Aidan and Sophie
Aatos ja Sofia

WRITTEN BY RIITTA JALONEN
ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTIINA LOUHI

Aidan and Sophie are 8- and 9-year-old friends. This book is a sweet story of summer, closeness, games, adventures – and of first love, from a boy’s perspective.

Through small, delicate details Riitta Jalonen communicates the strong emotions of childhood. Kristiina Louhi’s warm and inventive illustrations bring the magical realm of childhood handy.

"Sophie bounces up and down like she was on a trampoline. Her patent leather shoes are not shiny at all anymore, and her white socks are stained.

- Those are dangerous, Aidan says and points at the high walls that flow around them.
- I know we’re not allowed to go there, Sophie replies, and shakes her hair so that the bobble finally falls off. Aidan picks up the wooden, round thing.
- Can I take this?
- Sure. I have plenty of those at home.
Aidan slips the gift into his pocket. He can hide it in his desk drawer at home.”
Little girl’s thoughts are brought to life in these three wonderful books with an ethereal atmosphere and mesmerising illustrations.
In this new, joyful Tommy book, we are introduced to life on the farm with Tommy’s relatives: Uncle Terrence, Auntie Kay and the cousins Gertie, Artie and Willie the baby. Tommy is no longer the smallest of the bunch!

When Tommy wakes up in the morning, he knows right away he’s in an unfamiliar place. He can hear strange noises from outside: a baby crying, a cow mooing and a big engine running. Tommy is visiting his cousins Gertie, Artie and Willie the baby.

The world looks very different at his cousins’ place compared to Tommy’s home in the city. You can see fields, cows, woods, a huge blue silo and on top of it all a real tractor chugging in the middle of the yard!

The breakfast porridge tastes familiar, but the milk is different. It’s thick, yellow and sweet.

“It’s our Apricot’s milk,” explains Gertie, and later Tommy gets to know Apricot the cow, along with her friends Rosemary, Marjoram and Thyme.

Tommy, Artie and Gertie like Apricot’s milk, but Willie the baby gets milk from Tommy’s aunt, and the little kittens in a brown cardboard box get theirs from their cat mother.

“This house is a regular dairy farm,” laughs Tommy’s mother while Tommy is petting the kittens.
Tommy books

BY KRISTIINA LOUHI

The series of thirteen beautiful Tommy books has been created by the award-winning illustrator and author Kristiina Louhi. The adorable little boy Tommy and his development — from early baby days into toddlerhood and beyond — is a true delight to follow from book to book. The books focus on the simple events and things that are very familiar to every child’s development. The books contain a sumptuously vivid image of Tommy on each page, with a storyline of text which carries Tommy’s days and exploits onwards. Tommy was first introduced to the public in the book Our Tommy in 1993, and the books have since gained a classic status amongst children’s books.

Annie books

BY KRISTIINA LOUHI

The much-beloved Annie books by Kristiina Louhi have been translated into more than 10 languages already. The first Annie book was published in 1984, and now the first generation of Annie fans is reading stories about little Annie’s everyday life to their children. The beautiful illustrations are fancied both by parents and their children.
Woof! Here comes Archie, the cheerful dog – a new friend for the youngest ones in the family. Archie runs around in a world familiar to 2-5-year-olds. The stories are easy to follow with interesting tracks to sniff.

Archie is a cheery and curious little dog. And now he’s also lost! Fortunately, the dustman Jeremy knows how to find the way home. “Just bark when you can smell something familiar”, Jeremy explains to Archie.

It’s a lot of fun to drive around in a giant dustcart, and Archie can immediately smell the familiar whiff of bone. But that track takes Archie to a dinosaur skeleton! Then the joyful trip takes Archie to a hotdog stand and to the fire station. It’s all good, but how could Archie find his way back home to his mother?
**Teeny Beany**  
**Pikku-Papu**  
**WRITTEN BY LIISA KALLIO**  
**ILLUSTRATED BY LIISA KALLIO**

*Teeny Beany is a tiny turtle with a problem.* His shell has shrunk and he can’t fit in it anymore. Fortunately Teeny Beany finds a red glove that makes a warm outfit. A little too warm, actually. Downright hot. So Teeny Beany gives the red glove to a chicken for a tail, and is given a white eggshell in exchange. But Teeny Beany stumbles over a procession of ladybirds and the eggshell breaks! In turn, a brown snail gives the turtle a snail shell. Teeny Beany fits in it comfortably, but the snail shell starts to roll down a hill. It rolls and rolls and rolls...

The merry adventures of Teeny Beany can be followed by even the youngest of readers. Along the journey children can learn different colours and marvel at the exchanges the tiny turtle makes. Get to know all the friends Teeny Beany encounters, and marvel at how many things can do duty as a tiny turtle’s outfit.

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**A tiny turtle’s shell is missing!**

**Tammenterho** (Acorn) – a new line of Finnish picture books created to bring together the best writers and illustrators in Finland.

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**Aha! Said Picaroo** 2009  
An upbeat story about a little squirrel.

**Bud and Bella in the Whirlwind** 2009  
Hilarious, action-packed adventure!

**Nepi and the Best Dogsitter** 2009  
The little corgi Nepi will patter her way right into your heart!

**Rhyme Race** 2009  
From tiny to titanic: rhymes about animals from beetle to whale.
The four existing books in this delightful series feature Vesta-Linnea and her family as they cope with situations and feelings which are very common in all families with children. The successful storylines, as well as the inventive and colourful illustrations, appeal to readers around the world.

Vesta-Linnea books can be read in Finnish, German, Swedish, Danish, Russian, Polish, Estonian, Norwegian – and even in Hindi!

**Vesta-Linnea and Monster Mom 2001**
Both Vesta-Linnea and her Mom are having a bad day and they manage to argue over anything and everything. Surely no-one can be in a good mood all the time, everyday. Although it would be quite lovely.

**It’s time to sleep now, Vesta-Linnea 2003**
Vesta-Linnea is having trouble going to sleep in the evenings, and nothing seems to work. She keeps having nightmares, and goes to sleep in Mom’s bed, which in turn disrupts Mom’s sleep. Something must be done soon!

**Vesta-Linnea and the Velvet-Nosed Puppy 2005**
Vesta-Linnea’s dream comes true: she gets a dog of her own! Everyone in the family falls in love with the sweet, velvet-nosed puppy. So what could possibly go wrong?

**Vesta-Linnea’s Darkest Thought 2008**
Vesta-Linnea feels like her mother always takes her little sister’s side over hers, and she is suddenly very certain that no one in the family even really loves her. Will anything disperse her darkest thoughts?

Tove Appelgren was nominated for 2010 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

Salla Savolainen was nominated for 2010 H.C. Andersen Medal.
Is lovely little Memmuli braver than ever?

Memmuli Runs Away to the Circus
Memmuli karkaa sirkukseen

BY MERVI LINDMAN

It is raining and Memmuli is bored. Mum and Dad are washing up, reading the paper and doing other grown-up stuff. They would not even be aware of Memmuli if she did not raise her voice a bit. When dad tells Memmuli to be quiet, Memmuli loses it. She packs her bag and runs away to a circus. At least she will never be bored!

At the circus, Memmuli mounts a galloping horse and sticks her head into a lion’s jaws, and she is not scared one little bit. But when brave little Memmuli climbs on to the trapeze and stumbles, it is rather nice to fall safely straight into Mum’s arms. Especially, as Dad has made a great big pancake, which is large enough for everyone to have a feast.

Memmuli Runs Away to the Circus is illustrator Mervi Lindman’s second picture book for children. Memmuli has been featured earlier in Brave Little Memmuli (2005). Mervi Lindman’s enchanting illustrations are familiar from, for example, Katerina Janouch’s Ingrid books and Tiina Nopola’s Siiri series.

Format: Hardcover | Size: 195 x 260 mm | Extent: 32 pages | Publication Date | September 2009

Xing’s Family
Xing ja sukulaiset

WRITTEN BY LEENA VIRTANEN
ILLUSTRATED BY SALLA SAVOLAINEN

The little Xing picture books are insightful stories about the experiences of a child adopted from another country. The playful illustrations of Salla Savolainen were honoured with the Rudolf Koivu Award in 2005. The author, Leena Virtanen, is a freelance journalist and mother of Minni, who was adopted from China in 2002.

When Xing was a little girl, she moved from China to Finland and got her very own parents. Now she’s a big girl going to school. When Xing’s supposed to tell about her family in class, she is perplexed. She realises her story is different from the others’. At home she has many questions: “Do I look like my Chinese mother?”, “Do I have relatives in China?” Mum and Dad try to answer her questions the best they can. It’s not always easy, but one thing’s for sure: Xing does have relatives in Finland.
ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

Cassie Stevens Makes a Trade
Kaisa Lipposen vaihtokauppat

BY SAMULI VALKAMA

In this picture book, the third in the series, the clever and shrewd Cassie Stevens is once again full of everyday magic that will bring a smile to the reader’s face. Samuli Valkama’s innovative illustrations of cute little Cassie are fresh and exuberant.

Cassie Stevens is bored. Terribly, awfully, hideously, completely bored. Luckily right then she finds an elephant in her wardrobe. You can do all kinds of fun things with an elephant! But this elephant likes to be lazy, and Cassie has to start trading to mobilise him.

“Go on a picnic with me, and I’ll let you live in my wardrobe,” Cassie suggests, packing a basket full of yummies. Cassie and the elephant spread a blanket on the yard, set the dishes and pour juice into the glasses. But then the tough boys from the neighbouring come storming in and steal their buns! Fortunately Cassie has a magic jar on her, and with its help even the tough guys soften up.

Format: Hardcover  |  Size: 195x260 mm  |  Extent: 40 pages  |  Full colour illustrations

Kitten and Sloppy
Kissa Killi ja Sottapytty

WRITTEN BY TUULA KOROLAINEN
ILLUSTRATED BY CHRISTEL RÖNNS

Kitten’s mum is upset feeling she has to clean up after everyone else in the family. And as if that wasn’t enough. Sloppy jumps out of the mirror – a little, sloppy cat who looks just like Kitten. And boy, can Sloppy make a mess! He storms from room to room putting everything in disarray, even pasting the walls with jam. Kitten gets carried away with the mess-making, finding how much fun it can be. But when Sloppy transforms the vacuum cleaner into a blower, and breaks Kitten’s Rat Castle, little Kitten gets anxious. His old friend Brownie has to come help keep the peace with his magic.

Format: Hardcover  |  Size: 195x260 mm  |  Extent: 32 pages  |  Full colour illustrations
ANNE PELTOLA

Award-winning author and illustrator Anne Peltola is a Master of Arts graduate of the University of Art and Design in Helsinki, whose work has focused on children’s culture. In addition to her own picture books, she has used her colourful, fresh style to illustrate works by Niina Bell and Tittamari Marttinen, among others.

Peltola’s informative English-language website is online at: www.annepeltola.com.

LIISA KALLIO

Master of Arts Liisa Kallio is an illustrator and graphic artist who infuses the everyday with magic. In her images fantasy and the mundane intermesh to form an enchanting whole. Kallio, who has been nominated twice for the Finlandia Junior Prize for her illustrations, has illustrated many children’s books and also publishes her own picture books.
**Butterfly Path**  
*Perhosten polku*  
**WRITTEN BY VIRPI PENNA**  
**ILLUSTRATED BY VIRPI PENNA**

**Virpi Penna** is an award-winning illustrator and graphic artist, whose images glow with the delicate joy of colour and the enchantment of fairy tales. *Butterfly Path* is Penna’s first solo picture book.

After a long journey over the sea, Henny and her family arrive on an unknown island. Finally, Henny thinks. They haven’t seen anything apart from sea for ages. There is a mysterious forest on the island, which the children go and investigate. They notice immense chrysalises in the trees. Some of them are the same size as Dad!

There’s also a path in the forest; it leads them to a spring. The spring is large and its water is clear and cold. Henny and Henry jump in to swim. They splash water over each other and laugh and squeal. Suddenly, their laughter brings about something amazing. Henny and Henry realise that this is no ordinary spring.

Who made the path? Will Henny and Henry see what kind of butterflies emerge from the large chrysalises?
The Drops of Life
Kyyhkyn kysymys

WRITTEN BY ESKO-PEKKA TIITINEN
ILLUSTRATED BY NIKOLAI TIITINEN

The story was originally a school play by Tiitinen that has been performed already in 70 different countries after its premiere in 2007. The play was created for the ENO Programme that organises a tree planting day on the international day for peace in September. So far the school children have planted four million trees.

A little dove asks an owl to fly with her to Africa. It’s a long journey, and even the owl grows tired in the middle of it. Luckily right then they can see a moving island underneath them: a whale, who’s willing to help them.

At the destination they are shocked: sand has taken over the land, and even the dove’s hometree is gone. A teamwork of animals, people, the sun and the wind is needed before a new tree seed is successfully planted. A very strong green plant emerges out of the little seed, and when the plant grows into a tree, its seeds will help forests grow all over the world.

The Island of Wind and Ice
Tulen ja jään saari

WRITTEN BY LEENA LAULAJAINEN
ILLUSTRATED BY LIISA KALLIO

In the world of fairy tales, everything is possible. Storytellers help us travel to places that would otherwise be difficult to reach, and we find lands that are not marked on any map. Leena Laulajainen is one of these great storytellers. Her collection of stories The Island of Wind and Ice takes the reader on an enchanted journey from which one returns enriched with wisdom and joy.

The collection includes twelve tales, which emphasise the importance and power of the fellowship between man and nature. Many kinds of stories are included: animal fables, princess fairy tales, adventure stories, and myths. The stories also travel to different corners of the world, from the rain forests inhabited by native tribes to the island of the wind and ice elves far the north, and on south to the mysterious salamander island, immersing the reader in different cultures.

Leena Laulajainen is an author and a poet, whose imagination and richness of language enchant readers. Her works have been translated into many languages, and she has received numerous awards, including the Finlandia Junior Prize (1998), the Pro Finlandia Medal (2001) and the Union of Finnish Writer’s Tirlittan Prize (2005).
Chloe Books
WRITTEN BY TAPANI BAGGE
ILLUSTRATED BY KATJA TUKIAINEN

A wonderful, warm series for children learning to read on their own. Easy-to-read, but linguistically insightful stories entice the fledgling reader to take a journey in the world of books.

Chloe is the energetic daughter of a single dad and lives in the same apartment building as “the boys”, also known as Patrick and Peter. All the adventures of everyday life are just around the corner when these three set off. One could almost include Mr. Lewis, the janitor of the building, as the fourth member of the gang.

Alongside her silly games with the boys and Mr. Lewis, Chloe also has to deal with more serious issues, such as her parents’ divorce, missing her mother, meeting Dad’s new girlfriend and losing her grandmother.

Callie Flower Books
WRITTEN BY SARI PELTONIEMI
ILLUSTRATED BY KATJA TUKIAINEN

Callie Flower is an independent and smart little schoolgirl, who lives without her explorer parents from time to time. Luckily their house is full of friendly lodgers, such as Constable Cobbler and Mr. Shamovic, a former conman.

The unconventional life of Callie Flower’s family is exciting and even boisterous at times, but security can still be found in the community Callie lives in, as people gather around the dinner table each night to put things in order. Katja Tukiainen’s joyful and humorous illustrations fit these books to a T.
Anna and the White Bird
Anna ja valkoinen lintu

WRITTEN BY ARTO VIRTANEN
ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTIINA LOUHI

Anna is in the second form at the Kalevala School, and sometimes she has so much to think about that her head feels like it weighs almost as much as her school bag. Instead of one home, Anna has two, and Anna’s little brother Alexander the Small already knows how to talk, but prefers imitating animals and the sounds of engines. Anna’s best friend Vaula is deaf, and they tell stories to each other soundlessly. Other people that are important to Anna are her grandpa, her godmother Sohvi Kankaanpala and the florist, Ansa Ripatti.

Between classes they play Toadstool, and Anna makes up such a good hiding place that no one can find her. Thankfully a small white bird keeps Anna company...

Arto Virtanen’s atmospheric novel for children includes refined illustration by Kristiina Louhi.

Dog and Her Girl
Kerppu ja tyttö

WRITTEN BY SARI PELTONIEMI
ILLUSTRATED BY LIISA KALLIO

Sari Peltoniemi mixes fairytale and reality creating a hilarious story where the usual situations are turned upside-down and inside-out.

Kerppu is a small black dog. She has lovely parents and a nice home but she is not exactly happy. She wants her own pet! All her friends have pets so why should she be any different.

Kerppu pleads for so long that her parents give in: they give Kerppu a girl as a pet. Whoopee! But now Kerppu needs to learn how to look after it...

Sometimes the combined living arrangements in the households with dogs and humans can be complicated. This goes for Kerppu too: she gets into a lot of trouble and even in danger with her girl. But even then it is absolutely clear that they belong together. And in the end it doesn’t even matter who owns who.
Ware Bears! Books

WRITTEN BY HANNELE HUOVI
ILLUSTRATED BY JUKKA LEMMETTY

In the green house an ordinary family are living a perfectly ordinary life - apart from the two scallywags who are living in the nursery on the top floor. They are two little bears: Urpo and Turpo.

Urpo is a tiny grey pocket bear. He’s got a blond stub of a tail, a broad bottom, and he’s fond of flowers. Turpo is a little brown teddy. He’s a proper daredevil and rascal.

Urpo and Turpo spend a lot of time laughing. And as laughing is fattening, they’re rather on the chubby side, both of them.

Ware Bears! is a fun-filled series about two chubby teddy bears, Urpo and Turpo!

Big Bear Stickyhead Builds
Suurkontio Tahmapää rakentaa

WRITTEN BY HANNELE HUOVI
ILLUSTRATED BY MIKA LAUNIS

Big Bear Stickyhead is related to all of the world’s wisest bears: Winnie the Pooh, Little Bear, Urpo and Turpo and Paddington. He is always ready to contemplate both the small and great problems of life and to invent imaginative solutions to them.

Hannele Huovi’s Big Bear Stickyhead returns in a new, hilarious story with delectable illustration by Mika Launis. This time Big Bear Stickyhead has taken on a building project, because his old house is falling in on itself due to Iiro the Moose banging his head against the wall of the house.

But what sort of house should he build? Tamppi the Squirrel thinks that a moss house is best of all, Veikko the Hedgehog suggests a pile of leaves and Iiro the Moose a brick house. However, Big Bear Stickyhead decides on a log house. When some bird-watchers show up in the forest and hang up some ready-made bird boxes, Stickyhead begins to wonder if it would be possible to take a lesson from these boxes and build a bear box.

Hannele Huovi was granted Eino Leino Award of 2009 for her wide array of fiction volumes, especially for children.
Histamine and Nag Crestfall
Histamiini ja Koni Alakulo

WRITTEN BY RAILI MIKKANEN
ILLUSTRATED BY JUKKA LEMMETTY

Two small marionette horses, Histamine and Titina, find their joyful journey ending suddenly in a blind alley. They are confronted with a stable that is ready to fall down and its gloomy resident, Nag Crestfall, who doesn’t remember anymore what he is mourning, but has been brought low by sorrow.

There is no way out of Crestfall Hollow except through the Swamp of Sorrow. So of course that is where they must go, once they have convinced Nag Crestfall to be their guide.

But it isn’t so easy to get through the swamp. At the last moment, Nag Crestfall is struck with a happy thought and the animals get out of the sinking swamp. Through the Placid Forest they finally make it to the Hill of Happiness.

Format: Hardcover  |  Size: 130x197 mm  |  Extent: 85 pages  |  B/W illustrations
Circus, stray dogs and a merry street carnival in Glimmer town! A peachesweet series of Noora and her small town community for children of ages between 7 and 10.

Noora and her friends are looking forward to the autumn break. Janne's cousin Ursula comes to stay at Janne's place over the break, and Noora thinks Ursula keeps Janne all too much to herself.

Noora and Emma are excited when a circus training camp comes to Glimmer. Janne wants to come there, too, and they have to invite Ursula as well. In addition to circus training, Noora and Emma help out in Sparkle cafe. An entire marching band is there as customers, but their world-famous tuba player's instrument is missing! The children decide to help look for it.

Noora thinks Ursula is acting strange from time to time. Maybe she's homesick? Noora and Ursula start spending time together, and they find a stray dog in a forest. They take him to a shelter and find out the place is in financial trouble. The children decide to organise a circus show to help the dogs, right after the marching band's concert. But what can be done as the band's tuba is still missing?

In the end the night turns out to be a brilliant success, and the Glimmer town residents will never forget the Full Moon Party!
Katy Leigh and Wild Dreams
Viivi Pusu ja villit haaveet

WRITTEN BY TITTAMARI MARTTINEN
ILLUSTRATED BY ERIKA KOVANEN

Katy is eleven and goes to Rosehill School with her best friend Penny. Katy’s life is certainly not dull and she tends to walk with her feet firmly on the tarmac, but her head in the clouds. The series follows Katy’s life both at school and at home, from first dates and classroom love triangles to eventful summer holidays and pyjama parties – this is a fun and charming new series for girls!

In the eighth novel of the series Katy takes on France. She gets a taste of glamour and dreams, as her Dad’s girlfriend Carmen asks Katy to join her for a trip to southern France. Carmen is going there to market her new book and to start filming her new movie.

Katy gets to go to glamorous parties, meets a cute boy and spends a wonderful and adventurous summer with him on the French Riviera. But what happens when the dream is over and one has to return to boring everyday life in sleety Rosehill?
The Hurricane Detective Club and the Bike Thieves
Etsiväkerho Hurrikaani ja kiiturivarkaat

WRITTEN BY JARI MÄKIPÄÄ

This wonderful series began in 2004 with the publication of the Hurricane Detective Club Handbook. This fun guide gives useful tips to all budding detectives from setting up your own club to different disguises and secret codes. Jari Mäkipää has since written six detective novels, in which the four founding members of the original Hurricane Detective Club have adventures and amusing mishaps while solving mysterious incidents at their school.

In the seventh book about The Hurricane Detective Club, a wave of bike thefts sweeps Alder Village. The young detectives try to catch the thief before the big annual biking event. At the same time they have to work as match-makers for their teachers, and Matias has also his own problems in love.

Series rights sold to Poland

The Mystery of the Screaming Scull
Kirkuvan kallon arvoitus

WRITTEN BY TAPANI BAGGE

The detective agency’s adventure begins mysteriously in a flea market. Deborah purchases a skull pendant, which is immediately stolen from her. Deborah, Sisko, Veli, and Osku track the thief across the city and find clues about a big jewel heist. But Inspector Migraine, who is investigating the incident, doesn’t have time for the youngsters. However, the thieves take them perfectly seriously!

Tapani Bagge weaves humour into his fast-paced plot. He leads the reader to extraordinary places where even the skulls scream.

The Black Dog gang solves its third spine-tingling mystery in the streets and catacombs of Paris. Addictive excitement for children nine and up.
The cat raised its head and rubbed its cheek against Mii’s hand.

‘We can get out of here with the help of a cat. Perhaps.’

‘How so? the boy asked.’

‘I don’t know. But it may be the only way. Only a cat can walk on both sides.’

In the beginning everything seems like an exciting dream to Mii. She sees a beautiful little city rising out of nothing. Mii sets off to look at the city. There are people standing around in every alley and on every street corner. The feeling is like in a ship terminal—lots of people waiting to leave for a trip.

Little by little everything new and exciting becomes somehow sad and oppressive. What has happened to Mii’s parents? What has happened to Mii herself? And who are the black figures everyone is avoiding?

Then Mii notices a boy in the crowd with hair sticking out ridiculously in every direction and big headphones on his ears. As the moon goes down, Mii and the boy, who looks like a stray dog, decide to try to escape together from the strange city. But that is easier said than done...
Tim is a fifteen-year-old boy who’s recently moved to a small town in eastern Finland. School isn’t exactly sparking his interest and life in general seems quite confusing. Everything’s unclear, including speaking – due to the local dialect!

During a music lesson, the teacher strikes a chord with him; he hands Tim a guitar and the result is a whirlwind: The Woolheads, their band, is born. Tim, Tia, Pike and Tom prepare a performance inspired by a film about Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross. At times, the whole thing seems to be heading for disaster, but in the end, all four teenagers are ready to lay themselves on the line. Woollen socks on their heads, the quartet spawns a trend, behind which lies the desire to see further.

This book about a band, set in a small town, deals with music-making and at the same time with a young man’s creative pain and his experience of tender first love. Added spice is provided by dialect, fresh humour and inventive imagery.

From the review by the nominating panel of the Finlandia Junior Award

The Woolheads reminds us that even in a tough world, we’re still allowed to believe in goodness.

Demi

The Woolheads is a smart, well-paced story about young people who experience something significant together and who realize the subtlety of things. The Woolheads tells of principles shared, nights spent awake dreaming, and the desire to see further.

Avun Maailma (Finnish Red Cross)

The Woolheads contains familiar ingredients. Fifteen-year-old Tim moves to a strange place, gets a guitar, falls in love with a girl and lands a gig. But Tiitinen grabs our attention by writing in at times utterly exhilarating language. Dialect, rhyme and the directness of youth are all to be heard in the language.

Helsingin Sanomat
The Book of Life is a refined, yet intense novel about Marja, a 17-year-old girl, and the summer during which she has to let go her old home and way of life.

I was seventeen then. When I was standing by the field calling, the cows got up and followed me. I was very much aware and proud of my importance. We lived in an eastern village of Matala, where the fells formed big walls around us. I thought those walls were safe and sheltered.

There were eighteen chimneys between the fells. I could see everyone’s fields and houses from my window. On frosty nights I looked down the valley and saw all the cottage lights. They went out one after another. I was the last one up. In the village of Matala I tried to come closer to animal instincts and succeeded, too. I felt like my being got sensitised to that of a dog’s, eyes to those of an owl’s, and like the earth’s crust my skin felt the changes in weather.

Then came the last spring. A strange and ready swish came about, and everything was quickly erased.

“Nobody can live here anymore!” Had Father said.
“Let’s send all the cows to the butcher!” Had Mother said.

I would have wanted to be rooted to this land permanently. Others wanted bigger things for me, even if I knew already then that I would’ve been satisfied with just a small heaven.
The Scale
Suomu
WRITTEN BY SARI PELTONIEMI

The Scale is a youth novel that flits as smoothly as a lizard from one time, and one reality, to another. It ladles out a mixture of recent history, vampire stories, and pure fantasy. What if the world was just the tiniest bit different – by a cat’s whisker or the width of a lizard’s scale?

Oona is angry. She’s so furious that she walks into the lake with all her clothes on and swims farther than she ever has before. The water scrapes against her somehow, and she gets a deep cut.

On the opposite shore, the landscape has changed and the people seem strange and no one has a cellphone. A flying lizard, a mind-reader, people living in sheds and some are frightened of daylight? When Oona starts a job in a shoe factory, she understands that some kind of evil is enveloping the whole village. What is it and why won’t anyone talk about it?

The Servant of Dusk
Hämärän renki
WRITTEN BY SARI PELTONIEMI

Kaarina didn’t hesitate when Valeri asked her:
- Will you come with me? I’m going to leave everything behind and start a new life.

Kaarina is willing to trust Valeri, even though everyone warns her not to. There is something gloomy about Valeri Ugov, something almost black, and Kaarina is able to sense it. That’s exactly why Valeri needs help.

The young couple embarks on a long journey to Karelia, where Valeri’s family is from. They encounter one surprise after another along the way – and portents of the most horrific dangers are abroad in the land. They are accompanied by Frans Knight, a peculiar man who bursts into song at random intervals, and Jesse, who claims to have come from another world, by larping.

On the shores of the White Sea they find a stone labyrinth that Kaarina has seen in dream. It is somehow related to mysterious lizards that are believed to travel in time. Are they helping Valeri or trying to destroy him and all his family?

The Servant of Dusk takes place in a world familiar from Peltoniemi’s earlier fantasy novel, The Scale. Kaarina’s and Valeri’s ballad-like love story is intertwined with a fascinating alternative history and the timeless charm of fantasy – and with Jesse, whose game has turned into reality.
Seeing the Forest for the Trees
Päin mäntyä
WRITTEN BY MARJA-LEENA TIAINEN

Once again Marja-Leena Tiainen produces a genuine, touching portrait of young people whose development and emotions are at their most frenzied.

16-year-old Miro is beginning studies in a forestry school, even though he doesn’t think that he’ll ever become a professional forester. Behind this defiant decision is a desire to get away from an increasingly dangerous circle of friends and his father’s authority. Miro, a passionate snowboarding enthusiast, is also drawn to Kontio by the posh slopes at the Kalla ski centre.

His flatmate, a taciturn country boy named Antti-Jussi, teaches Miro the ropes in the dormitory. Weekends in the dormitory are lonely, and returning home crosses Miro’s mind, until he meets his godmother Kaisu, who lives in the area.

An author and nature activist, Kaisu lures Miro into coming along to a public meeting of the Pro Kalla society, the local forest protection movement. There to listen to the fiery speeches is also Aava. Miro falls head-over-heels for the girl, for whom environmental protection is a matter of the heart.

Cello & Ball
Sello & Pallo
WRITTEN BY LAURI TÖRHÖNEN

A renowned film and TV director Lauri Törhönen’s award-winning first novel – a youthful love story in baby blue.

When a cello studying girl falls from heaven on a footballer boy so hard that he loses consciousness, the consequences can be anything. At least it messes both them up, but they still manage to look each other in the eye for a moment.

When Mikael becomes conscious again, he can only remember the girl’s brown eyes and baby blue cello case. How can you find a strange brown-eyed girl amongst a million people? And how can you fall in love at first sight, if one has lost consciousness right before that first sight?

In the end the power of love brings together the two teenagers missing each other, although the circumstances are almost overpowering. Even their first encounter takes place at Mikael’s father’s funeral.

What happens when the youngsters finally, after many twists and turns, get to meet. Will that be the end of their love story – or just a beginning...
In Sands of Sarasvati, Indian and Russian marine scientists are investigating mysterious underwater ruins that were, also in the real world, discovered along the West Coast of India, in the Bay of Cambay in May 2001. In the novel, these underwater ruins are used as a parallel to what might soon happen to many coastal cities in Europe and America.

From ancient floods to current climate changes, the novel draws up a future scenario that will make you wonder. This is fiction with alarming scientific facts to back up its harrowing message.

The bestselling eco-thriller in a graphic novel format. Petri Tolppanen’s wonderful adaptation of Isomäki’s novel and Jussi Kaakinen’s artful animation make this important story to come alive in a completely new way.
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