

# Foreign Rights List

## Helsinki Literary Agency

### I. LITERARY FICTION

Selja Ahava **He Who Saw the Deep**, Marisha Rasi-Koskinen **Caesura**, Marjo Niemi **A Low-Budget War Film**, Jarkko Volanen **Signal Fires**, Pirkko Saisio **Suliko**, Taika Mannila **The It Girl Cure**, Linnea Kuuluvainen **The Drowning Game**, Susanna Hast **Hopelessness**, Axel Åhman **A Weakling**

### II. HISTORICAL FICTION

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

### 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

Niilo Sevänen **Eternal Winter series**, Linnea Kuuluvainen **The Thick of the Forest**

### V. MYSTERY AND SUSPENCE

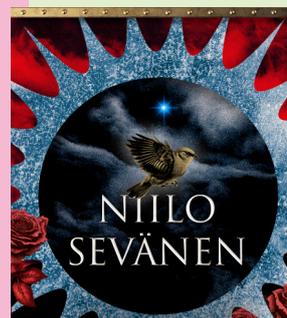
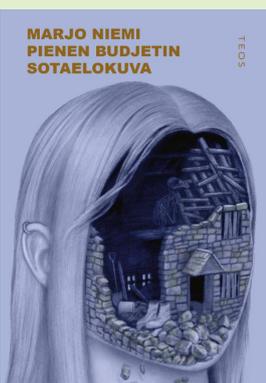
Anu Ojala **Silk Road North series**, Sari Rainio – Juha Rautaheimo **Mortui non silent series**

### VI. GRAPHIC NOVELS

Ulla Donner **The Natural Comedy**

### VII. NONFICTION

Timo Stewart **Palestine and Israel**, Jussi Niemeläinen **Border to Border**, Jukka Tuhkuri **Endurance**, Henrik Meinander **Helsinki**, Antto Vihma **Nostalgia**, Karin Erlandsson **The Blue Yarn**





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.

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**GUMMERUS**

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

**SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS**

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

**SILTALA PUBLISHING**

Siltala, founded in 2008, publishes about 40 titles a year. Its list includes both literary fiction and nonfiction. Siltala also has a children's literature imprint, Orava Books.

**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.

**EXCLUSIVE CO-AGENTS**

**CHINA:** Grayhawk Agency

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**EASTERN & CENTRAL EUROPE**

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**KOREA:** Amo Agency

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**POLAND:** Book/lab

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**SPANISH, CATALAN, BASQUE, GALICIAN, PORTUGUESE:**

Casanovas & Lynch Literary Agency  
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**TURKEY:** Anatolia Literary Agency

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**CENTRAL ASIA, SOUTH EAST ASIA :**

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Introtema Literary Agency  
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**CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

*Dutch, English, Estonian, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian*  
Booksmugglers Agency  
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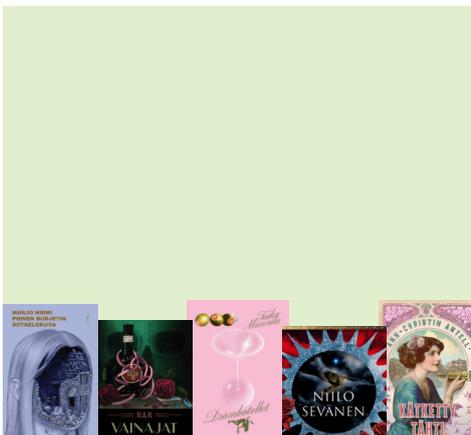
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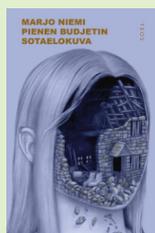
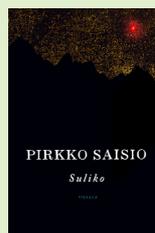
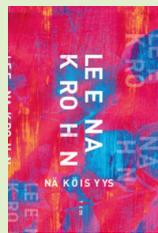
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# I. Literary Fiction

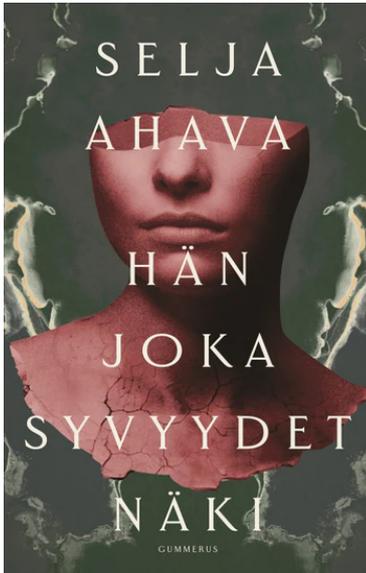
Pirkko Saisio **Suliko**, Anni Kytömäki **Mirabilis**, Kari Hotakainen **Pearl**, Helmi Kekkonen **Liv!**, Katja Raunio **As of Late**, Harry Salmenniemi **Heartmist**, Iida Turpeinen **Beasts of the Sea**, Kari Hukkila **Thousand and One**, Anu Kaaja **The Ribbon Bow**, Laura Lindstedt – Sinikka Vuola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



Selja Ahava

## HE WHO SAW THE DEEP

LITERARY FICTION



**Hän joka syvyydet näki**  
*He Who Saw the Deep*  
 Gummerus, 2025, 260 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Finnish original, English sample translation, English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD  
**Danish**, Jensen & Dalgaard  
**World English**, Fig Tree / Penguin  
**Hungarian**, Polar  
**Polish**, Relacja

An enchanting rhapsody about love in the face of mortality.

Liisa and Henrik are a middle-aged couple who share a great love, but also a great fear: having met later in life, they grapple all too often with the fact that the time they get to share may not be so long after all.

While Henrik is away at sea, Liisa's aunt, her only relative who has gotten to live to old age, falls deathly ill. Liisa decides to deal with the looming fear the way she knows best: by telling a story.

Comprising various narratives, from exploration of the *Epic of Gilgamesh* to a life of an eight-year-old who is declared brain-dead but whose mother refuses to turn off her ventilator for years, it is an account on pursuing immortality the only way mankind can: by putting together something greater than themselves and consigning it to history. The result is a moving, ambitious rhapsody about love and death that weaves together multiple stories, myths, and tales.

“Selja Ahava writes accurately about topics that are often difficult to discuss, at least in precise terms.” – EEVA MAGAZINE

“A novel that deals with death, mortality, and the ethics of death through literary means, tackles a subject that still remains taboo.”

– HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER



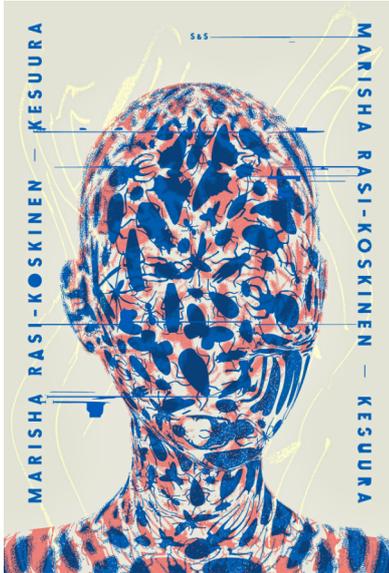
**Selja Ahava** (b. 1974) has established herself as a prominent literary voice in the Finnish scene. Her second novel, *Things that Fall from the Sky* (2015) was awarded the European Union Prize for Literature in 2016, and it was nominated for the Finlandia Prize, the Torch-Bearer Prize, the Warwick Prize and the Dublin Literary Award and was sold to 27 territories. The previous novel, *The Woman Who Loved Insects* (2020), was nominated for the prestigious Runeberg Prize. Ahava is among the most appreciated authors in Finland by both the general public and the critics. *He Who Saw the Deep* (2025) is her fifth novel.



Marisha Rasi-Koskinen

## CAESURA

LITERARY FICTION

• NOMINEE FOR THE  
TÄHTIVÄELTAJA AWARD 2026**Kesuura***Caesura*

S&amp;S, 2025, 450 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

## A masterful exploration of humanness through the eyes of the other.

It's an abandoned railway station that nobody has visited in decades. Fells are looming in the horizon, and the sun never sets. An android called QED doesn't know why they are there. The human has brought them to the station. Are they running away, or are they searching for something?

The human doesn't talk much, except demanding that QED writes down all the memories on paper. And so QED writes: about its childhood and parents, about their life in the Forest-Northwest, its animals and insects; about the school, and other schoolmates. The further the writing goes, the harder it becomes to remember. There is one name that only brings radiating pain instead of memories. Has someone tampered with QED's recollections?

*Caesura* is an immersive and haunting exploration of mind, pain, and compassion, a study of what constitutes being a human. Drawing comparisons to Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun*, Rasi-Koskinen's new novel encourages the reader to ask: am I human enough?

"This melancholic science fiction is firmly rooted in its time. [...] The narrative in *Caesura* reflects its main theme, the mixing of species, aptly. The aesthetics are well thought out and there's consistency in the sentences."

– HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER



**Marisha Rasi-Koskinen** (b. 1975) has established herself as one of the most original contemporary authors in Finland, exploring and expanding the limits of fiction and the conscious. She has been awarded the prestigious Runeberg Prize and the Torch-Bearer Prize for her novel *REC* (2020). *Caesura* is her sixth work for adult readers. She has also written two novels for young adults – *The Dark Side of the Sun* (2019) and *The Fallen* (2022) – winning the Finlandia Junior Prize, the most important literary award in Finland for children's and youth fiction, for the former.

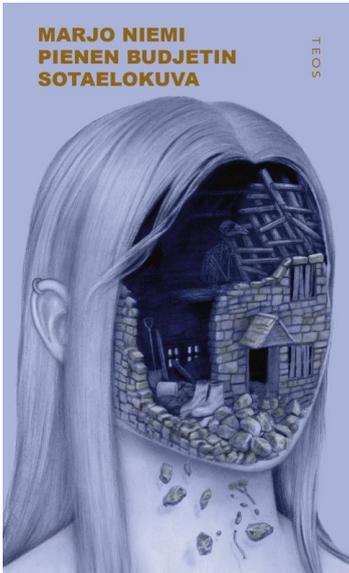


Marjo Niemi

# A LOW-BUDGET WAR FILM

LITERARY FICTION

• NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2025



## Pienen budjetin sotaelokuva

*A Low-Budget War Film*

Teos, 2025, 280 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

“Each of us is ashamed of who we are, individually and collectively. We each wallow in our own shame.”

They say it’s a country of equal opportunities. The narrator, who has long ago escaped to a big city, returns to her hometown after her father’s death. The town factory once offered the residents not only work and a livelihood, but also housing, school, daycare, healthcare, and hobbies. All that is left here now is a burned-down shopping centre and angst.

The narrator reflects on her childhood, and gradually the adult and the child in her become intertwined. She is defined by the experience of an outsider: she does not recognize the old class as her own, and the new class does not recognize her as one of its own. The self-help instructions of positive thinking sound like cruel optimism: Don’t you have all the opportunities to succeed? Why don’t you take advantage of them? You only have yourself to blame!

*A Low-Budget War Film* is not one of those working-class novels in which the spirit of the united grows into a collective force. Rather, with its ruthless directness and dark humor, the novel shows how class identity is fragmented into individual pursuits, and the shame is inherited throughout generations.

“One of the major themes in Niemi’s work is who gets heard, seen, and noticed. She also approaches class from this perspective. [...] Niemi has an admirable ability to see the world accurately by viewing it skewed.”

– HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER



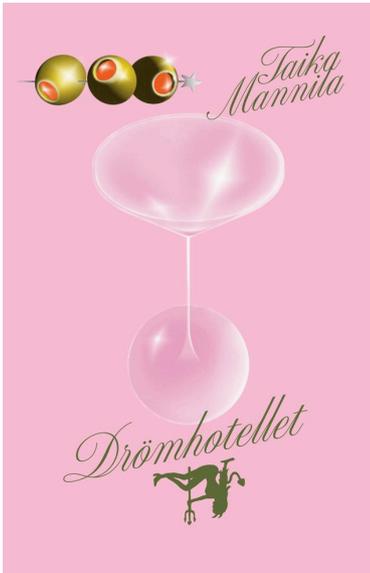
**Marjo Niemi** (b. 1978) is a Helsinki-based writer and playwright. *A Low-Budget War Film* is her sixth novel. She was awarded the prestigious Runeberg Prize for *The Mother of All Losses* (2017), and her previous novel, *Hearing* (2021), was a nominee for the Finlandia Prize. Among the most prominent themes in Niemi’s prose are questions of who gets to be heard, seen, and noticed, often punctuated with pungent, dark humor.



Taika Mannila

# THE IT GIRL CURE

LITERARY FICTION



**Drömhôtellet**  
*The It Girl Cure*  
 S&S, 2026, 310 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Swedish original, Finnish  
 translation, English sample

## What happens to an It girl when she ages?

A young woman calling herself *Spacebaby* checks into the glamorous, near-mythical Dream Hotel where the surface is glossy but mould is spreading behind the façade.

Three of her friends are already staying there, each afflicted with the same life-threatening condition: an all-consuming obsession with the elusive heartbreaker *JB*. Their prescribed cure? Healing positivity baths. Endless Martinis in the hotel's lavish themed bars. Generous doses of heart-shaped pills.

But what exactly is the Dream Hotel? A sanctuary – or a beautifully disguised institution?

In this merciless sad-girl saga, Mannila delivers a biting satire of a culture intoxicated by youth, validation and instant gratification. She dissects a world ruled by social media and the beauty industry, laced with bowel illness, financial ineptitude and self-destruction and made just barely tolerable by friendship and self-expression.

*The It Girl Cure* is a glittering fever dream and a tender love letter to all the girls who grew up online – and to anyone who has ever mistaken obsession for love, or survival for living.



**Taika Mannila** (b. 1988) is a Helsinki-based multidisciplinary artist and art school drop-out whose practise spans music, podcasts, illustration and video. Working across mediums, she explores complex femininity and feminine survival strategies. Her work is shaped by a deep love-hate relationship with social media and a sustained curiosity about what it means to live a significant part of one's life online.

*The It Girl Cure* (2026) is her debut novel. She has also co-written a non-fiction book *Bimbofication* (2023).



Linnea Kuuluvainen

**THE DROWNING GAME**

**Hukkumisleikki**  
*The Drowning Game*  
 Gummerus, 2026, 416 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Finnish original, English sample,  
 English synopsis

Beneath the surface, you cannot see where the line between love and danger goes.

Two young women, Juulia and K, stand at a crossroads in their lives: Juulia's mother is dying of cancer and she's drowning in sorrow, while K is spending one last sunny weekend on an island with her boyfriend before moving abroad. Juulia has a troubled past, and her coping mechanisms tend to be self-destructive. Lately, she engages in the "drowning game", where she puts her head underwater until her lungs hurt, and burns herself with cigarettes.

K is uncomfortable: she is planning on ending the relationship soon, before she leaves for England, but her boyfriend T seems to be less and less inclined to let her go. K suddenly realizes that while being on the island is romantic, she is also trapped alone with T.

One day Juulia meets Uula, who is charming, confident, and determined to give Juulia what's best for her. As her mother's condition worsens, Juulia makes friends with Teo, whose grandfather is receiving end-of-life care in the same facility. Teo seems nice, but his grandfather goes to great lengths to warn Juulia to stay away from him. Uula doesn't like him either, and he always has Juulia's best interest at heart...or does he? And what is the dark secret lurking in Teo's past?

*The Drowning Game* is a thriller-like, gripping novel about pain, love, and diving too deep.



**Linnea Kuuluvainen** (b. 1996) has studied Finnish language and writing. Her debut novel *The Thick of the Forest* (2024) was nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize and the Kuvastaja Prize and has been translated into 5 languages. *The Drowning Game* (2026) is her second novel.



Harry Salmenniemi

## SHORT STORIES

SHORT STORIES

**Uraanilamppu***Uranium Lamp*  
Siltala, 2017, 170 pp.**Delfinimeditaatio***Dolphin Meditation*  
Siltala, 2019, 224 pp.**Uhrisyndrooma***Victim Syndrome*  
Siltala, 2020, 220 pp.**Asiakaskoralli***Customer Coral*  
Siltala, 2021, 214 pp.**Tulikristalli***Fire Crystal*  
Siltala, 2026, c. 200 pp.

READING MATERIAL:

Finnish original, English sample

## An inimitable union of camp overearnestness and deep laughter by Finland's David Foster Wallace.

From a fantastic, never-ending salad recipe to retail chains waging guerilla warfare; from an incoherent and resentful psychiatrist to a footballer with monstrous tendencies towards competition. Awarded and beloved by readers, Harry Salmenniemi's short story collections offer odd, mind-boggling situations, painful satire, and laughable – although never in a way you'd think – characters.

The short stories, published in five volumes between 2017 and 2021, are always intertwining and in conversation with each other, and explore a wide array of timely topics: a crisis of masculinity, the rise of the political right, the sore spots of late capitalism, mental health, meditation, food, children, and love. The themes may be difficult, but the way they are handled is not: above all, the stories are funny, even defiant in their humor in the all-prevalent absurdity of our times.

While Salmenniemi's style has a strong postmodern taste echoing David Foster Wallace's work, it also draws from such literary classics as Laurence Stern and Flann O'Brian, among others. Innovative, unpredictable, diverse in structure and atmosphere, the stories serve as a testimony to the perpetual surprise that the novella form can offer, as well as its undiminished pertinence in the modern literary landscape.

The collections have found a widespread audience in Finland, with several repeated print runs along the years.



**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*.

SHORT STORIES

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RIGHTS SOLD:

Short story *A Fantastic Salad*  
published in **Asymptote literary magazine**

Short story *Uranium Lamp*  
published in a Dutch literary  
magazine **Terras**

“Harry Salmenniemi’s unfathomable novels are the best there is today. [...] I can’t say if Salmenniemi is dead serious or convulsed with laughter. I assume both. [...] The enjoyment of the narration lies in the movement of awakening images, their speed and boundlessness.”

–HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

“*Dolphin Meditation* is a superb collection, in which the prose is beautiful, thoughts are plenty and the amount of suffering and ill-being is bedazzling.”

–HÄMEEN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

“Simultaneously sad and ridiculous, these powerful, surreal stories of everyday life, with all their laconicism, are nevertheless linguistically stylish and masterful prose.”

– HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

“It isn’t the characters but the language, and the reader, who play the reading roles in Salmenniemi’s stories. The lucid language has a weightless momentum, moving effortlessly from nihilistic characterizations to descriptive vignettes and from internal images to outward ones.”

– KIILTOMATO LITERATURE MAGAZINE

“Harry Salmenniemi’s first work of prose is a giant leap forward for the Finnish short story. I sometimes felt like whooping with excitement while reading. But enjoyment of these stories requires a willingness to go along with the author’s textual games.”

– SUOMEN KUVALEHTI MAGAZINE

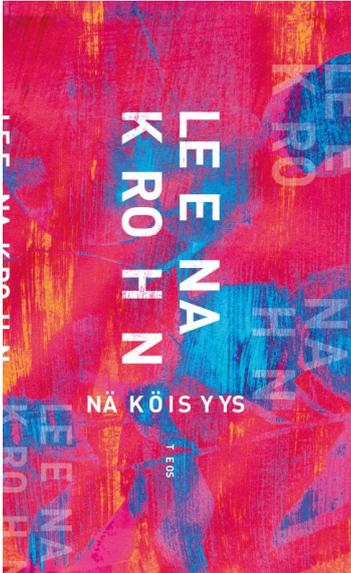


Leena Krohn

# LIKENESS

LITERARY FICTION

- NEW NOVEL BY AN AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR



## Näköisyys

*Likeness*

Teos, 2026, 157 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original

## About the authority of images and the power of gaze.

A quiet, unassuming, and not very talented painter who goes by the name of Horkka works in a small art studio, mentored by a much more famous artist, Lysander. The latter is constantly busy or away, so Horkka gets tasked with taking over some of his less-important jobs: portraits commissioned by various people.

Followed by Horkka's sensitive gaze, a colourful array of characters settle down to pose: a writer, a judge, an influencer, a guru, a hitman, Therian sisters, AI, a gentleman of dreamless sleep... Horkka patiently listens to each of them until the portrait is done or – more often than not – the session gets interrupted.

Will the portraits please their owners? Will they reflect the likeness?

In her newest novel, legendary author Leena Krohn ponders what gaze is and what does it actually mean to see someone.

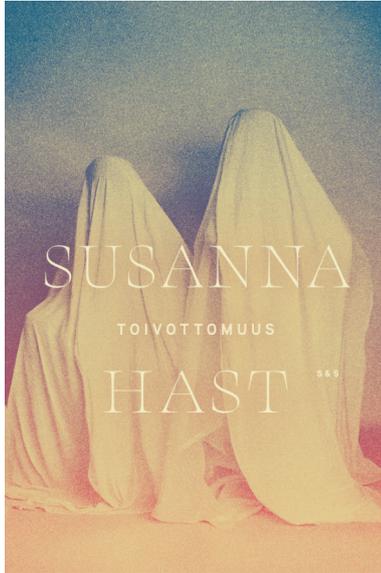


**Leena Krohn's** (b. 1947) writing forms an impressive body of work. She has developed her ideas from the visible and the invisible, from consciousness and self, death and life, reality and illusion, good and evil. Her sly humor and lucid language speak of our existence in very strange realms with courage and intelligence. One of the greatest visionaries in Finnish literature, Krohn's works have been translated to over 20 languages.



Susanna Hast

## HOPELESSNESS



**Toivottomuus**  
*Hopelessness*  
S&S, 2025, pp.

## LITERARY FICTION

- SHORTLISTED FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2026
- NOMINEE FOR THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2026
- NOMINEE FOR THE TOISINKOINEN PRIZE 2025

READING MATERIAL  
Finnish original

## A poignant novel about maternal rejection.

An adult daughter lies in an empty bathtub. She has called her mother to wish her a happy Mother's Day. Their relationship is like a competition in which the winner never shows that she needs the other. By calling, the daughter has admitted defeat.

During the call, the mother has got her daughter to lower her guard, only to drop a verbal bomb that drives her into self-doubt and paranoia. The door to the unconscious swings open and remains ajar. The daughter embarks on a dangerous journey to her hometown, where a devastating disease has destroyed the social order. The knife donated by the university comes in handy when a human has become their own self.

*Hopelessness* dives deep into the subconscious and shows the institution of family and the concepts that hold it together – inheritance, gift, father, mother – in a merciless light. The work approaches the internal violence of intimate relationships, the necessity of separation and the horror of duality. It is a novel that stings from beginning to end.

“*Hopelessness* contributes to the European debate on vulnerability, inequality, and intergenerational responsibility. Its stylistic boldness, psychological insight, and ability to transform private pain into a broader cultural issue make it a powerful representative of a renewed and forward-looking European literature.”

– EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE JURY

“Hast writes world-class literature. On par with Marguerite Duras or Clarice Lispector. On every page I read densely thought-out, profound, and emotionally true sentences.”



– SUOMEN KUVALEHTI MAGAZINE



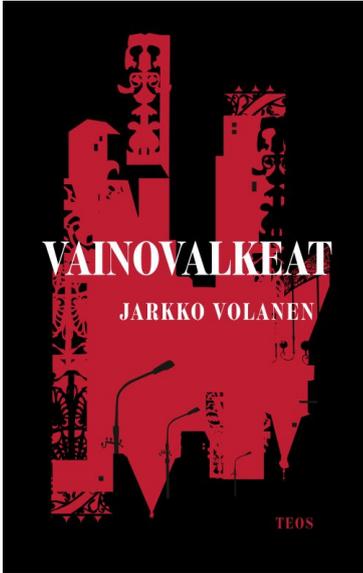
**Susanna Hast** (b. 1980) has a doctorate in Social Sciences. She works as a researcher and Associate Professor at Uniarts Helsinki. She has researched war, compassion and corporality. Her intimately personal debut novel *Body of Evidence* (2022) touches on the mechanisms of violence and trauma, and in conjunction, the silent war against women, one that leaves no trace in the history books. It was awarded the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, given to the best debut of the year. *Hopelessness* (2025) is her second novel.

Jarkko Volanen

**SIGNAL FIRES**

LITERARY FICTION

• NOMINEE FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE 2025



**Vainovalkeat**  
*Signal Fires*  
 Teos, 2025, 400 pp.

READING MATERIAL  
 Finnish original, English sample translation, English synopsis

A deeply emotional novel about terror, fictional identities, and the love that binds people together.

After a long time, brothers Viktor and Valdemar meet each other again. Valdemar is a dutiful and submissive state official; Viktor has just been released from prison. The past has left a mark, but their childhood is still shrouded in a mist. Why did they grow up with their grandparents, in almost military discipline? The truth may no longer be within reach, or if it is, its price may be too high.

Anna and Elena are a couple who together raise a little boy. Every moment of every day they fear that their relationship will be exposed, and the child will be taken away from them. Anna's work in an organization that tries to help those persecuted by the state only increases the danger. When she meets Valdemar, who asks to help his brother, the two of them begin to develop a risky plan.

*Signal Fires* portrays a life in a society where suspicion is a civic duty, love is a crime, and every friendly gesture may turn out to be a trap. The characters' fates intertwine in fear: not a passing worry, but a continuous, built-in state of mind. The story reads almost like a thriller, but Volanen's narration isn't screaming special effects and cliff-hangers; rather, it's a through-through whisper, underscoring the many parallels to the world we live in today and leaving the reader in chills.

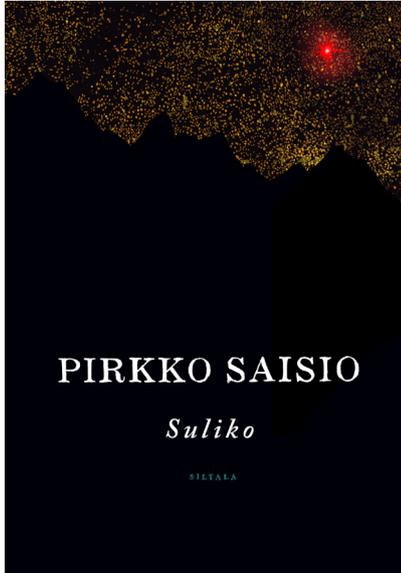
"Volanen writes skillfully about fear [...] *Signal Fires* depicts a society where nothing is what it seems—and where seeing too clearly can be life-threatening."

—KIRJALUOTSI LITERATURE BLOG



**Jarkko Volanen** (b. 1971) is a writer and a PhD. researcher living in Helsinki. He has written three novels. The second one, *The Shadow People* (2020), was longlisted for the prestigious Runeberg Prize.

Pirkko Saisio

**SULIKO****Suliko***Suliko*

Siltala Publishing 2024, c. 450 pp.

## LITERARY FICTION

- NOMINEE FOR THE NORDIC COUNCIL LITERATURE PRIZE 2026
- WINNER OF THE RUNEBERG PRIZE 2025
- MARJA-LIISA VARTIO AWARD 2025
- 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.*

“Saisio’s *Suliko* is rugged and original. The era of paranoia and a federal-sized stage that flinches at the choice of words is vividly portrayed through the vocabulary typical of Soviet cultures. [...] Saisio has a knack for condensing the essential into images drawn by a few words. The airy folding is also familiar from Saisio’s earlier works. The text breathes and it is easy to settle into the rhythm of the sentences.”



– KALEVA NEWSPAPER

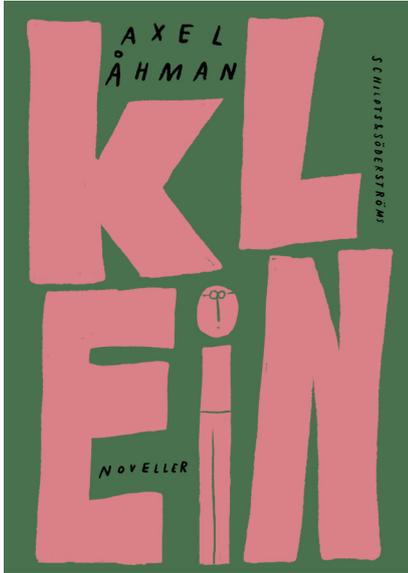


**Pirkko Saisio** (b. 1949) is an author, theatre director, actor and one of the best-known cultural figures in Finland. Her novel *The Course of Life* (1975) received an award for the best debut of the year. Since then, Saisio has been nominated for the Finlandia Prize seven times, winning it with *The 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.

Axel Åhman

**A WEAKLING**

SHORT STORIES

• DEBUT OF THE “A” IN *KAJ***Klein***A Weakling*

Schildts &amp; Söderströms, 2020, 176 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Swedish original, English sample, English synopsis

Heaven is sitting in a hot room full of naked men whipping themselves with a birch branch.

Growing up is hard. Growing into a real man under the watchful eyes of the community in the Finnish countryside is even harder. It's wanting to help your father around and ending up with a toolbox on your foot and a bruised ego; it's trying to keep your first beer down no matter the taste; it's ruling the local sauna with an iron fist even when your body is crying for mercy. Failing to meet the standard results in being labeled as “a weakling”, a title that throws one forever in the ranks of the weak and unreliable.

*A Weakling* is a collection of novellas about masculinity and growing pains, peppered with sharp humor and an eye for real-life details. The setting is the Ostrobothnia, deep in the Finnish countryside, and it follows the laws of small villages and communities everywhere: both the town eccentric and the bigwigs must get a chance to have their say, and ordinary interactions often take an unexpected turn, opening the door for bizarre and hilarious yet believable outcomes. The social codes are laid bare and must be obeyed at any time: whether it's at the gas station, on the ski slopes, or at home, a real man always knows how to behave. Or maybe not, but trying his best always makes for a good story.

“By writing warmly and thoughtfully about power, masculinity, and growing up, Åhman identifies the hot topics of our time (and the sauna).”

– DAGENS NYHETER NEWSPAPER

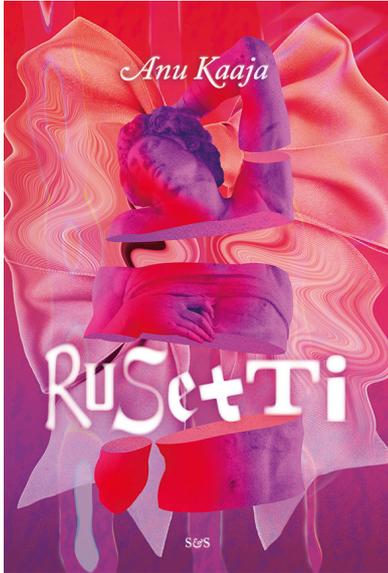


**Axel Åhman** (b. 1993) is a writer, comedian and journalist. He is the A in the comedy group *KAJ* that represented Sweden in the 2025 Eurovision Song Contest with the song *Bara bada bastu*. The success of the group made him a household name across Europe and gave his authorship renewed international visibility. Åhman often writes with a tendency towards the tragicomic, but with great warmth for his characters. *A Weakling* (2020) was his literary debut, and his first novel *Enthusiast* was published in 2025. He has also written a middle grade novel *The Smuggler's Treasure* (2024).



Anu Kaaja

# THE RIBBON BOW



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

## LITERARY FICTION

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

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, Swedish translation, English sample, English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

**World Spanish**, Corredor Sur  
**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 *Metamorphoslip* (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.



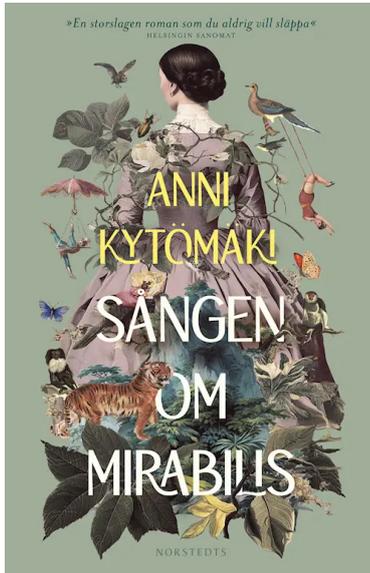
## II. Historical Fiction

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



# Anni Kytömäki

## MIRABILIS



### Mirabilis

*Mirabilis*

Gummerus, 2024, 688 pp.

### LITERARY 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*)  
**Hungarian**, Typotex  
**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 the 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.

Ann-Christin Antell

# THE ADEL SISTERS TRILOGY

HISTORICAL FICTION



## 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)

### RIGHTS SOLD:

**Swedish**

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 Axel 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 lakes 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.

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 farm at the Kustö island, where their cranky recluse of an uncle conducts scientific experiments and studies stars. Thyra succeeds in gaining his trust. While exploring the ruins of a castle on the island, Thyra encounters a headstrong and gloomy Marcus von Willebrand from the neighboring estate. At the same time, she learns about her mother's scandalous youth. Where will the stars lead Thyra?

In *Wild Bird* (2027), Kitty, the youngest of the Adel sisters studies nature sciences in the University of Helsinki. She spends her free time at their grandmother's summer cottage studying and collecting plants, insects and animals. After graduation, Kitty receives a scholarship and travels to Greece to study the country's flora and meets a charming Professor and a fisherman. Kitty falls in love with Greece, 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



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 the 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? friend who works at the shipyards, also appeals to her with his rough-hewn charms. As a



**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 the Light Disappears* will be published in 2026. Mäki describes her writing about war as peace work.



## RIGHTS SOLD:

**Czech**, Jota (book #1)**French**, Leduc (book #1)**Swedish**, Historiska Media**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 the Light Disappears* (2026), it's 1944 in Seinäjoki, Western Finland. Young Ilmi, All'i'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

## 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
- OVER 250 000 COPIES SOLD

## 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 childhood



**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).

## 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)

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

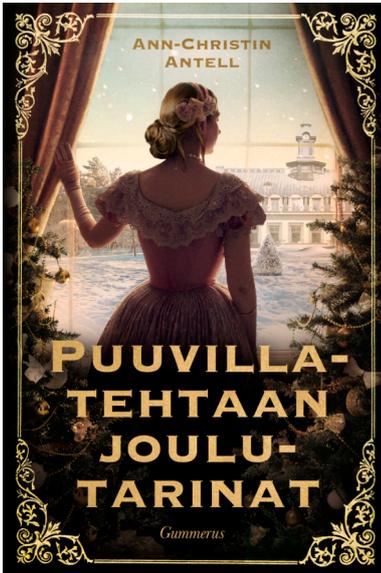


Ann-Christin Antell

# 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.

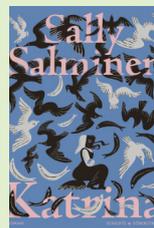


**Ann-Christin Antell** (b. 1973) studied history and archaeology and worked as a librarian before embarking on her career as an author. Her debut novel *The Shadow of the Cotton Mill* (2021) climbed to the top of the Finnish bestseller lists, as did its sequels *Heir to the Cotton Mill* (2022) and *Rival to the Cotton Mill* (2023).



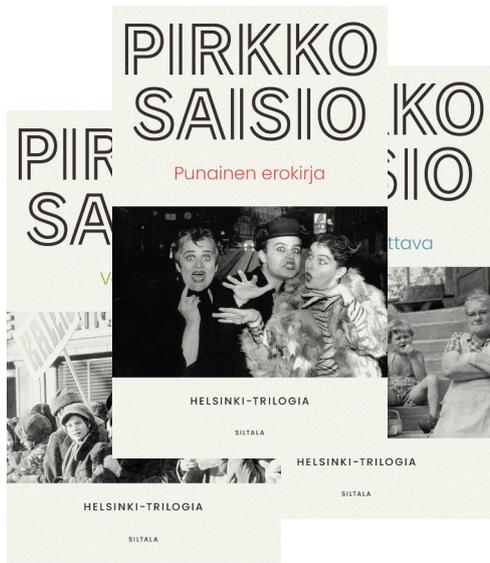
# III. Modern Classics

Pirkko Saisio **The Helsinki Trilogy**, Märta Tikkanen **Manrape**, 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.

## LITERARY 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 translations, French  
 translations, German translations

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.



RIGHTS SOLD:

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

Each of the three novels was nominated for Finland’s biggest literary award, the Finlandia Prize, *The Red Book 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



## 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.

FICTION

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

READING MATERIAL:

Swedish originals, English sample translation, 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.



RIGHTS SOLD:

**Danish**, North Audio Publishing

**Dutch**, North Audio Publishing

**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

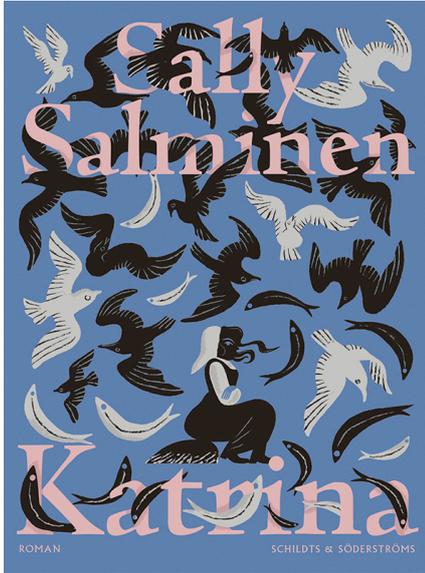


Sally Salminen

**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's story 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

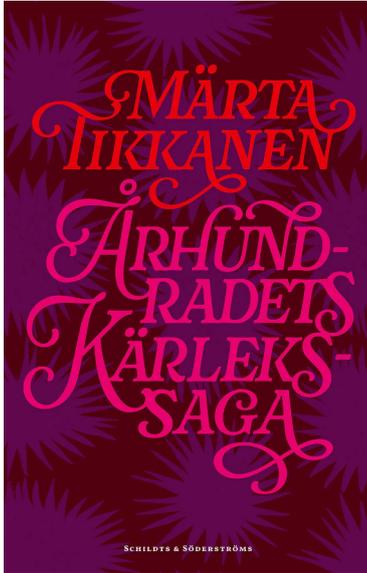


**Sally Salminen** (1906–1976) was the most internationally renowned author from Finland of her time. Born in the Åland Islands, Salminen moved to New York in the 1930s, where she wrote her debut novel *Katrina* (1936). An ode to a woman's strength and stamina, the novel immediately became a phenomenal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



Märta Tikkanen

# THE LOVE STORY OF THE CENTURY



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

READING MATERIAL  
 Swedish original, English translation

FICTION

• INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

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 to find new generations of readers.

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

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

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

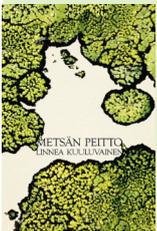


**Märta Tikkanen** (b. 1935) is a Finland-Swedish journalist, writer, and teacher. In her broad output, translated into over 20 languages, she has critically dealt with gender roles and the shackles that bind women, as well as women's liberation and the longing to realize oneself. She became a central 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.



# IV. Fantasy and Speculative Fiction

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

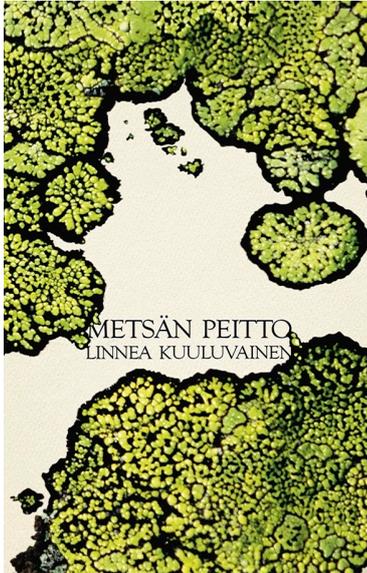


Linnea Kuuluvainen

# THE THICK OF THE FOREST

SPECULATIVE FICTION

- NOMINEE FOR THE HELSINKI SANOMAT LITERATURE PRIZE 2024
- NOMINEE FOR THE MIRRORMERE PRIZE 2025



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

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

RIGHTS SOLD  
**Bulgarian**, Colibri  
**Croatian**, Hangar 7  
**Estonian**, Varrak  
**German**, Septime  
**Slovakian**, Albatross

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.

**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.

*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



Niilo Sevänen  
**ETERNAL WINTER  
 SERIES**

FANTASY

- NOMINEE FOR THE TÄHTIFANTASIA AWARD 2025
- TOP TEN BESTSELLER
- 15 000 COPIES SOLD

**Ikkitalven polku**

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

**Unten kruunu**

*The Crown of Dreams*  
 Gummerus, 2026, c. 450 pp.

**Sisarten vala**

*The Oath of the Sisters*  
 Gummerus, 2027, 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.



**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)

*The Crown of Dreams*, to be published in autumn 2026, delves deeper into the mythical world of eternal winter, where the boundaries between real history and legend blur.

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 readers are taken on a journey through the Dreamworld 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 Oath of the Sisters* (2027), separated and in despair, the heroes each face their own trials—Halla is imprisoned in the underworld fortress of Angerboda, Skadi has been turned into a werewolf under dark control, Orpheus languishes in a Roman prison and Theofana deals with the consequences of her previous betrayals. As secrets from the past unravel, Halla reconnects with her lost sister, and together they uncover the tragic legacy of their family. Old wounds are reopened, loyalties tested, and the shadow of the White Witch looms large.

To save Halla—and perhaps themselves—a daring rescue mission descends into the Underworld, where ancient magic stirs and long-buried truths are revealed. With dreamscapes, mythical beasts, and cursed crowns shaping their journey, the fate of the living and the dead hangs in the balance. Themes of sacrifice, forgiveness, and self-discovery run throughout as the characters find different paths forward: some together, some apart.

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.

“Sevänen has clearly become thoroughly acquainted with his sources and has succeeded at putting together from them a rich fantasy world, which is full of great visions and little thought-out details. The whole is charmingly brought to life, and you can almost see and sense the reality surrounding the characters. [...] *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

“The singer and basist of the Insomnium, Niilo Sevänen, is not one to shy away from arduous challenges in his literary production [...] Sevänen's debut creates a coldly beautiful and gloomy romantic atmosphere, that is carried on with skillfully and thoroughly enough that we're left waiting for the continuation with great interest.”

– KULTTUURITOIMITUS CULTURE MEDIA



# v. Mystery and Suspense

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



# Eva Frantz

## ANNA GLAD SERIES



**The Blue Villa, Anna Glad #1**  
*Blå villan*  
 Schildts & Söderströms, 2017, 255 pp.

**The Eighth Maiden, Anna Glad #2**  
*Den åttonde tärnan*  
 Schildts & Söderströms, 2018, 318 pp.

**Out of the Game, Anna Glad #3**  
*För han var redan dö*  
 Schildts & Söderströms, 2020,  
 417 pp.

**You Will Not Take My Child, Anna Glad #4**  
*Ungen min får du aldrig*  
 Schildts & Söderströms, May 2023,  
 c. 360 pp.

### CRIME FICTION

- BEST CRIME NOVEL OF THE YEAR 2019
- NOMINEE FOR THE GLASS KEY AWARD 2019
- OVER 100 000 COPIES SOLD

**Then Die Contentedly, Anna Glad #5**  
*Så dör du nöjdare*  
 Schildts & Söderströms, May 2024,  
 c. 300 pp.

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

RIGHTS SOLD  
**Bulgarian**, Perseus (books 1–5)  
**Danish**, Gyldendal (books 1–5)  
**Estonia**, Rahva Raamat (books 1–2)  
**German**, Aufbau (books 2–5)  
**Swedish** (Sweden), Sekwa (book 3)

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

Senior constable Anna Glad solves comes across not only crimes but also the very relatable everyday problems of an ordinary woman. 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 cozy.

In *The Blue Villa* (2017), 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 bloody 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.

In *You Will Not 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.

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 putting her nose into the case.



**Eva Frantz** (b. 1980) is an author and a journalist at the Finnish national broadcasting company. Frantz debuted with the mystery 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.

# Anu Ojala

## THE SILK ROAD NORTH SERIES

CRIME FICTION

- NOMINEE FOR THE STORYTEL AWARDS 2024
- 57 000 COPIES SOLD



### The Silk Road North

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

### Death Knell,

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

### Sky Network

The Silk Road North #3  
*Taivasverkko*  
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 cities Tornio-Haaparanda, on the Swedish-Finnish border, have been plagued by a crime wave which keeps claiming new victims. Lapland Police inspector 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), inspector Ronja Jentzsch and her partner, Janne, are called to investigate the 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, border 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. Inspector 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 young adult novels.

In *Sky Network* (2024), the third and final part of the series, Ronja Jentzsch and her partner Janne are preparing for a boring work meeting in Haaparanta, when a van stops in front of the Town Hall. All of a 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.

“*Sky Network* is a chillingly strong performance by Ojala, whose *Silk Road North* was one of the best domestic thrillers of 2021 [...] *Sky Network* 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

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RIGHTS SOLD:

**Dutch**, De Fontein

**German**, Droemer Knaur

**Slovenian**, Hart



Sari Rainio &amp; Juha Rautaheimo

# MORTUI NON SILENT SERIES



## Vainajat eivät vaikene

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

Siltala Publishing, 2021, 565 pp.

## Vaeltavat vainajat

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

Siltala Publishing, 2023, 476 pp.

## Vainajat vailla armao

*No Mercy from the Dead, Mortui non silent #3*

Siltala Publishing, 2025, 495 pp.

## CRIME FICTION

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

## ALSO AVAILABLE

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

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

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample, English synopsis

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

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 at 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, multilayered plots, excellent writing and Helsinki atmosphere of different seasons.



In *No Mercy from the Dead* (2025) it's the end of April in Helsinki, and the city is caressed by sunny days. As the city prepares for the first of May festivities in the city's most popular park, a body is discovered in the bushes, ending up on forensic pathologist Viola Kaario's steel table. It has a lot to say about the mysterious ways that led to its death, and the investigation leads Detective sergeant Ville Karila again and again to Manderley, a retirement home for the wealthy. There, it seems the solving of the crime will require help from another body.

## RIGHTS SOLD

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

"R & R detective stories are constructed with great care and attention to detail. There is no rush, but rather a calm pace in which both the characters and the plot are developed. They convey a sense of completeness and richness that is rarely found in contemporary detective novels, even the good ones. Yet they are not slow or tedious; the plot moves smoothly and the well-characterized characters keep the reader interested." – 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 not 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



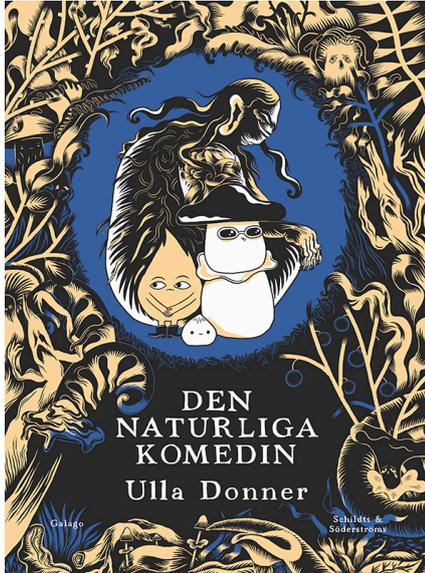
# VI. Graphic Novels

Ulla Donner **The Natural Comedy**



Ulla Donner

# THE NATURAL COMEDY



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

GRAPHIC NOVEL

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

READING MATERIAL  
 Swedish original, Finnish translation, English translation

RIGHTS SOLD:  
**German**, Rotopol  
**Polish**, Kultura Gniewu  
**Spanish**, Liana Editorial

## 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.

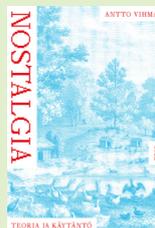
"With her graphic minimalism, understanding of detail and portraying the warped contemporary world with a perfect pitch, Ulla Donner has become one of the most interesting graphic novelists of the moment." – DAGENS NYHETER NEWSPAPER ON *Crap*



**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

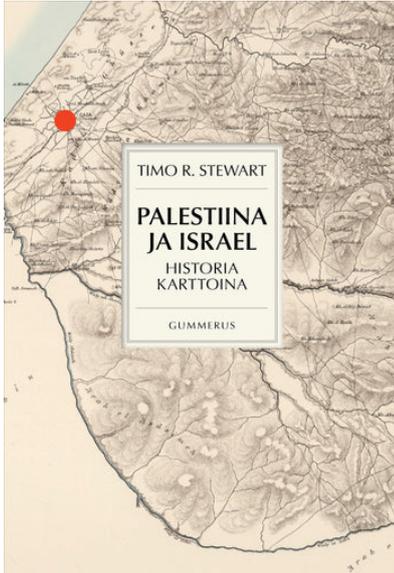
Timo R. Stewart **Palestine and Israel**, Jukka Tuhkuri **Endurance**, Henrik Meinander **Helsinki**, Julia Korkman **Memory Dependent**, Sakari Siltala **High Stakes**, Karin Erlandsson **The Blue Yarn**



Timo R. Stewart

# PALESTINE AND ISRAEL — A HISTORY IN MAPS

NONFICTION



## Palestiina ja Israel. Historia karttoina

*Palestine and Israel. A History in Maps*

Gummerus, 2025, 280 pp.

## READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

## A deeper look at the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, told in maps.

Israel and Palestine mean almost the same thing—and completely different things—at the same time. Renowned researcher Timo R. Stewart’s informative and visually appealing book helps to understand this contradiction through maps drawn at different times.

*Palestine and Israel. A History in Maps* increases understanding of the background to the Middle East conflict, using maps to guide the reader from the 19th century to the present day. It reveals the religious, political, and strategic significance of the region’s divisions at different times. The 25 featured maps were all created for different purposes and under different circumstances. Their relationship to reality is never straightforward.

Each chapter tells the story of one map: What does it reveal about the motives of their creators? What does it tell us about political and military changes in the area? How was the map used in the past? What needs did it serve?

Stewart’s clear and concise book helps the reader to understand not only historical events, but our interpretations of them. It also inspires readers to question maps more critically.



**Timo R. Stewart** (b. 1980), PhD in Political Science, is a senior researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, specializing in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Western policy in the Middle East, and the role of religion in conflicts and politics. Stewart has also worked at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and in civil society organizations. Stewart’s books *Valter Juvelius and the Hunt for the Lost Ark* (2020), and *The Enchantment of the Promised Land* (2022), were both nominated for the Finlandia Prize for non-fiction. Stewart is the most sought-after commentator in the Finnish media regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



Jussi Niemeläinen

# BORDER TO BORDER – MODERN RUSSIA AS A NEIGHBOUR



## Muurista muuriin. Reportaasi Venäjän länsirajasta

*Border to Border. Modern Russia as a  
Neighbour*

Siltala, 2025, 292 pp.

NONFICTION

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,  
English synopsis

### RIGHTS SOLD

**Estonian**, Postimees

A lively reportage on modern Russia's slide into one of the 21st century's most aggressive dictatorships – and on living a few kilometres from it.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, some were even suggesting that Russia's Western border might eventually disappear altogether. That wasn't the case: not only modern Russia reversed its course and slid back into a dictatorship, it is now waging war about the location of that very border instead.

Jussi Niemeläinen, an expert reporter and correspondent with decades of experience on the contemporary history of Russia, travels from Northern Norway to Eastern Ukraine, meeting presidents, ministers, journalists, as well as ordinary people on his way who ponder how we ended up in this situation, and what lies ahead.

*Border to Border* takes the reader on a brisk, yet informative journey to Russia's development from the end of the Cold War to the current war in Ukraine, and the changing of relationships to its neighbours and the West. Niemeläinen's lively, approachable narration, interspersed with personal stories and anecdotes from his long career, effortlessly engages the reader and helps to better understand both the big picture and the more nuanced intricacies of the complex sociopolitical situation currently experienced in the neighborhood of an aggressor.



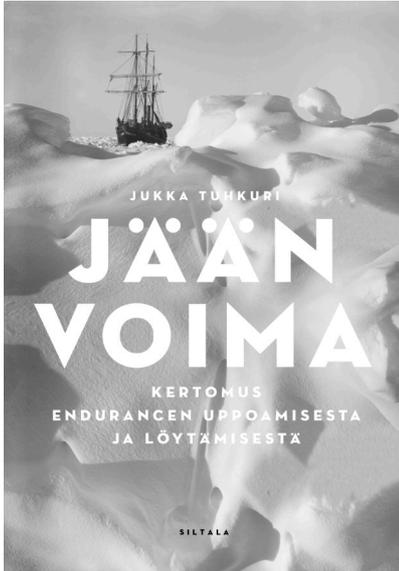
**Jussi Niemeläinen** (b. 1976) is a Finnish journalist and a senior editorial writer for Helsingin Sanomat, Finland's biggest daily newspaper. In the past, Niemeläinen served as the paper's Moscow Bureau Chief, as well as a correspondent in Riga. Niemeläinen's career has mainly focused around reporting on the former Soviet Union and modern Russia, including following Alexei Navalny's career from a little-known blogger to opposition's leading figure and later, political prisoner.

Niemeläinen has a Master's degree in political science. He has been a Journalist Fellow at Reuter's Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University, and Fellow at World Press Institute in Saint Paul, Minnesota. *Border to Border* (2025) is his first book.



Jukka Tuhkuri

# ICEBOUND – THE SEARCH FOR ENDURANCE AND THE REAL REASON IT SANK



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

*Icebound: The Search for Endurance  
and the Real Reason it Sank*  
Siltala 2024, 384 pp.

NONFICTION

• FULL ENGLISH TRANSLATION  
AVAILABLE IN FALL 2026

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English translation,  
English synopsis

RIGHTS SOLD

**World Spanish**, Almayr

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.

“When writing about his own experiences, Tuhkuri produces highly flowing text in which emotions are palpable. Ice, wind, and especially the penguins are described enchantingly. An avid reader, Tuhkuri effortlessly drops references to world literary classics: *Moby Dick*, Kipling and Dickens find their natural place; and even this Finnish author cannot avoid mentioning Moominpappa when writing about the sea.” – KULTTUURITOIMITUS CULTURE MAGAZINE



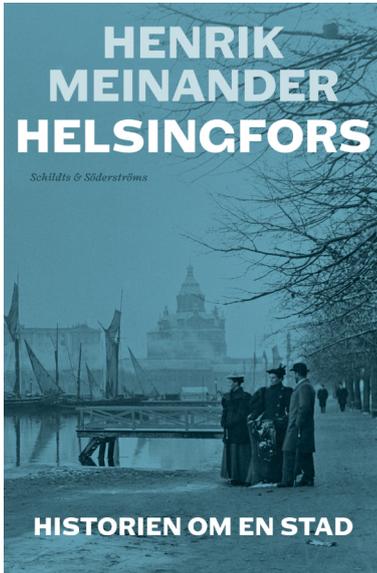
**Jukka Tuhkuri** (b.1960) is a professor of solid mechanics at the Aalto University, where he researches ice mechanics and arctic marine technology. His research, which includes fracture of ice, has taken him to both the Arctic and the Antarctic, and in 2023 the University College London named Jukka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

In 2022 he participated in the *Endurance22* expedition, which successfully located the wreck of the *Endurance*. His recent research paper “Why did *Endurance* sink?”, published in *Polar Record*, has obtained world wide interest and has been covered by, for example, *The New York Times*, *The Times*, BBC, CNN and *Der Spiegel*.

Henrik Meinander

# HELSINKI – STORY OF A CITY

NONFICTION



**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.

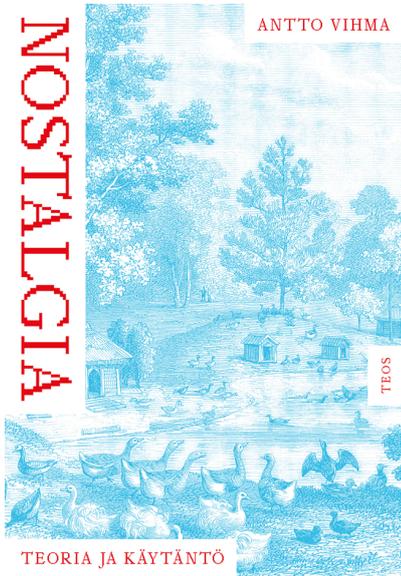


Antto Vihma

# 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*.

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 herself a jumper. Without using instructions, she made a beautiful striped jumper out of the leftover yarn she found at home. She wore it a lot and it was widely admired. A deep and life-long love had been born.

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

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

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



**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.





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