

2017

A Selection of Finnish Children's & YA Literature

F I L I

FINNISH
LITERATURE
EXCHANGE

2017

Finnish Children's & YA Literature

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Finnish children's & YA literature in 2017



Kaisa Happonen & Anne Vasko: A Bear Called MUR (Tammi 2016)

Finland has long had a reputation abroad for high literacy levels and a progressive education system. Finnish children listen to lots of stories read aloud, and Finns consider their libraries a fundamental right— one that is actively supported. We can also be proud of the people who produce our books: brave contemporary storytellers and illustrators whose works remain relevant over time. **Tove Jansson, Kirsi Kunnas, Marjatta Kurenniemi and Elina Karjalainen** are just a few examples of writers and illustrators whose books feel as fresh today as they did when they were published in the 20th century.

Things are going pretty well for children's literature in Finland right now. Library loans of children's and YA titles have shown a steady increase. Sales of children's books in Finland are flourishing. Around a thousand titles are published annually, with books by Finnish authors representing just under half. An important recent development is the explosion in the number of small presses, bringing a huge increase in diversity among children's books. People working with children's and YA books are diverse, active and eager to find new ways of working.

Finnish children's books have been attracting attention abroad as well recently. **Salla Simukka's** *Snow White* trilogy has exceeded all expectations, with translation rights to her novels sold into over 50 territories, surpassing even Tove Jansson's Moomins. Film rights for works by Salla Simukka, **Tuutikki Tolonen** and

Maria Turtchaninoff have been optioned by major production companies in the US and UK.

What sorts of themes are Finnish children's and YA books addressing these days? Children's literature has traditionally held up a mirror to society. Finnish books for children have dared to raise issues like climate change and contemporary issues that play a role in children's lives. Recent children's books have depicted changing families, multiculturalism and searching for your own identity.

Feelings and dealing with emotions are a common theme in picture books for small children. **Tomi Kontio and Elina Warsta's** *A Dog Named Cat* (original title: *Koira nimeltään Kissa*, published by Teos in 2015), nominated for the Nordic Council Children's and Young People's Literature Prize, deals with loneliness and social issues in its child-friendly treatment of the friendship between a homeless man and a stray dog. YA books have long dealt with young people's anxiety issues, and this topic now seems to be moving into books aimed at younger children as well.

Dystopian fiction is one of the most popular genres in Finnish YA fiction. Now there are also some excellent works exploring young people's gender identity and approaches to multiculturalism. These new themes are also evident among the works nominated for the 2016 Finlandia Junior Prize, Finland's most prestigious award for children's/YA literature. The list of nominees includes three books

aimed at teens and young adult readers. **Siri Kolu's** novel *After This Summer Everything Will Be Different* (*Kesän jälkeen kaikki on toisin*, Otava 2016) deals with the world of a young person undergoing gender reassignment. The Finlandia winner, **Juuli Niemi's** *You Won't Walk Alone* (*Et kävele yksin*, WSOY 2016), gives an unvarnished portrayal of first love that crosses cultural lines. **Seita Vuorela's** posthumously published work *Snow* (*Lumi*, WSOY 2016) explores identity issues among young Finns from immigrant backgrounds growing up between two cultures.

Finnish children's and YA publishing has also seen a minor wave of non-fiction books achieving big sales. **Linda Liukas** crowdfunded a US edition of *Hello Ruby*, a series about computer coding that was later published in Finland by Otava. It provides a tool for educational settings that transcends traditional gender roles. Two books by **Jenni Pääskysaari**—*Girl, You Are...* (*Tyttö sinä olet...*, Otava 2015) and *Boy, You Are...* (*Poika sinä olet...*, Otava 2016)—offer support for young people as they grow and construct their own identities, with a fresh voice that appeals to teens.

Non-fiction books have also moved in some bold new directions with their writing and illustrations. **Laura Merz** and **Aino Järvinen's** *A Thousand And One Creatures* (*Tuhat ja yksi otusta*, Etana Editions 2016) sets out to investigate animals' behaviour with simple stories and ink drawings. Meanwhile, *The Night: A Book About Sleep And The Secrets Of The Dark* (*Yö: Kirja unesta ja pimeän salaisuuksista*,

Myllylahti 2016) by **Laura Ertimo** and **Satu Konttinen** takes readers on a night-time journey through fantastic illustrated worlds, exploring human physiology, nocturnal animals and even stories set in the night.



lives of primary school-aged kids have been big hits in Finland and abroad. The undisputed favourite among pre-schoolers is the picture-book world of Tatu and Patu, created by **Sami Toivonen** and **Aino Havukainen**. It's a place buzzing with fun and endless visual gags.

Finally, it's worth turning briefly to Finnish illustration, which certainly deserves its place in the spotlight. We can trace Finland's hundred-year history by following a string of its brilliant children's book illustrators. **Rudolf Koivu** and **Maija Karma** built the foundation of Finnish picture books in the country's early

Finnish children's literature retains some strong, simple traits at its heart: jolly everyday activities with silly mishaps along with joyful humour. Series of books by **Timo Parvela** and **Tuula Kallioniemi** following the



years of independence with their illustrations for Finnish and international children's classics. Their successors over the decades have included innovative, distinctive illustrators whose picture-book worlds have delighted generations of young readers.

Tove Jansson created the Moomins' world as a refuge from the horrors and hopelessness of the Second World War. The Moomins' enduring popularity can be attributed to their combination of innocence, security and melancholy depicted with sensitive brushstrokes. In the late 20th century, Finnish children's books and their illustrations took on a greater degree of social criticism and realism. In the 1970s, **Camilla Mickwitz** brought a humorous, critical approach to emerging new family types and parents' impact on their children's lives. Many Finnish children's authors and illustrators working today, such as **Kristiina Louhi**, are following in Mickwitz's footsteps by focusing on everyday life and dealing with occasionally difficult topics.

But contemporary picture books do not stand in the shadow of their predecessors. Finnish illustrators are skilled storytellers, garnering acclaim at home and abroad. There is a broad spectrum of styles on show in today's picture-book illustrations. Graphic-inspired styles and minimalism have been on the rise in

recent years in works by artists such as **Matti Pikkujämsä**, **Réka Király**, **Hanna Konola** and **Marika Maijala**. Other illustrators, including **Linda Bondestam**, **Christel Rönns** and **Sami Toivonen**, convey a laid-back, quirky style with multi-layered humour. It's worth checking out the full range of Finnish illustration, some of which is also making an impact outside Finland. Contemporary illustrators like **Elina Warsta** (mentioned above), **Anne Vasko**, **Satu Konttinen** and many others certainly deserve wider recognition beyond Finland's borders.

In the future, children's and YA literature will surely continue to be based on good stories that get children and young people of all ages— as well as their parents— hooked on books. The challenges of reaching readers are likely to grow even bigger. We're already seeing how product ranges are springing up around favourite children's books. This fan culture is sure to increase, offering infinite possibilities for new kinds of interaction with readers. I hope we'll also continue to produce experimental, innovative, niche books that manage to find their own readers.

Looking forward to future challenges,

Paula Halkola, Director
The Finnish Institute for Children's Literature

Riina Katajavuori, Maiju Tokola, Riikka Toivanen, Christel Rönns: Family Mix–Learning about us and how we were made

Non-fiction skillfully disguised as a picture book explaining lots of different ways to make a family

Every child wants to know how life begins and where they came from. This storybook naturally takes the reader from one family to the next as Pontus, a stuffed toy from a day-care center, the day-care's soft toy, spends the night at four different kinds of homes. Using simple, lively language, the story explains how all of the families came to be in a way that small children can easily understand. Along the way, we learn about in-vitro fertilisation, egg and sperm donation, a family with two mommies, and adoption.

Maiju Tokola and **Riikka Toivanen**—two respected psychologists and psychotherapists—have collaborated with experienced author **Riina Katajavuori** and award-winning illustrator **Christel Rönns** to create a much-needed book.

“This book is easily approachable with its cheerful illustrations. Topics relating to sexuality, birth, and how life begins seem so natural to children when parents are able to talk about them themselves.”

—Maaret Kallio, psychotherapist

ORIGINAL TITLE: MEIDÄN PIHAN PERHESOPPA, TAMMI 2016

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Timo Parvela, Björn Sortland & Pasi Pitkänen: KEPLER62

Be part of the story—an adventure awaits!

Two bestselling award-winning authors—Timo Parvela and Björn Sortland—have joined forces with illustrator Pasi Pitkänen to create a gripping six-part tale in which friendships are put to the test in outer space. The series is being published simultaneously in Finland and Norway, and has been nominated as the best children's book of the year in both countries: Book 1 for the Arvid Lydecken Prize in Finland and Book 2 for the ARK Children's Book Prize in Norway. The riveting story will be completed in 2017 with the publication of books 5 & 6.

“We love the modernity of the series, both its angle (the video game universe, then the space travel adventure) and its splendid illustration. The series is a perfect mix of strong characters with whom the readers will identify easily and a clever plot, of a highly enjoyable read and a thoughtful questioning of some very contemporary issues of our society. The illustration, with its beautiful colors and its rhythm, brings strength and a great originality. We are particularly looking for series for reluctant readers, highly illustrated short texts, suspenseful and easy to read. KEPLER62 is an exact fit!”

—Cécile Verdier, acquisitions editor at Éditions Nathan, France, upon making her winning offer for the series.



Rights sold:

Rights sold: French (Nathan), Czech (Host), Estonian (Ajakirjade), Hungarian (Pagony), Korean (Jaeum&Moeum), Turkish (CAN), Faroese (Bókadeildin)

Foreign rights contact:

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Photo: Aspo Huhta



Juuli Niemi: You Won't Walk Alone

Winner of the Finlandia Junior Prize for the Best Children's and YA Book 2016!

You Won't Walk Alone is a YA novel that follows the story of Egzon and Ada, two 15-year-olds on the cusp of adulthood. Niemi's talent is apparent in capturing the moment of youth with her expressive, poetic style and flowing storyline. The reader walks with Egzon and Ada, two teens whose backgrounds couldn't be more different, as they meet, fall in love, and experience their first of everything-through the winter months to the spring. Their first love means everything and changes everything, but it is also in danger of falling apart, and of breaking them in the process. Ultimately, we do walk with the two toward the end of their relationship-and toward the beginning of the rest of their lives.

The Finlandia Prize jury's praise:

"The author's poetic voice transports us into the mindset of youth, straight into the crash landing on the runway of adulthood. There is the simultaneous presence of age-old restricting roles dealt out in school yards, the childhood and family that must be left behind-however painful that may be-and the life of our own that springs from within, and the dreams we build."

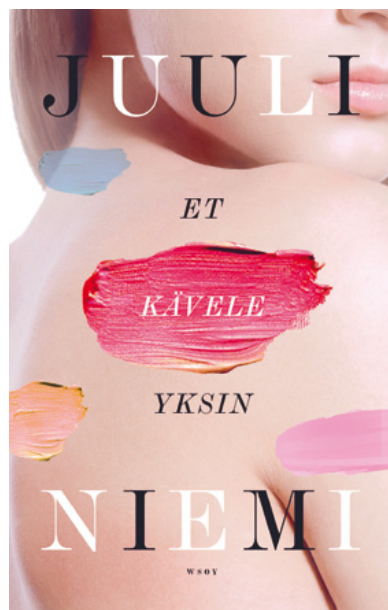
Juuli Niemi (b. 1981) is an author and screenwriter living in Helsinki, Finland. She has published a short-story collection and four volumes of poetry. She is also a screenwriter and was nominated for Finland's Jussi Award for best screenplay in 2014. Juuli Niemi's first novel *You Won't Walk Alone* (*Et kävele yksin*) recently won the coveted Finlandia Junior Prize for the Best Children's and YA Book of 2016.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *ET KÄVELE YKSIN*, WSOY 2016

Foreign rights contact:

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terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi

Photo: Laura Malmivaara



Seita Vuorela: Snow

Finnish readers' most popular choice among the 2016 Finlandia Junior Prize nominees

Tehran is the first chapter of 15-year-old Siamak's life; a public housing project in a Nordic country is the second. Siamak was named after his uncle, who died as a martyr in Iran-an impossible legacy to live up to. Northern Europe is now his home. Siamak loves snow and being out on the ice, playing hockey more than anything else.

Atisha, their neighbor's daughter from Iran, moves in with his family. She's had to flee the country because her blog was banned. Atisha has never seen snow, but she knows the fairytale about the Snow Queen, whose kisses cause her victims to freeze and make them forget where they came from. Atisha wants Siamak to remember his roots.

Snow is a touching story about the children of immigrants, who walk a tightrope between their heritage while carrying the responsibility for interpreting their new homeland to their families as they grow up with a different nationality than their parents.

Seita Vuorela (1971–2015) was a much-loved, internationally respected YA author whose works have been translated into nine languages. Her previous novel, *The Reef* ("Karikko," 2013), was awarded the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize and the Torchbearer Prize. Her most widely translated novel, *School of Possibilities* ("Viima," 2016), was awarded the Pépète du roman ado européen prize in 2011 as the best European YA novel published in France that year. Her final work, *Snow* (*Lumi*, WSOY 2016), was Finnish readers' most popular choice among the 2016 Finlandia Junior Prize nominees in an online poll.

ORIGINAL TITLES: *VIIMA*, WSOY 2006,
KARIKKO, WSOY 2012, *LUMI*, WSOY 2016

Foreign rights contact:

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Literary Agent terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi

Photo: Laura Malmivaara



Kaisa Happonen & Anne Vasko: A Bear Called MUR

MUR is a little story with a big message about being perfect just the way we are

"Up above there were little stars,
big stars, dim ones and
bright. They all fit into the same sky."

Kaisa Happonen is a children's book author who also works in children's TV and interactive media.

Anne Vasko is an accomplished children's book illustrator with a beautiful and unique visual style.



ORIGINAL TITLE: *MUR, ELI KARHU*, TAMMI 2016

Foreign rights contact:

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Literary Agent terhi.isomaki-blaxall@bonnierrights.fi

Tuutikki Tolonen: • Monster Nanny • Monster Route

Prize-winning duology in the vein of *Where the Wild Things Are* meets *Mary Poppins*, with echoes of Roald Dahl-sold to 15 territories and Hollywood!

Book 1: *Monster Nanny*: When Halley, Koby and Mimi's mother wins a competition for a vacation and a nanny for the kids during her absence, everything seems perfect until the nanny's identity is revealed: it's a monster.

Book 2: *Monster Route*: Mimi sneaks into the monsters' underground world, following her monster nanny, Grah. The monsters' world is full of wonders-but can she find the way out again?

Tuutikki Tolonen writes warm, fantastical middle-grade novels where monsters work as nannies and bathrobes talk, with the everyday and the imaginary interacting seamlessly.

Tuutikki Tolonen is the winner of the 2015 Arvid Lydecken Prize.

ORIGINAL TITLE:
MÖRKÖVAHTI, TAMMI 2015 & *MÖRKÖREITTI*, TAMMI 2016

Rights sold:

FINLAND, Tammi (original publisher), CATALAN, La Galera, CHINA, Beijing Children's Publishing House, ESTONIA, Tiritamm, FRANCE, Robert Laffont, GERMANY, Carl Hanser, HUNGARY, Tessloff Babilon, LATVIA, Zvaigzne, THE NETHERLANDS, Luitingh-Sijthoff, NORWAY, Gyldendal Norsk, ROMANIA, Editura Univers, SLOVENIA, Mladinska knjiga, SPAIN, La Galera, SWEDEN, Rabén & Sjögren, WORLD ENGLISH, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, FILM RIGHTS, Scott Free Productions

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Karolina Ek



Pasi Pitkänen: The Island of Lost Animals

An action-packed picture book from the illustrator of *Monster Nanny* has influences of *Tarzan* and *The Jungle Book* with a subtle environmental message

When Matias takes his little sister Jenni to see the lions at the circus, something terrible happens: Jenni and the lion cub are kidnapped by a strange creature. Matias and the lion dad chase after them. The pursuit takes them to a mysterious island inhabited by some very unusual animals.

The Island of Lost Animals is a picture book for children aged 5+ who love adventurers like Tarzan or Swiss Family Robinson and the visual richness of modern comics and cartoons.

Pasi Pitkänen is an author and illustrator known for his richly detailed, imaginative art—both in his own right as well as for other leading children's authors' stories.



Photo: Pasi Pitkänen

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KADONNEIDEN ELÄINTEN SAARI*, WSOY 2017

Rights sold:

World rights (excl. Finland) available.

Foreign rights contact:

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

Salla Simukka: Sisterland

A middle-grade fantasy story with echoes of *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Snow Queen*

Eleven-year-old Alice falls through a snowdrift and lands in the summery world of Sisterland—headlong into an adventure! Together with her new friend, Marissa, the girls must find the queen who rules Sisterland to stop the never-ending snowfall in their own world.

Sisterland is a middle-grade fantasy novel about the bonds of friendship. Written in the spirit of timeless classics such as *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Snow Queen*, it features delicate monochrome illustrations by Saku Heinänen.

Salla Simukka is Finland's globally most successful author of YA fiction. Her *Snow White Trilogy* has sold into 52 territories, with film rights snapped up by Hollywood. She writes books for young adults and children and travels the world talking about her work.



Photo: Hanna Poropudas

ORIGINAL TITLE: *SISARLA*, TAMMI 2016

Rights sold:

FINLAND, Tammi (original publisher), BELGIUM, Clavis, ESTONIA, Pegasus, FRANCE, Hachette Livre, JAPAN, Nishimura, LATVIA, Zvaigzne, NETHERLANDS, Clavis, UNITED STATES, Random House (World English)

Foreign rights contact:

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www.ahlbackagency.com
info@ahlbackagency.com

Paula Noronen: Tagli and Telle: The Mission to Circus Island

A humorous new series for middle-grade readers who love *Nancy Drew* and Martin Widmark's detective books

Siblings Tagli and Telle live in an apartment above a shopping mall, which they like to sneak into during the night. The siblings set up a detective agency in a secret room at the mall after animals start disappearing from a nearby circus island. They want to solve the mystery, but will they dare to enter the tunnel that leads directly to the island?

Tagli and Telle: The Mission to Circus Island is the first installment in a new detective series for children who love a good mystery with laugh-out-loud humor.

Paula Noronen is the author of irresistibly funny, madcap middle-grade novels about supernatural hamsters and children's detective agencies. Paula holds a BA in film arts and has also gained acclaim as a stand-up comedian.

Paula Noronen was nominated for the Finlandia Junior Prize in 2007 and 2009.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TAGLI JA TELLE: TEHTÄVÄ SIRKUSSAARELLA*, TAMMI 2016

Rights sold:

World rights (excl. Finland) available.

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Aapo Huhta



Maria Turtschaninoff: The Red Abbey Chronicles

Internationally acclaimed fantasy saga about a community of women in a male-dominated world, sold into 17 territories with film rights optioned

Book 1: *Maresi*. When a frightened Jai arrives in the Red Abbey with a crew of thugs after her, Maresi and her friends must fight to defend their community.

Book 2: *Naondel* tells the story of how the First Sisters came to flee a harem in the faraway lands and establish the Red Abbey.

Book 3: The third book will follow Maresi after she leaves the Red Abbey and sets out to establish a school in the oppressed province of Rovas.

Maria Turtschaninoff is a prize-winning author of Young Adult fiction known for crafting lyrical, historically-inspired fantasy stories featuring strong female protagonists.

Maria Turtschaninoff is the Winner of the 2014 Finlandia Junior Prize and a nominee for the 2017 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and the 2017 CILIP Carnegie Medal.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KRÖNIKOR FRÅN RÖDA KLOSTRET*, SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS, FÖRLAGET

Rights sold:

FINLAND (Schildts & Söderströms, Förlaget, Tammi; original publishers), BELGIUM (Clavis), CHINA (Shanghai99), DENMARK (Turbine), ESTONIA (Varrak), FRANCE (Rageot), FRENCH CANADA (Editions de la Bagnole), GERMANY (Random House/Heyne), HUNGARY (Scolar), ITALY (Atmosphere Libri), LATVIA (Petergailis), NETHERLANDS (Clavis), ROMANIA (Univers), SWEDEN (Berghs), TURKEY (Altın Kitaplar), UNITED KINGDOM (Pushkin Press), UNITED STATES (Abrams), FILM RIGHTS (Film4)

Foreign rights contact:

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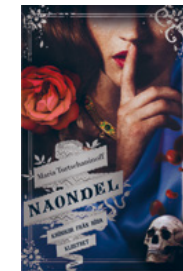
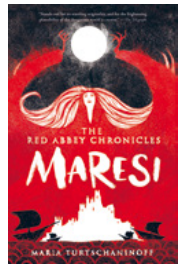


Photo: Karin Lindroos



Marika Maijala & Juha Virta: Filippa & Company: The Great Escape

All of a sudden, a piano drops onto the road. Filippa and her friends find it in their yard. Each of them wants the piano. Filippa would love to play it, but she just doesn't take to it. The piano is used as a side table in Antero's cafeteria, and as sleeping box for Norma the cat. Meanwhile, the pianist is missing his piano; the conductor his socks. New adventures are about to begin, and music is in the air. A whimsical picture book that lets children dive into the visually intriguing world created by Maijala and Virta.

Marika Maijala and Juha Virta have collaborated on numerous children's books. The newest is *Filippa & Company: The Great Escape*. The story was developed by Maijala and Virta and written by Juha Virta. In 2009, Marika Maijala received the prestigious Rudolf Koivu Prize for illustration. She has also been nominated twice for the Finlandia Junior Prize. Juha Virta is a teacher, new media artist and writer based in Helsinki, Finland.



Photo: Aino Huovio and Minna Kurjenluoma



Awards:

The Most Beautiful Books in Finland 2015 / Gold Medal,
The Best of Finnish Advertising and Design 2015, Grafia /
The White Ravens 2016

ORIGINAL TITLE: *FILIPPA & KUMPPANIT, PIANO KARKAA*
2015, ETANA EDITIONS

Foreign rights contact:

Etana Editions
Réka Király and Phileas Fogg Agency
www.phileasfoggagency.com
valentina@phileasfoggagency.com

Laura Merz & Aino Järvinen: A Thousand and One Creatures

Did you know that a giraffe's poop falls from a height of 3 meters, or that it can clean its ears with its tongue? *A Thousand and One Creatures* is a wild nonfiction book about animals and creatures, developed and illustrated by Laura Merz with text by Aino Järvinen. Merz delved into the world of animals to find lots of obscure facts. She used brushes, bits of cardboard and wooden sticks to give the creatures texture, speed and character. Järvinen created an inspirational narrative that will fascinate both big and little readers.

Laura Merz and Aino Järvinen collaborated on their first children's book *A Thousand and One Creatures* in 2015. Laura Merz is an artist, textile designer and illustrator based in Helsinki and Berlin. Aino Järvinen is a retired Finnish teacher who has always had an interest in writing and storytelling. The author team built up a fascinating book that is a mixture of a scientific title and a picture book.



Photo: Aino Huovio and Minna Kurjenluoma



ORIGINAL TITLE: *TUHAT JA YKSI OTUSTA*
2016, ETANA EDITIONS

Foreign rights contact:

Etana Editions
Réka Király and Phileas Fogg Agency
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Jenni Erkontalo & Réka Király: The House Around the Corner

The Do Family, Flora & Fauna, Grandma and many others all live in the house Eppu's moving into today. New neighbors to meet and different lifestyles to observe. *The House Around the Corner* is a picture book about the various residents of an old house, as seen through the eyes of a child. It talks about courage and accepting differences, and prompts children to think about their own living environments.

The author/illustrator/graphic-design team has worked on two picture books together. They co-create the text and illustrations, building them up together like a large-scale puzzle. **Erkontalo & Király** have been exploring young children's visual development and are working on books that encourage visual storytelling. Their unique hands-on approach is evident in the workshops they hold for children aged 3–10. Whether they're working with colours, basic shapes, or simple or challenging stories, visual storytelling mixed with humor is always at the core of their work.

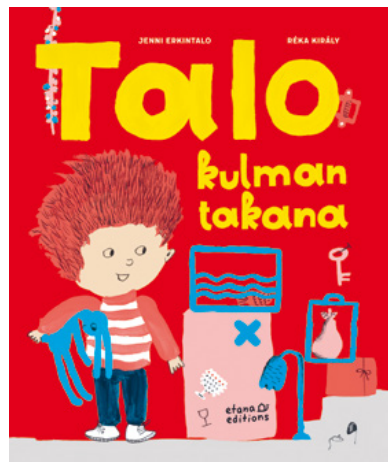


Photo: Aino Huovio

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TALO KULMAN TAKANA*
2016, ETANA EDITIONS

Foreign rights contact:

Etana Editions
Réka Király and Phileas Fogg Agency
www.phileasfoggagency.com
valentina@phileasfoggagency.com

Katri Kirkkopelto

Katri Kirkkopelto is an artist, illustrator and art teacher who has illustrated many of her own fiction books. She has worked on several children's books and has illustrated numerous popular textbooks. Her art is informed by her background as an art teacher—she has a special creative talent for tailoring the content to appeal to her target group: children. Her books have been translated into Dutch, Estonian and Ukrainian.

PIKI – Why can't I join in?

(Lasten Keskus 2016) is a book about bullying written for pre-schoolers. It was nominated for the 2016 Finlandia Junior Award for children's and young adult literature.

Melody Forest

(*Soiva metsä*, Lasten Keskus 2015) is a beautiful tale of a great composer and his music. Through the media of pictures, text and music, this illustrated book takes its readers on a captivating journey back in time, into the world of Jean Sibelius. The book comes with a CD featuring cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian playing some of Sibelius' best-loved compositions.

Blue

(*Molli*, Lasten Keskus 2014) is a warm and wise story about friendship, happiness and joy. In a secret garden there lives a lonely creature who has a dream.

"If I only had a friend I could smile with. Or just sit together side by side for a while."

And then one day a small, friendly animal comes knocking on his door...

Foreign rights contact:

Lasten Keskus, www.lastenkeskus.fi
Tanja Poskela, Publishing Manager,
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Nemo Rossi:

- The Wolves of Rome
- The Mafia Birds
- Next to the Gods
- The Last Etruscan

A mystery book series for young readers. Exciting adventures based on historical myths

In the Eternal City of Rome, three teenagers join forces to solve mysteries rooted in history. Kaius, a bookish boy, his twin sister Silva, a skilled hacker, and their athletic friend Leo come face to face with treasure hunters, traffickers of antiquities, and fraudsters looking to benefit from historical myths.

Reviews of The Wolves of Rome:

"This book has been compared to The Da Vinci Code, and for good reason."
– Finnish Scouts Magazine

"A jackpot straight from ancient Rome."
– Warkauden Lehti newspaper

There are two people behind the pseudonym Nemo Rossi: **Mika Rissanen**, a history researcher, and **Juha Tahvanainen**, a Latin teacher. Their nonfiction books have been awarded the Tieto-Finlandia prize (Finland's most prestigious prize for nonfiction) and other honors. They have been translated into many languages, including English and German.



Foreign rights contact:

nemo.rossi@hotmail.com
Facebook.com/Arkeomysteeri

Mauri Kunnas:

- Mr. Clutterbuck's Stories
- Santa Claus

Cornerstones of Finnish children's literature by Finland's best-selling picture book author

Mauri Kunnas is Finland's best-known and favorite author of picture books, with works translated into 30 languages and sales of 10 million copies worldwide. Kunnas offers the reader an unparalleled joy of discovery: his brilliantly coloured illustrations are filled with rich, humorous details. He has an unrivaled gift for taking history and casting it in a fresh, hilarious way, as well as for giving old stories and legends his own delightful twist.

Mr. Clutterbuck first appeared as a supporting character, and he has gone on to become a fixture in most books by Mauri Kunnas. Young readers can search for him among the colourful illustrations. *Mr. Clutterbuck's Stories* brings together the three original books presenting Mr. Clutterbuck as the main character: *Good Night Mr. Clutterbuck*, *Mr. Clutterbuck and the Seven Wonders of the World* and *Mr. Clutterbuck's Hobbies*. The first two books will be relaunched in English in 2017 by Archipelago Books.

Kunnas' bestsellers include the perennial favorite *Santa Claus*, first published 36 years ago. This Christmas classic has been translated into 26 languages and has sold more than 1.3 million copies to date.

For more information on Mauri Kunnas' backlist of over 40 fabulous titles, see his homepage www.maurikunnas.net

ORIGINAL TITLE:

HERRA HAKKARAISEN TARINAT. OTAVA 2017. 122 pp.
JOLUPUKKI. OTAVA 2016 (ORIGINAL EDITION 1981). 48 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Otava Group Agency, oga.otava.fi
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, International Sales Director
hanna.pajunen-walsh@otava.fi



Photo: Katja Lösnö



Ninka Reittu: You Are Super Loved

A whimsical story about love and superheroes by an internationally acclaimed picture-book creator

A father and son share adventures to find out what love is. Will love last if you're silly, or if you say NO? Can super love repel monsters? And if you travel to the end of the world, will your love stretch all the way? Illustrated in Reittu's distinctive humorous comic-book style, this tender story about the superpower of love is for fathers and sons-the superheroes of life-everywhere.

Ninka Reittu (b. 1982) is an illustrator, art teacher and artisan. She imbues both images and text with a uniquely heart-warming ambience. Translation rights for her successful picture book series about Messi and Mystery Cat have been sold for five languages.

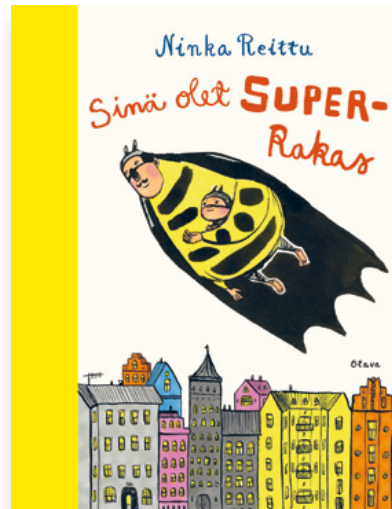


Photo: Kari Hautala



ORIGINAL TITLE:
SINÄ OLET SUPERRAKAS. 2017. 32 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Otava Group Agency, oga.otava.fi
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, International Sales Director
hanna.pajunen-walsh@otava.fi

Nina Pirhonen: • Vroom Vroom! • Zoom Zoom

Delightful picture books with a subtle ecological message for the very young by a multi-talented picture book author and designer

Let's go Vroom Vroom! Tractors and forklifts, diggers and fire engines-which vehicles can you spot on the city streets? Fun animal characters are behind the wheel: a garbage truck takes glass jars to be recycled, and Granny Mole drives an electric car. The second book in the series, *Zoom Zoom*, will be published in July 2017. Simple but surprising text introduces flying vehicles, rockets zooming and planes vrooming in Continental style with plenty of speed and color!

Nina Pirhonen (b. 1975) combines two elements that captivate toddlers: vehicles and bold colors. She is a fashion and graphic designer whose previous picture-book series *Pompom* was based on her fashion brand character. Pompom and her friends have shared adventures in five stylish titles, and Arabic translation rights have been sold.

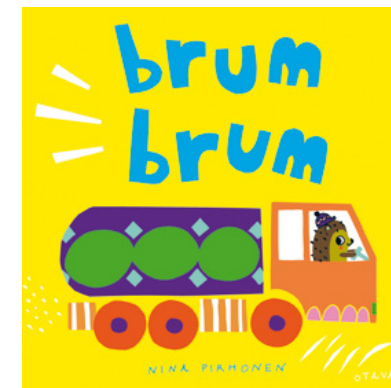


Photo: Seppo Saarentola



ORIGINAL TITLES:
BRUM BRUM. 2016. 24 pp.
VIUH VIUH. 2017. 24 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Otava Group Agency, oga.otava.fi
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, International Sales Director
hanna.pajunen-walsh@otava.fi

Noora Kunnas and Jenna Kunnas: The Wacky Bunch series

The Wacky Bunch and the Cupboard of Horrors
The Wacky Bunch and the Bumptious Baron
The Wacky Bunch and the Mystery in the Guesthouse

There's plenty of bungling, bloopers and goose bumps to go around in this illustrated fiction series by a talented sister duo

The residents of Tailwind Guesthouse are a zany crew. Enjoy the company of poetic Hugo, flatulent granny Bertta, Major Kuugenbum, piglet twins Bean and Flea and others as they set off to track down a missing strongman, join forces to evict a snooty baron, and solve the mystery of a snoring corpse. Their hijinks are guaranteed to leave even eccentrics scratching their heads. Plenty of laughs and full of wind for fans of Captain Underpants.

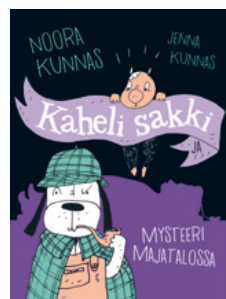
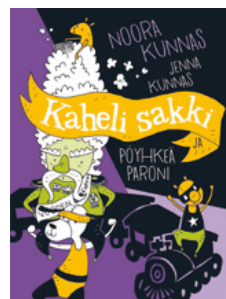
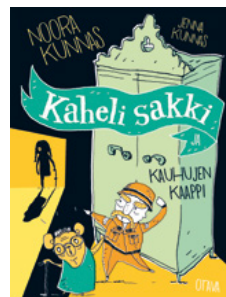
This charming series for 8+ readers by the daughters of Mauri Kunnas is full of adventure, wacky humor and fun characters with stylish art and energetic storytelling. Translation rights have been sold for Estonian. **Noora Kunnas** (b. 1987) graduated from the TUAS Arts Academy with a degree in film and now has a career in TV. Illustrator **Jenna Kunnas** (b. 1983) studied at the School of Arts and Design in Helsinki. She works as an illustrator and graphic designer.

ORIGINAL TITLES:
KAHELI SAKKI JA KAUHUJEN KAAPPI. 2015. 112 pp.
KAHELI SAKKI JA PÖYHKEÄ PARONI. 2016. 144 pp.
KAHELI SAKKI JA MYSTEERI MAJATALOSSA.
OTAVA 2017. 144 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Otava Group Agency, oga.otava.fi
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, International Sales Director
hanna.pajunen-walsh@otava.fi

Photo: Dorit Salutski



K.K. Alongi: • Sacrifices of Spring • Trapped

A new YA horror thriller series, full of addictive suspense—an updated Lord of the Flies meets the spirit of Lost

Sacrifices of Spring starts one morning in May, when the world changes in the blink of an eye. 15-year-old Jade wakes up on the Helsinki subway, surrounded by nothing but darkness. The shocking truth is soon revealed: everyone else is dead. Oblivious to Jade, four others face the same horror in different parts of the city. United by coincidence, together they begin a journey into the unknown in a world where nothing is the same. In *Trapped* the children have found a safe house, but are they really safe there—and who can they trust when new and familiar faces find their way to the cottage? The end of the world brings out the best and worst in humans.

K.K. Alongi (b. 1967) creates a menacing world with chilling details, where the reader is as much in the dark as the characters. She has lived all over the world and worked as a life coach and horse-riding instructor. Currently Alongi resides in Italy with her family. The final title in the trilogy will be published in 2018.

ORIGINAL TITLES:
KEVÄTUHRIT. 2016. 302 pp.
ANSASSA. 2017. 300 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Otava Group Agency, oga.otava.fi
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, International Sales Director
hanna.pajunen-walsh@otava.fi

Photo: Dorit Salutski



Asta Ikonen:

- Jenna's Horseback Summer
- Minnie's Riding School

Worldwide success with horse books for teenagers

For some girls aged 10–16, horses are everything that matters. They binge-read books about riding, riding camps, life at the stables and-of course-horses. **Asta Ikonen** works to meet this demand-she writes one or two horse books every year. Translation rights to two of her books have already been sold to Canada. Ikonen has written nearly 20 books, and they all have something in common: a happy ending! The bad guys always get what they deserve.

Ikonen has also written about other subjects teenagers are interested in: music, dancing, dating and-of course-love. Her romance books have even attracted interest from an older female audience.

This author knows her readers. Ikonen is a mother of four and grandmother of five. She herself has a riding background, and she is a great animal lover-she donates major part of her royalties to animal protection.

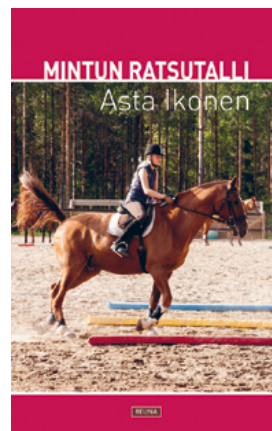
ORIGINAL TITLE: JENNA HEPPAKESÄ
REUNA PUBLISHING 2016, 176 pp.

Rights sold:
Canada (LER)

ORIGINAL TITLE: MINTUN RATSUTALLI
REUNA PUBLISHING, 2017

Foreign rights contact:
www.reunalla.fi/pages/foreign-rights
Producer Anna Toni, anna.toni@reunalla.fi

Photo: Toni Forsell



Henry Aho: Mini Vampires and the Night of Horror Stories Mini Vampires series

Safe excitement for kids

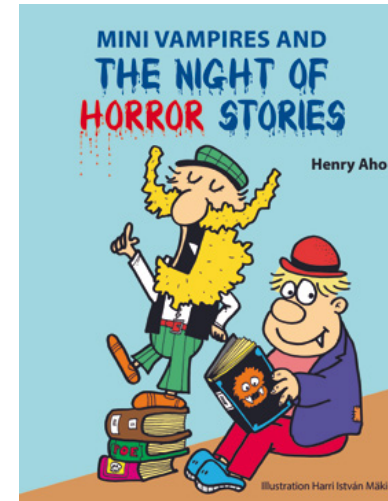
Mini Vampires is a children's book series written by **Henry Aho** and illustrated by **Harri István Mäki**. The mini vampires live in the cellar of a library and go on all kinds of adventures. It all started in 2011, when Aho made a Christmas calendar for his local library. It later became the book *Christmas Time with the Mysterious Mini Vampires*. In the second book, *Mini Vampires and the Sizzling Lizards*, they find an odd creature that turns out to be a dinosaur. The new book *Mini Vampires and the Night of Horror Stories* is about a centuries-old tradition, where mini vampires gather around a bonfire to tell spooky stories.

Henry Aho has won numerous awards for his writing, including the 2011 "Taksi" detective story competition and the 2012 Beautiful End of the World competition. Harri István Mäki has illustrated 9 children's books and written over 60 books that have been translated into Swedish, Turkish and Hungarian. His awards include the City of Tampere Literary Award.

ORIGINAL TITLE: MINIVAMPYYRIT JA KAUHUTARINOIDEN YÖ
REUNA PUBLISHING 2016, 98 pp.

Foreign rights contact:
www.reunalla.fi/pages/foreign-rights
Producer Anna Toni, anna.toni@reunalla.fi

Photo: Tarja Nisula-Koivisto



Sonja Kinnunen:

- Icy Soul
- Fiery Soul

Medieval fantasy worlds and paranormal fiction for young adults

Sonja Kinnunen (b. 1997) was only 15 years old when she wrote the manuscript for her first book, *Icy Soul* (published in 2013). Fantasy fans soon discovered it, and Kinnunen gained a reputation as one of Finland's most promising fantasy authors. In 2014 Sonja visited the Austrian town of Hallstatt, which she had chosen as the setting for her book, without ever seeing the place before. The following book in the series, *Fiery Soul* (2014), takes place in Hildesheim. Her books are set in medieval times.

Sample available in German.

Sonja's next book, *Brothers in Dreams* ('Univeljet'), will be published in 2017. It's about two college boys who start to meet following a skiing accident-but only when they are asleep. They live in two parallel worlds. With paranormal dimensions, it's ultimately a story of friendship and surviving mental-health difficulties.

ORIGINAL TITLES: JÄÄSIELU / TULISIELU / UNIVELJET
REUNA PUBLISHING 2013/2014/2017, 304 pp./377 pp./
APPROX. 500 pp.

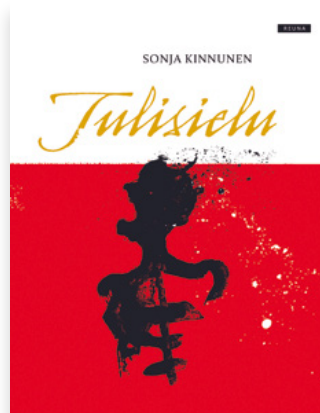
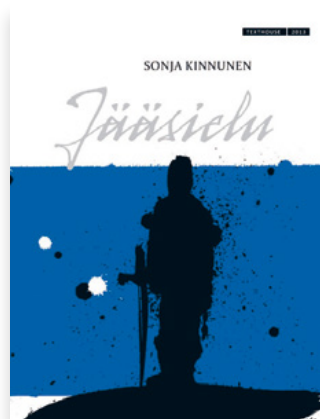
Awards:

Icy Soul was chosen by the Tolkien Society as one of the five best fantasy stories from Finland in 2013.

Foreign rights contact:

www.reunalla.fi/pages/foreign-rights
Producer Anna Toni, anna.toni@reunalla.fi

Photo: Minna Kinnunen



Sanna Mander

Sanna Mander is one of Finland's most prolific illustrators. Her bright, cheerful illustrations can be seen on home textiles, packaging, posters and in various different publications, both in Finland and around the world. She has designed book covers and illustrated books for children and young people. In 2006 she won Cannes Young Creatives and was awarded Junior of the Year in 2007 at the Finnish Best of the Year advertising and design competition. She studied graphic design at the Helsinki School of Arts and Design.



The Princess Coloring Book

As everyone knows, there are princesses for every occasion: some have short hair or glasses, some live in castles while others live in space, some love sailing and others like skateboarding. In this children's coloring book you'll meet 50 different princesses.

PRINCESSMÅLARBOKEN (2016, 100 pp.)

Rights sold: Finnish, Danish

The Key Question

Where's the key gone? It's lost, and nobody seems to know where it is. Can you find it in a house full of silly characters and zany objects?

The Key Question is a delightfully playful book by Sanna Mander with clever rhymes and highly detailed illustrations. There's more to discover every time you read it!

NYCKELKNIPAN (2017, APPROX. 40 pp.)

Rights sold: Finnish

Foreign rights contacts:

Schildts & Söderströms, www.sets.fi
Mari Koli, CEO, mari.koli@sets.fi



Sanna Tahvanainen

Sanna Tahvanainen is one of Finland's most versatile authors writing in Swedish. She made her literary debut at the age of 19 and has written poetry, newspaper columns, novels, plays for theater and radio, and children's books. In 2014 she received an award from the Swedish Literature Society for her novel about Queen Victoria. Her picture book *Dream about Dragons* was nominated for the 2016 Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize.

Dream about Dragons

Bella's mum is stressed out. She's got her work laptop in bed with her, and Bella wants to help her relax. *Dream about Dragons* is a story about a girl who uses love and her imagination to help her mum stay grounded. It's an aesthetically evocative picture book with age-appropriate themes handled in a lovely, thoughtful way. Illustrated by **Jenny Lucander**.

DRÖM OM DRAKAR (2015, 35 pp.)

Rights sold: Finnish

Squire Dandy and the Popcorn

A story about vanity, gluttony and the meaning of friendship. Squire Dandy, the best-dressed squirrel in the whole park, is widely admired. But when he discovers a red striped box filled with little white clouds, everything changes. He forgets his friend Ratty, who's left waiting for him. He no longer cares about looking good. The only thing that matters anymore is ... popcorn! Illustrated by **Lena Frölander-Ulf**.

KURRE SNOBB OCH POPCORNEN (2017, APPROX. 40 pp.)

Rights sold: Finnish

Foreign rights contact:

Schildts & Söderströms, www.sets.fi
Mari Koli, CEO, mari.koli@sets.fi



Lena Frölander-Ulf

Lena Frölander-Ulf is an illustrator, author and graphic designer who is fascinated by darkness, mystery and ornamentation. She runs courses and workshops on painting and illustration, and her works have been exhibited both in Finland and abroad. Her book *Fidel, the Forest and Me* was nominated for the Finlandia Junior prize in 2016.

Fidel, the Forest and Me

A flicker of light in the shadows of a fairy-tale forest. The forest is full of quad bikes and strange beings. If a small person needs to pee in the forest, they might encounter any number of things: a spruce tree in need of help, a sad water sprite or a nervous gang of fireflies. A little person's first steps are unsteady, but they gradually become more confident. You can make friends with the forest. The mysterious illustrations, created with scratchwork and watercolors, will awaken the imaginations of readers both big and small.

JAG, FIDEL OCH SKOGEN (2016, 40 pp.)

Rights sold: Finnish

Squire Dandy and the Popcorn

A story about vanity, gluttony and the meaning of friendship. Squire Dandy, the best-dressed squirrel in the whole park, is widely admired. But when he discovers a red striped box filled with little white clouds, everything changes. He forgets his friend Ratty, who's left waiting for him. He no longer cares about looking good. The only thing that matters anymore is ... popcorn!

Lena Frölander-Ulf's illustrations fill a London park with a cast of classic British characters and plenty of friendly humor in the details. Written by **Sanna Tahvanainen**.

KURRE SNOBB OCH POPCORNEN (2017, APPROX. 40 pp.)

Rights sold: Finnish

Foreign rights contact:

Schildts & Söderströms, www.sets.fi
Mari Koli, CEO, mari.koli@sets.fi



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

FILI

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

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

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

Texts & photos provided by the agents / publishers

Editing: FILI – Finnish Literature Exchange

Printed by Fine Press

Helsinki, 2017



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