

SPRING 2019

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

F I L I

FINNISH
LITERATURE
EXCHANGE

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

FILI

- distributes approx. €600,000 in translation and printing, promotional and readers' report 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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Laura Lindstedt: My Friend Natalia

The long awaited new novel by Finlandia Prize winner, Laura Lindstedt! A bold and brave novel about a young woman's sexuality, the power of narration, and identity.

Natalia starts to see a therapist to help solve the problems in her sex life. It is clear from the beginning that she is not going to play by the rules. The weekly sessions combine art, philosophy, literature, childhood memories, and erotic experiences as a method of treatment, and slowly they make Natalia lose all her inhibitions. She starts to enjoy the therapy – maybe too much?

The novel takes a deconstructive approach to the self-help narratives of our time and drives the tools of auto-fiction into a dead end, asking what is concealed, when everything is revealed.

Laura Lindstedt became a critical darling with her adoption-themed debut novel *Scissors*, which earned her a nomination for the Finlandia Prize. She is currently revising her Ph.D. thesis on French author Nathalie Sarraute. Lindstedt's second novel *Oneiron* is a work of speculative fiction that continued her critical success, earning her the coveted Finlandia Prize 2015, and its rights have been sold to 15 territories.

“Reflective and full of depth, Finnish author Laura Lindstedt blends in elements of other genres such as poetry and essay to wrestle with some of life's most difficult questions.”

– *World Literature Today* on *Oneiron*.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *YSTÄVÄNI NATALIA*, Teos Publishers 2019, 240 pp.

Selected backlist:

Oneiron (*Oneiron*, Teos Publishers 2015)
Scissors (*Sakset*, Teos Publishers 2007)

Foreign rights contact:

Elina Ahlback Literary Agency, www.ahlbackagency.com
info@ahlbackagency.com

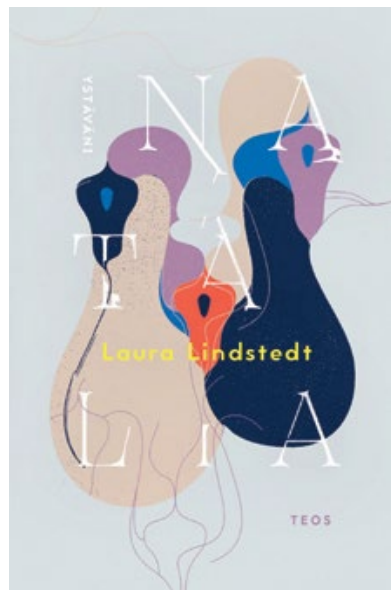


Photo: Jarkko Mikkonen

Miki Liukkonen: The Master of Silence

The Finlandia and Runeberg Prize-nominated author of *O* returns with a dazzling, genre-defying novel that captures the zeitgeist of our time.

“There is no direct communication. There is always a filter in between. In this instance, it's you.”

At midday, a twenty-something man is found dead in his office chair. Meanwhile, Herman Leorne is interviewing people for his YouTube channel, debating the interestingness of things. Elsewhere, a mother with an eating disorder considers ending her life with an overdose of Botox. How, then, does all this tie in to the significance of Sinatra's *My Way* in karaoke history, stringent Subway™ staff training days, and iced coffee?

In its titular homage to Rimbaud, Liukkonen proves himself to be a seer of the big questions of our time, with influences of Foster Wallace and Mishima in evidence in this brilliant new work.

Miki Liukkonen made his literary breakthrough in Finland with his 2017 tour de force, *O* – the most-talked-about and astonishingly accomplished book in recent years. His works have been shortlisted for the Finlandia and Runeberg Prizes.

“One of the most important Finnish fiction books of this decade.”

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper on *O*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *HILJAIJUUDEN MESTARI*, WSOY 2019, 280 pp.

Selected backlist:

O (*O*, WSOY 2017)
The Children under the Sun (*Lapset auringon alla*, WSOY 2013)

Foreign rights contact:

Bonnier Rights, www.bonnierrights.fi
Eleonoora Kirk, eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.se

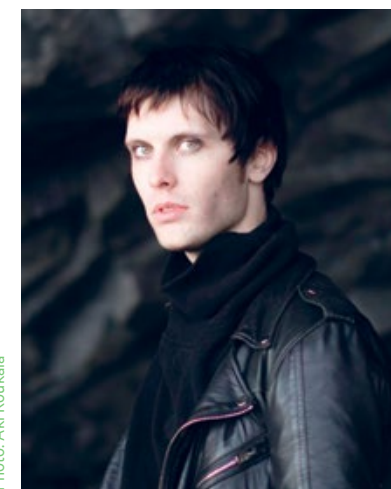


Photo: Aki Roukka

Eeva Turunen: Miss U reminisces about her so-called relationship history

Episodic debut full of gentle, neurotic humour.

Miss U's relationships are colourful: there is the boy who refuses to eat anything red; the boy who names his bands after mystical elements of nature; and the boy who has a bathroom full of yellow rubber ducks. Which one will Miss U choose?

In Eeva Turunen's debut, the characters' neuroses, weaknesses and eccentricities result in vivid encounters. Some of the relationships involve same-sex or ambiguous gender pairings, but in essence the stories are about loneliness, the search for a connection, and building a personal identity. Turunen portrays difficult, shameful emotions sensitively and with humour. She has an eye for weirdness.

Eeva Turunen is an architect and playwright living in Helsinki. *Miss U* was chosen as the best debut of 2018 by Helsingin Sanomat and shortlisted for the Runeberg Prize 2019.

“Eeva Turunen's debut operates with powerful, original language and crosses genre borders with ease”

– Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize jury

“The comic, gentle irony makes the characters' worlds emerge with style”

– Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *NEITI U MUISTELEEE NIIN KUTSUTTUA IHMISSUHDEHISTORIAANSA*, Siltala Publishing 2018, 180 pp.

Awards:

Helsingin Sanomat Literature Award 2018
National Monologue Award 2015

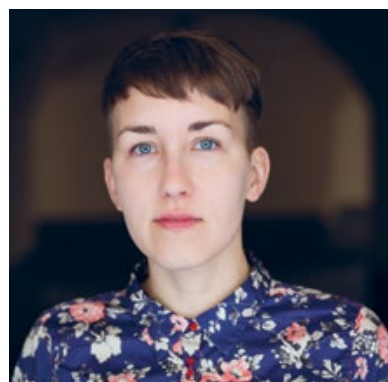
Selected backlog:

A couple of words on Ulla (a monologue, 2015)

Foreign rights contact:

Siltala Publishing, www.siltalapublishing.fi
Sakari Siltala, foreignrights@siltalapublishing.fi

Photo: Laura Malmivaara



Minna Rytisalo: Mrs. C

Top two best-seller from the author of *Lempi*: a story of love and a force looking for a way out.

At the bottom of a hillside stands a grey house with eight bedrooms, six children, a schoolmaster and his wife. In her kitchen the cakes come out either burnt to a crisp or underdone, and what satisfies others is not enough for her. Inside her there's a force looking for a way out, growing in size and wreaking havoc, questioning the laws of nature and at times pulling her deep into melancholy.

Mrs. C is a story of a marriage, love and friendship. The daughter of a maid and a merchant, she marries her teacher and ends up pregnant again and again. Later, she becomes a writer everyone will know a hundred years later: Minna Canth, the first notable female author in Finland, journalist, entrepreneur... a role model, a fighter, an icon.

Mrs. C rose straight to the bestseller list when it came out in September 2018. It's a nominee for the 2019 Lapland Literary Prize, Bonnier's Grand Journalism Prize / Book of the Year and the Torch-Bearer Prize.

Mrs. C is **Minna Rytisalo's** second novel. Her first, *Lempi* (2016), was a critical and commercial success and received numerous awards.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *ROUVA C.*, Gummerus Publishers 2018, 367 pp.

Selected backlog:

Lempi (*Lempi*, Gummerus Publishers 2016)

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi
Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi

Photo: Miika Alanen



Juha Itkonen: Beyond Our Reach

“This is not a book about grief; it’s a book about life, all the colours of it.”

In August, the author’s wife Rose is 17 weeks pregnant with their third child. When her waters suddenly break, the medical verdict is grim: the child has no chance of survival. Rose struggles to give up on the life inside her, and a rift opens up between the couple. But a heart-breaking decision must be made.

Only a few months later, Rose is pregnant again – with twins. When they receive two tiny babies, 13 weeks prematurely, a struggle for life begins.

One of the most talented and beloved writers of his generation in Finland, a father of four, **Juha Itkonen** has written an autobiographical book about an extraordinary year. It’s a deeply touching and relentless account, told by a modern father who – despite all his commitment – sometimes cannot help but be an outsider. *Beyond Our Reach* is a nominee for Bonnier’s Grand Journalism Prize / Book of the Year.

“[The author] excels at putting into words something that borders on the impossible: the question of life and death, applied to one’s own children, goes beyond reason.”

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *IHMETTÄ KAIKKI*,
Otava Publishing Company 2018, 294 pp.

Selected backlist:

Bring Back The Butterflies (*Palatkaa perhoset*,
Otava Publishing Company 2016)

Momentary Glow (*Hetken hohtava valo*, Otava Publishing Company 2012)

Let the More Loving One Be Me (*Anna minun rakastaa enemmän*,
Teos Publishers 2005)

Rights sold:

German (Bastei Lübbe)

Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, rightsandbrands.com
Leenastiina Kakko, info@rightsandbrands.com



Photo: Laura Malmivaara

Mari Mörö: Partial Shade

A story about a happy island’s odd past and even odder present.

Malcolm Island, Canada, 1901. A group of idealistic Finnish settlers have decided to realise their dream and set up Sointula, a utopia based on communal ownership and democracy. Troubles soon follow. Communal living doesn’t sit well with everyone, the cow shed isn’t completed, a fire’s set ablaze, the community gets into debt and the bridge construction project hits the dust.

Malcolm Island, Canada, 2017. The utopia crashed and burned over a hundred years ago, but the local Finnish community is still blossoming. The centenary of Finnish independence is approaching, and a divorced couple turns up on the island in the midst of preparations for the party. She is on a mission to refurbish the Finnish museum; he, a failed actor, is on a mission to rock the boat.

Mari Mörö is an award-winning author, whose novel *Gifts of a Gentle Night* (1998) was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize and was awarded the Runeberg Prize.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *HAJAVALO*, Teos Publishers 2018, 240 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi
Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



Photo: Stefan Bremer

Pirkko Saisio: Hesitations

Confessions on love, writing and performing.

Hesitations is a charming collection with a sharp psychological eye and a wise view of the world. The hilarious, biting stories are woven together by an omniscient narrator, who moves flexibly from autobiographical fiction to fiction and back.

“I can’t distinguish a memory, a dream, a nightmare or a vision from actual reality, since in my mind, actual reality does not exist.”

New stories and fates come and go on the narrator’s whim. The stage is occupied in turn by The Janitor hopelessly in love, Maria Alyokhina from Pussy Riot, Chekhov’s Burkin and Ivan Ivanovich, and ... The Woman.

Pirkko Saisio studied Drama and completed her actor’s training in 1975. Her debut novel *The Course of Life* (*Elämänmeno*) won the J.H. Erkko Award the same year. She has been nominated for the Finlandia Prize six times, winning it in 2003 for *The Red Book of Separation* (*Punainen erokirja*). Apart from novels, she has written numerous plays and scripts for film and television and is also a theatre director.



Photo: Laura Malmivaara



ORIGINAL TITLE: *EPÄRÖINTEJÄ*, Siltala Publishing 2019, 160 pp.

Awards:

Aleksis Kivi Prize 2016
Finlandia Prize 2003
State Literature Award 1985

Selected backlog:

A Man and His Affairs (*Mies, ja hänen asiansa*, Siltala Publishing 2016)

Foreign rights contact:

Siltala Publishing, www.siltalapublishing.fi
Sakari Siltala, foreignrights@siltalapublishing.fi

Henriikka Tavi: Let's Stop the Time

Tellervo is a fallen tree, a mummified crocodile – until she decides to turn into a magnetic woman.

Tellervo will soon be 40. She has three university degrees and works in a kiosk. She’s living the best years of her life, but where is the meaningful relationship?

Tellervo decides to take the advice of an American relationship coach and turn into a ‘magnetic woman’ and find Mr. Right. Of course, adequate preparation is important, as are underwear, pelvic floor muscles and good photos (no selfies). It’s also crucial to be a pearl and understand your pearliness. Soon Tellervo is inundated with invitations for dates, and she starts flitting through a motley crowd of men.

Let’s Stop the Time is a funny, cheeky and slightly awkward story about truth morphed into sexual capital, about a tumultuous inner world – and the lack of it. It’s also a boastful account of Tellervo and her friend, a story about a frantic search and loss of another person.

Henriikka Tavi Henriikka Tavi is an awarded poet, whose debut novel *Let’s Stop the Time* was shortlisted for the Runeberg Prize 2019.

“The novel flows with an amazing ease from humorous situations to profound reflections about being human.”

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TELLERVO*, Teos Publishers 2018, 233 pp.

Awards:

Dancing Bear Prize 2012
Kalevi Jäntti Prize 2011
Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize 2007

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi
Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



Photo: Heli Sorjonen



Harry Salmenniemi: Dolphin Meditation

“The certainty of the fact that nobody is fundamentally happy gives me a reason to continue.”

Dolphin Meditation is a bare-bones blend of madness, politics and guts. We come to understand a young woman's life from the perspective of her upset stomach; how brushing your teeth can strip your life of all meaning; the political-erotic delusions of a woman lying in a hospital bed; and how thinking about dolphins calms the mind.

The insightful stories overlap with cultural criticism and cries of anguish. When hopelessness threatens, hysterical laughter saves the day. Behind it all hovers a psychiatrist who has lost his mind and helps his patients from his own perspective.

Harry Salmenniemi is one of Finland's most original contemporary writers. He has published five collections of poetry. His prose debut, *Uraanilamppu*, was a collection of short stories that was one of 2017's major literary events.



Photo: Mikko Vähämitty

ORIGINAL TITLE: *DELFIINIMEDITAATIO*, Siltala 2019, 218 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Siltala Publishing, www.siltalapublishing.fi
Sakari Siltala, foreignrights@siltalapublishing.fi

Ina Westman: Archipelago

A stirring eco-novel about a relationship on the rocks set against the idyllic backdrop of a Nordic summer.

“One day we, too, will disappear from here. The island will remain.”

Emma, Joel and their young daughter, Fanni, spend the summer at their island hideaway in the Finnish archipelago. Emma suffers headaches and hallucinations caused by the livid scar on her head. Struggling to remember what has happened, she begins to drift away from Joel, as she and he, in turn, tell their points-of-view with interjecting conversations between Fanni and her grandfather.

Evincing the atmosphere and intergenerational dialogue of Tove Jansson's *The Summer Book*, Ina Westman skilfully navigates Emma and Joel's relationship, peeling away the layers of themselves as their shared future hangs in the balance. Can they find their way back to each other? Will she remember what happened to her before her nightmares subsume her entirely?

An often haunting, beautiful, and layered narrative of a couple at sea with each other, and the uncomfortable truths of climate change, racism and migration.

Ina Westman works as a communications manager in the publishing industry in Helsinki. She's also a renowned blogger. *Archipelago* is her second novel after the warmly-reviewed debut, *Shelter*.

“A succinct and fine novel.”

– *Turun sanomat* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *HENKIEN SAARI*, Kosmos 2018, 234 pp.

Selected backlist:

Shelter (*Syllin*, Kosmos 2016)

Foreign rights contact:

Bonnier Rights, www.bonnierrights.fi
Eleonoora Kirk, eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.se



Photo: Meri Björn / Kosmos

Sisko Savonlahti: Maybe This Summer Everything Will Change

Top 10 best-selling autofiction about a young city dweller in search of happiness (and crisps).

"I know I have to do something about all of this, and I have to do it kind of soon. But right now I want to lie on the balcony a little longer and think about my ex-boyfriend."

These are the thoughts of a young woman in her flat, over-hearing people shrieking in the nearby amusement park. It's almost summer, and it's about time for her to get over her breakup. She has to get out of the doldrums, find a job, fall in love, kick-start a spiral of positivity.

Should she fulfil other people's expectations or follow her heart? How do you know what your heart desires? So many questions, often less tempting than examining the soil in your plant pots, texting friends or mixing dip to eat with crisps.

Sisko Savonlahti's debut has its finger firmly on the pulse. It's a frank story of a woman with a looming fear of failure, the need to achieve, chasing happiness. The novel was a nominee for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize for the best debut of 2018.

"Savonlahti has anchored the story of the quotidian of her everywoman in acute perceptions, minimalist repetitions reminiscent of Philip Glass' work where the change is noticeable only when it's already occurred. [...] This book feels fresh and honest, even rebellious. The thought that a regular woman's life warrants a story!"

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *EHKÄ TÄNÄ KESÄNÄ KAIKKI MUUTTUU*, Gummerus Publishers 2018, 304 pp.

Rights sold:
Swedish (Norstedts)

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



Photo: Marek Sabogal

Heikki Kännö: The Way of the Bee

In a dizzyingly imaginative debut, Heikki Kännö weaves a dark mystery full of suspense, art, mysticism – and Nazis.

What if we could manipulate reality or travel in time through art? The German artist Joseph Beuys seems to be doing just that, and is being watched by a secret unit of the SS, using occultist research in their attempt to rebuild the Third Reich.

Later, a young woman named Dora Schuster escapes from East Germany and her alcoholic father to reach West Berlin. She meets Klaus Veit, an aspiring artist and petty criminal. Together they end up in Düsseldorf, where Beuys works as an art professor. Their paths cross in a way that transcends history. But what happens to love when time can be manipulated?

Breathtakingly original, *The Way of the Bee* combines speculative fiction and art thriller in a work of great philosophical depth.

Heikki Kännö trained as a painter but found his true calling in writing. His second novel *Sömnö* (Sammakko 2018) was awarded with the Runeberg Prize 2019. The two novels have received praise from both critics and the reading public.

"Heikki Kännö's debut novel is the most original, most enchanting and best written art-mystery-thriller I've ever encountered. *The Da Vinci Code* is nothing compared to this."

– *Aamulehti* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *MEHILÄISTIE*, Sammakko 2017, 344 pp.

Foreign rights contact:
Sammakko, www.sammakko.com
Seppo Lahtinen, seppo.lahtinen@sammakko.com



Photo: Sammakko

Petri Karra: Dark Light

The son calls. The father answers. The next night, the destruction begins. A new fast-paced psychological thriller about a parent's love for his son – and the crimes committed to protect him.

Henrik Valli despises his drug addict son, Niko. They've been an unhappy family as long as they can remember. Henrik has done his best to purge Niko from their life. But one night the telephone rings. Niko has made a bigger mess of his life than Henrik ever feared. A father's love wins out: he has to help his son. It requires a crime. Anna, Henrik's wife and Niko's mother, is a police detective, and they have to hide the crime from her. Bit by bit the whole family enters a nightmare in which everyone's notions of right and wrong must be re-evaluated. What are you willing to do to protect your child?

Petri Karra is a writer from Helsinki, who is also known as a TV and film screenwriter. His works are often focused around families and the circle of life. His debut novel *The House of Branching Love* (2008) and fourth novel *The Homecoming* (2015) have been made into feature films, and a TV series based on his novel *Dark Light* is currently in development.

"Karra's debut doesn't quite fit into the ready-made boxes of Finnish literature. He makes high literature entertaining and makes the relationship drama violent. I didn't know I needed either innovation, but *The House of Branching Love* was exceedingly enjoyable."

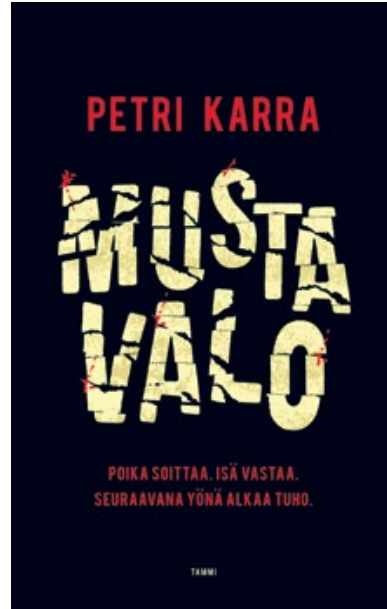
– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *MUSTA VALO*, Tammi Publishers 2019, 420 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Elina Ahlback Literary Agency, www.ahlbackagency.com
info@ahlbackagency.com

Photo: Aki Roukka



Anu Patrakka: The Shore of Guilt

A thrilling psychological detective story which combines life in small Portuguese villages, the art of painting and crime in a surprising way.

Rafael, a Finnish painter, disappears from a Portuguese beach. The clues lead to the sea. Shortly after the disappearance, the body of an old man washes up on shore.

Detective Rui Santos notices that the painter's wife Pia is very passionate about her husband's career as an artist. Soon after that, Pia mysteriously disappears. But why don't the residents of the small fishing village seem to have noticed a thing?

Rui Santos has to dig deep into Rafael's paintings in order to solve the case.

Anu Patrakka is a Finnish writer who moved to Portugal and left the Finnish corporate world behind. She lives on a farm near Porto with her husband.

"With a sharp eye, Patrakka cleverly observes Portuguese society and their way of life."

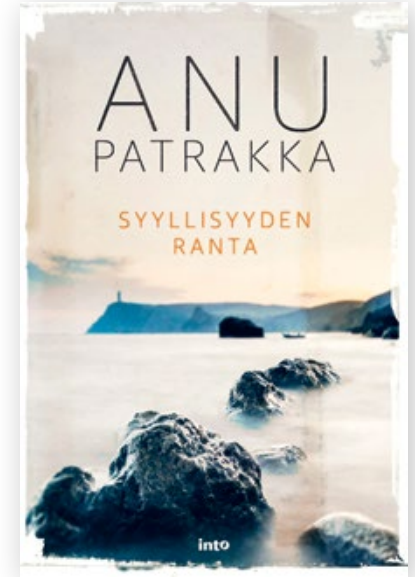
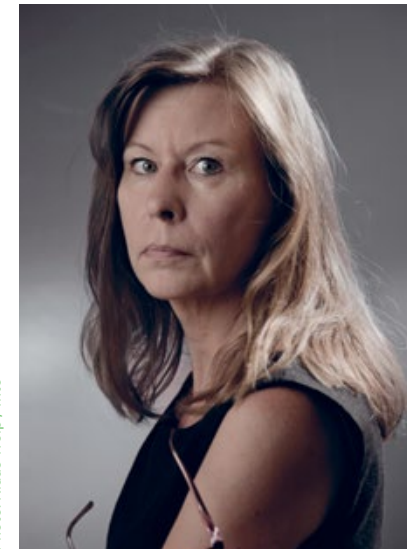
– *Uusimaa* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *SYLLISYYDEN RANTA*, Into Publishing 2019, 280 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Into Publishing, www.intokustannus.fi
 Ulla Asantila, ulla.asantila@intokustannus.fi

Photo: Klaus Weip / Into



Eppu Nuotio: The Deceptive Flowers of Glory

The charming garden crime series continues. The trip to Berlin takes an unexpected turn when Ellen Spring ends up behind the scenes of a sensational movie.

Ellen Spring is enjoying the gardens in Berlin while she is house-sitting for her son's family. A Finnish movie director, Johannes Svärd, is also in Berlin, posing on the red carpet alongside his ex-wife who is an actress in his movie. Ellen has to agree with everyone: 'The Deceptive Flowers of Glory' is the most beautiful love story she has ever seen. Until something terrible happens, revealing the dark side of love.

The Deceptive Flowers of Glory continues the addictive cosy crime series where Ellen Spring, a youthful pensioner and a passionate gardener, solves crimes in a Miss Marple-like style.

Eppu Nuotio writes for adults, children, theatre and TV and currently lives in Berlin. Her books have been both commercial and critical successes in Finland.

"As light and as warm as a blanket one needs on a terrace on a Finnish summer night."

– *Kodin Kuvalehti* magazine

ORIGINAL TITLE: *ELÄMÄNLANKA*
(Otava Publishing Company 2019, 300 pp.)

Selected backlist:

Ellen Spring Investigates series:
Dead Flowers and Mothers-In-Law (*Anopinhammas*, Otava Publishing Company 2018)
The White Flowers of Poison (*Myrkkyykeiso*, Otava Publishing Company 2017)

Rights sold:

Latvian (Petergailis)

Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, rightsandbrands.com
Leenastiina Kakko, info@rightsandbrands.com

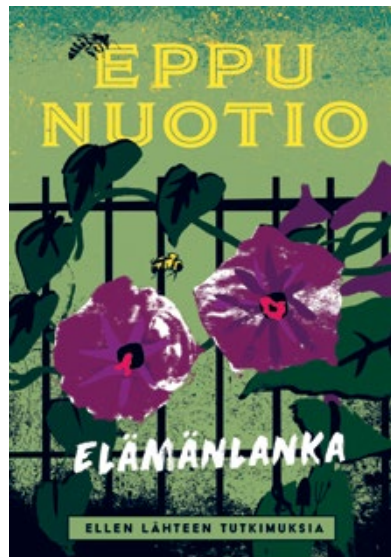


Photo: Marjo Tynkkynen



Minna Lindgren: Far, Far Love

A story of longing, love, and loss. For the fans of *The Red Address Book* – with a humorous twist.

Kauko Koskinen is a man of order: receipts are organized, 60 years' worth of calendars are safely stored, and every day has certain rhythms and routines. But when he gets banned from the dementia care home where his wife resides, his life is turned upside down. Memories of his youth bring a person from the past back to his mind: where is his first love now? Kauko starts to track down a woman he knew sixty years ago, but is he chasing only a memory or a dream?

Minna Lindgren is a freelance journalist and columnist known for her whimsical writing style and fearless approach to topics as strange as opera and death. In addition to novels, she has authored non-fiction books on classical music.

"Minna Lindgren writes about aging more hilariously, more sensitively and more sharply than any other contemporary writer. **"**

– *Aamulehti* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KAUKORAKKAUS*, Teos Publishers 2019, 240 pp.

Selected works:

The Angry Widow (*Vihainen leski*, Teos Publishers 2018)
The Sunset Grove Trilogy (*Ehtoolehto*-trilogia, Teos Publishers 2013–2015)

Foreign rights contact:

Elina Ahlback Literary Agency, www.ahlbackagency.com
info@ahlbackagency.com



Photo: Heli Sorjonen



Mari Ahokoivu: Oksi

Based on Finnish mythology that recognizes the bear as the king of the forest, *Oksi* is a unique, epic graphic novel that is already being hailed as a masterpiece.

A mother bear has given birth to her new cubs. One of them, however, is different. She looks more like a flame than a bear, and is bullied by her siblings. Even the mother is baffled by the strange newcomer. But the mother is also facing her own challenge: she has to outgrow the shadow of her own mother, the resentful goddess Emuu, mother of all animals.

Drawing references both to the deep layers of Nordic mythology and stories ranging from *Prometheus* and *The Ugly Duckling* to *Spirited Away* by Hayao Miyazaki, *Oksi* is a breathtaking magnum opus by an extraordinary Finnish artist. *Oksi* is nominated for the Comics Finlandia Prize.

Mari Ahokoivu is a Finnish illustrator and comic artist who loves to draw cute and scary things. She draws comics for adults and for kids and has been published in Finland and abroad.

“With this book, Ahokoivu rises into the league of champions. *Oksi* is perfect. It’s intelligent, funny, lively, and full of magic.”

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper



Photo: Antti Ahokoivu



ORIGINAL TITLE: *OKSI*, Asema Publishers 2018, 367 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Ferly, www.ferlyco.com

Tuomas Sorjamaa, tuomas@ferlyco.com

Minna Eväsoja: Shoshin: The Mind of a Novice

Knowledge is like a vast mountain you might never conquer, but the trip is still worth it.

Japanese culture has always appreciated knowledge, learning and beauty. Learning is accompanied by the concept of *shoshin*, the mind of a novice that has been described in many ways: as ‘the correct manner’ or as resplendent as ‘flowers and the autumn colours’. *Shoshin* is openness without prejudice, it’s modesty and humility, and incompatible with self-importance or conceit. Knowledge is like a vast mountain you might never conquer. But the trip is still worth it.

Shoshin – The Mind of a Novice has moments in the world of Japanese beauty, aesthetics and philosophy. The illustrations are woodblock prints capturing the instantaneous and hedonistic lightness of the floating world.

Dr **Minna Eväsoja** is a scholar of Japanese culture. She has worked as a professor at the University of Helsinki, studied at the Urasenke traditional tea ceremony school in Japan, as well as at the universities of Kōbe and Takarazuka. Her Sensei has taught her to trust her own vision, all the while gently accepting the limits of her knowledge.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *SHOSHIN: ALOITTELIJAN MIELI*, Gummerus Publishers 2018, 197 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi

Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



Photo: Marek Sabogal



Tuomas Aivelo: Endless Parasites

“Parasites are the force of evolution with which you are not playing.”
– Tuomas Aivelo

The story of people and parasites is a story of coexistence. We have always shared our body with other organisms. As a species, we have adapted not only to our parasites, but also to harmless and beneficial bacteria.

Changes in our environment, whether social or environmental, have always affected how humans and their parasites coexist. Advances in medicine have freed us from some of the nuisances, but significant global change may reverse this progress.

Will climate change increase or decrease the annoying parasites around us? Will infectious diseases become more aggressive and antibiotics weaker?

Endless Parasites takes the reader on a journey into the human body and biodiversity, looking at the world from the perspective of viruses, bacteria and intestinal worms – a different kind of reality.

Tuomas Aivelo is a Finnish evolutionary biologist and ecologist who has travelled the world in search of parasites. He also is a popular blogger who likes to engage in citizen science. *Endless Parasites* was shortlisted for the Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize 2018 and it received honorary mentions for the Lauri Jäntti Prize and the Finnish Science Book of the Year.

“Every page of this book, written about a surprising, and even unexpected topic, oozes with the author’s enthusiasm and love for his topic. [...] After reading this book, you observe the world and its bustling life with new eyes.”
– From the Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize nomination

ORIGINAL TITLE: *LOPUTTOMAT LOISET*, Like Publishing 2018, 340 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

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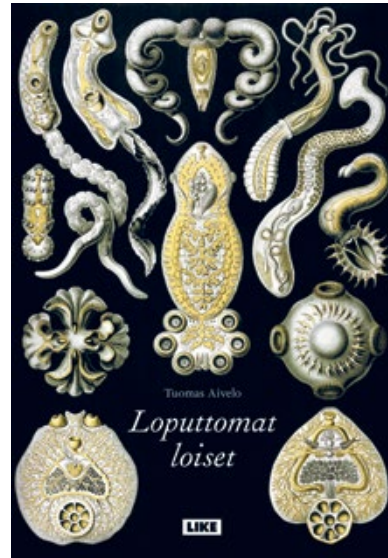


Photo: Kontext Agency



Maria Katajavuori: The Matter of Death and Life

The Theory of Everything meets Paradise Lost.

“What do human bodies, carboniferous forests, Canadian lynx societies and economic systems have in common? A tendency to self-destruct.”

What are the ultimate causes of the self-destructive behaviour of individuals, species and societies? The author’s conclusion is astonishing: the principles that drive the self-destructiveness of these systems are the same – evolution and the tragedy of the commons.

The fact that the biosphere is full of examples of successful avoidance of overconsumption and senescence led to an idea: can we apply these success stories to our own species?

Linking cell biology, ecology, natural and cultural sciences through fascinating examples originating in science and real life, *The Matter of Death and Life* seeks answers to the mysteries of both. It suggests a completely new way to tackle environmental and evolutionary problems.

Maria Katajavuori is an ecologist currently studying ecosystems across the taiga and tundra.

“Katajavuori weaves numerous exhilarating and stunning connections between humans, animals and plants... The huge amount of information that *The Matter of Death and Life* includes is wrapped up into a compelling popular science book, spiced with dark humour.”

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KUOLEMAN JA ELÄMÄN KYSYMYKSET*, Atena Kustannus 2018, 465 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

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Rita G Karlsson, rita@kontextagency.com



Photo: Kontext Agency



Seppo Turunen: The Human Age: How We and Nature Are Coping with the Anthropocene

Climate change is a fact. However, mankind has already done a lot to reverse it.

Climate change, declining biodiversity, degradation of agricultural soil, shortage of fresh water and invasive pest species all result from human actions. *The Human Age* examines these and other threats, as well as our current promising efforts to reverse them.

Data from previous climate changes suggest that nature may adapt to such changes more readily than in the most pessimistic scenarios. For instance, increasing forest cover outside the tropics, introducing eco-friendly water-saving agricultural techniques and new genetic methods of plant breeding encourage positive development.

Professor **Seppo Turunen** has been a lecturer in zoo-physiology at the University of Helsinki, and is a previous director of Helsinki Zoo and the former president of the Biological Society of Finland (Vanamo). He has written several books and articles on the relationship between humans and nature, and was shortlisted for the Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize in 2007.

“Turunen tells about the relationship between human beings and nature in a positive way. This relationship is not a complete tragedy after all.”

– *Kauppa-lehti* magazine

ORIGINAL TITLE: *LUONTO IHMISEN AIKAKAUDELLA*, Into Publishing 2019, 316 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Into Publishing, www.intokustannus.fi
Ulla Asantila, ulla.asantila@intokustannus.fi

Photo: Into Publishing



Veli-Matti Värri: Education in the Age of Ecological Crisis

Contemporary education regards over-consumption as a normal way of living. A citizen whose main intention is to become ever more productive is regarded as a model for daily education. How can we as educators deconstruct this vicious circle?

Our basic concept of the relationship between humans and nature must be re-thought in order to save life on Earth. We also need to re-think educational paradigms and aims to ensure worthwhile living conditions for future generations. What kind of people are we educating, for what kind of world? What beliefs and moral commitments do we have?

Veli-Matti Värri studies the theoretical background of education, which is dominated by excessive hedonistic desire and over-consumption as guiding forces. This philosophical book has been written for educators, teachers, and educational researchers. As a cultural critical analysis, it is also an ethical statement of the author's worldview.

Veli-Matti Värri is a philosopher and professor of education at Tampere University.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KASVATUS EKOKRIISIN AIKAKAUDELLA*, Vastapaino 2018, 186 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Vastapaino, www.vastapaino.fi
Kimmo Jylhä, kimmo.jylhamo@vastapaino.fi

Photo: Vastapaino



Raisa Cacciatore & Eija Korteniemi-Poikela: Love, Joy & Courage: Steps Toward Sexual Maturity

How to talk to children sensitively about love and sexuality?

Is it okay for my kids to have a crush or fall in love? What is normal development? Curiosity, playfulness, and sensitivity are all parts of sexual development. Expressing emotions and appreciating your body and your experiences are the foundations for good health and self-esteem. Respect in relationships, trust, love, and enjoyment are skills that can be supported from early on.

This book provides easy ways to guide children on their path towards well-being, intimacy and happiness. It features a comprehensive step-by-step model for children's development based on years of experience and research in Finland. All chapters include concrete exercises.

Raisa Cacciatore, MD, is a child psychiatrist, adolescent health specialist and non-fiction author specialising in sex education and aggression management. Her health education books have been used in Finnish schools.

Erja Korteniemi-Poikela is a midwife, healthcare professional and non-fiction author. She has published several books on sex education and self-esteem.

“Positive humour helps in handling this difficult subject. [The authors] nevertheless make no compromises on facts; everything holds true. One hopes adults would read this fun sex-ed guide as well, because it helps in building a positive sexual self-image.”

– Finlandia Non-fiction Prize jury 2005 on *Hei beibi mä oon tulta* by the same authors

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Rakkaus, ilo, rohkeus: Seksuaalisuuden portaat* (Minerva 2019, 200 pp.)

Foreign rights contact:

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info@ahlbackagency.com



Photo: Laura Cacciatore



Photo: Pekka Mykkänen

Marika Toivola: Flipped Assessment

New release on the significance of assessment in a student-centred learning culture.

Flipped Assessment presents formative assessment as the most important factor in a student-centred learning culture. The book is built on practical experience and strong theoretical foundations. The author's account of how she developed her own assessment practices offers guidance for readers.

For individuals and the learning community as a whole, it is important that assessment does not support any particular view of inherent superiority. We should forget the prevailing opinion that assessment must be fair and objective. Instead, teachers should strive for ethical assessment that helps the students believe in their own ability to learn. The book also describes how assessment is used to support students to reach their own individual goals. Optimal assessment supports the learning of the whole community.

Marika Toivola, MA, is a pioneering teacher and researcher in flipped learning and assessment in Finland. She is working on her PhD in educational science.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KÄÄNTEINEN ARVIOINTI*, Edita Publishing 2019, 119 pp.

Selected backlist:

With Pekka Peura & Markus Humaloja: *Flipped Learning in Finland (Flipped Learning — Käänteinen oppiminen*, Edita Publishing 2017)

Foreign rights contact:

Edita Publishing, www.editapublishing.fi
 Suvi Palletvuori, foreignrights@edita.fi



Photo: Johanna Kaisiöki

Jenni Janakka: The School of Badassery

Be the driver, not the passenger in life!

How do you respond when somebody interrupts you in a meeting? When you are offered a lower salary than you expected? Or when you are being criticized?

The School of Badassery starts off by asking: How can women take control of their skills, career and life? How can we be the driver rather than passenger in life? How can we be assertive, without putting anyone down?

The School of Badassery is a fresh take on the formation of self-image. It teaches you to recognize your skill set and trust yourself. We are more than the stereotypical niches we squeeze ourselves and others into.

Jenni Janakka is a writer, columnist and a speech artist. She started her career as an actress, which taught her about stereotyping and the different roles we play in life. Her interest in science got her into scriptwriting for the superpopular Finnish TV show *Hyvät ja huonot uutiset* (*Good News and Bad News*).

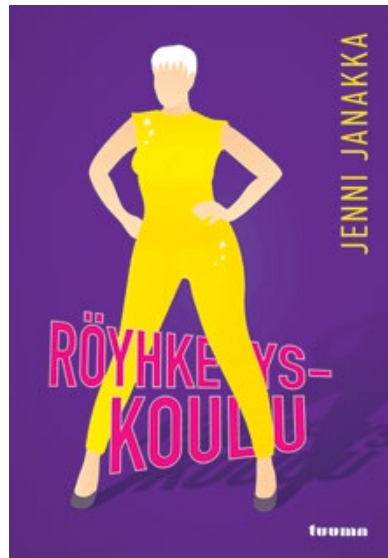


Photo: Heidi Strengell

ORIGINAL TITLE: *RÖYHKEYSKOULU*, Tuuma-kustannus 2019, 271 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Tuuma-kustannus, www.tuumakustannus.fi
Henna Santalahti, foreignrights@tuumakustannus.fi



Tommi Kinnunen: The Glass River

Tommi Kinnunen's bestseller delves into the lives and fortunes of a community of glass factory workers picking up the pieces after the war.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PINTTI*, WSOY 2018, 291 pp.

Awards::

The Best Book of 2014 Award (The Grand Finnish Journalism Prize) 2015
Young Aleksis Prize 2015

Selected backlogt:

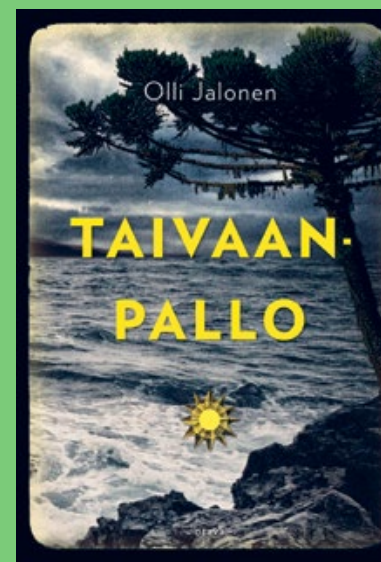
The Light Behind the Eyes (Lopotti, WSOY 2016)
Where Four Roads Meet (Neljäntienristeys, WSOY 2014)

Rights sold:

Norway (Pax Forlag)

Foreign rights contact:

Bonnier Rights, www.bonnierrights.fi
Eleonoora Kirk, eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.se



Olli Jalonen: The Celestial Sphere

The Finlandia-winning novel about an astronomer's apprentice in the 1680's St.Helena, the book that made critics claim: "Finnish literature changes to world literature in the hands of Olli Jalonen".

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TAIVAANPALLO*, Otava Publishing Company 2018, 461 pp.

Awards:

Finlandia Prize 2018, 1990

Selected backlogt:

Men and People (Miehiä ja ihmisiä, Otava Publishing Company 2014)
14 Knots to Greenwich (14 solmua Greewichiin, Otava Publishing Company 2008)

Sold rights:

German (Mare Verlag)

Foreign rights contact:

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Katja Kettu: Rose is Gone

A dazzling love story of dashed hopes and finding your roots – shortlisted for the Finlandia Prize 2018.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *ROSE ON POISSA*, WSOY 2018, 272 pp.

Awards:

WSOY Literary Foundation Award 2013
Runeberg Prize 2012
Kalevi Jäntti Prize 2011

Selected backlist:

Hawk Moth (Yöperhonen, WSOY 2015)
The Midwife (Kättilö, WSOY 2011)
The Sorrow Collector (Surujenkerääjä, WSOY 2005)

Rights sold:

Estonian (Koolibri), Hungarian (Gondolat)

Foreign rights contact:

Bonnier Rights, www.bonnierrights.fi
Eleonoora Kirk, eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.se



Pajtim Statovci: Crossing

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

“Crossing will devour you; this is some fierce, dazzling, and heartbreaking shit.”

– author NoViolet Bulawayo

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TIRANAN SYDÄN*, Otava Publishing Company 2016, 271 pp.

Awards:

Helsinki Writer of the Year Award 2018
Toisinkoinen Literature Prize (Best Second Novel) 2016
Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize (Best Debut) 2014

Selected backlist:

My Cat Yugoslavia (*Kissani Jugoslavia*, Otava Publishing Company 2014)

Rights sold:

Croatian (VBZ), English (Pantheon Books/US, Pushkin Press/UK), French (Buchet Chastel), German (btb), Italian (Sellerio), Norwegian (Gyldendal), Swedish (Norstedts), World Spanish (Alianza)

Foreign rights contact:

The Wylie Agency, www.wylieagency.com
Sarah Chalfant, schalfant@wylieagency.com



Tapio Tamminen: Himmler and his Finnish Buddha

A most peculiar friendship.

“Like Schindler's list and Klaus Mann's Mefisto, the story is about co-operation with evil, the unimaginable phase of history, and the interface between good and evil.”

– *Sinimarjan matkassa* blog

ORIGINAL TITLE: *HIMMLER JA HÄNEN SUOMALAINEN BUDDHANSA*, Atena Kustannus 2018, 320 pp.

Awards:

Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize 2015

Selected backlist:

The Darker Side of the People's Home (*Kansankodin pimeämpi puoli*, Atena Kustannus 2015)

Rights sold:

Czech (Albatros Media), Estonian (Varrak)

Foreign rights contact:

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Rita G Karlsson, rita@kontextagency.com



Mia Kankimäki: The Women I Think About at Night

What can a 40-something, childless woman do with her life? Hop on a plane and follow the footsteps on historical female explorers, writers and artists!

ORIGINAL TITLE: *NAISET JOITA AJATTELEN ÖISIN*, Otava Publishing Company 2018, 448 pp.

Awards:

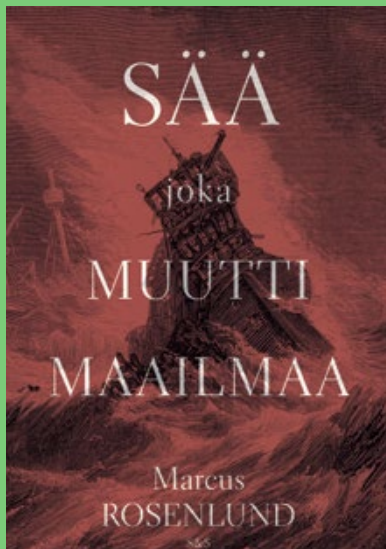
Recognition Award, Kalevi Jäntti Foundation 2019
Helmet Award 2015

Rights sold:

English/North American (Simon & Schuster), Czech (Motto/Albatros Media), Dutch (Uitgeverij Orlando), German (btb Verlag/Random House), Russian (Eksmo Publishing)

Foreign rights contact:

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info@ahlbackagency.com



Marcus Rosenlund: Weather that Changed the World

Why is Greenland "green"? What happened when the Thames froze over? This narrative non-fiction book reveals how weather has shaped our history into what it is today.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VÄDER SOM FÖRÄNDRADE VÄRLDEN*, Schildts & Söderströms 2018, 272 pp.

Rights sold:

Estonian (Ühinenud Ajakirjad), Hungarian (Cser Kiadó), World Spanish (Elefanta)

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi
Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



Mari Manninen: The Chinese Story – 33 Myths About China That Need to Be Busted

Mythbusters with a twist! Misconceptions about China put right by the awarded author-journalist Mari Manninen.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KIINALAINEN JUTTU – 33 KIINA-MYYTTIÄ, JOTKA VAATIVAT KUMOAMISTA*, Atena Kustannus 2018, 235 pp.

Rights sold:

Russian (Individuum)

Foreign rights contact:

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Rita G Karlsson, rita@kontextagency.com



Timo Honkela: Peace Machine

Is world peace possible – or even inevitable? This “brainy book” explains how artificial intelligence and machine learning can be used to build a more peaceful and prosperous future for all of humanity.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *RAUHANKONE*, Gaudeamus 2017

Right sold:

Estonian (Koolibri), French (Éditions Saint-Simon)

Foreign rights contact:

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info@ahlbackagency.com



Mari Manninen: Secrets and Siblings: The Vanished Lives of China's One Child Policy

An award-winning book with real stories about the impact of China's one-child policy.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *YHDEN LAPSEN KANSA – KIINAN SALAVAUVAUT, PIKKUKEISARIT JA HYLÄTYT TYTTÄRET*, Atena Kustannus 2016, 205 pp.

Awards:

Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize 2016

Rights sold:

World English (Zed Books)

Foreign rights contact:

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Rita G Karlsson, rita@kontextagency.com



Henrik Meinander: Mannerheim – From Russian Spy to Finnish Statesman

How the scion of an aristocratic family became a Russian imperial officer, spy – and leader of the Finnish republic?

ORIGINAL TITLE: *GUSTAF MANNERHEIM – ARISTOKRAT I VADMAL*, Schildts & Söderströms 2017, 317 pp.

Selected backlist:

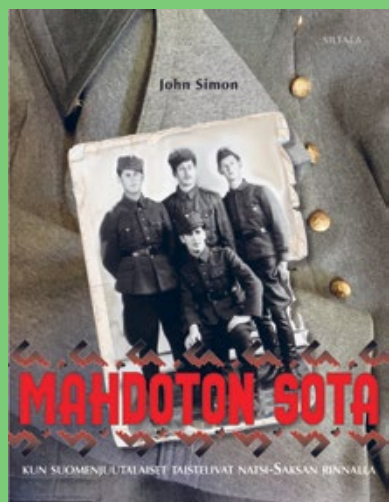
The History of Finland (Finlands historia, Schildts & Söderströms 2014)
Finland 1944 (Schildts & Söderströms 2009)

Rights sold:

Estonian (Argo), Sweden (Lind & co), Russian (Ves Mir)

Foreign rights contact:

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Urpu Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



John Simon: Strangers in a Stranger Land

The untold true story of the Jews who fought alongside the Nazis in World War 2.

"John Simon, an American Jew, ponders the open contrariness of history and the paradox of exceptional circumstances when the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. Finnish Jewish soldiers fought in the Continuation War alongside the Nazi German army [...]."
– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

ORIGINAL TITLE: *MAHDOTON SOTA*, Siltala Publishing 2017, 550 pp.

Sold rights:

World English (Hamilton Books/Rowman and Littlefield)

Foreign rights contact:

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Sakari Siltala, foreignrights@siltalapublishing.fi

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