

2018

# Finnish Children's & YA Literature

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## Kaisa Happonen & Anne Vasko:

- **Mur And The Blueberry**
- **A Bear Called Mur**

A little story about being brave and finding your place in the world

*Mur and the Blueberry:* The new adventure of the little bear who found her way in *A Bear Called Mur*.

Mur and BIG are on a path through the forest. BIG strides ahead and Mur has no choice but to follow. No matter what they may encounter along the way!

The book touches on the idea of a child's power of observation: the little ones see more than big ones, even in the dark.

"At the end of the path, there is a blueberry. Many blueberries. Blueberries as far as the eye can see. On both sides of the path, nothing but blueberries! That is our destination."

ORIGINAL TITLES:  
*MUR, ELI KARHU*, TAMMI 2016, 40 pp.  
*MUR JA MUSTIKKA*, TAMMI 2018, 40 pp.

### Rights sold:

ITALY (DeA Planeta Libri)  
NETHERLANDS (Gottmer)  
SPAIN (Planeta), FRANCE (Nathan)  
CHINA (TB Publishing)  
SLOVAKIA (Enigma)  
KOREA (Borim Press)  
GERMANY (Midas)

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Photo: Milka Alänen/Tammi



## Riikka Jäntti: The Little Mouse Series

Sweet and timeless Beatrix Potter-style stories about a toddler who knows his own mind!

Book 4: *Little Mouse Goes Out in the Woods*: Little Mouse and Mommy Mouse take the train to their island cottage to pick berries, heat the sauna and cook sausages over a campfire under the starry skies. It's a real treat for a little city mouse!

Book 3: *Little Mouse's Christmas*: Little Mouse can barely wait for Christmas. Luckily there are all kinds of preparations to be made, from cooking to choosing the Christmas tree.

Book 2: *Little Mouse Helps Out*: Little Mouse's friend is coming to visit. But first Mommy Mouse has to clean, do the laundry and cook lunch. Little Mouse is determined to help Mommy Mouse.

Book 1: *Little Mouse*: A day in the life of a toddler is busy. Getting dressed, going to daycare and eating dinner, Little Mouse has a lot to do... and a lot to say 'no' to!

**Riikka Jäntti** has authored and illustrated both children's nonfiction and fairy-tale titles. Her atmospheric illustrations transport the reader into the world of magic, bringing beloved classics like the works of Lena Anderson and Elsa Beskow to mind.

**"Beautifully illustrated...put together with enormous charm. I rather want to be invited to Little Mouse's Christmas."** – The Times

ORIGINAL TITLES: *PIKKU HIIREN PUOLUKKARETKI*, TAMMI 2018, 48 pp. *PIKKU HIIREN JOULU*, TAMMI 2017, 48 pp. *PIKKU HIIRI SAA VIERAAN*, TAMMI 2016, 48 pp. *PIKKU HIIRI, TUULIVIIRI*, TAMMI 2015, 48 pp.

### Rights sold:

AUSTRALIA (Scribble/Scribe), CHINA (Beijing Yuntu Tech), DENMARK (ABC Forlag), NEW ZEALAND (Scribble/Scribe), UK (Scribble/Scribe)

### Foreign rights contact:

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www.ahlbackagency.com  
info@ahlbackagency.com



Photo: Veikko Somerpuro



## Marika Maijala & Juha Virta: Filippa & Company: The Piano's Great Escape

Filippa and her friends find a piano that has fallen off a delivery van. Filippa would love to play it, but it's being used as a side table in Antero's cafeteria, and as a bed by Norma the cat. Meanwhile, the pianist is missing his piano and the conductor his socks. New adventures are about to begin and there is music in the air.

**Marika Maijala** and Juha Virta have collaborated on numerous children's books. In 2009, Marika Maijala received the prestigious Rudolf Koivu Prize for illustration. She has also been nominated twice for the Finlandia Junior Prize. **Juha Virta** is a teacher, new media artist and writer.

**"The Piano's Great Escape is one of those rare children's books, that both children and adults want to read over and over again."** – Lastenkirjapino

**"A really lively book that magically revamps the traditions of children's book illustrations. It is a case and a classic"** – The Best of Finnish Advertising and Design 2015 Award jury

ORIGINAL TITLE:  
FILIPPA & KUMPPANIT: PIANO KARKAA, ETANA 2015, 32 pp.

### Awards:

The Most Beautiful Books of 2015, winner  
The Best of Finnish Advertising and Design winner 2015  
The White Ravens selection 2016

### Rights sold:

WORLD ENGLISH (Gibbs Smith)  
SPAIN (Hercules Ediciones)  
GALICIAN (Hercules Ediciones)  
SWEDEN (Urax)

### Foreign rights contact:

Etana Editions  
etana@etanaeditions.com



© Marika Maijala & Juha Virta, Etana Editions



Photo: Aino Huovio



## Marika Maijala & Juha Virta: The Case Of The Missing Cat

Filippa, André the Donkey and Snoozy the Cat from the beloved book *The Piano's Great Escape* head to an amusement park with a hall of mirrors and a magic show. They meet the magician's assistant, Cedric the Rabbit, who has a problem: the magician disappeared while performing a special disappearing act, and no one has seen him since. After Filippa, her friends and Cedric the Rabbit step up to replace the magician in the show, Snoozy the Cat goes missing, too. Will they find her and the magician before the magic show ends?



© Marika Maijala & Juha Virta, Etana Editions

ORIGINAL TITLE:  
KISSA KATOAA, ETANA 2017, 40 pp.

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SWEDEN (Urax)

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etana@etanaeditions.com

Photo: Aino Huovio





## Jenni Tuominen & Jukka Pylväs: The Posse in a Pickle

An ode to collaboration and anarchic creativity!

Oh my holy oyster! The plans of the residents at Muzzle Hollow go totally haywire when fishes and cheeses are delivered to the wrong recipients. What has happened at the Caesar Calamari's Cannery exactly?

The debut children's book by Jenni Tuominen and Jukka Pylväs features a joyous and colourful set of characters that immediately grab young readers' attention.

**Jenni Tuominen** is a designer, illustrator and visual artist who has previously worked with companies such as Marimekko. She received the 2017 State Art Award from the Finnish State Visual Arts Council. **Jukka Pylväs** is an illustrator and graphic designer.



© Jenni Tuominen & Jukka Pylväs, Etana Editions

ORIGINAL TITLE:  
JENGI SIISTISTI SOTKUSSA, ETANA 2018, 32 pp.

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etana@etanaeditions.com



## Sanna Mander: The Lost Key

Winner of Finlandia Junior Prize 2017

The princess has tired of her ancient castle and moved to a pink studio flat. The ghost next door needs help to clean up his messy place. In the attic, surrounded by old boxes and fur coats, there's an enchanted merry-go-round that won't stop turning. Other interesting inhabitants range from Internet trolls to secret agents.

Somewhere in the building hides the lost key—but will the reader find it?

The rhyming verse of this exuberant and playful picture book by award-winning illustrator Sanna Mander is cleverly anchored in the present moment. The detailed and realistic illustrations will delight young readers and adults alike.

*The Lost Key* won the Finlandia Junior Prize for the best children's book of 2017 and the Rudolf Koivu Prize for Children's and Young Adult Book Illustration.

**Sanna Mander** is an acclaimed Finnish illustrator and graphic designer. Her colourful work has appeared in Finnish, Swedish and English children's books as well as on album covers, product packaging and posters.

**"This is an exhilarating treasure hunt of a house and its extraordinary inhabitants. It's a pledge for pluralism, without pigeonholing or efforts at preaching. The combination of images and text works masterfully. The delicious visual details offer a complete experience where everything is just right."** – The Finlandia Prize Jury

ORIGINAL TITLE: NYCKELKNIPAN / AVAIN HUKASSA, SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS 2017, 40 pp.

**Awards:**  
Finlandia Junior Prize winner 2017  
Rudolf Koivu Prize winner 2017

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



Photo: Julianna Herkki



## Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta: The Dog Called Cat

Two rootless and rejected mongrels meet in a disarmingly beautiful book on friendship

The mother of a puppy decides to call her Cat to instill in her the independence of a cat. But the dog called Cat feels lonely, not independent, and everyone thinks she's different.

One day Cat ends up in a new city and meets a man called Weasel—and suddenly everything is different for both of them.

*The Dog Called Cat* is a story about an unlikely friendship between two lonely individuals. The bittersweet, humorous book shows life in all its guises.

**Tomi Kontio** is an established poet and author who has received numerous awards for his works. His first children's book won the Finlandia Junior Prize, and his poetry has been translated into English, Spanish, French, German, Italian and Polish. **Elina Warsta** is an illustrator and graphic designer whose cover designs have won acclaim in the Most Beautiful Book of the Year competition.

**“The book [...] is a genuine treasure. Kontio's lyrical text is well thought out and flows beautifully through the book. Warsta's illustration appeals with its beauty and harmony without being too smooth. There is rare delicacy and bravery in the combination, which is bound to touch the reader.”** – Helsingin Sanomat

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KOIRA NIMELTÄÄN KISSA*, TEOS 2015, 32 pp.

### Awards:

Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize shortlist 2016  
IBBY Honor List for illustration nominee

### Foreign rights contact:

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Urpu Strellman, [urpu@helsinkiagency.fi](mailto:urpu@helsinkiagency.fi)

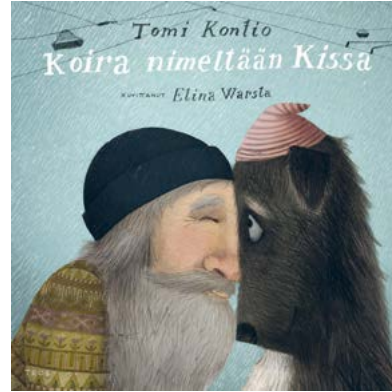


Photo: Stefan Bremer



Photo: Katja Losonen

## Katri Kirkkopelto: • PIKI - Why Can't I Join In? • Melody Forest • Blue • Blue And The Strange One • Upside-down, Blue!

*PIKI – Why Can't I Join In?* is a Finlandia Junior Prize nominee about bullying for pre-schoolers.

*Melody Forest* is a beautiful tale of composer Jean Sibelius and his music. The illustrated book takes its reader on a captivating journey through pictures, text and music. The book comes with a CD.

*Blue* is a warm story about friendship, happiness and joy: “If I only had a friend with whom I could smile. Or just sit together side by side for a while.”

*Blue And The Strange One* is a beautiful and wise story about friendship, prejudice, courage and finding beauty in the unknown.

*Upside-down, Blue!* contains short stories and funny, inspiring games and activities for the sunny and rainy days! The book can be flipped over.

**Katri Kirkkopelto** is an artist, illustrator and art teacher who has illustrated many of her own fiction books. She has a special talent for tailoring the content to appeal to children.

### ORIGINAL TITLES:

*PIKI – MINÄKIN HALUAN MUKAAN!*, LASTEN KESKUS, 2016, 32 pp.  
*SOIVA METSÄ*, LASTEN KESKUS, 2017, 30 pp.

*MOLLI*, LASTEN KESKUS, 2016, 34 pp.

*MOLLI JA KUMMA*, LASTEN KESKUS, 2018, 36 pp.

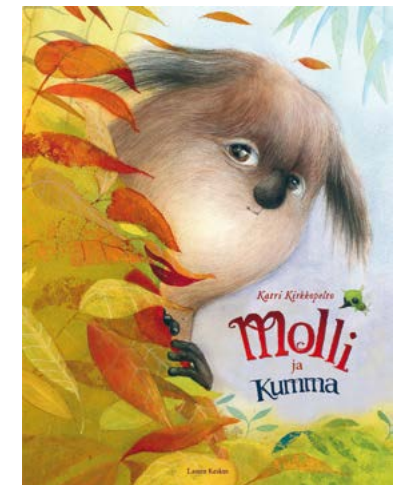
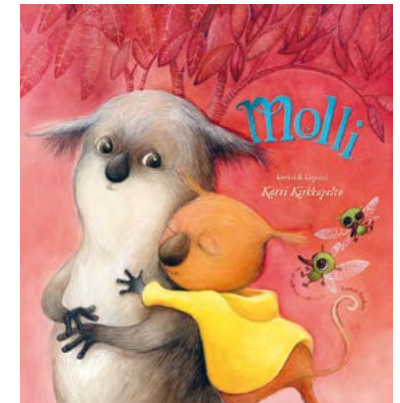
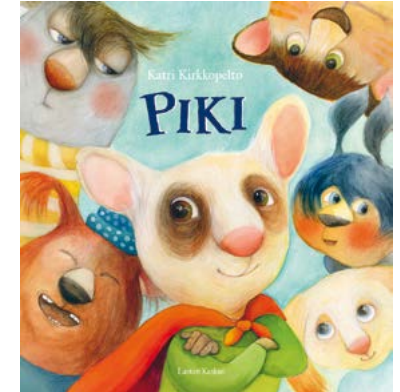
*MULLIN MALLIN MOLLI*, LASTEN KESKUS, 2017, 32 pp.

### Rights sold:

*PIKI – Why Can't I Join In?*: ESTONIA (Helios)  
*Blue*: ESTONIA (Helios), NETHERLANDS (Clavis),  
UKRAINE (Vivat Publishing)

### Foreign rights contact:

Lasten keskus, Tanja Poskela, [tanja.poskela@lastenkeskus.fi](mailto:tanja.poskela@lastenkeskus.fi)





## Lena Frölander-Ulf: Me, Dad and The Sea

A dreamlike tale with playful and mysterious illustrations about a shy boy on an imaginary underwater journey

A magical picture book about shyness, being yourself and the power of imagination.

For an extroverted dad and an introverted son, summer means different things. The boy imagines a place under the sea where it's safe for him to be alone and with others. With stunning underwater scenes and mysterious sea creatures, *Me, Dad and the Sea* reads like a dark but reassuring Nordic midsummer dream. This is a stand-alone sequel in a poetic picture book series about the choices of parents seen through the eyes of a child.

"Dad loves the sea. He loves the waves. He loves the fish hiding in the seaweed. Most of all he likes going out with his boat. Then he wants to cruise around saying hello to people we don't know. 'On Ytter Island there are lots of nice children!' says Dad. I don't like to saying hello to people I don't know. And I'm afraid—of waves, of seaweed. I'm afraid of slimy pikes with sharp teeth."

**Lena Frölander-Ulf** is a Finland-Swedish picture book author and illustrator. Her works have been presented in multiple exhibitions in Finland and internationally. Her previous picture book *Me, Fidel and the Forest* was nominated for the prestigious Toisinkoinen, Finlandia and Runeberg prizes.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PAPPA, JAG OCH HAVET*, FÖRLAGET 2018, 40 pp.

**Selected backlist:**  
*Me, Fidel and the Forest (Jag, Fidel och Skogen, S&S 2016)*

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Photo: John Grönvall

## Malin Kivelä & Linda Bondestam: Rosabel - The Marvellous Pony

A delightful story of Rosabel, a pony who chases after her dreams and discovers that everyone is valuable in their own right

Rosabel is a sturdy little pony who dreams of skipping down the rainbow. However, Rosabel's life is overshadowed by the big, impressive horses at the stables. One day, she seizes her chance to gallop into freedom, only to discover that she is missed at the stables after all. With delicious artwork and dark humor, this is an uplifting story in the footsteps of *Dumbo*, without being melodramatic.

**Malin Kivelä** is a writer and an editor who has written three novels and collaborated with Linda Bondestam on two children's books, which have been translated into several languages. She has also written for the theatre. **Linda Bondestam** has been nominated for a number of prizes for her colorful, vivid and playful illustrations. Most recently, she won the Nordic Prize in 2017 with *Animals No One Has Seen Except Us*, which also won Picture Book of the Year in Sweden and was nominated for the August Prize.

ORIGINAL TITLE:  
*DEN OFANTLIGA ROSABEL*, FÖRLAGET 2017, 48 pp.

**Awards:**  
Runeberg Junior Prize nominee 2018

**Selected backlist:**  
*Animals No One Has Seen Except Us*  
(*Djur some ingen sett utom vi*, Förlaget / Teos 2016)

**Foreign rights contact:**  
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info@rightsandbrands.com



Photo: Niklas Sandström



Photo: Niklas Sandström

## Taru Viinikainen & Oili Kokkonen: Tiltu & Lettu And The Play House Dweller

A delightful new series from an author with a unique storytelling voice!

Sisters Tiltu and Lettu's new pink playhouse is finally ready! Right away, they put a sand cake in the oven to bake. But what's that? There's a delicious chocolate cake already there. Who baked it? A funny little man who claims to live in their playhouse. That is, in the winter he does—in the summer he sleeps in the garden, looking deceptively like a garden gnome. The two little girls cause quite a hullabaloo together with their knee-high friend.

The second book in the series is out in autumn 2018 and will bring new breeds of gnomes and elves into the girls' world, including the famed Christmas variety!

This sweet children's novel is accompanied by **Oili Kokkonen's** colorful illustrations.



Photo: Veikko Somerpuro/WSOY

ORIGINAL TITLE: *LEIKKIMÖKIN ASUKAS*, WSOY 2017, 88 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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Terhi Isomäki-Blaxall, terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierights.fi

## Paula Noronen & Kati Närhi: Night-School Books

The frightfully fun school for creatures of the night has opened its doors!

*Night School And The Vengeful Neighbors*: The Night School is under threat of closure! A terribly frazzled couple next door is disturbed by noise from the school. The neighbours are determined to get the school closed but the pupils, among them zombie boy Paavo and vampire girl Martta, are not going to make it easy for them.

*Night School And The Missing Teacher*: Going to school at night—what could be more fun? Except when your teacher mysteriously disappears and is replaced by someone fascinated by all things gloomy... Zombie boy Paavo and vampire girl Martta decide to investigate the mystery of their missing teacher.

*Night School And The Missing Teacher* is a humorous, fast-paced adventure for all fans of strange phenomena. The third *Night School* book is out in autumn 2018.

**Paula Noronen**, twice nominated for the prestigious Finlandia Junior Award, is a celebrated author, columnist and comedian. The *Night School* series is filled with plenty of her wonderfully wacky humor. **Kati Närhi**, an award-winning comic artist, successfully adds to Noronen's humor through her inventive illustrations.

### ORIGINAL TITLES:

*YÖKOULU JA KAUEHEAT NAAPURIT*, WSOY 2017, 61 pp.  
*YÖKOULU JA KADONNUT OPETTAJA*, WSOY 2016, 59 pp.

### Awards:

*Night School And The Missing Teacher*:  
Runeberg Junior Prize nominee 2017

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Photo: Numi Nummelin/Tammi



Photo: Atelieri O. Haapala/WSOY



## Roope Lipasti:

- Viking Knot
- Dust of Thor
- Runestone

A convincing and exciting tale of friendship between three children in the Viking era

*Viking Knot:* Marinella lives with her family in a village by the sea at a time when Vikings are at the height of their rule, causing terror wherever they go. After they attack Nella's village, she and her friend Pekko find a wounded Viking boy. He is an enemy, but could he also be a friend?

*Dust of Thor:* At sea with her friends Pekko and Egil, Nella is shipwrecked in a storm. The raft they manage to build takes them to a kingdom where children are enslaved. When Nella's fate begins to look worse than a slave's, Egil shows what a Viking king's son can do!

*Runestone:* Nella, Pekko, and Egil set sail for a mining village where slaves are forced to carve a sunstone. People from distant villages, abducted from their homes, are used as slaves—and Pekko's parents might be among them...

**Roope Lipasti** is a father of four, journalist and author of several books for both children and adults. He also writes popular columns, humorous articles for several magazines, and TV scripts.

ORIGINAL TITLES:  
*VIKINKISOLMU*, WSOY 2015, 190 pp.  
*THORIN PÖLY*, WSOY 2016, 206 pp.  
*KARHURIIMU*, WSOY 2017, 192 pp.

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 ITALY (Feltrinelli)

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Photo: Timo Jakonen/WSOY



## Miina Supinen & Anni Nykänen: Madeleine & Michelin's Cooking Club

The new, laugh-out-loud book with cooking, magic and the world's best pizza recipe!

Twins Madeleine and Michelin love cooking! Together with their friend Slice and baby sister Bebé, they start making a pizza for their football team's bake sale. When their mysterious neighbor Rosemary pops by with her magical pepper mill, everything goes haywire—can they fix it all before the bake sale?

*Madeleine & Michelin's Cooking Club* is the first installment in a new series for beginning readers. It's full of humor and cooking tips, with colorful illustrations that work perfectly with the story.

**Miina Supinen** is an author known for her distinctive mix of playfulness and psychological insight. She has previously published short stories, essays and three adults' novels. **Anni Nykänen** is a comic artist, illustrator and graphic designer. Her comics have been nominated for the prestigious Comic Finlandia Award in three separate years.

**"Miina Supinen is a rarity in contemporary Finnish prose with her naturally hilarious point of view."**  
 – Helsingin Sanomat on *The Land of Apatosaurus*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KOKKIKLUBI: MAAILMAN PARAS PIZZA*, WSOY 2018, 61 pp.

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 www.ahlbackagency.com  
 info@ahlbackagency.com



Photo: Pertti Nisonen



Photo: Sannakko Publishing



## Magdalena Hai & Teemu Juhani: The Grumblebelly Cat

A prize-winning fantasy tale in the style of 21st century Brothers Grimm

In a barren land, a little girl meets a gigantic, ravenous cat that threatens to devour her. To save herself, she makes the cat an offer: she'll lead it across the land in a hunt for food. But on their journey they encounter only draught, destruction and people with nothing to eat except their dreams. When the cat does gobble up the girl, she finds in its belly the reason for its insatiable hunger...

*The Grumblebelly Cat* is a classic fairy-tale about a contemporary subject. The detailed, monochrome illustrations by Teemu Juhani add another layer to the story.

**Magdalena Hai** is a lover of cross-genre fiction and all things strange; her fiction often combines elements of sci-fi, fantasy and horror. Besides writing, Hai teaches writing and is an active member and editor of the publishing co-operative Osuuskumma. **Teemu Juhani** is an illustrator, comic artist and graphic designer currently based in London, UK.

**“The fascinating and intense text captures the readers on the very first page and leads them safely through the exciting, densely atmospheric adventure towards the end. Hai’s story draws inspiration from fairy-tales, fantasy and girlhood: little girls have power that supersedes dominion and greed.”**  
– Arvid Lydecken Prize jury

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KURNIVAMAHAINEN KISSA*, KARISTO 2017, 46 pp.

### Awards:

Arvid Lydecken Prize nominee 2017  
Runeberg Junior Prize nominee 2018  
Torch Bearer Prize nominee 2018

### Selected backlist:

*The Beggar Princess (Kerjäläisprinsessa)*, Karisto 2012)  
*The Clockwork King (Kellopelikuningas)*, Karisto 2013)  
*The Wolf Queen (Susikuningatar)*, Karisto 2014)

### Foreign rights contact:

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[info@ahlbackagency.com](mailto:info@ahlbackagency.com)



Photo: Jaakko Halonen



Photo: Teemu Juhani

## Karin Erlandsson: The Pearl Fisher

A compelling story of a magical underwater world with dangers unlike anywhere else

Imagine a world in which colorful pearls, covering the ocean floor, are the most important currency.

Miranda is the most skilled pearl fisher of all, and she believes she can find the pearl everyone wants: the mythical eye gemstone. People say the one who finds it will never want for anything again. But how can Miranda find the precious pearl when babbling little Syrsa, who doesn't even know how to dive properly, insists on tagging along? And why are they being followed by Iberis with her burning eyes?

The first book in the four-part *Song of the Eye Gemstone* series, *The Pearl Fisher* is a story of a magical world in which pearls sing and rose sharks lie in ambush behind the rocks. It's also a story about longing, friendship and the things that are really important in life—in the spirit of Astrid Lindgren's *Ronia the Robber's Daughter* and *The Brothers Lionheart*.

**Karin Erlandsson** has previously written two novels; her debut was shortlisted for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PÄRLFISKAREN*, SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS 2017, 243 pp.

### Awards:

Runeberg Junior Prize winner 2017  
Arvid Lydecken Prize nominee 2017  
Schildts & Söderström's children's novel competition winner 2016

### Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, [www.helsinkiagency.fi](http://www.helsinkiagency.fi)  
Urpu Strellman, [urpu@helsinkiagency.fi](mailto:urpu@helsinkiagency.fi)



Photo: Matilda Saul



## Vuokko Hurme: Upside Down

“We fell for what seemed like forever, the wind lashed our faces, and the white clouds drew closer.”

Eight-year-old Lenna lives in the upside-down city of Kardum, where the earth has swapped places with the sky and there is a dizzying drop into nothingness where the ground once was. After the initial shock of “The Rotation,” people have learned to get along, moving from house to house—between the ones that are left—with the help of ropes and special gear. They enjoy a simple life without running water or electricity.

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

What will happen to Lenna and her family: her mother, father, little sister, and pet chicken? Will they have the courage to look for a future in another world that may exist somewhere below them—in the sky?

*Upside Down* is the first book in **Vuokko Hurme's** new children's fantasy trilogy *The Rotation*. The second book, *Right-Side Up*, is out in 2018.

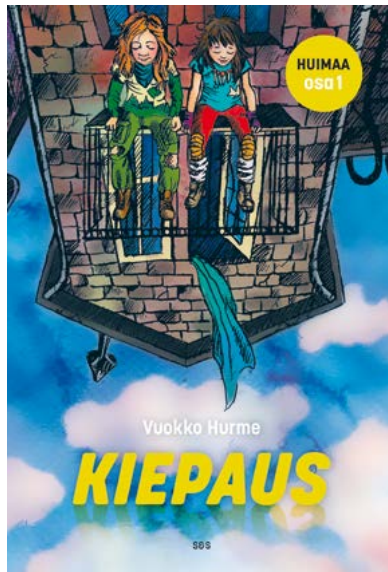


Photo: Tuure Hurme



ORIGINAL TITLE:  
*KIEPAUS*, SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS 2017, 248 pp.

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Urpu Strellman, [urpu@helsinkiagency.fi](mailto:urpu@helsinkiagency.fi)

## Sanna Sofia Vuori & Linda Bondestam: The Egg

Finding an egg in a puddle leads into existential questions of family, origin, and equality in this charming picture book

Maud, Lu and Brie are neighbors and friends. While playing outside one morning, they make an unexpected find.

“Shh,” whispers Maud, as there is something in one of the puddles. She investigates it immediately. “Round but slightly oval,” says Maud and flicks through her important notebook. “It’s warm. Someone must be hiding inside. It is an egg.”

What to do with a lonely egg, other than keep it warm and safe? Asking adults about looking after an egg, the girls will hear stories of how different families can, and should, be.

This delightful and ingenious debut picture book tackles the question all children ask sooner or later: “Where did I come from?”

**Sanna Sofia Vuori**, the creator of the popular web show *Estrids bokklubb* and *Saga children's theatre*, has long been active in the children's culture scene. This is her debut as a picture book author. **Linda Bondestam** has been nominated for a number of prizes for her colorful, vivid and playful illustrations. She won the 2017 Nordic Prize with *Animals No One Has Seen Except Us*, written by Ulf Stark.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *ÄGGET*, FÖRLAGET 2018, 40 pp.

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[info@rightsandbrands.com](mailto:info@rightsandbrands.com)



Photo: Niklas Sandström



Photo: Niklas Sandström



## Laura Ertimo & Satu Kontinen:

- What Is the Night?
- What Is Water?

Bedtime books of fictional and factual stories for information-hungry kids and adults

*What Is the Night?* is a literary tonic for insomniacs or those afraid of the dark. Drawing narratives from astronomy, nocturnal nature and the physiology of sleep and dreams, *What Is the Night?* spins a captivating tale over four chapters of facts interspersed with ancient myths and legends, ranging from how the moon gets its glow to how the night came to be.

*What Is Water?* is an independent sequel to *What Is the Night?* and an eye-opening non-fiction book for the whole family about the most important substance in the world. It examines water from four different perspectives: The Planet, Nature, The Human and The Dive. With the help of accessible physics, geography and history, we get to know over 60 ways in which water is connected with life on Earth.

**Laura Ertimo** is a geographer and author of several non-fiction titles. She specializes in the interaction between people and natural phenomena. **Satu Kontinen** is an illustrator and author whose works include many educational picture books with cute, decorative details.

ORIGINAL TITLES: *YÖ. KIRJA UNESTA JA PIMEÄN SALAISUUKSISTA*, MYLLYLÄHTI 2016, 120 pp. *VESI. KIRJA MAAILMAN TÄRKEIMMÄSTÄ AINEESTA*, MYLLYLÄHTI 2017, 156 pp.

### Awards:

*Yö. Kirja unesta ja pimeän salaisuuksista*:  
Rudolf Koivu Illustration Award nominee 2017  
The Most Beautiful Books of 2016, honorary mention

### Selected backlist:

The *Mokomaki* Series (*Mokomaki-sarja*, Myllylahti 2014–)

### Rights sold:

CHINA (CITIC Press)

### Foreign rights contact:

Elina Ahlbäck Literary Agency  
www.ahlbackagency.com  
info@ahlbackagency.com

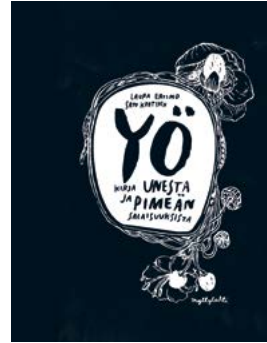


Photo: Emmi Korhonen



## Reetta Niemelä & Salla Savolainen: Hobby Horses of Star Hill Stables

Hobby horses are the latest craze! A fun illustrated guide for all devoted and wannabe hobbyists.

Homemade toy horses are hugely popular among Nordic girls of all ages: they even host hobby-horse riding competitions! The characters of the *Star Hill Stables* series introduce the fun of hobby-horsing in a book that gives hands-on instructions on making these pet ponies out of recycled materials, as well as rosettes, blankets and other essentials. Building a stable or an arena is super-easy with this guide. The book is packed with activities and facts about horses and lots of fun tips to make the most of the hobby.

**Reetta Niemelä** is an award-winning author of children's books and poetry. **Salla Savolainen** is a celebrated illustrator of children's books: she won the Kukko award in 2013 for her non-fiction and early learning illustrations and has thrice been nominated for the Finlandia Junior Prize. This is their sixth book together in the *Star Hill Stables* series, which has been translated into eight languages.



Photo: Piiia Arnoiid

ORIGINAL TITLE:  
*TIKKUMÄEN KEPPARIKIRJA*, OTAVA 2018, 32 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*The Horses of Star Hill Stables (Tikkumäen Talli, Otava 2011)*  
*The Dogs of Star Hill Stables (Tikkumäen koirat, Otava 2013)*  
*Ponycamp at Star Hill Stables (Tikkumäen ponileiri, Otava 2015)*

### Foreign rights contact:

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info@rightsandbrands.com

## Anniina Mikama: The Illusionist And The Thief

*The Illusionist And The Thief* launches a magical trilogy teeming with trickery and suspense

Helsinki, the winter of 1890. Mina, an orphan, is forced to steal in order to survive on the streets. Tom is a young inventor and illusionist whose Theatre of Wonders entralls its audiences night after night. The two meet, and she is offered a place in Tom's household as a maid and companion. Soon she becomes part of the show in which Tom's mechanical contraptions spring to life.

Tom and Mina are caught up in a whirlwind of scheming and pursuit, which only their courage—and the odd magic trick up their sleeve—will help them to overcome.

The second book in the trilogy, *The Conman's Apprentice*, will be published by WSOY in March 2019.

**Anniina Mikama** is an illustrator and author living in Helsinki. She loves comic book superheroes, old mechanical machinery and the secret world behind the theatre curtains. *The Illusionist And The Thief* is her debut novel.

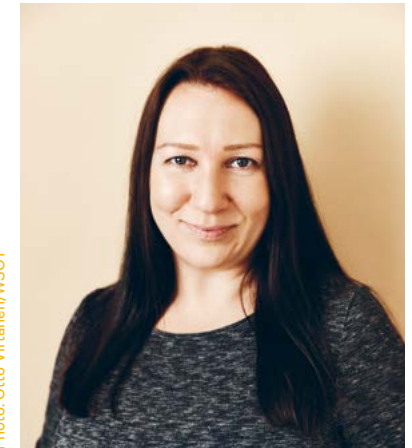
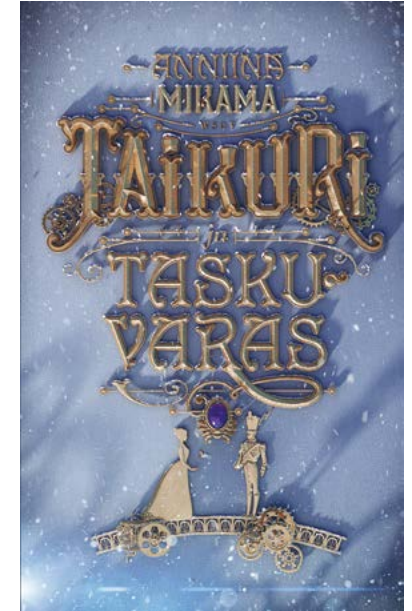


Photo: Otto Virtanen/WSOY

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TAIKURI JA TASKUVARAS*, WSOY 2018, 413 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Bonnier Rights Finland  
Terhi Isomäki-Blaxall, terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierights.fi



## Anders Vacklin & Aki Parhamaa: Beta. *Sensored Reality 1.*

The YA adventure set in a futuristic world where only video games offer an escape from rising sea levels

In 2117, gaming is a way of life and flood-ridden Helsinki the biggest hub of the game industry. Sixteen-year-old Bug's mother moves her unwilling daughter from Sea-Tokyo to Helsinki Island after Bug's father dies. Devastated, Bug retreats into the world of video games. When a mysterious parcel containing a virtual reality gaming suit arrives on her doorstep, Bug is drawn into a beta version of a new game set in feudal Japan. But the game proves to be more realistic and far more dangerous than expected.

*Beta* is the first novel in *Sensored Reality*, a historically-inspired YA cyber trilogy about VR, global warming, and suspicious corporations. It also tells a relatable story of an outsider struggling with friendships and family ties. Stay logged-in for more soon: Book 2: *Glitch* and Book 3: *Replica* to follow!

**Anders Vacklin** is a prize-winning screenwriter, dramaturge, script doctor and author of several scriptwriting manuals. **Aki Parhamaa** has studied creative writing in Finland and the UK, and written scripts for theater and screen. *Beta* is the duo's first novel, based on a short film script that was a success at PAGE International, International BlueCat and ScreenCraft screenwriting competitions.

**"I love how simplistically and realistically [the authors] described the essence of sequence video games. Once you get hooked on the first one, you're in for the long haul."**  
– BlueCat Screenplay Competition, on the short film script that forms the basis of this novel

ORIGINAL TITLE:  
*BETA. SENSORED REALITY 1*, TAMMI 2018, 350 pp.

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



Photo: Otto Virtanen

## Maria Turtschaninoff: Letters From Maresi

The anticipated sequel to *Maresi*, the fantasy novel translated into more than 20 languages with film rights sold to Film4

*Letters from Maresi* is an epistolary novel that follows Maresi after she leaves the Red Abbey to establish a school in her oppressed home province of Rovas, which she left to escape famine. Returning home and fitting in with the other girls is not easy, but she is determined to triumph over the difficulties. However, she does not need to make it alone, for life has yet another surprise in store: love.

**Maria Turtschaninoff** is known for crafting lyrical, historically inspired fantasy stories starring strong female protagonists, and has been compared to fantasy giants such as Ursula K. Le Guin.

**"An unforgettable feminist epic, shot through with hypnotic dark charm."** – The Bookseller

ORIGINAL TITLE: *BREVEN FRÅN MARESI (KRÖNIKOR FRÅN RÖDA KLOSTRET 3)*, FÖRLAGET 2018, 300 pp.

**Awards:**  
CILIP Carnegie Medal nominee 2017, 2018  
Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nominee 2017  
Finland-Swedish cultural prize winner 2017  
Finlandia Junior Prize winner 2014

**Rights sold:**  
The Red Abbey Chronicles BELGIUM (Clavis), BRAZIL (Morro Branco), CANADA (Editions de la Bagnole), CHINA (Shanghai 99), DENMARK (Turbine), ESTONIA (Varrak), FINLAND (Tammi), FRANCE (Rageot), GERMANY (Random House/Heyne), HUNGARY (Scolar), ITALY (Atmosphere Libri), LATVIA (Petergailis), NETHERLANDS (Clavis), NORWAY (Gursli Berg Forlag), POLAND (Wydawnictwo Debit), ROMANIA (Univers), WORLD SPANISH (PRH/Alfaguara), SWEDEN (Berghs), TURKEY (Altın Kitaplar), UNITED KINGDOM (Pushkin Press), UNITED STATES (Abrams)

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

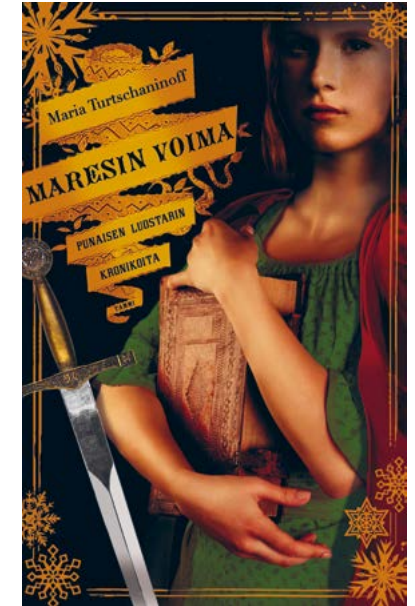


Photo: Niklas Sandstrom



## Aleksi Delikouras: The True Gamer Series

The fun and fast-paced *True Gamer* series follows the life of a teenaged gamer and YouTube phenomenon

There's never a dull moment for DragonSlayer666. Not only is he the king of gamers—if you ask him—he's also a YouTube star and a bestselling author. And yet, all he really wants is to be left alone. Battling school, parents, girls, sleeping, or eating, he really has one goal: making it big in the online gaming community.

*True Gamer* relates to today's teenagers in way rarely achieved, and is both funny and unapologetic in its approach. Written in the form of a diary, these books are fast-paced and full of humor, making them approachable for those who aren't necessarily big readers—or gamers!

Finnish-Greek **Aleksi Delikouras** is the wunderkind of the Finnish literature scene as well as a film director. His books are devoured by preteen boys. *True Gamer* is also a massively popular YouTube series recently picked up for television by Finland's public broadcasting company.



Photo: Lauri Nevanlinna



ORIGINAL TITLES:  
NEW GAME, OTAVA 2016, 206 pp.  
NEXT LEVEL, OTAVA 2016, 173 pp.  
GAME OVER, OTAVA 2016, 250 pp.  
PRO GAME, OTAVA 2016, 222 pp.  
MULTIPLAYER, OTAVA 2017, 120 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Kaiken Entertainment, info@kaiken.com  
Tuomas Sorjamaa, tuomas.sorjamaa@kaiken.com

## Elina Rouhiainen: The Bird Circle 1: The Summer of Swallows

A celebrated trilogy about the power of memories reads like a thrilling urban fantasy version of Nordic Noir. Winner of the Topelius Prize for an outstanding YA novel!

17-year-old Kiuru has the unusual ability to see people's memories in the shape of birds. When she meets a group of travelers, including a boy who can visit people in their dreams, she finally feels like she's found a home. But is someone hunting people like them? And what are their abilities really for? In a world where magic mixes with the harsh reality of living as an outcast, Kiuru needs to protect everyone—even if the cost is forgetting it all later.

**Elina Rouhiainen** has gathered a large fan base with her first series, *The Wolf Creek*, which has been sold internationally. Rouhiainen has a degree in sociology, and she lives in one of the most multicultural suburbs of Helsinki, Finland, where her new series *The Bird Circle* also takes place.



Photo: Lauri Nevanlinna



ORIGINAL TITLE:  
VÄKI: MUISTOJENLUKIJA, TAMMI 2017, 388 pp.

### Awards:

Topelius Prize winner 2018  
Torch Bearer Prize nominee 2018

### Foreign rights contact:

Kaiken Entertainment, info@kaiken.com  
Tuomas Sorjamaa, tuomas.sorjamaa@kaiken.com

## J.S. Meresmaa: The Jackdaw Master

“We all need a place to belong to.”  
*Oliver Twist* meets *Ghost in the Shell* in a story of a girl escaping slavery with the help of jackdaws

*The Jackdaw Master* is set in an alternative-history Finnish city in the year 1900, when the country was under Russian rule. Enni, an orphan worker girl with a lame leg and plenty of resilience, discovers that her past hides life-changing secrets.

This steampunk novella, which won a competition organized by the publisher Robustos, is the beginning of a new trilogy, *The Ursine Affairs*. The book has received glowing reviews from critics and readers alike.

**J.S. Meresmaa** hails from Tampere, Finland. She is a prolific author interested in themes of love, power structures between individuals as well as between societies, and empowerment for members of minorities. She has a talent for bringing fictional characters to life, and a keen sense for great plot twists.

**“To put a seemingly unimportant girl into a role of heroine and a savior of the whole community is a well-known and safe theme in fantasy literature. That’s why it takes great skill to approach the story in a refreshing way. [...] The plot surprises you repeatedly. A happy ending isn’t as clear as it is in so many fantasy stories.”**

– Turun Sanomat

ORIGINAL TITLE: *NAAKKAMESTARI*, ROBUSTOS 2016, 163 pp.

### Awards:

Robustos novella competition winner 2015

### Selected backlist:

*The Knights of Midcastle* (*Keskilinnan ritarit*, Osuuskumma 2016)

The Ursine Affairs:

*Twilight Rays* (*Hämäränsäteet*, Robustos 2018)

The Mifonki Series (six books 2012-2017)

### Foreign rights contact:

Kumma Literary Agency

Saara Henriksson, saara.henriksson@finnishwriters.com

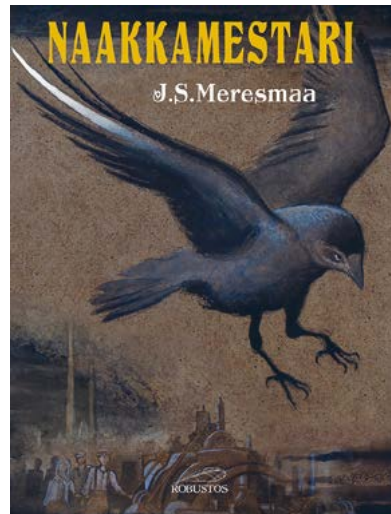


Photo: Mimma Jerrman

## Kaj Erik & Ted Forsström & Pentti Otsamo: Zoo: Viral Geniuses

Adrian Mole for the social media age:  
illustrated YA for readers who grew up  
with *Wimpy Kid*

Atlas starts Year 10 just as his best friend Elliot moves abroad. The boys continue their friendship via emails peppered with sketches, top 3 lists and memes. They also produce their own web comic “The Zoo,” a humorous reaction to school life, where everyone is depicted as animals.

Inspired by the authors’ own schooldays, *The Zoo* is an outrageous, laugh-out-loud series about the everyday life of a teenage boy, full of awkward moments with a sarcastic take on the power of social media. *The Zoo* #1: *Viral Geniuses* was nominated for the children’s and YA Finlandia Prize in 2017. The second title will be published in 2018.

**Kai Erik** (real name Kaj Korkea-aho) is one of the most distinguished authors of his generation writing in Swedish in Finland. He is also a comedian and regularly performs on radio, TV and stage, as well as a popular columnist and a playwright. His adult novel *Onda boken* has been translated into six languages. Kaj and **Ted Forsström**, an author, comedian and radio personality, also host a popular podcast together. Illustrated in comic-book style by **Pentti Otsamo**.

ORIGINAL TITLE:

ZOO: *VIRALA GENIER*, FÖRLAGET 2017, 160 pp.

### Awards:

Finlandia Junior Prize nominee 2017

Torch Bearer Prize nominee 2018

### Foreign rights contact:

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Photo: Niklas Sandström

## Nonna Vasiljeff: Grim Boy

A creative mix of timely totalitarian horror, classic fantasy adventure and gripping suspense with elements of cautionary tales in a debut coming-of-age story

15-year-old Aron has always lived in Grim, a prison camp dominated by the ruthless, mysterious Dusts. To survive in the camp, the best strategy is to keep your head down and obey the rules—otherwise the Dusts will drag you to the Second Level, where unimaginable horrors take place and from where few return.

Aron's mundane life gets new meaning when two brothers arrive at Grim and start to plot their escape. The only way out is through the Second Level. With the help of a message hidden in a fairy tale book left to him by his mother, Aron and his new friends escape, but the outside world contains traps and horrors of its own, and there is no turning back with the Dusts heavy on their heels. Courage and innocence are Aron's only weapons—until he discovers his dormant powers.

**Nonna Vasiljeff** is a debut author with a mature voice. Her writing is inspired by computer games and classic adventure stories with a hint of fantasy and horror. *Grim Boy* is an addictive opening of a two-part series, followed by *Dust Boy* in 2019 to complete Aron's story.

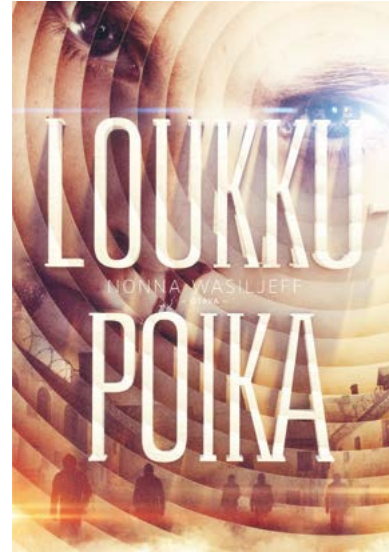


Photo: Dorit Salutskij

ORIGINAL TITLE:  
*LOUKKUPOIKA*, OTAVA 2018, 300 pp.

**Foreign rights contact:**  
Rights&Brands  
info@rightsandbrands.com

## 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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