



BONNIER

Rights Finland

Fiction
Autumn 2023

Miki Liukkonen

Guest Mode

The posthumous literary masterpiece by Finland's most erudite, postmodernist writer.

"And people fantasise because the world itself is not exciting, it offers nothing as such. People started making things up a long time ago, and since then it's all gone pretty much up the arse."

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

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

An allusive, philosophical, and humorous novel that rejects both humour and philosophy by an author worthy of comparison to DeLillo, Foster Wallace, and Pynchon. At the time of his untimely death on 4 July 2023, Miki Liukkonen had finished this novel, which was published posthumously in Finland on 18 September to widespread critical acclaim and a confirmation of Liukkonen's accession to Finland's literary firmament.

'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**

'In short, a remarkable work.' - **Kaleva**

Miki Liukkonen (1989-2023) published five novels, three poetry collections and a graphic novel to critical acclaim and accolades. His work is imbued with portrayals of people and the world in all their beauty, multitudes and neuroses, his language blooming with simile and metaphor. O, his 2017 magnum opus, was nominated for the Finlandia Prize for Fiction and has been translated into French and Polish, with a film project in development. An excerpt, *A Cookbook for Neurotics*, was anthologized in Dalkey Archive's Best European Fiction in 2019.

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Options:

French: Le Castor Astral

Polish: Insignis

Publication

WSOY, Finland

18 September 2023

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Material

Finnish Edition

English Sample Translation 50 pp

Synopsis

Film & TV Rights

Available

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Tiina Laitila Kälviemark

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.

"When a person realises that their life is threatened, their whole life flashes before their eyes at ultra-speed. In my eyes, it is the future rather — as it could have been."

In the summer of 1993, a thirteen-year-old schoolboy, Mikael Helenius, is kidnapped. Ten months later he is found alive, an empty drink bottle containing an adder clutched in his arm. The media goes into a frenzy over the so-called Snake Boy case, but Mikael has lost the ability to talk, 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 to return 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 with it she must face up to the memory of a fateful choice she made all those years ago.

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

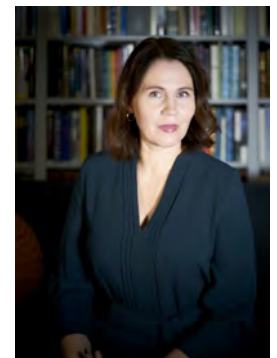
'The reader will find themselves in a suspense as to how the novel ends [...] A pleasing reading experience.' - **Kulttuuritoimitus, Finland**

'A densely atmospheric and gripping novel...This beautiful novel shows how meaningful and far-reaching it can be for a child that even one person sees the loneliness of another and reaches across it.' - **Kirjaluotsi, Finland**

'Laitila Kälviemark has a remarkable skill for portraying the innermost feelings of people who have suffered hardships in a realistic and humane way [...] A multidimensional work that my words don't do enough justice in praising it. I would encourage everyone to read this novel.'

— **Sananmukaisesti, Finland**

Tiina Laitila Kälviemark (b. 1970) is a Stockholm-based Finnish journalist and author. Her debut novel, *Of Stones and Silence* (WSOY, 2015) was published to critical acclaim and a shortlisting for the European Union Prize for Literature. Her subsequent works have been nominated for numerous literary awards, including the Toisinkoinen, Runeberg, Tulenkantaja, and Bothnia prizes in Finland. Laitila Kälviemark'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 novel.



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Author Letter
Reviews

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Ville Verkkapuro

Pete

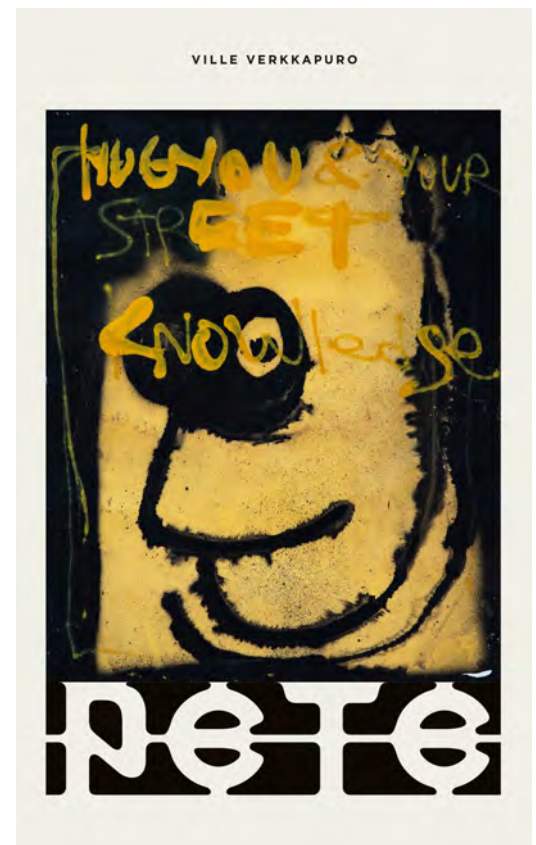
Winner of the *Ilkka-Pohjalainen* Literary Prize 2023

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

Thirty-year-old Ville is living his best life with a dream job, love, friends – everything in his life is perfect. But like a tattoo on the soul, his father Pete's death troubles him and Ville is told that he looks and moves just like his father. Ville sets out on a quest to find out who Pete really was. Through the accounts of others' memories of Pete, he pieces together a portrait of his absent father to realize that he is neither Pete nor an addict, with some 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 who we really are, 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 his working-class roots and autobiographical and unflinching narrative that draw comparisons to Edouard Louis' *Who Killed My Father*, Verkkapuro showcases his raw talent in this, his acclaimed debut.



Helsingin Sanomat 'Critic's Choice' Pick of 2022

Nominee for Helsingin Sanomat Debut of the Year Award 2022

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

'Western Helsinki's Knausgaard' – **Helsingin Sanomat newspaper**

'A very good, even surprising, book. It's not an indictment, but rather a work full of love moving towards understanding and reconciliation. Both thought- and feeling-provoking. Recommended!' – **Juha Itkonen, author**

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 played for the likes of New Ron, Vesta and Black Metal Raccoons. He lives and works in his adoptive hometown of Helsinki and is currently working on his second novel.
@villeverkkapuro

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Synopsis
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Film & TV Rights
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Lois Armas

FLORA

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.

Lois 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.

'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**

Lois 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.



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Maija Kajanto

Applecake Autumn

The third book in the bestselling Nordic feelgood series with over 75,000 copies sold

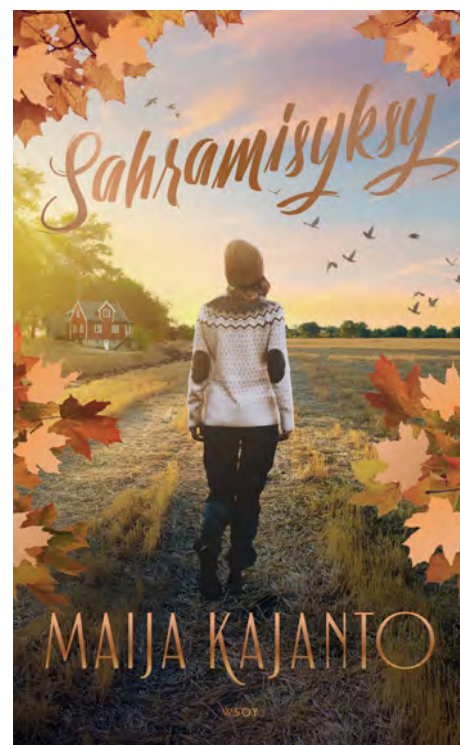
Autumn is the time for new beginnings - also for Kristiina Kivimaa at the Birch Tree Cafe.

Kristiina 'Krisse' Kivimaa has now settled into her new life in Pyhävirta, a far cry from her old life in hectic Helsinki. The Birch Tree Cafe is thriving again and the lakeside inn is running smoothly. But life doesn't stand still, not even in. With a new mayor comes development plans that stir up a range of emotions in the locals.

A suspicious series of fires disturbs the peace and quiet of the village community and before long, accusatory looks are being cast in all directions. Former mayor, Tommi seems to have hopes for a joint future with Krisse that she does not share.

As the autumn leaves begin to fall, it's time for Krisse to decide where her future lies - and with whom. APPLECAKE AUTUMN is a mouthwatering combination of the notes of damp Nordic woods, freshly-baked applecake, and seasonal spices that will leave readers wanting more.

The book is the third in the bestselling 'Birch Tree Cafe' series and debuted on the Finnish bestseller list at #4 across all formats, and #2 in audio and e-book. A fourth book in the highly popular series will be published by WSOY in March 2024.



Praise for the series:

'Entertaining and warm-hearted.' — **Luetut.net blog, Finland**

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

'Causes chronic drooling.' — **Kirsin kirjanurkka blog**

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Publication
WSOY, August 2023
223 pages

Material
Finnish Edition
English Sample Translation tk
Synopsis
Reviews

Film & TV Rights
Available

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. The *Birch Tree Cafe* series is Maija's first to be published by WSOY.
@maijkajanto

Maija Kajanto

Book 2: HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE LAKESIDE INN (WSOY, 2022)

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

Christmas arrives in a snowy Pyhävirta and with it surprising new turns. Kristiina 'Krisse' Kivimaa has settled into her new life in Pyhävirta running The Birch Tree Cafe for her grandmother. When the village begins attracting new tourists to the newly opened lakeside country inn, Krisse jumps at the opportunity to treat its guests to her freshly-baked date cake. But running both the café and hotel is more than a full-time job for Krisse, so when a big snowstorm threatens to cancel an important booking by a group of Dutch snowboarders and the hotel roof springs a leak, Krisse needs all the help she can get. Meanwhile, her love interest, Tommi the mayor, starts acting distant, and events from a hundred years ago start to haunt her, and her beloved grandmother seems to be keeping a secret from her.

As a new door opens to new possibilities in Krisse's life, she has to decide how much to importance to place on the opinions and wishes of others near to her. An equally delicious novel set against a snowy, Nordic backdrop as Christmas approaches and Krisse finds herself juggling a lot more than she had bargained for.



Material

Finnish Edition
Sample Translation 36 pp
Synopsis
Reviews

Book 1: SUMMER AT THE BIRCH TREE CAFE (WSOY, 2022)

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

After an unfortunate episode involving ludicrous amounts of lovage, 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.



Material

Finnish Edition
Sample Translation 37 pp
Synopsis
Reviews
Author Letter

BookBeat's most listened-to audiobook of the summer

Over 40,000 copies sold to date

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

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Satu Rämö

JAKOB

Book 3 in the bestselling crime series with over 250,000 copies sold and an international TV series in development

Christmas is the cruellest of the holidays, especially for Jakob Johanson, who finds himself embroiled in a complex case that hits close to home.

It's the darkest time of the year in the village of Ísafjörður. As Christmas approaches, the peace of the villagers is shattered. On the western flanks, a corpse is found in a fish farming pond. Detective Hildur Rúnarsdóttir and Finnish police trainee Jakob Johanson have barely time to start their investigation before another equally bizarre homicide takes place in another remote corner of Iceland. And soon a third.

While investigating a series of brutal acts of violence, Hildur escapes to surf the choppy waves of the Atlantic but the lost connection to her middle sister, Rósa weighs heavy on her mind. Meanwhile, her police partner Jakob prepares for the hearing of his fraught custody battle with his ex-wife Lena. 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.

At what point do even the best of intentions no longer justify the means? JAKOB is the third volume in the acclaimed *Hildur* series.

Praise for the series:

'Rósa & Björk touches on the perfect. A five-star crime novel.'

Aamulehti newspaper

'Rämö has all the makings of becoming a lasting star of Nordic crime fiction.'

Kansan Uutiset newspaper

'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) is the author of numerous bestselling, prizewinning non-fiction titles in her native Finland, ranging from travel guides to Iceland, to inspirational memoirs and an Icelandic sweater knitting book. Most recently, her acclaimed fiction debut, *Hildur* (WSOY, 2022) became an immediate bestseller in Finland and is being developed into a TV series by Take Two Studios and Sagafilm. Satu lives with her Icelandic husband and two children in the small town of Ísafjörður in northwest Iceland. @satu_ramo



Rights sold

Czech: under offer
Danish: Gutkind (1-3)
Estonian: Eesti Raamat (1-3)
French: Le Seuil (1-3)
German: Heyne (1-3)
Norwegian: Bonnier Norsk (1-3)
Polish: HarperCollins Polska (1-3)
Slovak: Ikar (1-2)
Swedish: Forum (1-3)

Options

Dutch: AmboAnthos
Icelandic: Forlagid
Latvian: Zvaigzne ABC
Slovak: Ikar

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WSOY, 10 November 2023
 399 pages

Material

Finnish PDF
 Synopsis (Books 1-3)
 English Translation (*Hildur*)
 Finnish Edition (*Hildur, Rósa & Björk*)
 Reviews
 Author Letter

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Satu Rämö

Book 2: RÓSA & BJÖRK

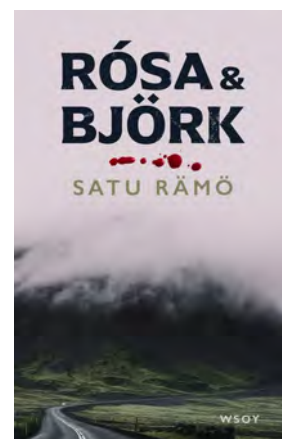
Evil is often found close to home but the closeness of people remains the best asset we have.

An unusual murder occurs in the remote Westfjords of Iceland with the discovery of an influential local businessman and municipal politician found shot dead on a ski trail. During the investigation, Detective Hildur Rúnarsdóttir and her Finnish partner Jakob Johanson 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 with his ex-wife.

Over 100,000 copies sold

'The final words in Rósa & Björk will leave the reader thirsting for more. Rämö has all the makings of becoming a lasting star of Nordic crime fiction.' – **Kansan Uutiset** newspaper



Publication
WSOY, March 2023
364 pages

Book 1: HILDUR

A cold case crime and dark secrets of a close-knit community intertwine in this bracing crime novel with a twist from a by an exciting, 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.

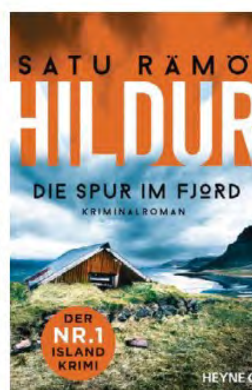
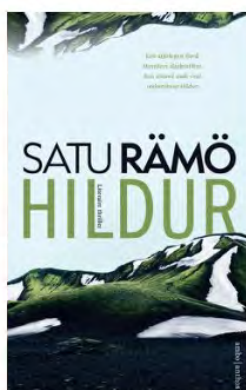
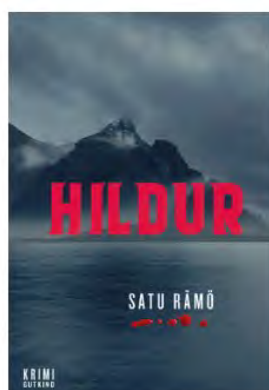
When Jakob Johanson, a Finnish police trainee with a knitting hobby arrives in Iceland to work alongside Hildur and try to escape his own, complicated life back at home, soon he, too, realises that the picturesque fjords also harbour their dark sides in the marginalized, exploitative, and power-hungry 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?

Over 150,000 copies sold nationally | Foreign rights sold into 11 languages | International TV series in development.

Nextory E-book of the Year 2023; Supla Audiobook of the Year 2023; BookBeat Newcomer of the Year 2022; Tulenkantaja Prize 2023 nominee.



Publication
WSOY, June 2022
364 pages



Arttu Tuominen

The Liberator

Book 5 in the acclaimed 'River Delta' series by the *Der Spiegel* bestselling author of *The Oath*

"The Liberator handed Harri a lighter and stepped off the exercise path into the forest. Harri had flick the lighter several times before he got the spark to ignite. The fire flared up in a single burst, dyeing the surrounding fir trees with its orange-yellow glow."

The charred body of a man is discovered on a sports field in Pori. The victim had been doused with petrol and set on fire. Suspicions are directed at a group of youths known to having harassed rough sleepers in the past. When a second arson attack is caught on CCTV, the Pori police are forced to take the attacks seriously as rumours on the street talk of a 'liberator' offering the wretched eternal life and freedom from pain.

The police investigation takes the police deep into the world of the marginalised: nocturnal streets, drug dens, forest camps, bridge underpasses, and night shelters. Detective Susanna Manner, who heads up the investigation, has a secret: her son is a rough sleeper involved in serious crime. Manner is faced with the impossible dilemma: to put her child or her job first?

Internationally bestselling author, Arttu Tuominen delivers a new crime novel with a strong social conscience, taking readers into the Pori night in all its colourful lights and inhabitants, tattooing it on to the reader's skin. THE LIBERATOR is the fifth book in the acclaimed 'River Delta' series, which has seen commercial success and garnered praise from readers and critics alike, both at home and abroad. The sixth book in the series will be published in August 2024.

Currently a Top 10 bestseller in Finland

'Arttu Tuominen portrays the dark sides of people and what gives rise to evil. [His] crime novels leave a lasting impression.'

- **Max Seeck, New York Times and Der Spiegel bestselling author**

'Tuominen guides the reader through conventional and unconventional psychological landscapes, moral issues and different levels of consciousness. [...] In The Liberator, Tuominen has written his best crime novel to date.' - **Helsingin Sanomat newspaper**

'Gripping.' - **Kansan Uutiset newspaper**

Arttu Tuominen (b. 1981) is a Finnish environmental inspector moonlighting as a crime writer. Tuominen's writing is distinctive for giving a compassionate and relatable voice to those on both sides of the law. Tuominen won the 'Johtolanka' Prize for *The Oath*, earning him a shortlisting for Scandinavia's prestigious 'Glasnyckeln' Glass Key Prize in 2021. The book was a *Der Spiegel* bestseller in Germany, and Tuominen is the first ever Finnish crime writer to receive the Danish Palle Rosenkrantz Prize, for *Jeopardy*, in 2023. @arttujuominen



Publishers of the River Delta series:

Danish: Modtryk (1-6)
Dutch: De Fontein (1-3)
French: La Martinière (1-4)
German: Bastei Luebbe (1-5)
Italian: Piemme (1-2)
Slovenian: Litera (1-3)
Swedish: Lind & Co (1-3)

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Material

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 Synopsis
 Series Outline Books 1-6
 Reviews

Film & TV Rights

Lucy Loves Drama (Option)

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Helena Immonen

Operation Arctic Fox

Book 3 in the 'Riina Koivu' series— currently Finland's #1 bestselling domestic fiction title

Lt. Riina Koivu returns in a nail-biting new thriller set in the frozen wastes of Finnish Lapland and Svalbard as Russia seeks to secure its northern hegemony, a threat that demands Finland must once again fight fire with fire.

The Finnish Army Special Forces are on a winter reconnaissance exercise in northern Lapland near the Norwegian-Russian border. The situation becomes explosive when Staff Sergeant Joni Koivu and his combat partner spot suspicious intelligence activity on Finnish territory. Finland and Norway decide to respond to the aggression with a swift joint operation and Joni finds himself in the middle of another military conflict started by Russia.

As the global political situation changes, China sees an opportunity to strengthen its global position by conducting secret tests at the North Pole on its new submarine designed for Arctic operations.

As part of her work at The Finnish Security Intelligence Service as a geopolitical expert on the Arctic, Lt. Riina Koivu works goes on a work trip Svalbard to familiarise herself with the Russian research centre there. But why do Wagner mercenaries appear to be hanging around the Russian mine and research centre? What is Russia really up to?

OPERATION ARCTIC FOX is the third instalment in the acclaimed standalone series about power struggles between the geopolitical superpowers, with Finland being drawn into the fray. Immonen focuses on the military operations that involve ordinary reservists, well-known politicians, and professional soldiers, lending a grounded and realistic feel to her plots that are all too topical today. A must-read thriller for fans of Anna Tell and Grethe Bøe.

'Immonen paces the moments of tension traditionally yet skilfully. [she] also deserves praise for her humane characters, whose psyche and life circumstances are affected by harsh experiences.' - **Helsingin Sanomat newspaper**

'A frighteningly topical portrayal of our times [...] skilfully controlled rhythm and a solid factual base.' — **Kulttuuritoimitus**

'An enjoyable clever thriller to be taken seriously.' **Kirjoja hyllystäni blog, Finland**

Helena Immonen (b. 1986) is a Finnish writer, journalist, and communications specialist. A trained 'Sissi' guerrilla radio operator, Immonen worked for the Finnish Defence Forces for almost a decade before turning to writing full-time in 2022. Her adult fiction debut, *Operation Red Fox* (Docendo, 2020) won Finland's Best Crime Novel of the Year in 2021, and was followed by *Operation Desert Fox* in 2022. She is also author of a successful middle-grade series. @heimmonen



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Synopsis
Reviews

Film & TV Rights
Under offer

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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 (1976) is an award-winning journalist and writer. Her journalism career spans twenty years as a newspaper journalist, ten of which we're 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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415 pages

Material
Finnish Edition
Synopsis
Author Letter

Film & TV Rights
Optioned

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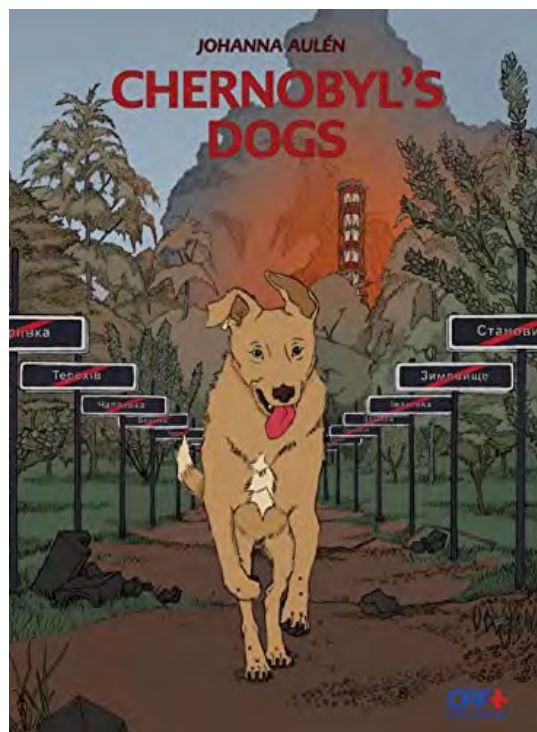
Eleonoora Kirk
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Johanna Aulén

Chernobyl's Dogs

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

Shortlisted for the Comics-Finlandia Prize 2023



The Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in April 1986 remains to this day the most disastrous nuclear accident in history. When Pripjat and other surrounding villages were abandoned, after the mass evacuations that began two days after the reactor's meltdown, evacuees were ordered to leave their pets behind. Howling dogs tried to follow their owners, even trying to board buses only to be kicked off them by soldiers. Still, the dogs ran after the buses transporting their owners to safety. 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 today. In this touching and still hauntingly relevant documentary-style graphic novel, which had just gone to print when Russia invaded Ukraine, Johanna Aulén recounts the events of the nuclear disaster and its devastating impact on the environment and its abandoned canine inhabitants, highlighting the resilience of those left behind.

During the ongoing war, Russian troops have jeopardized the safety of the Exclusion Zone and raised the spectre of the Chernobyl disaster in their occupation of Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the largest nuclear power station in Europe. THE DOGS OF CHERNOBYL highlights the Soviet leaders' mistakes and disregard for human life thirty-six years ago that remain chillingly manifest to this day.

Johanna Aulén has donated non-exclusive NA English e-book rights to the graphic novel to the Clean Futures Fund (CFF), a non-profit that works to provide long-term support for communities affected by industrial accidents. All proceeds from sales of the Kindle edition go towards CFF's aid projects in Ukraine, where they have worked for several years with the Ukrainian government in assisting people and animals still affected by the Chernobyl disaster. CFF provides sterilization, vaccinations and medical care, as well as food for the stray dogs in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone.

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

- Helsingin Sanomat

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



Rights Sold

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Reviews

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RECENT FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

Meri Valkama

Yours, Margot

The critically acclaimed novel *Helsingin Sanomat* Debut of the Year Prize 2021

The acclaimed, bestselling novel about the fragility of memory and a family secret. An immediate national bestseller with 66,000 copies sold to date and 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.

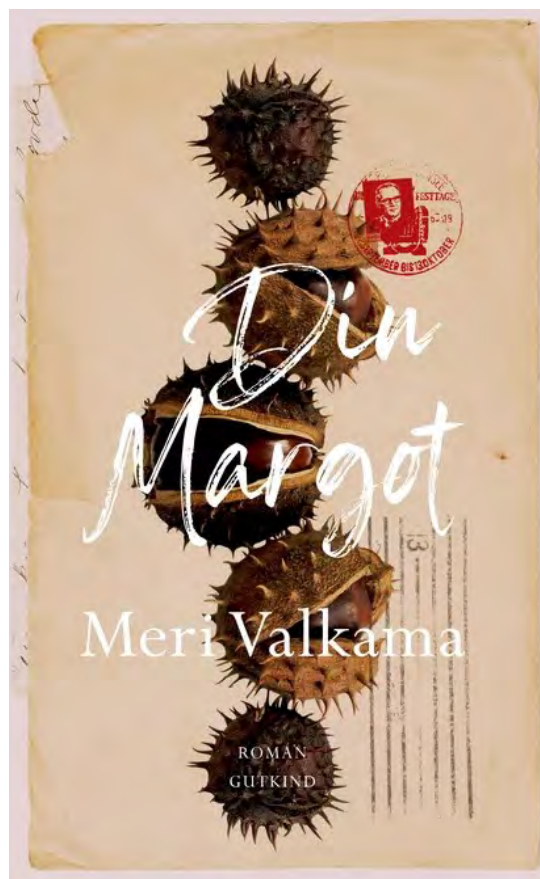
'I am amazed by Meri Valkama's ability to connect an entire nation's right to its past to a clock-ticking plot about an individual discovering her true self. The volume of pages is enormous, but not at all too much. (...) [This novel] appeals to the emotions and should be translated into other languages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

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

'An ambitious novel that tells a nuanced story about the love of an ideology and impossible love between people.' ****
– *Søndag*, Denmark

'Cinematic.' – *Eesti Ekspress*, Estonia

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, on a scholarship at the Freie Universität Berlin, where she researched 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 and a biography of former Finnish president, Tarja Halonen.



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Tommi Kinnunen

Dark Moons

Finland's beloved chronicler returns...

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

'Nobody comes out of this life unscathed. The only thing that can take us by surprise is the way each of us will be broken.'

It's 1947 when aging school teacher 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 40,000 copies sold to date

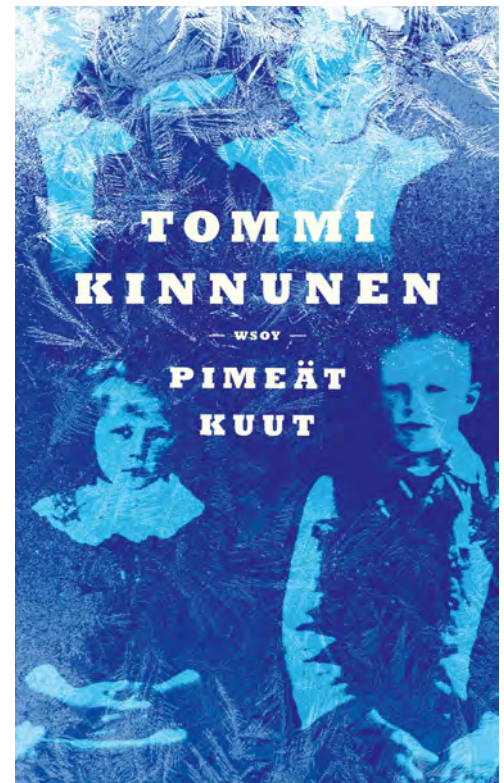
'Kinnunen is interested in the narratives to be found in the shadow of the broad arc of Finnish history. Dark Moons is a piece of this history, told through the resilient female main character.'

— **Helsingin Sanomat** newspaper

'[Kinnunen] touchingly portrays a lonely woman's battle with bureaucracy, the education system, and the people who become her enemies.'

— **Satakunnan kansa** newspaper

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, with five acclaimed bestsellers that have earned him numerous prizes and literary awards. His novels have been translated into 21 languages to date and adapted for the stage, opera, and big screen. He lives in Turku with his family.



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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.

Over 15,000 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



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