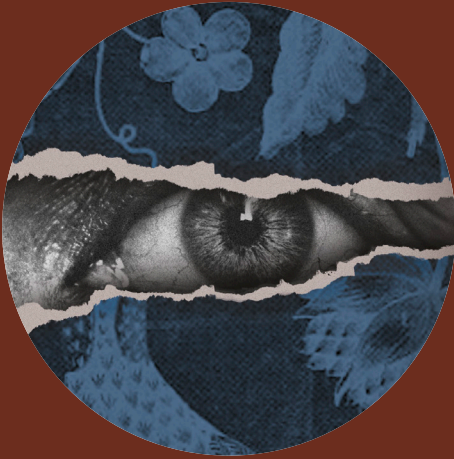

Rights & Brands
AUTUMN 2022
Catalogue

Adult Fiction
& Non-Fiction





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THE SOULMATE by Sofie Sarenbrant, p. 4

Stockholm is exploding in the warm colours of autumn. A woman is balancing on the wrong side of the railing of a major bridge, holding a baby in her arms. What has led her to this point? Police detective Emma Sköld and her colleagues faces an intricate investigation in their most urgent case yet.

ACT OF GLADIUS by Tuomas Oskari, p. 6

The refugee crisis following the economic collapse pushes the tensions within Europe to the extreme. When the Italian Prime Minister arrives in Helsinki, an assassin's bullet blows up a powder keg. The former Finnish Prime Minister, Leo Koski, gets involved in a fast-developing chain of events when he meets Sara, an historian, who seems to know what it's all about.



STALKER YEARS by Olli Jalonen, p. 10

In 1974, a student from the University of Tampere is assigned to report on the lives and political attitudes of his former schoolmates. It feels good to be part of something big. But it's hard to approach someone and pretend you don't know what you know. Work takes time, which real friends soon won't have anymore. What at first seemed like an honorable mission begins to turn into a tight straitjacket.

MARSH MEMORIES by Jenni Räinen, p. 14

The marshland behind the long-abandoned school of a small municipality in Northern Finland was already part of the landscape long before humans had drawn the borders of the village. When Juho inherits the old school, he establishes a self-sufficient eco-community. More and more people of different backgrounds join the project with the aim to restore the marshland. But as everyone tries to find their own place within the community and tension soon arises.



BREATHLESS HOME by Matilda Gyllenberg, p. 17

Who was the woman that appeared one day in the then newly built and secluded neighborhood, together with her seven-year-old son?

Piece by piece, the fate of Hild is revealed to the narrator and increasingly frightening events of the past are discovered. What is the worst thing that can happen to a parent?



EMMA SKÖLD SERIES

Stockholm is exploding in the warm colours of autumn. It is a striking view, but police detective Emma Sköld's eyes falls on something else. A woman is balancing on the wrong side of the railing of a major bridge, holding a baby in her arms.

Emma must prevent the woman and infant to fall twenty-six meters down into the sea and a certain death. What has led her to this point? Emma Sköld and her colleagues faces an intricate investigation in their most urgent case yet.

The Soulmate is the tenth book the popular crime series about the headstrong and fearless police detective Emma Sköld and her team. Sofie Sarenbrant uniquely weaves together current and sensitive contemporary issues into the plot and explores topics such as human dignity, prejudice and gaslighting. With short chapters, a straightforward language and strong cliffhangers, Sarenbrant's storytelling has a unique drive and urgency. The result is an equally important and thrilling crime story, impossible to put down.



© MAGNUS RANVIND

SOFIE SARENBRANT made her literary debut in 2010 and has since then become one of the biggest crime authors in the Nordics. She is best known for her modern and creative series following police detective Emma Sköld and her team in Stockholm. The series has sold over 5 million copies worldwide and been translated into 15 languages to date.

Sofie has won Nextory E-Book Awards and BookBeat's Crime Writer of the Year three times.

The Soulmate

(Själsfränden)

442 pages | First published in Swedish by Bookmark 2022



The Guardian Angel

(Skyddsängeln)

400 pages | First published in Swedish by Bookmark 2021

Emma Sköld is busy searching for her colleague who vanished without a trace seven months earlier, when she is interrupted by a strange case. An elderly man has been found murdered in an abandoned mental hospital. As Emma realises that the death is connected to her colleague's disappearance, she becomes obsessed with finding the killer.

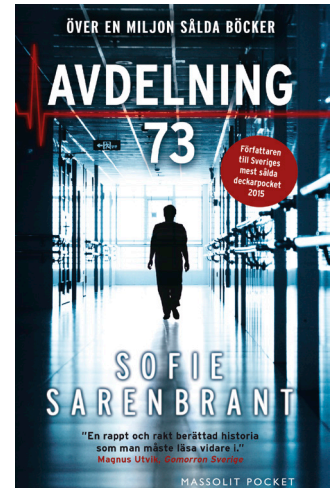
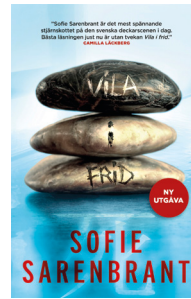


The Liar

(Mytomanen)

420 pages | First published in Swedish by Bookmark 2020

An early summer morning, the badly beaten body of a teenage boy is found by a jogger. Tensions immediately run high in among the neighbors and suspicions are soon directed towards some boys from a nearby residential area. The police must solve the case before the killer strikes again, but Emma Sköld has a feeling that prejudice is getting in the way.



Shame

(Skamvrån)

420 pages | First published in Swedish by Bookmark 2019

In an idyllic suburb of Stockholm, a young girl lays herself down on the tram rails and waits for the train to come. In another part of Sweden, a man wakes up in a deep grave in the woods. The two don't know each other, but they have something vital in common. Now it's up to Emma Sköld and her colleagues to find the connection before it is too late.

"Fast-paced and well-thought-out with contemporary issues in center."

DAGENS NYHETER

"A real page-turner ... Thrilling, quick and entertaining"

GÖTEBORGS-POSTEN

The Scapegoat

(Syndabocken)

380 pages | First published in Swedish by Bookmark 2018

A wave of home invasions has struck a posh suburb just outside of Stockholm. As the break ins continue, the perpetrators' methods become more gruesome. When a teenage boy is found murdered in his home, Emma Sköld and her colleagues are called to take on the case. But was this really a burglary that escalated to fatal violence?

Second Wind

(Andra andningen)

368 pages | First published in Swedish by Damm 2013

Stockholm Marathon has always been spared from deaths among its runners. But when the gun goes off for the 35th edition of the race, that is about to change. Emma Sköld is off duty and has gone to the marathon to cheer on her sister, but her plans are interrupted as she is pulled into a fast-paced murder investigation.

The Beggar

(Tiggaren)

390 pages | First published in Swedish by Bookmark 2016

Beggars around Stockholm are falling victim to what appears to be a psychopathic serial killer. The police are clueless, and the only person who can stop the murders must do everything to stay in hiding. *The Beggar* is a contemporary crime novel about power abuse, and how it affects the most vulnerable people in our society.

Rest in peace

(Vila i frid)

339 pages | First published in Swedish by Damm 2012

The luxurious Japanese spa Yasuragi outside of Stockholm is a haven for the stressed-out inhabitants of the city. But when a famous actress is found unconscious in the women's washing room, the serenity is broken. Emma Sköld and her colleagues soon realise that this is no ordinary investigation.

The Babysitter

(Avdelning 73)

384 pages | First published in Swedish by Massolit 2015

Emma Sköld wakes up at the hospital after being in a coma for five months, without a clue about what has happened. As time goes by, Emma realises foul play was involved in her accident. As long as she is in the ICU, the security is rigorous. But if she is moved to another ward, anyone can get close to her.

Bookbeat's
Swedish
Crime Writer
of the Year
2019, 2020
and 2022



Act of Gladius

(Miekka)

363 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2022

Nominated
for Storytel
Award 2022

Dark forces are returning to Europe. In whose hands will the heavy sword of justice end up?

The refugee crisis following the economic collapse pushes tensions within Europe to the extreme. In Finland, refugees are being kept in a 'transit centre' on a former cruise ship in the historical centre of Helsinki.

Not long ago, the left orientated Chief Secretary of the Supreme Court was found assassinated at his home.

Finland is about to enter the fascist coalition, which is slowly replacing the European Union, with Italy at its top. But when the Finnish Prime Minister welcomes her Italian counterpart to sign the treaty, she is stopped by an assassin's bullet – sparking a powder keg of events.

At 36 years old, the former Finnish Prime minister Leo Koski thinks he is an unimportant retiree in exile. That is until he receives an invitation to travel to Helsinki in disguise to support his partner and left-wing activist Emma Erola in court. But soon he is driven into the crisis' hottest point and has no choice but to become part of what seems to be a carefully staged scheme.

Leo meets a young historian, Sara, who believes she knows what this fast-paced series of events is all about. She has infiltrated 'the Guard', an extreme right-wing organisation who is planning a big operation with the support of the police force – however, she was uncovered just before she could make out their plans. Now, Leo and Sara are both chased by the police.

While 'the Guard' is loading trucks with weapons and prepares to march out, panic arises on the cruise ship.

Who hides behind the mysterious messenger called Heimdahl, who secretly pulls the strings and threatens the lives of both those in power and the desperate refugees?

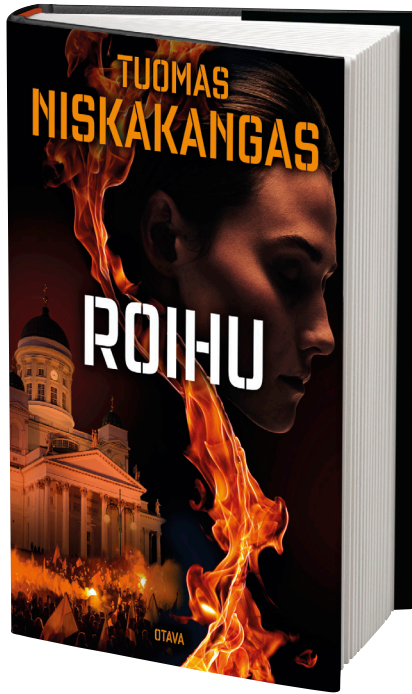
And will Leo and Sara succeed to reveal 'the Guard's' plan on time to prevent the worst?



© JONNE RÄSÄNEN / OTAVA

TUOMAS OSKARI (b. 1980, real name Tuomas Niskakangas) has worked as a journalist for Helsingin Sanomat, the largest daily newspaper in Finland, covering business, economics and politics. He also lived in Washington DC for four years working as the newspaper's U.S. Correspondent. Tuomas currently lives in Helsinki.

Screen rights
optioned!



Their Turn to Burn

(Roihu)

525 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2021

BookBeat's
Newcomer of
the Year 2021

West Wing meets Jo Nesbo in a skillfully plotted fast-paced political thriller, taking place in only 24 hours, demonstrating how easily inequality and the division of a population can escalate.

Helsinki 2027. The young prime minister and leader of the right coalition, Leo Koski, wakes up on a Saturday morning to a hangover, with a naked woman in his bed and frustrating crowds roaring outside the gate of his residence. But the reasons for his headache are elsewhere: The Left is uniting its forces, threatening with a large demonstration for the following day.

Koski is only a puppet of The Guild, a secret group of rich and powerful men pulling the strings.

When a young woman suicides by tying to a tree and setting herself on flames outside the window of a Guild member, she leaves a secret behind that could overthrow the government.

Leo Koski for the first time decides to execute the power he's got as a prime minister, to save what he can. He has 24 hours to figure out the plot that could cost thousands of lives and the whole future of the country.

In the society, divisions have deepened, the middle class disappeared and most of Finland's citizens literally fight to get by. Due to the clash of the economy, the political tensions between the classes have escalated and the society is volatile.

The left movement is led by a charismatic and decisive young leader, Emma Erola. Together with a mysterious acolyte, she is planning to take Finland towards new socialism, basing on artificial intellect and processed data. But is Erola's ally trustworthy? And who is the mysterious Peregrino – a mere voice on the phone – who seems to be the one who truly is behind the actions of the right coalition?

"A superb thriller that encourages to think."

SUOMEN KUVALEHTI

"Roihu is a brutally imaginative exploration to the dark side of Finland's power politics."

MESTA.NET

"A promising start for a thriller career"

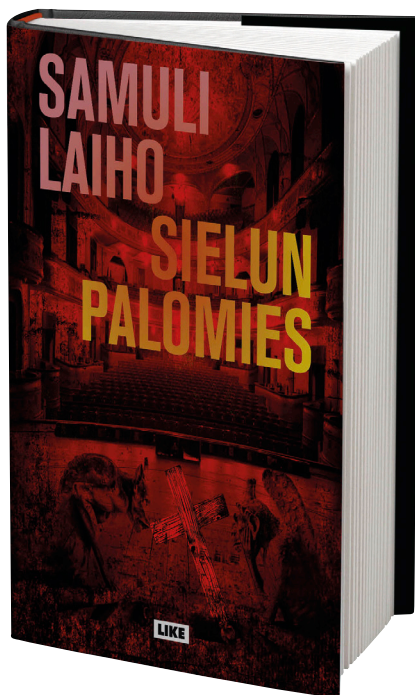
HELSINGIN SANOMAT

"The novel fills the expectations for an international thriller."

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

Soon out in
German

Thriller | Samuli Laiho



Play with Fire

(Sielun palomies)

300 pages | First published in Finnish
by Like 2021

Ambitious star director Muska Meriläinen is in the middle of preparations for the most important premiere of her career, an adaption of Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 at the National Theatre in Helsinki, when she starts to receive disturbing messages by someone calling himself the Firefighter of the Soul. Soon a raw death case is revealed in the capital, and ex-police officer Kaarle Meriläinen fears that there is a connection between the act of violence and his daughter's harassment.

When stressed out and overworked Muska is racked with guilt neglecting her son, old habits seem to relieve, and she slips back into addiction.

Just before the premier of her play, Muska disappears and Kaarle is convinced that the mysterious events around his daughter reach further back to his last case, which threw his life off the tracks and led him through a mental hospital to becoming a priest. Suddenly, Kaarle's struggle with the past reawakens and he realizes that he needs to find Muska before time runs out.

Play with Fire is the fast-paced opening of the thriller series *Deadly Sins*, set around the Meriläinen family. It takes the reader straight to Helsinki's cultural scene and nightlife, into a world of addicts, occultism and revenge as it forces one to the core of evil, the mind of a psychopath.

"Samuli Laiho covers the genre of a thriller like a pro and avoids all regular bumps... Nothing is lacking, and everything is in place. The opening act of Deadly Sins is grand."

KANSAN UUTISET NEWSPAPER



© VILLE MAUJA / LIKE

SAMULI LAIHO (b. 1969) is a Helsinki-based author, accomplished songwriter, musician and producer who launched his career as a guitarist of the band Hearhill at the end of the '80s. His third book *Play with Fire*, released in 2021 by Like Publishing, is the first part of the *Deadly Sins* thriller series.

In 2016 a Japanese music publisher asked me to arrange Disney classics to musical toilet seats. I decided that it was time to do something else. Two years later my first novel was published. I compare a good thriller to a pop song. A catchy intro, a verse with a good hook and a killer chorus.

"Samuli Laiho's dark shade thriller Play with Fire wins over by its fascinating characters and description of the theatre environment... Evil is utmost in the story."

EEVA MAGAZINE



Cold War Affairs

(Kylmän sodan tytär)

381 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2020

“Cold War Affairs is Tua Harno’s literary breakthrough placing her among the most prominent writers in Finland.”

UUSI SUOMI NEWSPAPER

“During the Cold War, a lot of spies visited Helsinki. Naturally, this fact was to be kept secret... The subject is most interesting, and Harno describes personal relationships really well.”

HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER, FINLAND

A thriller about schemes behind Nokia’s global success, asking if Nokia built its success with mobile phones on a web of lies, fooling both the Soviets and the Americans?

Was my father a spy and a killer?

Questioning her family past draws middle-aged Mari right in the centre of Nokia’s shady trades with the Soviet Union and the legacy of the Cold War lies. Mari’s father was Michael Albright, an American businessman who moved to Helsinki in the early 1980s, set up a family and a successful career, but returned to the States with his new mistress at the end of the decade. Or at least this is the story as Mari knows it.

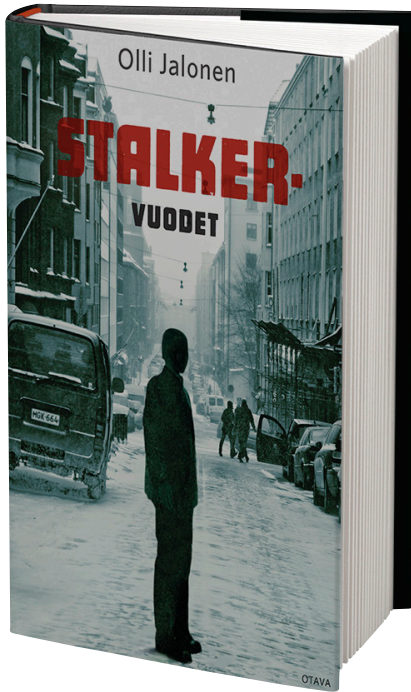
Cold War Affairs is a contemporary and imaginative take on the bold schemes behind Cold War politics and their life-changing effects on individuals and families, echoing the present interest in the personal life of a spy in popular TV series like *Homeland* and *Le Bureau*. The novel is skillfully staged first on facts - but the plot turns to fiction - by a young talented author who remoulds the tradition of the Cold War spy novels by masters like John Le Carré and Graham Greene, with a nod to *The Innocent* by Ian McEwan.



© JONNE RÄSÄNEN / OTAVA

TUA HARNO (b. 1984) won a writing competition with her debut novel *Those Who Stay* (2013), a strong, lyrical, beautifully written story about roots, family, and the songs of Leonard Cohen. Her prose is defined by confidence, graceful narration, delicate characterization, and a powerfully charged atmosphere. She has an MA in drama from the Theatre Academy, Helsinki, and a law degree from the University of Helsinki. *Cold War Affairs* is a new breakthrough for Harno: a plot-driven cold-war thriller and a politically charged tale of family secrets. The author has also written numerous screenplays.

Historical Fiction | Olli Jalonen



Stalker Years

(Stalker-vuodet)

500 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2022

In his latest novel the great master of language and two-time Finlandia winner Olli Jalonen slips into the skin of a spy. *The Life of Others* meets John Le Carré and Graham Greene.

In 1974, a student from the University of Tampere is assigned to report on the lives and political attitudes of his former schoolmates. It feels good to be part of something big. But it's hard to approach someone and pretend you don't know what you know. Work takes time, which real friends soon won't have anymore. What at first seemed like an honorable mission begins to turn into a tight straitjacket.

With its strong atmosphere *Stalker Years* is an autopsy of the spiritual climate of our recent history and a deep cut into the psychology of Finnishness and the so-called dark decade of the 1970s. It's a portrait of a whistleblower and a snitch.

"... Olli Jalonen has written himself into such a position that his new book is a landmark event every time it comes out... Stalker Years is one of the most interesting books of the fall."



© PEKKA NIEMINEN

OLLI JALONEN (b. 1954) is one of Finland's most respected literary authors. Since 1978, he has written over 15 works of fiction, some non-fiction and a children's fantasy novel. He has received several important literary prizes, including the Finlandia Prize twice, and he has been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize three times. Jalonen has lived in Finland, Sweden and Ireland, working as a reporter, information officer and researcher.

UUSI SUOMI

"... a great novel about the stuffy atmosphere of Finnishness. The narration feels almost real. Jalonen is a great writer and paints the milieu and the picture of the times wonderfully."

PASI HUTTUNEN, KULTUURITOIMITUS



The Art of Living Under Water

(Merenpeitto)

462 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2019

New experiments take Angus underwater, to terrifying depths that no man has seen before.

At 16, Angus is the trusted apprentice of Edmond Halley in London. When Halley starts exploring the depths of the sea and comes up with the idea of a diving bell, Angus gets to be the guinea pig sunk down to the bottom of river Thames to test the invention. Would it be possible to live underwater?

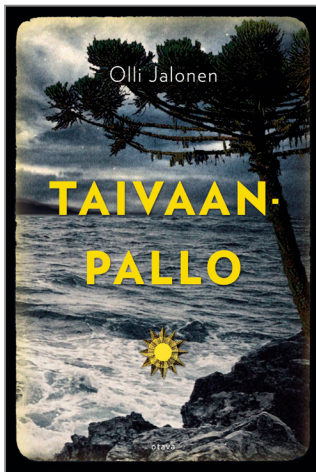
Reaching adulthood, Angus struggles to figure out his place in the world. Dreaming of a great future, he follows Halley on a long journey, sailing back to the Southern hemisphere of his home island. Will he get a chance to return to St. Helena?

“Finnish literature changes to world literature in the hands of Olli Jalonen.”

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

“Jalonen’s language is enchanting, ponderous, rounded and beautiful.”

HÄMEEN SANOMAT



The Celestial Sphere

(Taivaanpallo)

461 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2018

Angus is an eight-year-old peasant boy on St. Helena in the 1680's. Tasked by his tutor, scientist Edmond Halley, he meticulously marks out the constellations in the night sky.

Following a devastating act of violence, directed at his own family, Angus is stowed away on board a ship bound for London, a secret note sewn inside his shirt.

Who could have foretold the humble boy's journey to become an astronomer's apprentice and to play a role in the history of science?

The Celestial Sphere is a glorious story about the era where science and religion go head-to-head in a duel as the rays of the Enlightenment can be seen on the horizon.

“Jalonen’s novels are like incantations. One remains under their spell for a long time afterwards.”

POHJOLAN SANOMAT

75 000
copies sold
in Finland

“The young boy Angus is a delightful narrator whose pensive and almost devout chatting enchants the reader... brilliantly crafted: the stars in this oeuvre are people, not the comet.”

RUNEBERG PRIZE JURY'S
STATEMENT 2019

Winner of
Finlandia
Prize 2018

Historical Fiction | Petra Rautiainen



Memory of Ocean

(Meren muisti)

300 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2022

A masterful account of Norwegian Lapland in the 1980s, its Kven minority and their integration into the society, the inheritance of trauma, oil drilling and the early stages of marine protection.

Northern Norway in the 1980s: Aapa, a woman of Kven origin, returns to northern Norway to explore the Arctic oil reserves after a decade of absence.

In the meantime, Norway has been enriched with oil, and nothing is as it used to be. Aapa faces the trauma of the past in her hometown, and little by little it becomes apparent that things are not exactly the way Aapa lets the reader understand. She proves to be an unreliable narrator who intentionally twists the past. But what has really happened to her late mother?

A travel diary takes the reader aboard an Ice-breaker in quest of oil in the Arctic Ocean where the sun never rises.

In a second plotline, an unknown narrator examines the changes caused by global warming in the Arctic Ocean for a documentary and reveals that the biggest players of the oil industry were already in 1959 aware of their dangerous impact on nature and climate change. Instead of acting, the industry opted for a strong counter narrative.

Like *Land of Snow and Ashes*, *Memory of Ocean* reads like a thriller and only at its very last pages reveals a baffling twist which overthrows all previous assumptions.



© JONNE RASÄNEN / OTAVA

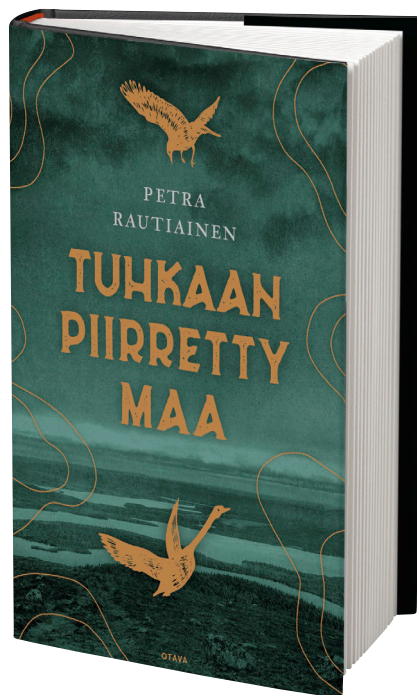
PETRA RAUTIAINEN (b. 1988) comes from a small town in Eastern Finland. She has a Master's degree in History and Cultural Studies and is currently working on her doctoral theses on representations of the Sámi people in the Finnish media. She has also worked as a journalist and studied creative writing.

'I know there is more than one way to die under the sea.'

"Petra Rautiainen's Memory of Ocean is an important novel: it is startling and effective, it makes the reader ponder on the actions of humans, our history, and our entire relationship to our creation. It is the story of a small person, Aapa, but at the same time it is a story about so much more."

"Rautiainen intertwines the environment consequences with a tragic individual story that has more power to appeal feelings than a rough factual text."

SUOMEN KUVALEHTI MAGAZINE



Savonia
Prize
winner

Petra Rautiainen | Historical Fiction

“Readers will turn the pages at a record pace... The novel is so addictive, it challenges its worst competitors – the Internet streaming services.”

SAVON SANOMAT NEWSPAPER, FINLAND

A powerful debut novel where the beauty of the Arctic nature in Lapland contrasts with the brutal actions conducted both at a secret Nazi prison camp during the Second World War and against the indigenous Sami people after the war.

The dual storyline takes place in Northern Finland, in Lapland, altering between two points in time:

In 1944, a young Finnish soldier is sent to work as an interpreter at a secret prison camp run by the Nazis. His diary entries lead to one of the darkest periods in human history.

In the late 1940s, Inkeri, reporter and photographer from the south, arrives to write about the reconstruction of the Enontekiö town in Lapland after the war. She befriends a young Sámi girl and learns about the ongoing racial profiling of the indigenous Sámi people. She also has a personal agenda: to find out what happened to her husband who never returned from the war.

Underneath the skies of polar night and midnight sun, dark secrets begin to unfold.

“As a Finn Rautiainen succeeds in describing the history of Finland’s colonialization and also gives a voice to the Sámi instead of depicting them as silent or passive victims. However, the novel does not blame, but gives something to reflect on.”

SÁMI ONLINE NEWSPAPER
LOOSTÄS

“A perfectly robust, intense thriller plot.”

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

Land of Snow and Ashes

(Tuhkaan piirretty maa)

229 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2020

“The Sámi have seldom (if ever?) been portrayed in Finnish fiction in such an interactive way. Cultural ownership has been a point of discussion in recent years, and one could think the most sensitive advocates might mistake the combination of the Finnish writer and Sámi depiction as colonial. But if an author can’t write like this about other people, then there is no way at all.”

PARNASSO MAGAZINE

Now out in
Danish, Dutch,
English, French,
German, Czech,
Swedish &
Norwegian



Marsh Memories

(Suo muistaa)

263 pages | First published in Finnish
by Gummerus 2022

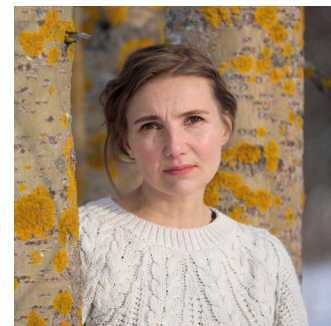
A book about important themes of our time, about humans as a part of nature and about how the climate change impacts our lives, and what we can do about it.

The old school of a small municipality in North Finland has long been abandoned. The strangemoore behind the school was already part of the landscape long before humans had drawn the borders of the village. The trenches could not turn the swamp into a forest, yet it has changed. Juho has inherited the old school and bought a workhorse, and starts there an eco-community to restore the marshland.

Hellä has worked as a photographer all over the world and has come back to the same town to clean up the house of her late grandfather. The village is even more deserted than before, but the impact of human activities has grown. The forest of her memories has disappeared.

Their stories intertwine and show in a concrete way how human activities affect the environment – not always as planned. Juho and Hellä are looking for their own place in a changed nature. It pushes them toward one another – and away from one another.

What can a single individual do to impact a global phenomenon? How strong can the desire of doing well be? And is it possible to return to the past?



© TEIJA SOINI

JENNI RÄINÄ is a journalist interested in nature and environment. Both of her non-fiction books deal with the Finnish nature, especially forests and swamps (*Women Wandering the Wild*, Like, 2021, and the Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize Winner *The Forest After Us* written together with Pekka Juntti, Anssi Jokiranta and Anna Ruohonen, Like 2019). Her debut fiction novel *Marsh Memories* reflects the author's knowledge of these topics.

"Beside the quality depiction of the environment theme, Jenni Räinen's novel is an excellent description of life on the desolate countryside and of the hopes that were once given to the peripheric areas."

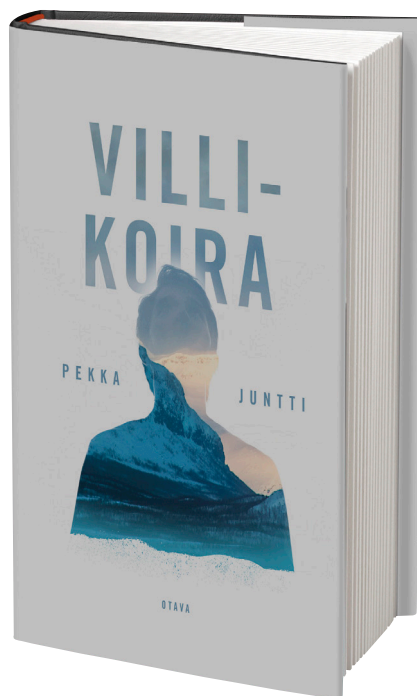
SUOMEN KUVALEHTI MAGAZINE

"... Jenni Räinen is best at describing marshlands and at depicting the unsustainability of our life style."

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

Soon out in
French &
Russian

Pekka Juntti | Fiction



Wild Dog

(Villikoira)

350 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2022

A powerful debut novel, set in the forgotten villages of Lapland where people and trees take care of each other.

When Samuel finds out that Nanok and Inuk, two of the prestigious mushing dogs have gone lost, and within only a few days have gone wild and learned to hunt, the young man is determined to track the huskies down, tame them and take them home.

Samuel ventures deeper and deeper into the wilderness of the breathtaking Arctic landscape, and in a near-death experience learns that there are still places where nature is predominant.

Despite warnings, he continues his dangerous quest for the dogs and encounters secretive inhabitants of the forgotten villages. Among them mysterious Aava, who takes him to her hut on midsummer eve, when the sun doesn't set, and night becomes day. Aava makes Samuel discover love and the magic of the surrounding forests and lakes.

But not all villagers mean well, and Samuel soon finds himself trapped in a remote hut, calculating food rations. His forces are fading. How many days will he survive? And will he be found before that? Gradually Samuel realizes that the villagers share a secret that is greater than any individual's dream.

"Northern nature and love unite in journalist Pekka Juntti's excellent debut novel."

KESKISUOMALAINEN

"Juntti writes in a romantic language but avoids mystification. The story naturally advances along many different routes, the perspectives and underlying themes are justified and above all, in balance with each other. Everything is given the space it needs. Juntti doesn't go crazy about just one topic but combines all of them together as part of the world of the book. The controlled structure is embellished with a beautiful text that takes its time. Juntti has the eye for the small details in the landscape, but also for staying on top of the story. (...)"

PARNASSO MAGAZINE



© PEKKA JUNTTI

PEKKA JUNTTI (b. 1980) is an award-winning journalist and a popular columnist, working in Lapland. He lives with his wife and three children in Haparanda, in the Tornio Valley, Sweden, just across the Finnish border. Juntti was one of the authors of the hugely successful book *The Forest After Us*, which won the Finlandia non-fiction Prize in 2019.

Wild Dog is Juntti's debut novel and inspired by a newspaper article Juntti wrote about the lost husky Nanok.

"The author masters the flashbacks and advances the narration with ease... The language is assured and strong, built for storytelling. The novel is a combination of a thriller, a love story, and a nature story, and surprisingly such a combination works. For me the novel belongs to the page-turner-category."

MIKKO JÄMSÉN, KESKISUOMALAINEN



The Land that Never Melts

(Maa joka ei koskaan sula)

314 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2021

"The book has a great atmosphere... Markkula throws the reader on the ice, frostbite. I can feel the cold, hear the sounds of ice and the whale song. All those animals, birds, plants... Markkula really knows how to conjure a living environment."

KIRJANMERKKINÄ

A thrillingly shocking yet beautiful novel about love and deception, nature and climate change, throws the reader on the ice of a glacier that threatens to disappear from underneath.

Unni is a Finnish glacier researcher who studies on Baffin Island at which speed the Penny Glacier melts. She listens to the ripple of water from inside the ice and drops rubber ducks into its cracks, to follow their path to the sea. But Unni is also looking for Jon, a mystical man she had met on the glacier a year earlier and fell in love with.

Jon and Unni share their rootlessness and longing for home. At a young age, Unni was forced to move thousand kilometers south when her parents separated. Not only Lapland and her father were left behind, but Unni was also cut off her Sámi origins.

When Jon is offered a ticket to travel to the wilderness of Nunavut, Canada, to meet his biological father, he is a grown up man, yet unsure whether he can face him.

Canada 1970. A young woman walks in the tundra with a child in her womb, listens to the rumble of a glacier and fears the worst. Meanwhile, on the other side of the country, another woman walks through the stairs of the adoption office and hopes for the best.

The Land that Never Melts is a story of belonging, homesickness, freedom and love of northern nature. On the surface floats the threat of the melting glacier, whereas gruesome secrets from the past of a people bubble underneath.

Soon out in
German &
Hungarian



© JONNE RÄSÄNEN / OTAVA 2020

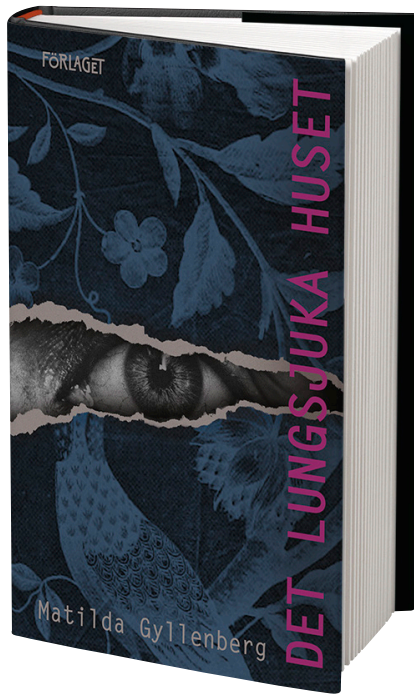
INKERI MARKKULA is a writer and biologist, researching northern nature. Her research work has taken her to the Arctic regions. Markkula has lived in Lapland, Iceland and Svalbard. The author's debut novel *Two People a Minute* (2016) was nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize awarded for the best debut novel of the year.

"The Land that Never Melts is a fine, thought-provoking novel that proves the power of fiction: the opportunity to empathize and build a little more understanding of people and life."

TUIJATA BLOG

"What a skill to combine so much beauty and so much ugly, the shocking facts of reality and literary talent."

KIRJANMERKKINÄ BLOG



Breathless Home

(Det lungsjuka huset)
260 pages | First published in Swedish
by Förlaget M 2019

“What gives the novel its nerve is the unexpected question of responsibility. How responsible is it to be so very kind and gullible that it turns into life-threatening naivety? How open to life is it healthy to be?”

AFTONBLADET

“The elegance and style of the language makes me unwittingly think of Håkan Nesser.”

ÖSTNYLAND

The main character in Matilda Gyllenberg’s debut novel has been blessed with a lot, but still feels cheated. She stages a wonderful life for herself, her husband and their cherished daughter, in a house she tries to decorate to absolute perfection. But behind the beautiful facade hide disappointments, secrets, and betrayal. Why does her neighbors refuse to talk about the past?

With a ruthless gaze, the narrator looks at herself and the people around her. She balances on the border between sharpness and madness, isolated within the safe but intrusive walls of home.

Who was the woman that appeared one day in the then newly built and secluded neighborhood, together with her seven-year-old son? Her name was Hild and she came from the Norwegian archipelago, via swinging 60’s London and commune living during the 70’s. Soon she moved into a caravan at the edge of the nearby forest.

Piece by piece, the fate of Hild is revealed to the narrator. With a concise language and a keen eye for detail, the monotony of everyday family life is woven together, and increasingly frightening events of the past are discovered. What is the worst thing that can happen to a parent?

Breathless Home is a story about confinement and expectations, both from the outside and inside. About being torn apart by the need for security and the longing for freedom. And that times have not changed as much as we might wish.

“Gyllenberg nicely handles the simple clarity that under the bright rooms there are the dark ones.”

HUVUDSTABLADET



© NIKLAS SANDSTRÖM

MATILDA GYLLENBERG (b. 1980) is a journalist and author. She has worked as a news anchor, has been a presenter and editor for various television programs and she has also written columns. *Breathless Home* is her debut novel.

“Matilda Gyllenberg’s debut is eerily seductive, not least because it, lightly and elegantly, works as a literary echo chamber.”

DAGENS NYHETER

“Matilda Gyllenberg’s debut Breathless Home has a language that sparkles with elegant sharpness. The book is definitely one of the better debuts I have read in a long time.”

YLE KULTUR



"Riitta Jalonen's Images of My Life is a journey into mind and memories."

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

"Images of My Life is a reflection of its narrator and is more exposed than Riitta Jalonen's other works, so that the strong emotions of the book gave me goosebumps."

TUIJATA

"It feels like I got closer to myself when reading this book... and a strong feeling of life has overcome me."

KIRJALLISIA KÄVELJÄ

Images of My Life

(Omat kuvat)
164 pages | First published in Finnish by Tammi 2022

A fascinating novel about the necessity of writing and about how stories and characters are born.

The narrator travels to Davos in Switzerland. As a child she suffered from tuberculosis and imagined this town as a magic, healing place like in Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*.

During the journey, she thinks about her experiences as a child and the constant presence of death, and about how it has affected her work. How memories and reminiscences became part of fictive characters' lives. And how writing has supported her throughout the hardships. In this autobiographical novel, Riitta Jalonen creates a bright view of a writer's inner landscape. It shows how certain life events and emotions can drive to writing and are transformed into a fictional story.

Images of My Life is a journey into a writer's mind and experience, where the author ponders about a whole life of writing and about how at the same time writing is connected to everything else in life.



Dance!

(Tanssikkaa!)
204 pages | First published in Finnish by Tammi 2019

A hauntingly beautiful novel about the consequences of the war and burdens too heavy to bear, that are unconsciously transmitted from generation to generation.

Out of Elisabet's seven uncles, six died during the war, but at home they are still present. Six times a year, on the day of their birthdays, Elisabet and her family put a silk tablecloth on the table, around which her mother gathers people who share as painful memories and sorrows. When the guests arrive in the living room, a drop of clear liquor is served to their coffee cups and the crystal chandelier is lifted higher. It is time for dancing. Elisabet also dances. But deep inside the memory of her uncles does not fade, even when the ballroom shoes furiously beat the floor to the rhythm of the music.

Dance! is told from two perspectives: the young Elisabet in the 1950s and the adult Elisabet in the present who tries to face her memories and feelings, especially towards her mother.

"Dance! is written with heart blood and touched me deeply. I felt Elisabet's and her mother's pain, and the story brought me back to my own childhood."

LUMIOMENA

"The style is typical for Riitta Jalonen: poetic and mysterious. Memories and present freely follow one another, floating, interweaving."

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

"Dance! is a delicate novel, in a way impressionistic: in front of the reader's eyes, it paints pictures of important moments in Elisabet's life."

JAVINKIT



Brightness

(Kirkkaus)

260 pages | First published in Finnish
by Tammi 2016

“The text’s rhythm is like a peaceful flow of thoughts, full of emotions and strong, somewhat strange associations – the world consists of awful and beautiful things. At times the narration is both descriptive prose and mystical poetry. The afterimage is pure beauty and brightness.”

KESKIPOHJANMAA

A sensational story about an author and the necessity of writing.

***Brightness* is a historical fiction about the New-Zealand writer Janet Frame, whom the Nobel Prize was proposed to, but who died before being able to receive it.**

In Janet’s home there is a room where the dead used to wait for their funerals. Two of her sisters have lied there and her brother Geordie could land there as well. He has epilepsy and drinks too much. Her family is poor and her mother writes poems and sells them in the neighborhood.

Janet herself has bright red hair and disturbing thoughts in her head. But when she gets a pen in her hand and a paper in front of her, everything changes: for a moment, the world becomes beautiful and understandable.

Riitta Jalonen’s novel creates a fascinating picture of the New-Zealand writer Janet Frame, a highly intuitional and exceptional individual who was diagnosed with schizophrenia and locked up in psychiatric hospitals, but became famous around the world for her novels.

Jalonen describes Janet’s time at the hospital and the electroshock therapy she received, whereas the only real healing for her was writing – and the recognition associated with it.

Brightness is a manifestation of the power of art, of how language and words can save a life.

“Frame’s tragic life and the power of her books have been waiting for the right moment to be written in a story that Riitta Jalonen has now with incredible sensitivity and empathy come up with.”

KIRSIN KIRJANURKKA

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

“When it comes to Janet Frame, [writing] meant pouring out herself on the paper, telling about memories that prick the body, brightening. This Riitta Jalonen conveys in her strong novel as only an experienced writer can do.”

HELSINGIN SANOMAT



© MARIJANA MALKAMAKI

RIITTA JALONEN (b. 1954) has written numerous books for adults and children who has received both, the prestigious Finlandia and Runeberg Prizes.

She currently lives in Hämeenlinna in Finland but has also lived in Ireland and Switzerland. Jalonen has studied literature in Tampere and worked as a journalist for different newspapers as well as an art professor.

“How could I write about a book that shocks you, cuts your breath? ... I am voiceless, speechless, impressed, moved. Touched. Troubled and comforted.”

Historical Fiction | Anna Soudakova



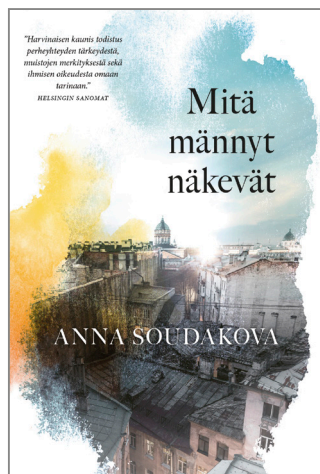
Protect My Shadow

(Varjele varjoani)
300 pages | First published in
Finnish by Atena 2022

A touching novel about an immigrant and her daughter growing up in Finland.

Leningrad, 1980s. Georgi offers Vera a home in a communal house, whose cardboard-thin walls demarcate little space for love. When Mauno Koivisto invites people of Ingrian background to Finland, Vera and Georgi Varissuolle move to Turku. Their daughter Nina starts school in a foreign country.

In a strong family, family relationships are an asset, but they also rub off. When Nina has children, transgenerational traumas make her doubt herself. What do you want to keep from the past, what do you want to forget? What is the place of an immigrant - or a person in general?



"Soudakova's beautiful sentences sink like a knife into butter. Protect My Shadow goes deep into the complexity and contradictions of human life, where everyone has to find their own means of survival. The work is wise and does good."

KANSAN UUTISET

"An impressive, delicate work from the gloomy chapter of history."

VIVA

"Protect My Shadow is a melancholic novel about outsiders and the longing for freedom. Pieces are served to the reader through small hints. There is so much to read in between the lines that the text sometimes vibrates with intergenerational tensions and the painful silence that the state has forced the individual into."

TURUN SANOMAT

What the Pine Trees See

(Omat kuvat)
245 pages | First published in
Finnish by Atena 2020

A powerful and poetic Soviet saga spanning six generations' thirst for life and search for truth.

In 1936, Yuri celebrates his fifth birthday in Leningrad without knowing that at the end of the summer, his world will fall apart: his parents will be imprisoned by the Black Ravens. The boy has to move away from his safe home in St. Petersburg and is expatriated to distant Uzbekistan with his older sister and grandparents.

Yuri grows up with a stigma, the Child of an Enemy of the Nation. As a young man, he makes his way from sunny Uzbekistan through the immense country of USSR, back to cold Leningrad where he learns that the enemy of the homeland is left without a chance. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Yuri emigrates with his own family to Finland. Gradually the shocking truth about his parents' fate is revealed, while those in power on the other side of the boarder try to rewrite history. Is history repeating itself?

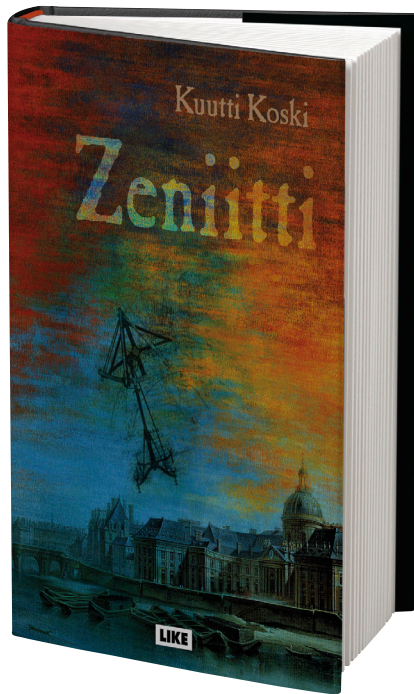


© VEIKKO SOMERPURO / ATENA

ANNA SOUDAKOVA (b. 1983) was born in St. Petersburg into a family of artists. At the age of 8, she moved to Turku, Finland, with her parents. Soudakova has loved books and writing since her school years. To her it is magic how sounds are combined to words and words to stories. Soudakova is a teacher of French, Russia and Finnish as a second language.

"A nuanced story of one family and at the same time a still image of the Soviet machinery. (...) The novel is full of visual, downright cinematic snapshots of both summer and winter in Petrozavodsk."

TURUN SANOMAT



Zenith

(Zeniitti)

330 pages | First published in Finnish
by Like 2021

*"The master of a historical novel.
Zenith nails it... It is a classic from
the start."*

TURUN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

*"Kuutti Koski's second novel tells the fascinating story of an 18th centuries' scientist...
Koski manages everything brilliantly, dialogue and all."*

HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

A historical novel that plays refreshingly with facts and fiction around the French scientist Maupertuis, who travels to Finnish Lapland to determine the shape of the Earth and later becomes a collaborator of Fredrick the Great and his Science Academy in Berlin.

Zenith is set in the middle of the era of Enlightenment at the core of central Europe's monarchy's courts and their scientific academies.

Maupertuis, a French explorer and son of a pirate, returns from an expedition in the challenging conditions of Northern Finland in the Tornio River Valley where he'd been sent by Ludvig XV's Parisian Academy of Science to measure the shape of the Earth. As Maupertuis presents his surprising results to the academy, proofing the Earth's mandarin shape, the French scientific community turns its back to the acknowledged scientist.

Not long after, the 'philosopher king' Frederick the Great invites Maupertuis to Prussia to set up his scientific academy, but success comes with a price and soon Maupertuis' envier and wicked tongues, such as Voltaire, follow him and also denounce the era's leading scientist as an imposter and traitor in Prussia. In the meantime, the threat of war casts a shadow over Europe.

Zenith praises the never-ending thirst for knowledge and the search for truth. With its refreshing dialogues, wicked letter exchanges and Maupertuis' profoundly shaped character and vivacity, *Zenith* opens up to its readers a seemingly long past era as if its events took place only yesterday.

Koski follows in the footsteps of the masters of historical novels, such as Olli Jalonen, Umberto Eco and Daniel Kehlmann.



© TONI HÄRKÖNEN / LIKE

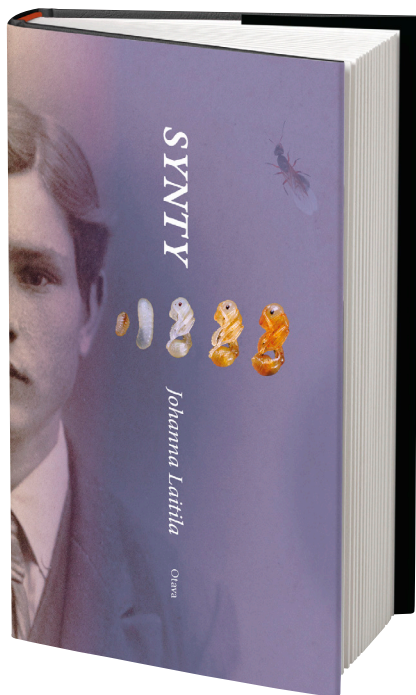
KUUTTI KOSKI (b. 1985) is a Helsinki-based author whose origins are in northern Finland. Koski has worked as the editor-in-chief of the magazine *Kehitys*, specializing in global development issues and in communications at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and at the United Nations.

"A historical novel isn't the easiest of genres; it must combine a good narrative with past events ingeniously, bring history to life as the cliché as it may sound. Kuutti Koski excels this with his novel Zenith."

SAVON SANOMAT

"This skilful novel should be translated into major languages."

KANAVA MAGAZINE



Hatching

(Synty)

240 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2020

“Hatching is an original story with its strong, peculiar aesthetic... Laitila is one of the most interesting new authors today. Her language is dazzling, her stories touching, and most importantly: the world and language created by the author are distinctively unique.”

“Laitila shows that she is one of the brightest stars among the most recent newcomers and one of the original voices in contemporary Finnish literature.”

PARNASSO LITERARY MAGAZIN

Hatching is a chilling and stirring literary novel about the thirst for power, irresistible addiction, and complexity of gender in an era where there are no words for the experience. The intense events of the story wrap around historic turning points with a twist.

Hatching is set in the early 20th century in Helsinki where lonesome Aleksanteri immerses himself in playing Chopin on the piano and translating German literature.

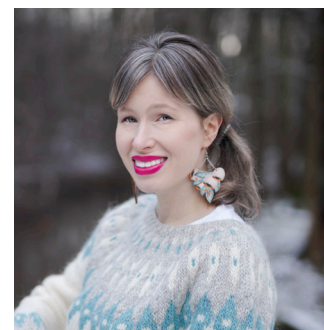
Occasional visits by housekeeper Hilda and lover Elna are Aleksanteri's few connections to the outside world - until a mysterious new neighbour, the Russian journalist Vladimir Ulyanov - already known to some as Lenin - settles in, hiding next door.

The flats, separated by a thin wall, are like two chambers of the heart where the two secretly listen to each other.

Cut off from the building revolutionary momentum in St Petersburg, the cornered Bolshevik leader's health is ailing, and he and Aleksanteri grow dependent on each other.

They become entangled in a power struggle where irresistible addiction and contradictory hatred constantly crosses to lust. Lenin is seen as equally horrifying and fragile: bedridden one moment, potent and brilliant the next.

TURUN SANOMAT



© JUKKA LAITILA

JOHANNA LAITILA (b. 1986) was born in the Arctic city of Rovaniemi, Northern Finland. She lived in Scotland for several years, studying and teaching English literature and film at St Andrews, where she also did her PhD. As an author, Laitila is interested in exploring different ways of using and abusing power, as well as revealing the blind spots of history and stories that have been silenced. *Hatching* is her second novel, and it was shortlisted for the 2020 Toisinkoinen Literary Prize and nominated for the 2021 prestigious Runeberg Prize.

“Laitila’s language was admirably alive already in her debut, but now it’s taking on whole new dimensions... Particularly successful is the contrast between breathtaking linguistic images and banal, downright naturalistic corporeality. -

TURUN SANOMAT

Full English
manuscript
available



Gallantry

(Galanterna)

250 pages | First published in Swedish
by Förlaget M 2021

"Finnish-Swedish Mia Franck has a truly unique ability to bring history to life: she is fantastic at painting environments and moods."

VI LÄSER

What happens within a person who suddenly no longer settles for a narrow and forced role but follows their own will? *Gallantry* brings history to life and takes its reader to the midst of revolution where dreams were big, friendship the only thing there was, and emancipation badly needed.

Leap year 1912 in Helsinki, a multicultural capital where the Russian military is present and gender roles are unambiguous. City life is a struggle for a woman, especially at night times. It's a man's world but longing for freedom is bubbling beneath the surface.

The young hatmaker Dagmar shares a room with her friend Hilma in a house called Hope, which has become the gathering place for their group of friends. Together with Klara and Ebba, all self-sufficient professional women, they desire an independent life, freedom of expression and movement, without male protection.

One day the foursome comes up with a plan: dressed as men they set foot in the dark streets of Helsinki, learn to cycle bikes, eat at restaurants, frequent cabarets and nightclubs – an entirely new world opens up to them. What starts as a game soon takes a dangerous turn and nothing will be the same again in the lives of the four friends.

"A rich and intense novel about what it is like to be a woman (and man) in early 20th century Helsinki."

HUFVUDSTADSBLADET



© NIKLAS SANDSTRÖM / FÖRLAGET 2021

MIA FRANCK (b. 1971) is a Helsinki based author. She has a doctorate in literary studies, and her interest in research is essential in her writing. Franck teaches writing in workshops and courses. For her effort and work with writing in various forms, she received the Åboland Swedish Cultural Fund's Swedish Day Prize in 2017. *Gallantry* is her fifth novel.

"Gallantry is a thought-provoking story with many touching points to today's world, a captivating story about the limitations of gaze and desires, power and possibilities."

SVENSKA YLE



The Union of Synchronised Swimmers

(Vesileikit)

128 | First published in Finnish by Otava 2019

Six girls grow up on a piece of land between two rivers, belonging to no state. Swimming is their passion, but also a way to reach out to the world. As a team of synchronised swimmers, they perform skilful tricks in and underwater.

Far away in Helsinki, Anita falls in love with Spiderman. In California, onboard a fishing boat, Paulina acquires the ingredients for her homeland's traditional soup. On a Caribbean island, Betty gambles away all her money

The stories of young rootless women, suffering from undefined feelings of longing, come together in a dazzling multifaceted novella, reaching across the world..



The Whale Called Goliath

(Valas nimeltä Goliat)

265 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2017

In the middle of the Cold War, a finback whale travels to Romania, to be put on show. It is suspiciously the same size as a Ballistic missile.

Not far from Bucharest, in a small commune called the Red Village, a father decides to take his sons to see the whale. That day changes the lives of the two boys.

When her grandfather dies, Alba, born and raised in Helsinki, travels back to the Red Village where she used to spend her summer holidays as a child. She is entangled in her family's dark and fascinating past, as well as in the village's history, including an earthquake, the arrival of a bride from a faraway land and a whale that travelled the world.

The Union of Synchronised Swimmers now out in English

A jewel of a short novel by Finlandia Prize nominated young author, a magic weave of intertwined fates.

"Sandu's writing is strong and melancholy, poetic and flowing, and it weaves memories, stories and legends to an impressive whole."

SVENSKA YLE

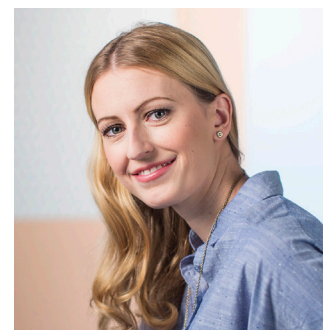
"Beautiful as a prayer."

KESKISUOMALAINEN

"This is exactly how memories, youth and the past should be written."

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

Cristina Sandu's debut was nominated for the Finlandia prize and published to rave reviews. *The Union of Synchronised Swimmers* awarded the Toisinkoinen Literature Prize for for second novels.



© MARIO TYNKKYEN

CRISTINA SANDU (b. 1989) was born in Helsinki to a Finnish-Romanian family who loved books. She has studied literature at the University of Helsinki and the University of Edinburgh, and speaks six languages. She currently lives in Germany where she works as a writer and translator from English to Finnish.

Now out in Spanish

**Nominated for
The Nordic
Council
Literature
Prize 2019**

Ladybug wings strike eighty-five times a second. Do you think such a machine is easy to build?



Coccinella

(Seitsemäs piste)

283 pages | First published in Finnish by WSOY 2021

A thick cloud of ladybugs colours the sky as red as blood. The insects flood the streets and people's homes; the natural catastrophe violently halts the whole country, forcing the startled citizens to take cover in bomb shelters.

Against the background of this mysterious event opens up a psychological game between two sisters: the older one a dreamer, unable to connect with others; the younger one level-headed, brisk and decisive. In these exceptional circumstances, surface the bitter memories of their childhood where the world is small but people still far apart, and of the all-encompassing jealousy between the girls.

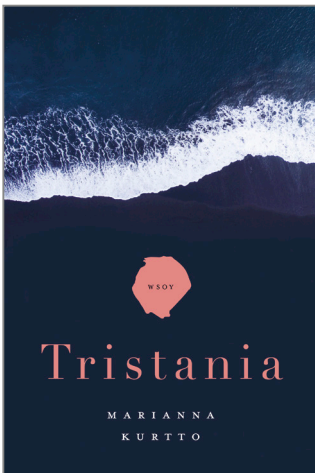
And what is the role of a nameless employee, far away in Siberia, who builds the ladybugs and paints them with a seventh spot?



© AAPO HUHTA

MARIANNA KURTTO (b. 1980) is an acclaimed author who has published five poetry collections and two novels. She has won the Kalevi Jännti and Tiilikivi prizes and has been nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat literary prize. Her first novel *Tristania* was published to glowing reviews and nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2019.

This debut novel by an acclaimed poet is a sensitive, vivid and immersive story set on a secluded island where a volcano is waking up on the quiet.



Tristania

(Tristania)

332 pages | First published in Finnish by WSOY 2017

Tristan da Cunha is a volcanic island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Its 264 inhabitants live from sheep farming and fishing, in a community where everyone is connected in one way or another.

One of them, Lars, has travelled to London and left behind his wife and son. On the black sand of Tristan, the little Jon is squinting toward the horizon, hoping to see his father's ship returning. When Lars hears the news of the volcanic eruption on Tristan, he knows he has to head back. The idyll on the island has cracked, and the hidden web of cruelty, hatred, loss and secrets is starting to unravel.

With strongly atmospheric language and dazzling metaphors the author masterfully conveys the story using several points-of-view and flashbacks between the 1950s and 60s.

'Unique style [...] 300 pages of beauty. [...] Rhythmically calm, yet you can feel the lava bubbling beneath.'

AAMULEHTI

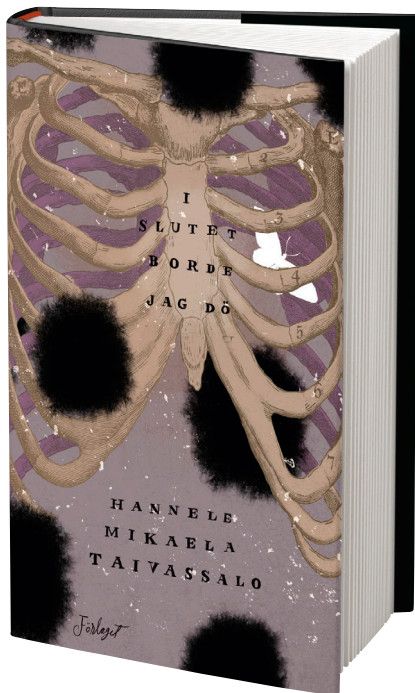
"Marianna Kurtto's language is a world of its own... In Coccinella, Kurtto reaches clear views of interpersonal relations and one's attitude to oneself and the world with her language."

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

'A masterful and self-assured work of art with a most engaging atmosphere.'

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

**Now out in
German &
Russian**



This Should End with My Death

(I slutet borde jag dö)

150 pages | First published in Swedish
by Förlaget M 2020

Taivassalo writes magnificently. The novel is prose-driven and based on the protagonist's thoughts and carefully crafted, clear sentences. [...] An impressive and touching speech by another woman."

KIRJA VIEKÖÖN BLOG

"The language of the new novel trembles poetically."

SUOMEN KUVALEHTI MAGAZINE

This love needs to be amputated, executed, buried deep underground.

This Should End with My Death is a short literary novel in limbic prose about what it means to be the other woman, and how to overcome the hate - within oneself - once the affair is over. A brutally clear and heartbreaking novel depicting an author who is cutting herself from forbidden love by writing. To the point where there's no lust to live, neither yet lust to die. Only the words remain, and it's worth being honest, whatever the cost.

Reading the novel hurts. But there is also dark humour in undoing clichés that suddenly turn into true experiences.

"A masterpiece in few words."

ÅBO UNDERRÄTTELSER

"Taivassalo repeatedly manages to describe the anguish of unrequited love with tender precision, so powerful that I almost have to hold my breath. [...] The novel's strength is the striking and bare language."

VASABLADET NEWSPAPER, FINLAND

"Hannele Taivassalo has exceeded expectations. [...] This book conveys beautifully and realistically the deep longing for physical and mental intimacy and the fear of constant loss."

ERKKI KIVINIEMI, KULTTUURI TOIMITUS

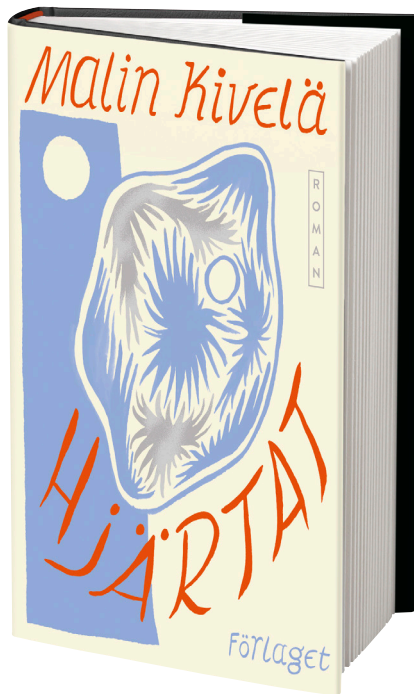


© NIKLAS SANDSTRÖM

HANNELE MIKAELA TAIVASSALO (b. 1974) is one of the most exciting and fresh literary authors in Finland today. She has published novels, short stories and written drama. Her unique, feminine voice, the distinct spark in her writing, and the exceptional sensitivity to rhythm in her language make her truly stand out. Taivassalo, who has been awarded several prizes including the Runeberg Prize, writes originally in Swedish. In her novels, she explores the themes of continuous movement, of leaving, of restlessness and displacement, but also of the joy of discovering. She writes about desire and sex exceptionally well and excels in describing the erotic charge between her characters. Her writing style is circular, revolving around certain themes over and over again until catching the essence of the experience

**The winner of
Swedish YLE
Literature
Prize 2019**

The winner of
Swedish YLE
Literature
Prize 2019



© NIKLAS SANDSTRÖM

MALIN KIVELÄ (b. 1974) has written novels, children's books and plays, and her writing has been published in several languages, also in Vogue Italia. She received the Swedish YLE Literature Prize in 2013 for her novel *Annanstans*. Kivelä has studied journalism and theater. Her special interests include space, television series and dance.

A deeply touching account by a woman whose new-born son has a congenital heart defect.

Now out
in Russian

The Heart

(Hjärtat)

152 pages | First published in Swedish
by Förlaget M 2019

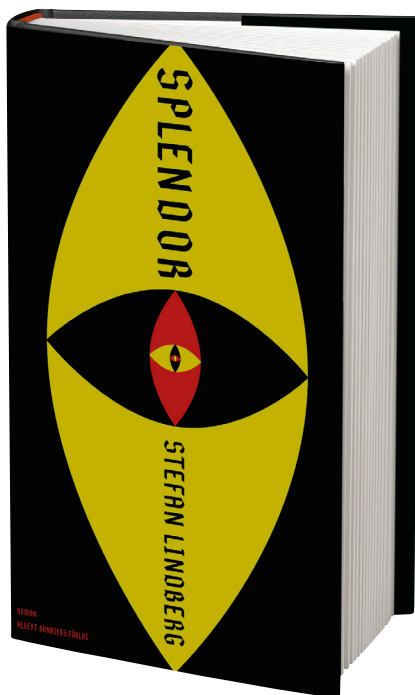
The baby is diagnosed at three days old. During the weeks at the hospital following the diagnose, the mother writes in the middle of the greatest anxiety: Her baby is sick, and may die if he is not operated soon.

She withdraws from the world, existing only for her little son. Her mind clings to the physical and tangible facts: the hospital routines, the strikingly beautiful Helsinki in the winter, the handsome surgeon who is the only one to be trusted. Family, friends and everyday life are pulled backwards like a wave. Here, everything is at stake.

“The Heart is intense, profound and sincerely sympathetic story... The narration is simple, descriptive and heart-rending beautiful. It resembles to Maggie Nelson’s works.”

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

Since then, simply being has consumed more energy. Since then, it has been harder to write, because nothing is enough. Since then, I have grasped at every single opportunity to relish the moment, like animals do: swim, eat, sweat, joke, sleep, be in the sun, in the wind.



Splendor

(Splendor)

270 pages | First published in Swedish
by Albert Bonniers Förlag 2020

"It is immediately fun to read. What does Splendor want? What will he do with Stefan Lindberg? He writes sharply and confidently, adept at handling that kaleidoscope. The design and execution are impressive."

SWEDISH RADIO



© SOFIA RUNARSDOTTER

STEFAN LINDBERG (b. 1971) made his literary debut in 1999 with the highly acclaimed short story collection *A Thousand Needles*. Since then, he has written several novels and has been nominated for the August Prize. Lindberg also works as a playwright and translator.

"Extra everything ... compelling, entertaining, and touching ... The overall result is a wildly engaging psychedelic cocktail and a grand novel."

SVENSKA DAGBLADET

On a warm summer evening, author Stefan Lindberg meets Mathias "Splendor" Johansson in a bar in Stockholm. Splendor has a past in a mysterious cult – The Paradise – with megalomaniacal ambitions: the members have been using a mind-expanding drug that melts souls, time, and memories together. Now he wants Stefan to write about their experiences. But it soon becomes clear that Splendor also has knowledge about a repressed event in Stefan's past.

When Splendor later disappears, a chase begins that takes Stefan through his own past and finally leads him to The Paradise.

Splendor breaks the boundaries of autofiction and puts the reader in a state of absolute and hallucinatory presence, while touching on themes such as madness, truth-seeking and metaphysics. Both a thrilling mystery tale and a love story, the novel points onto a new direction in Stefan Lindberg's authorship.

"It is a Lars Jakobsson and Paul Auster cosmos Stefan Lindberg moves in to, but in an entirely own and blessed vehicle."

DAGENS NYHETER

Nominated
for the
August Prize
and Swedish
Radio's Lite-
rature Prize
2020.



Heavenly Reception

(Taivaallinen vastaanotto)
377 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2021

"As a Finlandia award-winning author, expectations are high, and Viikilä manages to respond to them in the only right way: by doing something completely different, a novel that reads itself and even its readers."

HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

Author Jan Holm is undergoing urgent surgery: the blood in his heart has been circulating in the wrong direction for who knows how long. After leaving the hospital, Holm publishes a personal novel about and of which everyone will soon have an opinion.

Heavenly Reception is an undisciplined account of loneliness, a life-threatening illness and the reception of the novel. It's a novel of a thousand subjects and persons with a strong personal core, a commentary, research, glossary, feedback and google search, a wild explanation work and, above all, a polyphonic story about the readers of Helsinki who in return tell about the events in their lives and reading *Heavenly Reception*. Their comments, whims and views swirl in the work. Together, they create a multi-threaded world where core themes are mortality and sexuality, a longing for beauty and affection, but also cryptocurrency mining and octopuses, violent YouTube videos or the death of author Holm are being discussed.

Heavenly Reception is a mosaic of meta-autofiction, anticipating its own reception.

"Since the novel includes its own reception, praises itself eloquently (...), as a critic, it makes sense to loosen the tie for once and just cover everything it contains. It's rare to come across equally experimental, hard-to-define works that are always accessible and enjoyable to read. The equivalent can be found in translated literature of recent years: Lincoln in the Bardo, set in the post-death space of the American George Saunders, is an obvious relative novel, with its many intersecting speakers."

HELSINGIN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER

Winner of
Finlandia Prize
2021

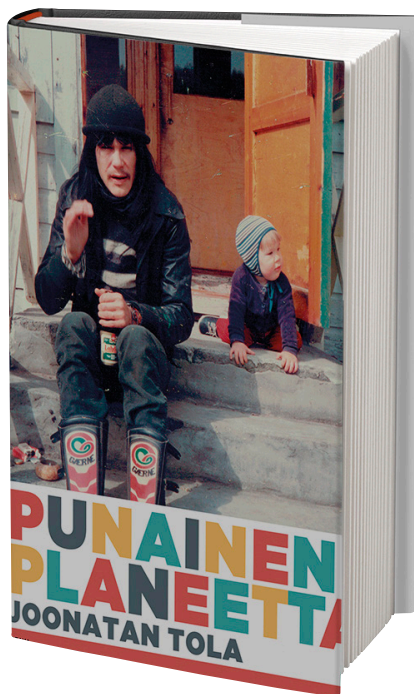
Soon out in
French



© JONNE RÄSÄNEN / OTAVA

JUKKA VIIKILÄ (b. 1973) is a writer and playwright from Helsinki. He has graduated from the Theater Academy and written numerous works of fiction, poetry, short prose and novels. Viikilä is one of the three authors who has been awarded Finlandia twice in history, for both his novels, *Watercolors from a Seaside City* (2016) and *Heavenly Reception* (2021)

Soon out in
Czech



The Red Planet

(Punainen planeetta)

344 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2021

"As a character, Mikko J. Tola is exasperating, disgusting, he makes you laugh and feel pity for him. All signs of good character building. And at times, it's hard not to be on the side of the main character, who wants to live his own fantasy outside of the society, work on his own stuff, live and die with his own planet theory."

"There wasn't born a more interesting man than my father on the whole planet."

Joonatan gets a call from North Karelia: his grandmother is about to die. He takes his father's soldier helmet and goes to his grandmother in Töölö, Helsinki. She believes he is Mikko, his father. Joonatan reminds her that his father is dead and asks what she remembers of him. But she doesn't want to remember. Joonatan starts to research about him and writes his own, extraordinary story life.

He writes about his grandfather who worked like he never did in his life even when he was completely paralyzed but for two fingers. And most of all, he writes about his father, diagnosed with schizophrenia as a teenager, but who managed to have a family and strove to become an artist and get recognition. The result is a carnivalesque story that pulsates with life and at the same time shakes the soul with its tragic.

Joonatan Tola's debut novel is a literary electric shock that hits directly the brain.



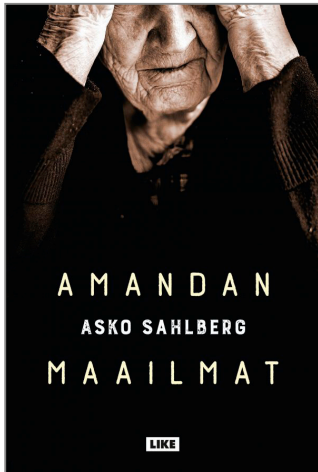
© JYRI KERONEN

JOONATAN TOLA (b. 1983) has a Master of Arts in Finnish Language and is writing a PhD at the University of Helsinki. His hobbies are playing the piano, which he learned by himself, playing chess and *dérive*, i.e., wandering aimlessly. He lives with his family in Joensuu in the city garden area.

"It's stunning how Tola describes situations and conversations as if he had been there and recorded them authentically, and at the same time adds a touch of literary magic into it."

TUIJATA BLOG

"Joonatan Tola writes a precise description in an incisive, laconic way. The Red Planet is a great reading experience, even if one would not always want to see so much wrongness in such a realistic manner."



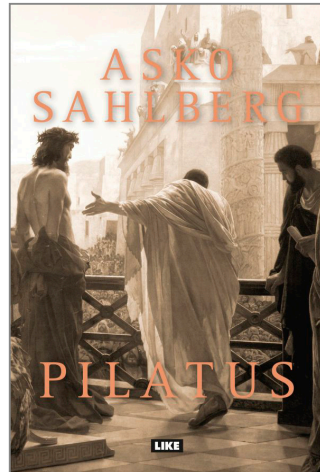
Amanda's Worlds

(Amandan maailmat)
150 pages | First published in Finnish by Like 2017

Amanda has spent a sheltered and peaceful life in a small house on the outskirts of a town. When she meets a young refugee, Amanda wants to help him in his distress. She doesn't realise that at the same time she is putting her own life in jeopardy.

The acclaimed literary jewels *Amanda's Worlds* and *The Many Deaths of Irina* read almost like thrillers. The focus is on people who have fled because of war, and on the difficulty in understanding the world surrounding us.

Amanda's Worlds was awarded the Savonia Literary Prize



Pilate

(Pilatus)
420 pages | First published in Finnish by Like 2016

Pontius Pilate thinks he has experienced everything, until the gods of Rome decide once again to make a mockery of him. Tragedy meets comedy, mythical figures, Roman emperors and Jewish prophets. In the style of Mika Waltari, *Pilate* mercilessly portrays social ascension, greed and thirst for power.



The Many Deaths of Irina

(Irinan kuolemat)
150 pages | First published in Finnish by Like 2015

In winter 1944, Irina is sent out of bomb-damaged Helsinki to western Sweden as a war child. Adjusting to a new country and Swedish foster parents leads Irina out of the shadows of war and into the shadows of peace time and the private nightmare of a family weighed down by emotional wounds.



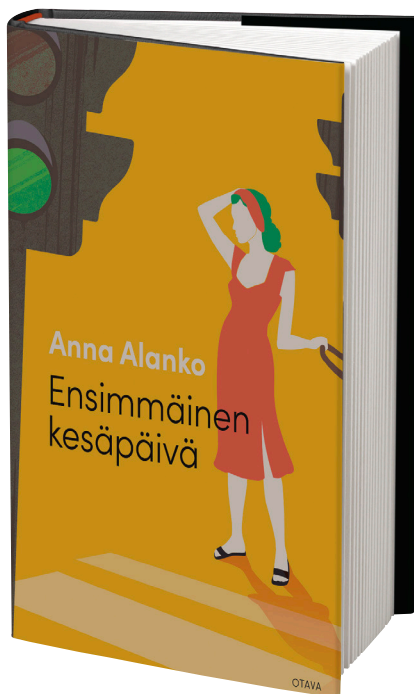
ASKO SAHLBERG (b. 1964) is one of the most distinguished contemporary Finnish authors. He has been living in Sweden, near Gothenburg, since 1996.

Sahlberg writes both dense and intense novellas, and large-scale frescos on historic subjects. He excels at discussing profound timeless issues and contemporary problems alike. He has received several important awards and has been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize, the Dublin Literary Award and the Finlandia Prize three times.

The social aspect and the human ethos in Sahlberg's writing resemble another Finnish master, namely Aki Kaurismäki.

RUNERBERG PRIZE JURY

Fiction | Anna Alanko



The First Day of Summer

(Ensimmäinen kesäpäivä)

303 pages | First published in Finnish in 2022 by Otava

I want to get rid of my husband, but at the same time I feel triumphant, knowing that our marriage is bothering my spouse's study buddy, who wants to marry my husband since they started dating. I personally don't think I'll ever want to get married again, or at least I'm not in a hurry, so I can maintain this marriage just for the hassle.

An intelligent, funny and tragic novel about a nuclear family that has seen its best days. The spouses try to overcome a wide range of challenges in their quest to become an ordinary family with two homes and relatively stable jobs.

The couple's relationship has plunged into a chaotic state, the wife tries to run family and professional life as usual while coping with a miscarriage, undergoing infertility treatments, and eventually bearing a distant spouse and a nauseous stomach.

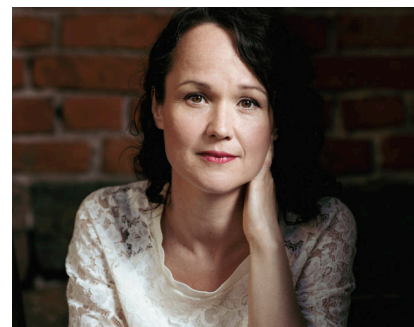
When the husband's relationship with a younger fellow student is revealed, and he questions the meaning of their marriage, the spouses find themselves on the couch of an expensive but poor therapist. They wander through the full range of remedies: exhausting togetherness, opening the relationship, speechlessness, and temporary separation.

During the process, they will become careless employees, self-centered friends, and bad parents. Despite the attempts nothing helps, only physical desire remains. But how many sex-toys, hotel nights and dessions does it take to save the unsavable?

Does one have to stay in a relationship because of an unborn baby? And how to start a new family with an infant that would need to have both his birth parents around?

Can the charming, incredibly easy-going, warm-hearted, and understanding man in the yellow jacket live up to the expectations?

This sharp and feminist account captivates with its black humor and outrageously well drawn desperate characters. To be devoured by readers of Nina Lykke's and Riikka Suominen's books.



© NICLAS MÄKELÄ

ANNA ALANKO is a sociologist from Helsinki who has tried to live in a nuclear family. She has studied writing at Kriittinen korkeakoulu. *The First Day of Summer* is her debut novel.

Theatre play
in production

Riikka Suominen | Fiction



Monogamish

(Suhteellisen vapaata)

381 pages | First published in Finnish
by Otava 2020

Contemporary Scandinavian Sex in the City throws the conventions of monogamous relationship out of the bedroom window

An entertainingly clever and refreshingly anarchistic story about sexual desire and the freedom to define our relationships.

Klaara, in her late 30's, loves her husband Ilmari but all desire has faded long ago. Parenting a four-year-old can be tiring, but that's not the reason behind their sexless marriage.

Klaara's suggestion to have an open relationship is met with enthusiasm from Ilmari's side. She starts Tinder-dating, hooking up with different men both in her home town Helsinki and in other European cities. Suddenly, she thinks about sex constantly, and has a lot of sex.

In Klaara's trusted group of friends – women in their late 30's with different relationship status – Klaara's choice is met with either horror, curiosity or support.

As time moves on, Klaara finds out that dating others and being married is not that simple. But it can, in its all complications, be satisfying. And the way to bring the spark between the spouses, too.



RIIKKA SUOMINEN (b. 1977) is a journalist who decided to write against the conventions of monogamous relationship. The result is a captivating, quick and contemporary novel with a bold message.

This is what sex should be like. There's no hidden agenda or obligation here. No fine print. Our sex serves no practical purpose. We rub skin against skin and stick ourselves into each another's orifices, as if we want to be nested inside each other.

This is recreational use of the body. So impractical it feels anarchic. I try to remember the last time I had the opportunity to be unproductive and immoderate.'

Screen
rights
optioned!



My Imaginary Boyfriend and other Fundamental Facts about Life as a Single Woman #1

(Mielikuivituspoikaystävä
ja muita sinkkuelämän
perusasioita)

200 pages | First published in
Finnish by Atena 2016

Warning! Includes sex and intimate facts about men - and even more intimate facts about women.

Everything you have ever wanted to know about single life - and a lot of things you would have preferred not to know.

Meet the Nipple Hair Man, the Sterile Man, and the Man With A Small Dick. From one fling to another and from heartache to a new crush, our narrator analyses the fundamental questions in the life of a single woman. She shakes off the glitter coat from single life and demonstrates why every single woman needs an imaginary boyfriend.

The Bikini Borderline Case

**and other Joyful Events in the
Life of a Single Woman #2**

(Bikini-rajatapaus ja muita
sinkkuelämän iloja)

176 pages | First published in
Finnish by Atena 2018

Welcome to hear the art of being single! Our narrator reaches past the Tinder hearts right to the core of the trickiest questions for single women: Why do I always fall for the wrong guy? And what happens if I stay in the toilet for too long on the first date? Completely shameless and deliciously sassy, this book offers irreplaceable peer support for singles and a peephole for ones taken.

Honeymoon in Solo

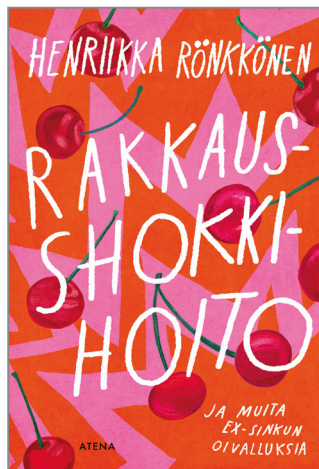
**and other Milestones for a
Single Woman #3**

(Määmatka ja muita sinkkuelämän ihmeitä)

190 pages | First published in
Finnish by Atena 2020

A travelogue recounting the gallant trip to the inner life of a single woman, without filters.

A decade of being single means blisters in the Tinder finger and dead batteries in the dildo. After looking relentlessly for love, the single woman deserves a luxurious solo holiday where the destination is most intriguing but also capricious: the jungle in the mind of the single woman.



Love Shock Treatment and other Odds of Couple Life for an Ex-Single Woman #4

(Rakkausshokkihoito)

200 pages | First published in
Finnish by Atena 2022

After ten years of single life, hundreds of dates and ghostings, a boyfriend bursts into life. But this is not a traditional love story where the prince comes along and saves the princess. Nothing came as it should have. And our protagonist wonders: How does honeymoon work? What is the crucial test for a partner? And what do men really want?

This book is for anyone in need of love shock treatment!



© RIIKKA KANTINKOSKI

HENRIIKKA R. (b. 1984) is a bestselling author, blogger, public speaker and influencer. She has a university degree in Finnish and literature and has also been trained as an authorised sexual counsellor. She lives in the urban heart of Helsinki with thousands of imaginary boyfriends. Henriikka R. reaches people who are usually not avid readers and has a wide fanbase on social media, including 22k+ followers on Instagram.

Read and blush! A racy, contemporary, and hilarious Fifty Shades of Gray meets Bridget Jones for the Tinder generation. The Single Woman Chronicles reveal everything you've ever wanted to know about life as a single - and things you would have preferred not to know ...

170 000
copies sold in
Finland

Soon out in
German &
Danish

DAD AROUND THE CLOCK

A hilarious and poignant story of a single dad taking care of his son since newborn.



© JOUNI HARALA

EVE HIETAMIES (b. 1964) is author of several acclaimed and hugely entertaining novels and scripts for popular television series. She writes with great dramatic skill, often describing exceptional situations and family relationships with poignancy, emotional strength and black humour.

Bottle Business

Dad Around The Clock #1
(Yösyöttö)
300 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2010

Marriage? Check. Mortgage? Check. Family car? Check.

But plans change six days after his son is born. Holding the snuffing bundle of his newborn son, Jonas watches as the receding taillights of a taxi carry away his wife – and with them, his expectations of a normal, nuclear family life. Enter the great unknown of night feeds, sleep-deprivation and mountains of diapers.

How do the single-dad and the baby survive through the first two years as a family of two men?

The movie adaptation of the novel Bottle Business was awarded the prize for Best Nordic Feature at the Nordic International Film Festival in New York in October 2017.

Daycare Drama

Dad Around The Clock #2
(Tarhapäivä)
300 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2012

When the father and son family unit takes in a friend's daughter as a temporary houseguest, Jonas and Oskar discover how many different shades of pink there really are.

School Shock

Dad Around The Clock #3
(Hammaskeiju)
300 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2017

Oskar has started first grade and has a cellphone of his own. Suddenly Jonas' phone line gets very busy. Who could have imagined all the little and bigger problems a seven-year-old can face?

Girl's Germs

Dad Around The Clock #4
(Numeroruuhka)
480 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2022

Jonas' and Oskar's adventures continue when the major invites Oskar's class of fourth graders to the prestigious Independence Day celebrations. Father's and son's stress levels reach new heights: where to find a fancy outfit for this occasion and how to avoid girl's germs on the dancefloor?

"An exhilarating and touching story"

ANNA MAGAZINE

"Goodbye to sex, nights out and work jollies. Hello burp cloths, baby formula and Teletubbies. But where the hell is a bloke like me supposed to access those primeval maternal genes?"

"Sparklingly funny ... makes you laugh whether you have children or don't."

COSMOPOLITAN

"Seriously hilarious"

TURUN SANOMAT

120 000
copies
sold in
Finland



Water from Nuorgam

(Nuorgamin vettä)
336 pages | First published in Finnish
by Like 2019

**A plastic bucket, a newly single young man and a ramshackle van.
Location: Northern Lapland. Mission: Get the bucket to Helsinki,
on foot.**



© ANNA-KATRI HÄNNINEN

HELENA WARIS (b. 1970) is an awarded author of fantasy novels for young adults as well as mystery adventure writer of true page-turners. *Water from Nuorgam* shows a new side of her as contemporary humourist.

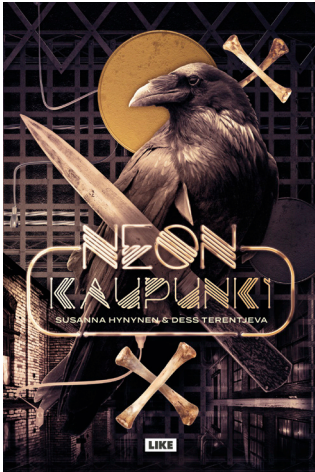
An absurd comedy about Finnish madness and unremitting ambition

Mikke is faced with a drunken dare: can you carry a bucket full of water from Nuorgam - the northernmost place in Finnish Lapland - all the way to Helsinki on foot? And not taking a single step yourself, but finding carriers who are ready to pay to get to do the job?

This insane challenge takes Mikke on a hilarious adventure through small towns and bumpy country-roads. During the journey, he meets the whole range of heroes - and some hot and not-so-hot heroines - residing the land of thousand lakes and dense forests.

When *Water from Nuorgam* becomes the new social media phenomenon, Mikke has to decide where his loyalties lie.

Now out in
German



Neon City

(Neon kaupunki)

426 pages | First published in Finnish by Like 2020

Neon City is the debut of the urban dark fantasy series of the same name. Inspired by Slavic mythology and the 80's movies and music culture, the series is set in an imaginary Russian underworld of gangs, drugs, violence and lust.

Finnish youngster Vera Maksimovna with Russian roots struggles to find the balance between two cultures and national identities. The only person who accepts her is her best friend Tarkkis who has vanished. While searching the streets of the restless suburbs, Vera encounters Slava, a young and attractive guy who promises to lead her to the lost friend. Suddenly, Vera is swiped away and finds herself under the neon lights of Elm, an odd parallel world with its eternal night. Vera discovers that her best friend is a member of the local gang Gorky, lead by dreadful witch Baba Yaga who gobbles up naughty children. Vera has no choice but to join the gang and fight for her life against other gangs and beings of the dark world.

It is all about victory or death in the hectic and grim sequel of the fantasy trilogy!



The Spiral Road

(Spiraalitie)

400 pages | First published in Finnish by Like 2020

One can't escape a nightmare. The city of Elm is even more chaotic and dangerous when the trio returns. Vera, her friend Tarkkis and Slava return to the familiar parallel world of Elm, where nothing is the same. There's almost no trace of the former gang, and a new cast attempts to survive in the ruins of the city of nightmares, with its new and even more brutal laws and hosts.

To make things worst, Koschei The Deathless has returned to the streets of Elm and is determined that Vera is his bride to be. Also, another tsar is in search of a bride. Alongside the enemy gangs and dangers lurking in the dark, Vera and her friend Tarkkis must face their old sins eye to eye.



© TONI HÄRKÖNEN

DESS TERENTYEVA (b. 1992)

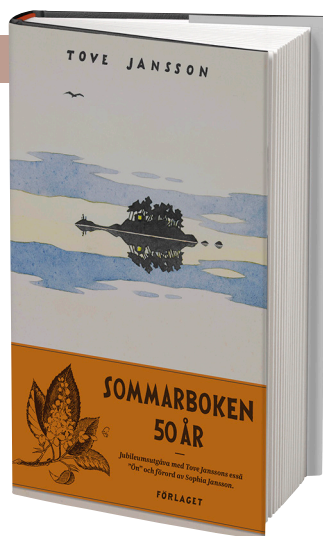
is an author of Russian origin who lives Tampere, Finland. As a migrant author, both Russian and Finnish cultural aspects reflect in her works. Her writing also carries strong LGBTQ themes. Terentyeva has a Master of Arts from the University of Jyväskylä. Her debut novel *Lovely* was awarded the YA writing competition by prestigious publisher WSOY in 2021.

SUSANNA HYNYNEN (b. 1987)

has studied creative writing at the Viita Academy in Tampere. She lives in Southern Finland and spends her leisure time with her two dogs, reading confessional poetry and obsessing over movies from the 80's.

Neon City is
nominated for
the 2021
Kuvastaja
award.

Modern Classics | Tove Jansson



The Summer Book

(Sommarboken)

160 pages | First published in Swedish
1972

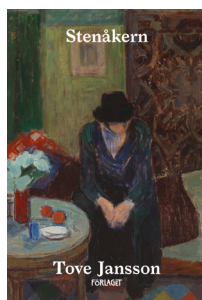
An elderly artist and her six-year-old granddaughter Sophia spend the summer together on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland. They wander the island, having philosophical conversations of all kinds, talking about death, or how best to dive into water. They fight. They curse. They have adventures, building things and breaking into the new summer house on a neighbouring island, outraged that the businessman who built it doesn't leave the door open.

Written with clarity, brusque humour and wisdom, *The Summer Book* is a fresh, vivid and magical novel about seemingly endless summers of discovery.

'Eccentric, funny, wise, full of joys and small adventures. This is a book for life.'

ESTHER FREUD

NOVELS



The True Deceiver

(Den ärliga bedragaren)

208 pages | First published in Swedish 1982

Everybody's talking about Katri Kling and Anna Aemelin. Katri is a yellow-eyed outcast who lives with her simpleminded brother and a dog she refuses to name. Anna, an elderly children's book illustrator, ventures out from her large, empty house only in spring to paint exquisitely detailed forest scenes. Anna has something Katri wants – and by the time spring arrives, the two women are caught in a conflict that threatens the equilibrium of the whole village.

Tove's most unnerving and unpredictable novel works almost like a quiet psychological thriller: nothing much happens on the surface but the undercurrents are fierce and dangerous.

The Field of Stones

(Stenåkern)

108 pages | First published in Swedish 1984

A recently retired journalist leaves the city to spend the summer in the country with his two daughters. Tasked with writing the biography of the unpleasant 'Y', he soon finds his chronicle of this character's life morphing into his own family's troubled story. The darkness that surfaces is handled with Tove's distinct humour and lightness of touch.

The Listener

(Lyssnerskan)

192 pages | First published in Swedish 1971

The Listener was the first of Tove Jansson's books to be published after the death of her mother, the point at which she declared the Moomin series over. This collection of short stories is different from Tove's previous work; fragmentary, starting and stopping in the middle of things. Fascinatingly, the illustrator Edward Gorey appears in one of the stories saying: "It's the unexpressed that interests me ... it's a mistake to clarify everything." This seems to aptly describe Tove's writing.

Fair Play

(Rent spel)

152 pages | First published in Swedish 1989

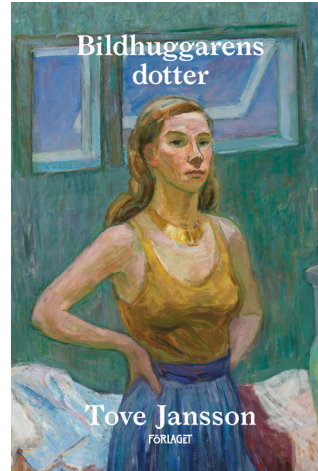
Through a series of vignettes, we look in on the lives of two female artists, Mari and Jonna, who live on opposite sides of an apartment building, separated by an attic. They are each other's closest friend, greatest critic, and lover. We encounter them lost in a fog, vacationing on a remote Finnish island, fishing, feeding the cat, or simply rearranging photos on a wall.

Tove's whimsical yet philosophical prose about human generosity and respect perfectly echoes her signature subjects: work and love.



TOVE JANSSON (1914-2001)
Finnish-Swedish writer and artist, achieved worldwide fame as the creator of the Moomins. Already admired in Nordic art circles as a painter, cartoonist and illustrator, she would go on to write a series of classic novels and short stories. She remains Scandinavia's best-loved author.

SHORT STORIES



The Doll's House

(Dockskåpet)
208 pages | First published in Swedish 1978

A collection of twelve short stories about obsession and ambition. Witty, sharp and often disquieting, these stories explore human nature and the way in which mysteries and uncertainty — even illness and danger — can have positive and magical potential. The stories share a recurring theme: what happens when artists and eccentrics, who hide away in the back corners of middle-class society, try to change their already difficult relationship with the world?

A Sculptor's Daughter

(Bildhuggarens dotter)
192 pages | First published in Swedish 1968

Tove Jansson's first book for adults captures her childhood memories, as she grew up in an early twentieth-century Helsinki that was getting used to independence from Russian rule. This atmospheric book is filled with sharp observations on the mysteries of winter ice, the bonhomie of balaika parties, and the limitless excitement of Christmas viewed from beneath the tree. While Tove learns a lot from her father, her identity as a writer is formed partly in opposition to him — especially when it comes to the subject of women and art.

Letters from Klara

(Brev från Klara)
175 pages | First published in Swedish 1991

In this nimble, beautifully crafted yet disquieting collection of stories, Tove Jansson explores the complicated games and relationships between people, writing from the perspective of a bewildered young artist, a resilient child or an irascible elderly correspondent. Discomfiting encounters and periods of isolation can span decades, generations even. A simple letter can reveal as much of the sender as the receiver, and how easy it can be to misunderstand one another.



Sun City

(Solstaden)
160 pages | First published in Swedish 1974

This novella, about the inhabitants of a Florida retirement home, hints at the dark reality found behind a utopian vision. Alienation, abandonment and ageing foreshadow the spectre of death — with some people simply choosing to ignore it.

Messages: A selection of short stories

(Meddelande)
303 pages | First published in Swedish 1998

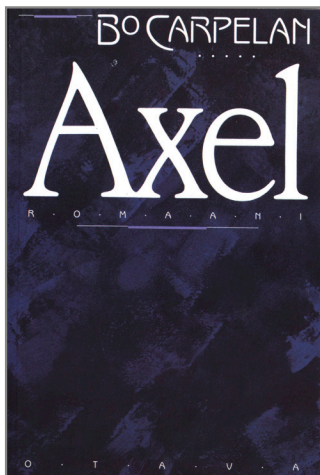
A marvellous collection of Tove Jansson's prose, spanning most of the twentieth century and scattered with insights into beauty found in the everyday. *Messages* features several stories from *A Sculptor's Daughter* as well as Tove's later story collections.

Travelling Light

(Resa med lätt bagage)
224 pages | First published in Swedish 1987

A collection of twelve short stories about journeys of different kinds: some inward, some outward, all with complicated, unpredictable characters observing their surroundings as travellers, or with the unfettered gaze of a child. Tove's signature deftness of touch and imagination gives these stories a duality between light and darkness.

Modern Classics | Bo Carpelan



Axel

(Axel)

421 pages | First published in Swedish in 1986

When Finnish poet Bo Carpelan found mention of his great-uncle Axel in the biography of the composer Jean Sibelius, it was the genesis of one of his most acclaimed novels.

Axel is Carpelan's fictional diary of the extraordinary uncle's dual obsession with music and with a man who, unlike him, had enough confidence in his creativity to compose his own.

Axel was awarded Finnish State Prize for Literature and the Great Novel prize in Sweden.



Urwind

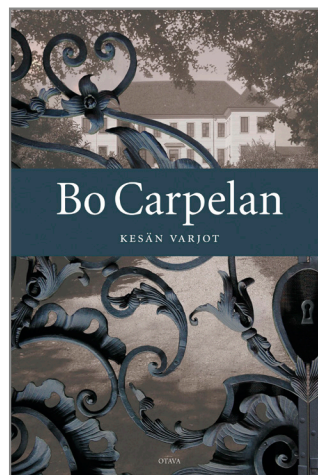
(Urwind)

243 pages | First published in Swedish in 1993

The novel comprises fifty-three letters from Daniel Urwind, an aging bookseller, to his wife, who has left him for an indeterminate spell of greater freedom and study in the United States. The wife's absence haunts the letters, which are often tales of Daniel's daily rituals.

Daniel's narration of mundanities approaches magical realism; memories of his wife, fantasies, bad dreams, monologues, and dialogues with the living and the dead coalesce in a complex layering of past and present.

The winner of The Finlandia Prize, *Urwind* is a construct worthy of Bachelard's Poetics of Space, and a painful chronicle of the ending of a love.



Summer Shadows

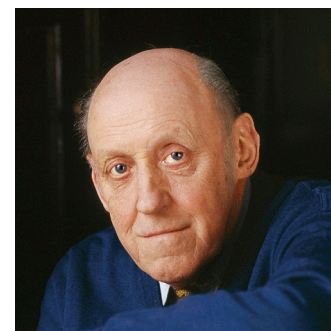
(Berg)

203 pages | First published in Swedish in 2015

Mattias, in his early 60s, returns to the old family home where he was evacuated as a child during the war. The memories of that summer come flooding back, and one of them – apparently so innocent at the time – remains unresolved and troubling.

The winner of the Finlandia Prize, *Summer Shadows* is a compelling story of family history; recollections from half a century ago.

"In Carpelan's magician hands, the simplicity of linear writing lights up in colours and rhythm, it turns to music, it opens deep and high, producing dizzying exaltation."



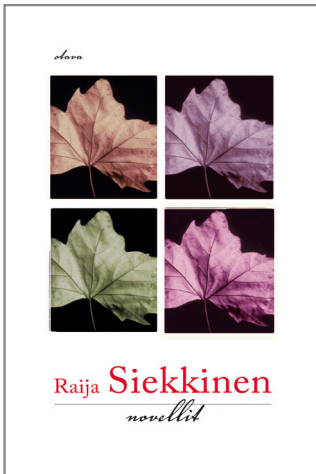
© IRMELI JUNG

BO CARPELAN (1926-2011) created outstanding literary works throughout his sixty-five-year-long career.

He was the first author to receive the Finlandia Fiction Prize twice. He was also granted the Nordic Council Literary Prize, the Finnish State Prize for Literature four times and Le Prix Européen for his poetry.

Bo Carpelan's works are distinguished by reliving of a moment from the past and also by a love for direct, close human contact. His poetry and prose have been published in translation in 17 languages. All his works were originally written in Swedish.

HELSINKI SANOMAT ON URWIND



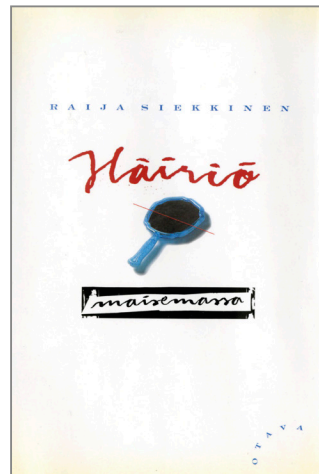
Collected Short Stories

(Novellit)

656 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 2007

Anna, Anne, Maria, Marja or Maaria. A woman, alone or with others, at home or on a journey. A woman with a man who takes his car and leaves.

In Raija Siekkinen's short stories, a woman is surrounded by the circle of loneliness, defined by her experience as a bystander. Human relationships and the whole spectrum of emotions are depicted in a dazzling way, and often with a subtle sense of humour.



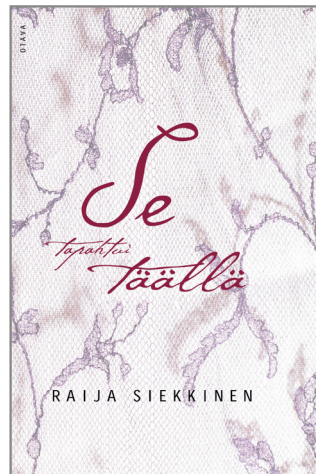
A Blight On the Landscape

(Häiriö maisemassa)

143 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 1999

A woman begins to experience and live through other people's past. Totally absorbed in her memories and the images in her head, she encounters a man who reminds her of something she experienced a long time ago.

An intact, subtle novel about love and its vulnerability.



It Happened Here

(Se tapahtui täällä)

160 pages | First published in Finnish by Otava 1994

A woman walks out of a forest of white birches, stops before she enters the yard. From there on, her pace is slow, careful; one might think she is a thief. But the man knows: the woman has come to fetch something belonging to her.

A lingeringly beautiful, enigmatic depiction of loss, memories and destiny.



© IRMELI JUNG

RAIJA SIEKKINEN (1953-2004) was an acknowledged master of short stories and one of the most notable literary authors of the late 20th century in Finland. She published several collections, as well as novels and children's books during her career.

In her short stories, everyday events play an essential part in the great drama of life: love, disappointment, anger, divorce and deceit. The viewpoint of a loner, a child or a marginalized woman formed the basis for her unique narration. She excels at depicting psychological processes, inner movements, through giving them an external form, a tangible figure in the story.

Siekkinen was awarded the Finnish State Prize for Literature, the Runeberg Prize and the Eino Leino Prize. She was also nominated for the Finlandia Prize in 1991.

"The atmosphere in her short stories is unique."

SANOJEN LAHJA



How I went to the Cinema and never Came Home

(Hur jag gick på bio och aldrig kom tillbaka)

250 pages | First published in Swedish by Förlaget M 2022

In this essay collection, editor and film critic Sara Ehnholm Hielm writes about the movies and dreams that have shaped her.

The book begins on the golden beaches of California, where the dream factory and the worshipping of beauty become an indissoluble part of the author's body. Learning from the Californian 'godmothers' Pauline Kael, Susan Sontag, Joan Didion and Eve Babitz who uncompromisingly devoted their lives to witnessing their time and to art, Ehnholm Hielm learns how to see, feel, fight and demand.

In front of her eyes, over decades, the movies change. With *The Piano* by Jane Campion, she gets to see herself for the first time, and *Antichrist* by Lars von Trier is the first film she wished she had never seen. As the years go by, the American Dream becomes more and more unrealistic. The body gets inexorably older, and women and girls start to take more and more space on the screen. What happened to the love stories in our time? And even more important: what is at stake if you devote everything you have and everything you are to movies, to dreams?

HUFVUDSTADSBLADET

"How I went to the Cinema and never Came Home is a personal and initiated collection of essays about women, aging, films and dreams. Ultimately, it is a declaration of love to the act of going to the cinema, being swept away and never the same."



© NIKLAS SANDSTRÖM

SARA EHNHOLM HIELM

(b. 1968) is a publisher and film critic, living in Helsinki. She has worked as a fiction editor for fifteen years and has also written plays for stage. She was awarded the Swedish Yle Literature Prize 2018 for her book *And The Heart Was Mine*.

"Through the films, Sara Ehnholm Hielm sees herself, her gaze, and her upbringing. It's personal, committed, passionate..."

HUFVUDSTADSBLADET

"Once again, she shows that good essays bares themselves and uses the private for constructive purposes. I cannot recommend reading it enough."

BERNUR BLOG



And The Heart Was Mine

(Och hjärtat, det var mitt)

220 pages | Published originally in Swedish by Förlaget M 2018

An intense, intelligent and sensual book about the desire to read and write, and to live.

Publisher, film critic and a voracious reader; wife and middle-aged mother of four. And a chance – a year in Rome! – to put her voice forward to be heard.

On the first day of a new year, Sara Ehnholm Hielm moves to Italy with her family. The year in Rome is reserved for writing; for finally writing a book of her own.

These exquisitely written, high-spirited and brutally honest texts draw a portrait of a woman who has been working with other people's writing throughout her career; who can't resist her own urge to write. Nor stop questioning her right to do so.

Struggling with the fragility of the process, she is trying to avoid the horror of not being able to complete her project. She takes inspiration from the books she reads as a respite to writing: Elena Ferrante, Karl Ove Knausgård, Chris Kraus and Lena Andersson.

It is all about trying to make a dream come true; about finally saying it all, expressing all the feelings from the bottom of the heart.

“Defies the ancient call for female silence.”

YLE SWEDISH LITERATURE
PRIZE JURY

“A wild, intense and extravagant collection of texts that describe the desire to write from one's contours of a human being. The many brilliant wordings makes the reader want to underline.”

SWEDISH YLE



Women Wandering the Wild

Tracks to Forests, Swamps and Fells
(Kulkijat)

250 pages | First published in Finnish
by Like 2021

A book that embraces the outdoors and invites the reader to enchanted forest trails.

During the pandemic years, Finnish national parks host record-breaking visitor numbers with a significant number of women exploring them. However, outdoor literature remains masculinized.

Jenni Räinen wanted to break away from the traditional outdoor genre and headed out to the wilderness with nine passionate women of different background and age, who've been hiking for decades, seeking for peace and well-being.

What is our relationship with nature in an era of eco-crisis?

It takes 500 years for the forest to grow and turn into a natural forest, in the North even twice as long. Will our children get to see the natural wilderness?

Do beautifully composed images all over the networks reflect the true state of nature?

Räinen writes, lingering, reflecting and giving a voice to female outdoor explorers from past generations, wild spirits, who courageously bust the role models set for women in their times, such as Kaarina Kari, who conquered mount Halti with her entourage in 1933, long before female hiking equipment existed.

Women Wandering the Wild is a wonderful book about women's passion for hiking in the wilderness, but it is also a cry of distress about the state of the world and nature.

The book is illustrated with beautiful photographs by Teija Soini.



© JAAKKO ALATALO

JENNI RÄINÄ (b. 1980) is an acclaimed and award-winning non-fiction writer and journalist. In 2019, she and her co-authors won the Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize for *The Forest after Us*. Räinen currently lives in Oulu. Her origins are in the small village of Hyry, counting 200 inhabitants. The author preferably spends her free time with a horse in the woods.



The Forest After Us

(Metsä meidän jälkeemme)
272 pages | First published in Finnish
by Like Kustannus 2019



© ANSSI JOKIRANTA

Winner of
Finlandia
Non-Fiction
Prize 2019!

PEKKA JUNTTI, JENNI RÄINÄ, ANSSI JOKIRANTA & ANNA RUOHONEN

The authors are a group of award-winning, new generation journalists from northern Finland, including non-fiction authors, forest owners and outdoor enthusiasts. The breathtaking nature shots are by Lapin Kansa newspaper photographer Anssi Jokiranta.

A topical, non-judgmental and multi-faceted book about the state of Finnish forests, a “new generation forest book” by four young journalists from Northern Finland.

Finnish forests are at a turning point. The majority of the country’s forests are commercial forests, where logging is a record high. How did it come to this? What could be done to preserve forests for future generations? Written with a journalist approach, *The Forest After Us* addresses a topical issue. It proposes alternatives, and together with forest users and researchers, considers what Finnish forest could look like in the future – a forest that benefits both the national economy and nature.

“This book is not and does not claim to be the whole truth, but it is a strong statement on the important discussion on forest policy. In addition, the book is well structured, freshly written and beautifully illustrated.”

SIXTEN KORKMAN,
ECONOMIST AND AUTHOR

“The book makes us all think about what kind of environment we want to live in and what kind of a legacy we want to leave for future generations.”

MAASEUDUN TULEVAISUUS NEWSPAPER

Nature Book
of the Year
2019 finalist!



The Road of Bones

(Luiden tie)

399 pages | Published originally in
Finnish by Like 2019

'An engaging and haunting study of both private and collective memory, and oblivion.'

FINLANDIA NON-FICTION PRIZE
2019 JURY

'An immediate classic of non-fiction and travel literature.'

AUTHOR ROSA LIKSOM

Finlandia Prize nominated impressive travelbook from present-day Russia, exploring the brutality at the forced labour camps of the Gulag system.

What was the Gulag? Who were the ones sent to the camps and what was their life like? The Road of Bones describes the experiences of those who ended up as victims to the fierce political power and the violence at the Soviet prison camps.

Russia experts Ville Ropponen and Ville-Juhani Sutinen travelled thousands of kilometers from Karelia to Siberia and the Far East Kolyma in search of monuments, cemeteries and ruins of prison camps that once covered vast areas of the Soviet Union.

They talked to people who had come into contact with the Gulag, each with their own story to tell, and backed up the work with literary references. During their road trip, the grim past kept pushing into the present, which resulted in a multi-layered, engaging and popular read.

The Road of Bones was nominated for Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize and received an honorary mention in travel book of the year competition by Mondo magazine.

'The authors are able to portray the story with deep humanity and respect for human dignity.'

KYMEN SANOMAT NEWSPAPER



VILLE ROPPONEN (b. 1977) is an author, journalist and translator.

VILLE-JUHANI SUTINEN (b. 1980) has written novels, poetry and non-fiction. He also works as a translator and photographer. Ropponen and Sutinen have both dealt with recent Russian history, former Soviet Union territories and the heritage of the Soviet Union in their previous works.

Pekka Lehtosaari & Hannu Lukkarinen | Graphic Novel



Frozen Hell

(Raatteen tie)

66 pages | Originally published in Finnish by Otava 2017

The battle at Raate Road was a battle fought during the Winter War between the Soviet Union and Finland in January 1940. The battle is also known as Frozen Hell, where Finland defended itself against the Red Army, the local military vastly outnumbered by its Soviet counterparts.

Using “motti” (encircling) tactics, three Finnish regiments managed to cut off Red Army supply chains, destroy two Soviet divisions as well as a tank brigade trapped on the road in the freezing cold, with temperatures plummeting to -40 degrees.

Frozen Hell is a visual account of this memorable battle of David versus Goliath.

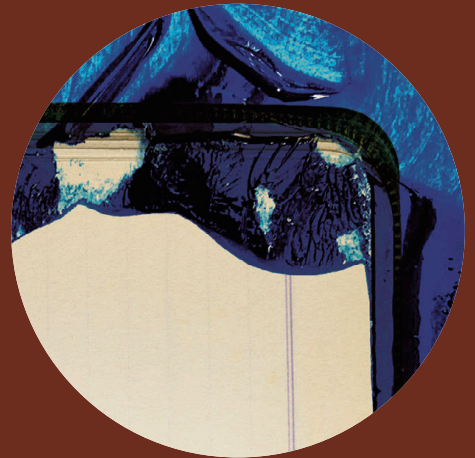


PEKKA LEHTOSAARI is a director/screenwriter whose films and tv-series have been sold to over forty countries. He has been working with Disney for twenty years and has also localized all Hayao Miyazaki movies to Finnish. He wrote his first published comic strip in 1974.



HANNU LUKKARINEN is an artist with over forty years of experience in the field, and over seventy books to his credit. He started drawing graphic novels in 1995. He has been published in France, Italy, Germany and China.





R & B