

SPRING 2020

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



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.

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SPRING 2020

A Selection of Finnish Titles

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Anu Kaaja: Katie-Kate

Mainstream porn, Cinderella stories and workday fantasies collide in this satirical portrait of conflicted desires.

A radiant thirty-year-old Scandinavian woman finds herself living with an older royalist couple in a London suburb. The wife, Helen, who's fanatical about her royal memorabilia, starts making the woman over into a Kate Middleton look-alike while the husband, Roger, fantasises about how she would look with Katie Price's silicone implants. The stage is set for a bizarre ménage à trois.

Anu Kaaja's anticipated third book cuts and pastes a societal collage that lurches in the footsteps of Vladimir Nabokov, Simone de Beauvoir and Henry Miller – sometimes in glass slippers, sometimes in thigh-high latex boots. Kaaja doesn't hold anything back: mainstream porn, Cinderella stories, Princess Diana's lovers and Meghan Markle's stockings are all interconnected, with a lyrical inevitability.

Katie-Kate is a brilliant, disturbing and unapologetic portrait of our time. It's unlike anything you have ever read before. Kaaja's pitch-black humour and keen observations make her one of the most significant voices of her generation.

Anu Kaaja (b. 1984) is an author and scriptwriter who studied creative writing in Helsinki and has an MA from the University of Salford. She has been nominated for and awarded several literature prizes for her previous work.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KATIE-KATE*, Teos 2020, 263 pp.

Selected backlist:

Leda (*Leda*, Teos 2017)

Metamorphoslip (*Muodonmuuttolmoitus*, Teos 2015)

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, info@helsinkiagency.fi

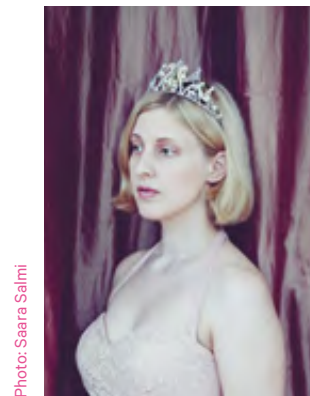
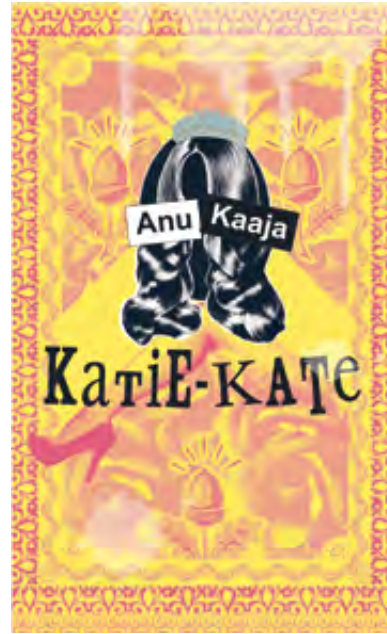


Photo: Saara Salini

Marja Kangas: The Only Way Is Up

A laugh-out-loud novel about surviving life when it gives you lemons and you don't like lemonade...

Sirkku's sailor husband, Jalo, dramatically dumps her just as she feels they've attained peak marital bliss. Shocked she didn't see it coming, Jalo's out-of-the-blue decision sends Sirkku spiralling out of control on a rollercoaster of emotions. As a professional actress, Sirkku ought to be more in touch with her emotions and know how to deal with them, but this time she's totally out of her depth, calling on her friends, therapists and even the universe for help.

What follows can only be described as a shipwreck: Sirkku sends far too many texts she might later regret, gets a brand-new hairstyle, goes to an organ concert on a whim and gets drunk on box wine while wearing her wedding dress.

A shamelessly entertaining, uplifting and delightfully ironic novel about love and divorce by a new voice with buckets of talent, *The Only Way Is Up* is Marja Kangas' debut novel about finding oneself in a crisis and learning how to get out of it. With its unbridled combination of elation, crying a river and feeling very, very sad, Marja Kangas delivers all the ingredients of a side-splitting novel, with clear comparisons to Nora Ephron's *Heartburn*, David Nicholls' *Us* and Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love*.

Marja Kangas (b. 1974) is a professional drama teacher with a master's in theatre and drama studies. She also teaches creative writing and takes great pleasure in having a good, long cry followed by a good laugh – often to herself first. Originally from the Finnish town of Kuopio, she now divides her time between Barcelona and Turku, Finland.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *MIESTÄ NÄKYVISSÄ*, WSOY 2020, 300 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi

Eleonoora Kirk, eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.fi



Photo: Jussi Vierimaa

JP Koskinen: Firewing

An expansive, emotionally rich bildungsroman and epic tale covering large parts of the twentieth century, *Firewing* follows a group of immigrants in search of a paradise and one boy whose biggest dream is to fly – no matter what it takes.

In an America ravaged by the Great Depression, a family with Finnish roots hears rumours of a workers' paradise being built in the Soviet Union. They leave everything behind and travel across the Atlantic in search of a better future. They arrive in Petrozavodsk on the shores of Lake Onega, but soon realize that life in Soviet Karelia is not a paradise but a struggle for survival. In the middle of it all is Charles, the only son, and his dreams of freedom and flying that offer the only escape from the harsh realities and circle of deception around him.

Firewing is an immigrant coming-of-age story about trying to find a way through the turmoil of the early twentieth century. It is a sublime and profound novel about a boy who only wants to fly.

JP Koskinen is a versatile author who has written historical fiction, crime and children's books. He has been shortlisted for the Finlandia Prize twice, won the Savonia Prize and had a previous work named "Book of the Year" by Suomalainen Kirjakauppa. He holds master's degrees in creative writing and mathematics.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TULISIIPPI*, Like 2019, 352 pp.

Awards:

Savonia Prize
"Book of the Year" Prize
Shortlisted for the Finlandia Prize 2019

Selected backlog:

My Friend Rasputin (Ystäväni Rasputin, WSOY 2013)

Foreign rights contact:

Ferly Agency, www.ferlyco.com
Tuomas Sorjamaa, tuomas@ferlyco.com



Photo: Toni Härkönen



Hanna-Riikka Kuisma: High-Rise

Trainspotting meets *City of Gods* in a suburban apartment building. A critical success and Finlandia Prize nominee in 2019.

When the high-rise was new it was the pride of the city, an example of modern living, a beacon of a brighter future. But today you won't find happy homes, stylish decorations or successful people in this building. It has become a residence for those who struggle: drug dealers, addicts, alcoholics, single parents, ex-cons, prostitutes and outcasts. In this concrete jungle everything is connected and lives are fragmented, memories shattered by violence and substance abuse.

With multiple narrators, short chapters and a dash of black humour, Hanna-Riikka Kuisma paints a realistic picture of a modern Scandinavian slum.

Hanna-Riikka Kuisma has written five novels and one collection of short stories. Her works often focus on the dark side of the human mind and society, and they are written in a visually strong language that combines lyricism and concise prose. Kuisma graduated as a visual artist in 2001, but has been a full-time writer since 2005. *High-Rise* is her latest novel and it was nominated for the Finlandia Prize in 2019.

"High-Rise is a most glorious novel. The themes that Kuisma writes about are not going to disappear from this world – quite the opposite."

– Etelä-Saimaa

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KERROSTALO*, Like 2019, 300 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Sami Kokko



Marianna Kurtto: Tristania

A Nordic Council Literature Prize-nominated debut novel by an acclaimed poet; a sensitive, vivid and immersive story set on a secluded island where a volcano is beginning to wake up.

Tristan da Cunha is a volcanic island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Its 264 inhabitants subsist on sheep farming and fishing in a community where everyone is connected in one way or another. One of them, Lars, has travelled to London, leaving behind his wife and son. On the black sands of Tristan, little Jon squints towards the horizon, hoping to see his father's ship returning. When Lars hears news of a volcanic eruption on Tristan, he knows he has to head back. The idyll of the island has cracked, and a hidden web of cruelty, hatred, loss and secrets is starting to unravel.

This is a story of an island that is both a prison and a paradise. It's a story of the islanders, their lives and passions. It's a story where distances are either too small or too large, but where people are still inevitably drawn to their roots.

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

Marianna Kurtto (b. 1980) has published five poetry collections, won the Kalevi Jäntti and Tiiliskivi prizes and has been nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize for the best debut of the year.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TRISTANIA*, WSOY 2017, 332 pp.

Rights sold:

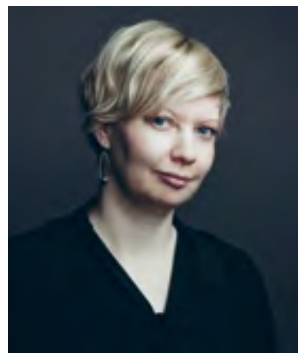
Germany (Mare Verlag),
Russia (Polyandria)

Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, www.rightsandbrands.com
Leenastiina Kakko / Friederike Ridegh, info@rightsandbrands.com



Photo: Aapo Huhta



Tiina Laitila Kälvmemark: Fear of Water

In the tradition of Maja Lunde's climate fiction comes this suspenseful, immersive Finnish novel about what lies beneath the surface.

Hester is a thirty-something woman who freedives for fun. She also struggles to manage her multiple personalities: there's Ophelia, the hydrophobic control freak, the promiscuous Hani and the domineering Hanna P. Having suppressed these personalities for years, Hester is finally coming to terms with the realisation that she's going to have to start listening to her own inner voice, especially if she wants to find out what really happened on New Year's Eve twenty years ago.

Set in a flooded coastal town in the North, Laitila Kälvmemark's elegant prose unfolds Hester's personal odyssey and quest to find out more about her past.

Everything changes when the novel switches to Ophelia's point of view, and we learn that Hester's relationship with her beloved grandmother is much more complicated and shocking than she has admitted even to herself. And what about Hester's friend Oliver?

When Hester dives into the water for the last time, will she finally be able to silence the voices in her head and rise to the surface alone?

Tiina Laitila Kälvmemark (b. 1970) is a Stockholm-based Finnish writer and a journalist for Radio Sweden. She debuted in 2013 with a story collection that was nominated for the Runeberg Prize and anthologised in English and German translations. The two novels that followed were also published by WSOY and received critical acclaim and prize nominations.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *H2O*, WSOY 2020, 263 pp.

Selected backlist:

The Seventh Spring (*Seitsemäs kevät*, WSOY 2017)
Of Stones and Silence (*Karkulahti*, WSOY 2015)
The Lost Shore (*Kadonnut ranta*, WSOY 2012)

Foreign rights contact:

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

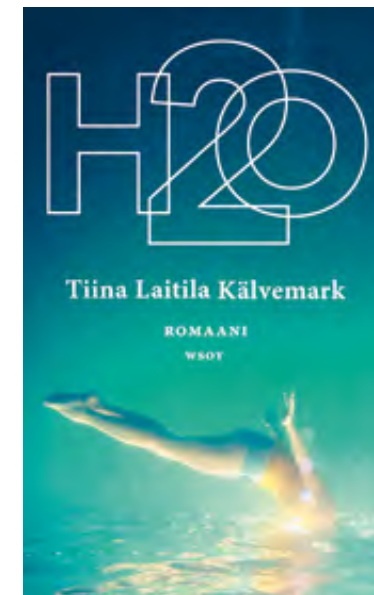


Photo: Mathias Laitila Kälvmemark



Anu Patrakka: The Stairs of Truth

A terrific psychological detective novel from the alleys of Portugal.

The Stairs of Truth, Porto. When dawn breaks, a young man is found dead in an alley in a coastal town. His identity is difficult to determine because his fingertips have been slashed. The neighbours are silent about the incident as Detective Rui Santos, Constable Rita Pereira and their team start to investigate. Are they telling the police the truth? What lies behind their secrecy?

In her psychological detective novel, Anu Patrakka depicts the Portuguese way of life in delicious detail. The young are ardent but not innocent, the adults are trying to find happiness, and not all the elders are at peace with the world. Pain and chilling surprises are hidden behind the facades and the walls. Will the killer be caught and the truth be discovered?

Anu Patrakka had a long working career in Finland before she decided to stop dreaming and start aspiring towards writing, her long-term goal. She relocated to Portugal and started pounding the keyboard. Patrakka and her husband now live on a farm near Porto.

“The book takes you on an armchair journey to Portugal’s exotic tastes and views.”

– *Seura* magazine

“This detective story builds its tension subtly. The reader cannot guess who dies in the game – if anyone does. That hooks the reader to wolf down the book quickly.”

– *Maaseudun Tulevaisuus*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TOTUUDEN PORTAAT*, Into 2020, 288 pp.

Selected backlog:

The Shore of Guilt (*Syyllisyyden ranta*, Into Publishing 2019)

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: C. Ramos



Riikka Pelo: All That Is Alive

A new novel by the Finlandia Prize-winning author asks big questions about our choices and possibilities – and the value of a person.

Aura, Ellen, Alan. The teenage girl on a perfect holiday in the sun who witnesses the cruelty of the man of her dreams. The teenager's mother who watches over her daughter in hospital when she suffers acute aphasia. The furtive asylum-seeker who lives on the benevolence of strangers. All three have been stripped of the most important things: the right to have a voice, the right to make a decision, the right to be able to live. What kind of sentences does Ellen use to reconnect with Aura, whose custody she has lost? What language does Aura use with Alan, who is facing deportation and whom she meets on her run-away journey? And how to understand words that are too bare and raw for anyone to hear?

All That Is Alive is a grand novel about the human capacity for compassion and connection in a way that transcends everyday reality. It searches for a new voice, a new rhythm and a community where there is no need to sacrifice anything that is alive.

Riikka Pelo (b. 1972) is a professor in the master's writing programme at the University of the Arts in Helsinki. She has won numerous literary awards, including the Finlandia Prize in 2013.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KAIKKI ELÄVÄ*, Teos 2019, 613 pp.

Selected backlog:

Our Earthly Life (*Jokapäiväinen elämämme*, Teos 2013)
Heaven-Bearer (*Taivaankantaja*, Teos 2006)

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, info@helsinkiagency.fi



Photo: Liisa Takala



Emmi-Liia Sjöholm: Like Me

A dazzling auto-fictional debut.

An unabashedly open and frank novel about growing into womanhood and becoming a mother. Sjöholm writes about her own life, sex, the need to please others and the anxieties of life with perfect clarity. The story develops on several levels, and the book is a brutally honest description of real life – having an abortion at the age of 14, becoming a step-mother in her twenties, love, lust, having a biological child, searching for a woman's place in the world and eventually finding yourself.

Candid yet firmly rooted to the ground, there is a lot to read between the lines. This is prose that is not so much read as felt and breathed.

Emmi-Liia Sjöholm is a freelance journalist who lives in Helsinki. This is her debut novel.

“Emmi-Liia Sjöholm’s debut sucks the reader in and does not let go until the final word has been read.”

– *Helsingin Sanomat*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PAPERILLA TOINEN*, Kosmos 2020, 187 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Ferly Agency, www.ferlyco.com
Tuomas Sorjamaa, tuomas@ferlyco.com

Photo: Meri Björn



Pajtim Statovci: **Bolla**

April 1995. Arsim is a twenty-two-year-old, recently-married student at the University of Pristina, keeping his head down to gain his degree in an institution deeply hostile to Albanians. In a café he meets a young medical student, and Serb, named Miloš. Before the day is out, everything has changed for both of them, and within a week two milestones erupt in Arsim's married life: his wife announces her first pregnancy, and he commits his first act of violence against her.

After these febrile beginnings, Arsim and Miloš's affair is derailed by the outbreak of war, which sends Arsim's fledgling family abroad and the sensitive Miloš into a traumatising military career. Years later, deported back to Pristina after a spell in prison, Arsim begins a search for his lost love. But the Miloš with whom he is finally reunited is not the man he once knew. Entwined with their story is the legend of the Bolla, a demonic serpent known as Kulshedra, which is traditionally released only once a year to devour everything in sight over the course of a single day; an unearthly tale that gives Arsim and Miloš a language through which to reflect on their desperate relationship.

Pajtim Statovci is a Finnish-Kosovan novelist. He moved from Kosovo to Finland with his family when he was two years old. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Helsinki. He won the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize in 2014 and the 2018 Helsinki Writer of the Year Award. In 2018 a theatre adaptation of *My Cat Yugoslavia* premiered at the Finnish National Theater. His second novel *Crossing* was shortlisted for the National Book Awards.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *BOLLA*, Otava 2019, 240 pp.

Awards:

Finlandia Prize 2019

Selected backlist:

My Cat Yugoslavia (*Kissani Jugoslavia*, Otava 2014)
Crossing (*Tiranan sydän*, Otava 2016)

Rights sold:

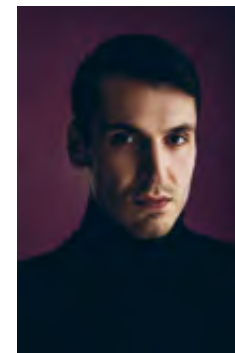
Germany (Luchterhand), Italy (Sellerio), Netherlands (De Geus), Norway (Gyldendal), Sweden (Norstedts), UK (Faber & Faber), US (Pantheon)

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Jonne Räsänen



Riikka Suominen: Monogamish

A contemporary Scandinavian *Sex in the City* that throws the conventions of monogamous relationships out of the bedroom window.

Klaara, in her late thirties, loves her husband Ilmari, but all desire in their relationship has faded long ago. Parenting a 4-year-old can be tiring, but that's not the reason behind their sexless marriage. Klaara's suggestion to have an open relationship is met with enthusiasm from Ilmari. She starts Tinder dating and hooks up with men both in her home town Helsinki and in other European cities. Suddenly, she's thinking about sex constantly, and having a lot of it. In Klaara's trusted group of friends – women in their late thirties with different relationship statuses – Klaara's choice is met variously with horror, curiosity and support. As time goes on, Klaara finds out that dating others while married is not so simple. But it can, with all its complications, be satisfying. And a way to reignite the spark between spouses, too.

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

Riikka Suominen (b. 1977) is a journalist who decided to write a work that challenges the conventions of monogamous relationships. The result is a captivating, quick and contemporary read with a bold message.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *SUHTEELLISEN VAPAATA*, Otava 2020, 381 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, www.rightsandbrands.com
Leenastiina Kakko / Friederike Ridegh, info@rightsandbrands.com

Photo: Jonne Räsänen



Pauliina Susi: Pulse

Don't trust anyone. Don't panic. A suspenseful mystery set in the darkness of Lapland. For fans of Liane Moriarty, Paula Hawkins and A. J. Finn.

New layers are added to the relationship between passionate do-gooder Leia and the hacker Timo when Leia is left alone as a hostage in a cabin in the middle of winter. Has the man gone mad or are they both in danger? The idyllic Northern Lights dance in the sky outside, but inside the cabin things are getting more dangerous. The Hitchcockian suspense deepens when the AI in the cottage suddenly starts to talk to Leia. But the biggest surprise is yet to come...

A standalone sequel to the award-winning books *Rear Window* and *Siren*.

Pauliina Susi has worked as a journalist and editor at several well-known Finnish magazines. She has a master's degree in political science and is known for her ability to incorporate current affairs into her prose. Her debut novel was nominated for the prestigious Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, and *Rear Window* was awarded Best Crime Novel of the Year.

"A skilfully woven, claustrophobic thriller."

– *Helsingin Sanomat* on *Siren*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PULSSI*, Tammi 2020, 300 pp.

Selected backlist:

Rear Window (*Takaikkuna*, Tammi 2015)
Siren (*Seireeni*, Tammi 2017)

Foreign rights contact:

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

Photo: Otto Virtanen



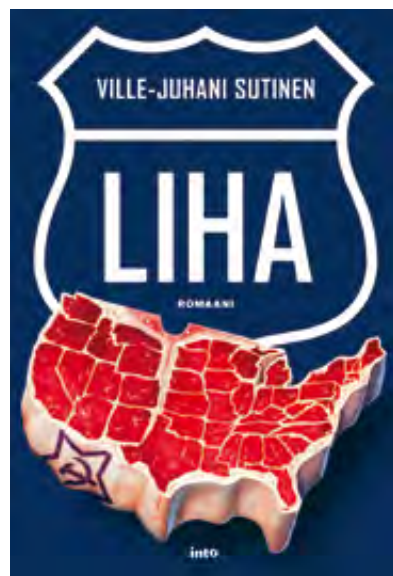
Ville-Juhani Sutinen: Meat

Sausage for the Soviet Union! Based on real events, this rich and tumultuous road trip story charms and surprises the reader.

The year is 1936. Anastas Mikoyan, Stalin's confidant and the People's Commissar of Food Industry, is sent to the United States to learn how to build a new, happy and productive Soviet Union. Mikoyan becomes acquainted with the machinery of American life as he travels in a red Model B Ford between the commodity paradises of New York and San Francisco, visiting factories and slaughterhouses along the way. Meanwhile, back home, Stalin starts his purge – lives are reaped and heads roll.

In 1978, Mikoyan sits alone in his villa and waits for death. A tumour gnaws at his insides and guilt at his mind. What was the price for being almost the only one who survived Stalin? Ville-Juhani Sutinen's rich and eventful novel is a cornucopia of documentary details and literary references. The novel is a description of past worlds that are somehow horrifyingly familiar.

Ville-Juhani Sutinen (b. 1980) is an author and translator. He has written poetry and non-fiction books as well as novels. His recent work *The Road of Bones* (co-authored with Ville Ropponen) was nominated for the Finlandia Prize for Non-Fiction Literature.



ORIGINAL TITLE: *LIHA*, Into 2020, 432 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

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

Photo: Klaus Welp



Tuomas Vimma: Left Bank & Codename Taiga

A delicious Parisian flair develops into a fever-pitch, tightly wound action thriller where the most lethal weapon turns out to be a female soldier from the Finnish reserves.

A nail bomb explodes at an outdoor café in central Paris. Blood-spattered croissants are trampled by the fleeing crowd, and France is put under martial law.

Left Bank pits French special forces against a Finnish female lieutenant, mixes in an old fugitive Corsican separatist and adds loads of local spice and humour. The result is an action thriller unlike any you have read before – a well-aimed grenade toss of a book.

Codename Taiga is the stand-alone sequel to *Left Bank*, where the women are strong, the bouts are hard-fought and reading enjoyment is assured.

Can a Finnish woman warrior's tenacity hold out when a superpower's highly tuned machinery of violence is trying to hunt her down?

Tuomas Vimma (b. 1979) emerged at the turn of the millennium as a popular interpreter of urban life. His adventurous background research – including hiring a burglar to break into Brussels's central prison – has paid off, erupting onto the page in an action thriller that defies comparison.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VASEN RANTA*, Gummerus 2017, 304 pp. & *KOODINIMI TAIGA*, Gummerus 2020, 332 pp.

Selected backlist:

Left Bank (*Vasen ranta*, Gummerus 2017)

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, info@helsinkiagency.fi

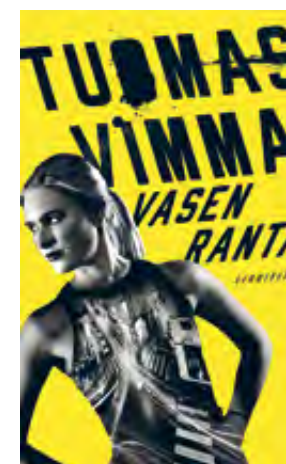


Photo: Marek Sabogal



Tiitu Takalo: Memento Mori

An autobiographical graphic novel about life, art, the search for happiness and surviving a cerebral haemorrhage at the young age of 38.

In *Memento Mori*, Tiitu Takalo, one of the greatest graphic novelists from Finland, describes her sudden and unexpected cerebral haemorrhage and the long process of recovery. It is a dramatic story about a life turned upside down overnight – a ruptured cerebral aneurysm, the days spent in an intensive care unit and the long road to recovery, which leads the artist to reflect on her current and past life.

Far more than a story of survival, *Memento Mori* is a philosophical and psychological journey told with exceptional honesty and compassion. It is a sublime graphic novel from a master of the medium and ultimately a celebration of life.

Tiitu Takalo is a winner of the Sarjakuva-Finlandia Prize for comics. She has also received the prestigious Puupäähatu award in recognition of her work in comics, and her previous works have been published in several languages.



Photo: Emilia Anundi



ORIGINAL TITLE: *MEMENTO MORI*, WSOY 2020, 228 pp.

Selected backlist:

Me, Mikko, and Annikki (*Minä, Mikko ja Annikki*, Suuri Kurpitsa 2014)

Foreign rights contact:

Ferly Agency, www.ferlyco.com
Tuomas Sorjamaa, tuomas@ferlyco.com

Jessikka Aro: Putin's Trolls

True stories from the front lines of the Russian information war

An exciting journalistic report on modern information warfare practices.

Russia is waging war against civilians online. Every critical voice is an enemy. No resources are spared and the law is no obstacle when it comes to silencing critics. This book details the defamation operations, plotted and approved by the Kremlin, that have been carried out in recent years in Finland and other Western countries. The focus of the book is the international, sometimes criminal, smear campaigns directed at private individuals. Well-documented true stories show that Putin's Russia does not shy away from even the darkest means of eliminating its opponents, through cyber-espionage, social media trolls, fake news, cyberattacks, death threats and hate campaigns waged by PR professionals.

"Valuable insight into Russian troll operations worldwide."

– *Helsingin Sanomat*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PUTININ TROLLIT*, Johnny Kniga 2019, 453 pp.

Rights sold:

Estonia (Menu Meedia/Stratkom),
Lithuania (Briedis)
Poland (Wydawnictwo Sine Qua Non)

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Laura Pohjavirta



Teemu Keskisarja: The Angel of Death

The big untold story of little people and their fortunes and misfortunes in the turbulence of a major conflict.

A general, a priest, an insurgent chieftain, an executioner and a rank-and-file soldier experience total war when the northern superpower Sweden defends its supremacy, unleashing a major conflict that would last for over two decades. The war will toss them about in hunger marches, campaigns of torture, plague-ridden sieges, mountain blizzards and fierce battles from Finland, Sweden and the Baltics all the way to Russia and Norway.

The Angel of Death tells the stories of people who lived during the Great Northern War: ordinary folk, middle-ranking individuals and major figures. From everyday details – how to get hold of alcohol, military desertion and the lack of boots – the narrative moves on to the big questions, like how did people cope in those days and make it through without losing their minds?

Keskisarja's narrative non-fiction is thoroughly researched, bold, compelling and written in an eminently readable style.

Teemu Keskisarja (b. 1971) is one of the most widely read Finnish historians, often compared to Antony Beevor and Peter Englund. He has been praised for his thorough archival research, his exploration of previously untapped sources and, especially, his storytelling skills.



Photo: Hanna Weselius



ORIGINAL TITLE: *MURHANENKELI*, Siltala 2019, 278 pp.

Selected backlist:

The Rough Road to Raate (Raaka tie Raatteeseen, Siltala 2012)

Rights sold:

Sweden (Lind & Co.)

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, info@helsinkiagency.fi

Perttu Pölönen: Future Skills

Skills for future success!

Will machines, robots and artificial intelligence outperform us in the future? It raises the question: what kinds of skills will we need, what will become valuable? Courage, compassion and curiosity, to name a few, according to Perttu Pölönen, a 25-year-old genius, composer, inventor, entrepreneur and inspirational speaker.

Future Skills brings together the skills that will help you succeed in an unprecedented and uncertain future. It is a book for those who want to look into the near future from different perspectives, challenge their own thinking and discover new ideas. The more technological we become, the more human we will have to become as well. The future needs a human revolution.

Pölönen's positive outlook and personal stories make the book lively, engaging and credible. He is a bright young mind who writes in an insightful and thought-provoking way about the challenges and possibilities of the future. When nothing is certain, everything is possible.

Perttu Pölönen is an inventor, author and composer. He has won the EU's biggest science competition for youth and studied exponential technologies at Singularity University, based at NASA Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley. *MIT Technology Review* has named him one of its 35 Innovators Under 35 in Europe. In the Finnish media, Perttu has been called a gentle highbrow and a fearless inventor.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TULEVAISUUDEN LUKUJÄRJESTYS*, Otava 2020, 192 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

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www.ahlbackagency.com, info@ahlbackagency.com



Ville Ropponen & Ville-Juhani Sutinen: **The Road of Bones**

An impressive Finlandia Prize-nominated travel book from present-day Russia exploring the brutality of the forced labour camps of the Gulag system.

What was the Gulag? Who were the people who were sent to the camps, and what was their life like? *The Road of Bones* describes the experiences of those who were victims of the fierce political power and violence of the Soviet prison camps.

Russia experts Ville Ropponen and Ville-Juhani Sutinen travelled thousands of kilometres from Karelia to Siberia and Kolyma in the Far East in search of monuments, cemeteries and the ruins of the prison camps that once covered vast areas of the Soviet Union. They talked to people who had come into contact with the Gulag, each with their own story to tell, and have backed up their work with source materials. During their road trip, the grim past kept pushing into the present, resulting in a multilayered, engaging and popular read.

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

Ville Ropponen (b. 1977) is an author, journalist and translator.

Ville-Juhani Sutinen (b. 1980) has written novels, poetry and non-fiction. He also works as a translator and photographer.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *LUIDEN TIE*, Like 2019, 399 pp.

Rights sold:
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Photo: Toni Härkönen



Aapo Roselius & Oula Silvennoinen: **Wild East**

In north-eastern Europe in 1919, David came up against Goliath. By internationally acclaimed historians – nominated for the Finlandia Prize in 2019!

The First World War did not end in November 1918. With the collapse of the Russian Empire and the Bolshevik revolution, warfare in Eastern Europe continued for years. Revolutionary and counter-revolutionary forces and the national armies of new nations struggled over the remnants of the destroyed empire. The gamble that is war was irresistible to the Finns who aimed to achieve the greatest dream of Finnish nationalism: Greater Finland.

Wild East is a story of the year 1919 and the events known as the Kindred Nation Wars that were an attempt to extend Finland's borders far to the east. It is the story of Finland and the Finns who took part in a violent, sad and almost tragicomic adventure when for a moment, anything seemed possible.

Aapo Roselius is a researcher and non-fiction author who has extensively studied the Finnish Civil War and the history of the 1920s and 1930s.

Oula Silvennoinen, PhD, is a historian and author of narrative non-fiction who specialises in the upheavals of the modern era in the Nordic and Baltic spheres.

"The researcher duo makes a convincing, sometimes shocking, impression on the reader. The connection to the general turmoil of the era deepens the book's perspective, and the brazenness and absurdity of war is portrayed well in the dense prose."
– *Helsingin Sanomat*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VILLI ITÄ*, Tammi 2019, 366 pp.

Rights sold:
Estonia (Rahva Raamat), Sweden (Lind & Co.)

Foreign rights contact:
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Photos: Pertti Nisonen



Jaakko Tahkokallio: Dark Times? Ten Myths about the Middle Ages

Hooded executioners beheading people, witches being burned and the air rife with superstition. Such was life in the Middle Ages – or was it?

The idea of the Middle Ages as a particularly dark time in human history stubbornly persists within the narrative of the rise of modern Western civilisation. The Middle Ages are viewed as a gloomy and grim period between the glory of classical antiquity and the Renaissance and are frequently assigned the role of villain in the story of our society's progress.

In *Dark Times? Ten Myths About the Middle Ages*, medieval expert Jaakko Tahkokallio corrects ten common misconceptions about the Middle Ages. By breaking down one myth at a time, he paints a more accurate picture of the era, showing there was more to people than violence, the Church did not obstruct scientific progress and sword-fighting looked very different than in the movies.

Intended for a wide audience but grounded in scholarly research, this work deals with the European medieval period and includes examples from England, France, Germany and Sweden, among others. The text is enlivened by a fictional story that continues from one chapter to the next and illustrates just how familiar and recognisable myths about the Middle Ages have become via art and entertainment.

Jaakko Tahkokallio, PhD, oversees the medieval materials and ancient map collections at the National Library of Finland. He has worked as a history researcher at the University of Helsinki and King's College London.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PIMEÄ AIKA. KYMMENEN MYTTIÄ KESKIAJASTA*, Gaudeamus 2019, 299 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Gaudeamus, www.gaudeamus.fi

Leena Kaakinen, leena.kaakinen@gaudeamus.fi



Photo: Marko Oja



Anna Tommola: Our Nightly Lives

Why we dream and why it's important.

At night we see and experience things that aren't real, yet we still believe in them. Dreams consist of delusions, hallucinations and, to some extent, memory loss. But where do these things come from?

Our Nightly Life explores the world of dreams through an absorbing combination of the latest scientific research and individual experiences. Readers are taken on a journey from the psychology of dreams to the reasons behind false awakenings and will learn how to defeat recurring nightmares and practice controlling their dreams.

Is there anything good about nightmares? What happens in the brain when we dream? Why shouldn't we look for a universal symbolism in dreams? Is there an anatomy of dreams? Why do we even dream in the first place?

Our Nightly Life shows us that dreams are, in fact, an engaging extension of our daily reality, one that helps us understand how our mind works even when we are awake.

Anna Tommola (b. 1975) is a freelance journalist and author. In her work she focuses on health and science, and she likes to be entertained by dreams.

"A very well written and comprehensive book on the mystery of dreaming."

– *Apu* magazine

ORIGINAL TITLE: *YÖLLINEN ELÄMÄMME – MIKSI NÄEMME UNIA?*, Atena Kustannus 2020, 320 pp.

Selected backlist:

Reassure and Encourage (Rauhoita ja rohkaise, Nemo 2017, with Sanna Häkkinen)

The Seventh Script (Seitsemäs käsiala, WSOY 2011)

Foreign rights contact:

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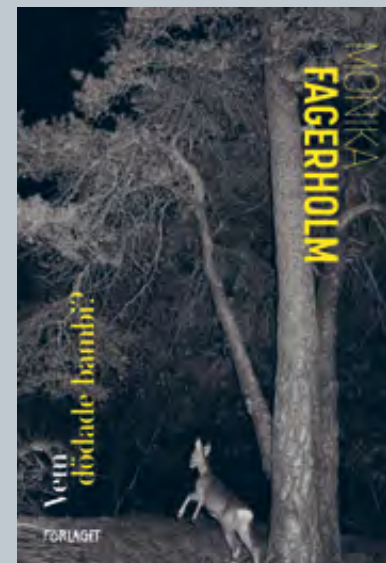


Photo: Riikka Kantinkoski



Remember these

REMEMBER THESE



Monika Fagerholm: Who killed Bambi?

Who Killed Bambi? is a literary novel about female friendship and rivalry, boys at each other's mercy and families breaking apart. About careless living and the death of innocence.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VEM DÖDADE BAMBI?*, Förlaget 2019, 280 pp.

Selected backlist:

Lola Upside Down (Lola uppochner, Söderströms 2012)

Rights sold:

Denmark (Turbine), France (Gallimard), Italy (Ponte alle Grazie), Norway (Oktober), Portugal (Casa das Letras), Romania (Polirom), Sweden (Albert Bonniers)

Foreign rights contact:

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Federico Ambrosini, federico@salomonssonagency.com



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.

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

Selected backlist:

Oneiron (Oneiron, Teos 2015)

Scissors (Sakset, Teos 2007)

Rights sold:

Estonia (Rahva Raamat), France (Gallimard), Germany (dtv), Hungary (Scolar Kiadó), Italy (Elliot Edizioni), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Norway (Oktober), Romania (Humanitas), Sweden (Norstedts), US (Liveright/W.W. Norton)

Foreign rights contact:

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info@ahlbackagency.com



Cristina Sandu: The Union of Synchronised Swimmers

This second book from a young Finlandia-nominated literary star is a jewel of a short novel – a magical tapestry of intertwined fates.

“Beautiful as a prayer.”

– *Keskisuomalainen*

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

– *Helsingin Sanomat*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VESILEIKIT*, Otava 2019, 128 pp.

Selected backlog:

The Whale Called Goliath (*Valas nimeltä Goliat*, Otava 2017)

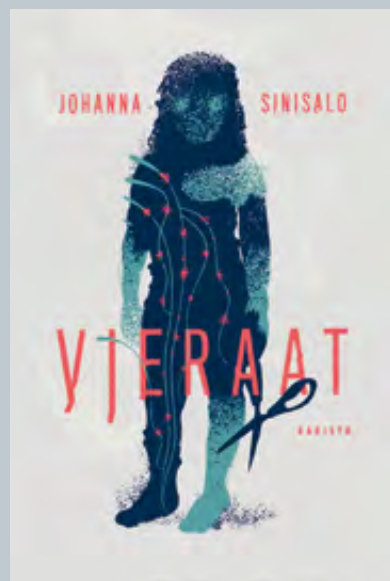
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Johanna Sinisalo: Strangers Inside

A modern horror story by the “Queen of Finnish Weird”. Based on the latest science with a sci-fi twist!

Winner of a national horror novel competition in 2019!

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VIERAAT*, Karisto 2020, 350 pp.

Selected backlog:

Troll (*Ennen päivänlaskua ei voi*, Tammi 2000)

The Core of the Sun (*Auringon ydin*, Teos 2013)

Foreign rights contact:

Elina Ahlback Literary Agency, www.ahlbackagency.com

info@ahlbackagency.com



Aura Koivisto: A Man and a Sea Cow: The Fateful Exploration of Naturalist Georg Steller

A stunning story of a fateful exploration in the North.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *MIES JA MERILEHMÄ*, Into Publishing 2019, 344 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Into Publishing, www.intokustannus.fi

Ulla Asantila, ulla.asantila@intokustannus.fi



Jussi Konttinen: Siberia: A Year of Adventures and Misadventures in the Land of Permafrost

Indiana Jones meets National Geographic! Siberia has been edited for an international audience.

“The chapters of the book wander around Siberia like a mammoth that has popped out of the past into the present.”

– Ville Ropponen, *Helsingin Sanomat*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *SIPERIA – SUOMALAISEN PERHEEN IHMEELLINEN VUOSI IKIROUDAN MAASSA*, HS-Kirjat 2019, 412 pp.

Rights sold:

Russia (Eksmo / Bombora imprint)

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