

AUTUMN 2017

A Selection of Finnish Titles

(Fiction and Non-Fiction)



FINNISH
LITERATURE
EXCHANGE

2017

A Selection of Finnish Titles

Bonnier Rights Finland	4
Copenhagen Literary Agency	9
Elina Ahlbäck Literary Agency	10
Hedlund Agency	15
Helsinki Literary Agency.	16
Rights & Brands	21
Salomonsson Agency.	26
Siltala Publishing.	29

Miki Liukkonen:

O

“A literary event that takes the reader to the far side of imagination and truth.” – Turun Sanomat

O is a novel that explores a swimming team training for the Olympics, a company designing playground slides with artistic attitude, and a man who flees his neuroses by locking himself in the shed at the bottom of the garden. Plus a few more.

Whatever else it may be, *O* is above all a very ambitious book on what the everyday means in our world, and how to live in it.

The second novel from the poet and novelist **Miki Liukkonen** (b. 1989), painted across an outrageously large canvas, is an encyclopedic narrative of ordinary people and extraordinary events, neuroses, stubborn fixed ideas, and the irrational things that make us shudder. All the things you know and have felt, but which it is most unlikely you have ever read on the pages of a book.

“**Successfully megalomaniacal.**”
– Kouvolan Sanomat

ORIGINAL TITLE: *O*, WSOY, APRIL 2017, 859 pp.

Awards:

Miki Liukkonen was shortlisted for Runeberg Prize 2014 with his debut novel *Children Under the Sun*.

Selected backlist:

The History of Rage (*Raivon historia*, poems, WSOY 2015)
Children Under the Sun (*Lapset auringon alla*, novel, WSOY 2013)
Elisabeth (*Elisabeth*, poems, WSOY 2012)
White Poems (*Valkoisia runoja*, poems, WSOY 2011)

Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi
Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi
Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi

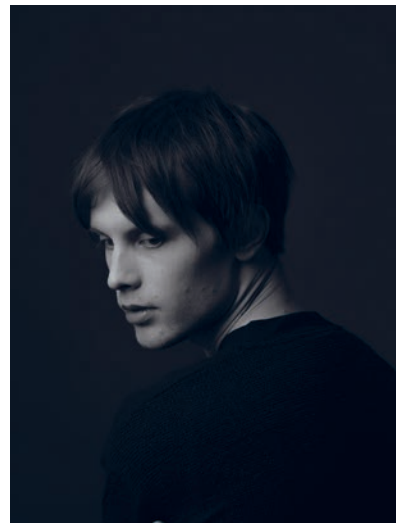


Photo: © WSOY / Aki Roukala

Jari Järvelä: Ten Little Trekkers

And Then There Were None
meets *The Hunger Games*

Ten Finns meet for the first time around a campfire on mountainous Corsica. Their task: complete Europe's most challenging hiking route, the GR20, in two weeks. The competitors have been hand-picked from among thousands of applicants by Mr. North, a mysterious figure who made his fortune in gaming. The million-euro prize will be divided equally among those who make it to the finish line alive.

A relaxed ramble quickly turns into a desperate battle for survival, as inexplicable deaths start to mount on the trail. The competitors know that the smaller the group gets, the bigger the pot at the end will grow. On top of that, they have also angered the hot-blooded islanders—and the word 'vendetta' is Corsican for blood vengeance.

Jari Järvelä (b. 1966) writes novels, radio plays, librettos, and travel stories. He has a three-stripe brown belt in karate and lives between sea and stream in southern Finland. On holiday he finds himself seeking out higher altitudes: most recently he followed in the footsteps of the Incas in the Andes.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *SE KEN TULEE VIIMEISEKSI*, TAMMI PUBLISHERS, SEPTEMBER 2017, 270 pp.

Awards:

Jari Järvelä's novels have been shortlisted for Finlandia Fiction Award twice and once for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize. In 2007 he was awarded the Finnish State Prize for Literature, and in 2015 as the writer of The Best Crime Debut of the Year.

Selected backlog:

"The Graffiti Trilogy"

The Girl and the Wall (Tyttö ja seinä, Tammi Publishers 2016)

The Girl and the Rat (Tyttö ja rotta, Tammi Publishers 2015)

The Girl and the Bomb (Tyttö ja pommi, CrimeTime 2014)

Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi
Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi
Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi

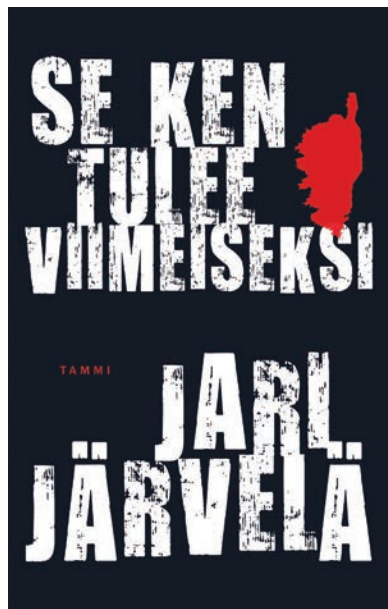


Photo © Tammi / Markko Taina

Tiina Laitila Kälvmemark: The Seventh Spring

A novel of greed, love, and the price of dreams. Who will pay the final bill and for whose happiness?

Susanne has ordered a baby from India and it is Padma's task to give birth to it. Padma's son Sani dreams of a pair of football boots and a new ball, but that dream can only come true after the baby has arrived.

TV meteorologist Peter has been taken off the air. He'd give anything to be able to stand in front of the weather map again and forecast the arrival of a heatwave. Seasons are capricious in the Nordic countries: for six consecutive years, spring has given way directly to the autumn, without the much-awaited bliss of summer in between. Will the seventh spring finally usher in the summer?

Tiina Laitila Kälvmemark's (b. 1970) new novel is a scorching portrayal of a world in which small choices lead to significant consequences. The hopes and fates of seven individuals living far from each other around the world are intertwined in a surprising way. Planning and yearning, each of them hopes to have their dreams fulfilled, but in the end life surprises them all.

"Tiina Laitila Kälvmemark has written a brilliant novel about a topical theme. – We live as though the party is still going on, even though our mascara is already on our cheeks."

– Me Naiset

ORIGINAL TITLE: *SEITSEMÄS KEVÄT*, WSOY, APRIL 2017, 180 pp.

Awards:

Tiina Laitila Kälvmemark has been, among others, shortlisted for the 2013 Runeberg Prize with her debut.

Selected backlist:

Of Stones and Silence (Karkulahti, novel, WSOY 2015)

The Lost Shore (Kadonnut ranta, short stories, WSOY 2012)

Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi

Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi

Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi



Photo: © WSOY / Mathias Laitila Kälvmemark

A. W. Yrjänä: The Whales of Jonah's Hill

A poetic, stimulating old-fashioned adventure for readers of all ages
– Tove Jansson meets Jules Verne

Talking animals, scientific history, suspense, friendship, nights around the campfire, cold-blooded villains, mysterious machines, and the exploration of life's little mysteries.

Conceptions of camaraderie undergo shifts large and small when a group of people find themselves thrown into extraordinary circumstances. A mesmerizing lexical stream carries readers through this ambiguous terrain and into ruminations on the relationship between truth and fiction. Who are we to ourselves, in the end?

The world created by the songwriter and poet **A. W. Yrjänä** (b. 1967) is like a concoction cooked up by Tove Jansson and Jules Verne: profoundly humane and a bit bizarre, even frightening.

ORIGINAL TITLE:
JOONANMÄEN VALAAT, JOHNNY KNIGA, SEPTEMBER 2017, 180 pp.

Selected backloglist:

Angelus (poems, Johnny Kniga 2010)
Diary 1995–2009 (Päiväkirja 1995–2009, Johnny Kniga 2009)
Mechanema (poems, Johnny Kniga 2006)
Somnia (poems, Johnny Kniga 2003)
Rota (poems, Like 2000)
Arcana (poems, Like 1997)

Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi
Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi
Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi

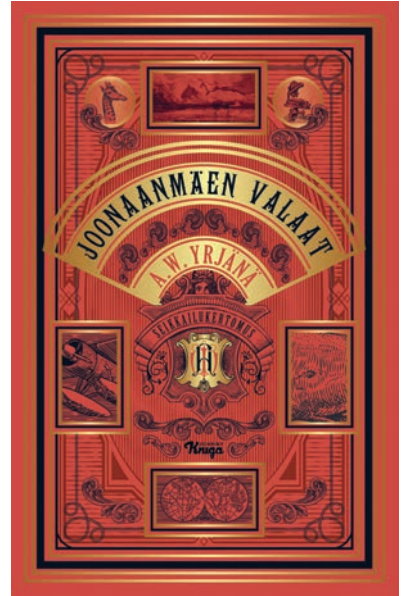


Photo: © Johnny Kniga / Anna-Katri Hänninen

Joonas Konstig: A Year as a Gentleman

“You’re as far from a gentleman as can be!” – The author’s wife

The tale of how a former green-haired punk rocker acquires genteel virtues.

For many, the word ‘gentleman’ conjures up images of an old-fashioned, over-dressed bore who is always opening doors for women—or disappointing them by denying them his attentions.

The author, who is used to giving the finger to manners and all other forms of bourgeois bunkum, decides to teach his child to conduct himself with more class. But first he must learn to be a gentleman himself. Joonas Konstig throws himself into this endeavor by taking up the gentlemanly arts, from horseback riding to rugby, from etiquette school to charity work.

During his educational mind-trip, Konstig seeks answers to the questions asked by philosophers since antiquity: What is a good person? How should we live?

Joonas Konstig (b. 1977) is an Espoo-based author and trainer known particularly for his food-themed writing. He won the Kalle Päätalo award for his novel *Everything Has Been Said* (2011).

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VUOSI HERRASMIEHENÄ*, WSOY, OCTOBER 2017, 256 pp.

Awards:

Joonas Konstig was shortlisted for the Best Debut of the Year Prize in 2008 and awarded Kalle Päätalo Award in 2011.

Selected backloglist:

Perkele (Gummerus 2015)
The Truth About Women (*Totuus naisista*, Gummerus 2013)
Everything Has Been Said (*Kaikki on sanottu*, Gummerus 2011)
The Greedy and the Innocent (*Ahneet ja viattomat*, short stories, Gummerus 2008)

Foreign rights contacts:

Bonnier Rights Finland, www.bonnierrights.fi
 Hanna Kjellberg, hanna.kjellberg@bonnierrights.fi
 Marja Tuloisela-Kunnas, marja.tuloisela@bonnierrights.fi



Photo: © WSOY / Veikko Somerpuro

Kjell Westö: Yellow Sulphur Sky

An epic love story about a wealthy Helsinki family and the man who uncovers their secrets. From the winner of the Nordic Council Award 2014.

Yellow Sulphur Sky is first and foremost an epic love story about a wealthy Helsinki family and the man who uncovers their secrets. The novel stretches back to the narrator's sun-bleached childhood memories of the '60s all the way to today's growing darkness. A masterful tale of how love and friendship come to be, how these develop over time, and how we are crucially shaped by gender, class and the times we live in. An ambitious depiction of generations, family bonds and Helsinki, about hopes and dreams, love and memories —Kjell Westö at his very best.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *DEN SVAVELGULA HIMLEN*,
SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS, AUGUST 2017, 470 pp.

Awards:

Shortlisted for the 2017 Petrona Award for the Best Scandinavian Crime Novel of the Year. Winner of the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 2014, the Finlandia Prize in 2006, the De Nios Vinterpris in 2001 and the Thanks for the Book Award in 1997.

Rights sold :

DENMARK (Batzer & Co.), FRANCE (Éditions Autrement),
GERMANY (btb/Random House), HOLLAND (De Geus),
NORWAY (Pax Forlag), SWEDEN (Albert Bonniers Förlag)

Selected backlog:

The Wednesday Club (Hägring 38, Schildts & Söderströms 2013).
Don't Walk Alone into the Night (Gå inte ensam ut i natten, Schildts & Söderströms 2009). *Where Once We Walked* (Där vi en gång gått, Schildts & Söderströms 2006). *Lang* (Lang, Schildts & Söderströms 2002). *The Perils of being Skrake* (Vådan att vara Skrake, Schildts & Söderströms 2002).

Foreign rights contacts:

Copenhagen Literay Agency, www.cphla.dk
Monica Gram, monica@cphla.dk



Photo: Marica Rosengård

Max Seeck: The Mephisto Touch

A dark, tightly-plotted psychological thriller with a storyline that will appeal to fans of Dan Brown's conspiracies and the ruthlessness of Stieg Larsson's Millennium series.

Previously assumed dead and now a fugitive, Finnish diplomat Jare Westerlund has fled Croatia on a forged Swedish passport, leaving behind a decapitated corpse and a trail that goes cold in Stockholm. Interpol agent Annika Lehto resumes her chase of the fugitive with Daniel Kuisma, who has been awaiting trial on war crimes charges relating to the vengeful Angels of Hammurabi. As the chase resumes across international borders—from remote Norway to San Francisco and The Hague—and as the duo close in on their quarry, the more they are convinced of his true nature and the monster that lives within him.

The Mephisto Touch is an explosive standalone follow-up to Seeck's acclaimed debut, *The Angels of Hammurabi*, taking readers on a manhunt, and into the deep, dark layers of a psychopath's mind.

Max Seeck has a background in sales and marketing, and now devotes more of his time to writing professionally. An avid reader of Nordic Noir for personal pleasure, he listens to film scores as he writes and is already working on his third

ORIGINAL TITLE: *MEFISTON KOSKETUS*, TAMMI, AUGUST 2017, 350 pp.

Rights sold:

Publishers of *The Angels Of Hammurabi*:
GERMANY (Blanvalet), ESTONIA (Pegasus), ICELAND (Forlagid)

Awards:

Winner of the Debut Thriller of the Year Award (2016)

Selected backlist:

The Angels of Hammurabi (*Hammurabin enkelit*, Tammi 2016)

Foreign rights contact:

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

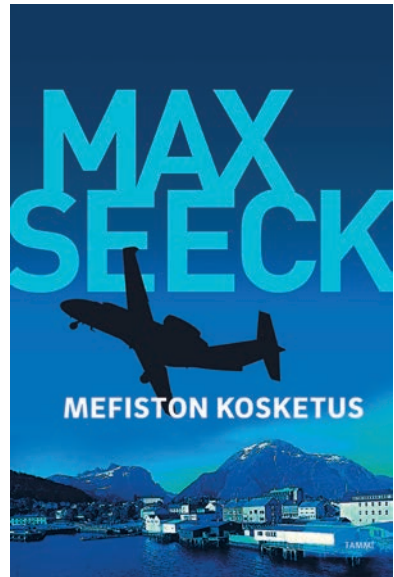


Photo: Elina Simonen

Heikki Valkama: Fugu

Rei Shimura meets Masterchef in this debut thriller set in Tokyo

When Riku Mäki, a Finnish celebrity chef, is invited to a cooking contest in Japan, he is concerned that he will be outperformed by the other contestants. What he should be worried about is fugu, the lethally poisonous puffer fish that someone is buying from the market with bad intentions. Mix in the yakuza and the dish is ready to be served.

Fugu is a culinary thriller set in Tokyo told from alternating perspectives. The story is decorated with a delightful array of detail reminiscent of Hideo Yokoyama's *SixFour*, transporting the reader to the Japanese capital.

Heikki Valkama is an acclaimed journalist who has worked as an editor-in-chief at several Finnish quality magazines. Additionally, he has written books about Japan as well as translated from Japanese to Finnish. He grew up in Japan; when he was a teenager, a local yakuza boss tried to marry Valkama off to his daughter. *Fugu* is Valkama's first novel.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *PALLOKALA*, TAMMI, AUGUST 2017, 270 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

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

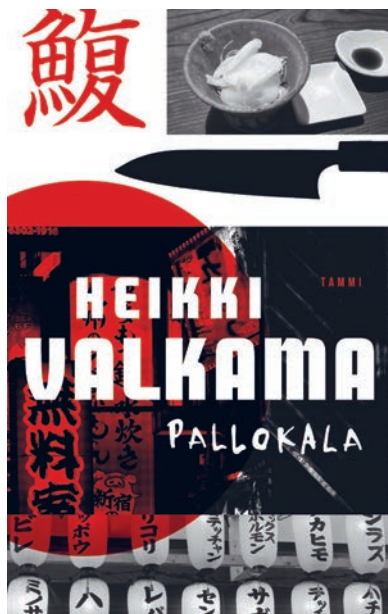


Photo: Markko Taina

Leena Lehtolainen: The End of Innocence

Book 14 in the bestselling Maria Kallio series. A female detective police procedural, *The End of Innocence* is also a study of young men's fragile sexuality. Perfect for fans of Lynda La Plante's DCI Jane Tennison series.

When a newly-released child molester is found dead in an abandoned playground, the case lands on Maria Kallio's desk. As newly-appointed chief of the child & youth crime unit, Kallio finds herself with a highly sensitive homicide case on her hands, with suspects including the deceased's victims and their relatives. A harrowing case for Maria, as the mother of a teenage son herself, the novel examines whether we can survive abuse, and privacy in the age of the internet.

ORIGINAL TITLE:
VIATTOMUUDEN LOPPU, TAMMI, AUGUST 2017, 457 pp.

Rights sold:

Publishers of the Maria Kallio series:
BRAZIL (Autentica), ESTONIA (Pegasus), FRANCE (Gaia), GERMANY (Rowohlt), GREECE (Livani), HUNGARY (Animus (R), ISRAEL (Penn), JAPAN (Tokyo Sogensha), LATVIA (Zvaigzne), POLAND (Rebis (R), RUSSIA (Ast), TAIWAN (Linking), TURKEY (Bizin Kitaplar (R), WORLD ENGLISH (Amazon Crossing)

Awards:

Two-time winner of The Clue of the Year Award (1997, 1998)
Two-time nominee of the Glass Key Award (2002, 2003)

Selected backlog:

Maria Kallio series

- #1 *My First Murder* (*Ensimmäinen murhani*, Tammi 1993)
- #2 *Her Enemy* (*Harmin paikka*, Tammi 1994)
- #3 *Copper Heart* (*Kuparisydän*, Tammi 1995)
- #4 *Snow Woman* (*Luminainen*, Tammi 1996)
- #5 *Death Spiral* (*Kuolemanspiraali*, Tammi 1997)
- #6 *Fatal Headwind* (*Tuulen puolella*, Tammi 1998)
- #7 *Before I Go* (*Ennen lähtöä*, Tammi 2000)
- #8 *Below The Surface* (*Veren vimma*, Tammi 2003)
- #9 *Indecent Nightingale* (*Rivo Satakieli*, Tammi 2005)
- #10 *On The Wrong Track* (*Väärän jäljillä*, Tammi 2008)
- #11 *Where Have All The Young Girls Gone* (*Minne tytöt kadonneet*, Tammi 2010)
- #12 *The Iron Triangle* (*Rautakolmio*, Tammi 2013)
- #13 *A Stroke Of Sadness* (*Surunpotku*, Tammi 2015)
- #14 *The End Of Innocence* (*Viattomuuden loppu*, Tammi, August 2017)

Foreign rights contact:

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

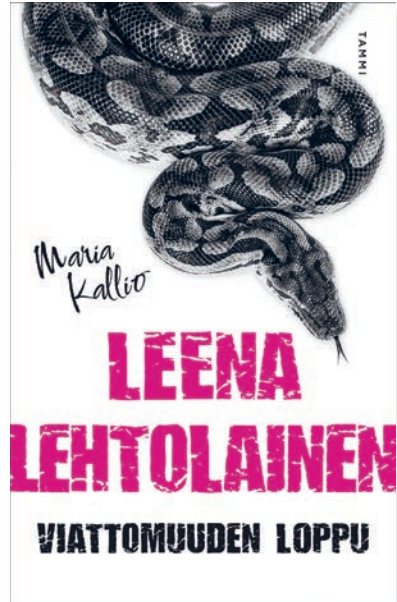


Photo: Kira Gluschkoff

Sissi Katz: The Amazing Life and Times of Coco Kafka

An assured, sweeping debut about life, love and science written in language like postmodern fireworks. With echoes of Diana Gabaldon and H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, it's a must-read for David Mitchell fans

Coco Kafka and her colleague Chang are nearing a scientific breakthrough: they are about to find a cure for blindness. Their Russian rivals Popov and Karpov are hot on their heels: the race against time is on. But who's playing tricks on whom? Where will the poisonous cholera toxin end up? Who stole the priceless Manet painting? And where in time and space is the mysterious Mrs. Sagiv now travelling?

The Amazing Life and Times of Coco Kafka is an action-packed, mischievous debut about the unseeing and the seeing, of metamorphoses and crisscrossing realities, and of epic love.

Sissi Katz is an ophthalmologist from Helsinki. Elements of her novel *The Amazing Life and Times of Coco Kafka* are inspired by the author's own life: she has grown epithelial cells, visited a dye-works in the Negev desert and lived next door to a monitor lizard. She is currently working on her second novel.

ORIGINAL TITLE:
COCO KAFKAN IHMEELLINEN ELÄMÄ, TAMMI, AUGUST 2017, 278 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Veikko Somerpuro

Marko Kilpi: The Undertaker

A moral study embodied in a hard-boiled crime novel in the vein of *Dexter* and *The Shield*

Young student Tuomas Lintu and his girlfriend Maria have always tried to do the right thing, but with Maria's depression, their underprivileged backgrounds and bills piling up, it's not easy. When Tuomas' brother dies, he agrees to organize the funeral, although he can't even afford to buy food. Undertaker Jarmo Kivi offers him a helping hand in the form of a job at Kivi's funeral parlor. Little does he know Kivi is a high-level hitman—and responsible for Tuomas' brother's death. Enter the heart of darkness...

The Undertaker is the opening of a gripping, new series about the thin line between right and wrong, published to glowing reviews. The story was originally planned for a TV series, but the novel was finished first.

Marko Kilpi is a policeman, documentary maker and author, who is one of only a few crime writers to have been nominated for the coveted Finlandia Prize (2011). He won the Savonia Prize in 2012. His work has been lauded for its accurate depiction of the outcasts of our society, and has been adapted for television.

ORIGINAL TITLE:

UNDERTAKER: KUOLEMANTUOMIO, CRIMETIME, MAY 2017, 335 pp.

Awards:

Nominee of the Finlandia Prize (2011)

Winner of the Savonia Prize (2012)

Selected backlist:

Frozen Roses (Jäätyneitä ruusuja, Gummerus 2007)

Lost (Kadotetut, Gummerus 2009)

The Land of the Living (Elävien kirjoihin, Gummerus 2011)

Foreign rights contact:

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

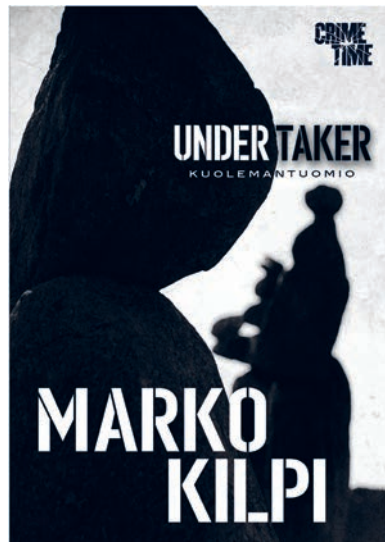


Photo: © CrimeTime Publishers

Rosa Liksom: The Colonel's Wife

A night, an entire life

An elderly woman tells us her life story. An internal monologue that grows into an anatomy of time.

How her father made her a daughter of the White Finland. How her husband—the Colonel—made her a Nazi, fraternizing with the right-wing elite, travelling the world.

It is about Finland, a nation preparing for war while precariously inhabiting the space between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. It is opening old wounds and makes the stench of history inescapable.

The novel is also about the union between a man and a woman. A strong, head-over-heels infatuation with a man 30 years her senior. Despite the future mother-in-law's warning about her son's temper, they enter a violent and destructive marriage.

And it is about survival and finding peace despite having gone through a true hellscape.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *EVERSTINNA*, LIKE, SEPTEMBER 2017, 190 pp.

Rights sold:

SWEDEN (W&W)

Awards:

Finlandia Literary Prize (*Hytti nro 6*), 2011. Beautiful Book Prize (*Hytti nro 6*), The Finnish Book Art Committee, 2011. The Literature Prize of WSOY, 2006.

Shortlisted for: Premio Strego Europeo (*Scompartimento n. 6*), Italy, 2014; Le Prix Médicis Étranger (*Compartment no 6*), France, 2013; Scandinavian literature prize (*Hytti nro 6*), 2013; Europese Literatuurprijs (*Compartment no 6*), Netherlands, 2013.

Selected backloglist:

Compartment no 6 (*Hytti nro 6*, WSOY 2011)
Passing things (*Väliaikainen*, LIKE 2014)

Foreign rights contact:

Hedlund Agency, www.hedlundagency.se
Siri Lindgren, siri@hedlundagency.se

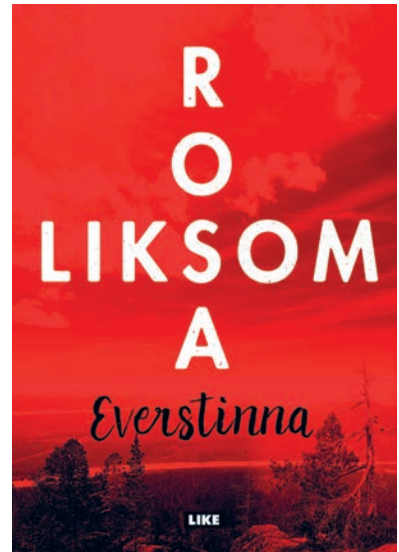


Photo: Pekka Mustonen

Marjo Niemi: The Mother of All Losses

A frantic monologue about one generation's experience of silence and guilt

One winter day at work, a tired woman ends up on a dark stage, where the only spotlight is directed on her mother's body, lying on a stretcher. When none of the explanations she can think of for her whereabouts—being in a dream, dead or insane—seem entirely plausible, then there is nothing left but to start talking.

A frenzied monologue ensues, addressed to her mother and about her mother, her family and pretty much everything else, too. She may have inherited her deceased mother's distant demeanor, and it may be embedded in her own family, like the scenes that are cut into her monologue. But where is she, and what exactly is her state of mind?

The Mother of All Losses will shake readers to their core. Niemi's narrative style captures the true feelings of worry and shame in a voice that is hard to match. Her narrator is infuriatingly funny, over the top—and in distress.

Marjo Niemi (b. 1978) is a Helsinki-based writer, playwright and director. Her debut novel *The Run* (2004) was awarded the Tiilikivi Prize. Her second novel *Why the Light?* (2008) was shortlisted for the Runeberg Prize. Her third novel, *A Cannibal's Friendship* (2012), provides an intense look at European wealth and guilt.

ORIGINAL TITLE:
KAIKKIEN MENETYSTEN ÄITI, TEOS, SEPTEMBER 2017, 203 pp.

Selected backlog:

The Run (Juostu maa, Teos Publishers 2004)
Why the Light? (Miten niin valo, Teos Publishers 2008)
A Cannibal's Friendship (Ihmissyöjän ystävyys, Teos Publishers 2012)

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Niina Vatanen

Selja Ahava: Before My Husband Disappears

What happens when the map of your life changes?

There are sentences that divide time into before and after. A woman loses her husband with one of these sentences. Helplessly she watches as she has less of a husband left with each passing day and how the past and the future collapse into the unknown.

She wants to commit her husband to memory before he disappears: who he was, how he moved, how he sat on the blue duvet, breathing, after just waking up. But other images unexpectedly rise to the surface above the others: Columbus kissing the sands of India. Columbus drawing a map that puts the mountains, islands, and harbors in place. Columbus yelling into a storm: "India was there!"

And the woman thinks: it's possible to stand on a sandy beach, draw an island on a map and give it a name, and be off by a continent at the same time.

Selja Ahava's (b. 1974) acclaimed debut novel *The Day the Whale Swam through London* (2010) was a nominee for the Helsingin Sanomat Literary Prize, and won the Laura Hirvisaari Prize. Her second novel, *Things that Fall from the Sky* (2015) was awarded with European Union Prize for Literature in 2016, and it was nominated for the Finlandia Prize and the Torch-bearer Prize. Her books have been sold to over 15 languages so far.

ORIGINAL TITLE:

ENNEN KUIN MIEHENI KATOAA, GUMMERUS, AUGUST 2017, 231 pp.

Rights sold:

Option publisher: WORLD ENGLISH (Oneworld)

Selected backlog:

Things that Fall from the Sky (Taivaalta tippuvat asiat, Gummerus 2015)

The Day the Whale Swam through London (Eksyneen muistikirja, Gummerus 2010)

Foreign rights contact:

Helsinki Literary Agency, www.helsinkiagency.fi

Urpū Strellman, urpu@helsinkiagency.fi



Photo: Liisa Valonen

Merete Mazzarella: On the Meaning of Life

The big questions in life affect every one of us. *On the Meaning of Life* makes us understand how.

The big questions in life always feel a bit troublesome. Maybe they come too close and are too difficult to comprehend all at once. Or is it actually the case that we ponder the meaning of life more than we realize?

In her essays, Merete Mazzarella approaches the meaning of life through her own experiences and reflections, using philosophical discourse and her observations of her surroundings. She presents the reader with new questions about our world in which endless shades of gray co-exist with sharp contrasts: prosperity is juxtaposed with streams of refugees, globalization with walls, and violent video games with real-time love across the oceans.

Mazzarella writes about our Western worldview, evil, forgiveness, compassion, and goodness. In a unique way, she makes abstract subjects understandable and concrete.

Merete Mazzarella (b. 1945) has published over 20 books. She is best known for her essays, in which she combines conventional ways of thinking and literary influences with her personal reflections and experiences in an unbroken dialogue with the reader. Mazzarella has received a number of awards for her work over the years.

ORIGINAL TITLE:
OM LIVETS MENING, SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS,
JANUARY 2017, 223 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Marica Rosengård

J. M. Ilves: Bordertown – The Endgame

A dead man on a boat. The detective's daughter covered with blood. A cat and a mouse play with a serial killer with high stakes about to begin...

Just as Detective Inspector Kari Sorjonen is starting to get used to his life in a town on the Russian border, his 18-year-old daughter Janina wakes up on a sailboat—covered with blood. A body of a middle-aged man is found abroad and all the evidence seems to point to the girl. As other suspicious deaths start taking place, Sorjonen—not allowed to take part in the official investigation and troubled by his personal worries as well—sees fit to start an investigation of his own to find out what has really happened...

Bordertown is a crime fiction series about Detective Inspector Kari Sorjonen, who is uncannily talented at his work—but less insightful when it comes to those near and dear to him. The books are based on the internationally successful television series produced by Fisher King Productions, which has now been sold to over 40 countries.

The first book of the Bordertown series, *Doll's House*, was published in 2016, and the third, *Five-Finger Exercise*, will come out in 2018.



ORIGINAL TITLE: *SORJONEN – LOPPUPELI*, GUMMERUS,
APRIL 2017, 331 pp.

Rights sold:

ESTONIA (Post Factum | Eesti Meedia), GERMANY (Suhrkamp),
POLAND (Marginesy)

Foreign rights contact:

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

Erika Vik: The Girl without a Name

In a divided world, the winds are changing. The girl has to remember. The Selesian just wants to forget.

“Stay hidden. Stay out of sight.” That’s the only thing Aleia remembers. She has to find out who she is and why she doesn’t remember anything—and who is on her heels.

Corildon is a Selesian, a member of a species that is feared and hated among humans. Persecuted by his memories, he has isolated himself on the northern frontier. When Aleia collapses at his gate and the bad winds begin to blow away the power of the Selesians, he is forced to decide if he will fight or surrender.

A carriage heads out from Dwyr to Selesia to uncover Aleia’s secret, but not everyone wants them to reach their destination...

The Twin Suns trilogy takes place in a world where war is brewing. Long-harbored tensions between the nations and species are coming to a head, and political scheming underlies the conflict. When events bring together a group of individuals who all seek to control their own fate, they each have to decide what kind of world they want to live in. *The Girl without a Name* is the first book in the trilogy.

Erika Vik (b. 1982) provides her own singular take on traditional fantasy fiction, combining it with a bit of the Wild West, Victorian steampunk, and the Scandinavian feel for the magic within nature.

ORIGINAL TITLE:
HÄN SANOI NIMEKSEEN ALEIA, GUMMERUS, FEBRUARY 2017, 532 pp.

Selected backlist:

The Seer of Selesia, *Twin Suns 2* (*Selesian näkijä*, Gummerus 2017)
The Daughter of Nefr, *Twin Suns 3* (*Nefrin tytär*, Gummerus 2018)

Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: TLisa Valonen

Cristina Sandu: The Whale Called Goliath

A whale the size of a ballistic missile travels to Bucharest in the middle of the Cold War. The news upsets even the small Red Village. Legends, myths and fairy tales are rooted into the villagers in this multi-layered, assured debut novel.

In 1960's, in the middle of the Cold War, a finback whale travels to Bucharest, Romania. It is suspiciously the same size as a Ballistic missile.

Nearby, in a commune called The Red Village, a father decides to take his two sons to see the whale. That day changes the lives of these two boys: later, one will leave to the U.S. as the happy winner of the Green Card Lottery, and the other will fall in love with a blue-eyed Finn, eventually becoming a philosopher in Helsinki.

The narrator of this story is Alba, born and raised in Helsinki, the daughter of the philosopher. Now in her thirties, she is struggling to make sense of a long-distance relationship. Alba spent the best part of her childhood summers in the Red Village, but has not been back in years. Suddenly her grandfather dies, and she must return. In the midst of the wake—the grandfather lying on the kitchen table in the dim light, the local burial rites gathering the whole village together—she is entangled in her family's dark and fascinating past, and in the history of the village itself.

Cristina Sandu (b. 1989) was born in Helsinki and is currently living in the UK. She has studied literature at the University of Helsinki and the University of Edinburgh, and now works at Blackwell's Bookshop in Oxford.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *VALAS NIMELTÄ GOLIAT*, OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, SEPTEMBER 2017, APPROXIMATELY 300 pp.

Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, www.rightsandbrands.com

info@rightsandbrands.com

Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina@rightsandbrands.com

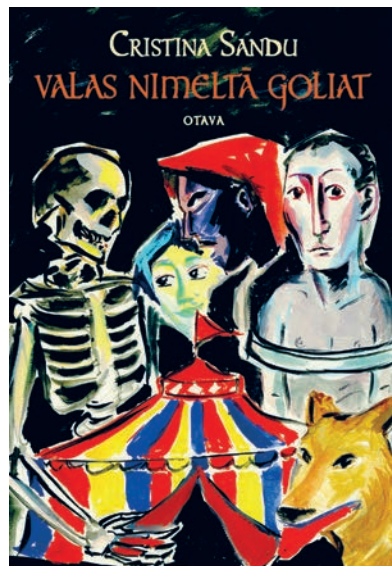


Photo: Marjo Tynkkynen

Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo: In Transit

A glorious novel about passion, about the boldness to release oneself and be led by desire.

When she was younger, Galadriel, G, lay on the floor in the yellow house and dreamt of New Orleans, The North Pole and of wonderful places close to the equator. She left as soon as she could, set her life in London for a while, then in Los Angeles, then Bombay. But now she has returned to her childhood village: she is back in the yellow house, and has brought The Stranger with her. Is she capable of sharing her life? Vera, another returnee, is back in the same yellow house. She had left this village decades ago, to lead her own life in the capital. Now longing is her only companion. In the same village, upstairs of a house that he built with his own hands, lies Sem, quiet in his bed. No one knows how far away he really is, and how much further he actually has been. All three of them—Galadriel, Vera and Sem—have loved passionately, desired the forbidden, transformed irrevocably.

Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo (b. 1974) is one of the most exciting literary authors in Finland today. Her unique, feminine voice, the distinct spark in her writing, and the exceptional sensitivity to rhythm in her language make her truly stand out. She writes about desire and sex exceptionally well and excels in describing the erotic charge between her characters.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *IN TRANSIT*, FÖRLAGET, SEPTEMBER 2016, 471 pp.

Awards:

Finlandspris 2017

In Transit nominated for Helmet literary award.

The Runeberg Prize for the debut novel *Andrej Krapl's Five Knives* (2007)

Selected backlog:

Starved (Svulten), Schildts & Söderströms (2013)

Oh Come And Look At This (Äh, kom och se här), Schildts & Söderströms (2010)

Andrej Krapl's Five Knives (Fem knivar hade Andrej Krapl), Schildts & Söderströms (2007)

Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, www.rightsandbrands.com

info@rightsandbrands.com

Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina@rightsandbrands.com

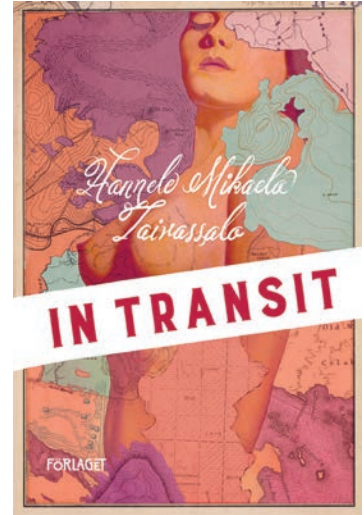


Photo: Niklas Sandström



Eppu Nuotio: The White Flowers of Poison / Ellen Spring Investigates 1

This first book in a garden crime series introduces us to a charming modern-day Miss Marple.

At 58, Ellen Spring, recently retired and widowed, is in the prime of her life. She loves to travel and is obsessed by the perennials in her garden. Inventive and attractive, she is flattered by men around her—but doesn't want to commit to anything more than a fling with her younger lover. However, Ellen is also an exceptionally perceptive individual, with a curious mind and an ability to smell a rat.

A young mother takes some time off alone at the summer cottage. Her husband is overwhelmed by the sudden responsibility of taking care of their two-year-old daughter. Luckily, Ellen Spring is available to help. But when the mother doesn't return in time, it seems Ellen has more work to do than she originally prepared herself for. How did this beautiful young woman with an apparently perfect life disappear?

Ellen is inspired by gardens around the world. In the first book, she reminisces about the amazing gardens in the city of Berlin. In Book #2 she becomes fascinated by the flora of Cadíz.

Eppu Nuotio (b. 1962) writes for adults, children, theatre and TV. Nuotio's thrillers have been critical and commercial successes. Her novels emphasise current events and headline topics such as racism and multiculturalism.

ORIGINAL TITLE:
MYRKKYKEISO, OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, JUNE 2017, 252 pp.

Selected backlist: PII MARIN SERIES

Black (Musta, Otava Publishing Company 2006)
Revenge (Kosto, Otava Publishing Company 2007)
Payback (Maksu, Otava Publishing Company 2008)
Shadow (Varjo, Otava Publishing Company 2009)
Pressure (Paine, Otava Publishing Company 2010)
The End (Loppu, Otava Publishing Company 2011)

Foreign rights contact:

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

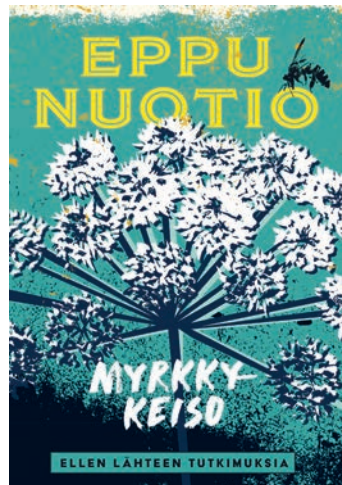


Photo: Marjo Tynkkynen

Helena Waris & Jesse Haaja: **Rendel**

A big-budget international superhero movie is now also a novel

Jukka Rämö is a financial manager living an idyllic life with his family in central Finland until a series of bad decisions destroys it all. Jukka becomes Rendel, a masked superhero, who sets out to take revenge on VALA, a multinational drug corporation.

Pekka Erola, VALA's CEO, holds the city government and his brutal son in an iron grip. As the stakes rise, a strike team of international assassins led by the one-eyed Radeki also appear on the scene.

Rendel is the official novel adaptation of the movie with the same name. From its beginnings as a small-budget indie project, the film has blossomed into a €1.3million juggernaut, and the distribution rights have already been sold to several countries.

Helena Waris is a four-time recipient of the Finnish Tolkien Society's Mirrormere Prize for best Finnish fantasy writer. In addition to fantasy, she also writes dystopias and thrillers, and is currently moving into horror and comedy. A film adaptation of her Netherholme trilogy is also in the works.

Jesse Haaja is a movie director who made his first sketches of Rendel in grammar school.

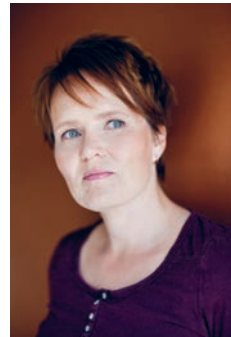
Find out more: rendelmovie.com



Photo: Juuli Aschan



Photo: Jesse Haaja



ORIGINAL TITLE: *RENDEL*, LIKE PUBLISHING, SEPTEMBER 2017, 203 pp.

Rights sold:

GERMANY (Heyne)

Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, www.rightsandbrands.com

info@rightsandbrands.com

Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina@rightsandbrands.com

Siri Kolu: It All Changes after the Summer

"I'm not your daughter, and if I can't be your son, I can't be your child anymore."

The price to pay for becoming oneself is high for Peetu. So high that he will pay it regardless of the consequences.

Peetu was given the name Petra at birth, although Peetu has never been Petra. Not the little girl his mum remembers, in any case. On the 1st of September Peetu turns 18, and he plans to undergo corrective surgery soon after that. Until then, all he can do is wait.

The waiting is made easier by going flying with Dad. Flying in a glider, almost to the top of the sky. For ten flights Peetu and Dad share a lightness, where words flow more easily and you can talk about anything.

Siri Kolu (b. 1972) is a writer, dramatist, director, and theatre instructor. She is a Finlandia Junior Prize winner and her works have been published in 18 languages. She has been awarded the Laivakello Prize by the Finnish Institute for Children's Literature. In the Netherlands she won the Silver Slate Pencil (Zilveren Griffel).

ORIGINAL TITLE: *KESÄN JÄLKEEN KAIKKI ON TOISIN*, OTAVA PUBLISHING COMPANY, MARCH 2016, 140 pp.

Rights sold:

HOLLAND (Middernacht Pers)

Awards:

Winner of Topelius Prize 2017
Nominated for Finland Junior Prize 2016

Foreign rights contact:

Rights & Brands, www.rightsandbrands.com
info@rightsandbrands.com
Hanna Pajunen-Walsh, hanna@rightsandbrands.com



Photo: Mirva Kakko

Johanna Holmström: Island of Souls

Island of Souls is an evocative and striking novel about motherhood, madness, evil, good, and the utterly ordinary

A fall night in 1891, Kristina Andersson drowns her two sleeping children in the Aura river. When their pale faces have faded from view she rows home. The next morning regret sets in, but it's too late. Kristina is sent to the asylum on Själö, an island in the Åbo archipelago. It's a place few ever leave.

Forty years later, it's Elli's turn. The daughter of a rich family, Elli wants something more than what her family home can offer. She runs away only to be embroiled in a Bonnie and Clyde-style set-up by a spurned lover. She too is brought to Själö, where time has come to a standstill. The nurse Sigrid becomes the link between Kristina and Elli, the old and the new. But time is catching up with Själö and its inhabitants. War is brewing in Europe and it will soon touch their shores.

Johanna Holmström's evocative and striking tale *Island of Souls* has its basis in the tragic human fates that permeate the walls of the real-life asylum on Själö. *Island of Souls* is a novel about motherhood, the evil, the good and the ordinary. About the price that women must pay for their weakness, longing, love, and friendship. But most of all, it is a book about madness, and how its definition has shifted as it's been used on women through time.

Johanna Holmström (b. 1981) was born and raised in Sibbo on the Swedish-speaking southern coast of Finland. Since her debut at 22 years of age, she has won the Svenska Dagbladet Literature Prize and the Swedish YLE Literature Prize.

ORIGINAL TITLE: SJÄLARNAS Ö, FÖRLAGET, AUGUST 2017, 338 pp.

Selected backloglist:

Asphalt Angels (Asfaltsänglar, Schildts & Söderströms 2013)

Foreign rights contact:

Salomonsson Agency, www.salomonssonagency.se

Federico Ambrosini, federico@salomonssonagency.com

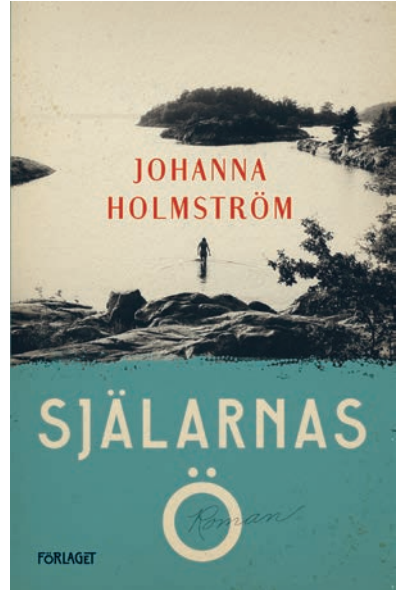


Photo: Niklas Sandström

Pajtim Statovci: Heartlines

A powerful and symbolic novel of unattainable love and the wars that never end

In the devastation of post-Communist Albania, life is akin to imprisonment for the inseparable young friends Bujar and Agim. While Bujar struggles to come to terms with the loss of his father, Agim is facing new realizations about his gender, sexuality, and feelings for Bujar.

Shame, guilt, and the ruins of Enver Hoxha's authoritarianism push Bujar and Agim to leave everything behind and flee to Italy. But the unfamiliar new life of an immigrant and asylum seeker caught in a foreign country, language, and even body, begins to seem like nothing more than a dead end. The burning desire to be seen and heard spurs a desperate search for another story, another nationality, another past. A different self to be seized at any cost.

Pajtim Statovci's highly topical second novel immerses the reader in a refugee's fragile state of mind and the broken reality of millions today. *Heartlines* is stunningly beautiful, rich both in prose and tone, a powerful and symbolic novel of unattainable love and the wars that never end. But most of all, of the lies that give stories their power.

Pajtim Statovci (b. 1990) moved from Kosovo to Finland with his family when he was two years old. His debut novel, *My Cat Yugoslavia*, received unrivaled acclaim among international critics and readers, and won Statovci the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize for 'Best Debut'. The jury praised the 24-year-old author's ability to combine the dreamlike with the realistic, and give old symbols new meaning and power.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *TIRANAN SYDÄN*, OTAVA, AUGUST 2016, 271 pp.

Rights sold:

NORWAY (Gyldendal), SWEDEN (Norstedts), UK (Pushkin Press), US (Pantheon)

Selected backloglist:

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

Awards:

Toisinkoinen Literature Prize, Finland, 2016

Foreign rights contact:

Salomonsson Agency, www.salomonssonagency.se
Julia Angelin, julia@salomonssonagency.com

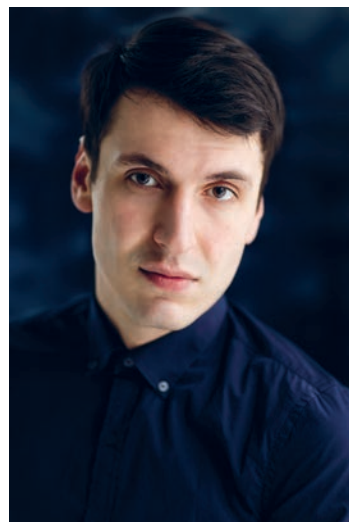


Photo: Pekka Holmström

Antti Tuomainen: The Man Who Died

Aki Kaurismäki meets Arto Paasilinna in a Fargo-ish novel full of suspense, dark humour and unexpected twists

The Man Who Died is a thriller brimming with the black comedy of life and death, love and betrayal. Combining the suspenseful elements of the Scandinavian noir tradition with tones of dark humor, this novel shows an entirely new side of **Antti Tuomainen**.

Jaakko Kaunismaa is a successful entrepreneur in the mushroom industry and a man in his prime. Just 37 years old, he is shocked when his doctor tells him that he's dying. What is more, the signs point to the cause being a prolonged exposure to toxins; in other words, someone has slowly but surely been poisoning him. Determined to find out who wants him dead, Jaakko embarks on a suspenseful rollercoaster journey full of unusual characters, bizarre situations and unexpected twists.

Published in Finland last autumn, *The Man Who Died* has been praised by critics and readers alike, spending three consecutive months on the Finnish top 10 bestsellers list.

ORIGINAL TITLE:

MIES JOKA KUOLI, LIKE PUBLISHING, SEPTEMBER 2017, 301 pp.

Rights sold:

CZECH REPUBLIC (Zlin), FRANCE (Fleuve Noir), GERMANY (Rowohlt) POLAND (Albatros), UK (Orenda Books)

Awards:

Toisinkoinen Literature Prize, Finland, 2016

Foreign rights contact:

Salomonsson Agency, www.salomonssonagency.se
Federico Ambrosini, federico@salomonssonagency.com



Photo: © Ville Juurikkala

John Simon: Impossible War

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

The first Jews arrived in Finland in the mid-19th century when the nation, then part of imperial Russia, was only taking shape. They were young boys ripped from their homes, taken to military schools, and forced to serve in the imperial army. One hundred years later, during World War II, German troops disembarked in Finland. The Nazis murdered millions of Jews around Europe, but in Finland Jews fought alongside the Germans against the Soviet Union. Not a single one was harmed by their Nazi brothers in arms. A field synagogue functioned on the front line, and several openly Jewish soldiers were even decorated with the German iron cross. This happened nowhere else. How was it possible in Finland? The reader is guided through 100 years of history via narrative nonfictional passages and the personal accounts of three fictional protagonists: Pesach, who was forced to serve in the imperial army and sent to Finland in the 1850s; Pesach's son Mendel, who started a flourishing business producing hats for the Russian army; and Mendel's son Benjamin, who ended up waging war against the Soviet Union alongside the Germans in World War II. Just as it outgrows the strict limits of fiction and nonfiction, *Impossible War* reconfigures the history of European antisemitism and the participation of European Jews in the seminal war of the 20th century.

John Simon (b. 1943) is an American who worked in the communications department of the Finnish Kone Corporation for 25 years. In 2009 he wrote a bestselling, highly acclaimed biography of Pekka Herlin, Kone Corporation's long-time CEO and owner, which sold over 90,000 copies in Finland.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *IMPOSSIBLE WAR*, SILTALA, OCTOBER 2017, 550 pp.

Selected backlog:

Kone's Prince (Koneen ruhtinas, Otava 2009)

Foreign rights contact:

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

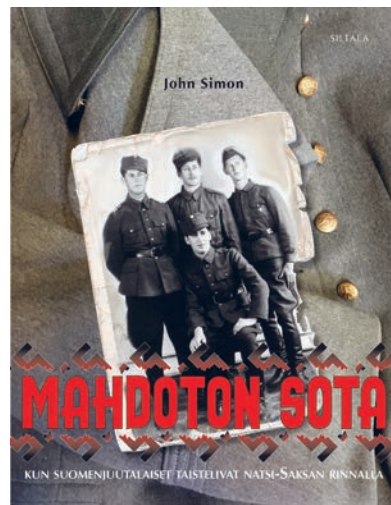


Photo: Laura Malmivaara

Nina Pulkkis & Liisa Vähäkylä: Million-Dollar Moomins

The little Finnish troll has created a global industry that spreads joy all around the world. How did Tove Jansson's Moomins become an international success story?

Million-Dollar Moomins traces the roots of the success of the Moomins. How did a little troll drawn on the wall of an outhouse in the Finnish countryside in the 1920s grow to be one of the best-known, most-loved Finnish figures and an international brand? The Moomin Characters company, which manages the estate of Tove Jansson, has built a worldwide multimillion-dollar industry with Moomin books translated into more than 50 languages and a licensing business. Moomins are everywhere: from clothes and kitchenware to toys and baby boxes. A new Moomin animation series will be released in 2018, and a Moomin theme park will open in Japan that same year. *Million-Dollar Moomins* tells us the story of Tove Jansson and the creation of the Moomins, and the little troll's path to conquering the hearts of millions of people all over the world.

Tove Jansson (1914–2001) was a Finland-Swedish writer and artist who created the Moomins between 1945–1977. Since then, the Moomins have become a worldwide phenomenon. **Liisa Vähäkylä** (b. 1965) has worked as a journalist, art critic, copywriter and in the animation export business. **Nina Pulkkis** (b. 1978) is a documentary filmmaker who has directed many TV documentaries about Finnish business history.



ORIGINAL TITLE:
MUUMEISTA MILJOONABISNES, SILTALA, SEPTEMBER 2017

Foreign rights contact:

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

René Nyberg: Last Train to Moscow

A family secret expands into a European panorama of Jewish fates

René Nyberg (b. 1946), the former Finnish ambassador to Moscow and Berlin, has written a true and gripping 20th-century survival story of his mother's Jewish family. The story takes place in Latvia and Finland, but branches out to Belarus, Russia, Germany and Israel. Nyberg's mother was shunned and ostracized by her family and the Jewish community for marrying a Gentile in 1937. Her cousin Masha, living in Riga, managed to escape the advancing Germans with her husband Josef in June 1941 by taking the last train to Moscow. They survived. The Germans murdered Masha and Josef's parents and siblings. The book highlights the cultural and historical background of the Jews in Finland and Latvia and describes the living conditions of Masha's family in Latvia before and after the Soviet annexation. After emigrating to Israel and from there to West Berlin Masha and Josef died as German citizens with passports stating that they were Germans ("der Träger dieses Passes ist ein Deutscher").



ORIGINAL TITLE:
VIIMEINEN JUNA MOSKOVAAN, SILTALA, SEPTEMBER 2015

Rights sold:

RUSSIA (Corpus Books), ESTONIA (Argo Publishers), LATVIA (Jumava), CZECH (Principal & Barrister)

Foreign rights contact:

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



FILI – Finnish Literature Exchange is an expert and export organisation which supports the translation, printing and publication of literature and promotes Finnish literature abroad. FILI was established in 1977 and is part of the Finnish Literature Society, which was founded in 1831.

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.

- awards over EUR 600,000 in subsidies annually
- awards grants to more than 300 different projects each year
- maintains a unique database of translations of Finnish literature
- provides grants to support authors' visits abroad to promote new titles
- organises seminars and education for translators of Finnish literature
- arranges Editors' Week visits for foreign publishers to Finland
- takes part in major international professional book fairs.

Fili's translation and printing grants

Foreign publishers may apply for

- funding for the translation of Finnish literature into other languages
- printing grants for Finnish comic books / graphic novels / children's picture books
- grants to commission sample translations of Finnish literature
- promotional grants for new or recently published translations of Finnish books abroad.

Translators of Finnish literature may apply for

- grants to produce sample translations of Finnish literature
- travel grants
- the residence programme.

Finnish literature includes books published in Finland written in Finnish, Finland-Swedish and Sámi. A separate application programme is available for Nordic publishers, who may apply for grants for the translation of Finnish literature into Nordic languages.

FILI also maintains an online forum for translators. Publishers can search its database to find a suitable translator.

Grant application deadlines for foreign publishers are 1 February, 1 May and 1 November each year.

For further information, application instructions and online application forms, visit:

www.finlit.fi/fili



Postal address:
P.O.Box 259, 00171 Helsinki

fili@finlit.fi
www.finlit.fi/fili

www.facebook.com/FinnishLiteratureExchange
www.instagram.com/filifinnishliterature/