

2020

# A Selection of Finnish Children's & YA Literature



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.

2020

# A Selection of Finnish Children's & YA Literature

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## Tove Appelgren & Salla Savolainen: Vesta-Linnéa and Friends

Every time Mindy calls and wants to play, Vesta-Linnéa is transformed – she becomes more energetic and inventive. That is why Vesta-Linnéa has to wait by the phone. Why can't her mum understand? What if Mindy calls while Vesta-Linnéa is out playing with Alex? The fifth Vesta-Linnéa book explores the themes of friendship, popularity and mobile phone obsession.

Tove Appelgren's popular Vesta-Linnéa books have been nominated for a number of awards including Finlandia Prize and translated into thirteen languages. They centre around the headstrong, creative and curious Vesta-Linnéa and her problems falling asleep, her dream of having her own dog, and her feelings of sadness and loneliness. The books address universal emotions and issues that many readers will recognise and connect with. The TV rights have been optioned for a Swedish-language live-action series set to go into production in 2021.

**Tove Appelgren** is an author, director and playwright. Her first book, *Vesta-Linnéa and the Monster Mum*, was published in 2001. Appelgren's story of a headstrong young girl with a stressed-out mum gained international interest.

**Salla Savolainen** is a celebrated and productive illustrator who excels in children's books and is known for her varied styles and successful collaboration with many authors. She won the Kukko Prize for educational and non-fiction illustration in 2013 and has been nominated for the Finlandia Prize for children's literature three times.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VESTA-LINNÉA OCH VÄNNERNA*, Förlaget 2019, 32 pp.

### Selected backlog:

*Vesta-Linnéa and the Monster Mum* (*Vesta-Linnéa och monstermamman*, Förlaget 2001); *Go to Sleep, Vesta-Linnéa* (*Sov nu, Vesta-Linnéa*, Förlaget 2003); *Vesta-Linnéa's Dog* (*Vesta-Linnéa och gosnosen*, Förlaget 2005); *Vesta-Linnéa's Darkest Thought* (*Vesta-Linnéa's svartaste tanke*, Schildts & Söderströms 2008); *Vesta-Linnéa in the Moonlight* (*Vesta-Linnéa i månkenet*, Schildts & Söderströms 2013)

### Rights sold:

Russia (Albus Corbus)

### Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, [www.rightsandbrands.com](http://www.rightsandbrands.com)  
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, [info@rightsandbrands.com](mailto:info@rightsandbrands.com)



Photo: Pette Rissanen



Photo: Jari Riihimäki



## Magdalena Hai & Teemu Juhani: The Little Shop of Nightmares 3: Sticky the Horrible Snowman

Same awesome monsters. New blizzardy trouble. Series rights sold to eleven territories!

The Little Shop of Nightmares is getting buried in snow! Nina and Paddy try to uncover the cause of the snowstorm, but it's easier said than done. A well-meaning but horribly clumsy snowman keeps getting in their way, blocking their every effort to stop the snowing inside.

**Magdalena Hai** is a lover of cross-genre fiction and all things strange, and her fiction often combines elements of sci-fi, fantasy and horror. Hai also teaches writing and is an active member and editor in the publishing co-operative Osuuskumma.

**Teemu Juhani** is a Finnish illustrator, comics artist and graphic designer. Born and raised in a land of snow and the Northern Lights, he grew up reading comics, holding a pencil in his hand and dreaming of superhuman powers.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PAINAJAISPUOTI: HIRVEÄ JUMIMIES*, WSOY 2020, 60 pp.

### Selected backlog:

*The Grumblebelly Cat* (*Kurnivamahainen kissa*, Karisto 2017); *The Little Shop of Nightmares: The Terrible Tickling Powder* (*Painajaispuoti: Kamala kutituspulveri*, WSOY 2018); *The Little Shop of Nightmares: The Lost Teeth* (*Painajaispuoti: Hampaat hukassa*, WSOY 2019)

### Rights sold

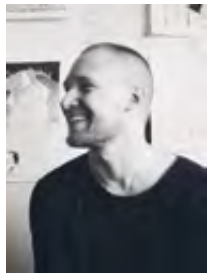
Czech Republic: Euromedia (Book 1-2), Denmark: Vild Maskine (Book 1-2), Estonia: Postimees Publishing (Book 1-2), Germany: Egmont Schneiderbuch (Book 1-2), Hungary: Cerkabella (Book 1-2), Latvia: Latvijas Mediji (Book 1), Netherlands: De Vier Windstreken (Book 1-2), Norway: Fontini (Book 1-2), Romania: Editura Univers (Book 1-3), Russia: Teenbooks Publishing / Kompas Guide (Book 1-2), Sweden: Hegas (Book 1-2), Turkey: Epsilon (Book 1-2)

### Foreign rights contact:

Elina Ahlback Literary Agency  
[ahlbackagency.com](http://ahlbackagency.com), [info@ahlbackagency.com](mailto:info@ahlbackagency.com)



Photo: Outi Puhakka



## Malin Klingenberg & Sanna Mander: The Life of Fart

Farts are something your parents have never let you talk about. Now there is an entire book dedicated to the life of a fart!

Though every child is taught that it is impolite to bring up the gassy part of life in public, it is something nearly every creature on earth experiences daily. Whether you're a mountaineer trying to conquer Mount Everest, an athlete in the Olympics or just a simple cook – farts are impossible to escape.

*The Life of Fart* is a cheerful and honest book of verse that takes young readers on a fun adventure to explore a phenomenon that many adults find tricky to talk about without embarrassment. With its vivid language and hilarious illustrations, the book is a delight for children who are constantly pondering the curiosities of daily life that no one is willing to explain.

*The Life of Fart* has been nominated for the 2020 Runeberg Junior Prize.

**Malin Klingenberg** (b. 1979) is an acclaimed children's author who has previously been awarded the prestigious Runeberg Junior Prize.

**Sanna Mander** (b. 1980) is a Finlandia Prize-winning illustrator known for witty children's books.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *FISENS LIV*, Schildts & Söderströms 2019, 32 pp.

### Rights sold:

Estonia (Tänapäev)  
Sweden (Rabén & Sjögren)  
UK (Pushkin Press)

### Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, info@helsinkiagency.fi



Photo: Julianna Harkki



Photo: Julianna Harkki



## Tomi Kontio & Elina Warsta: A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat

Cat has begun to feel an inner longing to settle down. But what happens when a real cat comes along who likes to walk alone?

*A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* is a story about a dog called Cat, a man called Weasel and a cat of an adventurous disposition.

One day Weasel and Cat are sitting on a cliff beside the sea. Ships come and go in the harbour, and as she watches them Cat feels an inner longing to settle down – to find her own safe harbour. But when a real cat disembarks from one of the ships, things take a new turn. At first, the relationship between Cat and the cat is beset with distrust, but in the end the two become friends. They even find a home – and a way for each of them to live there.

*A Dog Called Cat Meets a Cat* continues the story of Cat and Weasel that began in *A Dog Called Cat* (2015). The book was selected by the public as its favourite among the Finlandia Prize nominees for children's literature in 2019.

**Tomi Kontio** (b. 1966) is an established poet and author. He has received numerous awards for his novels and poems.

**Elina Warsta** (b. 1979) is an illustrator and graphic designer. Several of the book covers she has designed have won prizes in the Most Beautiful Book of the Year competition.

**“The warmly narrated story, unpolished and showing all the flavours of life, offers a deep reflection on the importance of finding your own path.”**

– Finlandia Prize jury

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KOIRA NIMELTÄÄN KISSA TAPAA KISSAN*, Teos 2019, 32 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*A Dog Called Cat* (*Koira nimeltään Kissa*, Teos 2015)

### Rights sold:

Estonia (Päike ja pilv)

### Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, info@helsinkiagency.fi



Photo: Katja Losonen



Photo: Stefan Bremer





## Johanna Lumme: The Jungle Crew – into the City!

The pressing themes of climate change and migration are depicted gently in this debut picture book. A *Madagascar*-style adventure leads to a discussion about new beginnings and adapting to new surroundings. Zebra, Giraffe and Mama Hen have a good life in the jungle. But when natural disasters force them to leave their home, they must make a dangerous escape across the seas. They end up in a big city with high buildings instead of tall trees. Working together, they build a new house that will feel like home to all of them.

A sequel following the story of *the Jungle Crew* will be published in October 2020.

**Johanna Lumme** (b. 1990) is an artist and illustrator recognised for her illustrations in Finnish schoolbooks. *The Jungle Crew* is her debut picture book. Johanna has also done illustrations for a new middle-grade series by Siri Kolu.

**“The book promotes diversity in a graceful way: the jungle animals, white-tailed deer, seals and chickens all live in harmony in the city. Lumme is at her best in spreads packed with detail in the style of Richard Scarry... [She] spices up her mixed media technique with cartoon speech bubbles. Carefully considered bold text and large fonts support the beginning reader.”**

– Kuvittaja magazine

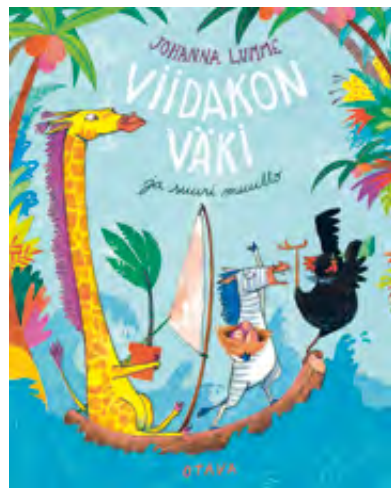


Photo: Jonne Räsänen



ORIGINAL TITLE: VIIDAKON VÄKI JA SUURI MUUTTO, Otava 2019, 32 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, [www.rightsandbrands.com](http://www.rightsandbrands.com)  
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, [info@rightsandbrands.com](mailto:info@rightsandbrands.com)

## Meria Palin: The Magic Knitting Needles

*The Magic Knitting Needles* is an enchanting and comforting wordless picture book about caring for one another and finding a safe place in this world.

It's cold. It's cold outside, but it's also cold inside because the heater isn't working. A mother and her daughter are freezing cold inside their home. They need woollen socks and a long woollen scarf – a scarf long enough to cover everything: the house, the trees and the frozen world around them. Meria Palin's debut book is a timeless story about how caring for others warms our hearts, how we all want to be safe and have a place to call home, and how spring always comes after winter.

**Meria Palin** is an illustrator who believes that children should have access to many different kinds of books. She graduated from Cambridge School of Art in 2019 and is currently based in Tampere, Finland. Palin has contributed nature illustrations to children's publications and has held drawing workshops for children at the Finnish Museum of Natural History in Helsinki. *The Magic Knitting Needles* is Palin's literary debut.



Photo: Minna Kurjenluoma



ORIGINAL TITLE: TAIKAPUIKOT, Etana Editions 2020, 32 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Koja Agency, [www.kojaagency.com](http://www.kojaagency.com)  
Carin Bacho, [Carin.Bacho@kojaagency.com](mailto:Carin.Bacho@kojaagency.com)

## Kaija Pannula & Netta Lehtola: Fox Tales

Shortlisted for the Finlandia Prize for Children's and YA Literature, this book includes three utterly charming tales with a tail.

*Fox Tales* collects three beautifully illustrated stories in which Fox learns to paint, goes skiing and makes a new friend.

Fox has decided to paint a picture. But deciding what to paint proves to be rather tricky: badger cubs never stay still, painting pictures of food makes you feel hungry, and painting stars is difficult because it's hard to see in the dark! One day Fox meets another fox who teaches him that the world is full of fabulous and important subjects. You just have to be brave enough to pick up a brush.

Dealing with themes of grief, friendship and loneliness, *Fox Tales* is an utterly gorgeous book that will capture the imaginations of 3+ readers while teaching them important life lessons. Its three stories tackle the fragility of life while bringing forward its richness and joy.

**Kaija Pannula** (b. 1970) is the Finlandia Prize-nominated author of *Fox Tales*, which was illustrated by **Netta Lehtola** (b. 1996). At just 23 years old, Lehtola was the youngest Finlandia Prize nominee of 2019. Using her background in graphic design, Lehtola's gorgeous illustrations show the fox tending to his roses, skiing on his toes and painting pictures.



Photo: Kaija Pannula



Photo: Mikko Kaaremaa



ORIGINAL TITLE: *KETTUJUTTUJA*, WSOY 2019, 64 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Bonnier Rights, [www.bonnierrights.fi](http://www.bonnierrights.fi)  
Terhi Isomäki-Blaxall, [terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi](mailto:terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi)

## Sanna Pelliccioni, Maami Snellman & Kiti Szalai: I Remember You with Love

When Alma and Diego celebrate the Day of the Dead, they feel both heavy with sadness and buoyant with joy.

When Alma's beloved grandmother dies, the world becomes a quiet place. Her mother sits at the window, looking out. Her father's days weigh on his shoulders as he goes to the store and cooks a meal.

One day Alma's classmate Diego approaches her at recess and tells her that he misses someone too: his *abuelo*, his grandpa, who died in the spring. Soon Diego and his family invite Alma and her parents to a big party where they remember the dead.

Celebrating the Mexican Día de Muertos, Alma and her family experience a new way to grieve and to remember loved ones who have died. The story is joyful in its sadness and is sensitively illustrated by Sanna Pelliccioni.

"As they sit around the table they tell all the best stories about Alma's grandma and Diego's abuelo. Memories flutter through the room, climb up the wallpaper, peep out from between the curtains."

**Sanna Pelliccioni** (b. 1976) is an award-winning illustrator and children's author.

**Maami Snellman** (b. 1970) is a literary arts teacher and children's author.

**Kiti Szalai** (b. 1971) is a Finnish language and literature teacher.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *MUISTAN SINUA RAKKAUDELLO*, Teos 2020, 40 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*We Had to Leave* (*Meidän piti lähteä*, Kustantamo S&S 2019)

### Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, [info@helsinkiagency.fi](mailto:info@helsinkiagency.fi)



Photo: Loviisa Kangas





## Nina Pirhonen: Leo the Lion Says No & Leo the Lion Makes Friends

*Leo the Lion Says No* is a heartfelt and true-to-life picture book about coming to terms with new emotions, learning new skills and pushing one's boundaries.

"It's so hard to know all the things you're already able to do." Temper tantrums are not always the way to get what you want!

*Leo the Lion Says No* was nominated for the Rudolf Koivu Prize for children's book illustration in 2019.

*Leo the Lion Makes Friends* is a sequel to continue the series in which Leo the Lion navigates his way through growing pains and new experiences. How does one make friends and play with them nicely? Authentic experiences shine through in this new series on emotional development.

**Nina Pirhonen** (b. 1975) is a multitalented picture book author and fashion and graphic designer. She knows her target audience and offers bright colours and bold designs, whether her subject is vehicles, animals or a tantrum-prone toddler. Her new character, Leo the Lion, has a very unique touch.

**"In her text and images, Pirhonen works with these timeless feelings of wilfulness on a child's own terms, but nonetheless firmly, with the gentle guidance of a calm adult. The illustrations' range of colours is as if from a Marimekko pattern, and the carefully considered use of crayon brings the right amount of unpolished roughness to the surface of the images."**

– Kuvittaja magazine

ORIGINAL TITLE: *LEO LEIJONA SANOO EI*, Otava 2019, 32 pp. & *LEO LEIJONA TYKKÄÄ KAVEREISTA*, Otava 2020, 32 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, [www.rightsandbrands.com](http://www.rightsandbrands.com)  
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, [info@rightsandbrands.com](mailto:info@rightsandbrands.com)



Photo: Nina Pirhonen



## Pauliina Vanhatalo & Anna Emilia Laitinen: Kerttu the Pincher

Kerttu K has two hands and ten fingers, and at the tip of each finger is a long fingernail.

Kerttu thinks her family is terribly boring: her mother, her father and her little brother, too. No one listens to her, understands or pays her enough attention. But Kerttu has her methods: when she isn't getting attention, she pinches! When the rest of the family has had enough, Kerttu loses her lovely long nails. She is very cross, but luckily Kerttu's mum understands why she is upset.

Pauliina Vanhatalo's first children's book bears the message that we all have our own inner worlds that need space and that make us unique. Anna Emilia Laitinen's watercolour illustrations are tender and charming.

**Pauliina Vanhatalo** (b. 1979) is a writer who has published novels, autobiographical works and popular fiction under the pseudonym Veera Vaahtera.

**Anna Emilia Laitinen** (b. 1983) has illustrated numerous books, many of them for French and Italian publishing houses. She is a winner of the Finnish Illustration Association's Kaiku Prize.

**"There's something I should have told you," Mum says, wiping the tears from Kerttu's cheek. It sounds like a secret. And maybe it is, a bit, for Mum tells her that there is another world inside everyone. It is a world of imagination, thinking, planning, dreaming and play. It's where memories are kept. That's where you look for answers to questions. And that's where dreams come from."**

ORIGINAL TITLE: *NIPISTÄJÄ-KERTTU*, Kustantamo S&S 2019, 46 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, [info@helsinkiagency.fi](mailto:info@helsinkiagency.fi)



Photo: Sara Ahde





## Anne Vasko: A Flying Kiss

A Flying Kiss is a charming and whimsical story about an encounter between an airplane and a mobile library, in which the journey is more important than the destination.

What happens when an airplane falls in love with a mobile library? When love weighs 100,000 pounds, it fills all the parking lots and makes the other cars nervous. It's enough to make you want your mother!

Award-winning author and illustrator (BolognaRagazzi Digital Award) **Anne Vasko** plays with contrasts and old type sets to create gender-neutral everyday heroes who are a refreshing addition to the cast of characters in books about feelings.

**"The bold visual language and minimal text of Anne Vasko's A Flying Kiss is a rare treat among Finnish picture books. ... A Flying Kiss can be thought of as a defense of unexpected couples or on a more general level as a manifesto on expressing feelings freely. With its discussion of big feelings and the right to express them, the book is suitable for teaching emotional skills to young children."**

– Päivi Heikkilä-Haltonen, children's book critic



Photo: Milka Alanen



ORIGINAL TITLE: *LENTOPUSU*, Etana Editions 2019, 40 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Koja Agency, [www.kojaagency.com](http://www.kojaagency.com)  
Carin Bacho, [Carin.Bacho@kojaagency.com](mailto:Carin.Bacho@kojaagency.com)

## Juha Virta & Marika Maijala: Filippa & Company: The Christmas Twist

A charming title about friendship and one of the most important things at Christmas: time spent together.

Filippa and her friends André the Donkey and Snoozy the Cat are preparing for Christmas. They hang decorations, drink juice and fill in a crossword puzzle. Filippa leaves to buy chocolate and meets a marmot who says he is Santa Claus. Snoozy the Cat needs more biscuits and notices a new shop next door. The bunny who works there tells Snoozy that he's Santa Claus. André the Donkey goes to buy more juice and ends up helping a neighbour with her shopping – and she says she is Santa Claus, too! What does all this mean for Christmas? And will they be able to finish their crossword puzzle?

**Marika Maijala** is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning illustrator whose works have been published in UK, Japan, Germany, China, France, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, South Korea, Taiwan, India and Finland.

**Juha Virta** is a history and social studies teacher from Helsinki. He spends his free time playing music and writing children's books. Virta's playful language turns everyday events into adventures. Virta and Maijala have worked together since 2000. There are four books in the Filippa & Company series, including their latest charming title, *The Christmas Twist*.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *FILIPPA & KUMPPANIT: JOULU JUKSAA*, Etana Editions 2019, 40 pp.

### Selected backlog:

*Filippa & Company: The Missing Cat* (Filippa & Kumppanit: *Kissa katoaa*, Etana Editions 2017); *Filippa & Company: The Piano's Great Escape* (Filippa & Kumppanit: *Piano karkaa*, Etana Editions 2015); *Filippa & Company: Whimsical Numbers* (Filippa & Kumppanit: *Numerosoppa*, Etana Editions 2018)

### Foreign rights contact:

Koja Agency, [www.kojaagency.com](http://www.kojaagency.com)  
Carin Bacho, [Carin.Bacho@kojaagency.com](mailto:Carin.Bacho@kojaagency.com)



Photo: Minna Kurjenluoma



## Elina Hirvonen & Nadja Sarell: Julia & P.A.L.

*Toy Story* meets *The Avengers*! The first installation in a new, exciting middle-grade series where plush animals have super powers.

More than anything else, Julia wishes somebody would like her. She can explain the structure of the universe, but has no idea how to talk to her classmates. What she doesn't know is that she already has her very own best friend – her toy bunny Buck, who is a top-secret agent with the Plush Animal League (P.A.L.). The P.A.L. headquarters is located in outer space, where the agents monitor their children and are ready to act immediately when someone needs help – like Julia!

Buck turns Julia's bed into a magic flying spacecraft and takes her on a ride through space and time. Buck wants to show Julia that the things that make her feel out of place among her classmates now are her unique strengths that will make her happy and loved in the future. But the P.A.L. has an enemy: the Soldiers of Vombat, an army of forgotten toys. They plot to overtake the Plush Animal League and to gain control of children's actions and wishes. Julia is the only one who can stop their evil plan!

**Elina Hirvonen** is a Helsinki-based writer and filmmaker. As a child, she told herself a bedtime story about flying into space with her plush dog Sisko. Today, Hirvonen takes care of cuddly animals with her children Anna and Iivar. In addition to writing, she loves reading, dancing and swimming.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *JULIA JA PEHMOELÄINTEN MAAILMANNEUVOSTO*, Tammi 2020, 250 pp.

### Selected backlog:

*Princess Rascal* (*Prinsessa Rämöpään talvitaika*, Tammi 2017)  
*Princess Rascal and Potty Words*  
(*Prinsessa Rämöpää ja vessasanat*, Tammi 2019)

### Foreign rights contact:

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Photo: Jarkko Virtanen



Photo: Linda Manner



## Siri Kolu: Wild House Trilogy The Amazing Villa van Böök (2019), The Roof Riders (2020), The Battle of the Black House (2021)

A house so full of secrets that it runs away! A contemporary adventure trilogy with speedy chase scenes, secretive characters, Cluedo-like problem solving – and a house that grows legs.

Tomtom's family feel like the luckiest bunch alive when they get to move into the caretaker's flat in an ornate old villa. The villa is owned by the mysterious millionaire van Böök and has been split into flats occupied by a carefully selected, diverse cast of tenants. Tomtom writes to tell his best friend Amir about the move, only to discover the next day that not only he has moved, but the house has, too. Why does the house have legs? How should the house be ridden? Who is chasing them? And what adventures lie ahead?

Bravery, imagination, tolerance and co-operation are the keys to figuring out the secrets of the house, which is itself a living creature.

This highly anticipated new trilogy by Siri Kolu of *The Robbersons* fame is illustrated in black and white by Johanna Lumme. The pair have previously worked together on schoolbooks.

**Siri Kolu** (b. 1972) is a writer, dramatist, director and theatre instructor, among many other duties in the Finnish cultural field. She is a Finlandia Prize winner, and her works have been translated into twenty-one languages. She has been awarded the Laivakello Prize by the Finnish Institute for Children's Literature, and in the Netherlands, she won the Silver Slate Pencil. *Me and the Robbersons* received an honourable mention in British Book Trust's In Other Words competition in 2018. Siri Kolu is a front-line author with a strong voice and a broad range, from humorous middle-grade to edgy YA, cross-over fiction and beyond.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VILLITALO*, Otava 2019, 148 pp.

### Rights sold:

Germany (Fischer Verlag), Turkey (Ayrinti Yayinlari)

### Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, [www.rightsandbrands.com](http://www.rightsandbrands.com)  
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, [info@rightsandbrands.com](mailto:info@rightsandbrands.com)



Photo: Mirva Kakko





## Marisha Rasi-Koskinen: The Dark Side of the Sun

A Finlandia Prize-winning dystopian YA masterpiece

Sixteen-year-old Emilia lives with her grandfather in a former mining town. Just like the mine, the family's summer room has been locked for as long as she can remember. Breaking into the room reveals a mystery so compelling that Emilia cannot let it be. Her life changes irreversibly when she falls down a hole and discovers the mine's terrible secrets.

*The Dark Side of the Sun* is a mysterious thriller about a young woman's journey into her own past. Marisha Rasi-Koskinen plays with the rules of time travel and dystopia, using her background in psychology to tell a touching and thought-provoking coming of age story that will keep readers on the edge of their seats until the very last page.

**Marisha Rasi-Koskinen** (b. 1972) is a Finlandia Prize-winning author who is known for using her master's degree in psychology to combine rich narrative structures with relatable characters. In 2013 her book *Lies* was awarded the Tiilikivi Prize, and rights to *The Map of Going Astray* sold to both Galicia and Spain.



ORIGINAL TITLE: *AURINGON PIMEÄ PUOLI*, WSOY 2019, 369 pp.

### Awards:

Finlandia Prize for Children's and YA Literature 2019

### Selected backlog:

*The Map of Going Astray* (Eksymisen ja unohtamisen kirja, WSOY 2017)

*A Pink Sea* (Vaaleanpunainen meri, WSOY 2014)

*Lies* (Valheet, WSOY 2013)

### Foreign rights contact:

Bonnier Rights, [www.bonnierrights.fi](http://www.bonnierrights.fi)

Terhi Isomäki-Blaxall, [terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi](mailto:terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi)

Photo: Laura Malmivaara



## Salla Simukka: Detained

Nobody should be punished for crimes they didn't commit. But what about crimes they were going to commit in the future? A new novel by the author of the Snow White Trilogy, which sold to fifty-two territories!

A startling story of a world where teenagers are captured and imprisoned for the crimes they are expected to commit in the future.

"We were captured in the middle of the day, politely, calmly. They didn't intend for anyone to be killed. They didn't intend it to become like this. This is our story. These are our voices."

**Salla Simukka** is Finland's most internationally translated contemporary author. Her Snow White Trilogy has been sold to fifty-two territories, and film & TV rights have been sold to Hollywood. She writes books for young adults and children and travels the world talking about her work. Her accolades include the Topelius Prize (2013) and the Finlandia Prize (2013).

**"Fans of Nesbø and Larsson won't be disappointed!"**

– *Publishers Weekly*, starred review for Simukka's Snow White Trilogy

ORIGINAL TITLE: *LUKITUT*, Tammi Publishing 2020, 200 pp.

### Selected backlog:

*Sisterland* (Sisarla, Tammi 2016)

*As Red as Blood* (Punainen kuin veri, Tammi 2013)

*As White as Snow* (Valkea kuin lumi, Tammi 2013)

*As Black as Ebony* (Musta kuin eebenpuu, Tammi 2014)

### Foreign rights contact:

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Photo: Hanna Poropudas



## Jenni Erkintalo & Reka Kiraly: My Friends the Trees

*My Friends the Trees* is a timeless book that provides an exceptionally memorable experience. The artful illustrations are playful and approachable, while the book's activities encourage children to learn about nature. The book's glossary provides more in-depth information and breaks down complicated concepts.

Reading the book inspires joyous wonder about the different species around us; it also highlights the importance of trees and forests.

The award-winning author-illustrator team **Jenni Erkintalo** and **Reka Kiraly** encourage children to go out and explore nature with this new non-fiction title. They co-authored the book and created its unique illustrations by combining both their visual styles. The illustrations are richly detailed as well as informative.

**“This colourfully illustrated book includes no photographs, but its drawings are even more effective for the target reader. They not only bring a dash of playfulness and imagination to the subject, but also provide more information in a compact form. ... *My Friends the Trees* is an excellent book for deepening children's – and even adults' – relationship to nature.”**

– *Kotipuutarha* magazine

ORIGINAL TITLE: YSTÄVÄNI PUU – LASTEN OMA TIETOKIRJA,  
Etana Editions 2019, 56 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Koja Agency, [www.kojaagency.com](http://www.kojaagency.com)  
Carin Bacho, [Carin.Bacho@kojaagency.com](mailto:Carin.Bacho@kojaagency.com)

Photo: Minna Kurjenluoma



## Laura Ertimo & Satu Kontinen: Enchanted Planet Earth

Ten stories told through ten maps – but the maps are unlike anything you've ever seen before! By the bestselling author of *Weird Weather*!

There is a planet where the plants are planning world domination. Where the beasts are good, and the trees live for thousands of years, collecting memories in their bark. This enchanted place is Earth.

*Enchanted Planet Earth* is a children's non-fiction book that also engages adults. Through magical maps it teaches kids about nature, the oceans and the history of the continents. The stories also provide a context for adults and kids to discuss environmental issues and how people's actions affect nature. Through narratives, the book explains the real processes that affect our planet and make the Earth habitable.

**Laura Ertimo** is a geographer and author of several non-fiction titles who specialises in the interaction between phenomena, people and nature.

**Satu Kontinen** is a graphic designer, illustrator and author whose works include colourful and educational picture books, colouring books and book cover art. She loves painting by hand.

ORIGINAL TITLE: LUMOTUN MAAN KARTASTO,  
Kustantamo S&S 2020, 64 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*Weird Weather* (Ihme ilmat, Into 2019)  
*What is Night* (Yö. Kirja unesta ja pimeän salaisuuksista, Myllylahti 2016)  
*What is Water* (Vesi. Kirja maailman tärkeimmistä aineista, Myllylahti 2017)

### Foreign rights contact:

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Photo: Anna Autio





## Vuokko Hurme and Anni Nykänen: Candy Book

The best way to enjoy candy must be with this funny, beautiful and thoroughly sweet non-fiction book that includes fascinating bits of knowledge, quizzes, recipes and games! *Candy Book* has all the info you'll ever need about different kinds of sweets around the world and why humans enjoy eating them so very much.

Delightful and delicious, *Candy Book* is all about sweets, their history and the famous people who've loved to eat them. It also explains why it's difficult to stop eating candy once you start, and gives helpful tools for parents of children who have a sweet tooth. What is candy made of, actually, and why does it taste SO good? *Candy Book* gives young readers all the answers they've always wanted, and it's the perfect non-fiction book for young children and early readers. Did you know the Mayans used cocoa beans as their currency? Or that there's a chewing gum-free country in the world? *Candy Book* is a book kids will enjoy, as it's all about a topic they're extremely passionate about.

**Vuokko Hurme** has written several children's non-fiction books, as well as novels, picture books and activity books for kids. She's also an art educator with a master's degree in behavioural science. Vuokko lives in Helsinki, Finland.

**Anni Nykänen** is an experienced illustrator and artist who is best known for her long-running humorous comic about her grandmother. She has illustrated several picture books and non-fiction books. Anni lives in Turku, Finland.



Photo: Riikka Sipilä



ORIGINAL TITLE: *KARKKIKIRJA*, WSOY 2019, 38 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Ferly Agency, [www.ferlyco.com](http://www.ferlyco.com)  
Tuomas Sorjamaa, [tuomas@ferlyco.com](mailto:tuomas@ferlyco.com)

## Merja Kalm & Mira Mallius: A Good Guy! A Handbook of Superpowers

What are good guys made of? Bravery, honesty, kindness, generosity and many other attributes that can be thought of as superpowers in everyday life. These qualities help us navigate at home, at school, in hobbies and in new situations, and they can be practiced to help make us more confident and supportive.

Ten stories featuring delightful animal characters present a series of different ethical questions. The creative layout, facts, tips and activities inspire children to put their superpower skills into practice. Perfect for primary schoolers and up, this guide book based on positivity and mindfulness helps us to recognise important empathic skills and to bring out the good guy in all of us.

**Merja Kalm** is a teacher, an expert on pedagogy and an author of textbooks and non-fiction. With her writing, she wants to make the world a better place. *A Good Guy!* is her first non-fiction book for children.

**Mira Mallius** is an illustrator and designer with a background in fashion. She has illustrated several children's books and is known for her charming animal-print stationary.



ORIGINAL TITLE: *HYVÄ TYYPPI*,  
Lasten Keskus 2020, 80 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, [www.rightsandbrands.com](http://www.rightsandbrands.com)  
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, [info@rightsandbrands.com](mailto:info@rightsandbrands.com)

Photo: Pasi Leino



Photo: Jonne Sippola



## Jukka Laajarinne & Mari Luoma: The Impossibly Big Tree: A Story about Infinity

A hilarious adventure with a mathematical twist!

“Climb up the Tree! Explore and map all of its branches!”

When the Queen sends the members of the Mind Hive off on an expedition, among them is Itty-Bitty, the littlest one of all. Together with Erm the Inchworm, she will encounter wonders that send her head spinning. Some of them are even a little scary. Why is the Surlyburl grieving over a shrinking family? Who are the Cambicolliers, who seem to march into their nest in an endless procession? How many forks are there in the Tree's trunk, and why does its thickness seem to change every time it is measured? And what of the forbidden Border at the crown of the Tree? It is said that those who cross it never return.

*The Impossibly Big Tree* weaves mathematical and philosophical ponderings on infinity into a hilarious adventure. Devised in collaboration with experts from the Science Education Centre of the University of Helsinki, the text encourages readers to think creatively and independently. Aimed at 6- to 9-year-olds, the beautifully illustrated book also offers food for thought for older readers.

**Jukka Laajarinne** is an author who has previously worked as a mathematics and philosophy teacher. His books *Madonluvut* (2003) and *Isä vaihtaa vapaalle* (*Spy Dad*, 2013) were nominated for the Finlandia Prize for children's literature.

**Mari Luoma** is an illustrator and the founder of MariLu Illustration.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *MAHDOTTOMAN SUURI PUU. TARINA ÄÄRETTÖMÄSTÄ*, Gaudeamus 2020, 48 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Gaudeamus, [www.gaudeamus.fi](http://www.gaudeamus.fi)

Leena Kaakinen, [leena.kaakinen@gaudeamus.fi](mailto:leena.kaakinen@gaudeamus.fi)

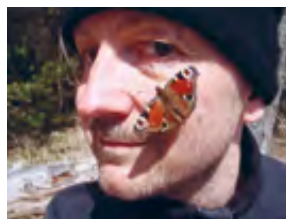


Photo: Kieran Sheehan

## Hannu Laakso: The Reynards

A captivating story of the life and growth of a young fox.

A fox family's summer is not short on funny mishaps and important life lessons!

*The Reynards* tells the exciting story of a sweet and charming fox who embarks on the adventure called life. Read about his journey from a tiny kit to adulthood and learn all about foxes and their behaviour. What do kits like to eat? What is a fox's vision like? And why is it smelly around a fox's den?

This entertaining book follows the life of a family of seven foxes in a forest not far away, depicting the joys and sorrows of life that sometimes come our way. *The Reynards* shines a light on the life of the friendly foxes and helps deepen readers' understanding and appreciation of nature.

The book's spectacular nature and wildlife photography are a treat for the whole family.

**Hannu Laakso** (b. 1963) is an established nature photographer. In addition to capturing the wilderness on film, his latest project focused on photographing the lives of urban foxes. Laakso has won over eighty international photography awards and has gained recognition and praise in international juried exhibitions in over sixty different countries.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *ME KETTUSET*, Into 2020, 48 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Into Publishing, [www.intokustannus.fi](http://www.intokustannus.fi)

Ulla Asantila, [ulla.asantila@intokustannus.fi](mailto:ulla.asantila@intokustannus.fi)

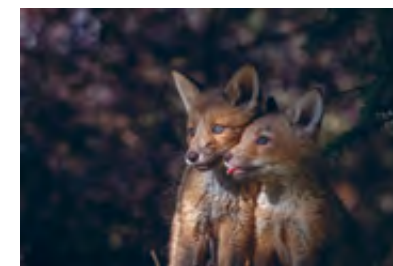


Photo: Mikko Palonkorpi



## Mira Mallius: Marina-Bear's Magnificent Family: An Expedition to the Bears of the World

A vividly illustrated book of the world's bears.

Marina-Bear feels lonesome and decides to go on a quest to visit her furry kin around the world with her friend Frank the Flamingo. On their long journey, Marina and Frank get the chance to meet some of their fellow creatures, such as the Kodiak bear, the spectacled bear, the black bear, the sloth bear, the moon bear and many more! The story unfolds with Mallius's original and colourful illustrations accompanied by short, simple and funny text.

*Marina-Bear's Magnificent Family* introduces different bear species and teaches the reader about the rough terrain of the Andes, ice-cold Alaska, even icier Greenland and the bamboo forests pandas call home. This light-hearted picture book serves as a perfect bedtime story for the little ones in the family or as a first book to get started with independent reading.

**Mira Mallius** (b. 1981) is an illustrator and designer living in Helsinki who has a soft spot for bears. *Marina-Bear's Magnificent Family* is the first picture book both written and illustrated by Mallius. You can also find Mallius' cheerful animal characters in books, postcards and calendars.

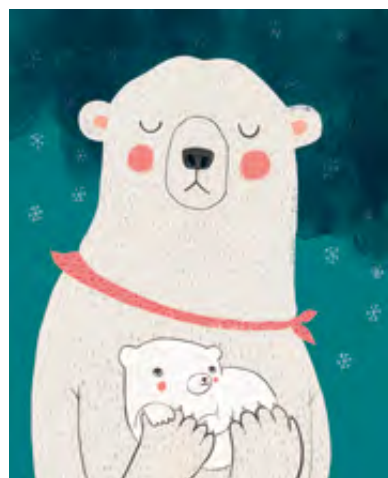


Photo: Jonne Sippola



ORIGINAL TITLE: MERI-KARHUN SUURI SUKU. RETKI MAAILMAN KARHULAJIEN PARIIN, Into 2020, 32 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Into Publishing, [www.intokustannus.fi](http://www.intokustannus.fi)  
Ulla Asantila, [ulla.asantila@intokustannus.fi](mailto:ulla.asantila@intokustannus.fi)

## Anniina Mikama & Carlos da Cruz: A Day on Planet Earth

What is life like for kids your age on the other side of the world? It's a question that has always fascinated children – now *A Day on Planet Earth* has the answer! This delightful non-fiction book shows what everyday life is like for ten kids in far-flung locations, ranging from San Francisco to Tehran and Beijing.

What's Luis doing in Peru when it's 8 a.m. in Europe? What do kids eat for school lunch in India? This book is jam-packed with fun and interesting nuggets of knowledge, all accompanied by beautiful illustrations full of lovely details. *A Day on Planet Earth* will help your children learn more about our world and what connects humans in all parts of the globe.

**Carlos da Cruz** is an award-winning French-born illustrator and graphic artist who lives in Finland. He has long worked with picture books, teaching materials and magazines. He has also co-authored a series of children's books about Finnish history.

**Anniina Mikama** is an illustrator and author at home with a variety of genres and styles. Her debut middle-grade novel *The Illusionist and the Thief* won the prestigious Topelius Prize.



Photos: Samuli Siirala

ORIGINAL TITLE: PÄIVÄ MAAPALLOLLA: KOULUSSA, Karisto 2019, 32 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Ferly Agency, [www.ferlyco.com](http://www.ferlyco.com)  
Tuomas Sorjamaa, [tuomas@ferlyco.com](mailto:tuomas@ferlyco.com)

## Antti Nikunen: *Olly & Molly Explore: A Car, Olly & Molly Explore: A Human*

Shortlisted for the Rudolf Koivu Prize, this is the number one book for future engineers!

Antti Nikunen's *Olly & Molly Explore: A Car* introduces young readers to the magical world of engineering. Like all 5-year-olds, Olly and Molly have endless appetites for knowledge and want to know exactly how everything works. Professional engineer Handy Andy is more than happy to show them how cars work and talk them through the mechanics.

*Olly & Molly Explore: A Human* is a sequel to continue the series of *Olly & Molly* and answers all the burning questions young readers have about bodies – and more! Featuring lessons and guidance from Nurse Sally, Olly and Molly take on the human body and all its amazing functions. Like, what are emotions and how are they connected to the brain? How does the heart actually work? And how have humans evolved over time?

Combining bright, colourful pictures with simple text and a gripping plot, *Olly & Molly Explore* books are the perfect antidote to any 5+ child with a curious mind. They'll teach your kids something new and allow you to have a good old laugh as you read together.

*Olly & Molly Explore: A Car* was nominated for the prestigious Rudolf Koivu Prize in 2019.

**Antti Nikunen** (b. 1982) is a Helsinki-based graphic designer and the art director of a magazine. He has worked in the magazine industry for over a decade, and his much-loved *Olly & Molly* series was born out of his desire to bring humour into books for toddlers.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *URHO JA ONNA TUTKIVAT: AUTOKIRJA*, WSOY 2019, 40 pp. & *URHO JA ONNI TUTKIVAT: IHMINEN*, WSOY 2020, 40 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*Olly & Molly's Sticking Plaster Book* (*Urho ja Onnan laastarikirja*, WSOY 2018), *Molly is a Policewoman* (*Onna on poliisi*, WSOY 2017)  
*Olly is a Caretaker* (*Urho on huoltomies*, WSOY 2017)

### Rights sold:

China (United Sky)

### Foreign rights contact:

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Terhi Isomäki-Blaxall, [terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi](mailto:terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi)



Photo: Timo Villanen



### Middle Grade #novel



## Lena Frölander-Ulf: *Nelson Tiger Paw*

A mysterious middle-grade adventure about a boy and a tiger in an unpredictable city, inspired by Astrid Lindgren's *'Mio, My Son'* and works by Jakob Wegelius.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *NELSON TIGERTASS*, Förlaget 2019, 240 pp.

### Awards:

Arvid Lydecken Prize 2020

### Selected backlist:

*Dad, Me and the Sea* (*Pappa, Jag och Havet*, Förlaget 2017)  
*Me, Fidel and the Forest* (*Jag, Fidel och Skogen*, Schildts & Söderströms 2016)

### Foreign rights contact:

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Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, [info@rightsandbrands.com](mailto:info@rightsandbrands.com)

### Middle Grade #novel



## Riina & Sami Kaarla: *Pet Agents 1-3: New Pets and New Friends!, Catch That Thief!, Lost Connection*

A new series launch perfect for girls aged 7+ who love animals and are bored with pink!

### ORIGINAL TITLES:

*PET AGENTS 1: TÄÄLTÄ TULLAAN, LEMMIKIT!*, Tammi 2019, 112 pp.  
*PET AGENTS 2: VARKAAN JÄLJILLÄ*, Tammi 2019, 160 pp.  
*PET AGENTS 3: KADONNUT KENTTÄ*, Tammi 2020, 70 pp.

### Rights sold:

Czech (1-3, Grada), Estonia (1-3, Rahva Raamat),  
Poland (1-3, Media Rodzina), Russia (1-3, Eksmo),  
Slovakia (1&2, Ikar), Ukraine (1-3, Ridna mova).

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YA #novel #fantasy



## Siiri Enoranta: The Burning Dark

This dazzling Finlandia Prize-winning fantasy adventure addresses our fear of the unknown – and the difficulty of telling the difference between right and wrong.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TUHATKUOLEVAN KIROUS*, WSOY 2018, 443 pp.

### Awards:

Finlandia Prize for Children's and YA Literature, 2018

### Rights sold:

Bulgarian (EMEAS)

### Foreign rights contact:

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Children #picturebook



## Sanna Pelliccioni: Onni and the Balcony Jungle

The fourteenth book about the cheerful little boy Onni is full of the joys of gardening!

ORIGINAL TITLE: *ONNI-POIKA JA PARVEKEVIIDAKKO*, Etana Editions 2019, 32 pp.

### Awards:

IBBY Finland's Special Books for Children and Young People with Disabilities Award 2011 (Onni's Recycling Book)

### Foreign rights contact:

Koja Agency, [www.kojaagency.com](http://www.kojaagency.com)

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Children #picturebook



## Marika Maijala: Rosie's Journey

A beautifully illustrated and sentimental story about a lonely racing dog's longing for freedom.

"Marika Maijala's children's picture book debut is an art-work itself, in which the touching story meets the intriguing world of illustrations. It's pretty much perfect in material, form and layout."

– Taidekoti blog

ORIGINAL TITLE: *RUUSUN MATKA*, Etana Editions 2018, 56 pp.

### Selected backlog:

*Filippa & Company* series with Juha Vuori (Etana Editions 2016–2019)

### Rights sold:

Chinese, Simplified (Post Wave / Ginkgo Book Co.Ltd), Chinese, Complex (Pace Books), France (Editions Hélicium), Italy (Edizioni Clichy), Korea (Munhak Dongne Publishing), Spain, Worldwide Spanish (Grupo SM).

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1.2., 1.5., 1.11.

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