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Rights Finland

**RIGHTS GUIDE  
FICTION & NARRATIVE NON-FICTION  
AUTUMN 2022**



Tommi Kinnunen

## Dark Moons

Finland's current #1 bestselling novel

A hardy schoolteacher takes on a job at a remote island school where nothing transpires to be as it is. A crystal-clear novel about survival by one of Finland's most acclaimed and beloved writers of today.

*No one gets out of this life unscathed. The only thing that will surprise you is the way in which everyone breaks down.*

It's 1947 when Elna Suorajärvi takes on a teaching position at a remote school close to the Soviet border in northern Finland. The school is on an island, accessible only by rowboat in summer and on skis in winter.

On landing on the island with her few, worldly possessions, it transpires to Elna that nothing is the way it should be: the school is a dilapidated barracks abandoned by the Germans, her pupils are traumatized from the war, and a debilitating illness ravages her tired body. However, the resilient Elna gets on with teaching —the only way of life she knows—even in the freezing winter, when she resorts to teaching from her bed in the classroom. The solitary nights invite disturbing thoughts about her estranged, abusive sister and scarred family history. But after the long winter must come the respite of summer.

Throughout the powerful narrative spanning a school year, we hear Elna's unforgettable, deeply humane voice and her resilience and survival, observed with Kinnunen's psychological acuity. Through Elna, Kinnunen also paints a portrait of the soul of a nation in the postwar, reconstruction era with his hallmark concision, eloquence and sparks of wit.

DARK MOONS confirms Kinnunen as a masterful storyteller whose power lies in the voice-driven, delicate depiction of the human condition and in his wise, compassionate and insightful narration. This new novel deepens his mastery in portraying remarkably strong women whose voices are not heard in history or textbooks.

**\*An instant bestseller—over 20,000 copies sold to date\***

*'Kinnunen is interested in the narratives to be found in the shadow of the broad arc of Finnish history. Dark Moons is a piece of this history, told through the resilient female main character.'*

— **Helsingin Sanomat** newspaper

*'Today's reader will identify with Elna's desperate circumstances as she approaches retirement age: difficult illness, no home, no savings.'*

— **Kirja viekään** blog

**Tommi Kinnunen** (b. 1973) is a Finnish literature teacher and writer hailing from Kuusamo, north-eastern Finland. He wrote his way into the hearts of Finnish and international readers with his 2014 debut *Where Four Roads Meet*, which has sold over 100,000 copies, rapidly securing a firm foothold as one of the most beloved authors of his generation in Finland with five acclaimed bestsellers that earned him numerous prizes and literary awards. His five novels have been translated into 21 languages to date and adapted for the stage, opera and big screen. His 2020 novel, *Defiance*, is in pre-production by Tuffi Film. Kinnunen lives in Turku, south-western Finland with his family.



## Options

Croatian: Hena

Czech: Argo

Danish: Cicero

Estonian: Varrak

Latvian: Zvaigzne

Lithuanian: Alma littera

Macedonian: Antolog

Norwegian: Pax

Polish: Poznańskie

## Publication

WSOY, Finland

September 2022

287 pages

## Material

Finnish Edition

English Sample Translation 40 pp

Synopsis

Author Letter

Reviews

## Contact

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Maija Kajanto

# Summer at The Birch Tree Cafe

Bestselling Nordic feelgood

**A delectable summertime novel and opener of a new trilogy that will leave readers craving more...**

After an unfortunate episode involving ludicrous amounts of lo-vage, professional recipe developer Kristiina 'Krisse' Kivimaa throws in the towel at her stressful job in a test kitchen in Helsinki. She heads to a small lakeside village in the middle of Finland, where her beloved grandmother, Helmi, needs help running The Birch Tree Cafe, after breaking her leg. Both Krisse and the cafe need a new lease of life, so Krisse immediately rolls up her sleeves and gets stuck in. It's not long before an old flame reappears and past events, which Krisse would rather forget, threaten to disturb her new life. Is it truly possible to escape the ghosts of the past? And are there those moments when nothing truly beats a good cinnamon bun to cure all ills, from broken hearts to aching feet?

SUMMER AT THE BIRCH TREE CAFE is an eminently devourable and life-affirming novel with a generous sprinkling of humour and lots of heart that will transport readers to the land of a thousand lakes where cosy, red cottages and the scent of freshly-baked goods abound. The perfect read for fans of Jenny Colgan, Lucy Diamond, and Kajsa Ingemarsson.

A winter themed standalone sequel will be published in Finland in November 2022, followed by an autumnal-themed third book in August 2023.

**\*BookBeat's most-listened to audiobook of the summer\***

**\*Over 20,000 copies sold to date\***

*'Like fresh summer rain.'* \*\*\*\* — **Seura magazine, Finland**

*'Entertaining summer reading with a well-paced story and recipes as a bonus.'* — **Kotona kirjassa blog, Finland**

*'There is a place for lightness and entertainment and SUMMER AT THE BIRCH CAFE fulfils this need superlatively.'* — **Kirsin kirjanurkka blog, Finland**

*'A truly delicious story hiding inside the beautiful covers of this book.'*  
— **Luetut.net blog, Finland**

**Maija Kajanto** (b. 1978) 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. *Summer at the Birch Tree Cafe* is Maija's first novel in a planned trilogy for WSOY. @maijakajanto

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**Film & TV Rights**  
Available

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Satu Rämö

# HILDUR

Finland's summer 2022 #1 runaway  
bestseller—over 60,000 copies sold to date

**A cold case crime and dark secrets of a close-knit community intertwine in this bracing crime novel with a twist from a refreshing, new voice in Nordic crime fiction.**

Everyone does their best to survive amidst the freezing fjords of remote Iceland. 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 as head of the missing children's unit of the Ísafjörður police.

When Jakob Johanson, a Finnish police trainee with a knitting hobby arrives in Iceland to work alongside Hildur and try to escape his own, complicated life back at home, soon he, too, realises that the picturesque fjords also harbour their dark sides in the marginalized, exploitative, and power-hungry who dwell in their midst. Hildur and Jakob find themselves investigating a strange tangle of crimes as the fog obscuring secrets that have been in the dark for decades gradually begins to lift. Revenge may be sweet in theory, but will it solve anything in the end?

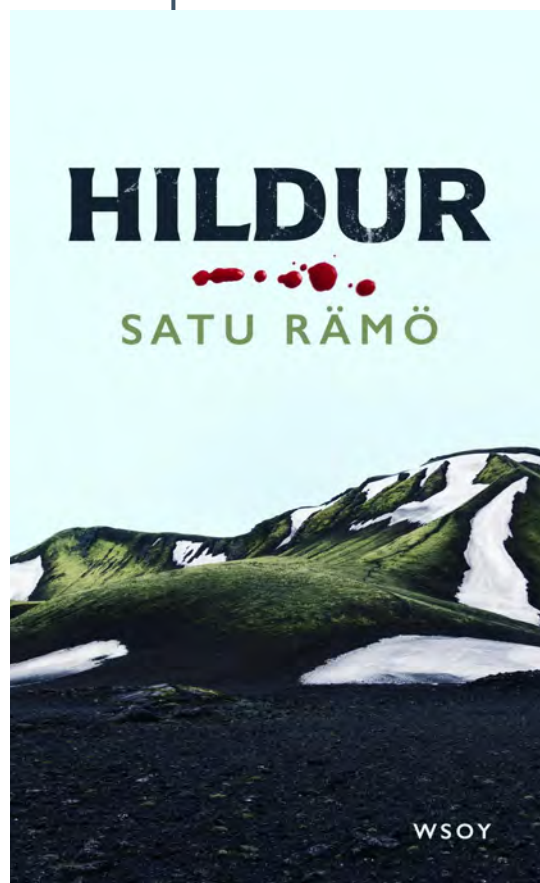
With a unique blend of Finnish and Icelandic sensibility, HILDUR launches a refreshing voice in the Nordic Noir tradition with a pinch of folkloric mysticism. Perfect for fans of Maria Adolfsson, Arnaldur Indriðason, and Ragnar Jonassón's *Hulda* series.

*'In addition to the fine and strongly atmospheric milieu description, the novel's detective plot is cleverly woven, and the characters are believable in their everyday lives.'* — **Helsingin Sanomat newspaper**

*'Hildur Rúnarsdóttir, a police detective who surfs the icy waters of Iceland, barrels into the crime fiction genre like a tsunami. A book to be read in one sitting.'* — **Max Seeck, NYT and Der Spiegel bestselling author**

**Satu Rämö** (b. 1980) moved to Iceland twenty years ago as an economics exchange student but ended up studying Icelandic culture, literature and mythology before forging a successful career as a blogger, writer, coach and mentor. Satu has published numerous bestselling, prizewinning non-fiction titles in her native Finland, ranging from travel guides to Iceland, to inspirational memoirs and a forthcoming Icelandic knitting book. HILDUR is her fiction debut which will be followed up with *Rósa & Björk* (WSOY, March 2023) and a third book, *Jakob*, in December 2023. Satu lives with her Icelandic husband and two children in the small town of Ísafjörður in northwest Iceland. @satu.is

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#### Rights Sold

**Denmark:** Gutkind (1-3)  
**Estonia:** Eesti Raamat (1-3)  
**Germany:** Heyne (1-3)  
**Netherlands:** AmboAnthos (1)  
**Norway:** Bonnier Norsk (1-3)  
**Sweden:** Forum (1-3)

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Author Letter  
Reviews

#### 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 in the gripping, fourth instalment of the bestselling series.**

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.

When thirteen-year-old Laura fails to return home from school one day, the police suspect a runaway case until they discover troubling information on her computer at home that reveals 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 to 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 that is impossible to regulate. Linda realises that in order to find the monster, she must first confront her own demons and repressed memories.

**\*Nominated for BookBeat Crime Writer of the Year Award\***

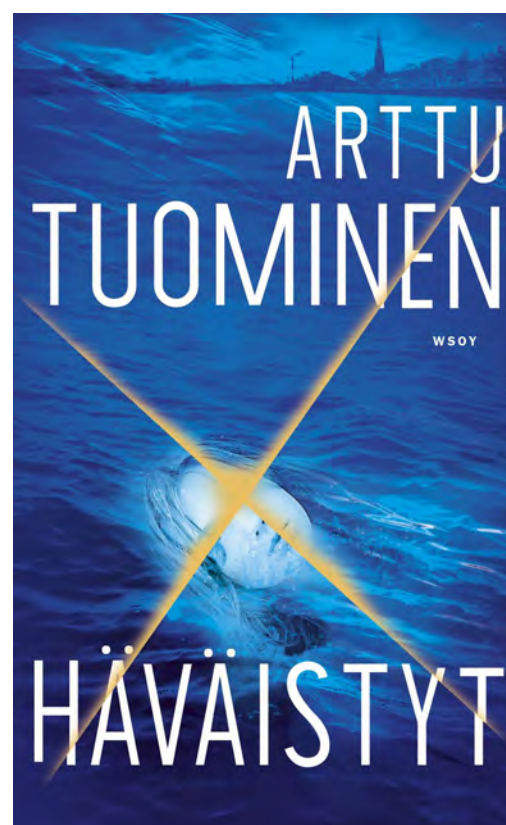
*'Tuominen is skilled in portraying his characters' feelings and actions in a believable way.'* — **Kulttuuritoimitus, Finland**

*'The absolute merit of the novel is the believable police characters.. Tuominen's detectives are authentic-feeling characters in all their shortcomings and decrepitude.'* — **Satakunnan Viikko newspaper, Finland**

*'Recommended reading for all lovers of sophisticated crime novels.'*  
★ ★ ★ ★ — **Kirsin bookclub, Finland**

*'A brilliant crime novel.'* — **Luetut.net blog, 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, 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.



**Rights sold**  
German: Bastei Lübbe

**Options:**  
Danish: Modtryk  
Dutch: De Fontein  
French: La Martinière  
Italian: Piemme  
Slovenian: Littera  
Swedish: Lind & Co

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396 pages

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Synopsis  
Series Outline Books 1-6

**Film & TV Rights**  
Lucy Loves Drama (Finland)

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Helena Immonen

# Operation Desert Fox

Lt. Riina Koivu returns in this gripping and all-too plausible new thriller...

**Novichok, a cyber attack and a clandestine operation in Afghanistan feature as Lt. Riina Koivu returns in this skillfully told and gripping standalone sequel to the acclaimed debut, *Operation Red Fox*.**

Following the short war between Russia and Finland, Reservist Lieutenant Riina Koivu is still recovering from her injuries when she receives a postcard from Lt.Col. Joakim Karhu which he had time to write before he died, seemingly assassinated by the notorious novichok nerve agent. Riina and Joakim had met in the military hospital and shared a love of books.

Meanwhile, Joni Koivu, Riina's brother, goes to Afghanistan with the Western forces and becomes mixed up in a CIA covert mission in Afghanistan.

Back in Finland, the novichok case is assigned to Mikael Koivu, Riina's husband, who works for the National Intelligence Service, and Mikael soon realises the gravity of the stakes involved in the investigation. Tensions mount as Riina, too, attempts to piece together the clues left for her by Karhu, but it soon transpires that she's not the only one on the lookout, as Russian intelligence agents close in and a dangerous race to uncover the truth commences.

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

*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**

*'Immonen's second thriller exudes skilfull pacing and her expertise in military affairs.'* — **Kansan Uutiset newspaper**

**Helena Immonen** (b. 1986) is a Finnish writer, journalist and communications professional specialising in security policy. She is an officer in the Finnish reserve forces and a trained 'Sissi' guerrilla radio operator. She is author of several middle-grade detective novels and debuted with her first thriller for adults, *Operation Red Fox* in 2020, which won Finland's Best Crime Novel of the Year in 2021.



**Rights sold**  
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August 2022  
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Reviews

**Film & TV Rights**  
N/A

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Joel Elstelä

# Zircco Fantastico

*Do old circus lions dream of hunting?*

A magnificent, magical-realist novel of a circus touring through the Third Reich, shortlisted for the Finlandia Prize 2021.

Egon Heuchler has spent his entire life running the Zircco Fantastico, a circus whose eccentric performers – the Cat Woman, the Fattest Man in the World, the Bearded Lady, the Siamese Twins, the Italian Tenor, the Greek Daredevil, and even the old circus lion – have become like family to him.

Berlin, spring 1940. Zircco Fantastico is taken over by the Nazis and its new director, Steinwampe, turns out to be a ruthless psychopath. The old ringmaster has to accept that his circus has been adapted to suit the new National-Socialist rule, reducing the diversity of the performers into a mere travelling freak show. Egon observes injustices and horrors but watches helplessly as his performers are ridiculed and terrorized. He turns to drinking, falling asleep at times in the old lion's cage.

Heinrich Himmler comes to watch the last show in Passau. Things turn even more macabre with a disturbing new act: Steinwampe presents a rifle to the Reichsführer so that he may shoot the old circus lion, Egon's companion and alter ego.

With the lion dead, nothing goes as the Nazis had planned while Steinwampe is eliminated in an act of sabotage. Instead of being shoved onto a cattle train bound for Auschwitz, the circus troupe vanishes into thin air. Exhausted, Egon finds the magic matchbox that the illusionist had used in his disappearing acts. He reminisces about his days of grandeur while pondering to himself, *'Do old circus lions dream of hunting?'*

Likened to Günter Grass' *The Tin Drum*, ZIRCCO FANTASTICO is a visually precise, cinematic account of the horrors a circus troupe endures in the Third Reich, narrated by a masterful storyteller. It doesn't recount the atrocities of war, but the fear and humiliation of individual people and the consequences of their debasement. The grotesque and vulgar intermingle with the nostalgia of a bygone world. The effortless grandeur of Elstelä's writing makes this dark and at times, comic tale an unforgettable masterpiece.

*'Reading this novel is an intensely physical experience. The description of emotions is apposite and precise. The narrative is fast-paced, the language flowing, the world of circus is sensual and the metaphor of the circus wagon is powerful. Questions of responsibility, self-deception and turning a blind eye are dealt with in a way that is both relatable and moving.'*

– Statement of the Finlandia Prize jury

*'The peculiar nature of life in a circus and the demands of Nazism collide in a heart-wrenching way.'* **Kainuun sanomat newspaper**

*'Zircco Fantastico is a splendid novel. Elstelä brings a pinch of magical realism into the circus squeezed by the Nazi rule.'*

**Keskisuomalainen newspaper**

**Joel Elstelä** (b. 1961) is a Finnish theatre director, playwright and librettist hailing from a great lineage of authors and theatre directors. Elstelä has directed for most major theatres in Finland. He has adapted novels to stage plays and the big screen, as well as translated numerous plays, including works by Shakespeare. *Zircco Fantastico* is Joel Elstelä's first full-length work of fiction.



## Rights Sold

All rights available

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## Material

Finnish Edition  
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Author Letter  
Reviews

## Prizes and nominations

Shortlisted—Finlandia Prize 2021

## Film & TV Rights

Available

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Meri Valkama

# Yours, Margot

Winner of *Helsingin Sanomat* Debut of the Year Prize 2021

**Finland's most talked-about, prizewinning and widely acclaimed debut novel about the fragility of memory and the power of silence. An immediate national bestseller with over 50,000 copies sold to date and optioned for film & tv.**

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.

*'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*

*'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, *Keskipohtanmaa*

*'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*

**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

**Estonian:** Hea Lugu

**German:** Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt

**Lithuanian:** Alma Littera

**Norwegian:** Bonnier Norsk

**Swedish:** Bazar

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Author Letter

Reviews

#### Film & TV Rights

Optioned

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Hassan Blasim

# The Clock and the Guests

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.

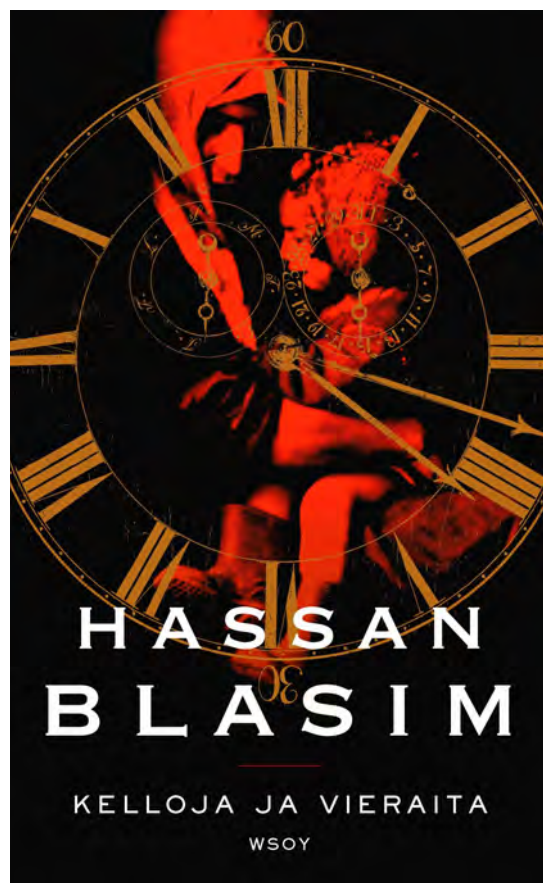
But when Refugee S signs up to facilitate Dinner Guests, a volunteer-run integration initiative, the ugly side of the North is revealed. Blasim expertly captures the devastating dislocation of exile in this coruscating second novel.

*'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 based 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  
**Serbian:** Geopoetika

#### Options

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

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WSOY, Finland  
2021  
219 pp

#### Material

Arabic PDF  
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English Short Extracts  
Reviews

#### Film & TV Rights

Available

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Siiri Enoranta

# The Peculiar Life of Josir Jalatva

**A hedonistic love story by one of Finland's most acclaimed rising-star writers.**

Aurosia, the 5200s. The continent has split into a number of small states, each with their own set of customs, cultures and beliefs. All of them are unified in their belief that God had abandoned them a thousand years ago without a backward glance. The only last vestiges of any higher deity are the mysterious *vasars*, who still hold supernatural powers.

Josir Jalatva is the 23-year old fun-loving hedonist and heir to the Maximissimi circus, who falls in love—and lust—at first sight with 19-year old history student and apprentice clocksmith, Micholei 'Miho' Rostus. But their young love is shattered when Miho is cursed by a *vasar*.

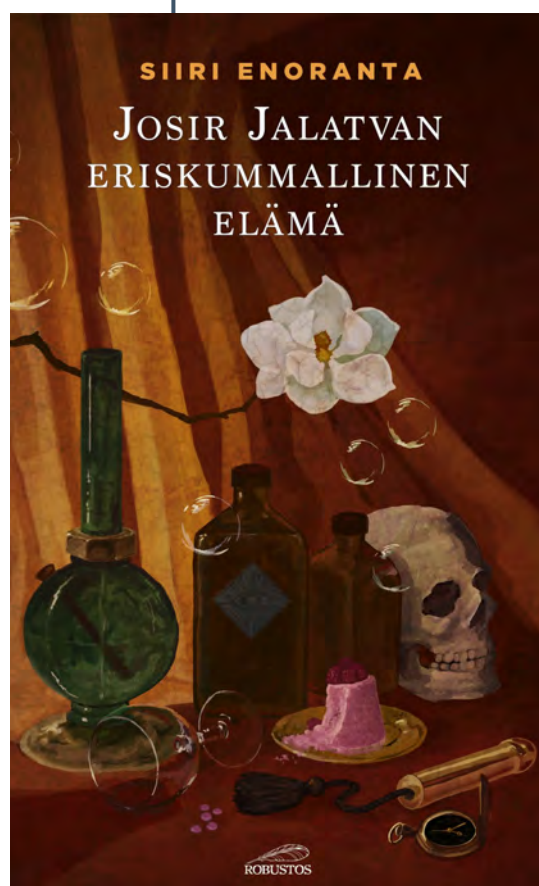
To rescue Miho from the affliction of the *vasar's* curse, Josir and a motley crew of his father's circus performers, tent boys, and Pitir Lonkayevo, a tenacious young journalist, embark on an arduous journey as a travelling circus along the unbroken railroad across Aurosia to hunt down the *vasar*.

Enoranta takes readers on an unforgettable journey into her vivid world of Aurosia, where Josir and Miho's love is put to the ultimate test. Can love, in fact, conquer all—even if the object of your love is suddenly turned from a lissome young man into an unsightly old crone? Is Miho still Miho in the end? Enoranta masterfully explores themes of love, gender, death, and vengeance in this dazzling novel.

*'Erotically charged and interesting.'* — **Turun Sanomat newspaper**

*'...a sparkling, thought-provoking, magical, and erotic novel.'* — **Siniset helmet blog**

**Siiri Enoranta** (b.1987) is an award-winning Finnish-Colombian writer regarded as one of Finland's contemporary literary torchbearers. She read French and Spanish at the University of Tampere and has published ten books, predominantly in YA and crossover, to date. She won the Finlandia Junior Prize in 2018 for *The Burning Dark*. Her writing has garnered praise for its strong worldbuilding, bold and complex female protagonists, relationships, and coming of age. First published in 2017, *The Peculiar Life of Josir Jalatva* was published in ebook and audio by WSOY this year. Siiri is currently working on her second novel for adults. [siirienoranta.com](http://siirienoranta.com)



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Robustos (print); WSOY (digital), Finland  
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**Awards & Nominations**  
Shortlisted — Kuvastaja Prize 2017

**Film & TV Rights**  
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Marja Kangas

# Loving You, Loving Me

A deliciously fizzing novel about a woman who opens her mind to a journey, only to wind up on an altogether different kind of retreat.

Tuuli, a visual arts teacher in a Finnish high school, couldn't feel worse about having turned forty. As her teacher colleagues count down the days to retirement, Tuuli turns to a dating app in the hope of finding someone who'll give her a new lease of life. The only problem is, her only matches are former students of hers. Plagued with boredom and on the brink of a midlife crisis, Tuuli decides to pack her bags and head to Barcelona for a long summer holiday. She loves everything about the city: the food, the architecture, the language, not to mention the men...

Starting as she means to go, Tuuli vows to go on as many dates as she can possibly squeeze in. That's how she meets Max, a New Age 'masculinity teacher' who sweeps her off her feet. But when Max breaks Tuuli's heart and turns out to be just like all the men back home, Tuuli decides she's had enough. Why does a woman's happiness always have to depend on a man, anyway? There's only one thing for it: Tuuli seeks out an ashram and consults a *bona fide* guru.

With its exuberant combination of excitement, heartbreak, and one hell of a lot of soul-searching, Marja Kangas delivers another side-splitting and relatable novel. Imagine a feelgood version of Cheryl Strayed's *Wild* meets Elisabet Benavent's novels and you have LOVING YOU, LOVING ME.

**Marja Kangas** (b. 1974) is a drama teacher and writer, originally from the Finnish town of Kuopio, though she divides her time now between Barcelona and Turku, Finland. She also teaches creative writing. *The Only Way is Up*, her debut novel won WSOY's 2019 writing competition to find the next, new voice in commercial fiction, beating 788 other entries and was adapted for the stage this summer. LOVING YOU, LOVING ME is her second novel and Marja is currently working on a third novel. @marjakangas.net



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**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. A must-read for any fans of Tove Jansson.

**\*10,000 copies sold in Finland to date\***

*'I am a big fan of Tove Jansson. [...] The book aspires to convey melancholy, an atmosphere of departure and farewell. It is a wonderful reflection on artistry. Johanna Venho is also a poet, and one can tell. The language is beautiful and meticulous.'* **Krista Kosonen, Me naiset magazine**

*'Venho renders the individual linguistic registers of her subjects and the prevailing views of the times with breathtaking accuracy.'* **Helsingin Sanomat newspaper**

*'... an incredibly clear and identifiable portrayal of letting go and hope; of mothers and daughters, idols and fans, and how the best stories that are woven together come back to the beginning.'* **ET magazine, Finland**

**Johanna Venho** (b. 1971) is one of the most prominent poets of her generation in Finland and an acclaimed novelist. Her first work of biofiction, *The First Lady* (WSOY, 2018) was nominated for the Finlandia Prize and became a national bestseller. Johanna has a Master's 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, translator, and 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. @johannavenho.fi



**Rights sold**  
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Estonian: Varrak

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2021  
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Synopsis  
Author Letter  
Reviews

**Film & TV Rights**  
Available

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*Iiro Küttner (text) & Ville Tietäväinen (ills.)*

# Thinning

A biting satirical critique on modernity and the human condition

**An ingenious and thrilling story spanning across the ages that combines semiotics in fiction with biblical analysis, à la Umberto Eco, to deliver its chilling thesis of our species' inability to evolve, even if it were to alter the course of our downfall.**

2,800 BC. God commands Noah to build a floating ark where all animals are to be given refuge from the Great Flood which God shall unleash to punish decadent mankind with. Noah sets to work but surprising problems arise to hinder his progress.

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

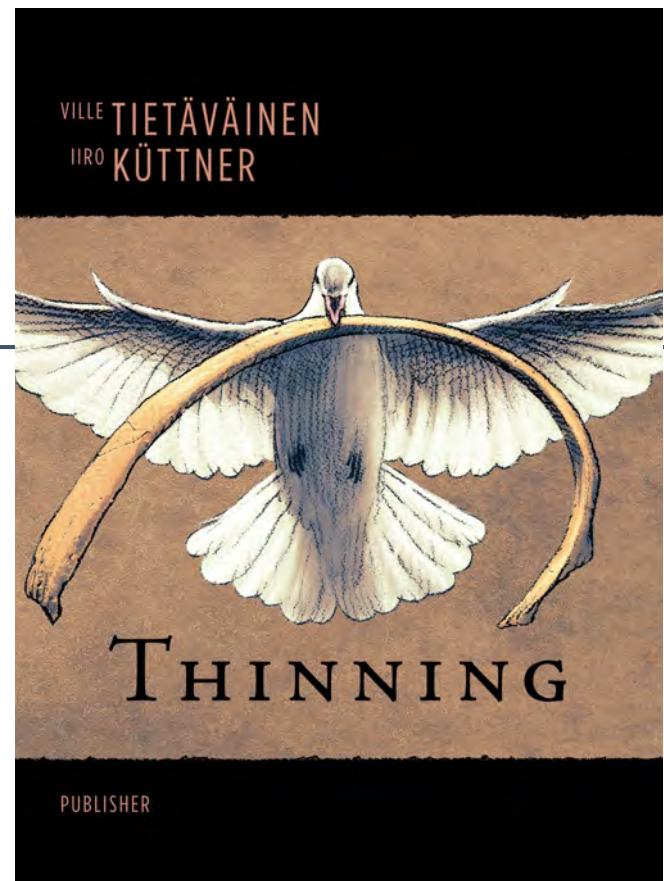
On an expedition to Mount Ararat in 2021, German researcher Elke Greiss unearths an ancient scroll containing the story of Noah - but in greater detail than ever seen before. Elke's university has exciting plans for the scroll but the outcome is unforeseen disaster of biblical proportions.

**Authors' Note:** "Evolution of mankind is broken; we do not adapt to the environment, but force and manipulate the environment to adapt to us and our goals at the time. Thinning comments above all on the accelerating extinction of different species, difficult choices, and rising sea levels. These same elements can also be found in the story of Noah, which is why it works wonderfully as a background story in the book. But in terms of content, the work does not deal with church history, nor with religion, nor with man's relationship with God - but above all with man's relationship with all living things."

*'Truth has been thinned for thousands of years...In today's world, old books and their truths do not burn on pyres but in the cold glow of the economy. In THINNING, Tietäväinen and Küttner show how our civilization is endangered repeatedly over the millennia. The tale is told in this spectacular graphic novel where satirical humor bubbles right beneath the surface.'* **Helsingin Sanomat**

**Ville Tietäväinen** (b. 1970) is one of Finland's most widely respected graphic novel artists. His previous graphic novel *The Invisible Hands* was a sensation on publication, winning the coveted Finlandia Prize, and was later shortlisted for several prizes in France, and the Max & Moritz prize in Germany.

**Iiro Küttner** (b. 1966) is an acclaimed Finnish screenwriter for film & tv, and professor of screenwriting at Aalto University.



## Rights Sold

All rights available

## Publication

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WSOY, Finland  
2021  
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## Material

Finnish Edition  
Full English Translation in layout  
Reviews

## Film & TV Rights

Rights Available

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*Johanna Aulén*

# Chernobyl's Dogs

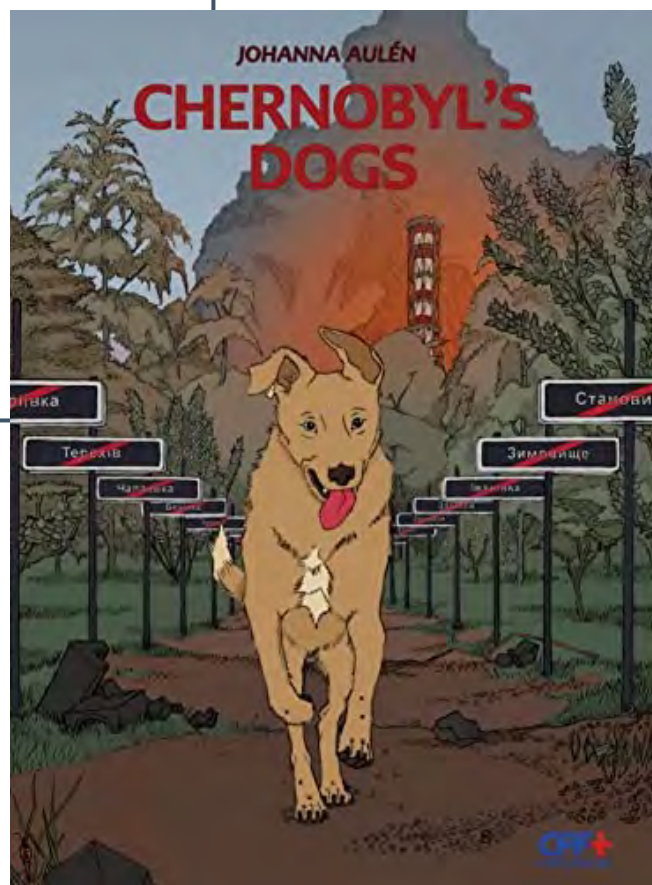
This chillingly poignant graphic novel offers a documentary-style account of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in 1986 and its effects on the local people, animals, and nature.

The Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in April 1986 remains to this day the most disastrous nuclear accident in the world. Only after two days was the mass evacuation of the area begun. When Pripjat and other surrounding villages were abandoned, and no one was allowed to take their pets with them to safety. The dogs howled, trying to follow their owners, trying to board buses but soldiers pushed and kicked them out. Still, the dogs ran after the buses. There was no mercy. Soviet troops were sent in to shoot the animals but some survived and their descendants still populate the polluted Exclusion Zone. Johanna Aulén tells the story of the disaster with facts of the event and its effects on the area surrounding the nuclear reactor in a documentary-style graphic novel.

The original Finnish edition had gone to print when Russia invaded Ukraine. During the war, Russian troops have jeopardized the safety of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, and have occupied the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the largest nuclear power station in Europe. Aulén's work shows the Soviet leaders' mistakes and disregard for human life thirty-six years ago. Yet they remain most poignant today.

**Donated English Language Rights:** Non-profit organization *Clean Futures Fund (CFF)* works to provide long-term support for communities affected by industrial accidents. CFF has worked for several years in collaboration with Ukrainian government to assist people and animals affected by the Chernobyl disaster. For the Exclusion Zone strays, CFF provides sterilization, vaccinations and medical care, as well as food. Aulén has donated the limited edition English rights to her graphic novel to CFF who directs all the proceeds from its sale to the CFF's aid projects in Ukraine. CFF's special edition has just been made available on Kindle for US readers.

**Johanna Aulén** (b.1981) is a graphic designer and arts teacher. CHERNOBYL'S DOGS (*Tshernobylin koirat*, WSOY 2022) is her debut graphic novel. She lives in Finland with her two dogs.



### Rights Sold

**English (NA):** Non-exclusive e-book (CFF)

## Publication

Tshernobylin koirat  
WSOY, Finland  
2022  
112 pages

## Material

Finnish Edition  
Full English Translation in layout

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Maaret Kallio

# The Power of Two

## How to Forge a Strong Emotional Connection in Your Relationship

**A strong emotional connection is the the cornerstone to any secure relationship, posits Finland's bestselling psychotherapist and couples counsellor in her latest book.**

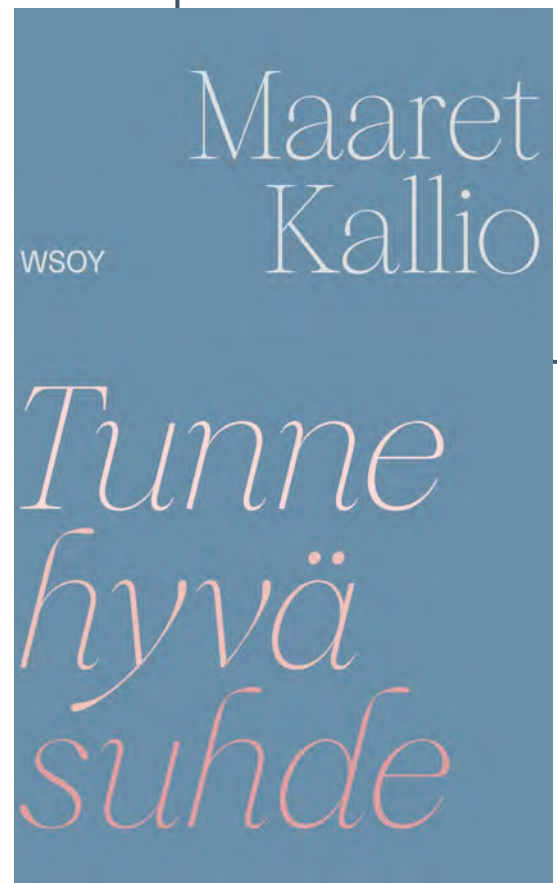
"A strong relationship is like a seat belt, embracing you and keeping you in place when you hit bumps in the road", says Maaret Kallio. In *THE POWER OF TWO*, she looks at how to recognize a good emotional connection with your partner; how you can deepen the relationship ever closer; and what kind of solutions can be used to repair a broken connection.

An emotional connection with your partner is the most important factor in maintaining a good and safe relationship. With the help of the book, we can learn to understand the state of a relationship, think about your intimacy on an emotional level, and observe the many factors affecting the relationship. Even a good relationship features cracks and fissures, but the ways to detect, deal with and repair them vary greatly from one couple to the next. Relationship skills can be learned both alone and together with a partner.

*THE POWER OF TWO* offers many pointers for that. Kallio covers the many facets in understanding relationships, talking about intimacy, sexuality, and safe separation. In a good relationship, there is optimism, disputes to be resolved and a shared vision for the future. The book contains concrete exercises to do both alone and together. And this is not by any means exclusively for romantic couples—it can also apply to platonic friendships in equal measure!

*'The experienced relationship counsellor offers gold nuggets in this book that young people as well as those of retirement age need in their shared realities. Excellent.'* — Jounin kirjablogi, blog

**Maaret Kallio** (b. 1977) is Finland's leading cognitive analytic psychotherapist, sexual counselling specialist, couples therapist, and mindfulness coach. During the coronavirus pandemic, Maaret hosted a weekly live broadcast for *Helsingin Sanomat* with the aim of supporting Finnish people's mental health and reaching a staggering 250,000 viewers per episode. Maaret often appears on television as a leading expert and has published nine non-fiction books to date. Her 2016 title, *Resolutely Kind* (*Lujasti lempeä*, WSOY 2016) became an immediate bestseller in Finland, selling 75,000 copies to date and was followed by *The Power of Hope* (*Voimana toivo*) in 2020, selling over 40,000 copies to date. [maaretkallio.com](http://maaretkallio.com)



### Rights Sold

All rights available

### Options

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We are a literary agency representing translation rights to high-quality adult fiction, children's books, Young Adult, and illustrated and narrative non-fiction from Finland.

Our authors and illustrators are primarily published by WSOY, Tammi, Johnny Kniga, Kosmos, readme, and Docendo—imprints of Werner Söderström Ltd in Helsinki, which is part of the international Bonnier Books group.

The agency also sells film & tv rights direct on behalf of selected authors.



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