

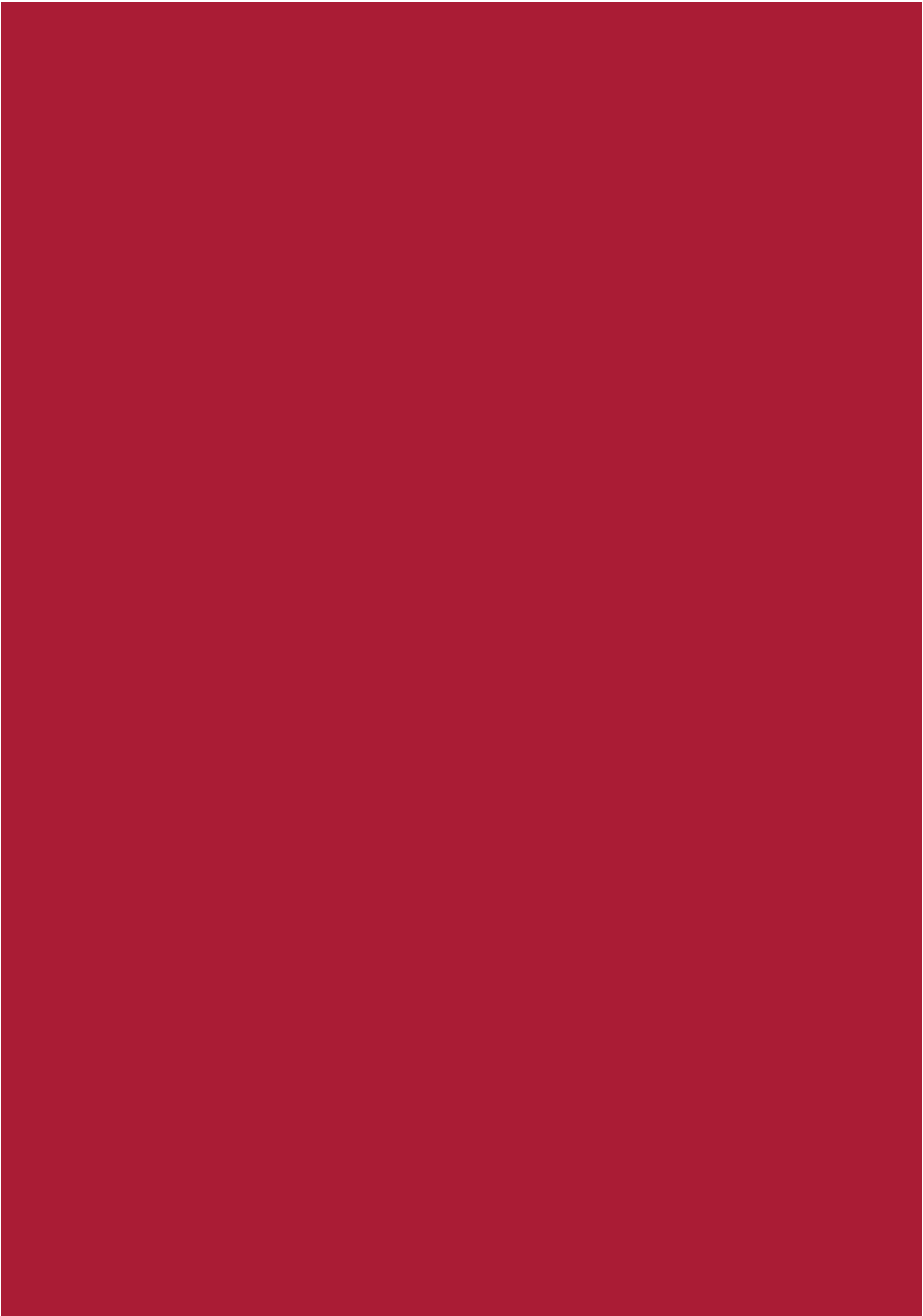


Autumn

2023



Helsinki Literary Agency *Children's List*



Cover illustration by Reetta Niemensivu from *Penelope and the Big Baby Tooth Ballyhoo* (2023), written by Saara Kekäläinen.

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Children's illustrated fiction

Eppu Nuotio (b. 1962) is a bestselling author, whose extensive body of work includes novels, children's books, radio plays, plays, and television scripts. Her latest adult novel is the second instalment in a cosy mystery series about carpenter Raakel Oksa, *The Silver Locket* (2023). Sanna Pelliccioni (b. 1976) is an award-winning illustrator and children's author. Her picture books include *We Had to Leave* (2018), *I Remember You with Love* (2020), *Matias and Everything that Was Far Away* (2021) and *Forest Field Notes* (2022). Nuotio and Pelliccioni have created together so far two children's books, both about key moments in 20th century history from a child's perspective: *Sent across the Sea* (2022) and *Free* (2024).

Eppu Nuotio & Sanna Pelliccioni (illustrations)

Free

“Any lock will open when you find the right key.”

It's late summer in 1989, and a girl has lost her home keys. Granny is crocheting a hat, Mum is making doughnuts, Pavel from next door is researching isomers, and Martta has painted a sun on the kitchen wall. It's a scorcher of a day – old men are playing chess, sitting in the shade of tall trees, and washing dries so quickly it's worth sitting down to wait for it. On days like this ice cream vendors are sweating, and beaches are chock full of people.

There's something very special about today. People have been whispering about it for weeks and it is finally about to happen. Today everyone will stand by the roadside and hold hands with one another, forming a chain of freedom across countries and borders.

In August 1989 some two million people formed a 600-kilometre-long human chain from Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, to Riga, Latvia, and again to Vilnius in Lithuania. The chain stood for independence and consisted of people of all ages. They stood hand in hand and demonstrated peacefully for hope of freedom.

It's a warm August day. A day I'll always remember. The day we found the key. The day I learned that there are no dull days, only days when you can do miracles.

Translated Kate Sotejeff-Wilson



Vapaa

S&S, January 2024, 36 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

ALSO AVAILABLE

Sent Across the Sea (Lappukaulatyttö, 2022)

Rights sold: Sweden, Epix





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Malin Klingenberg (b. 1979) is a Swedish-speaking children's author from Finland. She has written six books of The Senior Squad series for young readers, a novel for teenagers, *Elk Girl* (2018), and several illustrated children's books, of which *The Secret Life of Farts* (2019), illustrated by Sanna Mander, has been translated to ten languages. Maria Sann (b. 1982) is a Finnish illustrator who has in addition to children's books worked on book covers. In 2021, she was awarded with the prestigious Rudolf Koivu Award. *Skeleton* (2022) is her second book together with Malin Klingenberg.

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.

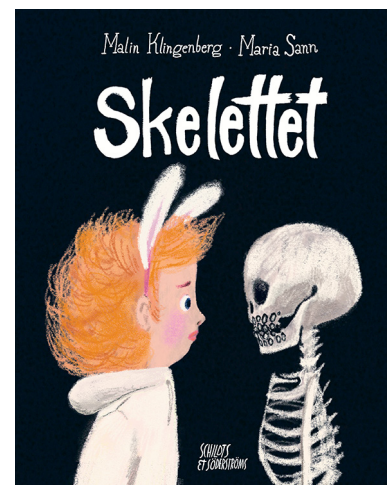
There's nothing to do but go see the doctor and take x-rays.

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

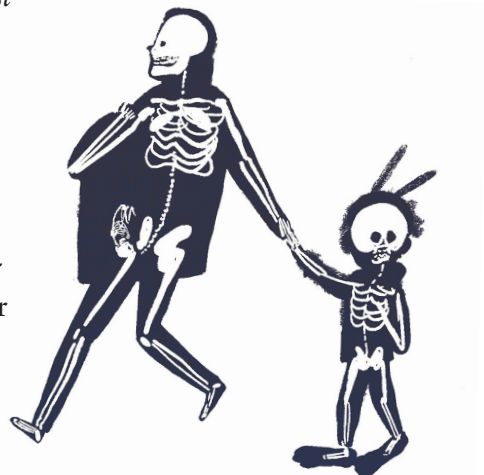
Schildts & Söderströms, 2022, 36 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,
English translation

RIGHTS SOLD

Dutch, De Vier Windstreken; Korea, Korean
Studies Information; Latvia, Zvaigzne ABC





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Hannamari Ruohonen (b. 1979) has illustrated numerous children's books. She has authored three books about *A City of Animals* (2007, 2008, 2009) that have been translated into French and Chinese. In 2017 came out *My Lost Mother*. After that, she started a series about siblings Kaisa and Oskar, which has so far three books: *Kaisa's and Oskar's Book of Favourites* (2018), *Kaisa's and Oskar's Book of Outings* (2019) and *Kaisa's and Oskar's Book of Friends* (2023). Ruohonen's rich and expressive work has been praised by critics and the general public alike.

Hannamari Ruohonen

Kaisa's and Oskar's Book of Friends

What is a good friendship like?

Kaisa is Oskar's sister, and he is her brother. He plays on his own a lot, but he has one friend at nursery school, with whom he likes to draw pictures. His best friend is probably Mum.

Kaisa's friend group consists of Penni, Elsa, Ville, Eino, Paul, Minja, Iina and Ludde, at least. They're all in her day-care group. She invites Elsa to stay over, and it's the most exciting and fun thing ever! But the pyjama party does not go as she planned, because Elsa gets nervous.

The adorable picture book deals with issues around friendship: should a friend be like you? Where can you find friends, and is it ok to have a single friend?

Hannamari Ruohonen has previously written two books about the two siblings' everyday issues: *Kaisa's and Oskar's Book of Favourites* (2019) and *Kaisa's and Oskar's Book of Outings* (2019).



ALSO AVAILABLE

Kaisa's and Oskar's Book of Favourites (*Kaisan ja Oskarin lempikirja*, 2018)

Kaisa's and Oskar's Book of Outings (*Kaisan ja Oskarin ystäväkirja*, 2019)

My Lost Mother (*Kadonnut äitini*, 2017)



Kaisan ja Oskarin ystäväkirja

S&S, 2023, 30 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Saara Kekäläinen (b. 1971) is an author known of her witty and anarchistic themes handled with abundant humour. She has written three children's books, *Penelope and the Perilous Porridge* (2022), *Penelope and the Big Baby Tooth Ballyhoo* (2023) and *The Princess Who Did a Runner* (2022), a nominee for the prestigious Arvid Lydecken Award. She publishes her adult novels with the pseudonym Olga Kokko. Netta Lehtola (b. 1996) is an illustrator who works widely in the field of visual media. A children's picture book *Fox Stories* (2019), illustrated by her, was a nominee for Finlandia Junior Prize.

Saara Kekäläinen & Netta Lehtola (illustrations)

The Princess Who Did a Runner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Translated by Tabatha Leggett



Prinsessa joka lähti kälppimään

S&S, 2022, 42 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

RIGHTS SOLD

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





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Saara Kekäläinen (b. 1971) has authored three children's books so far: *Penelope and the Perilous Porridge* (2022), *Princess Who Did a Runner* (2022) and *Penelope and the Big Baby Tooth Ballyhoo* (2023). She writes adult fiction under the pseudonym of Olga Kokko. Reetta Niemensivu (b. 1979) is an illustrator, comic strip artist and graphic designer. Their first installment together, *Penelope and the Perilous Porridge* (2022), was nominated for Finland's biggest literary award, the Finlandia Junior Prize. In 2024, the series will grow with a third book, *Penelope and the Curious Clothing Commotion*.

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.

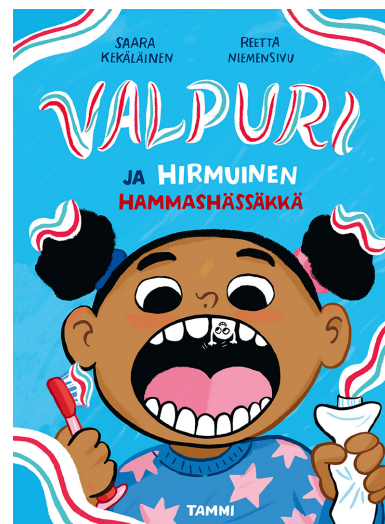
Then Penelope remembered. She'd heard people were born without teeth, then got baby teeth, which were replaced by permanent teeth. And if you ate too much candy, you had a set of false teeth to look forward to.

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

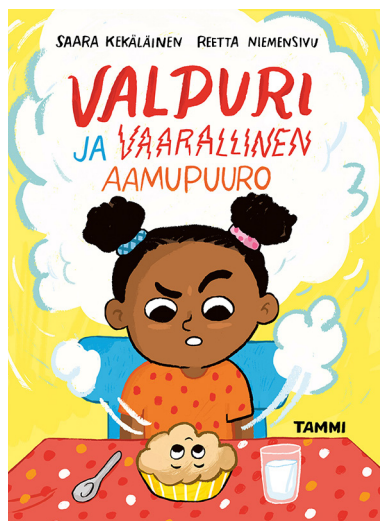
Finnish original, English translation

RIGHTS SOLD

Korea, Korean Information Studies;
Latvia, Latvian Mediji

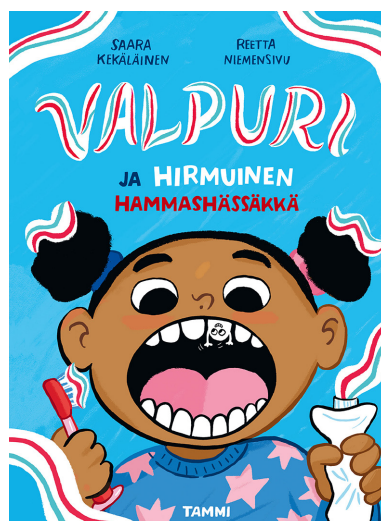
ALSO AVAILABLE

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



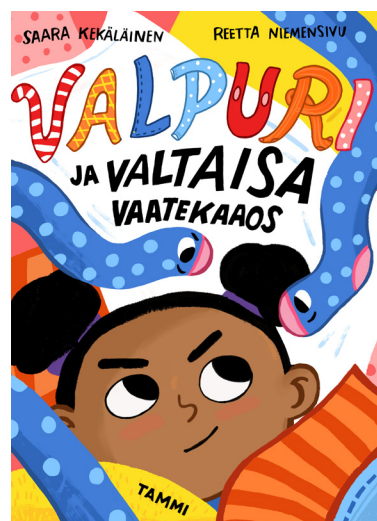
*Penelope and the Perilous Porridge,
Penelope #1*
Valpuri ja vaarallinen aamupuuro

Tammi, 2022, 48 pp.



*Penelope and the Big Baby Tooth
Ballyhoo, Penelope #2*
Valpuri ja hirmuinen hammashässäkkä #2

Tammi, 2023, 48 pp.



*Penelope and the Curious Clothing
Commotion, Penelope #3*
Valpuri ja valtaisa vaatekaaos

Tammi, spring 2024, 48 pp

READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English translations
(for book #3, in January 2024)

RIGHTS SOLD

Korea, Korean Studies Information (book #2);
Latvia, Latvijas Mediji (book #2)



Penelope series

With Penelope any mundane task turns into a wild adventure in fantasy land.

Penelope is a lovable and sharp pocket-sized girl full of attitude and mischief. In this series, Penelope encounters everyday tasks that, for the adults, seem simple enough – like eating the breakfast, brushing the teeth, and getting dressed. But when Penelope’s imagination sets off, there is all of a sudden full speed and surprising turns!

The first installment of the series, *Penelope and the Perilous Porridge* (2022), deals with overcoming the dangers a healthy portion porridge poses. This story of the epic duel between a girl and her breakfast was a nominee for the Finlandia Junior Prize, the largest children’s book prize in Finland.

In the second book, *Penelope and the Big Baby Tooth Ballyhoo* (2023), something strange happens. One of her teeth starts to wiggle. Will Penelope receive new sheep instead of new teeth? Will she meet the tooth fairy’s cousin, the tooth imp?

The third book, *Penelope and the Curious Clothing Commotion* (spring 2024), Penelope should get dressed, but she has a sneaking suspicion that the clothes have it in for her. If she does not watch out, there seems to be a fair chance the clothes will attack, or that something else as unexpected will happen...

“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





Children's
illustrated
fiction



Johanna Venho (b. 1971) is an author and poet who has written for both adults and children, receiving several awards for her books, including the Arvid Lydecken Prize for Children's Literature in 2003. Her adult novel *The First Lady* (2019) was nominated for the Finlandia Prize, Finland's most prestigious literary award. Sanna Pelliccioni (b. 1976) is an award-winning illustrator and children's author. She has published for example picture books *We Had to Leave* (2018), *I Remember You with Love* (2020) and *Matias and Everything that Was Far Away* (2021). *Forest Field Notes* (2022) is their first installment together. In 2024, it will receive a sequel in *Travel Field Notes*, another literary picture book with an ecological theme.

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.

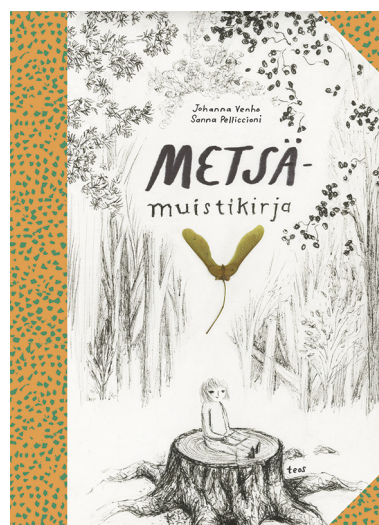
Spruce decides to fight back, and she starts by tying notes to trees with twine. It’s a kind of protest.

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*, 2024), see the cover on p. 56.



Metsämuistikirja

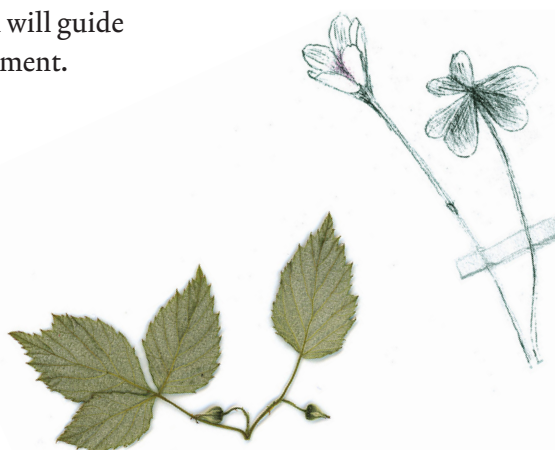
Teos Publishers, 2022, 40 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation

RIGHTS SOLD

Greece, Vlassis; World Spanish, Gato Sueco





Children's
illustrated
fiction

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

Ilja Karsikas

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)
Rights sold: Korea, Korean Information Studies; Sweden, Epix



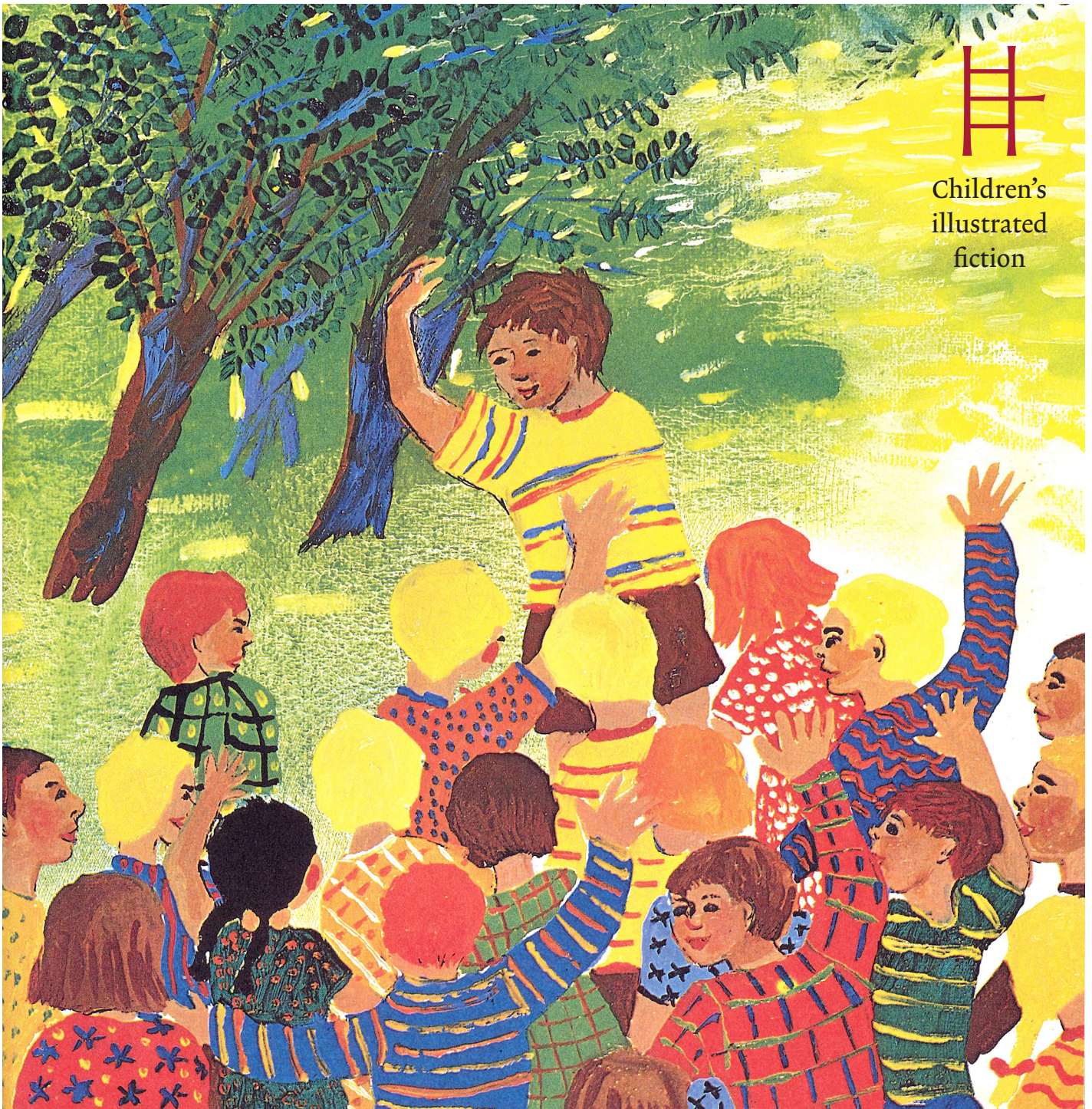
Myrsky ja Valo

S&S, spring 2023, 40 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation





Leena Krohn's (b. 1947) is one of the most prominent Finnish authors. Her adult fiction has been awarded Finland's biggest literary award, the Finlandia Prize (for *Mathematical Creatures* or *Shared Dreams*, 1993), and nominated for multiple other awards including the World Fantasy Award and the International Horror Guild Award (*Tainaron*, 1985). She has also written several children's books. Of them, her debut *Green Revolution* (1970) is a modern classic, reprinted in 2020 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The illustrator of *The Green Revolution*, Inari Krohn (b. 1945), is a recognized painter and graphic artist, who has also illustrated some other works of Leena Krohn.

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!

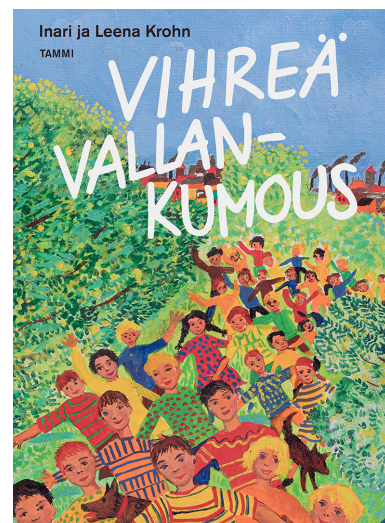
But one day, a boy named Mortti finds himself at the park’s gates with his dog, and the following night he sets out on a nocturnal expedition to explore his discovery. Before long, he is leading the city’s children, dogs, cats, and grownups to the park in defiance of the authorities. Thanks to their 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



A Dog Called Cat

Koira nimeltään kissa
Teos Publishers, 2015, 32 pp.



A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat

Koira nimeltään Kissa tapaa kissan
Teos Publishers, 2019, 40 pp.



A Dog Called Cat Looking for a Home

Koira nimeltään kissa kaipaa kotia
Teos Publishers, 2020, 32 pp.



A Dog Called Cat and the Wonder of Christmas

Koira nimeltään Kissa ja joulun ihme
Teos Publishers, 2021, 40 pp.



Tomi Kontio (b. 1966) is an established poet and author who has received numerous awards for his works. His first children's book, *Daddy Grew Wings in Spring* (2000), won the Finlandia Junior Prize and was awarded the LukuVarkaus Prize by a children's jury. Kontio's poetry has been translated into many languages. Elina Warsta (b. 1979) is an illustrator and graphic designer. Several of the book covers she has designed have won prizes in the Most Beautiful Book of the Year competition. Books she has illustrated have been published in several areas. *A Dog Called Cat series* (2015–2021), consisting of four stand-alone books, is Kontio's and Warsta's celebrated collaboration.

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 #1–4); Lithuania, Nieko Rimto (book #1); Romania, Pandora | Trei Editorial Group (books #1–4); 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



Children's
illustrated
nonfiction



Maija Hurme (b. 1976) is an illustrator of children's books. Her book *Shadowed* (2018) was nominated for the Finlandia Junior Prize, while *Bat Boy* (2014) and *Rustle Bustle Buff* (2015) were nominated for the Arvid Lydecken Prize. In 2015 she received the Finnish State Award for Information Publication for *Children's Own Yearbook* (2015). Her Helsinki allotment has in part inspired *Secret Gardeners*.

Lina Laurent (b. 1979) is a journalist and beekeeper. She lives part of the year in the village of Parkkuu in southern Finland, where she keeps not only bees, but also chickens, sheep and sometimes even pigs. *Secret Gardeners* (2021) is her first book for children.

Maija Hurme & Lina Laurent

Secret Gardeners

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

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

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

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

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



Plats på jorden

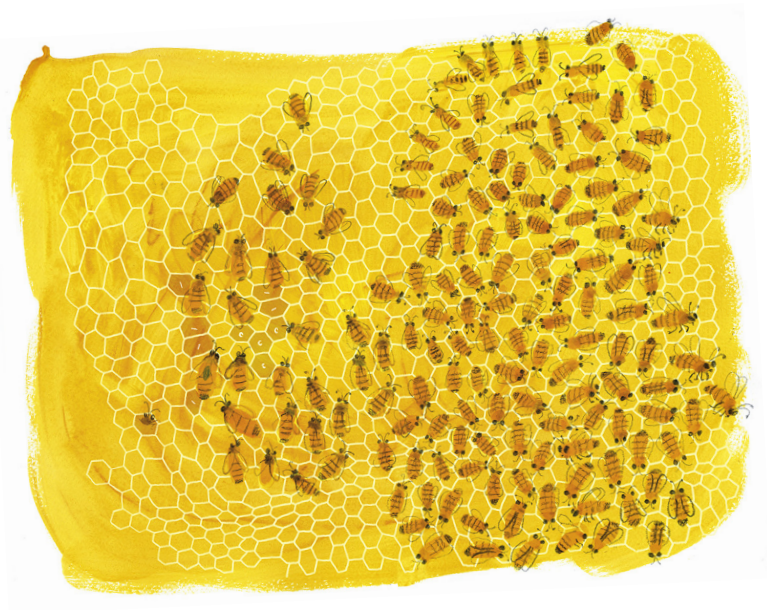
Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 48 pp.

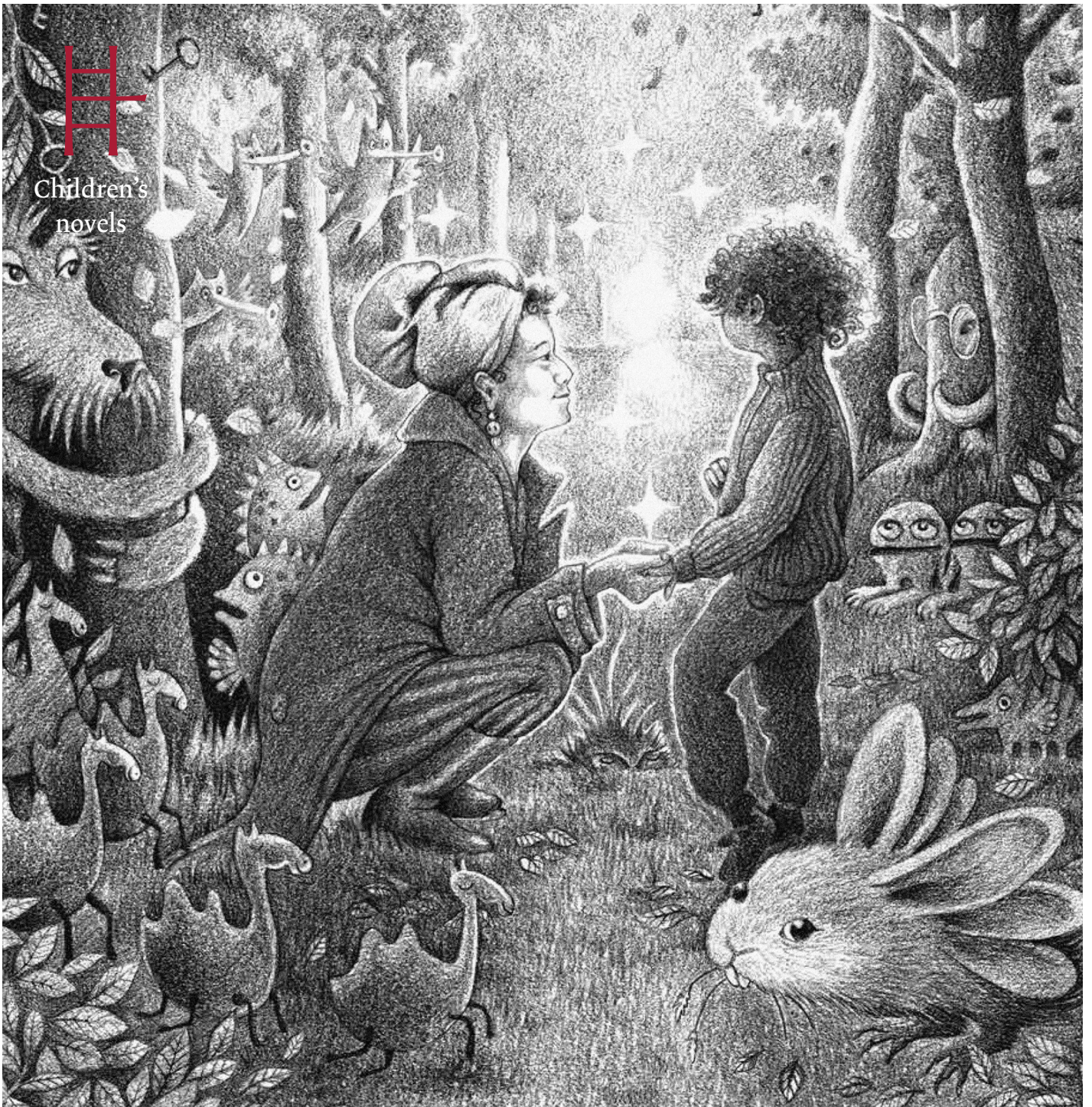
READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation

RIGHTS SOLD

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





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

Sofia Chanfreau & Amanda Chanfreau (illustrations)

A Giraffe's Heart Is Unbelievably Large

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

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

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

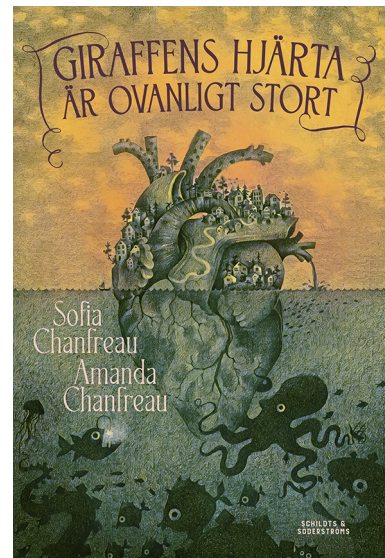
Colored by magical realism, *A Giraffe's Heart Is Unbelievably Large* is a tale of longing to be part of a family, to find one's place in the world, and to be loved as one is. It's a superb read for a child alone or for parents and children together.

"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 under-current of this playful, freshly humorous story is serious, bringing to mind such authors as Shaun Tan and Tormod Haugen."

BTJ magazine



Giraffens hjärta är ovanligt stort

Schildts & Söderströms, 2022, 206 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

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

FINLANDIA JUNIOR PRIZE 2022

NOMINEE FOR RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2023

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2023



Children's
novels



© Anna Autio

Anja Portin (b. 1971) is a Helsinki-based author who has written children's books, essays, nonfiction, and a novel (*Obituary*, 2019). She studied comparative literature and law at the Universities of Helsinki and Turku, and has worked as a journalist and an editor. Her middle-grade novel *Radio Popov* (2020) received the Finlandia Junior Prize as the best Finnish children's book of the year, and has been sold to twenty-five areas so far. In 2021, she published a picture book *Matias and Everything that Was Far Away*, illustrated by Sanna Pelliccioni. Her latest children's book is an adventure novel *The Book of Misty Trees* (2023).

Anja Portin

The Book of Misty Trees

*An enchanting new adventure novel
by the Finlandia Prize winner Anja Portin.*

In the spring, I was left alone. Mother disappeared under the earth that quaked down the mountain. Time after that has passed in a haze and I couldn't tell you what day it is...

Magda Murkbird loses her mother in a horrible accident and needs to learn to cope on her own. Luckily, she is not all alone but has Chestnut – the best dog on earth. In fact, it is thanks to Chestnut that Magda has survived unscathed. The two set off on a journey to look for Magda's aunt she has never met, and on the way they get lost in a mysterious thick fog covering the peak of the Misty Mountain.

Thus begins an unforgettable adventure in a world governed by Misty Trees, above all the eldest of them, the fountain of all living, the enormous Everbark.

Anja Portin has quickly become a favourite among children's authors with her middle grade novel *Radio Popov*, now sold to 25 areas. She writes about children who take matters into their own hands when grownups do not want to take responsibility or are not there to do it. Portin's theme and style evokes comparisons with Astrid Lindgren and Roald Dahl, among others.



Sumupuiden kirja

S&S, 2023, 384 pp

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

ALSO AVAILABLE

Radio Popov (*Radio Popov*, 2020)

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, Widnokr g; Romania, Humanitas; Russia, Samokat; Slovakia, Tatran; Slovenia, KUD Sodobnost International; World Spanish, Nórdica Libros; Turkey, Can Çocuk



Children's
novels



© Heli Sorjonen

Tomi Kontio (b. 1966) is an established poet and author who has received numerous awards for his works. His first children's book, *Wings to the Other Side of the World* (2000), won the Finlandia Junior Prize and was awarded the LukuVarkaus Prize by a children's jury. Kontio's poetry has been translated into many languages. Elina Warsta (b. 1979) is an illustrator and graphic designer. Several of the book covers she has designed have won prizes in the Most Beautiful Book of the Year competition. *A Dog Called Cat* series (2015–2021), consisting of four stand-alone books, is Kontio's and Warsta's celebrated collaboration. In 2022, they published a children's novel *My Dad Is a Hipster*, a nominee for the Arvid Lydecken Award.

Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta (illustrations)

My Dad Is a Hipster

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

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

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

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

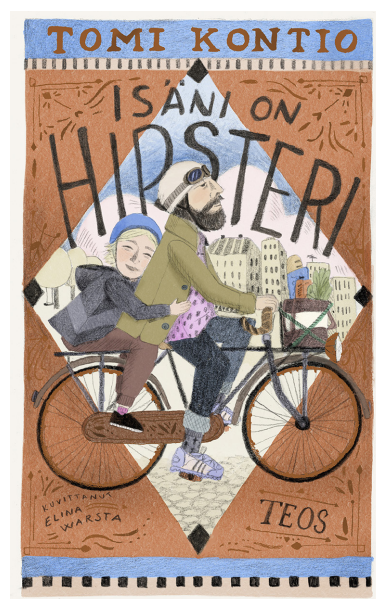
ALSO AVAILABLE

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

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

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

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



Isäni on hipsteri

Teos, 2022, 112 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis



Children's
illustrated
fiction



© Anna Autio

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

Annastiina Storm

The Superhero's Son and Other Flying Objects

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Teräsmiespoika ja muita lentäviä asioita

S&S, 2022, 240 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

Eva Frantz

The Mystery of Raspberry Hill *Queen of the Night* *The Secret of Helmersbruk Manor*

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

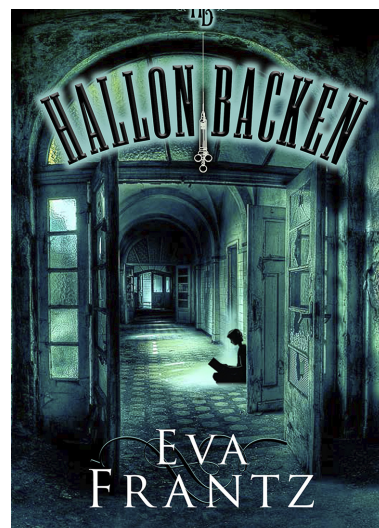
Finland's rising crime queen Eva Frantz has become known also for her novels for children, all of them featuring adorably creepy suspense. The novels are set in decades and milieus perfectly suitable for ghosts, and they are sure to keep the middle-grade reader glued to the pages.

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

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

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

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



Hallonbacken

The Mystery of Raspberry Hill

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 150 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

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

READING MATERIALS

Swedish original, English samples, English
synopses, English translations (*The Mystery of
Raspberry Hill* & *The Secret of Helmersbruk Manor*)

In *The Secret of the Helmersbruk Manor*, it is 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 needs to work on her book. To do that, she has rented an old cottage on the edge of a big park. In the middle of the park is an abandoned manor.

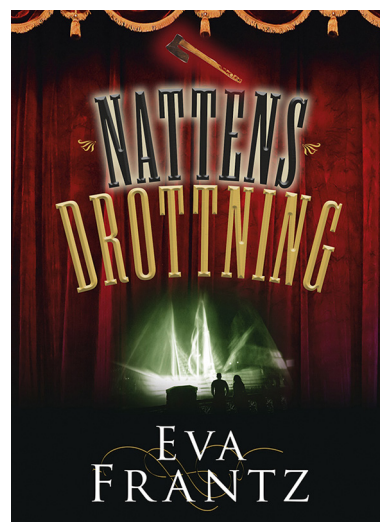
But why does Flora hear the clip-clopping of hooves in the night, even though there is no sign of any horses? Who keeps leaving figures from an old nativity scene around the park? And who on earth is Egon, the boy in the green hat who appears in the park now and then and seems to want to make friends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

The spine-tingling ghost story about a secret of a manor, gripping and heartfelt, is told over 24 chapters and is a good reading in the run-up to Christmas. The novel is illustrated wonderfully 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
The Mystery of Raspberry Hill

Eva Frantz (b. 1980) is an author and a journalist at Finnish national broadcasting company. She has written several internationally recognized and awarded crime novels for adults. Runeberg Prize-winning *The Mystery of Raspberry Hill* (2018) was her first book for middle-grade readers, followed by *Queen of the Night* (2021) and *The Secret of Helmersbruk Manor* (2021).



Nattens drottning
Queen of the Night

Schildts & Söderströms, 2021, 150 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

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



Hemligheten i Helmersbruk
The Secret of Helmersbruk Manor

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

RIGHTS SOLD

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



Children's
illustrated
fiction



Karin Erlandson (b. 1978) is a Finnish author writing in Swedish, who has previously published a four-part series of children's novels called *Song of the Eye Gemstone*. The first novel of four, *Pearl Fisher* (2017) received the Runeberg Junior Prize and was nominated for the The Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize, similarly to the fourth novel *Victor* (2019) and *Night Express* (2020). Peter Bergting (b. 1970) is one of Sweden's most famous illustrators. He has done illustrations and covers to numerous books for children, young adults as well as general fiction.

Karin Erlandsson & Peter Bergting (illustrations)

Night Express

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

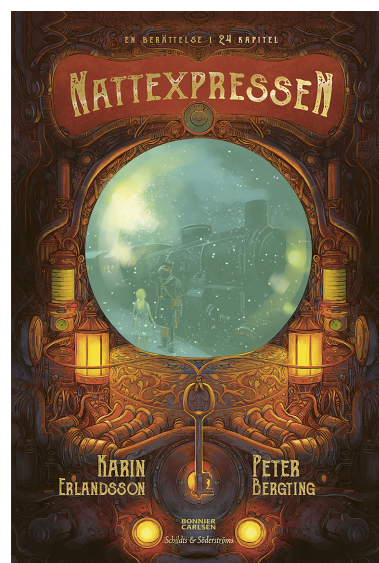
Dania's granny lives in an old station building next to a disused railway. Every year Dania, her big sister Nanda and their parents move to their grandmother's for December in the run-up for Christmas. Granny has become older and more forgetful during the past years, and sometimes she speaks nonsense.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

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

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



[37]



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; Korea, Korean Studies
Information; Lithuania, Alma littera; Poland,
Dwukropek; Russia, MIF; Slovakia, Ikar;
Ukraine, The Black Sheep

RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2021

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2021



Children's
novels



© Miikka Pirinen

Anja Portin (b. 1971) is a Helsinki-based author who has written children's books, essays, nonfiction, and a novel (*Obituary*, 2019). She studied comparative literature and law at the Universities of Helsinki and Turku, and has worked as a journalist and an editor. Her middle-grade novel *Radio Popov* (2020) received the Finlandia Junior Prize as the best Finnish children's book of the year, and has been sold to twenty-five areas so far. In 2021, she published a picture book *Matias and Everything that Was Far Away*, illustrated by Sanna Pelliccioni. Her latest children's book is an adventure novel *The Book of Misty Trees* (2023).

Anja Portin

Radio Popov

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

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

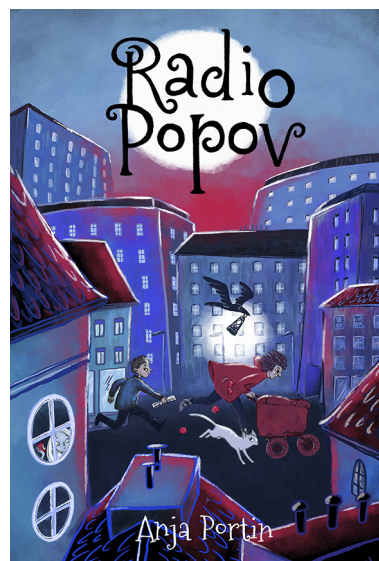
Thus begins an unforgettable adventure that changes everything, and not just for Albert. Sneak turns out the eccentric Amanda Lehtimaja, a paperwoman who is one of the Sharp Ears. At Amanda's home Alfred finds an old radio transmitter designed by a Russian physicist, A. S. Popov. He starts making a secret,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

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

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

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

Translated by Hildi Hawkins



Radio Popov

S&S, 2020, 288 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopses

RIGHTS SOLD

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



*Ruby's Secret,
The Hues #1*

Tiukun salaisuus
S&S, 2020, 199 pp.



*Many-Coloured Mansion,
The Hues #2*

Kirjava kartano
S&S, 2021, 188 pp.



*The Shadow Guest,
The Hues #3*

Varjovieras
S&S, 2022, 184 pp.



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

Vaara värikympylässä
S&S, 2022, 196 pp.



*The Fiery Sisters,
The Hues #5*

Tulisiskot
S&S, 2023, 199 pp.



Vuokko Hurme & Reetta Niemensivu (illustrations)

The Hues series

*What if you could move objects
by willpower?*

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

Ruby's Secret begins when the Hues, hiding their secret skills, move once more into a new neighbourhood. But this time, Ruby no longer wants to be an eternal outsider and decides to make an impression on her new friends.

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.

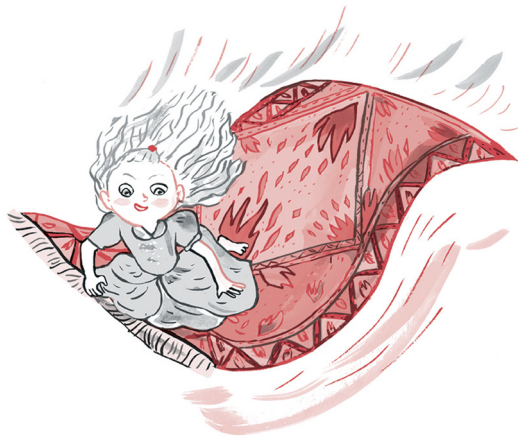
In *The Shadow Guest*, Forrest is enthusiastically practicing using his colours: green, blue and yellow. One day the family comes across a surly, mysterious man who is half black, half white. At the same time, Greyness is spreading.

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

In *The Fiery Sisters*, twins Blaze and Glow travel to the Hues' family mansion to put an end to a chain of fires – they control the orange colour. But soon there is news from home: their brother Bruno has gone missing.

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.



The Hues series has so far five books: *Ruby's Secret* (2020), *Many-Coloured Mansion* (2021), *The Shadow Guest* (2022), *Danger in the Colour Spa* (2022) and *The Fiery Sisters* (2023). The sixth and final book will come out in 2024.

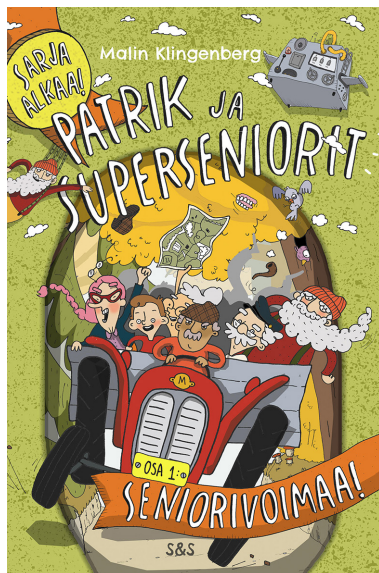
READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Italy, Mimesis (book #1)





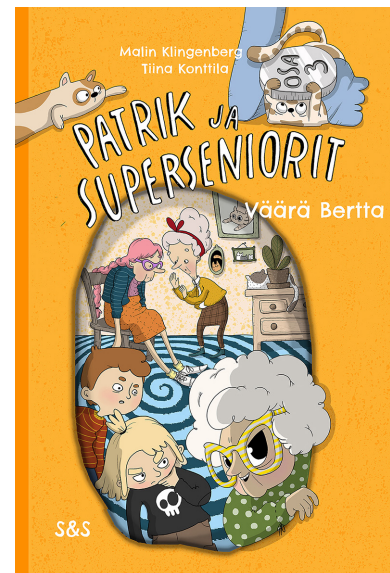
*Patrik and the Senior Squad,
The Senior Squad #1*

Patrik och Pensionärsmakten
Schildts & Söderstöms, 2010, 120 pp.



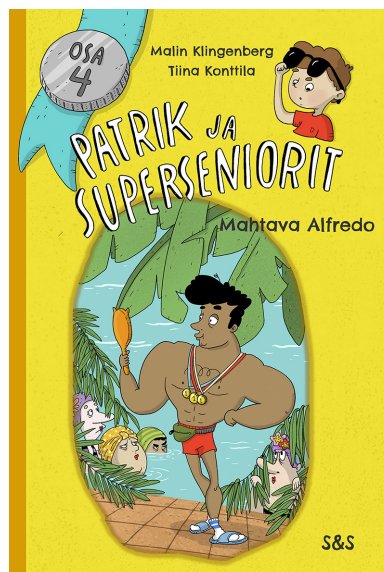
*Irene and the Moneyhoover,
The Senior Squad #2*

Irene och Sedelsugen
Schildts & Söderstöms, 2013, 136 pp.



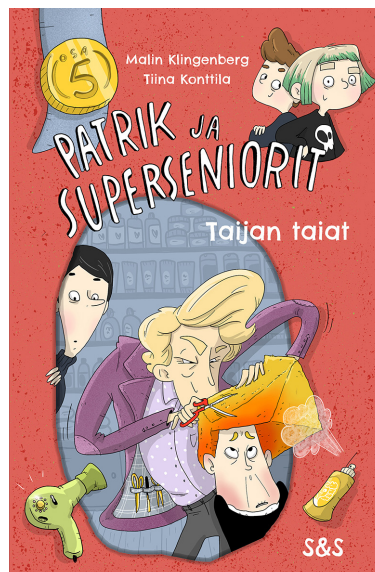
*Fake Bernice,
The Senior Squad #3*

Den falska Bernice
Schildts & Söderstöms, 148 pp.



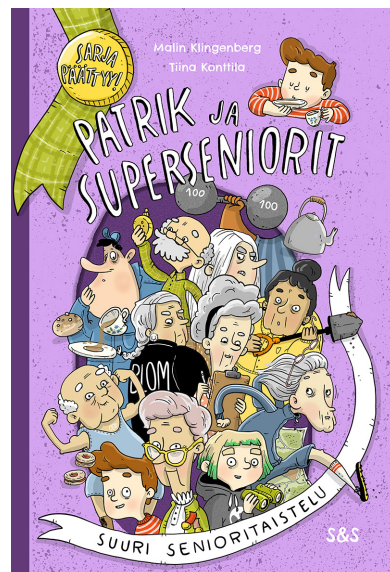
*The Fantastic Alfredo,
The Senior Squad #4*

Den fantastiske Alfredo
Schildts & Söderstöms, 2016, 168 pp.



*Rakel's Miracles,
The Senior Squad #5*

Rakels mirakel
Schildts & Söderstöms, 2017, 192 pp.



*The Magnificent Senior Match,
The Senior Squad #6*

Den stora seniorkampen
Schildts & Söderstöms, 2020, 258 pp.

Malin Klingenberg

The Senior Squad series

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

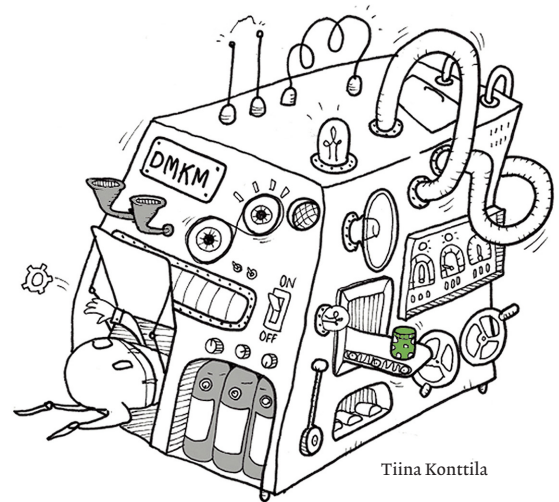
In a small-town school a boy sits in a class room, deep in thought. He's called Patrik, and today will be the most exciting day of his life, although he doesn't know it yet.

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

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

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

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



Tiina Konttila

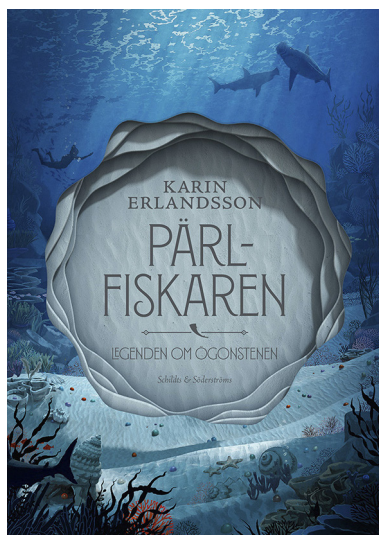
The Senior Squad series has six books. Originally written in Swedish, the series is also being published in Finnish.

READING MATERIAL

Swedish originals, Finnish translations, English sample

RIGHTS SOLD

Azerbaijan, Alatoran (books #1–6);
Bulgaria, Perseus (books #1–4)



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

Pärlfiskaren
Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 243 pp.



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

Fågeltämjaren
Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 310 pp.



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

Bergsklättraren
Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 255 pp.



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

Segraren
Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 302 pp.

RUNEBERG JUNIOR PRIZE 2018

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

NOMINEE FOR THE ARVID LYDECKEN PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2018 & 2020

Karin Erlandsson

Song of the Eye Gemstone series

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

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

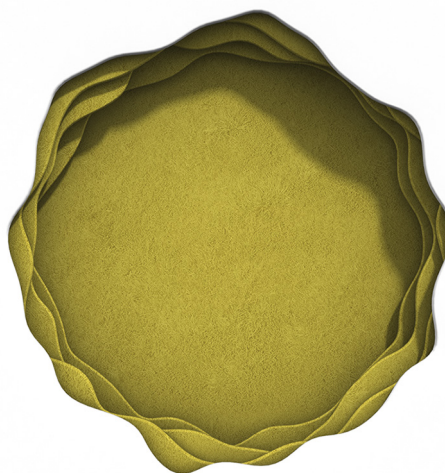
Two girls set out for the hunt: Miranda who believes herself to be the most skilled pearl fisher of all, and small Syrsa who has a rare ability: she can hear the pearls singing, whispering, murmuring... Their page-turning adventure grows in the series of four books to epic proportions: to a grand tale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

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

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

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



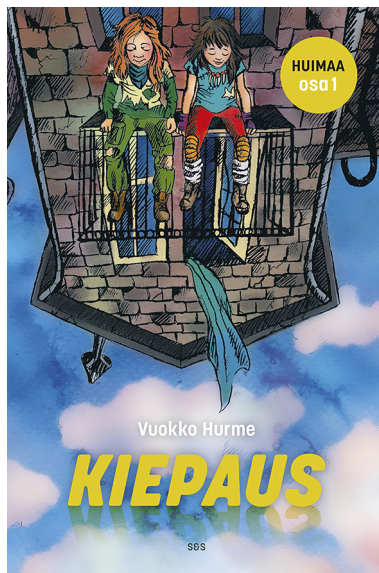
Song of the Eye Gemstone spans four books: *The Pearl Fisher* (2017), *The Bird Master* (2018), *The Scaler of the Peaks* (2019) and *The Victor* (2019).

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translations,
English synopses

RIGHTS SOLD

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



*Upside Down,
Rotation #1*

Kiepaus
S&S, 2017, 248 pp.



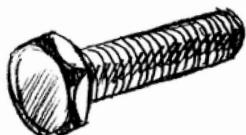
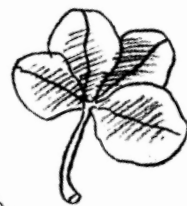
*Right-Side Up,
Rotation #2*

Kaipa
S&S, 2018, 320 pp.



*About-Turn,
Rotation #3*

Keika
S&S, 2019, 309 pp.



Vuokko Hurme

Rotation series

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

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

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

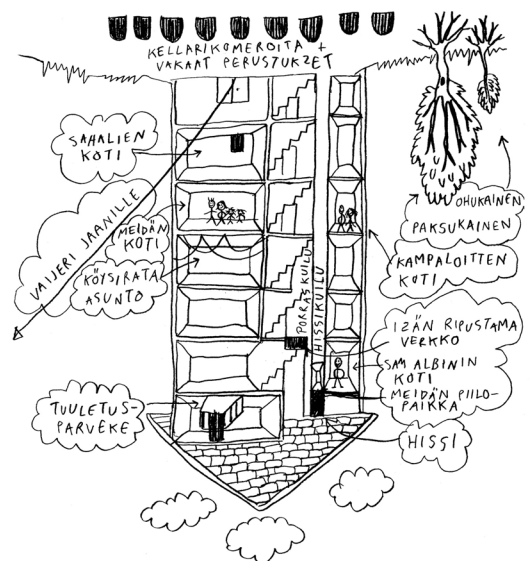
The incident that everyone refers to as “The Rotation” has changed everything, but people have learned to get along in their upside down world. They move from house to house with the help of ropes and special gear. They enjoy simple lives without running water or electricity.

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

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

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

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



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 (see pp. 42–43).



Young adult
novels



© Jennifer Granqvist

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

Ellen Strömberg

We'll Just Ride Past

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

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

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

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

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

Dagens Nyheter

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

Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper

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

Nuori Voima literary magazine
on *Chasing Water*

ALSO AVAILABLE

Chasing Water (*Jaga vatten*, 2018)

The Itch (*Klåda*, 2019)



Vi ska ju bara cykla förbi

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

READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, Finnish translation,
English sample, English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

Italy, Terre di Mezzo; Korea, Bluemoose
Books; Slovenian, Mladinska Knjiga



Nonfiction



Siberian jay, illustrated by Tuomas Kärkkäinen

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

Juha Kauppinen

The Essential Biodiversity

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

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

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

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

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

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



Monimuotoisuus. Lyhyt oppimäärä

Siltala Publishing, 2022, 132 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis,
English translation



Maija Hurme & Anssi Hurme

Shadowed

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

RIGHTS SOLD

Czech, Cesta domů



Anna Härmälä

Postcards from Granma Flyaway

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 32 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Turkey, Dinozor Çocuk (Ayrıntı Yayınları)



Ilja Karsikas

The Unicorn

S&S, 2022, 48 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Korea, Korean Studies Information;
Sweden, Epix



Helmi Kekkonen & Aino Louhi

Topsy-Turvy Anna

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Sweden, Epix



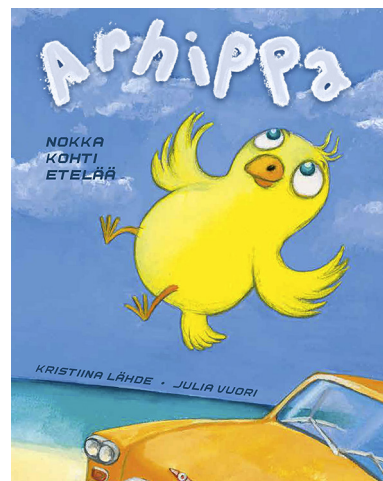
Tuomas Kärkkäinen

The Illustrated Book of Awelings

S&S, 2021, 42 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

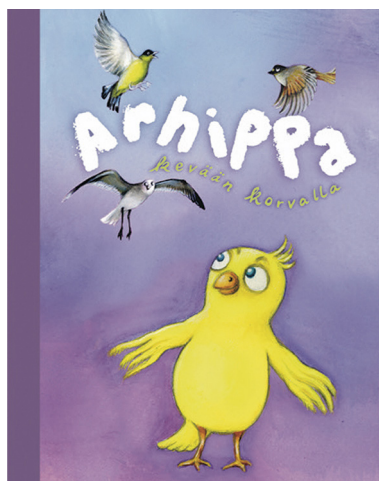
Estonia, Elust enesest



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori

Archie Goes South

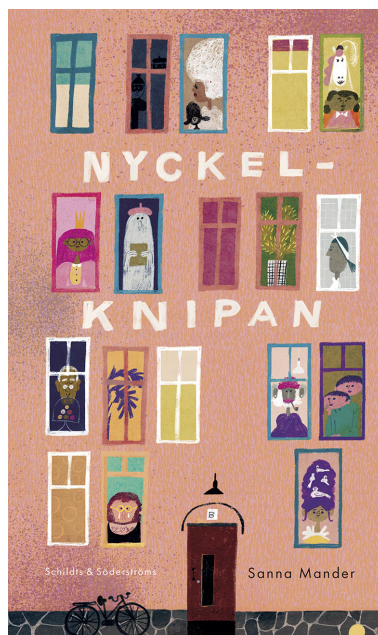
ws o y, 2016, 30 pp.



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori

Archie in the Spring

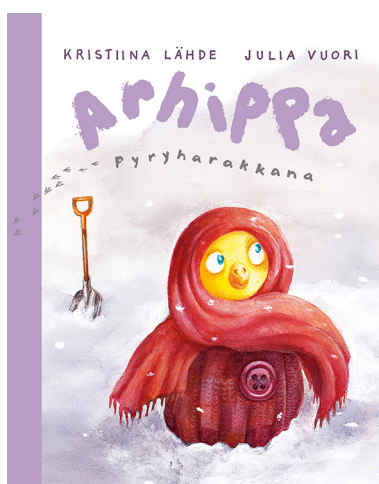
Teos Publishers, 2019, 34 pp.



Sanna Mander

The Lost Key

Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2017, 40 pp.



Kristiina Lähde & Julia Vuori

Archie in a Tizzy

Teos Publishers, 2021, 34 pp.



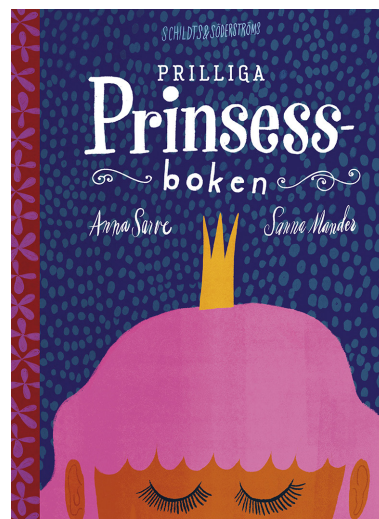
Sanna Mander

My Teeny-Tiny Witch

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

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonian, Ühinenud ajakirjad



Sanna Mander & Anna Sarve

The Spectacular Book of Princesses

Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 72 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Postimees Kirjastus (Eesti Meedia);
Hungary, Naphegy Kiadó (Kossuth)



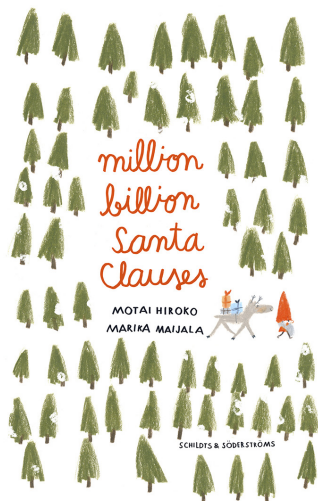
Malin Klingenberg &
Sanna Mander

The Secret Life of Farts

Schildts & Söderströms, 2019, 32 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

China (simplified), Ginko | Post Wave;
Czech Republic, Paseka; World English,
Pushkin Press; Estonia, Tänapäev;
French, Helvetiq; German, Helvetiq;
Italy, Carlo Gallucci Editore; South Korea,
Changbi; Sweden, Rabén & Sjögren



Hiroko Motai & Marika Maijala

Million Billion Santa Clauses

Schildts & Söderströms, 2014, 40 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Catalan, Pastel de Luna; China (simplified Chinese), Guanxi Normal University Press; Complex Chinese (outside mainland China, incl. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan), Yeren Publishing House; Czech, K-A-V-K-A; Denmark, Turbine; Estonia, Tänapäev; Finland (Finnish & Swedish), Schildts & Söderströms; Dutch, Clavis; France, Cam-bourakis; Germany, Fischer; Greece, Patakis; Italy, Terre di Mezzo; Japan, Anonima Studio; Korea, Woorinabi; Poland, Dwie Siostry; Spanish, Pastel de Luna; Ukraine, Yakaboo



Eppu Nuotio & Sanna Pelliccioni
(illustrations)

Sent across the Sea

S&S, 2022, 36 pp.



Saara Obele

Playground Pals

S&S, 2021, 32 pp.



Reetta Niemelä & Anne Vasko

The Grandma Book!

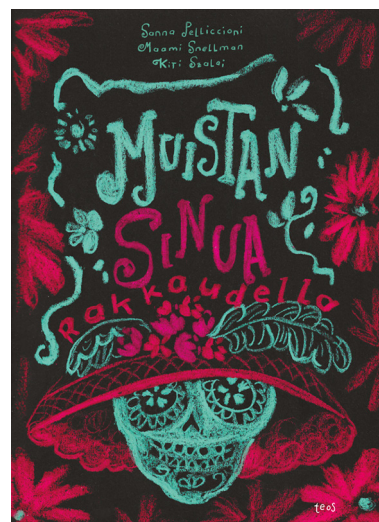
S&S, April 2022, 32 pp.



Sanna Pelliccioni

We Had to Leave

S&S, 2019, 48 pp.



Sanna Pelliccioni

I Remember You with Love

Teos Publishers, 2020, 40 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Toledo



Karoliina Pertamo

Bunny Likes

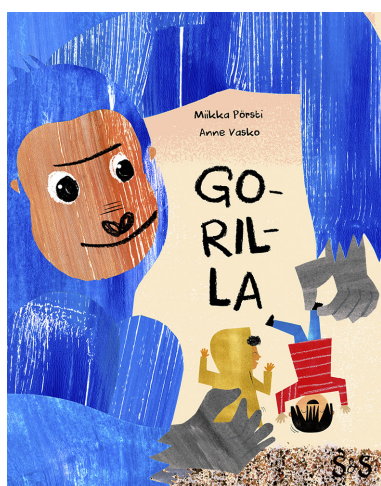
Schildts & Söderströms | S&S, 2018, 18 pp.



Anja Portin & Sanna Pelliccioni

Matias and Everything that Was Far Away

S&S, 2021, 36 pp.



Gorilla

S&S, 2020, 32 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

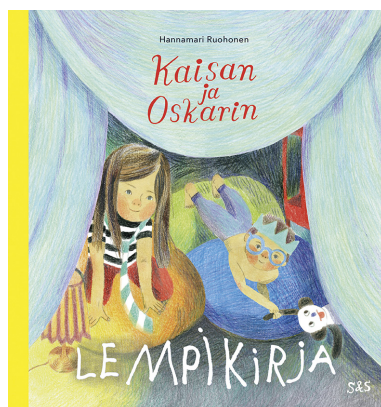
Estonia, Elust enesest; Korea, Korean Studies Information



Hannamari Ruohonen

My Lost Mother

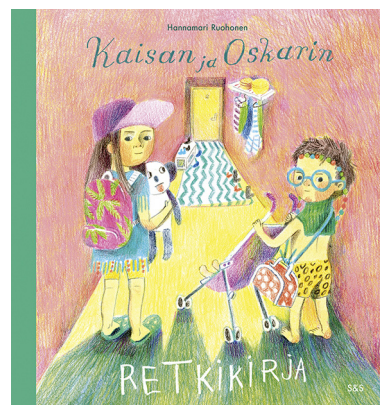
S&S, 2017, 30 pp.



Hannamari Ruohonen

Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Favourites

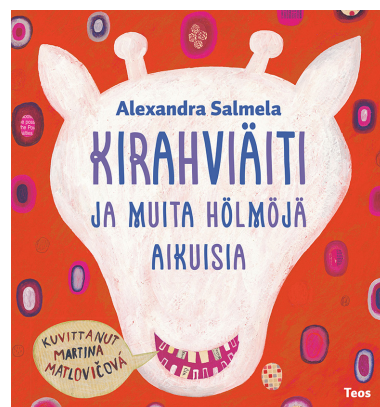
S&S, 2018, 30 pp.



Hannamari Ruohonen

Kaisa and Oskar's Book of Outings

S&S, 2019, 32 pp.



Alexandra Salmela & Martina Matlovičová

Mother Giraffe and Other Silly Adults

Teos Publishers, 2013, 94 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

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



Alexandra Salmela &
Linda Bondestam

The Fantastickle Friend

Teos Publishers, 2019, 120 pp.



Ellen Strömberg &
Elin Löf

Maggan All Year Round

Schildts & Söderströms, 2020, 139 pp.



Johanna Venho &
Sanna Pelliccioni (illustrations)

Travel Field Notes

Teos Publishers, 2023, 36 pp.



Aki-Pekka Sinikoski &
Ilja Karsikas

Under the Moon

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



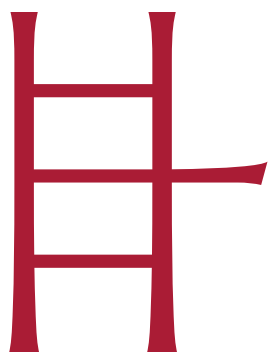
Pauliina Vanhatalo &
Anna Emilia Laitinen

Kerttu the Pincher

S&S, 2019, 46 pp.

RIGHTS SOLD

Estonia, Rahva Raamat; Korea,
Korean Studies Information



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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.

Gummerus

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

Schildts & Söderströms

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

Siltala Publishing

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

Teos Publishers

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

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Colophon

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

