

# Foreign Rights List Spring 2025

## I. LITERARY FICTION

Pirkko Saisio **Suliko**, Anni Kytömäki **Mirabilis**, Kari Hotakainen **Pearl**, Helmi Kekkonen **Liv!**, Katja Raunio **As of Late**, Harry Salmenniemi **Heartmist**, Iida Turpeinen **Beasts of the Sea**, Matias Riikonen **Matara**, Kari Hukkila **Thousand and One**, Anu Kaaja **The Ribbon Bow**, Laura Lindstedt & Sinikka Vuola **101 Ways to Kill Your Husband**

## II. HISTORICAL FICTION

Ann-Christin Antell **The Adel Sisters trilogy**, Ann-Christin Antell **Christmas at the Cotton Mill**, Ann-Christin Antell **The Cotton Mill Trilogy**, Merja Mäki **Carelia series**

## III. MODERN CLASSICS

Pirkko Saisio **The Helsinki Trilogy**, Anni Blomqvist **Maja From Stormskär series**, Märta Tikkanen **Love Story of a Century**, Sally Salminen **Katrina**

## IV. FANTASY AND SPECULATIVE FICTION

Linnea Kuuluvainen **The Thick of the Forest**, Niilo Sevänen **Eternal Winter series**, Leena Krohn **The Bee Pavilion**

## V. MYSTERY AND SUSPENCE

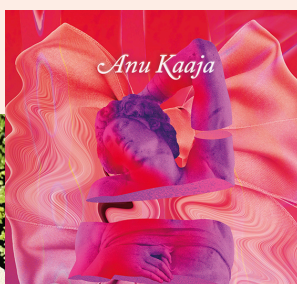
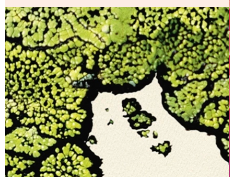
Anu Ojala **Silk Road North series**, Eva Frantz **Then Die Contentedly**, Eva Frantz **Anna Glad series**, Sari Rainio – Juha Rautaheimo **Mortui non silent series**

## VI. GRAPHIC NOVELS

Ulla Donner **The Natural Comedy**

## VII. NONFICTION

Jukka Tuhkuri **Endurance**, Henrik Meinander **Helsinki**, Antto Vihma **Nostalgia**, Julia Korkman **Memory Dependent**, Karin Erlandsson **The Blue Yarn**, Juha Kauppinen **The Essential Biodiversity**





Helsinki Literary Agency offers publishers around the world a broad selection of the best Finnish fiction, nonfiction, and children's literature. Founded in 2017, the agency is a joint venture of three Finnish publishing houses: Gummerus, Schildts & Söderströms and Siltala. The agency represents a wide range of prominent, award-winning authors and illustrators with books both in Finnish and Swedish.

**Helsinki Literary Agency**  
Lintulahdenkatu 3  
FI-00530 Helsinki, Finland  
www.helsinkiagency.fi

**Viivi Arela**  
*Literary Agent (CEO)*  
+358 40 838 5376  
viivi@helsinkiagency.fi

**Urté Liepuoniüté**  
*Senior Literary Agent*  
+358 44 244 3996  
urte@helsinkiagency.fi

**Chiara Stanziani**  
*Literary Agent*  
chiara@helsinkiagency.fi

**Karin Kvikant**  
*Literary Assistant*  
assistant@helsinkiagency.fi

**GUMMERUS**  
Gummerus, founded in 1872, is Finland's third largest trade publisher with a list of 200 titles each year. It is owned by Swedish Storytel.

**SCHILDT & 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. Since 2024, Teos is owned by Siltala Publishing.

**ORAVA BOOKS**  
Orava Books, founded in 2024, is the children's books imprint of Siltala Publishing. Orava publishes high-quality fiction and non-fiction books for ages 0-12.

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fiction1@grayhawk-agency.com  
clare@grayhawk-agency.blogspot.com

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Agentia Literara Livia Stoia  
**Lidia Dumitru**  
lidia.dumitru@liviastoliaagency.ro

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**Avgi Daferera**  
childrensbooks@ersilialit.com

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**Amo Noh**  
amonoh@gmail.com

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**Piotr Wawrzenczyk**  
piotr@literatura.com.pl

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**Marina Penalva**  
marina@casasnovaslynch.com

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**Amy Spangler**  
amy@anatolialit.com

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**Akif Pamuk**  
akif.pamuk@introtema.com

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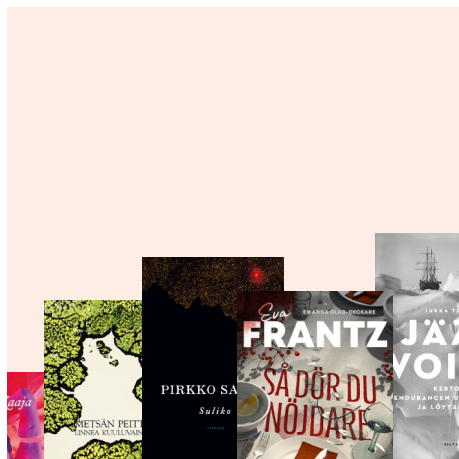
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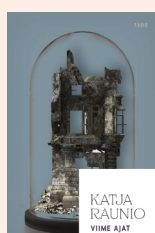
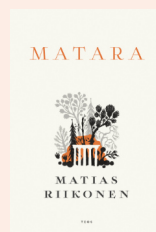
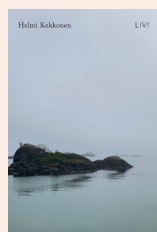
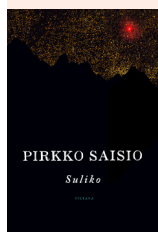
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# I. Literary Fiction

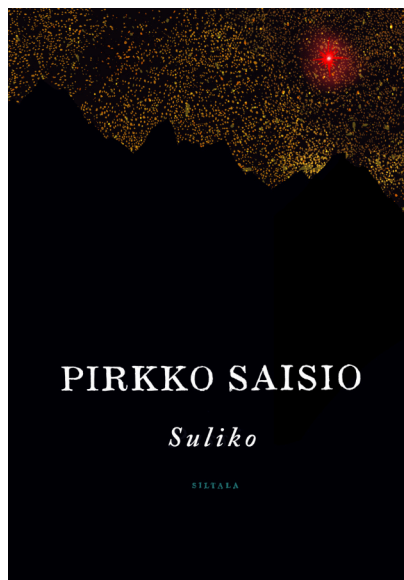
Pirkko Saisio **Suliko**, Anni Kytömäki **Mirabilis**, Kari Hotakainen **Pearl**, Helmi Kekkonen **Liv!**, Katja Raunio **As of Late**, Harry Salmenniemi **Heartmist**, Iida Turpeinen **Beasts of the Sea**, Anu Kaaja **The Ribbon Bow**, Laura Lindstedt – Sinikka Vuola **101 Ways to Kill Your Husband**, Kari Hukkila **Thousand and One**





Pirkko Saisio

## SULIKO

**Suliko***Suliko*

Siltala Publishing 2024, 370 pp.

## FICTION

- WINNER OF THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2025
- MARJA-LIISA VARTIO AWARD 2025
- NOMINEE FOR ADLIBRIS AWARDS 2024
- TOP 10 BESTSELLER

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Danish**, Jensen & Dalgaard**Estonian**, Postimees**Hungarian**, Polar

A raw and poetic journey into the world of myth and the mind of a dictator.



On a cold New Year's night, a downhearted autocrat is lost in his memories. He has ashes in his throat and longs for the mountain sun, for his youth. His dreams are confused and distressing, his submissive subjects are repulsive, and everyday events seem strange. What's going on? Only Suliko can calm the anxious old man. It is to Suliko the mighty man turns in his thoughts and soliloquies.

The novel slips into flashbacks: childhood and youth, the years of manhood and strength. Scenes and situations in which the determined protagonist has been faced with choices, choices that have led to new ones. But does even the strong-minded man ultimately have free will?

*Suliko* reaches into the world of myths and asks in what situations human choices lead to outcomes opposite to the original ethos and purpose. How does an idealist fighting for justice grow into a dictator? Is love an illusion? And – who is Suliko?

*I have a taste of ashes in my mouth, Suliko.  
I have nothing I am not prepared to give up.  
Except you.*

“Can a contemporary Finnish writer say anything conclusive about the Soviet tyrant, one of the worst tyrants of the last century? Yes, she can, if she is a master of prose like Saisio.”

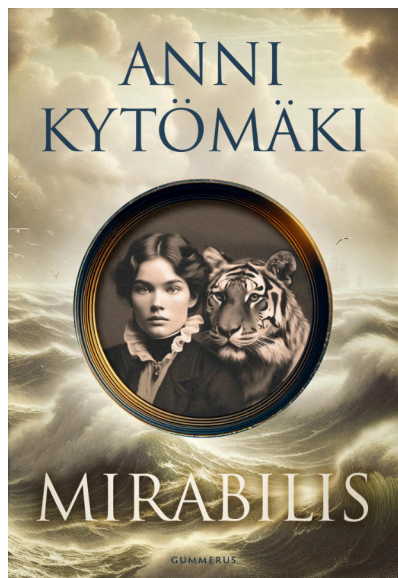
– SUOMEN KUVALHETI MAGAZINE

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



Anni Kytömäki

## MIRABILIS

**Mirabilis***Mirabilis*

Gummerus, 2024, 688 pp.

## FICTION

- 15 000 COPIES SOLD
- NOMINEE FOR ADLIBRIS AWARDS 2024
- 100 BEST FINNISH BOOKS OF THE MILLENNIUM
- #1 BESTSELLER

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Danish**, People's  
**French**, Rue de l'échiquier (*option*)  
**Italian**, Marsilio  
**Swedish**, Norstedts

A grand novel about life and death by an award-winning storyteller.

Unusually strong and sturdy, young Riikka survives years of famine and joins a railway track construction site. When a captain comes looking for people to build a new life overseas, Riikka joins the assembly. During the long sea voyage, Riikka gives birth to twins, Artturi and Ella, whose childhood begins in the Amur, in a fading utopian community in north-east Asia. In time, the twins are sent back to their mother's homeland, but Riikka stays behind. She has a close bond with nature, and an Amur tiger leaves a lasting impression on her. Back in Finland, the twins become acrobatic gymnasts. After tragic accidents, Ella is able to find solace only in her body's capacity to twist, turn and endure. Not unlike her mother, she identifies with recently extinct spectacled cormorant.

Set at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, *Mirabilis* describes the transformation of worldview when natural science showed that man is not, after all, the crown of creation. The fates of humans and animals intertwine with a thriller-like intensity. Through the stories of outsider mother and daughter, the relationship between nature and man is explored in terms of domination, assimilation, corporeality and transformation. Kytömäki's particular storytelling skills result in world-class literature, where the magic of narration sinks deep into the mind and makes one see the fragility and power of nature with new eyes.

*The world needs not only explanations but also something miraculous.*



"A magnificent grand novel that you won't want to leave."  
 – HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER



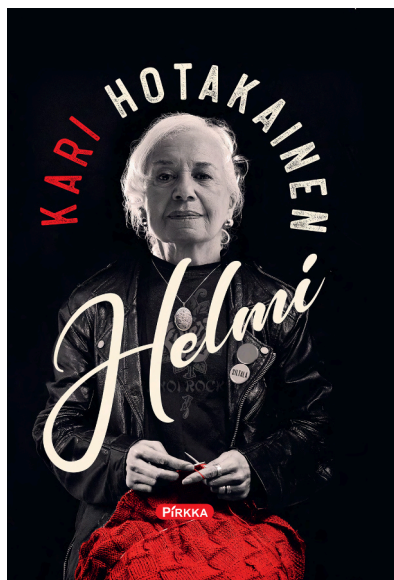
**Anni Kytömäki** (b. 1980) trained as a nature surveyor. Her debut novel *Goldheart* (2015) was nominated for the Finlandia Prize and Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, and received the Kaarle Prize, Tampere City Literature Prize and Torch-Bearer Prize, given to the Finnish title with the most potential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

Kari Hotakainen

## PEARL

FICTION

• 35 000 COPIES SOLD

**Helmi***Pearl*

Siltala Publishing, 2024, 294 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Hungarian**, Polar

A fast-paced, whimsical story of an elderly woman determined to preserve her memories – and herself.

Mira and Toni are a most ordinary couple whose everyday life is shadowed by a seemingly unachievable dream: to have a baby of their own. When, on a foraging trip in a forest, they discover an elderly lady who doesn't even remember her own name, everybody's life suddenly gets speedier, bumpier and more absurd than anyone could ever imagine.

*Pearl* is a charming, humorous and moving story, where tragic things take on a tone of warm, gentle comedy. If you lose control of your memories and life, what is there left to hold on to?

The fast-paced plot and pithy dialogue make for a laugh-out-loud read, while topical questions, reflected in a casual yet poignant manner, remind the reader that, in the end, it's only our humanity that makes our lives worthwhile.

"*Pearl* is a warm-hearted defense of the elderly, showing all aspects of their existence. Hotakainen cultivates his dry humor and sarcastic observations in a familiar way, the language is a joy to read, the story flows. [...] Despite the humor the book addresses serious themes. A certain sadness runs throughout the text. That too is typical for Hotakainen: he makes you feel perplexed about life. Hotakainen's portrayal of everyday life, whatever that is, is brilliant." – SAVON SANOMAT NEWSPAPER



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

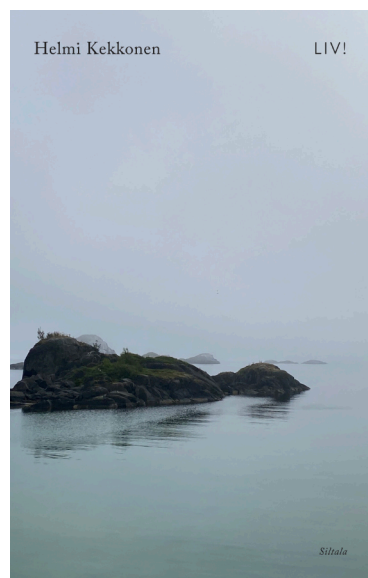


Helmi Kekkonen

## LIV!

FICTION

• NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2024

**Liv!***Liv!*

Siltala Publishing, 2024, 183 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Hungarian**, Polar

A delicate yet incisive view of the systematic abuse women face daily.

Twenty-two-year-old Liv spends the last week of her vacation at her family's summer house. She is relaxed and bored, as young people are in predictable and safe environments.

One morning, Liv gets up early and goes to the cliffs by the sea. She is just about to fall asleep when a strange man sits next to her, a little too friendly, a little too close. The man's immediacy and arrogance both fascinate and repel her, but in the end the fascination and desire that awaken in Liv win, and she arranges a meeting without telling her mother or sisters.

Helmi Kekkonen's *Liv!* follows its protagonist agonisingly towards the event that appears to be unavoidable to the reader, even though it shouldn't. This event splits Liv's life and the lives of her loved ones into before and after. The women of the island are on a collision course despite the fact that everyone wants the best for Liv. Questions about the definition of sexual violence and the rights and responsibilities of the victim force both mothers and daughters to look in the mirror and ask themselves: what would you do in this situation?

"[Liv!]'s feminist message is universal and impressive in its ordinariness."

—SUOMEN KUVALEHTI MAGAZINE



**Helmi Kekkonen** (b. 1982) is a Helsinki-based author who debuted with a collection of short stories, *Home* (2009). Since then, she has written five novels: *The Choice* (2011), *Unsheltered* (2014), the Runeberg Prize nominee *The Guests* (2016), *This Woman's Life* (2021) and *Liv!* (2024). She is considered one of the strongest voices in contemporary Finnish prose.



Katja Raunio

## AS OF LATE

FICTION

• WINNER OF THE TORCHBEARER PRIZE 2023

**Viime ajat***As of Late*

Teos publishers, 2023, 117 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

Absurd nature of the world captured in a series of strange events.

A woman works in customer service at a museum. She has to. While those around her think of their careers and the housing market, she lives in a dilapidated shared apartment and calculates where to find money for food and rent. Life has led her to a dead end.

Her work includes encounters with men seeking attention, and even on the streets she isn't left in peace. At least there is one ray of sunshine in her life: on a rainy evening, a young man lends her his raincoat. He's just a little hard to figure out, even though he always has something to say. On top of that, a summer of changing weather brings a stalker under the protagonist's window. And, of course, suspicions arise – is it all her own fault? Is this the story of our times? How far can we go in protecting ourselves?

*As of Late* is an agonising novel about the abuse of power in everyday life. Katja Raunio's delicate narrative catches you off guard, showing a world that feels like a fairy tale, but at the same time is painfully real.

"The book is funny, but also serious. There is something recognizable in its absurdity that is hard to put into words, or in other words it is strongly fictional. The similarities to Grimm's fairy tales are insightful and open up more possibilities for interpretation."

–RIIKKA PULKKINEN, AUTHOR, JURY OF THE TORCH-BEARER PRIZE



**Katja Raunio** (b. 1985) is a writer and art historian. Her debut novel *Käy kaikki toteen* (2015) won the Kalevi Jäntti Prize and was nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize. Her second novel, the acclaimed *Sinun päiväs koittaa* (2020) won the Toisinkoinen Prize. Her third novel, *As of Late* (2023), won the Torch-Bearer Prize, given to the title most likely to succeed internationally.

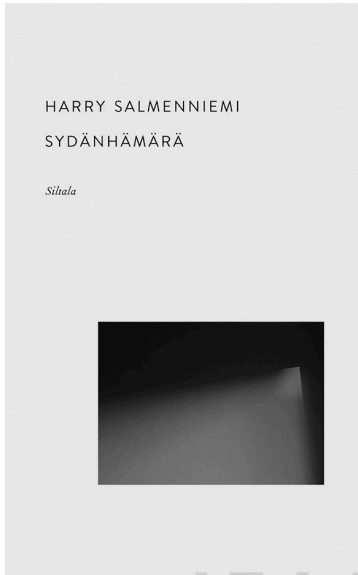




# Harry Salmenniemi

## HEARTMIST

FICTION



**Sydänhämärä**

*Heartmist*

Siltala Publishing, 2024, 215 pp.

READING MATERIAL:

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

A gripping story about a father's love and the sense found in senselessness.



A week before the writer's second baby is due to be born, his first born gets seriously ill and is taken to the intensive care unit. The father keeps vigil by his son's bed in the hospital and at home, observing everything around them. Things must be done without thinking. You must go on, days on end, each day filled to the brim with tasks. When his son starts to get better, the writer is grateful and surprised, and understands that he doesn't understand life at all. At home, the everyday goes on with its nappies, cooking and washing. Deep feelings are impractical in the day-to-day living. They have too many dimensions. Everyday holds destruction and chaos, both of which need to be in order.

*I need to make Maria and myself a coffee, and she needs hers with hot milk. Milk is depressing to me. Milk is white and tiresome. I cut chunk of apple for Joel's quark and crush some cashew nuts besides. I do this with utmost care, so diligently that I end up crushing some of myself into it. I cut up apples, knuckles and fingers.*

Translated by Aleksii Koponen

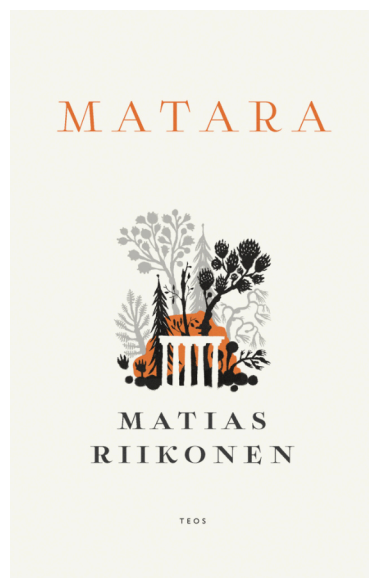
*Heartmist* is a novel in which the biggest emotions meet an abstract, ironic mind. It captures the truth of a human life, the fabric of which is made of exhausting day-to-day, obligations and duties. Behind those, nonetheless, shines something exceptionally bright.

"The gentle humour of *Heartmist* comes from the perfect collaboration between irony and an empathetic gaze. [...] The text is charming in its seemingly quotidian idiom, which Salmenniemi manages to charge full of emotion." – SUOMEN KUVALEHTI MAGAZINE

**Harry Salmenniemi** (b. 1983) is one of Finland's most original contemporary writers. He has published seven collections of poetry and was awarded for *Texas, Scissors* (2010) the Kalevi Jäntti Award. His prose debut was the short story collection *The Uranium Lamp* (2017). After that, he has written three other collections of short stories: *Dolphin Meditation* (2019), *Victim Syndrome* (2020), and *Customer Coral* (2021). Salmenniemi has also authored the film script *Tectonic Plate* (2016) and *Failed Emptiness* (2024), both directed by Mika Taanila, and the libretto to chamber opera *Bliss* (2015), which was awarded the Teosto Award. In 2023, he published his first novel *Shadowmind*, and in 2024 a second one, *Heartmist*.

Matias Riikonen

## MATARA

**Matara***Matara*

Teos, 2021, 310 pp.

## FICTION

- WINNER OF THE TORCH-BEARER PRIZE 2021
- NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2021
- NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2022
- WINNER OF THE JARKKO LAINE PRIZE 2023

## READING MATERIAL

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

## RIGHTS SOLD

**Danish**, Jensen & Dalgaard

**German**, Karl Rauch

**Hungarian**, Metropolis

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 often are – pitilessly.

Matias Riikonen's fourth novel takes children seriously in a way few other works have. In Riikonen's hands, the birdsong-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.

"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



**Matias Riikonen** (b. 1989) is an author whose novel *The Gull with Four Wings* (2012) was a nominee for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize. His second novel *Grand Fugue* and prose notebook *Orbit* (2017) were Toisinkoinen Award nominees and awarded the Kalevi Jäntti Prize. *The Night Porter's Rounds* (2019) was a nominee for the Jarkko Laine Prize. *Matara* (2021) was nominated for the Finlandia Prize and the Runeberg Prize, and it won the Torch-bearer Prize, an award given to a novel with most international potential.

Iida Turpeinen

## BEASTS OF THE SEA

**Elolliset***Beasts of the Sea*

S&amp;S, 2024, 398 pp.

## READING MATERIAL:

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

## FICTION

- WINNER OF THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE 2023
- NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2023
- NOMINEE FOR THE BEST FOREIGN BOOK OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE
- OVER 50 000 COPIES SOLD

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Albanian**, Muza; **Catalan**, Cossetània;  
**Croatian**, Sonatine; **Czech**, Paseka;  
**Danish**, People's; **Dutch**, Singel  
Publishers; **World English**, MacLehose  
& Little, Brown; **Estonian**, Tänapäev;  
**French**, Autrement (Flammarion);  
**German**, Fischer; **Greek**, Ikaros;  
**Hungarian**, Polar; **Icelandic**, Benedikt;  
**Italian**, Neri Pozza; **Japanese**, Kawade  
Shobo Shinsha; **Korean**, Open Books;  
**Latvian**, Janis Roze; **Lithuanian**, Alma  
Littera; **Norwegian**, Gyldendal; **Polish**,  
Poznanskis; **Portuguese** (in Portugal),  
Porto Editora; **Slovakian**, Slovart;  
**Slovenian**, Mladinska; **Spanish**, Seix  
Barral (Planeta); **Swedish**, Albert  
Bonniers; **Turkish**, Timas; **Vietnamese**,  
Kim Dong



## A spellbinding story of long-gone species and human destinies.

In 1741, naturalist Georg Wilhelm Steller joins the Great Northern Expedition, as captain Vitus Bering and his crew scout out a sea route from Asia to America. Although they never reach the American mainland, they make a unique discovery, now known as the Steller's sea cow.

In 1859, Hampus Furuhielm, the Finnish governor of the Russian territory of Alaska, sends his men to seek the skeleton of this massive marine mammal, rumored to have vanished a hundred years before.

In 1952, John Grönvall, a restorer at what is now the Finnish Museum of Natural History, is assigned the task of refurbishing the skeleton of the Steller's sea cow, which by then is extinct.

*Beasts of the Sea* is a literary achievement and a breathtaking adventure through three centuries. Approaching natural diversity through individual destinies, it's a story of grand human ambitions and the urge to resurrect what humankind in its ignorance has destroyed.

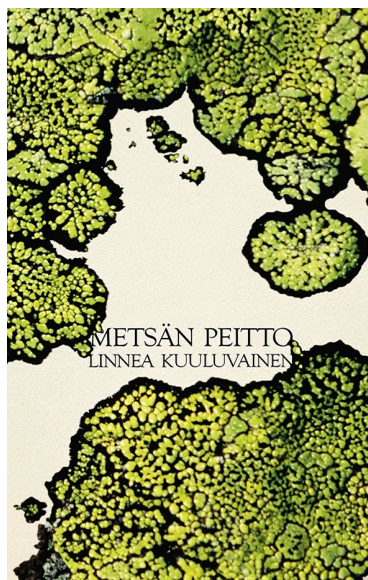
"Iida Turpeinen has written an important European novel. [...] Turpeinen's debut novel, *Beasts of the Sea*, which focuses on a single sea cow and individuals linked to it over a span of three centuries, makes the ecological ruptures and freefall of the entire world a palpable experience. [...] This science-fueled book will move you and have you holding your breath." – HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

**Iida Turpeinen** (b. 1987) is a Helsinki-based literary scholar currently writing a dissertation on the intersection of the natural sciences and literature. Turpeinen's short stories exploring the relationship between humans and animals won the J. H. Erkko Young Writers' Competition in 2014. Her debut novel, *Beasts of the Sea* (2023) was praised immediately upon its release as a world-class work, one that brings together a lost world and living literature. It was awarded the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize as the best debut of 2023, and it was nominated for the Finlandia Prize and the Torch-bearer Prize. In 2024, it was also nominated for the best foreign book in France and for Adlibris and Storytel Awards.



Linnea Kuuluvainen

# THE THICK OF THE FOREST



**Metsän peitto**  
*The Thick of the Forest*  
 Gummerus, 2024, 361 pp.

## SPECULATIVE FICTION

- NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE 2024

READING MATERIAL  
 Finnish original, English sample,  
 English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD  
**Bulgarian**, Colibri  
**Croatian**, Hangar 7  
**Estonian**, Varrak

A magical novel about nature and two women's intertwined fates.

The natural world has become angry with humanity and is beginning to use its power. To escape nature's vengeance and isolate themselves from it as well as they can, people have fled to small city-states.

One of them is the former city of Turku, where a tightly guarded Nation has been established.

Ingrid grew up in this new world, living all her life in the Nation. After her mother's death, she gets a job with a research group called Wild Rosemary, whose task is to map the conditions outside the walls of the Nation.

Although the forest has been pacified, it is still angry and dangerous. And soon there is discord among the researchers as well.

*That's when I realize that my mother's rules, her orders that I forget everything having to do with the forest, were meant to protect me. She wanted to keep me safe. She took away my stories so that I would be able to stay far away from the forest, so that I wouldn't put myself in danger.*

Translated by Lola Rogers

*The Thick of the Forest* is an entrancing and linguistically captivating first novel about a forest that haunts people and two women whose stories intersect.

Linnea Kuuluvainen's debut novel immediately rises to the top of the charts of Finnish speculative fiction. The book asks difficult questions about the individual's relationship to nature and the government. [...] Much can be expected from the author. — SUOMEN KUVALEHTI MAGAZINE

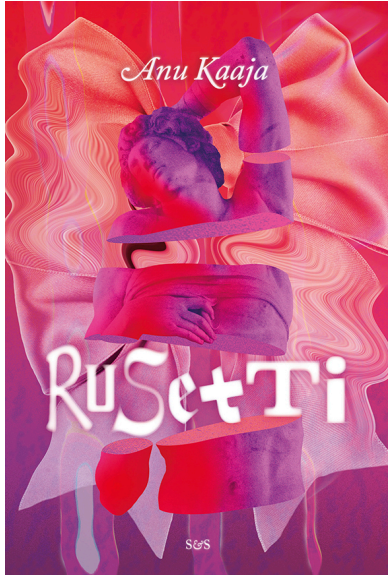


**Linnea Kuuluvainen** (b. 1996) has studied Finnish language and writing. Her debut novel *The Thick of the Forest* (2024) is inspired in part by a forest of wild rosemaries growing close to her home.



Anu Kaaja

# THE RIBBON BOW



**Rusetti**  
*The Ribbon Bow*  
S&S, 2022, 268 pp.

## FICTION

- NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2025
- NOMINEE FOR THE RNEBERG PRIZE 2024
- NOMINEE FOR THE ADLIBRIS AWARD 2024

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Swedish translation, English sample, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD

**Swedish**, Schildts & Söderströms

## Hedonism meets capitalism criticism in a deliciously pink novel.

A writer is looking for intellectual, physical and spiritual enjoyment in European cities in the spirit of a contemporary Grand Tour. She sits in cafés, dances in clubs, goes to meet paintings, converses with objects. Cascading rows of rococo bows and her lovers' pierced faces offer her frissons of delight.

*The Ribbon Bow* is like a cake with needles in it. It is a collage with hot, enthralling renaissance boys, experiences of art, infatuation and mending of broken hearts.

Anu Kaaja's fourth book is a sensual and analytical novel, a profound and playful paean to beauty and melancholy, a work that does not distinguish between a fetish club and an art museum. It is an inspired portrait of objectifying people and anthropomorphising objects.

*The Ribbon Bow* is like a sweet wrapped in a critique of capitalism, one that not only looks at pictures but also through them.

"*The Ribbon Bow* is a collage of a novel that offers its readers aesthetic pleasure."  
– HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

"A thought-provoking, unapologetically queer work of art, a reflection on both the hum of history and today's most contemporary sets of values." – KEHRÄÄJÄ MAGAZINE



**Anu Kaaja** (b. 1984) is an author and scriptwriter who studied creative writing in Helsinki and is a Master of Arts from the University of Salford. Kaaja's debut *Metamorphosis* (2015), a surrealist collection of short stories, came second in the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize competition. In 2017 it was awarded the Jarkko Laine Literature Prize. *Leda* (2017) was Kaaja's first novel. It was nominated for the Runeberg Prize and awarded the Toisinkoinen Literature Prize. *Katie-Kate* (2020) was awarded the Kalevi Jäntti Prize and was received with wide critical acclaim. *The Ribbon Bow* (2023) is Kaaja's latest work, a contemporary Grand Tour – and as surprising and quirky as Kaaja's writing always is. It was nominated for the Runeberg Prize and the Adlibris Award.





Laura Lindstedt &amp; Sinikka Vuola

# 101 WAYS TO KILL YOUR HUSBAND



**101 tapaa tappaa aviomies**  
*101 Ways to Kill Your Husband*  
 Siltala Publishing, 2022, 202 pp.

## FICTION

• NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2024

READING MATERIAL  
 Finnish original, Swedish translation, English sample, French sample, German sample

RIGHTS SOLD  
**Danish**, Jensen & Dalgaard  
**French**, Gallimard  
**Hungarian**, Polar

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 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



**Laura Lindstedt** (b. 1976) is an author and a researcher, whose first novel *Scissors* (2007) was nominated for the Finlandia Prize. Her second novel *Oneiron* (2015) was awarded the Finlandia Prize and it was nominated to Runeberg and Nordic Council Literature Prizes. Her latest novel *My Friend Natalia* (2019) has been sold to 12 areas. **Sinikka Vuola** (b. 1972) is an author and a teacher of writing. Of her poetry collections, *The Orchestra We Cannot Hear* (2007) was awarded the Kalevi Jäntti Literature Prize, and *The Hardest Language in the World* (2013) was nominated for the Yleisradio Dancing Bear Literature Prize. Her first novel *Replika* (2016) was a nominee for the Runeberg Literature Prize.



Kari Hukkila

# ONE THOUSAND & ONE

FICTION

• WINNER OF THE HELMET PRIZE  
2016



**Tuhat ja yksi**  
*One Thousand & One*  
Teos, 2016, 212 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
Finnish original, English translation,  
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD  
**English** (North America), Contra  
Mundum Press  
**German**, Droschl

A philosophical, essayistic trip to the borders of times and ideas.

A large birch tree falls on a cabin near the Russian border in eastern Finland. This throws the owner of the cabin, an author, off his tracks. Concentrating on the book he is writing becomes impossible, and he takes up an invitation to travel to see his old friend in Rome. There he soon finds himself entangled in other stories.

In *One Thousand & One*, Scheherazade's survival by continuing to tell stories is reimagined as survival by continuing to think: this is an attempt to respond to catastrophes, both natural and man-made. Throughout the novel, it is shown by a cornucopia of micro-histories, digressions, and a broad gallery of characters ranging from the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein to an Ethiopian refugee in Rome.

Kari Hukkila's musical, meandering, thought-provoking prose is full of savage, ironic, and luminous humor, remaining uncompromisingly alive until the final sentence.

"One Thousand & One is one of the best novels of recent years for many reasons. It deals with topical questions such as homelessness, refugees, and internationality; it is philosophically engaging, ranging from Georg Henrik von Wright to Wittgenstein, and it is written in taut, lucid prose [...]. All in all, *One Thousand & One* is an excellent novel." – HELMET LITERATURE PRIZE STATEMENT

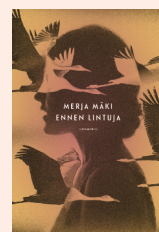
"One Thousand & One is at once a deep dive into the internal maelstrom of the mind and out into the world, to Europe. [...] A fascinating read." – TURUN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER



**Kari Hukkila** is an author and a prolific dramatist and essayist. In his work, personal history and the collective memory of Europe intertwine in a way that is dazzling in its erudition, accessible in its deep emotion. His novel *One Thousand & One* (2016) was awarded the Helmet Prize.

## II. Historical Fiction

Ann-Christin Antell **Christmas at the Cotton Mill**, Ann-Christin Antell **The Cotton Mill Trilogy**, Merja Mäki **Before the Birds**, Merja Mäki **Wept Another**



Ann-Christin Antell

HISTORICAL FICTION

# THE ADEL SISTERS TRILOGY



## Valkea Lilja

*White Lily*  
*The Adel Sisters #1*  
 Gummerus, 2025, 368 pp.

## Kätketty tähti

*Hidden Star*  
*The Adel Sisters #2*  
 Gummerus, 2026, c. 350 pp.

## Villi lintu

*Wild Bird,*  
*The Adel Sisters #3*  
 Gummerus, 2027, c. 350 pp.

## READING MATERIAL:

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

An utterly charming historical romance series about three sisters seeking their paths in the male-dominated fields of art and science.

The Adel Sisters trilogy follows three talented and charming sisters in the early 1900s Finland and on their travels in Europe as they try to find their way in male dominated fields of art and science.

The sisters live with their painter father Amos and mother Matilda in a beautiful Casa Adel in Naantali, southwestern Finland. The family has an aristocratic background, but have been impoverished due to unfortunate events. The oldest daughter, Thyra, is an introverted soul focused on mathematics and astronomy. Middle child Lily loves art and aspires to become a painter like her beloved father. The youngest, Kitty, spends her days roaming about forests and seas and dreams of becoming an archaeologist.

In addition to complicated matters of the heart, the reader gets swept up in the cultural and spiritual movements of the era that influenced art and science alike. Antell paints a vivid picture of a time when women were active and committed figures in many fields, although repeatedly overshadowed by men.

In *White Lily* (2025), the middle child of the Adel family, Lily, gets to accompany her eccentric grandmother on a summer visit in Florence where she gets to further her studies and see the art treasures of the city. It's the 1910s, and modern art is just starting to get a foothold in Europe. Before the trip, Lily gets a tempting marriage proposal from a longtime friend, and promises to give an answer upon her return. In Florence, she meets a fetching Italian art patron and an enigmatic Swedish painter who inspire her to discover art, aesthetics, spirituality – and herself. There is no going back to her old life.



## Ann-Christin Antell (b. 1973)

studied history and archaeology and worked as a librarian before embarking on her career as an author. Her historical romance series *Cotton Mill* (2021–2023) spent a long time at the top of the Finnish bestseller lists. 2025 marks the start of a new, highly anticipated Antell series.

## THE ADEL SISTERS TRILOGY

In *Hidden Star* (2026), we get to follow the eldest Adel sister, Thyra, a mathematically gifted introvert. Thyra and her younger sister Kitty are spending the summer at their maternal grandmother's manor, where a local Lord takes a liking to Thyra. Their cranky recluse of an uncle conducts scientific experiments in his room upstairs and studies stars. Thyra succeeds in gaining his trust. After noticing his niece's talent, the uncle sends her to study at Uppsala University, where Thyra loses her heart. But is the man truly right for her?

In *Wild Bird* (2027), Kitty, the youngest of the Adel sisters studies archaeology in the University of Helsinki. She spends her free time at their grandmother's summer cottage by the sea where she suddenly meets her childhood love. Unexpectedly, Kitty receives a possibility travel to Greece to archaeological excavations where she falls in love, but which is more important to her: a career in research, or love?

*In the midst of the games, Lilly noticed Niclas's stare and met his eyes. He bowed his head so close that she felt his warm breath on her cheek.*

*– 'Would you walk with me along the sea shore? It's such a beautiful evening,' Niclas whispered.*

*Lily felt a quiver in her belly.*

*– 'Now? Straight away?'*

*– 'Yes. Now.'*

Translated by Hildi Hawkins

"Antell masters the details of the epoch in a fine manner. When profiling the characters, the debut author captures the spirit of the time well."

–SATAKUNNAN KANSA NEWSPAPER ON THE SHADOW OF THE COTTON MILL

"Historically accurate depiction of the lives of the upper classes [...] Although the text oozes romance, it also displays a precise expertise on the life of noblemen two hundred years ago."

–MAASEUDUN TULEVAISUUS NEWSPAPER ON THE SHADOW OF THE COTTON MILL





Ann-Christin Antell

## COTTON MILL TRILOGY

**Puuvillehtehtaan varjossa***The Shadow of the Cotton Mill*,  
Cotton Mill #1

Gummerus, 2021, 335 pp.

**Puuvillehtehtaan perijä***Heir to the Cotton Mill*,  
Cotton Mill #2

Gummerus, 2021, 368 pp.

**Puuvillehtehtaan kilpailija***Rival to the Cotton Mill*,  
Cotton Mill #3

Gummerus, 2023, 352 pp.

## HISTORICAL FICTION

- WINNER OF THE KAARLE PRIZE 2021
- NOMINEE FOR THE STORYTEL & ADLIBRIS AWARDS FINLAND 2024
- NOMINEE FOR THE STORYTEL AWARD SWEDEN 2025

## READING MATERIAL:

Finnish original, Swedish translation (books #1–2), English sample, English synopsis

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

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

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

#1 bestsellers in Finland, the first two books of the trilogy have sold about 150,000 copies so far.

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

In *Heir to the Cotton Mill* (2022) it is the dawn of the 20th century. Jenny's adult foster daughter, Martta, returns from Sweden to her childhood home, Turku. The new director of the cotton mill, the agreeable dandy Robert, introduces Martta to Turku society, while Juho, a

**Ann-Christin Antell** (b. 1973)

studied history and archaeology and worked as a librarian before embarking on her career as an author. Her debut novel *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill* (2021) climbed to the top of the Finnish bestseller lists, as did its sequels *Heir to the Cotton Mill* (2022) and *Rival to the Cotton Mill* (2023).

In 2025, the first book of a new Antell trilogy will be published.

## COTTON MILL TRILOGY

- #1 BESTSELLER
- 200,000 COPIES SOLD

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Danish**, People's Press (books #1–3);

**Dutch**, Meulenhoff (books #1–3);

**World French**, Marabout (books #1–3); **Icelandic**, Storytel (books #1–3);

**Swedish**, Storytel (books #1–3)

childhood friend who works at the shipyards, also appeals to her with his rough-hewn charms. As a working-class girl fostered in a bourgeois home, Martta feels lost: how can she build herself a life between these two different worlds?

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

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

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

Translated by Hildi Hawkins



Merja Mäki

## KARELIA SERIES

## HISTORICAL FICTION

- OVER 30 000 COPIES SOLD
- NOMINEE FOR THE ADLIBRIS AWARD 2024
- #1 BESTSELLER

**Ennen lintuja***Before the Birds*

Karelia series #1

Gummerus, 2022, 416 pp.

**Itki toisenkin***Wept Another*

Karelia series #2

Gummerus, 2024, 415 pp.

**Kun valo sammuu***When Light Disappears*

Karelia series #3

Gummerus, 2026, c. 420 pp.

## READING MATERIAL:

Finnish originals, English samples, Swedish translations, French translation (book #1), English synopses

## Best-selling stories about the difficulty of crossing borders between states, cultures and people.

Merja Mäki's heart-wrenching novels set in wartime Finland capture the coming of age stories of three different young women in impossible conditions. Addressing the themes of family relationships, displacement, life choices, prejudice, love and forgiveness, the novels give a new view to the much-written-about Finnish war experience. The three standalone novels share some common characters but are set in different time and place.

In *Before the Birds* (2022), 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 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?



**Merja Mäki** (b. 1983) worked as a teacher of Finnish before embarking on her author career. She published seven books for children and young adults before writing her first novel, *Before the Birds* (2022), which was an instant critical and commercial success. It was awarded the Torchbearer Prize as the novel with most international potential. *Wept Another* (2024) is also set in war-time Karelia. Third installment in the series of stand-alone novels, *When Light Disappears* will be published in 2026. Mäki describes her writing about war as peace work.



## KARELIA SERIES

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Swedish**, Historiska Media**French**, Leduc (book #1)**Ukrainian**, Astrolabe (book #1)

In *Wept Another* (2024), It is the summer of 1942 and Larja returns to her home to Aunus Karelia from teacher training camp. Peace has momentarily descended on this bit of territory recently reclaimed from the Soviets by Finnish troops.

Upon her arrival, Larja soon learns that her buabo Matja, the village's most respected professional lamenter, is deathly ill, and her little sister Pola carries a secret deep within her heart. Their mother's wild rose bushes bloom near the step and yet the fate of her parents, carted off to a gulag years ago, remains unknown.

As Larja cares for her ailing grandmother, she listens to the messages the trees are sending her on the northern winds and discovers that she too has the gift of wailing. However, it requires great courage to accompany the dead to the other side.

After a Finnish man steps into her life, Larja finds herself again torn between two different worlds. Still, love knows no borders and the winds blow as they see fit. Can Larja answer the wind's call and weep another day?

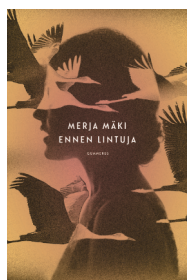
*Wept Another* is the story of a young woman who has grown up between two cultures on the border of two countries. It is a tale of roots and the ties that bind us, but above all, of the choices that you must make in life.

In *When Light Disappears* (2026), it's 1944 in Seinäjoki, Western Finland. Young Ilmi, Alli's sister, has been forced to leave her home in Laatokka Karelia two times. She is ready to start her own life, but is tied to her mother who is stuck in the past and fatally ill.

Ilmi falls in love with war veteran Antti, who is part of a local religious sect Awakening. The older sect members treat Ilmi suspiciously, seeing her as a Russian. Ilmi wants to get closer to Antti but he resists due to the differences of their religions.

Ilmi helps Antti to transport heavy cargo in horse-drawn carts, often at nighttime. She does not know that there is a major weapon cache operation going on. After the bitter peace and its hard terms, the Finns are afraid that the Soviets will try to invade the whole country and are preparing for a guerilla war by hiding weapons.

New thoughts about joy and freedom are infiltrating the minds of the religious youths and Ilmi starts to find her place in the theatre community. Hope awakens in Ilmi: maybe Antti can belong to her after all. But when Antti is arrested due to his illegal actions, Ilmi gets the blame. She feels forced to leave acting and stick to her mother's death bed. Will she ever get her chance to try her wings and fly?



"The novel expands my understanding of what it means – and how it feels – to leave everything behind."

– HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER ON BEFORE THE BIRDS

"Mäki's text is textual art that draws from Karelian words and ancient traditions [...] You have to give it time, savour the words and their meanings, and surrender to the rhythm. The text breathes like a wind."

– KULTTUURITOIMITUS CULTURE MAGAZINE ON WEPT ANOTHER

"Merja Mäki's language is expressive and interesting. The text smolders with emotion."

– KULTTUURITOIMITUS CULTURE MAGAZINE ON BEFORE THE BIRDS



Ann-Christin Antell

# CHRISTMAS AT THE COTTON MILL

HISTORICAL FICTION

• NOMINEE FOR THE STORYTEL AWARDS 2025



## Joulutarinat

*Christmas at the Cotton Mill*  
Gummerus 2024, 272 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD:

Icelandic, Storytel

Festive revisit to the unhurried, atmospheric world of the Cotton Mill.

Ann-Christin Antell returns with a collection of cosy Christmas novellas that follow the generations of Barker women readers have come to know and love in the Cotton Mill Trilogy.

In *Loviisa's Christmas*, it is 1865 and young Loviisa is preparing for an idyllic Christmas celebration in Naantali. Loviisa's husband, a sea captain, has brought home plenty of souvenirs, and the frosty morning has many surprises in store.

In *Christmas at Örndahl*, it's 1896 and Martta Barker has her hands full with Christmas preparations. The family is eagerly waiting for uncle Fredrik to come home from his business trip in time for Christmas. Martta is hoping that Anton, the smith's son, will ask her to dance, but the joyful celebration takes an unexpected turn when Aapo, her brother, falls through the ice. Is their Christmas ruined, or is there still a chance for a memorable celebration?

*Christmas at Falke Castle* takes the reader to wartime. It is 1939 and Paula Falke has been evacuated from Turku, escaping the war, to her mother-in-law's Littoinen estate along with her son and grandmother Jenny. Paula's husband is at the front, and the responsibility for the factory weighs heavy on her shoulders. Living with in-laws is not always easy, but despite everything, Paula plans on a memorable Christmas for the whole family and the factory workers.



## Ann-Christin Antell (b. 1973)

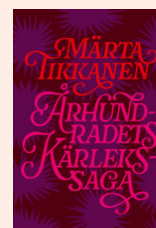
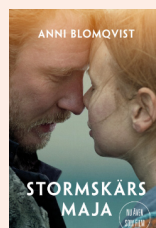
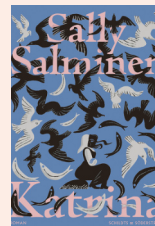
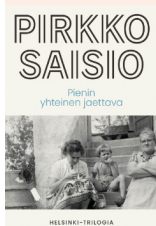
studied history and archaeology and worked as a librarian before embarking on her career as an author. Her debut novel *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill* (2021) climbed to the top of the Finnish bestseller lists, as did its sequels *Heir to the Cotton Mill* (2022) and *Rival to the Cotton Mill* (2023). In 2025, the first book of a new Antell trilogy will be published.





# III. Modern Classics

Pirkko Saisio **The Helsinki Trilogy**, Anni Blomqvist **Maja from Stormskär series**, Märta Tikkanen **The Love Story of the Century**, Sally Salminen **Katrina**



Pirkko Saisio

## THE HELSINKI TRILOGY



**Pienin yhteinen jaettava**  
*The Lowest Common Multiple*  
 Wsoy, 1998, 254 pp.

**Vastavalo**  
*The Backlight*  
 Wsoy, 2000, 252 pp.

**Punainen erokirja**  
*The Red Book of Farewells*  
 Wsoy, 2003, 298 pp.

## FICTION

- FINLANDIA PRIZE WINNER 2003
- NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 1998 AND 2000
- NZZ 100 BEST BOOKS OF THE CENTURY
- DIE ZEIT 100 BOOKS OF THE YEAR 2024
- BEST FINNISH BOOK OF THE MILLENNIUM

## READING MATERIAL:

Finnish originals, English samples,  
 English translation (book #3),  
 French translation (book #1),  
 German translation (books #2–3)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



## THE HELSINKI TRILOGY

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Czech**, Host; Dutch, De Geus (books #1–3); **English**, Penguin Classics (Uk & Commonwealth excl. Canada), Two Lines Press (North America) (books #1–3); **Georgian**, Sulakauri (book #3); **World French**, Robert Laffont (books #1–3); **German**, Klett-Cotta (books #1–3); **Hungarian**, Polar (books #1–3); **Romanian**, Pandora M (books #1–3); **Slovenian**, Škuc (book #3); **Swedish**, Förlaget M (books #1–3)

Each of the three novels was nominated for Finland's biggest literary award, the Finlandia Prize, The Red Letter of Farewells finally gaining it.

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

– AAMULEHTI NEWSPAPER

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

– HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

*I was eight when it first happened.*

*It was a November morning.*

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

*I saw myself through the window. I was plump and badtempered.*

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

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

*I stuffed it in my sock.*

*And that was when it first happened.*

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

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

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

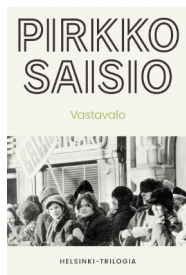
*I improved the second sentence: She was far, far too tired to go to school.*

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

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

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

Translated by Hildi Hawkins



Anni Blomqvist

# MAJA FROM STORMSKÄR SERIES

FICTION

• ADAPTED INTO THE MOST WATCHED FILM IN THE NORDICS IN 2024



## Vägen till Stormskär

*The Way to Stormskär*

Söderströms, 1968, 130 pp.

## Med havet som granne

*The Sea as a Neighbour*

Söderströms, 1969, 130 pp.

## Maja

*Maja*

Söderströms, 1970, 118 pp.

## I kamp med havet

*At Battle with the Sea*

Söderströms, 1971, 122 pp.

## Vägen från Stormskär

*The Way from Stormskär*

Söderströms, 1973, 143 pp.

### READING MATERIAL:

Swedish originals, English sample translation (book #1)ß, English series synopsis

A modern classic about a woman's growth, a life of hardship, and great love.

Maja and Janne have moved out to a remote skerry, Stormskär, and are doing their best to make a life for themselves in all the barrenness. But life in the outer archipelago is hard, and sorrows, storms, fires and bad weather constantly interfere with their plans. In the midst of all their endeavours, the love between Maja and Janne lights their way.

Inspired by her own family's experiences on the Åland Islands, the author combines her great knowledge of customs and traditions with impeccable way of bringing to life the inner worlds of her characters, making the series an atmospheric, vivid reflection of times gone by.

Originally published between 1968 and 1973, the series follows Maja for over 50 years. Her life is forever changed when Janne, a fisherman's son, asks for her hand in marriage despite barely knowing her. Young Maja is set to start a new life on the remote skerry, and grows into a strong woman capable of dealing with both the good and the bad that life throws at her. The series, now an established Swedish-language classic, was adapted into a widely successful movie in 2024.

In *The Way to Stormskär* (1968), it's the mid 1800s, and Maja is a young girl living on a farm with her family in Åland. The visit and the proposal of a young fisherman, Janne, take her life in an unexpected direction: in order to survive and thrive away from her community, Maja has to learn more than she ever imagined.



**Anni Blomqvist** (1909–1990) was born on Vårdö, northeast of the Isle of Åland, and lived there her entire life. She debuted in 1966, and after the success with the books about Maja from Stormskär (1968-1973), Blomqvist wrote several critically acclaimed novels and an autobiographical work about life in the archipelago, past and present. Blomqvist actively took part in social debate throughout most of her life by writing open letters, articles, and columns. Her works are now regarded as modern classics and a unique portrayal of the Åland archipelago.



## MAJA FROM STORMSKÄR SERIES

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Estonian**, Eesti Raamat**World French**, Harper Collins

In *The Sea as a Neighbour* (1969), Maja and Janne start their life on Stormskär and their family grows. Their peace is disrupted when war breaks, but new happiness awaits them.

In *Maja* (1970), Maja's faith and courage are put to a strenuous test. One of Maja's children passes away. Later, when it seems that things are starting to look up, their house is destroyed in a fire just before Christmas. Thankfully Janne's and her family's love have more power than she dared to hope, and even dark clouds have a silver lining.

In *At Battle with the Sea* (1971), Maja's troubles aren't over. As she, Janne, and the children are looking for ways to rebuild their life on the skerry, Maja fears death may be at her heels. Amidst dark thoughts she finds new courage and strength even in the face of the worst of losses.

In *The Way from Stormskär* (1973), Maja and the children have found new ways to manage life on the island after Janne's death. Years pass and the children grow into adults, bringing Maja plenty of joy. As Maja approaches old age, it is time to say more farewells.

"Blomqvist's writing has a quiet yet overwhelming power, immersing the reader in the raw beauty and harsh realities of life on the Åland islands. [It] is more than just a novel; it's a deeply human story about love, grief and survival. The protagonist's journey, shaped by both the wild elements and the weight of personal loss, resonates in a way that feels both timeless and universal."

— MARINE ALATA, ACQUIRING EDITOR OF HARPER COLLINS FRANCE

"The sea, the archipelago, the simple people and their struggle for existence in a purely literal sense are all convincingly portrayed. The dialectal turns of the dialogue are genuine and fresh. The whole book is characterised by an ethical seriousness and a deep familiarity with the harsh conditions of life that only the living poem has."

— RESONERADE BOKKATALOGEN MAGAZINE

"Blomqvist's narrative flows calmly, lingering on the details but condensing even major events into a few sentences, with a natural clarity."

— ARVOSTELEVA KIRJALUETTELO MAGAZINE



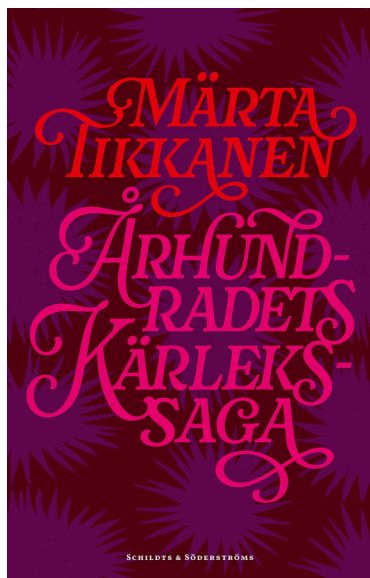


Märta Tikkanen

# THE LOVE STORY OF THE CENTURY

FICTION

• INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER



## Århundradets kärlekssaga

*The Love Story of the Century*  
Schildts & Söderströms, 1978, 190 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

**World English**, Deep Vellum  
**Estonian**, Koolibri  
**French**, Cambourakis  
**Greek**, Melani

## RIGHTS HAVE EXPIRED FOR

Czech, Danish, Dutch, German, Icelandic, Latvian, Norwegian, Polish, Sami, Spanish, Slovakian and Slovenian

Nordic 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." – EXPRESSEN NEWSPAPER



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

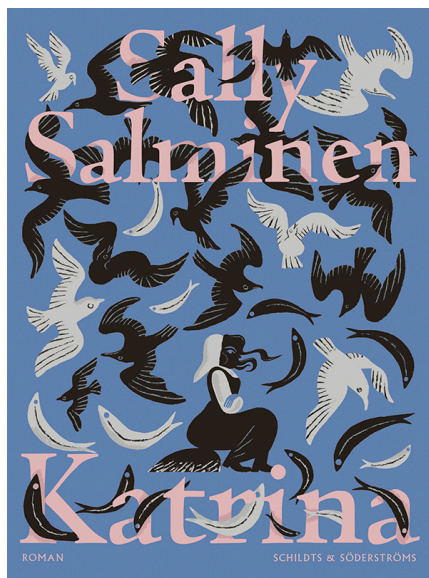


Sally Salminen

## KATRINA

FICTION

• INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

**Katrina***Katrina*

Schildts, 1936, 385 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English translation, German translation, Spanish translation

## RIGHTS SOLD

**Estonian**, Eesti Raamat

## RIGHTS HAVE EXPIRED FOR

Albania, Bulgaria, Czech, Denmark, Dutch, French, German, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbo-Croatian, Slovak, Slovenian

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, 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."*

– KOUVOLAN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER



**Sally Salminen** (1906–1976) was the most internationally renowned author from Finland of her time. Born in the Åland Islands, Salminen moved to New York in the 1930s, where she wrote her debut novel *Katrina* (1936). An ode to a woman's strength and stamina, the novel immediately became a phenomenal success, translated into more than 20 languages.



## IV. Fantasy and Speculative Fiction

Niilo Sevänen **The Path of Eternal Winter & The Chasm of Eternal Winter**



Niilo Sevänen

# ETERNAL WINTER SERIES

FANTASY

• TOP TEN BESTSELLER



## **Ikitalven polku**

*The Path of Eternal Winter*  
Gummerus, 2024, 398 pp.

## **Ikitalven kuilu**

*The Chasm of Eternal Winter*  
Gummerus, 2026, c. 400 pp.

## READING MATERIAL:

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## RIGHTS SOLD:

**German**, Bastei Lübbe

Winter holds medieval Europe in its grip in an epic fantasy blending myths and history.

The Eternal Winter series is one of the most anticipated fantasy titles on the Finnish literary scene. The adventure whisks the reader into a complex world that feels real and draws from medieval history, superbly combining mythologies from different regions with the imagined. As the narrative unfolds, themes of loss, identity and the tension between humanity and the supernatural emerge.

In *The Path of Eternal Winter* (2024), it is autumn 1007, and a blue star twinkles above Constantinople. People who have been shivering in the grip of winter for seven years are filled with a sense of foreboding.

When wedding celebrations at the Palace end in bloodshed, Orpheus, a lute player, assumes responsibility for his young niece Halla, who is being chased by a group of mercenaries. The pair embark on a perilous escape, which stops them from trusting anyone.

At the same time in Pavia, the widow Empress Theophanu is trying to trace her son, missing in combat. An emaciated man from the North suffering from amnesia is discovered in a monastery; his story is intertwined with Halla's. Gradually secrets locked behind many doors begin to be revealed – including what has caused eternal winter to descend on the world.

*The Chasm of Eternal Winter*, to be published in autumn 2025, delves deeper into the mythical world of eternal winter, where the boundaries between real history and legend blur.



**Niilo Sevänen** (b.1979) is a singer and bassist in Insomnium, a melodic death metal band. He grew up surrounded by books in Joensuu in east Finland and studied cultural history at Turku University. Before the Eternal Winter series, he published a fantasy novella, *Winter's Gate*, which won the Nova competition in 2007 and was placed fourth in in Atorox, Finland's oldest science fiction competition, in 2009. In 2017, Insomnium issued a concept album, 'Winter's Gate', based on the world of the short story. The short story appeared in a new form in 2023 and immediately became a success as an audiobook.



ALSO AVAILABLE:

**Winter's Gate**

(Talven portti, 2007 | 2023)

Empress Theophanu's quest to find her son leads her to a mysterious monastery, where an encounter with an augur sets off a chain of events. Meanwhile, Orpheus and Halla find themselves in Rome, now ruled by trolls, while their companions search for them in the dark forest surrounding the city.

The narrative takes readers on a journey through the Dreamworld, the Underworld, and the Iron Forest, where ancient powers clash and long-held secrets come to light. The fate of the world hangs in the balance as Halla's true potential is revealed, and Orpheus must face his own past to save her.

In the series, Niilo Sevänen masterfully weaves together elements of Norse mythology, Finnish folklore, and medieval history, creating a rich tapestry of adventure, sacrifice, and the unbreakable bonds of family.

A prequel novella, *Winter's Gate* (2007/2023), follows a Viking foray in the 800s, giving background to the events of *Eternal Winter*.

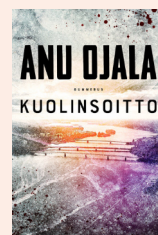
"The Path of Eternal Winter is a strong start to a book series that you'd like to immediately devour till the end." – HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER





# v. Mystery and Suspense

Anu Ojala **Silk Road North** series, Eva Frantz **Anna Glad** series,  
Sari Rainio – Juha Rautaheimo **Mortui Non Silent** series



# Anu Ojala

## THE SILK ROAD NORTH SERIES

## CRIME FICTION

- NOMINEE FOR THE STORYTEL AWARDS 2024
- OVER 40 000 COPIES SOLD

**Jääsilkkitie**

*The Silk Road North*  
The Silk Road North #1  
Like, 2021, 302 pp.

**Kuolinsoitto**

*Death Knell*  
The Silk Road North #2  
Gummerus, 2023, 254 pp.

**Taivasverkko**

*The Skynet*  
The Silk Road North #3  
Gummerus, 2024, 247 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish originals, English samples,  
English synopses

### Shock therapy by a new Finnish thriller author, on Arctic drug war and hybrid warfare.

Twin city Tornio-Haparanda, on the Swedish-Finnish border, have been plagued by a crime wave which keeps claiming new victims. Sergeant Ronja Jentzsch investigates murders that lead to the trail of a dangerous synthetic drug. While police are fighting a helpless battle, unexpected connections to higher instances begin to come to daylight.

As frozen sea brings deadly substances over to seemingly calm and safe communities, cases of inhumane cruelty, despair-driven crimes, and international meddling become a daily challenge for Jentzsch and her team.

Revered by readers, the series brings to light the long-silenced truth about the rise of international drug crime in northern Finland.

In *Silk Road North* (2021), Ronja Jentzsch and her partner, Janne, are called to investigate a murder of a young man. The crime is followed by a series of similarly brutal murders, while at the same time, a sudden wave of fentanyl overdoses sweep across the area. Meanwhile, customs officer Kristian, suffering in a violent, abusive relationship, stumbles upon a solution to all his problems. The two storylines eventually intertwine in a heart-pounding thriller, whose twists and turns bring up Lapland's most unexpected sides.

*Death Knell* (2023) continues to dig deeper in the Arctic drug hell. Ronja Jentzsch is trying to track down a lost container containing a fentanyl shipment. With drug-related deaths rising, Jentzsch's team is racing against time. In the second part of the fast-paced thriller series, Anu Ojala once again proves her skill in combining hot police action with a heart-wrenching portrayal of people in desperate situations.



**Anu Ojala** (b. 1972) is an author and a lawyer living in Rovaniemi in the Finnish Lapland, with a deep knowledge of the background of the Arctic drug war. She has worked in a law firm and at the University of Lapland. In addition to the Silk Road North series, Ojala has also written novels for young readers.



THE SILK ROAD NORTH SERIES

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In *The Skynet* (2024), the third and final part of the series, Ronja Jentzsch and her partner Janne are preparing for a tedious work meeting in Haparanda, when a van stops in front of the Town Hall. All of the sudden, Finnish police find themselves in the middle of a terror attack and bloodshed, targeted at the town officials. It soon becomes clear that the fentanyl plague is related to a much bigger picture than anyone could have imagined.

“*The Skynet* is a chillingly strong performance by Ojala, whose *Silk Road North* was one of the best domestic thrillers of 2021 [...] *The Skynet* is razor-sharp in its topicality, which looks at the future. What if the criminal energy on the streets is systematically re-directed towards the destabilization of society, Ojala seems to be asking.” – KANSAN UUTISET MAGAZINE



Eva Frantz

## ANNA GLAD SERIES

## CRIME FICTION

- BEST CRIME NOVEL OF THE YEAR 2019
- NOMINEE FOR THE GLASS KEY AWARD 2019

**Blå villan***The Blue Villa*

Anna Glad #1

Schildts &amp; Söderströms, 2017, 255 pp.

**Den åttonde tärnan***The Eighth Maiden*

Anna Glad #2

Schildts &amp; Söderströms, 2018, 318 pp.

**För han var redan dö***Out of the Game*

Anna Glad #3

Schildts &amp; Söderströms, 2020, 417 pp.

**Ungen min får du aldrig***You Will Not Take My Child*

Anna Glad #4

Schildts &amp; Söderströms, 2023, 298 pp.

**Så dör du nöjdare***Then Die Contentedly*

Anna Glad #5

Schildts &amp; Söderströms, 2024, 317 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish originals, German translations, Finnish translations, English samples, English synopses

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

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

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

Awarded with the Clew of the Year Award and with sales of so far almost 100,000 copies only in Finland, Anna Glad novels are the top of Finnish crime fiction.

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

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

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



**Eva Frantz** (b. 1980) is an author and a journalist at the Finnish national broadcasting company. Frantz debuted with a cozy crime novel *Summer Isle* in 2016. Since then, she has been working on a crime series about senior constable Anna Glad that has five novels: *The Blue Villa* (2017), *The Eighth Maiden* (2018), which was awarded as the best crime novel of the year and nominated for the Nordic Glass Key Award, *Out of the Game* (2020), *You Will Not Take My Child* (2023) and *Then Die Contentedly* (2024). She has also written internationally recognized middle-grade novels.



## ANNA GLAD SERIES

## RIGHTS SOLD

**Danish**, Gyldendal (books 1–5);  
**Estonian**, Rahva Raamat (books 1–2),  
**German**, Aufbau (books 2–5),  
**Swedish**, Sekwa (book 3)

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

In *Then Die Contentedly* (2024) four friends get together for a fancy dinner to have fun. They do, but next morning, only two of them wake up in the house. Anna Glad, taking care of her son while his father is at work, can't resist to put her nose into the case.

"Frantz is particularly good at portraying somewhat smaller misdeeds: from malice and revenge practiced neatly and smoothly within the boundaries of law to tyrannizing one's own family by being a total jerk; most of all, it all appears with the utmost credibility." – HUFVUDSTADSBLADET NEWSPAPER on *The Blue Villa*

"Eva Frantz's writing has a pleasant flow [...]; her tone is often light and, at times, absolutely brilliant." – NY TID NEWSPAPER on *The Eight Maiden*

"In her third novel, Frantz changes the season; enough with the dazzling greenery and Finland-Swedish cottage coziness. The winter has come and the night is long." – SVENSKA YLE on *Out of the Game*

"There is something unusually refreshing in Anna Glad. Maybe the fact that she is so human?" – DAGENS NYHETER NEWSPAPER on *Out of the Game*

"Hats up for Eva Frantz for mastering the full spectrum of feelings needed for a cozy-noir crime novel [...]. As a creator of mysteries, Frantz is at this point phenomenal, and reading her novels feels safe and hair-raising at the same time. She also has a wonderful imagination that fills a normal Finland-Swedish small town with suspense." – HUFVUDSTADSBLADET NEWSPAPER on *You Will Not Take My Child*





Sari Rainio &amp; Juha Rautaheimo

# MORTUI NON SILENT SERIES



## Vainajat eivät vaikene

*The Dead Still Speak, Mortui non silent #1*

Siltala Publishing, 2023, 476 pp.

## Vaeltavat vainajat

*Death Comes for the Dead, Mortui non silent #2*

Siltala Publishing, 2023, 476 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

## CRIME FICTION

- NOMINEE FOR THE STORYTEL AWARD 2024
- NOMINEE FOR THE CLEW OF THE YEAR AWARD 2021

## ALSO AVAILABLE

**No Mercy from the Dead, Mortui non silent #3** (Vainajat vailla armoa, 2025)

**Reflection of the Dead, Mortui non silent #4** (Vainaja veden peilissä, 2026)

**The Last Dead Man, Mortui non silent #5** (Viimeinen vainaja, 2027)

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Sari Rainio** (b. 1975) is the editorial director of Siltala Publishing and a passionate reader of suspense novels. She has worked as an editor of Finnish literature since 2000. **Juha “Nerves of Steel” Rautaheimo** (b. 1952) has worked as an investigator and investigative lead in the Violent Crimes unit for a total of forty years. His previously published memoir *Nerves of Steel – My Years in the Murder Unit* (2019) covers decades of infamous Finnish crimes and delves deeply into investigative methods. Their *Mortui non silent* series has become a readers' favourite with its intriguing characters, multi-layered plots, excellent writing and Helsinki atmosphere of different seasons.



## MORTUI NON SILENT SERIES

## RIGHTS SOLD

**Estonian**, Ühinenud ajakirjad  
(book #1)

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

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

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

*Karila couldn't decide how serious Viola was. Sometimes he simply could no understand her. So instead, he turned his attention back to the game board, sighed deeply, and began to remove the letters he had just added. He had been counting on that brassiere, lying in wait all night for the moment when he could impress his opponent with strophium. He had actually had this word in mind on their previous game night but had never had the opportunity to use it. Karila would look up Latin words ahead of time for their contests, especially ones that weren't the most obvious in light of their rules. He imagined that he was giving the impression of someone with a broad proficiency in Latin, but Viola had long since unmasked his strategy.*

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

Translated by Owen F. Witesman



## VI. Graphic Novels

Ulla Donner **The Natural Comedy**



Ulla Donner

## THE NATURAL COMEDY

## GRAPHIC NOVEL

- WINNER OF THE URHUNDEN PRIZE 2024
- WINNER OF THE PUUPÄÄ GRAPHIC NOVELIST AWARD 2025



**Den naturliga komedin**  
*The Natural Comedy*  
 Schildts & Söderströms, 2023,  
 120 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Swedish original, Finnish  
 translation, English translation

RIGHTS SOLD:  
**Polish**, Kultura Gniewu

## A Dantean road trip in a Finnish forest, or what's left of it.

In the autumn, Birch the birch leaf is floating away from its forest tribe, and runs into Candy, a mixed mushroom, who's just suffered a breakup. In Dantean fashion, the two roam through artificially modified natural reserves, coming across the ancient, grimy Mother Nature, a wellness cult headed by a Kombucha mushroom, as well as other woodland dwellers forced to adapt to their new habitats.

The characters of the graphic adventure are like urban people: harmony-loving Birch swears by positivity and self-acceptance, woke Candy is committed to improving the world, but only on the terms of its own comfort, and patriotic Slime Mold has its mind set on doggedly pushing through the rock, despite going round it would save years of travelling.

*The Natural Comedy* is the third work of Ulla Donner, winner of the Finlandia Prize for the Best Graphic Novel in 2020. The sylvan fairytale grows into a hilarious satire about the Finns' "special" relationship with nature. It is a tale about a society in which nature is subordinate to the human pursuit of profit and in which heaven and hell are only separated by how well each species manages to fit around people's needs.

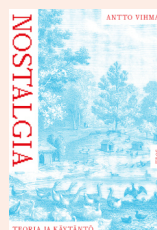
"With her graphic minimalism, understanding of detail and portraying the warped contemporary world with a perfect pitch, Ulla Donner has become one of the most interesting graphic novelists of the moment." – DAGENS NYHETER NEWSPAPER ON *Crap*



**Ulla Donner** (b. 1988) is a Swedish-speaking Finnish illustrator, cartoonist and a graphic designer. Her first graphic novel *Spleenish* (2017) was awarded by the Society of Swedish Authors in Finland and it received the Most Beautiful Book of the Year award. It also was nominee for the Finlandia Prize for the Best Graphic Novel. Her second graphic novel *Crap* (2018) was a critical success and received the Finlandia Prize for the Best Graphic Novel. Donner's latest graphic novel, *The Natural Comedy* (2023), has been received with rave reviews.

## vii. Nonfiction

Jukka Tuhkuri **Endurance**, Henrik Meinander **Helsinki**, Antto Vihma **Nostalgia**, Julia Korkman **Memory Dependent**, Karin Erlandsson **The Blue Yarn**, Juha Kauppinen **The Essential Biodiversity**





Jukka Tuhkuri

NONFICTION

# ENDURANCE: ONE MYTH, TWO JOURNEYS, AND THE WEIGHT OF ICE



**Jään voima. Kertomus  
Endurancen uppoamisesta ja  
löytymisestä**

*Endurance: One Myth, Two Journeys,  
and the Weight of Ice*  
Siltala 2024, 384 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

A breathtaking account on the discovery of the second most famous shipwreck in history.

At the dawn of 1910s, all the major conquests in the name of science and exploration seemed to have been accomplished. Traversing Antarctica from shore to shore was still up for grabs though, and the restless explorer Ernest Shackleton wasn't going to waste his time watching someone else do it.

His ship, *Endurance*, however, was crushed by ice without even reaching the Antarctic coast, leaving Shackleton and his men drifting on ice for months. The expedition became one of the most legendary of all times, but the reasons behind the sinking of *Endurance* have been mostly ignored.

In 2022, members of the international *Endurance22* expedition team boarded an ice-breaking research ship built in Finland, with the mission to locate *Endurance* lying more than 3000 m deep beneath the icy surface of Weddell Sea – and succeeded.

In his book, Jukka Tuhkuri, a scientist with the expedition, retells the Shackleton myth in a new light. In addition to the historical events leading to the original expedition and his own experiences on the Antarctic journey, Tuhkuri sheds light on the crushing of *Endurance* by sea ice. At the same time, the author explains how modern scientists evaluate the effects of climate change on sea ice, and what it means to polar shipping and our future.

“Jukka Tuhkuri was a vital member of the expedition to find *Endurance*. His knowledge, insights and advice helped to ensure success, and educated us all in the process. I am sure the international audience will be interested in reading his story on *Endurance* as a ship, how *Endurance* was crushed by ice, and finally lost.” – DAN SNOW, CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF HISTORY HIT, MEMBER OF THE *ENDURANCE22* EXPEDITION



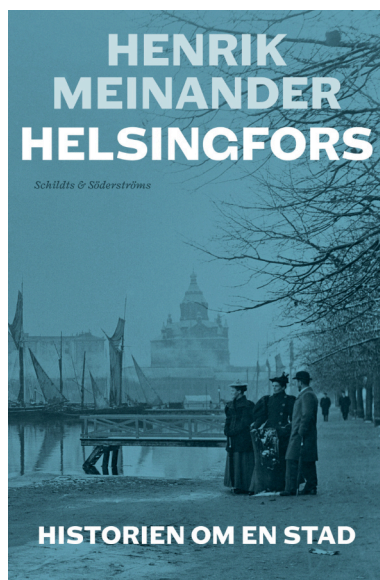
**Jukka Tuhkuri** (b.1960) is a professor of solid mechanics at the Aalto University, where he researches ice mechanics and arctic marine technology. His research, which includes fracture of ice, has taken him to both the Arctic and the Antarctic, and in 2023 the University College London named Jukka Tuhkuri Honorary Professor.

In 2022 he participated in the *Endurance22* expedition, which successfully located the wreck of the *Endurance*.

Henrik Meinander

NONFICTION

# HELSINKI: STORY OF A CITY



**Helsingfors. Historien om en stad**  
*Helsinki. Story of a City*  
 Schildts & Söderströms, 2025,  
 302 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Swedish original, English  
 translation, Finnish translation

RIGHTS SOLD:  
**World English**, Hurst

## The making of a European capital and a Nordic metropolis.

In *Helsinki. The Story of a City* History professor Henrik Meinander paints a portrait of the Finnish capital throughout history, placing the city in a European context and analysing its development over the course of 475 years, from the 16th century to the present, while focusing on the key events that shaped the city as we know it today.

Meinander follows the evolution of Helsinki from a small fishing village to a modern Nordic metropolis, diving deeper than previous works on the story of the Finnish capital: it explores why Gustav Vasa founded the city in 1550, why it became the capital of Finland in 1812, and how its development has been influenced by its position by the sea, world economy, language politics, and the ambition of great powers. In this impressive overview, Henrik Meinander answers key questions about the Finnish capital relying on the latest scholarly observations.

The book brings to life portrayals of language use, architecture, politics, daily life, and culture during the city's 475 years of existence. Meinander brings to the fore the life of common city dwellers and creates a lively and often strikingly detailed image of the rich history of Helsinki. The work is based on comprehensive research and is richly illustrated with maps, works of art and photos.

"[...] a comprehensive, detailed and very well organised review of the history of Helsinki, the capital of Finland, from its foundation to the present."

– BTJ MAGAZINE



**Henrik Meinander** (b. 1960) is professor of history at the University of Helsinki and the author of many acclaimed books on Finnish and Nordic history. He was formerly curator of the Mannerheim Museum in Helsinki and head of the Finnish Institute in Stockholm. His book *History of Finland* is considered one of the best analyses on how Finland has developed to the country it is, taking into account the bigger European context, and it has been sold to 15 areas.

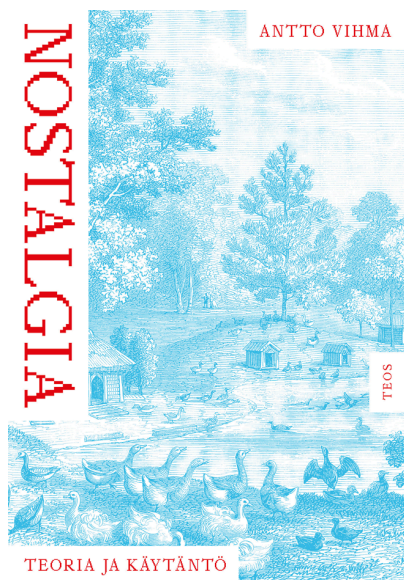


Antto Vihma

# NOSTALGIA: THEORY AND PRACTICE

NONFICTION

• THE STATE AWARD FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION 2022



**Nostalgia. Teoria ja käytäntö**  
*Nostalgia. Theory and Practice*  
 Teos Publishers, 2021, 240 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Finnish original, English sample,  
 English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD  
**Arabic**, Hayat Publishing

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 award-winning 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.

“Antto Vihma introduces to us modern nostalgia in the Western context. All the way through the history of this phenomenon, the author goes on to explore the connection between present day populism and nostalgia using four recent textbook examples: Brexit; the German AfD party; Donald Trump; as well as the Finnish “True Finns” party.” – THE JURY OF STATE AWARD FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

“[The book] 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



**Antto Vihma** (b. 1978) works as a research professor at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. He is widely published in international scientific journals, including *International Affairs*, *Geopolitics*, and *Contributions to the History of Concepts*. Vihma co-authored the highly praised nonfiction piece *Post-Truth: Media Survival Strategies in the Age of Bullshit and Algorithms* (2018). He is also a columnist for the weekly magazine *Suomen Kuvalehti*.

Julia Korkman

NONFICTION

# MEMORY DEPENDENT



**Minnets makt | Muistin varassa**  
*Memory Dependent*  
 Schildts & Söderströms, 2022, 336 pp.  
 S&S, 2022, 344 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Swedish original, Finnish original,  
 English sample, English synopsis

We structure the world according to our memories,  
 but can we trust them?



A little boy remembers seeing his grandmother hurt her hand whilst chopping wood. His is a vivid, truthful description, but it takes place before he was born.

A witness, saved from under a truck driven into a crowd of people, is describing his luck in throwing himself over a tall wall. The pictures from the scene of the accident show the “wall” no higher than the kerbstone.

*Memory Dependent: The Justice Process and the Truth* is a book on how the memory functions. It elucidates several crimes and legal cases, in which memory has played an important role during the trial, and it shows how disastrous not understanding the nature of memory can be.

The author Julia Korkman has worked as an expert in countless trials and she is one of the leading experts of witness reliability in evaluating witnesses’ testimonies.

“*Memory Dependent* is clear science writing at its best. Korkman manages to explain complicated things well, with a flowing style. The readers who have an interest in the work of the police, criminal investigation, and above all, the endless way memory hoodwinks us, will draw the margins full of exclamation points.” – ÖSTERBOTTENS TIDNING NEWSPAPER

“A Finnish legal psychologist has written one of the most interesting nonfiction titles about how memory works, or doesn’t work. [...] Korkman’s book is as well written as it is fascinating.” – VI LÄSER LITERARY MAGAZINE

“The most intriguing thing in the book is how Korkman manages to go so skilfully deep into the psychology of remembering and to how our brains play us for a fool.” – VASABLADET NEWSPAPER



**Dr Julia Korkman** (b. 1977) is one of the foremost Nordic experts in legal psychology and the current President of the European Association of Psychology and Law. She has a long background both as a researcher and working practically with criminal cases. Currently she is working as a senior programme officer at the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the UN, and as a professor of practice with the Faculty of Law at Åbo Akademi. She has served as an expert witness in a number of important legal cases in Finland and Sweden. *Memory Dependent* (2022) is her first popular nonfiction book, and it was published to wide critical acclaim.



Karin Erlandsson

## THE BLUE YARN

NONFICTION

**Det blå garnet***The Blue Yarn*

Schildts &amp; Söderströms, 2022, 185 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

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

## RIGHTS SOLD

**Danish**, Straarup & Co.**World English**, Dedalus**German**, Blanvalet (PRH)

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 her-self 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.



**Karin Erlandsson** (b. 1978) is a Finnish author writing in Swedish. She has published four novels: two Nordic Council Literary Prize nominees, *Mink Farm* (2014) and *Home* (2021), and novels *The Misdeed* (2016) and *Enclosed* (2018). She has also written a four-part series of children's novels called *Song of the Eye Gemstone*. The first novel of the four, *Pearl Fisher* (2017) received the Runeberg Junior Prize and was nominated for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize, similarly to the fourth novel *Victor* (2019) and Erlandsson's stand-alone middle-grade adventure *Night Express* (2020). In addition, she has published works of nonfiction.





Juha Kauppinen

# THE ESSENTIAL BIODIVERSITY

NONFICTION



**Monimuotoisuus.**  
**Lyhyt oppimäärä**  
*The Essential Biodiversity*  
 Siltala Publishing, 2022, 132 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Finnish original, English translation

## 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.*

Translated by Kristian London

**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.





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