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FICTION | spring 2024

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Crime & Thrillers

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Patricia G. Bertényi

We're All Blind

Book 1—Ward C1 series

A hospital cleaner who sees and hears everything, but no one notices her. Not even the killer. A gripping hospital thriller with a social conscience.

Janka Vitéz is a 62-year old unassuming hospital cleaner — a cog in the well-oiled clinical wheel of the busy Aboa University Hospital, where she has worked for over twenty years. Janka is part of the invisible army of workers who keep the hospital scrubbed and clean, day in, day out, pushing her cleaner's cart around like an invisibility cloak. Janka may not stand out from the cohorts of medical scrubs, and her hips keep the score of years of cleaning work, but, when two unrelated patients die in the intensive care unit, a specific smell emitted by their bodies activates her latent synaesthesia and a suspicion she cannot ignore. Janka knows more than her humble job suggests; in a previous life, back in her home country, she was the chief medical examiner for the central police.

But who would believe the cleaner? Janka confides in a friendly nurse, Dani, who also expresses her doubts about their natural causes. As the two begin to expose carefully covered up crimes, their informal investigation brings them ever closer to real danger and Janka's invisibility comes into its own. But can they find and stop a vengeful killer before they expose themselves to danger?

Patricia G. Bertényi's series takes readers into the pulsing heart of the intensive care unit where the hippocratic oath provides the perfect cover for a murderer. Imagine Kay Scarpetta transposed with Nita Prose's *The Maid* in a hospital setting and you have *WE'RE ALL BLIND*.

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

'Gripping.' – Keski-suomalainen newspaper

Praise for Patricia G. Bertényi:
'Original' – Kymen Sanomat newspaper

'Well-observed and witty characters. Vivid and rich in its narrative details.' – Turun Sanomat newspaper

Patricia G. Bertényi (b. 1973) is a Hungarian-born Finnish writer, photographer and intensive care nurse. Before training as an intensive care nurse, Bertényi studied at the New York Institute of Photography. A lifelong writer, she debuted in 2019 with a mystery trilogy for Tammi Publishers before writing *We're All Blind*, her fourth novel and first in the 'Ward C1' series featuring Janka Vitéz. Bertényi is Editor-in-Chief of Finnish intensive care medical journal, *Tehohoito*. She lives in Turku, Finland with her wife and dog.

CRIME & THRILLERS

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English Sample Translation
Author Letter
Reviews

Film & TV Rights
Available



Bonnier Rights Finland

Satu Rämö Jakob

CRIME & THRILLERS

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Book 3 in the bestselling crime series with almost 450,000 copies sold with 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 with a fourth, RAKEL to follow on 1 November 2024.

Rämö has all the prerequisites to become an original and enduring star in the Nordic crime genre. — Kulttuuriuutiset

'Rósa & Björk touches on the perfect. A five-star crime novel.'
— Aamulehti 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, Sagafilm and Storyhouse. Satu lives with her Icelandic husband and two children in the small town of Ísafjörður in northwest Iceland. @satu_ramo

Bonnier Rights Finland



Publishers

Czech: HarperCollins Czech (1-3)
Danish: Gutkind (1-3)
Dutch: AmboAnthos (1-2)
Estonian: Eesti Raamat (1-3)
French: Le Seuil (1-3)
German: Heyne (1-3)
Icelandic: Forlagid
Latvian: Zvaigzne ABC
Norwegian: Bonnier Norsk (1-3)
Polish: HarperCollins Polska (1-3)
Slovak: Ikar (1-2)
Swedish: Forum (1-3)
UK & Comm ex CA: Bonnier Zaffre (1-3)

Publication

WSOY, November 2023
399 pages

Material

Synopsis (Books 1-3)
English Translation (Hildur)
Finnish Editions (Hildur; Rósa & Björk; Jakob)
Reviews
Author Letter



Satu Rämö: RÓSA & BJÖRK (Book 2)

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

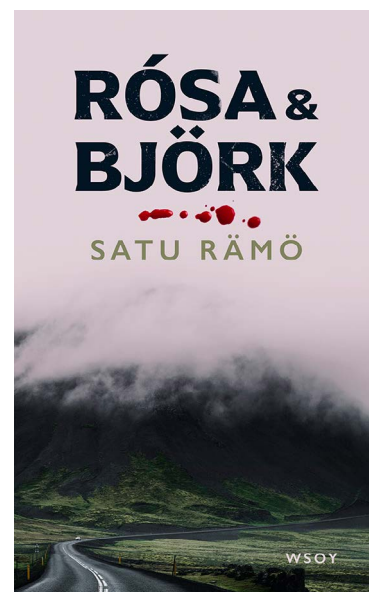
An unusual murder occurs in the remote Westfjords of Iceland with the discovery of an influential local businessman and municipal politician found shot dead on a ski trail. During the investigation, Detective Hildur Rúnarsdóttir and her Finnish partner Jakob Johanson are faced with a difficult question: 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 145,000 copies sold*

**A Der Spiegel bestseller*

**Nominee for 'Johtolanka' Crime Novel of the Year Prize 2023*

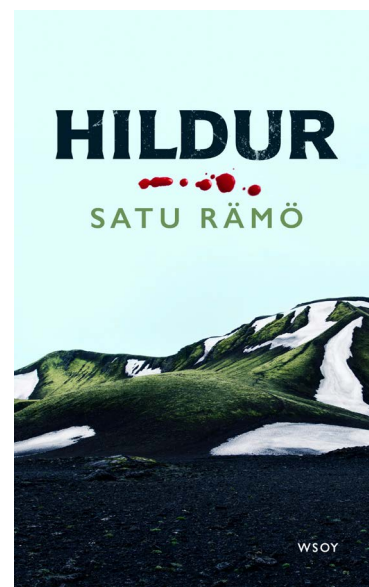


Satu Rämö: HILDUR (Book 1)

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.

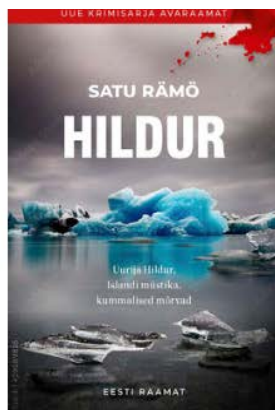
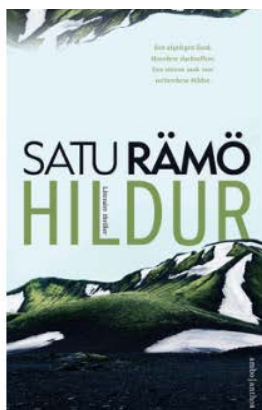
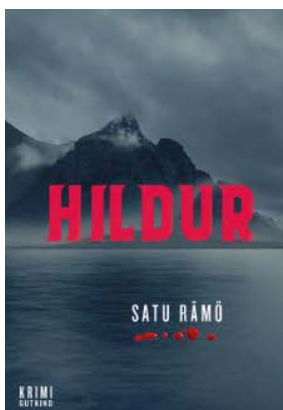
Everyone does their best to survive amidst the freezing fjords of remote Iceland. Head of the Missing Persons Unit, detective Hildur Rúnarsdóttir is no different as she surfs the icy Atlantic swells to try and forget her traumatic childhood and the burden of the cases occupying her mind.

When Jakob 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. 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?



A Der Spiegel bestseller | Over 200,000 copies sold nationally | Foreign rights sold into 13 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



Helena Immonen

'The Fox' series

Bestselling and frighteningly topical series about geopolitical power struggles. A must-read thriller for fans of Anna Tell and Grethe Bøe.

CRIME & THRILLERS

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Operation Fire Fox (#4)

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

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



Publication CrimeTime 8/2024
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Material Synopsis, Finnish edition tk, author letter

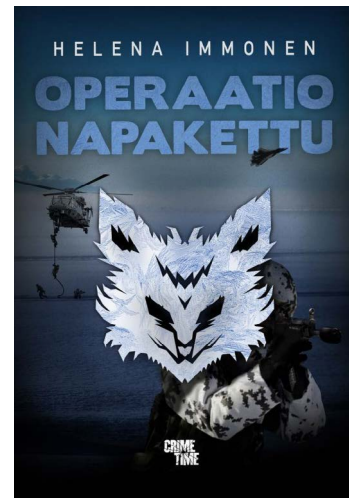
Operation Arctic Fox (#3)

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

#1 bestseller in Finland

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

Publication CrimeTime 2023, 460 pp
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Material Finnish edition, English sample, synopsis, author letter



Helena Immonen (b. 1986) is a journalist specialized in security policy, a former officer in the Finnish reserve forces and a trained 'Sissi' guerilla radio operator, who turned to writing full-time in 2022. As a child, Helena wanted to be a cowboy and an astronaut. Helena loves a good story and dreams of owning a horse. She is also author of a successful middle-grade series. @heimmonen



Operation Desert Fox (#2)

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

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

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

Publication CrimeTime 2022, 414 pp

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Material Finnish edition, synopsis, author letter



Operation Red Fox (#1)

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

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

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

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

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

Publication CrimeTime 2020, 464 pp

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Material Finnish edition, synopsis, author letter



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 were covering crime and justice. Härkönen currently works as a news reporter covering crime for Finland's MTV News. The author of two non-fiction titles, *Hiding in Plain Sight* is her fiction debut. She lives in Helsinki.

CRIME & THRILLERS

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Material
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Author Letter

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Bonnier Rights Finland

Juhani Brander

The Promised Land

LITERARY FICTION

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A wildly beautiful, lyrical novel about a young boy's survival and yearning for an absent mother in Reconstruction-era Finland. Shortlisted for the Torchbearer Prize 2023.

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

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

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

'Desolate and beautiful.' — **Helsingin Sanomat newspaper**

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

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

— **Turun Sanomat newspaper**

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

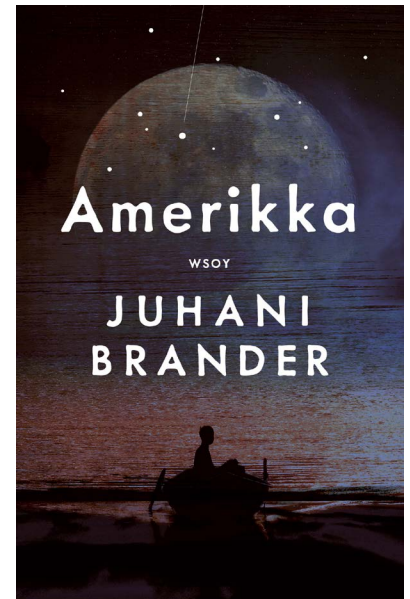
— **Keskisuomalainen newspaper**

'Powerful and eloquent.' — **Suomen Kuvalehti magazine**

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

— **Kirjallisuustoimittaja**

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



Rights sold

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303 pages

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Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews

Film & TV Rights

Available



Bonnier Rights Finland

Minna Rytisalo

Jenny Hill

LITERARY FICTION

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A layered, powerful novel about the female body by the author of Lempi.

Jenni Mäki is an ordinary, divorced woman. But inside her, Jenny Hill sparkles, daring to do more and commenting on the way the world looks at a woman. She is not satisfied with the definitions given when questioning the truth.

Jenny Hill is a compelling novel about womanhood, middle age, menopause, ageing, and what it is like to be a woman in this world — and a little bit about fairy-tale princesses and Brigitte Macron. Jenny Hill is a poignant and timely novel that boldly does justice to the female body through Rytisalo's distinctively delicate yet powerful style.

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

— Me Naiset magazine

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

— Kaleva newspaper

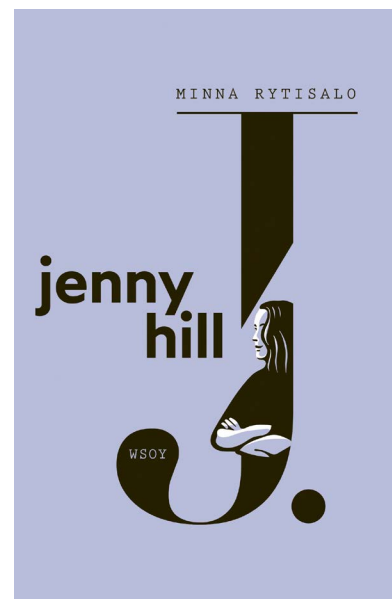
'Minna Rytisalo's work about a divorced middle-aged woman searching for her own contours blows fairy-tale classics to smithereens. Jenny Hill is a multilayered novel with a surprising narrative solution that works.'

— Turun Sanomat newspaper

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

— Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

Minna Rytisalo (b. 1974) is a former schoolteacher, writer and columnist. Her debut novel, Lempi (2016) was a critical and commercial success. It was awarded the 'Thank You for the Book'-medal, the Bothnia Prize. Mrs C. (2018) captivated readers and won the Book of the Year –award, the Bonnier Grand Journalism and Torchbearer literary prizes. Both novels have been adapted for the stage. Rytisalo lives in Kuusamo, Finland.



Rights sold

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Publishers of Lempi

German: Hanser

Hungarian: Polar

Latvian: Jumava

Lithuania: Alma Littera

Norwegian: Pax

Swedish: Bakhäll

Publication

WSOY, 2023

293 pages

Material

Finnish Edition

Sample Translation tk

Synopsis

Author Letter

Reviews

Film & TV Rights

Agency North



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.

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*.

'A heartbreakingly beautiful novel about the power of friendship and music.'

– Anna magazine (* book of the week), 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 multi-awarded 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. 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.

LITERARY FICTION

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Reviews

Film & TV

Rights available



Bonnier Rights Finland

Miki Liukkonen

Guest Mode

LITERARY FICTION

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The posthumous literary masterpiece by Finland's most erudite, postmodernist writer | Over 17,000 copies sold to date

"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.

Readers' Choice Winner—Finlandia Prize for Fiction 2023

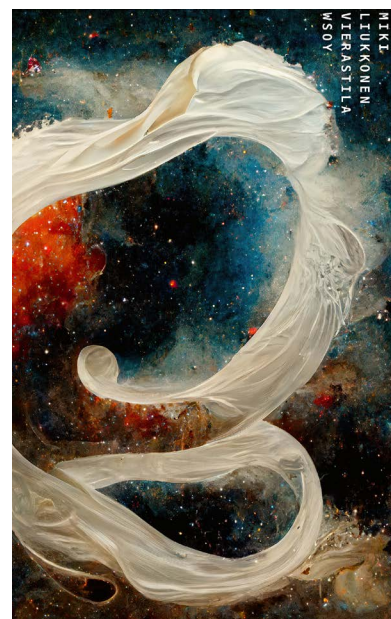
'Liukkonen has put together an outstanding parting for his readers, offering crystalline and knowingly obscure thoughts, linguistic talent and familiar Liukkonenisms.' – Helsingin Sanomat

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

'Characteristically masterful.' – Turun Sanomat

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

Miki Liukkonen (1989-2023) 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.



Rights sold

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Options:

French: Le Castor Astral

Lithuanian: Hieronymus

Polish: Insignis

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September 2023

547 pages

Material

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Synopsis

Reviews

Film & TV Rights

Available



Bonnier Rights Finland

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

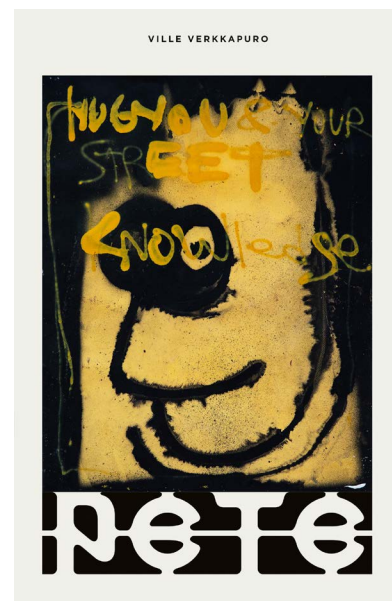
'A very good, even surprising, book. It's not an indictment, but rather a work full of love moving towards understanding and reconciliation. Both thought- and feeling-provoking. Recommended!'

– 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

LITERARY FICTION

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Material

Finnish Edition
English Sample Translation 30 pp
Synopsis
Author Letter
Reviews

Film & TV Rights

Available



Bonnier Rights Finland

Meri Valkama

Yours, Margot

UPMARKET FICTION

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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.

'A page-turner...highly recommended.' *****

– Jyllands-Posten, Denmark

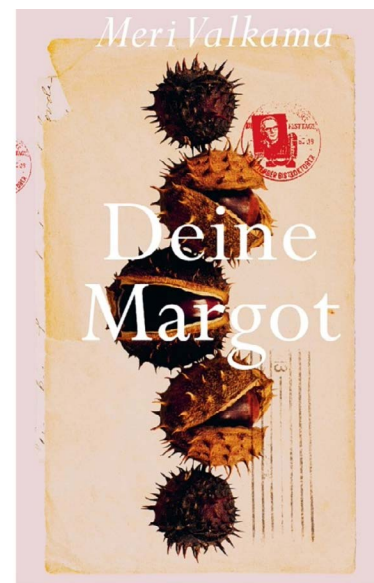
'An ambitious novel that tells a nuanced story about the love of an ideology and impossible love between people.' *****

– Søndag, Denmark

'Extraordinary.' – Nettavisen, Norway

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

Meri Valkama (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 been active in the former DDR. Valkama is at work on a second novel, and has co-authored a forthcoming narrative non-fiction work with former Finnish president, Tarja Halonen.



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Hungarian: Partvonal
Lithuanian: Alma Littera
Norwegian: Bonnier Norsk
Swedish: Bazar

Publication

WSOY, 2021
84,000 words / 556 pages

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DE, EST, FI, DK, NO, SE Editions
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Author Letter
Reviews

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Bonnier Rights Finland

Loís Armas Flora

COMMERCIAL FICTION

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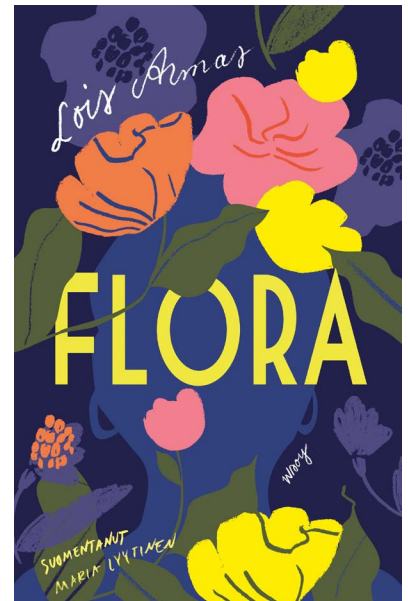
A fresh and insightful exploration of what home is, how often we overlook it, and how sometimes—rarely— another person can be the home we've been looking for.

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

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

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

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



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Publication

WSOY, Finland
May, 2023
300 pages

Material

Full English manuscript
Finnish edition
Synopsis
Author Letter

Film & TV Rights

Available

'Powerful and authentic.'

– Helsingin Sanomat

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

– Kulttuuritoimitus

'Skillfully rendered.'

– Kirjavinkit

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



Bonnier Rights Finland

Maija Kajanto

The Birch Tree Cafe series

Bestselling Nordic feelgood series — over 100,000 copies sold.

Citrus Spring (#4)

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

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

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

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

Publication: WSOY, March 2024; 256 pages

Material: Finnish Edition, Reviews

Applecake Autumn (#3)

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

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

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

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

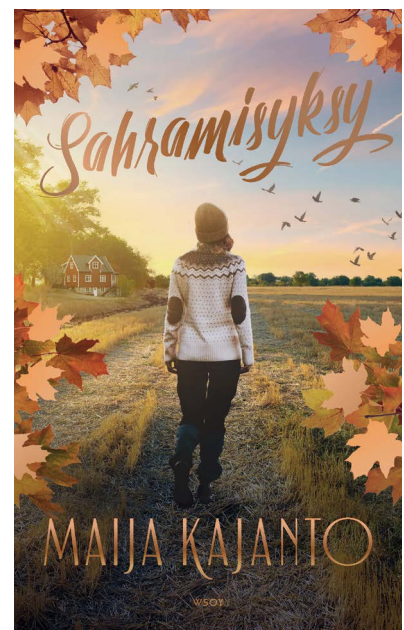
Publication: WSOY, 2023; 223 pages

Material: Finnish Edition, Synopsis, Reviews

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. @maijakajanto

COMMERCIAL FICTION

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Holiday Season at the Lakeside Inn (#2)

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

Most listened-to audiobook right upon publication

'Causes chronic drooling.'
— Kirsin kirjanurkka blog

Publication: WSOY 11/2022; 231 pages
Material: Finnish Edition, Sample Translation 36 pp
Synopsis, Reviews



Summer at The Birch Tree Cafe (#1)

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

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

BookBeat's most listened-to audiobook of the summer

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

Publication: WSOY, 7/2022, 320 pages
Material: Finnish Edition, Sample Translation 37 pp
Synopsis, Reviews, Author Letter



Johanna Aulén

Chernobyl's Dogs

GRAPHIC NOVEL

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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 Pripyat 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.



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