



Summer  
2023



Helsinki Literary Agency *Books*



Selja Ahava

# *The Day the Whale Swam through London*

*A magical novel about being lost and trying to find the way.*

Anna's memory has shattered, and so has the time. She looks with wonder at the countless pieces of which her life consists, taking them in one at a time. She goes through her days detached from those close to her, detached from her surroundings.

There is the island and the sea, a familiar landscape, and there is Antti, her husband. When he dies in a car accident, Anna's journey through time and different places begins. She tries to settle down in London, and for a while the metropolis seems to give room for a stranger alienated from others and from herself. But Anna is permanently lost in her own mind, disappearing from herself.

*The Day the Whale Swam through London* uses magical realism, fantasy and even gentle comedy in diving into a world of a person suffering from memory disorders. Bravely and with determination Anna still tries to reach her own essence and humanity, the ability to live with others.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Things that Fall from the Sky* (Taivaalta tippuvat asiat, 2015)

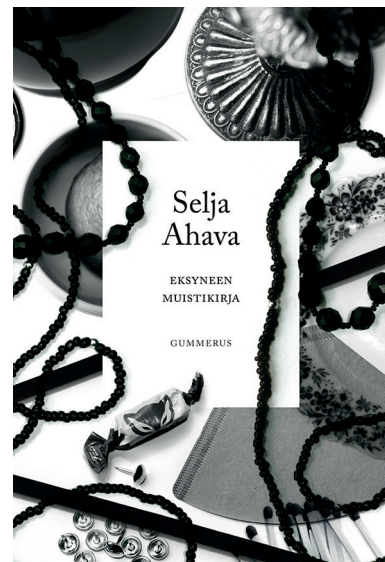
Rights sold: Albania, IDK; Arabic, Egyptian Cultural Assembly; Armenia, Guitank; Bulgaria, Colibri; China, Citic; Croatia, Vuković & Runjić; Czech Republic, Pavel Dobrovský – Beta; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; World English, Oneworld; Estonia, Post Factum (Eesti Meedia); France, Bleu & Jaune; Georgia, 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, Bakhåll; Turkey, Timas; Ukraine, V. Books XXI

*Before My Husband Disappears* (Ennen kuin mieheni katoaa, 2017)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Colibri; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost International

*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 Edizioni; Poland, Relacja; Turkey, Timas



*Eksyneen muistikirja*

Gummerus, 2010, 203 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Germany, Mare Verlag;  
Korea, Munhakdongne

WINNER OF LAURA HIRVISAARI PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE

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)

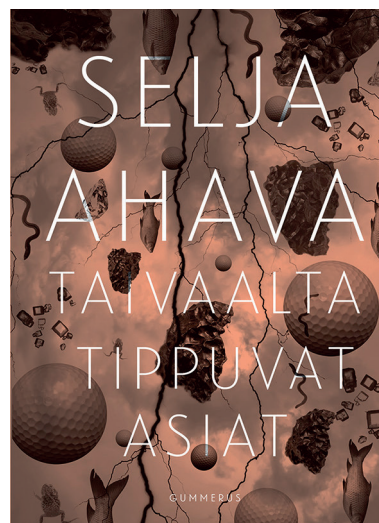
Rights sold: Germany, Mare Verlag

*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 Edizioni; Poland, Relacja; Turkey, Timas



*Taivaalta tippuvat asiat*

Gummerus, 2015, 223 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation, French 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 xx1

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2016

EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2016

Selja Ahava

# *Before My Husband Disappears*

*What happens when  
the map of your life changes?*

There are sentences that divide time into before and after. A woman loses her husband with one of these sentences. Helplessly she watches as she has less of a husband left with each passing day and how the past and the future collapse into the unknown—just like ships that drop off the edge of the map, there, where the sea monsters live.

She wants to commit her husband to memory before he disappears: who he was, how he moved, how he sat on the blue duvet, breathing, after just waking up. She wants to prove that she once had a husband. But other images unexpectedly rise to the surface above the others: Columbus kissing the sands of India. Columbus drawing a map that puts the mountains, islands, and harbors in place. Columbus yelling into a storm: “India was there!”

And the woman thinks: it’s possible to stand on a sandy beach, draw an island on a map and give it a name, and be off by a continent at the same time.

*Before My Husband Disappears* is a brutally honest story about the unexpected aspects of reality and the pain of letting go. Ahava’s powerful but natural prose turns an unbelievable story and a human tragedy into a moving work of art.



*Ennen kuin mieheni katoaa*

Gummerus, 2017, 231 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
Danish translation

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Day the Whale Swam through London* (Eksyneen muistikirja, 2010)

Rights sold: Germany, Mare; Korea, Munhakdongne

*Things that Fall from the Sky* (Taivaalta tippuvat asiat, 2015)

Rights sold: Albania, IDK; Arabic, Egyptian Cultural Assembly; Armenia, Guitank; Bulgaria, Colibri; China, Citic; Croatia, Vuković & Runjić; Czech Republic, Pavel Dobrovský – Beta; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; 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, Bakhåll; Turkey, Timas; Ukraine, V. Books XXI

*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 Edizioni; Poland, Relacja; Turkey, Timas

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Colibri; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost International

Selja Ahava

# *The Woman Who Loved Insects*

*A beautiful and passionate story carries the reader from the days of the witch trials to present-day Berlin.*

Maria, born in the age of witch trials, has been fascinated by insects since childhood. She begins to draw the metamorphic life cycles of them, as did her historical model, the German naturalist Maria Sibylla Merian (1647–1717).

With the passage of time from one age to another the world changes, and religion finds a competitor in science. The novel shows a woman breaking out of her narrow role, gaining a voice and authorship, together with the right to ponder the mystery of the origin of life. Just as insects undergo a transformation, so over time Maria changes, going on to live for 370 years.

*The Woman Who Loved Insects* has much to say about the relation between humans and nature. Above all, however, it is the story of a woman following her own path and her own passions, despite the obstacles set in her way by the era.

*“The Woman Who Loved Insects is like a Japanese woodcut – gentle, exotic and slowly unfolding. It is enigmatic, and as such very, very fascinating.”*  
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Day the Whale Swam through London* (Eksyneen muistikirja, 2010)

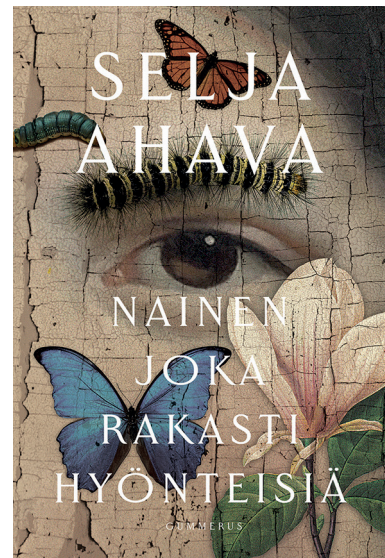
Rights sold: Germany, Mare; Korea, Munhakdongne

*Things that Fall from the Sky* (Taivaalta tippuvat asiat, 2015)

Rights sold: Albania, IDK; Arabic, Egyptian Cultural Assembly; Armenia, Guitank; Bulgaria, Colibri; China, Citic; Croatia, Vuković & Runjić; Czech Republic, Pavel Dobrovský – Beta; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; 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, KUO Sodobnost International; World Spanish, Editorial Bercimuel; Swedish, Bakhäll; Turkey, Timas; Ukraine, V. Books XXI

*Before My Husband Disappears* (Ennen kuin mieheni katoaa, 2017)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Colibri; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Slovenia, KUO Sodobnost International



*Nainen joka rakasti hyönteisiä*

Gummerus, 2020, 331 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Colibri; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; France, Bleu & Jaune (optioned); Hungary, Polar; Italy, Elliot Edizioni; Poland, Relacja; Turkey, Timas



Anna-Liisa Ahokumpu

# *The Thirteen Symphonies of Viktor Stanislaus*

*A boy who did not know his father. A mother who fell in love with the wrong man. Music that fell silent for a lifetime.*

The butterfly collector Max Halma has dedicated his entire life to his subject. When his mother dies and a rare butterfly is found among her effects, he dives still deeper into his work. The butterfly may lead him closer to international recognition than ever before.

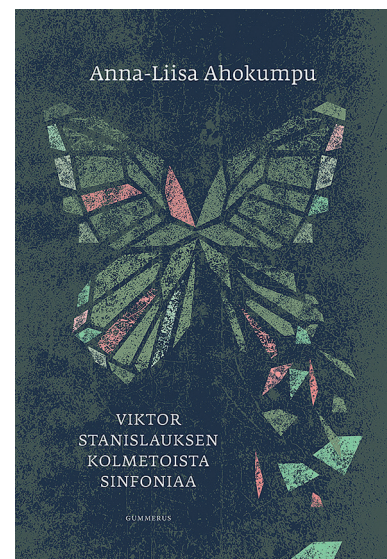
His mother's death, however, also forces Max to examine his own past: his father, about whom his mother rarely spoke. Documents show that his father drowned a week after Max's birth, and that the body was never found. The deeper Max goes in his investigations, the more questions arise. What really happened to his father in the spring of 1942?

When the tracks lead from archives in northern Finland to a brilliant pianist's last concert in Hamburg, the secrets of the past begin to be revealed.

Anna-Liisa Ahokumpu's tender first novel is like an enigmatic concert from a family's life: obsessions, family secrets and voices that should not be silenced.

*"A novella that doesn't expand beyond its limits is a disappointment. [...] The Thirteen Symphonies of Viktor does expand, beyond all measure. [...] Ahokumpu writes prose that is skilfully artistic. We can say this: when a butterfly beats its wings during the war near Rovaniemi, people will suffer the consequences for decades – and at some point, in Germany, their actualisations, symphonies. [...] [The novel] leaves a trace in its readers."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Viktor Stanislausen  
kolmetoista sinfoniaa*

Gummerus, 2018, 175 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
Hungarian sample

NOMINEE FOR THE BOTNIA PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE LAPLAND LITERATURE PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE

Matti Airola

# *Dads and Daughters Braiding Book*

*When Matti's 5-year-old daughter started wanting French braids every day, her father thought: "How hard could it be?"*

With a huge range of different styles possible, braids are one of the most popular hairstyles around at the moment, both for children and adults. Braiding is also the perfect shared pastime for parents and children: fun, relaxing and completely free. Braiding doesn't only feel nice, it also gives a beautiful end result that will delight both the braidee and the braider.

With this cute book written by a Finnish father who started braiding his daughters' hair with ambition you will learn the secrets of braiding, with clear illustrations and beautiful background pictures. The book contains thirty sets of instructions, divided into chapters by braid style. It also features tips for braiding shorter hair.

- ✧ Clear illustrations and written instructions will guide you step by step
- ✧ Beautiful photographs of the end result
- ✧ Instructions for 30 braids, easy and impressive!
- ✧ Over 28,000 copies sold in Finland!

## **ALSO AVAILABLE**

*Dads and Daughters Braiding Book – Parties! (Isin ja tyttöjen lettikirja – Bileet! 2015)*

Rights sold: World Dutch, Clavis; Estonia, Paljasjalg



*Isin ja tyttöjen lettikirja*

S&S, 2015, 95 pp.

## **READING MATERIAL**

Finnish manuscript, English sample

## **RIGHTS SOLD**

Czech Republic, Fragment | Albatros;  
Estonia, Paljasjalg; France, Glénat;  
Germany, Frechverlag; Poland, Media  
Rodzina; Slovakia, Albatros

Matti Airola

# *Dads and Daughters Braiding Book – Parties!*

*The follow-up to the Dads and Daughters Braiding Book is here – and shows you how to create easy and amazing hairstyles for parties!*

How about a tiara braid for a princess party, braided cat ears for a howling good time, bold braids in cornrows for the disco, or a sophisticated basket weave braid for a garden party? This book presents 20 new braids for different kinds of parties with step-by-step illustrations. But you don't need to wait for an invitation – you can try out these braids for any occasion!

The detailed instructions and illustrations provide step-by-step guidance for each braid, and no previous braiding experience is needed. Airola also provides ideas for decorating each of the hairstyles, and the joyous photographs provide additional inspiration.

*Dads and Daughters Braiding Book – Parties!* is a continuation of Matti Airola's super successful *Dads and Daughters Braiding Book* which has sold over 28,000 copies in Finland. *Parties!* has so far sold over 10,000 copies.

*"It's clear the book has awoken a sense of competition among dads: if Matti Airola can braid his daughters' hair, why can't I? The photographs are works of art in themselves."*

Virikkeitä magazine

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Dads and Daughters Braiding Book (Isin ja tyttöjen lettikirja, 2015)*

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Fragment | Albatros; Estonia, Paljasjalg; France, Glénat; Germany, Frechverlag; Poland, Media Rodzina; Slovakia, Albatros



*Isin ja tyttöjen lettikirja – Bileet!*

S&S, 2016, 87 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

World Dutch, Clavis; Estonia, Paljasjalg

Ann-Christin Antell

# *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill*

*Love, conflict, and ideological zeal amid the social upheaval of the 19th century.*

It's the sunset of the 19th century in the Grand Duchy of Finland, an autonomous area of the Russian empire. In the city of Turku, the young widow Jenny Malmström devotes her considerable energies to improving the status of women and the living conditions of factory workers.

A project to provide housing for workers sets Jenny up against Fredrik Barker, the arrogant son of a cotton mill owner, who seems to represent everything Jenny is fighting against. Suddenly Jenny finds herself between a rock and a hard place: should she listen to her principles—or her heart?

*The Shadow of the Cotton Mill* depicts the life of an independent woman in an era when industrialists make up the new elite, women demand equality, and Finland's status as a nation is undergoing a transformation. Upon its publication, *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill* shot up the Finnish bestseller lists, with sales of over 50,000 copies so far.

**“Her blood was boiling. What an arrogant, despicable person! Never before had she encountered such impudence, such condescension. No feeling for the less fortunate. And the labor and lives of countless people lay in the hands of such men! She sincerely hoped to never lay eyes on Fredrik Barker again as long as she lived.”**

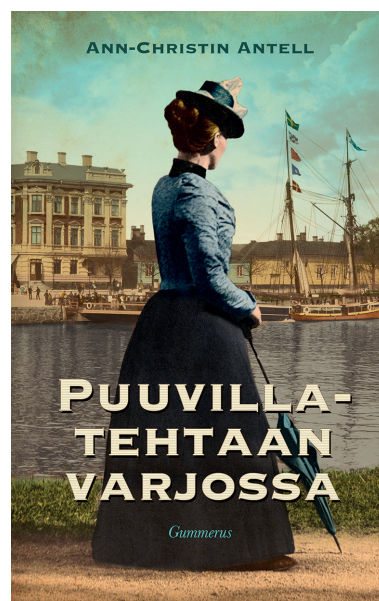
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Heir to the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #2 (Puuvillehtehtaan perijä, 2022)*

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

*Rival to the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #3 (Puuvillehtehtaan kilpailija, 2023)*

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



*Puuvillehtehtaan varjossa*  
*Puuvillehtehtas #1*

Gummerus, 2021, 335 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

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

#1 BESTSELLER



Ann-Christin Antell

# *Heir to the Cotton Mill*

*Society balls, resistance, and romance  
amid the oppression of the early 1900s.*

Jenny's adult foster daughter, Martta, returns from Sweden to her childhood home, Turku, and finds work at the public library. It is the dawn of the 20th century, and Russian oppression is creating tensions in autonomous Finland.

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: she doesn't feel at home in society, but she doesn't feel like she belongs to the working class either. How can she build herself a life between these two different worlds?

*Heir to the Cotton Mill* picks up the story of the Barker family that began in *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill*. It is now the early 20th century, and Finland's cultural elite, with their strong sense of nationhood, find themselves at odds with Russia's increasingly oppressive policies. Meanwhile, social mobility and working-class ideologies are on the rise. Upon its publication, *Heir to the Cotton Mill* immediately rose to number one on Finnish bestseller lists, with sales of over 40,000 copies so far.

“And what about you, Martta, how do you find local society? Do you feel at home among the cream of Turku?’ Martta was on the verge of offering a trite response, but then she looked into Aina’s honest eyes and sighed. ‘To be candid, I don’t really feel at home anywhere. There is no returning to the past, and in society I feel like a fish out of water.’”

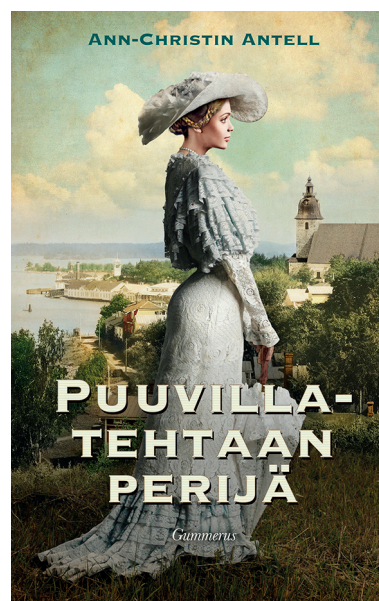
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Shadow of the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #1* (Puvillatehtaan varjossa, 2021)

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

*Rival to the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #3* (Puvillatehtaan kilpailija, 2023)

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



*Puvillatehtaan perijä*  
*Puvillatehtas #2*

Gummerus, 2022, 368 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

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

#1 BESTSELLER

Ann-Christin Antell

## *Rival to The Cotton Mill*

*Glittering parties, business conflicts and sparkling romance in the brand-new era of independence.*

It is the roaring 20s in the city of Turku on the western coast of Finland. The country has gained its independence in 1917, fought a devastating civil war in 1918 and is finally settling into more peaceful times after decades of turmoil.

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 do anything it takes to save the mill. But it seems history is repeating itself when Paula suddenly notices that opposites sometimes attract each other to an irresistible extent...

Third generation steps in in the final book of the Cotton Mill trilogy about the Barker family. It is the modern era of jazz and progress, and Jenny's granddaughter and Martta's daughter Paula has gained her position as the advertising manager of the mill. Times are changing, but fortunately there seems to be love left for the young ones, too.

The Cotton Mill trilogy has been huge success in Finland, with sales over 100,000 copies. *Rival to the Cotton Mill* is the much-anticipated final part of the series.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Shadow of the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #1 (Puvillatehtaan varjossa, 2021)*

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

*Heir to the Cotton Mill, Cotton Mill #2 (Puvillatehtaan perijä, 2022)*

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



*Puvillatehtaan kilpailija*  
*Puvillatehtas #3*

Gummerus, 2023, c. 340 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

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

KAARLE PRIZE 2023

Katarina Baer

# *They Were Nazis*

*A book about the most terrifying mystery of the 20th century:  
how could my own family be involved in the Holocaust?*

After the horrors of the First World War the future that before had seemed happy and clear for the Baltic German family Baer took a new direction. The family's fate became closely intertwined with the growing National Socialist movement in Germany.

In her acclaimed book journalist Katarina Baer tells the story of her grandparents, an ordinary Baltic German family in the beginning of the 20th century. She describes the life in the Baltic regions as it was during the years of the Russian empire, German colonies scattered throughout the area; the First World War, which stripped the privileged family of their possessions; the life during the war in Berlin, in an apartment taken from Jews; her grandfather, an active and idealist Nazi, and her grandmother, secretly a Nazi till the end of her days.

*They Were Nazis* is a masterful example of the best narrative nonfiction: a book based on thorough research but still a page-turner. It has gotten glowing reviews and it won the Book of the Year award in Bonnier's Competition for Grand Journalism Prize 2016.

*"Katarina Baer's book is a thought-provoking and very original journey into the dark side of the European history."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Baer adjusts the focus to the everyday life with the help of letters, archives and the memories of her relatives, and she frames everything: the ordinary [...] life goes side by side with the horrors of history. This creates the paradox and the living tension of the book."*

Kodin Pellervo magazine



*He olivat natseja*

Teos Publishers, 2016, 360 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation,  
English sample, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Post Factum (Eesti Meedia)

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Greatest Leap Forward (Kiinan suurin harppaus, 2020)*

BONNIER'S GRAND JOURNALISM PRIZE 2016

Katarina Baer & Kalle Koponen (photographs)

# *The Greatest Leap Forward*

*China uses the latest technology to monitor the lives, actions and thoughts of its citizens ever more closely.*

The Chinese leadership keeps watch on its citizens with advanced, intimidatingly effective surveillance technology. Combined with the dictatorship's ability to rapidly mobilise vast operations in the streets and cities, this means near-total surveillance is already possible.

*The Greatest Leap Forward* is a book by journalist Katarina Baer and photographer Kalle Koponen that describes the massive operations and increasingly total systems China has created to control and manipulate its citizens, and how it manages to keep 1.4 billion people inside its own bubble, unable to access the internet freely.

The authors follow the lives of three Shanghai residents during the corona spring of 2020: Julia, in her last year at school, together with her family; Xu, a barber, and Chunheng, a tourism entrepreneur. All of them are firm supporters of the Chinese Communist Party. Through their stories, the book tries find out why so many Chinese people, despite the repressive measures, are happy with the leadership of their country.

One of the most troubling questions raised in the book is what will happen if the use of Chinese surveillance systems becomes more widespread. The combination of robust surveillance technology and the use of digital big data collected from people would upset the balance of power between dictatorships and democracies and threaten the very foundations of personal privacy.



*Kiinan suurin harppaus. Päämääränä mailman valvoituin kansa.*

Teos Publishers, 2020, 208 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Hungary, HVG

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*They Were Nazis (He olivat natseja, 2016)*



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.

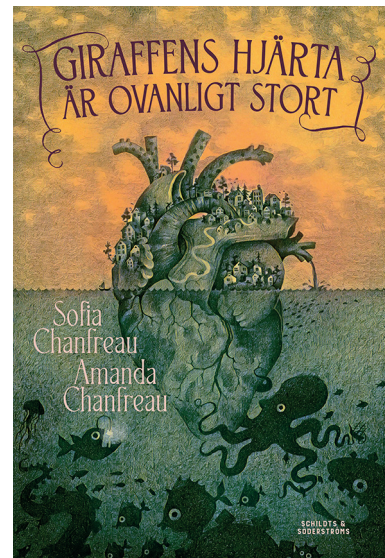
Colored by magical realism, *A Giraffe's Heart Is Unbelievably Large* is a tale of longing to be part of a family, to find one's place in the world, and to be loved as one is. It's a superb read for a child alone or for parents and children together. It has already sold over 10,000 copies in Finland.

*"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, Finnish translation,  
English sample, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

China (Mainland China, Simplified Chinese),  
Everafter; Czech, Host; Denmark, Straarup &  
Co.; Dutch, Lannoo; English (UK and Common-  
wealth), Gecko Press; Estonia, Ühinenud Aja-  
kirjad; World French, Milan; Hebrew, Keren;  
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

Ulla Donner

# Spleenish

*Generation Y in the riptide of incredible opportunities and impossible expectations.*

For a young, promising person the world is full of opportunities: interdisciplinary projects, zines, photography, curating a food blog and a knitting blog, working on the defining novel of your generation.

But what if you'd rather wallow in self-pity at home in your underwear? Why should you do this and that?

Spleen stands for brooding gloom, melancholia, listlessness, boredom. Spleenish is a mood for Generation Y: everything is easy and uncertain, all the time. Other people are smarter, slimmer, more accomplished.

Ulla Donner's autobiographical graphic novel meditates on what stands in the way of becoming a new person with infinite possibilities. It was nominated for the Graphic Novel Finlandia Prize and awarded with the Society of Swedish Authors in Finland debut prize in 2018.

*"It is nearly impossible to read Ulla Donner's Spleenish without thinking about the TV series Girls. The brilliance of Spleenish is closely related to what was exceptional in Girls: both of them are sharp, compassionate portraits of our time, both are laced with scathing criticism."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper



## Spleenish

Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 80 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Crap* (Skiten, 2019)

Rights sold: Italy, Carbonio

Ulla Donner

## Crap

*The best graphic novel in Finland  
digging into capitalism, potatoes and freedom.*

Everyone's vegan, a climate activist, a politically conscious intersectional feminist working on what they truly believe in. Or is everything just the same old shite but rewrapped?

An ad agency is in the middle of a restructuring and all emotions are coming out at *After Work* debriefs. Colleagues at Dream Hackers Disruption Agency are discussing how much freedom they actually have. Have they chosen their vocation and their way of life? Are they even able to have a say in what their lives will look like, in the future?

The launch of a new potato-based sausage is underway. The only problem with this innovation for replacing the meat is that it has almost no protein. There is a solution, but not without an additional risk.

Ulla Donner's *Crap*, which was awarded the Finlandia Prize for the best Finnish graphic novel in 2019, is a story about capitalism, potatoes and the will to flush yourself down the toilet.

*"With her graphic minimalism, understanding of detail and portraying the warped contemporary world with a perfect pitch, Ulla Donner has become one of the most interesting graphic novelists of the moment."*

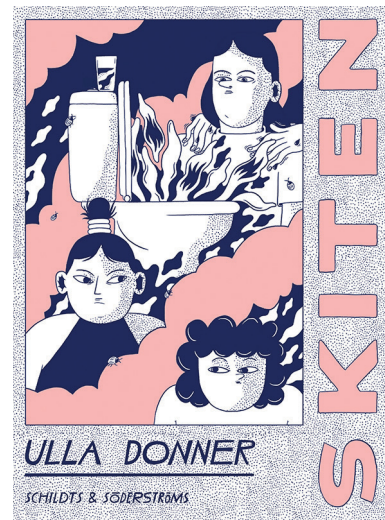
Dagens Nyheter newspaper (Sweden)

*"Both of Ulla Donner's graphic novels have the elements that form the bedrock of the new boom for Swedish-speaking graphic novels: inner angst and social criticism."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Spleenish* (Spleenish, 2017)



*Skiten*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 106 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample, French sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Italy, Carbonio

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."*

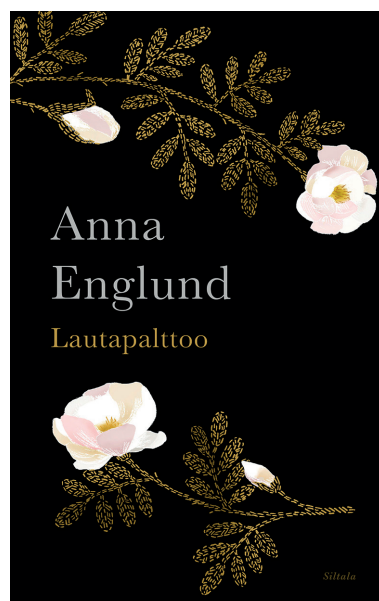
Anna magazine

*"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



Lautapaltto

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 227 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Ühinenud ajakirjad



Karin Erlandsson

## *The Misdeed*

*Nordic noir goes cozy crime  
in a small Finnish town.*

It's the summer of 1992. Young reporter Sara Kvist has landed her first job at a coachside small town's local paper. Her first assignment is to write up the annual report of the midsummer celebrations. But midsummer isn't the same this year—a woman's body is found in the woods.

As the investigation unfolds, smouldering discord and major secrets are discovered lurking beneath the surface of the seemingly peaceful town. And as it turns out, Sara has to fear for her safety, even in her own private life...

*The Misdeed* joins the new wave of Nordic cozy crime fiction, in which the intertwined fates and lives of individual characters coexist alongside the traditional mystery plot. One major theme emerges from the life stories of the characters: men's violence against women.

*"The beautiful thing with Erlandsson is that she is so brutally unsentimental in her way of telling the story, in her formulations. [...] She also has an ability to make simple lines and short dialogues work perfectly. In her we have an author who likes to observe people, how they talk and move about, who has a sense for both the horrible and the comical. [...] And if there is a moral in the novel, maybe it is that the real evil can be left unpunished while a scared person's mistake leads to the most terrible consequences."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

*"The multivoiced chapters in Erlandsson's book are short and the perspective varies often but the author keeps the whole in her solid grip. The tension intensifies to its peak, Erlandsson reining it in with the character building. [...] In the mainstream of ugly realistic detective novels *The Misdeed* is a pleasantly oldfashioned crime story."*

Aamulehti newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Enclosed* (Pojken, 2018)

*Home* (Hem, 2021)



*Missdåd*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2016, 300 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample

Karin Erlandsson

## *Enclosed*

*When an unprecedented snowstorm envelops a small town, old secrets emerge and tensions build.*

It is the early 1990s, and the coast has been hit by the snow-storm of the century. In the offices of the local newspaper, Sara Kvist and her colleagues are putting in a long day. Soon four of the five roads that lead out of town are impassable, there is only one snow-plough and order is in the hands of a lone policeman.

At the same time, the Ekstrand family is living as if in a dream. The mother, Monika, is dead. The father, Krister, is asleep, his back turned to his children and the world. His daughter, Kajsa, makes breakfast every morning and tries to get life back on track. Her big brother, Jonas, plays truant from school – until he suddenly finds himself face to face with the secrets of the past.

Karin Erlandsson's *Enclosed* describes life in a small town whose sleepy surface conceals broken relationships, conflicts and even violence, whose roots run deep.

*"The narrative is powerful and direct. The solution of Erlandsson's equation is an enigmatic and gripping tale."*

Vasabladet on *The Misdeed*

*"An unusually captivating novel which will undoubtedly be one of the most important Swedish-language books this year."*

Österbottens Tidning on *The Misdeed*

*"Karin Erlandsson has once again written a very elegant, thrilling and important novel."*

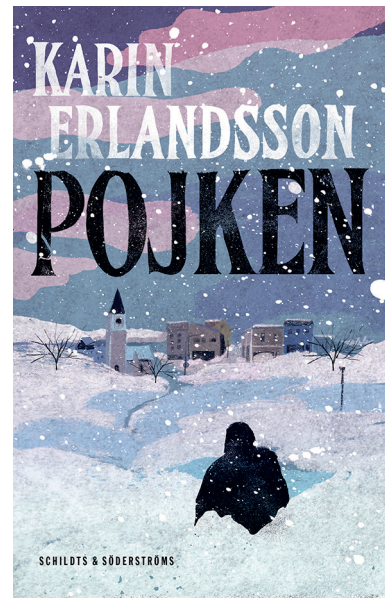
Nya Åland on *The Misdeed*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Misdeed* (Missdåd, 2016)

*Home* (Hem, 2021)

*The Blue Yarn* (Det blå garnet, 2022)



*Pojken*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 268 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample

Karin Erlandsson

# Home

*What about the stories of those  
who stayed home?*

A white ring encircles a round gray stone, like an eye. The stone stays on the windy, sea-battered islands of south-western Finland through the centuries – much like those whose lot it has been to yearn, fear, and wait for those whom the sea gives back.

The stone travels from ninth-century Saltvik to present-day Mariehamn through the stories of ten women. In them, ordinary lives swell and dovetail into a meaningful history, the details into an epic story.

The inhabitants of the Åland Islands have set out to sea since the Stone Age, and stories about those who left and those who never returned abound. In her latest novel, Karin Erlandsson tells the story of the islands from a fresh perspective: as a history of the women and children who remained at home.

*“Home is a powerful and moving collection of texts that cover the complete register of emotions. Karin Erlandsson has the gift of capturing an entire world in a single detail, to condense heart-bursting longing and restlessness into a single turned back or scoured floor.”* National broadcasting company Svenska YLE

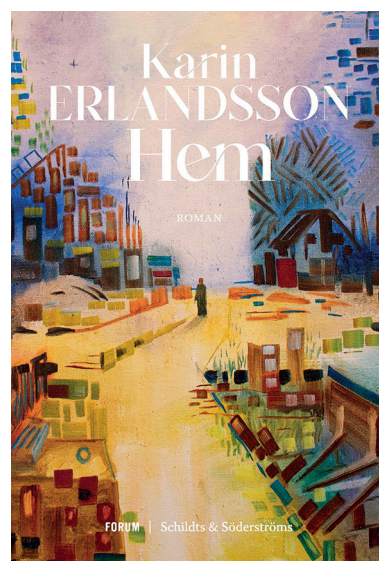
*“[...] it’s a pleasure to let oneself be swept away by Erlandsson’s sure hand and her way of forming historical events from the perspective of the individual. She often hits the nail on the head when she describes how things feel, especially when they don’t feel good.”*  
Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Misdeed* (Missdåd, 2016)

*Enclosed* (Pojken, 2018)

*The Blue Yarn* (Det blå garnet, 2022)



## Hem

Schildts & Söderströms | Forum, 2021, 276 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Staarup & Co.

Karin Erlandsson

## *Song of the Eye Gemstone series*

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

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

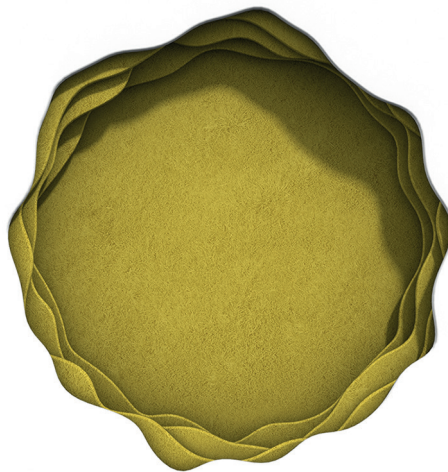
Two girls set out for the hunt: Miranda who believes herself to be the most skilled pearl fisher of all, and small Syrsa who has a rare ability: she can hear the pearls singing, whispering, murmuring... Their page-turning adventure grows in the series of four books to epic proportions: to a grand tale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

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

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

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



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

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample, English synopsis, Spanish sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

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



Karin Erlandsson

# *The Pearl Fisher*

*A compelling story of a magical underwater world  
with dangers unlike anywhere else.*

Imagine a world in which colorful pearls are the most important currency. The ocean floor is covered in the pearls, and the queen can never get enough of them.

Miranda is the most skilful pearl fisher of all, and she believes she can find the pearl that everyone wants: the mythical eye gemstone. It's been said that the one who finds this precious stone will never have to want for anything again.

People also say that there are pearl whisperers who can hear the song of the pearls and lure the pearls to them.

But how can Miranda find the precious pearl when Syrsa, that babbling little girl, insists on tagging along and doesn't even know how to dive properly?

And why are Miranda and Syrsa being followed by Iberis with her burning eyes?

*The Pearl Fisher* is the beginning of a four book series, *Song of the Eye Gemstone*.

The novel was chosen as the winner of a children's novel competition organized by Schildts & Söderströms Publishers in 2016. In February 2018 it was awarded with the prestigious Runeberg Junior Prize. It was also nominated for the Arvid Lydecken Prize and most recently for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize in two regions categories: Finland and Åland.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Bird Master*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 2 (*Fågeltämjaren*, 2018)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

*The Scaler of the Peaks*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 3 (*Bergsklättraren*, 2019)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

*The Victor*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 4 (*Segraren*, 2020)

Rights sold: World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek



## *Pärlfiskaren*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 243 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus;  
Estonia, Sinisukk; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin;  
Poland, Dwukropek

RUNEBERG PRIZE 2018

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2018

Karin Erlandsson

## *The Bird Master*

*In an exciting adventure of mythical creatures and deep forests of the wintery north, a fierce battle for freedom breaks out.*

Miranda, the pearl fisher, and Syrsa, the pearl whisperer, have successfully concluded their search for the eye gemstone: they have found each other. They have settled down to live in the northern harbour town in the wooded parts of the kingdom where the people have an ability to appreciate what they already have. Miranda concentrates on cutting down trees and Syrsa starts to learn skills as a healer.

The eye gemstone, however, has ended up in the possession of Iberis who starts to use it to get everything she has always desired. When the usually timid colossus birds attack the townspeople Miranda realises that Iberis' greed for power reaches even the far north.

As it turns out, the attack is just the beginning. Soon the whole town and the people, who have been forced to flee there from other parts of the kingdom, are under the tyranny of Iberis. It seems that Syrsa and Miranda are the only ones who can rescue them.

*The Bird Master* is the second book in Karin Erlandsson's captivating four part series *Song of the Eye Gemstone*. The exciting, multi-layered story, located in a skilfully constructed world, grows from book to book into ever more epic portions—a grand tale of friendship, longing and of what truly matters in life.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Pearl Fisher*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 1 (*Pärlfiskaren*, 2017)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Estonia, Sinisukk; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

*The Scaler of the Peaks*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 3 (*Bergsklättraren*, 2019)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

*The Victor*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 4 (*Segraren*, 2020)

Rights sold: World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek



### *Fågeltämjaren*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 310 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

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

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

Karin Erlandsson

## *The Scaler of the Peaks*

*On the eastern mountains the greatest dangers aren't the steep falls but the greed of people's hearts.*

The northern harbour town has been burnt to the ground. The birds of Iberis have chosen death in preference to life in slavery and the golden guards have dispersed. The eye gemstone remains in the possession of the power-crazy Iberis; it is hidden in the eastern mountains.

Miranda, Syrsa and Lydia, the healer, set off from the smouldering ruins. It soon becomes clear to them that the customs in the east are different from those in the north. Everything has its price and all is for sale.

The hazardous journey takes them inside a mountain, to a silver city and finally to the eye gemstone, shackled to a rock. However, the price for taking it is higher than the threesome had anticipated.

*The Scaler of the Peaks* is the third book in Karin Erlandsson's captivating four part series *Song of the Eye Gemstone*. Whereas in the first book *The Pearl Fisher* the adventure took place on southern seas and in the second, *The Bird Master*, the reader was taken into northern woods, *The Scaler of the Peaks* is located in the eastern mountainous region of the kingdom.

The gripping, multi-layered *Song of the Eye Gemstone* is an epic saga: a grand tale of friendship, longing and of what truly matters in life. The first book of the series, *The Pearl Fisher*, was awarded with Runeberg Junior Prize in 2018 and nominated for the Nordic Council's Children and Young People's Literature Prize.



*Bergsklättraren*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 255 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus;  
Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Pearl Fisher*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 1 (*Pärlfiskaren*, 2017)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Estonia, Sinisukkk; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

*The Bird Master*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 2 (*Fågeltämjaren*, 2018)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

*The Victor*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 4 (*Segraren*, 2020)

Rights sold: World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

Karin Erlandsson

## *The Victor*

*The legend tells that when the pearl fisher is accompanied by a child the curse of the eye gemstone is broken.*

Miranda and Syrsa have retreated to the tender care of the farmers in the west to gather their strengths and to collect funds for their efforts to fetch the eye gemstone. The only way to free the people who have fallen under its curse is to destroy it—but how do you destroy a pearl?

The execution of the plan is halted when the queen's soldiers capture Miranda and take her to the pearl-enrusted capital. She is horrified to discover that next to the black-clad queen stands Iberis, dressed in white, behaving as if she were at home.

One witness after another testifies that Miranda wanted the eye gemstone for herself. But when Syrsa steps forward the queen has to decide where her loyalties lie.

Finally, Miranda and Syrsa manage to escape when a struggle breaks out between the Queen and Iberis. They set sail and raise the eye gemstone from the bottom of the sea. But suddenly the sea is filled with sailing boats of the empty-eyed golden guards who are under its spell. They hear its singing and follow the boat to the shore. Is there now any hope of success for the plan to destroy the eye gemstone?

*The Victor* is the final book in Karin Erlandsson's four-part children's fantasy series *Song of the Eye Gemstone*. The series is an account of friendship, guts and how sometimes you have to travel far in order to discover that what matters most is close by.



### *Segraren*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 302 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Pearl Fisher*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 1 (*Pärlfiskaren*, 2017)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Estonia, Sinisukk; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

*The Bird Master*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 2 (*Fågeltämjaren*, 2018)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

*The Scaler of the Peaks*, Song of the Eye Gemstone 3 (*Bergsklättraren*, 2019)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; World English, Dedalus; Faroe Islands, Bokadeildin; Poland, Dwukropek

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2020



Karin Erlandsson & Peter Bergting (illustrations)

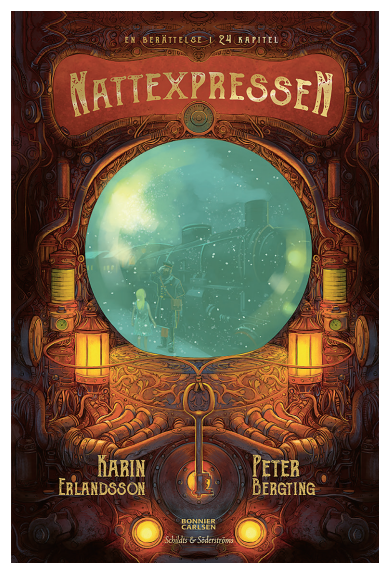
# Night Express

*All aboard a magical express train heading towards Christmas –  
in 24 chapters!*

Dania's granny lives in an old station building next to a disused railway. Every year Dania, her big sister Nanda and their parents move to their grandmother's for December in the run-up for Christmas. Granny has become older and more forgetful during the past years, and sometimes she speaks nonsense. One evening Granny seems exceptionally absent-minded, and then she disappears from her room. The same night Dania hears something and sneaks out to see what is going on. Not believing her eyes, she sees an express train is pulling up at the station.

Dania manages to stop the night train and the adventure begins. She boards the train that returns every night. On the train she meets Konrad, a boy her age, and it soon transpires that everyone on the night train has lost someone they love. But what is the purpose of the key Dania's Granny has been so insistent on? And who has actually lost whom?

An enchanting and wildly riveting story brimming with the magic of Christmas has been a success both in Finland and Sweden. It was awarded Runeberg Junior Prize, Finland's second biggest children's book award.



## Nattexpressen

Schildts & Söderströms | Bonnier Carlsen,  
2020, 223 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

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

RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2021

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2021

Karin Erlandsson

## *The Blue Yarn*

*A small, warm book about the magic of knitting and its invisible history.*

Author Karin Erlandsson was a teenager when she decided to make her dream come true and knit herself a jumper. Without using instructions, she made a beautiful striped jumper out of the leftover yarn she found at home. She wore it a lot and it was widely admired. A deep and life-long love had been born.

In *The Blue Yarn* Erlandsson weaves together a nonfiction book, in which personal memories expand into sharp observations about the effects of knitting on the knitter, those close to them, and society at large. In it, knitting is presented not only in terms of clothing and preserving tradition, but also as a means of creating and conveying something new. As the world around us burns, it can be a way to survive—or to break the ranks. For those who are busy and stressed, it can be a means of recovering and finding balance.

Knitters have always been part of a long, somewhat invisible, tradition, which has especially been upheld by women from one century to the next. There is a magic in knitting not unlike the magic of writing.

*The Blue Yarn: What I Know About Knitting* by award-winning novelist Karin Erlandsson is an inspiring book seasoned with knitting humour about the history of knitting, women who knit, and its enduring appeal.



*Det blå garnet*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2022, 185 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample, English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

World English, Dedalus; Denmark,  
Staarup & Co.; Germany, Blanvalet | P R H

Minna Eväsoja

## *Almost Geisha*

*Beautiful, funny, and shocking stories  
of Japanese culture.*

In *Almost Geisha: An Enchanting and Eccentric Japan* a Finnish woman encounters Japanese culture. She takes a look at the Japanese mentality, the Japanese approach and everyday life in Kyoto and finds an extraordinary country, which seems crazy at times and comical at others, but which is altogether beautiful.

*In Japan, I threw myself into the stream of life, like the rootless water grass in an old, well-known poem, and accepted what life brought me with an open mind.*

Minna Eväsoja attended a Japanese tea school in the early 1990s. Since then, she has lived and travelled in Japan and studied the Japanese language and the Japanese aesthetic. She has written three nonfiction books about Japan to a wide critical acclaim.

*“Eväsoja writes vividly, with intrigue, and sometimes beautifully poetically about Japan and the Japanese people. She does not laugh mockingly at even the strangest of Japanese customs but treats them with gentle humor. A great warmth and love for the culture, country, and people shines between the lines.”*

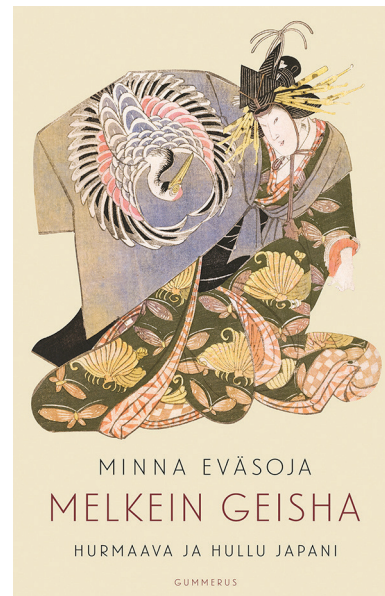
Lukuneuvoja literature blog

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Shoshin – The Mind of a Novice* (*Shoshin – aloittelijan mieli*, 2018)

Rights sold: Thailand, Nava Publishing

*Wabi and Sabi Meditation Journal* (*Wabi ja sabi. Mietiskelypäiväkirja*, 2019)



*Melkein geisha. Hurmaava ja hullu  
Japani*

Gummerus, 2017, 239 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

Minna Eväsoja

## *Shoshin – The Mind of a Novice*

*“The mind of the novice is open and without prejudice, humble and modest.”*

Japanese culture has always appreciated knowledge, learning and beauty. Learning is accompanied by a thought about shoshin, the mind of a novice that has been described in many ways: as ‘the correct manner’ or as resplendent like ‘flowers and the autumn colours’.

*Shoshin* is openness without prejudice, it’s modesty and humility, and incompatible with self-importance or conceit. Knowledge is like a vast mountain you might never conquer. But the trip is still worth it.

*A spray hidden by snow. Cool, wilted, withered. The heart’s dust. A hermit’s heart. Chestnuts with mustard.*

*Shoshin – The Mind of a Novice* has moments in the world of Japanese beauty, aesthetics and philosophy. The illustrations are woodblock prints capturing the instantaneous and hedonistic lightness of the floating world.

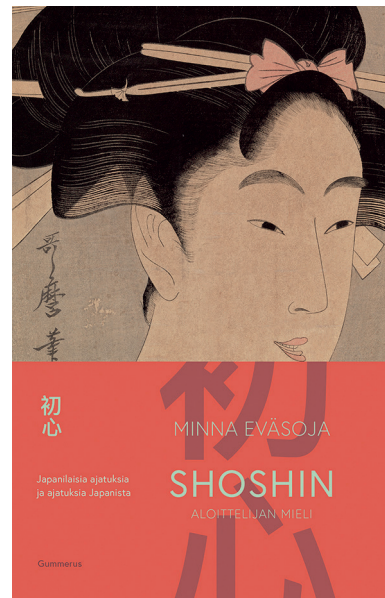
“Sensei said this about learning: first the mountains look like mountains and the rivers like rivers. Getting further along the road of knowledge you’ll experience a moment when the mountains have stopped looking like mountains or the rivers like rivers. When you continue with your studies you achieve a state of clarity when the mountains again look like mountains; the rivers, like rivers. The opinions of novices are strong and certain, and for them everything is clear and straightforward. As you gain experience and knowledge, things do not appear so straightforward and evident, and interpretation will be deeper, with different shades. After time has passed, things appear in their true form once more, but our understanding about their being is fundamentally changed.”

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Almost Geisha* (*Melkein geisha*, 2016)

*Wabi and Sabi* (*Wabi ja Sabi*, 2019)

Rights sold: Spanish (Latin America), Intermedio



*Shoshin – aloittelijan mieli*

Gummerus, 2018, 197 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Thailand, Nava Publishing



Minna Eväsoja

# *Wabi and Sabi Meditation Journal*

*A beautiful notebook for capturing thoughts and images, with Japanese insight to hidden splendor, serenity and the beauty of imperfection.*

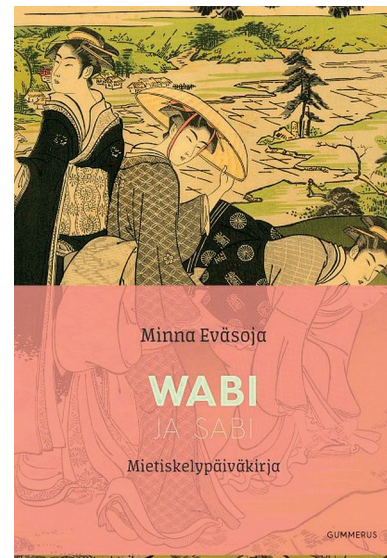
Keeping a journal is an age-old tradition in Japan. Noting the stream of daily activities and jotting down occasional thoughts has been a pastime as long as humans have maintained a written history.

In Japan, these kinds of journals are referred to as *nikki* and the *Wabi and Sabi Meditation Journal* seeks to honour this tradition. Handy to carry with you everywhere, it is a beautiful notebook for capturing thoughts and images. Over time, the diary becomes the joint work of the reader and writer.

The *Wabi and Sabi Meditation Journal* contains several poems about the suffering, loneliness and longing associated with love. Japanese poetry traditionally describes these emotions with *wabi* and *sabi* concepts that represent melancholy and serenity, the brilliance hidden in our hearts and minds, and white sorrow.

Selected poems about *wabi* and *sabi* join Eväsoja's explanations in dialogue with the magnificent woodcuts that illustrate the journal.

*“Wabi and sabi have many similarities, but they are not synonymous. They are never used together in Japanese literature, poetry or aesthetic concepts, although one often sees them mentioned in tandem in western references. Wabi and sabi are nevertheless linked by an undertone of mournfulness and melancholy. A feeling of loneliness and the need to withdraw from society are seen as positive things to strive for. [...] Both concepts describe the state of the heart and mind: Wabi speaks of a humble and penitent heart and an appreciation of life as it is. Sabi indicates a mind and soul full of serenity.”*



*Wabi ja sabi. Mietiskelypäiväkirja*

Gummerus, 2019, 168 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Spanish (Latin America), Intermedio

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Almost Geisha* (Melkein geisha, 2017)

*Shoshin – The Mind of a Novice* (Shoshin – aloittelijan mieli, 2018)

Rights sold: Thailand, Nava Publishing

Eva Frantz

## Summer Isle

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

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

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

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

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

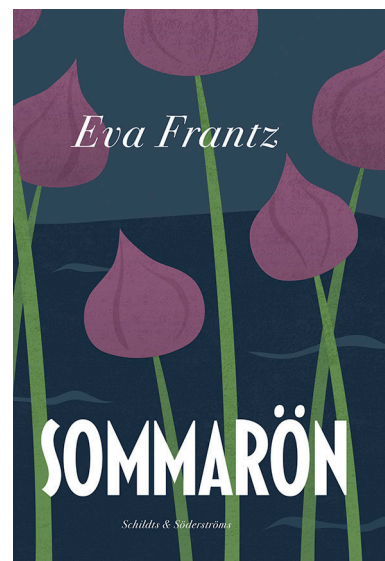
*The Blue Villa* (Blå villan, 2017)

*The Eighth Maiden* (Den åttonde tärnan, 2018)

*Out of the Game* (För han var redan dö, 2020)

Rights sold: Sweden, Sekwa

*I Will Never Let You Take My Child* (Ungen min får du aldrig, 2023)



*Sommarön*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2016, 266 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample

Eva Frantz

## *The Blue Villa*

*Five-year-old Bruno can't wake his mother up. He needs help.  
He puts on his wellies and coat and steps into the night.*

A young couple is driving home from a party. They are shocked to the core to see a little boy in the headlights of their car, at night, alone, in the middle of a country road. But nothing compares to what awaits them at his home the blue villa. His mother is lying in a pool of blood on the floor, barely alive.

The case is handed over to senior constable Anna Glad, whose life is stuck in a rut. She finds out that Becca, the writer of a popular lifestyle blog Blue Villa, has received death threats in the comments section of her blog.

Dark and dangerous things from Becca's past, unknown even to Peter, come to light as the investigations draw on. And who is bringing flowers to the abandoned villa with locked doors?

*The Blue Villa* is the first novel in a series of books about senior constable Anna Glad. The middle-aged Glad is searching for a new direction in life, all the while solving small-town crimes, often resulting from human weakness and mistakes of the past.

*"Last year, Eva Frantz proved her significant talent as a cozy crime fiction author with her book Summer Isle. [...] In The Blue Villa she has taken a further step in combining premeditated horrors with the aptly portrayed everyday life. [...] She has limitless skill in describing petty crime – from just-about legal malice and revenge to browbeating your family with shitty behaviour."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper



*Blå villan* | Anna Glad #1

Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 255 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat;  
Raamat; Norway, Mangschou

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Eighth Maiden, Anna Glad #2* (Den åttonde tärnan, 2018)

Rights sold: Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat (optioned);  
German, Aufbau; Norway, Mangschou

*Out of the Game, Anna Glad #3* (För han var redan dö, 2020)

Rights sold: Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat (optioned);  
German, Aufbau; Norway, Mangschou; Sweden, Sekwa

Eva Frantz

# The Eighth Maiden

*As a body surfaces from the water, it is also time for the dark deeds of the past to come out.*

When an early morning ice swimmer comes across a terrible surprise in the water, senior constable Anna Glad has to shake off the challenges of her new life. A small town getting ready for the St Lucia's Day celebrations is not as concentrated on tidings of comfort and joy as everyone lets on.

The roots of the complex crime spread far into the past and soon it looks like a procession on St Lucia's Day 30 years previously might be a key to solve the crime.

Some things don't change through the generations and maidens with candles in their hair at the tail end of the procession are not always the sweetest ones.

*The Eighth Maiden* is the second novel with Anna Glad, awarded as the best crime novel of the year and nominated for the Torch-Bearer Prize and the Nordic Glass Key Award.

*"The crime plot is skillfully intertwined with a moral core. [...] Frantz is prompt and manages to capture something that is puzzling and frightening at the same time. [...]"*

*The delicacy of Frantz's novel is that the majority of characters – with the exception of actual perpetrators – are quite nuanced even when they are committing something humiliating or stupid. And here, just like in her debut novel Summer Island, the lawful justice fails to prevail – something the police remains blissfully unaware of."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Blue Villa, Anna Glad #1* (Blå villan, 2017)

Rights sold: Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Norway, Mangschou

*Out of the Game, Anna Glad #3* (För han var redan dö, 2020)

Rights sold: Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat (optioned); German, Aufbau; Norway, Mangschou; Sweden, Sekwa

*I Will Never Let You Take My Child, Anna Glad #4* (Ungen min får du aldrig, 2023)



*Den åttonde tärnan* | Anna Glad #2

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 318 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

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

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat (optioned); German, Aufbau; Norway, Mangschou

CLEW OF THE YEAR 2019

NOMINEE FOR THE TORCH-BEARER PRIZE 2019

NOMINEE FOR THE GLASS KEY AWARD 2020



Eva Frantz

## *Out of the Game*

*Third book in the Anna Glad series by award-winning crime novelist Eva Frantz guarantees excitement.*

The townsfolk are proud of their new resident, ice hockey legend Samuel Lindberg, who has returned to his homeland after years of playing in NHL. But his American wife, Alison, finds it hard to adapt and the couple are surrounded by an atmosphere of secrecy. The town is also abuzz with a new cycle lane project, the main opponent of which, the reclusive and cranky Börje Bohman, has disappeared without leaving a trace.

The idyll is also broken by a terrible surprise that awaits a new mother as she peeps at her baby asleep in the stroller.

Senior Constable Anna Glad takes on the task of solving several mysteries at once. In this way she is able to avoid the idea that she is only a few months away from having a child whose father lives hundreds of kilometres away.

*Out of the Game* continues the skilful series of stand-alone crime novels where the inhabitants of a small town are divided and bound together by the secrets of the past. As an author of classic jigsaw puzzle thrillers, Eva Frantz ranks with such queens of the genre as Agatha Christie, Maria Lang and Camilla Läckberg.

Frantz's previous Anna Glad book, *The Eighth Maiden* (2018), won the Clew of the Year Award for 2019 and was shortlisted for the Torch-Bearer Prize. It was also shortlisted for the Nordic Glass Key Award. Anna Glad series has so far sold over 55,000 copies in Finland alone.



*För han var redan dö* | Anna Glad #3

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 417 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis, German translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat (optioned); German, Aufbau;  
Norway, Mangschou; Sweden, Sekwa

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Blue Villa, Anna Glad #1* (Blå villan, 2017)

Rights sold: Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Norway, Mangschou

*The Eighth Maiden, Anna Glad #2* (Den åttonde tärnan, 2018)

Rights sold: Denmark, Gyldendal; Estonia, Rahva Raamat (optioned);  
German, Aufbau; Norway, Mangschou

*I Will Never Let You Take My Child, Anna Glad #4* (Ungen min får du aldrig, 2023)

Eva Frantz

# *The Mystery of Raspberry Hill*

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

Raspberry Hill is a sanatorium in the middle of the healing countryside, where city dwellers with lung diseases end up. Many of the child patients treated there are from poor families—like Stina. She's lived on Seaman Street in southern Helsinki in a small room with her five siblings and the mother since the father died in the war, and now she is very sick.

The sanatorium feels like a castle to Stina. It is vast and full of long corridors and echoes. It is also a very lonely place, until one day Stina meets Ruben. The boy starts turning up when they should be sleeping, taking her on nightly expeditions to forbidden parts of the building—like the eastern wing, which has recently burned down.

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

*The Mystery of Raspberry Hill* is crime author Eva Frantz's first children's book—a suspenseful horror story for middle grade readers. It starts a series of stand-alone horror novels set in early 20th century that take their young readers on a journey back in time.

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

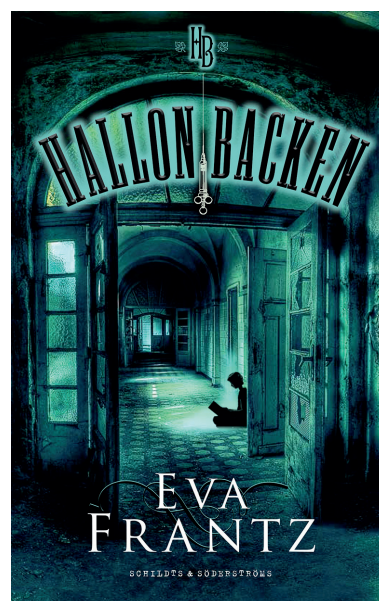
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Queen of the Night* (Nattens drottning, 2021)

Rights sold: Denmark, ABC förlag; World English, Pushkin Press (optioned); Poland, Widnokrag

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

Rights sold: Denmark, Straarup & Co.; World English, Pushkin Press; France, Rageot; Italy, Edizioni EL; Poland, Widnokrag



*Hallonbacken*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 150 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; Denmark, ABC Förlag;  
World English, Pushkin Press; Russia,  
Eksmo; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost; World  
Spanish, Fondo de Cultura

RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2019

Eva Frantz

# Queen of the Night

*A finely-crafted mystery story for children,  
steeped in the sinister atmosphere of a theatre.*

It's 1915, and 12-year-old Viktor dreams of leaving Helsinki. He lives with his mother and grandmother in a lovely apartment in the centre of the city, but out in its courtyard, it's the tough boys who rule, led by Algot, the caretaker's stern son.

Back when Viktor lived in Paris, his mother Margareta was a successful opera singer. In Helsinki, she gets the role of Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* and things start to look up. Viktor also finds he enjoys spending time at the theatre and makes friends with Agnes, the stage designer's daughter, who seems to have psychic abilities.

But who is the woman singing so eerily outside his mother's room? And why do peculiar accidents keep happening in the theatre, particularly to the Queen of the Night?

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

*Queen of the Night* is Eva Frantz's second book for children. Her first, *The Mystery of Raspberry Hill*, won the Runeberg Junior Prize in 2019. Like *Queen of the Night*, it is also set in the early twentieth century and mixes mystery, suspense and horror.

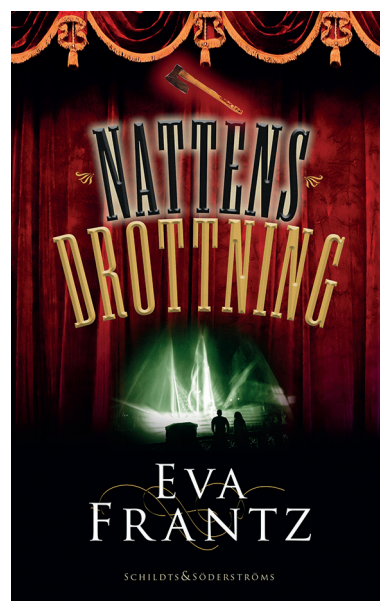
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Mystery of Raspberry Hill* (Hälsöbacken, 2017)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; Denmark, ABC Förlag; World English, Pushkin Press; Russia, Eksmo; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost; World Spanish, Fondo de Cultura

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

Rights sold: Denmark, Straarup & Co.; World English, Pushkin Press; France, Rageot; Italy, Edizioni EL; Poland, Widnokrag



*Nattens Drottning*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 150 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

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

Eva Frantz

# *The Secret of Helmersbruk Manor*

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

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

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

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

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

Eva Frantz's new spine-tingling ghost story, gripping and heartfelt, is told over 24 chapters. The novel is illustrated by Elin Sandström.

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper on *Raspberry Hill*

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Mystery of Raspberry Hill* (Hälsöbacken, 2017)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; Denmark, ABC Förlag; World English, Pushkin Press; Russia, Eksmo; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost; World Spanish, Fondo de Cultura

*Queen of the Night* (Nattens drottning, 2021)

Rights sold: Denmark, ABC förlag; World English, Pushkin Press (optioned); Poland, Widnokrag



## *Hemligheten i Helmersbruk*

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

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Straarup & Co.; World  
English, Pushkin Press; France, Rageot;  
Italy, Edizioni EL; Poland, Widnokrag



Paavo Haavikko

## *Collected poems*

*All the poems from one of Finland's greatest modernists in a single volume.*

Paavo Haavikko is one of Finland's most important and internationally renowned contemporary poets, whose extensive and versatile oeuvre includes contributions to every genre of literature.

First and foremost, however, Haavikko was a poet, producing nearly twenty collections of published poetry in his lifetime. Already his first volume of poems in 1951 secured his place as a leading figure in the canon of lyric modernism, and from the start, his verse examined themes such as power and its hold on human beings, business, history, love and death, and the inexplicable state of being.

The worldview of Haavikko's poems has sometimes been described as pessimistic and devoid of illusion, while he himself was pictured as a modernist genius who made his own rules. Sharp and lightning-fast transitions became his hallmark: darting adeptly from the private to the universal, and moving from archaic delight one moment to biting satire the next. Like the great masters, he succeeds in making history our own, while also making our shared existence part of history.

Haavikko's published literary work extends to over 70 volumes. In addition to being a writer and publisher, he was also a critical essayist and commentator on society. He eventually came to be thought of as a national oracle, and oftentimes he also served as the prophet of spiritual and financial doom.

*Collected poems* is the largest existing collection of Paavo Haavikko's poetry.



*Kootut runot*

Teos Publishers, 2014, 864 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, EKSA; Hebrew, Carmel  
(a selection)

Ulrika Hansson

# *The Hunting Club*

*Normal life in a village is derailed when a colony of gulls takes over the local lake.*

The hunting club is agitated. Thousands of gulls have flocked back to the lake again this year. No one can use its shores, nothing grows anymore, and the noise is unbearable. The gulls are protected – but should people really have to move aside for them?

Opinions are divided, and the community splits into different camps.

Meanwhile, the outwardly peaceful lives of two couples have become strained to the breaking point. Years of anxiety and fear have left Inger deeply unhappy in her marriage with Christer, who is widely respected in the village. Does she dare to break out anymore? Bengt and Solveig, on the other hand, are involved in a secret conspiracy to exterminate the birds. As the two couple's stories intertwine, it turns out that even small shifts in the old balance bring on inevitable changes.

Ulrika Hansson's debut novel is a sharply observed portrayal not only of the relationship between people and nature, but also of the ties between people, how long they can endure and how they can slowly erode. Hansson captures both the sadness and the hope beneath the surface.

*"Above all, this work is marked by a heartfelt love for the local community. In her debut novel, Ulrika Hansson has brilliantly depicted people who are deeply rooted in the place where they live."*

National broadcasting company Svenska Yle

*"Hansson skilfully describes the beauty and brutality in both conflict and love. She lets the characters make impossible decisions without spelling things in out in every detail."*

Runeberg Prize jury



*Jaktlaget*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 316 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Dutch, Stortebecker

Susanna Hast

# *Body of Evidence*

*A devastating debut about the search for the truth hidden in the body.*

“I’m 12, nearly 13. I’m midway between childhood and womanhood, on my way to horror. In a moment I’ll be nothing but flesh.”

The 1990s, a small village up north. A terraced house, a block of flats, a bedroom, a bathroom, a living room. A crime has been committed, but no one has called the police, no evidence is gathered, suspects are not questioned. Years later, a woman starts following traces on the fringes of her memory, so as to find the missing archival truth of what happened to her.

She needs to write out the truth in order to regain her humanity.

Susanna Hast’s intimately personal debut novel *Body of Evidence* shows how bodies remember things language cannot reach. It is a ferocious, fearless and dazzlingly intelligent account about the history of silencing women. Her survival takes place in the chiasm of remembering and forgetting, and the novel shakes its readers to the core. The novel was awarded as the best debut of 2022.

“You could describe Susanna Hast’s debut as [...] *startling, devastating and revolutionary.*” Turun Sanomat newspaper

“Her beautiful and witty style gathers up a history of violence to help the protagonist understand herself. Her questioning leads her to the most painful question: *why did she continue returning to her abusers?*” Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

“Hast deals in large and heavy themes but ones that are universal and timeless. She knows how to overtly write about shame and guilt, which makes this an important novel.” Kaleva newspaper



*Ruumis/huoneet*

S&S, 2022, 268 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
French sample, German sample

Jouko Heikura

## *A Gift to My Mother*

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

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

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

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

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

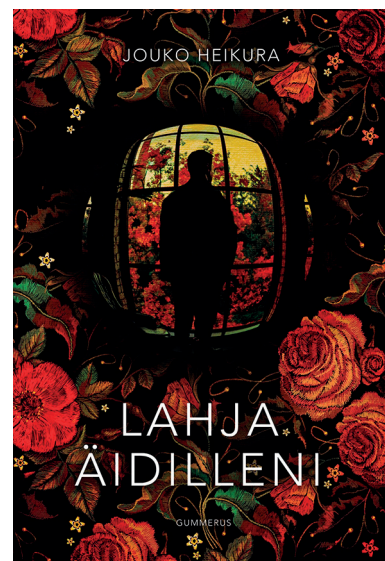
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

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

Ilta-Sanomat newspaper

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

Satakunnan Kansa newspaper



*Lahja äidilleni*

Gummerus, 2020, 253 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



Niillas Holmberg

## *Underfoot*

*The acclaimed Sami poet's new collection about a connection to the earth and the search for the present day.*

*Underfoot*, a collection of poems, emphasises the connection between people and the earth. It praises nature folklore whilst questioning whether it fits in with our contemporary mind and way of life.

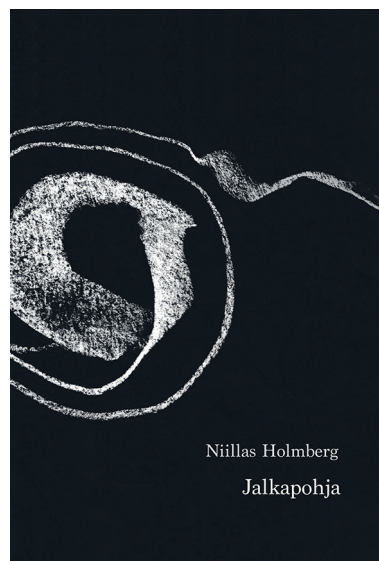
In Holmberg's poems people wake up with the hum of shoe laces or pull out a quill from the air. The objects provide a grounding connection as well as a responsibility to protect the environment from various hazards. *Underfoot* invites us to return to the soles of our feet, our link to the ground.

Language flows next to the birds and birches, across the arctic landscape. Instead of bouts of nostalgia, Holmberg's poems are looking for the lost present moment, unfurling contemporary Sami sensibilities.

Niillas Holmberg is a Sami poet who has been short-listed twice for the Nordic Council Literature Prize. The illustrations of *Underfoot* are from an emerging Sami artist Inga-Wiktoria Påve.

*"Juolgevuoddu [Underfoot] is like a political and cunning joik. This is a volume of poetry in which both the illustrations and the well-chosen words build an aesthetic that allows for a broader mindset towards nature conservation, in terms of both willingness and knowledge. The underworld mirrors our deeds and makes us aware of them, forcing us humans to understand what our punishment must be. The book challenges the reader to reflect. [...] The book itself gives expression to a longing for self-determination, endeavour, and execution."*

From the description of *Underfoot* by  
the Nordic Council Literature Prize jury



*Jalkapohja*

Gummerus 2019, 147 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Sami original,  
English sample, Norwegian  
translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Allikaäärne; World English,  
White Pine Press; German, Klak Verlag

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Halla Helle* (Halla Helle, 2021)  
Rights sold: French, Seuil

NOMINEE FOR NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2020

Niillas Holmberg

## *Halla Helle*

*The first novel of the acclaimed Sami poet takes the reader into a cultural crossroads.*

Samu leaves Southern Finland behind and moves to Sápmi. Something strange and powerful is taking him to the north: Elle Hallala, the best-known Sami person in Finland, known by her artist alias Halla Helle.

Having abandoned art, Elle withdraws from the world and moves on an arctic mountain to live her life according to her ancestors. She sends Samu her dreams written in poems. Freud and Jung come to Samu's aid in interpreting Elle's dreams in order to help her.

However, is he only interested in getting Elle closer to him? And can he, a child of mainstream culture, understand the Sami symbols?

*Halla Helle* is the striking first novel of Niillas Holmberg, whose poetry collections have been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize twice. It is also the first novel published in decades that is written by a Sami author dealing with Sami identity and culture.

*"Halla Helle is like The Magic Mountain of Sami culture. [...] It is difficult to imagine that a minority could have anything more valuable than an author whose work resonates in time."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

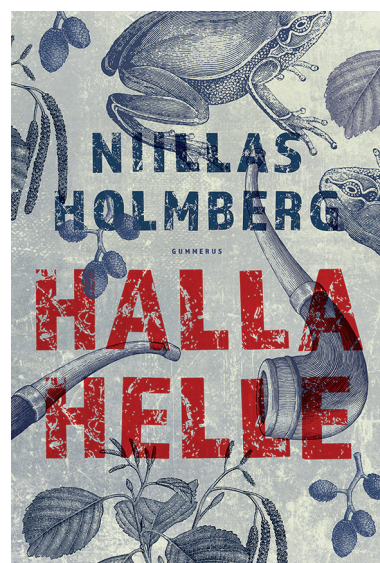
*"Halla Helle is a truly wonderful novel."*

Turun Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Underfoot* (Jalkapohja, 2019)

Rights sold: Estonia, Allikaäärne; World English, White Pine Press; German, Klak Verlag



*Halla Helle*

Gummerus 2021, 455 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

France, Seuil

Silvia Hosseini

## *Way, Truth, and Death*

*A keen-eyed author spares neither herself nor the reader in this volume of surprising essays.*

“Life is a journey, they say. What a lousy metaphor. After all, life’s fundamental nature is stasis, repetition, routine. Life is weekday mornings, the dip in the sofa, taking out the compost, and what should we have for dinner. Maybe life is a journey for Bedouins, but not otherwise. A journey is a journey.”

Silvia Hosseini’s second volume of essays leads the reader on a meandering expedition from joy to sorrow, from beauty to dread. Drawing from literature, history, and the author’s own experiences, the collection masterfully addresses the various transitions, assertions, and losses of the three titular themes through contemporary phenomena. The thinking is sharp, the expression beautiful.

In the essays, knowledge of culture and history combine in fresh insights and self-deprecation. The impact of Arab philosophy on Western civilization is examined through Sicily and Inspector Montalbano. In her essay on the Beat authors, Hosseini objects to the re-evaluation of old works of art on the basis of their worldview. Contemporary feminism comes under fire for being prejudiced and memefied. And in an essay on birds, Hosseini ponders the role of birds as symbols of life and messengers of death, as in the present day, when the vanishing of bird species predicts devastating ecological catastrophe.

Hosseini’s voice is strong, and the compilation an unapologetic literary cornucopia. *Way, Truth, and Death* was nominated for the Toisinkoinen Literary Prize.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*In Praise of Dust* (Pölyn ylistys, 2018)



*Tie, totuus ja kuolema*

Gummerus, 2021, 238 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Kari Hotakainen

# *Children's Book*

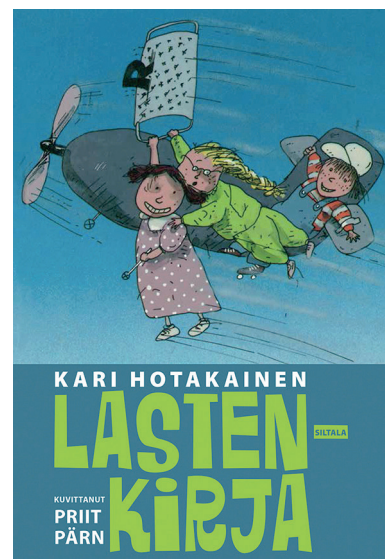
*Sidesplitting stories that approach nonsense, flouting the laws of children's literature.*

When Kari Hotakainen's *Children's Book* was published in 1990, it incited both fascination and indignation in critics. The triangularly-shaped Shim Hick, who is set to be used as a wedge if the world ever faces destruction, the shovel-footed Numbed Dancer dreaming of a dancing career, Oompah-guy, who loves the smell of gasoline, and many other characters delighted and enraged readers.

*Children's Book* has become a modern classic in Finnish children's literature, delighting its readers year after year.

*"Children's Book is incredibly funny, and also incredibly wise. It is an overflowing fountain of ideas for all ages, which you can come back to over and over again."*

Kirjavinkit literature blog



*Lastenkirja*

WSOY, 1990, 130 pp.

**READING MATERIAL**

Finnish original

**RIGHTS SOLD**

Estonia, Tänapäev



Kari Hotakainen

## Buster Keaton

*A fictional dive into the comedic world of the little man of silent film.*

“My films succeed because I’m like you.” (KEATON)

“From my point of view, it’s the quiet children who are the most difficult.” (MAINTENANCE MAN)

“If that man is the epitome of personality, a cardboard mug represents the highest degree of industrial design.” (CONSULTANT)

“When I first saw that face, chiseled with an ax and finished off with a shoddy knife, I was sure that this was not a calm and happy middle-aged film director.” (ALICE MILLER)

“All he did was growl, stagger, and complain.” (CHARLES CHAPLIN)

“It was the kind of narrow, bony face that would be frozen into baseball bats in the Bronx.” (MIKE TYSON)

“Isn’t the world oversaturated with Keatons? Let’s not turn one man into such a big deal.” (HARRY DEAN STANTON, KEATON’S SON)

“I was supposed to play an igloo in the next flick, but I didn’t take it when Buster forbade all forms of violence in this role.” (CLINT EASTWOOD)

“The train and the car run horizontally, rarely can either of them stand up.” (KEATON)

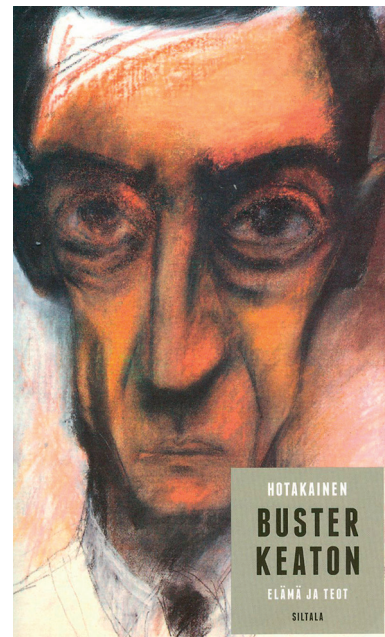
“The happenstance trade is always open: those who aim for something will overshoot.” (EXCERPT FROM AN ADMIRER’S LETTER).

*“As a text, Buster Keaton: The Life and Works is more mind-bending and somehow more viscous than Hotakainen has been before. I can’t remember many books in which I’ve so often and so painfully hit my head on new ideas and evocatively sharp corners.”*

Aamulehti newspaper

*“Buster Keaton: The Life and Works is a wonderful book, it dazzles its readers and sweeps color across white wallpaper.”*

Parnasso literature magazine



*Opetuslapsi*

WSOY, 1991, 120 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation,  
Spanish translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Ivo Železný; German, Wespennest;  
Slovakia, Slovenský spisovateľ; Spanish,  
Meettok

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.

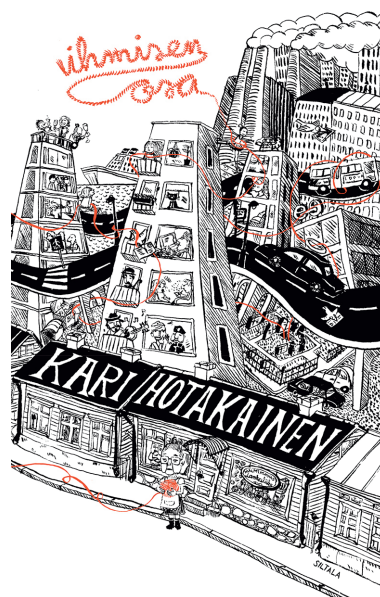
But will the author tell the story like they'd agreed? Can he resist the urge to write about subjects that are off limits? And is Salme telling the truth?

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

RUNEBERG PRIZE 2010

PRIX COUP DE COEUR (PRIX DES JEUNES EUROPÉENS) 2012

Kari Hotakainen

# *The Word of God*

*A one-day road trip straight into the heart of capitalism  
and it's beastlike actions.*

Why has the legendary straight-talking investment banker and CEO Jukka Hopeaniemi, who has always steered clear of television, agreed to appear on live morning tv? And will the impetuous pundit make it on time after a cloud of Islandic ash strands him in northern Finland?

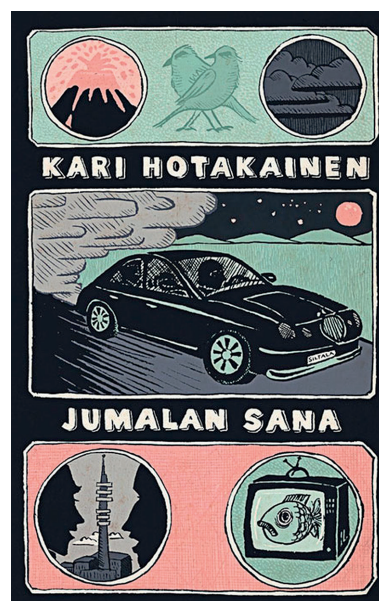
Why does the retired Armas, who used to chauffeur Hopeaniemi's father, an old-style tycoon, agree to one more job? And what message has the tycoon left his son and his chauffeur on a crackling cassette tape?

The cross-country trip to the television studios in Helsinki is long and dark, but with Kari Hotakainen at the wheel, the ride is light and easy. Hotakainen takes things seriously; that's why the read is such fun.

*The Word of God* is a novel about capitalism, an attempt to explain the visible and the invisible, generalities and minutiae. Its pulse in the present, Hotakainen's latest work is a one-day travelogue into the heart of the economic system and a few minutes of publicity that change everything.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

See the backlist



*Jumalan sana*

Siltala Publishing, 2011, 324 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Croatia, Fraktura; Czech Republic, Dybbuk; Denmark, Gyldendal; Norway, Cappelen Damm

Kari Hotakainen

# *A Law of Nature*

*Darkly serious and divinely humorous take on the laws of nature and on the nature of man.*

A car crash on the highway, and Rautala is hurled into another reality. Day after day he lies immobilized in a hospital bed, at the mercy of others, dependent on the care of others.

Laura the nurse has tended to hundreds of patients, given them hope and tolerated everything, but Rautala is beyond Laura's ability to cope – he pushes her beyond the limit.

Rautala's daughter Mira has always been on a collision course with her father. Rautala's accident and Mira's pregnancy make father and daughter try to overcome their differences – but can the proximity of death and birth really bring any lasting change to their relationship?

Kari Hotakainen's novel *A Law of Nature* throws its readers into the midst of a situation where the private and personal suddenly move into a wider social reality and context. Horror and beauty, life and death, laughter and tears change places with the speed of a lightning, making the novel a darkly serious and divinely humorous read. Nature has its own laws, a man has his nature – and Hotakainen has a unique perspective on both.

*"Hotakainen's sentences are the best in Finnish literature. [...] Hotakainen's novel could be called a sweet ride. Not a single corner has been cut, and it passes the annual inspection with flying colours."*  
Aamulehti newspaper

*"Hotakainen has once more written brilliantly concise observations of man and life. He is a true master of aphoristical prose. Also the narration deserves praise. [...] A Law of Nature is excitingly both thin and deep. Hotakainen's stylized, even fairytale-like characters remind of director Aki Kaurismäki's movies."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Luonnon laki*

Siltala Publishing, 2013, 280 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
Italian translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Gyldendal; Italy, Iperborea;  
Norway, Cappelen Damm; Poland,  
ClaroScuro; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost

BESTSELLER #1



Kari Hotakainen

## Lifeline

*What happens, when those who have tolerated and endured everything can't take it anymore?*

The solitary, unnamed Detective Superintendent sings in a choir to escape the crushing weight of his work. In the choir, however, are also the Verger and the Hairdresser. As they are spilling out their ordinary and extraordinary troubles to the Superintendent, he is unable to avoid becoming involved.

Everyday concerns, small things but also dark, secret deeds create anxiety, and soon the problems have grown into a desperate and tangled web. The result is a dizzying plunge into the anatomy of murder, and moreover into those decisive moments before an irrevocable deed is committed.

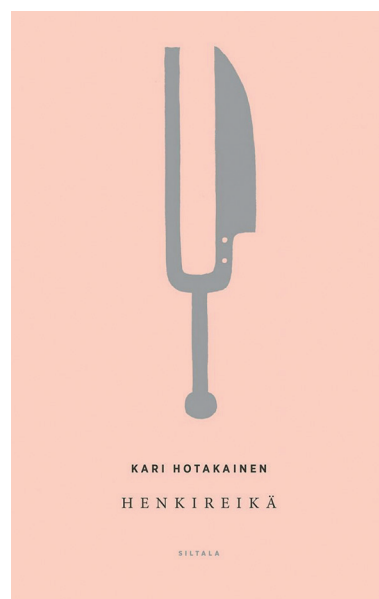
*Lifeline* gives a voice and a chance to act to those who usually are deprived of it. It is filled with raw emotions: fury, love and hate. All of it boils down to one question: can there be a return back to normal, if those who have always put others before themselves cross the line?

*"When it comes to key ingredients, quality is prioritized over quantity. Kari Hotakainen requires just three people, a couple of strong motives, and one simple, yet suitably off-the-wall situation, to build a quality novel."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"This is a book of great epiphanies [...] Hotakainen's novel throws together love and hate, revenge and murderous feelings. The author does not paint above-mentioned characteristics as symptoms of illness, but rather as integral parts of the human psyche."*

Aamulehti newspaper



*Henkireikä*

Siltala Publishing, 2015, 200 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Gyldendal; Hungary, Polar;  
Italy, Iperborea; Norway, Cappelen Damm

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2015

Kari Hotakainen

## Story

*What does a worthy life look like?*

*What is a good life story?*

This is the situation: the countryside has been turned into a Recreation Area, everyone lives in the City. Occupations and job descriptions have changed or disappeared altogether, no one can find their place, things have got out of control, the Decision Makers are in trouble.

As there is not enough housing for everyone, a brutal playoff begins. The best story-tellers get apartments, while everyone else ends up in temporary accommodation built in the Barracks or the empty Shopping Malls.

Who can tell the most attractive story and make their lives seem interesting, who is exhausted by the impossible task? Will the President's nerves snap, will Moomintroll succeed in promoting a raccoon dog as a commercial product? Why has Rahikainen changed his name to Rahic, what is the ghost of a pig doing in a chandelier hanging from the ceiling of an old slaughterhouse, what is the ending of the love story of an elderly couple who like kissing?

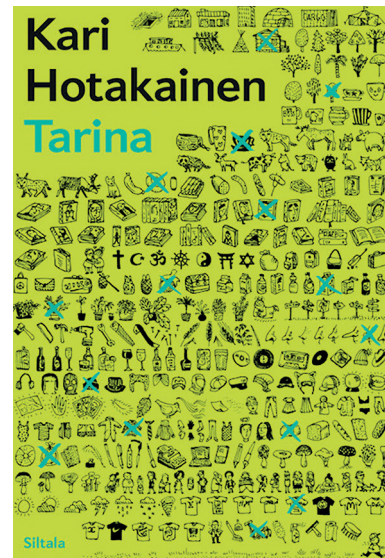
Kari Hotakainen's new novel describes what is happening in the world now – and what may happen there next. *Story* is outrageous, wildly funny and slyly moving. Hotakainen has never written like this before.

*"Story hits like a sledgehammer, tickles like a tick in the trouser leg. It makes you angry, it makes you laugh."* Apu magazine

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Trench Road* (Juoksuhaudantie, 2002)

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Dybbuk; Denmark, Gyldendal; Dutch, Rode Kamer; Estonia, Tänapäev; France, J.C. Lattès; Georgia, Siesta; Germany, Piper; Hungary, Kalevala; Iceland, Mál og menning; Italy, Iperborea; Japan, Shinhyoron; Latvia, Dienas Gramata; Lithuania, Vaga; Mari, V. Analov; Norway, Cappelen Damm; South Korea, Chaek i choun saram; Russia, Azbooka; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost; Spain, Meettok; Sweden, MånPocket



*Tarina*

Siltala Publishing, 2020, 268 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, ICU; Czech Republic, Dybbuk;  
Hungary, Polar; Italy, Iperborea; Latvia,  
Petergailis

#1 BESTSELLER

Kari Hotakainen

# *The Disciple*

*“Give me a crowbar when I can’t find the keys.  
Don’t use soft words if hard ones are at hand.”*

Over the course of three days, the life Maria has lived snowballs into a chain of events—an unraveling and a settling of scores that drive her to the abandoned service station where she used to work. As a SWAT team surrounds the station, she demands her three abductees confess their sins.

That evening, I open the bag in the gloom of my container and pull out the gun. It feels heavy, permanent. I specifically wanted a Colt because my biological father used to smoke Colts. The association is silly and romantic, but that’s not the point. The important thing is now I can be sure that if my words lose their effectiveness, I have other means of continuing the conversation.

*Translated by Kristian London*

*The Disciple* is a ferocious novel about social exclusion, revenge, and the search for connection. It runs on a thriller’s revs, the pulse of Maria’s heart. Over the course of the three days, Maria settles accounts in a way that forces the reader to think about the meaning of life, the problems inherent in a middle-class lifestyle, and the part we play as individuals on the final precipice of an era.

*“The rhetorical blades of *The Disciple* strike with precision, and a dark, laconic humor sustains the work.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*“The Disciple is a statement that has no interest in turning into a conversation – this is one of the remarkable things about it. [...] This may be the best Hotakainen I’ve ever read, or at least the most pugnacious.”*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine



*Opetuslapsi*

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 271 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Hungary, Typotext

## ALSO AVAILABLE

See the backlist

Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen

## *As I Saw Them*

*“We are in the gym and I have a gun.  
from c”*

Six teenage girls have brought a gun to school. They are in the gym; they have stopped the time. They also have installed a hidden camera in the teacher’s lounge. This is going to go viral and become the internet spectacle of the century!

The teachers are agitated, running around and over each other, trying to follow instructions given by the police – and revealing their true nature in the due course. That is, teachers apart from the young principal Selena who has had a nighty fling with a youngster in one of the school’s storage rooms.

In the school gym, the girls have each other, and fifteen years of life experience. But one of them is missing.

*As I Saw Them* dives deep into the mindset of teenage girls and their teachers. When the secrets, memories and dreams of the teachers and pupils clash, the result is a supernova with a lasting impact that no one can escape. As loves and friendships are lost, new ones are emerging. The big question turns out to be: who has the right to tell our story, and how is a story told in the 21st century in the first place?

Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen’s ambitious novel is full of narrative surprises, structural novelties and timely themes. It is full of sound and fury, and it leaves the reader with an unforgettable story.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Light Light Light* (Valoa valoa valoa, 2013)



*Niin kuin minä heidät näin*

Siltala Publishers, 2018, 311 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis, German sample



Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen

# *Light Light Light*

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

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

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

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

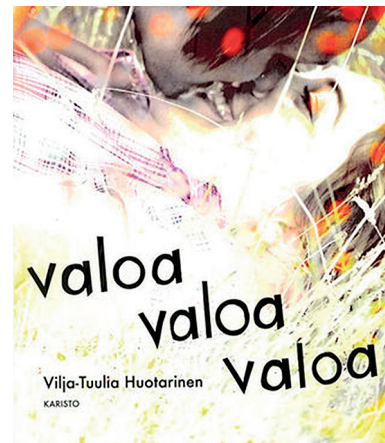
Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen's Finlandia Junior Prize-winning *Light Light Light* is a heart-wrenching romance and a story of impossible choices made at the age of fourteen. The protagonist Mariia has to write to survive, even though she hates it; as a result, she ends up telling her story in ways that surprise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

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

Finlandia Junior Prize statement

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

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Valoa valoa valoa*

Karisto, 2011, 175 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Swedish translation,  
English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Turbine; Sweden, Gilla Böcker

Juha Hurme

## Nutter

*A story about how your mind goes out for a walk  
and returns only after a month.*

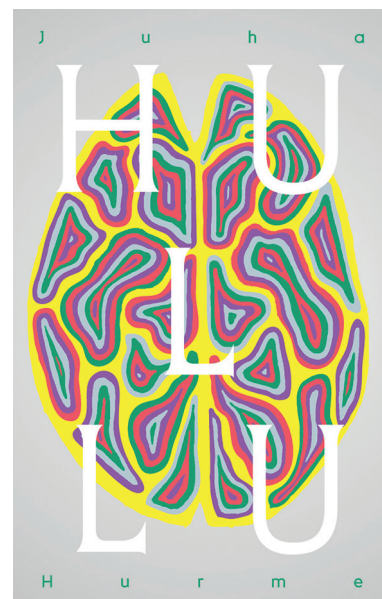
One day the familiar and the everyday fail him. He undergoes a breakdown and his lost mind takes its owner to the door of the mental institution. He examines the world and himself from the psychiatric ward, through shattered words and with the aid of his unhinged mind. The time in the depths of his mind lasts from early December to the new year, although the passing of time is very erratic, depending on hallucinations and medication.

When he decides to kill his relative time by writing a play about mad people, praising madness, his most serviceable strength gets busy: the play opens at the New Year's party of the psychiatric ward. It's not put on as it should be but it's put on.

It isn't too comfy in the basement of society, but the good thing about hitting rock bottom is having firm ground under your feet. There are also interesting characters in the basement, mad enough to speak their mind in this direct narrative.

Juha Hurme's *Nutter* is a wintery journey to the human mind. The play based on the novel has been an immense success.

*"Juha Hurme understand drama. Novels that take place in a psychiatric institution are usually glum in tone. This time the narrative is smooth, it ripples and pops. The result is something you could compare to Ken Kesey's classic One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."*  
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Hullu*

Teos Publishers, 2012, 240 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

### RIGHTS SOLD

Albania, Onufri; German, Kommode Verlag

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Volvo Amazon* (Volvo Amazon, 2007)

*Numpty* (Puupää, 2009)

*Flayed Thoughts* (Nyljetyt ajatukset, 2014)

*Headland* (Niemi, 2017)

Rights sold: Estonia, Varrak; German, Kommode Verlag

Juha Hurme

# Headland

*An immense, universe-spanning cultural history of the Finnish peninsula!*

Some time after the Big Bang, as a result of astronomical, geological and similar events, a promontory began to form in the Northern Hemisphere. Then came the year 1809, and there the story would have ended, had it not been for the inspiring and preoccupying episodes that occurred during the 14 billion years that intervened.

*Headland* is a cultural history of the universe written in the uncompromising, breakneck style of Juha Hurme. The combined gaze of artist and scientist locates the promontory's most widely translated text from centuries ago. The author zeroes in on its folklore without leaning on the national epic *Kalevala*, revealing the headland's original international flair in the period before the Crusades. For religious fanaticism and mindless boasting he has little time; for culture, learning and resourcefulness, a great deal.

Juha Hurme's *Headland* is not yet Finland, but it has characteristics, roots and features that may seem familiar.

*Headland* won the 2017 Finlandia Prize. It has so far sold over 70,000 copies.

*"Myth provides the answer to the question about our origins and what our future will be. In other words, myth can explain the meta-physical questions about our existence. Juha Hurme's Headland treats the myth of Finland and the Finns with all the knowledge that our culture contains. A scope of this breadth can only be explored with the magnificently dilettante literary style in which Hurme boldly challenges both the legendary Egon Friedell and Zachris Topelius."*

The Finlandia Prize Jury

## ALSO AVAILABLE

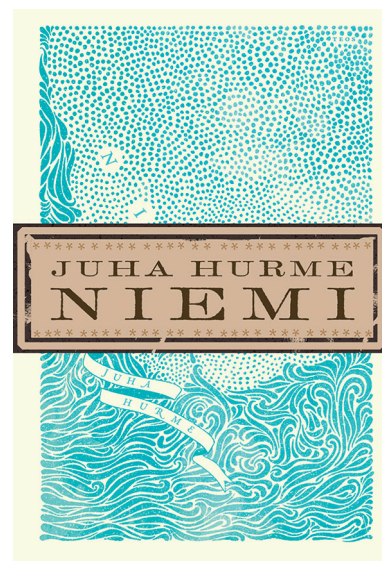
*Volvo Amazon* (Volvo Amazon, 2007)

*Numpty* (Puupää, 2009)

*Nutter* (Hullu, 2012)

Rights sold: Albania, Onufri; German, Kommode Verlag

*Flayed Thoughts* (Nyljetyt ajatukset, 2009)



*Niemi*

Teos Publishers, 2017, 448 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Varrak

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2017

BESTSELLER #1

Juha Hurme

# Finland

*Welcome to the party in the centre of the universe called Finland!*

According to one particular chronology, it is the nineteenth century. The bards Lönnrot and Lyyti start writing and throw together the national epic *Kalevala*. Consequently, some nationalist minds start concocting a cluster of ideas called Finland.

A reckless potpourri of various streams of thought, historical rascals and voices unfit for the canon are wreaking havoc in the Grand Duchy of Finland the forests of which are ringing with sound, as a few old fogeys are hell-bent on turning the Nordic backwater into an independent and wealthy nation.

*Finland* is Juha Hurme's sixth novel, conjuring up some two hundred years of recent history, warts and all. An amalgamation of natural scientist and artist, the author spins a story based on truth and lore, and the end result is an incredible, slightly barbed but certainly entertaining story about a small Nordic country and its curious people. Hurme's previous novel *Headland* (2017) sold over 70,000 copies and was awarded the Finlandia, the largest literature prize in Finland.

**"Finland is at the dead centre of the cosmic fart bubble. The data is measured in Jaala, Porkkala, Nuorgam and in the caff of a service station in Länkipohja. The aforementioned petrol station is not, however, the centre of the universe—we arrive at the same result from any fixed point in the universe. Each observer has their own universe in the centre of which they appear to be having a cup of coffee."**

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Nutter* (Hullu, 2012)

Rights sold: Albania, Onufri; German, Kommode Verlag

*Headland* (Niemi, 2017)

Rights sold: Estonia, Varrak



*Suomi*

Teos Publishers, 2020, 480 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

TOP TEN BESTSELLER



Maija Hurme & Anssi Hurme

# Shadowed

*A beautifully illustrated story about a child, a father and great longing.*

*Shadowed* is a mysterious story about an unfamiliar character in a child's life. No one else can see it, but it follows the child everywhere. It makes eating breakfast or playing with friends difficult. It asks for the scariest bedtime story.

It seems to have something to do with the mother being gone.

The story, subtly illustrated, does not name the shadow—it could be sadness, worry or longing. Bit by bit, its slightly scary presence turns friendlier and finally it loosens its grip.

*"I knew it was in the room before I opened my eyes.  
I closed my eyes and pretended to sleep. It might leave.*

*But it didn't. In the morning it was in my bed.  
Who are you? I said.*

*Have you seen my mother? I asked.  
No answer. It stayed silent. I could hear only a small  
hissing sound, as if someone was blowing up a beach ball."*

*Translated by Aleksi Koponen*



*Skuggorna* | Varjostajat

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2018, 40 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish original,  
English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Cesta domů

NOMINEE FOR THE TORCH-BEARER PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE

Maija Hurme & Lina Laurent

# *Secret Gardeners*

*Being a farmer –  
in the middle of a city!*

Three friends – Luna, Bianca and Billy – have discovered a secret place hidden behind a rickety fence. No one else knows about it and no one else owns it, except possibly Amy. Amy loves growing things and plants seeds wherever she can.

What kind of place is it really, though, and who's the strange man with the bike who turns up when you least expect it?

*Secret Gardeners* is a story about friends who become urban farmers. It's also a fact book for children that tells them all about seeds, microbes, compost and bokashi, carbon sequestration in soil, harvesting and beekeeping – and about no-dig gardening!

This is a fast-paced but profound story with plenty of tips for living closer to nature in a fun way.



*Plats på jorden*

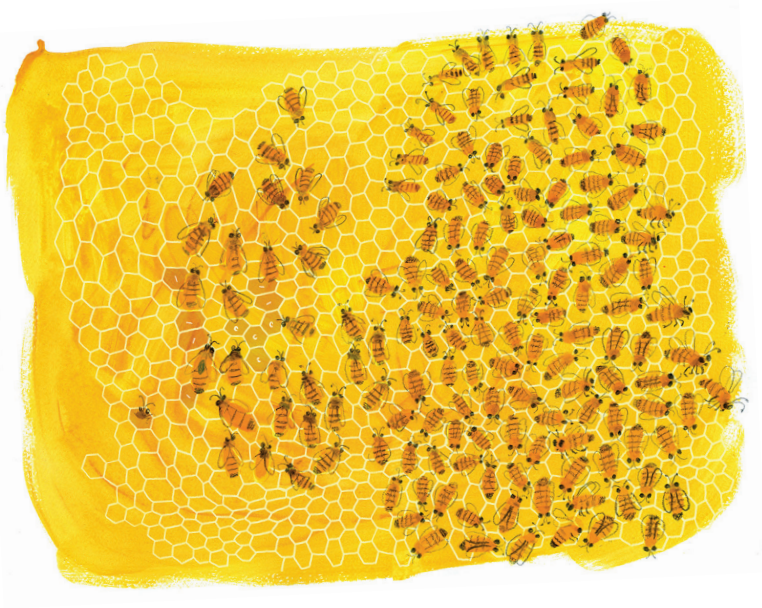
Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 48 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

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



Vuokko Hurme

## Rotation series

*A clever and mind-boggling trilogy set in three different worlds – told by the authentic, wise voice of an eight-year-old girl.*

Lenna has lived all of her eight years in a city called Kardum. Kardum used to be a normal city just like any other, but long before Lenna was born, the world turned upside down.

The earth is now where the sky used to be. And there is a dizzying drop into nothingness where the ground used to be.

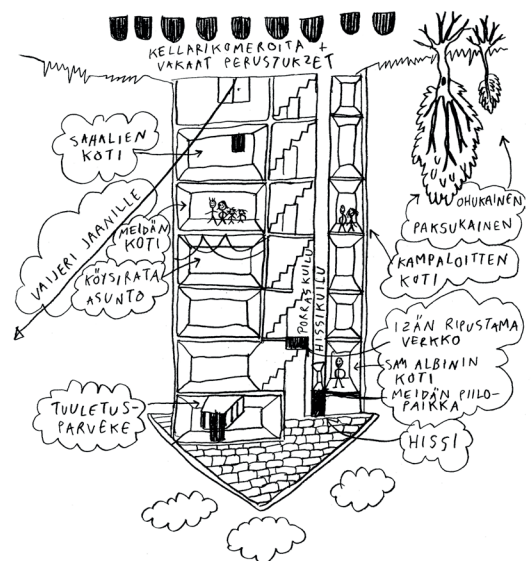
The incident that everyone refers to as “The Rotation” has changed everything, but people have learned to get along in their upside down world. They move from house to house with the help of ropes and special gear. They enjoy simple lives without running water or electricity.

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

Beneath the sky there is Mabal, a world built from all the things that have fallen from Kardum. There you don’t have to be afraid of falling into the sky anymore, but instead you have to worry about what falls from the sky: trash, sand, and even houses and boulders.

And there’s another danger. Mabal rests on a thin surface. Anyone who digs too deep below the surface will fall – no one knows where. That is no one, until Lenna and Jaan one day end up there: in the old Kardum that still lives in the age before the Rotation. When they realize that there is only a week to the Rotation, they have a choice to make: should they try to save the old world?

*“The world and characters Hurme has created captivate the imagination.”*  
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



Rotation consists of three books: *Upside Down* (2017), *Right-Side Up* (2018) and *About-Turn* (2019).

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Rahva Raamat (books #1–3);  
Turkey, Can (books #1–2)

Vuokko Hurme (b. 1979) is an author of children’s fiction and nonfiction. After publishing the Rotation series, she has written four books of The Hues series.

Vuokko Hurme

## *Upside Down*

*“We fell for what seemed like forever, the wind lashed our faces,  
and the white clouds drew closer.”*

Lenna has lived all of her eight years in a city called Kardum. Kardum used to be a normal city just like any other, but long before Lenna was born, the world turned upside down.

The earth is now where the sky used to be.

And there is a dizzying drop into nothingness where the ground used to be.

The incident that everyone refers to as “The Rotation” has changed everything, but people have learned to get along in their upside down world. They move from house to house—between the ones that are left—with the help of ropes and special gear. They enjoy simple lives without running water or electricity.

In fact, Lenna and her best friend Jaan have just the right amount of fun and excitement in their cosy homes and lives in Kardum—until the supply of fresh water begins to run out.

What will happen to Lenna and her family, to her mother, father, little sister, and her pet chicken? Will they have the courage to look for a future in another world that may be somewhere below them—in the sky?

*Upside Down* is the first book in Vuokko Hurme’s new children’s fantasy series *Rotation*.

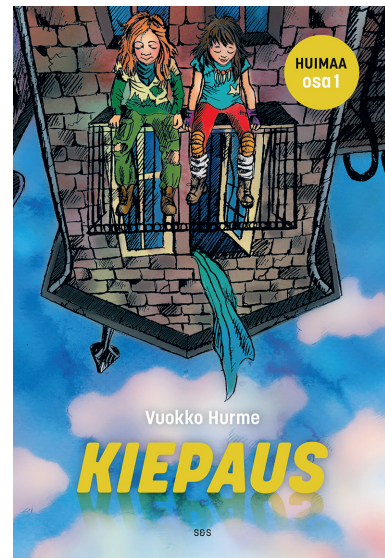
### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Right-Side Up* (Rotation #2, *Kaipaus*, 2018)

Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Turkey, Can

*About-Turn* (Rotation #3, *Keikaus*, 2019)

Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat



*Kiepaus*

S&S, 2017, 248 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Turkey, Can



Vuokko Hurme

## *Right-Side Up*

*“The water felt so awful. And then I slipped. I slid towards the open sea and splashed on my side into the water.”*

Lenna and her family have jumped from the upside down city of Kardum and the old life they knew into the sky below. Now she's learning to live in Mabal, where gravity pulls her towards the ground, and the sky spreads out above the forests.

Lenna no longer has to be afraid of falling into the sky, but instead she has worry about what falls from the sky: trash, sand, and even houses and boulders. People build reinforced rooves, use umbrellas for protection, and give the children helmets to wear.

And there's another danger. Mabal rests on a thin surface. Anyone who digs too deep below the surface will fall. No one knows where.

There are more people in Mabal, and for the first time in their lives, Lenna and her little sister Rosa get to go to school. But Lenna's best friend Jaan and his father have disappeared during their jump from Kardum. When Lenna finds out that there are people outside Mabal, too, she is filled with hope: could Jaan be out there among them?

*Right-Side Up* is the second novel in Vuokko Hurme's children's fantasy series *Rotation*. The first one, *Upside Down*, came out in 2017, and the third one, *About-turn*, will be published in 2019.

*“The world and characters Hurme has created captivate the imagination.”*  
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Kaipaus*

S&S, 2018, 320 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Turkey, Can

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Upside Down* (Rotation #1, *Kiepaus*, 2017)

Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Turkey, Can

*About-Turn* (Rotation #3, *Keikaus*, 2019)

Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat

Vuokko Hurme

## About-Turn

*“I simply slipped. I slid down the hood – and then everything turned about for good.”*

Lenna’s and her family’s life in Mabal is settling down. Lenna’s best friend Jaan has been finally found, and their new hometown Halli has become much safer than it used to be.

However, the scanty life of the town changes when a new island falls down close to the shore. Its ground hides all kinds of things like a real treasure chest. When people start to dig them up, Lenna and Jaan want their share.

The digging, however, includes huge risks. At places, only a few meters of soil separates the diggers from the bottom of Mabal. What happens to those who fall through it? Nobody knows. Do the diggers fall into the space? Or maybe they simply disappear?

Lenna and Jaan find answers to these questions once they both fall down to the world below. The new town, however, feels familiar. Where are they actually? And do they need to save that world?

*About-Turn* is the third and final book in Vuokko Hurme’s children’s fantasy series *Rotation* – as exciting and full of adventures as ever.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Upside Down* (Rotation #1, *Kiepaus*, 2017)

Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Turkey, Can

*Right-Side Up* (Rotation #2, *Kaipaus*, 2018)

Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Turkey, Can



*Keikaus*

S&S, 2019, 309 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Rahva Raamat

Vuokko Hurme & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

## *The Hues series*

*What if you could move objects  
by willpower?*

Ruby's family has a secret: they have wonderful powers of colour. The Hues are able to control the colours of their own possessions, and they can handle them and move them about by willpower. Ruby's colour is red and her big sister Skye's is blue, while their little brother Forrest is still looking for his colour and practising hard.

*Ruby's Secret* begins when the Hues, hiding their secret skills, move once more into a new neighbourhood. But this time something is different: Ruby no longer wants to be an eternal outsider. She decides to make an impression on her new friends—at all costs.

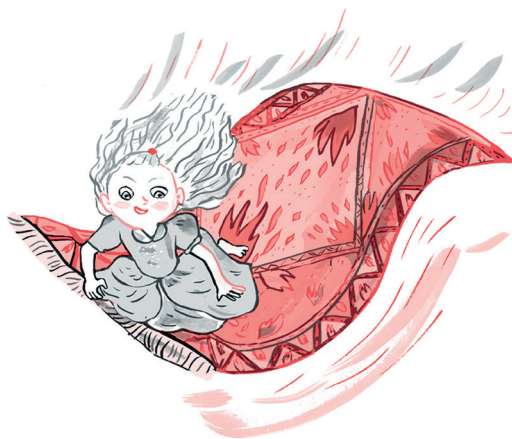
In *Many-Coloured Mansion*, the focus is on Ruby's sister Skye. When the family takes a trip to a mansion in the archipelago, Skye gets to know Bruno, who can control the colour brown. With their friendship, she starts to learn about Greyness, the creature that thrives on the borders of evil and ambushes those who are not like the others.

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

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

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

Vuokko Hurme (b. 1979) is an author of children's fiction and nonfiction. Before *The Hues* series, she has written a middle-grade trilogy *Rotation* (2017–2019).



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

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Italy, Mimesis (book #1)



Vuokko Hurme & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

## Ruby's Secret

*What if you could move objects  
by willpower?*

Ruby's family has a secret: they have wonderful powers of colour. The Hues are able to control the colours of their own possessions, and they can handle them and move them about by willpower. Ruby's colour is red and her big sister Skye's is blue, while their little brother Forrest is still looking for his colour and practising hard.

When the Hues, hiding their secret skills, move into the Gertrude Rinne condominium, something changes: Ruby no longer wants to be an eternal outsider. She wants to play in the yard with the other children. So she has to make an impression on her new friends—at all costs.

On top of all this, Ruby's head is turned by a charming but mischievous girl named Liia. And what is the strange greyness that threatens not just the Hues but everyone else as well?

*Ruby's Secret* is the first book of four about the Hues family. Reetta Niemensivu's expressive line drawing illustrations complete the text with red finishing touches.

*"Hurme has an amazing ability to create new worlds and bold, multi-dimensional characters."*

The Literary Lore Blog on  
the Rotation series

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Many-Coloured Mansion*, The Hues #2 (Kirjava kartano, 2021)

*The Shadow Guest*, The Hues #3 (Varjovieras, 2022)

*Danger at the Colour Spa*, The Hues #4 (Vaara värikympylässä, 2022)



*Tiukun salaisuus* | *Värikkäät* #1

S&S, 2020, 199 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Italy, Mimesis



Vuokko Hurme & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

# *The Many-Coloured Mansion*

*The colourful series of books about the amazing Hues family continues.*

Skye's family has extraordinary powers with colour. They can move objects of their own colour through the effort of their will.

Usually, the Hues keep themselves to themselves, which suits homebody Skye, who can control the colour blue, very well. But now the family has decided to go on a real trip. Together with the girl next door, Liia, they step on board a ship where everything is strange: the crowds of people, the ball-pit and even the buffet.

The ship takes the Hues to a family celebration in an exciting mansion in the archipelago. When Skye gets to know the fearless Bruno, who can control the colour brown, she understands everything that is not talked about in her own family. It is time to meet the Greyness – that creature that thrives on the borders of evil and ambushes those who are not like the others – eye to eye.

*The Many-Coloured Mansion* is the second volume of Vuokko Hurme's Hues series. Reetta Niemensivu's expressive line drawings sketch in the blue details.

*"Extreme sensitivity, prejudice and power-play among friends emerge from the plot without underlining or undue emphasis. Tension is raised little by little and hints about future developments are sprinkled patiently to engage the child reader."*

Lastenhylly literature blog  
on *Ruby's Secret*

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Ruby's Secret*, The Hues #1 (*Tiukun salaisuus*, 2021)  
Rights sold: Italy, Mimesis

*The Shadow Guest*, The Hues #3 (*Varjovieras*, 2022)

*Danger at the Colour Spa*, The Hues #4 (*Vaara värikylpylässä*, 2022)



*Kirjava kartano* | *Värikkäät* #2

S&S, 2021, c. 180 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

Vuokko Hurme & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

# *The Shadow Guest*

*Sometimes something great and colourful  
is born even from chaotic greyness!*

Forrest's family have extraordinary powers with colours. They can move objects of their own colour through the effort of their will.

Forrest is the baby of the family and his colours are green, and the blue and yellow of which it is composed. He enjoys his growing skills with colour powers and the liberation of his family, particularly on his green forest trips with his father and his big sister, Skye. He is not so sure about nursery school, which he is due to start in the autumn.

A new, freer life than before nevertheless brings dangers with it. Who is the strange black-and-white man who lives on the nearby garden plot? Why is Bruno's arrival at the so-called Autumn Hill followed by those of Uncle Curry, Aunt Magenta and the suspiciously gold boy, Shine?

Soon the Hues must find a joint way of protecting themselves from the awful Greyness which has this time come even closer.

*The Many-Coloured Mansion* is the third book in Vuokko Hurme's *The Hues* series. Reetta Niemensivu's expressive line drawings sketch in green detail.



*Varjovieras* | *Värikkäät* #3

S&S, 2022, 184 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Ruby's Secret*, *The Hues* #1 (*Tiukun salaisuus*, 2021)

Rights sold: Italy, Mimesis

*The Many-Coloured Mansion*, *The Hues* #2 (*Kirjava kartano*, 2021)

*Danger at the Colour Spa*, *The Hues* #4 (*Vaara värikylpylässä*, 2022)

Vuokko Hurme & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

## *Danger at the Colour Spa*

*Even with superpowers,  
you sometimes need a rest.*

Skye and her family have extraordinary powers over colours. They can move objects and things of their own colour at will.

For their autumn break, Skye goes to stay with her friend Bruno and his brown family, together with her little sister Ruby. Bruno shows the city girls his home, which does not have electricity, and his family's lifestyle, which is eccentric even by the standards of the Hues.

Ruby enjoys the outdoors and the lack of a timetable and makes friends with Bruno's siblings. But Skye begins to tire of the family's recklessness. Soon the visitors are able to relax at the unbelievably beautiful Colour Spa. There, they float in pools of different colours, breathe colours and care for themselves in the most unusual ways.

But not everything is as it should be at the spa. Great-aunts Magenta, Malva and Anis, who run the business, seem tired, and there are problems of the building which are causing it to subside. And what on earth is going on in the closed wing of the spa, where black-and-white Hues faded by the Greyness are cared for?

*Danger at the Colour Spa* is the fourth volume in Vuokko Hurme's children's series *The Hues*. Reetta Niemensivu's expressive line drawings are finished with brown details.



*Vaara värikylpylässä* | *Värikkäät* #4

S&S, 2022, 196 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Ruby's Secret*, *The Hues* #1 (*Tiukun salaisuus*, 2021)

Rights sold: Italy, Mimesis

*The Many-Coloured Mansion*, *The Hues* #2 (*Kirjava kartano*, 2021)

*The Shadow Guest*, *The Hues* #3 (*Varjovieras*, 2022)

Katriina Huttunen

# *The Placenta of Grief*

*“My grief will always be open-ended.  
Grief after death is life and has to be lived.”*

The woman's daughter has committed suicide. It turns out that the daughter, who suffered from depression, collected all her prescription drugs at the pharmacy on two successive days. She didn't leave any message.

Nothing in her mother's life will ever be the same. Grief has entered her life to stay. There is no consolation.

Mother's home is now in the cemetery; when she looks at the graves, she feels she belongs somewhere. That's where she can be with her dead daughter, with her grief.

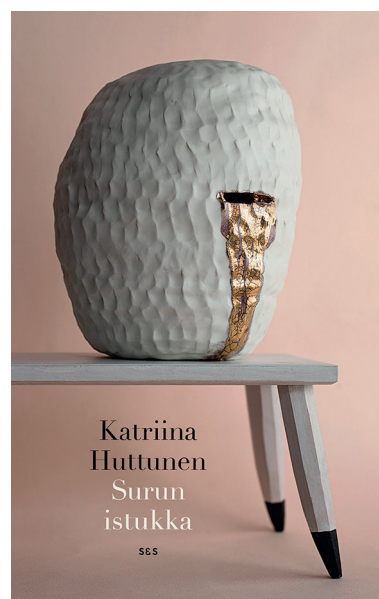
Alongside her loss comes anger, accompanied by self-blame, rage, disappointment with herself and with others, fear, terror, shame, regrets, guilt. But the greatest of all is grief. And the centre of the profound grief holds a secret, the daughter, the child who is no more.

The loss also brings along words. The woman starts writing and can't stop.

*The Placenta of Grief* is an autobiographical novel, and Katriina Huttunen's first. It's full of despair, rage and surprising beauty. The narrator takes an unflinching look at life, death, herself and people around her. The novel forces the reader to face the taboos of suicide and questions the validity of a culture that wants to forget the ever-present possibility of death.

*“Huttunen translates literary fiction into Finnish; she's a professional linguist and a magician with words. The Placenta of Grief is atmospheric and impressive throughout. It moves skillfully between themes and registers, although it takes place within the straitjacket of grief.”* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*“Huttunen's writing is merciless, unflinching and strangely beautiful. The mother decides to grieve till her dying day because grief is the most potent memory of her daughter. And nothing lasts forever apart from a loss.”* Ilta-Sanomat newspaper



*Surun istukka*

S&S, 2019, 327 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.

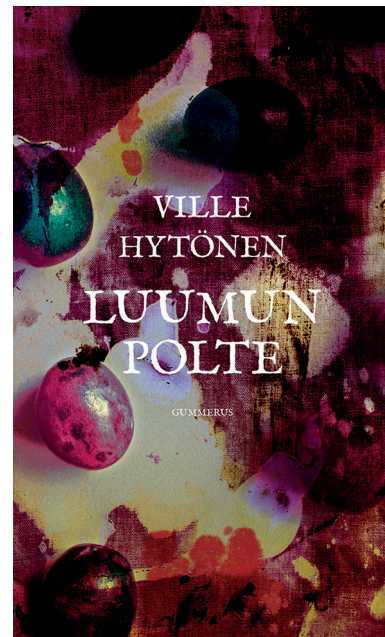
The ill-matched pair is irresistibly drawn to each other, and the tensions of the recent war are released in a passionate relationship. Zorana starts painting a portrait of the invisible Srdjan, and the man's features become stronger both in the picture and in reality.

*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,  
English synopsis

Anna Härmälä

# Postcards from Grandma Flyaway

*A charmingly curious travel book  
for small children!*

The little bird Chirp has always lived at home in his nest with her mother and her father. Grandma Flyaway sends her granddaughter postcards from exciting places on her migratory travels: the street cafés of Paris, the beaches of the Canary Islands, Greece, Thailand, India, Mexico... Will Chirp ever dare to fly away from her home forest into the big wide world?

This inventive and light-hearted book tells the story of a journey around the world in postcards. Looking at the details of the postcards, children and adults together can try to guess where Granny Flyaway will travel next! Grandma's postcard messages include funny greetings and little morsels of information:

**“BONJOUR MON CHERI CHIRP!**

**I flew here from Paris on Wednesday. What a lot of beautiful buildings there are here! To be honest I am quite beside myself. Yesterday I went to a café and ordered macaroni. I was so hungry. And then the waiter arrived with a tiny violet pastry—it looked just like a hamburger! There was a terrible row when we argued about whether or not it was macaroni.”**



*Kort från Farmor Flyttfågel | Posti-  
kortteja mummi Muuttolinnulta*

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2018, 32 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Turkey, Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



J. M. Ilves

## *Bordertown – Doll's House*

*A Finnish town right by the Russian border. A detective with hopes of a new start. A hideous crime with connections to the east...*

Detective Inspector Kari Sorjonen is one of the most respected officers at the National Bureau of Investigation in Finland. But when his wife barely survives brain cancer, Sorjonen decides to move with his family to an idyllic small town near the border of Russia to lead a quiet, peaceful life.

Sorjonen joins the local police department and gets a case investigating a young girl found dead in the lake. Soon it starts to seem that someone is trafficking girls across the Russian border – and the traces might lead high to the town's leadership...

Sorjonen soon comes to realize that the small town attitudes, political shenanigans and frontier crimes can be even harder to handle than the illegal activities in the capital.

*Doll's House* is the first book of the *Bordertown* series. The second, *The Endgame*, came out in April 2017, and the third, *Five Finger Exercise*, is coming out in 2018. The books are written by two Finnish professional authors behind the pseudonym J. M. Ilves. The novels are based on the internationally successful television series *Bordertown*, sold to over 40 countries.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Bordertown – The Endgame* (Sorjonen – Loppupeli, 2017)

Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Germany, Suhrkamp; Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

*Bordertown – Five Finger Exercise* (Sorjonen – Viiden sormen harjoitus, 2018)

Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

*Bordertown – The Man-Beast* (Sorjonen – Ihmispeto, 2019)

Rights sold: Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

J. M. ILVES



*Sorjonen – Nukkekoti*

Gummerus, 2016, 283 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books);  
Germany, Suhrkamp; Polish, Virtualo/  
Empik Go

TELEVISION SERIES SOLD TO OVER 180 COUNTRIES

J. M. Ilves

## *Bordertown – The Endgame*

*A dead man on a boat. The detective's daughter covered with blood. A cat and a mouse play with a serial killer with high stakes about to begin...*

Just as Detective Inspector Kari Sorjonen is starting to get used to his life in the bordertown to Russia, his 18-year-old daughter Janina wakes up on a sailing boat – covered with blood. A body of a middle-aged man is found abroad and all the evidence seems to point at the girl.

As other suspicious deaths start taking place, Sorjonen – not allowed to take part in the official investigation and troubled by his personal worries as well – sees it fit to start an investigation of his own to find out what has really happened...

The first book of the *Bordertown* series, *Doll's House*, was published in 2016, and the third, *Five Finger Exercise*, will come out in 2018. The books are written by two Finnish professional authors under the pseudonym J. M. Ilves. The novels are based on the internationally successful television series *Bordertown*.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Bordertown – Doll's House* (*Sorjonen – Nukkekot*, 2016)

Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Germany, Suhrkamp; Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

*Bordertown – Five Finger Exercise* (*Sorjonen – Viiden sormen harjoitus*, 2018)

Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

*Bordertown – The Man-Beast* (*Sorjonen – Ihmispeto*, 2019)

Rights sold: Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go



*Sorjonen – Loppupeli*

Gummerus, 2017, 331 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books);  
Germany, Suhrkamp; Polish, Virtualo/  
Empik Go

TELEVISION SERIES SOLD TO OVER 180 COUNTRIES



J. M. Ilves

## *Bordertown – Five Finger Exercise*

*A slaughter on the forest road. A hitman who's paying off old debts.  
And a woman whose past is catching up with her.*

Detective Inspector Kari Sorjonen has moved close to the eastern border of Finland with his family in order to escape his taxing work in the capital. The plan doesn't seem to work, however: even though his new home town is small, the crimes committed there are not.

An exceptionally cold-blooded double murder sets off an investigation on both sides of the eastern border. When the crime connects to Sorjonen's nearest and dearest, the stakes rise. He's up against a killer with nothing to lose. And an even more sinister man behind him...

*Five Finger Exercise* is the third book in the *Bordertown* series in which Kari Sorjonen, a sharp logician but socially less skilful crime investigator goes in for criminals. The books link with the internationally acclaimed television series *Bordertown* which has reached unparalleled viewing figures in Finland.

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

Kymen Sanomat Newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Bordertown – Doll's House* (*Sorjonen – Nukkekot*, 2016)

Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Germany, Suhrkamp;  
Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

*Bordertown – The Endgame* (*Sorjonen – Loppupeli*, 2017)

Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Germany, Suhrkamp;  
Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

*Bordertown – The Man-Beast* (*Sorjonen – Ihmispeto*, 2019)

Rights sold: Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go



*Sorjonen – Viiden sormen harjoitus*

Gummerus, 2018, 324 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books);  
Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

TELEVISION SERIES SOLD TO OVER 180 COUNTRIES

J. M. Ilves

## *Bordertown – The Man-Beast*

*Who has taken over,  
doling out his cruel justice?*

Someone is playing games with Detective Inspector Kari Sorjonen, really taunting him. The murders under investigation are theatrical, as if someone were committing brutal crimes in order to leave a message.

It's hard for Sorjonen to get any definite leads, as he is not himself. His wife has died of cancer, and grief and guilt feelings are undermining his ability to act. In addition, the murderer's victims appear to be innocent, unlike their neighbours and relatives.

And why does the whole dirty game seem to revolve around Kari Sorjonen?

The addictive *The Man-Beast* is the fourth part of the *Bordertown* crime series. The earlier books are *Doll's House* (2016), *The Endgame* (2017) and *Five Finger Exercise* (2018).

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Bordertown – Doll's House* (*Sorjonen – Nukkekot*, 2016)

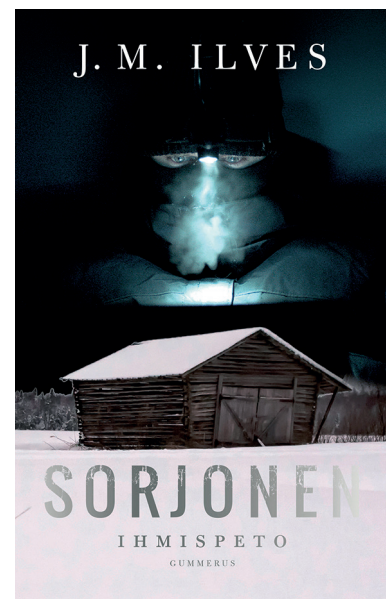
Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Germany, Suhrkamp; Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

*Bordertown – The Endgame* (*Sorjonen – Loppupeli*, 2017)

Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Germany, Suhrkamp; Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

*Bordertown – Five Finger Exercise* (*Sorjonen – Viiden sormen harjoitus*, 2018)

Rights sold: Estonia, Postimees (Eesti Meedia, books); Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go



*Sorjonen – Ihmispeto*

Gummerus, 2019, 314 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Polish, Virtualo/Empik Go

TELEVISION SERIES SOLD TO OVER 180 COUNTRIES

Hannele Jyrkkä

## *The Hunter*

*The extraordinary journey of a beloved dancer, choreographer and artistic director who has won accolades the world over.*

Tero Saarinen, Finland's best-known dancer-choreographer on the international scene, didn't start dancing until he was 16. Over the next years, he forged a spectacular path for himself at the Finnish National Ballet, studied with the Butoh legend Kazuo Ohno in Japan, and became a captivating soloist for the France-based choreographer Carolyn Carlson in Paris.

The globally renowned Tero Saarinen Company has performed in over 40 countries, at prestigious venues like the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Royal Festival Hall, Joyce Theater and Walt Disney Concert Hall. The Los Angeles Philharmonic, Ensemble Intercontemporain and the Nederlands Dans Theater are among the many partners to have collaborated with them. All of these productions have been praised for their distinctive movement and choreographic vision, striking visual design and devoted attention to music.

Dance journalist Hannele Jyrkkä spent a year following Saarinen in rehearsal halls and at home, as he brought his new choreography *Third Practice* to life. *The Hunter: Tero Saarinen – The Icon of Contemporary Dance* is the result of this effort: the first book that tells the story of a sports enthusiast who grew up in exceptional circumstances and catapulted to international fame and iconic status in the world of contemporary dance.

**“Dance was a pathway to something I couldn't name or explain. It just felt right: liberating and fulfilling. Never before had anything made me feel so complete.”**

TERO SAARINEN



*Etsijä – Tero Saarinen tie nykytanssin ikoniksi*

Siltala Publishing, 2020, 207 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, French sample,  
English synopsis

Anu Kaaja

# Metamorphoslip

*A book of metamorphoses, where mythical creatures and tragic fates are connected in unexpected ways.*

A statue of Napoleon walks away from its pedestal, a divine messenger starts bothering a window washer, a night of partying begins in present-day Finland and ends up at the court of the Sun King, and a troublesome building superintendent makes plans to remodel a tenant's apartment, and his/her subconscious.

The collection itself is also continuously changing form the brazenly obscene veering into the lyrical and sensitive, settings shifting from fox hunts to space ships. The metamorphoses are sometimes dreams come true, sometimes places of refuge, or nightmares. There are scenes both phantasmagorical and realistic, that both conceal and reveal all that is important and difficult for people, whether it concerns money, food, home, gender, or sex.

And Kaaja tells it in language that is precise and crammed to bursting, whether with joy or sadness.

*"Anu Kaaja writes thrillingly original stories whose depths expand with meaning-loaded symbols and uninhibited linguistic playfulness. In spite of their brevity, the stories invoke powerful images that stay with you, teeming in the furrows of the brain."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Kaaja is at her sharpest in brief tears that have something of the spirit of Luis Buñuel. Her unbounded imagination scoffs at our familiar, ostensible truths and exposes their twisted foundations."*

Savon Sanomat newspaper



*Muodonmuuttoilmoitus*

Teos Publishers, 2015, 168 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
German sample

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Leda* (Leda, 2017)

*Katie-Kate* (Katie-Kate, 2020)

Rights sold: Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard



Anu Kaaja

## Leda

*A story about defiling a maiden – a sophisticated, topical refashioning of how it should have been done.*

The myth has it that Jupiter, the king of gods, descended upon a young maid called Leda in the guise of a swan and seduced her. A plethora of storytellers have told the tale and once it was even recounted in the king's court, in 18th century France.

That version, however, was crudely off the mark, at least according to the narrator of *Leda*, who writes to a noble friend and decides to retell the myth in the quiet countryside. In this new version, young Adèle from the convent becomes the unfortunate female lead and the role of Jupiter falls on the infamous Monsieur de Signe.

What follows is a kaleidoscopic tableau in which the narrator starts revealing personal grudges and obsessions alongside Leda's story. What is he doing in the countryside residence and why is he obsessed about the only maidservant in the house?

*Leda* became a critical success right after its publication and was shortlisted for the Runeberg Literary Prize.

*"Kaaja's novel is clearly one of the literary highlights this spring. How is it possible for a novel to be as stylish and nimble at the same time? So entertaining and uncompromising?"*

Turun Sanomat newspaper

*"I would advise you to wolf down Anu Kaaja's novel Leda in one go. It is a funny and intense delight, faithful to its style throughout."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Leda*

Teos Publishers, 2017, 200 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Metamorphoslip* (Muodonmuuttoilmoitus, 2015)

*Katie-Kate* (Katie-Kate, 2020)

Rights sold: Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard

NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE

Anu Kaaja

## Katie-Kate

*Mainstream porn and Cinderella stories collide in this satirical portrait of conflicted desires.*

A radiant thirty-year-old Scandinavian girl finds herself living with an older royalist couple in a London suburb. The wife Helen, who's fanatical about her royal memorabilia, starts making the girl over into a Kate Middleton lookalike while the husband Roger fantasizes about how she would look with Katie Price's silicon implants. The stage is set for a bizarre *ménage à trois*.

Anu Kaaja's anticipated third book cuts and pastes a societal collage that lurches in the footsteps of Vladimir Nabokov, Simone de Beauvoir, and Henry Miller – sometimes in glass slippers, sometimes in thigh-high latex boots. Kaaja doesn't hold anything back – mainstream porn, Cinderella stories, Princess Diana's lovers, and Meghan Markle's tights are all interconnected, with a lyrical inevitability.

*Katie-Kate* is a brilliant, disturbing, and unapologetic portrait of our time. It's unlike anything you have ever read before. Kaaja's pitch-black humor and keen observations make her one of the most significant voices of her generation.

*"Kaaja's novel is like a large, fluffy cake that hides a jagged file. Perhaps it does! In any case, it's the most fulfilling and liberating writing I've read recently."* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

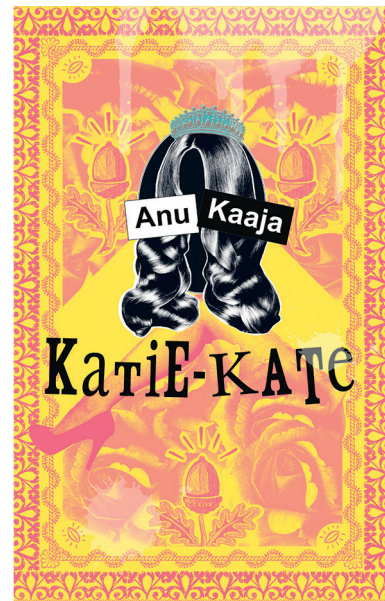
*"Kaaja's feminist prose tears up the things considered decent, and it makes horizons of expectation vanish. [...] The author knows well what she is doing. At the very moment the reader's saturation point is reached, the border between the material and the narration is pushed forward in order to give distance. Kaaja makes narration the theme of the novel."*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Metamorphoslip* (Muodonmuuttoilmoitus, 2015)

*Leda* (Leda, 2017)



*Katie-Kate*

Teos Publishers, 2020, 263 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard

KALEVI JÄNTTI PRIZE 2020

Vappu Kaarenaja & Aurora Rämö

# *The Women Who Run Finland*

*A story of a country where you can't be "too female" to rule anymore.*

A groundbreaking new government took office in Finland in December 2019, made so by virtue of the fact that all five of the coalition's top ministers were women. News of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's freshly appointed team made American talk show hosts contemplate if the remote Nordic country was actually the stuff of an alternate Wonder Woman universe. The spectacle of a fresh-faced row of political party leaders, all women under the age of 35, made headlines throughout the world.

Governments run by women don't just spring up from nothing; countless developments in Finnish society led up to this moment. Women in Finland were the first to gain the vote in Europe already in 1906, but a dozen successful years under a woman president and a string of powerful ministers that were women certainly played a part in the country's power-sharing evolution. A thriving welfare state, an exemplary education system and family-friendly legislation have also contributed to the current status quo, where women don't have to make an all-or-nothing choice between family and a career.

*The Women Who Run Finland* takes the reader on a journey through the history of twentieth century Finland, showing why things like gender and age have become increasingly irrelevant in Finland's distribution of power.

*"The new book by two of Finland's most skilled journalists [...] makes the reader dive deep into the history of Finland, wearing goggles of equality. The text flows smoothly, and the metaphors make you chuckle."*

Voima magazine



*Tytöt. Suomalaisen tasa-arvon perusteet*

Siltala Publishing, 2020, 156 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation,  
English sample, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Germany, Scoventa

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.

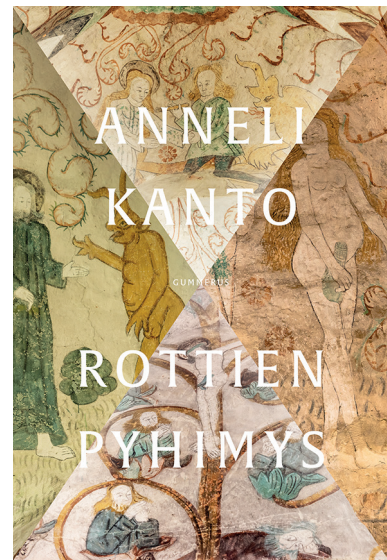
As the history of the world from Paradise and the Fall to the Final Judgment takes shape on the walls of the church, romance, envy, treachery, and crime occur, and a life reaches a turning point. One story ends and another begins.

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



E. L. Karhu

# *To My Brother*

*“My brother is a beautiful man who loves beautiful women, but he has an ugly sister he loves too. That’s me.”*

A greedy, lonely girl watches her beautiful, popular brother atop the sensual bodies of his girlfriend candidates—his “candies.” She eyes their breakfast toast, thick smears of fig jam on chevre.

If someone were to look at the girl, they might see a loser who binges on sweets, devours soap operas, and trails her brother like a shadow but whose manic narration forces one to stare, to look more closely.

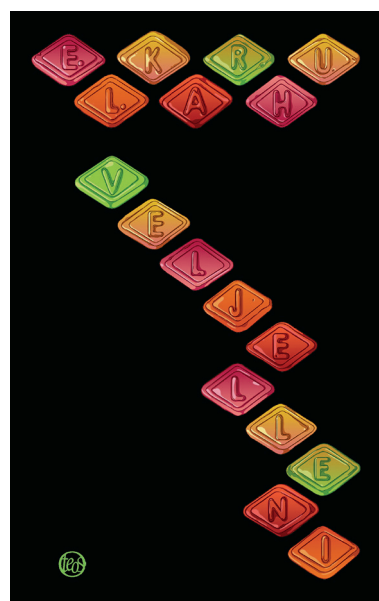
*To My Brother* doesn’t ask any direct questions. Even so, listening to its anti-hero prompts thoughts about sibling relationships, caretaking, lust, and social and sexual hierarchies. It’s an absurd bildungsroman germinating from internalized self-hatred, one that takes place at the fringes if the center is a multi-part mirror. A silver scooter racing at maximum speed. An eccentric is attached to its rotating axel, transforming forward momentum into back-and-forth motion.

Which way should you turn now?

My favorite film is called *À ma soeur*, literally “To My Sister.” In it, a fat French girl heads off for summer holidays with her thin, beautiful older sister. She lies awake in the room the two of them share, listening to her sister take it up the butt so the sister can have sex while preserving her virginity. At the end, during the journey home, there’s an accident that kills everyone except the protagonist. A man who emerges from the woods engages in intercourse with the fat girl, and she’s happy. The director dedicated the film to her sister. That’s where the title, *À ma soeur*, came from.

If I made a movie, I would dedicate it to my brother.

*Translated by Kristian London*



*Veljelleni*

Teos Publishers, 2021, 245 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

World French, La Peuplade; Hungary,  
Metropolis Media

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 translation,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Arabic, Al Arabi; Bulgaria, ICU; Czech, Host; 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

KALEVI JÄNTTI PRIZE 2019 | TÄHTIFANTASIA PRIZE 2020

JARKKO LAINE PRIZE 2020 | THE LAPLAND LITERATURE PRIZE 2021

Ilja Karsikas

# *The Unicorn*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Yksisarvinen*

S&S, 2022, 48 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Under the Moon* (Kuun valossa, 2020)

Rights sold: Estonia, Rahva Raamat

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



Ilja Karsikas

## *Storm and Light*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ALSO AVAILABLE

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

*The Unicorn* (Yksisarvinen, 2022)



*Myrsky ja Valo*

S&S, spring 2023, 40 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Milja Kaunisto

# Deluxe

*Bestselling historical novel dives into the dark sides of the revolutionary Paris.*

Isidore Boreal has grown up with lies and in madness. Marie-Constance de Boucard has wallowed in lust and silk. Marquis de Sade has lived his life imprisoned by his demons.

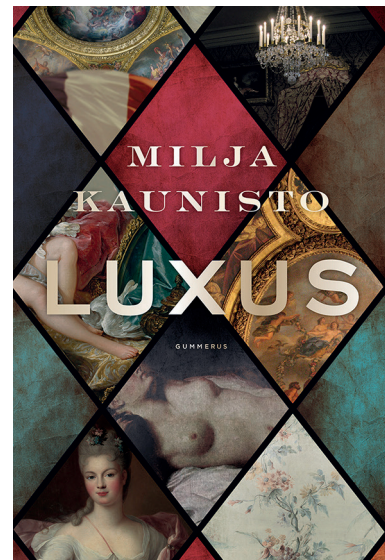
When the revolution begins, they all meet in Maison de Luxe, a luxurious brothel in the heart of Paris and a meeting point of the revolutionaries. In order to survive each of them must give up something—be it their ideals, virtues, homes or possessions.

Kaunisto's imagination is as unstoppable as her language is sharp and rich, taking its tune from the era and the characters themselves.

*Deluxe* is the first book in the *Purple Guillotine* trilogy, set up in Paris during the French revolution. In the series the capital of fashion, extravagance and culture shows none of its best sides: it is full of decapitation, rape, cold and hunger—but also desire, beautiful clothes and luxurious dinners. *Deluxe* has sold so far over 14,000 copies in Finland.

*“Kaunisto, who lives in France herself, describes the places and customs of the time with care, without exaggeration. Everything [...] serves the story. 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



*Luxus* | *Purppuragiljotiini* #1

Gummerus, 2016, 550 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Poland, Prószyński Media

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Corpus*, *Purple Guillotine* #2 (*Corpus*, 2017)

*Status*, *Purple Guillotine* #3 (*Status*, 2018)

Milja Kaunisto

# Corpus

*When France becomes a republic, the streets of Paris turn perilous – especially for those who harbor dangerous secrets...*

Marianne has lost her status and identity as a countess, but thanks to the Marquis de Sade, she has survived the revolution and found safety in the luxurious Maison de Luxe.

Isidore is an executioner's apprentice, and when his guillotine begins to show its power on behalf of the new republic, the noose begins to tighten around the necks of the republic's opponents. Death smoulders in the ruins of the old kingdom, and any passerby could be death's envoy in the now dangerous streets of Paris.

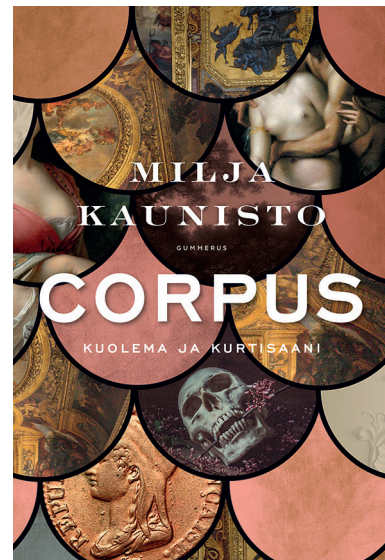
The Reign of Terror has begun, but one secret must be protected above all others. If revealed, it has the power to destroy or save an entire country.

*Corpus* is the second novel in the *Purple Guillotine* trilogy, set in Paris during the French Revolution. In the series, the capital of fashion, extravagance, and culture shows its worst side: it is full of decapitations, rape, cold, and hunger – but there is also desire, beautiful clothes, and luxurious dinners.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Deluxe*, Purple Guillotine #1 (*Luxus*, 2016)  
Rights sold: Poland, Prószyński Media

*Status*, Purple Guillotine #3 (*Status*, 2018)



*Corpus* | *Purppuragiljotiini* #2

Gummerus, 2017, 584 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Milja Kaunisto

## Status

*The Revolution has cast a countess down to the gutter –  
and offered an executioner's apprentice the keys to power.*

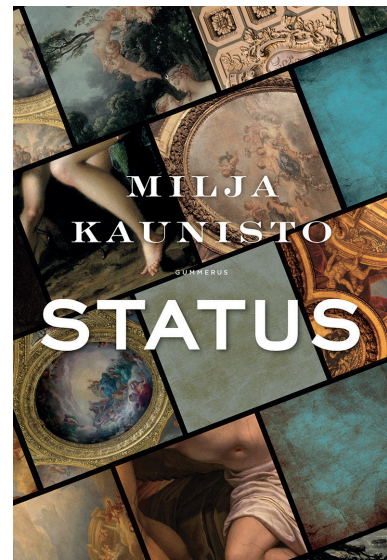
Marianne is a countess and the madame of a brothel, the symbol of the republic and an enemy of the revolution. Isidore is an executioner, a guard and a protégé of Robespierre. Together they have learned the meaning of the most beautiful statement of this age of death: "I am alive." Only on the executioner's block does Marianne learn the meaning of the phrase.

When the crazy revolution is turned upside down, Isidore has the opportunity to gain a position of which he has only been able to dream. But he, too, must soon choose his path at the crossroads of past and future. As his map he has a single word: Marianne.

The extraordinary final part off the *Purple Guillotine* trilogy, *Status*, takes the reader to fear-ridden Paris, where streams of blood indicate the direction to the peak of power. Kaunisto is a master of compelling narrative, but also depicts the most exciting turns of the plot with respect for the historical truth.

*"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. [...] Kaunisto has established herself on the field of historical fiction. I'd say the books will attract audiences also outside Finland."*

Kirsin kirjanurkka blog



*Status* | Purppuragiljotiini #3

Gummerus, 2018, 496 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Deluxe*, Purple Guillotine #1 (*Luxus*, 2016)

Rights sold: Poland, Prószyński Media

*Corpus*, Purple Guillotine #2 (*Corpus*, 2017)

Juha Kauppinen

# *The Essential Biodiversity*

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Monimuotoisuus. Lyhyt oppimäärä*

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 132 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis,  
English translation



Helmi Kekkonen

# *This Woman's Life*

*Nothing has happened here that  
I don't want to remember.*

On the morning of the funeral, fifteen-year-old Helena puts on a red dress and eyes herself in the mirror. Her mother is dead; her father is waiting outside in his black suit. Helena thinks about eyebrows, boobs, and her boyfriend Johannes—so she won't have to think about her mother and especially her own grief, her own feelings of guilt.

Helena grows from adolescence to adulthood, but memories of a childhood overshadowed by her mother never age and refuse to be forgotten.

My throat constricts with grief, and I decide today is the day I'll tell Dad. I'll tell him about those days. I'll tell him Mom is lying when she said we went to the park and the pool and the store. I just don't know how to get the words out; I've tried so many times. Or maybe Dad already knows but is also unable to say anything. As if there were some agreement. As if the three of us had at some point made the joint decision that this is perfectly normal and appropriate. As if we were a totally normal family.

*This Woman's Life* is a novel that moves through time in an extraordinarily beguiling manner, leaving an indelible mark on the reader.

*"Kekkonen is a master of female-perspective contemporary writing. The sphere is private and that is as it should be. In its stream-of-consciousness first-person narration, the work falls into Virginia Woolf's tradition of writing about women and families."*

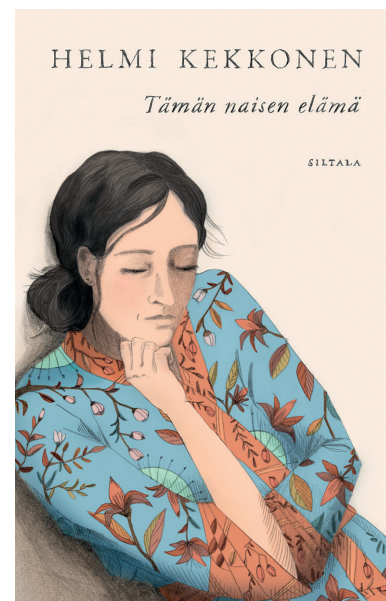
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Choice* (Valinta, 2011)

*Unsheltered* (Suojaton, 2014)

*The Guests* (Vieraat, 2016)



*Tämän naisen elämä*

Siltala Publishers, 2021, 211 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Helmi Kekkonen & Aino Louhi (illustrations)

# *Topsy-turvy Anna*

*Everything is just as Anna wants it to be:  
YVRUT-YSPOT TCEFREP!*

Anna is topsy-turvy because Anna is Anna backwards; and she also likes things to be done backwards and clothes to be put on inside out and in general everything is more fun the wrong way round. Even Anna's first word was backwards: ESON.

And now it's the best day of the year. Anna's topsy-turvy festival, or YADHTRIB YTRAP. Anna is turning six. She's been waiting for this day for such a long time! But her little brother is annoying and messes things up, she's not allowed to give out biscuits at her dance class, and even her best friend, Kerttu, doesn't understand anything anymore.

*Topsy-turvy Anna* is a charming story about something familiar to all children: looking forward to something so much that it's bound to disappoint. Aino Louhi's tender illustrations are drawn with warmth and convey a homely, nostalgic atmosphere.

**"In the car on the way to the autumn's first dance class Anna has already forgotten the whole business. Dance classes are lovely and Kerttu will be there, and Anna hasn't seen Kerttu all summer. Anna laughs and sings. Every now and then Maija turns to look at her on the back seat and says, try to behave, calm down, but is still smiling."**



*Nurinkurin Anna*

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation



Saara Kekäläinen & Netta Lehtola (illustrations)

# *The Princess Who Did a Runner*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Translated by Tabatha Leggett*



*Prinsessa joka lähti kälppimään*

S&S, 2022, 42 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Portal; Denmark, Straarup & Co.;  
Slovenia, Hiša knjig



NOMINEE FOR THE ARVID LYDECKEN AWARD 2023

Saara Kekäläinen & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

# Penelope and the Perilous Porridge

*Full speed for porridge!*

Penelope is a lovable knee-high girl full of attitude and mischief. When she one morning orders a treat of a breakfast garnished with caramel and sprinkles, her Dad puts in front of her the house special. A plate of PORRIDGE.

This is the beginning of an epic duel between Penelope and the porridge. Penelope sees in everyday events sprawling adventures that entrance the reader with their clever twists of the plot. What if the porridge isn't porridge at all? What if the porridge is actually a black hole from outer space which is just waiting to swallow Penelope up and hurl her to the other side of the solar system? Or if the porridge is just a cub and its big, dangerous mum is somewhere nearby?

Which will win in the end, Penelope or the porridge?

Penelope scowled at the porridge.

Dad scowled at Penelope.

The porridge scowled at both of them.

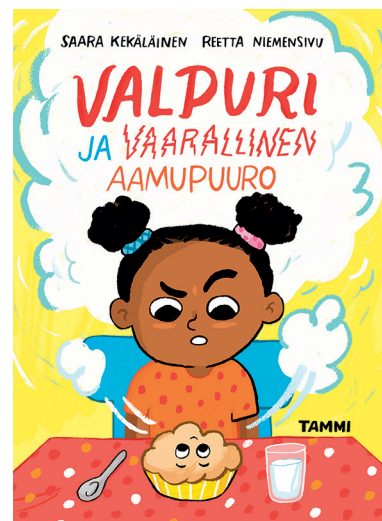
*Translated by Hildi Hawkins*

*"An ordinary bowl of breakfast porridge takes on increasingly astounding meanings in a picture book where the drama builds splendidly from spread to another. The dialogue between image and word easily traverses pages on which the element that seems visually and narratively impossible—porridge—changes, in the eye of the protagonist, to different forms: into an ambassador, a part of an art exhibition or an archaeological treasure. Can porridge ever have been pictured with such subtlety?"*

Finlandia Junior Prize jury

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Penelope and the Big Baby Tooth Ballyhoo* (Valpuri ja hirmuinen hammashässäkkä, 2023)



*Valpuri ja vaarallinen aamupuuro*

Tammi, 2022, 48 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation



Saara Kekäläinen & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

# *Penelope and the Big Baby Tooth Ballyhoo*

*From everyday routines to epic adventures  
in a nanosecond!*

When Penelope brushes her teeth, action abounds. Before long the bathroom is awash in toothpaste! Then one of Penelope's teeth starts to wiggle, and her imagination takes flight. Maybe she'll be sent a new sheep instead of a new tooth? Or maybe she'll receive a visit from the tooth fairy's mischievous cousin, the tooth imp?

Penelope is a lovable, pint-sized bundle of energy whose boundless imagination inevitably transforms the most mundane tasks into astounding adventures. *Penelope and the Big Baby Tooth Ballyhoo* is the second work in a new series of picture books that began with *Penelope and the Perilous Porridge*, in which this intrepid heroine brought her breakfast to heel – meanwhile earning a nomination for the Finlandia Junior Prize.

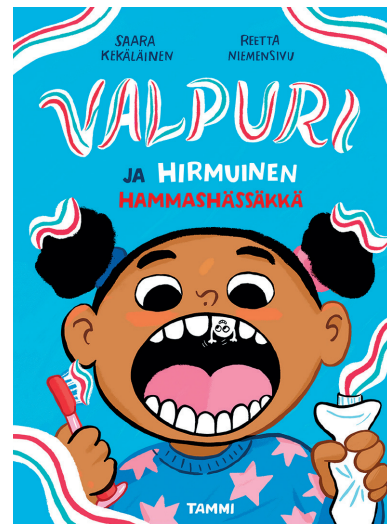
Then Penelope remembered. She'd heard people were born without teeth, then got baby teeth, which were replaced by permanent teeth. And if you ate too much candy, you had a set of false teeth to look forward to.

Did the same thing also go for, say, feet?

It was perfectly plausible that babies were born without feet, grew baby feet, exchanged them for permanent teeth, and eventually ended up with false feet.

The neighbor's baby always rode in a carriage, with no feet in sight. Was that because the wee one hadn't had time to grow them yet?

*Translated by Kristian London*



*Valpuri ja hirmuinen  
hammashässäkkä*

Tammi, 2023, 48 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Penelope and the Perilous Porridge* (*Valpuri ja vaarallinen aamupuuro*, 2022)

Teemu Keskisarja

# *The Rough Road to Raate*

*What was the bloodbath in the Arctic wilderness like for the rank-and file fighters on the Finnish and Soviet lines?*

The world's military history bursts at the seams with torrid battle zones, muddy fields, ruined cities and jungles. But there has only been one unique major battle fought on a country by-road amid icy forest and miserable swamps, waist deep in snow, in the long and dark winter night lit by the moonlight of icy expanses.

On the Raate Road in northern Finland the Finns besieged and slaughtered two heavily armed and overwhelming Soviet divisions during the Winter War (1939–1940), one the most chilling legends of WWII. Travelling on skis, the Finns attacked the Red Army's numerical superiority, its convoys of lorries and tanks, with an unusual strategy. The world was watching.

The Raate Road operations were later used for instruction at military training establishments around the world.

In *The Rough Road to Raate*, the award-winning Finnish historian Teemu Keskisarja depicts the immense chaos of a major battle in which the leading roles were played not by military commanders but by ordinary men struggling in a "frozen hell".

*"The book is stripped of all the pathos and the flatter for the great victory. Instead there is a genuine wonder and respect for the endurance in the harsh conditions of the war on both sides of the front. [...] The Rough Road to Raate does justice to those who it's due: the ordinary people."*

YLE Lappi

*"The book gives an honest and a clear picture of the battles. The legend of the Winter War has been made humane with the source materials used."*

Kainuun Sanomat newspaper



*Raaka tie Raatteeseen*

Siltala Publishing, 2012, 329 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Swedish translation,  
English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Sweden, Lind & co

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Angel of Death* (Murhanenkeli, 2019)

Rights sold: Sweden, Lind & co

UKK-PRIZE 2019

KAINUU LITERATURE PRIZE 2012

Teemu Keskisarja

# *The Angel of Death – The Story of the People of the Great Northern War*

*Big narrative of common people and their fortunes and misfortunes in the turbulence of a major conflict.*

A general, a priest, an insurgent chieftain, an executioner and a rank-and-file soldier experienced total war when the northern superpower Sweden defended its supremacy, and a major conflict in Europe was unleashed that would last for over two decades. The war tossed the soldiers about in hunger marches, campaigns of torture, plague-ridden sieges, mountain blizzards and fierce battles from Finland, Sweden and the Baltics all the way to Russia and Norway.

*The Angel of Death*, by one of Finland's best-known and best-selling historians, tells the stories of people who lived during the Great Northern War that raged from 1700 to 1721: ordinary folk, middle-ranking individuals and major figures. From everyday details like how to get hold of spirits, military desertion and the lack of boots the narrative moves on to the big questions: How did people cope in those days without losing their reason? What drove the people of the eighteenth century – people like the rank-and-file soldier or the crowned head who led the troops?

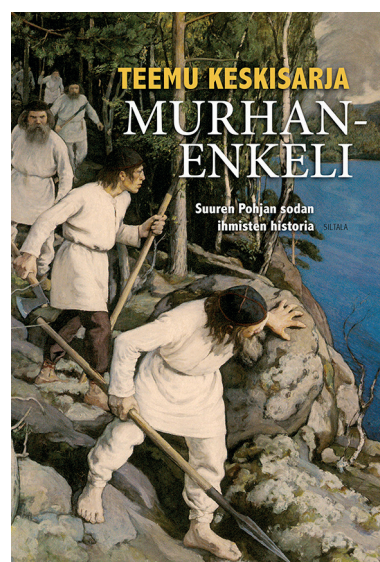
Keskisarja's story of how Finland provided Sweden with exploited cannon fodder is thoroughly researched, bold, compelling and written in an eminently readable format.

*"Adept historical research intertwines with entertaining style."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Teemu Keskisarja is a heavyweight of his craft; a prize-winning historian with wide-ranging, strange topics and unconventional viewpoints."*

Aamulehti newspaper



*Murhanenkeli. Suuren Pohjan sodan ihmisten historia*

Siltala Publishing, 2019, 278 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis,  
English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Sweden, Lind & co.

Harri Kirvesniemi & Axa Sorjanen & Kimmo Syväri

# *The Good Ski School*

*A short course in cross-country skiing  
for beginners and hobbyists.*

The traditional Nordic sport of cross-country skiing has become an international trend. There are new enthusiasts from all over the world, from China to the US and from Central Europe to Australia.

*The Good Ski School* offers answers to all those questions a beginner who dreams of skiing wants to ask. How to stay on your skis, how to choose your skis and how to lubricate them? For more advanced enthusiasts the book offers nutritional tips, ready-made workout programs and even advice for preparing for the race.

The book combines the long-time skiing experience of world champion and Olympic medallist, skier and ski factory boss Harri Kirvesniemi, the knowledge of ski coach and journalist Axa Sorjanen, and the stunning photos of photographer Kimmo Syväri. The new edition of the book has been updated to cater specifically to the needs of the beginner.

*"It's hard to imagine finding a better guide for the fitness skier in this country – and probably anywhere else."*

Urheilulehti magazine

*"The Good Ski School gives you a good dose of information to help you tackle the jungle. [...] It's a good comprehensive book for anyone who needs basic skiing knowledge."*

Kauppalehti newspaper

*"The artwork is clear and therefore it works. A good and graphic series of shots describes the entire sequence of movements, with all its steps."*

Salon Seudun Sanomat newspaper



*Hyvä hiihtokoulu*

Teos Publishers, 2020 [2006], 184 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis,  
English sample



Jenna Kiuru, Maria Manninen & Johanna Valkola

# *Maintain – Your Clothes, Shoes and Accessories*

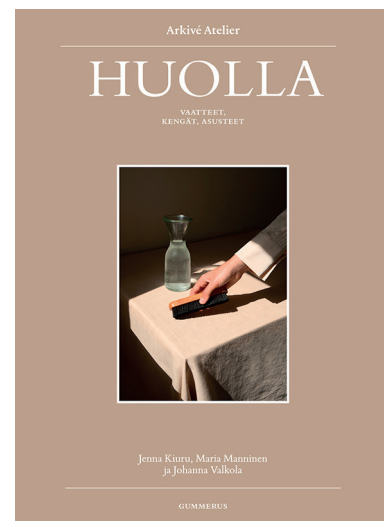
*How to recognise good quality material and best look  
after your wardrobe?*

*Maintain* is a lifestyle manual of taking care of your garments written for everyone who wants to regain the skills to prolong the life of clothes, shoes and accessories. Practical advice and beautiful images lead the reader to the wonderful world of different materials, instructing them about the particular qualities of various fabrics and types of leather. The book teaches via care instructions how to maintain your clothes and shoes beautiful and to use them as long as possible.

The book is essential for a variety of readers, such as those who:

- ✧ love to recycle and scour flea markets for discoveries
- ✧ dress up in classic, neat business attire
- ✧ appreciate sustainability and environmentally friendly consumption
- ✧ are arbiters of exacting style
- ✧ value and maintain traditions
- ✧ are in the thick of providing clothes for growing children.

*Maintain* makes taking care of shoes and garments into simple, everyday routine that helps prolonging the life of your favourite attire. The beautifully fresh photographs of the book are taken by Tuomas Pajuniemi.



*Huolla – Vaatteet, kengät ja asusteet*

Gummerus, 2020, 237 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Malin Klingenberg

## *The Senior Squad series*

*A witty and hilarious middle-grade series about retired people fighting crime.*

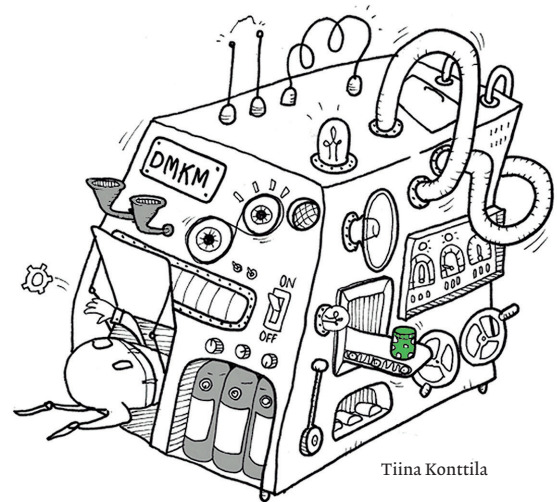
In a small-town school a boy sits in a class room, deep in thought. He's called Patrik, and today will be the most exciting day of his life, although he doesn't know it yet.

Soon enough the class tearaway, Irene, bullies Patrik into escaping from school. When he ends up on a wrong bus full of pensioners, it appears that one of the senior citizens has been kidnapped – and a group of villains are very interested in taking the other pensioners out of the game too...

In the Senior Squad series pensioners are living a secret life scuppering the evil plans of lowlifes with the help of two clever children, Patrik and Irene. The series includes six books: *Patrik and The Senior Squad* (2010), *Irene and the Moneyhoover* (2013), *Fake Bernice* (2015), *The Fantastic Alfredo* (2016), *Rakel's Miracles* (2017) and *The Magnificent Senior Match* (2020).

The Senior Squad series has been praised for its crazy humor, quirky characters and action-filled plots that are perfect for young readers. The fourth novel of the series, *The Fantastic Alfredo*, was awarded with Runeberg Junior Prize in 2017.

Malin Klingenberg (b. 1979) is a Swedish-speaking author from Finland who has written six books of The Senior Squad series. In 2018 Klingenberg published her first young adult title, *Elk Girl*, that has received wide critical acclaim. In 2019 Klingenberg came out with a rhyming book *The Secret Life of Farts*, illustrated by Sanna Mander.



Tiina Konttila

The Senior Squad series has six books. Originally written in Swedish, the series is also being published in Finnish. The Finnish editions are illustrated by Tiina Konttila, the original Swedish editions by Joanna Vikström Eklöv.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish originals, Finnish translations, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus (books #1–4)

Malin Klingenberg

# *Patrik and The Senior Squad*

*A captivating story about grannies and granddads keeping the criminals in check.*

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

Soon enough the class tearaway, Irene, bullies Patrik into escaping from school. When he ends up on a wrong bus full of pensioners, things seem a bit awkward but then take an exciting turn. It appears that one of the senior citizens has been kidnapped and a group of villains are very interested in taking the other pensioners out of the game as well...

*Patrik and The Senior Squad* is the first book in a series of six novels for middle-grade readers, praised for their crazy humour, quirky characters and action-filled plots. The books have been a huge Finland-Swedish success.

*"The 7-year-olds and I are equally excited when we sit down with Patrik and The Senior Squad. [...] the result is an absurd and wild, yet realistic adventure."* Vasabladet newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Irene and the Moneyhoover*, The Senior Squad #2 (*Irene och Sedelsugen*, 2013)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Fake Bernice*, The Senior Squad #3 (*Den falska Bernice*, 2015)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*The Fantastic Alfredo*, The Senior Squad #4 (*Den fantastiske Alfredo*, 2016)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Rakel's Miracles*, The Senior Squad #5 (*Rakels mirakel*, 2017)

*The Magnificent Senior Match*, The Senior Squad #6 (*Den stora seniorkampen*, 2020)

*Elk Girl* (*Älgflickan*, 2018)  
Rights sold: German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata Naturae



*Patrik och pensionärsmakten* |  
*Pensionärsmakten* #1

Schildts & Söderströms, 2010, 120 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus

Malin Klingenberg

## *Irene and the Moneyhoover*

*A gang of villains is planning for their largest undertaking yet.  
Can The Senior Squad stop them in time?*

Irene's father Bi-Ceps and his gang of crooks are in trouble.

It's been a long time since any of their criminal activities have been successful and now Victor Ture, the ruling baddie, is threatening to throw them out of his club of arch-villains.

In order to protect the family honour Bi-Ceps starts planning for their biggest crime yet. Keeping the other villains in the dark, they recruit Irene, who secretly builds them a money-hoover – a machine that will suck the money out of the banks' vaults. But none of them have thought about Patrik and his friends in The Senior Squad...

The formidable lineup from *Patrik and The Senior Squad* return in the sequel *Irene and the Moneyhoover*. This is an action-packed story for children who are already reading on their own.

*"Irene and the Moneyhoover is a story that carries you away and holds you in its grip."*

Nya Åland newspaper

*"The whole of the story is wonderful and often giggle-inducing."*

Västra Nyland newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Patrik and The Senior Squad*, The Senior Squad #1 (*Patrik och Pensionärsmakten*, 2010)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Fake Bernice*, The Senior Squad #3 (*Den falska Bernice*, 2015)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*The Fantastic Alfredo*, The Senior Squad #4 (*Den fantastiske Alfredo*, 2016)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Rakel's Miracles*, The Senior Squad #5 (*Rakels mirakel*, 2017)

*The Magnificent Senior Match*, The Senior Squad #6 (*Den stora seniorkampen*, 2020)

*Elk Girl (Älgflickan)*, 2018  
Rights sold: German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata Naturae



*Irene och Sedelsugen* | *Pensionärsmakten* #2

Schildts & Söderströms, 2013, 136 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus



Malin Klingenberg

## *Fake Bernice*

*Criminals want to get back at The Senior Squad –  
is this the end?*

Bi-Ceps is enraged and gritting his teeth. He and his gang of crooks have been inside the prison for months – and it's The Senior Squad's fault! He must find a way to get back at them.

The master outlaw Holly Moms, specialist in chemistry, hypnosis and doing the splits, is let out of prison. When it transpires that she also has unfinished business with The Senior Squad, Bi-Ceps and Holly Moms join forces. The Senior Squad is in danger now!

The third adventure of Patrik and Irene is as side-splitting as the previous stories about the pensioners' gang that makes the underworld quake in their boots.

*"This series is great for anyone who wants to lose themselves in a story. The end is often extremely amusing and preposterously absurd. Everything is possible and no one meets a sticky end."*

Finnish national broadcasting company YLE

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Patrik and The Senior Squad*, The Senior Squad #1 (*Patrik och Pensionärsmakten*, 2010)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

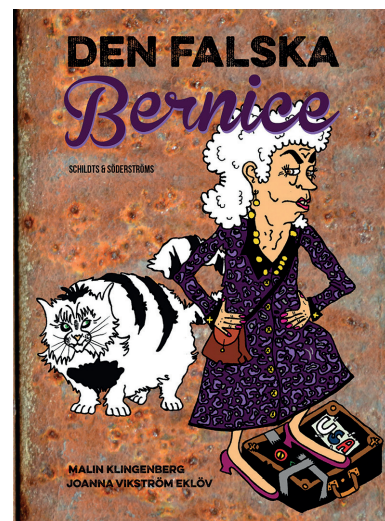
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Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Rakel's Miracles*, The Senior Squad #5 (*Rakels mirakel*, 2017)

*The Magnificent Senior Match*, The Senior Squad #6 (*Den stora seniorkampen*, 2020)

*Elk Girl* (*Älgflickan*, 2018)  
Rights sold: German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata Naturae



*Den falska Bernice* | *Pensionärsmakten* #3

Schildts & Söderströms, 2015, 148 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus

Malin Klingenberg

# *The Fantastic Alfredo*

*A prizewinning book about a group of pensioners and clever-witted children makes the reader double up with laughter.*

Patrik, Irene and The Senior Squad are relaxing in the Canary Islands. The Squad is sure they can spend their holidays in peace – there's not a lawbreaker in sight.

But soon enough Patrik and Irene run into shady people in the hotel lobby. There's something odd about them... And who's Alfredo, a muscle man always surrounded by fans?

The fourth installment of The Senior Squad is typically funny, brilliant and with just enough suspense.

*"The story is joyfully ludicrous and never boring, peopled with an array of deftly named characters, such as Bridget-Louise von Pearling and Irene's jailbird father Bi-Ceps. The book is easy to read and perfect for reading aloud or for the older children who already read for themselves."* Västra Nyland newspaper

*"A book which clearly demands to be read from cover to cover in one sitting."* Österbottens Tidning newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Patrik and The Senior Squad*, The Senior Squad #1 (*Patrik och Pensionärsmakten*, 2010)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

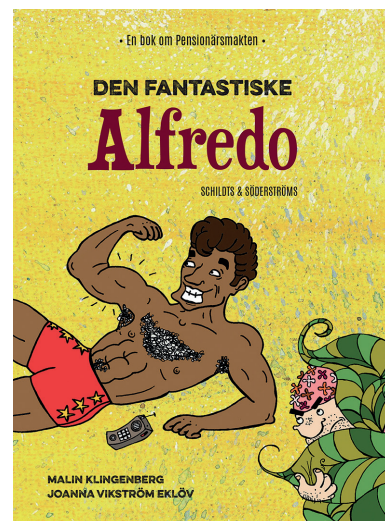
*Irene and the Moneyhoover*, The Senior Squad #2 (*Irene och Sedelsugen*, 2013)  
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Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Rakel's Miracles*, The Senior Squad #5 (*Rakels mirakel*, 2017)

*The Magnificent Senior Match*, The Senior Squad #6 (*Den stora seniorkampen*, 2020)

*Elk Girl* (*Älgflickan*, 2018)  
Rights sold: German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata Naturae



*Den fantastiske Alfredo* | *Pensionärsmakten* #4

Schildts & Söderströms, 2016, 168 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus

Malin Klingenberg

## *Rakel's Miracles*

*Another uproarious adventure of The Senior Squad!  
This time Irene is at a crossroads...*

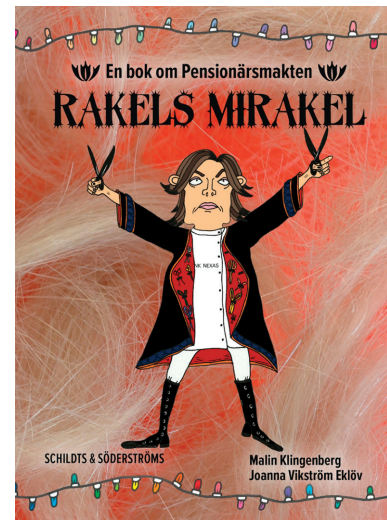
When The Senior Squad's inventor Roffe is hospitalised, Irene has to make quick decisions. She can't leave The Proliferator, his newest invention, unpatrolled in his house. She is set on proving to The Senior Squad that she's reliable and responsible, not like her father Bi-Ceps, a dyed-in-the-wool felon. However, her plan takes an unexpected turn when The Proliferator falls into the wrong hands...

Rakel's Miracle, the hair salon, has hired a new, mysterious hairdresser who is snipping the scared customers' hair into outlandish hair styles.

The fifth book about Patrik, Irene and The Senior Squad is as suspenseful and hilarious as the previous ones. This time the spotlight is on Irene who's at a crossroads: should she be loyal to her father, the toughest of criminals, or to The Senior Squad?

*"An unusual motley of pensioners consisting of colourful and funny characters helps the children to solve comically intricate crimes... Rakel's Miracles is nothing if not required reading for children at a book-devouring age."*

Hufvustadsbladet newspaper



*Rakels mirakel* | Pensionärsmakten #5

Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 192 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English synopsis

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Patrik and The Senior Squad*, The Senior Squad #1 (*Patrik och Pensionärsmakten*, 2010)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Irene and the Moneyhoover*, The Senior Squad #2 (*Irene och Sedelsugen*, 2013)  
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*Fake Bernice*, The Senior Squad #3 (*Den falska Bernice*, 2015)  
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*The Fantastic Alfredo*, The Senior Squad #4 (*Den fantastiske Alfredo*, 2016)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*The Magnificent Senior Match*, The Senior Squad #6 (*Den stora seniorkampen*, 2020)

*Elk Girl* (*Älgflickan*, 2018)  
Rights sold: German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata Naturae

Malin Klingenberg

# *The Magnificent Senior Match*

*Will the Senior Squad survive of their biggest threat ever, with the usual suspects meddling in with ghastly intentions?*

The Senior Squad is suffering from a lack of members. The ingenious league of senior citizens fighting crime have only one thing left to do: they have to organize a Magnificent Senior Match, in which the smartest and subtlest seniors will be selected to join.

But when Senior Squad's old friends manage to get out of prison and infiltrate the competition, things get complicated. And there are certain things that need to be answered – like who is Ritva Blom, a woman who can change the size of her body – and is Bengta-Louise af Nacre really resigning from the leadership?

The sixth and last book of the Senior Squad has all the ingredients of a speedy and humorous adventure.

*“The Magnificent Senior Match is a plot driven and action-filled adventure with numerous surprising turns. There are also quite a few humorous features.”*

Finnish national broadcasting company YLE

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Patrik and The Senior Squad*, The Senior Squad #1 (*Patrik och Pensionärsmakten*, 2010)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Irene and the Moneyhoover*, The Senior Squad #2 (*Irene och Sedelsugen*, 2013)  
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*Rakel's Miracles*, The Senior Squad #5 (*Rakels mirakel*, 2017)

*Elk Girl (Älgflickan)*, 2018)  
Rights sold: German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata Naturae



*Den stora seniorkampen* | *Pensionärsmakten* #6

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 258 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English synopsis



Malin Klingenberg

## *Elk Girl*

*How to grow up, deal with changes –  
and tame an elk?*

Johanna is just starting the seventh grade and trying to find her place in the new school. Things aren't as they used to be just a few weeks before – her best friend Sandra is now hanging out only with the most popular girls in their year, doing anything to get their approval.

Fortunately Johanna has a little forest den, where she can be herself and do what she loves: watch the wildlife. By chance, she befriends an elk. Soon she discovers that there are others too who appreciate the things that matter most to her.

Malin Klingenberg writes in a serious but light-hearted way about being a teenager in the throes of changes. And about taming an elk.

*Elk Girl* is a touching young adult novel from Malin Klingenberg, following her popular middle grade novel series about the adventures of *The Senior Squad*. Critics and readers alike have heaped praise on the book.

*“Elk Girl takes a firm hold of the confusing and tangled everyday life. Humorist Klingenberg ladles absurdities into the story, like taming an elk with popcorn, but lets the seriousness shimmer in the background. The result is brilliant.”*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Patrik and The Senior Squad*, The Senior Squad #1 (*Patrik och Pensionärsmakten*, 2010)  
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

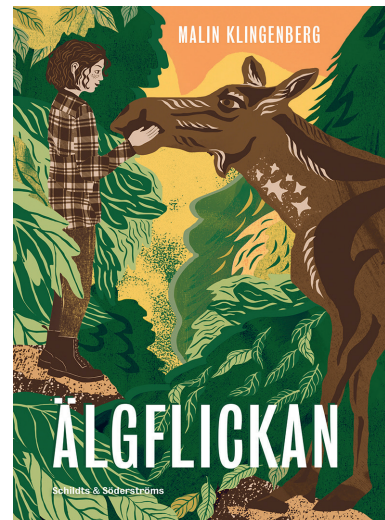
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Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus

*Rakel's Miracles*, The Senior Squad #5 (*Rakels mirakel*, 2017)

*The Magnificent Senior Match*, The Senior Squad #6 (*Den stora seniorkampen*, 2020)



### *Älgflickan*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 190 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

German, dtv; World Spanish, Errata  
Naturae

Malin Klingenberg & Sanna Mander (illustrations)

# *The Secret Life of Farts*

*A fart is something your parents have never let you talk about.  
Now there is an entire book dedicated to a fart's life!*

While everyone is taught since childhood it is impolite to bring up our gassy part of life in public, it is still something almost every creature on earth experiences daily. You might be a mountaineer trying to conquer Mount Everest, a sportsman in the Olympics or just a simple cook – a fart is impossible to escape.

*The Secret Life of Farts* is a cheerful and honest verse book that takes the young readers on a fun adventure exploring a phenomenon that many adults find tricky to talk about without getting embarrassed. With its vivid language and hilarious illustrations the book is a delight to the children who are constantly pondering curiosities of our daily life that no one is willing to explain to them.

The book is written by acclaimed children's author Malin Klingenberg, who has previously published the Pensioner Squad series, and illustrated by Finlandia Prize-winning Sanna Mander, known for witty children's books.



*Fisens liv*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 32 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

China (simplified), Ginko | Post Wave;  
Czech Republic, Paseka; World English,  
Pushkin Press; Estonia, Tänäpäev;  
French, Helvetiq; German, Helvetiq;  
Italy, Carlo Gallucci Editore; South Korea,  
Changbi; Sweden, Rabén & Sjögren



Malin Klingenberg & Maria Sann (illustrations)

# *Skeleton*

*Does my skeleton dream of Halloween?  
Does my skeleton sweat when we run?*

Teo dresses up like a bunny for his friend Roni's costume party. Olivia comes as a robot, while Alvi comes as a horse.

Meanwhile, the host Roni shows up as a skeleton. And Teo can't think of anything scarier than a skeleton!

When Roni's skeleton suddenly glows in the dark, Teo bolts as if death itself were on his heels. But a human child with bunny paws doesn't run as fast as a real bunny. Teo trips over his paws and hurts himself.

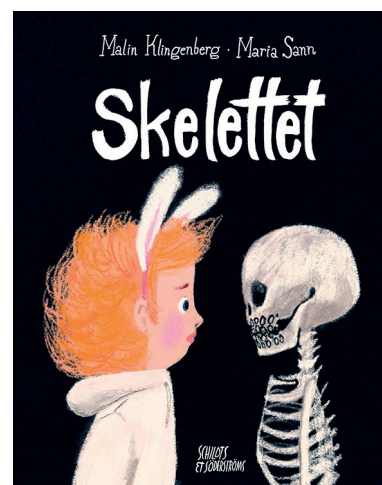
There's nothing to do but go see the doctor and take x-rays.

Let's have a look at your skeleton, says the doctor. Teo is horrified: is there a skeleton inside me? Of course there is, his mother whispers tenderly. But Teo is chilled to the bone. Is there a skeleton inside everyone? What if the little brother living inside Mommy's tummy sees her skeleton and is frightened?

*Skeleton* is a tenderly told story about a child overcoming his fears while learning what each of us is made of. Sometimes parts of us break and need to be fixed with a cast.

*"An expert at telling humorous stories, Klingenberg has toned down the funny business and written a book that is inventive, multi-layered, and in complete solidarity with its child protagonist. [...] Klingenberg has partnered here with one of Finland's sharpest illustrators, Maria Sann. If this were a ballroom dance competition, they'd be standing on the podium's top spot. Sann succeeds in enriching the text with unexpected illustrative strategies and angles that reveal a child's perspective. [...] Read *Skeleton*, and you'll see how Klingenberg and Sann's polished pearl of a picture book grows with every read into a brilliant bullseye that literally and figuratively gets under the skin of the protagonist and reader alike."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

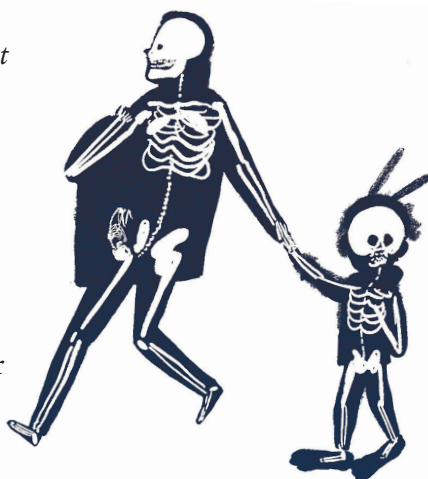


*Skelettet*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2022, 36 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English translation



Tomi Kontio

# *Wings to the Other Side of the World*

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

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

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

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

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



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

Tammi, 2000, 264 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## ALSO AVAILABLE

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

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

FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2000

LUKU-VARKAUS PRIZE 2001



Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

## *A Dog Called Cat series*

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English translations

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Raketa (books #1–4); Estonia, Päike ja pilv (books #1–2); Hungarian, Koinonia (books #1–3); Lithuania, Nieko Rimto (book #1); Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Serbia, Pčelica (book #1); Slovakia, Ikar (book #1); World Spanish, Lata de Sal (book #1); Sweden, Epix (book #1, books #2–3 optioned); Turkey, Nar (book #1)

IBBY HONOUR LIST 2016

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2016

NOMINEE FOR FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2019

AUDIENCE FAVOURITE OF THE FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE NOMINEES 2019

Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

# *A Dog Called Cat*

*Two rootless and rejected mongrels come to know one another in a disarmingly beautiful picture book about friendship.*

A small puppy is named Cat because her mother fears the puppy will end up alone. Mother tells her she ought to be as independent as a cat.

But the dog called Cat feels lonely, not independent, and everyone thinks she's different.

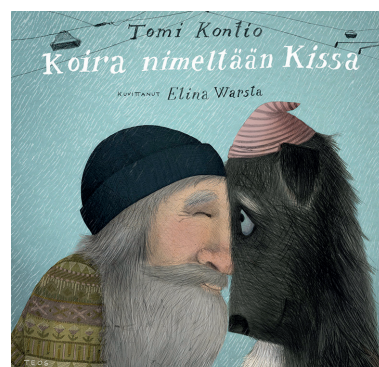
One day Cat ends up in a new city and meets a man called Weasel. The new friend gives her life a meaning and direction, becomes her home and refuge.

*A Dog Called Cat* is a story about an unlikely friendship between two lonely individuals. It deals with accepting difference, seeing people without prejudice and the importance of looking beyond the surface. The bittersweet, humorous book shows life in all its guises. Even those of us with a rougher lot can experience joy and happiness.

In 2016, the book was shortlisted for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize and IBBY Honour listed for Elina Warsta's illustration.

*"The picture book A Dog Called Cat by the author and poet Tomi Kontio and the illustrator Elina Warsta is a genuine treasure. Kontio's lyrical text is well thought out and flows beautifully through the book. Warsta's illustration appeals with its beauty and harmony without being too smooth. There is rare delicacy and bravery in the combination, which is bound to touch the reader."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Koira nimeltään Kissa*

Teos Publishers, 2015, 32 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Hungarian, Koinonia; Lithuania, Nieko Rimto; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Serbia, Pčelica; Slovakia, Ikar; World Spanish, Lata de Sal; Sweden, Epix; Turkey, Nar

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat (Koira nimeltään Kissa tapaa kissan, 2019)*

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Hungarian, Koinonia; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Serbia, Pčelica; Slovakia, Ikar; World Spanish, Lata de Sal; Sweden, Epix (optioned); Turkey, Nar

*A Dog Called Cat Longs for Home (Koira nimeltään Kissa kaipaa kotia, 2020)*

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Hungarian, Koinonia; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Sweden, Epix (optioned); Turkey, Nar

*A Dog Called Cat and the Wonder of Christmas (Koira nimeltään Kissa ja joulun ihme, 2021)*

Rights sold: Sweden, Epix (optioned)

IBBY HONOUR LIST 2014

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE

Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

# *A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat*

*What happens to the old friendship of Cat and Weasel when along comes a real cat, who has always liked to walk alone?*

*A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* is a story about a dog called Cat, a man called Weasel and a cat of an adventurous disposition.

One day Weasel and Cat are sitting on a cliff beside the sea. Ships come and go in the harbour, and watching them Cat and Weasel talk about their friendship that has changed everything for them.

When a real cat disembarks from one of the ships, things take a new turn. The dog called Cat is at first distrustful but soon overcomes her fears. The cat, whose name has often changed during the vagabond years, becomes a cat called Dog. After years of hardship the cat called Dog has finally found true friends, and their adventures together can begin.

*A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* by poet Tomi Kontio and illustrator Elina Warsta continues the story of Cat and Weasel, which began in *A Dog Called Cat* (2015), a candidate for the Nordic Council Literature Prize and the recipient of a special mention from the International Board on Books for Young People for its illustrations. *A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* was nominated for the Finlandia Junior Prize in 2019, and it was the readers' favourite in the competition.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*A Dog Called Cat* (*Koira nimeltään Kissa*, 2015)

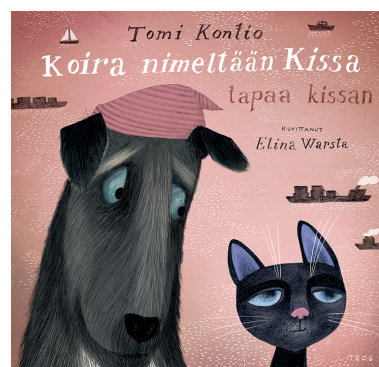
Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Hungary, Koinonia; Lithuania, Niekio rimto; Slovakia, Ikar; World Spanish, Lata de Sal; Sweden, Epix

*A Dog Called Cat Longs for Home* (*Koira nimeltään Kissa kaipaa kotia*, 2020)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Hungarian, Koinonia; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Sweden, Epix (optioned); Turkey, Nar

*A Dog Called Cat and the Wonder of Christmas* (*Koira nimeltään Kissa ja joulun ihme*, 2021)

Rights sold: Sweden, Epix (optioned)



*Koira nimeltään Kissa tapaa kissan*

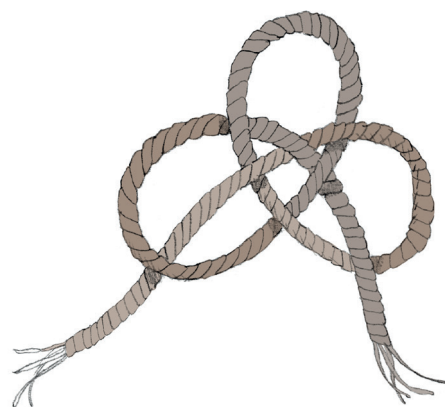
Teos Publishers, 2019, 40 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Hungarian, Koinonia; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Serbia, Pčelica; Slovakia, Ikar; World Spanish, Lata de Sal; Sweden, Epix (optioned); Turkey, Nar



NOMINEE FOR FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2019

Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

# *A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home*

*A warm-hearted story about three friends whose friendship, fairness and variety make them shine.*

A dog called Cat, a cat called Dog and a homeless man called Weasel are best friends. They've got next to no worldly possessions but their lives are filled with friendship and love towards everyone and everything.

One day at a railway station Cat runs into a small girl who gets worried for the raggedy group of three and asks them whether Cat has no home. When the girl disappears into the crowd, Cat's heart is filled with longing. Even though she loves roaming freely, winter can be cruel, and the endless wandering tough. She realises she is longing for a safe home.

Weasel says the three are fine as they are, but Cat and Dog disagree. 'Friendship can't keep you warm', Dog meows to Weasel. The group starts to look for a home. Will they find it, or will the underpasses and vestibules be forever their fate?

*A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home* is the third book by poet Tomi Kontio and illustrator Elina Warsta, in the series about a dog called Cat. The first instalment, *A Dog Called Cat* (2015) was nominated for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize and got the IBBY honourable mention. The second one, *A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* (2019) was nominated for the Finlandia Junior Prize and was chosen as an audience favourite.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*A Dog Called Cat* (*Koira nimeltään Kissa*, 2015)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Hungary, Koinonia; Lithuania, Niekio rimto; Slovakia, Ikar; World Spanish, Lata de Sal; Sweden, Epix

*A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* (*Koira nimeltään Kissa tapaa Kissan*, 2019)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Hungarian, Koinonia; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Serbia, Pčelica; Slovakia, Ikar; World Spanish, Lata de Sal; Sweden, Epix (optioned); Turkey, Nar

*A Dog Called Cat and the Wonder of Christmas* (*Koira nimeltään Kissa ja joulun ihme*, 2021)

Rights sold: Sweden, Epix (optioned)



*Koira nimeltään Kissa kaipaa kotia*

Teos Publishers, 2020, 32 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Raketa; Hungarian, Koinonia; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Sweden, Epix (optioned); Turkey, Nar





Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

# *A Dog Called Cat and the Wonder of Christmas*

*The fourth warm-hearted story about a dog called Cat  
will bring the Christmas spirit to every home.*

A dog called Cat, a cat called Dog and a man called Weasel are the best of friends and have made their home in an abandoned container.

On Christmas Eve, in the centre of town, they wonder why everything is so quiet. People have gone home to be with their nearest and dearest.

As they make their way home they are curious to see how other people celebrate Christmas. A girl notices them and mistakes Weasel for Father Christmas. "Well, let's say I'm a kind of poor man's Father Christmas," Weasel chuckles. He doesn't even have a reindeer, after all.

But, unexpectedly, the meeting delivers the wonder of Christmas. It brings a taste of what is most important about the season, and it's even better than smoked herrings.

*"Do you know, Christmas is celebrated because of a child who was born in a stable, far from his home?" Weasel says. "That's why, at Christmas, we should always remember everyone who doesn't have a home."*

*"And lonely people," I say.*

*"At Christmas the lonely are twice as lonely," Weasel says.*

*"We're lucky because we have each other," Dog says.*

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*A Dog Called Cat (Koiran nimeltään Kissa, 2015)*

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Hungary, Koinonia; Lithuania, Niekio rimto; Slovakia, Ikar; World Spanish, Lata de Sal; Sweden, Epix

*A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat (Koiran nimeltään Kissa tapaa Kissan, 2019)*

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Estonia, Päike ja pilv; Hungarian, Koinonia; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Serbia, Pčelica; Slovakia, Ikar; World Spanish, Lata de Sal; Sweden, Epix (optioned); Turkey, Nar

*A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home (Koiran nimeltään Kissa kaipa kotia, 2020)*

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Raketa; Hungarian, Koinonia; Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group; Sweden, Epix (optioned); Turkey, Nar



*Koiran nimeltään Kissa ja  
joulun ihme*

Teos Publishers, 2021, 40 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Sweden, Epix (optioned)



Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

# *My Dad Is a Hipster*

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

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

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

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

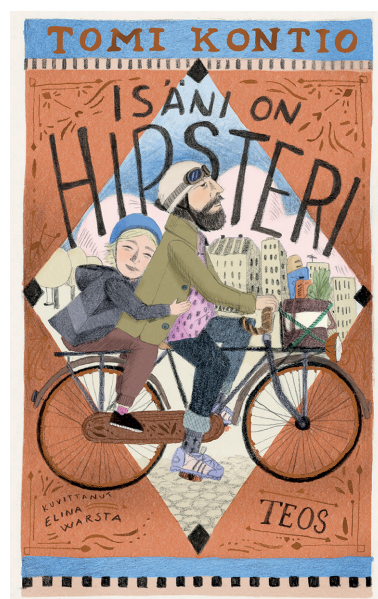
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*A Dog Called Cat series (Koira nimeltään kissa, 2015–2020)*

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

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

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



*Isäni on hipsteri*

Teos, 2022, 112 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Leena Krohn

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

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

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

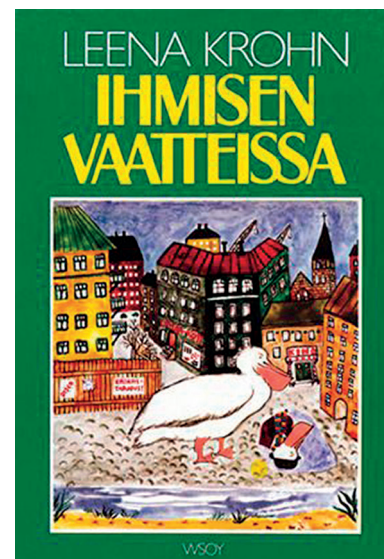
But when Emil goes to the countryside to stay with his father, things go awry. The residents of the city realize the pelican is a bird and imprison it at the zoo. Luckily Emil and his friend Elsa come to the rescue.

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

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

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

Strange Bookfellows literature blog



*Ihmisen vaatteissa*

WSOY, 1976, 156 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

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

Leena Krohn

# *Doña Quixote and Other Citizens*

*“This room wanders through the streets, and  
the inhabitants within are constantly changing.”*

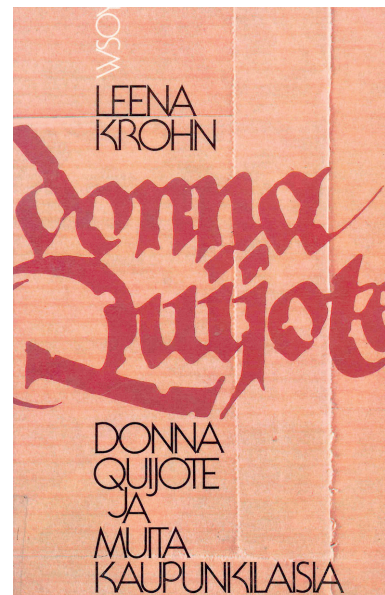
*Doña Quixote and Other Citizens: Portraits* tells stories of a city in which life is lived under the threat of a great disaster. The reality builds up from a series of portraits, all of which have in their center the mysterious main character, Doña Quixote. Her presence is like a flame that draws the dispossessed of the city to her.

Consisting of miniatures of poetic prose, the collection of stories is a solid whole, bound together by the bold and strange figure of Doña Quixote, who walks through the bustling town with hope and endurance.

Krohn’s fantasy addresses the enigmatic relationship between reality and consciousness and their endless interaction. Her controlled and lucid writing finds its space in the borderland between fact and fiction, between the short story and the novella.

*“Doña Quixote, seer more than dreamer, becomes her Virgil in a place whose inhabitants bear names such as The Wader, The Looking-Glass Boy, and The Incurable One. In such a place, Doña Quixote sagely observes, ‘everyone has to be Hamlet’.”*

Kirkus starred review



*Donna Quijote ja muita kaupunkilaisia.*  
*Muotokuvia*

WSOY, 1983, 82 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Amharic, Hohe; English, Cheeky Frawg Books; French, Esprit Ouvert; Hungarian, Polar



Leena Krohn

# *Tainaron*

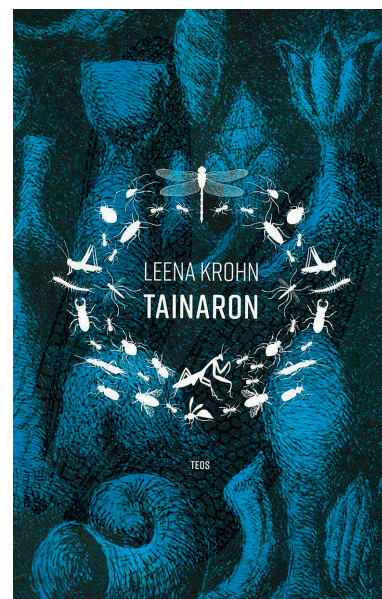
*Look closely. Look again.  
This is Tainaron.*

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,  
French translation, Spanish 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; Hebrew,  
Keren; Latvia, Preses Nams; Poland, Świat  
Książki; Spanish, Nórdica Libros; Sweden,  
Fripress

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 1985

NOMINEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HORROR GUILD AWARD 2005

NOMINEE FOR THE WORLD FANTASY AWARD 2005

Leena Krohn

# Gold of Ophir

*A fusion of language, imagery of science, alchemy and the Old Testament.*

Welcome to watch a kaleidoscopic series of images from a city in which different eras and worlds come together – not seldom in the form of mythical creatures! The world here is bright and lush, perhaps deriving its vivid colours from the shadows of the Gold-Washers’ dreams and disappointments.

*Gold of Ophir* has been called the most mysterious of all the allegories created by Leena Krohn. The characters seem to be only memories of the narrator – or reflections of other texts, or layers of mythology. The dream-like illusions intertwine with dream-like events and historical and cultural stimuli, making the work a magnificent read.

*“Krohn’s imagined, ghostly worlds form the setting of [...] Gold of Ophir; these unfold in brief episodes, some just a few paragraphs long, that embrace improbable geometries and physics, worlds of ‘insignificant protuberances that were at first hardly distinguishable from the surrounding sandy plain.’”*

Kirkus starred review

*“Krohn offers up the narrated inner lives of characters trying to make sense of their environments, and of the other people whom they encounter. Many of the works are set in cities, but the worlds that Krohn’s characters inhabit never feel concrete: everything is mediated through particular characters’ perceptions. The reader is left with the sense of having intruded on someone’s dream, in which symbols are revelations of intimate details.”*

The New Yorker



*Oofirin kultaa*

WSOY, 1987, 198 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

English, Cheeky Frawg Books

Leena Krohn

# *Umbra*

*Human chaos and pure abstractions,  
narrated in the spirit of Borges and Calvino.*

Umbra is a doctor whose holiday in Romania turns into human rage and violence when the revolution starts. In addition to Ceausescus, he gets to treat a neural computer which has learned to feel fear, like humans.

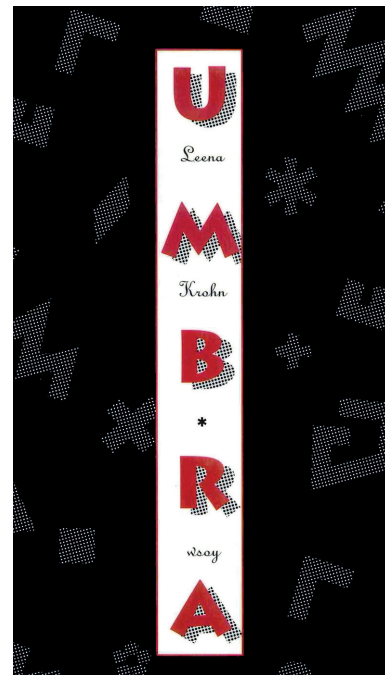
This distinction between the human chaos and a clear, artificial world of abstractions is one of the central themes of *Umbra*. The reality in which Umbra lives is that of flesh and blood, but also of pure abstractions. In this setting, surrounded with strange characters, Umbra starts collecting the Paradox Archive, which consists of small and hugest imaginable puzzles.

With rich fantasy, allegories, and odd events Leena Krohn shows how even the strongest elements can fracture, and questions of free will, consciousness, moral and perception arise. The result is a captivating story of a man facing the problems of infinity, suffering and guilt in a world filled with disorder and chaos.

*“Krohn herself sometimes sees self-awareness as a kind of affliction. The title character of the novel Umbra is a doctor who one day receives a strange request from a married couple. Their home robot, it appears, has started to experience fear. Like the scientist in Gorgonoids, Umbra is not certain that being more human is something the android should evolve toward. ‘Stay in the kingdom of pure abstraction,’ he implores.”* The New Yorker

*“Leena Krohn presents a very rare combination of fantasy and thought in Finnish literature; elsewhere in the world these themes have been explored by, for example, Italo Calvino and Jorge Luis Borges. [...] But she is totally indispensable. We don’t have anyone better at discussing the conflict between what is seen and what is known, what you want and what you must, discussing the irrational basis of reason, the impossibility of objective observation, and the connection between individual sovereignty and the cosmos.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Umbra. Silmäys paradoksien arkistoon*  
WSOY, 1990, 154 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Japan, Shinhyōron; Sweden, Sahlgren

Leena Krohn

# *Mathematical Creatures, or Shared Dreams*

*Krohn's Finlandia Prize winning collection  
shows existence as a shared dream of humankind.*

*Mathematical Creatures, or Shared Dreams* is a collection of twelve short, fantastical stories exploring the basis of human identity and human choices, knowledge and ignorance, mortality and immortality.

The narrator delves in the questions of visible reality and existence. Around her, there are strange creatures, such as gorgonoids, tubanide, pacmantis and lissajoune, which look like aliens and act like they really would be from science fiction. Actually they, however, simulate certain physiological principles of the earth.

And when the narrator compares a gorgonoid with a human, the underlying question is if spirit is just a mathematical equation.

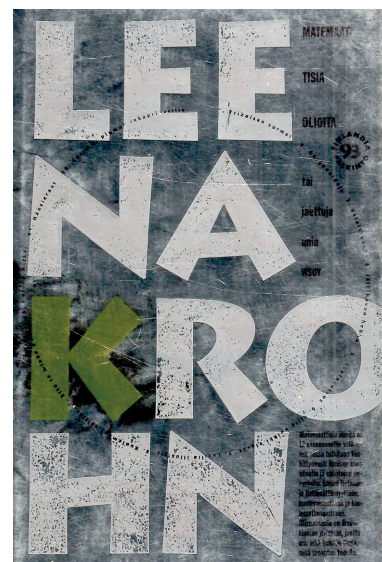
*Mathematical Creatures, or Shared Dreams* was awarded Finland's most important literary award, Finlandia Prize.

*"The most important short form literature of today has been formed of fantasy and unrelenting deliberation."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Krohn's work has been likened to Ursula LeGuin's, though often it is more reminiscent of Calvino, Borges, and Lem, layered in with foreboding bits of Lovecraft. Not exactly science fiction, not exactly fantasy, but some hybrid of those genre blended with literary fiction, Krohn's tales often involve the exploration of consciousness both human and animal – and, at times, that of machines – against myth-tinged backgrounds."*

Kirkus starred review



*Matemaattisia olioita tai jaettuja unia*

WSOY, 1992, 165 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Eesti Päevalehe kirjastus;  
Sweden, Sahlgren

FINLANDIA PRIZE 1992



Leena Krohn

## *Pereat mundus*

*The end of the world in variations  
by a master of written worlds.*

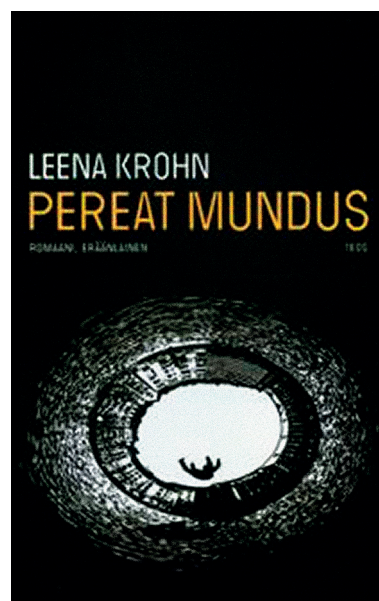
*Pereat Mundus: A Novel of Sorts* tells about fears and philosophies of different ends: end of the world, end of the millennium, end of humankind, end of nature, end of work, end of literature, end of play, end of love...

The 36 chapters or stories of the novel have all a person called Håkan in them, either as a protagonist or a supporting character. Mostly, these are different Håkans. They live in different times and places, they are of different age, underdogs in different ways – or blessed with different sorts of successes. All of them, however, end up facing unknown borders or doors closing on them.

*Pereat mundus* is a multi-layered and enigmatic work of fiction, which moves between genres and takes its readers to the border areas of the human mind.

*“Not exactly science fiction, not exactly fantasy, but some hybrid of those genres blended with literary fiction, Krohn’s tales often involve the exploration of consciousness both human and animal – and, at times, that of machines – against myth-tinged backgrounds, as with one story whose protagonist is the offspring of a human mother and ‘one of the first multi-species hybrids.’”*

Kirkus starred review



*Pereat mundus. Romaani, eräänlainen*

WS OY, 1998 | Teos, 2010, 329 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Ednorog; English, Cheeky  
Frawg Books; Japan, Shinhyōron; Latvia,  
Zinātne; Sweden, Anamma

NOMINEE FOR THE ARISTEION AWARD 1999

Leena Krohn

## *Datura*

*Such a fragile structure as reality can collapse  
from the power of two intoxicating seeds.*

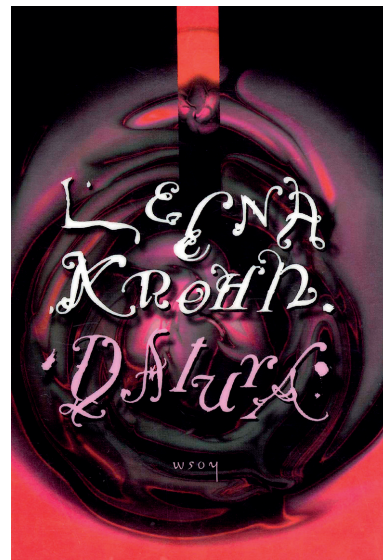
In *Datura: Or A Figment Seen by Everyone* the narrator transcribes a fifteenth-century manuscript while slowly poisoning herself with the seeds of datura plant. Though skeptical of supernatural phenomena, the delirium and dissociation caused by datura slowly disrupt that skepticism, and her days start filling with happy and joyful events and outstanding hallucinations.

Despite the advice of her friends, the narrator doesn't want to stop eating the seeds, taking the reader with her on a strange journey in which the meaning of things sometimes seems very distant to their physical reality.

*"Datura is one of the standout stories in Leena Krohn: Collected Fiction."*  
The New Yorker

*"Philosophically nimble, [Krohn's] stories trade in wonderment: here time twists so that a figure 'no longer owned anything, not even her own past,' while there a character comes to each word in her native language as if encountering it for the first time – though that may just be the effects of a dose of datura."*

Kirkus starred review



*Datura tai harha jonka jokainen näkee*

WSOY, 2001, 211 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Havran; English, Cheeky Frawg Books; World French, Zulma; German, Blumenbar; Hungarian, Polar

Leena Krohn

# *The Bee Pavilion*

*An intelligently humorous song of rejoicing about the strange, defining characteristics of existence.*

The Bee Pavilion is a former support center for the psychically ill. It is one of the few old buildings in the city, and also under threat of demolition. It hosts within the shelter of its bricks walls various associations, swarms. These include The Promoters of Municipal Science, The Nasal Twang Speakers, The Society for Water Jet Ski Competition, The Club of Non-Human Persons, The Cynics, The Luddite Club, and the Lipographs. The amateur theater company Heart & Liver and Hecuba's Porno Shop also operated in the Bee Pavilion.

To his own surprise, the narrator of *The Bee Pavilion* joins the Fluctuating Reality Club. He gets to know many of the frequenters of the Bee Pavilion, and also Lahja, the hearing-impaired janitor who battles disorder and entropy daily.

*The Bee Pavilion* is a building of stories. Strange, surprising, and inexplicable experiences unite the members of the Fluctuating Reality Club.

Anything—even the accumulation of a pile of black dust in a house—can derail a person and make them doubt the permanence of a universal and equal reality. Just meeting someone new is enough for a shift in reality. People start transforming and changing realities as soon as they drift into each other's sphere of influence.

*"Krohn combines philosophy, fantasy, and contemporary criticism in a way that has predecessors in the Menippean satires of antiquity, Voltaire or Italo Calvino. Krohn's narrator is genuinely enchanted by the mysteries of nature, science, and the human mind, but also intensely sarcastic, even moralistic, in describing the extreme phenomena of contemporary culture."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Mehiläispaviljonki. Kertomus parvista*

Teos Publishers, 2006, 208 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
Swedish translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Japan,  
Shinhyōron; Sweden, Kabusa

Leena Krohn

# *My Home Is Riioraa*

*An engaging story about the enigma of time and childhood games.*

Ruth, Raija, Little Paul, Big Paul, and the other children in the village live in the midst of games and a magical everyday life. Their most important gathering place is the lamp shop that Big Paul's grandfather owns. They play board-games in the attic of the shop and marvel at the words of advice that the Uncle Lamp Dealer mutters in Latin.

Big Paul is saving money for a telescope and has plans to become a scientist. Strange things happen to Little Paul, and he sees more than the others do. Many people find Little Paul strange, but Ruth knows he's not just making things up. One day, Little Paul finds footprints that won't leave him alone. He decides to look for the creature that left the prints and give it a name.

The lamp shop is visited by the poet Weijo as well as a pale gentleman yearning for light, who doesn't seem to be from the land of the living at all. Other villagers include the elderly countess of the manor and her maids, the ill-mannered reform school girls, and the fortune teller, Bella. Raija's illness and life in a wheelchair cause sadness at first, but soon Ruth and Raija are playing new games together.

Krohn writes sagely about the world of children and creates a fond image of the games and costumes of the 1950s. She opens a door to the unbelievable and the power of imagination without avoiding serious topics. *My Home is Riioraa* is an engaging story of the enigma of time, childhood and old age, health and sickness, and the magical pervasiveness around us.



*Kotini on Riioraa*

Teos Publishers, 2008, 96 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original



Leena Krohn

## *False Window*

*How can the genuine be distinguished from an illusion,  
a falsehood from the truth, or sleep from consciousness?*

A former philosophy student has almost completely isolated himself in his house and in the flotation tank he has installed there. Full-time floating is a compulsion for the main character, a way of life that takes him away from the world of consciousness. The only window in the room is a painting by an illusionist.

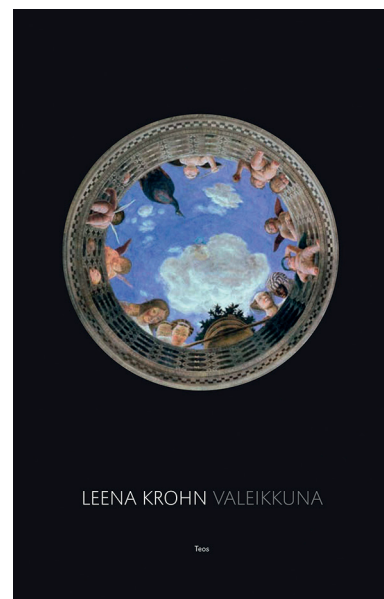
In order to earn a living, the main character, whom his wife calls a false philosopher, grants philosophical audiences from his tank. Due to narcolepsy, though, he falls asleep in the middle of client meetings.

The state of the world darkens, the city is terrorized by the Dividers League, led by a mathematician, and in the same manner as the main character, the city folk flee to their own worlds. His daughter, Ava, sits behind her computer and spends her time in Fakeland. A biologist friend who studies amoeba behavior enjoys dogging in his spare time.

The question of how to distinguish between genuine and illusion, a falsehood and the truth, or sleep and consciousness recurs in different ways as the philosopher receives visitors. Guilt and fear, betrayal and love, universal intelligence, infinity and immortality are also topics of conversation.

But the customers dwindle, the flotation tank leaks, and the philosopher's last visitors come from either his own or others' dreams. Perhaps the era when philosophers are no longer needed has arrived.

*False Window* is a critical, amusing, and melancholy novel about the impossibility of defining reality.



*Valeikkuna*

Teos Publishers, 2009, 224 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Japan, Shinhyōron; Slovenia, Študentska Založba

Leena Krohn

# *Children of the Sun*

*A wise and heart-warming story about the big and small miracles in life.*

Violet is a young schoolgirl who lives in the city with her mother, aunt, uncle, and grandmother. One day, Miss Willowherb, a nearby florist, asks for help, and Violet becomes the florist's delivery girl for the week.

Each day of the week has its own flower and its own exciting deliveries. Violet ends up delivering flowers to a newborn, a high school student, a hospital, a prison, the most beautiful girl in town, a Chinese professor, a mayor, an opera singer, and a magician's funeral.

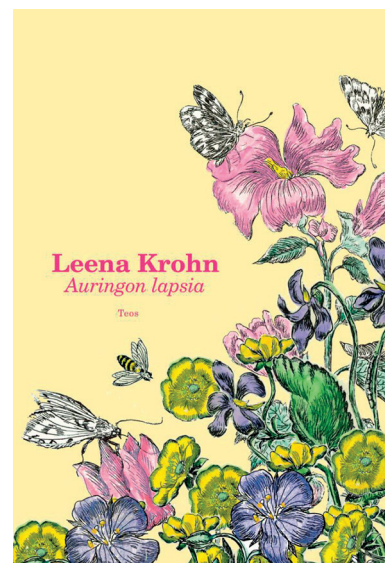
*Children of the Sun* is illustrated with Inari Krohn's artwork. It is a wise and heart-warming story in which Violet learns about both flowers and people—about the big and small miracles in life—in only a week's time.

*"Children of the Sun is its own small world, built of fairy tales and reality. In its calmness and old-fashionedness, it is a small oasis."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"The distinguished Leena Krohn has just brought a charming children's novel into the world. The book is nostalgic and old-fashioned, in the best sense of the word."*

Kirjava kammari literature blog



*Auringon lapsia*

Teos Publishers, 2011, 80 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

## RIGHTS SOLD

Hungary, Cerkabella; Japan, Kamonan

Leena Krohn

# *Hotel Sapiens*

*At the Hotel Sapiens no one is OK, and the surrounding world appears to have come to the end of its road.*

It is an odd group that lives at the Hotel Sapiens: a blind ophthalmologist, an Ordinary Person, a conspiracy theorist who has observed the clouds, the Higgs boson, a therapist who has lost her mental health and Peik, who is in correspondence with his dead daughter. This motley crew is constantly observed by machines whose intelligence and morals have already exceeded those of their creators.

The Hotel Sapiens is a madhouse. It is also a training centre and a museum. It is a refugee camp and an evacuation camp because those who come, or are brought there, are fleeing a world that probably no longer exists. The Hotel Sapiens is a hospital and a medical research institution, for the building's inhabitants are studied as if they were carriers of a rare disease.

And they are indeed carriers of a serious, incurable disease: a disease named humanity.

Another disturbingly funny and profoundly wise book from the masterly Finlandia Prize winning author Leena Krohn, in which the stories and encounters of the inhabitants of the hotel form a study of humanity.

*"Constantly creating enigmatic new images, Krohn's fantasy is at its best in Hotel Sapiens"* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Hotel Sapiens is a fairy-tale like, enigmatic, enchanting, effortlessly didactic intervention on behalf of humanity and the world."*  
Kymen Sanomat newspaper

*"Leena Krohn's novel examines humanity in the future and nails today's phenomena. It moves in a familiar landscape of strangeness. Krohn's latest novel, Hotel Sapiens, extends its author's characteristic probing of the borders and duality of the real and the magical, technology and humanity, intelligence and chaos."*

Savon Sanomat newspaper



*Hotel Sapiens*

Teos Publishers, 2013, 164pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Croatia, Hangar 7; Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; World French, Zulma; Hungary, Typotex; Japan, Nishimura

Leena Krohn

## Mistake

*A mesmerizing glimpse beyond  
the illusion we call reality.*

E, an author approaching the best-before date of authors, arrives at a small library in a gritty little town to give a reading. E is already shaken by the drive there, but there is more to come.

The surprisingly wide audience consists of those who find their cellphones much more interesting than a mere author, and of those who start giving E a very hard time. Why don't the stories offer clear conclusions, but only mysteries? How do they really end? Bravely, the discouraged author tries to survive the attack and ploughs on to offer the ungrateful crowd pieces of splendor.

Until the final mistake.

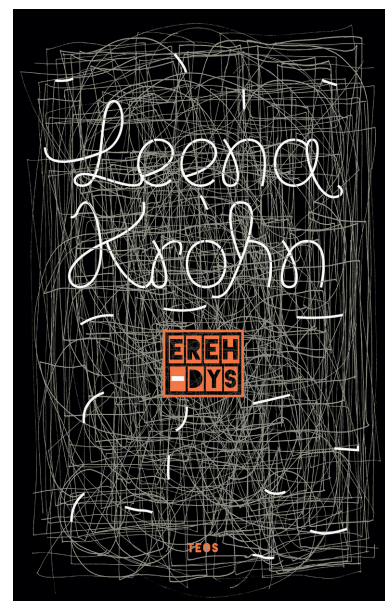
Leena Krohn's novel is a wistful, tragicomic story woven together from many smaller stories. It tells about memory, about where truth ends and make-believe begins, and about letting go. In the world of the stories, the reader is taken to a reality which has twisted off its place. And unlike the brutal audience of the novel, the reader of Krohn's *Mistake* would not let it ever end.

*"Leena Krohn is one of the great visionaries of Finnish literature. Playing at the fringes of reality and fiction, her philosophical texts are always a pleasure to read. Krohn's masterfully penned stories enchant, amuse, and inevitably send one's thoughts spinning into overtime. Her latest work, Mistake, is no exception."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"In Leena Krohn's prose nature is filled with wonderful, admirable and puzzling phenomena; with endless alteration of chaos and order; with immortality. The lucid language polishes Krohn's wise outlook once again to sheer pleasure."*

Aamulehti newspaper



*Erehdys*

Teos Publishers, 2015, 155 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Danish translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Hungary, Széphalom Könyvműhely



Leena Krohn

## *A Letter to Buddha*

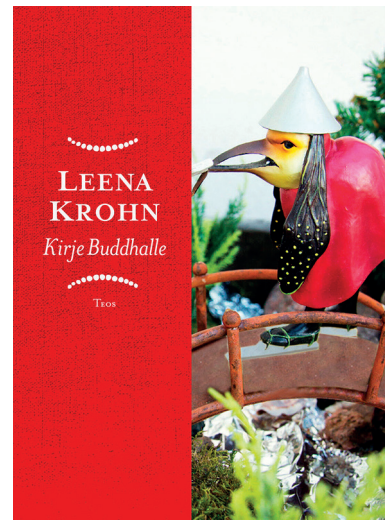
*A fast-paced poetic narrative that will set your thoughts and imagination into motion.*

One postmarked day, the Postmaster expedites an important delivery. It's a letter to Buddha. A conscientious Mailman takes on the task, even though he'll have to come up with the address himself. Where would he find Buddha?

The Mailman, who strongly resembles the surrealist artist Hieronymos Bosch, attaches magical ice skates to his feet, on which it's possible to glide over sand. However, the footwear doesn't shorten the journey when the recipient of the letter doesn't want to be found. His hunched back aches and his nose hurts, but the Mailman is persistent. He gets to hear financial tips and the whispers of a rose, meet the Pharaoh, and visit the Moon. The Buddha stays hidden, though.

Should I just give up, thinks the melancholy Mailman. Is it time to admit that the letter didn't reach its destination?

Leena Krohn's fast-paced and beautiful poetic narrative will set your thoughts in motion and provide plenty of food for the imagination. Another story is composed of photographs of miniature landscapes and interiors constructed by the author, to which the Mailman stops along his way.



*Kirje Buddhalle*

Teos Publishers, 2016, 64 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

Leena Krohn

## *Perdition*

*Stories of fourteen everyday objects and their owners  
come together in the haven of lost property.*

The city is celebrating the Night of the Arts. On the streets, it is impossible to separate between real and performance. Roaming the streets there is an aggressive rap artist, a lady walking a dog called Bitula, a silhouette artist and Miss Time.

In the center of events, characters and all commotion, there is the lone employee of the city's lost property office, who is again delivered lost objects. Each object carries its own story with it.

The 13 individual stories in Leena Krohn's novel *Perdition* weave a web of meanings. Its events and characters stretch, bring to focus, and rock the reality, with the characters making sharp comments on our world marching to its end.

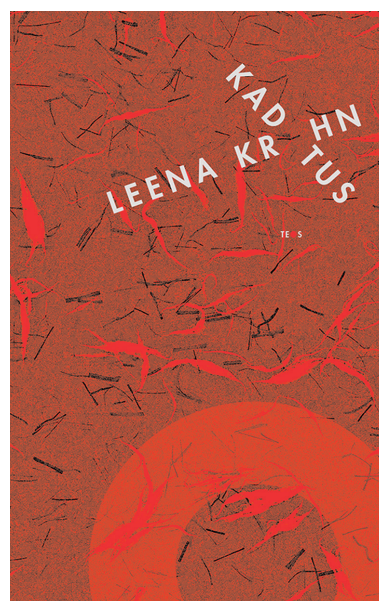
The crystal-clear narration moves simultaneously back and forth, and Krohn's amazing skill to write about age-old themes while portending the future with fear and humour takes the reader deep into the core of the novel.

*"An extraordinary writer who deserves to be better known to readers in English."*

Kirkus starred review

*"Krohn writes in beautiful, crystal-clear sentences carefully thought out to evoke an atmosphere larger than life. Every word in the text is significant, and often the complex sentences grow into almost lyrical observations on the innumerable levels and mysteries of existence. [...] Krohn's book contains more carefully elaborated ideas than the entire literary production of many writers. Alongside the nature of reality, questions arise on the meaning of time and art, the concept of self, the power of money and mathematics, the complexities of human relationships and a host of other fascinating themes. Underneath it all pulsates fear of what lies ahead."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Kadotus*

Teos Publishers, 2018, 159 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Swedish translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Sweden, Bakhåll

Leena Krohn

# Things I Never Learned

*Dark visions of the future and deep reflection from the master of words.*

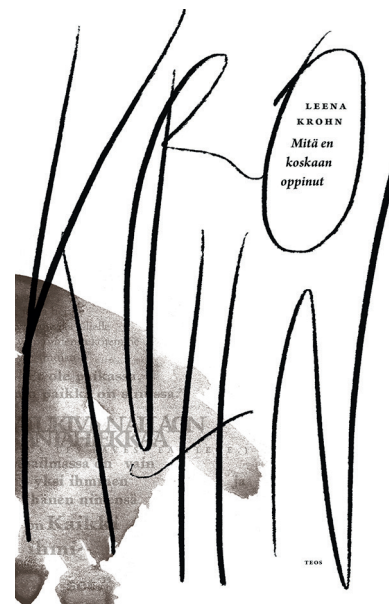
Leena Krohn begins her compilation of essays by acknowledging four sentences that influenced her own life. The sentences grow into thoughts that permeate the entire collection, in which Krohn explores art, death and consciousness, as well as the concept of cultural ownership and the suppression of freedom of speech.

Krohn also writes about her own development in becoming a writer, her school years in the 1960s, visions of childhood that came true, the distress signals of the environment and nature:

I woke up to an understanding that human civilization develops in irreconcilable conflict with the environment and preconditions for life of other species. The price for its material riches is the impoverishment of nature.

Krohn is a visionary who does not shy away from directness or hopelessness when describing the human actions. But there is opportunity in literature:

Writing is a fight against a one-dimensional image of human nature. It is a feeble attempt at measuring human complexity, a pathetic attempt at explaining the inexplicable.



*Mitä en koskaan oppinut*

Teos Publishers, 2021, 224 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

Leena Krohn & Inari Krohn (illustrations)

# *The Green Revolution*

*“Kids, cats, and dogs unite!  
It’s time to join forces!”*

The city of Riioraa has a park at its heart. But this oasis of green is surrounded by walls and guarded by the police. The locals don’t even know it exists – and if the city council has its way, the park will soon be replaced by a parking garage and a car factory!

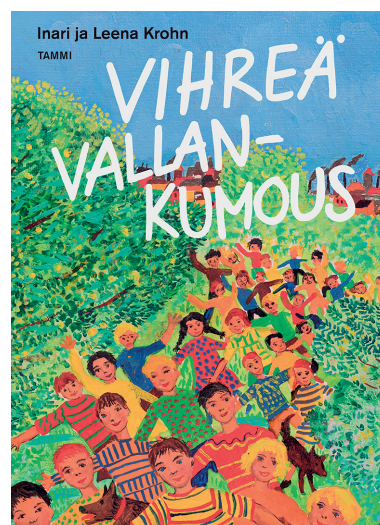
But one day, a boy named Mortti finds himself at the park’s gates with his dog, and the following night he sets out on a nocturnal expedition to explore his discovery. Before long, he is leading the city’s children, dogs, cats, and grownups to the park in defiance of the authorities. Thanks to their protest, the park is saved from being paved over, and even the city’s bureaucrats head there to nap in the shade of the maples.

The route was finally clear. The furious drivers were left shaking their fists as children, dogs, cats, and horses took over the roads, traffic circles, and intersections. Traffic circles made a perfect place for a game of ring around the rosie. The angry shouts, squealing brakes, and exhaust fumes were but a distant memory. Now the children could hear something totally different: whispering winds, rustling leaves, twittering birds. They sniffed the air: it was perfumed by hawthorns. They had arrived.

And through the open gate, summer rushed out to greet them.

*Translated by Kristian London*

Written by Leena Krohn and illustrated by her sister Inari Krohn, *The Green Revolution* is the first Finnish children’s book to encourage activism and environmental awareness. It originally appeared in 1970, at a time when public debates over pollution and nature conservation were gaining prominence. Over half a century after its publication, this classic of Finnish children’s literature is timelier than ever.



*Vihreä vallankumous*

Tammi, 1970 [2020], 32 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Sweden, Rabén & Sjögren



Marja Kyllönen

# *The Undeparted*

*A nameless evil throws fates into disarray  
in a masterwork glowing with a black luminosity.*

In the hardscrabble north of the 1950s, Rauno loses his heart to the girl from the neighboring farm, Laimi Inari. The young couple's forbidden love is sweet, but the happiness they anticipate never manifests. They remain childless, and year by year the flame fades.

And then a malevolent narrative voice begins to mingle with the couple's story. Deceased, persecutor, and nightmare, an unborn spirit stuck between two worlds seeks a path back to life. Individual fates begin to warp in sinister ways.

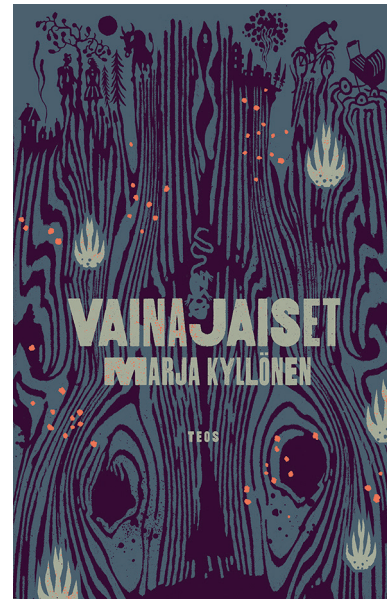
*The Undeparted* is a novel glowing with a black luminosity. It is a story of childlessness and dreams that fade or morph into nightmares. Page by page, it swells with inevitable force into a horror story that firmly holds the reader in its agonizing grip.

*"A black humor injects light into the webs of gloom, but the whole of the billowing darkness is held together by an idiom that transports into the abyss and the irresistible pull of the work's structure. [...] The world of the book is abundant and creates a maelstrom of meanings through its cyclicalities. The numerous repeated images, from jackdaws to fish, become mysterious symbols begging for closer study. The Undeparted is like a bleak mystery that opens up slowly, revealing unexpected beauty beneath oozing sludge. Absolutely one of the most interesting literary works of the season."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"At the heart of Kyllönen's novel is a masterful and potent idiom that knits itself into the work's dreamlike world. The Undeparted is a plunge into cross-generational guilt, envy, and silence that erupt to the surface through the desperate individual acts. A novel of extraordinary expressive force, it seduces and dupes the reader until the end. While sowing fear, it still offers the possibility of hope."*

Finlandia Prize Jury



*Vainajaiset*

Teos Publishers, 2022, 400 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

RUNEBERG PRIZE 2023

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2022

Anni Kytömäki

## Goldheart

*When everything is lost and even the stars seem silent,  
there still is the rock underneath to stand on.*

It is spring 1917, the year of great political turmoil in Finland. Erik Stenfors, the son of a wealthy forest owner from Helsinki, meets Lidia – a working class girl who has moved to the city from a cabin in the woods. While others join the Red Guards or the Civil Guards, Erik, needing a new direction to his life, heads to the Northern wilderness.

The winter in complete isolation surprises the trained nature scholar. Even bigger surprises lie in store, as Erik returns to Helsinki next spring. Finland has become independent and Lidia is now an outlaw.

*Goldheart* is a story about a man who lies down on a rock, intending to freeze to death, about a woman who writes to change the world, about a girl who grows up with more courage than her father, and about a boy who finds a swan's nest and catches the scent of the bear's passing, and who conquers his own fear and meets the wild, free heart of the forest.

The novel was nominated for the Finlandia Prize and Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, and it was awarded with the Torch-Bearer Prize, Kaarle Prize and Blogistan Finlandia Prize.

*"Kytömäki's novel makes an impression with its precise, knowledgeable, nuanced, and affective description of nature which doesn't shy away from the mystical. [...] In addition, the novel is brilliant in its depiction of characters [...] Bear in mind also the most important aspect of the novel: the turns of the story are extremely dramatic and surprising."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Kultarinta*

Gummerus, 2014, 644 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis,  
English sample, French translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech Republic, Bourdon; World French,  
Rue de l'échiquier

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Stone Weaver* (Kivitasu, 2017)

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

*Margarita* (Margarita, 2020)

Rights sold: Estonia, Ühinenud ajakirjad; World French,  
Rue de l'échiquier (optioned); Hungary, Polar; Lithuania, Tyto alba

TORCH-BEARER PRIZE 2015 | KAARLE PRIZE 2015

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE

Anni Kytömäki

## Stone Weaver

*Three people. Three eras.*

*Three stories about what a person is made of.*

1959. Helena's last summer is as long as Helena is tall, and just as unpredictable. "I'm no fun, I'm a spoilsport" thinks 16-year-old Helena to herself. She moves to an island, reads a book about Easter Island by an explorer and dreams of adventure. But at the end of summer, she's about to embark on a different kind of journey.

1849. Sergei has dreamed of revolution. Now he stands scared on a scaffold in St. Petersburg.

2012. Veka is going to the hospital for inpatient care, but instead takes the bus to the family's summer cottage. Running away is the only way to stay alive, maybe. Veka doesn't yet know that many others have also hidden on those very same shores.

Anni Kytömäki's first novel *Goldheart*, nominated for the Finlandia Prize, was a tribute to the woods. *Stone Weaver* leads the reader to rocky outcroppings along the water's edge. This massive family saga is a writer's brave plea for the freedom of mind and body.

*"It was exciting to see if Anni Kytömäki was able to repeat the miracle her debut novel Goldheart was. She was – and more. [...] The characters don't experience many moments of happiness, but the reader gets plenty of them. Kytömäki's language lives and breathes with the nature and people."*

Etelä-Suomen Sanomat newspaper

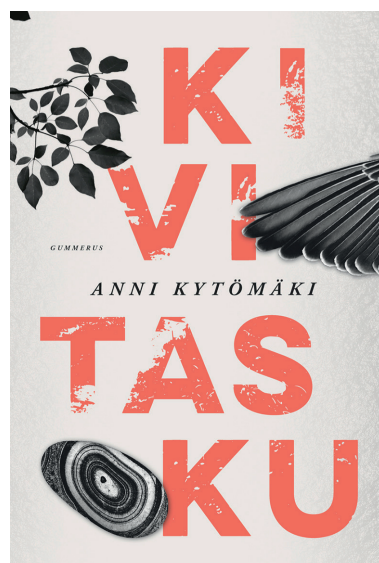
### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Goldheart* (Kultarinta, 2014)

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Bourdon; World French, Rue de l'échiquier

*Margarita* (Margarita, 2020)

Rights sold: Estonia, Ühinenud ajakirjad; World French, Rue de l'échiquier (optioned); Hungary, Polar; Lithuania, Tyto alba



*Kivitasku*

Gummerus, 2017, 645 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

World French, Rue de l'échiquier (optioned)

TOP TEN BESTSELLER

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

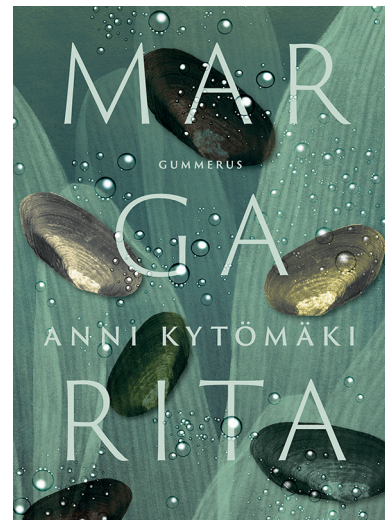
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Goldheart* (Kultarinta, 2014)

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Bourdon; 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; full French translation of Kytömäki's debut *Goldheart*; full Japanese translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Ühinenud ajakirjad; 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



Tuomas Kärkkäinen

# *The Illustrated Book of Awelings – A Field Guide for Spotting Creatures*

*Have you ever wondered why birds often rest on statues' heads or  
what is the parentage of concrete roadblocks?*

And how on earth do street lamps break? If you ask grown-ups these questions, they often just go, “I don’t really know” or “They just do”. The reason for this is that they have not heard of awelings.

You cannot blame grownups for not knowing about them, for awelings are extremely difficult to spot. In fact, it is impossible to see them, because they are masters of hiding—but not seeing something does not disprove its existence.

*The Illustrated Book of Awelings* is an enchanting book about awelings living in cities, who offer explanations for humming pipes, broken kerbstones, splashes on walls and noisy traffic lights. The book, written as a catalogue, introduces the creatures with spellbinding names who leave these footprints: amplus, shackhie, hazeantler, jemmyvaulter...

With tips and tasks, the readers are taught to spot the most fascinating phenomena in an urban environment. Never before has a children’s book presented stony cities in such spellbinding guise!



*Suomen ämminkäiset värrikuvina*

S&S, 2021, 42 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Elust enesest



J. P. Laitinen

## *Fictional*

*A philosopher is driven to extremes  
in this brilliant circadian novel.*

Philosopher Henry Qualia, withdrawn from the academic world, is on the verge of a breakthrough. His theory of the fictional self could serve to free infinite possibilities of the mind and memory in a world where they are sorely constrained.

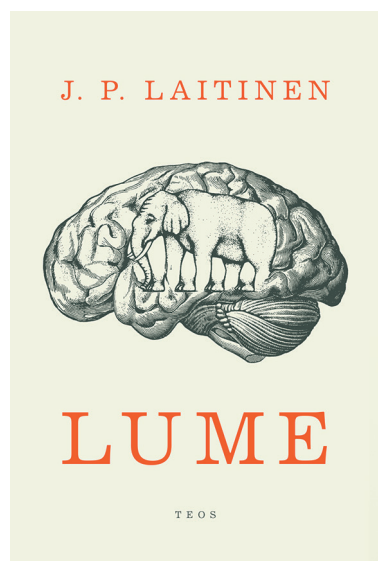
But his work isn't finished – Henry is about to see that. He gets a morning phone call from a hospital where Laura, his love of loves from decades past, has been admitted, and on his way to see her, Henry's theory undergoes a reality test. His restless wanderings through the city carry him to extremes both physical and psychological, until the decisive fictional moment of meeting.

*Fictional*, J. P. Laitinen's debut novel, is a fierce, unapologetically philosophical and psychological story of a day of manifold losses and their denial, and of the desire to see the world the way you want it to be. Through the character of Henry Qualia, Laitinen merges philosophical boldness with an enormous tenderness toward other people.

*Fictional* has been compared to the works of such authors as Fyodor Dostoevsky, Peter Handke and Thomas Bernhard.

*"Novels like Fictional aren't generally published in Finland, which makes it especially interesting and unusual in the tapestry of Finnish novel writing."* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Stylistically, J. P. Laitinen's first novel, Fictional, is exceptional. The narrative rushes rhythmically onward with thoughts and events organically interwoven. The text is intelligently constructed so that many details echo in multiple directions, partially misleading the reader. All in all a multi-leveled, virtuoso work of linguistic brilliance."* Kulttuuritoimitus



*Lume*

Teos Publishers, 2019, 208 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Lithuania, Hubris

TAMPERE LITERATURE PRIZE 2020

NOMINEE FOR THE BOTNIA PRIZE 2020

NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE

Antti Leikas

# *The Quantum Gnomes*

*An expedition to the strange side,  
in which the universe itself is not safe.*

The author Antti Leikas has writer's block. He has lost contact with the gnomes, and the structure of the universe will not reveal itself to him, even though he dreams about it every night.

Meanwhile, at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, preparations for a series of tests meant to reveal the secrets of dark energy are close to complete. But the instruments begin reacting to something surprising and strange, and alarm bells start ringing in the ears of the most eminent and eccentric researchers.

At the same time, a boat bobs on a peaceful pond in the middle of the forest, with two gnomes sitting in it. They don't catch much in the way of fish, but the mood is always more important anyway. This time the mood is ruined, though, for the gnomes have been sensing disturbances in cosmic background radiation. Not to mention the fact that something is awry in the mycelium that connects the thousands of gnomes worldwide: one of their number seems to have vanished.

The tranquil fishing trip must be abandoned and help sought from Leikas, who is linked to the gnomes in a mysterious way.

*The Quantum Gnomes* is a fast-paced picaresque novel with a spec-fic twist—an absurd adventure that refuses to submit to the laws of time and place. As the structures of the universe begin to tremble, a peculiar chain of events is set in motion, with parts played not only by the vast clan of gnomes and a self-doubting author, but by God, the most prominent physicists in the history of the world, and Leikas' deceased father.



*Tonttu. Valot sammuvat*

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 290 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Piia Leino

# *Ugly Cashier*

*A hilarious novel about the competition between the gross and the gorgeous in a jungle of reality TV.*

Sarianna is stuck with her life. She has dropped out of university, and her job as a grocery store cashier feels like a never-ending routine. Moreover, Sarianna feels hopelessly ugly, and that only adds to her self-doubt.

One day a customer invites Sarianna to a screen test for a reality TV show. The show, set on a Thai island, is called The Beauties & the Beasts. One group of women one is composed of former beauty queens and celebrities; the other of regular young women, all far from beauty ideals.

On the island Sarianna meets a colourful bouquet of reality TV people. There is the gigantic Christmas person Aulikki; the handsome decoy Joel; and perhaps the most slimy TV host in history, Robert. Little by little, surprising alliances are formed as both the beauties and the beasts rise for resistance on the golden sand of the paradise island.

*Ugly Cashier* is a story with so unexpected turns that the reader is close to choke with laughter. It is a hysterically funny and raw portrayal of the process of making reality TV, the contradictions of competitors and the roles to which people get accustomed. At the same time, it drills deep to our society, its obsession with physical appearance and to its deeply rooted prejudices.



*Ruma kassa*

Johnny Kniga, 2016, 223 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Heaven*, (Taivas, 2018)

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

*Overtime* (Yliaika, 2019)

*Apogee* (Lakipiste, 2021)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; Hungary, Metropolis Media; Ukraine, Astrolabe

*The Heirloom Chronicles* (Aarteidesi aikakirjat, 2022)



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.

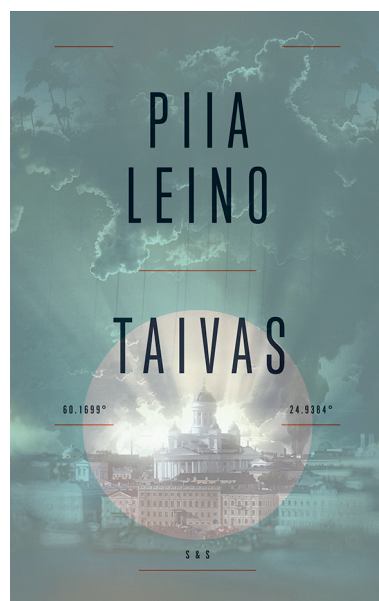
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Ugly Cashier* (Ruma kassa, 2016)

*Overtime*, (Yliaika, 2019)

*Apogee* (Lakipiste, 2021)

*The Heirloom Chronicles* (Aarteidesi aikakirjat, 2022)



*Taivas*

S&S, 2018, 250 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis, German translation

## 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

NOMINEE FOR HELMET PRIZE 2019

EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2019

Piia Leino

## Overtime

*How would you live your life, if you knew what day you were going to die?*

In 2052, Finland is flourishing and only youthful people walk the pale asphalt of Helsinki. But wellbeing has its price: Finnish citizenship is limited to those under the age of 75.

Annastiina Kankaanrinta, a powerful politician of the 2020s, has lived an almost perfect life and is preparing a stylish media event for her exit. The flowers and linens have been carefully chosen and the champagne is chilled. Now all she needs to do is choose her last words.

But there's a crack in the harmony that puts her in a panic. What has Annastiina left undone, and could she still repair the mistakes she's made?

In *Overtime*, Piia Leino, winner of the European Union Prize for her previous novel *Heaven* (2018), examines what drives us and what the ultimate meanings of our choices are. Is it possible to live your life in such a way that your time on earth doesn't go to waste?

*"[...] like Philip K. Dick, Piia Leino has a gift for incredibly fluid narration. The topics of Overtime may be weighty, but the storytelling is light. One doesn't come across such a combination every day."*

Keskisuomalainen newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Ugly Cashier* (Ruma kassa, 2016)

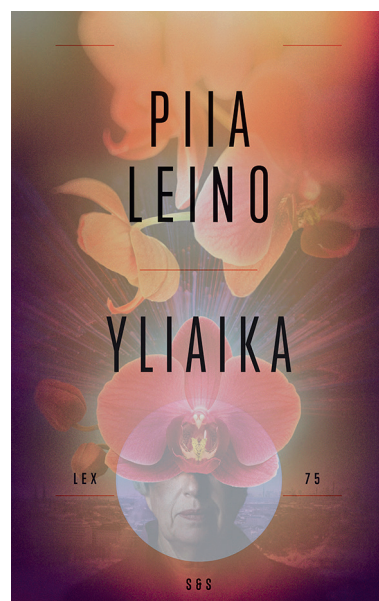
*Heaven*, (Taivas, 2018)

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

*Apogee* (Lakipiste, 2021)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; Hungary, Metropolis Media; Ukraine, Astrolabe

*The Heirloom Chronicles* (Aarteidesi aikakirjat, 2022)



*Yliaika*

S&S, 2020, 232 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Piia Leino

## Apogee

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

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

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

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

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

Keskisuomalainen newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

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

*Heaven*, (*Taivas*, 2018)

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

*Overtime* (*Yliaika*, 2019)

*The Heirloom Chronicles* (*Aarteidesi aikakirjat*, 2022)



*Lakipiste*

S&S, 2021, 239 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Bulgaria, Perseus; Hungary, Metropolis  
Media; Ukraine, Astrolabe

Piia Leino

# *The Heirloom Chronicles*

*A fascinating dive into  
the rich fabric of memories.*

Everything might have turned out differently if I hadn't been the first to fall into that memory. Later I concluded that boat trip had taken place in 1984. He wasn't young anymore then, not yet old, 34 years old, 38 years away from his death.

In the 2020s, the willing are allowing their bodies to be frozen to await a time when their illnesses can be cured. A century later, death is still insurmountable, but a cryonics company has come up with another use for the frozen bodies. The memories of selected millionaires have been downloaded onto machines for historians, miscreants, and treasure hunters to experiment with.

Oula's simple and streamlined everyday life in a safe, loosely-knit community feels empty, but making dreams come true still requires money in the 22nd century. She gets a tip about a hidden treasure in her hometown, and the memory machine offers a path to it. However, in the midst of exploring the memories of a jovial millionaire, Oula finds something altogether surprising – and it forces her to decide what's really important.

*"The Heirloom Chronicles is novel of many layers that is thought-provoking and gets the mind's gears turning."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Ugly Cashier* (Ruma kassa, 2016)

*Heaven*, (Taivas, 2018)

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

*Overtime* (Yliaika, 2019)

*Apogee* (Lakipiste, 2021)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Perseus; Hungary, Metropolis Media; Ukraine, Astrolabe



*Aarteidesi aikakirjat*

S&S, 2022, 271 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



Marko Leppänen & Adela Pajunen

## *Woodland*

*A story of a forest that has more trees than any other,  
in a country of a thousand forests.*

The humanity is rooted in nature, and it is evident that the two have lived side by side for hundreds of millennia. During the past years, we have learned that a regular contact with nature benefits our health in many ways. It will lift our mood, lessen the physical tension and improve our memory and concentration. The microbes from nature strengthen our immune system and boost our recovery. Being outdoors also trains our senses.

Hence, we just have to answer the call of the wild and of the forest.

*Woodland* helps us do that. It is a story about the authors' ancient and beloved home forest, but at the same time it is story of every forest in the world. It takes us on a search for a connection to nature, and the wisdom and realizations derived from it. Doing that, it reveals small wonders of nature, like how spruces deal with stress and what kind of a world view bumblebees actually have.

On the side of that, it also offers us scientific proof about the health benefits of the forest:

- ❖ Why is it beneficial to be in the forest right after rain?
- ❖ How come a small stick of wood can rise our spirits?
- ❖ Does spending time in nature make us live longer?

Above all it helps the readers – no matter where they live – to build a strong bond with nature and find their place in this matrix.

**“People without a connection to nature are like trees with weak roots: quickly toppled in a storm.”**



*Suomalainen metsäkylpy*

Gummerus, 2019, 246 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Spanish (Latin America), Intermedio

Villy Lindfelt

## *How It Feels to Kill*

*An addictive thriller debut about the darkest desires possible.*

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

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

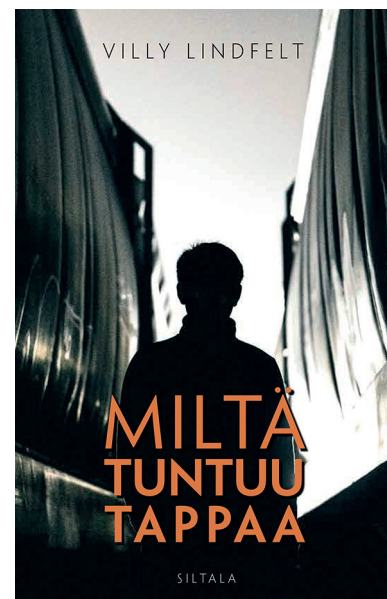
Villy Lindfelt's debut crime novel offers the reader a surprising premise, interesting characters, brilliant plot twists and foreboding on the autumnal streets of Helsinki.

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

Ilkka-Pohjalainen newspaper

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

Keskisuomalainen newspaper



*Miltä tuntuu tappaa*

Siltala Publishing, 2020, 280 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Laura Lindstedt & Sinikka Vuola

# *101 Ways to Kill Your Husband*

*An Oulipo-esque murder mystery that twists  
a real-life tragedy into 101 wild and meticulous poses.*

In October 1981 Anja B. from Finland took a shotgun to her Norwegian husband Thorvald's chest and fired. He died immediately. On the 5th of May 1983 history was made as the District Court of Oslo not only released her from the murder charges but found her late husband guilty because of the physical abuse he had inflicted on her for years.

The case has now shapeshifted from the subject of tabloids and crime magazines to a methodical murder mystery by Laura Lindstedt and Sinikka Vuola. The book serves us Anja B.'s story via different methods and various narrative styles that are in turn witty, surprising, touching, skilful, or garnished with a dose of gallows humour. The writers break the dismal convention of a crime stories that begin with the discovery of the body of a young woman. This time it is the violent husband who dies—101 times over.

The variations of Lindstedt and Vuola dazzle the reader whilst they unravel a tragic story of domestic abuse that ended up in the tabloids.

*"Laura Lindstedt and Sinikka Vuola's book 101 Ways to Kill Your Husband shows us how literature that is mindful of its form can be socio-political as well as entertaining. [...] It succeeds in stretching its source material to all directions. The pages convey a joy in writing. [...] The text shows a rare prism of gendered violence."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*101 tapaa tappaa aviomies*

Siltala Publishers, 2022, 202 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
French sample, German sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

World French, Gallimard

Jenni Linturi

## *For the Fatherland*

*Which is more devastating, the abominable wartime atrocities or the life-long burden of the survivors?*

Some say that when you fall from a high place, your entire life flashes before your eyes.

When 79-year-old Antti Vallas falls from the roof, nothing flashes before his eyes. But then his years of voluntary military service in Nazi Germany's Waffen SS puncture the present. There they are again, in a vortex of memories and people he cannot escape. The familiar faces he knew from the front return, as does the war where the atrocities reached far beyond the combat.

Jenni Linturi's debut is not your typical military novel. *For the Fatherland* shakes the foundations of the hero myth and shows people as they are in near-impossible conditions. Through breathtaking language and skillful storytelling, Linturi shows readers that it is not always possible to come home from war, even if you stay alive.

*"Linturi throws herself into both the eastern front and death knocking at the door in a way that blows the mind and emotions of her reader. In other words, an outstanding performance, even disconcertingly confident to be the work of a beginner. [...] On the basis of the debut I would be prepared to foresee a notable career for her, whatever the topic."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Jenni Linturi's For the Fatherland is an important book. It is fiction, but at the same time it is an utterly exceptional 'military novel' [...] Linturi has made a fine debut and breakthrough."*

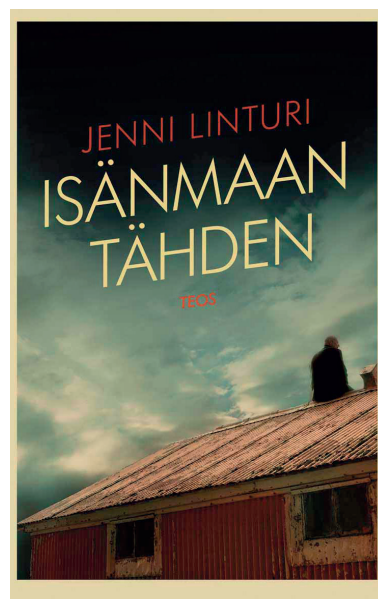
Keskisuomalainen newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Malmi, 1917* (Malmi, 1917, 2013)

*Rebuilding* (Jälleenrakennus, 2017)

*River Mullo, 1950* (Mullojoki, 1950, 2020)



*Isänmaan tähden*

Teos Publishers, 2011, 304 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Danish translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Turbine; Estonia, Pegasus

NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERARY PRIZE



Jenni Linturi

## *Malmi, 1917*

*In times of change, some dreams crumble and  
faith in the future fails – brutally and beautifully.*

In 1917 shanty towns housing migrant workers have risen by the side of old farms in a small rural municipality of Malmi near Helsinki. The tension between the unemployed workers and the farm owners – both Finnish and Swedish-speaking Finns – erupts into violence, and a Finnish-speaking police chief is called in to restore peace.

To many, a compromise is too much to ask. It is, after all, an undeniable fact that workers are a thankless bunch of hoodlums – as landowners are thieves and part of the exploiting class.

The new generation thinks differently. The main characters in the book, the three sons of the police chief and two Swedish-speaking daughters of a farm owner, imagine that they belong to those who are able to choose their own destiny and make their own future.

But in times of change, some dreams are not meant to come true.

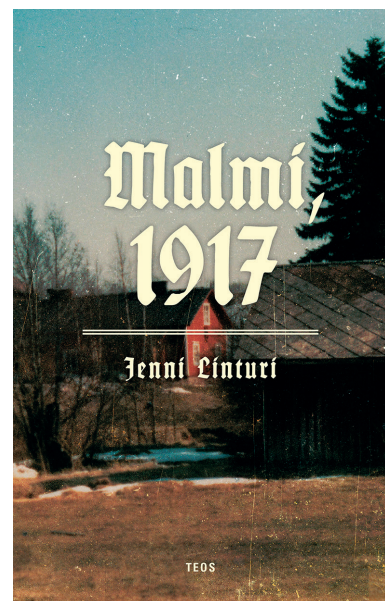
### ALSO AVAILABLE

*For Fatherland (Isänmaan tähden, 2011)*

Rights sold: Denmark, Turbine; Estonia, Pegasus

*Rebuilding (Jälleenrakennus, 2017)*

*River Mullo, 1950 (Mullojoki, 1950, 2020)*



*Malmi, 1917*

Teos Publishers, 2013, 208 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

English sample, Finnish synopsis

Jenni Linturi

# Rebuilding

*A shattering book on motherly love and the weight that previous generations lay on the next.*

The war between Finland and the Soviet Union has just ended. Two brothers, Kalevi and Olavi, return from the front back to their home in Malmi, near Helsinki. The war has been too much for Kalevi, who is taken to a mental asylum. There he is submitted to the most progressive treatment methods of the time.

Kalevi's mother Ingeborg worries over her son, while his aunt Elisabeth is ashamed. Kalevi is to be a new pawn in the two sisters' game of rancour and mutual dependence that has been simmering beneath the surface for years.

*"[The novel] challenges its reader to fill out the space between the lines and won't leave you in peace."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Linturi makes the inconsolable reality and melancholy bearable because in between lines there is a glow of a deep, soft understanding."*

Aamulehti newspaper

*"The events of the novel are a part of a bigger picture in Finnish history, but Linturi doesn't magnify them – she condenses, writes with small things in focus and puts her soul into the moments, visions, details and the feelings beneath the surface. Her choice works and it gets power when scanty action and dialogue get combined to a language that is rich and flows like a prose poem."*

Savon Sanomat newspaper

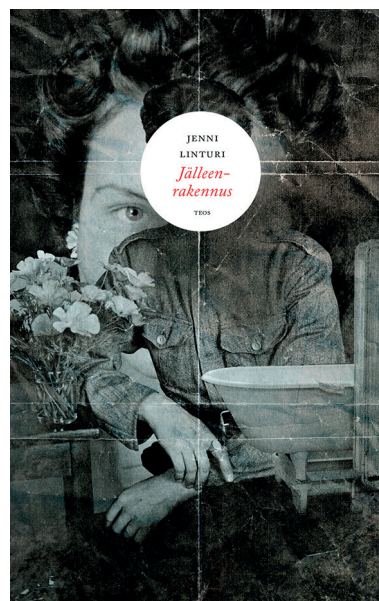
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*For Fatherland (Isänmaan tähden, 2011)*

Rights sold: Denmark, Turbine; Estonia, Pegasus

*Malmi, 1917 (Malmi, 1917, 2013)*

*River Mullo, 1950 (Mullojoki, 1950, 2020)*



*Jälleenrakennus*

Teos Publishers, 2017, 250 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Mirjam Lohi

# *The Case of the Risen Dough*

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

Sointu Suominen is a dreamy, loving and slightly muddled-headed mum who decides to start a new career as a real-estate agent. The big firms with their stylish professionals steal clients from under her nose, but Sointu is not discouraged. Drawing her strength from interior design, tea-drinking and harmonious living, Sointu has decided to do her own thing. And now she has time to spy on her neighbours, write a cheerful blog and distribute leaflets for her own estate agency.

At the same time, in a Helsinki flat, an old lady receives a letter that turns her world upside-down. The next day, a bowl of risen dough is found in the apartment, together with the lady, who has died wearing an evening gown. When Sointu gets the job of selling the apartment, she finds herself suddenly involved in solving the case of the risen dough.

Full of love, humour and tender suspense, this novel contains a magnificent narrative as well as hilarious characters from a husband working in security to peculiar neighbours. And this is only the beginning—*The Case of the Risen Dough* is the first volume in the *Mrs Suominen Arranges* series. Each volume has a mystery plot connected with love—which also affects the relationship between Sointu and her husband, Sampo.

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



*Valuneen taikinan tapaus –  
Rouva Suominen välittää #1*

Teos Publishers, 2018, 256 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, long English sample

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Secret of the Rose*, Mrs. Suominen Arranges #2 (*Ruusun salaisuus*, 2019)

*Mystery of the Plum Pastry*, Mrs. Suominen Arranges #3 (*Luumumunkin arvoitus*, 2020)

Mirjam Lohi

## *Secret of the Rose*

*Love, humour and secrets of the past  
in the second Mrs Suominen Arranges title!*

Sointu Suominen is getting her new career as a real-estate agent going. There aren't quite as many clients as there could be, but on the other hand, isn't tea-drinking and solving little mysteries also nice?

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

Slightly muddle-headed but big-hearted in all her actions, Sointu soon ends up tangled in the relationships of even more people...

*Secret of the Rose* is the second stand-alone novel in Mrs. Suominen Arranges series that started in 2018 with *The Case of the Risen Dough*. Each volume has love, humor and tender suspense – and a mystery plot connected with love.

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

Kirjavinkit blog on *The Case of the Risen Dough*

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

Turun Sanomat newspaper on *The Case of the Risen Dough*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Case of the Risen Dough*, Mrs. Suominen Arranges #1 (Valuneen taikinan tapaus, 2018)

*Mystery of the Plum Pastry*, Mrs. Suominen Arranges #3 (Luumumunkin arvoitus, 2020)



*Ruusun salaisuus –  
Rouva Suominen välittää #2*

Teos Publishers, 2019, 256 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



Mirjam Lohi

# *The Riddle of the Mug*

*Secret relationships and past mysteries in the new feel-good novel  
in the Mrs Suominen Arranges series!*

Sointu Suominen travels to Stockholm with her husband, Sampo, to spend quality time together – and to get fresh energy for running her real estate business, which has been languishing on the back burner. New clients would bring interesting new opportunities – for Mrs Suominen would, as always, take the opportunity to iron out the creases in her clients' lives.

Back at home, there is a family crisis next door when their neighbour finds an unfamiliar mug with a strange, bright red lipstick stain in her flat. Her partner denies all knowledge of the mug. As conflict mounts and the ghosts of the past rise into view, the only solution seems to be for the couple to separate and put their flat on the market

When, on top of everything, Sampo's wallet mysteriously disappears, it is clear that something strange is going on in their dream neighbourhood. Who is to blame – a burglar, a ghost or just a practical joker?

*The Riddle of the Mug* is a cosy, thrilling, free-standing third volume in the Mrs Suominen Arranges series. Each volume has a mystery plot connected with love – which also affects the relationship between Sointu and her husband, Sampo.

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

Kirjan jos toisenkin literature blog  
on *The Secret of the Rose*

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Case of the Risen Dough*, Mrs Suominen Arranges #1 (*Valuneen taikinan tapaus*, 2018)

*The Secret of the Rose*, Mrs Suominen Arranges #2 (*Ruusun salaisuus*, 2019)



*Luumumukin arvoitus –  
Rouva Suominen välittää #3*

Teos Publishers, 2020, 294 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, long English sample of  
book #1, English synopsis

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."*

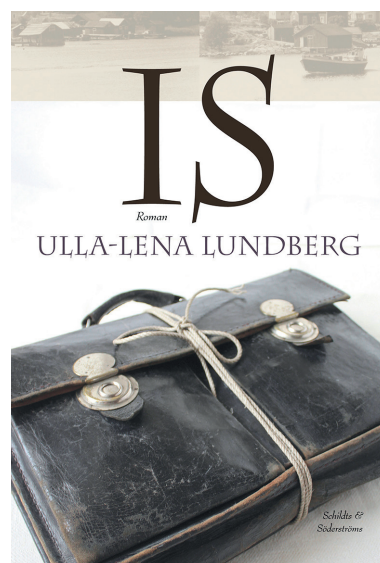
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"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 translation,  
English translation, German translation

### 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

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2012

OVER 100,000 COPIES SOLD

Ulla-Lena Lundberg

## *Light and Flame*

*Stirring events shape a grand novel  
by one of Finland's foremost authors.*

It's August 1852, and the city of Vaasa on Finland's west coast has burned to the ground. The Swedish-speaking maid Betty can no longer find work and, although she possesses neither money nor fluency in Finnish, sets out on foot to seek a livelihood in the capital.

Betty's trek begins a three-generation trip through the stormy years of Finland's transformation into a nation, as successive Russification, independence, and civil war throw society into turmoil.

The new nation is also an educational project. Betty's daughter Olga becomes a teacher, and Olga's husband Robert the headmaster of a uniquely Nordic phenomenon, the folk high school. Impassioned conversation by impassioned conversation, the worker's rights' movement and cultural and educational movements wage battle on behalf of an independent Finland.

Whereas men stagger and are trampled beneath their ideologies, women stay standing work, tend to their families, doubt, hope, and love.

Ulla-Lena Lundberg's previous novel *Ice* (2012) won Finland's most prestigious literary prize Finlandia and sold over 100,000 copies.

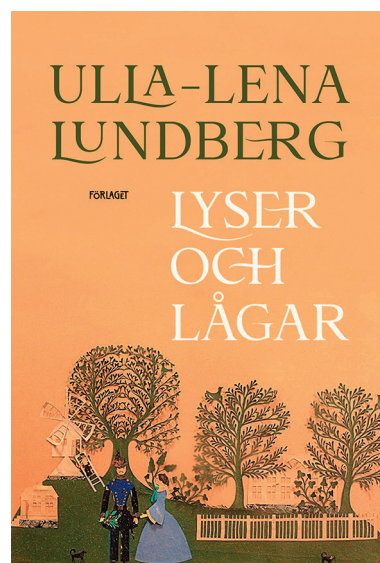
*"The words flow rather than explain, and the reader is like a fly on the ceiling, witnessing individuals and interpersonal relationships take shape."* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Ice* (Is, 2012)

Rights sold: Bulgaria, Izida; Croatia, Hena com; Denmark, Gyldendal; English, Sort of Books; Estonia, Eesti Raamat; Germany, Mare; Hungary, Széphalon Könyvmuhely; Poland, Marpress; Sweden, Albert Bonnier

See also the backlist



*Lyser och lågar*

Förlaget, 2022, 280 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample, English synopsis

Annika Luther

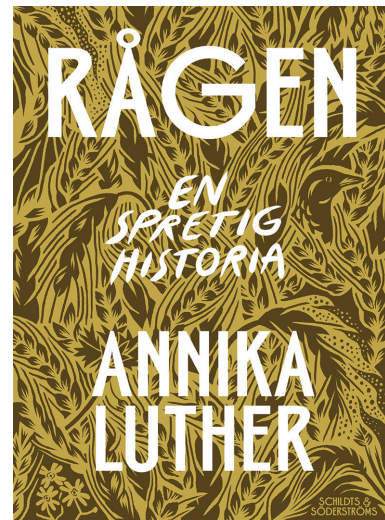
## *Rye – A Prolific History*

*From a Middle Eastern weed  
to an emblem of the north.*

Grains have long served as a foundation of human sustenance. These days, rice, wheat, and corn are familiar around the world, but in northern climes rye is still king. A few millennia ago, what was originally a weed in the Middle East traveled far to the north, where wheat could not survive. Rye swiftly cemented its status not only in slash-and-burn agriculture and local diets, but also at the heart of culture.

*Rye: A Prolific History* takes the reader on a captivating, compelling journey through the millennia as it recounts the story of the grain. Crop failures and famine, the devastation caused by the ergot fungus, and innovations such as the heated barn play a role in a rich cultural history sprouting around rye, from the adoption of the “rye flower” as a symbol of conservative politics to an unusual cast of characters, such as Nikolai Vavilov, the botanist who tracked down the plant’s origins. The book also addresses rye’s current status a big player in the sourdough starter boom and its future in gene banks and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, designed to preserve diversity in plant life.

The book’s black-and-white illustrations are by Herta Donner.



*Rågen. En spretig historia*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2022, 288 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample, English synopsis



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori (illustrations)

# Archie the Canary

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

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

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

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

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

## FOR ARCHIE

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

Translated by Lola Rogers



## READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English translations

Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori (illustrations)

## *Archie Goes South*

*A bird who dreams of freedom and a lonely taxi driver take a heartwarming and humorous road trip to the South.*

Archie is a little canary who one day loses her appetite and starts singing a strange, melancholy song. She'll have to go to the doctor, and it's a long trip. On the way there, Archie and her driver Swisher learn what's ailing her, she makes a pillow out of a sweetbun, and something happens that is so big and mysterious that it changes the whole course of their adventure.

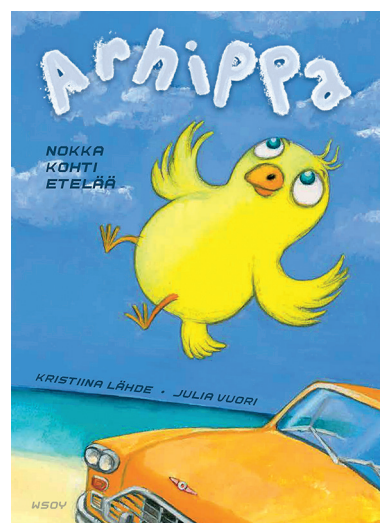
*“Archie thought until her tail quivered: I’m inside a cage! I’m inside a car! I’m inside a great, big autumn! Cheep!”*  
Then she closed her eyes and calmed down.  
*“The cage disappears when I close my eyes,” Archie said.*  
*“You probably dream of freedom,” said Swisher.*

*Archie Goes South* is a philosophical, comical, and touching story of a little bird and a taxi driver named Swisher and the great friendship that takes them, and the reader, from the middle of the autumn to the warm heart of spring.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Archie in the Spring* (*Arhippa kevään korvalla*, 2019)

*Archie in a Tizzy* (*Arhippa pyryharakkana*, 2021)



*Arhippa. Nokka kohti etelää*

WSOY, 2016, 30 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation,  
Swedish translation

Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori (illustrations)

## *Archie in the Spring*

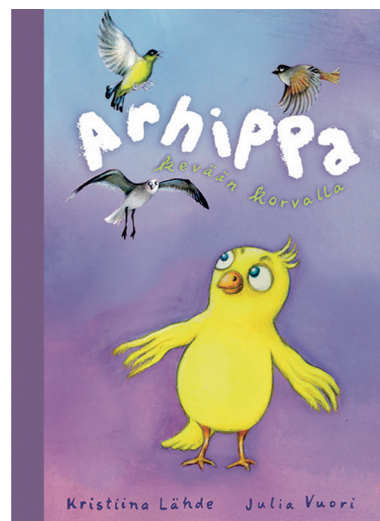
*When spring arrives, a little canary's heart fills with a longing to go north.*

The canary Archie and the taxi driver Swisher are having a cushy time in the South. But one day Archie's heart fills with yearning. The days in the North are getting longer, and soon there will be nightless nights there! It's time to go home.

The friends set out to follow the light, and they bring a mysterious work of art with them as they go to meet the northern spring. Little Archie realizes that she is part of a great family of birds and that the earth is as small as a grain of millet. But the most important thing she learns is something that's right in front of her.

*“Swisher realized that Archie had migration fever. Deep within her was a longing to leave, to return home—it's a power that all birds have. Swisher mulled the matter over long into the night. Life in the South was nice. But the North had its good points, too. And although Archie was small, her feelings were enormous.”*

*Archie in the Spring* is the second book about the adventures of Archie the bird and Swisher the taxi driver. A book with humor and a gentle philosophy of life, it tells a story of friendship, travel, a story where a person, or a bird, can find a true home. The first book in the series, *Archie Goes South*, was published in 2016.



*Arhippa kevään korvalla*

Teos Publishers, 2019, 34 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Archie Goes South* (Arhippa. Nokka kohti etelää, 2016)

*Archie in a Tizzy* (Arhippa pyryharakkana, 2021)

Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori (illustrations)

## *Archie in a Tizzy*

*Winter brings along the first snowfall and many other wonders for the little canary.*

The little canary Archie and the taxi driver Swisher have been working all day. It is already dark: the days are short in the north, as the end of the year is approaching.

Suddenly something strange happens. There is something falling from the sky! Something small and glittering – something that Archie has never seen before. And all of the sudden it is dark but also light. And cold! Winter has arrived.

Other strange things start happening soon happening, too. All of Swisher's and Archie's customers seem to be very busy, for different reasons. And it seems to be contagious! But is it really worthwhile to be so stressed and worried? Shouldn't other things matter more?

*“OUCH!”* said Swisher when a throat lozenge flew out and hit him in the forehead.

Archie rummaged around in the glove compartment like a crazy whirlwind.

*“Come on out of there, you!”* she said to some object in the bottom of the glove compartment. *“I’m in a hurry!”*.

*“Where are you in a hurry to?”* Swisher wanted to know.

*“Everyplace!”* Archie answered.

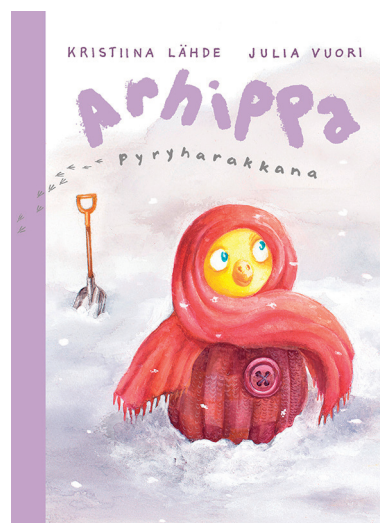
Translated by Lola Rogers

*Archie in a Tizzy* is the third book about the tiny canary Archie, whose daily adventures with the philosophical taxi driver Swisher result into warmly humorous conversations and insights.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Archie Goes South* (*Arhippa. Nokka kohti etelää*, 2016)

*Archie in the Spring* (*Arhippa kevään korvalla*, 2019)



*Arhippa pyryharakkana*

Teos Publishers, 2021, 34 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation



Sanna Mander

# *The Lost Key*

*The key is nowhere to be found. But how many things can you find in the apartment building while you look for it?*

The princess is tired of her ancient castle with a thousand rooms, and has moved to a pink studio flat. The ghost next door needs help to clean up his messy place, and in the attic there's an enchanted merry-go-round that won't stop turning, surrounded by old boxes and fur coats. Other interesting characters of the building range from Internet trolls to secret agents—but will the reader find the key?

The rhyming verse of this exuberant and playful picture book by award-winning illustrator Sanna Mander is cleverly anchored in the present moment. The detailed and realistic illustrations will delight young readers and adults alike.

*The Lost Key* won the Finlandia Junior Prize as the best children's book of the year and also the Rudolf Koivu Prize for the best children and young adult book illustration.

*"The Lost Key is an exhilarating treasure hunt of a house and its extraordinary inhabitants. [...] The combination of images and text works masterfully in Finnish and Swedish. With their delicious visual detail the book's pages offer a complete experience where everything is just right, including the way the book looks."*

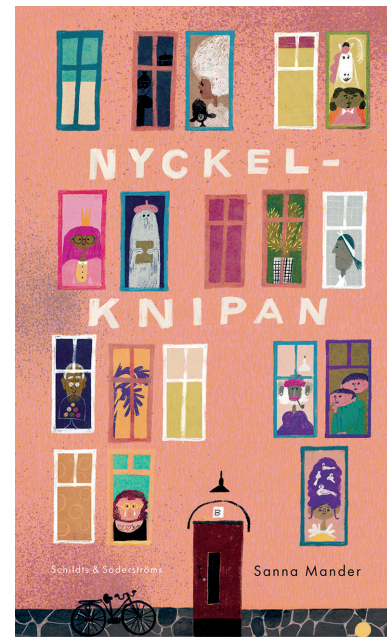
The Finlandia Prize Jury

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Spectacular Book of Princesses* (*Prinsessboken*, 2018)

*The Secret Life of Farts* (*Fisens liv*, 2019)

China (simplified), Ginko | Post Wave; Czech Republic, Paseka; World English, Pushkin Press; Estonia, Tänapäev; French, Helvetiq; German, Helvetiq; Italy, Carlo Gallucci Editore; Korea, Changbi; Sweden, Rabén & Sjögren



*Nyckelknipan* | *Avain hukassa*

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

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish original,  
English sample

RUDOLF KOIVU PRIZE 2017

FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2017

Sanna Mander & Anna Sarve

# *The Spectacular Book of Princesses*

*What are princesses made of?  
Stories, apples, adventure and starry belts!*

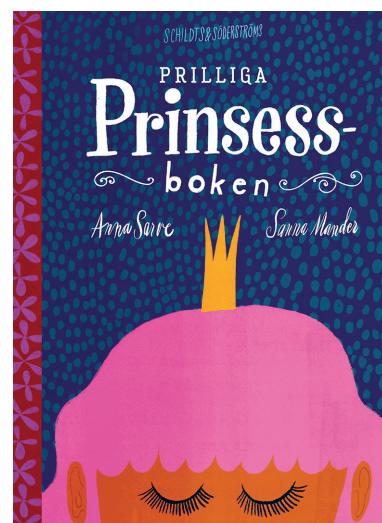
There are princesses everywhere—in the pages of story books but also in real life. Not all of them have crowns and not all of them have palaces; some princesses have silks and jewels, some bare feet and darned blouses.

*The Spectacular Book of Princesses* is full of charming stories, strange facts and wild rumours about the world's loveliest princesses (and a couple of really awful ones). Among the puzzles that are solved are why princesses sometimes kiss frogs, what they eat, what sorts of pets they have—and the demands that are made of them.

Enchantingly illustrated, *The Spectacular Book of Princesses* offers a fast-paced and graphic account of what makes princesses of Snow White, Pocahontas and Cleopatra, Duchess, Catherine the Great, Rapunzel and many other heroines of fact and fantasy.

Known for her Finlandia Prize-winning picture book *The Lost Key* and her popular *Princess Colouring Book*, Sanna Mander returns to the world of princesses in this non-fiction book for children, which explores princess stories both familiar and unknown. Also revealed, of course, is what kind of shoes they wear on different occasions!

The text is co-authored by Sanna Mander and Anna Sarve. The book also includes fantastic fairytales by three well-known Finnish authors: Malin Klingenberg, Kasper Strömman and Peppe Öhman.



*Prinsessboken*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 72 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish original,  
English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

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

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Lost Key* (Nyckelknipan, 2017)

*The Secret Life of Farts* (Fisens liv, 2019)  
China (simplified), Ginko | Post Wave;  
Czech Republic, Paseka; World English,  
Pushkin Press; Estonia, Tänapäev;  
French, Helvetiq; German, Helvetiq; Italy,  
Carlo Gallucci Editore; Korea, Changbi;  
Sweden, Rabén & Sjögren



NOMINEE FOR RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE

Sanna Mander

# *My Teeny-Tiny Witch*

*Everyone could use  
a cantankerous little witch!*

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

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

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

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



*Min lilla häxa | Pikku pikku noitani*

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

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonian, Ühinenud ajakirjad

Merete Mazzarella

# *On the Meaning of Life*

*The big questions in life touch every one of us.  
On the Meaning of Life makes us understand how.*

The big questions in life always feel a bit troublesome. Maybe they come too close and are too difficult to comprehend all at once. Or is it actually the case that we ponder the meaning of life more than we realize we do?

In her essays, Merete Mazzarella approaches the meaning of life through her own experiences and reflections, using philosophical discourse and her observations of her surroundings. She presents the reader with new questions about our world in which, on the one hand, there are endless shades of gray, and, on the other, sharp contrasts: prosperity is juxtaposed with streams of refugees, globalization with walls, and violent video games with real time love across the oceans.

Mazzarella writes about our Western worldview, evil, forgiveness, compassion, and goodness. In a unique way, she makes abstract subjects understandable and concrete.

*“Mazzarella successfully conveys the compelling joy of discovery in her essays. [...] This book is a profession of faith to the art of conversation and an ode to the heritage of chatty ladies.”*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper



*Om livets mening*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 223 pp.

**READING MATERIAL**

Swedish original, English sample



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

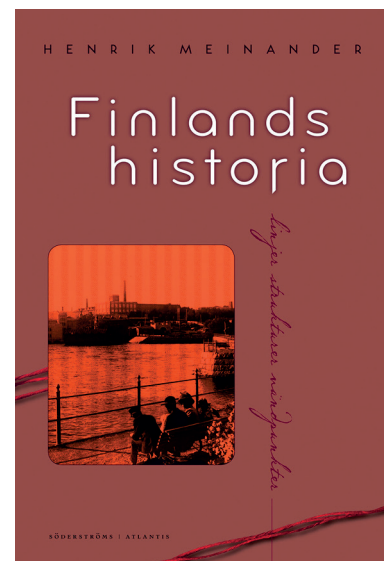
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*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, Lind & Co

Henrik Meinander

# *Mannerheim, Marshal of Finland – Life in Geopolitics*

*How the scion of an aristocratic family became a Russian imperial officer, spy – and leader of the Finnish republic?*

Gustaf Mannerheim (1867–1951) is the most distinguished and controversial figure of 20th-century Finland. He was a soldier, strategist and statesman who was at home on the playing field of international politics.

After a wild youth, this scion of a Swedish-speaking aristocratic family went to seek his fortune in St. Petersburg, capital of the Russian empire. There he rose to the rank of a cavalry officer and entered the glittering, cosmopolitan *crème de la crème* of St. Petersburg.

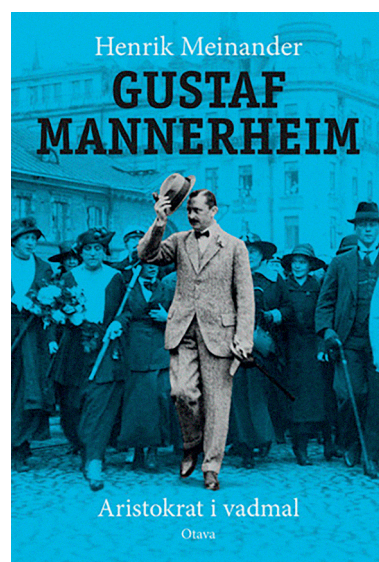
After the Russian and Japanese Wars, Mannerheim led an espionage expedition on a two-year, 14,000km journey to China. After his return his career in the imperial army rapidly reached its zenith.

In the revolution that followed the First World War, the Russian empire crumbled beneath the imperial officer. Mannerheim returned to Finland. He commanded the White troops in the Finnish Civil War of 1918 and the Finnish army in the Second World War against the Soviet Union. The wars and his short presidency sealed Mannerheim's position in the national pantheon.

In the concise biography of Mannerheim the extraordinary events of his life and his strategic vision are set in the broader framework of the superpower politics of the era and the development of Europe.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*A History of Finland (Finlands historia – Linjer, strukturer, vändpunkter, 2014)*  
Rights sold: Azerbaijan, Kitabistan; Belorussia, Mastatskaya Literatura;  
World English, Hurst; Estonia, Ilmamaa; Georgia, Merebashvilitkesson;  
German, Scoventa; Finland, Schildts & Söderströms; Latvia, Jumava;  
Lithuania, Aukso žuvys; Persian, CIRE; Russia, Ves Mir; Sweden, Lind & Co



*Gustaf Mannerheim –  
aristokrat i vadmal*

Otava, 2017, 317 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

World English, Hurst; Finland, Otava;  
Russia, Ves Mir; Sweden, Lind & Co

Niina Mero

## *The Death of Romance*

*The brooding romance of countryside estates, an unsolved mystery, and Romantic poetry come together in a deliciously engaging debut.*

Nora, 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 and lush gardens of her future in-laws' manor and the musty-library romance of the university town.

But cracks form in the idyllic façade. The always-curious Nora comes to learn the family's older brother disappeared years before without a trace, and her acerbic heart is set af flutter by encounters with British gentlemen and hidden secrets. Before long, she discovers English manners can conceal truths whose consequences may prove fateful.

In Mero's unputdownable debut, Bridget Jones' Goth counterpart is cast into the moody ambiance of *Jane Eyre*, the upper-class romance of *Downton Abbey*, and plotting worthy of English detective stories.

*"In Niina Mero's debut The Death of Romance, love, occultism, a mysterious disappearance, and English literary history intertwine in a fast-paced story. Events are steered by emotions rather than the mystery of a missing nobleman – and, indeed, the tangled relationships offer plenty to engage readers. The characters initially come across as familiar stereotypes from commercial romance, but the stream of surprises does not dry up as their surface layers are peeled back. The page-turning plot does a delightful job folding expertly packaged facts into entertainment."*

Eeva magazine



*Englantilainen romanssi*

Gummerus, 2019, 383 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

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

Niina Mero

## *Wounds of Love*

*Can you go through love and war  
and come out a hero?*

Special Forces soldier Benedict Jay has come to Finland on leave to meet his brother Dorian – or at least that’s what he says. But his backpack carries a heavy secret and a mission to complete, and every step reminds him of the scars of war.

In Finland, Ben gets invited to a summer cottage in beautiful lake district, and, soon and surprisingly, love starts to blossom. But the happiness of the summer days and nights is disturbed by his past, and he must deal with it before he can turn over a new leaf. What kind of future can a man like him hope for?

Niina Mero’s *Wounds of Love* is a romance that, exceptionally for the genre, is written from a male perspective. Mero, who also broke with clichés and expectations in her previous novel, *The Death of Romance*, which was awarded the Kaarle Prize, shows us that heroes can be flawed, vulnerable and broken. You don’t need to be a perfect individual to achieve love.

*“The blend of mystery, melancholy poetry, and the main character’s informality works. The result is suspenseful, romantic, and funny.”*

Hämeen Sanomat newspaper  
on *The Death of Romance*

*“Traditional masculinity makes an appearance, but the novel also features likeable, unique, deep male characters – a rarity in romantic literature.”*

Bibbidi Bobbidi Book literature blog  
on *The Death of Romance*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Death of Romance* (Englantilainen romansi, 2019)

Rights sold: Catalan, Calanish; Estonia, Rahva Raamat; World Spanish, Calanish; Sweden, Sekwa



*Romanssin sankari*

Gummerus, 2021, 366 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



Niina Miettinen

## *Israel Girl*

*A story of a love, of the past and of a silence  
that surrounds the heartache.*

It is summer, and Kaisa is spending her holiday with her father and his new wife, Katariina. When her father withdraws to his workshop with his mandolin, his memories and his melancholy, Kaisa and Katariina pedal along the river-path to the town, towards situations in which fellers and preachers make their miracles.

If they don't encounter a miracle that evening, they continue the search, for Katariina knows that there is one paramount marvel: the Promised Land, which has stirred her longing. Kaisa becomes Katariina's Israel Girl, and their friendship results in a joint trip to Jerusalem and its cobbled alleyways, where Katariina has lost herself.

*Israel Girl* is a magnificent, translucent novel about passionate hopes and fears. Miettinen's narrative reaches so directly to the core of sympathy, loss and love that the reader can only hope that dreams will come through and that everyone will find their own promised land.

*"Niina Miettinen's Israel Girl is a skilful first novel. [...] The writing is well-rooted and physical. [...] The narrative is absorbing, time and place are drawn unaffectedly and confidently; the characters emerge vividly."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Miettinen opens up Katariina, Kaisa and their family's painful story gradually, revealing a little more of the past with every chapter, from the point of view of each character in turn. The book is constructed like a jigsaw. [...] Of all the tragedies, the most profound, moving and touching is the silence that surrounds all the heartache. Miettinen writes about this beautifully and often with overwhelming gloom."* Kainuun Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

Wild Rosemary (Suopursu, 2019)



*Israel-tyttö*

Teos Publishers, 2013, 234 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, 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.

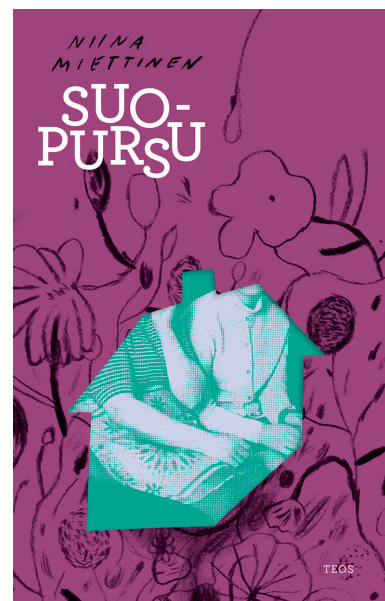
Set in the bog and fell landscapes of northern Karelia, *Wild Rosemary* vividly charts the different manifestations of passion and love, the seeping of colour into the grey. *Wild Rosemary* opens new dimensions in people, both dramatically and subtly. Miettinen's prose is characterised by an enchanting 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

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Israel Girl* (Israel-tyttö, 2013)



*Suopursu*

Teos Publishers, 2019, 264 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Timo Miettinen

# *Europe – A History of Political Community*

*How the shared economy became a guarantee of European peace.*

The post-war creation of the European Union is often described as an historic peace-making endeavour. Yet the ideas that shaped the union were sown long before the EU was founded.

Europe's identity as a political community has been greatly influenced by its perceptions of the nature of power, the essence of justice, and the course of history. The economy has played a special role, fundamentally shaping the key terms and conditions for European cooperation.

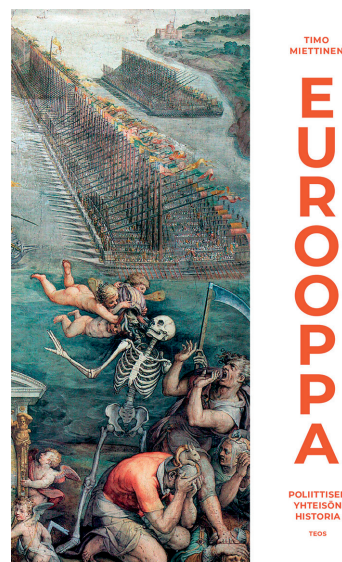
*Europe: A History of Political Community* is an accessible introduction to the central tenants of the European political order and their philosophical and ideological roots since antiquity. It was awarded as the best historical nonfiction title of 2021.

*"Miettinen's epic work is historical research of an exceptional intellectual calibre, without a trace of grandstanding. It shuns simplifications and shows a respect for the diversity and complexity of explanations."*

Optio magazine

*"Miettinen has written one of the best books I have read on European political thought. It is an intellectual journey worth taking. It should be read by everyone who wants to understand Europe."*

Alexander Stubb, former Prime Minister of Finland



*Eurooppa. Poliittisen yhteisön historia*

Teos Publishers, 2021, 400 pp. + 16 pp. ill.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

THE BEST HISTORY BOOK OF 2021

KALEVI SORSA AWARD 2022

Anton Monti

# 'Ndrangheta

*The chilling real-life story of one of the largest organised crime syndicates in Europe, from a Finnish-Italian writer of nonfiction.*

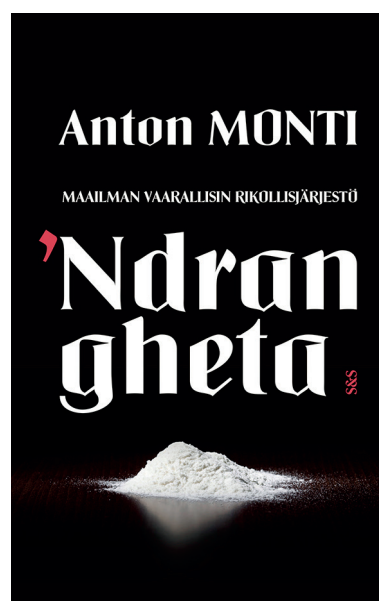
'Ndrangheta is the name of a prominent mafia organisation from the Calabria region in southern Italy, whose members are bound by traditions that date back centuries. The group masterminds almost all of Europe's cocaine market, and its nefarious activities extend to kidnappings, murders and clan wars that have cumulatively led to thousands of deaths.

Despite this outsized influence, 'Ndrangheta is a surprisingly unknown criminal force. To the inhabitants of southern Italy, however, the organisation is a familiar presence. Locals trust it to look after their best interests better than their regional leaders, the police or even the Italian state.

Author Anton Monti has examined the 'Ndrangheta for years. In this uniquely comprehensive presentation of the syndicate, Monti describes how the organisation's strict code of conduct, religious imagery and cult-like rituals have turned it into a violent moneymaking machine. Before they know it, readers are caught up in this gripping story, where fact is more shocking than fiction.

Unlike the Sicilian Mafia, the 'Ndrangheta have managed to keep a low profile, avoiding any conflicts that could put the organisation in danger. Even so, the tally of bodies in its wake dwarfs that of Cosa Nostra and terrorism combined.

*Translated by Pamela Kaskinen*



*Maailman vaarallisin rikollisjärjestö  
'Ndrangheta*

S&S, 2021, 256 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis, Italian synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Russia, Mereshchakov



Hiroko Motai & Marika Maijala (illustrations)

# *Million Billion Santa Clauses*

*Captivating Christmas story  
for all the small and big ones.*

A long time ago, there was only one Santa Claus in the world. And there were very few people and very few children in the world as well. Santa Claus could easily hand out all the world's presents in a single night.

As years went by, the number of people grew. The number of children grew, too. The sack of presents became too heavy. So Santa Claus asked if there might be two of him.

Two Santa Clauses were twice as fast as one, but only half the size.

As more years went by, more and more people and children came along and the number of Santa Clauses grew and grew – and at the same time all the Santas grew smaller and smaller.

Finally there were a million billion Santa Clauses in the world, invisible to the eye and obviously too small to carry presents. What happened then?

*“The biggest Christmas book surprise has come in the form of a Japanese–Finnish collaboration. In a word: captivating.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*“Beautifully rugged, transparent crayon illustrations determine the appearance of this wonderful book. The tiny pieces of text are either within the illustrations or in the margins. The illustrations change from totally gray images of a city to an almost empty page drawn with a controlled and amusing style.”*

The Most Beautiful Book of the Year Award board



*Million Billion Santa Clauses*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2014, 40 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

English original

## RIGHTS SOLD

Catalan, Pastel de Luna; China (simplified Chinese), Guanxi Normal University Press; Complex Chinese (outside mainland China, incl. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan), Yeren Publishing House; Czech, K-A-V-K-A; Denmark, Turbine; Estonia, Tänapäev; Finland (Finnish & Swedish), Schildts & Söderströms; Dutch, Clavis; France, Cambourakis; Germany, Fischer; Greece, Patakis; Italy, Terre di Mezzo; Japan, Anonima Studio; Korea, Woorinabi; Poland, Dwie Siostry; Spanish, Pastel de Luna; Ukraine, Yakaboo

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BOOK OF THE YEAR 2014

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.

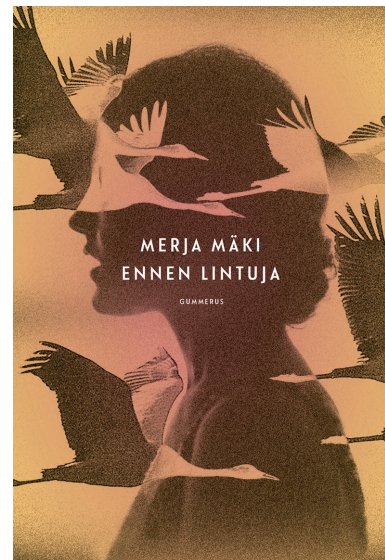
But life does not respect Alli’s wishes. The Winter War ends in a heavily bought peace that cedes much of Alli’s beloved Finnish Karelia to the Soviet Union. She must leave her home behind and embark on an onerous trek across the new border. When she reaches her new Finnish home, she must endure alms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

Lauri Mäkinen

# *Shrewd as Snakes, Innocent as Doves*

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

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

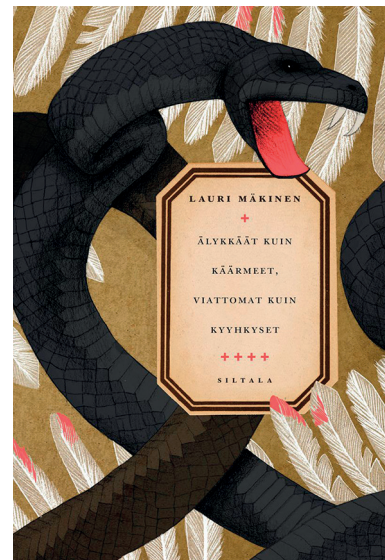
The event turns old pastor Tobias Johansson's calm last years in the missionary field from a peaceful routine into a chaos. In an attempt to save an innocent woman from a death sentence, the pastor manages to discover secrets that eventually change his faith, as well as of the whole missionary station.

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

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

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

Turun Sanomat newspaper



*Älykkäät kuin käärmeet,  
viattomat kuin kyyhkyset*

Siltala Publishing, 2015, 438 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## ALSO AVAILABLE

5%0 (5%0, 2017)

BEST CRIME DEBUT 2015

NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE 2015

Lauri Mäkinen

50/50

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

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

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

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

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

Aamulehti newspaper

#### ALSO AVAILABLE

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

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



50/50

Siltala Publishing, 2017, 320 pp.

#### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



Lauri Mäkinen

# *The Beginning of the End in D Minor*

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

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

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

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

*“A skilfully constructed novel about matters of importance.”*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

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

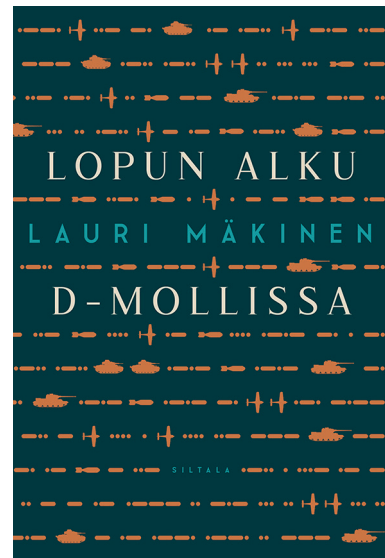
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

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

Kirjoja hyllystäni literature blog

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

Seura magazine



*Lopun alku d-mollissa*

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 542 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

## ALSO AVAILABLE

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

50% (50%, 2017)

Mari Möro

## *Partial Shade*

*A humorous story about a happy island's odd past and odder present.*

MALCOLM ISLAND, CANADA, 1901. A group of idealistic Finnish settlers have decided to realise their dream and set up Sointula, a utopia based on communal ownership and democracy. Troubles soon follow. Communal living doesn't sit well with everyone, cow shed isn't completed, a fire's set ablaze, the community gets into debt and the bridge construction project hits the dust.

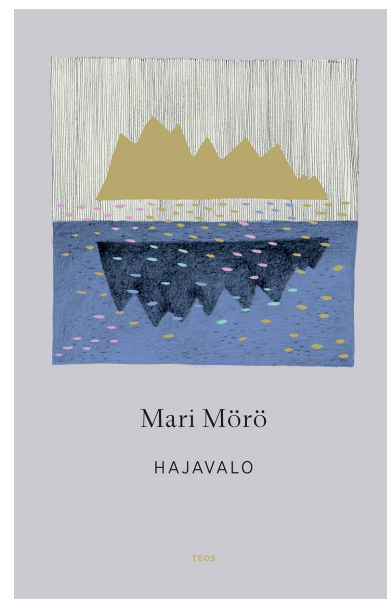
MALCOLM ISLAND, CANADA, 2017. The utopia has crashed and burned over a hundred years ago, but the local Finnish community is still blooming. It's getting closer to the centenary of the Finnish independence, and a divorced couple is washed out on the island into the thick of the preparations for the party. She is on a mission to refurbish the Finnish museum; he, a failed actor, is on a mission to rock the boat.

A world that has turned unpredictable amidst hand-saws, fish traps and mouse-eaten communist flags throws into the mix the remains of a family, community and utopia. What shouldn't be let go and what should you chuck out at your nearest convenience?

Mari Möro's *Partial Shade* is a tragicomedy from the island of happy people. Möro's masterfully funny and accurate language amuses and touches the reader.

*"Möro's ability to arrange numerous details to a construction that resembles an approximate whole is amazing. [...] Partial Shade is a condensed description of human life, braided together with hundreds of different pieces, with history and present. It widens from singular to universal. It doesn't push or force but gives permission to just be. It wonders but doesn't judge. It soothes and perhaps, little by little, tells how you can get somewhere if you stay aimless, and how you can see more in partial shade."*

Keskisuomalainen newspaper



*Hajavallo*

Teos Publishers, 2018, 240 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Mari Möro

## *Pulling Up Daisies*

*Planting a few thousand summer flowers may have an element of megalomania in it, but if the alternative is going small, the choice is easy.*

*Pulling Up Daisies*, from the master Finnish garden author Mari Möro, is a collection of hysterical and often personal essays about the tough work and wild visions of tending a garden. Its humour will delight you, and its wisdom will move you. *Pulling Up Daisies* traipses through home gardens and more distant plantings alike.

No one has ever written about gardens the way Mari Möro does, and few have come as close to the deepest core of gardening.

*“The flowersmith has a natural tendency to crawl around on the ground and poke her snout into the heart of the plant world. Her nose could have passed muster in the perfume industry. From meters away she can tell which varieties of rose have bloomed and which are still buds. At the compost bin, that unrelenting organ reveals down to the day when the treasure will be ready for spreading.”*

*“Möro’s socially trenchant and fantastically exaggerated prose are absurdly amusing. For example, in ‘From Cricket Crunch to Grasshopper Goulash’ she approaches the highly topical subject of insect cuisine with tips for running a home cricket farm and utilizing the gastropods in your garden. The range of subjects in the book is sumptuous, as is the approach: [...] Seldom does the reader encounter the comfortable feeling of knowing what is coming next, since the perspective of the prose changes with alacrity and hilarity.”*

Nuori Voima magazine

*“Pulling Up Daisies is a sprawling, vibrant, rooted, soil-scented, and colour saturated collection of anecdotes.”*

Kosminen k blog



*Kukkanuottasilla*

Teos Publishers, 2018, 234 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

Reetta Niemelä & Anne Vasko (illustrations)

# *The Grandma Book!*

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

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

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

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

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



*Mummojen kirja!*

S&S, April 2022, 32 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Marjo Niemi

## *The Run*

*A beautiful novel about an encounter between two lonely people, about carrying and being carried.*

Syksy is ten years of age. She lives in a small industrial village, and she runs.

Syksy runs because she is different. She is an outsider in her family, the silent witness of her mother and father's quarrels and tears. She observes her family, the village community, herself too. And she runs.

In the rhythm of her running Syksy tells the story of herself, her granny, her school, and loneliness. She needs the rhythm of running to be able to stand the stories.

Kalevi is a lonely former runner with his own past to carry. When he hooks up with Syksy and starts to train her, the truth starts to come out.

*The Run* is a lyric, superbly beautiful novel of loneliness, carrying and being carried. It was awarded with the Tiiliskivi Prize.

*"A powerful debut. [...] Towards the end the work grows into a tremendously beautiful encounter of an older man disappointed with himself and a withdrawn young girl, during which both are forced to admit their need, which reaches beyond generations."*

Aamulehti newspaper

*"A rushing, almost poetic rhythm of sentences carries observations made by a most precise narrator. You can read twice only novels written this way."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Juostu maa*

Teos Publishers, 2004, 188 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Why the Light?* (Miten niin valo, 2008)

*A Cannibal's Friendship* (Ihmissyöjän ystävyys, 2012)

*The Mother of All Losses* (Kaikkien menetysten äiti, 2017)

*Hearing* (Kuuleminen, 2021)

Marjo Niemi

## *Why the Light?*

*This is where the story begins:  
when something ends.*

Anni has given her marriage everything. She has adapted, taken an interest, looked deeper and covered failures. Yet now the middle-class dream has come to dust, and Anni is lying on the kitchen floor for the second week in a row.

Kristiina is a painter. She is single and lives a sober, restricted life. Her routines are broken, however, by a telephone call from a man she cannot shake off.

Doctor Päivikki Siven works in the hospital where both Anni and Kristiina are taken. Her world and reality are filled with facts and control. Both her children and husband are gliding further away from her orderly mind. But then Anni and Kristiina turn her perfect world upside down.

*Why the Light* is a story of situations where a waking to reality has taken place irrevocably and the future lies wide open. It is a frenzied, furious, honest book, in which language moves on with magic skill, revealing everything.

*“Why the Light fascinates, as did its predecessor, The Run (2004), above all thanks to its language that stimulates all the senses. Niemi’s ability to paint verbal landscapes and compose new euphonious metaphors is enviable...”*

Hämeen Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Run* (Juostu maa, 2004)

*A Cannibal’s Friendship* (Ihmissyöjän ystävyys, 2012)

*The Mother of All Losses* (Kaikkien menetysten äiti, 2017)

*Hearing* (Kuuleminen, 2021)



*Miten niin valo*  
MARJO NIEMI

TEOS

*Miten niin valo*

Teos Publishers, 2008, 192 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
German sample

Marjo Niemi

# *Cannibal's Friendship*

*Can you wean someone from poverty? Do the rich have feelings?  
Is anything enough? What does history say of all this?*

The restless writer is standing by the grave of her best friend Sonja. Sonja has committed suicide. No one understands why.

Now it is time for her to begin to write the novel, muster the courage, although the truth blinds like an arc lamp, the writer thinks, and begins her Epic Novel. It is the case record of the last psychiatrist and the last patient in the Lapinlahti mental hospital – a poetic allegory of the history of Europe, so the author thinks. Yet in the end, it is much more.

Sonja has saved the writer in her teenage years from a miserable Finnish life and brought her straight to the upper-class part of Helsinki. The writer has never asked why. Now the time has come to ask that, too. In the process, much more is revealed of the past than anyone would like to know – or at least more than anyone would like to remember.

Marjo Niemi has written an imposing, outrageous, funny and deeply upsetting book of friendship, privilege and survival.

*"It is a long time since I've read a book this interestingly narrated."*

Turun Sanomat newspaper

*"Marjo Niemi's beautiful novel insists that it is time that the literature steps into the present. With multiple layers she describes the modern Europe and how it has come about."*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Run* (Juostu maa, 2004)

*Why the Light?* (Miten niin valo, 2008)

*The Mother of All Losses* (Kaikkien menetysten äiti, 2017)

*Hearing* (Kuuleminen, 2021)



*Ihmissyöjän ystävyys*

Teos Publishers, 2012, 402 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German sample

Marjo Niemi

# *The Mother of All Losses*

*A frantic monologue about one generation's experience of silence and guilt.*

One winter day at work, a somewhat tired woman ends up on a dark stage, where the only spotlight is directed on her mother's body, lying on a stretcher. When the explanations she can think of for her whereabouts—being in a dream, dead or insane—don't seem totally plausible, there is nothing else for it but to start talking.

A frenzied monologue ensues, addressed to her mother and about her mother, her family and pretty much everything else, too. She may have inherited her deceased mother's unwillingness to talk and touch, and it may be embedded in her own family, like the scenes that are cut into her monologue. But where is she, and what exactly is her state of mind?

*The Mother of All Losses* will shake readers to their core. Niemi's narrative style captures the true feelings of worry and shame in a voice that is hard to match. Her narrator is infuriatingly funny, over the top—and in distress.

The novel was awarded with the prestigious Runeberg Prize in February 2018.

*"Marjo Niemi has the ability to write airy but insightful prose; it's penetrating and bold."*

Apu magazine

*"Her narrative style is a fantastic combination of alienating and grotesque caricature and a candor that speaks directly to the reader."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Kaikkien menetysten äiti*

Teos Publishers, 2017, 203 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Run* (Juostu maa, 2004)

*Why the Light?* (Miten niin valo, 2008)

*A Cannibal's Friendship* (Ihmissyöjän ystävyys, 2012)

*Hearing* (Kuuleminen, 2021)

RUNEBERG PRIZE 2018



Marjo Niemi

# Hearing

*What must we do  
to be seen and heard?*

Let's try writing. I'll choose the recipients and let them know how I'm doing. Here we go.

In *Hearing*, a relatively ordinary, privileged, middle-class individual gripes, confesses, rationalizes, and begs to be... something. Her own special persona who deserves the lot she imagines for herself, maybe a little money too. The recipients of her epistles—including her lover, her father, her creditors, and anonymous—get an earful of the narrator's longing, desire, and art brut. Excesses are not avoided. Reflections of the real world make us aware of their existence, whether taking the form of speed dating, a scriptwriting workshop, or simply a closet.

Marjo Niemi's narration is without peer. Being human is strange pursuit, and *Hearing* elicits this in ways that hurt, despite the light-filled laughter that perpetually slips in.

Marjo Niemi's previous novel *The Mother of All Losses* (2017) won the Runeberg Prize, and *Hearing* was a nominee for Finland's biggest literary award Finlandia.

*"What emerges as a central theme of Marjo Niemi's works is who is seen, heard, and noticed. These questions are also at the heart of Hearing. [...] The laughter that the protagonist Titta Kansa inspires in the reader is not a frothy delight; rather it is tinged with a tragic awareness of the perverse nature of existence. [...] Marjo Niemi masterfully weaves a black comedy about a person who takes her share of hard knocks and doesn't get discouraged or give up, but keeps trying again and again, if for no other reason than to fail a little more spectacularly next time."*

Parnasso literary magazine

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Run* (Juostu maa, 2004)

*Why the Light?* (Miten niin valo, 2008)

*A Cannibal's Friendship* (Ihmissyöjän ystävyys, 2012)

*The Mother of All Losses* (Kaikkien menetysten äiti, 2017)



*Kuuleminen*

Teos Publishers, 2021, 224 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2021

Eppu Nuotio

## Those Deadly Bells

*The disappearance of a woman with a perfect life kicks off this bestselling cozy mystery series.*

Ellen Lähde knows how to enjoy life. In addition to gardening, traveling, and a stimulating young lover, the newly widowed pensioner is kept younger than her fifty-eight years by her participation in neighborhood activities – and an insatiable curiosity.

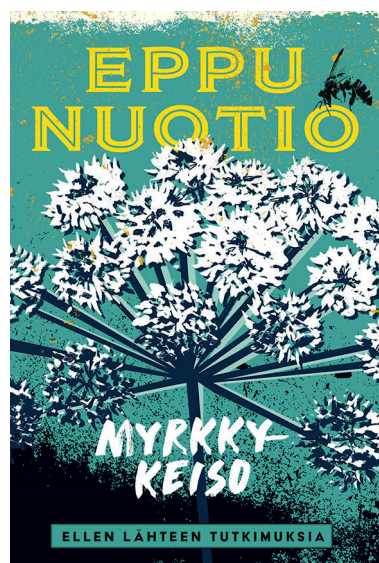
Mirkka Kairikko runs a household while managing a full-time career and writing a dissertation. When she decides she needs some alone time and goes out to the countryside to keep an eye on the cabin remodel, the vigorous Ellen offers to lend Mirkka's husband Timo a hand with the couple's young children. But the job proves bigger than expected when no one can contact Mirkka: not Timo, not Mirkka's sister, not even the police.

Before long, Ellen finds herself at the epicenter of events: a cabin owned by Ellen's friend Silja stands near the spot where Mirkka vanished. While cleaning up after her boyfriend at the cabin, Silja discovers signs that imply unpleasant truths...

*Those Deadly Bells* is the first book in Eppu Nuotio's popular cozy mystery series, featuring Ellen Lähde, a woman in the prime of her life who is active, satisfied with her lot, and takes pleasure in everyday joys.

*"Although the milieu of Those Deadly Bells can feel rather mundane, with its bawling children and smelly bags of rubbish, Eppu Nuotio has sprinkled in beautiful images, pleasurable moments, sensory details. [...] Reading this book puts you in danger of being bit by the gardening bug while your tummy growls."*

Luetut.net literature blog



*Myrkkykeiso*  
*Ellen Lähde Investigates #1*

Otava 2017, 252 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Latvia, Petergailis

### ALSO AVAILABLE

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

Rights sold: Latvia, Petergailis

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

Eppu Nuotio

## Tongues Like Knives

*In the second book of this immensely popular cozy-mystery series, a wedding party ends in death.*

While touring the gardens of Andalusia, cheerful Finnish pensioner Ellen Lähde makes the acquaintance of a Spanish-Finnish wedding party. Carmen, the Spanish bride, decides Ellen's appearance is a good omen and invites her and a date to the wedding.

The next morning, Ellen wakes to a shriek. She thinks the raucous peacocks are to blame, but when she comes down for breakfast she discovers a horrific surprise waiting in the hotel lobby: Carmen's brand-new mother-in-law has just died of a heart attack. A woman of action, Ellen offers to stay in Spain and help the grief-stricken family with practical arrangements.

The mother-in-law's death changes the young couple's plans: they are forced to move to the countryside to help Mikael's father with the farm. Life in cold and dark Finland proves a test for Carmen, and the active hostility of Mikael's aunt doesn't help. A tragedy that took place decades before, when Mikael's paternal grandmother drowned in the bog, seems to cast a pall over the family. Why are its mother-in-laws plagued by bad luck?

The keen-eyed, well-meaning, and perpetually helpful Ellen Lähde gladly digs in to the murky stew of secrets in this second installment of the Ellen Lähde Investigates series.

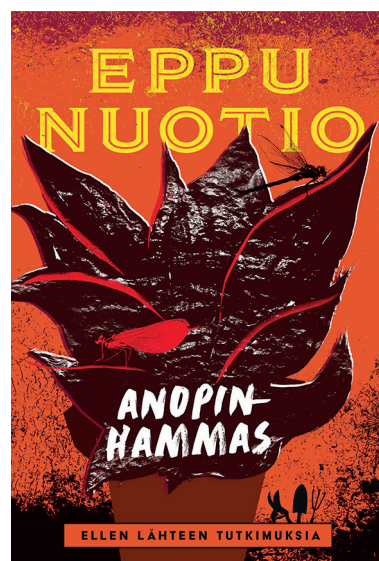
*"In the present blood-and-dystopia-saturated entertainment industry, the cozy detective novel Nuotio offers is a breath of fresh air. [...] The book's sweetness, warmth, and mundanity are a joy, as is the romance that blazes up between two pensioners: Ellen Lähde and the Andalusian Carlos."* Helsingin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

### ALSO AVAILABLE

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

Rights sold: Latvia, Petergailis

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



*Anopinhammas*

*Ellen Lähde Investigates #2*

Otava 2019, 254 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Latvia, Petergailis

TOP TEN BESTSELLER

Eppu Nuotio

# *The Showy Strangler*

*The third Ellen Lähde cozy mystery  
exposes the dark underbelly of love.*

Ellen Lähde has traveled to Berlin to mind her son Leo's twins and home while he's away and enjoy the city's gardens. Meanwhile, another Finn arrives in Berlin: the movie director Johannes Svärd. Before long, the papers are awash with stories about Svärd, his wife and star of his latest film, Aino, and his German ex-wife, Elke. Ellen agrees with the general consensus: the love triangle Svärd directed, *A Glorious Life*, is the love story to end all love stories.

By chance, Svärd and his wife Aino happen to rent Leo's second home for the duration of the film festival. When Elke ends up the victim of a brutal crime on the evening of the gala, Ellen is on the scene and sure something fishy is afoot.

*The Showy Strangler* is the third and final installment of the Ellen Lähde Investigates series, in which the good-natured, energetic pensioner Ellen enjoys everyday life, good company, a drink, and love. *The Showy Strangler* rose to number five on Finnish bestseller lists: Ellen Lähde's cozy mystery books have won readers over.

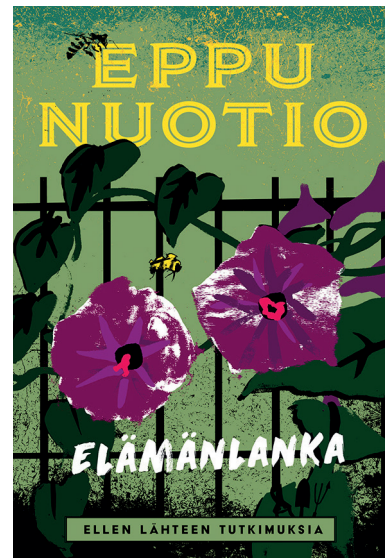
*"Eppu Nuotio's The Showy Strangler is a light, easy read. [...] Blithe, breezy novels like this are always welcome, but particularly this spring, with Covid running rampant."*

Luetut.net book blog

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Those Deadly Bells*, Ellen Lähde Investigates #1 (*Myrkkykeiso*, 2017)  
Rights sold: Latvia, Petergailis

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



*Elämänlanka*  
*Ellen Lähde Investigates #3*

Otava 2020, 285 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

BESTSELLER #5



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."*

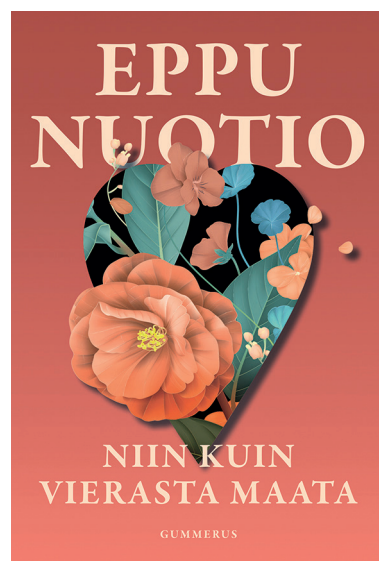
Kulttuuritoimitus online  
magazine on *Maggie and Me*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Those Deadly Bells*, Ellen Lähde Investigates #1 (*Myrkkysteisi*, 2017)  
Rights sold: Latvia, Petergailis

*Tongues Like Knives*, Ellen Lähde Investigates #2 (*Anopinhammas*, 2019)  
Rights sold: Latvia, Petergailis

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



*Niin kuin vierasta maata*

Gummerus, 2021, 200 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Eppu Nuotio

## *The Buttercup Dress*

*A decades-old crime is revealed in the first book of a new cozy mystery series.*

Carpenter Raakel Oksa is commissioned to remodel an old apartment in Helsinki's Töölö district. Raakel and her trusted fellow renovator Danne demolish a wall only to discover a metal box containing a severed braid, a dress in a buttercup print, and a piece of rosin.

The curious find will not leave Raakel in peace, and she starts digging into the building's history. Before long, a decades-old disappearance that shocked the country comes to light: a young woman who came to the city to study violin for the summer vanished without a trace. Raakel chats up old residents in the neighborhood and learns freedom and first love were not the only things the girl from the countryside found in the city: heat-struck Helsinki was also teeming with dangers.

*The Buttercup Dress* is the first book in the *Raakel Oksa Sets It Right* series, in which entrepreneur carpenter Raakel renovates homes around Helsinki. The books, which offer mysteries, light-hearted social complications, and sly plot twists, dovetail cleverly with Nuotio's previous series of bestsellers, *Ellen Lähde Investigates*.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Those Deadly Bells*, *Ellen Lähde Investigates #1* (*Myrkkykeiso*, 2017)  
Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Latvia, Petergailis; Sweden, Storytel

*Tongues Like Knives*, *Ellen Lähde Investigates #2* (*Anopinhammas*, 2019)  
Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Latvia, Petergailis; Sweden, Storytel

*The Showy Strangler*, *Ellen Lähde Investigates #3* (*Elämänlanka*, 2020)  
Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Sweden, Storytel

*Love Like a Strange Land* (*Niin kuin vierasta maata*, 2021)



*Leinikkimekko*

*Raakel Oksa ratkaisee #1*

Gummerus, 2022, 233 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

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

Eppu Nuotio

## *The Silver Locket*

*The Raakel Oksa Sets It Right series of cozy crime continues with a mystery from the 1970s.*

Carpenter Raakel Oksa has recently gotten to know her half-brother and his mother Ellen Lähde, who appears to have many things in common with Raakel. An inquisitive extravert, also Ellen occasionally comes across little mysteries, the solving of which brings a pleasant frisson to her life.

When Ellen begins to investigate the estate of Kaarina, a woman who lived and died alone, and poke about Kaarina's hoarder's paradise of an apartment, she and Raakel soon learn about an inseparable trio back in the 1970s: Kaarina, her friend Sinikka and Sinikka's fiancé Mauno. But then there has been the summer of 1975, which has changed the lives of all three for good.

*The Silver Locket* is the second installment of the *Raakel Oksa Sets It Right* series of mystery novels. The first book, *The Buttercup Dress* (2022), rose to the top of bestseller lists. In the series, self-employed carpenter Raakel renovates homes around Helsinki, coming across layering mysteries, all-too-human relationship muddles, and clever plot twists. The series dovetails neatly with Nuotio's previous bestselling series, *Ellen Lähde Investigates*.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

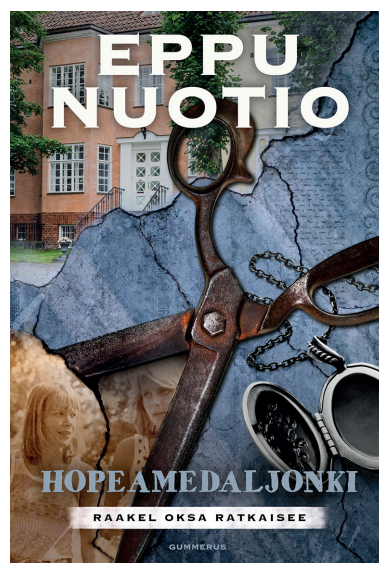
*Those Deadly Bells*, Ellen Lähde Investigates #1 (*Myrkkykeiso*, 2017)  
Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Latvia, Petergailis; Sweden, Storytel

*Tongues Like Knives*, Ellen Lähde Investigates #2 (*Anopinhammas*, 2019)  
Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Latvia, Petergailis; Sweden, Storytel

*The Showy Strangler*, Ellen Lähde Investigates #3 (*Elämänlanka*, 2020)  
Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel; Island, Storytel; Sweden, Storytel

*Love Like a Strange Land* (*Niin kuin vierasta maata*, 2021)

*The Buttercup Dress*, Raakel Oksa ratkaisee #1 (*Leinikkimekko*, 2022)  
Rights sold: Denmark, Storytel (optioned); Island, Storytel (optioned); Sweden, Storytel (optioned)



*Hopeamedaljonki*  
*Raakel Oksa ratkaisee #2*

Gummerus, 2023, c. 230 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, 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.

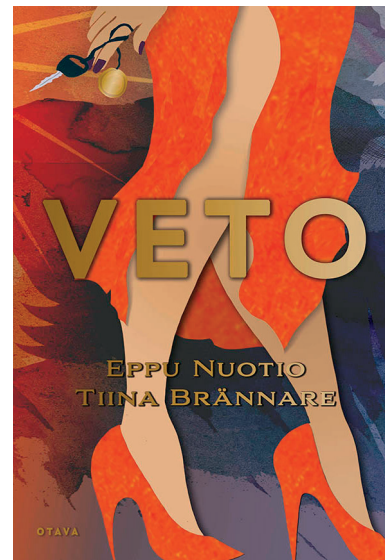
The easy-going mood evaporates when Kiti realizes she's been a gullible fool and various parties, including the police, are after her. The lovely tingle of excitement transforms into a less-pleasurable itch when Lapland's bloodthirsty mosquitoes begin feasting on her southern flesh. And on top of everything 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



Eppu Nuotio & Sanna Pelliccioni (illustrations)

## *Sent across the Sea*

*A moving true story of a little girl's journey across the sea.*

One day, Heidi is told she must leave home and travel far across the sea. Not all alone, as she is going with her brother.

But in a foreign country, Heidi is separated from her brother and forced to live with a grumpy couple. Heidi can't speak the language of her new aunt and uncle, but she understands they don't want her to be the way she is.

Luckily, Heidi gets to spend a day with her brother and his family. Her brother's sweater immediately understands that Heidi needs to find a nicer auntie.

Based on real memories, *Sent across the Sea* is the story of an often-forgotten period in Finnish history: Around 80,000 children were evacuated from Finland, mainly to Sweden, during the Second World War. Most of them returned home, but more than 15,000 did not. In a Europe at war, their story resonates again.



*Lappukaulatyttö*

S&S, 2022, 36 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation



René Nyberg

## *Last Train to Moscow*

*A family story of forbidden love in 1930s Finland and a survival story of a Latvian Jew, escaping the Nazis and ending up a German citizen.*

When René Nyberg, now Finland's former ambassador to Berlin and Moscow, was a teenager, he learned a well-kept family secret. His mother Fanny was a Jew, shunned and ostracized by her family and the Jewish community for marrying a Christian man in 1937.

Later he learned also the story of Fanny's cousin Mascha from Riga, Latvia, who managed barely to escape the advancing Germans in June 1941 with her husband by taking the last train to Moscow. They ended up in Kazakhstan and survived, while all their relatives in Riga were murdered.

*Last Train to Moscow* takes the reader to pre- and post-war settings in the Baltic states and Finland but also to Belarus, Soviet Union, Germany and Israel. It tells the story of a woman who has to give up her religion, family and friends for love, and of another who survives the war and ends up dying as a German citizen. The stories of them expand into a European panorama of Jewish fates.

*"[...] a highly sophisticated, momentous read."*

Former prime minister Paavo Lipponen  
in Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

*"The strong-minded, principled and intelligent women in Nyberg's family leave a special impression."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"A remarkable and heart-rending book."*

Author and director Jörn Donner  
in Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Patriarchs and Oligarchs (Patriarkkoja ja oligarkkeja, 2019)*



*Viimeinen juna Moskovaan*

Siltala Publishing, 2015, 250 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation,  
Russian translation, Swedish translation,  
English sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Argo; Germany, dtv; Latvia, Jumava;  
Russia, Corpus Books; Swedish, Förlaget M

René Nyberg

# *Patriarchs and Oligarchs*

*Unique overview of modern Russia's power system  
and the terrible ballast of history.*

*Patriarchs and Oligarchs* by René Nyberg, a Russia expert with a long career in the Finnish diplomatic service, is a fascinating account not only of the recent history of the relations between Finland and Russia, but also of the contemporary reality of the USSR/Russian Federation. Nyberg explores Russia through two of Putin's powerful background supporters and fellow players – the Orthodox clergy and the oligarchs.

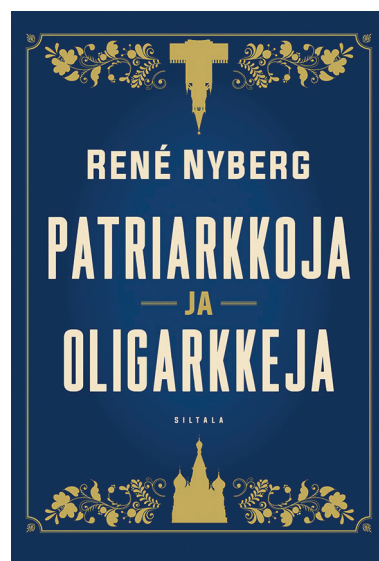
The book gives answers to the questions that characterize the close relations between Russia and Finland: how the brutal charm of the Soviet Union once influenced Finland, why the Finnish Lutheran Church began discussions of doctrine with the Orthodox Church of the atheist Soviet Union, and how Russia shot itself in the foot by blocking timber exports to Finland.

The reader gets a behind-the-scenes view through a diplomat's eyes, as Nyberg is personally acquainted with many of the key figures in the book. He is able to provide first-hand information on such questions as why billionaire oligarch Roman Abramovich was interested in Finland, and why Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who challenged Vladimir Putin and suffered a long term of imprisonment, made two visits to the country.

Nyberg's book, which has gathered excellent reviews, has been printed in four print-runs in the space of three months.

*"[The book gives] a big picture of today's power system in Russia  
and how it's determined by money and ownership."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Patriarkkoja ja oligarkkeja*

Siltala Publishing, 2019, 275 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Last Train to Moscow* (Viimeinen juna Moskovaan, 2015)

Rights sold: Estonia, Argo; Germany, dtv; Latvia, Jumava;  
Russia, Corpus Books; Swedish, Förlaget M



Saara Obele

# *Playground Pals*

*Come and meet  
the best pals ever!*

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

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

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



*Pikkuisen pihan porukka*

S&S, 2021, 32 pp.

**READING MATERIAL**

Finnish original, English translation





Lea Pakkanen & Santeri Pakkanen

## *It Happened to Us*

*A father and daughter's journey into the nightmares of their family in the Soviet Union during the twentieth century.*

In Lea Pakkanen's childhood the story of her grandmother's exile to Yakutia in Siberia, where she caught fish in the Arctic Ocean with her bare hands, seemed to her like an unbelievable fairy tale.

Lea's grandmother was an Ingrian Finn – a member of the Finnish minority that lived in the Soviet Union. Stalin's persecutions wiped out minorities and dissidents, and by the end of the 1940s the Ingrian Finns had been decimated by deportations, executions and prison camps. The fate of the people who survived became a taboo that could not be discussed until the end of the Soviet Union.

*It Happened to Us* describes the journey of Lea and her father Santeri to the places where their own family experienced the horrors of the persecutions. Father and daughter follow in the footsteps of a grandmother exiled by riverboat to Yakutia on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. They trace the fate of a grandfather, who ended up in the infamous Gulag in Northern Siberia. Eventually their journey takes them to the suburbs of St. Petersburg, where Russified neighbourhoods stand on the site of mostly purged Ingrian villages.

During their travels, Lea and Santeri look back also at their own journey from the post-Stalin era Soviet Union to modern day Finland. The cracks in Soviet totalitarianism that appeared in the 1980s allowed for a short Ingrian revival, which was cut short when most moved as returnees to Finland, a country that no longer remembered them.

*It Happened to Us* fills in the history that was silenced, but also makes accurate observations on the relation between state and identity, the role of minorities in national history narratives, and the importance of remembering and forgetting in families.



*Se tapahtui meille*

Gummerus 2020, 426 pp. + 32 pp. photographs

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis,  
English sample

Sanna Pelliccioni

## *We Had to Leave*

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

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

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

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

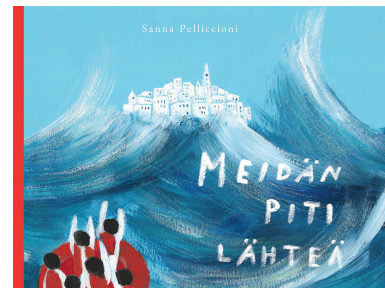
Telling stories increases a sense of community, and develops language and imagination. The wordless book is suitable for children of all ages. It is also good for immigrants: the wordless book can be read with others on a basis of equality.

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

Aamulehti newspaper

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper



*Meidän piti lähteä*

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Wordless original

### ALSO AVAILABLE

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

Rights sold: Estonia, Toledo

Sanna Pelliccioni & Maami Snellman & Kiti Szalai

## *I Remember You with Love*

*When Alma and Diego celebrate the Day of the Dead, they feel heavy with sadness and buoyant with joy.*

When Alma's beloved grandmother dies, the world becomes a quiet place. Her mother sits at the window, looking out. Her father's days weigh on his shoulders as he goes to the store, cooks a meal.

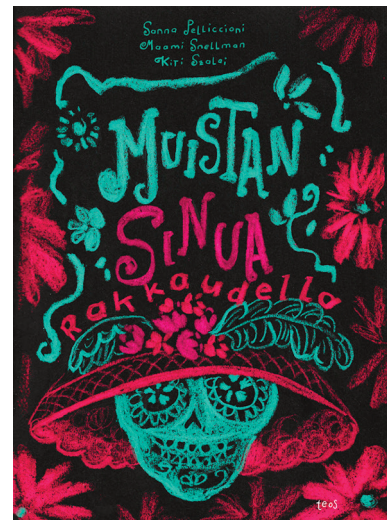
One day Alma's classmate Diego approaches her at recess and says that, like her, he misses his *abuelo*—his grandpa, who died in the spring. Soon Diego and his family invite Alma and her parents to a big party where they remember the dead.

Celebrating the Mexican *Día de Muertos*, Alma and her family experience a new way to grieve and remember loved ones who have died in this story, joyful in its sadness and sensitively illustrated by Sanna Pelliccioni.

**“As they sit around the table they tell all the best stories of Alma's grandma and Diego's *abuelo*. Memories flutter through the room, climb up the wallpaper, peep out from between the curtains.”**

*“The book offers another, beautiful way to face death. Death does not have to create a dark and gloomy cloud that covers all, but it can be faced with joy. [...] The book is beautiful with its dark shades, a bit mystical, especially warm. The crayon illustrations take the reader to a journey from one culture to another.”*

Sivukukkasia blog



*Muistan sinua rakkaudella*

Teos Publishers, 2020, 40 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Toledo

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*We Had to Leave* (Meidän piti lähteä, 2019)

Riikka Pelo

# *The Heaven-Bearer*

*There are names that shouldn't be uttered and songs that shouldn't be sung. But then the Son of Man comes along and everything is different.*

On a remote Finnish farm at the end of the 1960s, Vendla's grandmother is waiting for the Apocalypse and relying on the strength of hymns and gospel to raise Vendla. Vendla is small but she has already discovered that she bears the stamp of her disgraced mother's and grandmother's sins.

Seeking a language of her own to escape the stifling religious community, she gives names to places: Big-Road, Forest-on-the-Other-Side, Land-of-Two-Rivers, and the Village where the religious people live. A bit further away is the Heaven Vendla's grandmother longs for and The Promised Land where a war is being waged.

In Vendla's imagination there is also a Land of Skirts whose way is marked by the skirts and shoes of Vendla's mother.

When three children disappear by the river the inhabitants of the village wake from their stupor. As believers and non-believers alike search the river, they are forced to contemplate their sacrifices and their faith in God – and in each other.

Both lyrical and menacing, *The Heaven-Bearer* skillfully captures the mysticism found only in children.

The novel was awarded with the Tiiliskivi Prize and nominated for the Runeberg Prize and the Christian Book of the Year Prize.

*"The Heaven-Bearer is a complete book: a vigorous novel and exciting as a detective story."* Pohjalainen newspaper

Riikka Pelo Taivaankantaja

teos



*Taivaankantaja*

Teos Publishers, 2006, 193 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German sample,  
Spanish translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

World Spanish, Fiordo Editorials

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Our Earthly Life* (Jokapäiväinen elämämme, 2013)

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Kniha Zlin; Estonia, Tänäpäev; Germany, C. H. Beck

*All that Is Alive* (Kaikki elävä, 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."*

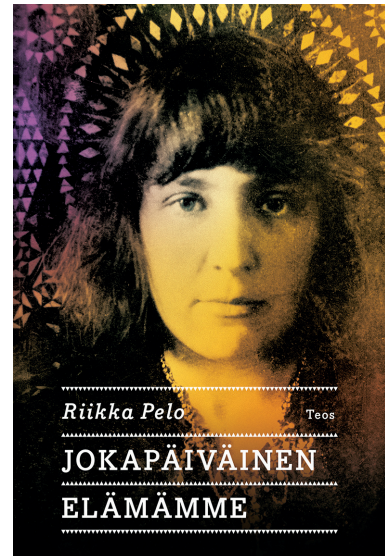
Parnasso literature magazine

## 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, English sample,  
German translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

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

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2013

#1 BESTSELLER

OVER 50,000 COPIES SOLD

Riikka Pelo

## *All that Is Alive*

*What really are our choices and possibilities –  
and what is the value of a person?*

Aura, Ellen, Alan.

The teenage girl on a perfect holiday in the sun who witnesses the cruelty of the man of her dreams. The teenager's mother who watches over her daughter in hospital when she suffers acute aphasia. The furtive asylum-seeker who lives on the benevolence of strangers.

All three have been stripped of the most important things: the right to have a voice, the right to make a decision, the right to be able to live. What kind of sentences does Ellen use to reconnect with Aura, whose custody she has lost? What language does Aura use with Alan, who is facing deportation and whom she meets on her run-away journey? And how to understand words that are too bare and raw for anyone to hear?

*All that Is Alive* is a great novel about the human capacity for compassion and connection in a way that transcends everyday reality. It searches for a new voice, a new rhythm and a community where there is no need to sacrifice anything that is alive.

*"The novel is at its richest on the level of the language, in the intense inner monologues of the characters. [...] The novel's literary strength builds on two principles: the value of all that is alive and the power that language has when conveying this truth."*  
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Heaven-Bearer* (Taivaankantaja, 2006)

Rights sold: World Spanish, Fiordo Editorials

*Our Earthly Life* (Jokapäiväinen elämämme, 2013)

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



*Kaikki elävä*

Teos Publishers, 2019, 613 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Karoliina Pertamo

## Bunny Likes

*A board book bursting with joy  
for the little ones!*

*Bunny likes* is a sweet and cheerful picture book about friendship and all the good and beautiful things in the world. Illustrated in vivid colours and featuring simple characters, the book introduces a new animal friend on every spread along with its favourite things to see and eat.

*“At the end of every spread you get a sneak peek at the next character which is revealed by turning the page. The imaginative story of this happy and colorful book inspires toddlers to think about things they like and encourages them to turn the page.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*“With its bright colours, confident imagery, anthropomorphic animal characters and highly interactive approach, this book is a prime example of today’s high-quality picture book. [...] Listing the animals’ favourite things invites the reader to imagine, even imitate sounds and explore how soft the moss is and how warm the sunshine feels.”*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

*Bunny likes* is a literary debut of the award-winning children’s book illustrator Karoliina Pertamo. It has been published in Finnish and Swedish.



*Kaninen gillar | Pupu tykkää*

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

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish original,  
English translation, French translation



Anja Portin

# Radio Popov

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

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

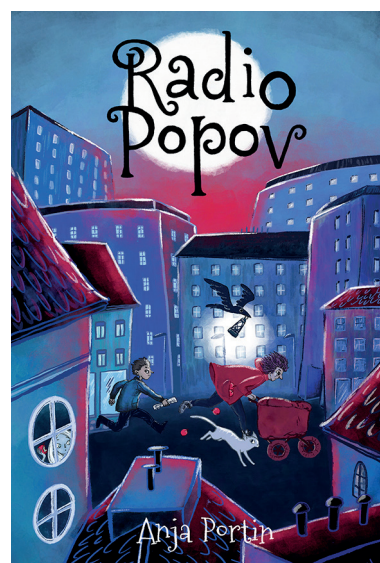
Thus begins an unforgettable adventure that changes everything, and not just for Albert. Sneak turns out the eccentric Amanda Lehtimaja, a paperwoman who is one of the Sharp Ears. At Amanda's home Alfred finds an old radio transmitter designed by a Russian physicist, A. S. Popov. He starts making a secret,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

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

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

## 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; Romania, Humanitas; Russia, Samokat; Slovakia; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost International; World Spanish, Nórdica Libros; Turkey, Can Çocuk



Anja Portin & Sanna Pelliccioni (illustrations)

# *Matias and Everything that Was Far Away*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Matias ja kaikki se mikä oli jossain kaukana*

S&S, 2021, 36 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

J. P. Pulkkinen

# *The Large Blue*

*A hardboiled crime novel from Vantaa –  
Helsinki's New Jersey.*

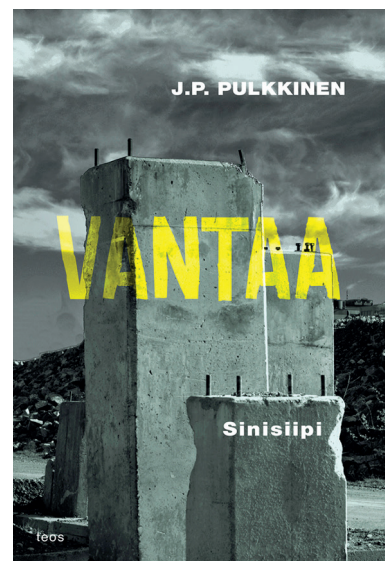
In 1971 Timo and Leo, two eleven-year-olds from Vantaa, sneak out to watch race car drivers in training. An accident happens, and it's also witnessed by a local construction tycoon named Laatunen and a policeman named Bång.

Forty years later Timo has become a police detective and Leo has inherited the management of Laatunen's construction company. The young city is now a metropolis just a stone's throw from the capital, and the building boom shows no sign of stopping.

But when rookie police detective Liina Vahtera finds the body of a young woman missing for many years at a construction site, construction of a large-scale shopping center is put on hold. And that isn't the only body that turns up: death follows the police investigation at every turn. Soon it begins to look like the city was built with reckless disregard of the cost, and the case puts boyhood friends on opposite sides of the investigation.

*The Large Blue* is the first in a new crime fiction series with the city of Vantaa as a main character – a rough-edged boomtown just north of Helsinki city limits where the web of relationships between people and the past are crucial to solving crimes.

*"You couldn't start a crime writer's career better than writing about the corridor echoing with boys speaking in 'suburban sounds'. J.P. Pulkkinen has an eye and an ear for nuance. With a few choice words he paints a whole mental landscape, quite unlike to the usual straightforward and story-driven mainstream Finnish crime fiction."* Kauppalehti Optio Magazine



*Sinisiipi | Vantaa #1*

Teos Publishers, 2018, 336 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis, German translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

German, Rote Katze Verlag

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The White Crow, Vantaa #2* (Valkoinen varis, 2019)

*The Red Cupboard, Vantaa #3* (Lapsi punaisessa komerossa, 2021)

J. P. Pulkkinen

# *The White Crow*

*The shadows of the hot summer hide web warriors and hatemongers – and a coldblooded killer.*

It's the year 2015. The world's refugee situation has worsened over four successive years. Finland is becoming divided again. It's permissible to hate.

The Ring Rail Line connecting the airport and the centre of the capital is opened, and a politician from Vantaa is lynched. The matter is being investigated by Liina Vahtera, whose colleague Timo Markkula has narrowly escaped death.

Nothing is as simple as it appears: the roots of the crimes go back into the distant past of the city and its network of people. The recession of the nineties casts its shadow over the present. Fear lurks inside the pre-fabricated buildings.

*The White Crow* is an atmospheric, skilfully constructed crime novel. It gives an accurate description of a living, changing town. J. P. Pulkkinen's previous Vantaa-based crime novel *The Large Blue* (*Sinisiipi*, 2018) was a critical success.

*"As a detective story, The Large Blue differs from basic police procedurals with a lot of boozing because of its historical dimensions. Pulkkinen has laid strong foundations for going on from here."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *The Large Blue*

*"Pulkkinen describes his Vantaa with rough tenderness. The town lives and breathes and it has depth and edginess just as a good central character ought to have. [...] The novel is likely to turn into a series and that has to be a good idea."*

Aamulehti newspaper on *The Large Blue*

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Large Blue*, Vantaa #1 (*Sinisiipi*, 2018)

*The Red Cupboard*, Vantaa #3 (*Lapsi punaisessa komerossa*, 2021)



*Valkoinen varis* | Vantaa #2

Teos Publishers, 2019, 288 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

German, Rote Katze Verlag (optioned)

J. P. Pulkkinen

# *The Red Cupboard*

*The latest work from the master of socially conscious suspense takes readers on a journey deep into the land of sad songs.*

The youngest child of a broken home, eight-year-old Helmi is allowed to come and go without much comment from her divorced parents. Helmi finds solace in the woods, listening to her older brother Otto's ancient Walkman, or in the cupboard Otto built at her mother's. From this safe, closed space, Helmi can safely monitor goings-on in the home.

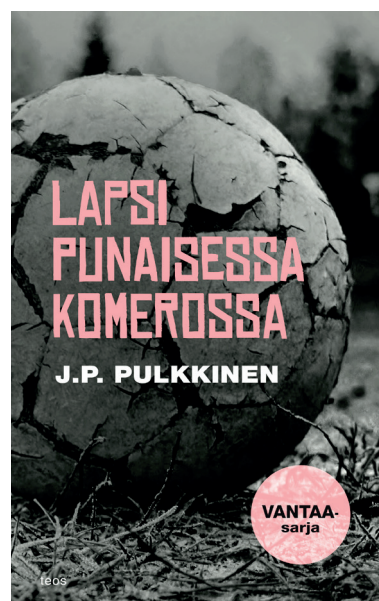
But when Helmi's mother disappears and even the police are unable to find her, the few remaining intact pieces of Helmi's life lurch out of place.

Detective Liina Vahtera, who is investigating the pieces of her own past, tracks Helmi's mother life, which is littered with alcohol, men, an outdoor Queen concert – and ultimately, not only bad luck and indifference but also genuine evil. Meanwhile, Liina's recuperating colleague Timo Markkula opens his own psychological cupboard, where he has packed away his work, his memories, and his curiosity.

J.P. Pulkkinen's *The Red Cupboard* is the third stand-alone novel in a crime series centered on the city of Vantaa – a rough-around-the-edges boomtown just north of Helsinki. The realistic milieu is combined with credible characters and crime-solving that demands awareness of interpersonal relationships and how they change over time.

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

Kauppalehti Optio magazine on *The Large Blue*



*Lapsi punaisessa komerossa* | Vantaa #3

Teos Publishers, 2021, 266 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

German, Rote Katze Verlag (optioned)

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Large Blue*, Vantaa #1 (Sinisiipi, 2018)

*The White Crow*, Vantaa #2 (Valkoinen varis, 2019)



Mikko Pyhälä

# *Venezuela from Riches to Rags: Struggle for the Rule of Law*

*A unique closeup of the Venezuelan crisis by a Finnish Ambassador  
and award-winning author.*

In 2018 Venezuela emerged on the world stage. There was a serious humanitarian crisis in the country, which had driven millions of people into exile and had been allowed to develop for a long time.

During his term in office President Hugo Chávez squandered an enormous amount of the state's wealth and put the country into debt. Alongside the autocratic system there was widespread corruption, which also involved foreign powers. Cuba became a major player.

President Nicolas Maduro drove the Venezuelan people into misery. There was an explosion of human rights abuses and drug trafficking, and Russian oligarchs gained access to the riches of the Venezuelan state. Shortages of food, electricity and medicines fuelled opposition protests, and violence escalated. The crisis was exacerbated by the ongoing power struggle between Maduro, supported by Russia and China, and Parliament speaker Juan Guaidó, backed by the United States.

*Venezuela from Riches to Rags* is a unique overview of the current situation in Venezuela and the developments that have led to it, seen from an international perspective. Its author, Mikko Pyhälä, worked in Venezuela as Finnish Ambassador from 2006 to 2013 and saw at first hand how an incompetent administration and an enormous waste of resources led to the collapse of the Venezuelan state.

*"Mikko Pyhälä's knowledge is refined into a shockingly  
important book, in which the nation's suffering can be felt."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Kun yö saapuu Venezuelaan*

Siltala Publishing, 2019, 328 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

English sample, English synopsis

Joonas Pörsti

# *The Enchantment of Propaganda*

*Why are myths and fake news attractive to millions of people – and how come are the architects of propaganda always one step ahead?*

After the end of the Cold War and the fall of the USSR, the world welcomed a new era full of hope. More and more countries became democratic, and political propaganda seemed to sink into oblivion along with the authoritarian regimes.

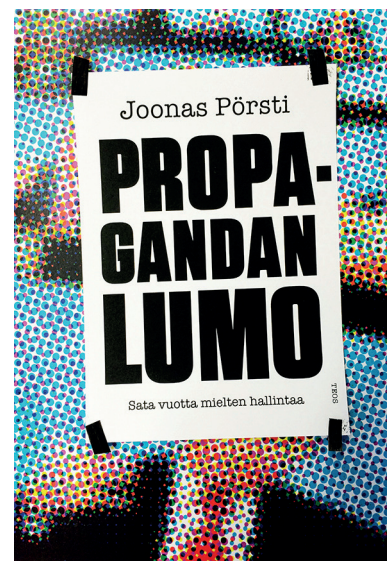
The 21st century quickly proved that nothing had changed. The Iraq War, the Ukrainian crisis, the rise of ISIS and the presidencies of Trump and Putin put propaganda back into the center of global politics. It turned out that western democracies were not immune to it either – quite the opposite.

*The Enchantment of Propaganda: One Hundred Years of Spin Doctoring* is a narrative account of propaganda in international politics from 1914 to the present day. It is a masterful combination of a factbased knowledge, skillful, yet accessible journalistic style and entertaining sharpness that give the reader a thorough understanding of how propaganda works and what kinds of dangers disinformation poses to societies.

*“Everyone who wants to understand politics, media or marketing should read this book.”* Image magazine

*“We continue to live in a world full of propaganda, described by words like post-truth, informational influence, information warfare, disinformation and trolling [...] With journalistic fluency, Joonas Pörsti explains the basic methods of spin doctoring. Such knowledge is a great antidote to propaganda: it teaches us a critical approach towards communication and important skills to defend ourselves against persuasion.”*

The jury of the State Award for Information Publication



*Propagandan lumo. Sata vuotta mielten hallintaa*

Teos Publishers, 2017, 416 pp. + 16 pp. ill.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Lithuania, Sofoklis

STATE AWARD FOR INFORMATION PUBLICATION 2018

NOMINEE FOR BONNIER'S GRAND JOURNALISM PRIZE 2017

Miikka Pörsti & Anne Vasko

# Gorilla

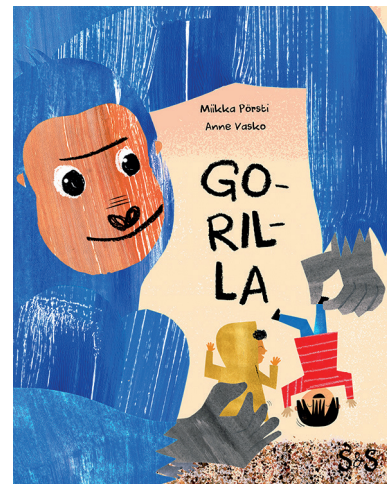
*A humorous story about feelings, friendship and not breaking apart.*

Eino has a special quirk: he easily goes to pieces.

It happens when anything saddens him. Once Eino broke down when he heard that there were children who had no guests at their birthdays. Eino can also crack when he's afraid – or laughs fit to burst.

Gorilla, who goes to the same playgroup, beats his chest and frightens Eino whenever he gets a chance – and then Eino shatters to pieces even more easily. But one day something happens that makes Gorilla himself break completely, and after that everything changes.

An original, funny and moving picture book about feelings and how to deal with them stresses the importance of friendship.



*Gorilla*

S&S, 2020, 32 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Elust enesest



Sari Rainio & Juha Rautaheimo

# *The Dead Still Speak*

*“My thoughts turn to death, to the last gasp,  
to the headshrinker, to the grim reaper’s knock.”*

It’s a Sunday night in December 2009, and Detective Ville Karila is standing in a handsome flat in downtown Helsinki examining a female corpse. Everything points to a natural death, but something about the scene unsettles Karila. When the pathologist Viola Kaario performs an autopsy on the body the following morning, Karila’s suspicions prove accurate.

Karila launches a murder investigation of increasing complexity. It gradually comes out that the dead woman had been living in thrall to a threatening Casanova who carefully covered his tracks.

Before Karila can catch the killer, a second body appears on Kaario’s steel table for examination, and carefully buried secrets see the light of day.

*The Dead Still Speak* is a shamelessly nostalgic murder mystery solidly grounded in expert, realistic depictions of police work and pathology. The novel, which roams the wintry terrain of Helsinki, begins the *Mortui non silent* series of five detective novels, in which murders are investigated by a pair bound together by an old secret: Detective Ville Karila and Medical Examiner Viola Kaario.

## MORTUI NON SILENT

*The Dead Still Speak*, Mortui non silent #1 (*Vainajat eivät vaikkene*, 2021)

*The Dead Man Who Walked*, Mortui non silent #2 (*Vaeltava vainaja*, 2022)

*No Mercy from the Dead*, Mortui non silent #3 (*Vainajat vailla armoa*, 2023)

*Reflection of the Dead*, Mortui non silent #4 (*Vainaja veden peilissä*, 2024)

*The Last Dead Man*, Mortui non silent #5 (*Viimeinen vainaja*, 2025)



*Vainajat eivät vaikkene*

*Mortui non silent #1*

Siltala Publishing, 2021, 477 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Ühinenud Ajakirjad



Sari Rainio & Juha Rautaheimo

# *Death Comes for the Dead*

*In book number two of the Mortui non silent crime novels,  
a man who died ten years ago dies a second time.*

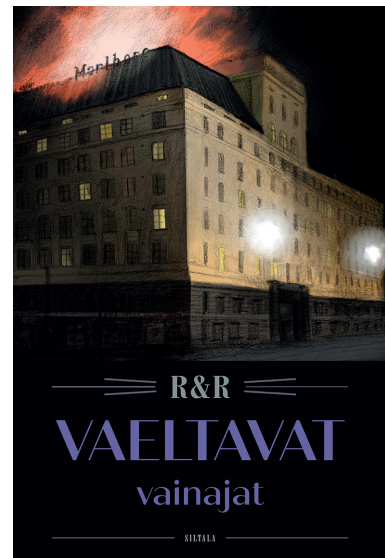
It's the middle of a March night in an old industrial area at the fringes of Helsinki. Snow drifts down on detectives Minna Perkola and Tommi Pohjalainen as they gaze at the RV parked in front of them, where a bloody corpse sprawls in the open doorway.

The first mystery flummoxes the detectives before sunrise: how is it possible that a man who died ten years before is lying here now, stabbed to death? Who in the end was this middle-aged man who lived the life of a hermit?

With the assistance of medical examiner Viola Kaario, the homicide unit led by Detective Sergeant Ville Karila launches into an investigation of what initially appears to be a straightforward murder-robbery. But gradually a decades-old tragedy is uncovered, resurrecting Karila's memories of his own youth.

The noose tightens not only around the murderer, but also a dangerous con man. Will evil finally receive its due? And will the scamming Casanova be forced to face the consequences of his actions?

*Death Comes for the Dead* is the second novel in the shamelessly nostalgic crime series *Mortui non silent*.



*Vaeltava vainaja, Mortui non silent #2*

Siltala Publishing, October 2022, c. 400 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Dead Still Speak*, *Mortui non silent* #1 (*Vainajat eivät vaikene*, 2021)

Rights sold: Estonia, Ühinenud Ajakirjad

*No Mercy from the Dead*, *Mortui non silent* #3 (*Vainajat vailla armoa*, 2023)

*Reflection of the Dead*, *Mortui non silent* #4 (*Vainaja veden peilissä*, 2024)

*The Last Dead Man*, *Mortui non silent* #5 (*Viimeinen vainaja*, 2025)

Miska Rantanen

# *Pantsdrunk: Kalsarikänni – The Finnish Path to Relaxation*

*Danes have hygge. Swedes have lagom. Finns have ‘kalsarikänni’ or pantsdrunk – drinking at home alone, in your underwear.*

When it comes to happiness rankings, Finland always scores near the top. Many Finnish phenomena set the bar high: the best education system in the world, gender equality, a flourishing welfare state, sisu or bull-headed pluck, and, of course, Darude’s ‘Sandstorm’.

Behind all these accomplishments lies a Finnish ability to stay calm, healthy and content in a riptide of endless tasks and temptations or simply when faced with work-related stress. The ability results from the practice of the ‘kalsarikänni’, pantsdrunk method.

Pantsdrunk is a path to solitary relaxation, recovery and self-empowerment to help you face your future challenges. The procedure is as follows:

**“Peel off your work uniform down to your underwear. Place savoury or sweet nibbles within reach, by bed or sofa, alongside remote control and devices to access social media. Open a bottle or can of alcoholic beverage.**

**The practice towards inner strength, higher quality of life and peace of mind has begun.”**

This book is your guide on the path to find wellness, bliss, and peace of mind the Finnish way, following the pantsdrunk method. By completing each concrete step and fully embracing the philosophy you can relieve anxiety, fatigue and pain. The method will lead you to live a healthier, more energising and relaxing life – wherever, whenever.



*Kalsarikänni – suomalainen opas  
hyvään elämään*

S&S, 2018, 184 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Paseka; World English, HarperCollins (UK, Vintage); Estonia, Post Factum | Eesti Meedia; Germany, Goldmann; Italy, Ad est dell’equatore; Korea, Dasan Books; Netherlands (World Dutch), Uitgeverij Q; Poland, Helion; Portuguese (Brazil), Letramento; Russia, Alpina; Spain (World Spanish), Zenith | Grupo Planeta; Sweden, Lind & co.; Vietnam, Van Lang

Marisha Rasi-Koskinen

# *The Map of Going Astray*

*“There are so many ways things can go wrong that one of them has to be right.”*

Julia is going on a trip. Her father and mother call it a vacation, but there's something odd about the fact that they always have to sneak out and be on their way before the sun rises and then drive from day to day with almost no stops. As it turns out, there's no going home from these excursions.

Meanwhile, Jan is more interested in numbers and maps than he is in people. He is sent to camp in Lapland to make friends, but a wilderness hike there with his camp-mates turns into a struggle to stay alive.

Julia's and Jan's stories are woven together by a strand of mystery that leads the reader through chronologies and shifting perspectives, calling the logic of the world into question. Something seems to be drawing the book's wandering protagonists toward each other and an enigmatic house Julia catches glimpses of in her dreams.

*The Map of Going Astray* is a story about lost young people whose lives have been derailed from a sense of belonging and ordinariness. In order to survive, they must make choices between remembering and forgetting, and the focal point becomes time and its relentless advance.

*“Rasi-Koskinen injects real momentum into her stories. [...] The plot is a rip-roaring ride without any need for thriller or crime- novel clichés. [...] The characters and story are powerfully drawn against an ethereal background.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

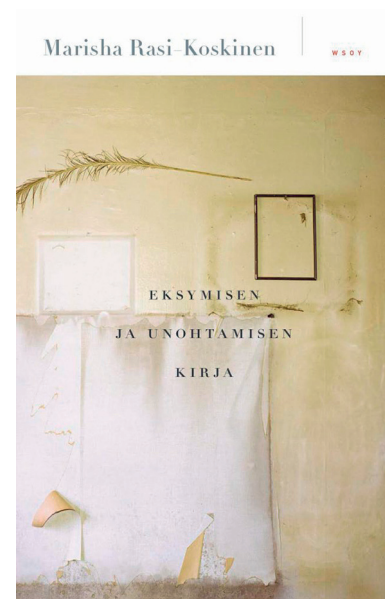
*Katariina* (Katariina, 2011)

*Lies* (Valheet, 2013)

*A Pink Sea* (Vaaleanpunainen meri, 2014)

*REC* (REC, 2020)

Rights sold: Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; World French, Payot & Rivages



*Eksymisen ja unohtamisen kirja*

WSOY, 2017, 253 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Spanish, Rinoceronte

Marisha Rasi-Koskinen

## REC

*A big novel about friendship and love,  
power and boundlessness.*

Lucas A is just an ordinary boy with an ordinary life until he becomes special. It happens when everything begins for the first time, and everything begins when he meets Cole.

Many beginnings and endings later, Lucas travels for the first time to the city where his story began. Someone is dead, someone has vanished. Instead of answers, Lucas finds new questions, and his story connects with other stories.

REC, awarded the Rubeberg Prize and Torch-Bearer Prize, grows to be a story of much more than a friendship of two boys. In the novel, reality and stories constantly take on new angles in new hands. Truth keeps on escaping despite the attempts to capture it. In a world of stories, can there really be truth to a story?

*“REC is one of the most impressive novels this year, and it reaches such levels that can seldom be touched with words. [...] The result is like the cover’s image of camera obscura: everything is reflected and repeated in reverse. [...] Every page is filled with meaning, I wouldn’t leave out any one of them.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*“The novel is so restless and mysterious that it feels not at all unlikely that the pages would have a totally different story written on them the second time you read it. REC makes the world a little more magical place to live in.”*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

### ALSO AVAILABLE

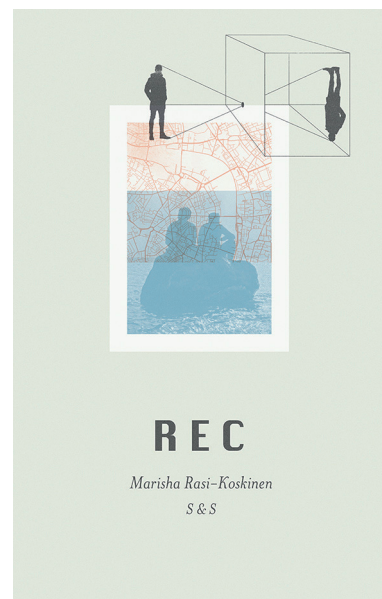
Katariina (Katariina, 2011)

Lies (Valheet, 2013)

A Pink Sea (Vaaleanpunainen meri, 2014)

The Map of Going Astray (Eksymisen ja unohtamisen kirja, 2017)

Rights sold: Galego, Meettok; Spanish, Meettok



REC

S & S, 2020, 648 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard;  
World French, Payot & Rivages

RUNEBERG PRIZE 2021

TORCH-BEARER PRIZE 2020



Pauliina Rauhala

# Heavensong

*A story about moderate men, moderate women,  
love and religion.*

A young religious couple, Vilja and Aleks, dream of a brood of children – of a five-litre porridge pot and 70 small toes running around the house.

Nine years and four children later Vilja watches her 9-year-old son dance around with his blond curls flowing and tries to recall the moment when rhythm escaped her body.

Then finally, the day comes when Aleks and Vilja sit hand-in-hand at the maternity ward and everything changes for good.

*Heavensong* is a love story that with its tangible details allows the reader to see the life of the religious community from inside. Its poetic language, which elevates the story to a new level, is deepened by the big themes: what is the ethical ground of parenthood, what are the good and bad sides of a religious community and how can you live with all the myths and expectations surrounding motherhood?

The novel was awarded the Christian Book Prize and Gummerus' Kaarle Prize and it was chosen by literature bloggers as the best book of Finnish fiction in 2013. With 67,000 sold copies so far, it holds the distinction of being the publisher's best-selling debut novel.

*"Rauhala's novel is polyphonic. [...] It is not just a gripping story about a break-down 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. [...] Rauhala is especially skillful in creating atmosphere and feeling."*

Savon Sanomat newspaper



*Taivaslaulu*

Gummerus, 2013, 284 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
French sample, German sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Hungary,  
Luther; Latvia, SIA

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Harvest* (Synninkantajat, 2018)

Pauliina Rauhala

## Harvest

*What kind of shadows cast the people  
who are trying to help?*

Rural Western Finland in the end of the 1970s. In a village by a river people live on the edge of time and eternity – the second coming of Jesus is near.

In the daytime Taisto chats to birds and flowers in his garden, but at night he is building a tight, religious ark for those who are willing to confess their sins and repent.

Aliisa still remembers a different way of practising her faith and dares to question spiritual Care Assemblies. Her daughter Auroora is battling with love that transgresses boundaries.

Aaron, a ten-year-old, prays devotedly so that none of his relatives ends up in hell. He writes secrets in The Notebook of Important Things and is building an ark of his own.

In *Harvest* the story of a family living in an introverted religious community deepens into a portrayal of spiritual control and longing for love. The bestselling novel was nominated for the Finlandia Prize, Botnia Prize and the Christian Book of the Year Prize.

*“The novel is especially accomplished in the way it uses language and the brave way it approaches its themes. The shifting narrators and blog texts enhance the world of the novel and provide a fitting contrast to Vilja’s first-person narration. [...] Heavensong is unsettling and courageous. It’s a lyrical call for help, a story of survival and love.”* Turun Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Heavensong* (Taivaslaulu, 2013)

Rights sold: Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; Hungary, Luther; Latvia, SIA J. L. V.



*Synninkantajat*

Gummerus, 2018, 367 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE BOTNIA PRIZE

BESTSELLER #3

Iida Rauma

# *The Book of Disappearances*

*An arresting novel about those who leave without warning.*

Dad has disappeared without explanation, and Mom is more interested in the murders that took place during the civil war than her child. The daughter's new life in a new city does not mark a fresh start, nor does the past come to an end. She paints pictures, bathes old women, neglects her relationship, and feels drawn to a caregiving colleague, a Kosovar. Her head is spinning; she is shivering and horny.

Some seek release in pills; others by leaving. And then there are those who stay behind to watch and wait despite realizing waiting is vain.

*The Book of Disappearances* is an unconventional and powerful novel about a tenuous grip on reality, the city of Turku in the autumn, everyday violence, caring and avoiding responsibility. Its nuanced language and dense atmosphere take us on a journey to uncharted territory, to those blank places on the map.

*"Our hearts are on the verge of bursting, as if this were a romance or brutal realism. Strangely, The Book of Disappearances appears to belong to both categories. I can't help but like it, and I suppose it's for this very reason. And for its solid technique in every sentence. This rookie doesn't stumble."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Iida Rauma's debut novel The Book of Disappearances is everything one could hope for from a debut novel, or any novel for that matter. It is a controlled whole, the writing is good, and its characters have cracks that kindle sparks and tensions within the story."*

Satakunnan Kansa newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*On Sex and Mathematics* (Seksistä ja matematiikasta, 2015)

*Destruction* (Hävitys, 2022)

Rights sold: Sweden, Rámus



*Katoamisten kirja*

Gummerus, 2011, 377 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERARY PRIZE 2011

Iida Rauma

# *On Sex and Mathematics*

*A novel about mathematics, believing in fairy tales,  
a warming planet, and our lot as humans in this world.*

Erika, a Finnish mathematician who has settled in Berlin, has escaped darkness, irrationality, dampness, and a revolting smell into her internal world and logical thinking. Then the worst happens, the world roils, and Erika must return to her homeland.

Around the same time, a young man named Tuovi who suffers agony over the state of the environment seeks love to calm his fears, while Erika's childhood friend Annukka has made the leap from mathematics to photography. When an oil tanker spills in the Gulf of Finland, unexpected connections are formed.

*On Sex and Mathematics* is a dazzling novel about phantoms and humans, sleep paralysis and arrhythmia and irreparable mistakes. Rationality wrenches toward destruction, love does not conquer all, and the person one least wants to see awaits in the stairwell.

*"On Sex and Mathematics is one of this autumn's finest reads."*  
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"The book is a singular blend of realism, mysticism, and suspense. Rauma's language is to be savored, and she smoothly controls the structure of the text."*  
Apu magazine

*"The work is rife with mordant humor [...] The world Rauma creates is rich, as are the characters who populate it."*  
Turun Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Book of Disappearances* (Katoamisen kirja, 2011)

*Destruction* (Hävitys, 2022)

Rights sold: Sweden, Rámus



*Seksistä ja matematiikasta*

Gummerus, 2015, 474 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

HELMET LITERATURE PRIZE 2015

TORCHBEARER PRIZE 2015

KALEVI JÄNTTI PRIZE 2016

NOMINEE FOR THE TOISINKOINEN PRIZE 2015

NOMINEE FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2016



Iida Rauma

## *Destruction*

*A case study of a person who was nearly destroyed, a city destroyed time and time again, and a planet that is being destroyed right now.*

While jogging at night, A sees a familiar figure at the city's desolate fringes and realizes nothing ends, nothing is over. So begins a breathless, desperate attempt to hunt down and escape the past across the ravaged city of Turku, into the water-damaged classrooms of the 1990s and a darkness for which there are no words but still must be expressed.

*Destruction* asks how one can write about oneself if one's own self has been shattered. How can we document the horrors of one's childhood in a culture where adults hate children and want to erase the traces of past wrongs?

Iida Rauma's third novel succeeds at the impossible. The furious urge to remember, a love for the marvelous history of a burned and demolished city as well as pain that strikes at the core are woven into a stunning tableau of violence, its rings spreading out to the ends of the earth.

*Destruction* demonstrates the ability of literature to tell the truth when all other ways of speaking have been denied or condemned as lunacy.

*"The depiction of bullying is this novel's cold, hard core. The 200-page passage can be considered a literary masterpiece and utterly unique."*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

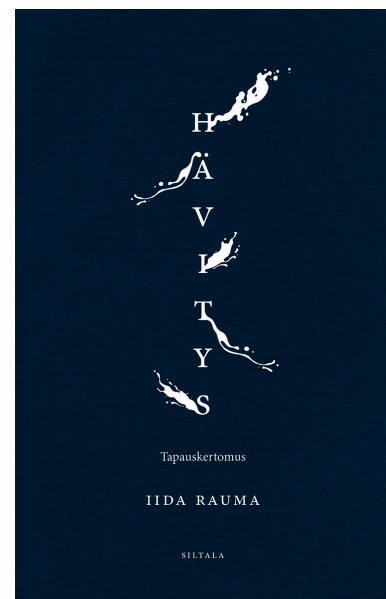
*"Destruction is first and foremost an artistic endeavor, a novel in complete control of its idiom, and as such a stunning tour de force. [...] Destruction alternates between varying narrative techniques and registers, maintaining its intensity all the while, and complements fiction with facts, facts with a vivid experientiality."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Book of Disappearances* (Katoamisen kirja, 2011)

*On Sex and Mathematics* (Seksistä ja matematiikasta, 2015)



*Hävitys*

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 400 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis, German sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Sweden, Rámus

#1 BESTSELLER

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2022

NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2023

NOMINEE FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2023

Matias Riikonen

# Matara

*When boys play wargames,  
everything happens here and now.*

With the cruel nations of yore prowling the borders of the Republic of Matara, neither birthright nor wealth excuse one from the military drills that ensure the realm's safety.

Under the guidance of his older brother, a young boy trains to be a scout. While spying, the pair come upon an enemy camp: war is at hand.

In the evening, they return to the academy to rest.

*Matara* is the story of boys who spend their summers building realms of their own. Senators scheme in togas made of sheets, mannequins make for wives, and circus entertainments are devised to thrill the charcoal-whiskered rabble. A blow from a wooden sword means a death from which there is no return. And foreign people are treated the way they generally are—pitilessly.

Matias Riikonen's fourth novel takes children seriously in a way few other works have. In Riikonen's hands, the bird-song-filled woods of early summer and the boys' violence and tenderness meld into superb, startling literature. At times one forgets one is reading a portrayal of boys at play; at others, one fears one is reading a description of reality.

*Matara* has been awarded the Torch-bearer Prize, it was a nominee for Finland's biggest literary award Finlandia and is currently a nominee for the Runeberg Prize.

*"Matias Riikonen writes about the boys' wargames as if they were the most important thing in the world. The result is a magnificent work, among the best contemporary Finnish prose."*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Night Porter's Rounds* (Iltavahtimestarin kierrokset, 2019)



*Matara*

Teos Publishers, 2021, 310 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

Denmark, Jensen & Dalgaard; World  
French, Bourgois; German, Karl Rauch  
Verlag; Hungary, Metropolis Media

TORCH-BEARER PRIZE 2021

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2021

NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2022

Mikko Rimminen

## *Park Life*

*A snapshot from the other side of life,  
told with a big heart and great empathy.*

The one-day story starts when Marshall bumps into Henninen and Pasty, who are still recovering from the excesses of the previous night. They decide to go back to Marshall's flat to look for their missing dice, but can't find it anywhere. Each of them has their own way of recovering from the shock.

Decisive that it's going to be a wonderful day nonetheless the three companions set off. They feel a great warmth towards the world and would only hope for a little love in return. The world, however, seems deaf to their wishes and they soon learn the harshness of life in encounters with the police, teenagers, ticket inspectors on the tram and a gang of bikers.

Marshall, Henninen and Pasty have been condemned to wander the streets of Kallio, an old working-class neighbourhood in Helsinki, and to be thankful that at least they are not entirely alone.

In *Park Life* Mikko Rimminen has painted an epic tale of an age in which there's no taking a break from your own life. The novel explores the whole spectrum of life—including the joys and sorrows of throwing dice.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Block* (Pölkky, 2007)

*Red Nose Day* (Nenäpäivä, 2010)

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

*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



*Pussikaljaromaani*

Teos Publishers, 2004, 330 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
German translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech Republic, Kniha Zlin; Estonia, EKSA;  
Georgia, Merebashvilitykesson; Germany,  
Kiepenheuer & Witsch; Hungary, Polar;  
Latvia, Dienas Grāmata; Netherlands,  
De Arbeiderspers; Russia, Text Publishers;  
Sweden, Alfabeta

Mikko Rimminen

## *The Block*

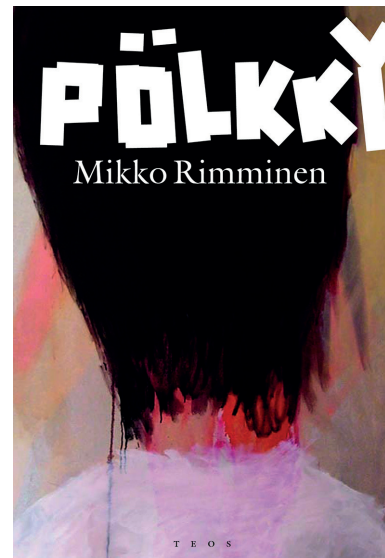
*A Baroque feast of a novel,  
artlessly and stubbornly brilliant.*

A man steps off a train at the Helsinki Railway Station at night. This starts a tracking operation in which the narrator, reader and everyone else have to untangle what is happening in the mind and heart of the protagonist.

These are the known facts: it's the beginning of winter, the taxi drive to the Kaisaniemi park won't take long, and there's a quest waiting in the park. Also, there's a promise about a story and a possible reveal of the main character's secrets – the narrator is consigned to these promises. And he does his utmost, because the often cowardly and evidently unlucky protagonist's negligence forces the diligent narrator to focus his eyes elsewhere.

The multifaceted turn of events should not be given away by any means, but let us mention the skating rink, questions about freezing it and an unfortunate, sudden eruption of a geological cataclysm in the middle of the rink. In addition, we meet with a group of people who, for a multitude of reasons, enjoy staying in the park. The most important of them is Anni, whose comeliness should be discernible to everyone.

With the help of the aforementioned elements, the story inescapably heads towards a breathtaking finale that is of course essential for any story.



*Pölkky*

Teos Publishers, 2007, 384 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Red Nose Day* (*Nenäpäivä*, 2010)

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

*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

See also backlist



# Red Nose Day

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2010

#1 BESTSELLER

Mikko Rimminen

## Tag

*A picaresque about unusual chains of events, petty criminal affairs and dangerous errors.*

*Tag* is a story about two brothers who love one another as brothers do: in words and knuckles. Under the yoke of their mother, who's mixing with the underworld, they're trying to work as men with a van, but fate is setting them traps into which they can't stop falling.

After a particularly unfortunate stretch of house removals, the brothers end up on a completely different commission, albeit in equally intoxicated state as before. A weathered Transit is filling up with disabled people and young femme fatales.

Outside the windows of the wizened minibus spread Helsinki and Uusimaa county, the paltry setting to the story. And there is always a permanent threat or headache in the tyre repository, which the late father's debts left in the possession of professional criminals.

*"Once more Rimminen weaves an embodiment of continuous resistance with his breathtaking skill of subtly twisting words: 'And that you mustn't bollix this up, someone's very very angry. And that and that.' [...] Tag is a paean for forgiveness, tolerance and general humanity."* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Park Life* (Pussikaljaromaani, 2004)

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

*The Block* (Pölkky, 2007)

*Red Nose Day* (Nenäpäivä, 2010)

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

*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



### Hippa

Teos Publishers, 2013, 276 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

English sample, Finnish original, German translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Germany, dtv

Mikko Rimminen

# *The Most Natural Thing in the World*

*And at the same time somewhere else or  
at a different time in the same place or – well.*

Ernst lives in Berlin and goes to work every day, does things every day, and 'is' every day. What he actually does is a bit unclear, but one stormy morning as he shuffles to work, things start to snowball, at least a little.

Ernst is led to a basement laboratory where he is instructed to guard a mysterious 'cube'. At the same time somewhere else, or at a different time in the same place, or somewhere in some combination of the two, Swedish Sister of Mercy Elsa Brändström is caring for prisoners of war in Siberia.

Other things happen, too.

Wait a minute. Something doesn't add up, as it's said in novels. Who's sabotaging the text, and who's in charge? And what does the cube have to do with all of this?

*"The language in The Most Natural Thing in the World makes experiments in a way rarely seen in Finnish literature. The one thing that emerges is the joy of imagination and writing."*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

*"There is 'something' so good in the novel and in Rimminen's writing, that it is impossible to put it in words."*

Savon Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Park Life* (Pussikaljaromaani, 2004)

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

*The Block* (Pölkky, 2007)

*Red Nose Day* (Nenäpäivä, 2010)

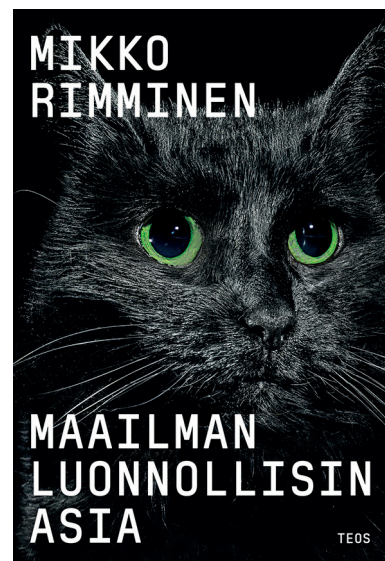
Rights sold: Denmark, Turbine; France, Actes Sud; Germany, dtv; Hungary, Polar; Italy, Atmosphere Libri; Latvia, Jumava; Norway, Solum; Russia, Text Publishers; South Korea, Yidab Publishing

*The Tag* (Hippa, 2013)

Rights sold: Germany, dtv

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

Rights sold: Hungary, Polar



*MaaIlman luonnollisin asia*

Teos Publishers, 2017, 394 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Mikko Rimminen

## *If It Looks Like It*

*A thoroughly sad depiction of a sad human being whose loss, buried in his past, compels him to remain silent.*

Acquaintances call Mr Lyysälä simply Lyy though he doesn't really know many people. The gentleman is getting old quietly and doesn't expect much from life. He goes on drives, lives in a block of flats in Helsinki and keeps his neighbours at an arm's length. Only one of them, a young boy, appears to have formed an attachment to Lyy.

When the neighbours get together to celebrate the solar eclipse, the party goes horribly wrong. The kangaroo court of the property management company has no doubt about the identity of the guilty party.

The chronically taciturn Lyy does nothing to help himself. Every new attempt at interaction shrivels and becomes part of a series of damaging collisions which drive him into an even worse quandary. People who become upset along the way include the property manager, the caretaker's wife and the thoroughly nasty Tietäväinen, who regards Lyy as nothing but a criminal.

Blame and guilt and the burden of carrying them are the ingredients which Rimminen mixes to create a gentle and beautiful treat.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Park Life* (*Pussikaljaromaani*, 2004)

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

*The Block* (*Pölkky*, 2007)

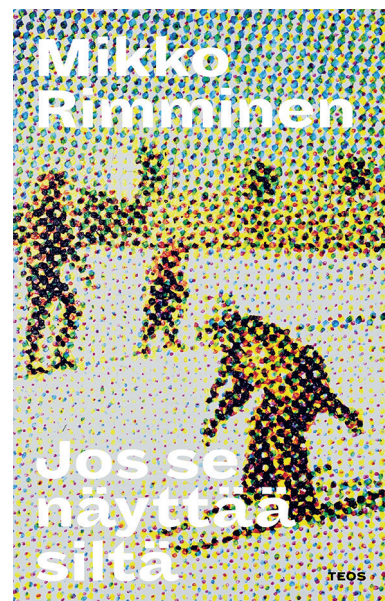
*Red Nose Day* (*Nenäpäivä*, 2010)

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

*The Tag* (*Hippa*, 2013)

Rights sold: Germany, dtv

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



*Jos se näyttää siltä*

Teos Publishers, 2019, 235 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Hungary, Polar

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE



Marcus Rosenlund

# *The Weather that Changed the World*

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

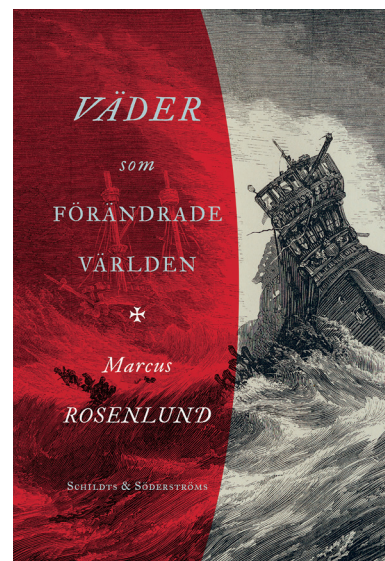
And how did the divine winds that sank Kublai Khan’s fleet reappear in the Second World War? To conquer the world you need more than the back-up of the world’s strongest army or the biggest financial power: you need to rule the weather. None of the past empires have been able to do that – on the contrary,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

STATE AWARD FOR INFORMATION PUBLICATION 2019

SOCIETY OF SWEDISH LITERATURE IN FINLAND AWARD 2019

Marcus Rosenlund

# *Towards the Stars*

*A guide to the galaxy for us humans  
who obey the laws of the cosmos.*

“A central element in this story, too, is the ancient struggle between two powerful forces: the material universe that strives to expand and the gravity that does its best to take it down a notch or two. And the sparks that fly when the two giants come together.”

In science journalist Marcus Rosenlund’s new book the reader is guided through the galaxy from the Big Bang, whose echo is still heard today, to our own time and on to an uncertain future. At the heart of the book is the human striving outward, upward and onward, and wherever it may lead us.

Marcus Rosenlund’s writing is packed with exciting facts and details. Here Einstein’s theory of relativity is explained with the same obvious simplicity as the way in which space rockets work. Most of all, however, the book tells the story of humans as part of the galaxy. It’s a story about the importance of lighting candles instead of cursing the dark.

*“Rosenlund never forgets the reader, he writes personally, with moderate humor and affection for word plays.”*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Weather that Changed the World* (Väder som förändrade världen, 2020)

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



*Mot stjärnorna.*

*Strövtåg i universum*

Schildts & Söderströms, October 2020,  
255 pp. + 16 pp. illustrations

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English synopsis,  
English sample

Hannamari Ruohonen

# *My Lost Mother*

*A realistic story about a small child's feelings when an important person has gone away.*

Touching, tender and filled with warm colour, *My Lost Mother* describes the bafflement, grief and anger that result when mum is suddenly no longer where she ought to be. But fortunately there is dad, who hugs and comforts.

This first picture-book by the illustrator Hannamari Ruohonen is a convincing glimpse into a child's world. The colourful and energetic book explores a difficult subject with a delicate but confident touch.

“One day, when I was sitting on the steps, I met Teddy. Teddy looked cross; his woollen suit was too tight and gave him an itchy bottom, and his breath smelled. He showed me his terrible teeth and teased me about the fact that my mum had gone away.

But we still became friends. It was fun to play with him and mess things up and scatter all mum's things this way and that. Because if mum didn't want to be with me, then I didn't want to be with mum any more!”



## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites* (Kaisan ja Oskarin lempikirja, 2018)

*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Outings* (Kaisan ja Oskarin retkikirja, 2019)



*Kadonnut äitini*

S&S, 2017, 30 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation



Hannamari Ruohonen

# *Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites*

*A book of all the best things  
to make you feel happy!*

*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites* contains all the things the siblings love the very most: the best, the most exciting and the tastiest. Things that make them happy include the swing, making a cabin and cleaning the house with all the family – as well as the soft, furry cat, and baking, and walking in the forest, and jigsaws, and...

This picture book of good cheer brings warmth to its account of a brother and sister and their everyday joys. The gentle colour pencil drawings complement the intimate story, which breathes the atmosphere of old-fashioned children's books.

“The very best of our favourite things is the dressing-up box. There are long skirts, which Oskar wears. The more skirts, the more impressive the princess.

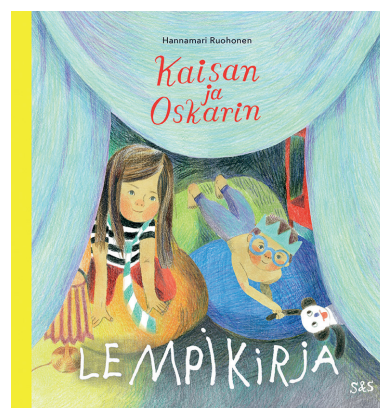
The box also contains grandpa's old tie, which makes a silk tail for the cat. And grandma's old false teeth. You can put them in your mouth when you want to look really awful.”

*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites* (2018), about a pair of siblings' best-loved things, was followed by *Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Outings* in 2019.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*My Lost Mother* (Kadonnut äitini, 2017)

*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Outings* (Kaisan ja Oskarin retkikirja, 2019)



*Kaisan ja Oskarin lempikirja*

S&S, 2018, 30 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Hannamari Ruohonen

# *Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Outings*

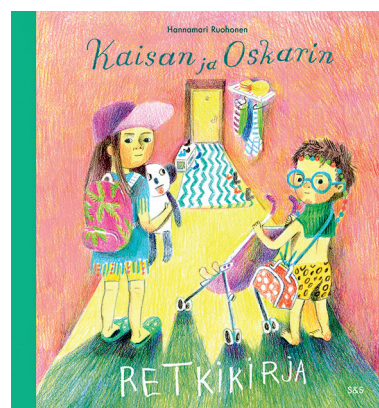
*Let's go on an adventure. And maybe get lost,  
but only a tiny bit!*

Kaisa and Oskar think that outings are one of the best things in the world. You can go on an outing almost anywhere and at any time; you just need a little bit of imagination. You can go on an outing to the playground of the day nursery when its gate is closed, or into the grassy jungle surrounding a ditch, or you can go on a ghost hunt with torches into the cellar, or you can just sit with Granny on a park bench to watch people. Sometimes you can take yourself to a neighbour's front door and get invited in.

*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Outings* tells about the everyday pleasures of the siblings. The first book about them, *Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites*, came out in 2018.

*"The book, illustrated with coloured pencils, contains small funny observations which children can easily identify with, such as Kaisa licking all the butter off hot bread rolls before it can melt. Different everyday favourite things follow each other and the atmosphere is pretty idyllic."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on  
*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites*



*Kaisan ja Oskarin retkikirja*

S&S, 2019, 32 pp.

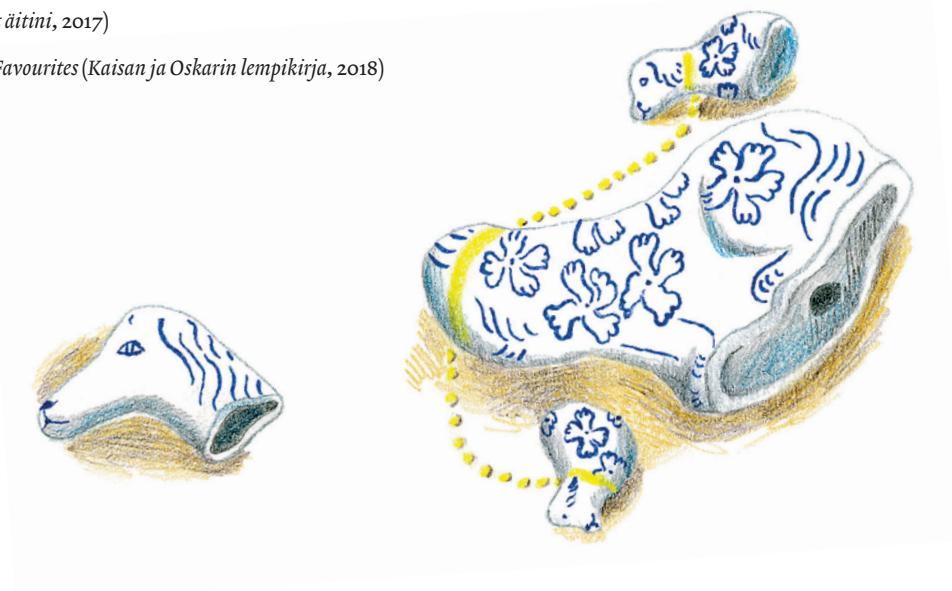
## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*My Lost Mother* (Kadonnut äitini, 2017)

*Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites* (Kaisan ja Oskarin lempikirja, 2018)



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 60,000 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;  
Latvia, Jumava; Lithuania, Alma Littera;  
Norway, Pax; Sweden, Bakhåll

BOTNIA PRIZE 2017

BLOGISTAN FINLANDIA 2016

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK PRIZE

Minna Rytisalo

## *Mrs C.*

*“Maybe that’s what a marriage is, Minna thought, quickly put together in two words but with a slow growth.”*

At the bottom of a hillside stands a grey house with eight bedrooms, six children, a schoolmaster and his wife. Inside the wife a storm is ravaging trees, unable to calm down. In her kitchen the cakes come out either burnt to a crisp or uncooked, and what satisfies others is not enough for her. Inside her there’s a force looking for a way out, growing in size and wreaking havoc, questioning the laws of nature and at times pulling her deep into melancholy.

*Mrs C.* is a story of a marriage. The daughter of a maid and a cotton merchant marries her teacher and ends up pregnant, time and again. And she becomes a writer everyone knows a hundred years later: Minna Canth, the first notable female author, journalist, entrepreneur, prominent figure in society. A role model, a fighter, an effigy.

*Mrs C.* is a powerful and subtle novel, a love story and a story about friendship. Even in a different century the question remains the same: where do you draw your boundaries?

*Mrs C.* is Minna Rytisalo’s second novel. It rose straight to the bestseller list when it came out, and it has been nominated for the Lapland Literature Prize, the Torch-bearer Prize and for Bonnier’s Grand Journalism Prize as Book of the Year.



*Rouva C.*

Gummerus, 2018, 367 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, long English sample

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Lempi* (*Lempi*, 2016)

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

BESTSELLER #2

NOMINEE FOR THE LAPLAND LITERATURE PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE TORCH-BEARER PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR BONNIER'S GRAND JOURNALISM PRIZE 2019

Antti Rönkä

# Off the Ground

*“When you run, both your feet should be off the ground between the strides.”*

A new town, new friends, a fresh start. Aaro is about to start his university studies. 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 to other people.

He can either shut the doors to the world and escape, or face his fears head on and reveal his true vulnerable self, warts and all.

*Off the Ground* is Antti Rönkä's strong literary debut. The novel describes the experience of shame with cutting precision, and shows how another person's acceptance and recognition can make the weight easier to bear.

*“Off the Ground by the Finnish author Antti Rönkä is striking for both the sharpness of its psychological analysis and its cruelty. It is like a dissection of a scalpel, and a one that hurts [...] there is something in this masochist 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.”*

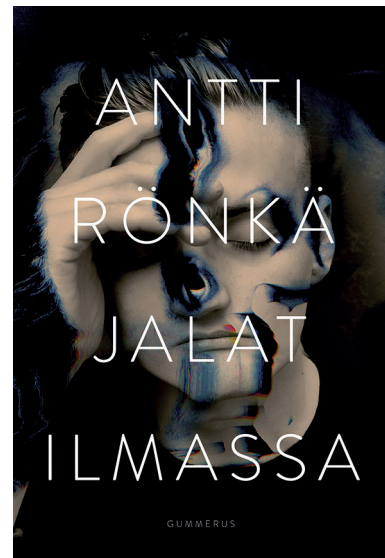
Le Monde (France)

*“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

*“As literary fiction, Off the Ground is a strong, psychologically credible description of the scars that serious school-bullying leaves. [...] It is a riveting coming-of-age story and ambitious literature.”*

Maaseudun tulevaisuus newspaper



*Jalat ilmassa*

Gummerus, 2019, 224 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

France, Payot & Rivages

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK PRIZE 2020

LOONGLISTED FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2020



Antti Rönkä

## Nocturno 09:07

*An unsparingly frank novel about adolescent struggles with shame.*

The digital numbers on the clock radio read 09:07. It's a beautiful summer night, but Antti is sure life as he knows it has just come to an end. He has not been able to resist the temptation: he has just masturbated. How can he ever eat at the same table as his parents again? He is polluted, and he must confess to his parents what sort of child they have.

Antti's youth is stamped by a sexual shame that takes on various forms of self-hatred. Even so, he cannot control the sexual urges his age-mates consider completely natural.

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.

Antti Rönkä became the voice of his generation with his debut novel *Off the Ground*. In his second novel, he lays himself bare while deftly exploring sexual shame.

*"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*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Off the Ground* (Jalat ilmaassa, 2019)

Rights sold: France, Payot & Rivages



*Nocturno 21:07*

Gummerus, 2021, 192 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Ossi Saarinen

# *Portraits of Nature – Learn to Photograph Animals*

*Advice from a self-taught wildlife photographer on taking brilliant pictures of urban and forest wildlife.*

How to get close enough to wild animals? What should you wear on a photography expedition? What is important in the composition and cropping of animal images? And can you get an animal to take part in the operation?

*Portraits of Nature* is a unique work with illustrations of wild animals and advice on photographing them. It describes the lives and behaviour of the most common animals in cities and in woods: squirrels, yellow-necked mice, different birds, foxes and larger animals such as elks and bears. Above all, it demonstrates in an easily understood way, how any one of us can learn to take attractive animal photos.

Ossi Saarinen is a self-taught wildlife photographer, who in his book reveals to the reader his own mistakes, successes and tips. The inspiring book is for photographers and also for anyone interested in natural life.



*Luontokuvia. Opi kuvaamaan eläimiä*

Gummerus, 2019, 128 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

### “HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH SQUIRRELS

- ✧ Use plain nuts or sunflower seeds to draw squirrels closer. Do not overfeed them. Offer only food that is similar to what they eat in the wild.
- ✧ Get the squirrel to look towards the camera by whistling or clicking your tongue.
- ✧ Take some time to learn how close the squirrel will let you come before scampering off. Avoid sudden movements and concentrate on making your motions as slow as possible.
- ✧ It's easiest to photograph squirrels when they stop to eat.”

Anni Saastamoinen

# *The Sensible Life of Sirkka*

*A touching story about the rather small dislocations of a rather ordinary life.*

Sirkka is a supporting character's name. The main character always has a pretty name like Aurora, something lovely and lyrical and distinctive. Sirkka is just Sirkka—brisk, dull, and ordinary. Sirkka is the sausage gravy of names. If Sirkka were an animal, she'd be a badger, a solitary lump of black and tan hissing her way along her own narrow path.

Sirkka is the neighbour no one notices, the woman who puts a just-so-you-know note on the trash bins that says "no plastic bags in the compost". Sirkka is the bland, conscientious woman at work whose personal life is entirely unknown to her coworkers.

Even Sirkka herself thinks she's perfectly ordinary. It's true that her relationship with her boyfriend ended because of one late tram, and perhaps she doesn't live up to all of the expectations of her sparkling friend Natalia or her bohemian mother, but at least she knows what she wants.

Or does she?

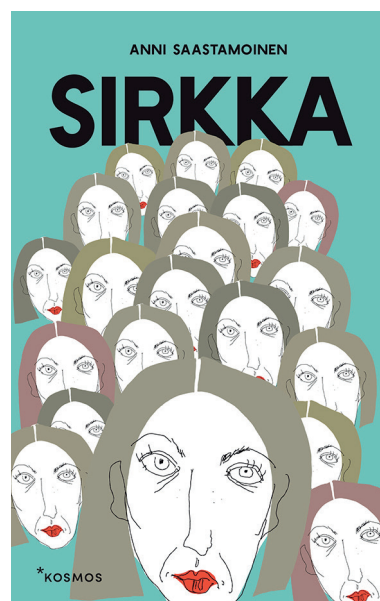
Anni Saastamoinen's debut novel *The Sensible Life of Sirkka* is a warmly humorous and touchingly genuine story about being different, about loneliness, about how happiness and contentment can sometimes be found very near at hand. It was named a Storytel audio book of the year and a Bookbeat newcomer of the year, and has garnered glowing reviews.

*"In the end the tight, almost novella-length Sirkka grows larger than its page count would suggest. It is a disarmingly wise story of how contentment, rather than grand goals, may be the most radical thing you can achieve in today's world."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*But Then Again* (Ja mutta että sitten, 2022)



*Sirkka*

Kosmos 2019, 188 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

AUDIOBOOK OF THE YEAR 2019

Anni Saastamoinen

## *But Then Again*

*Is love like salt or coffee filters which are always available – until they aren't?*

Luigi's marriage has ended, and he's moved to a small studio in order to find himself.

Laila, whose friend has died, lives on the opposite side of town. Everyone else seems to be able to carry on with their lives, but she 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.

I can't separate my feelings from one another. They wriggle across me and into me, like weeds, couch grass that's wormed its way into the clayey soil, deviously breeding from broken bits of roots. As soon as you think you've dealt with anything, there's more. More emotion grown out of a tiny, forgotten sliver, impossible to recognise with my limited knowledge of emotional horticulture.

*But Then Again* uses dark humour in its acute and wise portrayal of thirty-somethings Laila and Luigi, two individuals recovering from grief. It is a warm book, tinged with melancholy, and its wisdom comes from the comfort of everyday: the sun has risen every day. Tomorrow should be no exception.

Anni Saastamoinen's humorous and warm first novel *The Sensible Life of Sirkka* (2019) established her as an illustrator of contemporary urban solitude and singularity. Her skill in depicting the quotidian detail and the happiness that can be found within reach has made her a readers' favourite.

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Sensible Life of Sirkka* (Sirkka, 2019)



*Ja mutta että sitten*

Gummerus Publishing, 2022, 218 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



Pirkko Saisio

# *The Lowest Common Multiple*

*The opening part of the Helsinki Trilogy  
by a gifted portrayal of the human psyche.*

When a human being dies, and his life story comes to a stop, his entire story is strangely disrupted. The shift is small but causes shattering changes in the lives of those who are left behind.

Her father's sudden death triggers off memories in the middle-aged daughter, and her childhood landscape is painted over anew, in an odd hue, when she is left alone to dust off the multi-layered narrative stored in her mind as a little girl.

The novel follows the daughter over a four-day period from her childhood home to the hospital and to the mortuary. The same time frame sees the unsettling of the little girl's story. She wanted to be a boy and began to look at her from the outside – and to write an endless story about her.

*Lowest Common Multiple* is an autofictional story in the Proustian tradition, in which the author ruthlessly chops up and combines her memories and experiences in order to squeeze out their essence, unveiling a whole era. It launches Pirkko Saisio's Finlandia Prize-winning trilogy, in which Helsinki serves as the background as the city changes over the decades.

**“Grandpa's dead.”**

**And Elsa smiles swiftly and presses against me.**

**I breathe into Elsa's hair, and my heart beats against Elsa's forehead.**

**And I never want to move again, to leave this moment with my daughter, and I never did.**

*Translated by Hildi Hawkins*

**ALSO AVAILABLE**

See the backlist



*Pienin yhteinen jaettava*

WSOY, 1998, 254 pp.

**READING MATERIAL**

Finnish original, English sample

**RIGHTS SOLD**

Czech, Host; Dutch, De Geus; English (U.S.A. and Canada), Two Lines Press; World French, Robert Laffont; German, Klett-Cotta; Hungary, Polar

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 1998

Pirkko Saisio

# *The Backlight*

*The Helsinki Trilogy continues by a mosaic of the human mind and of the past.*

It's the first day of June in 1968, a year of turmoil for Europe. The novel's protagonist, "she", is nineteen years of age and has just graduated. The young woman is starting a journey to Switzerland, where she imagines working with children just as Maria does in *The Sound of Music*. The reality proves completely different. The conservative country has its strange customs, and the tightly managed orphanage has many features that surprise the Finnish girl.

The Swiss episodes are interspersed with events from the girl's grammar-school years—friends, family, and a fractious relationship with her father. But her development is at the centre of it all: searching for and examining her own identity; finding a balance between a leftist upbringing, Christianity and her own sexuality; and evolving into a budding writer.

*Backlight* is the second part of Pirkko Saisio's Finlandia Prize-winning trilogy, much lauded and regarded as a classic of Finnish literature. Memories shape the present and the boundary between fact and fiction becomes fluid. At the same time, the work is a breath-takingly beautiful description of a young woman's discovery of her true self.

*It's five o'clock, and the world is dipped in gold.*

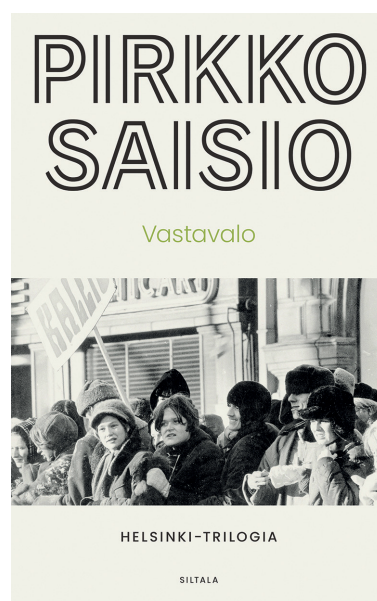
*The glimmering mist is entangled with the willows;  
a digger won't pull them up until several years later.*

*The lush grass, newly luxuriant, drips blithely.*

*I see her in the backlight.*

*She comes across the meadow towards me.*

*Translated by Fleur Jeremiah*



*Vastavalo*

WS OY, 2000, 252 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Host; Dutch, De Geus; English (U.S.A. and Canada), Two Lines Press; World French, Robert Laffont; German, Klett-Cotta; Hungary, Polar

## ALSO AVAILABLE

See the backlist

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2000

NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2001

Pirkko Saisio

# *The Red Book of Farewells*

*The Finlandia Prize-winning concluding part of the Helsinki Trilogy.*

In *The Red Book of Farewells*, the protagonist is approaching adulthood and joins Helsinki Student Theatre, which is forthrightly Communist in attitude. Soon she meets her great love, Havva.

These starting points trigger off a series of many farewells to be taken over a long period of time. Her mother cannot accept her daughter's sexuality, and the protagonist also has to get away from Communist political activism. Years later, the "she" of the novel has a baby but Havva leaves. At the end of the book, the grown-up daughter, Sunday's Child, leaves home.

*The Red Book of Farewells* describes the discovery of a sexual identity and a vocation as a writer, the political student activism in the 1970s, and intense love affairs. Saisio's fragmentary and at the same time lyrical style is an integral part of her autofiction, in which fact becomes fiction as the tense changes and in which 'I' is 'she', both the object of scrutiny and an autonomous agent.

The novel was awarded with Finland's biggest literary award, the Finlandia Prize.

**You must open doors, and then you must close them.**

**You must make sure to close the doors you've left behind. You must make sure to breathe.**

*Translated by Mia Spangenberg*

## ALSO AVAILABLE

See the backlist



*Punainen erokirja*

WS OY, 2003, 298 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Host; Dutch, De Geus; English (U.S.A. and Canada), Two Lines Press; World French, Robert Laffont; German, Klett-Cotta; Hungary, Polar; Slovenia, Škuc; Sweden, Kabusa

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2003

Pirkko Saisio

# *Prevarications – Confessions on Love, Writing and Performing*

*A ride to the core of writing, with sharp observations of relationships and some Slavic spice.*

*Prevarications* is a charming collection with a sharp psychological eye and a wise view of the world. The hilarious, biting stories are woven together by an omniscient narrator, who moves flexibly from autobiographical fiction to fiction and back.

“I can’t distinguish a memory, a dream, a nightmare or a vision from actual reality, since in my mind, actual reality does not exist,” states the narrator.

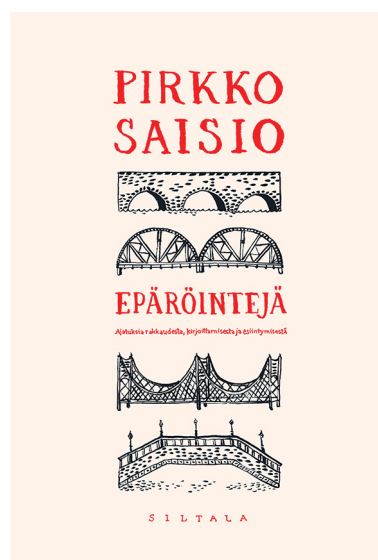
New stories and fates come and go on the narrator’s whim. The stage is occupied in turn by a janitor hopelessly in love, Maria Alyokhina from Pussy Riot, Chekhov’s Burkin and Ivan Ivanovich, – and The Woman.

*“Pirkko Saisio has for a long time been her own genre, an author with a recognizable style, but in her late works she has crossed borders and combined genres with ever more courage. [...] In the core of *Prevarications* is authorship with its dangers, meta-fiction. Saisio dresses down the author and shows her the very moment when her characters start to live their own lives. [...] The novel is not a manual for a writer, but many of its scenes would make fine examples. Seldom has the reader been given such a concrete ride to the core of writing. [...] The ideal of economy, often bound to theater, is blooming in *Prevarications*: there is not a single sentence that would be unnecessary or unfunctional.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

See the backlist



*Epäröintejä – Ajatuksia rakkaudesta, kirjoittamisesta ja esiintymisestä*

Siltala Publishing, 2019, 240 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

NOMINEE FOR RUNEBERG PRIZE 2020



Pirkko Saisio

## *Passion*

*Passion is like an arcane legend, and the tale it tells has the testimonial impact of myth.*

It is May and the dawn of the 16th century. Dominican friar Girolamo Savonarola has been hanged and burned at the stake at the Piazza della Signoria. The fanatical ascetic nightmare has ended, Florence has been resurrected, and Princess Vasari can once again dress according to her rank and adorn herself in the extravagant necklace her husband has given her.

She knows the reason for the prince's generous gift but locks the painful secret in her breast. Ultimately the necklace is buried with her, but the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil does not rest long in the somber quiet of the tomb.

Half a century later, the goldsmith Yakob Masri hides the necklace beneath the plank floor of his workshop in the Cannaregio ghetto of Venice. Persecuted as Jews, he and his family must flee, and their long journey ends in Hapsburg Vienna.

But the now-transformed piece of jewelry changes owners again over the centuries, traveling to Krakow and further north, ultimately to Finland.

*Passion* is a grand vision: a color-saturated, Tarkovskian chronicle of Europe centered on life's purpose and the search for meaning. Spiritual seeking, faith, and ideology sustain all of us, but for some, a shared bloodline and heartbeat are the sole saving grace in the survival struggle known as life. It was nominated for Finland's biggest literary award, Finlandia, and has sold so far over 26,000 copies.



*Passio*

Siltala Publishing, 2021, 732 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Host; Estonia, Varrak

### ALSO AVAILABLE

See the backlist

TOP TEN BESTSELLER

NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2021

Alexandra Salmela

## 27, or Death Makes an Artist

*A hilarious story of a collision between artistic ambitions and realities of life.*

Angie is turning 27.

Her idols Kurt Cobain, Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix all died at the peak of their career at the age of 27.

Will she have time to become a famous artist herself – and die before her 28th birthday?

When Angie winds up at a dead-end with both her artistic ambitions and her family in Prague, she decides to change the scenery for a while. Luckily, her literature teacher has just lectured with burning passion about the symbols in the Finnish national epic Kalevala, revealing to the students that he actually owns a lakeside property in Finland.

In a small rural village up in Northern Finland, a family, complete with three children and Mr. Pig, leads a somewhat chaotic back-to-nature life. When Angie, in the search for her artistic identity, moves into the sauna cabin in their courtyard, the every-day life of the family starts to waver.

Alexandra Salmela's debut novel is a charming mix of tragedy, sit-com, farce and a coming-of-age story told with self-reflective irony. It was awarded with Helsingin Sanomat Literary Prize, which is given to the best debut novel of the year, and it was a nominee for the Finlandia Prize.

*"The eloquence of the narration and the originality of the mindset are unlike anything experienced so far at these altitudes. [...] This is something that has long been awaited. Alexandra Salmela is making literary history."* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*27 eli kuolema tekee taiteilijan*

Teos Publishers, 2010, 312 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation, French sample, German sample, Russian sample, Estonian sample

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech Republic, Argo; Denmark, Gyldendal; Hindi, Saarsansaar; Hungary, Scolar; Italy, Piemme; Poland, w.A.B; Slovakia, Q111

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Antihero* (Antisankari, 2015)

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Větrné mlýny; Slovakia, Artforum

*56, I Assume* (56, oletan, 2021)

Alexandra Salmela & Martina Matlovičová (illustrations)

# *Mother Giraffe and Other Silly Adults*

*A wildly unconventional book of tales with warped situations in which children rule the roost.*

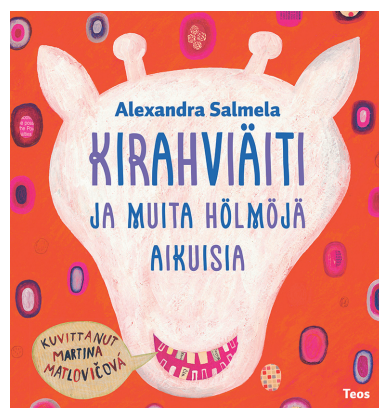
Meet a magnetic knight, a headless dad, Gloop Beast and Frankfish who are all involved in the most incredible and side-splitting events. There's a lesson in this book: if, for instance, a silly adult is wrapped up in adult matters or makes you do boring chores, you can hop onboard a pirate ship and become friends with a mermaid.

The 21 short stories of *Mother Giraffe and Other Silly Adults* are not preachy. The heroes are either children or childlike beings whose ideas and dreams give birth to new worlds – as well as breathtakingly miraculous and wonderful plot twists and adventures! Sometimes the realities of children and grown-ups smack into one another, but there's nothing imagination cannot solve.

Two celebrated authors have combined their forces and put together this book. The writer Alexandra Salmela has won the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize with her debut novel; the illustrator Martina Matlovičová is among the most prestigious illustrators in Slovakia. The result is a revolutionary children's book with stories that work seamlessly with fascinating drawings and collage.

*"Salmela's imagination flexes like a child at play. Without calcified thoughts, it is boundless from the smallest hole in the ground right up to the furthest space."* Savon Sanomat newspaper

*"The few-page-long stories blaze in the genuine realm of childhood make-believe, overflowing with absurd elements."* Aamulehti newspaper



*Kirahviäiti ja muita hölmöjä aikuisia*

Teos Publishers, 2013, 94 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, French sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

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

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Fantastickle Friend* (Mielikutitusystävä, 2019)

NOMINEE FOR THE TORCH-BEARER PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE ARVID LYDECKEN PRIZE

Alexandra Salmela

## *Antihero*

*An anti-story about dreams, compromises, the consumer society and love – narrated with a frenzy and unique mixture of high and low.*

Utopia is an eco-state where no one consumes or owns anything. KoroNovo is its opposite.

A man called Antti Hero is one of the two hundred Utopia-based orphans who have been given the surname Hero in honour of their parents. He is a press photographer who employs the camera obscura method. He is also a freak of nature – or perhaps not. Can Antti even exist?

When Antti Hero travels to KoroNovo, he is welcomed by media guru Michele Po, also known as the bibulous Tzal, as well as He, the narrator, who carefully monitors Antti's movements.

Antti travels with a stunning, suspended reporter L. I. Airiainck and Mzeteora, a young woman who keeps a diary and mostly focuses on trees. The legends of the Great Director, who founded Utopia, also have something to do with Antti's odyssey.

In *Antihero*, Alexandra Salmela uninhibitedly blasphemes and describes heroism and the world we live in.

*“Antihero is at its best a hilariously cutting and mean novel. The author fires a broadside at exploitative capitalism, eco-fascism, the concept of a hero and the ignorance and selfishness of men. [...] In the chorus of shouts the reality escapes and there is not a united world anymore.”*

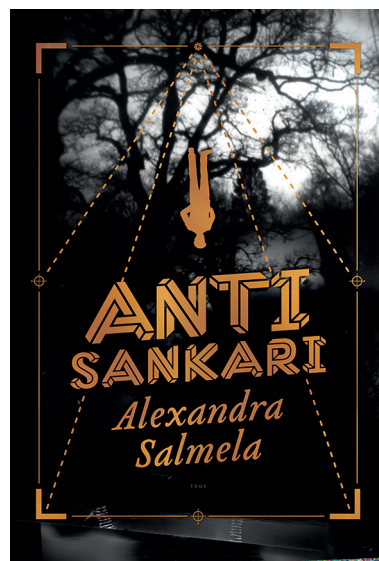
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*27, or Death Makes an Artist* (27 eli kuolema tekee taiteilijan, 2010)

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Argo; Denmark, Gyldendal; Hungary, Scolar; Italy, Piemme; Poland, W.A.B.; Slovakia, Q111

*56, I Assume* (56, oletan, 2021)



*Antisankari*

Teos Publishers, 2015, 368 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

### RIGHTS SOLD

Czech Republic, Větrné mlýny;  
Slovakia, Artforum



Alexandra Salmela & Linda Bondestam (illustrations)

## *Fantastickle Friend*

*“Bean-Bean froze in ski position.  
He had never seen Toughie so close up.”*

Bean-Bean hates miserable Wednesdays. That is when he has to walk through the park alone, and in the park lurks Toughie.

Today things go very wrong. When Toughie bullies Bean-Bean, her essential device is broken. As a punishment, Bean-Bean’s beloved rag bird Stormbeard gets prisoned in the highest branches of a tree. Luckily, in the bus Bean-Bean bumps into a lion-maned cheetah, a genuine, living, imaginary friend. Together they hasten to save Strombeard.

The atypical adventure takes the friends into a forest to bounce on a trampoline in the appearance of fantastic fruit, and into the drains where they end up at the mercy of mutant monsters and mammoths.

Alexandra Salmela and Linda Bondestam’s book is a crazy, funny and brilliantly colourful story about the power of the imagination and the courage to be yourself – whether you are a child using words in a funny way, an elephant in mammoth’s clothing or a self-absorbed, constantly blabbering cheetah.

*“I’m Cheetah,” he said.*

*“What do you mean, cheetah?” Bean-Bean examined the creature in wonder. Around his face flourished a magnificently thick lion’s mane. “But you look just like a lion.”*

*“Well?” snapped lion’s mane. “The cheetah is fastest of all. It can run a hundred and twenty kilometres an hour; it’s faster than this bus, which can go... well, round forty-two or forty-four kilometres an hour, at this moment at least, and compared to that the cheetah is three times as fast and I’m the fastest of all cheetahs. Or nearly.”*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Mother Giraffe and Other Silly Adults (Kirahviäiti ja muita hölmöjä aikuisia, 2013)*

Rights sold: Czech, Albatros; Hungary, Scolar; Serbian, Obodsko slovo;

Slovakia, Artforum; Turkey, Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



*Mielikutitusystävä*

Teos Publishers, 2019, 120 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Harry Salmenniemi

# Uranium Lamp

*An amazing, twisted, and funny update of the Finnish short story tradition.*

*Uranium Lamp* is an exuberant collection of tales that exude the surrealism of everyday life and coax parody from small-town mentalities and racism. These polished, linguistically elegant stories are startling, stirring, and amusing. They draw as precise a portrait of an infinite salad, an insane conglomeration of all tourist destinations, and a fascist footballer as they do an ominous conversation between author and publisher.

Harry Salmenniemi is one of Finland's most respected contemporary poets. *Uranium Lamp* is his first collection of stories, and has been described as "a giant leap forward for the Finnish short story".

*"Simultaneously sad and ridiculous, these powerful, surreal stories of everyday life, with all their laconicism, are nevertheless linguistically stylish and masterful prose."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"It isn't the characters but the language, and the reader, who play the reading roles in Salmenniemi's stories. The lucid language has a weightless momentum, moving effortlessly from nihilistic characterizations to descriptive vignettes and from internal images to outward ones."*

Kiiltomato literature magazine

*"Harry Salmenniemi's first work of prose is a giant leap forward for the Finnish short story. I sometimes felt like whooping with excitement while reading. But enjoyment of these stories requires a willingness to go along with the author's textual games."*

Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Dolphin Meditation* (Delfinimeditaatio, 2019)

*Victim Syndrome* (Uhrisyndrooma, 2020)

*Customer Coral* (Asiakaskoralli, 2021)

Harry Salmenniemi

Uraanilamppu

ja muita novelleja

Siltala

*Uraanilamppu ja muita novelleja*

Siltala Publishing, 2017, 170 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
German sample

Harry Salmenniemi

# *Dolphin Meditation*

*A bare-bones blend of madness,  
politics and guts.*

With the new short story collection by Harry Salmenniemi, *Dolphin Meditation*, we come to understand a young woman's life from the perspective of her upset stomach; how brushing your teeth can strip your life of all meaning; the political-erotic delusions of a woman lying in a hospital bed; and how thinking about dolphins calms the mind.

The insightful stories overlap with cultural criticism and cries of anguish. When hopelessness threatens, hysterical laughter saves the day. Behind it all hovers a psychiatrist who has lost his mind and helps his patients in his own creepy way.

*"Salmenniemi's crystallized language is again stylized to matter-of-fact statements that get close to essayistic pondering. The functionality of the language honors the traditions of Finnish short story design and modernist prose, as did also Salmenniemi's first collection The Uranium Lamp (2017)."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Just like with Uranium Lamp, you'll end up reading Dolphin Meditation over and over again, starting from different stories, each time getting equally excited about the sentences, thoughts and rhythm. Despite their dark topics, Salmenniemi's texts are buoyant and inspirational, and the author doesn't miss a chance to joke and tell a serious story in a light tone. [...] Everything is obvious and clear in Salmenniemi's short-stories, but nothing is over-explained; this is peculiar, if you look at the novels as Zeitegeist. Dolphin Meditation is a superb collection, in which the prose is beautiful, thoughts are plenty and the amount of suffering and ill-being is bedazzling."*

Hämeen Sanomat newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Uranium Lamp* (Uraanilamppu, 2017)

*Victim Syndrome* (Uhrisyndrooma, 2020)

*Customer Coral* (Asiakaskoralli, 2021)

Harry Salmenniemi

Delfiinimeditaatio

ja muita novelleja

Siltala

*Delfiinimeditaatio ja muita novelleja*

Siltala Publishing, 2019, 224 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Harry Salmenniemi

## *Victim Syndrome*

*An amazing, twisted, and funny update of the Finnish short story tradition.*

In Harry Salmenniemi's third story collection, *Victim Syndrome*, writing is revealed as a site of war and conflict, but also as an object of yearning love.

The subjects of the stories are as multifarious, strange, and striking as Salmenniemi's work always is. In the story "We're Fighting for the Children", a civil war breaks out between two retail chains in a mountain village in Italy. When a baby is born on the front lines, the dutiful leaders of the battle decide to take care of it. The story "Family Films" makes sharp-eyed observations on families and life in brusquely drawn, not entirely serious vignettes.

The inventiveness of the stories in *Victim Syndrome* are proof that there is nothing a short story can't do. In between Salmenniemi's expansive narratives, small fragments, and essay-like texts, a tense landscape emerges and gazes out at the reader as enigmatic as a newborn.

Harry Salmenniemi was the only writer named of the twelve people to watch in 2020 by *Helsingin Sanomat*, Finland's largest newspaper.

*"Harry Salmenniemi's unfathomable novels are the best there is today. [...] I can't say if Salmenniemi is dead serious or convulsed with laughter. I assume both. [...] The enjoyment of the narration lies in the movement of awakening images, their speed and boundlessness."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Uranium Lamp* (Uraanilamppu, 2017)

*Dolphin Meditation* (Delfinimeditaatio, 2019)

*Customer Coral* (Asiakaskoralli, 2021)

Harry Salmenniemi

Uhrisyndrooma

ja muita novelleja

Siltala

*Uhrisyndrooma ja muita novelleja*

Siltala Publishing, 2020, 220 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
Italian sample



Harry Salmenniemi

## *Customer Coral*

*Salmenniemi's perplexing short stories  
are a phenomenon.*

An accountancy firm's office Christmas party transforms inexplicably into an orgy. The participants play out what went wrong in the team. A human trafficking company explains its ethical principles. A top Finnish pianist speed-dates soldiers on NATO exercises. The business sector presents its interpretations of paintings by Caravaggio and Raphael.

Harry Salmenniemi's series of short story collections has now reached the point where the reader is rewarded with half-hearted sex and hollow advice. After reading *Customer Coral*, you'll know why you should bury all your difficult feelings – and the reason why Salmenniemi never landed the job of mayor in a small town in Eastern Finland.

*"Dolphin Meditation is a superb collection, in which the prose is beautiful, thoughts are plenty and the amount of suffering and ill-being is bedazzling."*

Hämeen Sanomat newspaper on *Dolphin Meditation*

*"Harry Salmenniemi's unfathomable short stories are the best Finnish fiction there is today."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on *Victim Syndrome*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Uranium Lamp* (Uraanilamppu, 2017)

*Dolphin Meditation* (Delfinimeditaatio, 2019)

*Victim Syndrome* (Uhrisyndrooma, 2020)

Harry Salmenniemi

Asiakaskoralli

ja muita novelleja

Siltala

*Asiakaskoralli ja muita novelleja*

Siltala Publishing, 2021, 214 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Sally Salminen

## *Katrina*

*A rediscovered hit novel from the 1930s about one woman's life in an impoverished corner of the Åland Islands.*

Young Katrina moves from Ostrobothnia to Åland Islands to marry Johan. Johan is a shiftless swindler and liar incapable of finishing anything, even his child's coffin. And yet strangely enough, Katrina loves him deeply.

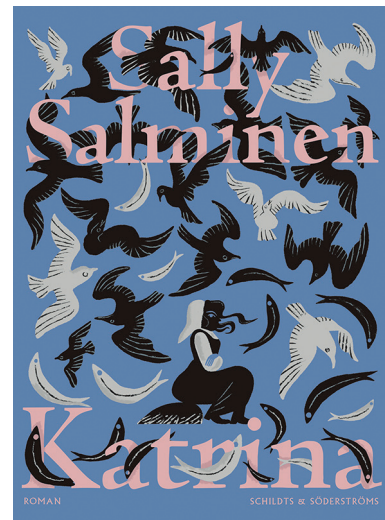
Katrina is a progressive woman for her time, and the novel *Katrina* was one of the first in Finland to tell a woman's story from her own perspective. The work depicts life during the early years of Finnish independence in the archipelago of Åland, in all its stark beauty as well as its suspicion of outsiders and turmoil: the political situation of the era is unavoidable in the islands, and criticism of those in power is often present in Katrina's gaze.

*Katrina* blends multiple genres, including the adventure story, and the narration and even tragic events are often accompanied by a quiet, intelligent humor. The novel's characters—both women and men—are unusually complete and complex: in other words, human.

*Katrina* was an international success in its day: a novel written in New York in 1936 by the cosmopolitan, Swedish-speaking Finn Sally Salminen. Rights to the work were sold to over 20 countries, and the work has risen to renewed success in Finland thanks to a new translation by Finlandia Prize-winning author Juha Hurme.

*"The character of Katrina is what makes the novel fresh. In her sense of justice, she is a portrayal of a woman conscious of her human worth, but in no way superhuman."*

Kouvola Sanomat newspaper



*Katrina*

Schildts, 1936, 385 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation,  
German translation, Spanish translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Eesti raamat

Peter Sandström

# Autumn Apples

*Sweet love and bitter deception  
in a literary masterpiece.*

The middle-aged writer Peter remembers staying with his parents as a young man in the bewildering summer of 1988, when his father breaks his habit of every morning giving his mother a freshly picked rose.

Peter of today spends a lot of time in the laundry room, where he washes his family's clothes and reads poetry. There is both tenderness and helplessness in the encounters with the grown-up children. The gap between them grows irrevocably, as they embark on lives of their own.

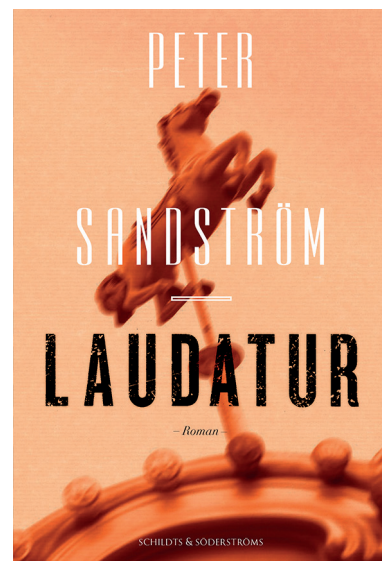
With loving attention Peter registers also traces in the house left by his wife Zebra. She is 49 years old and pregnant, and occasionally returns home from visiting "someone called Mäkinen".

Sandström's beautiful prose wraps small, realistic yet sometimes absurd details in the tender glow of melancholy and humor. *Autumn Apples* was nominated for Finland's biggest literary prize Finlandia, and it was awarded with the prestigious Runeberg Prize.

*"I would compare Peter Sandström to Karl Ove Knausgård, [...] but sense of form thwarts the resemblance. Sandström possesses it, Knausgård does not."* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"In Peter Sandström's glittering language, moods are captured with similes and associations. With almost archaic precision he portrays the various nuances, shifts and distractions of life. The result is a text to be savoured slowly. Definitely full marks for Autumn Apples. Read it and enjoy!"*

National broadcasting company Svenska YLE



*Laudatur*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2016, 225 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Love is a Tame Animal* (Kärleken är ett tamdjur, 2020)

*The Big Blonde's Last Summer* (Den stora blondinens sista sommar, 2022)

FINLANDIA PRIZE NOMINEE 2016

RUNEBERG PRIZE 2017

Peter Sandström

## *Love is a Tame Animal*

*A mother, a sister, a daughter, a wife and 29 other women;  
an aging writer; a world off its hinges.*

Writer Peter S's sixtieth birthday is nearly at hand. Old age hasn't come alone, and to him, alcohol is far more appetising than being the head of the Writer's Guild. His grownup children are independent beings best admired from a distance. A bout of illness has transformed his mother, an erstwhile force of nature full of resources, into a confused and slow old woman. His once close-knit relationship to his sister now resembles a tickly cough.

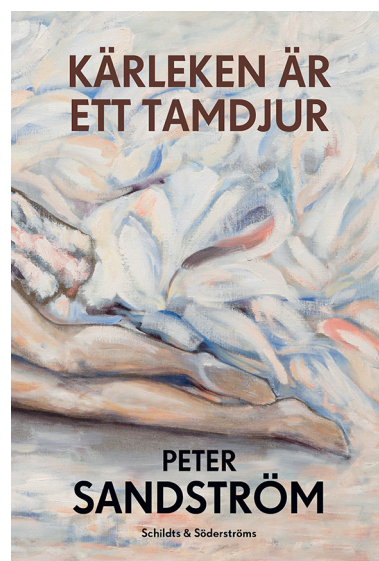
There is a new gap, a deep and seemingly unsurpassable ravine between Peter and Darling, his dear wife. To top it all off, Peter has contacted 29 women who have written to him after reading his interview in a magazine. One of them is the relentless Bear whom Peter cannot cut off nor live with.

*Love is a Tame Animal* is a restless, enchanting, irritating story in lapidary prose about a man who ends up in a limbo after a change. However, all the friction and his tribulations are full of beauty and lopsided humour – not to mention an epiphany that his life is governed by women: his mother, his sister, Darling, his daughter Bonnie and Bear.

*"Sandström is downright superior when writing about the raw and painful spots in a person's soul. [...] His text is laden with liberating humour."*

National broadcasting company Svenska YLE

*"Sandström is undoubtedly one of the best Finnish prosaists writing in Swedish in the 2000s."* Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper



*Kärleken är ett tamdjur*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 199 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Autumn Apples* (Laudatur, 2016)

*The Big Blonde's Last Summer* (Den stora blondinens sista sommar, 2022)

LOONGLISTED FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2021



Peter Sandström

# *The Big Blonde's Last Summer*

*A poignantly humoristic novel about children, loss, and dumb blondes.*

A man must bid farewell to his daughter, who is heading off to study in the Netherlands. His other child has already been abroad for years, investigating complex matters the man finds utterly incomprehensible.

At the same time, the man must clear out his deceased parents' home. With stray cats and one rather likeable mouse for company, he strews a cheerful cacophony of belongings around the garden. Unexpected guests appear in the guise of old friends, the ones who call the man the Big Blonde. At night he falls asleep in the shed with his headlamp on.

At the heart of everything is a love story. It's the early 1980s, and a young couple is attending university in the capital. The woman is Limone, and the man wants to spend his life with her.

Now Limone is distant, both emotionally and physically, and the man is left watering her plants and sifting through her possessions.

Peter Sandström is one of Finland's most highly regarded Swedish-speaking authors. Known as a meticulous depicter of inner worlds and interpersonal relationships, he demonstrates a unique facility for capturing life's light, happy, fleeting, and painful moments. Works by Sandström have won numerous literary prizes.

*"Sandström's novels and short stories are marked by a rare blend of boisterous tranquility and controlled lunacy. Everything is a little unpredictable, but nothing is what it seems."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Autumn Apples* (Laudatur, 2016)

*Love is a Tame Animal* (Kärleken är ett tamdjur, 2020)

See also the backlist



*Den stora blondinens sista sommar*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2022, 254 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample, English synopsis

Sisko Savonlahti

# Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change

*Melancholy and acerbic humour in the daily life of  
a woman in her thirties in the city.*

“I know that I have to do something about all of this, and I have to do it kind of soon. But right now I want to lie on the balcony a little longer and think about my ex-boyfriend.”

These are the thoughts of a young woman in her flat, overhearing the people squealing in the nearby amusement park. It's nearly summer, time to get over her breakup. She has to get up from the doldrums, find a job, fall in love, kick-start a spiral of positive thinking.

But should she fulfil other people's expectations or act according to her heart's desire? How do you know what is your heart's desire? So many questions, often much less tempting than examining the soil in your plant pots.

Sisko Savonlahti's praised first novel has its finger firmly on the pulse. It's a frank, sharp story of a young city dweller, a woman with a looming fear of failure, need to achieve, relentless chase for happiness and an attempt to initiate a spiral of positivity. The novel was nominated for the best debut prize, and it has sold over 50,000 copies in Finland.

*“Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change is not sad but instead amusing and hopeful. Savonlahti has anchored the story of the quotidian of her everywoman into acute perceptions, minimalist repetitions reminiscent of Philip Glass' work where the change is noticeable only when it's already occurred.*

*After all the decisive businesswomen and romantic plot twists in chick lit today, this book feels fresh and honest, even rebellious.*

*The thought that a regular woman's life warrants a story.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Ehkä tänä kesänä kaikki muuttuu*

Gummerus, 2019, 304 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

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

## RIGHTS SOLD

Sweden, Norstedts

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*I Must've Wanted This (Kai minä halusin tätä, 2021)*

TOP TEN BESTSELLER

NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE

Sisko Savonlahti

## *I Must've Wanted This*

*How to make big decisions if the small ones have been rubbish?*

A woman is lying down at the gynaecologist's. She has got everything she wants. A husband, a dog, a lovely house—and now, a coil.

But something is not right. 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 trying to be beautiful? And above all: was it worth it?

*I Must've Wanted This* is a mercilessly acute, concise story about a woman's life told with laser-sharp precision. She does not grow as a person. Instead, her life rotates around sleep and insomnia, her sofa, home and friends: things occur repeatedly and half-heartedly; the boring and familiar everyday shuffles along; life just carries on, one day after another. At times funny, at times moving, the novel makes us recognise the way life unfolds.

Sisko Savonlahti's first novel *Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change* (2018) was nominated for the best debut award. It became a literary sensation that has sold over 50,000 copies in Finland alone. *I Must've Wanted This* has so far reached 20,000 copies.

*"Savonlahti's language does not try to cover or reveal. It puts its trust in a banal abundance of expression that accumulates and shows the everyday absurdity better than a more lyrical turn of phrase could do. Her laconic view adds tenderness to the ludicrous situations."*

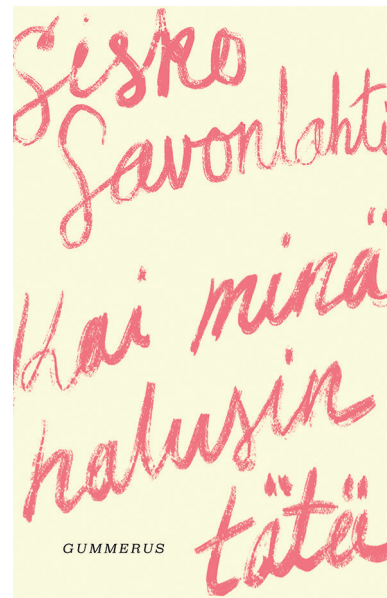
Nuori Voima literary magazine

*"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

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change* (Ehkä tänä kesänä kaikki muuttuu, 2018)  
Rights sold: Sweden, Norstedts



*Kai minä halusin tätä*

Gummerus, 2021, 296 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Hanna-Reetta Schreck

# *I Paint Like a God – The Life and Art of Ellen Thesleff*

*“People said that I was a dreamer, but I have proved that I did those things of which I dreamed.”*

Ellen Thesleff (1869–1954) was an internationally significant Finnish artist and one of Finland’s first expressionist painters.

She was a trailblazer that cleared the way for future women artists at a time when it was difficult to gain recognition for their work in the male-dominated art world. Like her sisters Gerda and Thyra, Thesleff was an emancipated woman; each made a living in her own independent profession. Defying the era’s gender norms, she cut her hair short and began to dress in men’s clothing with a tie around her neck.

In the skilful hands of art historian Schreck, the different phases of Ellen Thesleff’s life and work come to life. The book describes the artist’s cosmopolitan adventures, just as at home in Paris and Florence as in Finland, and tells of her eye-opening experiences in the throbbing pulse of the European modern age. The reader joins a lively and engaging conversation between Thesleff and the narrator of the book, friends speaking to each other from across the decades.

*“I’ve got a whole new way of working. You see, I push myself down into the sand so deep that I can hear the planet’s heartbeat. I follow the rhythm of these strokes and then I take up my colours and naturally, my line, with confidence and freedom. What it will become, I don’t know, but in any case, it will be something wonderful.”*

*“Art and cultural historian Hanna-Reetta Schreck sets out to make the life story of Ellen Thesleff (1869–1954) shine. She clearly hopes to share the life energy of a truly extraordinary human being. She has done all this and more in an excellent way.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Minä maalaan kuin jumala*

Teos Publishers, 2018, 400 pp. + 32 pp. ill.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

## RIGHTS SOLD

Swedish, Svenska Litteratursällskapet  
i Finland & Appell Förlag



Aki-Pekka Sinikoski & Ilja Karsikas (illustrations)

# *Under the Moon*

*A sensitive and wistful book about existence, the purpose of life, and a strange adventure.*

“When I was little, my mum flew to the moon. She worked at the circus. That night they shot her up in the air, like always. But it wasn’t an ordinary night; it was a night full of magic. Once my mum was in the air, she never came down, she simply went on flying. Through the tent, past the clouds, all the way to the moon. That’s where she’s sitting now. Looking down at us and smiling.”

The evening bath takes the child of the story to a deserted island where odd friends reflect on life while they make fish soup and pancakes. In between they play chess and look for things to find on the beach.

But then God rings up and says that it’s time to go home as Dad is waiting.

Aki-Pekka Sinikoski makes his debut as an author with a warm and philosophical text that receives a precise and personal accompaniment from Ilja Karsikas’ watercolour illustrations. In *Under the Moon*, they create a magical world where sadness, but also beauty and absurdity, have a place. This sensitive and wistful book about the meaning of love, existence and the purpose of life brings to mind children’s classics of world literature like Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*.



*Under månen* | *Kuun valossa*

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

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish original,  
English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Rahva Raamat



Annastiina Storm

# *We Are Filled with Light*

*Who is to decide  
which story is true?*

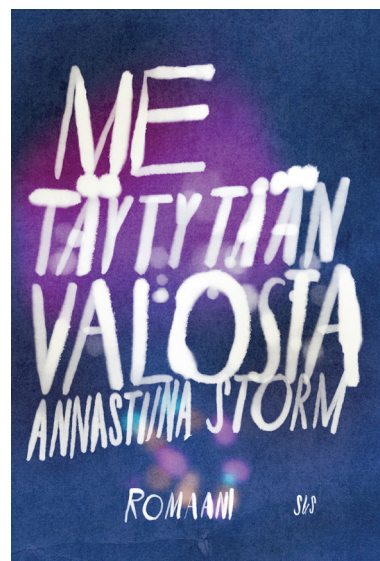
Big sister Silja's Rapunzel Barbie has had acid thrown on her face. Little brother, who was never born, talks to Santtu on a yoghurt pot telephone. Father disappears, leaving the children by themselves. Grandma hopes that granddad dies as she feels she has not been able to live her life, but then a miracle happens when she is adding the final touches to her pies.

*We Are Filled with Light* is a novel about a family where everything is not as it should be. The adults are feeling bad, the children are frightened. The text, narrated by several voices, is woven from short extracts from the family's story: of fairytales, children's voices and the silence of the adults—but also of cheerful incidents. The combination breathes in tune with the rhythm of the story. The pressure of the thunder storm builds up towards the final eruption; the storm gathers force as a promise of freedom.

Annastiina Storm's debut novel speaks of personal growth and overcoming fear; of people who do not meet each other and of how to narrate emptiness full of love.

The novel was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize and is a nominee for the Young Aleksis Prize.

*"In Storm's narration fairytales are intertwined with descriptions of real life. The combination works, the rhythm grabs you with it. The novel is unputdownable. [...] Despite its theme Storm's debut is not thoroughly distressing, as it also offers comfort and hope. [...] I would like this novel with its clear language, universal themes, rhythm and opportunities for identification make its way to as many hands as possible."* Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Me täytytään valosta*

S&S, 2017, 200 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Mirror, Mirror* (Kerro, kerro, 2019)

NOMINEE FOR THE BEST DEBUT NOVEL PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE YOUNG ALEKSI PRIZE

Annastiina Storm

## *Mirror, Mirror*

*Fantasy and reality are intertwined when Snow White's daughter travels into her mother's and grandmother's past.*

Alisa sets off to explore her late mother's hidden past and travels to the strange village of Gorge where Snow White spent her youth. She is guided by the stories told by her mother, the eccentric inhabitants of Gorge and her own imagination.

The journey takes Alisa to a cave quarried by dwarves and she finds herself combing out the hair of a washed-out queen. She also ends up in a landscape with an ominous air of envy and jealousy.

Coming face to face with her family's past makes Alisa confront her fear of loss. She tries to accept the facts by rewriting her history by means of fiction.

The novel about a mother and a daughter combines realism with absurdity. Its themes cover love, fears, the difficulty of letting go, writing and story-telling, and creating your own story.

Annastiina Storm's first novel, *We Are Filled with Light* was acclaimed by critics and was nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize in 2017.

*"Mirror, Mirror is a titillating story that moves on several time levels and follows unpredictable and unseen paths. It strengthens the unique voice that Storm had already in her debut We Are Filled with Light."* Reader, Why Did I Marry Him blog

*"This novel offers plenty of scope for empathy with its clear language, its universal themes and controlled rhythm, and should enjoy a large readership."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper  
on *We Are Filled with Light*

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*We Are Filled with Light* (Me täytyyään valosta, 2017)



*Kerro, kerro*

S&S, 2019, 208 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Annastiina Storm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Teräsmiespoika ja muita lentäviä asioita*

S&S, 2022, 240 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



Ellen Strömberg

## Chasing Water

*A small coastal town, two girls, loads of boys  
and the horizon to catch.*

Hanna and Rakel have been friends since they were little. In high school they spend time with boys and outline their boundaries, away from the forest groves, towards the coastline and water, on the other side of which is Sweden. They chase the horizon, intoxicating substances and hasty acts on the back seats of cars. The boys are dispensable, but Hanna and Rakel are permanent.

The balance of the two girls' long friendship is unstable, mutable and mysterious. Is Rakel really the hanger-on, or the other way around?

Ellen Strömberg's debut weaves short episodes of young women's lives to a strong and solid coming-of-age story. It was awarded by the Society of Swedish Authors in Finland.

*"Strömberg shows that she is capable of minute description as well as natural – and funny – dialogue, and that she can create a powerful atmosphere without unnecessary mystery. [...] Chasing Water is simultaneously a keenly funny and deeply sad book about how to survive growing up and how to get over it."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

*"All the themes in Chasing Water are described in the same subtle and effective way. The text feels profoundly crafted, and the descriptions about the most painful things are truly powerful. There are no mistakes, the reader isn't duped, everything is spacious and establishes the book further. [...] Strömberg is a talented author with an instinctive sense of language and detail."*

Svenska Dagbladet newspaper (Sweden)

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Itch* (Klåda, 2019)

*We'll Just Ride Past* (Vi ska ju bara cykla förbi, 2022)

Rights sold: Italy, Terre di Mezzo; Korea, Bluemoose Books



*Jaga vatten*

Schildts & Söderströms 2018, 150 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample

Ellen Strömberg

## *The Itch*

*Forty sleepless nights. One woman, one life, one defence speech.*

The woman stays awake every night because her body won't let her rest. It tingles all over, it itches. It disgusts her. She scratches, she itches; she scratches and tears at her skin while her thoughts go round in circles.

The man next to her is asleep while the woman processes her nocturnal monologue. She talks to herself about herself, about her relationship, her work in the old folk's home, her friends, her aunt who sends strange emojis. And about Helena, to whom something happened that shouldn't have happened. Something that can't be named even in the stillness of the night.

*"The novel is a real page-turner. You can't put it down, as is the case with all classic mysteries. But this is no crime novel: it is a dive into the dark sides of the human mind. The text is at the same time unpleasant, beautiful and painful. [...] I was astonished by The Itch. And I believe to see in it the beginning of a great authorship."* Åbo Underrättelser newspaper

*"The Itch is a French kind of a novel. On the surface it is light, but underneath there are dark and serious issues. The sub-conscious streams flow to be a part of Rebecka's everyday life, and things begin to appear in a strange and even chilling light. There is a balance between weird, strange and ordinary in the novel. Everything can be as it seems and feels – or something totally different."* Reader, why did I marry him blog

*"The Itch lives and breathes from the raw tragicomics of human relationships. Not emphasizing them, but nuancefully. Strömberg plays also, gently, with gender roles and sexuality."*

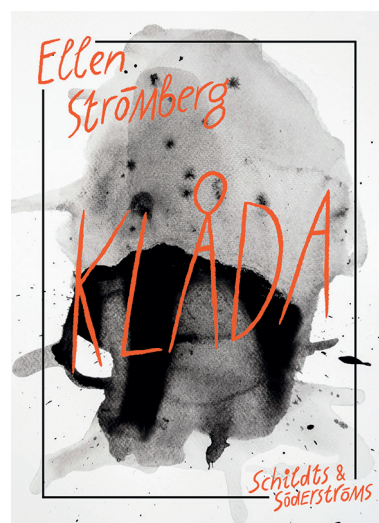
Parnasso literature magazine

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Chasing Water* (Jaga vatten, 2018)

*We'll Just Ride Past* (Vi ska ju bara cykla förbi, 2022)

Rights sold: Italy, Terre di Mezzo; Korea, Bluemoose Books



*Klåda*

Schildts & Söderströms 2019, 178 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,  
English sample, English synopsis

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*



*Vi ska ju bara cykla förbi*

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

### READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation, English sample, English synopsis, Italian translation upcoming

### RIGHTS SOLD

Italy, Terre di Mezzo; Korea, Bluemoose Books

### ALSO AVAILABLE

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

*The Itch* (*Klåda*, 2019)

AUGUST PRIZE 2022

NOMINEE FOR FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2022

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2023

Ellen Strömberg & Elin Löf (illustrations)

# *Maggan All Year Round*

*A warm-hearted story about Maggan's first year at school.*

Maggan loves her Mum and Grandpa PG, but she doesn't have a best friend her own age. Maggan is a bit worried about that. How do you really know when you are best friends with someone? Can you like several people at the same time?

Maggan, seven years, reflects on this and many other things during her first year at school. As the year progresses from autumn to winter to spring and autumn, a number of things happen: Maggan finds a new friend, and Grandpa PG finds a girlfriend. Maggan realises that everyone is really a bit peculiar, and she finds yet another new friend. She also learns that Grandpa cries so easily because if you cry, sadness can't build a lump in your stomach.

*"To think that you're eight years old now," says Grandpa PG, his lip trembling. "I remember when you were just a little sprout and Johnny and I saw you for the first time. To think that he got to see you..."*

*"Is this where he starts crying?" Ebba whispers to Maggan. Maggan nods.*

Ellen Strömberg's new chapter book contains four warm-hearted, seasonal stories about Maggan. The texts are perfect for reading aloud – or reading alone for those who've already cracked the reading code. The book, illustrated by Elin Löf, was nominated for the Runeberg Junior Prize.



*Maggan året runt*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 139 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,  
English synopsis



NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2019



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

## *Close your Eyes, Iris!*

*Why do you have to go to sleep, even if you're not a bit tired?  
How do fish sleep, and do horses really sleep standing up?*

Iris is cross. She's in the middle of a game, and her mother, tired out by the baby, is angrily telling her to go to bed. Why are grown-ups allowed to stay up later? And who on earth is the Sandman?

Her dreams take Iris with them into the forest, to a farm, under the water and finally to the mountains. Along the way, the young reader finds out new facts about sleep. When Iris wakes up in the morning, everything looks bright again – even mother has cheered up.

*Close your Eyes, Iris!* is a book about the fascinating and still largely unknown world of sleep. Many exciting aspects of sleep receive a child-level explanation which will also interest adult readers: Do also jellyfish sleep, and how, as they don't have brains or eyes? How can bears sleep all winter? How do sleep and sleeplessness affect the human body? And why is it sometimes really difficult to wake up?

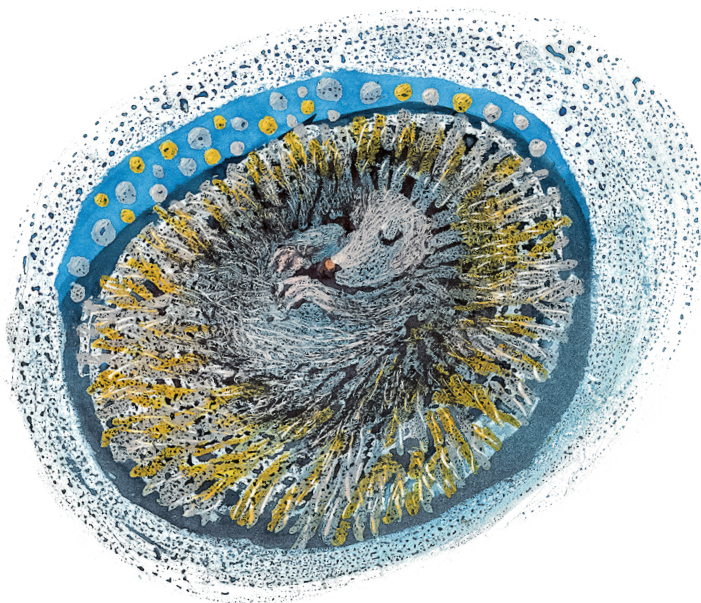


*Silmät kiinni, Silmu!*

S&S, 2019, 42 pp

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation



Satu Taskinen

# *The Perfect Steak*

*How is it that everything is always different,  
even though despite endless effort, nothing changes?*

Taru Korhonen is preparing a pork roast in her Vienna kitchen. It is a relatively important task, as her husband's mother and sister are coming to eat at one o'clock. Unless things have changed, they will arrive on the dot and demand to be served immediately.

The next-door neighbor, the retired actress Frau Berger, is more or less voluntarily forced to experience the difficulties of roasting pork, when ambiguities and complexities appear in the recipe Taru has selected. Considerable efforts and small setbacks aside, everything seems to be progressing perfectly well, and Taru has only one wish: "No more surprises." Her wish is not granted.

Her husband's niece, the blossoming and politically conscious 15-year-old Elisabeth, shows up for the meal. Frau Berger eats pork, even though she is a Jew. The husband's mother and sister Marie-Luisa do everything wrong. Nor does her marriage with the Austrian appear to be watertight, either.

*The Perfect Steak* is a sumptuous novel of alienation, of the desire, force, or impossibility of belonging to the group. It is about the attempt to do what's right—or simply to survive from moment to moment. It won Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize given to the best debut novel of the year, the Academic Bookstore's Debut of the Year Award and was a nominee of Le Prix du Livre Européen in 2012.

*"Satu Taskinen's The Perfect Steak is a stunning debut novel. [...] The Perfect Steak will make you laugh until you cry."*

Keskisuomalainen newspaper

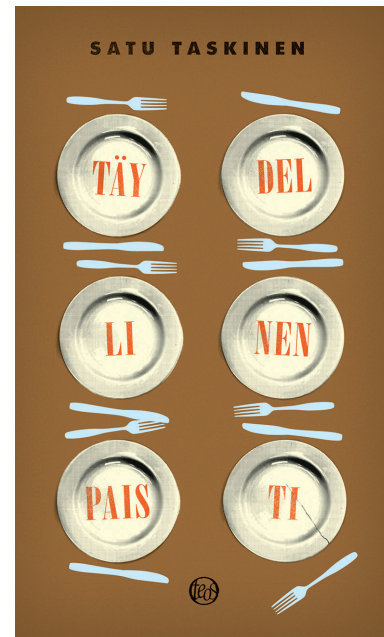
## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Cathedral* (*Katedraali*, 2014)

Rights sold: Austria, Residenz

*Children* (*Lapset*, 2017)

Rights sold: Austria, Residenz



*Täydellinen paisti*

Teos Publishers, 2011, 306 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation,  
English sample, French sample,  
Hungarian sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

German, Translit

Satu Taskinen

# Cathedral

*What is a person's mission and lot in this world and this life?  
What does one do, and what should or should not one do while life lasts?*

Tea has been hoarding for years, and her apartment is stocked. She is leading an isolated life, avoids going out and meeting people. But when her sister Kerstin dies at the age of 37, having suffered from a painful genetic disorder all her life, Tea has to go to the funeral and face not only her siblings but also fundamental questions of life.

The family's story unfolds slowly: the human relationships, the thoughts, fears, hopes and disappointments, the griefs and emotions. In Tea's eyes the world repels people: we are no longer wanted here, and nobody wants our input or love. In history and in the news we are but ill-doers, polluters. The predominant feelings in life are guilt, grief and rancour.

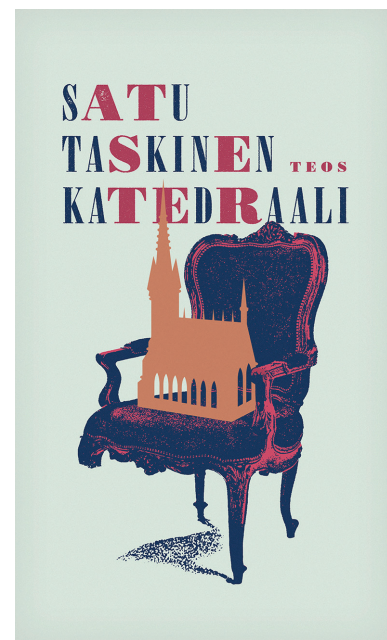
Satu Taskinen writes brilliantly, tragically and with tongue in cheek. The reader cannot help laughing and crying at the same time, thinking of all the little things we cling to and call it a cathedral.

*"The hoarder's story makes a magnificent novel. The questions in Taskinen's second novel are big: what to do, how to live a good life. [...] Taskinen's novels will be characterized as European. It means that they are interestingly un-Finnish."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"The stream of consciousness used for the inner monologue, adding to the focus on the mind and on the feelings, make the Cathedral a splendid heir of modernist prose."*

Kaleva newspaper



*Katedraali*

Teos Publishers, 2014, 252 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, German translation,  
English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD

German, Residenz

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Perfect Steak (Täydellinen paisti, 2011)*

Rights sold: German, Transit

*Children (Lapset, 2014)*

Rights sold: German, Residenz

Satu Taskinen

## Children

*A troubled teacher tries to find the right path for himself and the world in a novel with a big heart.*

The course of the day should be clear. After work, Navid leaves the classroom, buys a gift and a card for his grandchild, and makes his way to the birthday party. But Navid isn't feeling very well at all for some reason. He's troubled by the absence of his wife Sara, and his thoughts keep going around in ever bigger circles. The world around him is really the one that's spinning: Europe is shaking in its foundations, and inequality is growing everywhere.

Amidst these changes, and with the megalomania of a preacher, Navid is trying to move things in the right direction and find the best possible way to save what people can save together.

*Children* is Satu Taskinen's third novel that has received wide critical acclaim. It has been nominated for the Torch-Bearer Prize, given to the novel with most potential abroad.

*"The absence of paragraphs forces the reader to concentrate on the inner rhythm of the sentences and to sense the pauses and variations in speed by listening to the breathing. Thanks to Taskinen's use of words and the musicality of her language, the text forces a close reading that gives rise to a feeling of intimate presence. It has the authentic beauty of direct speech. [...] In Children a miracle happens: the voice of one person becomes that of everyman. Speech flows over the boundaries of personality, identity, social status and historical circumstance. Taskinen has not merely written a novel; she has written a touching expression of humanity which demonstrates that good art should also have pathos."*

Parnasso literature magazine



*Lapset*

Teos Publishers, 2017, 296 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
German translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

German, Residenz

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Perfect Steak* (Täydellinen paisti, 2011)

Rights sold: German, Transit

*Cathedral* (Katedraali, 2014)

Rights sold: German, Residenz

NOMINEE FOR THE TORCH-BEARER PRIZE



Henriikka Tavi

## *Let's Stop the Time*

*Tellervo is a fallen tree, a mummified crocodile – until she decides to turn into a magnetic woman.*

Tellervo is living the best time of her life and decides she wants a relationship. The story takes off when she takes the advice of an American relationship coach and turns into a “magnetic woman”.

She sets up a dating circle with her friends, one with positive feminine energy, in order to find Mr Right. Adequate preparation is important, as are underwear, pelvic floor muscles and good photos (but no selfies). It's also crucial to be a pearl and understand your pearliness. Soon she's inundated with date invitations and she starts flitting through a motley crowd of men: there's Heart-Haunter, King Bee and Ben and Arthur.

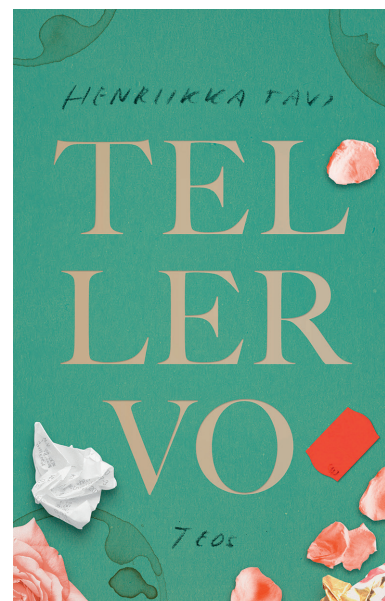
*Let's Stop the Time* is a funny, cheeky and slightly awkward story about truth morphed into sexual capital, about a tumultuous inner world – and the lack of it. It's also a boisterous account of Tellervo and her friend, a story about a frantic search and loss of another person.

*“Henriikka Tavi creates a hilarious parody of self-help literature and relationship guides, playing with a complicated triangle between romantic love, never-changing gender roles and independence. Besides the mischievous smile, the novel, however, also brings into the reader's consideration the unreasonable and sometimes even tragic demands that our culture seems to set for a happy life.”*

Runeberg Prize jury

*“The topics in the novel shift incredibly smoothly from funny situations to reflections about being a human that makes the reader stop and think. [...] Tavi skilfully brings up the most piquant tastes of chick lit, as well as all the distressing pressures of the female gender, from reproducing to continuous self-assessment.”*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Tellervo*

Teos Publishers, 2018, 233 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Julia Thurén

# *Everything You Need to Know about Consumerism*

*This smart book on consumerism shows where  
to turn your gaze in a post-KonMari world.*

Enlightened and responsible citizens have known for years that fighting climate change and sustaining an environment conducive to human life is going to demand changes in our lifestyles. There has been a call for individual responsibility in consumer choices, whether that means giving up meat, buying responsibly produced goods, or decluttering our lives à la KonMari.

But there has been less discussion of the overall structures that steer consumption, and even less about whether changing our patterns of consumption could actually improve our lives. Could we spend our money on things that are truly important – time, freedom, security, and meaning?

*Everything You Need to Know about Consumerism* is a book that increases its readers' awareness, at times uncomfortably so. But it also offers hope – and answers. It doesn't lecture or shame, but rather paints a visionary, fact-based, historically revealing landscape of the links between the climate crisis, capitalism, and the psychology of consumption.

The work has been nominated for the 2021 Tieto-Finlandia Prize, Finland's premiere literary award for works of nonfiction.



*Kaikki kuluttamisesta. Näin aloin  
käyttää rahojani paremmin*

Gummerus, 2021, 246 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

Märta Tikkanen

# Manrape

*A revolutionary Swedish-Finnish literary classic,  
dissecting gender roles, power structures and rage.*

Tova Randers is a librarian and a mother of two. On a whim, she goes to a dance restaurant to celebrate her fortieth birthday. She eats a steak, she dances with a man, she goes home with him.

The man rapes her.

Tova decides to take revenge: she will rape the man, and then give herself up to the police.

Running in parallel are her everyday life and family, and her attempts to make everything – and everyone – fit together. *Manrape* is a story about nuances, about life never being black and white.

*Manrape* sparked a heated debate upon its publication in 1975. Once a target of threats and public hate, Tikkanen is now recognized as one of the first challengers of gender roles not only in Finland's literature but in all Nordic literature, and her breakthrough novel as a literary classic. The novel has been published in ten languages.

*"[The novel] rolls along on hardboiled and efficient prose, rumbles with rage, and is carried by rough irony. [...] It is the tale of a single case, a private story, that gradually takes on a more common cause. The story of Tova's act of revenge is successively transformed into an accusation against, not just one man, but the entire patriarchal society."*

The History of Nordic Women's Literature  
internet magazine

*"The book constitutes almost the entire basic course of gender studies in the form of fiction."*

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper



*Män kan inte våldtas*

Schildts & Söderströms, 2009 [1975], 190 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

France, Cambourakis; Serbia, Laguna

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Love Story of the Century* (Århundradets kärlekssaga, 1978)

Rights sold: World English, Deep Vellum; Estonia, Koolibri

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.

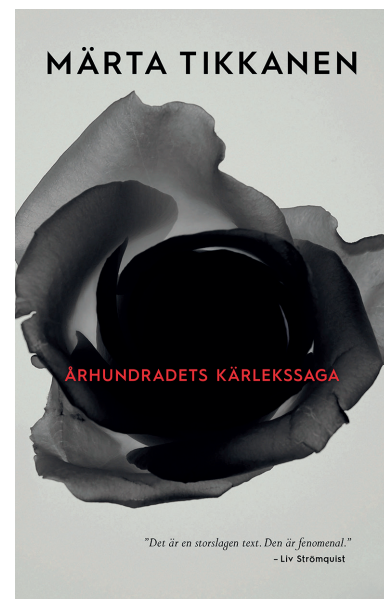
*The Love Story of the Century* is Tikkanen's internationally most well-known work, and it has been translated into 19 languages. In Sweden alone it has sold 140,000 copies; in Germany over 65,000; and in Norway 45,000 copies. It has also enjoyed huge success as a theatre adaption: in Germany, for example,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

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Manrape* (*Män kan inte våldtas*, 1975)



*Århundradets kärlekssaga*

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

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation,  
French translation, German translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

World English, Deep Vellum; Estonia,  
Koolibri; France, Cambourakis

AN INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER



Eeva Turunen

# *Ms U Reminiscences about Her So-Called Relationship History*

*Peculiarities and neurotic observations of every-day life constitute the humorous episodes of the awarded debut.*

Miss U's relationships are colourful. There is the boy who refuses to eat anything red; the boy who names his bands after mystical elements of nature; and the boy who has a bathroom full of yellow rubber ducks. Which one will Miss U choose?

In Eeva Turunen's debut, the characters' neuroses, weaknesses and eccentricities result in vivid encounters. Some of the relationships involve same-sex or ambiguous gender pairings, but the essence of the stories is loneliness, the search for a connection, and the building of a personal identity. Turunen portrays difficult, shameful emotions sensitively and with humour. She has an eye for weirdness.

Eeva Turunen's *Ms U Reminiscences about Her So-Called Relationship History* was awarded as the best debut of the year in Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize competition.

*"The comic, gentle irony makes the characters' worlds emerge with style."*

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*"Eeva Turunen's debut operates with powerful, original language and crosses genre borders with ease."*

Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize jury

*"Eeva Turunen's Miss U is a hilariously tricky collection of seven short stories, which plays with linguistic boundaries and where the main protagonists are human weakness, obsessions and longing for another person."*

Nuori Voima Literature magazine



*Neiti U muistelee niin kutsuttua  
ihmissuhdehistoriaansa*

Siltala Publishing, 2018, 180 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE 2018

NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2019

Pauliina Vanhatalo & Anna Emilia Laitinen (illustrations)

## *Kerttu the Pincher*

*Kerttu K has two hands and ten fingers,  
and at the tip of each finger is a long nail.*

Kerttu thinks her family is mostly completely boring: her mother, her father, and her brother too. No one listens to her, understands her or pays her enough attention. But Kerttu has her methods: when she isn't noticed, she pinches people!

In the end the rest of the family has had enough, and Kerttu loses her lovely long nails. She is very cross – but luckily her mum understands the reason.

Pauliina Vanhatalo's first children's book bears the message that we all have our own inner worlds, which need space and which make us unique. Anna Emilia Laitinen's water-colour illustrations are tender and charming.

*“There's something I should have told you,” Mum says, wiping the tears from Kerttu's cheek.*

*It sounds like a secret. And maybe it is, a bit, for Mum tells her that there is another world inside everyone. It is a world of imagination, thinking, planning, dreaming and play. Memories are kept there. That's where you look for answers to questions. And it's where dreams come from.”*



*Nipistäjä-Kerttu*

S&S, 2019, 46 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation



Johanna Venho & Sanna Pelliccioni (illustrations)

## Forest Field Notes

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

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

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

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

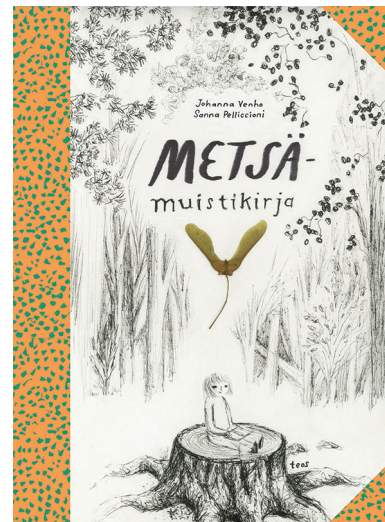
Spruce decides to fight back, and she starts by tying notes to trees with twine. It’s a kind of protest.

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

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

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Travel Field Notes* (Matkamuistikirja, 2023)



*Metsämuistikirja*

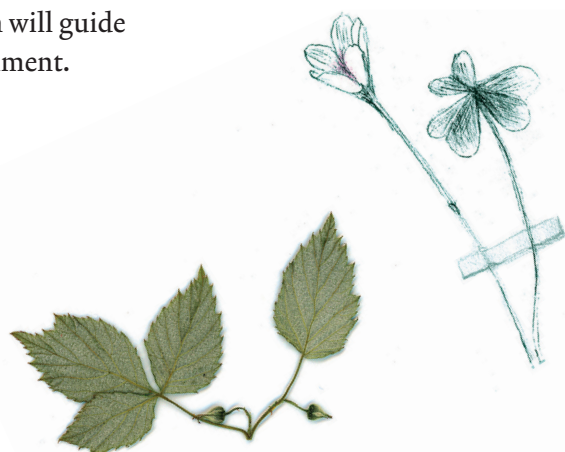
Teos Publishers, 2022, 40 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

Greece, Vlassis; World Spanish, Gato Sueco



NOMINEE FOR THE BOTNIA PRIZE 2022

Antto Vihma

# Nostalgia – Theory and Practice

*Nostalgia has become a core sentiment in contemporary society and an unpredictable political force.*

Hundreds of millions of people in Western countries believe life was better fifty years ago, and national politics increasingly look to a recent or distant past that never existed. Researchers are going so far as to talk about a “global nostalgia epidemic,” which calls us to resist liberal decay and commercialization of culture and to return to a past way of life—one that involved, among other things, a closer relationship to nature.

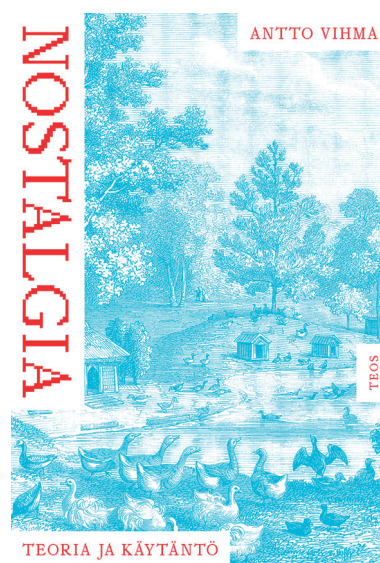
Nostalgia provides a mechanism for survival in a world dominated by uncertainty and a sense of disconnection. Those who experience nostalgia want to revisit a past era as if it were a place one could still travel to.

Nostalgia can also be self-aware. For the contemporary human, confronting personal longing is a force that can move life forward, helping us realize that which is worth nurturing in the present as well as the future.

Antto Vihma’s new book discusses nostalgia as a societal and cultural force. In order to understand the significance of nostalgia, one must understand what exactly contemporary nostalgia is.

*“Nostalgia: Theory and Practice is one of numerous works in recent years to touch on populism. As such, it is head and shoulders above many others. It addresses its topic succinctly yet illustratively and without underestimating the reader, instead prompting one to consider further investigation, a major feat for a work of nonfiction.”*

Kulttuuritoimitus literary magazine



*Nostalgia. Teoria ja käytäntö*

Teos Publishers, 2021, 240 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Post-Truth (Totuuden jälkeen, 2018)*



Antto Vihma, Jarno Hartikainen,  
Hannu-Pekka Ikäheimo & Olli Seuri

## *Post-Truth*

*An internationally unique study of  
Western democracy's most current threat.*

The hope was that the internet and social media would unite the world and strengthen democracy, but this was not to be. The 2016 US presidential elections and the UK referendum on Brexit shook the last of us awake: it was clear that the ways people engaged in politics and the rules of public discourse had fundamentally changed. Post-truth politics had left our reliance on facts and reason in the dust.

Yet the world did not change overnight. Political polarisation and digitalisation, the two key drivers of the post-truth era, have laid the groundwork in the course of decades. Together they pushed the traditional media into crisis, stripped experts of their former status and caused venerated hierarchies to crumble. All the while, the power of networks has grown. The rules of politics are in turmoil, along with the tactics of the players. In order to rise to the challenge, the media must find itself again.

*Post-Truth: Media Survival Strategies in the Age of Bullshit and Algorithms* is the first definitive and analytical interpretation of what post-truth means and how we've arrived at this point in history. It is an internationally unique and comprehensive study of the social and political transformations engendered by post-truth phenomena. The book demonstrates how at its core, this vital issue is about nothing less than the fate of western liberal democracy.

*"Post-Truth explains, relates and returns things to their context."*  
Suomen Kuvalehti periodical

*"Post-Truth is a work of nonfiction written by gentlemen scholars who attack the lies and diversions of public discourse with analytical reflection and practical instructions for journalists."*  
Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Totuuden jälkeen. Miten media selviää  
algoritmien ja paskapuheen aikana*

Teos Publishers, 2018, c. 200 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

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 50,000 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."*

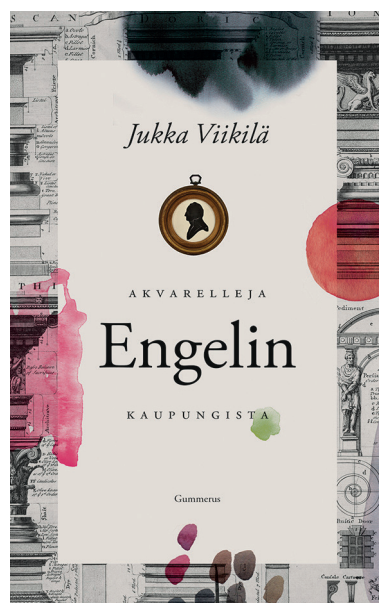
The Finlandia Prize jury

*"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,  
French translation

### RIGHTS SOLD

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

FINLANDIA PRIZE 2016

#1 BESTSELLER

50,000 COPIES SOLD

Tuomas Vimma

## *Left Bank*

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

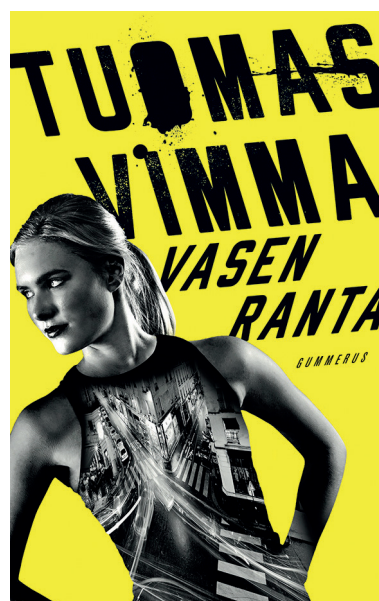
A nail bomb explodes at an outdoor café in central Paris. Blood-spattered croissants are trampled by the fleeing crowd, and France is put under martial law.

A Finnish woman named Kristiina perishes in the attack, and her twin sister, Katariina Päivänsalo, arrives to settle her estate. Soon Katariina's path crosses with Maxime, a Parisian wedding photographer who was there on that fateful morning, and took the most important photo of his life. The problem is that the photo reveals things about the attack that many people would prefer to keep permanently hidden. Soon Maxime and Katariina find themselves led by the gorgeous drug dealer Camille through the Paris catacombs, pursued by an enemy who'll stop at nothing.

*Left Bank* pits French special forces against a female lieutenant in the Finnish reserves, mixes in an old fugitive Corsican separatist and adds loads of local spice and humor. The result is an action thriller unlike any you have read before—a surely targeted grenade toss of a book.

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

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper



*Vasen ranta*

Gummerus, 2017, 304 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Codename Taiga* (Koodinimi Taiga, 2020)

Tuomas Vimma

## *Codename Taiga*

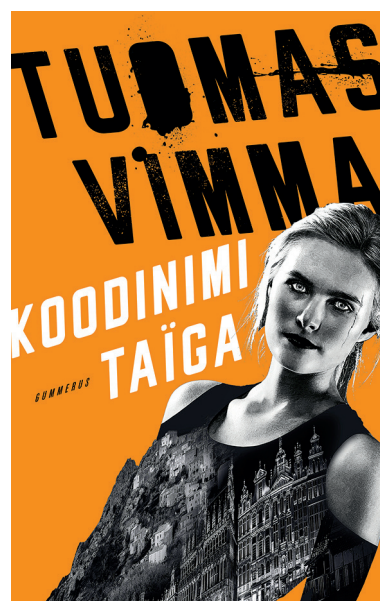
*Can a Finnish woman warrior's tenacity hold out when a superpower's highly-tuned machinery of violence is trying to hunt her down?*

Katariina Päivänsalo, the Finnish daughter of a Corsican terrorist, has been placed with her father at the top of France's enemies list. With a contract killer on her heels and Camille, a drug dealer declared officially dead years before, as her foil, she eludes the clutches of separatists and mafiosos in Corsica and escapes to a Parisian bordello owned by the Mexican mafia, eventually becoming the honored guest of drug dealers from Antwerp, where her impressive reputation has preceded her.

Meanwhile, her father Le Renard, after being tortured in a secret prison, is awaiting a court date in Brussels. But a charmer named Érinnye also walks the springtime streets of Paris, and her task is to prevent Le Renard from ever returning to France alive.

Will Katariina's training as an elite warrior give her the grit she needs to defeat the overwhelming strength of her enemy?

*Codename Taiga* is the stand-alone sequel to *Left Bank*, where the women are strong, the bouts are hard-fought, and reading enjoyment is assured. Tuomas Vimma's chameleonic adventures in background research—including hiring a burglar to break into Brussels' central prison and a courthouse construction site—pay off, erupting onto the page in an action thriller that defies comparison.



*Koodinimi Taiga*

Gummerus, 2020, 332 pp.

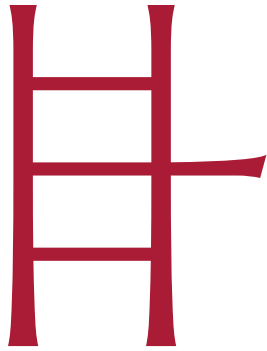
### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Left Bank* (Vasen ranta, 2017)





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

#### Helsinki Literary Agency

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FI-00260 Helsinki, Finland  
[www.helsinkiagency.fi](http://www.helsinkiagency.fi)

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#### Anastasia Basova

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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.

## Exclusive co-agents

### China

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

### Eastern & Central Europe

*Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia &  
Hertzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia,  
Czech Republic, Georgia, Kosovo,  
North Macedonia, Moldova, Monte-  
negro, Romania, Russia, Serbia,  
Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine*  
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oana.vasile@liviastoiaagency.ro

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Ersilia Literary Agency | Αυγή Διαφύλαξη  
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### Italy

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### Poland

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

### Spanish, Catalan, Basque, Galician, Portuguese

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

### Turkey

Anatolia Literary Agency | Amy Spangler  
amy@anatolialit.com

## Colophon

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

## Prizewinners

Since 2011, the authors represented by HLA have received a fair share of the two most prestigious literary prizes in Finland.

### 2023

Runeberg Prize | Marja Kyllönen, *The Undeparted*

### 2022

Finlandia Prize | Iida Rauma, *Destruction*

Finlandia Junior Prize | Sofia Chanfreau & Amanda Chanfreau,  
*A Giraffe's Heart Is Unbelievably Large*

### 2021

Runeberg Prize | Marisha Rasi-Koskinen, *REC*

Runeberg Junior Prize | Karin Erlandsson, *Night Express*

### 2020

Finlandia Prize | Anni Kytömäki, *Margarita*

Finlandia Junior Prize | Anja Portin, *Radio Popov*

### 2019

Runeberg Junior Prize | Eva Frantz, *Raspberry Hill*

### 2018

Runeberg Prize | Marjo Niemi, *The Mother of All Losses*

Runeberg Junior Prize | Karin Erlandsson, *The Pearl Fisher*

### 2017

Finlandia Prize | Juha Hurme, *Headland*

Finlandia Junior Prize | Sanna Mander, *The Lost Key*

Runeberg Junior Prize | Malin Klingenberg, *The Fantastic Alfredo*

### 2016

Finlandia Prize | Jukka Viikilä, *Watercolours from a Seaside City*

Runeberg Prize | Peter Sandström, *Autumn Apples*

European Union Prize for Literature | Selja Ahava, *Things That Fall From the Sky*

### 2013

Finlandia Prize | Riikka Pelo, *Our Earthly Life*

### 2012

Finlandia Prize | Ulla-Lena Lundberg, *Ice*

### 2011

Finlandia Junior Prize | Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen, *Light, Light, Light*

## Among earlier prizewinners are

Finlandia Prize 2010 | Mikko Rimminen,  
*Red Nose Day*

Runeberg Prize 2009 | Kari Hotakainen,  
*The Human Part*

Finlandia Prize 2003 | Pirkko Saisio,  
*The Red Book of Farewells*

Finlandia Prize 2002 | Kari Hotakainen,  
*The Trench Road*

Finlandia Junior Prize 2000 | Tomi Kontio,  
*Wings to the Other Side of the World*

Runeberg Prize 1999 | Ulla-Lena Lundberg,  
*Rain*

Runeberg Prize 1998 | Mari Möro,  
*Gifts of a Gentle Night*

Finlandia Prize 1992 | Leena Krohn,  
*Mathematical Creatures, or Shared Dreams*

