

AUTUMN 2019

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

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

### **FILI**

- distributes approx. €600,000 in translation and printing, promotional and readers' report grants for over 400 different projects annually
- organises Editors' Week events for publishers to visit Finland from abroad
- participates in publishing trade fairs abroad
- acts as a focal point for translators of Finnish literature
- maintains a database of translations of Finnish literature published in other languages and collects data on translation rights sold abroad.

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

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

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# A Selection of Finnish Titles

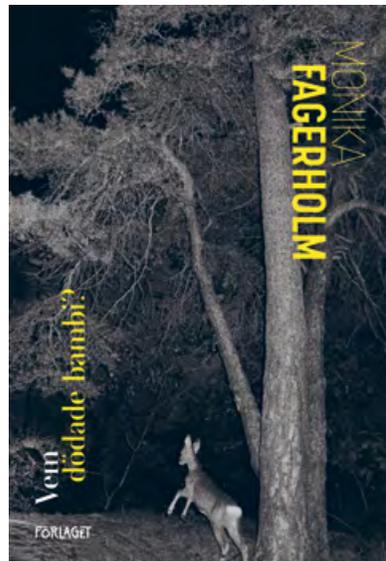
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## Monika Fagerholm: Who Killed Bambi?

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

Saga-Lill and Emmy have known each other since childhood but are at vastly different places in their lives: Emmy is a young mother and married to Mats, an older investment consultant. Saga-Lill is a former theology student who has lost her footing. Then there is Gusten Gripe, their friend who grew up in the polished suburb that the greater part of the story takes place in. But beneath the surface, the suburb is hiding an old wound: a brutal gang rape that took place in the house by the lake, the “Crow’s Ship.” Once the home of the affluent Häggert family, it now only houses the remaining son Nathan.

The violent incident is a thing of the past. The four perpetrators, “the boys,” were all sons of the community. But suddenly Cosmo Brant, the entrepreneur, returns to the area to make a film about the crime. He wants to call it “Who Killed Bambi?”



ORIGINAL TITLE: *Vem dödade bambi?*, Förlaget 2019, 280 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*Lola Upsidedown* (*Lola uppochner*, Söderströms 2012)  
*The Glitter Scene* (*Glitterscenen*, Söderströms 2009)  
*The American Girl* (*Den amerikanska flickan*, Söderströms 2004)  
*Wonderful Women by the Water* (*Underbara kvinnor vid vatten*, Söderströms 1994)

### Rights sold:

Sweden (Albert Bonniers)

### Foreign rights contact:

Salomonsson Agency, [www.salomonssonagency.com](http://www.salomonssonagency.com),  
 Federico Ambrosini, [federico@salomonssonagency.com](mailto:federico@salomonssonagency.com)

Photo: Niklas Sandström



## Elina Hirvonen: Red Storm

A heartbreaking story of an Iraqi family’s long journey to Finland – and of their dream of peace.

A small boy grows up in Iraq under Saddam Hussein, where fear is always present. His father is part of an underground opposition movement that is trying to overthrow the dictator. The father ends up spending years in prison, and the boy learns that just one wrong word can put his life in danger. The family escapes to melancholy Finland, a country recovering from financial depression. Finland is safe, but the boy grows up with mixed feelings: is it possible to be both a good Muslim and a good Finnish boy? With ISIS on the rise in Iraq, the boy returns to his home country as a peace negotiator, hoping to build a country his children can travel safely to one day.

**Elina Hirvonen** is an author of adult and children’s prose, a journalist and a documentary filmmaker. She has written three highly acclaimed beautiful and tragic adult novels and two children’s books.

**“Red Storm describes with excellence the boundaries of a child’s consciousness, the blending of imagination and dreams with reality and how memories are shaped by a child’s comprehension.”**

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper, Finland

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Punainen myrsky*, WSOY 2019, 300 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*When Time Runs Out* (*Kun aika loppuu*, WSOY 2015)  
*Farthest From Death* (*Kauimpana kuolemasta*, Avain 2010)  
*When I Forgot* (*Että hän muistaisi saman*, Avain 2005)

### Foreign rights contact:

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[www.ahlbackagency.com](http://www.ahlbackagency.com), [info@ahlbackagency.com](mailto:info@ahlbackagency.com)

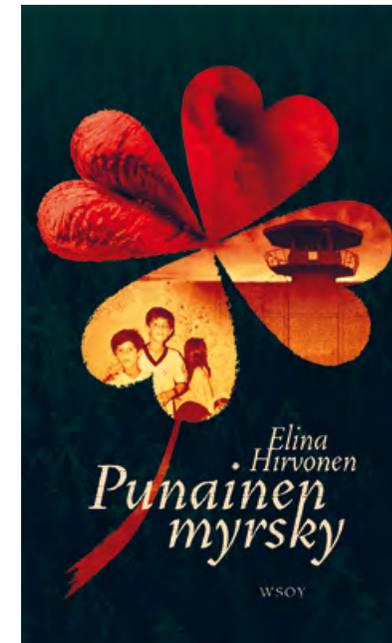


Photo: Jarkko Virtanen



## Olli Jalonen: The Art of Living Under Water

The sequel to the bestselling Finlandia Prize-winning story, in which new experiments take the young astronomer's apprentice Angus underwater, to terrifying depths no man has seen before.

At 16, Angus is the trusted apprentice of Edmond Halley, lending his needle-sharp eye to the successful scientist whose reputation is only growing in 17th-century London.

When Halley starts exploring the depths of the sea and comes up with the idea of a diving bell, Angus is naturally the guinea pig, sunk down to the bottom of the River Thames to test the invention. Would it be possible to live underwater?

Reaching adulthood, Angus struggles to figure out who he really is and to find his place in the world. Dreaming of a great future, he follows Mr Halley on a long sea journey back to the southern hemisphere of his home island. Will he get a chance to return to St Helena?

**Olli Jalonen** (b. 1954) is one of Finland's most respected literary authors. He has written over 15 works of fiction and received several important literary prizes, including two Finlandia Prizes. He has been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize three times.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Merenpeitto*, Otava Publishing Company 2019, 462 pp.

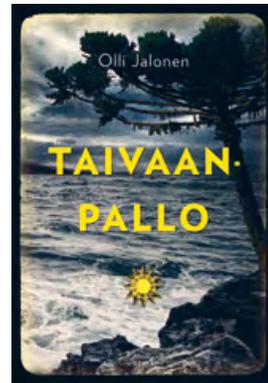
### Selected backlist:

*The Celestial Sphere* (*Taivaanpallo*, Otava Publishing Company 2018)  
*Men and People* (*Miehiä ja ihmisiä*, Otava Publishing Company 2014)  
*14 Knots to Greenwich* (*14 solmua Greenwichiin*, Otava Publishing Company 2008)

### Foreign rights contact:

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Leenastiina Kakko, info@rightsandbrands.com  
leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com

Photo: Pekka Nieminen



## Juhani Karila: Fishing for the Little Pike

The story of three days spent trying to catch a fish while fooled and foiled by an assortment of primeval nature beings.

Elina Ylijaako has returned to her home village in Eastern Lapland, as she does every year. She has three days to catch a pike. When a water sprite emerges from the pond and other ancient creatures soon join the game, Elina's fishing trip turns into a life-or-death adventure.

Meanwhile a police sergeant named Janatuinen is searching for Elina on suspicion of murder. But first the sergeant has to survive a fishing trip of her own with a local forest imp and make it through through night – a carnival of the dead that even the most hard-blooded witch in the village knows to avoid.

Mysterious creatures wander the tundra bogs like machines set in motion long ago that nobody knows how to turn off. An ancient demon finds a new home in the mayor. A farm hand who refuses to die starts sprouting branches and oozing menace. And in a little pond in the middle of the swamp lives the fish that everything depends on.

*Fishing for the Little Pike* is a linguistically virtuosic novel, at once love story and mythical fantasy, that will make you choke with laughter one minute and turn deadly serious the next.

**Juhani Karila** (b. 1985) has previously written two collection of short stories, *Gorilla* (2013) and *The Death of the Apple Crocodile* (2016).

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Pienen hauen pyydystys*, Siltala 2019, 250 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*Gorilla* (*Gorilla*, Otava 2013), *The Death of the Apple Crocodile* (*Omenakrokotiilin kuolema*, Siltala 2016)

### Foreign rights contact:

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urpu@helsinkiagency.fi

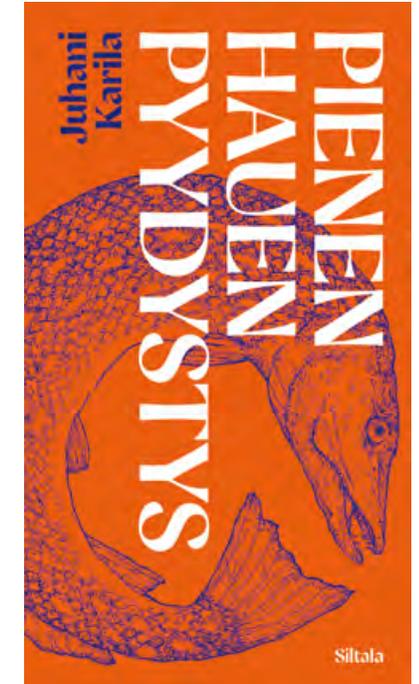


Photo: Laura Malmivaara



## Malin Kivelä: The Heart

A deeply touching novel about a woman whose newborn son has a congenital heart defect.

Based on the author's own experiences.

The baby is diagnosed at three days old. During the weeks at the hospital following the diagnosis, the mother writes in the midst of great anxiety: her baby is sick and may die if he is not operated on soon.

She withdraws from the world, existing only for her little son. Her mind clings to the physical and to tangible facts: the hospital routines, the striking beauty of Helsinki in winter, the handsome surgeon who is the only one she trusts. Family, friends and everyday life are pulled backwards like a retreating wave.

Here, everything is at stake.

**Malin Kivelä** (b. 1974) has written novels, children's books and plays, and her writing has been published in several languages, including in *Vogue Italia*. She received the Swedish YLE Literature Prize in 2013 for her novel *Annanstans*. Kivelä has studied journalism and theatre. Her special interests include space, television series and dance.



Photo: Niklas Sandström

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Hjärtat*, Förlaget M 2019, 152 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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Leenastiina Kakko, [info@rightsandbrands.com](mailto:info@rightsandbrands.com)  
leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com

## Katja Kärki: The House of God

A strong debut – An x-ray view of three generations from the Second World War to today

Goodbye, fucking family! Elsa has decided to leave home and devote her life to committing sin. She has to go. Her small-minded family thinks she is too much – in every sense. Her pink buzz cut can't be crammed into the model of a young woman being offered her.

Goodbye, mother and father! Goodbye, little sister! Goodbye, privileged brothers! Elsa hands the driver a bill and takes a window seat in the middle of the bus.

*The House of God* by Katja Kärki is the story of the North Karelian Martikainen family, told by three women from 1930s to today: Aili, who was a young woman at the time of the Second World War, Maria, a victim of family violence who was born in the 1960s, and young Elsa, born in the 1980s. The family's closets are filled with ugly skeletons, unforgivable deeds and haunting silence.

Kärki's edgy first novel reveals a strong and nuanced new voice. Page by page, the book unfolds the diversity of femininity, the survival of past generations and eventually, forgiveness.

**Katja Kärki** (b. 1985) has dreamed of becoming a writer since childhood. She lives in Rovaniemi, at the Arctic Circle, with her family. By profession, Kärki is a Finnish teacher for both foreigners and mother tongue students alike, and she also teaches creative writing. Her other studies have included geography, special education, drama education, and crime and process law. She dreams of having an organic farm and pet sheep.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Jumalan Huone*, Bazar Kustannus Oy 2019, 464 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Bazar Kustannus Oy, [www.bazarkustannus.fi](http://www.bazarkustannus.fi)  
Jussi Moilanen, [jussi@bazarkustannus.fi](mailto:jussi@bazarkustannus.fi)



Photo: Mirva Vainio

## Piia Leino: Heaven

A dystopia of a divided country – and of a future that has forgotten the past.

*Heaven* takes place in Helsinki, a city state and the former capital of Finland, in 2058. Society has collapsed after a civil war, and a nationalist movement called Light has seized power. Political dissidents have fled to the North. Light has given its citizens Heaven: a virtual reality. In Heaven, the old world lives on, more vivid and beautiful than it ever really was. Heaven is addictive but can only be accessed by those who have money and status.

Akseli works at the university trying to uncover the cause behind the epidemic of apathy that has struck Helsinki. People hardly leave their apartments, no one talks to each other and no babies are born. When Akseli is given total access to Heaven, he's nearly consumed by the virtual reality – until he meets a woman called Iina. Their meeting in Heaven is so powerful that they decide to meet in reality, too. After that, everything changes.

Winner of the European Union Prize for Literature as well as its publisher's novel competition, *Heaven* has received glowing reviews. It has also been nominated for the Helmet Literature Prize, given to a future classic by the libraries of the Helsinki metropolitan area.

**Piia Leino's** (b. 1977) earlier novel, *The Ugly Cashier* (2016), is a hilarious adventure taking place on an island where beauties and beasts have arrived to take part in a reality television show.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Taivas*, Kustantamo S&S 2018, 256 pp.

### Rights sold:

Bulgaria (Perseus), Hungary (Scolar), North Macedonia (Artkonekt), Serbia (Kontrast), Ukraine (Astrolabe)

### Foreign rights contact:

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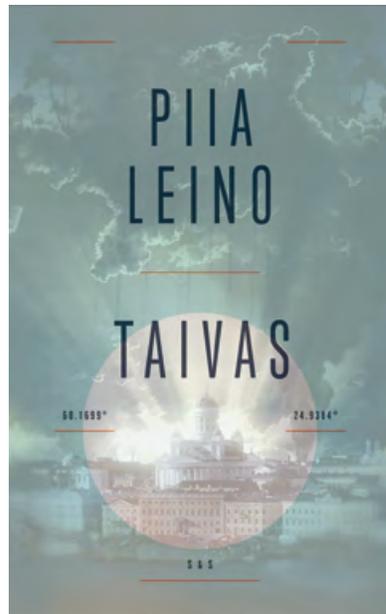


Photo: Mikko Rasila

## Inka Nousiainen: Blackbird

A poignant story of loss, letting go, and of hope that won't fade away – based on a true story.

In August 1989, a young man boards a cruise ship with his friends and disappears. All that remains is a yellow backpack and endless sorrow. The tragedy changes the lives of his whole family. The uncertainty of her brother's fate prompts his little sister to ask, even years later, what happened that night on M/S Fennia? Having grown up with the trauma, she returns to the memories of the past with the hope of finally being able to say goodbye.

**Inka Nousiainen** is an award-winning author from Helsinki who writes fiction, children's books and lyrics. She was only 17 years old when her first novel was published and won the Topelius Prize in 1994.



Photo: Otto Virtanen

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Mustarastas*, WSOY 2019, 160 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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

## Sofi Oksanen: The Dog Park

As the corruption of the East meets the greed of the West, the fate of two women is decided.

In Sofi Oksanen's *The Dog Park*, modern-day Helsinki intertwines with the early years of Ukraine's post-Soviet independence. The corruption of the East meets and feeds the greed of the West, and at this intersection stand two women. Their story of loyalty, love and broken trust plays out against a backdrop of power struggles — between influential families and between the sexes as the life-giving ability of the female body becomes a lucrative commodity.

Oksanen moves between psychological thriller and the acutely human as she weaves a captivating narrative about a woman unable to escape the memory of her lost child, the powers that still hunt her and the lies that saved her life. Sharply observant and a master of portraiture, this time Oksanen turns her eye to the fertility business, illustrating the micro-realities of international baby-making factories.

One of the most awarded literary authors in Scandinavia and translated into more than 40 languages, Finnish-Estonian novelist and playwright **Sofi Oksanen** (b. 1977) is an icon of her field. Called a “literary phenomenon” by *The Times*, Oksanen has proven time and again since her international breakthrough novel *Purge* that she is a master of human drama, incorporating historical and contemporary issues that move the reader.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Koirapuisto*, Like Publishing 2019, 405 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*Stalin's Cows* (*Stalin lehmät*, WSOY 2003)  
*Baby Jane* (WSOY, 2005)  
*Purge* (Puhdistus, WSOY 2008)

### Rights sold:

Denmark (Rosinante), Iceland (Forlagid), Norway (Oktober), Sweden (Albert Bonniers)

### Foreign rights contact:

Salomonsson Agency, [www.salomonssonagency.com](http://www.salomonssonagency.com)  
 Tor Jonasson, [tor@salomonssonagency.com](mailto:tor@salomonssonagency.com)



Photo: Tomi Härkönen

## Mikko Rimminen: If It Looks Like It

A thoroughly sad depiction of a sad human being whose loss, buried in the past, compels him to remain silent.

Acquaintances call Mr Lyysälä simply Lyy, though there aren't many people he really knows. Lyysälä is a gentleman, getting old quietly and expecting little from life. He lives out his life in a block of flats in Helsinki, goes on drives and keeps his neighbours at arm's length. But for some reason, one of them, a young boy, appears to have formed an attachment to Lyy.

When this new friend suddenly disappears, the property management company's kangaroo court has no doubt about the identity of the guilty party. The chronically taciturn Lyy does nothing to help himself. Every new attempt at interaction flounders, becoming part of a series of damaging collisions driving him into an even worse quandary. Those upset along the way include the property manager, the caretaker's wife and the thoroughly nasty Tietäväinen, who regards Lyy as nothing but a criminal. Blame and guilt and the burden of carrying them are the ingredients Rimminen mixes to create a gentle and beautiful treat.

**Mikko Rimminen's** successful first novel, *Park Life*, was made into a film. His third work, *Red Nose Day*, won the 2010 Finlandia Prize and has sold over 50,000 copies. *If It Looks Like It* is his sixth novel.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Jos se näyttää siltä*, Teos 2019, 260 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*Park Life* (*Pussikaljaromaani*, Teos 2004)  
*The Block* (*Pölkky*, Teos 2007)  
*Red Nose Day* (*Nenäpäivä*, Teos 2010)  
*Tag* (*Hippa*, Teos 2013)  
*The Most Natural Thing in the World* (*Maailman luonnollisin asia*, Teos 2017)

### Foreign rights contact:

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[www.helsinkiagency.fi](http://www.helsinkiagency.fi), [urpu@helsinkiagency.fi](mailto:urpu@helsinkiagency.fi)



Photo: Stefan Bremer

## Eeva Rohas: Rage

A story of divorce, alcoholism and attempts to recover. Faith, hope, love... and rage! EU Literature Prize nominee!

Tuuli is a struggling translator and the mother of Luna, a four-year-old girl. When Tuuli leaves her heavily drinking husband Ilja, the lives of three people change for good. *Rage* is a gripping story of divorce, alcoholism and attempts to recover. It's also a novel about motherhood, commitment, relationships, and how people and literature are equally tricky to translate. Three narrators paint a picture of one broken family and one fragile lizard who seems to keep everything together.

**Eeva Rohas** is a critically acclaimed author who writes about social misfits. Rohas received her doctoral degree in contemporary culture studies in 2016 with her study of The Sylvia Plath Forum. *Rage* is her third work of fiction.

**“Rage’s structure is skillful! It takes the reader to the depths of the human mind and then surfaces with insight.”**

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper, Finland



Photo: Jouni Harela



ORIGINAL TITLE: *Raivo*, Otava 2018, 270 pp.

### Rights sold:

Bulgaria (Perseus)

### Foreign rights contact:

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www.ahlbackagency.com, info@ahlbackagency.com

## Antti Rönkä: Off the Ground

“When you run, both your feet should be off the ground between the strides.”

A new town, new friends, a fresh start. Aaro is about to start his university studies. He would like to join the others for lunch and nights out but he feels unwanted and uninvited.

Even though the years spent being bullied are in the past, the shame still weighs heavy on his shoulders. The bullies' words never let him forget how worthless, insignificant and ugly he is to other people.

He can either shut the doors to the world and escape, or face his fears head on and reveal his true vulnerable self, warts and all.

*Off the Ground* is **Antti Rönkä's** strong literary debut. The novel describes the experience of shame with cutting precision, and shows how another person's acceptance and recognition can make the weight easier to bear.

**“The significance of the subject matter will not make a novel good. But Antti Rönkä’s first novel is excellent despite its loaded subject. This young man, cut to the quick, writes often shockingly but sometimes with joyous acumen. [...] The no-frills novel fulfills valiantly the only quest for literature: seeing the world through someone else’s eyes.”**

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

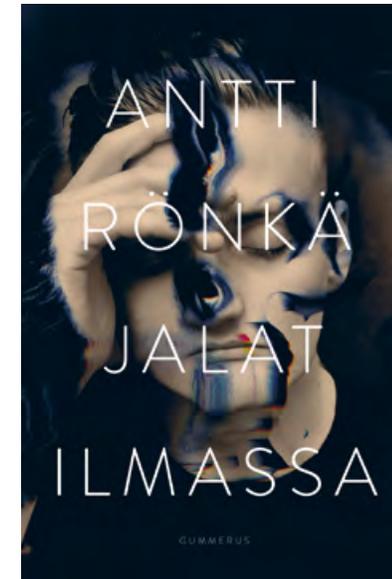


Photo: Marek Sabogal



ORIGINAL TITLE: *Jalat ilmassa*, Gummerus 2019, 224 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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

## Cristina Sandu: Conversations with Spiderman and Other Lost Languages

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

Six girls grow up on a piece of land between two rivers that belongs to no state. Swimming is their passion, but also a way to reach out to the world. The girls form a synchronized swimming team, performing skilful tricks in and under the water.

Far away in Helsinki, Anita falls in love with a performing Spiderman. In California, Paulina boards a fishing boat to acquire the ingredients for a traditional soup from her homeland. On a Caribbean island, Betty gambles away all her money.

The stories of these rootless young women, suffering from undefined feelings of longing, come together in a dazzling multifaceted novella that reaches across the world.

**Cristina Sandu** (b. 1989) was born in Helsinki to a Finnish-Romanian family who loved books. She studied literature at the Universities of Helsinki and Edinburgh and speaks six languages. She currently lives in the UK and works as a full-time writer. Her debut *The Whale Called Goliath* was nominated for The Finlandia Prize in 2017.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Vesileikit*, Otava Publishing Company 2019, 128 pp.

### Selected backlist:

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

### Foreign rights contact:

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leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com



Photo: Marjo Tynkkynen



## Max Seeck: Faithful Reader

A book-inspired serial killer is on the loose. Jessica Niemi – a detective with a mysterious past – steps up. The chase for the Faithful Reader has begun! Full English manuscript available!

Detective Jessica Niemi has been called in to investigate an unusual murder case. The wife of a famous writer, Roger Koponen, seems to have been killed in a bizarre ritual. As more ritual murders occur, it becomes obvious that Jessica is after a serial killer.

But the murders are not random – they follow a pattern taken from Roger's bestselling trilogy. Has a fan gone mad, or is this case more personal? How can Jessica stop a criminal who knows the books even better than their author?

**Max Seeck** has a background in sales and marketing and has increasingly devoted his time to writing professionally. An avid reader of Nordic Noir, he listens to film scores as he writes. His accolades include the Debut Thriller of the Year Award 2016 and a nomination for the Toisinkoinen Literature Prize.

**"The perfect mix of Scandinavian thrill, frosty Helsinki and the novelty of the plot line caught me so much I could not get it out of my head. There is simply everything a riveting thriller should have!"**

– Marie Hajdová, Editor, Grada, Czech Republic

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Uskollinen lukija*, Tammi 2019, 385 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*The Angels of Hammurabi* (*Hammurabin enkelit*, Tammi 2016)  
*The Mephisto Touch* (*Mefiston kosketus*, Tammi 2017)  
*Call of Hades* (*Haadeksen kutsu*, Tammi 2018)

### Rights sold:

Czech Republic (Grada)

### Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Mikko Rasila



## Johanna Sinisalo: Strangers Inside

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

A slightly unconventional family, with a more than slightly unconventional daughter, has some very, very unconventional thoughts. Something uncanny creeps into their lives as seemingly inexplicable injuries appear on the children. Who is trying to cruelly damage the family? Is it an external threat, or could it be someone... or something... from the inside?

*Strangers Inside* is a modern horror story and a stunning, gripping and frightening description of twisted family dynamics. The story is delivered by three different narrators, each of them with their own blind spots. Could the ultimate enemy, slowly ripping your family apart, be coming from within the circle of people who are closest to you?

**Johanna Sinisalo** is an internationally-acclaimed author who categorizes her works as ‘Finnish weird’, as they defy any single genre. She has won numerous literary prizes, including the Finlandia Prize (2000), the James Tiptree, Jr. Award (2004), the Atorox Award (seven times) and the Prometheus Award (2017). She has also been nominated for the Nebula Award (2009) and her works have been translated into over 20 languages.

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

### Selected backlist:

*Troll* (Ennen päivänlaskua ei voi, Tammi 2000)  
*The Core of the Sun* (Auringon ydin, Teos 2013)

### Foreign rights contact:

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www.ahlbackagency.com, info@ahlbackagency.com

Photo: Katri Kallio



## Pajtim Statovci: Bolla

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

After these febrile beginnings, Arsim and Miloš's affair is derailed by the outbreak of war, which sends Arsim's fledgling family abroad and the sensitive Miloš into a traumatising military career.

Years later, deported back to Pristina after a spell in prison, Arsim begins a search for his lost love. But the Miloš with whom he is finally reunited is not the man he once knew. Entwined with their story is the legend of the Bolla, a demonic serpent known as Kulshedra, which is traditionally released only once a year to devour everything in sight over the course of a single day; an unearthly tale that gives Arsim and Miloš a language through which to reflect on their desperate relationship.

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

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Bolla*, Otava Publishing Company 2019, 240 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*My Cat Yugoslavia* (*Kissani Jugoslavia*, Otava Publishing Company 2014)  
*Crossing* (*Tiranän Sydän*, Otava Publishing Company 2016)

### Foreign rights contact:

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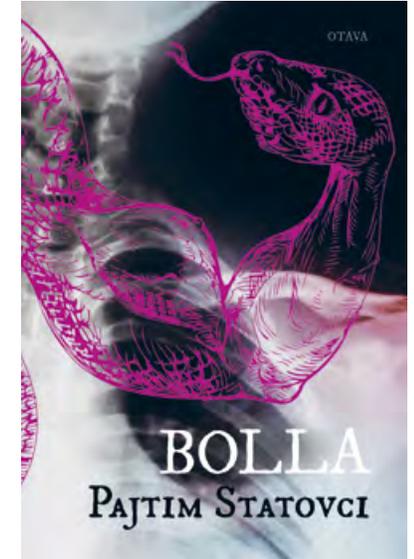


Photo: Jonne Räsänen



## Eveliina Talvitie: Hard-shelled

Gripping like a thriller, *Hard-shelled* is a story about two girls and their friendship, which lasts into adulthood.

Wearing only a thin nightgown, Eeva runs barefoot in the cold. She is running from the present and the past. Running from the fear of emptiness. Running from sadistic torturers and other lost causes. Running from a world where a self-obsessed man can wreak as much havoc as he wishes. Eeva could stay there lying in the snow, but she refuses.

When power struggles in relationships get real, harsh measures must be taken. And once they are, right and wrong will never be the same. Soon the lines between loyalty and deception become distractingly blurred.

A remarkably realistic story which takes place in a nostalgic small-town suburb and in Helsinki, following Eeva and Mira from the 1970s to the 2000s. At the same time, it plays cleverly with manhood, womanhood and reality.

**Eveliina Talvitie** is an author and journalist living in Tallinn, Estonia. She is known for her feminist works of non-fiction, and *Hard-shelled* is her first novel.

**“Situations are depicted realistically and in delicious detail, and matters of equality surface naturally.”**

– *Anna*, a Finnish women's magazine

**“The story paints a fine picture of different time periods, takes a peek into the thoughts of a male artist and describes gender roles in a very recognizable way.”**

– *Helsingin Sanomat*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Kovakuorinen*, Into Publishing 2019, 231 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Jyri Pitkänen



## Maarit Verronen: Silent Rivers

It's the end of the world. Sudden cosmic turmoil has sent Earth the way of gradual perishment, little by little.

Worried, Lia and other riverside people follow the inevitable destruction of their environment. She starts a journey toward a possible refuge with five lonely but resilient children, who need a grown-up's support in the midst of the devastating catastrophe around them.

*Silent Rivers* is a big story fitted in a small novel. Praised by both critics and readers, it enchants the reader with its surprising combination of catastrophic settings and unwavering trust in the future. In her laconic style, Maarit Verronen succeeds in relating the characters' stories warmly, convincingly – and with sympathy! The text truly shows instead of telling. Despite the heavy theme and absence of grand words, the pages of *Silent Rivers* glow from hope and faith in the survival of the human race.

**Maarit Verronen** (b. 1965) is one of the hidden gems of Finnish literature. A licentiate of Astrology and author of both fiction and non-fiction since the 1990s, she often juxtaposes the underdog and Nature in all its grandeur. Her oeuvre includes novels, short stories, travel books and books on Finnish nature and cultural heritage. Two of her novels have been shortlisted for the Finlandia Prize of Fiction, and she has been awarded many more prizes, most recently in 2018 the Finnish State's Prize for Fiction for lifetime achievement as a writer.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Hiljaiset joet*, Aviator 2018, 220 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

Aviator [www.aviador.fi](http://www.aviador.fi)  
Viivi Ängeslevä, [viivi@aviador.fi](mailto:viivi@aviador.fi)



Photo: Katja Liuksiala



## Helena Waris: Water from Nuorgam

A plastic bucket, a newly single young man and a ramshackle van. Location: Northern Lapland. Mission: 1,300 kilometres, on foot.

An absurd comedy about Finnish madness and unremitting ambition.

Mikke is faced with a drunken dare: to carry a bucket of water from Nuorgam – the northernmost point of Finnish Lapland – all the way to Helsinki, on foot. And he's not to take a single step himself – instead, he needs to find bucket carriers who are willing to pay for the privilege of doing the job.

This insane challenge takes Mikke on a hilarious adventure through small towns and down bumpy country roads. During the journey, he meets the whole range of heroes – and some hot and not-so-hot heroines – who reside in the land of a thousand lakes and dense forests.

But when 'Water from Nuorgam' becomes a social media phenomenon, Mikke has to decide where his loyalties lie.

**Helena Waris** (b. 1970) is an award-winning author of fantasy novels for young adults as well as a mystery adventure writer of true page-turners. *Water from Nuorgam* shows a new side of Waris – a contemporary humourist.



Photo: Anna-Katri Hänninen



ORIGINAL TITLE: *Nuorgamin vettä*, Like Publishing 2019, 336 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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Leenastiina Kakko, info@rightsandbrands.com  
leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com

## Avi Heikkinen: Aperture

One of a kind graphic novel with quantum mechanics, witty dialogue, and a well-crafted detective story.

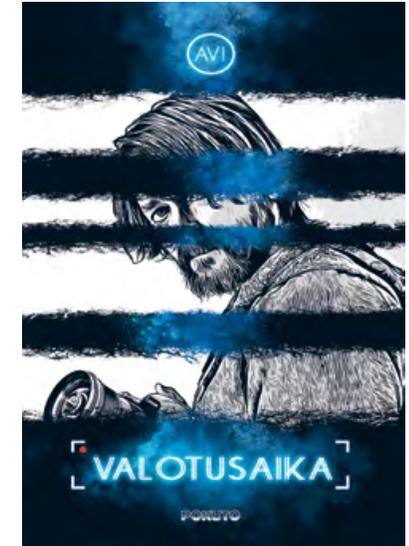
Jamo is a loser. Divorced and penniless, he is living as a small-time crook when he chances upon a camera that can be used to shoot the past. Struggling to forgive himself for the mistakes of his past, Jamo uses the camera to search for a young woman who has recently gone missing. Finding unlikely allies in a half-deaf ex-policeman and a sarcastic AI-enhanced pig plush toy, Jamo uncovers secrets that will forever change his life.

*Aperture* is a unique photo comic shot entirely on location and post-processed into a mind-bending graphic novel which pushes the boundaries of the medium. It is a buddy-cop adventure with a sci-fi twist that is sure to resonate with anyone who has ever wished they could change the past.

**Avi Heikkinen** is an award-winning comics artist and screenwriter. He is also an avid lover of cinema whose goal is to capture that "movie magic" in his comics.

**"Heikkinen's debut album is an inventive and well-crafted detective story with a great hook and witty dialogue. *Aperture* is a one-of-a-kind experience you will want to read again and again."**

– JP Ahonen, author of *Perkeros and Belzebubs*



ORIGINAL TITLE: *Valotusaika*, Pokuto 2019, 224 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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



## Aino Louhi: Imaginary Girl

Young love is often fragile and tragic – but it's also beautiful and unforgettable. Discover the story of the Imaginary Girl in this breathtaking graphic novel.

*Imaginary Girl* is about the relationships of children, teens and adults: the bittersweet friendships, the paralyzing crushes, the terrifying fear of being invisible – and the fear of being noticed.

**Aino Louhi** is an artist whose wide-ranging works include paintings and installations, as well as children's book illustrations and comics zines. *Imaginary Girl* is her first long graphic novel.

**“Imaginary Girl is like a poem or a forgotten photograph. Reading a comic book has never felt as therapeutic and cleansing.”**

– *Soundi* magazine

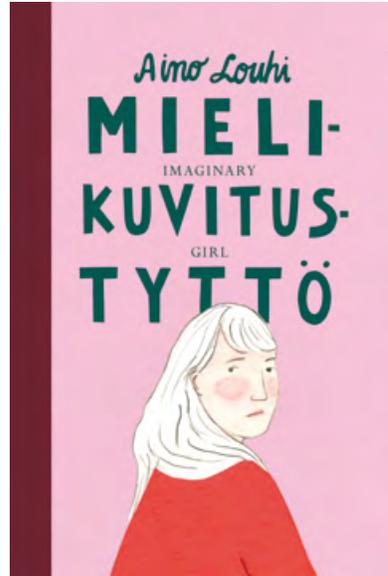


Photo: Elissa Määttänen

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Mielikuvitustyttö*, Suuri Kurpitsa 2019, 168 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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

## Sara Ehnholm Hielm: And The Heart Was Mine

“Publisher, film critic and a voracious reader; wife and middle-aged mother of four. And a chance – a year in Rome! – to put her voice forward to be heard.

An intense, intelligent and sensual book about the desire to read and write, and to live.

On the first day of a new year, the publisher and film critic Sara Ehnholm Hielm moves to Italy with her family. The year in Rome is reserved for writing; for finally writing a book of her own.

These exquisitely written, high-spirited and brutally honest texts draw a portrait of a woman who has been working with other people's writing throughout her career; who can't resist her own urge to write. Nor stop questioning her right to do so.

Struggling with the fragility of the process, she is trying to avoid the horror: not being able to complete her project. She takes inspiration from the books she reads as a respite to writing: Elena Ferrante, Karl Ove Knausgård, Chris Kraus and Lena Andersson.

It is all about trying to make a dream come true; about finally saying it all, just as it feels at the bottom of the heart.

**Sara Ehnholm Hielm** is a publisher and film critic, living in Helsinki. She has worked as a fiction editor for fifteen years and has also written plays for stage.

She was awarded the Swedish Yle Literature Prize 2018 for her essay collection *And the heart was mine*.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Och hjärtat, det var mitt*, Förlaget M 2018, 220 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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info@rightsandbrands.com  
Leenastiina Kakko, leenastiina.kakko@rightsandbrands.com



Photo: Niklas Sanstrom

## Antti Ervasti & Matti Pikkujämsä: Cup of Therapy

A bear hug of a book with a big message: that it's normal to face problems and you're fine just the way you are.

How about a cup of empathy, understanding and encouragement, served by a group of adorable animals? Combining heartwarming illustrations with thoughtful texts that support mental well-being, *Cup Of Therapy* tackles heavy topics in a novel and accessible way.

The book was created when psychotherapy professionals Antti Ervasti and Elina Rehmonen joined forces with the award-winning artist and graphic designer Matti Pikkujämsä. The stories behind the pictures are inspired by real-life therapy encounters.

The creators also meet up with their audience to raise awareness of mental well-being in an approachable way. Ten percent of the book's sales revenue is donated to promote mental health work.

This gem of a book is the perfect gift for friends in need of a hug – and that includes you!

**Matti Pikkujämsä** is one of Finland's most recognized illustrators and graphic designers. His art has been published in books and magazines and can be seen in design stores.

**Antti Ervasti** is a therapist based in Finland specializing in couples and family therapy.

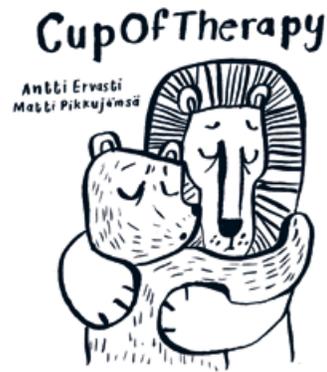
ORIGINAL TITLE: *Tilkkänen terapiaa*, Otava 2017, 210 pp.

### Rights sold:

China (Feel), Germany (Verlag Antje Kunstmann), Hong Kong (Popular), Korea (Haksan)

### Foreign rights contact:

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



## Jessica Haapkylä: The Story of the Sea: The Expedition of a Marine Biologist to the Northern Seas

An intriguing and cautionary science book about the northern seas.

In 2004, marine biologist Jessica Haapkylä was in Alaska as a member of Jean-Michel Cousteau's film crew. At the time, global warming was seldom spoken of, though the signs of thawing permafrost could already be seen.

Near the end of the 2010s, Haapkylä decided to investigate what was happening to the northern seas. She travelled to Svalbard and Greenland and examined how southern marine species were infiltrating the northern waters and displacing Arctic species. For example, as the orca moves northward, predation pressure on seals and whales grows and the habitat of other whale species shrinks. Meanwhile, codfish and mackerel have spread even further north, where the habitat of the Arctic cod is already shrinking. Changes in the fish fauna have consequences for the region's fishing-based livelihood, which is thousands of years old. But are Greenlanders pleased with their expanding fishing waters – at least in the short term?

**Jessica Haapkylä** is a science writer who holds a PhD in marine biology. As a marine biologist, she has dived on coral reefs around the world while researching the effects of global warming. Haapkylä became interested in the changing Arctic while a member of Jean-Michel Cousteau's film crew in Alaska.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Meren tarina. Meribiologin tutkimusmatka Arktikselle*, Into Publishing 2019, 260 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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



Photo: Elina Nieppola

## Jukka Häkkinen: The Hallucinating Brain: Linking the Fascinating History of Hallucinations to Contemporary Neuroscience

You're not crazy! It's just how your brain works!

Visual hallucinations are often regarded as signs of mental illness and complete breakdown of the processing brains. However, also people without mental disorders see hallucinations all the time. Bereavement, stress, sleep deprivation, monotonous sensory stimulation or low vision can cause complex hallucinations.

The book is largely based on case studies and other stories ranging from supernatural creatures perceived by the Antarctic explorers to unethical science of sensory deprivation torture. These often dramatic descriptions create a narrative that is used to guide the reader towards the main point of the book: Hallucinations are an important property of brain processing, which enables people to perceive so efficiently.

**Jukka Häkkinen** is a researcher at the University of Helsinki. He has PhD in experimental psychology and has studied human perception for thirty years. In 2018 his previous book, *"The psychology of weird experiences"*, was shortlisted in the final of the Finnish Science Book of the Year competition.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Mielen oudot maisemat – hallusinaatioiden psykologia*, Docendo 2019, 220 pp.

### Selected backlist:

Jukka Häkkinen: *The psychology of weird experiences (Outojen kokemusten psykologia*, Docendo 2018)

### Foreign rights contact:

Docendo, [www.docendo.fi](http://www.docendo.fi)  
Juha Virkki, [juha.virkki@docendo.fi](mailto:juha.virkki@docendo.fi)



Photo: Studio Musta & Valkoinen



## Marja Kihlström: The Big O: The Scandinavian Guide to Female Pleasure

A modern, clarion call for more and better orgasms for women, by Scandinavia's answer to Esther Perel.

Scandinavia has been known for two things all around the world for decades – liberal views on sex, and gender equality – and it feels like there's never been a better moment than now for a book like this to reach readers around the world. Brimming with first-hand accounts and her own years of empirical expertise, Marja Kihlström guides readers on their individual journeys with her disarming directness that Finns have come to be known for. Akin to Emily Nagoski's bestselling *Come as You Are*, Kihlström's mission is to deconstruct and destroy the shame and taboos that too often are associated with the subject, as well as old notions of the female orgasm being either elusive, mysterious or exotic. Modern and empathetic, this book will change the lives of women – and their partners – everywhere – as it has already done for so many of Marja's followers in Scandinavia.

**"Recommended reading for all ages and genders."**

– *Aamulehti*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Iso O: Matkaopas huipulle*, Kosmos 2018, 246 pp.

### Selected backlist:

*The Big O Workbook (Iso O Harjoituskirja*, Kosmos 2019)

### Rights sold:

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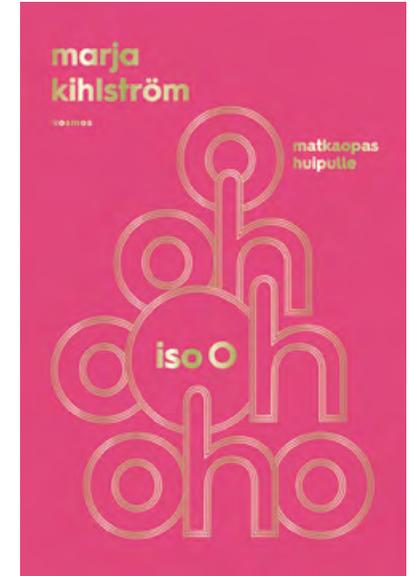


Photo: Aleks Rytönen



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

A stunning memoir and story of a fateful exploration in the north.

Georg Steller, a passionate German scientist, sailed to Alaska in the 1740s as a member of the legendary expedition of Vitus Bering. During the journey, he discovered several new plant and animal species, including Steller's sea cow, which was never again seen by another scientist. The species went extinct only 27 years later.

Bering and Steller were shipwrecked on Bering Island, where Bering and many other members of the crew died. Steller survived and was able to conduct additional research in Kamchatka and Siberia before dying in Russia.

*A Man and a Sea Cow* tells Steller's incomparable story while captivatingly studying the world and worldview of the naturalists of the past.

Author **Aura Koivisto** had an exceptional childhood: she lived at the Helsinki Zoo, as her father was its director. Koivisto has published twenty books in total and has written both fiction and non-fiction.



ORIGINAL TITLE: *Mies ja merilehmä. Luonnontutkija Georg Stellerin kohtalokas tutkimusmatka*, Into Publishing 2019, 344 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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

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

Indiana Jones meets National Geographic

Journalist Jussi Konttinen moved to Yakutia, the coldest region of Siberia, with his wife and three children. During the winter, temperatures reached -50 degrees Celsius and the family had to melt drinking water from huge blocks of ice.

But despite the challenges, Siberia is full of wonders. During his time there, Konttinen saw the highest volcano in Eurasia erupt, encountered 70,000 walrus on a beach, searched for mammoth tusks buried in the permafrost and played a frozen zombie in a Yakutian horror film.

Konttinen's book paints a picture of life in the Yakut village of Tyokhtyur, but also features topics like the Siberian economy, politics and culture, its vast wilderness, enormous natural resources and vulnerable nature, and the climate change underway that is threatening everything.

**Jussi Konttinen** (b. 1973) is a journalist with *Helsingin Sanomat*. He has deep experience in post-Soviet countries, speaks fluent Russian and worked as a correspondent in St Petersburg, Russia, for six years. In 2016, he moved with his wife and three kids to Siberia. They stayed there for a year, living in a little village inhabited by the indigenous Yakut people.

**“The chapters of the book wander around Siberia like a mammoth that has popped out of the past into the present.”**  
– Ville Ropponen, *Helsingin Sanomat*

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Siperia – Suomalaisen perheen ihmellinen vuosi ikiroudan maassa*, HS-Kirjat 2019, 412 pp.

### Foreign rights contact:

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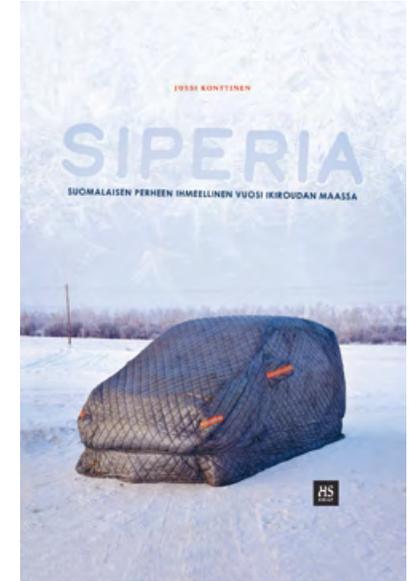


Photo: Henri Myrntinen

## Joonas Pörsti: The Enchantment of Propaganda

Why are myths and fake news so attractive to millions of people – and how are the architects of propaganda always one step ahead?

After the end of the Cold War and the fall of the USSR, the world welcomed a new era full of hope. As more and more countries became democratic, political propaganda seemed to sink into oblivion along with the authoritarian regimes.

But the 21st century has quickly proven that nothing has really changed. The Iraq War, the Ukrainian crisis, the rise of ISIS and the presidencies of Trump and Putin have put propaganda back at the centre of global politics. It turned out that Western democracies are not immune to it either – quite the opposite.

*The Enchantment of Propaganda: One Hundred Years of Spin Doctoring* is a narrative account of propaganda in international politics from 1914 to the present day. It is a masterful combination of fact-based knowledge, skilful yet accessible journalistic style and an entertaining sharpness that gives the reader a thorough understanding of how propaganda works and the dangers disinformation poses to societies. The book was awarded the State Award for Public Information.

**Joonas Pörsti** (b. 1974) works as a managing editor of *Ulkopolitiikka* magazine (the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs) and contributes to several other Finnish newspapers and magazines on international politics and the economy. He holds an MA in history.

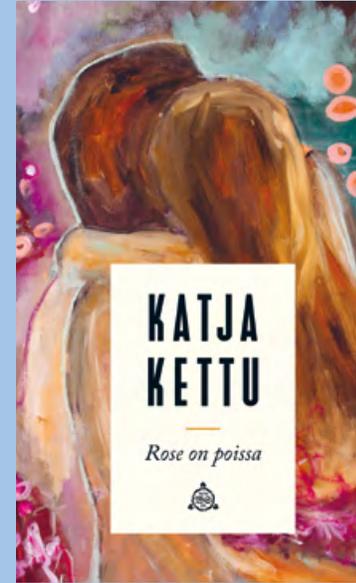
ORIGINAL TITLE: *Propagandan lumo. Sata vuotta mielten hallintaa*, Teos 2017, 416 pp.

**Rights sold:**  
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Photo: Heini Lehtäläiho



## Katja Kettu: Rose is Gone

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

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

**Awards:**  
WSOY Literary Foundation Award 2013  
Runeberg Prize 2012  
Kalevi Jäntti Prize 2011

**Selected backlist:**  
*Hawk Moth* (Yöperhonen, WSOY 2015)  
*The Midwife* (Kättilö, WSOY 2011)  
*The Sorrow Collector* (Suruhenkerääjä, WSOY 2005)

**Rights sold:**  
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Hungary (Gondolat), Sweden (Albert Bonniers)

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Eleonoora Kirk, [eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.se](mailto:eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.se)



## Tommi Kinnunen: The Glass River

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

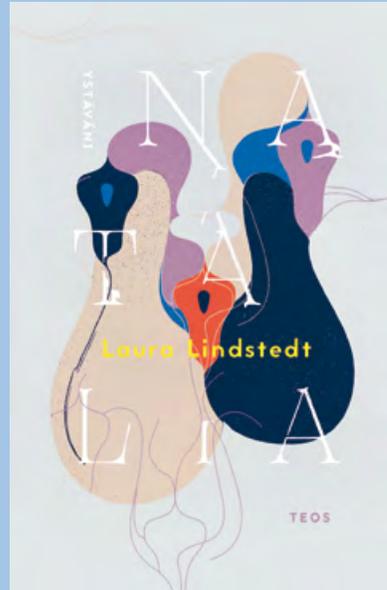
ORIGINAL TITLE: *PINTTI*, WSOY 2018, 291 pp.

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

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

**Rights sold:**  
Norway (Pax Forlag)

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Eleonoora Kirk, [eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.se](mailto:eleonoora.kirk@bonnierrights.se)



## Laura Lindstedt: My Friend Natalia

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

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

### Selected backlist:

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

### Rights sold:

Belgium (De Bezige Bij), Estonia (Rahva Raamat), France (Gallimard)  
Hungary (Scolar Kiado), Italy (Elliot Edizioni), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Norway (Oktober), Romania (Humanitas Fiction), Sweden (Norstedts), United States (W.W. Norton / Liveright)

### Foreign rights contact:

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[info@ahlbackagency.com](mailto:info@ahlbackagency.com)



## Miki Luukkonen: The Master of Silence

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

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

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper on *O*

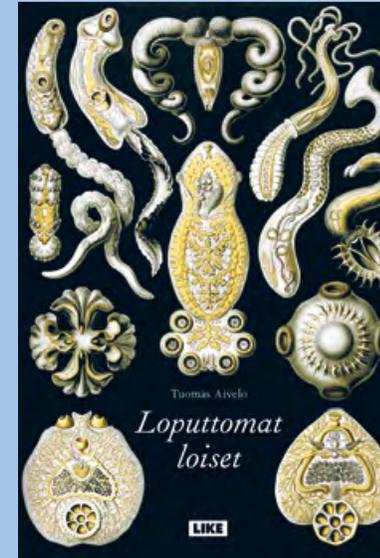
ORIGINAL TITLE: *HILJAISUUDEN MESTARI*, WSOY 2019, 280 pp.

### Selected backlist:

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

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## Tuomas Aivelo: Endless Parasites

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

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

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

### Sold rights:

Hungary (Typotex Kiadó)

### Foreign rights contact:

Kontext Agency, [www.kontextagency.com](http://www.kontextagency.com)  
Rita G Karlsson, [rita@kontextagency.com](mailto:rita@kontextagency.com)



## Maria Katajavuori: The Matter of Death and Life

The Theory of Everything meets Paradise Lost.

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

– *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

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

### Foreign rights contact:

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Rita G Karlsson, [rita@kontextagency.com](mailto:rita@kontextagency.com)

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1.2., 1.5., 1.11.

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