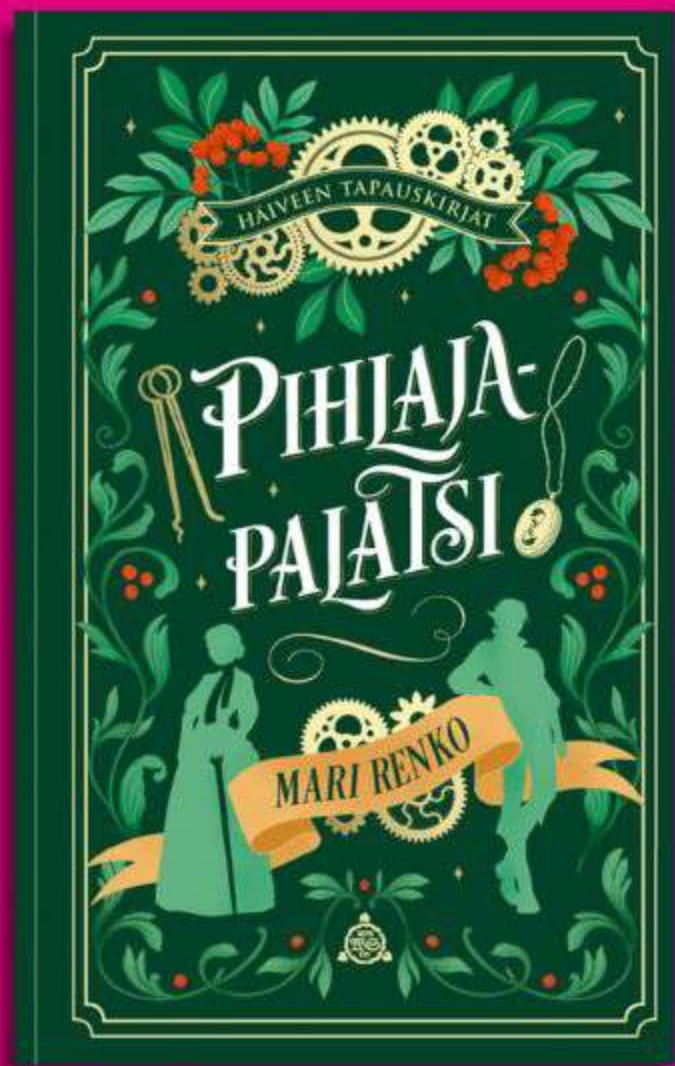


AGENCY  
**Ahlback**

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT



DIGITAL SPRING RIGHTS GUIDE 2026

## Adrift

Jukka Laajarinne, Elina Warsta

This charming picture book carries the magic of a grand adventure and timeless appeal

☒ Finlandia Prize nominee 2025

☒ A fantastical balloon adventure story with stunning detailed illustrations by Elina Warsta!

☒ Universal themes of friendship, belonging, and courage

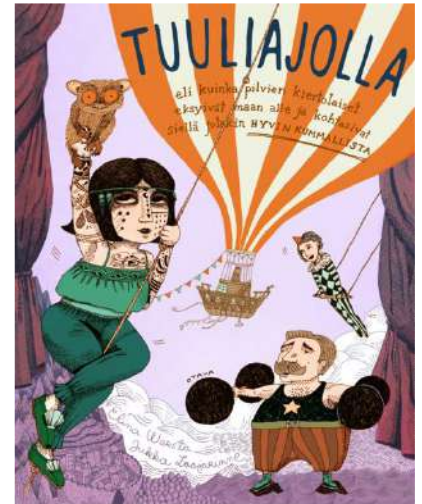
Laule-Lii is used to soaring alone in her airship, free as a bird in the sky. Somewhat reluctantly, she accepts the company of two other pilots, Giant-Putti and Mirella, and together they set out to help farmers plagued by a fierce dragon.

An exhilarating adventure awaits, where all three will need to use their different skills. Laule-Lii finds herself in a tighter spot than ever before: among others, on solid ground. Yet her heart leaps with joy when, together, they drive away the intruder.

*Adrift* tells, through stunning images and words, how freedom can be found in friendship and belonging.

“In this work, text and illustrations are combined in a way that allows them, as equal elements, to carry the fairy tale and the hot-air balloon forward through the pages of the book. Through the meticulous images and landscapes brimming with detail, the story deepens continuously, and new dimensions can be discovered even after several readings. Although it is a picture book aimed at younger children, its subtlety makes it appealing to readers of many ages.”

– Finlandia Prize jury 2025



**Original publication:** Tuuliajolla, Otava, 2025, 48 p

**Reading materials:** Full English translation, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Otava (orig.), POLAND: SmartBooks, ROMANIA: Editura VELLANT

## About the Author



Photo credit:  
Jukka Laajarinne

**Jukka Laajarinne** (b. 1970) is an author who has published books for both children and adults, including fiction and nonfiction. He has received several awards, among them the Tietopöllö Prize. His picture book *Adrift*, created together with Elina Warsta, was published in 2025.



Photo credit: Ilkka Vuorinen,  
Galleria Kuvitus  
Elina Warsta

**Elina Warsta** is an illustrator and graphic designer focused on book design and illustration. Warsta received the Finnish State Award for Children's Culture in 2016 and has been awarded multiple times in the 'Most Beautiful Book of the Year' competition. She has also been nominated for the Finlandia Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature in 2013, 2019 and twice in 2025, as well as for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize in 2016. Books she has illustrated have been translated and published in over ten languages.

## Juuli, Big Brother and the Wild Slide

**Maria Vilja**

- ☒ Maria Vilja is an author-illustrator with a background in social work and art education
- ☒ The author is also a winner of the Punni award, and the Rudolf Koivu illustrators award, and a Finlandia Prize nominee!
- ☒ Everyday situations and the twists and turns of sibling relationships are combined with a touch of emotional skills

**Learn emotional skills together with Juuli and her older brother!**

Maria Vilja captures the everyday life of small children with sharp insight, sprinkled with emotional skills, discoveries, and sparkling humor.

Juuli and her big brother do all sorts of things together with their grandparents. In the first book of the series, they pack their swimming gear and learn to be brave, and bravely afraid.

Juuli and her big brother get to go to the water park with Grandma and Grandpa. Juuli claims she's definitely brave enough to go down the water slide, and of course her big brother says the same! But when the children have climbed all the way to the top, their legs suddenly feel strangely heavy... Which one will dare to slide down the wild water slide?



**Original publication:** Juuli, isoveli ja hurja liuku, WSOY, 2025, 40 p

**Reading materials:** Full English draft translation, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: WSOY (orig.)



*“Swimming halls are, in many ways, places that help you learn and grow: people come in so many shapes and sizes! Is it okay to stare? How do we talk about others? [-] Maria Vilja’s delightful illustrations show the women in the saunas and the spa’s ‘blue atmosphere.’ A series about Juuli is in the works, and I, for one, can’t wait for the next installment.”*

– Aino Frilander, Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

## About the Author



Photo credit: Otto Virtanen  
Maria Vilja

**Maria Vilja** is an illustrator and children’s author with background in art education and social work. She creates unique and books with strong atmosphere and beauty. Her books are made for children and adult-readers, for shared moments – to be discussed about. Themes of her books vary from emotions and society to everyday moments with warm humor.

Her picture book, **The Only Beautiful Day of the Summer**, was nominated for the 2024 Finlandia Prize and is nominated for the Nordic Council literature award. The book also won the Rudolf Koivu illustrations award 2025.

## Saparo Käsämö

Cara Knuutinen

A delightfully sweet picture book about a little rantarötkö named Saparo Käsämö

- ☒ A charming children's title with beautiful, colourful illustrations
- ☒ Perfect for sharing a cozy fairytale reading time together

Saparo Käsämö and his rantarötkö family are forced to flee their home grounds. They find a new place to live in the Rämemetsä, in the lands of the rämerötkös. While the parents build a new home, Saparo has time to go on adventures. Getting to know the rämerötkös doesn't go quite as nicely as lively and curious Saparo would hope. However, the lush and mysterious forest hides pleasant surprises within.

Cara Knuutinen's charming illustrations and sympathetic story take the little reader along Saparo's adventure paths.



**Original publication:** Saparo Käsämö, Otava, 2026, 39 p

**Reading materials:**

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Otava (orig.)



## About the Author



**Cara Knuutinen** (b. 1965) is a Helsinki-based children's book illustrator and Master of Arts (University of Art and Design Helsinki) who has worked as an illustrator for over 30 years. She has illustrated more than 20 children's books, as well as numerous children's nature books and textbooks, and has worked as an illustrator on two animated television series for children.

Knuutinen is also an author-illustrator and has created two of her own children's books, *Molly och Kelenken* and *Saparo Käsämö*. She has a long-standing collaboration with author Sanna Sofia Vuori.

## Little Mouse Goes Flying

**Riikka Jäntti**

Adorable bestselling picture book series about a little mouse and his everyday adventures!

- ☒ Rights for the series sold to 25 territories!
- ☒ Features lovely retro-style illustrations and family life with a toddler!
- ☒ There is a book for every occasion!
- ☒ The books can be read and published in any order!

In the eleventh book of this utterly charming picture book series, Little Mouse sets off with Mom farther than ever before...

Little Mouse is preparing for a great adventure that begins at the airport. What will it feel like to climb aboard a plane and soar higher than the clouds? And where exactly are Little Mouse and Mom headed?

The Little Mouse series is an international bestseller with rights sold in over 20 territories. The stories focus on the toddler Little Mouse, who lives with Mummy Mouse and has fun and exciting adventures, whether they go camping, play in the park, or clean up the house in preparation for guests. The lovely illustrations and familiar scenarios make the series relatable for children. The magic of childhood and fairy tales shines through on every page, making it easy for children to relate to Little Mouse's life.

### Also available:

- #1: *Little Mouse*
- #2: *Little Mouse Helps Out*
- #3: *Little Mouse's Christmas*
- #4: *Little Mouse's Holiday*
- #5: *Little Mouse's Winter*
- #6: *Little Mouse's Summer*
- #7: *Little Mouse Goes Camping*
- #8: *Little Mouse and the Birthday Present*
- #9: *Little Mouse Welcomes Spring*
- #10: *Little Mouse Goes on a Cruise*
- + *Little Mouse's Fables*
- + *Welcome Christmas! 24 Little Mouse Stories*

### Little Mouse chapter books:

- #1: *Little Mouse's School Picture Day*
- #2: *Little Mouse and the Amazing Universe*
- #3: *Little Mouse and Hilarious Halloween*



**Original publication:** *Pikku hiiri lentää*, Tammi, 2026, 48 p

**Reading materials:** Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Tammi (orig.), POLAND: Filia



## About the Author



**Riikka Jäntti**, a 2003 graduate of University of Industrial Art of Helsinki, now part of Aalto University, is a Helsinki-based illustrator and author who has created art for both nonfiction and fairy tale books for children. Her first children's book was published in 2005. Jäntti is best known for the adorable *Little Mouse* series that has been sold to over 20 territories, including Australia, Nepal, and China!

## Dad Man and the Secret Script

Arttu Unkari, Kai Vaalio

- ☒ **Bestselling, hilarious series: nearly 300,000 copies sold in Finland!**
- ☒ **Rights sold to Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Poland!**
- ☒ **Perfect for reluctant readers and for fans of David Walliams and *Captain Underpants***

☒ **Books in the series have been recognized with Best Newcomer of the Year 2020, and the Runeberg Prize 2023!**

☒ **Bold and fresh 4-colour comic-book style artwork that add visual jokes to the narration**

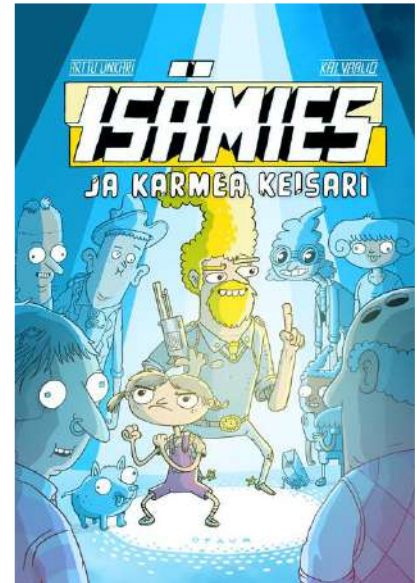
Dad Man is a dad, and a policeman – but he also has a superpower! Too bad his superpower is one shared by almost all dads – an unwavering belief in himself and his own abilities. Dad Man truly believes he knows everything and can do anything, but as it goes with most dads, the reality is quite different. And it follows that Dad Man's nine-year-old daughter Oona needs to solve all of the issues herself.

A new student arrives at Oona's school, and he couldn't care less about rules and throws everything into chaos. Cash Newmoney Junior can afford to do just that. As the spoiled son of an ultra-wealthy father, he seems to get anything he wants.

Oona's best friend Eeli is completely dazzled by Cash, but Oona has her doubts. And Father Newmoney seems strange too: what is his top-secret project, and why are there places in the Newmoney family's mansion that no one is allowed to enter? When people close to Oona, including Dad Man, start acting oddly, it begins to look like something far more twisted is in the works than anyone could imagine.

### Books in the DAD MAN series:

- #1: *Dad Man and the Exploding Poop*
- #2: *Dad Man and the Evil Little Brother*
- #3: *Dad Man and the Horrible Hypnosis*
- #4: *Dad Man and the Impossible Time Warp*
- #5: *Dad Man and the Doppelgänger Disaster*
- #6: *Dad Man and the Mysterious Puppet Master*
- #7: *Dad Man and the Secret Script*



**Original publication:** *Isämies ja kaamea keisari*, Otava, 2026, 176 p

**Reading materials:** English synopsis, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Otava (orig.)



## About the Author



Photo credit: Jonne Räsänen / Otava 2019

Arttu Unkari

**Arttu Unkari** is a teacher from Helsinki and a Master of Education (University of Helsinki, 2015) who majored in ethics and philosophy. He combines his educational background and experience as a teacher in his books – his stories are anarchist and zany, but at the same time the humour often revolves around profound and intriguing concepts such as honesty, obedience, and morality in ways that speak to children in their own language. As an author Unkari is a Runeberg prize nominee 2023 for the third instalment of the Dad Man series: *Dad Man and the Horrible Hypnosis* (*Isämies ja hyytävä hypnoosi*, Otava 2022).



Photo credit: Jonne Räsänen / Otava

Kai Vaalio

**Kai Vaalio** (b. 1986) is an illustrator, comic artist, and a bit of a cosmopolitan as well. He's written and illustrated underground comic books for adults about his travels in South-East Asia and Latin America – the latter won Mondo magazine's Travel book of the year award back in 2014. Recently he's ventured into the world of illustrating children's books mainly with Arttu Unkari's *Dad Man Series*. The Dad Man Series has received Storytel Awards and Runeberg Junior 2023 award nominations. Vaalio graduated as a graphic designer from Lahti College of Arts and Crafts. In 2018 he got his bachelor's degree from Lahti University of Applied Science.

## The Children of Spooky Theater and the Talking Cabinet

**Tuutikki Tolonen, Netta Lehtola**

- ☒ **New series by Tuutikki Tolonen**
- ☒ **Historical realism with magical elements, a heart-warming mystery story!**
- ☒ **Tuutikki Tolonen is an Arvid Lydecken award-winning author and her *Monster Nanny* series has been sold into 37 territories!**

*Children of the Spooky Theater* is a charming children's novel series set in early 1900s Helsinki, starring twins Otilia and Roland, who once performed in spiritualist shows. The book's magical atmosphere will sweep you away!

On an autumn evening, two siblings appear at the door of the Mercy and Love Orphanage, carrying with them a peculiar cabinet. Otilia and Roland have been performers in the traveling von Hofenstaufen Spirit Theater, but now they are without a home. The kind-hearted director welcomes the twins, even though the poor orphanage is struggling financially. However, the problems might be solved when Otilia, the children, and the Talking Cabinet organize the greatest spiritualist show of all time...

Tuutikki Tolonen's new series exudes a mystical mood and plays with messages from the beyond. Netta Lehtola's illustrations deliciously bring historical Helsinki to life.



**Original publication:** Henkien teatterin lapset ja puhuva kaappi, WSOY, 2026, 200 p

**Reading materials:**

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: WSOY (orig.)



## About the Author



Photo credit: Otto Virtanen  
Tuutikki Tolonen

**Tuutikki Tolonen** is the author of several acclaimed children's books, plays and academic articles. For *Monster Nanny* she received the Arvid Lydecken award. She teaches creative writing and has worked as an editor and reporter at *Vinski*, a Finnish literary magazine for children.



Photo credit: Veikko Somerpuro  
Netta Lehtola

**Netta Lehtola** is an illustrator and graphic designer originally from Turku, now based in Helsinki, Finland. She works on projects ranging from books to games. Lehtola's first illustrated children's book was nominated for the Finlandia Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature in 2019. Since then, she has illustrated more than ten children's books, many of which have been translated into different languages. In her illustrations, Lehtola loves to create strong atmospheres, relatable characters and dynamic compositions.

## Saving Troy

**Siri Kolu**

Second part to myth-busting, suspense-filled series for a late middle grade and early YA audience

- ☒ **Finlandia Prize nominated series!**
- ☒ **First book *SAVING ATLANTIS* sold to Hungary**
- ☒ **Siri Kolu's previous books have been translated to 22 languages**
- ☒ **She is the winner of 2010 Finlandia Junior Prize, Topelius Prize and has been awarded in the Netherlands with Silver Slate Pencil Award**
- ☒ **For the readers of Susan Cooper: *Above Sea, Below Stone* series and Rick Riordan's myth books**

The second installment of the adventure-filled *Twin World* series brings myths to life and takes readers to ancient Troy.

El(ektra) is a twin-worlde: in modern-day Helsinki, she remembers her other life in Atlantis. With the help of her friends, she strives to help Troi, who also lives in two times. In besieged Troy, Prince Troilos and his sister Cassandra cling to each other. Cassandra has long foreseen visions of Troy's destruction, but no one believes her. When a massive wooden horse, crafted as an offering to the gods, is brought to the city square, the countdown begins. From inside the horse, Greek warriors emerge, destroying Troy's kingdom and royal family. Will El manage to help Troi before Troy collapses?

One of the most famous tales of Greek mythology comes alive in the stunning second part of Siri Kolu's series. Moving between modern Helsinki and ancient Troy, the story sweeps readers away and masterfully builds a bridge between the past and the present.

**Also available:**

**#1:** *Saving Atlantis*



**Original publication:** *Läpi puun*, Tammi, 2026, 300 p

**Reading materials:** English synopsis, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Tammi (orig.)



## About the Author



**Siri Kolu** (born July 18, 1972) is a writer, performance dramaturg, director, and theater teacher. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Theatre Arts and Bachelor of Arts degree as Drama Instructor (BA). Prior to her theater studies, she pursued literature and theater studies at the University of Helsinki. With her funny and original adventure *Me and the Robberssons* Kolu won the children's novel and film script competition in the fall of 2009. The book was published in April 2010, and won the **Finlandia Prize in Children's & YA literature**. The film adaptation hit theaters in the fall of 2014. *Me and the Robberssons* has been translated into over 20 languages.

## Shadow Chain

J. S. Meresmaa, Elina Äijälä

- ☒ Engaging middle-grade horror, with mystery and heart-pounding adventure!
- ☒ Captivating and relatable variety of characters
- ☒ Book #1 *Darkclaw* won the 2024 Tähtipöllö Award and was tied for second place for Kuopus Award 2024, and was nominated for LukuVarkaus award in 2025!
- ☒ J. S. Meresmaa is a winner of the 2020 & 2023 Kuopus Awards, and a nominee in 2024 for Kuvastaja Award and Tähtifantasia Award
- ☒ *Monster Manor* series is set in the same *Monster-Finland* world as the *Monster Care* series! Children can start reading with *Monster Care* and grow into *Monster Manor* for more adventures in a familiar world

Third and final part of the captivatingly bone-chilling middle-grade horror trilogy

Face your shadow and break free.

The chilling conclusion to the award-winning *Monster Manor* trilogy.

In the village of Black Gorge, a mine has revealed a deposit of a strange kind of stone. The staff at Monster Manor, the monster care facility, must investigate it, because the stone threatens to expose the monsters' secret to ordinary humans. At the same time, something uncanny happens to Aapo: a mark appears on his hand, just like the one his late grandfather once had... And from Aapo's grandfather's cabin, hidden truths—and doors—come to light.

An inexplicable, invisible chain seems to keep the darkclaw monster constantly near Aapo. And why does the monster speak in his grandfather's voice? Threads finally begin to weave together in a way that will make your hair stand on end.

**Also available:**

#1: *Darkclaw*

#2: *Black Water*



**Original publication:** Varjokahle, Karisto, 2026, 200 p

**Reading materials:** English synopsis, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Karisto (orig.)



## About the Author



Photo credit: Outi Puhakka  
J. S. Meresmaa

**J. S. Meresmaa** (b. 1983, she/they) is an award-winning Finnish author of fantasy and other speculative fiction. A versatile and imaginative storyteller, Meresmaa has been nominated for multiple literature prizes, and her books have earned glowing praise from both critics and readers.

Her backlist spans more than 30 titles, ranging from picture books and chapter books to middle-grade, young adult, and adult fiction. Meresmaa writes across formats—including novels, short stories, and verse novels—and she is constantly exploring new creative territory.



Photo credit:  
Elina Äijälä

**Elina Äijälä** (they/them) is an illustrator whose main inspirations include fantasy, folklore and horror.

## The Blue Flame

**Ted Forsström**

A tale of friendship, courage, magic – and finding your place, even when you don't really know who you are

- ☒ For everyone who loves adventure!
- ☒ A progressive fantasy adventure novel with LitRPG elements
- ☒ Humorous and action-driven, with concepts and terminology familiar from gaming culture
- ☒ Set in a medieval fantasy world
- ☒ For the readers of Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*-series, Will Wright's *Cradle*-series, and Matt Dinniman's *Dungeon Crawler Carl*!

*There are no limits. Except the ones you set yourself.*

*There are no limits. Except the ones you set yourself.*

Benn turns 15, but instead of cake and presents, he gets the first quest of his life.

When his wizard grandfather forgets his birthday and instead throws him down into the basement to fight failed monster experiments, Benn discovers something unexpected: he can conjure blue fire from his hand. And not only that, his sense of adventure is awakened and suddenly nothing is the same anymore.

With humour, magic and role-playing logic, Benn is thrown into an unknown world where most things can have a level, where a post box can be a monster and where boundaries only exist if you set them yourself.

In a world that could have been drawn by Studio Ghibli, with a sense of humour in a warm and whimsical style reminiscent of Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*-series, but combined with the fast-paced, anime-like action from novels such as Will Wright's *Cradle*-series and Matt Dinniman's *Dungeon Crawler Carl*, *The Blue Flame* is the start of the a new trilogy by Ted Forsström!

**Original publication:** Den blåa flamman, Förlaget, 2026, - p

**Reading materials:** English synopsis, Swedish text (not final)

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Förlaget (orig. Finnish-Swedish)



## About the Author



**Ted Forsström** is a Finnish-Swedish media personality, author, and comedian based in Ostrobothnia. He has worked as an actor, director, and screenwriter, and is widely known as one half of the popular duo *Ted & Kaj*.

Forsström also creates children's content for Svenska Yle. In 2023, he published the Finlandia-nominated children's book *Stella* together with illustrator Åsa Lucander. In spring 2025, the follow-up *Stiven* was published.

## Red Rowan Manor

**Mari Renko**

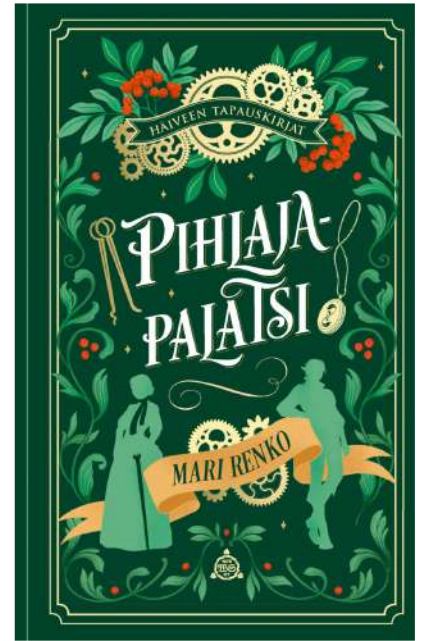
An enchanting fantasy-mystery novel plunges into the age-old intrigues of fairy and human courts, a plot built around solving a crime is spiced up with the sizzling chemistry between a brazen master thief and a noble detective lady

- ☒ For fans of Holly Black's *The Cruel Prince*, Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows...* and *Zootopia!*
- ☒ Rich fantasy world meets Sherlock Holmes!
- ☒ For anyone who enjoys the "slowest of burns" romantic trope
- ☒ Readers have fallen in love with the characters

Häive is a fairy and a master thief who plagues the court of Ilisira. Viona Hollins is a young noble detective whose uncompromising investigations aren't slowed down even by her walking stick.

On the evening of Shadow Day, all the high society gathers at the ball—including Häive. But Häive runs into unexpected trouble during her heist and is caught at the crime scene with human noble blood on his hands. There seems to be no doubt about the culprit, yet the fairy court hires Viona to investigate the case.

The truth turns out to be more complicated than expected, and soon Viona finds herself aiding Häive in a prison escape to uncover it. The teamwork of this crime-solving duo burns with a deliciously smoldering flame.



**Original publication:** Pihlajapalatsi, WSOY, 2025, 429 p

**Reading materials:** English sample and synopsis, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: WSOY (orig.)



## About the Author



**Mari Renko** (b.1994) is an eastern Finnish writer from Kuopio. She wrote her debut novel *Pearl Ring, Enclosed* after getting bored with the one-sided love interests of romance books. Her aim is to show that the world is full of different love stories, each one worth telling, even if they do not end in marriage and children, or even if they are about something other than romantic love. Mari has studied medicine and writing. She loves stories that offer an escape from everyday life, such as romance and fantasy. She is also active on the book scene, where she talks about her writing and shares writing tips.

## All About Sahara

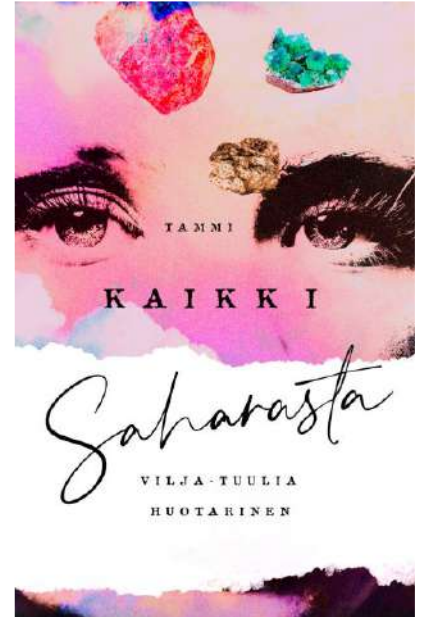
**Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen**

Life is suffering, but only if you face it alone

- ☒ **Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen is a Finlandia Prize winning author of *Light, Light, Light***
- ☒ **A one-day coming-of-age story, where grief, friendship, and a touch of magic meet on a roadtrip north**
- ☒ **For fans of Hayao Miyazaki and Ursula K. Le Guin**
- ☒ **For teens and adults alike: a beautiful novel that invests in big questions about life, loss, and what happens when things fall apart**

*All About Sahara* is an intense, atmospheric story about fifteen-year-old Sahara, whose world has fallen silent after the sudden departure of her friend Tio. Sahara decides to resolve the unfinished matters. On her journey north, Sahara is joined by a strange acquaintance, an invisible being named Xei. But what must be discussed before the stones open and the train can fly?

This small, compelling novel explores the painful relationships of youth, transformations, and the possibility of confronting life's and death's greatest questions. Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen's writing is delightfully straightforward and thought-provoking at the same time.



**Original publication:** Kaikki Saharasta, Tammi, 2026, 188 p

**Reading materials:** English sample and synopsis, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Tammi (orig.)

## About the Author



**Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen** is an author who has published both poetry and prose. She has received several awards, including the Anni Swan Medal, the Kalevi Jäntti Prize, and the Finlandia Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature. The main themes of her books are universal: friendships, time, body, love, and death. Her unique style embraces action but the approach is lyrical and mesmerising. Her main characters are often strong but puzzled girls on the edge of the changes during their rebel teenager years.

## The Melting Point

**Annikka Salama**

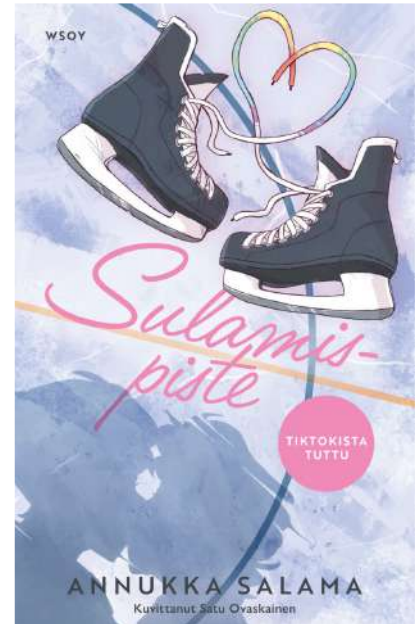
**So hot it melts the ice!**

- ☒ **A TikTok sensation!**
- ☒ **For the fans of *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman, *Icebreaker* by Hannah Grace, and Rachel Reid's *Game Changers* and *Heated Rivalry*!**
- ☒ **An enemies to lovers queer sport-romance!**

The queen of addictive romances, Annukka Salama, now takes your breath away on the hockey rink! Oliver and Niklas are hockey's brightest prospects—and sworn enemies on junior national teams from Finland and Sweden. When the boys are forced onto the same team, a Finland–Sweden showdown begins like nothing the hockey world has ever seen.

Oliver Järvinen rockets from complete obscurity to a trial with the national team. All his wildest dreams are coming true, until Niklas Gauffin skates into his life: a Finnish-Swedish hockey star and a total pain in the neck. Tipped to be the NHL's number-one draft pick, Niklas has ditched his Swedish *Tre Kronor* jersey and moved to Finland, and, to top it all off, he's Oliver's new roommate in the high school dorm.

When fate throws them onto the same ice, the game, and the tension, heat up to unbearable levels. With the media scrutinizing their every move ahead of the NHL draft, the boys face huge choices as they fight for their future.



**Original publication:** Sulamispiste, WSOY, 2025, 360 p

**Reading materials:** English sample + full draft translation, English synopsis, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: WSOY (orig.)

## About the Author



**Annikka Salama** (b. 1980) is a Finnish YA author from Tampere. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees. In addition, she has studied fashion design and architecture.

Salama's young adult novels are known for their fast-paced plots and addictive romances. Her stories also give space to LGBTQ+ and neurodivergent perspectives. Salama's books enjoy wide popularity among readers and have consistently performed well in annual Blogistania awards voted by book bloggers. In 2024 and 2025 she won the Queer Book of the Year Award.

## Kittilä Rewind

**Daniela Hakulinen**

**A sensitive and insightful novel about love, the power of stories, and finding your own place**

☒ **A stand-alone new adult novel**

☒ **Perfect for fans of John Green, Alice Osman, or *Young Royals*, and of course, the *Before*-trilogy**

“The ending is perfect, and I don’t want to know what happens after. I rewind the movie, watch the ending again. And again. *Baby, you’re gonna miss that plane.*”

When 17-year-old Joonatan’s mother suddenly dies, he decides to move from Helsinki to Kittilä to live with his almost unknown father. A new beginning in the North brings painful memories to the surface, and the question of what really happened nearly twenty years ago when his parents first met on a bright summer night.

With the help of an online crisis therapist and the Richard Linklater films he finds on his father’s shelf, Joonatan tries to figure out whether the story his mother told about their life was only half true. The mix is further complicated by the social dynamics of a small village, where a gang maintains an atmosphere of fear. At the same time the leader of the group fighting against them, the gray-eyed and defiant Susi, makes Joonatan’s heart beat faster. Can love piece the story together?



**Original publication:** Kittilä Rewind, Tammi, 2026, 200 p

**Reading materials:** English sample + full draft translation, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Tammi (orig.)

## About the Author



Daniela Hakulinen (b.1984) is a film and television screenwriter who grew up in Northern Finland and later moved to Helsinki. *Girl Picture*, co-written with Ilona Ahti, made history by being the first Finnish feature film selected for the international competition at the Sundance Film Festival. Hakulinen and Ahti won the Jussi and Sylvi prizes for their screenplay. In addition to film, Daniela Hakulinen writes television series, works as a dramaturg and teaches screenwriting. *Girls Girls Girls* is her debut novel.

## The Witch of Sardesia

**J. S. Meresmaa**

A magical and emotional story about a young pearl whisperer who seeks out a powerful witch to find a cure for her sister, who has been stricken by a deadly sleep sickness

- ☒ A stand-alone fantasy novel combining elements of steampunk and fairytales
- ☒ The latest from award-winning author J.S. Meresmaa
- ☒ A cozy adventure for fans of Studio Ghibli films, Diana Wynne Jones, and T. Kingfisher

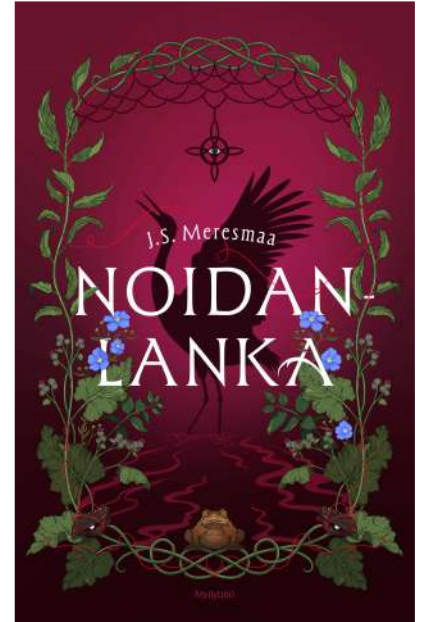
Soon to turn seventeen, Noa is the daughter of a pearl whisperer. She lives with her older sister and her mother, who has been crippled by a bear attack, in a house on Shady Pine Ridge, deep in the forest. The family cultivates pearls in their farm in the river, selling them to jewelers in the city. But the pearl farm is in trouble. No new pearls have been whispered for years. Noa's mother has lost her ability to pearl whisper, and it was recently revealed that Noa's sister Midja has no gift for pearl whispering either. Their father is serving a debtor's sentence in the city of Paulava. Noa is their only hope.

When Midja falls ill with a deadly sleep sickness, the family faces a harsh reality: she can only be cured by the most powerful witch in Kernos—the Witch of Sardesia. Noa must venture out into the world for the first time, find the witch, and bring back a cure. Otherwise, her sister will die, their pearl farm will be doomed, and their father will never leave prison.

Together with a sly, wise toad and an enigmatic young man named Vesper who joins in the journey, Noa encounters dangers in the city and in her own heart.

“Meresmaa lets readers revel in her breathtaking world-building and leads them to fall in love with the characters [–] Meresmaa’s language sparkles with playfulness; even the more unusual words and unique expressions feel natural. It’s rare to fit such a rich setting into a single book with so few pages, a world that blends steampunk, elements reminiscent of Finnish folklore, an astonishing magic system, and the bustle of a big city. Love is not absent either, and true to the author’s style, it comes in rainbow hues. [–] Meresmaa has succeeded in combining fantasy, drama, romance, and humor into a stew from which you wouldn’t want to remove a single thing.”

– Niina Tolonen, Tähtivaeltaja magazine



**Original publication:** Noidanlanka, Myllylahti, 2025, 320 p

**Reading materials:** Long English sample & chapter by chapter synopsis, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Myllylahti (orig.)

## About the Author



**J.S. Meresmaa** (b. 1983, she/they) is an award-winning Finnish author of fantasy and other speculative fiction. A versatile and imaginative storyteller, Meresmaa has been nominated for multiple literature prizes, and her books have earned glowing praise from both critics and readers.

Her backlist spans more than 30 titles, ranging from picture books and chapter books to middle-grade, young adult, and adult fiction. Meresmaa writes across formats—including novels, short stories, and verse novels—and she is constantly exploring new creative territory.

## Lost Girls Don't Talk

**Jenni Multisilta**

**Lost Girls Don't Talk** continues the YA thriller series, **@buriedpodies**, that seeks to solve previously unsolved murders and the relationship tangles of modern high school students

- ☒ **First book in the series, *Dead Girls Don't Dance*, sold to Germany and the Netherlands!**
- ☒ **A gripping YA thriller perfect for fans of Holly Jackson, Alice Oseman, Adam Silvera, and Karen McManus**
- ☒ **Combines Nordic noir, teen drama, and true crime**
- ☒ **Easy to position in booktok/bookstagram**

**Chilling suspense in bleak suburban neighborhoods, gripping plot twists, and heartwarming friendships.**

Rafael, the creator of the **@buriedpodies** podcast, receives a request to investigate an old missing person case, and Oona agrees to help along with her friend Kaisla. Five years ago, Mari Kaski, a talented young artist from Pori, vanished without a trace on her graduation day. Now Mari's family has received a postcard sent five years ago, that says: *Lost girls don't talk*.

Oona and Rafael start digging into Mari's background and the events leading up to her disappearance, but Kaisla seems distracted. Oona is bothered by the coolness between them, yet there never seems to be a right moment for the awkward conversation about a certain kiss. So Oona throws herself fully into solving the case, trying to forget the tangle of personal relationships.

At Mayor Isle High School, an urban legend circulates about a secret staircase, something Mari Kaski was obsessively interested in before she disappeared. What secret was Mari guarding, and what happened to her?

As the truth slowly unravels, Oona realizes that, like Mari, she too may have trusted the wrong people. And sometimes, mistakes come at a price that's far too high...



**Original publication:** Kadonneet tytöt eivät kantele, Myllylahti, 2026, 220 p

**Reading materials:** English synopsis

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Myllylahti (orig.)

## About the Author



**Jenni Multisilta** is a Master of Economics and a writer. Multisilta's works include the YA thriller series **@buriedpodies**, feel-good romance novels, and psychological thrillers.

In addition to writing, she is a former national-level competitive athlete who teaches aerial acrobatics and pole dancing, as well as yoga. In her free time, Multisilta hangs upside down here and there, for the world looks more interesting from different perspectives.

## Meet the Squirrel Family

**Hannu Laakso**

From the pure Nordic nature! The Animal Family series is a perfect gateway to spark children's curiosity about nature and reading – perfect for sharing and reading together with parents and grandparents!

- ☒ Hannu Laakso is a renowned photographer, having won over 130 international awards!
- ☒ The Animal Family series received an award from the Finnish state in 2023
- ☒ *Meet the Fox Family* and *Meet the Bear Family* sold to Italy!
- ☒ Great read for the whole family, including grandparents!
- ☒ These heartwarming stories encourage children to read and spark a lasting appreciation of nature
- ☒ ...and they easily fill the role of “my first nature book”
- ☒ *Meet the Squirrel Family* was a reader request title!

**A new, heartwarming installment in the award-winning series!** What can happen to a little squirrel in just one summer day?

A young squirrel has a strange problem: it's afraid of heights. To live a full squirrel life, it must overcome this fear. But dangers lurk everywhere, and the little squirrel must face a hunting goshawk and a horned owl—along with its own fear.

The Animal Family series' seventh narrative non-fiction book explores the life of squirrels. This family-friendly work combines educational text, storytelling, and Hannu Laakso's internationally awarded, vibrant and intimate nature photography in an enchanting way. The series has become a favorite among grandparents who read the books together with their grandchildren. The books follow each animal family and their adventures from the animal family's perspective! Believe it or not, but the stories are partly based on true events – witnessed by the author!

### Also available:

*Meet the Fox Family*  
*Meet the Bear Family*  
*Meet the Wolf Family*  
*Meet the Bird Family*  
*Meet the Reindeer Family*  
*Meet the Hedgehog Family*



**Original publication:** Me oravaiset, Into, 2026, 65 p

**Reading materials:** Full English edition, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Into (orig.)

## About the Author



Photo credit: Mikko Palonkorpi  
 Hannu Laakso

Hannu Laakso is a Finnish photographer and writer, who is fascinated by the purity of Nordic nature. He has won a Finnish state award for this children's Fun & Facts book series, which introduces us to urban and rural wildlife. He bought his first SLR camera in 1982. In 2014 he finally decided to start participating in international photography competitions. He has received 130 international photography awards, and well over 500 unique photos have been accepted to international photo exhibitions in more than 80 countries.

## Stiven

Ted Forsström, Åsa Lucander

Highly recommended for everyone, but especially families with young children, and particularly for those who share their lives with a cat - or perhaps, for those who are ruled by one.

☒ Sold to Hungary, Türkiye and Germany!

☒ Another fun and exciting collaboration between comedian Ted Forsström and Aardman director Åsa Lucander

☒ The duos previous bedtime story, **STELLA**, was nominated for the Finlandia Prize 2023 in Children's and YA literature and was sold to 9 languages!

The food is gone! Stiven roars. This is urgent! Come out!

Have you ever thought how frustrating life can be for a cat? When something as simple as getting fed turns into a daily battle? For Stiven, the logic is simple: an empty bowl must be filled immediately. How can an entire family have such a hard time understanding this?

The glutton Stiven is a stubborn drama queen, holding the whole family hostage with one mission: more food immediately! He's a big personality, alternately majestic and pathetic, and neither mom, dad, the child, nor the baby escapes his constant demands for food and attention. This leads to comedic moments in the everyday life of a young family with a pet, brilliantly captured in Åsa Lucander's lively illustrations.

Ted Forsström's text is atmospheric and down-to-earth, with his characteristic playful rhymes occasionally shining through. It's highly relatable for families with young children and especially for anyone who owns a cat—or is owned by one. The duo's previous bedtime story, **STELLA**, was nominated for the Finlandia Prize.

### Stella

*Stella* is full of warmth, playful rhymes and an unusual mix of familiar ordinariness with fantastic antics. Very familiar for anyone trying to combine cozy moments with a pet! *Stella* is a book you can read again and again, night after night.

### PRAISE:

*"After the huge success of Stella (books sold out at a surprising rate), there's no question that we'd like to add Stiven to the shelf. In Hungary, there's a pet in almost every household. The number of dogs and cats compete with each other, so where there is a dog book, there must be a cat book. Stiven's funny illustrations and the situation relatable for every cat owner make for a fun, laugh-out-loud book. We're looking forward to it!"*

– Ági Bodrogi, foreign rights, Cerkabella, Hungary

**“**This picture book duo has once again shown their paws and generated guaranteed reading pleasure for the whole family.**”**

- Maria Lassén-Seger, Huvudstadsbladet newspaper

## About the Author



Photo credit: Eva Lingon  
Ted Forsström

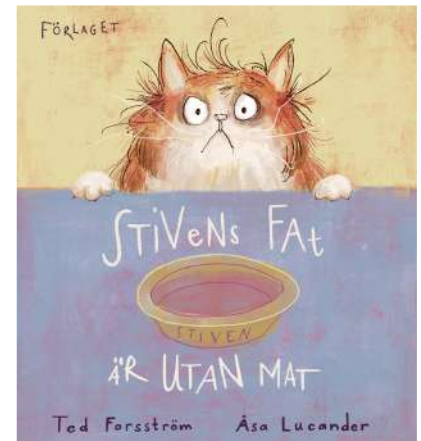
**Ted Forsström** is a Finnish-Swedish media personality, author, and comedian based in Ostrobothnia. He has worked as an actor, director, and screenwriter, and is widely known as one half of the popular duo *Ted & Kaj*.

Forsström also creates children's content for Svenska Yle. In 2023, he published the Finlandia-nominated children's book *Stella* together with illustrator Åsa Lucander. In spring 2025, the follow-up *Stiven* was published.



Photo credit: Karni Arieli  
Åsa Lucander

The Finlandia-nominated *Stella* (2023) was the first picture book by Åsa Lucander, who, in addition to being a director and illustrator at Aardman Animations, has also animated music videos for artists such as Coldplay. She created the book together with Ted Forsström. In spring 2025 her and Ted's second collaboration, *Stiven*, was published.



**Original publication:** *Stivens fat är utan mat*, Förlaget (orig.), 2025, 44 p

**Reading materials:** Swedish edition, English PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND, SWEDEN: Förlaget (orig. Finland-Swedish), FINLAND: Teos (Finnish), GERMANY: dtv Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co.KG, HUNGARY: Cerkabella Könyvek, TURKEY: Doğan Kitap, USA: Spinning Wheel Stories

## Stella

Ted Forsström, Åsa Lucander

An interactive and playful bedtime story for toddlers featuring a very loud dog with a big imagination!

☒ A unique collaboration between comedian Ted Forsström and Aardman director Åsa Lucander

☒ Nominated for the Finlandia Prize 2023 and rights sold to 10 languages!

☒ Stella the dog's thoughts mimic the lively imagination of toddlers

☒ Features comforting routine and interactive fun: Toddlers will love to join in the repeating tongue twister telling Stella to behave

A father tries to put his child to bed, but keeps getting interrupted by Stella the dog barking hysterically. Something unexpected always happens, and the reader is treated to Stella's lively imagination: it may be a door opening or a car driving by, but Stella is strongly convinced it's Grandma coming to give her food, or that squirrels have built a nest in the toaster.

Anyone who has ever tried to put a child to bed knows how cozy yet fragile the situation is. It requires the right amount of patience and determination. The right bedtime story can be the key to a successful, quiet night. *Stella* is full of warmth, playful rhymes and an unusual mix of familiar ordinariness with fantastic antics.

*Stella* is a book you can read again and again, night after night.

**"In the book, a storytime during a weekday evening derails when the family's dog starts barking. The expressive illustrations and colour palette contribute nicely to the atmosphere of the story and the language is packed with inventive rhymes and details where imagination wins over everyday life. In the work, the cozy weekday evening is interrupted by chaos in a way that gives your laughing muscles a good workout. A guaranteed fun reading time in both Swedish and Finnish."**

– Motivation of the Finlandia Prize jury

**“**Children's books about bedtime are a classic theme, but Ted Forsström and Åsa Lucander create something new by presenting *STELLA* from the dog's perspective. [...] Ted Forsström and Åsa Lucander create a nice variation of the durable theme by letting the chaos-at-bedtime-story be about something different than the expected parent-child fight. In *STELLA* (2023), it is in fact the dog Stella who creates troubles at bedtime.”

Maria Lassén-Seger, Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper (5 star review)



**Original publication:** Snälla Stella, sluta skälla!, Förlaget (orig.), 2023, 44 p

**Reading materials:** Full English pdf & Swedish edition

**Rights sold:** FINLAND, SWEDEN: Förlaget (orig. Finland-Swedish); FINLAND: Etana Editions (Finnish), DENMARK: Gads Forlag, ESTONIA: Tammerraamat, GERMANY: Mixtvision, HUNGARY: Cerkabella, NORTH MACEDONIA: Ars Lamina, POLAND: Widnokrag, SLOVAKIA: Arkus, TURKEY: Doğan Kitap, USA: Spinning Wheel Stories

## About the Author



Photo credit: Eva Lingon  
Ted Forsström

**Ted Forsström** is a Finnish-Swedish media personality, author, and comedian based in Ostrobothnia. He has worked as an actor, director, and screenwriter, and is widely known as one half of the popular duo *Ted & Kaj*.

Forsström also creates children's content for Svenska Yle. In 2023, he published the Finlandia-nominated children's book *Stella* together with illustrator Åsa Lucander. In spring 2025, the follow-up *Stiven* was published.



Photo credit: Karni Arieli  
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The Finlandia-nominated *Stella* (2023) was the first picture book by Åsa Lucander, who, in addition to being a director and illustrator at Aardman Animations, has also animated music videos for artists such as Coldplay. She created the book together with Ted Forsström. In spring 2025 her and Ted's second collaboration, *Stiven*, was published.

## Itty Bitty Princess and the Fart Fairy's Surprise Clean-Up

**Hannele Lampela, Ninka Reittu**

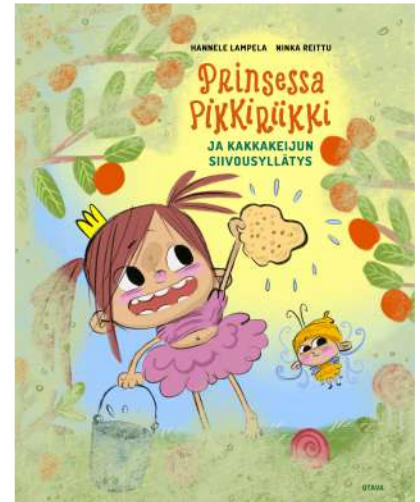
This new Itty Bitty Princess picture book teaches, in true Itty Bitty style, how to keep the children's room a little tidier and help adults keep their cool.

- ☒ **Bestselling series, 700,000 copies sold!**
- ☒ **Itty Bitty Princess film released in 2024 and second one in development!**
- ☒ **Rights for the bestselling standalone picture books featuring Itty Bitty Princess have been sold to 6 territories**
- ☒ **Hannele Lampela has been awarded the prestigious Kaarina Helakisa Prize for her work and she has been nominated for the Runeberg Junior award 2019, the Storytel Finland Award 2020, and Arvid Lydecken Award four times, most recently in 2023**

Itty Bitty's dad believes the house should always be neat and tidy, while Itty Bitty thinks it's perfectly fine to live in a bit of a mess! After all, playing is way more fun than cleaning. Luckily, Itty Bitty comes up with the idea that the Fart Fairy can take care of the cleaning for her. But to her surprise, Dad has his own exciting cleaning plan – and together they find a compromise that makes everyone happy.

Through this story, children will discover the magic of cleaning and finally learn how to keep their rooms in order – for the sake of both grown-ups and fart fairies.

At the end of the book, a magical cleaning trick is revealed to help keep the home a little tidier. Yay!



**Original publication:** Prinsessa Pikkiriikki ja Kakkakeijun siivoussyllätys, Otava, 2025, 40 p

**Reading materials:** Full English PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Otava (orig.), ESTONIA: Kirjastus Elust Enesest

**“Hannele Lampela’s incredibly funny storytelling and Ninka Reittu’s spot-on illustrations are like candy for the children’s bookshelf! I laughed out loud on nearly every page – and the topic hits home for every family.”**

– Elli, Bookseller, Suomalainen Kirjakauppa, Ideapark, Tampere Lempäälä

## About the Author



Photo credit: Niki Strbian  
Hannele Lampela

**Hannele Lampela's** lovable works have been praised above all for their rich humor and ability to truly show the world from a child's perspective. She has the ability to enchant her readers, and that is why both children and adults love her stories. She has been awarded the prestigious Kaarina Helakisa Prize for her work and she has been nominated for Runeberg Junior award in 2019 and for Storytel Award, and Arvid Lydecken Award five times, most recently in 2025. In addition to her fictional works, Lampela has written and created a world of stories for the next national ABC book of Finnish schools.



Photo credit: Jonne Räsänen  
Ninka Reittu

Ninka Reittu is an illustrator and children's book writer.

Reittu lives in an old clergy house in Liperi, Finland and in Scotland. Their family also includes two cats, several dogs, and a flock of sheep.

In addition to her own picture books *Messi ja Mysteeri* and *Sinä olet superrakas*, she has illustrated the titles of Hannele Lampela (- *The Itty-Bitty Princess*) and Kreetta Onkelin.

## Little Shop of Nightmares 4: The Crystal Skull

Magdalena Hai, Teemu Juhani

A chapter book series full of quirky characters and inventive plotlines – workdays are never dull in the Little Shop of Nightmares

- ☒ Super success: rights sold in 30 territories!
- ☒ Now in a wonderful new picture book format!
- ☒ Book #5 to be published in 2026 – the adventure continues!
- ☒ Mystery and horror paired with laugh-out-loud humour for younger middle grade
- ☒ With quirky 4-colour illustrations on every page, this series is perfect for first-time and reluctant readers!
- ☒ Magdalena Hai is the winner of the Finlandia Prize in Children and YA literature 2023!

Nine-year-old Nina starts her job at the Little Shop of Nightmares where she meets a bunch of weird characters – and befriends them! Spooky, quirky, and full of humour, this series for younger middle grade readers ticks all the boxes – no wonder it has been translated in 30 territories!

### Book #4: CRYSTAL SKULL:

The Little Shop of Nightmares crew finds out that a pirate sailing competition is coming to town! Competing to be the fastest pirate ship are the Ghosts, the Zombies, the Sirens and the Better Pirates – all of whom want the Crystal Skull that has been given to Mr. Kook for safekeeping at the Little Shop of Nightmares. When the Crystal Skull suddenly goes missing from the shop, little Nina and her friends start their investigation – and the suspects are a-plenty!

**Book #1 The Terrible Tickling Powder:** When Nina, 9 years old, enters The Little Shop of Nightmares in hopes of getting a job, she is greeted by an odd sight: shopkeeper Mr. Kook is rolling on the floor, unable to stop laughing.

**Book #2 The Mystery of the Missing Teeth:** Nina goes to buy ice cream after her first work day at The Little Shop of Nightmares. But at the ice cream shop she discovers a vampire – without teeth!

**Book #3 Sticky the Terrible Snowman:** The Little Shop of Nightmares is getting buried in snow! Nina and Paddy are trying to find the cause of the snowstorm, but that's easier said than done.

“*Enchanting series, well-written, with funny illustrations, stimulates children's imagination. A delightful blend of fantasy and humor. The amazing illustrations in each page feature dynamic characters and unexpected goosebumps!*”

## About the Author

Lindy Galatis, Editorial Director, Dioptra, Greece



Photo credit: Juha Törmälä  
Magdalena Hai

**Magdalena Hai** is an award-winning author, lover of cross-genre fiction and all things strange. Her fiction often combines elements of sci-fi, fantasy and horror. Her *Little Shop of Nightmares* series has been sold to 30 territories around the world. Among Hai's many accolades are winning the Finlandia Prize for children's and YA literature and the Finnish Literary Export Prize, and being nominated the Nordic Council Children & Young People's Literature Prize. Besides being an author, Hai teaches writing and is an active member and editor in the publishing co-operative Osuuskumma.



Photo credit: Jonne Räsänen/  
Otava  
Teemu Juhani



**Original publication:** Painajaispuoti: Kristallikallon tapaus, WSOY, 2025, 48 p

**Reading materials:** Finnish edition Full English text

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: WSOY (orig.), NETHERLANDS: De Vier Windstreken, NORWAY: Fontini, PORTUGAL: PRH, SWEDEN: Hegas, TAIWAN: Morning Star

## Bride of Prankenstein

**Kaisa Paasto, Mari Ahokoivu**

The very popular Prankenstein is back! Well, not quite.

After the previous prank disaster, Elmeri has sworn off pranks for good. No more pranks. At all. Zilch. Until someone starts pulling pranks on Principal Ruustinen, making it look like Elmeri is behind it. And things just keep getting worse...

☒ **Illustrator Mari Ahokoivu won the Puupäähattu Comic Book Award 2023 and has been nominated for the Finlandia Prize in 2021**

☒ **A sequel to PRANKENSTEIN from the successful author-illustrator duo**

☒ **For fans of Diary of a Wimpy Kid**

☒ **The World Spanish rights to PRANKENSTEIN were sold alongside with the rights to Latvia and Poland**

☒ **Full English text available**

Elmeri is excited about the big trip to Stockholm with Mima (the girl next door who's "pretty okay") and the other members of the student council. But now Principal Ruustinen wants to punish Elmeri, and the whole trip is on the line!

It's clear that Elmeri's arch-nemesis Leo is behind all of this – or is he?

The original Prankenstein has to come out of retirement. He can't just rest on his laurels when great deeds are waiting to be done.

Also available:

### Prankenstein:

The fifth grader Elmeri has never seriously considered a career as a prankster. But he manages to do a superbly great prank – completely accidentally. Elmeri's cousin Robin thinks his chance has come and becomes Elmeri's Personal Prankster Trainer. With his coaching, Elmeri will be the amazing Prankenstein and his best prank will be remembered by future generations!

### PRAISE for PRANKENSTEIN:

The tightening plot is built on the suspense that comes waiting for the visit of the president and a magician. [...] Like in Anni the Friend Tamer -series [also by Paasto & Ahokoivu], the strength of Prankenstein lies in its straightforward portrayal of an ordinary family."

–Lastenkirjalyly blog



**Original publication:** Prankensteinin morsian, Tammi, 2025, 100 p

**Reading materials:** Full English text, Finnish PDF

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Tammi, LATVIA: Pētergailis, WORLD SPANISH (excl. Spain): V&R Editoras



## About the Author



Photo credit: Otto Virtanen / Tammi 2020

Kaisa Paasto

**Kaisa Paasto** spent her childhood in the north of Finland and now lives in Espoo with her husband, two children and Saku the dog. Kaisa has a master's degree in Comparative Literature and has previously worked as translator, content specialist and entrepreneur. Apart from the Anni books she has published psychological thrillers for adults by Storytel Original.



Photo credit: Antti Ahokoivu  
Mari Ahokoivu

**Mari Ahokoivu** is a Finnish illustrator and a comics artist. She's been drawing professionally for over 10 years, mainly drawing graphic novels and comics for children, including Sanni & Joonas and Lola Olifante. Ahokoivu loves everything cute and scary. She lives and works in Copenhagen.

Mari Ahokoivu won the Puupäähattu Comic Book Award 2023, and together with Laura Ertimo, they won the Tieto-Lauri Award 2022 and were nominated for the Finlandia Prize 2021 for WHERE DID THE ANIMALS GO?!

## Count Silently To Ten

Laura Lähteenmäki

A novel about friendship, growing up, and the importance of childhood play

☒ Nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize 2024!

☒ Rights sold to Estonia, Germany, Italy and Poland!

A novel about friendship, growing up, and the importance of childhood play

☒ Nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize 2024!

☒ Rights sold to Estonia, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Czechia and Poland!

Myy, Viivi, Heta, Aada, and Camilla are a close-knit group of five girls who call themselves Pätikikset. But as the fourth grade draws to a close, Myy finds that something has changed. She feels that she's no longer part of the gang. She notices that lively conversations fall silent when she approaches her friends. When the girls hug each other in a tight circle, there's no room for Myy.

*Count Silently to Ten* is a story about friendship between girls and the changes that come about as you grow up, but which are difficult to accept. Myy is left out and feels that there may be something wrong with her, since she still wants to play and isn't interested in make-up and growing up. As things become difficult with the girls, a new boy in the area provides a wonderful opportunity for Myy to throw herself into the world of play. Myy and Lassi run to a nearby forest and immerse themselves in a joint game where time and space disappear.

The novel describes a summer on the border between childhood and adolescence. Although the book depicts childhood in our time, the portrayal of play captures the timeless charm and power of childhood games.

### PRAISE:

**Count Silently to Ten** is a fluently written, linguistically beautiful children's novel that describes a summer on the border between childhood and adolescence. Although the book depicts childhood in our time, the portrayal of play captures the timeless charm and power of childhood games. – Nordic Council Literary Prize jury's motivation

**"Spending this summer with Myy is like revisiting your childhood with its mixture of carefree simplicity and insidious complexity, when the first adolescent issues appear. A truly relatable and touching reading experience."** – Lisette Agerbo Holm, editor, Straarup & Co, Denmark

**"A wonderful story about friendship and belonging, and about play as both a source of power and a refuge when you're not quite ready to grow up yet."** – Olivia, Editor, Lilla Piratförlaget, Sweden



*"Anyone who is (or once was) ten years old will identify 100% with this girl caught between childhood and growing up struggling to find her place. A beautifully told, finely observed children's book about the power of friendship."*

- Wiebke Anderse, Editor, Carlsen Verlag



**Original publication:** Laske salaa kymmeneen, WSOY, 2023, 206 p

**Reading materials:** English sample & synopsis, Full Swedish translation, Finnish edition

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: WSOY (orig.), CZECHIA: Portál, DENMARK: Straarup & Co, ESTONIA: OÜ Hea Lugu, GERMANY: Carlsen Verlag GmbH, ITALY: Terre di mezzo, POLAND: Muchomor, SWEDEN: Lilla Piratförlaget

## About the Author



**Laura Lähteenmäki** is a Finnish writer of children's and youth literature. Since her debut youth novel in 1998, she has written around twenty works. Lähteenmäki writes about young people's lives and their search for a place of their own. She was awarded the Arvid Lydecken prize for a first-class children's novel for her book Marenkikeiju in 2007 and her work has also been nominated for the Topelius and Finlandia Junior prizes. Her latest novel *Count Silently to Ten* was **nominated for the 2024 Nordic Council Literature Prize!** Laura Lähteenmäki lives in Jyväskylä and, in addition to her work as a writer, she is executive editor in a publishing house.

## Mabel Merryweather and the Gentle Genie

Noora Kunnas, Teemu Juhani

Mabel Merryweather is BACK! Part five of the furiously funny children's mystery series by a Finnish children's book author who loves Roald Dahl and crazy stories!

☒ Series sold to 9 territories!

☒ Winner of the Prix Chronos 2023 in Switzerland! The prize honours books for children that depict conviviality and exchange between different generations.

What happens when Pippi Longstocking meets Miss Marple? Meet the eccentric supergranny Mabel Merryweather in this middle grade mystery series full of quirky characters and hilarious plot twists!

### Book #5: Mabel Merryweather and the Gentle Genie

A well-known antiquarian arrives in Dalton to evaluate people's old belongings. While rummaging through Mabel's storage room, Nick and Lilly find an old bottle that has been inhabited by a genie who has now disappeared. According to Mabel, the genie fulfills all wishes but he is half deaf, meaning that the wishes are rarely fulfilled correctly.

People's treasures start to disappear and other peculiar incidents are plaguing Dalton. A cruise ship appears on a lake and 15 muscle-flexing bodybuilders appear on the town square. It takes the ingenuity of Nick, Lilly, and Mabel and the help of the gentle genie to catch the villains.

Also available:

#1 Mabel Merryweather and the Miniature Pirates (2019)

#2 Mabel Merryweather and King of Thieves (2020)

#3 Mabel Merryweather and Cheesy Mystery (2021)

#4 Mabel Merryweather and the Crowbar Gala (2022)

**“Two children, two elderly people, a rooster and a horde of mini pirates: A colorful bouquet of different people and animals plays into this story and makes the book a unique and humorous reading pleasure.”**

Prix Chronos 2023 jury



**Original publication:** Salmaterin Terttu ja höveli henki, Otava, 2025, 173 p

**Reading materials:** German PDF books 1-2, Danish PDF book 1 and text book 2, Italian PDF book 1, Finnish PDF books 1-5 English sample books 1-4 and English synopsis all books

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Otava (orig.)

## About the Author



Photo credit: Emilia Liinpää  
Noora Kunnas

**Noora Kunnas** is a children's author from Helsinki, Finland. She has the knack for making both children and grownups laugh while they're immersed in her zany books. She loves animals and British humor – she grew up watching *Jeeves and Wooster* and eating ice cream straight from the container. Kunnas draws her inspiration from the world of Roald Dahl. The trademark of her books is a nutty humor, spiced with quirky characters, as well as the titillating mood of various settings, where anything – and we mean anything – is possible.



Photo credit: Jonne Räsänen / Otava  
Teemu Juhani

**Teemu Juhani** is a Finnish illustrator, comic artist and picture book author whose illustrations have been published in picture books and children's fiction in over 20 countries. In addition to children's books Teemu has illustrated magazines and educational material. Originally from the fields and woods of North Karelia, Teemu now lives, works and eats way too many cakes in Helsinki.

## The Secret Staircase

Salla Simukka, JP Ahonen

- ☒ Nominated for the Finlandia Prize 2024 in Children's & YA Literature!
- ☒ Estonian and Czech rights sold!
- ☒ Grounded fantasy with a classic feel for fans of Michael Ende and Maria Gripe
- ☒ Salla Simukka is the recipient of the Topelius Prize 2013 and Finland Prize 2013 and has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award every year since 2021. Her *Snow White* trilogy was sold into 53 territories
- ☒ JP Ahonen is a comic book artist and illustrator whose unique *Belzebubs* project has achieved cult status internationally

An exciting and touching novel about two boys, who live in the same house but in different realities. Can their friendship cross the border separating two worlds?

10-year-old Alexis' family moves to a house where he gets the attic room. Another 10-year-old-boy, Max, moves to a house, where a great basement room is waiting for him. Soon the boys notice something weird in their houses: Alexis hears voices under the floor, even though they don't have a basement. Max's ears pick up someone playing an instrument from the attic, even though no one is there.

When the two boys finally meet, they realize that they can visit each other's worlds at night time. But will their friendship endanger everything when the worlds start to blur into each other?

*"The best about this book are its main characters: they approach mysteries with curiosity, and they are led by kindness. The charming illustrations make sure that we can feel present with the two boys as they are discovering their new home from basement to the attic, and that we can see how they become friends along the way."*

– Katalin Mikó, translator, Hungary

*"The Secret Staircase is a stylish and fascinating children's novel. [...] The cooperation of the author-illustrator duo works well: the illustrations by Ahonen bring a nice atmosphere to Simukka's fascinating story. The two parallel worlds have small differences and there is a pleasant weirdness for the reader to ponder on."*

– Mikko on kirjavinkit.fi

**||** *In this tantalisingly evocative fantasy, the text and vivid illustrations merge into a fine, polished whole. The story is about solving mysteries, making great friends and adapting to huge changes, whether it's family or the vastness of dimensional boundaries. The narrative is engaging and the illustrations add delicious detail with a lightness of touch that encourages the novice reader to move forward.*

– The 2024 Finlandia Prize jury

## About the Author



Photo credit: Outi Puhakka/Tammi  
Salla Simukka

**Salla Simukka** is the author of the international success story *The Snow White Trilogy*: rights are sold in 53 territories and in Hollywood. She has written several novels for young readers and her accolades include the Topelius Prize 2013 and the Finland Prize 2013. Simukka has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award every year 2021–2024. *Where It All Begins*, published in 2022, is her first novel for adults and in 2024 she started a collaboration with JP Ahonen on a middle grade novel.



Photo credit: Marjaana Malkamäki  
JP Ahonen



**Original publication:** *Poika ullakolla, poika kellarissa*, Tammi, 2024, 200 p

**Reading materials:** English sample & synopsis, Finnish edition

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Tammi (orig.), CZECHIA: Portál, ESTONIA: Ühinenud Ajakirjad, HUNGARY: Ciceró Könyvstudió

## Monster Nanny

Tuutikki Tolonen, Pasi Pitkänen

Mary Poppins meets Where the Wild Things Are in this prize-winning series.

Rights sold in 38 territories!

A feature film in development, co-produced by Ridley Scott!

Monster Nanny is the winner of Arvid Lydecken Award 2016 and the Monster Nanny series was a Anni Polva Award nominee (2017)

Tuutikki Tolonen is also the winner of the LukuVarkaus Award 2021 and has been nominated for the Arvid Lydecken Award 2021, the Anni Polva Award 2021, and has received an honorable Mention at the Runeberg Junior Award 2021

The Hellman children must make do with a nanny while their mother is away at a spa. The only problem? Their nanny is a monster.

Grah is hairy, dusty, and doesn't talk. When the siblings discover that other neighborhood kids have been left with similar creatures, they start to wonder where the monsters came from. With the parents away, the kids work together (between bickering) to figure out the mystery of the monsters.

### Praise:

"The upbeat tone, oddball details, and Pitkänen's humorous b&w cartoons combine to create a strange but entertaining romp that will surprise readers at every turn." –

**Publishers Weekly, USA**

"...a diverting and different read-aloud." – **Kirkus**

"This riddle-filled story is original, touching, incredible." 4.5/5 stars – **Livresse des Livres blog, France**

"The unflappable Halley, the resourceful Koby, and the self-possessed Mimi, inspired by her talking blue bathrobe, have the right stuff to be perfect fictional friends for a home-alone school holiday. The Hellman children's monster, Grah, is far from a Mary Poppins, but in that honored tradition of children who find fantastic adventures just beyond the purview of parents, this one is right on target to enchant middle readers who dream of summer fun during these long winter nights." – **Books For Kids Blog, USA**

"This was an excellent book because it had characters that I could relate to and an interesting story. I liked that the story had a happy ending. I would recommend this book because it is a fun story that is filled with adventures and mysteries." – **Kids Book Buzz blog, USA**

**“ Within its pages, children outsmart adults, sense the vulnerable emotions of the monsters, and come to depend upon themselves and new friends. Loose-lined ink illustrations add extra humor to this imaginative fantasy, and plentiful dialogue makes it prime for reading aloud.”**

– **Booklist**



**Original publication:** Mörkövahti, Tammi, 2015, 303 p

**Reading materials:** English edition

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Tammi (orig.), ALBANIA: Westprint, AUSTRALIA: Allen & Unwin, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA: Sahinpasic, BRAZIL: DarkSide Books, BULGARIA: Robertino, CATALAN: La Galera, CHINA: Beijing Children and Juvenile Publishing House, CROATIA: Znanje, CZECH REPUBLIC: Portál, s. r. o., DENMARK: Turbine forlaget, ESTONIA: Tiritamm, FILM RIGHTS: SCOTT FREE FILMS, FRANCE: Robert Laffont, GERMANY: Carl Hanser Verlag GmbH & CO. KG., GREECE: Patakis Publishers, HUNGARY: Tessloff Babilon, ITALY: Salani, JAPAN: SEKAIBUNKA Publishing, KOREA: Seosawon Co., Ltd., LATVIA: Zvaigzne ABC Publishers, LITHUANIA: Nieko Rimto/ Publishing House Nothing Serious, NETHERLANDS: Luitingh-Sijthof, NORWAY: Gyldendal, POLAND: Vesper, PORTUGAL: ASA Editions, ROMANIA: Editura Univers SRL, RUSSIA: Rosman, SERBIA: Laguna, SLOVAKIA: Arkus, SLOVENIA: Mladinska Knjiga Založba, SPAIN: La Galera, SWEDEN: RABÉN & SJÖGREN, TURKEY: SEV Publishing / Redhouse Kidz, UKRAINE: School Publishing House, UNITED STATES: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, VIETNAM: Nha Nam Publishing

## About the Author



Photo credit: Otto Virtanen

**Tuutikki Tolonen** is the author of several acclaimed children's books, plays and academic articles. For *Monster Nanny* she received the Arvid Lydecken award. She teaches creative writing and has worked as an editor and reporter at *Vinski*, a Finnish literary magazine for children.



Photo credit: Jari Riihimäki

**Pasi Pitkänen** has become known for his richly detailed illustrative work on several children's books such as the *Monster Nanny* trilogy by Tuutikki Tolonen, as well as his own picture books like *Monster Tournament*. He has also worked at Rovio Entertainment as an illustrator, character designer and graphic designer for *Angry Birds*.

## Anaché

**Maria Turtschaninoff**

A mythic, emotionally powerful and unique fantasy from the award-winning author of *Tangled Roots*!

☒ Maria Turtschaninoff's YA series *Red Abbey Chronicles* has been sold to 31 territories, and her first adult novel to 23 territories!

☒ Maria Turtschaninoff is a two-time winner of the Society of Swedish Literature Prize, a nominee for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, and winner of the 2014 Finlandia Prize!

☒ Timeless themes of grief, gender identity, queerness, and rebellion feel even more relevant today

☒ Rich, literary fantasy with strong feminist and queer themes

Anaché is an unforgettable novel – fierce, tender, and deeply human!

Anaché grows up in a nomadic family, under the strict discipline of her father. Her beloved brother Huor teaches her to hunt, fight and ride a horse, things that girls are not usually allowed to do. Anaché's future is mapped out for her, just like it is for all the girls in the tribe. After a difficult winter, Anaché's mother and brother die. Her grief is so strong that in order to hold on to her loved ones, she becomes someone else.

Anaché was originally published in 2012, and still feels astonishingly timely. In her fantasy novel, Maria Turtschaninoff explores themes of trans identity, gender roles, climate change, and patriarchal power. But above all, it is a sweeping, irresistible story just like Turtschaninoff's first adult novel *Tangled Roots* (*Arvejord*).

### PRAISE:

*"With Anaché, Turtschaninoff confirms her ability to constantly reinvent herself; her previous books are all clearly related, but each has a distinct mood and voice of its own and takes the reader to an entirely new place."*

- Agnes Broomé, Swedish Book Review

*"Turtschaninoff draws deeply from folklore and mythology in a broad sense. The world of the work feels real. Phenomena of the spiritual realm are naturally woven into the lives and reality of the characters. The author's imagination is inexhaustible and incredibly rich."*

- Kirsin kirjanurkka blog



*"Turtschaninoff has meticulously crafted the world of the steppe and its people—so vivid and culturally grounded that it recalls real nomadic tribes, yet also richly animated with magic and spirits here."*

- Marit Lindqvist, Svenska Yle



**Original publication:** Anaché: myter från akkade, Förlaget, 2012, 380 p

**Reading materials:** English sample, Swedish edition

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Förlaget (Finnish-Swedish), SWEDEN: Förlaget

## About the Author



**Maria Turtschaninoff** is known for crafting lyrical, historically inspired fantasy stories starring strong female protagonists. In addition to J.R.R. Tolkien, she counts Philip Pullman, Ursula K. Le Guin and C.S. Lewis among her favorite authors. She is a two-time winner of the Society of Swedish Literature Prize, winner of the Swedish YLE Literature Prize, winner of the Thank You for the Book Award, a nominee for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (2020-2024), and winner of the 2014 Finlandia Junior Prize. In 2024, Maria Turtschaninoff won the Eeva Joenpelto Literary Prize (10,000 euro award) for her literary masterpiece *Tangled Roots*.

## The Horned God

**Magdalena Hai**

Creeping horror for the YA audience

- ☒ Winner of the Laivakello Prize 2024!
- ☒ Winner of the Finlandia Prize for children's and YA literature of 2023! Nominated for the Topelius Prize of 2024!
- ☒ Rights sold in 8 languages & a bestseller in Finland with over 6,000 copies sold
- ☒ Magdalena Hai's books have been sold in over 27 territories and she has been nominated for several prestigious awards (Finlandia Prize, Nordic Council Literature Prize)
- ☒ Magdalena Hai is the winner of the Finnish Literary Export Prize (2017) and Kaarina Helakisa Prize (2020)

When death touches your life, everything changes.

Lauri wakes up in the hospital after a fatal car crash and he doesn't remember much about it. Mom is dead and now life has changed drastically.

When Lauri starts his slow recovery in a small town at his aunt's house, he has an unpleasant feeling that everything is not right. The dead don't stay dead and the beautiful neighbor Vilja-Maaria doesn't want to live. When an ominous creature with antlers appears behind the window, Lauri begins to see nightmarish dreams that feel too real.

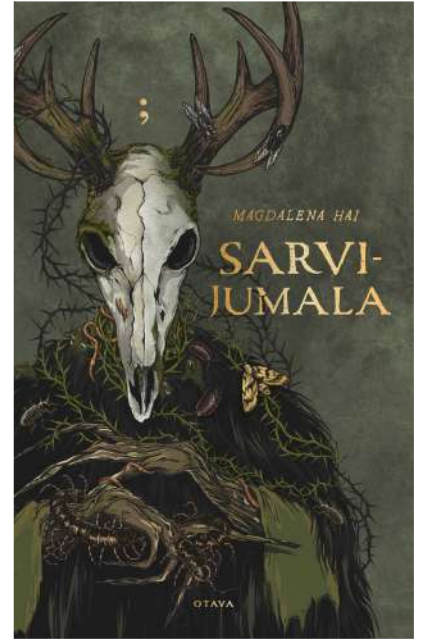
*"There is a strong atmosphere in this year's winning book. In addition to the mood, there are fascinating, neat sentences and important themes in the book, such as the selflessness of parental love, self-accusations, anti-racism, coronavirus, the acceptance of loss. And horror. If I had to justify my selection with three sentences, I would not need three sentences. I don't even need three words. [–] I would love to see this [book] as a film directed by Hayao Miyazaki."*

– Herra Ylppö, Finlandia Literature Prize 2023 in children's and YA literature grand juror



*17-year-old Lauri wakes up in hospital after a car accident. His mother has deceased, and father is in a coma in hospital. The horror story beautifully links the descriptions of recovering from a big loss, the grueling presence of awful things, the guilt caused by mistakes and the act of letting go. The novel which influences the reader on many levels also describes in a lively matter the everyday life of teenagers, experiences of mental health struggles, and racism. Below the horror elements there is an undercurrent that ties people together. At times in a painful way.*

– The 2024 Topelius Award Jury



**Original publication:** Sarvijumala, Otava, 2023, 162 p

**Reading materials:** English sample and synopsis  
Finnish edition  
Norwegian edition

**Rights sold:** FINLAND: Otava (orig.), DENMARK: ABC Forlag, ESTONIA: Päike & Pilv, HUNGARY: Metropolis, NORWAY: Gursli Berg Forlag, SLOVENIA: Didakta, SWEDEN: Epix, UKRAINE: Bohdan

## About the Author



**Magdalena Hai** is an award-winning author, lover of cross-genre fiction and all things strange. Her fiction often combines elements of sci-fi, fantasy and horror. Her *Little Shop of Nightmares* series has been sold to 30 territories around the world. Among Hai's many accolades are winning the Finlandia Prize for children's and YA literature and the Finnish Literary Export Prize, and being nominated the Nordic Council Children & Young People's Literature Prize. Besides being an author, Hai teaches writing and is an active member and editor in the publishing co-operative Osuuskuuma.