Rights & Brands
SPRING 2021
catalogue

Adult Fiction
THEIR TURN TO BURN by Thomas Oscar, p. 3
A fast-paced political thriller debut demonstrating how easily inequality and the division of a society can escalate. Helsinki 2027, the population is in rage. The young Prime Minister has 24 hours to figure out a plot that could cost thousands of lives and the future of his country.

COCCINELLA by Marianna Kurtto, p. 8
A linguistical spot-on masterpiece and a new addition to the Finnish weird genre. Coccinella is a psychological game about an unexpected natural catastrophe, bitter memories and jealousy between sisters.

HATCHING by Johanna Laitila, p. 10
A chilling and stirring literary novel about the thirst for power, irresistible addiction, and complexity of gender in an era where there are no words for the experience. The intense events of the story wrap around historic turning points with a twist.

THE SINGLE WOMAN CHRONICLES by Henriikka R., p. 16
Warning! Includes sex and intimate facts about men – and even more intimate facts about women. An uncensored, authentic and uproariously funny ride through the highs and lows of a single life. Read and blush!

LETTERS FROM TOVE by Boel Westin & Helen Svensson, p. 27
A new inspiring way to get to know the real Tove through an intimate and captivating collection of correspondence. Follow the penned journey of how a young aspiring artist evolves into a celebrated cultural icon.
Helsinki 2027. The young prime minister and leader of the right coalition, Leo Koski, wakes up on a Saturday morning to a hangover, with a naked woman in his bed and frustrating crowds roaring outside the gate of his residence. But the reasons for his headache are elsewhere: The Left is uniting its forces, threatening with a large demonstration for the following day.

Leo is only a puppet of The Guild, a secret group of rich and powerful men pulling the strings.

When a young woman suicides by tying to a tree and setting herself on flames outside the window of a Guild member, she leaves a secret behind that could overthrow the government.

Leo for the first time decides to execute the power he has as a prime minister, to save what he can. He has 24 hours to figure out the plot that could cost thousands of lives and the whole future of the country.

In the society, divisions have deepened, the middle class disappeared and most of Finland’s citizens literally fight to get by. Due to the clash of the economy, the political tensions between the classes have escalated and the society is volatile.

The left movement is led by a charismatic and decisive young leader, Emma Erola. Together with a mysterious acolyte, she is planning to take Finland towards new socialism, basing on artificial intellect and processed data. But is Emma’s ally trustworthy? And who is the mysterious Peregrino – a mere voice on the phone – who seems to be the one who truly is behind the actions of the right coalition?
“During the Cold War, a lot of spies visited Helsinki. Naturally, this fact was to be kept secret ... The subject is most interesting, and Harno describes personal relationships really well.”

Helsingin Sanomat

A thriller about schemes behind Nokia’s global success, asking if Nokia built its success with mobile phones on a web of lies, fooling both the Soviets and the Americans?

Was my father a spy and a killer?
Questioning her family past draws middle-aged Mari right in the centre of Nokia’s shady trades with the Soviet Union and the legacy of the Cold War lies. Mari’s father was Michael Albright, an American businessman who moved to Helsinki in the early 1980s, set up a family and a successful career, but returned to the States with his new mistress at the end of the decade. Or at least this is the story as Mari knows it.

Cold War Affairs is a contemporary and imaginative take on the bold schemes behind Cold War politics and their life-changing effects on individuals and families, echoing the present interest in the personal life of a spy in popular TV series like Homeland and Le Bureau. The novel is skillfully staged first on facts - but the plot turns to fiction - by a young talented author who remoulds the tradition of the Cold War spy novels by masters like John Le Carré and Graham Greene, with a nod to The Innocent by Ian McEwan.

Cold War Affairs is a new breakthrough for Harno: a plot-driven cold-war thriller and a politically charged tale of family secrets. She has also written screenplays and is currently working on the film adaptation of Cold War Affairs.

“Cold War Affairs is Tua Harno’s literary breakthrough placing her among the most prominent writers in Finland.”

Uusi Suomi

Tua Harno (b. 1984) won a writing competition with her debut novel Those Who Stay (2013), a strong, lyrical, beautifully written story about roots, family, and the songs of Leonard Cohen. Her prose is defined by confidence, graceful narration, delicate characterization, and a powerfully charged atmosphere.

She has an MA in drama from the Theatre Academy, Helsinki, and a law degree from the University of Helsinki.

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Hungarian by ethnicity, Yugoslav by birth, one-time refugee Anna Fekete’s career as a detective begins in a northern Finnish coastal town. Although fully integrated into her new homeland, the young immigrant considers herself a stranger, perhaps most of all to herself.

A young woman has been killed on a running trail, and a pendant depicting an Aztec god has been found in her possession. Another murder soon follows. All signs point to a serial killer. But can Anna catch the Hummingbird before he – or she – strikes again?

An incident potentially indicating honour violence also requires Anna’s attention: a teen-aged Kurd girl, Dijar, has called the police claiming to be in danger.

When an old man is found dead on the road, detective Anna Fekete is certain that there is more to the incident than meets the eye. Anna is led on a deadly trail where illegal immigration, drugs and, ultimately, murder threaten not only her beliefs, but her life. Amid the increasingly dangerous police investigations Anna finds herself racked with homesickness.

Meanwhile, Anna’s partner Esko is investigating the activities of an immigrant gang. Deportation orders and raids result in desperate measures by gang members – and the police themselves. Then a bloody knife is found in the snow and the two cases come together in ways that no one could have predicted.

Anna Fekete decides she will spend the summer relaxing in the region of her birth-place, in a small Serbian town. While celebrating the local wines, Anna’s purse is stolen. It doesn’t take long to find the thief – dead on the riverbank. The local police is reluctant to conduct a proper investigation, so Anna takes matters into her own hands. The trail of clues unexpectedly leads Anna to her own family, to closely guarded secrets concealing a horrendous travesty of justice. As layer after layer of corruption, deceit and guilt are revealed, Anna is caught up in the refugee crisis spreading like wildfire across Europe.

The Defenceless was the Best Finnish Crime Novel of the year and was nominated for the Glass Key award. All three titles have been nominated for the Petrona Award in the UK. Kati Hiekkapelto's crime novels have been translated into 15 languages.
“The Sámi have seldom (if ever?) been portrayed in Finnish fiction in such an interactive way. Cultural ownership has been a point of discussion in recent years, and one could think the most sensitive advocates might mistake the combination of the Finnish writer and Sámi depiction as colonial. But if an author can’t write like this about other people, then there is no way at all.”  

FRANZISKA BERNINGER, SUHRKAMP

A powerful debut novel where the beauty of the Arctic nature in Lapland contrasts with the brutal actions conducted both at a secret Nazi prison camp during the Second World War and against the indigenous Sami people after the war.

The dual storyline takes place in Northern Finland, in Lapland, altering between two points in time: In 1944, a young Finnish soldier is sent to work as an interpreter at a secret prison camp run by the Nazis. His diary entries lead to one of the darkest periods in human history.

In the late 1940s, Inkeri, reporter and photographer from the south, arrives to write about the reconstruction of the Enontekiö town in Lapland after the war. She befriens a young Sámi girl and learns about the ongoing racial profiling of the indigenous Sámi people. She also has a personal agenda: to find out what happened to her husband who never returned from the war.

Underneath the skies of polar night and midnight sun, dark secrets begin to unfold.

“A perfectly robust, intense thriller plot.”

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

“In some chapters, she succeeds in writing a page-turning thriller, passages that leave the reader breathless stand next to poetic descriptions of the northern landscape.”

FRANZISKA BERNINGER, SUHRKAMP
“Finnish literature changes to world literature in the hands of Olli Jalonen.”
Helsingin sanomat

“Jalonen's language is enchanting, ponderous, rounded and beautiful.”
Hämeen sanomat

“The young boy Angus is a delightful narrator whose pensive and almost devout chatting enchants the reader... brilliantly crafted: the stars in this oeuvre are people, not the comet.”
Runeberg Prize jury’s statement 2019

The Celestial Sphere
(Taivaanpallo)
461 pages | Published originally in Finnish in 2018 by Otava Publishing Company

Angus is an eight-year-old peasant boy on St. Helena in the 1680’s. Tasked by his tutor, scientist Edmond Halley, he meticulously marks out the constellations in the night sky.

Following a devastating act of violence, directed at his own family, Angus is stowed away on board a ship bound for London, a secret note sewn inside his shirt.

Who could have foretold the humble boy’s journey to become an astronomer’s apprentice and to play a role in the history of science?

The Celestial Sphere is a glorious story about the era where science and religion go head-to-head in a duel as the rays of the Enlightenment can be seen on the horizon.

The Art of Living Under Water
(Merenpeitto)
462 pages | Published originally in Finnish in 2019 by Otava Publishing Company

New experiments take Angus underwater, to terrifying depths that no man has seen before.

At 16, Angus is the trusted apprentice of Edmond Halley in London. When Halley starts exploring the depths of the sea and comes up with the idea of a diving bell, Angus gets to be the guinea pig sunk down to the bottom of river Thames to test the invention. Would it be possible to live underwater?

Reaching adulthood, Angus struggles to figure out his place in the world. Dreaming of a great future, he follows Halley on a long journey, sailing back to the Southern hemisphere of his home island. Will he get a chance to return to St. Helena?

Olli Jalonen (b. 1954) is one of Finland’s most respected literary authors. Since 1978, he has written over 15 works of fiction, some non-fiction and a children’s fantasy novel. He has received several important literary prizes, including the Finlandia Prize twice, and he has been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize three times.

Jalonen has lived in Finland, Sweden and Ireland, working as a reporter, information officer and researcher.

“Jalonen’s novels are like incantations. One remains under their spell for a long time afterwards.”
Pohjolan sanomat

75 000 copies sold in Finland
Ladybug wings strike eighty-five times a second. Do you think such a machine is easy to build?

Coccinella is a linguistical spot-on masterpiece, a psychological game about an unexpected natural catastrophe, bitter memories and jealousy between sisters.

A thick cloud of ladybugs colours the sky as red as blood. The insects flood the streets and people’s homes; the natural catastrophe violently halts the whole country, forcing the startled citizens to take cover in bomb shelters.

Against the background of this mysterious event opens up a psychological game between two sisters: the older one a dreamer, unable to connect with others; the younger one level-headed, brisk and decisive. In these exceptional circumstances, surface the bitter memories of their childhood where the world is small but people still far apart, and of the all-encompassing jealousy between the girls.

And what is the role of a nameless employee, far away in Siberia, who builds the ladybugs and paints them with a seventh spot?

“With her second novel, Kurtto takes her place at the top of Finnish contemporary literature.”

“Marianna Kurtto’s language is a world of its own... In Coccinella, Kurtto reaches clear views of interpersonal relations and one’s attitude to oneself and the world with her language.”

“Marianna Kurtto’s novel charms with its narrative...It’s astonishing how strong characters Kurtto can craft from two anonymous sisters...Coccinella begins as an ordinary story with a narrative that transforms it into something unique.”
This debut novel by an acclaimed poet is a sensitive, vivid and immersive story set on a secluded island where a volcano is waking up on the quiet.

Tristan da Cunha is a volcanic island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Its 264 inhabitants live from sheep farming and fishing, in a community where everyone is connected in one way or another.

One of them, Lars, has travelled to London and left behind his wife and son. On the black sand of Tristan, the little Jon is squinting toward the horizon, hoping to see his father’s ship returning. When Lars hears the news of the volcanic eruption on Tristan, he knows he has to head back. The idyll on the island has cracked, and the hidden web of cruelty, hatred, loss and secrets is starting to unravel.

With strongly atmospheric language and dazzling metaphors the author masterfully conveys the story using several points-of-view and flashbacks between the 1950s and 60s.

‘A masterful and self-assured work of art with a most engaging atmosphere.’

Helsingin Sanomat

‘Unique style [...] 300 pages of beauty. [...] Rythmically calm, yet you can feel the lava bubbling beneath.’

Aamulehti
“Laitila shows that she is one of the brightest stars among the most recent newcomers and one of the original voices in contemporary Finnish literature.”

PAR NASSO LITERARY MAGAZIN

Hatching is a chilling and stirring literary novel about the thirst for power, irresistible addiction, and complexity of gender in an era where there are no words for the experience. The intense events of the story wrap around historic turning points with a twist.

Hatching is set in the early 20th century in Helsinki where lonesome Aleksanteri immerses himself in playing Chopin on the piano and translating German literature.

Occasional visits by housekeeper Hilda and lover Elna are Aleksanteri's few connections to the outside world - until a mysterious new neighbour, the Russian journalist Vladimir Ulyanov - already known to some as Lenin - settles in, hiding next door.

The flats, separated by a thin wall, are like two chambers of the heart where the two secretly listen to each other.

Cut off from the building revolutionary momentum in St Petersburg, the cornered Bolshevik leader's health is ailing, and he and Aleksanteri grow dependent on each other.

They become entangled in a power struggle where irresistible addiction and contradictory hatred constantly crosses to lust. Lenin is seen as equally horrifying and fragile: bedridden one moment, potent and brilliant the next.

JOHANNA LAITILA (b. 1986) was born in the Arctic city of Rovaniemi, Northern Finland. She lived in Scotland for several years, studying and teaching English literature and film at St Andrews, where she also did her PhD.

As an author, Laitila is interested in exploring different ways of using and abusing power, as well as revealing the blind spots of history and stories that have been silenced.

Hatching is her second novel, and it was shortlisted for the 2020 Toisinkoinen Literary Prize and nominated for the 2021 prestigious Runeberg Prize.

“Hatching is an original story with its strong, peculiar aesthetic... Laitila is one of the most interesting new authors today. Her language is dazzling, her stories touching, and most importantly: the world and language created by the author are distinctively unique.”

TURUN SANOMAT

“Laitila's language was admirably alive already in her debut, but now it's taking on whole new dimensions... Particularly successful is the contrast between breathtaking linguistic images and banal, downright naturalistic corporeality.”

TURUN SANOMAT

Hatching
(Synty)
240 pages| First published in Finnish in 2020 by Otava

Full English manuscript available
HANNELE MIKAELA TAIVASSALO (b. 1974) is one of the most exciting and fresh literary authors in Finland today. She has published novels, short stories and written drama. Her unique, feminine voice, the distinct spark in her writing, and the exceptional sensitivity to rhythm in her language make her truly stand out.

Taivassalo, who has been awarded several prizes including the Runeberg Prize, writes originally in Swedish. In her novels, she explores the themes of continuous movement, of leaving, of restlessness and displacement, but also of the joy of discovering. She writes about desire and sex exceptionally well and excels in describing the erotic charge between her characters. Her writing style is circular, revolving around certain themes over and over again until catching the essence of the experience.

This love needs to be amputated, executed, buried deep underground.

This Should End with My Death is a short literary novel in limbic prose about what it means to be the other woman, and how to overcome the hate - within oneself - once the affair is over. A brutally clear and heartbreaking novel depicting an author who is cutting herself from forbidden love by writing. To the point where there’s no lust to live, neither yet lust to die. Only the words remain, and it’s worth being honest, whatever the cost.

Reading the novel hurts. But there is also dark humour in undoing clichés that suddenly turn into true experiences.

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**The language of the new novel trembles poetically.**

Suomen Kuvalehti Magazine

“A masterpiece in few words.”

Åbo Underrättelser

“Taivassalo repeatedly manages to describe the anguish of unrequited love with tender precision, so powerful that I almost have to hold my breath. [...] The novel’s strength is the striking and bare language.”

Vasabladet

“Hannele Taivassalo has exceeded expectations. [...] This book conveys beautifully and realistically the deep longing for physical and mental intimacy and the fear of constant loss.”

Erkki Kiviniemi, Kulttuuri Toimitus

“Taivassalo writes magnificently. The novel is prose-driven and based on the protagonist’s thoughts and carefully crafted, clear sentences. [...] An impressive and touching speech by another woman.”

Kirja Vieköön Blog
The Union of Synchronised Swimmers
(Vesileikit)
128 | Originally published in Finnish in 2019 by Otava Publishing Company

Six girls grow up on a piece of land between two rivers, belonging to no state. Swimming is their passion, but also a way to reach out to the world. As a team of synchronised swimmers, they perform skilful tricks in and underwater.

Far away in Helsinki, Anita falls in love with Spiderman. In California, onboard a fishing boat, Paulina acquires the ingredients for her homeland’s traditional soup. On a Caribbean island, Betty gambles away all her money.

The stories of young rootless women, suffering from undefined feelings of longing, come together in a dazzling multifaceted novella, reaching across the world.

The Whale Called Goliath
(Valas nimeltä Goliat)
265 pages | Originally published in Finnish in 2017 by Otava Publishing Company

In the middle of the Cold War, a finback whale travels to Romania, to be put on show. It is suspiciously the same size as a Ballistic missile.

Not far from Bucharest, in a small commune called the Red Village, a father decides to take his sons to see the whale. That day changes the lives of the two boys.

When her grandfather dies, Alba, born and raised in Helsinki, travels back to the Red Village where she used to spend her summer holidays as a child. She is entangled in her family’s dark and fascinating past, as well as in the village’s history, including an earthquake, the arrival of a bride from a faraway land and a whale that travelled the world.

Cristina Sandu’s debut was nominated for the Finlandia prize and published to rave reviews.

A jewel of a short novel by Finlandia Prize nominated young author, a magic weave of intertwined fates.

“Sandu’s writing is strong and melancholy, poetic and flowing, and it weaves memories, stories and legends to an impressive whole.”

-Svenska Yle

“Beautiful as a prayer.”

-Keskiuomalainen

“This is exactly how memories, youth and the past should be written.”

-Helsingin Sanomat

CRISTINA SANDU (b. 1989) was born in Helsinki to a Finnish-Romanian family who loved books. She has studied literature at the University of Helsinki and the University of Edinburgh, and speaks six languages. She currently lives in the UK and works as a full-time writer.
Soon out in Russian

**The Heart**
(Hjärtat)
152 pages | Published originally in Swedish in 2019 by Förlaget M

**Malin Kivelä** (b. 1974) has written novels, children's books and plays, and her writing has been published in several languages, also in Vogue Italia. She received the Swedish YLE Literature Prize in 2013 for her novel Annanstans. Kivelä has studied journalism and theater. Her special interests include space, television series and dance.

The baby is diagnosed at three days old. During the weeks at the hospital following the diagnose, the mother writes in the middle of the greatest anxiety: Her baby is sick, and may die if he is not operated soon.

She withdraws from the world, existing only for her little son. Her mind clings to the physical and tangible facts: the hospital routines, the strikingly beautiful Helsinki in the winter, the handsome surgeon who is the only one to be trusted. Family, friends and everyday life are pulled backwards like a wave. Here, everything is at stake.

The novel is based on the author's own experiences.

“A deeply touching account by a woman whose new-born son has a congenital heart defect.”

“Since then, simply being has consumed more energy. Since then, it has been harder to write, because nothing is enough. Since then, I have grasped at every single opportunity to relish the moment, like animals do: swim, eat, sweat, joke, sleep, be in the sun, in the wind.”

**Helsingin Sanomat**
**The Children’s Planet**  
(Lasten planeetta)  
381 pages | Originally published in Finnish in 2018 by Otava Publishing Company

A seemingly benign conversation on the couch on a Saturday afternoon has the power to break a family apart.

Frederika has to learn how to live a new life: How to fill her days when she’s alone in her new apartment? How to get through difficult moments with the child whose life has also been shaken? She relentlessly dissects her relationship with Henrik, and her own behaviour. At times, she feels she is on the verge of losing her sanity.

A story from the past plays out parallel to Frederika’s narration: a young woman walks the city, carrying a notebook, a pen and a cosmic mission in her mind to save the world by telling everything about everything.

**The Best of All Possible Worlds**  
(Paras mahdollinen maailma)  
358 pages | Originally published in Finnish in 2016 by Otava Publishing Company

The tragedy that took place in Berlin tears apart a family: a mother who has made a horrible mistake, a father who cannot find a way out of his sorrow, and a daughter who misremembers.  

*The Best of All Possible Worlds* is a haunting tale about family, the essence of love, and the weight of deep loss.

**True**  
(Totta)  
333 pages | Originally published in Finnish in 2010 by Otava Publishing Company

International bestseller with rights sold to 20 territories

As her mother is dying, Eleonora’s childhood memories are slipping away. Her daughter Anna learns by chance the story of Eleonora’s nanny, Eeva, in the 1960s when the pill had been invented but the pick-up line hadn’t.

*True* is a story of how memory can deceive us, because it is the most merciful thing to do.

The novel was nominated for the Finlandia Prize.

“Melancholic but beautifully written, I predict True will appeal to readers who enjoyed Siri Hustvedt’s What I Loved.”  
**Australian Women’s Weekly**

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**RIIKKA PULKKINEN** (b. 1980) is among the foremost names of the new generation of Finnish literary authors and one of the best known contemporary Finnish writers internationally. Her novels are compelling stories told in gracefully flowing prose; family sagas exploring the closely guarded secrets of the past and their impact on people. The prize-winning author is loved both by the critics and by her avid and large readership of various age groups.

“Pulkkinen is among the very best authors in our time depicting female experience.”  
**Aamulehti**
The Many Deaths of Irina
(Irinan kuolemat)
150 pages | Originally published in Finnish in 2015 by Like Publishing

In winter 1944, Irina is sent out of bomb-damaged Helsinki to western Sweden as a war child. Adjusting to a new country and Swedish foster parents leads Irina out of the shadows of war and into the shadows of peace time and the private nightmare of a family weighed down by emotional wounds.

Amanda's Worlds
(Amandan maailmat)
150 pages | Originally published in Finnish in 2017 by Like Publishing

Amanda has spent a sheltered and peaceful life in a small house on the outskirts of a town. When she meets a young refugee, Amanda wants to help him in his distress. She doesn’t realise that at the same time she is putting her own life in jeopardy.

The acclaimed literary jewels Amanda's Worlds and The Many Deaths of Irina read almost like thrillers. The focus is on people who have fled because of war, and on the difficulty in understanding the world surrounding us.

Amanda's Worlds was awarded the Savonia Literary Prize.

Pilate
(Pilatus)
420 pages | Originally published in Finnish in 2016 by Like Publishing

Pontius Pilate thinks he has experienced everything, until the gods of Rome decide once again to make a mockery of him. Tragedy meets comedy, mythical figures, Roman emperors and Jewish prophets. In the style of Mika Waltari, Pilate mercilessly portrays social ascension, greed and thirst for power.

The social aspect and the human ethos in Sahlberg's writing resemble another Finnish master, namely Aki Kaurismäki.

ASKO SAHLBERG (b. 1964) is one of the most distinguished contemporary Finnish authors. He has been living in Sweden, near Gothenburg, since 1996. Sahlberg writes both dense and intense novellas, and large-scale frescos on historic subjects. He excels at discussing profound timeless issues and contemporary problems alike. He has received several important awards and has been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize, the Dublin Literary Award and the Finlandia Prize three times.
Commercial Fiction | Henriikka R.

Read and blush! A racy, contemporary, and hilarious Fifty Shades of Gray meets Bridget Jones for the Tinder generation. The Single Woman Chronicles reveal everything you’ve ever wanted to know about life as a single – and things you would have preferred not to know ...

My Imaginary Boyfriend and other Fundamental Facts about Life as a Single Woman # 1
(Mielikuvituspoikaystävä ja muita sinkkuelämän perusasioita)
200 pages | First published in Finnish in 2016 by Atena

Warning! Includes sex and intimate facts about men – and even more intimate facts about women.

Everything you have ever wanted to know about single life – and a lot of things you would have preferred not to know.

Meet the Nipple Hair Man, the Sterile Man, and the Man With A Small Dick. From one fling to another and from heartache to a new crush, our narrator analyses the fundamental questions in the life of a single woman. She shakes off the glitter coat from single life and demonstrates why every single woman needs an imaginary boyfriend.

The Bikini Borderline Case and other Joyful Events in the Life of a Single Woman # 2
(Bikinirajatapaus ja muita sinkkuelämän iloja)
176 pages | First published in Finnish in 2020 by Atena

Welcome to hear the art of being single! Our narrator reaches past the Tinder hearts right to the core of the trickiest questions for single women: Why do I always fall for the wrong guy? And what happens if I stay in the toilet for too long on the first date? Completely shameless and deliciously sassy, this book offers irreplaceable peer support for singles and a peephole for ones taken.

Honeymoon in Solo and other Milestones for a Single Woman # 3
(Määmatka ja muita sinkkuelämän ihmeitä)
190 pages | First published in Finnish in 2020 by Atena

A travelogue recounting the gallant trip to the inner life of a single woman, without filters. A decade of being single means blisters in the Tinder finger and dead batteries in the dildo. After looking relentlessly for love, the single woman deserves a luxurious solo holiday where the destination is most intriguing but also capricious: the jungle in the mind of the single woman.

170 000 copies sold in Finland
Contemporary Scandinavian Sex in the City throws the conventions of monogamous relationship out of the bedroom window

An entertainingly clever and refreshingly anarchistic story about sexual desire and the freedom to define our relationships.

Klaara, in her late 30’s, loves her husband Ilmari but all desire has faded long ago. Parenting a four-year-old can be tiring, but that’s not the reason behind their sexless marriage.

Klaara's suggestion to have an open relationship is met with enthusiasm from Ilmari's side. She starts Tinder-dating, hooking up with different men both in her home town Helsinki and in other European cities. Suddenly, she thinks about sex constantly, and has a lot of sex.

In Klaara's trusted group of friends – women in their late 30’s with different relationship status – Klaara's choice is met with either horror, curiosity or support.

As time moves on, Klaara finds out that dating others and being married is not that simple. But it can, in its all complications, be satisfying. And the way to bring the spark between the spouses, too.

This is what sex should be like. There's no hidden agenda or obligation here. No fine print. Our sex serves no practical purpose. We rub skin against skin and stick ourselves into each another's orifices, as if we want to be nested inside each other.

This is recreational use of the body. So impractical it feels anarchic. I try to remember the last time I had the opportunity to be unproductive and immoderate.
A hilarious and poignant story of a single dad taking care of his son since newborn.

Marriage? Check. Mortgage? Check. Family car? Check. But plans change six days after his son is born. Holding the snuffling bundle of his newborn son, Jonas watches as the receding taillights of a taxi carry away his wife – and with them, his expectations of a normal, nuclear family life. Enter the great unknown of night feeds, sleep-deprivation and mountains of diapers.

How do the single-dad and the baby survive through the first two years as a family of two men?

**Daycare Drama**

Dad Around The Clock #2
(Tarhapäivä)
300 pages | First published in Finnish in 2012 by Otava Publishing Company

When the father and son family unit takes in a friend's daughter as a temporary houseguest, Jonas and Oskar discover how many different shades of pink there really are.

**School Shock**

Dad Around The Clock #3
(Hammasketju)
300 pages | First published in Finnish in 2017 by Otava Publishing Company

Oskar has started first grade and has a cellphone of his own. Suddenly Jonas' phone line gets very busy. Who could have imagined all the little and bigger problems a seven-year-old can face?

“Sparklingly funny ... makes you laugh whether you have children or don't.”

*Cosmopolitan*

“Seriously hilarious”

*Turun Sanomat*

“An exhilarating and touching story”

*Anna Magazine*
A plastic bucket, a newly single young man and a ramshackle van. Location: Northern Lapland. Mission: Get the bucket to Helsinki, on foot.

HELENA WARIS (b. 1970) is an awarded author of fantasy novels for young adults as well as mystery adventure writer of true page-turners. Water from Nuorgam shows a new side of her as contemporary humourist.

An absurd comedy about Finnish madness and unremitting ambition

Mikke is faced with a drunken dare: can you carry a bucket full of water from Nuorgam - the northernmost place in Finnish Lapland - all the way to Helsinki on foot? And not taking a single step yourself, but finding carriers who are ready to pay to get to do the job?

This insane challenge takes Mikke on a hilarious adventure through small towns and bumpy country-roads. During the journey, he meets the whole range of heroes - and some hot and not-so-hot heroines - residing the land of thousand lakes and dense forests.

When ‘Water from Nuorgam’ becomes the new social media phenomenon, Mikke has to decide where his loyalties lie.
BO CARPELAN (1926-2011) created outstanding literary works throughout his sixty-five-year-long career.

He was the first author to receive the Finlandia Fiction Prize twice. He was also granted the Nordic Council Literary Prize, the Finnish State Prize for Literature four times and Le Prix Européen for his poetry.

Bo Carpelan’s works are distinguished by reliving of a moment from the past and also by a love for direct, close human contact. His poetry and prose have been published in translation in 17 languages. All his works were originally written in Swedish.

“In Carpelan’s magician hands, the simplicity of linear writing lights up in colours and rhythm, it turns to music, it opens deep and high, producing dizzying exaltation.”

HELSINKI SANOMAT ON URWIND

Axel
(Axel)
421 pages | Published originally in Swedish in 1986

When Finnish poet Bo Carpelan found mention of his great-uncle Axel in the biography of the composer Jean Sibelius, it was the genesis of one of his most acclaimed novels.

Axel is Carpelan’s fictional diary of the extraordinary uncle’s dual obsession with music and with a man who, unlike him, had enough confidence in his creativity to compose his own.

Axel was awarded Finnish State Prize for Literature and the Great Novel prize in Sweden.

Urwind
(Urwind)
243 pages | Published originally in Swedish in 1993

The novel comprises fifty-three letters from Daniel Urwind, an aging bookseller, to his wife, who has left him for an indeterminate spell of greater freedom and study in the United States. The wife’s absence haunts the letters, which are often tales of Daniel’s daily rituals.

Daniel’s narration of mundanities approaches magical realism; memories of his wife, fantasies, bad dreams, monologues, and dialogues with the living and the dead coalesce in a complex layering of past and present.

The winner of the Finlandia Prize, Urwind is a construct worthy of Bachelard’s Poetics of Space, and a painful chronicle of the ending of a love.

Summer Shadows
(Berg)
203 pages | Published originally in Swedish in 2015

Mattias, in his early 60s, returns to the old family home where he was evacuated as a child during the war. The memories of that summer come flooding back, and one of them – apparently so innocent at the time – remains unresolved and troubling.

The winner of The Finlandia Prize, Summer Shadows is a compelling story of family history; recollections from half a century ago.
Collected Short Stories
(Novellit)
656 pages | Published originally in Finnish in 2007 by Otava Publishing Company

Anna, Anne, Maria, Marja or Maaria. A woman, alone or with others, at home or on a journey. A woman with a man who takes his car and leaves.

In Raija Siekkinen’s short stories, a woman is surrounded by the circle of loneliness, defined by her experience as a bystander. Human relationships and the whole spectrum of emotions are depicted in a dazzling way, and often with a subtle sense of humour.

A Blight On the Landscape
(Häiriö maisemassa)
143 pages | Published originally in Finnish in 1999 by Otava Publishing Company

A woman begins to experience and live through other people’s past. Totally absorbed in her memories and the images in her head, she encounters a man who reminds her of something she experienced a long time ago.

An intact, subtle novel about love and its vulnerability.

It Happened Here
(Se tapahtui täällä)
160 pages | Published originally in Finnish in 1994 by Otava Publishing Company

A woman walks out of a forest of white birches, stops before she enters the yard. From there on, her pace is slow, careful; one might think she is a thief. But the man knows: the woman has come to fetch something belonging to her.

A lingeringly beautiful, enigmatic depiction of loss, memories and destiny.

“*The atmosphere in her short stories is unique.”*

SANOJEN LAHJA

RAIJA SIEKKINEN (1953–2004) was an acknowledged master of short stories and one of the most notable literary authors of the late 20th century in Finland. She published several collections, as well as novels and children’s books during her career.

In her short stories, everyday events play an essential part in the great drama of life: love, disappointment, anger, divorce and deceit. The viewpoint of a loner, a child or a marginalized woman formed the basis for her unique narration. She excels at depicting psychological processes, inner movements, through giving them an external form, a tangible figure in the story.

Siekkinen was awarded the Finnish State Prize for Literature, the Runeberg Prize and the Eino Leino Prize. She was also nominated for the Finlandia Prize in 1991.
In August, the author’s wife Rose is 17 weeks pregnant with their third child. When the waters suddenly break, the medical verdict is grim: the child has literally no chance to survive.

Rose struggles to give up on the life inside her, and a rift opens up between the couple. But a heart-breaking decision must be made.

Only a few months later, Rose is pregnant again. And now with twins.

In May, less than a year after vacillating between life and death, they receive two tiny babies, 13 weeks prematurely. This time, a struggle for life begins.

“Some lovely sentimentality, some neonatal facts, and a sincere attempt to comprehend and describe a period of less than a year of incredible events in life and death. Of course I love this book.”

HUFVUDSTADTSBLADET

“The author knows his profession and excels at putting into words something that borders on the impossible: the question of life and death, applied to one’s own children, goes beyond reason.”

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

Selected Backlist (Fiction):
Let The More Loving One Be Me
Momentary Glow
Bring Back The Butterflies

Beyond Our Reach
(Ihmettä kaikki)
294 pages | First published in Finnish in 2018 by Otava Publishing Company

Out in German

Nominated for The Nordic Council Literature Prize 2020!
Publisher, film critic and a voracious reader; wife and middle-aged mother of four. And a chance — a year in Rome! — to put her voice forward to be heard.

On the first day of a new year, Sara Ehnholm Hielm moves to Italy with her family. The year in Rome is reserved for writing; for finally writing a book of her own.

These exquisitely written, high-spirited and brutally honest texts draw a portrait of a woman who has been working with other people's writing throughout her career; who can't resist her own urge to write. Nor stop questioning her right to do so.

Struggling with the fragility of the process, she is trying to avoid the horror of not being able to complete her project. She takes inspiration from the books she reads as a respite to writing: Elena Ferrante, Karl Ove Knausgård, Chris Kraus and Lena Andersson.

It is all about trying to make a dream come true; about finally saying it all, expressing all the feelings from the bottom of the heart.

“A wild, intense and extravagant collection of texts that describe the desire to write from one's contours of a human being. The many brilliant wordings makes the reader want to underline.”

SARA EHNNHOLM HIELM
(b. 1968) is a publisher and film critic, living in Helsinki. She has worked as a fiction editor for fifteen years and has also written plays for stage.

She was awarded the Swedish Yle Literature Prize 2018 for her book And The Heart Was Mine.

“Defies the ancient call for female silence.”

An intense, intelligent and sensual book about the desire to read and write, and to live.

SWEDISH YLE

220 pages | Published originally in Swedish in 2018 by Förlaget M

And The Heart Was Mine
(Och hjärtat, det var mitt)
A topical, non-judgmental and multi-faceted book about the state of Finnish forests, a “new generation forest book” by four young journalists from Northern Finland.

Finnish forests are at a turning point. The majority of the country’s forests are commercial forests, where logging is a record high. How did it come to this? What could be done to preserve forests for future generations? Written with a journalist approach, The Forest After Us addresses a topical issue. It proposes alternatives, and together with forest users and researchers, considers what Finnish forest could look like in the future – a forest that benefits both the national economy and nature.

“The book makes us all think about what kind of environment we want to live in and what kind of a legacy we want to leave for future generations.”

MAASEUDUN TULEVAISUUS

“This book is not and does not claim to be the whole truth, but it is a strong statement on the important discussion on forest policy. In addition, the book is well structured, freshly written and beautifully illustrated.”

SIXTEN KORKMAN, ECONOMIST AND AUTHOR

PEKKA JUNTTI, JENNI RÄINÄ, ANSSI JOKIRANTA & ANNA RUOHONEN

The authors are a group of award-winning, new generation journalists from northern Finland, including non-fiction authors, forest owners and outdoor enthusiast. The breathtaking nature shots are by Lapin Kansa newspaper photographer Anssi Jokiranta.
Ville Ropponen and Ville-Juhani Sutinen | Non-fiction

‘An immediate classic of non-fiction and travel literature.’
AUTHOR ROSA LIKSOM

Finlandia Prize nominated impressive travelbook from present-day Russia, exploring the brutality at the forced labour camps of the Gulag system.

What was the Gulag? Who were the ones sent to the camps and what was their life like? The Road of Bones describes the experiences of those who ended up as victims to the fierce political power and the violence at the Soviet prison camps.

Russia experts Ville Ropponen and Ville-Juhani Sutinen travelled thousands of kilometers from Karelia to Siberia and the Far East Kolyma in search of monuments, cemeteries and ruins of prison camps that once covered vast areas of the Soviet Union.

They talked to people who had come into contact with the Gulag, each with their own story to tell, and backed up the work with literary references. During their road trip, the grim past kept pushing into the present, which resulted in a multi-layered, engaging and popular read.

The Road of Bones was nominated for Finlandia Non-Fiction Prize and received an honorary mention in travel book of the year competition by Mondo magazine.

‘An engaging and haunting study of both private and collective memory, and oblivion.’
FINLANDIA NON-FICTION PRIZE 2019 JURY

‘The authors are able to portray the story with deep humanity and respect for human dignity.’
KYMEN SANOMAT

VILLE ROPPONEN (b. 1977) is an author, journalist and translator.

VILLE-JUHANI SUTINEN (b. 1980) has written novels, poetry and non-fiction. He also works as a translator and photographer. Ropponen and Sutinen have both dealt with recent Russian history, former Soviet Union territories and the heritage of the Soviet Union in their previous works.
The Finnish-Swedish writer and artist Tove Jansson achieved worldwide fame as the creator of the Moomin stories, written between 1945 and 1970 and still in print in more than twenty languages. However, the Moomins were only a part of her prolific output. Already admired in Nordic art circles as a painter, cartoonist and illustrator, she would go on to write a series of classic novels and short stories. She remains Scandinavia’s best-loved author.

Tove Jansson’s work reflected the tenets of her life. Love and work was the motto she chose for herself and her approach to both was joyful and uncompromising. If her relationships with men were shaded by an ambivalence towards marriage, those with women came as a revelation, especially the love and companionship she found with her long-time partner, the artist Tuulikki Pietilä, with whom she shared her solitary island of Klovharu.

In this meticulously researched, authorised biography, Boel Westin draws together the many threads of Jansson’s life: from the studies interrupted to help her family; the bleak war years and her emergence as an artist with a studio of her own; to the years of Moomin-mania, and later novel writing. Based on numerous conversations with Tove, and unprecedented access to her journals, letters and personal archives, Tove Jansson: Life, Art, Words offers a rare and privileged insight into the world of a writer whom Philip Pullman described, simply, as ‘a genius’.

“Tove Jansson was a genius, a woman of profound wisdom and great artistry”

Philip Pullman

BOEL WESTIN is a professor of literature, researcher and a literary critic. She wrote the first doctoral thesis on Tove Jansson’s Moomin world in 1988. She is an expert on Tove Jansson’s art and lifework and was a trusted friend of the author.

She has been honored with numerous awards throughout the years. Today Boel lives in Stockholm.
An intimate, captivating collection of correspondence becomes a unique presentation of Tove Jansson's artistry. These personal letters are a new and inspiring way to get to know the real Tove.

Tove Jansson was known for answering letters she received from Moomin fans around the world. Out of the thousands of handwritten letters Tove wrote, a cache remains that she addressed to her family, closest friends, lovers and literary colleagues. On these pages, she shared her innermost thoughts, defended her ideals and revealed her heart.

Penned with charm and humour, Letters from Tove offers an almost seamless commentary on Tove Jansson's life as it unfolds within Finland's capital Helsinki's bohemian circles and her dear island home Klovharu. The letters span six decades from the 1930's to the 1980's, from her art studies, through the height of Moomin fame, to her travels later in life with her partner, Tuulikki Pietilä. By reading them one shares her adventures as an art student in Stockholm and Paris, the bleakness of war, her hopes for love that were dashed and renewed, and her determined attempts to establish herself as an artist.

The collection includes letters Tove Jansson herself kept and archived. This revealing yet sensitively compiled title is commented by Boel Westin and Helen Svensson, who both are experts on Tove Jansson's art and lifework and were also close friends of the author.

“This spirited collection of letters by Finnish author and illustrator Tove Jansson ... best known for the 'Moomin' children's books and comics, brims with affection, humor, and artistry ... Delightfully, she also sometimes adds illustrations, including of her famous hippo-like creations, the Moomins. Jansson's fans will particularly enjoy discovering which characters had real-life inspirations. However, all readers should find her a delight to spend time with.”

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

HELEN SVENSSON was the Literary Director at Schildts Publishing House. In that role she oversaw new editions of the Moomin books and edited Tove Jansson's adult fiction. Helen is an expert on Tove Jansson's art and lifework and was a close friend of the author. Helen lives nowadays in Helsinki.
A classic logbook with quotes from Tove Jansson's books. A must for anyone who enjoys the sea!

Logbook
(Loggbok)
100 pages | First published in Swedish in 2020 by Förlaget

All the important details for boating can be noted down in this beautiful logbook: essential information on the vessel, details of sea journeys and weather conditions, incidents on both at sea and the harbour.

This sailor's diary withholds quotes, drawings and paintings that Tove Jansson created in her uncle Harald Hammersten's logbook during their adventurous sea journeys.

The sea was close to Tove Jansson's heart, and also strongly present in her works.

TOVE JANSSON (1914–2001), Finnish-Swedish writer and artist, achieved worldwide fame as the creator of the Moomins. She was an admired painter, cartoonist and illustrator, as well as an author to a series of classic novels and short stories. Today, Jansson remains Scandinavia's best-loved author.
This is Rights & Brands

We bring Nordic rights to a global arena. Our background is in literature, art and design. We are a 360 agency using all aspects of character representation and branding, from publishing and PR to licensing, merchandising and digital presence. With a worldwide network of sub-agents and over 800 clients, our international knowledge and business capacity is unique.

What we do

We are a literary rights and brand licensing agency. Starting from a strategic base in Nordic literature and design, our platform is built on knowledge, passion and people. With a dozen sub-agents in key markets like Japan, Korea and China and over 800 clients worldwide, we are opening up our business network to Nordic rights holders, authors, illustrators and designers.

What we can do for you

Based on our experiences and successes with the Moomin brand and with an established international platform, we are building publishing rights as well as potential licensing, merchandising and digital platforms. With your brand and our knowledge we will open up new markets and business areas.

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