

Ellen Niit Uncle Nightingale *Onu Ööbik*

Translated by Susan Wilson

WHY IS UNCLE NIGHTINGALE SO POOR?

Uncle Nightingale is always strapped for cash because he's forever paying off traffic fines.

Uncle Nightingale is completely hopeless at following the rules of the road. When the light is on green, Uncle Nightingale stands just behind the kerb like a lamppost. He's often mistaken for a bus stop.

When the light changes to amber, Uncle Nightingale gradually begins to lift his back foot. But he doesn't move a centimetre from his spot.

When the red light comes on, Uncle Nightingale leaps from the pavement into the raging river of cars and tries to cross the road.

Oh, Uncle Nightingale, you are completely crazy! Stop, stop!

A traffic warden once tried to fine Uncle Nightingale three Estonian crowns, but the children begged him, "Oh, Mr Traffic Warden, don't ask him for so much money! When the lights were on amber Uncle Nightingale was doing all the right things! Just fine him two crowns, Mr Traffic Warden, please, if that helps at all!"

Uncle Nightingale is utterly hopeless. He's forever jumping off moving trams and riding his scooter to Nightjar Road.

Oh, Uncle Nightingale, have you no shame? Don't you know the rules of the road?