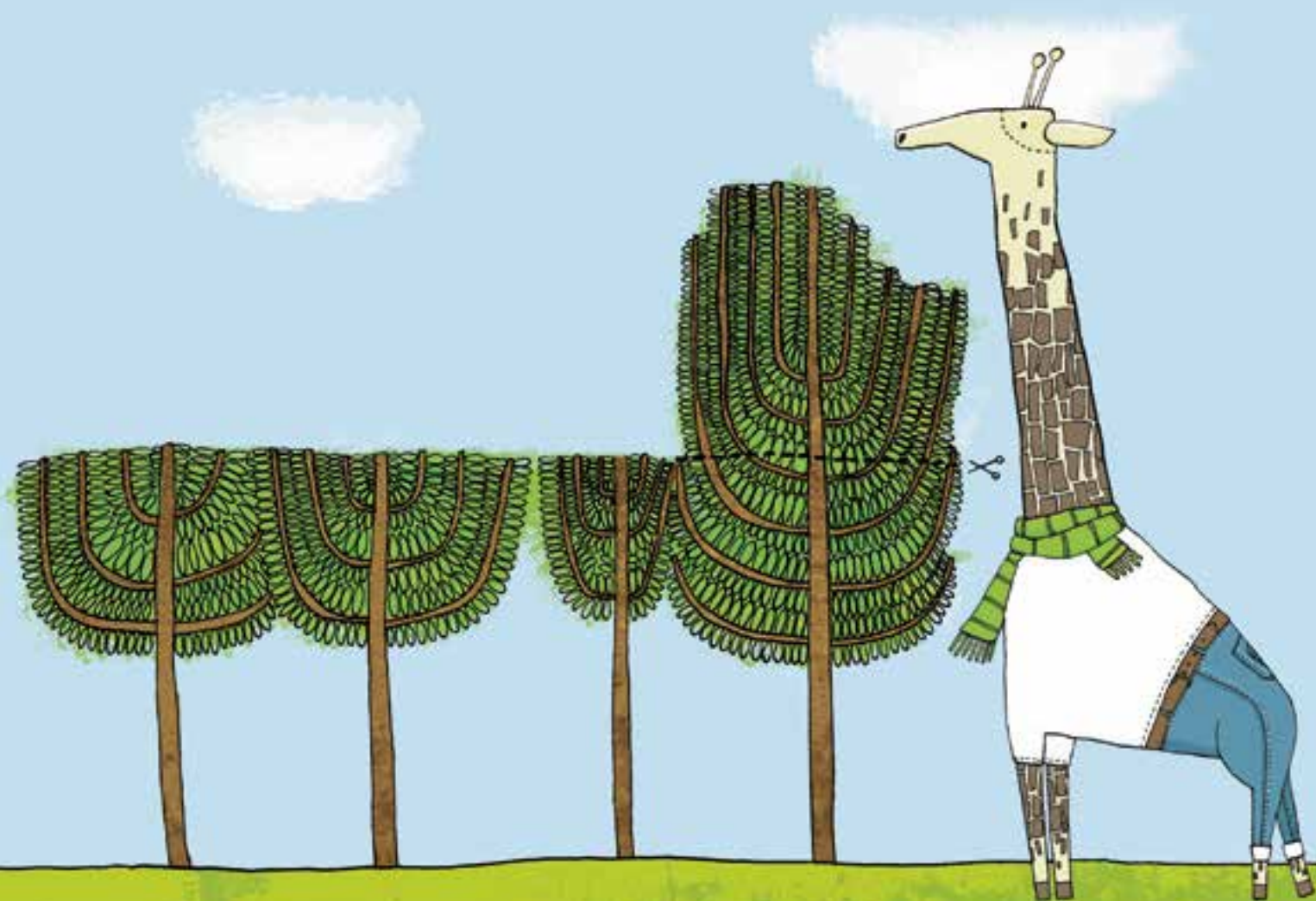


CHILDREN'S BOOKS FROM ESTONIA



ESTONIAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CENTRE

The Estonian Children's Literature Centre was established in 1933.

Archives Library collects

- children's books and children's periodicals published in Estonian and in Estonia;
- world's classics in children's literature and awarded books in their original languages;
- reference books, monographs, journals and other materials on children's literature;
- illustrations of children's books.

Specialised Information Centre

- creates databases and provides information to researchers of children's literature, translators, publishers, teachers, students and other interested persons.
- performs research on Estonian children's literature.

Development and Training Centre

- organises conferences, workshops, lectures;
- conducts surveys among readers;
- publishes materials on children's literature;
- organises leisure and creative activities for children and whole families.

Major projects

- Nukits Competition (Young Reader's Choice Award);
- Raisin of the Year Award;
- exhibitions;
- creative contests;
- Muhv award.

Treasury of Children's Literature and Art Gallery

- gives an overview of the Estonian children's book through the ages;
- exhibitions of illustrations of children's books from Estonia and foreign countries.



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ISSN 1736-812X



AINO PERVIK

BLUEPHANT GOES TO PRESCHOOL

ILLUSTRATED BY CATHERINE ZARIP

TAMMERRAAMAT 2014

176X216 MM, 32 PP

ISBN 9789949526239

Rights sold: Italian



Bluephant's mommy couldn't take her little boy to work with her. Bluephant's daddy couldn't take his little boy along to work, either. But little Bluephant couldn't stay at home alone.

Bluephant's mommy and daddy decided to take Bluephant to preschool.

Bluephant didn't like it one bit when he found out he would have to stay there all alone.

Bluephant Goes to Preschool is yet another example of the wonderful cooperation of writer-illustrator team Aino Pervik and Catherine Zarip. Little Bluephant has to go to preschool, and he does not like the idea at all. Luckily, there are many other little children there, such as the rhinoceros girl Aretta and the bunny girl Betty. In one short day, the children form a bond that helps them through to the end, and by evening, they all feel that being at preschool is pretty nice. Bluephant also enjoys his day, and the first thing he says to his father is: "I want to come back tomorrow!"

Wisely and humorously, this little book explains to a child what preschool is, what children do there, and that there is no need to be afraid of it.



Aino Pervik (born 1932) is one of the most influential authors of modern Estonian children's literature. Professional writer since 1967, she has written more than 50 children's books as well as prose and poetry for adults. She has won many major prizes, including three times winner of the national annual award for children's literature. Her works have been translated into English, German, Japanese, Lithuanian, Russian and other languages, and repeatedly staged for theatre and adapted for the screen.

Catherine Zarip (1966) graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in the field of ceramics. After graduation, she began working at the publisher Avita, where she worked as a book designer and art director. She is now a free artist. Zarip has illustrated dozens of textbooks and children's books. She has received tens of certificates in the 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books and 5 Best-Designed Children's Books competitions. In addition to Estonia, she has published a book in Moscow and Italy, and her illustrations have journeyed in exhibitions in Russia, Finland, USA, Iran, Argentina, Spain, Japan, and many other countries.

AGE 3+

4

KÄTLIN VAINOLA

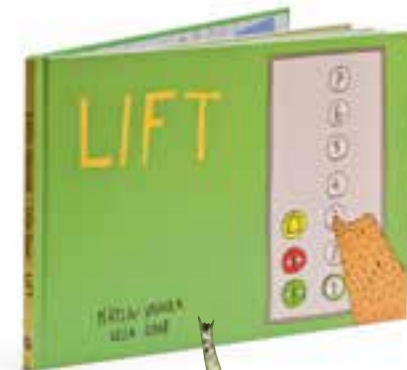
LIFT

ILLUSTRATED BY ULLA SAAR

PEGASUS 2013

167X214 MM, 32 PP

ISBN 9789949531059



Kätlin Vainola (1978) attended school in Põlva and Tallinn, where she graduated in Estonian philology from Tallinn University. She has worked as a teacher, a project manager, and an editor; has written articles for the media; and has organised children's reading events. Kätlin Vainola entered the world of children's literature with her story *Ville*; since then, she has written picture books for young children as well as popular-science works.

5

AGE 3+



This is „the“ Estonian picture book of 2013. It is a simple story about a house with six stories and each floor's inhabitants, centred around the lift. The lift connects everyone in the house without them necessarily knowing or seeing each other. Still, we are in luck: by riding along on the elevator, the reader gets to know a narcissistic octopus on the first floor who loves her pool and gazing at herself, a sophisticated and electronics-addicted hedgehog journalist, a madly-in-love pigeon couple in the top-floor penthouse, and others.

Poet, songwriter, and children's author Kätlin Vainola depicts the anthropomorphic characters using very short episodes and simple sentences, while fantastic illustrator Ulla Saar adds a bit of fun and quirkiness. Take for example Mrs Octopus' fancy wardrobe - naturally, all of her clothes have eight arms or legs.

Awards:

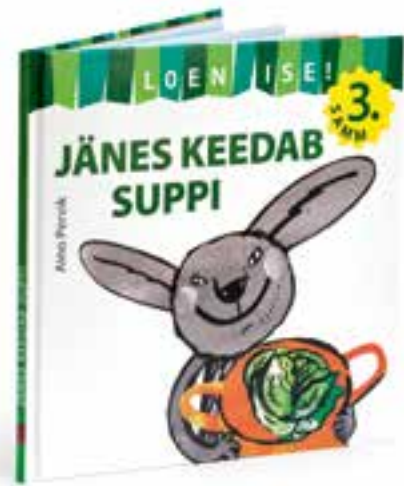
2014 The White Ravens Catalogue

2013 5 Best-Designed Children's Books, Special Prize of the Estonian Children's Literature Centre, and the Estonian Graphic Designers' Union Special Prize for Young Artists

Lift is the first book illustrated by Ulla Saar (1975). The work immediately brought her awards and recognition; now, several new books with Saar's illustrations are on their way.

AINO PERVIK
Rabbit Makes Soup

ILLUSTRATED BY KERTU SILLASTE
 PÄIKE JA PILV 2013
 207X205 MM, 36 PP
 ISBN 9789949947010



Rabbit Makes Soup is an allegorical tale about a rabbit who finds a pot and starts to whip up a soup. He already has cabbage on hand, Crayfish brings water from the river, Boar adds potatoes, Finch provides a few grains of rice, and Snail brings a strawberry. The soup is very tasty. The animals gulp down what they personally added to the soup. They all praise it, and then go back about their business. Rabbit is indeed left with just the cabbage, but he likes it a lot. It sure was a good soup!

The book is illustrated by Kertu Sillaste's energetic mixed-media collages.



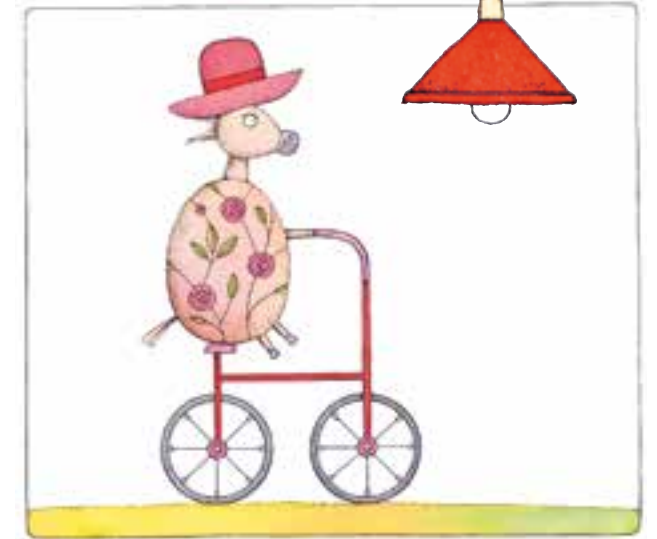
Aino Pervik (born 1932) is one of the most influential authors of modern Estonian children's literature. Professional writer since 1967, she has written more than 50 children's books as well as prose and poetry for adults. She has won many major prizes, including three times winner of the national annual award for children's literature. Her works have been translated into English, German, Japanese, Lithuanian, Russian and other languages, and repeatedly staged for theatre and adapted for the screen.

Kertu Sillaste graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts textile department. She is currently working as a freelance artist. She is a longtime collaborator of the Estonian children's magazine Täheke as an illustrator. Sillaste has illustrated ten books and one of her books will be published in English.

AGE 3+ 6

PIRET RAUD
Rosie Wants to Fly

ILLUSTRATED BY THE AUTHOR
 MUSTVALGE 2013
 255X205 MM, 32 PP
 ISBN 9789949927722



Rosie is an ordinary horse who would like to be like her famous ancestor - Pegasus, who lived in Ancient Greece and could fly. Rosie flaps her legs, jumps off of a chair and a ladder, and ultimately even goes parachuting, but still cannot fly. Mongrel - the kind descendent of the three-headed Greek hellhound Cerberus - comforts Rosie, telling her it isn't worth taking that ancestor thing so seriously! Rosie sits and thinks a while, and suddenly, a poem pops into her head. Writing poetry is great, and makes Rosie feel as if she is flying!



Piret Raud was born in 1971 in Tallinn. She comes from a family of writers - her father was a writer, her mother is a writer, and both of her brothers are writers, too. She chose the path of a graphic artist at first, but before long came back to her roots, and has become one of the most renowned children's writers and illustrators in Estonia. She has written 13 titles, out of which two have been published first in Japan and France, and illustrated more than 40 titles. Her books have been published in English, French, German, Hungarian, Japanese, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian for Estonian territory and Spanish. More languages are to come.

7 AGE 5+



KRISTI KANGILASKI
TIU AND THE DOVE
ILLUSTRATED BY THE AUTHOR
PÄIKE JA PILV 2014
206X255 MM, 32 PP
ISBN 9789949953035



Tiu and the Dove is the story of friendship between a special dove and a girl. On the last day of summer, a dove who is fed up with being offered bread and pastries meets a little girl named Tiu. The girl has just come from the bakery and offers a piece of roll to the dove, who refuses it. But then, the dove tells Tiu what he really dreams of. It doesn't take long before the dove's dream is fulfilled...

Kristi Kangilaski's book is fascinatingly designed. The illustrations are done in a fresh chromatic scale – one does not encounter faded pink, grey, and brown in a children's book all that often. The manner of textual presentation is also thrilling – in order to read the entire story, the reader must rotate the book from time to time. Kangilaski has also penned *The Sun Goes on Holiday* and illustrated other children's books.

Award:
2014 5 Best-Designed Children's Books,
Certificate of Merit



Kristi Kangilaski was born in 1982 in Viljandi. A daycare teacher by profession, she has been studying graphic design at the Estonian Academy of Arts since 2010. Loving writing just as much as drawing, she personally illustrates her own stories. She also illustrates stories written by other writers. *Tiu and the Dove* is her second book.



ANDRUS KIVIRÄHK
A FROG KISS
ILLUSTRATED BY ANNE PIKKOV
VARRAK 2013
245X175 MM, 32 PP
ISBN 9789985326411



A Frog Kiss is a lovely story that shows fairy tales do not always work out the way they're supposed to. Everybody knows that a frog should turn into a princess when kissed, but sometimes the unexpected happens. It all begins with the Santa Claus flying back home from one of his shopping trips and losing a couple of books along the way. As Fox, Rabbit, and Wolf read the fairy tale, they all develop their own ideas about frogs and kisses. Clever plot twists have always been a strength of Andrus Kivirähk's writing, and the playful illustrations done by Anne Pikkov add another dimension to the story. Why does Bear end up walking on his hands, for a start?



Andrus Kivirähk (1970) is the most prolific and powerful figure on the Estonian literary scene today. He can easily switch from one style to another, producing short stories, newspaper columns, dramatic texts, children books and scenarios for TV. He has written ten books for children; all of them are continuously in print and widely read.

Anne Pikkov graduated in graphic design from the Estonian Academy of Arts (EKA). Since then, she has worked both at an advertising agency and a publishing company. Now, she personally heads a department of EKA's Open Academy. Her works have been displayed at exhibitions both in Estonia and abroad.

LEELO TUNGAL

OUR GRANDMA IS A WITCH

ILLUSTRATED BY REGINA LUKK-TOOMPERE

TAMMERRAAMAT 2014

196X151 MM, 24 PP

ISBN 9789949526390



Our Grandma is a Witch is a rhyming story about a grandmother who is really a witch. She does not cast spells or fly around on a broomstick, but her words have the tendency to magically come true. When she says that a fourth helping of ice cream will make your throat ache, then without a doubt, that is what it will do. Or when she shouts, "You're going to fall down!", you are already lying on your back on the ground underneath the tree. Luckily, all kinds of sicknesses and bumps are healed like magic when Grandma helps. Her homemade pie is such strong witchcraft that it can only be described using magic words.

Awards:

2014 5 Best-Designed Children's Books, Certificate of Merit

Leelo Tungal (1947) is a poet, children's writer, translator and Editor-in-Chief of the children's magazine *Hea Laps* (*Good Child*). She has written more than 70 books for children and young people, both prose and poetry. Her work is characterised by optimism, direct communication with the reader, smooth storytelling and wittiness. She has received many honours and awards, including the Children's Literature Award of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia in 1997, the K. E. Sööt Children's Poetry Prize in 1995, 2000 and 2007, and the Nukits Children's Choice Award in 1992, 1994 and 2006.

Regina Lukk-Toompere (1953) is a book illustrator, having illustrated more than 70 books and textbooks, and background artist. She has received prizes for her illustrations for children's books and film design in Estonia and abroad.

KÄTLIN VAINOLA

WHERE IS LOVE?

ILLUSTRATED BY KERTU SILLASTE

PÄIKE JA PILV 2014

216X245 MM, 32 PP

ISBN 9789949947072

Rights sold: German

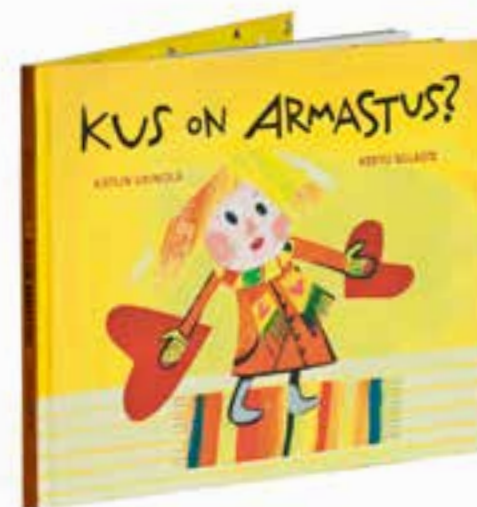


"How do you know that you love me?" Saara asks her mother. "I simply know that I do. I feel it here, and here, and here," Saara's mother replies, pointing to her heart, her head, and her belly. But Saara is still amazed: "Where is that love, really? Is love alive? What colour is it? Can you touch it? Can you lose love?"

In the story, love is in a cake baking in the oven. Love is in a drawing that the girl's father hangs on the wall. Love is in a hand that pets a cat.

Awards:

2013 The Knee-High Book Competition, 1st place
2014 5 Best-Designed Children's Books, Certificate of Merit



Kätlin Vainola (1978) attended school in Põlva and Tallinn, where she graduated in Estonian philology from Tallinn University. She has worked as a teacher, a project manager, and an editor; has written articles for the media; and has organised children's reading events. Kätlin Vainola entered the world of children's literature with her story *Ville*; since then, she has written picture books for young children as well as popular-science works.

Kertu Sillaste graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts textile department. She is currently working as a freelance artist. She is a longtime collaborator of the Estonian children's magazine *Täheke* as an illustrator. Sillaste has illustrated ten books and one of her books will be published in English.

KADRI HINRIKUS
THE FROGS' REVOLT
 ILLUSTRATED BY CATHERINE ZARIP
 TAMMERRAAMAT 2014
 176X216 MM, 32 PP
 ISBN 9789949526475



Once, there was an old woman named Kaie. She lived in an old wooden house that was filled with frogs. She had frogs in the kitchen, in the living room, in the hallway, and in the toilet. To be honest, there was hardly a place that wasn't filled with frogs. While Auntie Kaie is perfectly content with her amphibious friends, the frogs themselves are not. They need water, or else they will die. And Auntie Kaie is deathly afraid of water! So, a revolution has to happen. The frogs turn on all of the taps in the apartment, and their party begins. They swim and dive and splash around in the flooded apartment. Kaie is shocked when she sees all of the water, but when she realises how happy the frogs are, she overcomes her fear and joins them. A happy ending, indeed!

Award:
 2013 5 Best-Designed Children's Books, Certificate of Merit



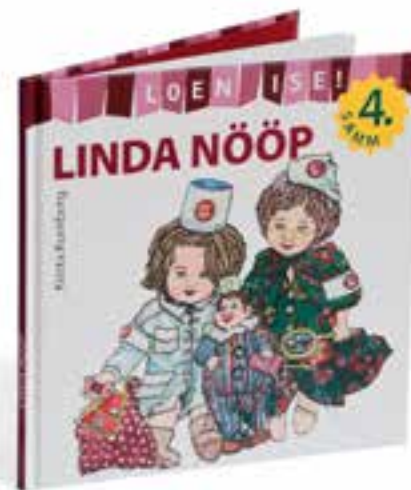
Kadri Hinrikus (born 1970) is a news anchor on Estonian national television, a TV journalist and a writer. She graduated from Tallinn Pedagogical University as a theatre director. She has worked as a news editor for both television and radio. Her books are popular amongst children and grown ups equally. The Frog's Revolt is her fifth book for children.

Catherine Zarip (1966) graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in the field of ceramics. After graduation, she began working at the publisher Avita, where she worked as a book designer and art director. She is now a free artist. Zarip has illustrated dozens of textbooks and children's books. She has received tens of certificates in the 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books and 5 Best-Designed Children's Books competitions. In addition to Estonia, she has published a book in Moscow and Italy, and her illustrations have journeyed in exhibitions in Russia, Finland, USA, Iran, Argentina, Spain, Japan, and many other countries.

AGE 5+ 12



KRISTA KUMBERG
LINDA'S BUTTON
 ILLUSTRATED BY TIIA METS
 PÄIKE JA PILV 2014
 205X205 MM, 32 PP
 ISBN 9789949947096



Linda's dress has a pretty, red button. Linda likes to spin the button - since this makes the button dizzy, it decides to go wandering. The button meets different kinds of clothing that hark back to different eras and roles, encounters other buttons, and starts to consider the topics of usefulness and belonging. In the end, it all seems to happen in the blink of an eye, and the child finds her lost button. A time-space discernable from the everyday takes shape thanks to the work of illustrator Tiia Mets - her pictorial language rich in tiny details and unexpected discoveries gives new levels of meaning to what is written in the words.



Krista Kumberg works as a librarian at the Children's Library of Haapsalu. Children's literature is her true passion - she has written children's books herself, she is always introducing new books, being one of the members of Estonian children's literature researchers' work group.

Tiia Mets graduated from Tallinn Pedagogical Institute as a teacher of art and mechanical drawing. Later, she has studied design at Estonian Academy of Arts. In addition to illustrating books she is also famous for her hand made dolls.

13 AGE 5+

INDREK KOFF
IF I WERE A GRANDPA

ILLUSTRATED BY MARION UNDUSK
PÄIKE JA PILV 2013
255X255 MM, 80 PP
ISBN 9789949937080



In If I Were a Grandpa, a little boy dreams about one day becoming a grandfather. He would always be a fantastic grandpa to his grandchildren. He would play all kinds of exciting games with them and let them do all sorts of things all of the time. His grandchildren would be very good and well-behaved, so he would never really need to scold them. Grandpa and his grandkids would love one another and always have fun times together. Koff sees inter-generational harmony and strong mutual ties as being important elements of such relationships.

If I ...

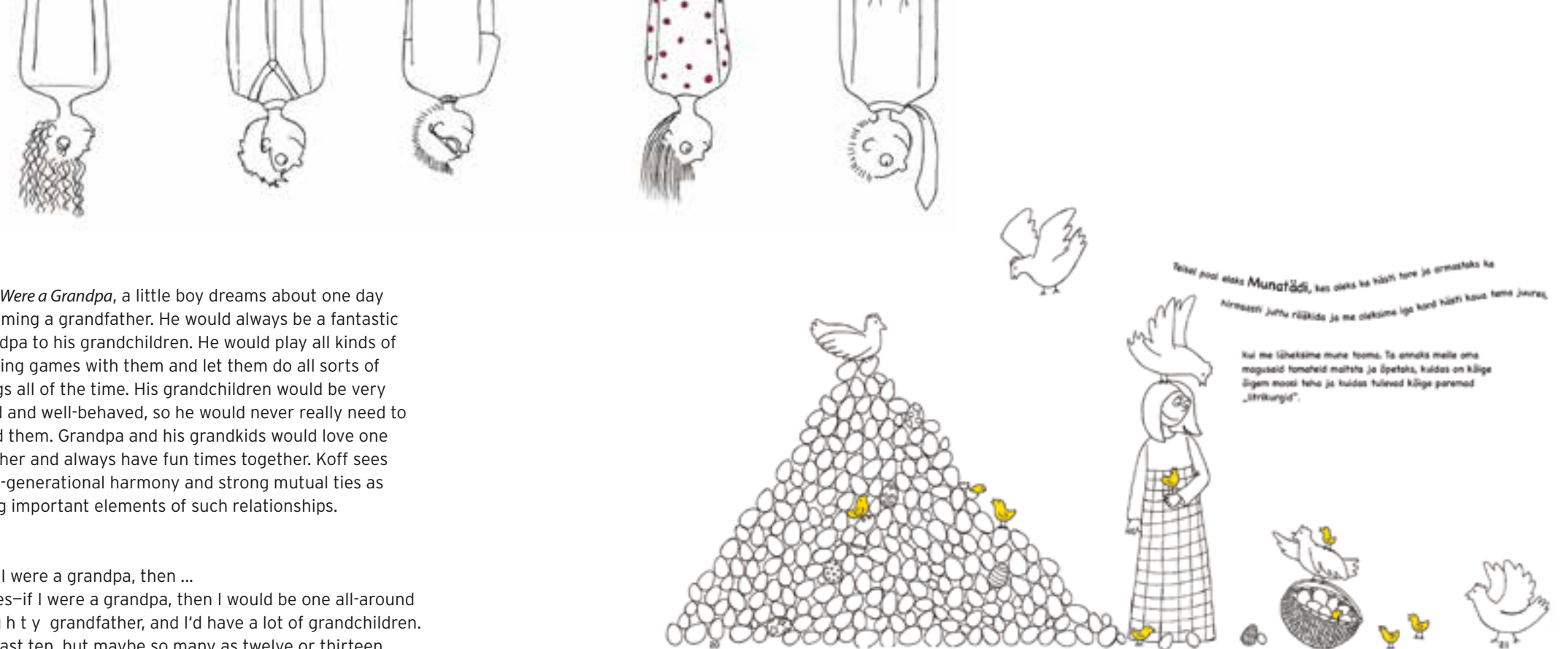
If I were a grandpa, then ...

Yes—if I were a grandpa, then I would be one all-around mighty grandfather, and I'd have a lot of grandchildren. At least ten, but maybe so many as twelve or thirteen. We would have great fun together, and I think they would probably like me even more than their own mothers and fathers, because I would make them laugh all the time and would play all sorts of exciting games with them both night and day, and would always let them do all kinds of things.



Indrek Koff (1975) studied French language and literature at the University of Tartu, a field that has become his profession: his Estonian translation of a French book is published almost every year. He has written four books for children and they have been received very well, both by readers and critics.

Marion Undusk is a multifaceted artist who graduated in theatre arts from the Estonian Academy of Arts and in stage production from the Viljandi Culture Academy. Thus, she has been active directing theatre on stage in addition to designing sets. She has illustrated three books and intends to continue.



THE TREE

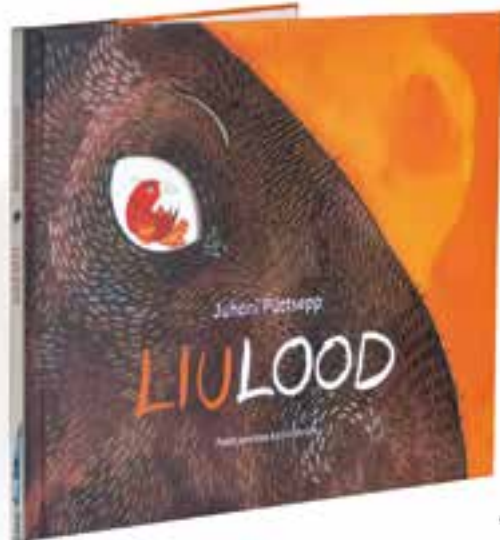
A massive maple tree would grow out in my yard. It would be so big that no other tree around it would be as tall. And it would be so thick that my grandchildren would only be able to hug it if seven of them all held hands around it. It would have a lot of good climbing branches, too. We would climb to the top of the maple tree every day, and sometimes we would have Grandma bring our lunch to the treetop, because we would be pretending to be soldiers who have to make sure the enemy does not attack our land. Grandma would always stay in the tree with us, too, because it would be so nice standing guard up there.

In spring, though, I would bring a big drill out from the shed, bore a hole into the maple tree, stick a spout into the hole, and then put a big-big jar under the spout so that the maple would give us lots of its sweet syrup. And in the evening, when we were tired from hard work and running and playing, we would sit underneath the maple tree drinking the syrup and each thinking his or her own thoughts, because it would be the kind of tree that is good to think under.

Translated by Adam Cullen

JUHANI PÜTTSEPP
SLIDING STORIES

ILLUSTRATED BY KATRIN EHRLICH
DOLCE PRESS 2014
230X278 MM, 32 PP
ISBN 9789985987193



All five stories in the book are based on real events and are tied to animals slipping and sliding in one way or another. Elephants slide on a muddy hillside at the zoo while mice do it between the layers of insulation under a new roof, a crow does somersaults on the hood of a snowy car, bear cubs have fun the same way that shepherd boys did long ago - sliding down a hill on a young birch branch, and wolf pups on a frozen puddle act like leaves blowing in the wind. The descriptions of animals entertaining themselves give the impression of being simultaneously realistic and make-believe. Püttsepp, a biologist, has the special ability to don the skins of both forest animals and humans. He skilfully balances himself on the line between the two worlds, and suspense develops in the stories from the brief contact between them. At the same time, the author maintains the gaze of a friendly observer and does not tend to anthropomorphise the animals' thoughts or behaviours. Katrin Erlich's enchanting illustrations electrify the reader's imagination and add a good dose of fairy tale to the stories.

Awards:

2014 5 Best-Designed Children's Books,
Special Prize of the Estonian Children's
Literature Centre

Juhani Püttsepp (1964) is a biologist, working at the Estonian University of Life Sciences, a journalist specializing in nature, and a children's writer. He has written more than ten books for children. He has also written for the stage.

Katrin Ehrlich was born (1969) and brought up in Tallinn. She has studied graphic art at the Estonian Academy of Arts and Danmarks Designskole. She has illustrated more than 10 children books and received many awards for her work.

AGE 6+ 16



Someone poured dusk and soon darkness onto the Earth from the pitch-black sky above, but the wolf pups were not afraid. Darkness was their friend, and was all the better for hiding. Someone's raspy cry rang out - the wolf pups pricked their ears, but padded bravely on as if nothing had happened, because the sound seemed familiar. It was a barn owl getting ready for its night-time mouse hunt, passing the time away on a branch. Then the wolf pups heard some kind of a scratching noise. They stopped immediately, because it was something completely new. Stretching out in front of them was a big puddle, and something was scratching its way along the surface. It wasn't a mouse, but rather a leaf that the breeze was blowing across the ice. The young wolves watched it in amazement.

Every day brought something new for the pups. In April, when they were born, the ground had already

melted. Now, they were seeing ice for the first time in their lives. The frosty evening had formed the first crust of ice on the puddles. The wind blew the dried leaves around and around on the ice. One of the wolf pups - the bravest of the pack - couldn't stand it anymore, and pounced on the leaf. His paws splayed out on the young ice and he landed on his side, sliding along the surface of the puddle. Actually, it felt great. He forgot about the leaf in an instant - no doubt the wind was taking care of it, carrying it onward over the forest floor.

The wolf pup leapt onto the iced-over puddle again, and - he slipped again. Now, another one of the pups worked up the courage to jump onto the puddle, too - and she took a fun slide across it. And so, the wolf pups played there until the sound of an engine began to rumble in the distance and a yellow beam of light cut through the darkness.

Translated by Adam Cullen

17 AGE 6+

ANDRUS KIVIRÄHK
**CARNIVAL AND
 POTATO SALAD**
 ILLUSTRATED BY HEIKI ERNITS
 VARRAK 2015
 240X168 MM, 128 PP
 ISBN 9789985333396



Andrus Kivirähk (1970) is the most prolific and powerful figure on the Estonian literary scene today. He can easily switch from one style to another, producing short stories, newspaper columns, dramatic texts, children books and scenarios for TV. He has written ten books for children; all of them are continuously in print and widely read.

Heiki Ernits (1953) graduated from Tallinn Pedagogical Institute as a teacher of art and manual training. He has worked as a photographer, art teacher, art director and film director, made commercials, designed book covers and layouts, and illustrated numerous publications as well as children's books. To date he has made 19 animated films.

In his latest children's book *Carnival and Potato Salad*, Andrus Kivirähk continues the style of storytelling he left off with his extremely popular collection of children's tales titled *Poo and Spring*.

Characters in the stories written for pre-schoolers and early-school-aged children include a ravenous computer and a locomotive, who dreams of living the life of an instrument. As usual for Kivirähk's stories, familiar everyday objects often get fresh starts in life – an eraser can become a football, or a pillow can be a teacher. Readers are given a close look at the tribulations of a white dress shirt and the worries of a button that falls off of a boy's pants while he is playing. Even a vacuum who happened to read a book has no problem heading to the banks of the Limpopo River to save an elephant calf from a crocodile. Each and every thing in Kivirähk's stories has a task to fulfil, undoubtedly pointing children's fantasies in a new direction.



THE LITTLE OLD LADY AND THE LILAC

A little old lady once lived in a tiny yellow house. She lived there all alone- she had no children, no dog, not even any cats. The only thing she had was a window, which the old lady loved to look out of. She would stare through it day after day and for hours on end.

On the other side of the window grew a lilac bush, beyond the lilac was her yard, and beyond the yard was a street. People would walk down the street. The little old lady liked to watch them, but the people walked quickly and would disappear from sight before very long at all.

Birds would fly past the window, too, on occasion; especially chickadees. Sometimes, some of them would perch on a branch of the lilac bush – the old lady would be especially elated then, and would even put her glasses on in order to inspect the little birds better. But the chickadees never bothered to sit around on the lilac branch for very long; they would chirp a couple of times and be gone again in a flash.

If only I could somehow coax them to stay in one place for longer – that would be great! the little old lady pondered. But how?

She thought and she thought, and finally came up with an idea! One morning, the little old lady hung a ball of birdfeed from a lilac branch, and positioned herself at the window. Soon, the chickadees arrived. They started pecking at the birdfeed, and spent the entire day on the lilac branches! The little old lady was just as pleased as can be – she had been able to watch the chickadees for a good long while, and hadn't been bored a single moment of that day.

The little old lady started feeding the chickadees every day, and they would flock to the lilac bush. But after a few weeks, she had a new idea: The chickadees are lovely, of course. But perhaps I could coax someone else here with the same little trick? The little old lady would often see children running down the road on the other side of her

yard, but they never even glanced over at the tiny yellow house. So now, she filled the branches of the lilac bush with dangling candies! Children walking home from school stopped to gape and stare at the bush. A few minutes later, they had already swarmed around the bush and were smacking their mouths with candy so loudly that it sounded up to high heaven.

The little old lady watched them from the window and waved, and the children waved back.

From then onward, the children would visit the lilac bush to eat candy every day; just like how the chickadees came for their birdfeed. Even so, the little old lady came up with newer and newer ideas. One morning, she hung a smoked sausage from a higher branch of the lilac bush. The mailman, who was just on his way to bring the little old lady her newspaper, saw it and was on top of the delicacy in a second.

"It sure is good sausage, miss!" he complemented, chewing with his mouth full and wiping off his moustache. "I wonder. . . will there be some tomorrow, too?"

"Of course there will be!" the little old lady promised. "But tell me, please: what food does your wife like?"

"She loves grilled chicken more than anything," the mailman replied.

"Then bring your wife along tomorrow!" the little old lady said. "There will be grilled chicken – you can be sure of that!"

And already the next day, both the mailman and his wife were leaning against the lilac bush and munching on chicken wings so loudly that the air was filled with crunching noises! It goes without saying, of course, that they were also surrounded by children eating candy and chickadees pecking at balls of birdfeed. The lilac bush was swarming with people and birds! And all the while, the little old lady sat at the window in her yellow house watching them and feeling very, very happy.

Translated by Adam Cullen

VARIOUS AUTHORS
BIRTHDAY STORIES
ILLUSTRATED BY VARIOUS ARTISTS
ESTONIAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CENTRE 2013
215X215 MM, 84 PP
ISBN 9789985919835



A birthday is an important day. This gift book contains stories and poems by renowned Estonian children's writers both young and old. There are serious, realistic texts; funny stories; and clever wordplays. In addition to birthdays being celebrated by tykes and grown-ups alike, the stories talk about the birthdays of a grandmother, a teddy bear, a frog, a dump truck, a mitten, and the country. "Birthday Buddy", who dearly loves showing up at birthday parties, also makes an appearance. *Birthday Stories* comprises 11 poems and 12 stories by 23 writers, and is illustrated by 12 of Estonia's best illustrators.

Award:
2014 5 Best-Designed Children's Books,
Certificate of Merit

PRESIDENT MITTEN, Andrus Kivirähk
A fisherman's mitten fell through a hole in the ice. It sunk slowly to the bottom of the lake, and the fish gathered to look at it.
"Good morning!" said the mitten. "Happy holidays!"
"Good morning!" the fish answered. "But what holiday are you talking about?"
"Don't you know that today is the birthday of the Estonian Republic?" the astonished mitten asked.
"No, we didn't!" the fish replied, staring at the mitten in wonder. "What is this 'Estonian Republic'?"
"You really don't know, do you?" said the mitten. "Where do you think you live?"
"We live in a lake."
"Of course it's a lake, but where is this lake? It's in Estonia," the mitten instructed. "Therefore, you are... So, who are you?"
"We're fish."
"You're Estonians!" the mitten declared. "You are Estonians, you live in Estonia, and today is Estonia's birthday. There's a huge party! The President invites guests to come, and the whole party is broadcast on TV. I've never missed it; I just push my way up out of my owner's pocket and enjoy the show."
"Oh, we've never seen the President, let alone his guests," the fish exclaimed. "There is no TV in this lake. There's only an old car tire and two empty bottles. We watch those sometimes, but we haven't seen a president in there."
"Of course you haven't; after all, the President doesn't live in a bottle," the mitten explained. "The President lives in a palace. It's a shame that you don't have a TV here. What kind of Estonian Republic's birthday is it when you can't even watch the President?!"

The fish were very upset as well, but then one of the perch came up with a brilliant idea.
"Wouldn't you like to be the president?" the perch asked. "Then we could watch you!"
"You can't just be the president," the mitten replied. "You have to be elected. And not everybody even makes a suitable president; the president has to be very smart."
"You ARE very smart!" the fish cried out in unison. "We'll elect you! Mitten for president!"
Mitten bowed.
"Thank you very much!" he said. "This is an immense honour. As a token of my gratitude, I'll invite all of you to the party. You all have to swim past me, and I'll shake your hands."
"But how?" the fish exclaimed. "We don't even have hands! What are we going to do?"
Mitten was a little taken aback at first, but quickly pulled himself together.
"Don't worry," he said. "I will shake your tails instead."
"Is that allowed?" the fish asked curiously. "Does the real President shake his guests' tails?"
"Yes," the mitten answered, "although he rarely gets to entertain guests with tails. Usually, all of his guests have hands. But if a person with a tail does show up, then he always shakes the tail."
This was a white lie. Truth be told, the mitten had never seen any guests with tails show up in the Presidents' audience. However, after hearing the mitten speak, the fish cheered up considerably.
"Let's do it that way then," they agreed. "You can shake our tails."
So they all swam around their new President while the mitten shook their tails and said:
"Happy Estonian Republic's Birthday!"

Translated by Merike Safka

EDGAR VALTER

THE STORY OF THE NICE DRAGON IUSTUS AND THE PRINCESS MINIMIN

ILLUSTRATED BY THE AUTOR

AJAKIRJADE KIRJASTUS 2014, FIRST PRINT 1995

275X210 MM, 60 PP

ISBN 9789949502912



This delightful, witty tale was penned by Estonia's most loved late illustrator and children's author. The people of a tiny, peaceful kingdom are distressed by a dragon that has unexpectedly landed in their laps. The beast demands that the people give him their adolescent Princess Minimin. The girl herself happily agrees to get acquainted with the dragon, and ends up becoming good friends with him instead of being devoured. Despite his ghastly appearance, lustus the Dragon is a clever, amiable character. He starts working as an advisor and messenger to the King, and forces hostile neighbouring kings to abandon all of their nasty plans purely by way of his looks. In his free time, the dragon arranges thrilling evening flights on his back for the children of the kingdom. Everything seems to be going just splendidly, but even so, both lustus and Minimin yearn for true love. Soon enough, Minimin finds her prince and marries him, while lustus leaves the kingdom with a pretty dragoness. In a grand spectacle, the two breath fire as they fly off, leaving the princess and her court waving goodbye.

Edgar Valter (1929-2006) was a graphic artist, illustrator, cartoonist and children's writer. He illustrated more than 250 books, many of them counted amongst the classics of Estonian children literature. Amongst his own books the most important is "Pokuraamat" (1994), which was included in the IBBY Honour List.

The Princess told the King how things were – that the dragons had cancelled their agreement already long ago and no longer needed any princesses. Not for eating or for marrying.

The King sighed in relief: "So, the first letter was good! I had already started to believe that misfortunes had found my doorway and were going to be walking in one after another now. Look—a second letter arrived, and it is certainly the bad kind!"

"What does it say, then?"

"The emperor of a neighbouring country wants to go to war with me. He asks what day we will start."

The King held his head between his hands again. The Princess and the dragon stood watching his sadness, unsure of what to do. Then, lustus the dragon spoke: "Princess Minimin, wasn't it you who told me to come to the castle and said we would come up with something for me to do? Perhaps you could think up a letter to the Emperor, in which our gracious King announces that he is inconsolably saddened by the fact that he cannot wage a little war right away, because an immense number of dragons—some of whom are unemployed and need to be put to work—have just moved nearby? And that he is, alas, completely swamped with dealing with the problem. But afterwards, he would gladly be prepared to. . ."

lustus looked away, staring at the glowing fireplace, gulped, and added:

"And I will bring the letter to him."

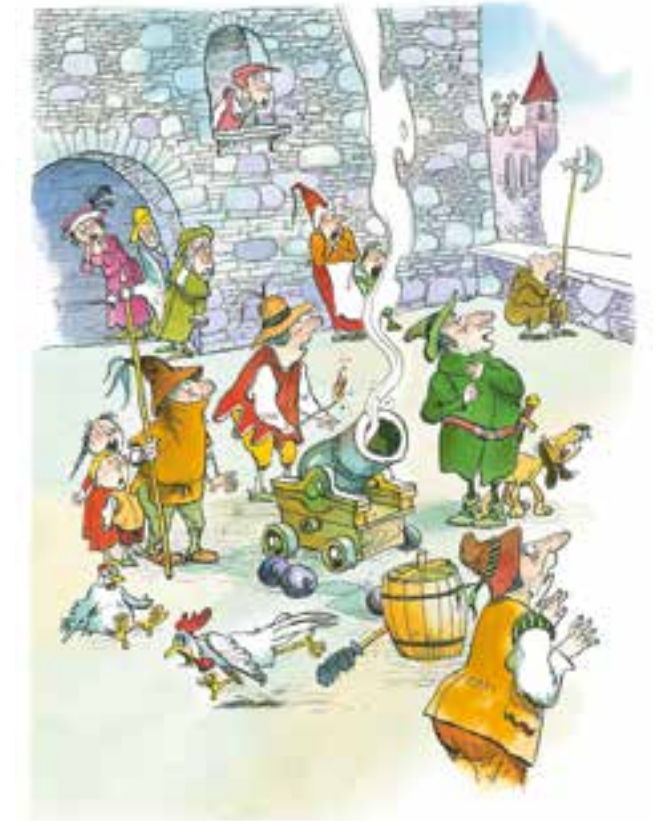
"Now that's an idea!" the Princess exclaimed.

"But. . ." the King trailed off doubtfully, "Will the Emperor believe it? Will he believe in those oodles of dragons who just want to. . . er. . . to be put to good use?"

"Leave that to me!" lustus declared confidently.

"King, my father," the Princess interrupted, "let's do just as lustus says!"

And so, the King wrote a letter. Then he called for the royal seal-carrier to seal the letter. "So," the King said



when he had rolled the letter up and tied it with a ribbon, "here is the letter. And henceforth, lustus, I name you Chief Royal Herald."

He stared at lustus the dragon for a few moments, and then added: "The Royal Herald must have a royal outfit."

The King called Ki-Keriki – the best fashion designer and tailor in all the land – and lustus was given a truly royal look.

Translated by Adam Cullen

KRISTIINA KASS
SANDER'S MICROSCOPE
ILLUSTRATED BY MARJA-LIISA PLATS
TÄNAPÄEV 2014
192X128 MM, 44 PP
ISBN 9789949274260



This humorous story is about a boy named Sander. Old Aunt Aili, who until this year has only given Sander knit socks or long johns for his birthday, gives him a microscope. Everyone is enthralled by the gift at first, but the more time that passes, the bigger are the problems that the microscope and the objects and creatures Sander observes with it bring along. Ordinarily, such a story would end with the boy's mother throwing in the towel and running away from the bugs to a different city, but Kristiina Kass wouldn't be herself if she did not give the story a real twist. And so, the author – who has implemented situational comedy in quite a few of her earlier works as well – has a jar holding a spider end up in the microscope box when Aunt Aili donates it to needy children during the church Christmas drive. The relatively shocking

outcome is softened by an additional present for the child who receives that package. The story leads a young reader to think about gifts, birthdays, and blunders. For an adult reader, however, the topic and plot resolution bring one's thoughts to a child's rights. Should an adult restrict a child's natural interest, and to what extent? Why is this done so often? Young artist Marja-Liisa Plats illustrated the work, stirring interest already with her colour selection. The primary tones she uses are yellow, beigeish-grey, and blue with a slightly greenish undertone, while red is used for accenting. The scenes that the artist selected for illustrating are also vivid in addition to the colours. Situations are frequently given character through particular details and nuances.



Kristiina Kass (1970) is the daughter of a children's writer and a feuilletonist. This is certainly clear from her books – they are very funny and full of little hoaxes and tricks. She graduated from Helsinki University and lives in Finland with her two daughters. She writes and illustrates her own books, and translates from Finnish to Estonian. In 2010 she received the Children's Literature Award of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia, for her book *Nõianeiu Nõbinina*. She has published ten books for children.

Marja-Liisa Plats (1984) is an illustrator of the younger generation. She graduated from Tartu Art College as a photographer, and has illustrated more than 20 children's books.



The guests and their presents dwindled more and more towards the end of the week, and no one came at all anymore on Sunday. But Sander did not mind. He had as much material to investigate as he could need now. Actually, his entire room was filled from floor to ceiling with crates, boxes, jars, and bags. Sander could sit at his desk for hours on end studying a fly wing or a mosquito larvae. It was fascinating! On top of that, neither Sander's father nor his mother would bother him when he was at work, because the boy had hung a sign on his door that read: *Please do not disturb!* His parents were quite content with the situation, because the boy – who had been so noisy before – was now sitting well-behaved in his room “developing himself”, as his mother called it. Before long, though, a cruel end came to all of this. One night, when a little over a week had passed since Sander's birthday, he was woken up by an awful screech. “GET IT AWAY!” Sander's mother screamed. “SQUASH IT TO DEATH! AAHH!”

Sander rushed into his parents' bedroom, because his mother's life was obviously in serious danger. His father had turned on the light, and Sander saw his mother looking crazed, dashing from one end of the bed to the other, making the mattress springs creak. “Calm down, dear! It was just a bad dream!” Sander's father said to try to calm her down, but she just kept acting as if she were out of her mind. “Can't you dummies see?!” Sander's mother squealed as loud as she could. “This whole darned room is seething with spiders! And they were climbing over my face!”



Only then did Sander notice the spiders. They were on the ceiling and on every wall, in the bed and on the nightstands, big ones and little ones. And not just spiders! An army of ants was marching across the floor, and a couple of corpulent beetles were hanging from the curtains. Sander's father bolted into the hallway and turned the light on there, too. There were not all that many bugs in the hallway, but the kitchen was chock full of ants.

Translated by Adam Cullen

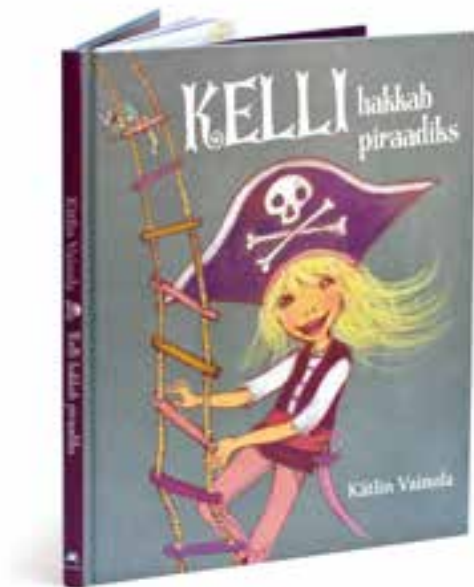
KÄTLIN VAINOLA
KELLY BECOMES A PIRATE

ILLUSTRATED BY KIRKE KANGRO

PEGASUS 2014

250X215 MM, 72 PP

ISBN 9789949531981



Kelly is the book's main character. She will be in second grade next autumn. Kelly lives in the capital with her mother and father. When Kelly was little, she loved the colour pink more than anything else in the world. She would imagine that she was a fairy or a princess. Now, she likes a lot of other colours, too – such as black. All of Kelly's tiaras and fairy wings have been packed away in a cardboard box in the cellar. Depending on the situation, the girl now imagines that she is a pirate, an interior designer, a psychologist, a baker, or a hairdresser. And sometimes, she is simply an ordinary kid, to whom all kinds of things happen – funny things just as well as nasty things; both serious and fun.

The first book in the series, Kelly – *Almost a Fairy*, was published in 2008 and is meant for children who are a couple of years younger.

Kätlin Vainola (1978) attended school in Põlva and Tallinn, where she graduated in Estonian philology from Tallinn University. She has worked as a teacher, a project manager, and an editor; has written articles for the media; and has organised children's reading events. Kätlin Vainola entered the world of children's literature with her story *Ville*; since then, she has written picture books for young children as well as popular-science works.

Kirke Kangro (1975) is the daughter of a composer Raimo Kangro and the renown Estonian writer and poet Leelo Tungal. In additon to being a multifaceted artist she has illustrated more than 60 books and textbooks for children. She's currently working as the professor of the Installation and Sculpture Department of Estonian Academy of Arts.



Kelly and her mother borrowed a book titled *How to Become a Pirate* from the library, and got down to work. First of all, they altered some old clothes, tearing them a little and cutting fringes in some places. Then they found her father's old hat, which was perfect for a pirate. Kelly already had a spyglass, and she borrowed some nice-looking leather boots from the neighbour boy.

On the morning of Kelly's birthday, her mother painted a couple of tattoos on her arm and wrapped the little girl's chequered bandana around her face.

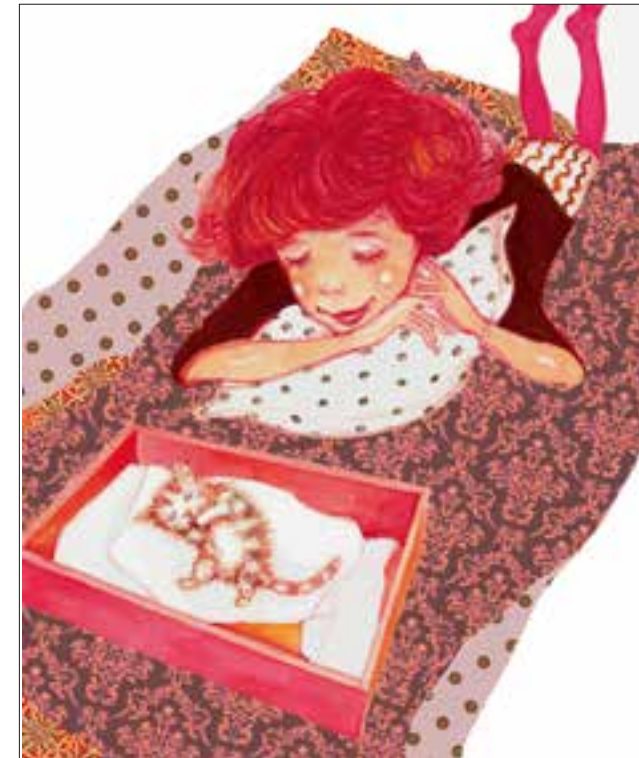
"I can't even recognize you," her father chuckled.

Kelly was pleased.

It turned out that no one recognized Kelly at the costume party, either. An adult had her sit at the boys' table!

It was really interesting to sit in their company. No one had all that much time for eating. When the bowl of chips had been passed around a couple of times, the boys ran off across the ship. Kelly did not want to give herself away, so she went along with them. They fought pretend pirate battles, visited the captain's cabin, and wedged themselves into every nook and cranny they could find on the ship.

When the party was coming to an end, all of the children were called back to the table. Kelly and the boys scampered back to the princesses, puffing and panting. The girls were dancing and doing one another's hair.



"We went up on the ship's deck," Kelly told them, and removed the bandana from her face.

Everyone was completely stunned.

"Kelly? Have you been at the birthday party, too?" the girls asked her, amazed.

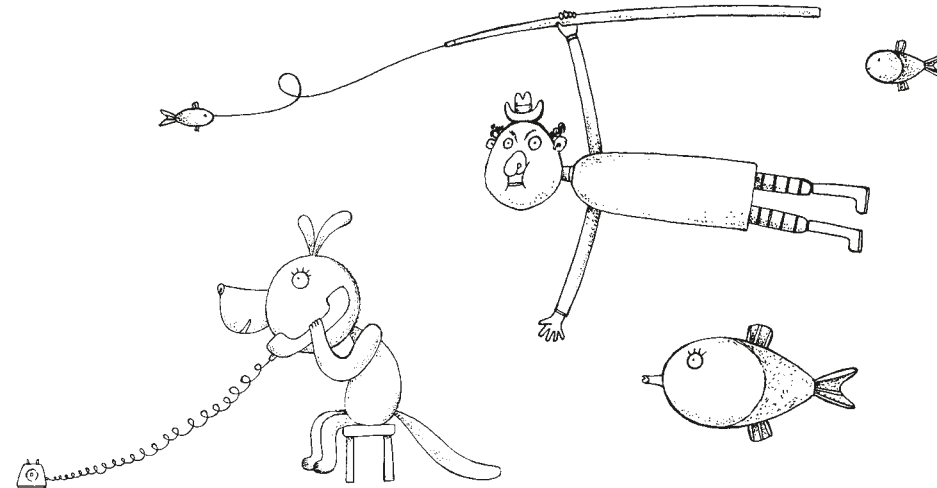
"Yep. I became a pirate," Kelly said, nodding. "We visited the captain and he let us steer the ship a little."

"I don't want to brush hair and dance anymore," Karita announced, and took off her tiara. "I want to see where the captain is, too!"

Before you knew it, the entire group of princesses had stopped their dancing and were running around the ship. And so, you could see princesses and pirates balancing and scampering over the deck as friends.

PIRET RAUD
**ME, MUM, AND
OUR FRIENDS
OF ALL SORTS**

ILLUSTRATED BY THE AUTHOR
TÄNAPÄEV 2014
200X135 MM, 100 PP
ISBN 9789949276233
Rights sold: French



Taavi and his mother live alone on the fourth storey of a big apartment building. In addition to his mother, Taavi has a lively sense of imagination, a strong grandmother, and an impressive collection of friends. Take for example Uku, who wants to be a dog when he grows up, and Mia, who has a fly fly into her head, and Aunt Masha, who catches trash with a butterfly net, and Uncle Jaanus, who is drowning in his own deep thoughts. The book tells about all of Taavi's friends, relatives, and other acquaintances.

Piret Raud's books are loved both in Estonia and abroad – she is Estonia's most-translated children's author. Her works have been published in ten other languages, and more are on the way.



Piret Raud was born in 1971 in Tallinn. She comes from a family of writers – her father was a writer, her mother is a writer, and both of her brothers are writers, too. She chose the path of a graphic artist at first, but before long came back to her roots, and has become one of the most renowned children's writers and illustrators in Estonia. She has written 13 titles, out of which two have been published first in Japan and France, and illustrated more than 40 titles. Her books have been published in English, French, German, Hungarian, Japanese, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian for Estonian territory and Spanish. More languages are to come.

THE CROCODILE

Not one man or woman lived in apartment number 13. Rather, a crocodile lived in apartment number 13.

When the crocodile moved into our apartment building a couple of years ago, the other residents became nail-bitingly nervous. They were bothered by the fact that their new neighbour was such a dangerous animal, and convened a big building meeting. The crocodile was lucky that the meeting was headed by a distant relative who was therefore on his side, so he wasn't forced to change his place of residence, even though a few people in the building demanded it. Instead, they decided that if he was good and wore a muzzle in the lift, then he could stay.

So, the crocodile wore his muzzle and over time, the other people in the building became accustomed to him.

The crocodile was very nice and well-behaved in other ways, too. For example, when he spilled water out of the tub when he was taking a bath, he would always mop it up responsibly. And if the old woman Helga from apartment number 14 had a heavy shopping bag, the crocodile would help her carry it upstairs.

Everything could have carried on like that forever if the crocodile hadn't gotten married one day. His new wife was a crocodile as well, but was the never-endingly troublesome kind. Mrs Crocodile flouted all of the rules and never wore a muzzle in the lift. She would splash so much water onto the floor when she was in the tub that the downstairs neighbours' ceiling would start to drip, and she would never even say "Hello" to Helga—she would only growl.

On top of that, she was not all that nice to Mr Crocodile, either. Take an innocent thing like football, for example! Specifically, Mr Crocodile dearly loved to lounge on the couch and watch a football match on TV. His wife could not bear it, though.

"Why do you have to sit here staring at football all the time?" she would fuss, and switch off the TV. "Why can't you watch me?"

"Darling," Mr Crocodile would say in a very friendly tone, "you aren't round and you don't roll. What's more, you can't be kicked around! Please, couldn't you maybe just let me enjoy the match?"

But there was hardly any chance of that!

Mr Crocodile coped with this for the most part, and would indeed sit and watch Mrs Crocodile all evening instead of football. However, one night, when his wife had turned the TV off at an especially exciting moment once again, Mr Crocodile had enough, and turned it back on.

This time, Mrs Crocodile was so infuriated by what he did that she bit Mr Crocodile. She bit him many times and in several places. Mr Crocodile screamed; he was bleeding. Old Helga from the neighbouring apartment rushed to the scene when she heard the scream, and quickly dialled the emergency number.

The police and an ambulance came right away, and they took Mrs Crocodile away. To the joy of everyone in the building, she was locked away in a cage in the zoo.

Mr Crocodile was bandaged up and given sugar-water to drink. It can be a real shock when your own wife bites you like that!

From that point onward, Mr Crocodile could have enjoyed watching football from dawn to dusk in peace for the rest of his days, but that's hardly what happened. He forgot about football entirely, and started visiting Mrs Crocodile in the zoo every day. He brought her flowers and hauled in heaps of boxed chocolates, even though a sign on the cage read: "Do not feed the animals!". Mr Crocodile was not angry in the very least that Mrs Crocodile had bitten him like that.

This was all as weird as can be in my opinion, but my mommy said that's what love is like. The way I see it, there really isn't any point in love in that case. Being a friend is a hundred times more genuine. You don't bite friends.

Translated by Adam Cullen

KAIRI LOOK
**THE AIRPORT
 FLEAS FIGHT ON**
 ILLUSTRATED BY KASPAR JANCIS
 TÄNAPÄEV 2014
 236X170 MM, 208 PP
 ISBN 9789949276141



The Airport Fleas is an uplifting children's book that will even put a smile on rather grown-up grownups' faces.

Ludvig the Flea lives a lazy and fun life with his family in the airport until one day, the cleanliness inspectors arrive and threaten to shut down the airport. Giving up is not the fleas' style, of course - now, they need to be clever and take action! Joined by the beetles living in the airport, the characters set off on adventures in the name of saving their common home. It is a story of bravery and the power of working together, which also provides readers with laughs, shocks, and jelly donuts!

Animator Kaspar Jancis drew the book's entertaining illustrations.

The *Airport Fleas* is the young author's third book, and was awarded 1st place in the 2014 *My First Book* children's story competition held by the Estonian Children's Literature Centre, children's magazine *Täheke*, and publisher Tänapäev.

Award:

2014 Children's story competition *My First Book*, 1st prize



Kairi Look (1983) is a writer of the younger generation whose books have immediately won the hearts of many young readers. She lives in Amsterdam and Tallinn, and works as a publisher of scientific literature, but loves children's books over all else. She has previously written for magazines, and keeps a blog at amsterdamiseerunud.blogspot.com

Kaspar Jancis (born 1975) is a director of animated films, musician, composer, scenographer and lyricist. He became interested in comics and writing as a child. He has been a creative member of many rock groups. He has studied filmmaking at Tallinn University and Turku University of Applied Sciences (Finland). His films have received many international awards. He is currently working on the full-length cartoon film *An Adventure at Salamander*, based on his first children's book.



We set off. Not too far away was the passport control booth, at the very base of which was a shiny little yellow hatch. Written on it was:

"Passport and ID-Card Registration. Special Flea Department"

Vello kicked the door open with his back foot, and we walked in. Sitting in the small, dim room was a lethargic-looking flea who was wearing a light yellow bow tie and munching on a cookie. "We need documentation for a brand-new flea," Vello grunted, and pressed me into the chair in front of the desk. "A passport from this year, completely fresh and unspoiled. Born yesterday," he added in a slightly nicer tone, and patted my head. "How long'll it take?"

The flea-official placed his cookie on a saucer with incredible slowness and folded his hands. My eyes had never seen such a slow-moving flea before.

"Hhmmmmmmmm. . ." the official hummed as long and slow as possible, and reached a hand out toward a drawer. This took even longer than it did to place the cookie on the desk, but finally, the drawer was open.

The flea lifted an inkwell, a pair of scissors, and a large roll of paper out onto the desk. The paper rustled and started unrolling oh-so-slowly. The official stared at the desk and yawned. The clock on the wall ticked exceptionally slowly. Tiiiiiick. . . Silence. Tooooooooock...

I was awfully bored. I glanced over my shoulder, trying to find a way to pass the time, but behind me was only Vello, who was fidgeting irritably and glaring at the official. "How long'll it take?" he hissed again, slapping his hands down on the desk.

The official did not let the sudden movement bother him, and rocked back on the desk chair. "A day or so. . . one or two," he said, yawned, and edged his hand toward the inkwell. Bit by bit, it came closer and closer to the ink.

Vello cast an angry glare at Uncle Anton. "I've had enough," he announced. "I've got much better things to do than to stand around in this pit. On top of that, he's not my flea. Will you work this all out on your own?"

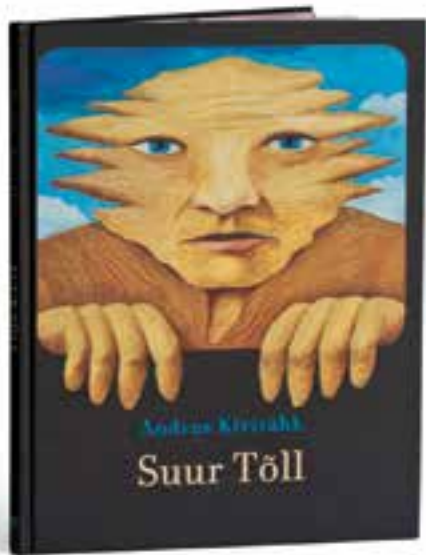
Uncle Anton nodded. "Sure, get going. I'll keep an eye on Ludvig." He pulled a greasy newspaper and half of a buttery cookie out of his pocket. "I'm not in any rush."

A moment later, and Vello was gone. My passport was finished by the end of the day. The official crafted it together piece by piece out of lost passports, which are always easy to find in airports. One word from here, another from there, and the photograph of a German with an unusually flea-like face for the picture. The official cut out nice passport covers from the roll of paper.

And that was it. I became German-faced Ludvig—a flea with papers.

Translated by Adam Cullen

ANDRUS KIVIRÄHK
BIG TOELL
ILLUSTRATED BY JÜRI ARRAK
VARRAK 2014
260X204 MM, 52 PP
ISBN 9789985331040



Big Toell (Estonian *Suur Tõll*) was a mythological hero from the island of Saaremaa who was known throughout all of Western Estonia. Here, the legends of Toell have been collected and released as a separate book.

Big Toell was first published with drawings by Jüri Arrak in 1982. The given work is a new version penned by popular Estonian writer Andrus Kivirähk, which includes stories that have just the right amount of both thrill and humour.

Big Toell was a simple farmer who ploughed the fields when he needed to and harvested the grain when he needed to, just like all the men on Saaremaa. He was not a miracle-worker, a wizard, or a magician - just a big, quiet man. It was not worth bothering him with trivial matters, but when great trouble was nigh, Toell would always come to lend a hand. One day, men needed to be plucked out of the stormy sea - Toell took care of the job. One day, someone needed to stand on shore and make sure the boats reached the harbour safely - Toell stood watch. One day, the island's enemies had to be repelled - Toell went into battle. He had no weapons, but wagon wheels were fit for the task.

Just like always in Estonia's olden days, Old Trickster would appear at night to do his mischievous deeds. There was no doubt that Toell could handle the Trickster and would not stay angry with him for long, but things go sour when Toell's wife Piret is killed and it is Trickster's fault. There's no chance of Old Trickster getting off the hook this time.

The new print allows the colours in Arrak's classic pictures to shine with all their original might, while Kivirähk's vivid storytelling brings the old Estonian folklore closer to today's readers.



Andrus Kivirähk (1970) is the most prolific and powerful figure on the Estonian literary scene today. He can easily switch from one style to another, producing short stories, newspaper columns, dramatic texts, children books and scenarios for TV. He has written ten books for children; all of them are continuously in print and widely read.

Jüri Arrak (1936) is an Estonian artist, whose works that feature a highly unique artistic signature have achieved renown across the entire globe. His paintings can be found in the world's largest and most important art collections. *Big Toell* was first published with Arrak's illustrations in 1982.

This is the tale of Big Toell.
Why was he called Toell? Who knows! Why is a lake a lake and a pine a pine? Why is dirt dirt and a rock a rock? So it has always been since long, long ago, and no one troubles themselves with wondering why.
Why was he called Big? Because he was big, that's all. Very big. There was no point inviting him to come and visit—he wouldn't have fit into a single house. He wouldn't have even fit in the yard. Not only the yard—he wouldn't have fit through the gate! He could easily step over the fence, of course, but then he would have trampled a shed or the sauna, no doubt. Not to mention the hens and roosters or a cat. And Toell did not want that; he was a good-hearted man.

What's more—why would you need to invite Toell over? You don't invite the sea to come visit now, do you? Nor a juniper tree into a pasture. They are where they are. You yourself can go and see them every now and then. People went to see Toell the same way; went to watch him ploughing and sowing his land. You would not go up very close to him, of course, otherwise you would get in his way and interrupt what he was doing. People would watch him from afar. Toell was so big anyway that you could see him from far away; even from across a forest. Just like the Sun or the Moon.

Toell had a horse, too; one even bigger than he was. It was quite the sight to see; no one knew where he got such a thing. But where does the sea get its waves and the sky its clouds? They are simply there.

And Toell had a wife as well, named Piret. She was just about the same size as Toell. Piret would do chores at home and in the garden. When she watered the cabbages at night, you could hear the thunderous splashing from the other end of the island.

I can't tell you what the horse's name was. Not that Toell ever called it by name, of course. Toell wasn't all that much of a talker. Wherever he was up to this or that, you could always hear a rustling and a rattling, as if waves were crashing on the sea or a strong wind was swooshing



through the treetops. Sometimes the sound would be as gentle and sleepy as could be—almost like on a quiet summer evening; but sometimes, the thunder and roar would swell so loud. That would happen when something made Toell angry. Then, it would seem as if a gale was about to be unleashed; as if a storm was snapping age-old trees in half and lightning was striking shale.
But that would happen rarely. Toell had a friendly nature.

Translated by Adam Cullen

ANTI SAAR
**THE WAY THINGS
ARE WITH US**
ILLUSTRATED BY ALVAR JAAKSON
TÄNAPÄEV 2013
237X172 MM, 136 PP
ISBN 9789949273522
Rights sold: Hungarian



The Way Things Are With Us is a humorous book about life in a completely ordinary family. Vassel lives in a nice little Estonian town with his mother, father, and little brother Joonas, who is just two-and-a-half years old. Vassel shows the way things are in his family - how they read, write, and draw; cook and eat; tell ghost stories; argue; wait up for elves to bring presents around Christmastime; drive in the car; go to sleep; get lost; play football; host guests; and forget things.

The book was an immediate hit in Estonia, and a couple of additional print runs have already been made. Author Anti Saar developed a board game based on the book, which Estonian children and their parents alike play avidly.

Awards:

- 2013 Children's Literature Award of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia
- 2013 "Raisin of the Year", Special Prize of the Estonian Children's Literature Centre
- 2014 The White Ravens Catalogue

Anti Saar (1980) is an Estonian writer and translator, who has translated a wide range of significant works from French into Estonian. *The Way Things Are With Us* is his first children's book, and received most of Estonia's important children's literature awards in 2013. Saar's book comes along with his own self-designed pinball machine.

Alvar Jaakson's day job is at an advertising agency. Over the years, he has illustrated a number of children's book in a distinct, recognisable style.



When I say that I know a terrific amount about witches and vampires and ghosts and zombies, well, that's not exactly true. It's just that telling scary stories is quite a new tradition in our family. So why didn't we tell them before? I think it's just that earlier ago we didn't realise that something horrible can also be jolly and that it's hugely exciting to feel your heart racing and your ears buzzing and your legs beginning to tingle!

I'd really like to know how old you are and what things you've learnt to be afraid of already. But because I don't know what they are I shall tell you my most bloodcurdling ghost story. And I'll tell you what my mum came face-to-face with once. They are the sorts of stories that you can make really different yet always leave you somehow feeling the same.

One evening we lit a fire in the living room and some candles too. With the help of some pot plants we made some really scary flickering shadows. And mum began to speak in a mysterious, half-whispering voice:

"In black, black forest
there was a black, black house.
And in that black, black house
there was a black, black room.
And in that black, black room
there was a black, black cupboard.
And in that black, black cupboard
there was a black, black box.
And in that black, black box
there was a skeleton!"

She said the word "skeleton" so suddenly and unexpectedly that I actually screamed! Dad did too. But not Joonas. He just smiled his cheeky smile and then began pestering mum:

"Tell us that skeleton story again."

Translated by Susan Wilson

HILLI RAND
**THE DRAWER OF
HAPPY BEDTIME STORIES**

ILLUSTRATED BY GERDA MÄRTENS
PÄIKE JA PILV 2014
286X210 MM, 64 PP
ISBN 9789949953097



Pants that are afraid of the washing machine, a depressed sewing machine, sick little Jasper, balloons full of joy – all these characters in addition to several dozen other mischief-makers both big and small can be found in *The Drawer of Happy Bedtime Stories*. On some nights, stories flow out of the second-to-bottom drawer of a completely ordinary dresser. Whoever snatches one out of the air passes it on to others.

The Drawer of Happy Bedtime Stories is a book fit for reading to the whole family. Older children can read the tales full of tricks and stunts on their own; younger ones can be read to.

Awards:
2014 5 Best-Designed Children's Books, Newcomer's Prize of the Estonian Graphic Designers' Union for boldness and introducing a new trend

Hilli Rand has written more than ten books for children. In her works, she addresses a child's everyday life, often in connection with supernatural elements.

Gerda Märtens (1987) is a young illustration artist, based both in Italy and in Estonia. She holds a Master's degree in printmaking from the Estonian Academy of Arts. She has also studied at the illustration school of the Academy of Arts in Macerata (Accademia di Belle Arti di Macerata, prof. Mauro Evangelista). *The Drawer of Happy Bedtime Stories* is her first illustrated book and she is currently working on the illustrations for *La creazione* by Dino Buzzati.



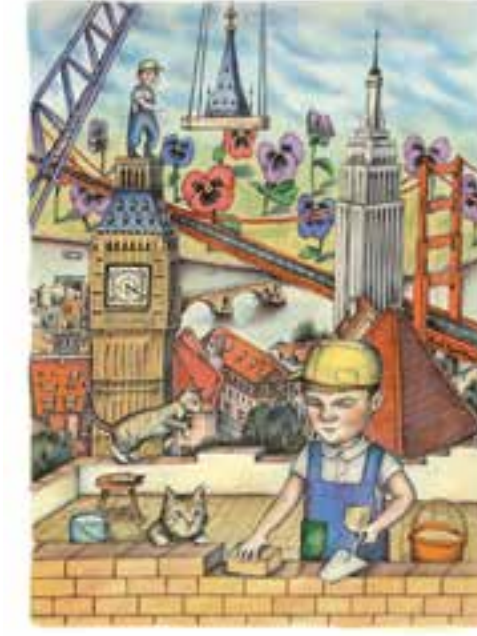
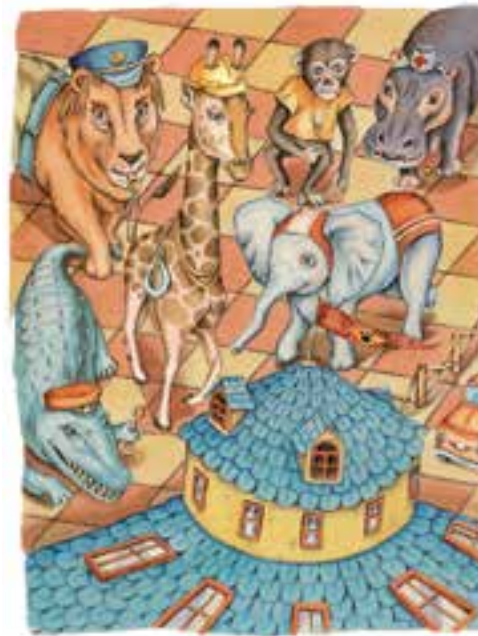
"We'll get that naughty pocket emptied out lickety-split," Dad says, sticking his own hand into Matis' pants pocket. He pulls out a fluffy pillow. And a cookbook. And then a table lamp.

"Well, will you look at that," Dad says in amazement. "There really is something wrong with these pants!"

Dad works his hand into the pocket once again, and tugs out a lawnmower and a tent and ten bricks. But even so, the pocket is bulging even bigger than before—it's outright gigantic.

"That stubborn pocket has to be empty sometime; it's not bottomless, is it!" Dad exclaims impatiently. But just as he is lugging a piano out of the pocket, Mom sighs: "Those pants are probably critically ill. We have to call an ambulance!"

Dad snaps angrily: "More like they're playing a dumb joke on us. We have to call the police!"



"They don't need an ambulance, the police, or a fire truck!" Matis cries out unhappily. "You really don't understand them, do you? My new pants are just afraid of the washing machine! They don't want to go in it, and that's why the pocket won't empty."

Dad drops the piano in astonishment, and it slips back into the pocket. However, the pocket isn't bulging as much anymore.

"Poor little pants!" Mom says sympathetically. "If they're so afraid of the washing machine, then I'll wash them by hand in the yellow basin instead."

Matis smiles and sticks his hand into the pocket. "It's empty!" he announces. "I can't find a single thing in here anymore!"

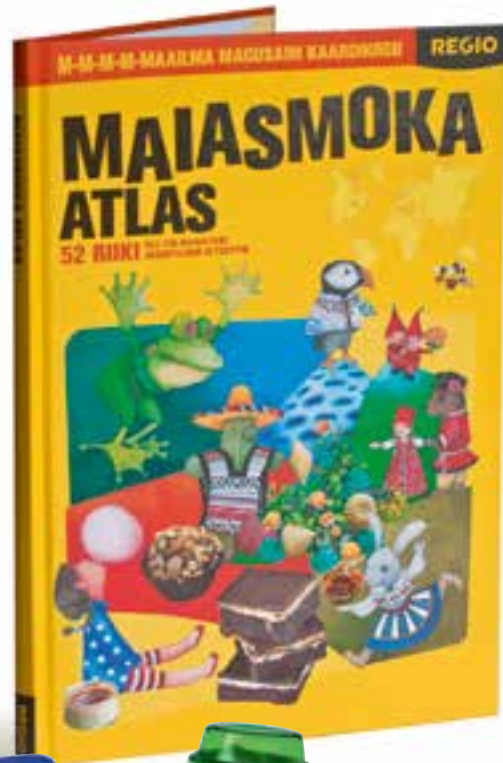
Translated by Adam Cullen

MARIS PRUULI

THE SWEET TOOTH'S ATLAS

ILLUSTRATED BY REGINA LUKK-TOOMPERE
REGIO 2014

300X215 MM, 136 PP
ISBN 978994952026



The Sweet Tooth's Atlas, which is published by cartography masters Regio, maps out the candies and sweets of a large number of different countries. Legendary confections such as Belgian chocolates, Austrian Mozart balls, Latvian Kõrums dairy sweets, tiramisu and Pavlova cake, Kinder chocolate surprise eggs, edible insects, a sweet named Spunk, and – naturally – Estonia's Kalev candies all make the book. Yet that is far from all.

Sweets hounds will find out when people learned how to make shiny, smooth bars out of melted chocolate; who invented marzipan; which candy factory has waged a war; where cactus syrup is consumed and where moss candy can be found; where gum was chewed for the first time; and much, much more. The confection or candy that could serve as a scrumptious business card has been found and listed for every country.

In addition to countries with renowned sweets cultures, the book also lists Easter Island, Bangladesh, and a number of African countries. Maps help sweet teeth keep track of which corner of the world one confection or another got its start in, and where it is now consumed. Altogether, the atlas lists 130 sweets from 52 different countries, and also provides a selection of exotic recipes.

Almost everyone loves sweets. Or, as people quip about chocolate: nine out of ten people love it, and the tenth is lying. Anyone who really does not love sweets can, however, proceed from the principle of "know your enemy". Regio's sweet-tooth atlas can be an aid for both camps.

The work is richly illustrated and just as with every proper atlas, it has an index of sweets and places at the back.

NB! Stock up on at least one bar of chocolate for reading because by the third page at the latest, your mouth will be watering to the point that without any outside assistance, you will have to stop and rush off to the nearest candy shop.

Award:

2014 Raisin of the Year, Special Prize of the Estonian Children's Literature Centre



Maris Pruuli (1965) is an English philologist who actually wanted to become a geographer. Pruuli's great-aunt warned her that such a job is not suitable for women – that it would be accompanied by expeditions and long trips away from home. Yet, life brought what it was going to bring. Pruuli's desire to see the world firstly took her to work at a foreign embassy for several years, and then to adventure across the world with her explorer husband. After settling back into Estonia once more, she went to work at local cartography company Regio.

Regina Lukk-Toompere (1953) is a book illustrator, having illustrated more than 70 books and textbooks, and background artist. She has received prizes for her illustrations for children's books and film design in Estonia and abroad.



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Eesti tuleviku heaks