

BONNIER

Rights Finland

PICTURE BOOKS Spring 2025



Illustration by Aiju Salminen

FEATURED AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR TEAM

Kaisa Happonen & Anne Vasko

”

“There are picture books and then there are
PICTURE BOOKS.
The books by Kaisa Happonen and Anne Vasko
belong to the latter category.”

—Päivi Heikkilä-Halttunen, PhD
Children's Literature Review: Lastenkirjajhyll

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The Woodland Night by Kaisa Happonen and Anne Vasko

'The Woodland Night is able to tell you how to gently guide your soul in difficult situations. Each story is cathartic.'

—Ildikó Boldizsár, author,
editor, fairytale therapist,
Hungary



The Woodland Light by Kaisa Happonen and Anne Vasko

'The book's themes of connection and separation align against love and longing. As we explore another, we learn about ourselves.'

—Aamuset-kaupunkimedia

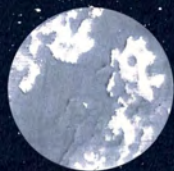


MUR Picture Books by Kaisa Happonen and Anne Vasko

A Bear Called Mur
Mur and the Blueberry
Mur and the Star
Mur and the Raindrop
Mur and the Wind

'MUR books can be described as meditative children's stories. The kind that do not necessary have just one correct interpretation. At their best, you can read them again and again at different stages of your life. Every interpretation is correct.'

—Children's Literature
Review, Lastenkirjajhyll



Kaisa Happonen & Anne Vasko

The Woodland Light



This beautiful new collection of ten wise and charming bedtime stories from the forest follows the success of *The Woodland Night* with Dutch, German Italian, Hungarian, Estonian, and Polish rights already sold!

Each story in this new collection explores the theme of light in a playful and unique way, while offering wisdom to see what truly matters. On surface, the stories merely guide readers on a n eventful journey through the forest alongside a bear cub, a moose, and other familiar woodland creatures. Yet, the effect on the reader and listener is profound.



Rights sold

Dutch (De Eenhorn)
German (Hanser)
Hungarian (Luther Kiadó)
Italian (DeAgostini)
Estonian (Koolibri)
Polish (Widnokrąg)

Publication

Mur ja metsän valo
Tammi, September 2024
Age 3+, 168 pages
148mm x 210mm (portrait)
Colour-illustrated throughout

Mur ja metsän ilta
3+, 176 pp

September 2022
148mm x 210mm (portrait)
Colour-illustrated throughout

Material

Finnish edition
English translation of 5 stories
Translated editions

Contact

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The Woodland Night

'The Woodland Night is able to tell how to gently guide your soul in difficult situations. Each story is cathartic.'

– Ildikó Boldizsár, fairytale therapist,
Hungary

Kaisa Happonen is a Finnish children's and YA author whose lively and wise spirit shines through in everything she does. **Anne Vasko** is an award-winning author and illustrator whose work reflects her creativity, compassion, and open-mindedness. Together they have created the celebrated MUR series.



Kaisa Happonen & Anne Vasko

MUR series

The award-winning, sensitive and graceful picture book about the loss of a baby, told through the eyes of a big brother.

A BEAR CALLED MUR

Mur, eli karhu, Tammi 2016, 40pp, age 3+

A Bear Called Mur introduces Mur, the lovely little cub who worries about not being a proper bear... until she realises that she doesn't need to follow the status quo.

Kaisa Happonen conveys her wise, philosophical musings to the reader emphatically and playfully, using repetition and the simple, poetic language that she has become known for. Anne Vasko's gorgeous illustrations complete Happonen's sweet stories.

MUR AND THE BLUEBERRY

Mur ja mustikka, Tammi 2018, 40pp, 3+

Mur struggles to understand how BIG can walk through the woods without paying any attention to all the wonderful things around him. Thankfully, at the end of a long walk, BIG turns around and notices the most important thing of all.

MUR AND THE STAR

Mur ja tähti, Tammi 2019, 40pp, 3+

Mur, our little friend, is sitting with BIG and the other animals, quietly admiring the starlit sky. Looking at something so vast fills Mur's mind with important questions. The others keep telling her to "hush" but how will Mur ever find the answers she's looking for? Under the starlit sky, Mur learns about the circle of life.

RIGHTS SOLD FOR THE SERIES:

Finland Tammi (orig.), **Armenian** (Paradigma Foundation), **Simplified Chinese** (TB Publishing Limited), **Croatian** (Ibis Grafika), **Dutch** (Gottmer), **Estonian** (Post Factum), **French** (Nathan), **German** (Midas), **Greek** (Diptycho), **Italian** (DeA Planeta Libri), **Japanese** (Seibundo Shinkosha), **Korean** (Borim Press), **Polish** (Widnokrąg), **Slovakian** (Enigma Publishing), **Slovenian** (Sodobnost), **Spanish**, **Catalan**, **Basque**, **Galician** (Planeta), **Thai** (Book Dance), **Turkish** (Epsilon)

MATERIALS AVAILABLE: English translations set in layout, Finnish editions, Foreign editions

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MUR AND THE RAINDROP

Pisara kuonolla, Mur, Tammi 2020, 40pp, 3+

Mur knows one thing for sure: it's definitely possible to be far away. When a single raindrop falls onto Mur's snout, the lovely cub is inspired to imagine the most wonderful things. She wonders how the raindrop that falls onto her snout can possibly be made of water when the sea is so far away.

How can both the raindrop and the sea be made of the same material? Can we be close together, yet simultaneously far apart?

'A Bear Called Mur will charm readers of all ages.'

—Muksujen maakunta blog



MUR AND THE WIND

Mur ja mitä tuuli toi, Tammi 2022, 40pp, 3+

In the latest story in the beloved Mur picture book series, Mur meets another bear who is almost like Mur herself – the same size and just as curious.

A bear stands up on its hind legs as it grabs hold of a scent in the air, a trail. A trail is, however, just a foreshadow of something you cannot yet see with your own eyes.

But should you dare to follow the new trail wind has brought you, you might find a friend.

The forest has changed, and new winds are blowing there.



Lotta Montén & Aiju Salminen

OOPS and BRRR

A relatable and fun picture book story about some misunderstandings in the day of a little Oops and his family lead to an eventful night-time for all. The story cleverly captures the sensory-rich way a young child perceives the world.

After a day when little Oops hasn't eaten that well, he awakes in the middle of the night feeling hungry. BRRR, the fridge lures Oops to explore its shelves for a midnight feast, yet all does not go as planned. Eventually Oops' midnight feast still turns out a success as all the day's misunderstandings are finally cleared.

The story makes clever use of onomatopoeia, the phonetic sound words that objects and people make, to bring hilarity and instant relatability to the events and people. The vibrant illustrations by Aiju Salminen enhance the experience.



All rights available

Publication

Hups ja Hurrur
Tammi 2/2025
32pp, 195x260mm

Material

Finnish edition
English translation

Contacts

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Lotta Montén has a Master's degree in Economics and works in corporate development. *Oops in the Night* is her debut title.

Aiju Salminen is a graphic novel artist and illustrator whose unique and fun style is gaining great popularity.

Sanna Sofia Vuori & Nadja Sarell

- ① Mai's Horribly Terrible Day
- ② Mai's Horribly Achy Arm

The inventive and warm-hearted Mai books tell about a kindergartner's small worries and daily struggles that can sometimes grow into tigers, and even unicorns.

In the first Mai book, little Mai's day begins and continues with disappointments that she bottles up. The tigers in the story growl and multiply in synch with her upsets. However, a nice surprise eventually turns Mai's day around – and remarkably, Mai's tigers also begin to resemble ordinary cats – signalling the shift in her emotions. In the second book, it's time for the unicorns to gallop about when Mai feels overwhelmed!

In the second book, Mai falls over and hurts her arm badly, she is taken to hospital. As the grown-ups around her prod her achy arm and talk about it, the unicorns begin to appear! They multiply in synch of Mai feeling overwhelmed. With the help of a kind nurse, Mai eventually regains the feeling of being seen and heard again, and as if by magic, the unicorns disappear— as does the ache in her arm.



All rights available

Publication

Main kamalan tyhmä päivä
Tammi, 2023, 32 pages, 3+
Main kamalan kipeä käsi
Tammi, 2024, 32 pages, 3+

Material

Finnish editions
English translation (1)
set in lay-out

Contacts

Terhi Isomäki-Blaxall
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"Skillfully captures a child's perspective and brings out the small worries and daily struggles with authenticity and warmth... Nadja Sarell's colorful and diverse illustrations harmoniously combine imaginative emotional depictions with gentle everyday life."

—Kirjasampo Children's Literature Review



Author **Sanna Sofia Vuori** is a multi-talented figure in the children's cultural scene in Finland. Among her many accomplishments, she has been nominated for the Finlandia C&YA Prize, and she is the creator of Estrid, a digital book club.

Nadja Sarell is internationally famed children's book illustrator, artist and pattern designer. @nadjasarell

Kati Närhi

The Stranger

ALMA 2025 nominee Kati Närhi's heart-warming picture book that celebrates diversity and the joy found in discovering common ground with others.

A little mouse, who cherishes solitude and prefers the small and quiet things in life, finds his usual peace abruptly disrupted by someone he doesn't know; a stranger. When flower and cake deliveries arrive at mouse's house, they seem too big, too smelly, altogether too strange to him. Once the mouse eventually awakes to his own strange behaviour, it open his eyes to see things differently.

Through an eventful journey of discovery, Kati Närhi challenges our preconceptions about others, and reminds us that every cherished friend was once a stranger.

**Shortlisted for the World Illustration Awards !
(Winner tba in September)**

MISSING

Kadoksissa, Capuchina 2022,
32pp

Multi-awarded sympathetic
wordless picture book about
a boy whose best friend
moves away.

**Rudolf Koivu Prize 2024
Purple Island Award 2023**



All rights available

Publication

Muukalainen
Etana Editions, October 2024
32 pp.

Material

Finnish edition
English translation

Contacts

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Multi-awarded illustrator and graphic novel artist **Kati Närhi's** picture books have garnered praise and awards both in Finland and abroad. Most recently she won the renowned Rudolf Koivu Children's Book Illustrator Prize 2024 with her wordless picture book *MISSING*. This sympathetic work was also the winner of Purple Island Award in 2023, and other international accolades. Her newest picture book *THE STRANGER* is shortlisted for the World Illustration Award. Närhi has also been awarded the prestigious Graphic Novel Finlandia Prize for her work *THE SEVENTH GUEST*.

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Roope Lipasti & Emiel Inkeri Nikula

CHOPPER TEAM T-RX

A thrilling picture book series bursting with speed, danger, and fun—perfect for the adventure-loving followers of Paw Patrol, Fireman Sam and Octonauts! Chopper Team T-RX embodies the joy of teamwork with the excitement of daring rescue missions!

- ① Mountain Rescue
- ④ City Rescue
- ② Flood Rescue
- ⑤ Rainforest Rescue
- ③ Desert Rescue

Chopper Team T-RX are a brave and unfailing animal hospital's rescue team that is always ready to rescue those in distress. Join Foxtrot – the chopper pilot, Hugo – the vet, and Max – the mechanic, along with Hoot – the rescue team's trusty call centre operator, as they embark on missions with their fantastic helicopter T-RX, a masterful blend of tyrannosaurus rex and a flying Tesla, that has a tendency to break down at the most critical moment...

Written by the witty and acclaimed **Roope Lipasti**, and vibrantly illustrated by **Emiel Nikula** whose background is in the gaming world, each CHOPPER TEAM T-RX book comes with a promise of non-stop excitement for all adventurers from the age of three and up!

From mountains to city and beyond, this fearless team faces each challenge head-on. Whether it is about saving a stranded goat, combatting a flood, dealing with a power outage, or navigating a sandstorm, they are always ready for action!

All rights available

Publication

Kopterijengi
WSOY, 2023-2024
280x215, 32 pages

Material

Finnish editions
English translation of 1&2

Contact

Terhi Isomäki-Blaxall
terhi@bonnierrights.fi



Metsämarja Aittokoski

Come out, Pikkuli!

The perfect entry title to the successful PIKKULI brand! PIKKULI is an adorable little bird who already exists in nine picture books and in PIKKULI's own animated TV series in 25 countries around the world. PIKKULI animated feature film premieres in 2026!

The new *Come out, Pikkuli!* works wonderfully as the entry title into the series since it takes readers back to Pikkuli's hatching day. It is where Pikkuli's journey began and when he faced his first ever emotional hurdle; of being frightened to leave the safety of its egg.

PIKKULI picture books feature a **Social and Emotional Learning** activity corner to help parents discuss the SEL aspects of the story further with a child.



Series:

9 Pikkuli picture books

Target age: 3-6

Format: 32 pages/230x300

Animated TV series, books, early-education materials & Apps

- Winter 26/27: 2nd season of PIKKULI tv-animation series
Confirmed distribution already in place in several territories, including the Nordics
- Pikkuli Pedagogy and kindergarten curriculum with proven results in children's social and emotional skills after 10 weeks

Soon also on the big screen!

- Autumn 2026: *Pikkuli and The Starlight Reindeer*
70' Animated feature film for the whole family (3D/CGI)

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WWW.PIKKULI.FI

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Maaret Kallio & Susanna Ruuhilahti
Illustrated by Julia Sevtchenko

FOUR SEASONS WITH ANTSY

A sense of trust and security lies at the heart of this series. These books are of help to children as they learn to navigate their own emotions and begin to develop the skills they need to get along with others. The exciting and warm-hearted adventures are set in four seasons:

- ① Antsy. Dark and Stormy Night — Fear and anxiety
- ② Antsy. Message in a Bottle — Safety and trust
- ③ Antsy. Snowball Fight — Anger and rage
- ④ Antsy. Party of the Year — Love and individuality

The four books follow Antsy and his friends through the four seasons, and show how they react, with their different temperaments, in different situations. The autumn story deals with fear and overcoming it, the wintry tale with anger and rage, the summertime adventure by the seaside focuses on security and trust, and the spring is filled with love and individuality.

Maaret Kallio and Susanna Ruuhilahti have lent their expertise in emotional development into the creation of these fun yet effective stories that provide children with very useful tools as they encounter a spectrum of emotions and uncover the power of friendship. Julia Savtchenko's rich, full-colour illustrations exude warmth and the joy of childhood.



'Emotional skills cannot be simply acquired through performance; instead, they are continually learned in everyday life. Stories can serve as powerful tools in this regard. With Antsy books, we don't set out to teach about feelings, but rather, we rely on the power of storytelling. Stories can have a profound impact on individuals of all ages, as they connect with our inner selves in a way that mere knowledge or intellectual approaches cannot.'
—Maaret Kallio

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Publication

- 1: Murkens ja hirmuinen syysmyrsky WSOY 2022
- 2: Murkens. Pullopostia mereltä WSOY 2023
- 3: Murkens ja luminen nujakko WSOY 2023
- 4: Murkens: Kaikkien aikojen juhlat WSOY 2024

Format

40pp, 200 x 266, color-illustrated

Material

Finnish Edition (Murkens 1-4)
English translation (Murkens 1)

Contact

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Maaret Kallio Maaret Kallio is a widely known educational psychotherapist and non-fiction writer from Finland. Her non-fiction titles have been translated into Dutch (A.W. Bruna), Estonian (Varrak) and Hungarian (HGV).

Susanna Ruuhilahti is a family coordinator, speech therapist (LIF®) and non-fiction writer.

Julia Savchenko is a celebrated Helsinki-based illustrator and artist. Her Instagram: @julasavtchenko

Anna Elina Isoaro & Mira Mallius

Winter Came That Night ✨

The award-winning, sensitive and graceful picture book about the loss of a baby, told through the eyes of a big brother.

"An extremely important children's book about a difficult subject: the death of a child. The book delicately portrays the emptiness that forms after such an enormous loss. The way Isoaro approaches the subject is heartfelt and credible. In Mallius' illustrations even sorrow has shades of solace, as it guides the reader through the family's day-to-day. The story itself is told through the eyes of a big brother, but from the viewpoint of him watching and experiencing the grief of the grown-ups. Isoaro and Mallius do not underestimate the child – not the one experiencing the story, nor the one reading it. The work is of the highest quality children's literature, also affecting the adult reader in a most poignant way. The book's message is universal."

— Bothnia Prize Jury

Both the author and the illustrator have personally experienced the loss of a baby. They felt compelled to make a picture book on the topic, to bring some comfort to families who must find their way in the same situation. Their choice was a picture book that could prove valuable when discussing the difficult topic with the baby's siblings who, along with their parents, experience the loss.



Rights sold

Hungarian (Kisgombos)
Latvian (Liels un Mazs)
Polish (Media Rodzina)

Prizes, nominations

Bothnia Prize, 2021
The Most Beautiful Book Prize,
honorary diploma, 2021

Publication

Sinä yönä tuli talvi
WSOY, 2021
40 pages, 3+

Material

Finnish edition
English translation set in lay-out

Contact

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Two Aunts Called Vera

Kaksi tättä nimeltä Veera, WSOY 2023, 40 pages

Finlandia Prize nominee 2023!

An insightful and warm-hearted exploration of diversity about two aunts who both have a different, yet equally strong and loving, bond with their niece and nephew.

'Portrays, in an approachable and unpretentious way, how diversity and plurality are a richness.' — Lastenkirjailyt Children's Literary Review

Anna Elina Isoaro is a prizewinning poet, author and artist from Finland. She holds a Master's degree in Literature and has worked in the literary field in various capacities. *Winter Came That Night* was her debut picture book, a Bothnia Prize – winning collaboration with illustrator Mira Mallius. Their second picture book *Two Aunts Called Vera* was in turn shortlisted for the prestigious Finlandia Prize in 2023.

Mira Mallius is a Finnish illustrator, designer and a children's book author. She has graduated from the Lahti Institute of Design, majoring in fashion design in 2004. Mira is renowned for her awarded artwork published in children's books, calendars and postcards and printed on fabrics and wallpapers. Apart from Finland, you'll find her artwork sold retail outlets in Great Britain, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Find out more: www.miramallius.com.



Rinna & Sami Saramäki

The Flashlight Adventures

Contact

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Fictional adventures but factually accurate and perfect for any curious mind! Learning about space, depths of the Earth and deep sea in a fun and exciting way.

Light up the books' pages with a flashlight to read, and to find the books' hidden illustrations that mysteriously appear and glow!



① INTO THE DEEP SEA

Meren syvyysiin, WSOY 2018, 40pp
195x260mm

Nominated for the Runeberg Jr Prize

The exploration vessel *Lobster* starts its engines and sets off on a mission to explore the secrets of the deep sea. Along the way, the crew admires many sea creatures from squids to cleaner fish. But as soon as they reach the depth of 20 metres, the submarine's rudder gets stuck. And they can no longer steer the vessel! Help! Mayday! Mayday!

② INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH

Maan uumeniin, WSOY 2018, 40pp, 195x260mm

Jungle vehicle *Kaldera* embarks upon an underground adventure when the crew must enter the depths of an abandoned mine. They are determined to save their dog Luttinen who has ventured further and further into the deep tunnels. From the mine's tunnels the journey continues into an underground cave and becomes more and more dangerous along the way. How will *Kaldera's* crew survive the red-hot lava bubbling in the depths of the cave? And just when their torch is running out of battery!



③ INTO THE OUTER SPACE

Ylös avaruuteen, WSOY 2020 40pp, 195x260mm

The crew aboard the spacecraft *Kaguaan* have been tasked with transporting cargo to the moon station. But, once there they learn that all contact with the base station in Mars has been down since the recent solar storm. *The Kaguaan* sets off for Mars on a mission to solve the problem, only to come face to face with a huge asteroid that is heading towards Earth. 'Houston, we have a problem!'



Rinna Saramäki is a well-known advocate for sustainable clothing production and consumption and the author of several non-fiction books. *Into The Deep Sea* was her first children's book. **Sami Saramäki** is an award-winning and one of Finland's most respected illustrators.

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