

BONNIER

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FICTION

Fall 2024



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CRIME & THRILLER

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Satu Rämö

HILDUR series

over 500,000 copies sold domestically | 15 language territories

#4 Rakel

The greatest secrets arrive on the waves of the Atlantic.

1995: A young German woman disappears in the Westfjords of Iceland, but no one seems to miss her. The case is quickly forgotten, as it's not uncommon for foreigners who come to Iceland to go their own way. Additionally, the police are busy investigating a fatal car accident and two bodies recovered from the sea.

2022: Detective Hildur Rúnarsdóttir's life has been calm for a long time, and she has just returned from a surfing holiday in Hawaii. Life seems to be in order: the renovation of her childhood home is progressing, and her colleague and friend Jakob Johansson has permanently moved to Iceland. Hildur regularly visits a family friend, Helga, in a nursing home, and during their conversations, surprising new details about her mother Rakel start to emerge. Meanwhile, a cruise ship carrying large groups of tourists arrives in Ísafjörður, bringing with it problems that challenge Hildur's sense of justice.

'I am absolutely thrilled to be bringing the Hildur series to the UK and to be working with the amazingly talented Satu. With her incredible characterisation and intricate storytelling, the Hildur series is set to be the next big thing in Nordic crime fiction.'

— Isabella Boyne, acquiring editor, Bonnier Zaffe UK on the HILDUR SERIES

'Nerve-wracking. A masterpiece in the crime fiction genre.'

— Ingallil Mosander, Aftonbladet, Sweden on #1 HILDUR

Awards & Nominations

Nominee - ThrillZone Awards 2023 NL, best translated crime debut (1)

Winner – Nextory E-Book Awards 2023, category fiction (1)

Winner – Supla Audio Awards, Audio Book of the Year 2022 (1)

Winner – Bookbeat Awards, Newcomer of the Year 2022 (1)

Nominee – 'Tulenkantaja' Finnish Literary Export Prize 2022 (1)

Winner – Storytel Award 2023 (2)

Nominee - Johtolanka Prize 2023 (2)

Winner – 2023, Adlibris Award 2023 (2)

Satu Rämö is the author of numerous bestselling, prizewinning non-fiction titles. Most recently, her acclaimed fiction debut, the Hildur series, became an immediate bestseller in Finland and an international success, with a TV series in development. Satu lives with her Icelandic husband and two children in the small town of Ísafjörður in northwest Iceland. @satu_ramo

CRIME & THRILLERS

toomas@bonnierights.fi



Publication

Rakel, WSOY 11|2024

Publishers Hildur series

Czech: HarperCollins Czech (1-3)

Danish: Gutkind (1-3)

Dutch: AmboAnthos (1-2)

Estonian: Eesti Raamat (1-3)

French: Le Seuil (1-3)

German: Heyne (1-4)

Icelandic: Forlagid

Italian: Newton Compton (1-3)

Latvian: Zvaigzne ABC

Norwegian: Bonnier Norsk (1-3)

Polish: HarperCollins Polska (1-3)

Slovak: Ikar (1-2)

Spanish World: Salamandra/PRH

Swedish: Forum (1-3)

UK & Comm ex CA: Bonnier Zaffe (1-3)

Film/TV

Take Two Studios/Sagafilm/

Story House (option)

Material

synopsis (Books 1-4)

English translation (1 & 2)

Finnish editions

Foreign editions

reviews

author letter



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3 JAKOB

It's the darkest time of the year in the village of Ísafjörður.

As Christmas approaches, the peace of the villagers is shattered, when a corpse is found in a fish farming pond. Hildur and Jakob have barely time to start their investigation before another equally bizarre homicide takes place in another remote corner of Iceland. And soon a third.

The lost connection to her middle sister, Rósa, weighs heavy on Hildur's mind. Meanwhile, Jakob prepares for the hearing of his fraught custody battle with his ex-wife. But to what lengths is Jakob prepared to go? That's what Hildur is left to ponder when she receives the worst possible call from Finland's Kolari police station.

Publication WSOY 2023, 399pp

Material synopsis, Finnish edition, reviews, author letter



#2 RÓSA & BJÖRK

Evil is often found close to home. A Der Spiegel bestseller.

An unusual murder occurs in the remote Westfjords of Iceland with the discovery of an influential businessman and municipal politician found shot dead on a ski trail. During the investigation, Hildur and Jakob are faced with a difficult question: is it wise to uncover every secret?

The traumas of Hildur's childhood rise to the surface as the mystery of her missing little sisters, Rósa and Björk, begins to unravel further. Meanwhile, Jakob tries to keep a cool head in the middle of a difficult custody dispute.

Publication WSOY 2023, 361pp

Material synopsis, full English translation, Finnish edition, reviews, author letter



#1 HILDUR

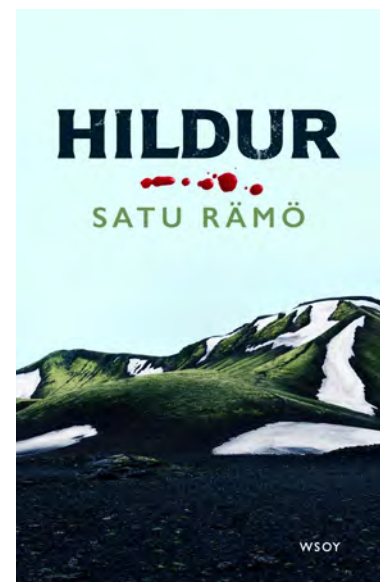
A cold case crime and dark secrets of a close-knit community intertwine in this bracing crime novel with a twist. A Der Spiegel bestseller.

Everyone does their best to survive amidst the freezing fjords of remote Iceland. Head of the Missing Persons Unit, detective Hildur Rúnarsdóttir is no different as she surfs the icy Atlantic swells to try and forget her traumatic childhood and the burden of the cases occupying her mind.

When Jakob, a Finnish police trainee with a knitting hobby arrives in Iceland to work alongside Hildur and try to escape his own, complicated life, soon he, too, realises that the picturesque fjords also harbour their dark sides.

Publication WSOY 2022, 364pp

Material synopsis, full English translation, Finnish edition, reviews, author letter



Christian Rönnebacka HENNA BJÖRK series

85 000 copies sold domestically

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#3 THE RED TEAM

A standalone thriller. Full English available!

A list of names appears on the dark web, including the name of someone considered critical by Finland's national security unit. Meanwhile, private information about these high-profile targets is being sold on the cryptocurrency market. An international manhunt ensues.

Henna Björk, a young Finnish-Iraqi agent for the Security and Intelligence Service, crosses Europe with her new team. Their task is to track down criminals operating on the dark web and leaving a list of names written in blood in their wake.

The #1 audiobook bestseller in Finland in May 2024.

The #5 bestseller across formats in Finland in May 2024.

Publication Koodi, Bazar 2024, 334pp

Rights sold All rights available

Material Finnish edition

#2 THE HUNT

A dangerous chase between a young Gothenburg policeman, a former child soldier, and a brutal war criminal continues in Belgium in the second title in Christian Rönnebacka's tense HENNA BJÖRK series. Young but hard-boiled intelligent service agent Henna Björk tracks down an invisible enemy lurking online in order to get ahead of row of worldwide murders.

Publication Jahti, Bazar 2023, 318pp

Rights sold All rights available | **Film & TV rights** All rights available

Material Finnish edition

#1 THE STRIKE

The opening title of Christian Rönnebacka's HENNA BJÖRK series throws the tough, young namesake into the ugly misdeeds of an international criminal organization.

The seemingly easy task of bringing a former child soldier to Finland to become a witness escalates in the blink of an eye into a breathtaking suspenseful escape drama.

Publication Isku, Bazar 2022, 272pp

Rights sold All rights available

Material Finnish edition

Christian Rönnebacka is a former police officer and one of Finland's bestselling crime authors of all time. This novel demonstrates how, in a world in which information is power, even the mildest online crimes can destroy dreams, fortunes, and lives.



Helena Immonen

'The Fox' series

Bestselling and frighteningly topical series about geopolitical power struggles.

#4 OPERATION FIRE FOX

Helena Immonen, a former officer, and a reconnaissance radio operator in the Finnish reserve forces, writes enticingly about military operations that involve ordinary reservists, well-known politicians, and professional soldiers, lending a grounded and realistic feel.

A must-read thriller for fans of Anna Tell and Grethe Bøe.

Operation Fire Fox, coming soon! Hostages, spies, rescue missions, and undercover operations. This fourth and last instalment of the series is full of action. Russia has taken control of the Arctic region, and empowered by that, decides to resolve the situation in Ukraine once and for all. All of Europe is preparing for a war. Find out what happens next!

Publication Operaatio tulikettu, CrimeTime 8|2024, 512pp
Rights sold All rights available | **Film & TV rights** ICS Nordic
Material Synopsis, Finnish edition tk, author letter

#3 OPERATION ARCTIC FOX

SSgt Joni Koivu and his combat partner spot suspicious intelligence activity on Finnish territory. Finland and Norway join forces and Joni finds himself in the middle of another military conflict started by Russia. The third instalment of the series is a nail-biting thriller set in the Finnish Lapland and Svalbard as Russia seeks to secure its northern hegemony and China asks Finland for help. Will Finland withstand the pressure? Who will ultimately win Arctic domination?

#1 bestseller in Finland

'...a flowing thriller that neither belittles, idealizes nor romanticizes violence and war.' — **Helsingin Sanomat newspaper**

Publication Operaatio napakettu, CrimeTime 2023, 460pp
Rights sold All rights available | **Film & TV rights** ICS Nordic
Material Finnish edition, English sample, synopsis, author letter

Helena Immonen is a journalist specialized in security policy, a former officer in the Finnish reserve forces and a trained 'Sissi' guerilla radio operator, who turned to writing full-time in 2022. As a child, Helena wanted to be a cowboy and an astronaut. Helena loves a good story and dreams of owning a horse. She is also author of a successful middle-grade series. @heimmonen

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Helena Immonen 'The Fox' series

CRIME & THRILLERS

#2 OPERATION DESERT FOX

Novichok, a cyber attack and a clandestine operation in Afghanistan feature in this skillfully told and gripping standalone sequel.

This suspenseful and relevant thriller, with its believable story-line and grounded characters, looks at the people and their motives involved in highly plausible scenarios that will appeal to a broad audience.

'A must-read for any fan of thrillers or military fiction, but not excluding any other fans of good literature.' 4.5/5 stars — Kirsi's Book Club

Publication Operaatio aavikkokettu, CrimeTime 2022, 414pp
Rights sold All rights available | **Film & TV rights** ICS Nordic
Material Finnish edition, synopsis, author letter

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#1 OPERATION RED FOX

The book launches a frighteningly topical series about geopolitical power struggles, with Finland being drawn into the fray.

Europe's geopolitical tensions are on the rise and Sweden announces its intention to apply for NATO membership. Sweden asks Finland for help. It's not long before Russian tanks rumble over the Finnish border and Riina is called up for service. War has begun...

Finland's Whodunnit Society's Debut Crime Novel of the Year award

The imaginary scenarios of Russia's invasion of Finland have hitherto been the near-exclusive preserve of Ilkka Remes. However, debutant and reserve officer Helena Immonen outperforms Remes in a novel that leaves nothing unclear. — Pertti Avola, Helsingin Sanomat

'A good, fast-paced and topical plot - I couldn't help but read the whole book without putting it down.' — Martti J. Kari, hybrid warfare expert, military intelligence officer

Publication Operaatio punainen kettu, CrimeTime 2020, 464pp
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Material Finnish edition, synopsis, author letter



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Patricia G. Bertényi
Department C1 series

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#1 WE'RE ALL BLIND

A gripping hospital thriller with a social conscience

Janka Vitéz is an unassuming 62-year-old hospital cleaner—a cog in the well-oiled clinical wheel of the busy University Hospital, where she has worked for over twenty years. Janka belongs to the invisible army of workers who keep the hospital scrubbed clean, day in, day out. She pushes her cleaning cart around unnoticed, as though she's wearing an invisibility cloak.

Janka may not stand out among the sea of medical scrubs, but when two unrelated patients die in intensive care, the smell emitted by their bodies activates her latent synaesthesia and a suspicion she cannot ignore. Janka knows more than her humble job suggests: in a previous life, back in her home country, she was the chief medical examiner for the central police. But who would believe the cleaner?

Janka confides in a friendly nurse, Dani, who also expresses doubt about the natural causes the patients are said to have died of. As the two women work to expose a series of carefully covered up crimes, their informal investigation brings them close to real danger, but thankfully Janka's invisibility comes up trumps. Can they find and stop the vengeful killer before they endanger themselves?

#2 THE WORST OF CRIMES

Sequel set to be published in February 2025!

A young woman is found on the frozen surface of the River Aura. She has been beaten to within an inch of her life and suffered a traumatic brain injury. There's no indication she'll ever regain consciousness... Synopsis available.

'A joy to read. [...] A strong and believable plotting that is perfectly-paced...' – Turun Sanomat newspaper

"Bertényi creates a very believable and likeable protagonist. [...] A very accomplished and modern whodunit..."

— Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

Patricia G. Bertényi is a Hungarian-born Finnish writer, photographer, and intensive care nurse. Before training as a nurse, Bertényi studied at the New York Institute of Photography. A lifelong writer, she debuted in 2019 with a mystery trilogy before writing *We're All Blind*. She's also the Editor-in-Chief of Finnish intensive care medical journal, *Tehohoito*. She lives in Turku, Finland with her wife and dog.



Rights sold

Estonian (Pegasus)

Publication

Kaikki ovat sokeita
Tammi 2024
431 pp

Material

Finnish Edition
English Sample Translation
Author Letter
Reviews



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Rebekka Härkönen

Hiding in Plain Sight

The gripping opener to the Suuna Walta series

Award-winning crime reporter Rebekka Härkönen's fiction debut plunges readers into the shadows of abuses of power at the highest levels that leave their mark on the most innocent.

When two horrific crimes punctuate the November gloom in Helsinki – a young man shoots three people and then himself on the metro, followed by the discovery of a plastic-wrapped torso dumped at the railway station—tenacious crime reporter Suuna Walta is soon on the scene. The seasoned hack has her methods of obtaining information for her scoops, however much Detective Inspector Jens Jäämeri, a perpetual thorn in her side, tries to make it difficult for her.

As the police begin their investigation into the shooting, Suuna soon receives a tip-off from the underworld that it wasn't motivated by extremism, no matter what the police may say. Suuna soon uncovers something that will put the police on the back foot, uncovering failures in the system to protect the most vulnerable, while those in the upper echelons of power remain ostensibly untouchable.

Rebekka Härkönen lifts the lid on the modern, hectic world of crime reporting with her debut standalone series featuring Suuna Walta, drawing inspiration from real-life cases, and the social- and administrative failings swept under the mat. With her flair for a good story, Härkönen skilfully weaves a vivid and well-paced crime novel with a plucky reporter as the lead character. Perfect reading for fans of Tina Frennstedt's 'Cold Case' series.

'Vivid and compelling.'
– **Kansan Uutiset newspaper**

'Skillful pacing keeps the reader in its grip and seasoned crime reporter Rebekka Härkönen's expertise shines through.'
– **Kotiliesi magazine**

Rebekka Härkönen is an award-winning journalist and writer. Her journalism career spans twenty years as a newspaper journalist, ten of which were covering crime and justice. Härkönen currently works as a news reporter covering crime for Finland's MTV News. The author of two non-fiction titles, Hiding in Plain Sight is her fiction debut. She lives in Helsinki.

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Rights sold
All rights available

Film & TV Rights
ITV (option)

Publication
Prinsessamekko
Bazar 2023
415 pages

Material
Finnish Edition
English sample
Synopsis
Author Letter



BONNIER
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Maisku Myllymäki

The Guard

One-day-novel about art, insomnia, and an intense love affair distorted by social media.

This engaging upmarket novel about insomnia, a museum guard, an art exhibition, and an intense love affair—exploring themes of paranoia and the power of art and social media—is just 302 pages long. Once you've finished, you'll immediately want to start over!

In *The Guard*, Myllymäki evokes a tense atmosphere in which the reader cannot be sure whether or not the narrator is reliable or whether justice will be served. But one thing is for sure: after reading *The Guard*, you'll never see museums the same way again. And the ending, it'll blow you away.

Myllymäki's first novel *HOLLY* was shortlisted by Helsingin Sanomat for the Best Debut Novel Prize in 2021.



Maisku Myllymäki

Holly

WSOY 2021
255pp

What kind of woman lives alone on a bird island?

Holly is a compelling and atmospheric debut novel about two women struggling in the waves of attention deficit, shame and secrets.

'Myllymäki's novel is at the same time perplexing and delightful. (...) Psychological insights are sharp and the language is refreshing.'
— Helsingin Sanomat newspaper on Maisku Myllymäki's debut *Holly*

'Holly could even be compared to Ian McEwan's Saturday, which is probably the most accurate observation of detail in literary history. Myllymäki creates concise prose that hypnotises the reader.'
— Kauppalehti newspaper on Myllymäki's debut *Holly*

Maisku Myllymäki is a Helsinki-based author and philosophy graduate. Her debut novel *Holly* (WSOY 2021) was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Best Debut Novel Prize in 2021.

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Publication

Valvoja
WSOY 8 | 2024
302pp

Material

English sample
synopsis
Finnish edition



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Pia Heikkilä

The Rat Catcher of Delhi

UPMARKET FICTION

Full English ms available

'I am Zua-Zuha-Tsuua! You can call me what you want. I am Delhi's most sought-after rat catcher and my business is booming!'

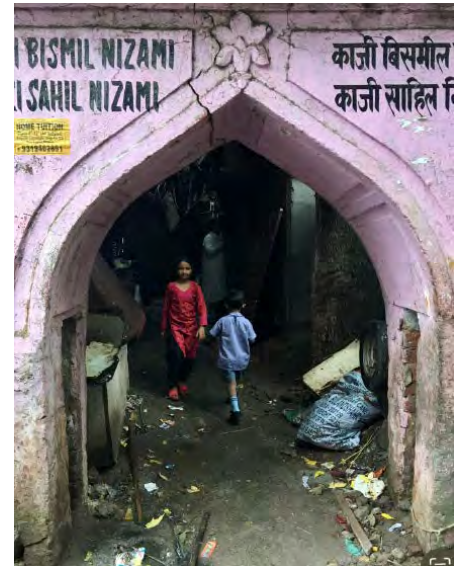
Pia Heikkilä's upcoming novel takes us to the tough streets of Delhi, where a teenage girl called Zoya - born with just three fingers on her right and two on her left hand – has become the city's most sought-after rat catcher, thanks to her unique technique which does not harm the animals when caught.

She goes about her business catching rats with her bare hands, dressed up as a boy for safety. But Zoya also harbors a dark secret, which is about to catch up with her.

The Rat Catcher of Delhi is a captivating survival story with a plucky lead character who observes the baffling world of grown-ups around her with avid curiosity.

Heikkilä's novel brings the capital Delhi alive as a magical, otherworldly place unlike any other where Zoya's unbeatable spirit will be your guide.

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Publication
Delhin rotanpyydystäjä
Bazar 2025

Material
Full English MS

Pia Heikkilä is a Finnish journalist who has lived in India for the last 14 years. Her first novel Operation Lipstick was published by Penguin India in 2012 and was translated to Finnish the following year by Otava. Before The Rat Catcher of Delhi, she published six books in total.

Pia Heikkilä has previously worked in the UK, the Middle East and Afghanistan for CNN, Al Jazeera, and the Guardian. She speaks and reads seven languages, including Hindi and Urdu, the two primary languages of North India. During her free time, she leads walking tours in Old Delhi.



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Meri Valkama

Yours, Margot

Winner of the Helsingin Sanomat Best Debut of the Year Prize.

Rights sold to 7 territories + TV

The acclaimed, bestselling novel about the fragility of memory and a family secret. An immediate national bestseller with a TV miniseries in development with Juho Kuosmanen (Compartment No. 6) attached to direct.

In the early 1980s, journalist Markus Siltanen relocates with his young family from Helsinki to East Berlin to work as a foreign correspondent. Vilja, his daughter, spends her childhood immersed in the East German way of life and thinking, until the family eventually returns to Finland. Over time, Vilja's memories of her childhood dissolve, much like the country itself.

In 2011, after her father's death, Vilja finds a bundle of letters addressed to 'Erich' from someone in Berlin called 'Margot', with whom her father evidently had had a passionate relationship with. Vilja decides to try and track down this Margot and returns to Berlin. The transformed city still bears some memories for her but the most important pieces seem to be missing. Her search for Margot, rips open everything she thought she knew about her parents and her childhood.

With a propulsive narrative and rich detail that immerses the reader into the East Berlin before 'die Wende', this is an accomplished, suspenseful European novel that evokes stylistic comparisons to both Ian McEwan and Sarah Waters by a gifted storyteller from the Nordics who truly captures the essence of why we should read at all.

UPMARKET FICTION

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FRANKFURTER VERLAGSANSTALT

Rights sold

Danish: Gutkind
Estonian: Hea Lugu
German: Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt
Hungarian: Partvonal
Lithuanian: Alma Littera
Norwegian: Bonnier Norsk
Swedish: Bazar

Film & TV Rights

Aamu Film Company (Option)

Publication

Sinun, Margot
WSOY 2021
556pp

Material

DE, EST, FI, DK, NO, SE, HU Editions
English Sample Translation 103 pp
Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews

'A Finnish debutante enriches the discussion on how to write about the GDR.' – Fridtjof Küchemann, FAZ, Germany

'A page-turner...highly recommended.' *****
– Jyllands-Posten, Denmark

'Extraordinary.' – Nettavisen, Norway

'The language (and translation) flows like the Spree itself and the story contains many layers. Brilliant.' Overall rating: 5/5 – BTJ, Sweden

Meri Valkama is a Finnish journalist, writer and deputy city councillor based in Helsinki. She spent part of her childhood in East Berlin and, later on as an adult, on a scholarship at the Freie Universität Berlin, where she researched and produced documentaries about journalists who had been active in the former DDR. Valkama is at work on a second novel, and has co-authored a forthcoming narrative non-fiction work with former Finnish president, Tarja Halonen.



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Maija Kajanto

The Birch Tree Café series

Bestselling Nordic feelgood series — over 140,000 copies sold.

#5 CARDAMOM CHRISTMAS

Everybody in Pyhävirta is waiting for Santa.

In the midst of snow and severe frost, Krisse and Tommi glue paper elves on the windows of their home and plan for spring and a new phase of life. The upcoming change for Krisse is joyous but it feels like not everyone in her family shares her happiness.

When the rice porridge is simmering on Christmas Eve morning and the smell of cardamom wafts from the kitchen, it's time to find out if there really is such thing as Christmas Magic.

Cardamom Christmas is a spruce-scented feel-good Christmas book. It concludes the popular 5-book Birch Tree Café series.

Publication Kardemummajoulu, WSOY, 11|2024, 265pp

Rights sold All rights available

Material Finnish edition tk

COMMERCIAL FICTION

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#4 CITRUS SPRING

Spring is in the air but life seems to be giving Kristiina Kivimaa only lemons.

After spending a year abroad by the sunny Adriatic Sea, Kristiina and Tommi return to Pyhävirta to find things have changed and life has moved on. Krisse receives the worst possible news, and the couple continue building their dream home on the lakeshore. They begin to furnish it with their shared hopes and dreams for the future.

The book debuted on the Finnish bestseller list at #1 in audio and ebook.

'Maija Kajanto has succeeded in creating a shared granny's house feeling for all of Finland. Many of us have enjoyed the care of a grandmother – you are accepted, there is a warm hug, a meal, a made bed and, above all, that loving look. That's what life looks like in [the Birch Tree Café series].' — Kirsin kirjanurkka blog

Publication Sitruunakevät, WSOY, 3|2024, 256 pp

Rights sold All rights available

Material Finnish Edition, Reviews



Maija Kajanto is a Helsinki-based writer, journalist and communications professional. She debuted in 2019 with a women's fiction trilogy, which garnered acclaim for her realistic portrayal of working life. @maijakajanto



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#3 APPLECAKE AUTUMN

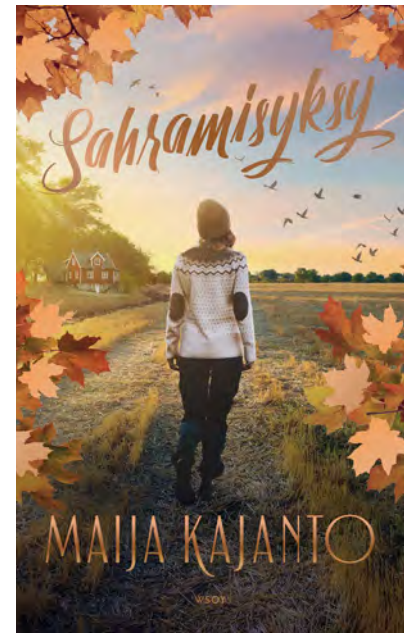
Autumn is the time for new beginnings - also for Kristiina Kivimaa at the Birch Tree Café.

With the bakery-café and lakeside inn businesses back on their feet again, the local community is rattled by the new mayor's development proposals and Kristiina Kivimaa has to choose where – and with whom – her future lies.

The book debuted on the Finnish bestseller list at #4 across all formats, and #2 in audio and e-book. Perfect for readers looking for a distinctively Nordic answer to Jenny Colgan, Lucy Diamond, and Kajsa Ingemarsson.

'I devoured the book in an instant. There was something comforting and a feeling of a bygone time.' — **Ilta-Sanomat newspaper**

Publication Sahramisyksy, WSOY 2023, 223pp
Rights sold All rights available
Material Finnish Edition, Synopsis, Reviews



#2 HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE LAKESIDE INN

As the first snows fall and a hectic holiday season running the Birch Tree Café and the newly-opened Lakeside Inn beckons, Kristiina Kivimaa begins to wonder if she might have bitten off more than she can chew...

Christmas has arrived and with it, the scent of festive scents emanating from the Birch Tree Café's bakery. A new lakeside inn business opportunity has Kristiina Kivimaa jumping at the challenge, but can she keep all her plates spinning in the air as Christmas approaches?

Most listened-to audiobook right upon publication

Publication Taatelitalvi, WSOY 2022, 231pp
Material Finnish Edition, Sample Translation 36 pp, Synopsis, Reviews



#1 SUMMER AT THE BIRCH TREE CAFÉ

A delectable summertime novel and opener of a series that will leave readers craving more.

Professional recipe developer Kristiina 'Krisse' Kivimaa quits her stressful job in the capital city and returns to her picturesque hometown to help run her grandmother's bakery and café, The Birch Tree Café. The change also gives Krisse space to grieve a loss and discover that a freshly baked cinnamon bun can cure all ills. A delectable feelgood novel with heart and humour in a picturesque Nordic setting.

BookBeat's most listened-to audiobook of the summer

Publication Korvapuustikesä, WSOY 2022, 320pp Rights sold: Estonian (Hea Lugu)
Material Finnish Edition, Sample Translation 37pp, Synopsis, Reviews, Author Letter



Sinikka Vuola

Anatomy of a Storm

LITERARY FICTION

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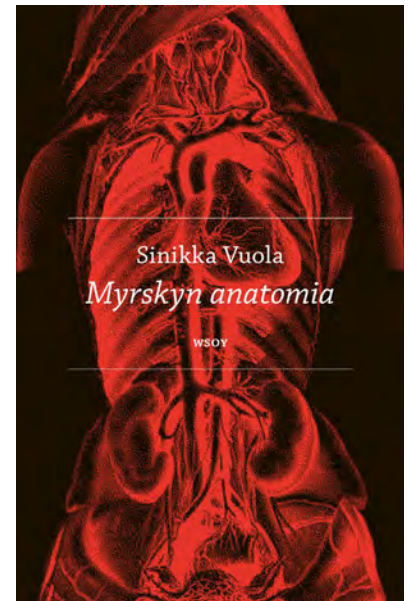
An ambitious and experimental novel by an acclaimed author

'i waited for mother to come, she would come very soon; later i waited in parks and cafés and at metro stations: mother could after all appear anywhere and any moment i was afraid of not being at the right place at the right time; and the wind inside me turned every time i thought of the meeting when i saw mothers with their small children, my heart was so heavy that it couldn't say a word: their proximity was perfect, incomprehensible.'

The protagonist of this mosaic novel is an anonymous woman on the verge of adulthood who lives with her father and twin sister in a central European city. She is haunted by confusion about her origins.

She receives no support from her father, who is struggling with his own loss. Meanwhile, her mother is only a "vague ancient word". But the siblings manage to make a peculiar friend, a young man who brightens their days.

Anatomy of a Storm is a rich, timeless, ambiguous work about an emptiness that cannot be filled and the wind that blows where it will.



Rights sold

All rights available

Publication

Myrskyn anatomia
WSOY 5 | 2024
152pp

Material

English sample
Finnish Edition

'If Dess Terentjeva's three verse novels for young people are suitable for adults to read as well, ANATOMY OF A STORM is similarly recommended for young people. It deals with the themes of growing up, love and eternal change in an understandable, concise and profound way. In a way it echoes the classics of world literature, starting with Ovid's Metamorphoses.'

— Vesa Rantama, Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

'The end of Anatomy of a Storm is stunning. It's a beautifully written emotional state that lingers in the mind. It is dark, eternal and yet hopeful. Absolutely stunning! [...] This novel can be read many times and in many ways. [...] And if I were in the Finlandia Prize jury this year, Anatomy of a Storm would be on my shortlist. It's definitely an outstanding work of fiction!' — Kirsin book club

Sinikka Vuola is a Helsinki-based writer and philosophy graduate. Her debut work, the poetry collection *The Orchestra we Can't Hear* (Tammi 2007) was nominated for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize and awarded the Kalevi Jäntti Prize. Vuola's third collection of poems, *The World's Hardest Language* (Tammi 2013), was nominated for the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE's Tanssiva Karhu Prize. Vuola's debut novel *Replica* (Tammi 2016) was nominated for the Runeberg Prize. Along with Laura Lindstedt, Vuola wrote the methodical murder mystery *101 Ways to Kill a Husband* (Siltala 2022), which was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2022.



Joel Elstelä

Izak

LITERARY FICTION

toomas@bonnierrights.fi

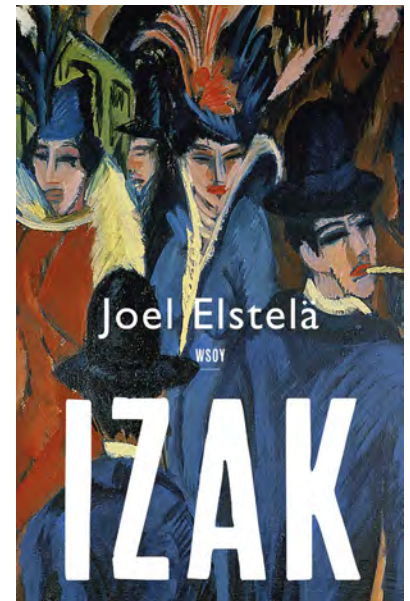
The second novel by the Finlandia-nominated author!

A mesmerising novel about collateral damage, power games, and the brutal ingenuity of human cruelty in a Germany that is overshadowed by the threat of the First World War

In the autumn of 1913, Bavarian accountant Izak Fasch discovers a strange hole in his backyard that brings back haunting memories of the past. Close to his home, Major General von Dustermann's chemical factory is spewing ammonia slag into the ground and spreading its roots beneath the town.

After falling unhappily in love with Ilse, the charming young wife of an elderly major-general, Izak winds up in the company of an industrialist in Berlin in the last moments of the belle époque. As the mysteries buried in the past inevitably unfold, Izak experiences the darkness of the human condition first hand, but he also witnesses a glimmer of sincere goodness and love. Nonetheless, in the end no one is spared from life's merciless game and the scythe of fate cannot be dodged.

Izak is a rich, traditional novel, with cleverly constructed scenes, charming settings, and tragicomic characters that transport the reader into the chaotic, colourful madness of Europe one hundred years ago.



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Publication

WSOY 9|2024
696pp

Material

Finnish Edition
English sample & synopsis tk

Film & TV

Rights available

'Perhaps due to Elstelä's background as a playwright, the events of the novel completely come to life in the reader's mind.'

— Keskipojhanmaa newspaper on Zircco Fantastico

'Reading this novel is a strong bodily experience. The language used to describe emotions is apt, and precise. The narrative is compelling, the phrases are flowing, the circus world is sensuous and the circus wagon metaphor is potent. Questions of responsibility, self-deceit, and turning a blind eye are dealt with in a way that is touching and relatable.'

— Statement of the Finlandia Prize Jury on Zircco Fantastico

Joel Elstelä is a Finnish theatre director, playwright, and writer. Elstelä has directed for most major theatres in Finland. He has adapted novels for stage plays and the big screen, and has translated numerous plays, including works by Shakespeare. Zircco Fantastico (WSOY 2021) was Joel Elstelä's first novel, for which he was nominated for the Finlandia Prize for Fiction.



BONNIER
Rights Finland

Minna Rytisalo

Jenny Hill

LITERARY FICTION

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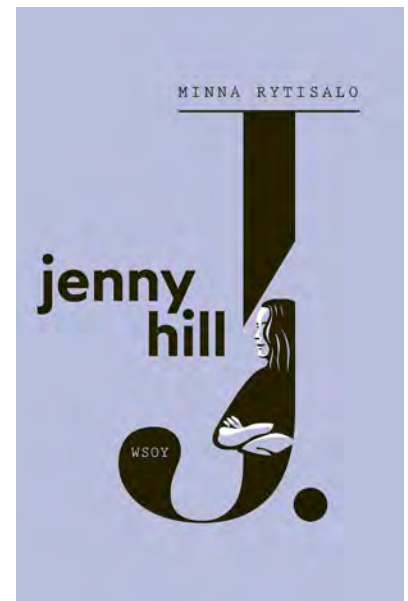
German rights sold!

A multi-layered, powerful novel about the female body by the author of LEMPI

Jenni Mäki is an ordinary divorced woman. But inside her, Jenny Hill sparkles, brave enough to do more and comment on the way the world looks as a woman. She is not satisfied with the answers she is given when she questions the truth.

Jenny Hill is a compelling novel about womanhood, middle age, menopause, and what it's like to be a woman in this world— and it's also about fairy-tale princesses and Brigitte Macron, too.

Jenny Hill is a poignant and timely novel that does justice to the female body through Rytisalo's distinctively delicate, yet powerful, style.



'Minna Rytisalo's writing is wonderfully lyrical and we really enjoyed the way she tells Jenny Hill's story as one that could be told by so many women all across Europe, and one that is deeply empowering as well'

— Roxane Daenner, Fiction editor, Carl Hanser Verlag, Germany

'A feminist novel, critical of patriarchy and sexism, a diamond in the rough.'

— Me Naiset magazine

'Rytisalo enjoys language like a figure skater enjoys pirouettes. The balance of sentences and phrases, the succinct summaries and vivid metaphors, the masterful use of text types and language forms flexibly linked to different situations are fascinating and captivating.'

— Kaleva newspaper

'Despite its heavy themes, Minna Rytisalo's novel rolls along lightly, peppered with sharp humour.'

— Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

Minna Rytisalo is a former schoolteacher, writer, and columnist. Her debut novel, *Lempi* (Gummerus 2016) was a critical and commercial success. It was awarded the Thank You for the Book Prize and the Bothnia Prize. *Mrs C.* (Gummerus 2018) captivated readers and won the Book of the Year Prize, the Bonnier Grand Journalism Prize, and the Torchbearer Literary Prize in 2016. Both novels have been adapted for the stage. Rytisalo lives in Kuusamo in Finland.



Rights sold

German: Carl Hanser

Publishers of Lempi

German: Carl Hanser

Hungarian: Polar

Latvian: Jumava

Lithuania: Alma Littera

Norwegian: Pax

Swedish: Bakhåll

Publication

Jenny Hill

WSOY 2023

293pp

Material

Finnish Edition

English sample

Synopsis

Film & TV Rights

Agency North

Tiina Laitila Kälvemark

The Shadow Sonata

A magnetic novel about fateful choices and a cruel crime that gives rise to an unlikely friendship in this suspenseful new novel from an acclaimed literary voice.

In the summer of 1993, a thirteen-year-old schoolboy, Mikael Helenius, is kidnapped. Ten months later he is found alive, an empty bottle containing an adder under his arm. The media goes into a frenzy over the so-called Snake Boy case, but Mikael has lost the ability to talk, instead parsing his thoughts and emotions through playing piano while the details of his abduction remain a question mark, like the clef-like coils of a snake.

Twenty-five years later, journalist Saara Martel leaves Paris and returns to her small Ostrobothnian hometown of Teerimäki to lick her wounds after a fall from professional grace and the collapse of her marriage. It is not so much her return to the parish that sparks the locals' curiosity as that of a shadowy figure, a man called 'Mikko Brander' with a snake tattoo around his neck and in whom Saara recognises someone from long ago. Mikael has returned, but why? Saara is determined to find out, and she must face the memory of a fateful choice she made many years ago.

Moving in the structure of a sonata, from allegro to rondo, Tiina Laitila Kälvemark's elegant prose builds a propulsive, beautiful story about a crime with far-reaching consequences, the power of music, and a rare friendship, bringing to mind Linda Olsson's *Astrid & Veronika*, Stina Jackson's *The Silver Road*, and Kerstin Ekman's *Blackwater*.

'The novel's language shines like diamonds in a snowdrift, the story is captivating and leaves a lasting impression.' – **Kulttuuritoimitus, Finland**

'Tiina Laitila Kälvemark's fifth work of fiction is described on the back cover as beautiful. I have to agree with this. Unusually for contemporary novels, Laitila Kälvemark's work deals with the big serious questions of life and does so with candour (...). The imagery is sometimes very dark, but hope and tenderness shine through like light. The book, as its title suggests, is effectively built on extremes and contrasts.'

– **Artemis Kelosaari, Parnasso literary magazine**

'A heartbreakingly beautiful novel about the power of friendship and music.' – **Anna magazine (* book of the week), Finland**

Tiina Laitila Kälvemark is a Stockholm-based Finnish journalist and multi-awarded author. Her debut novel, *Of Stones and Silence* (WSOY, 2015) was published to critical acclaim and shortlisted for the European Union Prize for Literature in 2015. Laitila Kälvemark's elegant and controlled prose often deals with themes of dislocation, marginalisation, and the unpredictability of the human mind. *The Shadow Sonata* is her fifth work of fiction.

LITERARY FICTION

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Publication
Valon ja pimeän sonaatit
WSOY 2023
352pp

Material
Finnish Edition
English sample 110pp
Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews



Hassan Blasim

Sololand

LITERARY FICTION

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Blasim's writing has been translated into over 20 languages to date.

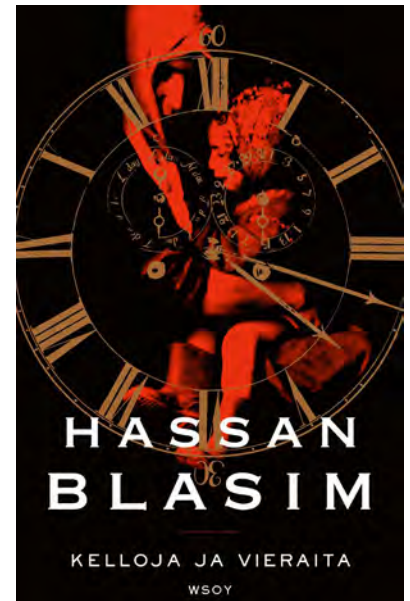
World English publication of Sololand in September 2024!

A novel in two parts from the author hailed by the Guardian as "perhaps the greatest writer of Arab fiction alive"

Elias works as an assistant to a cook in Mosul. He is a stranger in his own country, which has been taken over, and later a stranger in a foreign land when he becomes an asylum seeker in the North.

The North is Sololand, a place in which outsiders will always remain outsiders. Attitudes there are drawn from the Law of Jante: "Don't think you are anything. Don't think you are as good as us."

Blasim's uncompromising works are impactful: one minute they scream furiously, and the next they lull the reader into a momentary sense of security with Blasim's characteristic flowing prose.



Rights sold

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Publication

Kelloja ja vieraita
WSOY 2021
219pp

Rights sold

Italian: Utopia Editore
Serbian: Geopoetika
World English: Comma Press

Material

Arabic manuscript
Full Finnish translation

'Blasim's words don't sit neat and quiet on the page, like most 'well-behaved' literature; they explode, they frighten, they offend, they make you laugh at things you shouldn't laugh at and they keep you awake at night. Blasim's work, like his own life, is a reminder that war rages at our city gates, while we sleep on, convinced that all is fine and dandy with the world.' — Ra Page, Managing Editor, Comma Press

'Blasim shows himself, once again, to be a storyteller beyond compare'
— Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

'SOLOLAND is at least as important as Blasim's previous novel Allah99 (WSOY 2019), which Aamulehti newspaper called the most important novel of the century. Not as a defence speech by asylum seekers but as a bright star of literature, a profoundly touching narrative that increases understanding between people and opens up a new space in the reader's consciousness. A similar achievement in Finnish literature does not come to mind.' — Parnasso literary magazine

Hassan Blasim is an Iraqi writer, poet, and filmmaker who is currently living in Helsinki, Finland. Born in Baghdad, he studied at the city's Academy of Cinematic Arts where two of his screenplays won the Academy's Festival Prize for Best Work. In 1998 he was advised by his tutors to leave Baghdad, since the political and critical nature of his films was drawing attention from Saddam's informants at the Academy. After fleeing and travelling through Europe as a refugee, he settled in Finland in 2004. His debut collection of short stories, *The Madman of Freedom Square* (Comma Press, 2009), was longlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize in 2010. His second collection, *The Iraqi Christ* (Comma Press, 2013), won the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize in 2014.



Ville Verkkapuro

Pete

Winner of the Ilkka-Pohjalainen Literary Prize 2023

Nominated for Helsingin Sanomat Debut of the Year Award

A searing but tender novel about a dead father, which examines the search for a better life and addiction through Kurt Cobain, The Simpsons, and white trash by an author hailed a young Finnish Knausgård

Thirty-year-old Ville is living his best life with a dream job, love, and friends—everything in his life is perfect. But like a tattoo on his soul, his father Pete’s death troubles him. Ville is told he looks and acts just like his father. But is he destined to follow his father’s path?

He sets out to find out who Pete really was, seeing his troubled, alcoholic father through a lens of radical empathy. Through accounts of others’ memories of Pete, Ville pieces together a portrait of his absent father. He realizes that he is neither Pete nor an addict, taking many surprising turns along the way.

Taking a deep dive into themes of humanity, addiction, The Simpsons, white trash, Kurt Cobain’s mind, family relationships, and the essence of personhood, Pete is a tender and deeply philosophical novel about addiction, the search for a better life, and a father who died in uncertain circumstances, told with a disarming openness, directness, and warmth.

With working-class roots and an autobiographical, unflinching narrative that draws comparisons to Édouard Louis’ *Who Killed My Father*, Verkkapuro showcases his raw talent in this acclaimed debut.

Verkkapuro was named one of the 35 most promising cultural figures in Finland by Helsingin Sanomat in 2024.

‘PETE is open to surprises and new forms, making it one of the year’s most inspiring debuts.’ – Helsingin Sanomat prize jury

‘What is most telling about the novel is its deep empathy. The main character of the story doesn’t blame his parents for his broken childhood and his own addictions, putting love first.’
– ‘Ilkka-Pohjalainen’ Literary Prize jury

Ville Verkkapuro (b.1990) is a Finnish writer, freelance copywriter, and musician from Pietarsaari/Jakobstad, Finland. His 2022 debut novel, Pete was warmly reviewed and nominated for the prestigious Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize. In his musical career, Ville’s plays for the likes of New Ro, Vesta and Black Metal Raccoons. He lives and works in his adoptive hometown of Helsinki and is currently working on his second novel. @villeverkkapuro

LITERARY FICTION

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Publication

Pete
Kosmos 2022
320pp

Material

Finnish Edition
English Sample Translation 30 pp
Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews



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Miki Liukkonen

Guest Mode

LITERARY FICTION

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Nominated for the Finlandia Prize for Fiction 2023.

Winner of the Readers' Choice Finlandia Prize for Fiction 2023.

The posthumous literary masterpiece by the award-winning Finnish author, who has been compared to David Lynch and David Foster Wallace.

Where are you when you're away from home?

Ren Dawn is suffering from inventor's block when a series of fiascos compel him to go to Cancún and undergo hormone treatment, where he experiences delirium and out of body experiences that give him a look at his life from the outside. And then there's Louis Dufuette...

Guest Mode is a dazzling novel written in Liukkonen's signature maximalist style. It's about thinking, disappointment in life as the ultimate goal, world history as the evolution of a resting heartbeat, and a little bit of everything. Seatbelts are required but they're not part of the novel. Behind the novel's light-hearted narrative lurks something serious, heartfelt, and sincere, begging the question: Where are you when you're away from home?

An allusive, philosophical, humorous novel that rejects humour by an author worthy of comparison to DeLillo, Foster Wallace, and Pynchon.

Readers' Choice Winner—Finlandia Prize for Fiction 2023

'Liukkonen has put together an outstanding parting for his readers, offering crystalline and knowingly obscure thoughts, linguistic talent and familiar Liukkonenisms.' – Helsingin Sanomat

'Dazzling...from beginning to end, a startling, but also joyful, portrayal of life.' – Aamulehti

'Characteristically masterful.' – Turun Sanomat

'An incorruptible writer-thinker.' – Esa Saarinen, philosopher

Miki Liukkonen (1989-2023) made his literary breakthrough with the astonishingly accomplished *O* (WSOY 2017), an encyclopaedic narrative about ordinary people and extraordinary events, becoming the most discussed literary tour de force in recent years. The novel was shortlisted for the 2017 Finlandia Prize for Fiction, and the 2018 Runeberg Prize. Liukkonen was a multi-talented artist, who felt equally at home in music and poetry as he did in literature.



Rights sold

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Options:

French: Le Castor Astral

Lithuanian: Hieronymus

Polish: Insignis

Publication

Vierastila

WSOY 2023

547pp

Material

Finnish Edition

English Sample Translation 50 pp

Synopsis

Reviews



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Rights Finland

Juhani Brander

The Promised Land

Shortlisted for the Finnish Literary Export Prize 2023 & the Eeva Joenpelto Prize 2024!

A wildly beautiful, lyrical novel about a young boy's survival and yearning for an absent mother in Reconstruction-era Finland.

Kaarlo and his anarchist grandmother live alone in a flea-ridden, tumbledown house on a small island in the Finnish archipelago. According to his grandmother, Kaarlo's mother is waiting for him in far away America, and Kaarlo plans to go there one day.

Juhani Brander's first novel is about the power and shame of living in poverty, class, and the fragile relationship between man and nature. Brander writes sensitively about an isolated island community, its distinctive inhabitants, dreams that transcend adversity, and stigmatised women who have been cruelly forgotten by history. The novel grows into a poetic ballad about the sea, a seal, and a boy in a small rowing boat trying to row across the ocean towards a denouement reminiscent of Moby Dick.

Brander received widespread and unanimous praise from literary critics for this, his first work of longform fiction, a work that showcases his articulate, lush language and fearlessness of the darker aspects of humanity. With tinges of humour and magical realism that leaven, the novel also has echoes of great Finnish modernist Volter Kilpi's Archipelago series.

'Desolate and beautiful.' — Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

*'A sensitive and powerful novel about marginalization that elevates the author into the leading A class. ****** — Aamulehti

'Impressive. [...] Brander's Amerikka had this critic holding back the tears. All the elements work well together in this refreshing novel.'

— Turun Sanomat newspaper

'One of those novels that makes literature worth reading.'

— Keski-suomalainen newspaper

'Powerful and eloquent.' — Suomen Kuvalehti magazine

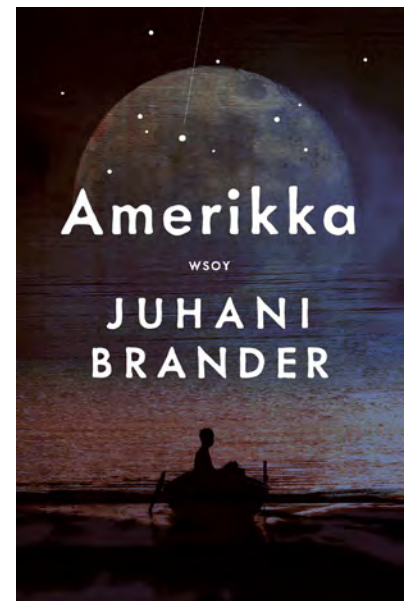
'A tremendous linguistic experience in the midst of grief. [...] Language proves more powerful than any weapon.'

— Kirjallisuustoimittaja

Juhani Brander (b. 1978) is a cultural critic and writer of prose, essay, and poetry. In 2010 he was the only Finn to be selected for the Best European Fiction anthology, and in 2014 was awarded the Critics' Prize. Brander's acclaimed essay collection, *Death of a Man: Reflections on Masculinity* (WSOY, 2020) sparked much debate, and his previous novel, *Silta yli vuosien [Bridging the Years]* (Siltala, 2021) was a critical success. Brander lives in Turku, Finland.

LITERARY FICTION

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Publication

Amerikka
WSOY 2023
303pp

Material

Finnish Edition
Sample Translation tk
Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews



BONNIER
Rights Finland

Loís Armas
Flora

COMMERCIAL FICTION

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A fresh and insightful exploration of what home is, how often we overlook it, and how sometimes—rarely— another person can be the home we've been looking for.

Flora, a young woman in her twenties, moves to Finland to be with her new boyfriend. Her old life on an island in Venezuela is on the other side of a vast ocean and, at the other end of weekly video calls, her parents and the life and world Flora left behind.

Her new life in Helsinki begins to take shape with the search for work, new friends, and learning a new language in a city where there's a hair salon on every street corner and a Marimekko cloth tote bag ubiquitously hanging from its people's shoulders.

Inviting the reader to observe Flora's acculturation from the multiple viewpoints of her boyfriend, her father, both her boyfriend's mother and ex, and Flora's colleague the narrators also open themselves up to their own vulnerabilities and insecurities. Gradually, an intimate, prismatic portrait of a young, hopeful person emerges, along with an invitation to examine how we in turn perceive Flora through our own definitions of love, friendship, and sense of belonging.

Loís Armas' debut is an enchanting novel about Helsinki, the search for home, being an outsider, and longing for the people in the life left behind. Structurally akin to Laila Lalami's *The Other Americans*, Armas offers a refreshing new perspective in this commercial debut from an emergent voice in contemporary Finnish fiction.



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Publication

Flora
WSOY 2023
300pp

Material

Full English manuscript
Finnish edition
Synopsis
Author Letter

'Powerful and authentic.'

– Helsingin Sanomat

'Flora succeeds in her complex literary solutions and offers an exceptional polyphonic description of the networks that grow around a person.' 4/5 stars

– Kulttuuritoimitus

'Skillfully rendered.'

– Kirjavinkit

Loís Armas (b. 1987) is a Venezuelan-born Finnish writer. She has a Masters in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki and teaches creative writing. She lives in Helsinki with her family.



Kati Kovács

Kaya

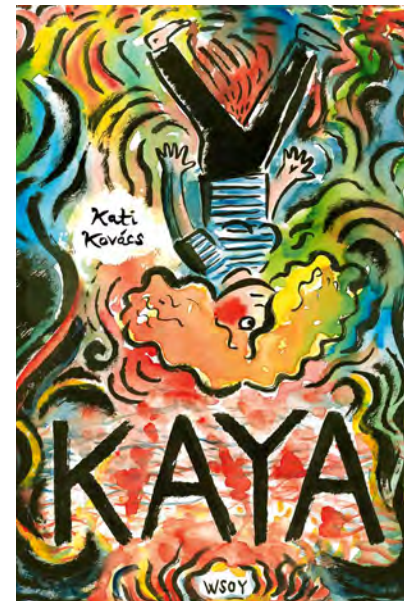
GRAPHIC NOVEL

toomas@bonnierreights.fi

Kati Kovács's new graphic novel KAYA is a story about a woman, longing for freedom, and a crime.

Fair-haired Kaya gets a break from her overly-caring mother when she goes with her friend Margit to an art camp in the depths of the forest. However, in the forest lurks a man who has been watching Kaya and Margit for a long time...

Kaya is a new masterpiece from Kati Kovács, who received the first State Prize for Comic Art in 2014. The jury said: "Kovács's powerful female characters challenge traditional gender roles and have inspired two generations of young comic artists to question the established norms of the field."



'Despite being black and white drawings, the work is full of shades; there is the black of a thundercloud, the curling grain patterns of wood, the enveloping darkness, either soft like cotton candy or sharp like a razor blade - depending on the mood. The most traumatic moments are depicted in shadows and blurs.'

Many could tell a similar story, but Kovács's artistic depiction makes it a masterpiece of art.'

— Ilkka Valpasvuo, Kulttuuritoimitus

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Publication

Kaya
WSOY 3|2024
104pp

Material

Finnish edition
English translation tk



Kati Kovács has lived and worked in Rome for 30 years. After buying a one-way ticket to Rome in 1986, she never returned to Helsinki to finish her graphic design studies. She's still on that journey. Her works – which have been translated into Swedish, German, French and Hungarian – have been published and featured in exhibitions across Europe and in Hong Kong. She won the prestigious Finnish Puupäähattu Prize for Exemplary Work as a Comic Artist in 1999 and the 2010 Graphic Novel Finlandia Prize for her work Who's afraid of Ydal Dlo? (Arktinen Banaani 2010). In 2014, she was the winner of Finland's first-ever State Prize for Comic Art.



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Ville Tietäväinen & Iiro Küttner

Thinning

The extinction of different species, rising sea levels, and difficult choices are accelerating...

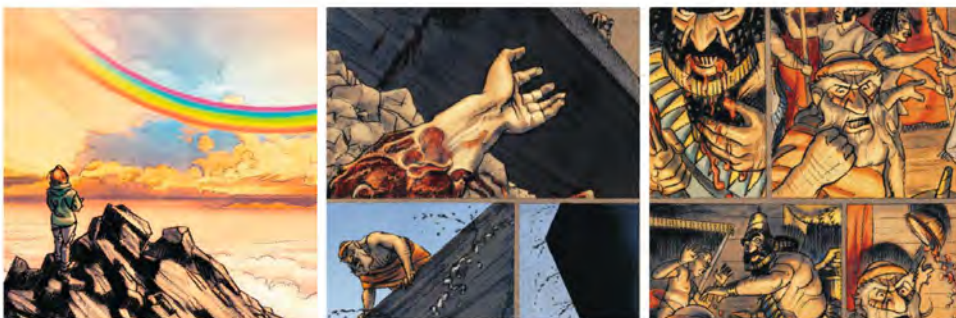
This satirical graphic novel tells an alternative version of Noah's Ark and asks: are we able to evolve as a species, to save ourselves from demise? Thinning offers a rather bleak picture of humanity, but there are also small crumbs of humour in its dark narrative—like Noah agonizing over chronicling and collecting the various species.

2,800 BC: God commands Noah to build a floating ark on which all animals must be provided refuge from the Great Flood, which God will unleash to punish mankind for being decadent. Noah starts working but surprising problems arise, stalling his progress.

450 BC: Finally the history of the Jewish people has been preserved within one single scroll, proclaiming the one truth, helping unite the nation. At the temple in Jerusalem the old, discarded scrolls filled with our history are burning on the pyre—but one is saved from the flames...

2021: German researcher Elke Greiss embarks upon a high-altitude quest on Mount Ararat. Her search unearths an ancient scroll—likely the find of the millennia—containing the story of Noah in greater detail than ever before. Elke's university has exciting plans for the scroll— but the result is an unexpected disaster of biblical proportions.

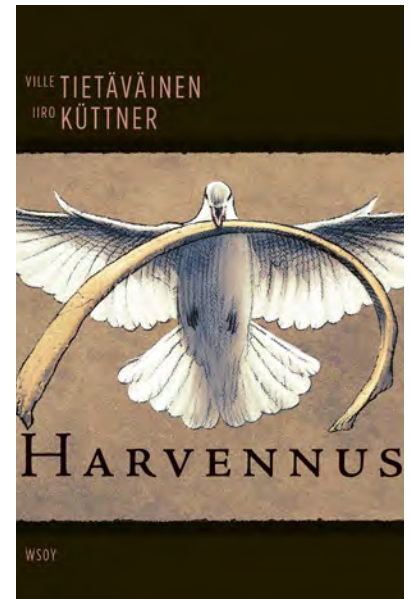
'What makes this story particularly interesting is the decision to look for parallels between the motives and actions of those who swear by faith and those who swear by science.' —Jari Tamminen, Voima Magazine



Iiro Küttner is one of Finland's most respected film and television screenwriters, who also works as a screenwriting consultant and professor at Aalto University. **Ville Tietäväinen** is an exceptionally talented cartoonist, illustrator, and graphic designer. He has received several awards for his artworks. In 2011 he was selected to receive the most distinguished cultural prize in Finland, the Finnish Cultural Foundation Prize. In 2011, he won the Graphic Novel Finlandia Prize for Invisible Hands (WSOY 2011), which has been published in Arabic, German, French, and Swedish. Tietäväinen's previous graphic novel, Birds and Seas (Tammi 2003), was also published in France.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

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Rights sold
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Publication
Harvennus
WSOY 2021
144pp

Material
Finnish edition
Full English translation



BONNIER
Rights Finland

Johanna Aulén

Chernobyl's Dogs

GRAPHIC NOVEL

toomas@bonnierreights.fi

Shortlisted for the Graphic Novel Finlandia Prize 2023!

A documentary-style graphic novel about the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster told from the perspective of the dogs who were left behind.

When the 1986 Chernobyl Nuclear Plant disaster struck, the villages surrounding the Nuclear Plant were quickly abandoned by people. Their pets, on the other hand, were forced to stay.

Howling dogs tried to follow their owners; they even tried boarding buses, but soldiers kicked them off. Still, the dogs ran after the buses transporting their owners to safety. There was no mercy. Soviet troops were sent to shoot the animals but some survived and their descendants still populate the polluted Exclusion Zone.

In this touching and hauntingly relevant documentary-style graphic novel, Johanna Aulén recounts the events of the nuclear disaster and its devastating impact on the environment and the canine inhabitants left behind.

'Aulén's graphic novel skilfully builds an overview of the causes of the disaster and its consequences, particularly on the animals.'

– Helsingin Sanomat

'a deep understanding of life (...) storytelling through realistic and minimalistic illustrations that draw the reader in as an eyewitness'

– The selection committee the Graphic Novel Finlandia Prize



Rights Sold

English (NA): CFF
(non-exclusive)

Publication

Tšernobylin koirat
WSOY 2022
112pp

Material

Finnish Edition
Full English Translation set in layout
Reviews



Johanna Aulén (b.1981) is a graphic designer and arts teacher. CHERNOBYL'S DOGS (Tšernobylin koirat) is her debut graphic novel. She lives in Finland with her two dogs.



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