSOY, 1998, 254 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English samples,  
English translation (book #3)

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 1998

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2000

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2003

“Pirkko Saisio might be the best Finnish author alive.”

Aamulehti newspaper

“Pirkko Saisio has for a long time been a genre of her own.”

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

I was eight when it first happened.

It was a November morning.

The road was black and shiny. It swelled behind the sleety, wet windows.

I saw myself through the window. I was plump and bad-tempered.

I pulled a pair of too-tight woollen socks on to my feet.

There was a button missing from my vest. Mother took a five-mark note from her bag.

I stuffed it in my sock.

And that was when it first happened.

I wrote in my mind the sentence: She did not want to get up.

I altered the sentence: She did not want to get up yet.

I added another sentence: She was too tired to go to school.

I improved the second sentence: She was far, far too tired to go to school.

I looked triumphantly at my father, who was reading the Workers’ News in his shirtsleeves and drinking black coffee.

Mother was spreading red from her lips to her cheeks in front of the hall mirror, and humming.

No one noticed that I had become she, a subject of continual observation.

*The Lowest Common Multiple*

Translated by Hildi Hawkins

Pirkko Saisio (b. 1949) is an author, theatre director, actor and one of the best-known cultural figures in Finland. Her novel *The Course of Life* (1975) was awarded as the best debut of the year. Since then, Saisio has been nominated for the Finlandia Prize seven times, winning it in with *The Red Book of Farewells* (2003), the last novel in her auto-fictional trilogy, which marked her breakthrough to the top of Finnish fiction. She has, among other awards, received Aleksis Kivi Prize and State Literature Award. Today, her novels are considered modern classics.

#### ALSO AVAILABLE

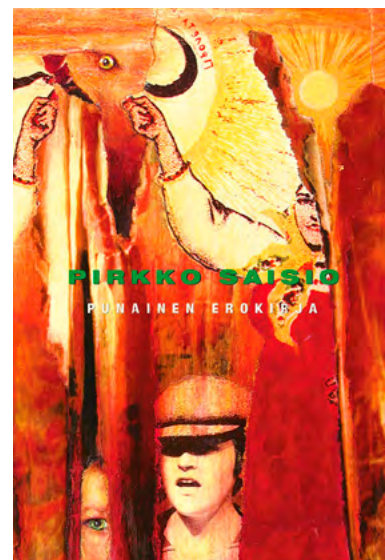
See the backlist



*Vastavalo*

*The Backlight*

WS OY, 2000, 252 pp.



*Punainen erokirja*

*The Red Book of Farewells*

WS OY, 2003, 298 pp.

#### RIGHTS SOLD

Dutch, De Geus (books #1–3); English (U.S.A. and Canada), Two Lines Press (books #1–3); World French, Robert Laffont (books #1–3); German, Klett-Cotta (books #1–3); Hungary, Polar (books #1–3); Slovenia, Škuc (book #3); Sweden, Kabusa (book #3)



Fiction



© Stefan Bremer

Märta Tikkanen (b. 1935) is a Finland-Swedish journalist, writer, and teacher. In her broad output, translated into over 20 languages, she has critically dealt with gender roles and the shackles that bind women, as well as women's liberation and the longing to realize oneself. She became a central figure in the Nordic women's movement with her novel *Manrape* (1975). In 1979, she was awarded the Nordic Women's Alternative Literature Prize and the Finnish Booksellers' Thank You for the Book Prize. In 1983, she was awarded Finland's State Prize for the Dissemination of Knowledge; in 1999, the Swedish literary De Nios Grand Prize; in 2002, the Swedish Academy's Finland Prize; and in 2011, Finland's State Literary Prize.

Märta Tikkanen

# *The Love Story of the Century*

*This Finnish literary classic continues to find new generations of readers.*

Märta Tikkanen's verse novel *The Love Story of the Century* debuted in 1978 and quickly became an undisputed classic of Finnish literature. At the time, it was revolutionary in its depiction of life with an alcoholic husband, the violence and fear that came with it, and the demands placed on women in the family and the home. But it also depicts the power of love and falling in love, and the creative process as a counterforce to everything that's destructive. The novel is not only a portrait of a woman's resilience, but also of her rebellion.

*The Love Story of the Century* is Tikkanen's internationally most well-known work, and it has been translated into 19 languages. In Sweden alone it has sold 140,000 copies; in Germany over 65,000; and in Norway 45,000 copies. It has also enjoyed huge success as a theatre adaptation: in Germany, for example, it has been shown in over 50 theatres.

*"Tikkanen has an unusual ability to let language lightly touch the most delicate topics, to capture the expression of emotion as it is being experienced, and – perhaps, above all – an entirely unique ability to describe falling in love as fresh and new as it is to those who have just been cast under its spell."*

Lisbeth Larsson, Expressen (Sweden)

“Keep your roses  
clear the table  
instead

keep your roses  
listen to what I say  
instead

keep your roses  
lie a little less  
instead

love me less  
respect me more  
Keep your roses!”

*Translated by Stina Katchadourian*



*Århundradets kärlekssaga*

Schildts & Söderströms, 1978 [2016], 190 pp.

#### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation

#### RIGHTS SOLD

World English, Deep Vellum; Estonia, Koolibri; Greek, Melani



Nonfiction



© Kenneth Bamberg

Henrik Meinander (b. 1960) is a professor of history at the University of Helsinki and the author of many acclaimed books on Finnish and Nordic history. He was formerly curator of the Mannerheim Museum in Helsinki and head of the Finnish Institute in Stockholm.

Henrik Meinander

# *A History of Finland*

*What has made Finland into the country it is in the beginning of the 21st century?*

*A History of Finland* paints a brisk and bold picture of Finland from integrated part of the Swedish kingdom to autonomous Grand Duchy within the Russian empire, gradually transformed and maturing into a conscious nation, independent state and skilful adapter of modern technology.

The book places Finland in a wider Nordic and European perspective and skilfully weaves political, economic and cultural developments into an integral whole.

In a departure from most conventional approaches, Meinander gives greater emphasis to recent and contemporary events. In other words, he puts Finland into a range of historical contexts to highlight how the Baltic and European settings together have formed Finland into what it is at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

*A History of Finland*, valued by historians and common readers alike, has sold in Finland almost 30,000 copies.

*“[...] a thoughtful and eminently readable volume. [...] Meinander gives readers an opportunity to look back in an unusually nuanced and informed manner.”*

Andrew Newby, English Historical Review

*“Meinander is a master of elegant compression and writes with precision and subtlety. [...] The result is a genuinely entertaining read.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

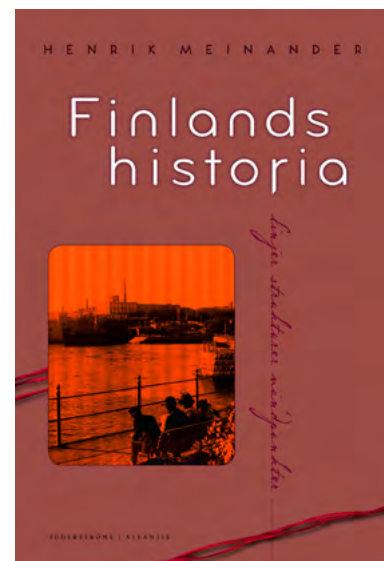
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Finland 1944 (Finland 1944, 2009)*

Rights sold: Finland, Siltala; Russia, Ves Mir

*Mannerheim (Gustaf Mannerheim – aristokrat i vadmal, 2017)*

Rights sold: World English, Hurst; Finland, Otava; Sweden, Lind & co.



*Finlands historia*

*Linjer, strukturer, vändpunkter*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2014, 329 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation,  
Finnish translation, German translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Azerbaijan, Kitabistan; Belorussia, Mastatskaya Literatura; Bulgaria, Faber; World English, Hurst; Estonia, Ilmamaa; Georgia, Merebashvilykesson; German, Scoventa; Greece, Asini; Finland, Schildts & Söderströms; Finland, Siltala; Latvia, Jumava; Lithuania, Aukso žuvys; Persian, CIRE; Russia, Ves Mir; Sweden, Atlantis



Nonfiction



© Cata Portin

Marcus Rosenlund (b. 1969) is a science journalist in the Finnish national broadcasting company YLE. He has worked on popularising science for years and was awarded the Topelius Prize for his radio series *Quantum Leap*. Rosenlund writes about things readers did not realise they wanted to know about, and in the age of ‘fake news’, offers us true stories that are stranger than fiction. His book *The Weather that Changed the World* (2018) received the State Award for Information Publication and an award from the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland. *Towards the Stars* (2020) is his second nonfiction work.

Marcus Rosenlund

# *The Weather that Changed the World*

*Why is Greenland “green”? What happened when the Thames froze over?*

And how did the divine winds that sank Kublai Khan’s fleet reappear in the Second World War? To conquer the world you need more than the back-up of the world’s strongest army or the biggest financial power: you need to rule the weather. None of the past empires have been able to do that—on the contrary, weather has caused many of them to decline or fall.

Russian winter halted the offensives of Charles XII of Sweden, Napoleon, and Hitler. A storm defeated the Spanish Armada. The Little Ice Age plunged Europe into chaos. The El Niño phenomenon speeded the collapse of the Mayan civilization. And what do you think happened with the Neanderthals?

*The Weather that Changed the World* is narrative non-fiction at its best. Science journalist Marcus Rosenlund takes readers through millennia revealing how weather has shaped our world and our history into what it is today.

The author was awarded for the work by the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, and it received the State Award for Information Publication 2019.

“January 1362. The Rungholt harbour town in the Danish Duchy of Schleswig—and many villages around it—are about to disappear from the map. In the literal sense. The unknown number of people, up to 100,000 according to some sources, dies of freezing cold, black water which the closing hurricane is pushing forward. The storm will completely redraw the borders of the Northern shoreline.”



*Väder som förändrade världen*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 272 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Ühinenud Ajakirjad; Hungary, Cser Kiadó; Italy, Garzanti; Poland, Jagiellonian University Press; World Spanish, Elefanta; Turkey, Kaplumbaa; Ukraine, Anetta Antonenko

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Towards the Stars (Mot stjärnorna. Strövtåg i universum, 2020)*



Children's  
novels



© Anna Autio

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

Anja Portin

# Radio Popov

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

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

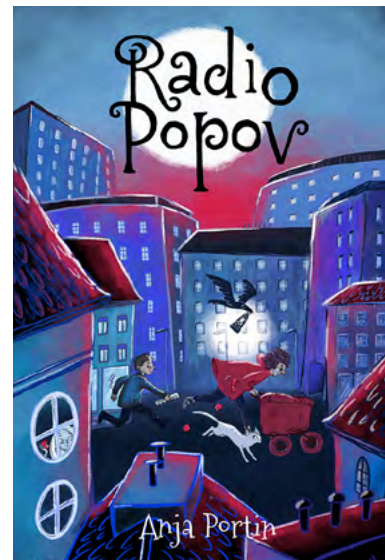
Thus begins an unforgettable adventure that changes everything, and not just for Albert. Sneak turns out the eccentric Amanda Lehtimaja, a paperwoman who is one of the Sharp Ears. At Amanda's home Alfred finds an old radio transmitter designed by a Russian physicist, A. S. Popov. He starts making a secret,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

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

*Radio Popov* is an exciting and humorous, warm-hearted story that brings to mind the most beloved classics of children's literature, like the novels of Astrid Lindgren and Roald Dahl. It was rewarded as the best children's book of the year with Finland's biggest literary award, Finlandia Junior Prize. The book has sold over 13,000 copies.

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

*Translated by Hildi Hawkins*



*Radio Popov*

S&S, 2020, 288 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

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



Sofia (b. 1986) and Amanda Chanfreau (b. 1983) were born in Helsinki and currently live in Malmö, Sweden. Written by Sofia and illustrated by Amanda, *A Giraffe's Heart Is Unbelievably Large* (2022) is the sisters' debut work, and the winner of Finland's biggest literary award, the Finlandia Junior Prize. The book was also a nominee for the Runeberg Junior Prize.

Sofia Chanfreau & Amanda Chanfreau (illustrations)

# *A Giraffe's Heart Is Unbelievably Large*

*Welcome to a world of fantasy  
you will not want to leave!*

Vega is ten years old and lives with her father on Giraffe Island. Life goes along in its usual way, which in Vega's case means anything but usual. She sees things no one else does, like imaginary animals that keep her company. The bathroom is home to a gray bear whose fur is lathered with shampoo, and on the way to school she encounters Atle the asphalt beaver and the crosswalk zebra Zacharias.

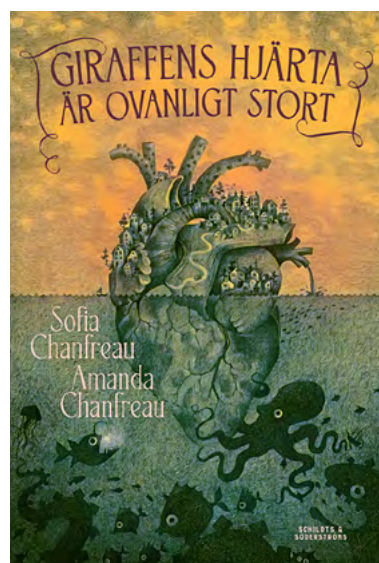
Vega has never met her mother, and when she asks her father and her grandfather Hektor about her mother, they speak in mysteries. When Vega's father gets a not-so-nice girlfriend and Vega gets an unexpected pen pal, she decides to set out on an adventure to find out more about her mother.

Colored by magical realism, *A Giraffe's Heart Is Unbelievably Large* is a tale of longing to be part of a family, to find one's place in the world, and to be loved as one is. It's a superb read for a child alone or for parents and children together. It has already sold over 10,000 copies in Finland.

*"In its magical realism, the work takes us to places and moods that shimmer with something rare and fine. We see the world through the eyes of the narrator and the main characters, and captivating connections form between fantasy and reality. The narration is borne along by beautiful language, surprising transitions, and humor. Equally generous and idiosyncratic are the book's illustrations, which carry us off to milieus we are in no hurry to leave."* Finlandia Junior Prize jury

*"Together they have created an imagination-stimulating story, with fantasy sprouting from the book's pages. [...] The undercurrent of this playful, freshly humorous story is serious, bringing to mind such authors as Shaun Tan and Tormod Haugen."*

BTJ magazine



*Giraffens hjärta är ovanligt stort*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2022, 206 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

China (Mainland China, Simplified Chinese), Everafter; Czech, Host; Denmark, Straarup & Co.; Dutch, Lannoo; English (UK and Commonwealth), Gecko Press; Estonia, Ühinenud Ajakirjad; French; Italy, Salani; Korea, Dasan; Lithuania, Alma Littera; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost; World Spanish, Océano

FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2022

NOMINEE FOR RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2023

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2023



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

*Pärlfiskaren*  
Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 243 pp.



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

*Fågeltämjaren*  
Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 310 pp.



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

*Bergsklättraren*  
Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 255 pp.



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

*Segraren*  
Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 302 pp.

RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2018

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

NOMINEE FOR THE ARVID LYDECKEN PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2018 & 2020

Karin Erlandsson

## *Song of the Eye Gemstone series*

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

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

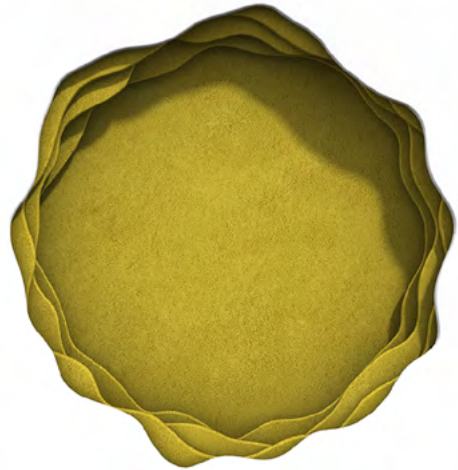
Two girls set out for the hunt: Miranda who believes herself to be the most skilled pearl fisher of all, and small Syrsa who has a rare ability: she can hear the pearls singing, whispering, murmuring... Their page-turning adventure grows in the series of four books to epic proportions: to a grand tale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

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

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

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



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

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translations, English synopses

### RIGHTS SOLD

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



Young adult  
novels



© Jennifer Granqvist

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

Ellen Strömberg

## *We'll Just Ride Past*

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

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

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

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

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

Dagens Nyheter

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

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

Nuori Voima literary magazine  
on *Chasing Water*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

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

*The Itch* (*Klåda*, 2019)



*Vi ska ju bara cykla förbi*

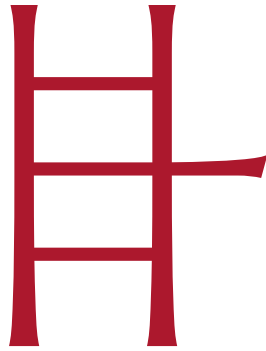
Schildts & Söderströms | Rabén & Sjögren, 2022, 251 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation, English sample, English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Italy, Terre di Mezzo; Korea, Bluemoose Books



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

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#### Gummerus

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

#### Schildts & Söderströms

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

#### Siltala Publishing

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

#### Teos Publishers

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

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## Colophon

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

