

BONNIER

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RIGHTS GUIDE // SPRING 2022

FICTION

&

NARRATIVE NON-FICTION



Meri Valkama

Yours, Margot

Winner of Best Debut of the Year 2021 prize

Nominee Storytel Award for Fiction 2022

A magnificent novel about the fragility of memory and the power of silence by a gifted, new voice from the Nordics. An immediate best-seller with over 40,000 copies sold to date and a film deal pending.

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.

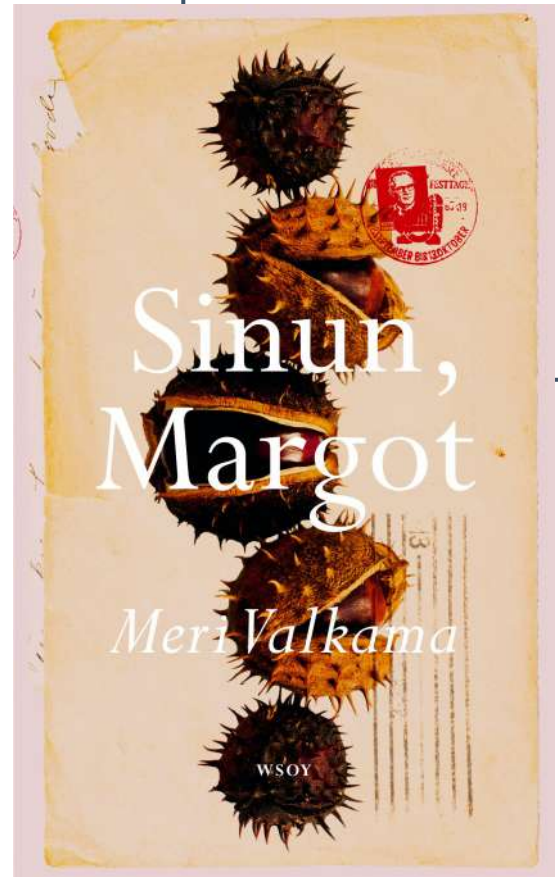
Rich in detail that immerses the reader into the East Berlin before 'die Wende', this is an accomplished, suspenseful European novel that evokes stylistic comparisons to both Ian McEwan and Sarah Waters by a gifted storyteller from the Nordics who truly captures the essence of why we should read at all!

'I am amazed by Meri Valkama's ability to connect an entire nation's right to its past to a clock-ticking plot about an individual discovering her true self. The volume of pages is enormous, but not at all too much. (...) [This novel] appeals to the emotions and should be translated into other languages immediately.' – **Antti Majander, Helsingin Sanomat newspaper**

'Yours, Margot is a skilfully narrated, elegant work that pulls the reader in in a way that is impossible to resist. (...) Reading this novel is truly an experience.' – **Anni Saari, Keskipohjanmaa newspaper**

'Yours, Margot is a laudable work, but as a debut novel, it is exceptionally so. It is skilfully crafted and well-grounded. Valkama knows how to power the story so that anyone who wants to will be hooked.' – **Tommi Melender, Suomen Kuvalehti magazine**

Meri Valkama (b.1980) 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, studying on a scholarship from the Helsingin Sanomat foundation at the Freie Universität Berlin, where she conducted research and produced documentaries about journalists who had worked for the former German republic. *Yours, Margot* is her debut and she is currently working on a second novel.



Rights sold

Danish: Gutkind (pre-empt)

Estonian: Hea Lugu (auction)

Lithuanian: Alma Littera

Norwegian: Bonnier Forlag (pre-empt)

Swedish: Bazar Förlag (pre-empt)

Publication

WSOY, Finland

September 2021

84,000 words / 556 pages

Material

Finnish Edition

English translation sample 103 pp

Synopsis

Author Letter

Reviews

Film & TV Rights

Under offer

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Hassan Blasim

Sololand

A new novel by 'Iraq's Irvine Welsh'

Fact and fiction blend together in two biting narratives about hidden manuscripts, persecution, and a dinner party that goes wrong by the writer hailed by *The Guardian* as 'perhaps the greatest writer of Arab fiction alive.'

ISIS has taken over the city of Mosul in northern Iraq, converting the legendary Clock Church into a command headquarters. Home to countless individuals who have been subjected to the violence of ISIS, the church's crypt contains a pile of ancient and valuable manuscripts that Catholic cook Abu Qatada is desperate to steal and return to its rightful owners.

When Abu Qatada, posing as a Muslim to gain access to the crypt, enlists the help of his apprentice Elias, a Yezidi orphan from Syria, the pair embark upon a journey even more arduous than that of the clock itself. As electrifying as it is tragic, *Elias and the Land of ISIS* is Blasim at his best.

In *The Law of Sololand*, Refugee S hears that locals haven't responded well to a new refugee camp in an isolated town in Nordak. Having himself fled the torture of a religious militia and settled in Scandinavia, Refugee S wants to help foster relations between the people of Sololand and their guests.

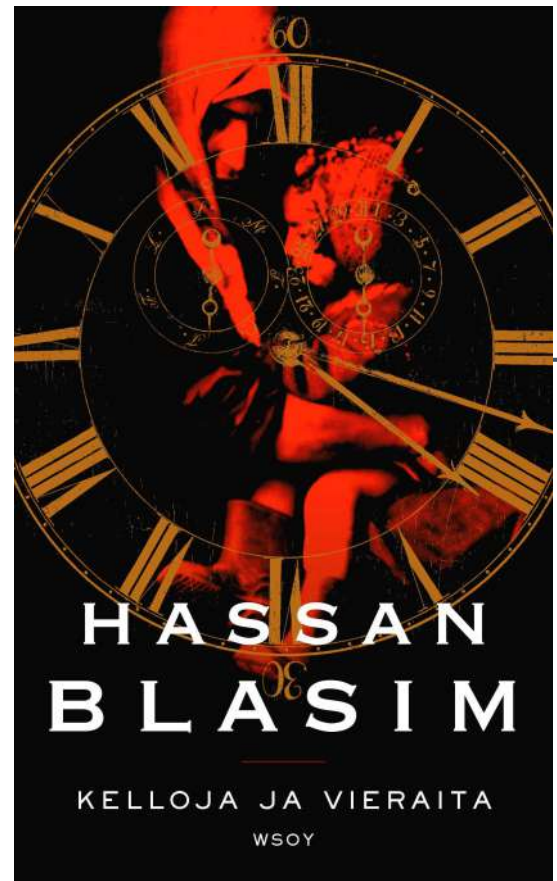
But when Refugee S signs up to facilitate Dinner Guests, a volunteer-run integration initiative, the ugly side of the North is revealed. Blasim expertly captures the devastating dislocation of exile in this coruscating second novel.

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

'This is how good literature does good: it provides an opportunity to identify with people whose life destinies are completely different but their feelings, emotions, and thoughts are universal.'

— **Kulttuuritoimitus, Finland**

Hassan Blasim (b. 1973) is an Iraqi writer 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. Blasim left Baghdad in 2000, travelling through Europe as a refugee before settling in Finland in 2004. His debut collection of short stories, *The Madman of Freedom Square* (2009), was longlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize in 2010. His second collection, *The Iraqi Christ* (2013), won the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize in 2014. His debut novel, *Allah99* was published in 2020 to international critical acclaim. Blasim's writing has been translated into over 20 languages to date.



Rights sold
World English: Comma Press

Options
Danish: Vandkunsten
Dutch: Jurgen Maas
German: Antje Kunstmann
Italian: Utopia
Swedish: Albert Bonniers

Publication
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219 pp

Material
Arabic PDF
Finnish Edition
English Synopsis
English Short Extracts
Reviews

Film & TV Rights
Available

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Miki Liukkonen

Life: A Prologue

Finland's postmodern literary genius returns with a new, astonishing work

Liukkonen doesn't just transcend the horizon of expectations – he moves it to a new place.

'Are you really saying that you don't occasionally – at intervals yet to be defined – wake up, start, as if surfacing, with an odd, rubbery taste in your mouth? Doesn't the room in which you wake up always seem utterly alien, blazingly white, and you scrabble to rise out of the thickened light as if tangled up in the curtains, and you think that the odd taste in your mouth, the taste of salty rubber, has something to do with all this?'

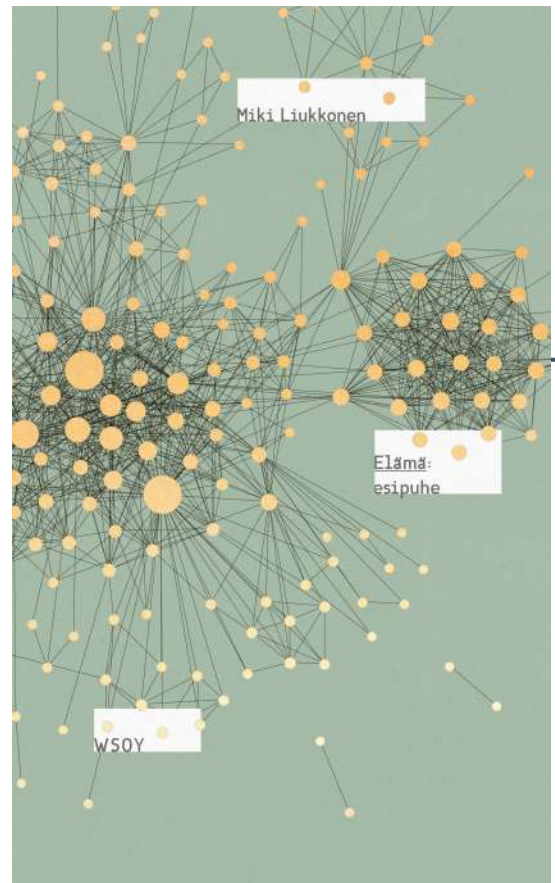
Here's our cast: Henri Classic, whose job it is to design a new kind of cinema; Samuel Classic, who frets over his failure to experience the age of the Aztecs; Silvia Classic, who writes children's books full of coprophilia and parochial politics; Nikolei Bidé, who enjoys nationwide celebrity as a chef making insect-based dishes; Olof Beskow, who creates oppressive adverts for dildos that fail to satisfy. And many, many others. They share the centre-point of their orbits: an overarching project which aims to make life, and all it contains, three-dimensional. Do you feel that you're being observed? No wonder.

'...the most significant work I have read during my entire career as a literary journalist. Nothing like this has ever been done in the history of Finnish fiction.' – **Seppo Puttonen, Literary journalist, YLE Finnish Broadcasting Corporation**

'...a metafictional novel that spans over a thousand pages and leaves no tangent unexplored. Life: A Prologue showcases Liukkonen's literary genius and pulls the reader into a masterpiece of world literature. If this is not an export work, nothing is.' – **Aamulehti newspaper**

'Life: A Prologue is an ambitious, grand novel that can be called one of the most important events of this literary autumn. The meandering narrative does not let the reader off easy; it demands attention and concentration. But the broad spectrum of characters and skilful use of language make it a joy to read this impressive work where humour also plays a key role.' – **Suomen Kuvalehti magazine**

Miki Liukkonen's (b. 1989) bold, experimental writing has earned him recognition of being the most innovative author in Finland today. Liukkonen made his international breakthrough with his 2017 literary tour de force, *O*, an encyclopaedic narrative of ordinary people and extraordinary events. The French translation of *O* had a phenomenal reception in France with *Le Monde* praising the ambitious novel as '*an erudite labyrinth, an immensely charismatic beast of a book*'. Bound to provoke and delight, an English extract of *O* was published in the Best European Fiction 2019 as some of most exciting prose writing in Europe today (*A Cookbook for Neurotics*, by Dalkey Archive). *Life: A Prologue* is Liukkonen's much awaited fourth novel, also available in a limited 'Author's cut' edition of 1119 pages.



Rights sold
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Options
French: Le Castor Astral
Polish: Insignis

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Material
Finnish Edition
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Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews

Film & TV Rights
Available

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Johanna Venho

The Autumn Book

An atmospheric novel about Tove Jansson's final days on the island of Klovharu

'She stands in her nightdress on the open veranda and sniffs the breeze. Seaweed and salt – such is the smell of freedom.'

An island, the sea, a mist-grey and straw-yellow autumn. Maria, a young eco-activist, writes a letter to Tove Jansson and ends up on the island of Klovharu, where the 77-year-old artist lives. Jansson has just published a new collection of short stories and, with her beloved Tooti, is preparing to bid goodbye to the rugged island where they have spent almost thirty happy summers. When Maria finally meets Tove, a world lived for art opens up to her— of rebellion, solace, adventure, and mischievous laughter, as well as universal topics of creativity, friendship and mother-daughter relationships. 'It would have been impossible to be both a good artist and a good wife', Tove says.

Set over three days alternating between the 1940s and 1990s, *The Autumn Book* is an affecting part-Künstlerroman about a young woman and the aging artist in the autumn of her life, told in Venho's inimitable style.

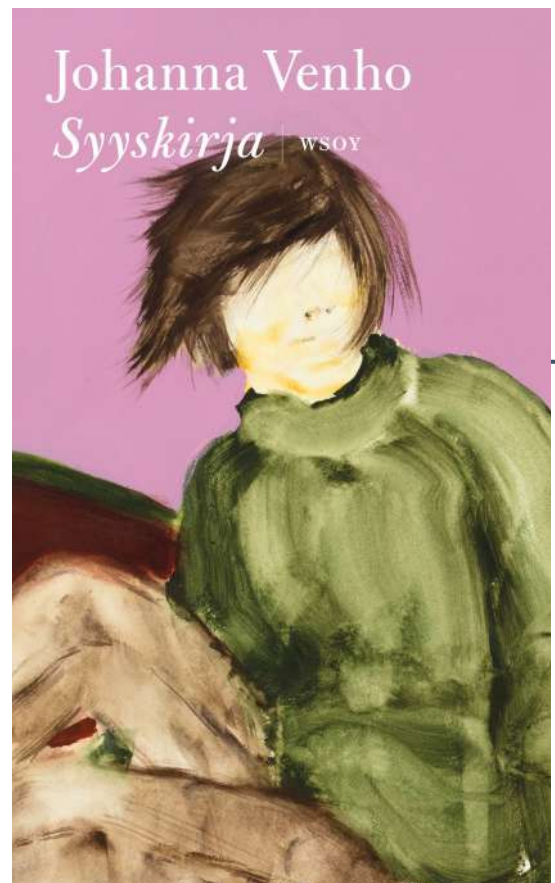
11,000 copies sold

'Venho transforms into Tove Jansson in a stunningly authentic way.'
– Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

'Johanna Venho is precisely the author to write a novel about one of Finland's most iconic and most beloved artists, Tove Jansson. Venho succeeds perfectly in getting close to her character and finding a voice for Tove Jansson. Furthermore, The Autumn Book also deals with big themes: artistry, creativity, abandonment, aging, friendship, and mother-daughter relationship. Venho depicts Jansson's island Klovharu and the Finnish archipelago beautifully making the reader feel as if he was walking on the wind-beaten cliffs himself.'

– Anna-Riikka Carlson, Publisher, WSOY

Johanna Venho (b. 1971) is one of the most prominent poets of her generation in Finland. Her first work of biofiction, *The First Lady* (WSOY, 2018), about Sylvi Kekkonen, was nominated for the Finlandia Prize and became a national bestseller. Her work has earned her many awards and prize nominations including, the Katri Vala Prize, Einari Vuorela Prize, Arvid Lydecken Prize, 'Kritiikin kannukset' Prize and WSOY Literary Foundation Prize. Johanna has a Master's degree in Comparative Literature and is also an active literary collaborator, having worked as an editor-in-chief for a poetry magazine, as a literary critic, a translator and a teacher of creative writing. Her poetry and children's books have been published in Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Swedish and Slovakian.



Rights sold
Estonian: Varrak

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WSOY, Finland
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280 pages

Material
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Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews

Film & TV Rights
Available

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Joel Elstelä

Zircco Fantastico

Nominated for the Finlandia Prize for Fiction 2021

Do old circus lions dream of hunting? A vivid novel about a circus in the Third Reich which garnered critical acclaim in Finland and brings to mind Isherwood's *Goodbye to Berlin* with its colourful cast of characters from a bygone era.

A circus caravan travels through the Third Reich with the smile of a clown on its face. Ringmaster Egon Heuchler has spent his life running the Zircco Fantastico, a circus whose performers – the catwoman, the world's fattest man, the bearded lady, the Siamese twins and the deathjumper – have grown up together like a family.

It's spring 1940 in Berlin, and the circus is captured by the Nazis. Thus begins a tour that must be brought to completion, even though Egon has lost all hope, like an old circus lion whose coat has lost its sheen. But even on the brink of despair, the beautiful catwoman awakens the ringmaster's woeful heart, and the circus troupe still have a few magic tricks up their sleeves...

'Reading this novel is a strong bodily experience. The language used to describe emotions is apt and precise. The narrative is compelling, the phrases 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.'

— **Finlandia Prize for Fiction jury statement**

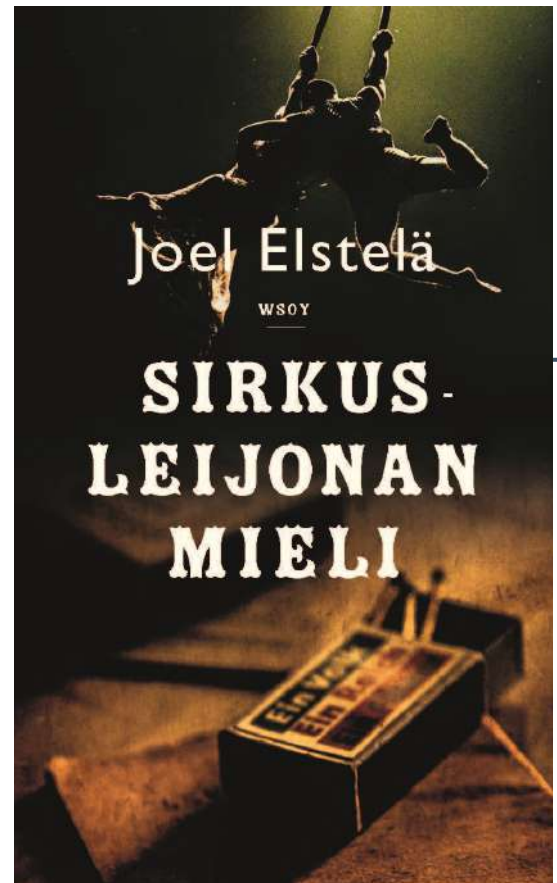
'Zircco Fantastico is that mixes history with a touch of magical realism set in 1940s Nazi Germany. The circus master runs a theatrical miniature world, which is disrupted by external realities as the Nazis attempt to dictate the direction and purpose of the touring circus with a show that makes no reference to the war, and Himmler threatens the old lion with a rifle. Instead of a history lesson, the novel offers up a mild farce and romance between the freaks reminiscent of Günter Grass' The Tin Drum.'

— **Aamulehti newspaper**

'Elstelä's Nazi circus is a portrayal of the National Socialists' insane policies.' — **Kaleva newspaper**

'...a powerful reading experience.' — **Keskipohtanjamaa newspaper**

Joel Elstelä (b. 1961) is a theatre director and writer. *Zircco Fantastico* is his first full-length work of fiction. He lives in Helsinki.



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Publication

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Material

Finnish Edition
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Synopsis
Author Letter

Film & TV Rights

Available

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Arttu Tuominen

Shamed

Book 4 in the acclaimed *River Delta* series

Detective Linda Toivonen takes the lead as danger hits close to home this time in the gripping, fourth instalment of the bestselling series by the Glass Key Award nominated writer.

Online, you can be whoever you like. The feeling of freedom to choose your identity can be intoxicating—so much so that danger can creep in unnoticed.

Thirteen-year-old Laura goes missing on a school trip. The police suspect a runaway case until they discover troubling information on her home computer. It transpires Laura has been leading a double life. When her body is found entangled in a lamprey trap in the river, Senior Constable Linda Toivonen is assigned the case. The victim was her daughter's classmate and Linda has her suspicions this may not be an isolated case.

Who is the secretive 'Peter Pan', whose picture is discovered in numerous young girls' rooms around Finland? The investigation leads the police to predators lurking in the shadows of the internet—a place which is impossible to regulate. Linda realises that in order to find the monster, she must first confront her own demons. SHAMED is the fourth standalone instalment in the *River Delta* series.

International praise for the *River Delta* series:

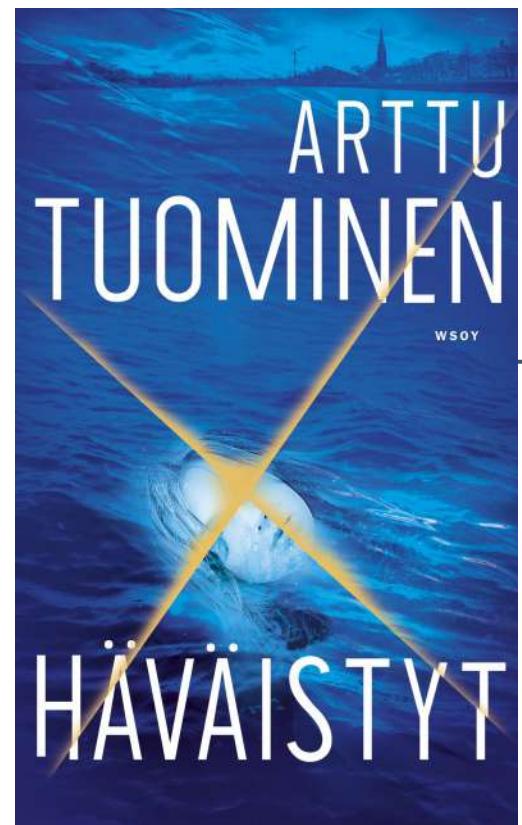
'Terribly good and deeply original.' 5/6 hearts — **Politiken, Denmark, on *The Oath***

'Well-written.' 4/6 stars — **Berlingske, Denmark, on *The Oath***

'Excellent reading!' — **BTJ, Sweden, on *The Oath***

'We've discovered the new genius of melancholy Finland. [...] Tuominen hits the mark.' — **le Point, France, on *The Oath***

Arttu Tuominen (b. 1981) is a Finnish environmental inspector moonlighting as a crime writer. Tuominen was awarded the 'Johtolanka' Prize for *THE OATH*, garnering praise for the novel's cleverly constructed flashbacks and realistic dialogue, which earned him a nomination for the prestigious Glass Key Prize. Tuominen's writing is distinctive for giving a compassionate and relatable voice to those on both sides of the law. He lives in the south-western Finnish town of Pori with his family.



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Options:
Danish: Modtryk
Dutch: De Fontein
French: La Martinière
German: Bastei Lübbe
Italian: Piemme
Slovenian: Litera
Swedish: Lind & Co

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WSOY, Finland
June 2022
401 pages

Material
Finnish PDF
English Sample Translation tk
Synopsis
Series Outline Books 1-6

Film & TV Rights sold
Lucy Loves Drama (Finland)

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Arttu Tuominen

The River Delta series

The Oath ; Jeopardy; Silenced

The biting crime series with a social conscience by Finland's Best Crime Novel of the Year Award-winning author. Over 75,000 copies sold across the series.

Book 1, **THE OATH** (*Verivelka*), winner of the 2020 Johtolanka Prize for Crime Novel of the Year, propelled Arttu Tuominen's to acclaim with the story of a boyhood pact that comes back to haunt Police Detective Jari Paloviita, who faces the most challenging case of his life as his personal loyalty and professional conduct dramatically collide.

Book 2, **JEOPARDY** (*Hyvitys*) sees Henrik 'The Ox' Oksman in the lead in the hunt for a dangerous fanatic, whilst also grappling inconvenient personal secrets and self-acceptance.

Book 3, **SILENCED** (*Vaiettu*) unearths a dark history behind a series of seemingly inexplicable murders of elderly individuals. But are the victims as innocent as one might think? Paloviita, Oksman and Toivonen investigate the far-reaching consequences of a wartime cooperation which its participants have carried with them for a lifetime.

Set in and around the Baltic coastal city of Pori in south-west Finland, Tuominen's series has been praised for its atmospheric setting and socially-engaged, distinctive narratives that give a compassionate and relatable voice to those on both sides of the law. A must-read for any Nordic Noir fans!

AWARDS & PRAISE FOR THE SERIES:

Nominated for BookBeat's Best Finnish Crime Author Prize 2021

Winner of the Johtolanka Prize for Crime Novel of the Year 2020

Nominated for the Glass Key Award 2021

'Exceptional reading.' — **BTJ, Sweden**

'Great, layered suspense.' — **Neue Press, Germany**

'... important writer on the crime fiction scene... In the spirit of Henning Mankell, Tuominen's writing presents a clear message on tolerance.'

— **Etelä-Suomen Sanomat newspaper, Finland**

Arttu Tuominen (b. 1981) is a Finnish environmental inspector moonlighting as a crime writer. Tuominen was awarded the 'Johtolanka' Prize for THE OATH, garnering praise for the novel's cleverly constructed flashbacks and realistic dialogue, earning him a nomination for Scandinavia's prestigious Glass Key Award. Tuominen's writing is distinctive for giving a compassionate and relatable voice to those on both sides of the law. He lives in the south-western Finnish town of Pori with his family.



Publishers of the River Delta series:

Danish: Modtryk (1-3)

Dutch: De Fontein (1-3)

French: La Martinière (1-2)

German: Bastei Luebbe (1-3)

Italian: Piemme (1-2)

Swedish: Lind & Co (1-2)

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WSOY, Finland

2019, 2020, 2021

408 pp/356 pp/401 pp

Material

Finnish Editions

English Samples 89pp/40 pp/ 40pp

Synopses

Series Outline Books 1-6

Author Letter

Reviews

Film & TV Rights

Lucy Loves Drama (Finland)

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Saija Kuusela

Irreversible Acts

Book 2 in the Nea Guttorm series

A psychological thriller about youthful passion and the desire to belong—but at what cost?

Sergeant Nea Guttorm leaves her small village in northern Norway and heads to her former stomping grounds to investigate a disappearance that hits close to home: her colleague's son, Finn, who studies at the university in Trondheim, has vanished without a trace. It's not long before a body is found. And then another.

Nea's investigations lead her to an amateur theatre group called The Seeds, whose intense rehearsals have been a lifeline for the lonely Finn, but also fertile ground for jealousy. Has the young man resorted to irreversible acts?

Returning to the scene of her formative years in law enforcement plunges Nea back into painful memories. An avalanche has been set in motion, and there is no stopping it.

Praise for LOOK AT ME:

'Well-paced plot alone is not enough for Kuusela, who also dives into the inner workings of her characters' minds.'

— Keskiuomalainen newspaper

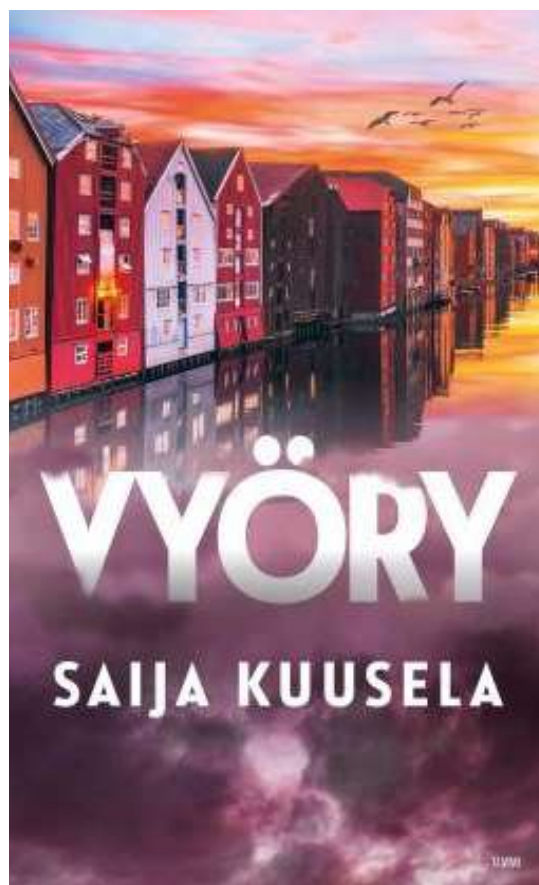
'...A first-rate crime novel that is surprisingly complete and strong in atmosphere.'

— Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

'Kuusela's language alternates between the poetic and the rugged according to the landscape. LOOK AT ME is no ordinary thriller. Literarily, it's an ambitious work.'

— Kansan Uutiset newspaper

Saija Kuusela (b. 1979) studied Creative Writing at the Open University of Jyväskylä and debuted in 2021 with her crime novel, LOOK AT ME (*Katse*). She holds a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and works as a project manager for the Finnish Environment Institute's Biodiversity Centre, specialising in forest biodiversity and climate change. She lives with her Finnish Lapphund in a century-old croft in the Jaala forest of southern Finland and is currently working on *The Stranger* (*Vieras*), the third novel in the Nea Guttorm series due for publication in 2023.



Rights sold

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Publication

Tammi, Finland
May 2022

300 pages approx.

Material

Finnish PDF
Synopsis

Film & TV Rights

Rights Available

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Saija Kuusela

Look at Me

A psychological thriller set in the barren fells of Northern Norway

From debut novelist Saija Kuusela comes a psychological thriller in the tradition of Stina Jackson and Camilla Läckberg— the first title in the new *Nea Guttorm* series!

Mystery and atmosphere combine as the cold sea winds greet a new-comer to the community: Nea Guttorm.

Walking out on her rapidly deteriorating marriage, half-Sámi police officer Nea decides to leave Oslo and move up north, settling in an isolated village between the fjords and the fells. Putting the jealousy and anger of her controlling relationship behind her, Nea can't think of anything better than embracing the solitude of the mountains by starting a quiet job in the local police unit.

But almost as soon as Nea arrives, the community is shaken to its core when an unidentified man's body is discovered in an icy mountain stream, with the man's eyes removed.

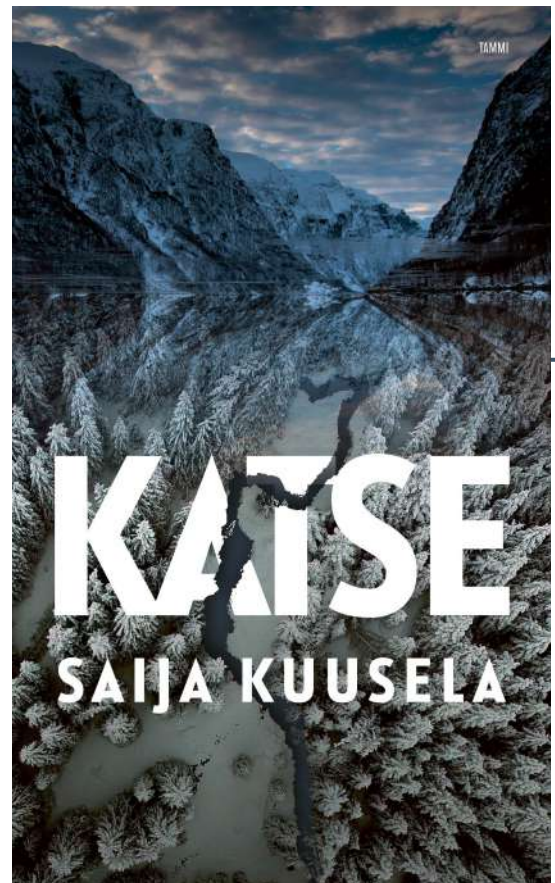
Who does the body belong to? How is almost every witness unreliable? And why can't Nea shake the uncomfortable feeling that the key to solving the mystery lies within her visions?

LOOK AT ME is a story of passion, revenge, and the burning darkness that resides within each of us. In the tradition of Stina Jackson and Camilla Läckberg, Kuusela masterfully describes the Scandinavian wilderness, taking her readers to some magnificent, dark places.

'Incredibly promising'
— *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

'A new star of the Finnish psychological thriller is born - and based on her debut novel we predict a long career for this author.'
— *Kauppalehti* newspaper

Saija Kuusela (b. 1979) studied Creative Writing at the Open University of Jyväskylä and debuted with LOOK AT ME (*Katse*) in 2021. She also holds a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and works as a project manager for the Finnish Environment Institute's Biodiversity Centre, specialising in forest biodiversity and climate change. She lives with her Finnish Lapphund in a century-old croft in the Jaala forest of southern Finland and is currently working on a third novel in the Nea Guttorm series.



Rights sold
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Tammi, Finland
August, 2021
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The Nea Guttorm series
Book 2 Irreversible Acts (*Vyöry*)
May 2022
Book 3 The Stranger (*Vieras*)
2023

Material
Finnish Edition
Full English Translation
Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews

Film & TV Rights
Available

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Emilia Vuorisalmi

The Science of Love Hormones

A Nordic Approach to Balanced Health and Happiness

A practical and instructive guide to achieving hormone balance that helps readers of all ages find increased energy, resilience, vitality, and creativity in their lives, by Dr. Emilia Vuorisalmi, the Finnish bestselling author of *Crazy For Love*. Over 13,000 copies sold.

When Emilia Vuorisalmi found herself single and on the other side of a painful divorce, she decided enough was enough. A former 'love addict', she knew how good being in the attachment phase of love made her feel and decided to embark upon a one woman mission to reap the benefits of love—learning to balance dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin—without necessarily being in a relationship.

Bringing together ground-breaking research from around the world, the wisdom of ancient Greek philosophers and her own learnings from a rich career as a medical professional, Emilia presents a simple 12-step formula designed to bring out the best version of you. You will find clarity and calm and learn to balance love hormones to take control of your addictions, physical ailments, and emotional traumas. You'll be a happier and healthier version of you.

Through self-reflective exercises, lifestyle tips, and anecdotes from Emilia's own inspiring story, *THE SCIENCE OF LOVE HORMONES* is all you need to make natural, lasting changes to your life. The book addresses questions including:

- How a steady release of dopamine can support empowerment
- How to eliminate stress by channelling serotonin
- How to use touch and gratitude to increase oxytocin
- Why developing healthy eating habits and sleep patterns actually matters

'This is a thoroughly researched book, full of practical, easily applied tips, which we could all use right now.' – Jean Smith, author of *Flirtology*

'Holistically authentic and intuitively precise, The Science of Love Hormones, reconnects us to the source of our innate power.' – Dr. Susan Winter, bestselling author and relationship expert

'A rock-star speaker meets the expertise of a medical doctor in this very timely book on love. Just what the doctor ordered!' – Dr. Pekka Himanen, bestselling author of *The Hacker Ethic*

Emilia Vuorisalmi (b. 1979) M.D., is a qualified doctor as well as a television personality, public lecturer, entrepreneur, and Finland's leading writer on the science of love and author of two non-fiction titles. With her well-established media platform with thousands of readers, listeners, and followers, Emilia has reached a significant audience through her columns in *Voi Hyvin* and *Ilta Sanomat*, her blog, and her weekly *Health360* podcast. In 2014 Emilia hosted the weekly tv show *Hekku* ['Glow'] on YLE2. Her 2016 non-fiction debut, *Crazy For Love* (*Sekasin LOVEsta*, Otava 2016) became an immediate bestseller in Finland. Emilia currently lives in Helsinki with her two children. @docemilia.com

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Rights sold

German: Bastei Lübbe
German audio: Audible DE
Polish: Zwierciadło
Russian: Eksmo
Slovak: Ikar

Options

Chinese, Complex: Sun Color

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Outline
Author Letter
Reviews

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Pirkko Kotirinta

In Search of Hilma af Klint

An artist of spiritualism, modern science, and the natural world

A Nordic expert on Hilma af Klint charts the trajectory of the secretive artist— from anonymity to the cultural treasure loved by so many today.

Hilma af Klint was an abstract artist before the term existed, a trailblazing figure who—inspired by spiritualism, modern science, and the natural world—began in 1906 to paint huge, colourful works without precedent in painting, years before Wassily Kandinsky.

The subject of a recent record-breaking retrospective at New York's Guggenheim and Halina Dyrschka's hit documentary, *Beyond the Visible*, af Klint was an all-but-forgotten figure in art historical discourse for years.

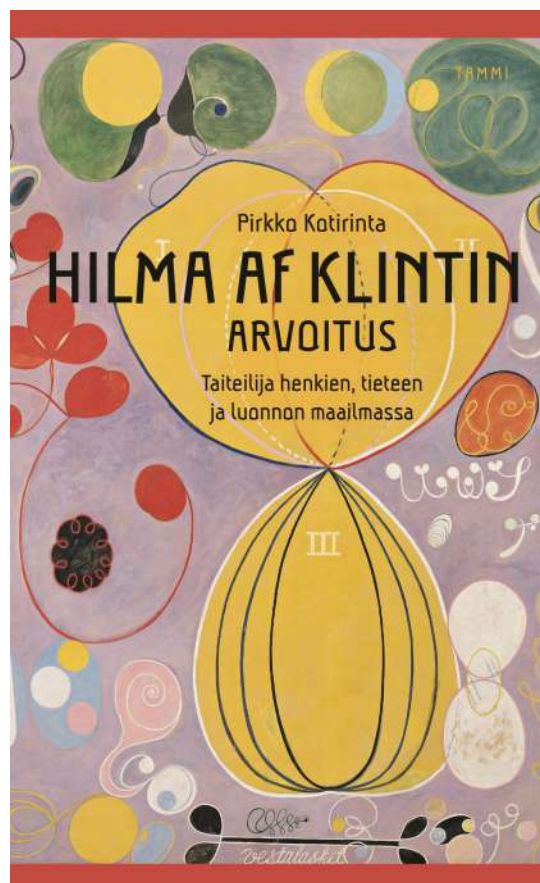
Today, taking af Klint's 1988 first Helsinki exhibition as her launch pad, Kotirinta charts af Klint's rise to cult figure-like status today.

Drawing on decades of archival materials—as well as many hours of interviews with art historians and those with ties to af Klint—Kotirinta tells af Klint's story from a new perspective. Uncovering fascinating details about af Klint's involvement with the Edelweiss Society, how Theosophy and Rosicrucianism inspired her, and the controversy surrounding Olof Sundström and the cataloguing of her oeuvre, Kotirinta shines a light on one of art's most mysterious and now beloved figures.

'IN SEARCH OF HILMA AF KLINT captures the sense of mystery surrounding the artist through its structure, a combination of a travelogue and detective story... The book is grounded in incredibly thorough research. The longstanding culture journalist's professionalism and genuine enthusiasm for the topic shines through.'

— Marja Lahelma, *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

Pirkko Kotirinta (b. 1958) is a well-known and respected Finnish cultural journalist. She has covered art and music for almost 40 years in her role as Culture Editor for *Helsingin Sanomat*, Finland's leading broadsheet. Kotirinta has been interested in Hilma af Klint for three decades, since her debut exhibition at the Suomenlinna Sea Fortress in 1988. *IN SEARCH OF HILMA AF KLINT* is Kotirinta's first non-fiction title. She lives with her partner in Helsinki.



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