**SPRING 2017** 

# A Selection of Finnish Titles (Fiction and Non-Fiction)



## A Selection of Finnish Titles

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Crime fiction

### Katja Kaukonen: Watching Over Snow Street

A powerfully expressive story of ordinary people in a small town, and of those who watch over us.

"Gwiazda is a perfect fit for you as a town, for the people there still believe in miracles."

With these instructions, Bajek arrives in a small town in Poland, an idyllic place where the cherry trees still come into blossom and the smell of new-baked bread wafts down the streets. It is 1937, and Europe is still unaware of what lies in store.

He settles in as a janitor on Snow Street, and gathers a lively community around him. Years pass, the Germans arrive, and they begin to shape the Poles into an occupied slave population. Bajek's instructions are to keep his head down, to observe and to record, not to interfere in the course of events. But who could just stand idly by and look on while destruction threatens to engulf the entire street and all its inhabitants?

With her richly expressive and mesmerising idiom, **Katja Kaukonen** (b. 1968) takes the reader into the maelstrom of a world torn apart by war, but also shows the joy, hope, and humanity found in its midst.

"Kaukonen has a fantastic way of invoking atmospheric stories." – Literature blog Luettua on The Hum

### ORIGINAL TITLE: *LUMIKADUN KERTOJA,* WSOY, MARCH 2017, 357 pp.

#### Other works: The Hum (Kohina, WSOY 2014) Holy Water (Vihkivedet, short stories, W

Holy Water (Vihkivedet, short stories, WSOY 2012) Odelma (Odelma, WSOY 2011)

#### Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi



Samuel Davidkin: North of Sodom

A taut thriller that delves into international arms dealing and the mysterious inheritance left by a dead rabbi

A US envoy is cut down by a sniper's bullet in the centre of Helsinki. The apparent hitman is arrested almost immediately, but Leo Asko isn't buying it. He has a firm conviction that things are not as they seem: that the man in custody is not the killer and the victim was not quite the innocent diplomat he has been taken for.

Daniel Janovsky, now seconded as Asko's partner, finds a trail of clues from Rabbi Klugman's library belongings and follows it to Israel. He discovers himself facing forces far beyond his control, as he suddenly comes to, hands tied and floating on a raft in the middle of the Dead Sea, at the place where the ancient city of Sodom is said to have stood.

As Janovsky finally heads due north from Sodom and returns to Helsinki, a secret plot is gathering momentum. A plot that could redraw the map of the entire Middle East.

**Samuel Davidkin**'s (b. 1983) pacy new thriller is packed with surprising twists in the narrative, proudly in the footsteps of his much-praised debut.

"Redemption of the Firstborn *is like a refreshing breeze blowing through the dusty Finnish literary shelves.*" – Helsingin Sanomat

ORIGINAL TITLE: SODOMASTA POHJOISEEN, JOHNNY KNIGA, MAY 2017, 300 pp.

Other works: Redemption of the Firstborn (Esikoisten lunastus, Johnny Kniga 2016)

#### Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi







### Essi Kummu: So Long, Boys

## A strikingly candid portrait of a woman whose life is thrown into turmoil

As the school summer holidays kick into gear, the atmosphere in the home of a writer from Northern Finland becomes charged, and not in a good way. There is one daughter who never stops talking, and another daughter who has stopped talking altogether. And then there is their mother, the writer, divorced, who wants nothing more than to be left in peace. And maybe somebody to love.

Yeah, right: men, and boys. There have been quite a few of them, but each has had some fundamental flaw. One is cold when she wants warmth, another is always buzzing around her; a third, well, he just doesn't float her boat any which way. These days, intimacy with any of them somehow feels just...wrong.

Hence the writer reaches a decision: "So long, boys. It was fun." And falls madly in love with a woman.

Written in autobiographical style, **Essi Kummu's** (b. 1977) fourth novel *So Long, Boys* is a delicious description of a single-parent family, teenage angst, life as an artist, and a relationship circus.

### ORIGINAL TITLE: *HYVÄSTI POJAT,* TAMMI, APRIL 2017, 300 PP.

#### **Other works:**

My Children's Story (Lasteni tarina, Tammi Publishers 2014) The Death of the Bear (Karhun kuolema, Tammi Publishers 2010) Mania (Mania, Tammi Publishers 2006)

#### Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi

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#### **Bonnier Rights Finland**

### Ari Räty: What September Saw

### This spring's most gripping debut!

A stunningly intensive psychological thriller about the end of childhood and a crime that knows no statute of limitations...

September, Komo, Piezo, Lehtola, and Eddie.

Five boys from five different families. And one corpse, the body of a classmate's older sister, found splayed out in the long grass as the boys are skipping school. From that moment on, nothing would ever be the same again.

Years later, another girl's body turns up. This time, one of the first on the scene is Chief Inspector Eskelinen. Eskelinen is tasked with determining whether the case might have some links with earlier killings. In going through old investigation material, he comes across the name September, and also the fact that some on the side of the law are willing to do absolutely anything to ensure that murders go unsolved.

*What September Saw* is **Ari Räty**'s (b. 1968) debut novel.

"An instant feeling of a genuine grip. A dynamic start." – Tuijata Literary Blog

#### ORIGINAL TITLE: SYYSKUUN VIIMEINEN, TAMMI, 2017, 309 pp.

Foreign rights contacts: Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi





**Copenhagen Literary Agency** 

Fiction

### Hanna Weselius: Alma!

Awarded for the Best Debut of the Year 2016: A spellbinding novel about what it means to be human

Vienna, 1907: Alma Mahler is sitting at a piano. Her fingers run across the keys, and she sings. But this song was never written. Not a single note of it was published.

Elsewhere in the world, 234 Nigerian schoolgirls disappear. Armed men come to take them away in the middle of the night.

In Finland, Aino reads the news in the paper and sighs – is there anything she could do about the brutal reality of distant lands? The only thing she knows is drawing, and yet the images that flood into her mind just gnaw at her.

**Hanna Weselius** (b. 1972) collates her uniquely enchanting debut novel from fragments, in which we see reflections of many images of women. The stream-of-consciousness text immediately sweeps us up and carries us along. Times, places, and perspectives change; who is speaking matters less than what is seen and how it feels.

*Alma!* is a rich, expressive novel about art and the world we live in, and the criteria by which we measure humanity – in particular a woman's worth.

"It is admirable how Alma! succeeds in being simultaneously wise, feisty and elegant. Weselius' original voice is a valuable addition to Finnish literature." – Helsingin Sanomat

ORIGINAL TITLE: ALMA!, WSOY, 2016, 210 pp.

#### Awards:

2016 The Best Debut of the Year Award 2015 Winner of the Year of the Book writing competition

#### Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi





### Kjell Westö: The Sky of Yellow Sulphur (Working Title)

A brilliant and moving novel about friendship, dreams and ideas marked by gender and class

*The Sky of Yellow Sulphur* centres around the powerful Rabell clan, based in Helsinki, a family with a history of both wealth and tragedy. In the midst of all this, we experience the tiring and prolonged love story between Stella Rabell and the narrator, who is fascinated by her sensational and privileged family. This is a brilliant examination of the development of love and friendship over the centuries, but also a critical depiction of how our dreams and notions are altered and marked by gender, class and the times we inhabit. *The Sky of Yellow Sulphur* is an epic depiction of Helsinki, about love and memories – Kjell Westö at his very best.

**Kjell Westö** (born 1961) lives in Helsinki. His five great novels set in the twentieth century established him as a leading name among today's Swedish-language writers in Finland. His international breakthrough came in 2006 with the novel *Där vi en gang gått (Where Once We Walked)*, which was translated into 16 languages and for which the author was awarded the Finlandia Prize, Finland's most prestigious literary prize. His novel *Hägring 38* (*The Wednesday Club*) was awarded the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2014.

ORIGINAL TITLE: DEN SVAVELGULA HIMLEN, SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS, AUGUST 2017

Rights Sold: DENMARK (Batzer & Co.), FRANCE (Éditions Autrement), NORWAY (Pax Forlag)

Foreign rights contact: Copenhagen Literary Agency, www.cphla.dk Monica Gram, monica@cphla.dk



### Laura Lindstedt: Oneiron

The Finlandia Prize-winning, international literary phenomenon about seven women who meet in a white space after their death.

"A visionary book." - Marie Claire Italia

Performance artist Shlomith from New York, chief accountant Polina from Moscow, heart transplant patient Rosa Imaculada from Brazil, well-to-do Nina from Marseilles who is expecting twins, Wlbgis from the Netherlands, who suffers from throat cancer, Senegalese Maimuna, who dreams of a career as a model, and Austrian teenager Ulrike have all ended up in an empty, blank space. Time, as we understand it, has ceased to exist, and all physical sensations seem to have disappeared.

Lindstedt plays with genres from essays to poetry, transitioning from humour to rage – while asking her reader to contemplate the question of death's inevitability.

**Laura Lindstedt** is an award-winning author and academic. Her novels verge on the postmodern and experiment with form and language in an accessible style. She is currently revising her PhD thesis on the French author Nathalie Sarraute. *Oneiron* won the Finlandia Prize in 2015 and is nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize 2017.

ORIGINAL TITLE: ONEIRON, TEOS, 2016, 440 pp.

#### **Rights sold:**

WORLD ENGLISH (Oneworld), BULGARIA (Faber), CZECH REPUBLIC (Argo), DENMARK (Rosinante & Co.), FRANCE (Gallimard), HUNGARY (Scolar), ITALY (Elliot), LITHUANIA (Versus Aureus), NORWAY (Oktober), POLAND (Foksal), ROMANIA (Paralela 45), SWEDEN (Norstedts)

Selected backlist: Scissors (Sakset, Teos 2007)

Foreign rights contact: Elina Ahlbäck Literary Agency www.ahlbackagency.com info@ahlbackagency.com



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### Katja Pantzar: Nordic Kiss: How I Found My Sisu (The Secret to Simple and Sensible Wellbeing)

The unmissable new approach to practical Nordic lifestyle and wellbeing, from Finland!

"Sisu: A Finnish word that means bravery, resilience, stoicism and hardiness."

– The Times of London, on the new Scandi trends

Finland is small Nordic country that continually ranks in the top 5 in international quality-of-life surveys. Central to these achievements is the Finnish concept of 'sisu', which can be described as a special courage, grit and determination.

Nordic Kiss is a hands-on guide that introduces the readers to a simple but healthy and functional lifestyle. Key features include the sauna, 'sisu', the Nordic diet, and functional exercise. It is also the personal story of one woman's physical and psychological health transformation from a slightly lethargic depressive into an energetic optimist.

**Katja Pantzar** works as a writer, editor and broadcast journalist. Raised in Canada, she is currently based in Helsinki, where she swims in the sea almost every day, all year round.

Selected backlist: The Hip Guide to Helsinki (WSOY 2003) Helsinki by Light (Siltala 2015)

**Rights sold:** World rights (incl. Finland) available, original English manuscript (~250 pp.) available in fall 2017.

Foreign rights contact: Elina Ahlbäck Literary Agency www.ahlbackagency.com info@ahlbackagency.com



Thriller

### Leena Parkkinen: The Decent Ingredient

Babette's Feast meets Breakfast at Tiffany's in a mid-20th century espionage story

"The Decent Ingredient is, in all respects, a near-perfect novel." – Aamulehti newspaper

In 1956, Helsinki housewife Saara befriends her upstairs neighbour Elisabeth, who throws parties for artists, lives to eat and corresponds with faraway friends. As they get to know each other, Saara learns that Elisabeth is everything Saara is not: fashionable, independent, a citizen of the world. And a spy.

*The Decent Ingredient* is a story about the bourgeoisie of Helsinki during the Cold War; about forbidden love, dangerous secrets and, about food, which reflects life, love, class, sexuality and politics throughout this richly-detailed novel.

**Leena Parkkinen** has authored three prize-winning novels set in 20th century Europe, often about people living at the margins of society. She is the winner of Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize (2009) and Kalevi Jäntti Prize (2013), and her works have been translated into 7 languages.

ORIGINAL TITLE: SÄÄDYLLINEN AINESOSA, TEOS PUBLISHERS, 2016, 335 pp.

#### Selected backlist:

After You, Max (Sinun jälkeesi, Max, Teos Publishers, 2009) West of Galtby (Galtbystä länteen, Teos Publishers, 2013).

#### Foreign rights contact: Elina Ahlbäck Literary Agency

www.ahlbackagency.com info@ahlbackagency.com



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### Max Seeck:

## The Angels Of Hammurabi Mephisto's Touch

For fans of Dan Brown and Stieg Larsson: a dark, tightly-plotted page-turner about revenge, international crime – and love

"Max Seeck's career as a thriller writer has got off to a very promising start." - the Debut Thriller of the Year Award jury 2017

**Max Seeck** has a background in sales and marketing, and has recently been able to dedicate his time to his lifelong love of writing. *The Angels of Hammurabi* received the Debut Thriller of the Year Award 2017.

When an employee of the Finnish Embassy in Zagreb goes missing, Daniel Kuisma is sent to investigate. The clues lead to a group of men who were involved in a secret operation during the Balkan conflict where Kuisma served as a peacekeeper.

Kuisma heads to the hometown of the missing embassy official in search of answers. As the town's secrets are unearthed, the pair come to understand a dark truth. Meanwhile, a man in San Francisco is blackmailed, and a woman keeps a diary in Norway until their stories become intertwined in an electrifying ending.

ORIGINAL TITLE: HAMMURABIN ENKELIT, TAMMI, 2016, 416 pp. MEFISTON KOSKETUS, TAMMI, AUGUST 2017, 400 pp.

Rights sold: ESTONIA (Pegasus), GERMANY (Blanvalet/Random House)

Foreign rights contacts: Elina Ahlbäck Literary Agency www.ahlbackagency.com info@ahlbackagency.com







### Johanna Sinisalo: Iron Sky: Renate's Story

Based on Sinisalo's original story for the screenplay of *Iron Sky:* a coming-of-age story about a woman who lives in a secret Nazi fort on the dark side of the moon.

"Renate's Story is abundant, intelligent, tasty, funny and full of twists and turns. And a real defence of freedom and democracy." -Hege Roel Rousson, editor at Actes Sud, France

In her diary entries, Renate Richter writes about her dream to travel one day to Earth from the Moon and tell the barbarians there about the virtues of the morally superior Nazi lifestyle. But when she reaches Earth, nothing is like in the propaganda. And she knows nothing about love.

*Renate's Story* is a sharp political satire that tackles the timely topics of indoctrination of the masses, the hunger for power – and, of course, the endless folly of mankind. The novel will be published simultaneously with the premiere of *Iron Sky: The Coming Race.* 

**Johanna Sinisalo** is one of Finland's most internationally acclaimed authors. Her works have been translated into 20 languages, and she has received the Finlandia Prize (2000), The James Tiptree, Jr. Award (2004) and a nomination for the Nebula Award (2009). Sinisalo will be Worldcon's Guest of Honour in August 2017 in Helsinki.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *RENATEN TARINA*, JOHNNY KNIGA, AUGUST 2017, 300 pp.

#### Selected backlist:

Troll – A Love Story (Ennen päivänlaskua ei voi, Tammi Publishers 2000) Birdbrain (Linnunaivot, Teos Publishers 2008) Blood of Angels (Enkelten verta, Teos Publishers 2011) The Core of the Sun (Auringon ydin, Teos Publishers 2013)

Rights sold: FRANCE (Actes Sud), GERMANY (Klett-Cotta)

Foreign rights contact: Elina Ahlbäck Literary Agency www.ahlbackagency.com info@ahlbackagency.com



JOHANNA

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SINISALO





### Ann-Luise Bertell: To Twist a Longing

A book about the tears we refuse to shed

*To Twist a Longing* is a compact, highly topical, mesmerising story about emigration, love, and violence that tugs at the heartstrings and refuses to let go. A bruised and broken Maria Alina, wracked by death and disappointment, decides to leave her home in rural Finland for Canada and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

But the consequences of her choice will haunt her for the rest of her life.

The author, **Ann-Luise Bertell**, won the coveted prize for Finland-Swedish literature awarded by YLE, Finland's public broadcaster, in 2016.



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ANN-LUISE BERTELL VÄND OM MIN LÄNGTAN

FÖRLAGET

#### ORIGINAL TITLE: VÄND OM MIN LÄNGTAN, FÖRLAGET, 2016, 180 pp.

Foreign rights contact: Förlaget, www.forlaget.com Fredrik Rahka, fredrik@forlaget.com



Fiction

### Peter Sandström: Autumn Apples

Melancholic love and scathing betrayals in a masterfully told tale

Autumn Apples is a gleeful, disarmingly melancholic and buoyant novel, full of secret neural pathways. Our protagonist, the newspaperman and poet Peter, dwells between a few slow days in September 2014 and an accelerating gallop of events in August 1988. The world tilts, but Peter focuses on his academic careerist wife, his almost-adult children, and his memories of being almost a child himself. There is both tenderness and helplessness in his encounters with his grown-up children as they embark on lives of their own. With loving attention Peter registers traces in the house left by his wife Zebra. She is 49 years old and pregnant, and occasionally returns home from visiting "someone called Mäkinen".

*Autumn Apples* is a study of the passing of time, the endlessly shifting rhythm of the days. It is a study of language and silence, of life's connection to other lives and worlds. But above all, it is a study of this love-sick and fun-loving existence – and of all the love that fills a life.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *LAUDATUR,* SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS, 2016, 250 pp.

Awards: The Runeberg Prize 2017

Foreign rights contact: Hedlund Agency, www.hedlundagency.com Magdalena Hedlund, magdalena@hedlundagency.se





oto: Robert Seger

### Karin Erlandsson: Suspicion

Nordic noir goes cosy crime in a small Finnish town

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

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

*Suspicion* represents the best of Nordic cosy crime fiction, in which the intertwined fates and lives of individual characters coexist alongside the traditional mystery plot. One major theme emerges from the life stories of the characters: men's violence against women.

**Karin Erlandsson** is an arts journalist and writer. Her first novel *Mink Farm* (2014) was shortlisted for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

#### ORIGINAL TITLE: *MISSDÅD,* SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS, 2016, 300 pp.

Foreign rights contact: Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



**Crime fiction** 



### Mikko Rimminen: The Most Natural Thing in the World

And at the same time somewhere else or at a different time in the same place or – well.

Ernst lives in Berlin and goes to work every day, does things every day, and "is" every day. What he actually does is a bit unclear, but one stormy morning as he shuffles to work, things start to snowball, at least a little.

Ernst is led to a basement laboratory where he is instructed to guard a mysterious "cube". At the same time somewhere else, or at a different time in the same place, or somewhere in some combination of the two, Swedish Sister of Mercy Elsa Brändström is caring for prisoners of war in Siberia.

#### Other things happen, too.

Wait a minute. Something doesn't add up, as it's said in novels. Who's sabotaging the text, and who's in charge? And what does the cube have to do with all of this?

**Mikko Rimminen** is a much-lauded writer who has written four other novels: *Park Life* (2004), *The Block* (2007), Finlandia Prize-winning *Red Nose Day* (2010), and *Tag* (2013). Rimminen's books have been translated into over ten languages.

ORIGINAL TITLE: MAAILMAN LUONNOLLISIN ASIA, TEOS PUBLISHERS, 2017, 394 pp.

Foreign rights contact: Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi





### Minna Rytisalo: Lempi

Love. Jealousy. Hate. The consequences of an action from which there is no escape.

One summer and half a year, youthful play, a fairy talelike happiness. But then war breaks out. Viljami leaves for the front, and Lempi, who is carrying her first child, stays behind with the maidservant.

When the war soon ends, everything has changed-forever.

*Lempi* is a novel with a singular voice about love, the thirst for life, happenstance, and fate. Rytisalo uses timeless but completely fresh and controlled language as she describes the tragedy that becomes the turning point in the lives of three people.

**Minna Rytisalo**'s bestselling debut novel has been praised by critics and readers alike for its rich language and well-balanced tension. It was shortlisted for the Runeberg Prize and the Lappi Literature Prize, and it won the Blogistania Finlandia Prize, voted by Finnish bloggers as the best novel of 2016.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *LEMPI*, GUMMERUS, 2016, 234 pp.

Rights sold: GERMANY (Hanser), LITHUANIA (Alma Littera), NORWAY (Pax)

Foreign rights contact: Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



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MINNA RYTISALO LEMPI



#### **Helsinki Literary Agency**

**Seaside City** 

### Satu Taskinen: Children

Children is a novel with heart, in which a troubled teacher tries to find the right path for himself and the world

The course of the day should be clear. After work, Navid leaves the classroom, buys a gift and a card for his grandchild, and makes his way to the birthday party.

But Navid isn't feeling very well at all for some reason. He's troubled by the absence of his wife Sara, and his thoughts keep going around in ever bigger circles. The world around him is really the one that's spinning: Europe is shaking on its foundations, and inequality is growing everywhere.

Amidst these changes, and with the megalomania of a preacher, Navid is trying to move things in the right direction and find the best possible way to save what people can save together.

**Satu Taskinen** is a writer and critic who lives in Vienna. Her first novel *The Perfect Roast* (2011) won the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize and was a contender for the European Book Prize. *Cathedral* (2014) was a candidate for the European Union Literature Prize.

ORIGINAL TITLE: LAPSET, TEOS PUBLISHERS, 2017, 299 pp.

Rights sold: AUSTRIA (Residenz)

Foreign rights contact: Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



Jukka Viikilä's Finlandia Prize winning novel is an extraordinarily beautiful journey into the landscape of a city and the mind of an architect

In 1816, German architect Carl Ludvig Engel arrives in Helsinki to begin what will become his life's work: to design Finland's capital.

*Watercolours from a Seaside City* is Engel's fictional diary, which vividly brings the Helsinki of the early 19th century to life. It draws the portrait of a man who mirrors himself in the slowly growing capital and the people in it. Gradually the reader understands that for Engel, building a city illuminates life.

**Jukka Viikilä** is a poet, writer, and dramaturg. *Watercolours from a Seaside City* is his first novel. It has been praised for its vibrant, crystalline language and its concise aphorisms embedded in a free-flowing narrative.

"This book is a true gem. This windy city defines the landscape of its architect's soul. Viikilä paints large pictures with small brush strokes: brief diary entries grow into a city, and into Engel's life story."

- The Finlandia Prize jury

ORIGINAL TITLE: *AKVARELLEJA ENGELIN KAUPUNGISTA,* GUMMERUS, 2016, 215 pp.

Rights sold: ESTONIA (Postimees)

Foreign rights contact: Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



Fiction



### Laura Andersson: The Baby Sleep Project

## A kind of Bringing up Bébé for sleepless parents

When expecting her second child, Laura decided that this baby would simply have to become a better sleeper than the first one. By listening to parents from different countries she realized that families with babies who are good sleepers follow surprisingly similar methods throughout the world. These are both gentle and efficient.

In *The Baby Sleep Project* one family's project is summed up in a practical list of tips that will help any family to survive baby's first year without bags under their eyes. Backing up her experiences with research and facts, Andersson gives a fresh, detailed view of what experts and families know about baby sleep.

**Laura Andersson** (b. 1982) is a Finnish editor who has worked both in traditional publishing and with Rovio Entertainment, the company behind Angry Birds. She lives in Helsinki and has two little girls.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VOIT NUKKUA* ATENA KUSTANNUS, 2016, 233 pp.

**Rights sold:** DENMARK (Turbine)

Foreign rights contact: Kontext Agency, www.kontextagency.com Rita G Karlsson, rita@kontextagency.com



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### Mari Manninen: One-Child Nation. China's Secret Babies, Little Emperors and Discarded Daughters

The real-life stories from the world's biggest demographic experiment

Mrs. Wang gave birth to too many children, so none of her children could get jobs, get married or even buy a train ticket.

Mr. Zhou bought a bride from Vietnam for his son because there are no young women in the village.

Mrs. Zhang was forced to undergo a brutal abortion when she was seven months pregnant. Mrs. Li is looking for her daughter whom she abandoned 32 years ago.

Mrs. Dong's task was to watch over her neighbours' menstrual cycles and report on them to the authorities.

These are some of the ordinary Chinese families that Mari Manninen interviewed in search of the stories about the real-life impact of China's one-child policy.

**Mari Manninen** (1971) is a Finnish journalist. She has lived in Beijing for four years. She reports on China and its rapid changes for several major Finnish newspapers and magazines. She was awarded the Finlandia Prize for Non-Fiction 2016 for *One-Child Nation*.

### ORIGINAL TITLE: *YHDEN LAPSEN KANSA*. ATENA KUSTANNUS 2016, 205 pp.

Foreign rights contact: Kontext Agency www.kontextagency.com Rita G Karlsson, rita@kontextagency.com



Non-fiction

Mari Manninen YHDEN LAPSEN KANSA

> PIKKUKEISARIT JA HYLÄTYT TYTTÄRET



### Emilia Vuorisalmi: High on Love

### Science meets Sex and the City

The definitive handbook on love science with a personal touch!

What happens in your brain when you fall in love? Can you actually die from a broken heart? How can working out with your partner improve your love life? Who will you fall for?

*High on LOVE* explains why models date athletes, why cougars are so popular with younger men and why love itself is utterly addictive. Find out if semen can be used to prevent depression and how social media can ruin your relationship.

Love science is the key to enjoying love and also provides tools for getting through rough patches in your love life. **Emilia Vuorisalmi** graduated from medical school in 2009 (University of Helsinki) and has since worked as a private physician. From 2012 to 2015 she hosted *Glow*, a popular prime-time lifestyle show for women. She is also a speaker and lecturer.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *SEKAISIN LOVESTA* OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, 2015, 208 pp.

Foreign rights contact: Kontext Agency, www.kontextagency.com Rita G Karlsson, rita@kontextagency.com

### SEKAISIN DO ESTA ESTA ESTA Mita aivoissamme tapahtuu kun ihastumme? Mita hyötyä on yhdessä hikoilusta? Yakaustieteen käsikirja on tässä! Emilia Vuorisalmi atva



### **Philip Teir:** This Is The Way The World Ends

A portrayer of contemporary life in the vein of Jonathan Franzen, with a Nordic temperament

The light greenery of the early summer is trembling around Erik and Julia as they bustle their children into the car to drive towards the house by the sea in Österbotten on the Finnish west coast.

From the outside: a mid-life nuclear family looking forward to a long summer together. But time can also work in the opposite direction to expose the cracks in what used to seem firm. Other people show up and complicate things: Julia's childhood friend Marika and her charismatic husband Chris, the leader of The Movement – a group of environmental activists who have given up hope on planet Earth and instead are practising a primitive lifestyle and mourning the world that is already gone. On the margins a lonely woman in a beach house is grieving over a great personal loss.

Around these people, one summer, Philip Teir weaves a finely-tuned story about life choices and lies, about childhood and adulthood. How do we live if we know that the world is about to end?

**Philip Teir** (b. 1980) is a Finland-Swedish author, considered one of the most promising young writers in Finland. He has published poetry and short stories, and has contributed to several anthologies. *This Is The Way The World Ends* is his second novel, after *The Winter War*.

ORIGINAL TITLE: SÅ HÄR UPPHÖR VÄRLDEN, SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS, MARCH 2017, 250 pp.

Rights sold: GERMANY (Blessing Verlag), SWEDEN (Natur & Kultur), UK (Serpent's Tail, World English)

Foreign rights contact: Partners in Stories, www.partnersinstories.se Henrik Lindvall, henrik@partnersinstories.se Fiction



### Helena Lapinniemi: Countess on a Tightrope

### A Female Robin Hood

The dancer and trickster at the travelling circus, the girl dressed as a man calls herself Tory. Tory, previously known as Trudi von Closte, knows she is from a noble family, but her father made a decision to leave the formal life of high society and start a new life as a vagabond. So Tory is very surprised when a messenger from Clostena castle comes looking for her one day. He tells her that her grandfather, the Count of Clostena, is dying and there are no other heirs left but Trudi.

Tory has the manners, clothing and speech of a simple labourer. When she reaches the castle and claims the throne, she finds out that besides wealth, she now has the power to change things in the county. First she makes reforms to farming and grants hunting and fishing rights to everyone, not just the upper class. Next she starts to make things better for the lower class. With these reforms, Trudi acquires a lot of enemies.

*Countess On A Tightrope* is a "rags-to-riches" story about taking from the rich and giving to the poor. It has similarities with the Grimm fairytales: mistreated children, cruel mothers and abuse. Trudi and her friend Ardenne had to sell their bodies to drunkards at the inn. Now they are strong women who can defend the weaker members of society.

This book was the publisher's nominee for Books at Berlinale 2017.

### ORIGINAL TITLE: *NUORALLA TANSSIVA KREIVITÄR,* REUNA, 2017, 512 pp.

Foreign rights contact: REUNA Publishing, www.reunalla.fi Producer Anna Toni, anna.toni@reunalla.fi



### Juha Mäntylä:

- Audrey, My Love
- Milt

Reuna

 $\cdot$  Milt, The King of Jazz

## Mystical tales with the flow of smooth jazz

In the first novel *Audrey, My Love* a small village in Finland has a jazz club, where famous musicians come to perform. The story's main character, a man from the village of Tuorila, meets an enchanting woman named Audrey. However, she disappears from the club as mysteriously as she had appeared. Infatuated, he follows her tracks down to New Orleans. In his search of jazz and Audrey, he finds himself entangled with the powers of voodoo.

In the second novel of the series, *Milt*, Milton King is a young trumpeter who would do anything to get a chance to play at the Jazz Lounge. The best jazz club in New Orleans is owned by Lady Summertime, who finally gives Milt his chance; thanks to his father Joshua. Even death is not an obstacle when greater powers guide Milt towards his destiny.

**Juha Mäntylä**'s books have struck a chord with book bloggers in Finland. His stories are innocent, touching and beautiful. Every book has a theme song from the jazz repertoire. The first book accompanies the tune of *Lullaby of Birdland*, while *Milt* is matched with *Misty*. In the upcoming novel (*Milt, king of jazz*, 2017), the theme song will be *Almost Blue*.

#### ORIGINAL TITLE: AUDREY, RAKKAANI, REUNA, 2015, 160 pp. MILT, REUNA, 2016, 192 pp. MILT, JAZZIN KUNINGAS, REUNA, 2017, TBC

Foreign rights contact: REUNA Publishing, www.reunalla.fi Producer Anna Toni, anna.toni@reunalla.fi







Jasu Rinneoja:

Live And Let Losers Die

The Hummingbird The Defenceless The Exiled

### Fresh, award-winning Nordic crime

Set in the icy latitudes of the Arctic, **Kati Hiekkapelto**'s crime novels are characterised by strong, atmospheric writing. The heart of the series is the compelling main character, young police detective Anna Fekete. She is a lone wolf with a strong sense of justice and tendency to mess up her personal life.

The crimes Anna encounters are tangled with immigrants and immigration, thus intertwining with her personal experiences as an incomer. *The Exiled* deals with the refugee crisis and describes what is currently happening at the borders of the EU.

Hiekkapelto has received the prize for The Best Finnish Crime Novel in 2014 and she's been nominated for The Glass Key in 2016 and for the Petrona Award in 2015 and 2016 in the UK.

"Tough and powerful crime fiction" – Publisher's Weekly, USA

ORIGINAL TITLE: KOLIBRI,

OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, FEBRUARY 2013, 376 pp. SUOJATTOMAT, OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, FEBRUARY 2014, 298 pp. TUMMA, OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, APRIL 2016, 303 pp.

#### Rights sold:

CZECH REPUBLIC (Host Brno; 1 book), DENMARK (Turbine; 2 books) GERMANY (Heyne / Random House; 3 books) , HOLLAND (A.W. Bruna; 1 book), HUNGARY (Athenaeum; 2 books), ICELAND (Skrudda; 1 book) ITALY (Atmosphere Libri; 2 books), LATVIA (Lauku Avize; 3 books), POLAND (Newsweek; 2 books), RUSSIA (AST; 3 books) SWEDEN (Modernista; 2 books), WORLD ENGLISH (Arcadia Books: The Hummingbird, Orenda Books: The Defenceless & The Exiled)

Foreign rights contact: Rights & Brands / rightsandbrands.com Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com









The Taste Of Bitter Almonds The Prodigal Son Blackmail "The dialogue is chock-full of humon

**Inspector J.K. Korpi series** 

### "The dialogue is chock-full of humour, and the reader easily empathises with the characters in the investigative team."

**Jasu Rinneoja** is an adult and young adult fiction author who specialises in crime stories. His strengths as a writer encompass his sense of humour, excellent dialogue, and intriguing storylines. He jokingly claims to have given the series' team of detectives all of his personal faults. On the other hand, Inspector J.K. Korpi himself embodies everything Rinneoja would like to be. The plots always include an American car and start with a murder, but the killer's identity is revealed to readers only at the end of the novel.

In the first book of the series, *Live and Let Losers Die*, the story begins when an ex-con is found dead in his apartment. In the same apartment lives a young man, Jesse, but he and his red Corvette are nowhere to be found. In the second installment, *The Taste of Bitter Almonds*, the story revolves around a bus bomb. A black American van was witnessed at the scene. This time the detective team needs to speak some English, since one of the passengers on the ill-fated bus is a strikingly beautiful British woman.

The third book, *The Prodigal Son*, continues the theme with an American car-this time it's an old LaSalle. The latest book in the series, *BlackMail*, starts with Detective Salo being threatened with a gun at the hospital. The question is: what does an old photo with a red Plymouth have to do with the case?

**ORIGINAL TITLE:** 

ELÄ JA ANNA TOISTEN KUOLLA, REUNA, 2013, 272 pp. KARVASMANTELIN MAKU, REUNA, 2014, 321 pp. TUHLAAJAPOJAN MENO-PALUU, REUNA, 2015, 300 pp. KIRISTYSRUISKE, REUNA, 2017, 280 pp.

Foreign rights contact: REUNA Publishing, www.reunalla.fi, Producer Anna Toni, anna.toni@reunalla.fi





### Katja Kallio: Amanda Of The Night

## Literary novel dedicated to all the unruly women in the world

Amanda, a young vagrant with a sharp intellect, breaks every rule made for women at the turn of the 20th century. When she is sent to an asylum on an infamous island, Amanda manages even to violate the etiquette for the insane.

Around her, there's only blue sky and blue water, and in winter ice and snow, with the alluring smoke of the city on the horizon. After several quiet years, she has an unexpected chance for love. Will her isolation finally be over?

**Katja Kallio** is a deft portrayer of the human heart. In the most ambitious novel of her career, she gives a voice to the women who were silenced in the official narrative.

"Katja Kallio is one of the best current authors in Finland by all accounts – as a narrator, linguist and in constructing a story" —Etelä-Saimaa



Foreign rights contact: Rights & Brands / rightsandbrands.com Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com



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### Tuomas Nyholm: The Lion

No-one has come even close to him. The Lion. But now the hunt of the century has begun.

No ransom. No message. No evidence. A faceless criminal, wearing a lion mask, has been terrorising citizens for decades.

Inspector Daniel da Costa is recruited by the highest echelons for a secret mission– a mission that won't exist in any official police records.

At the same time, a man, a silent hunter as fast as a shadow, has landed in town. He's back to bring tough justiceand is always one step ahead of the police.

Will the Lion finally be caught– and at what cost?

The beginning of a chilling noir series with twisting plots that hurtle at breakneck speed.

**Tuomas Nyholm** is a sports journalist and author. *The Lion is* his first thriller, and now it's "game on".

ORIGINAL TITLE: LEIJONA,

Rights & Brands / rightsandbrands.com

Foreign rights contact:

OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, MARCH 2017, 365 pp.

Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com



The dazzling new novel by the international star of Finnish literary fiction

The young actress Aurelia is the same age as free Europe: she was born on the day the Berlin Wall fell. On the threshold of her professional breakthrough, Aurelia is led back to the events that took place in Berlin over 20 years ago and tore apart her family.

Who is this figure walking constantly at Aurelia's heel, knowing everything that she doesn't?

This majestic, haunting and pain-etched novel reaches from a private family tragedy outwards, to political issues of building both symbolic and concrete walls between people.

**Riikka Pulkkinen's** works have been translated into around twenty languages. *The Best of All Possible Worlds* was among the top ten bestsellers in 2016.

"Riikka Pulkkinen has written yet another unputdownable novel... [It] is both timeless and extremely timely. That's what makes it one of this year's most important novels." — Helsingin Sanomat

ORIGINAL TITLE: PARAS MAHDOLLINEN MAAILMA, OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, 2017, 358 pp.

Backlist: The Limit (Raja, 2006), True (Totta, 2010), The Book of Strangers (Vieras, 2012)

Rights sold: SWEDEN (Norstedts), THE NETHERLANDS (De Arbeiderspers), HUNGARY (Gondolat Kiadó)

Foreign rights contact: Rights & Brands / rightsandbrands.com Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com







A powerful, sensual literary debut about the cross-currents between body and spirit and the appeal of charismatic religious movements

The young Elsa is given the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues. But years later, she starts to question: What is belief, and what is love? What is this inexorable desire she feels when Manuel, a friend and a fellow-believer, draws on her skin?

The vast emptiness of northern Finland and the bustling metropolis of Bogotá underscore Elsa's intense inner search.

This critically acclaimed debut stirred instant interest upon publication. The novel was inspired by the author's research on the phenomenon of speaking in tongues, along with her autobiographical experiences.

"An impressive show of skill – a meditation on belief and doubt, and an account of growing from youthful ecstasy into an adult world." — Uusi Suomi VAIKKA VUORET JÄRKKYISIVÄT

TERHI TÖRMÄLEHTO

Fiction



ORIGINAL TITLE: VAIKKA VUORET JÄRKKYISIVÄT, OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, JANUARY 2017, 288 pp.

Foreign rights contact: Rights & Brands / rightsandbrands.com Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com 33

#### Salomonsson Agency

**Crime fiction** 

### Pajtim Statovci: Heart of Tirana

A breathtaking novel about the human condition and our desire to be seen

In the devastation of post-Communist Albania, a place where first rulers, then beliefs have collapsed and died, young Bujar and his friend Agim decide to seek out a new beginning. As they travel they carry with them the ageold stories of their ancestors, tales in which an Albanian's honour can conquer the weaknesses of humankind.

Years later a young man's odyssey through the cities of the world comes to an end in a cold country by the sea. Will the man's fragmented story finally reach closure, and can a traumatized mind ever find peace?

**Pajtim Statovci's** second novel takes the reader to Albania, a mystical, fascinating place whose recent history is full of personal tragedies. *Heart of Tirana* is brutal and beautiful, a rich novel of love and war, of the cruelty of living on the outside, and the lies that give stories their power.





### Antti Tuomainen: The Man Who Died

Aki Kaurismäki meets Arto Paasilinna in a Fargo-ish novel full of suspense, dark humour and unexpected twists

*The Man Who Died* is a thriller brimming with the black comedy of life and death, love and betrayal. Combining the suspenseful elements of the Scandinavian noir tradition with tones of dark humour,this novel shows an entirely new side of **Antti Tuomainen**.

Jaakko Kaunismaa is a successful entrepreneur in the mushroom industry and a man in his prime.Just 37 years old, he is shocked when his doctor tells him that he's dying. What is more, the signs point to the cause being a prolonged exposure to toxins; in other words, someone has slowly but surely been poisoning him. Determined to find out who wants him dead, Jaakko embarks on a suspenseful rollercoaster journey full of unusual characters, bizarre situations and unexpected twists.

Published in Finland last fall, *The Man Who Died* has been praised by critics and readers alike, spending three consecutive months on the Finnish top 10 list.

ORIGINAL TITLE: MIES JOKA KUOLI, LIKE PUBLISHERS, SEPTEMBER 2016, 301 pp.

#### **Backlist:**

Kaivos (The Mine 2015) Synkkä niin kuin sydämeni (Dark As My Heart 2013) Parantaja (The Healer 2010)

Foreign rights contact: Salomonsson Agency, www.salomonssonagency.com Federico Ambrosini, federico@salomonssonagency.com



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Rights sold: SWEDEN (Norstedts)

**Other works:** *My Cat Yugoslavia (Kissani Jugoslavia,* Otava Publishing Company 2014), rights sold to 14 territories.

#### Foreign rights contact:

Salomonsson Agency, www.salomonssonagency.com Julia Angelin, julia@salomonossonagency.com

#### Siltala Publishing

### Marjaliisa Hentilä & Seppo Hentilä: German Finland 1918

A skilful portrait of Finland under German dominance combines high politics and everyday life

### **HISTORY BOOK OF THE YEAR 2016**

The German army disembarked in Finland during the Finnish Civil War in April 1918 and helped the middle-class and bourgeois White side to victory. After the war there were 10,000 German soldiers in Finland.

The price of military aid was that Finland put its destiny in German hands. Finland was tied to the German Empire politically, militarily, and economically. Finland was on its way to becoming a German colony. In order to further strengthen these ties, Finns elected a German prince to become the king of Finland in October 1918. Finland was saved from this fate only when the German Empire collapsed a month later.

While putting everything in historical context, German Finland 1918 tells us this forgotten story also from the perspective of ordinary people and everyday life. Dr. **Marjaliisa Hentilä** (b. 1957) and Professor **Seppo Hentilä** (b. 1948) are historians specialising in German-Finnish relations.

German synopsis available / Full German translation available autumn 2017

ORIGINAL TITLE: SAKSALAINEN SUOMI 1918, SILTALA, SEPTEMBER 2016, 350 pp.

#### Foreign rights contact: Siltala Publishing, www.siltalapublishing.fi Sakari Siltala, foreignrights@siltalapublishing.fi,



### Helmi Kekkonen: The Guests

A luminous and enchanting episodic novel about life-changing moments

It is a beautiful day in late summer; the sky is blue and filled with brightly-coloured hot-air balloons. A man has gone out to buy roses, a woman puts on a white dress. All is well and everything is in place for the guests' arrival: the wine has been chilled, the table laid.

The hours pass, and each of the party guests is getting ready to attend, not knowing that this day of all days, this party of all parties, will see everything changing.

In *The Guests*, **Helmi Kekkonen** introduces the reader to a group of people who in different ways have arrived at crossroads in their lives and whose decisions have unforeseen and irrevocable consequences. We see how, once fulfilled, no wish, no piece of luck, no fear, is altogether as a person originally imagined it to be.

**Helmi Kekkonen** was born in 1982 and lives in Helsinki. Her previous works include a collection of short stories, *Home (Kotiin, Avain 2009)*, and two novels: *The Choice (Valinta, Avain 2011)* and *Unsheltered (Suojaton,* Siltala 2014).

English sample available.

ORIGINAL TITLE: VIERAAT, SILTALA, AUGUST 2016, 190 pp.

Foreign rights contact: Siltala Publishing, www.siltalapublishing.fi Sakari Siltala, foreignrights@siltalapublishing.fi,





### John Simon: Strangers in a Stranger Land

The untold history of Jews in Finland – fighting alongside the Nazis in WWII

The first Jews arriving in Finland in the mid-19th century were young boys torn from their homes, taken to military schools and forced to serve in the imperial Russian army.

One hundred years later, during the Second World War, German troops disembarked in Finland. The Nazis murdered millions of Jews around Europe, but in Finland Jews fought alongside the Germans against the Soviet Union. Not a single one was harmed by their Nazi brothers-in-arms. A field synagogue functioned on the front line, and several openly Jewish soldiers were even decorated with the German Iron Cross. This happened nowhere else. How was it possible in Finland?

Through carefully researched, narrative nonfictional passages and stories of three fictional generations, John Simon employs the Finnish context to reassess the history of European anti-Semitism and the participation of European Jews in the seminal war of the 20th century.

**John Simon** (b. 1943) is an American who has lived in Finland for the past 25 years. Simon's previous book, *Kone's Prince*, the biography of CEO Pekka Herlin of KONE Corporation, sold over 90,000 copies in Finland.

Full English manuscript available

ORIGINAL TITLE: STRANGERS IN A STRANGER LAND, SILTALA, OCTOBER 2017, 500 pp.

Foreign rights contact: Siltala Publishing, www.siltalapublishing.fi Sakari Siltala, foreignrights@siltalapublishing.fi,



### FILI – Finnish Literature Exchange promotes the publication of Finnish literature in translation around the world.

### FILI

- distributes approx. €700,000 in translation grants, travel grants and promotional grants for over 400 different projects annually
- organises Editors' Week events for publishers to visit Finland from abroad
- participates in publishing trade fairs abroad
- acts as a focal point for translators of Finnish literature
- maintains a database of translations of Finnish literature published in other languages and collects data on translation rights sold abroad.

We deal with fiction, children's and young adult books, non-fiction, poetry, comics and graphic novels written in Finnish, Finland-Swedish and Sámi. FILI serves as a support organisation for the export of literature, while publishers and literary agencies handle the sale of translation rights.

FILI, founded in 1977, is a department of the Finnish Literature Society, and around 80% of our funding comes from public sources.

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