

# 10x10 Stories from Finland: Authors

# Forsström, Tua

One Evening in October I Rowed Out on the Lake 2015, Bloodaxe Books

I studied once at a wonderful faculty 2006, Bloodaxe Books

Tua Forsström is a visionary Finland-Swedish poet who has become Finland's most celebrated contemporary poet. Her poetry draws its sonorous and plangent music from the landscapes of Finland. One Evening in October I Rowed Out on the Lake is her first collection since her celebrated trilogy, I studied once at a wonderful faculty.

## Hiekkapelto, Kati

The Defenceless 2015, Orenda Books

The Exiled 2016, Orenda Books

Kati Hiekkapelto is a bestselling author, punk singer, performance artist and a special-needs teacher. She lives on an old farm on the island of Hailuoto in Northern Finland. Hiekkapelto has taught immigrants and lived in the Hungarian region of Serbia, which inspired her to write her highly regarded debut crime novel, *The Hummingbird*, which was shortlisted for the Petrona Award. *The Defenceless* won best Finnish Crime Novel of 2014, and has been shortlisted for the prestigious Glass Key.

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## Jansson, Tove

Art in Nature 2012, Sort of Books

The Summer Book 2003, Sort of Books

The True Deceiver 2009, Sort of Books

The writer and artist Tove Jansson (1914–2001) is best known as the creator of the Moomin stories, which were first published in English sixty years ago and have remained in print ever since. In her fifties, Jansson turned her attention to writing for adults, producing a dozen novels and story collections, including the classic, bestselling *The Summer Book*. This was reissued by Sort Of and sold more than 100,000 copies in the UK. Sort Of has published six further books, translated into English for the first time: *Travelling Light*, *The True Deceiver*, *Fair Play*, *The Sculptor's Daughter*, *Art in Nature*, *The Listener* and a selection of stories, *The Winter Book*.

#### Liksom, Rosa

The Compartment no 6 2014, Serpent's Tail

Rosa Liksom was born in Lapland, Finland to a family of farmers and reindeer breeders. A renowned painter, cartoonist, children's writer and filmmaker, she is best known as an award-winning writer whose books have been translated into more than 15 languages. After living in Kristiania, Copenhagen, where she wrote her first novel, as well as Norway, Iceland, Paris, Brezhnev-era Moscow and in squats and communes throughout Europe, she returned to Helsinki, Finland, in 1987. She won the 2011 Finlandia Prize for *Compartment No. 6*.

# Lundberg, Ulla-Lena

Ice 2016. Sort of Books

Ulla-Lena Lundberg is an acclaimed and award-winning Finland-Swedish novelist and ethnologist. She has published more than twenty works of fiction and non-fiction. Born in Kökar in the Åland Islands, an upbringing that she draws upon in *Ice*, Lundberg has lived and worked in the USA and England and also in Japan, Africa and Siberia. In 201 she moved back to Mariehamn in the Åland Islands. Ulla-Lena Lundberg is featured on a recent Åland Islands stamp. Winner of the Finlandia Prize and nominated for the prestigious Nordic Critics Prize, *Ice* has been translated into eight languages.

#### Lönnrot, Elias

Translated by W.F. Kirby and introduced by M.A. Branch

Kalevala - The Land of the Heroes 1985, The Athlone Press, donated by the Embassy of Finland, London

Kalevala is the national epic of Finland. It is a 19th century work of epic poetry compiled by Elias Lönnrot. Lönnrot gathered Kalevala from Karelian and Finnish oral folklore and mythology during several expeditions. The first version of Kalevala was published in 1835. Kalevala played an instrumental role in the development of Finnish national identity and it has inspired several artists and writers both in Finland and abroad. For example, J.R.R. Tolkien's work was greatly influenced by the stories and characters in Kalevala.

## Majaluoma, Markus

Daisy Darling, Let's Go the Beach! A Daisy and Daddy Story Book Vol. I 2015, Pikku Publishing

Daisy Darling, Let's Read a Story! A Daisy and Daddy Story Book Vol. II 2015, Pikku Publishing

Award-winning children's author Markus Majaluoma is an art and design graduate. He has created both his own children's books and illustrated many others. With his distinctive palette of colours, emphasis on detail and gentle humour, his endearing books have been translated into several languages including Chinese, French, Danish and Swedish.

# Nykänen, Harri

RAID and the Blackest Sheep 2010, Ice Cold Crime, donated by the Embassy of Finland, London

RAID and the Kid 2012, Ice Cold Crime, donated by the Embassy of Finland, London

Harri Nykänen had a long career as a crime journalist for the largest Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat before turning to fiction. His most popular work is *Raid* series showing Nykänen's intimate knowledge of the Helsinki underworld through the eyes of the criminal.

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#### Oksanen, Sofi

Purge

2010, Atlantic Books, donated by the Embassy of Finland, London

Finnish-Estonian novelist and playwright Sofi Oksanen debuted in 2003 with *Stalin's Cows*, which won her the recognition of Northern Europe's readers and critics. Her international breakthrough came not long thereafter with the publication of *Purge*. Translated into more than 50 languages, the novel earned Oksanen the title of "literary phenomenon" in American press and numerous awards, thereamong The 2010 Nordic Council Literature Prize. Sofi Oksanen with her powerfully evocative narrative has established herself as one of the greatest voices of her generation.

### Parvela, Timo

Bicycling to the Moon 2016, Gecko Press Illustrated by Virpi Talvitie

Timo Parvela is a Finnish children's author, whose books are sold worldwide and have been adapted for film, TV and theatre. He has won numerous awards and twice been shortlisted for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

Virpi Talvitie is one of Finland's most prestigious illustrators. She has received many awards and distinctions, including the Finlandia Junior Prize."

## Rajaniemi, Hannu

The Quantum Thief

2010, Gollancz, donated by the Embassy of Finland, London

Hannu Rajaniemi is a Finnish author of science fiction and fantasy, who writes in both English and Finnish. He lives in Edinburgh, Scotland, and is a founding director of a technology consultancy company, ThinkTank Maths.

# Sipilä, Jarkko

Helsinki Homicide: Cold Trail

2013, Ice Cold Crime, donated by the Embassy of Finland, London

Helsinki Homicide: Vengeance

2010, Ice Cold Crime, donated by the Embassy of Finland, London

Jarkko Sipilä is a Finnish author and journalist. He has reported on Finnish crime for more than 20 years, has written 15 novels and co-wrote a TV-series based on the Takamäki books. Through realistic characters and storylines, he explores current topics and life in contemporary Finland.

#### Sund, Lars

A Happy Little Island 2016, Vagabond Voices

Lars Sund is a Finnish writer from the Swedish-speaking border town of Jakobstad, and his eight novels have all been written in Swedish. His last five novels have been translated into Finnish, and A Happy Little Island is his first book translated into English. In 2007, Claes Olsson made a film called Colorado Avenue, based on Sund's books Colorado Avenue and Lanthandlerskans son.

## Teir, Philip

The Winter War 2015, Serpent's Tail

Finland-Swedish Philip Teir is considered one of the most promising young writers in Scandinavia. His poetry and short stories have been included in anthologies, including *Granta Finland*. The Winter War is his first novel.

## Tuomainen, Antti

The Mine 2016, Orenda Books

Finnish writer Antti Tuomainen made his literary debut in 2007 as a suspense author. The critically acclaimed My Brother's Keeper was published two years later. In 2011 Tuomainen's third novel, The Healer, was awarded the Clue Award for 'Best Finnish Crime Novel of 2011' and was shortlisted for the Glass Key Award. The Finnish press labelled The Healer – the story of a writer desperately searching for his missing wife in a post-apocalyptic Helsinki – 'unputdownable'. Two years later in 2013 they crowned Tuomainen "The King of Helsinki Noir" after his book Dark as my Heart was published.

# Westö, Kjell

Lang

2005, The Harvill Press, donated by the Embassy of Finland, London

Kjell Westö made his literary debut in 1986, and has since then published poetry, collections of short stories, and novels. His five novels set in Helsinki in the twentieth century have established him as one of most celebrated Finnish-Swedish writers in Finland. His international breakthrough came in 2006 with the novel Where Once We Walked (*Där vi en gang gått*), which was translated into most major European languages and for which he was awarded the Finlandia Prize, Finland's most prestigious literary prize.