



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
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Global Reading: Finland

DB12976 *The Maid Silja: The History Of The Last Offshoot Of An Old Family Tree*
by Frans Eemil Sillanpää (Nobel Prize 1939)

A classic Finnish novel opens with the death of a beautiful young country girl. Her untimely death of consumption is the end of a long chain of events beginning thirty years back with her incapable father's inheritance of a prosperous farm. 1931.

DB80687 *When The Doves Disappeared: A Novel* by Sofi Oksanen (historical fiction)
Estonia, 1941. Roland and his cousin Edgar have deserted the Soviet Red Army. When the Germans arrive, Roland hides while Edgar joins the Nazis. Over twenty years later, Edgar tries to hide his past but his fate remains entangled with Roland's. Translated from the Finnish. Violence. 2015.

DB28450 *The Kalevala: Epic Of The Finnish People* (literature, poetry)
This narrative poem of fifty "runos," or songs, centers around the three cultural heroes of Finnish mythology, Vainamoinen, the sage and singer; Ilmarinen, the smith; and Lemminkainen, the brash adventurer. Includes a historical and analytical introduction. 1849.

DB09199 *Sun City* by Tove Jansson (general fiction)
Novel about the elderly residents stranded at the Berkeley Arms in St. Petersburg, euphemistically called "Paradise on Earth." Cut off from their pasts and afraid to look at the future, the residents cope individually with the bizarre present imposed upon them. 1974.

DB95808 *Things That Fall From The Sky* by Selja Ahava (magical realism)
The lives of three people are changed by a series of random events. Saara's mother dies when a block of ice falls from the sky. Saara's aunt wins the lottery twice. And Hamish MacKay is struck by lightning four times. Translated from the 2015 Finnish edition. Some violence. 2019.

DB59063 The Egyptian by Mika Waltari (historical fiction)

Ancient Egypt. Elderly Sinuhe, former physician to the controversial pharaoh Akhnaton, recalls his own life and career amidst the religious and political upheavals surrounding the reign of his ruler. Tells how Akhnaton's attempts to depose ancient gods led to his death and Sinuhe's exile. Some descriptions of sex. 1949.

DB85717 The Core Of The Sun by Johanna Sinisalo (suspense, sci-fi)

Set in an alternative Finland with an extreme welfare state that holds public health and social stability above all else, a young woman bred for sex and procreation goes on an adventure while seeking to satisfy her growing addiction to illegal chili peppers. Originally published in Finnish in 2013. Some descriptions of sex. 2016.

DB86102 The Hundred Day Winter War: Finland's Gallant Stand Against The Soviet Army by Gordon F. Sander

A narrative recounting of the Russian invasion of Finland in November 1939.

Discusses military, political, and cultural contexts of the attack and draws on interviews with both Finnish and Russian veterans of the war. Some violence. 2013.

DB100301 Helsinki Homicide. Books 06, 07, 08, 09 (Against The Wall, Cold Trail, Nothing But The Truth, Vengeance) by Jarkko Sipilä

Four novels, translated from 2009 to 2013, featuring Kari Takamäki, supervising detective in the Violent Crimes Unit, in Helsinki, Finland. Includes Nothing But the Truth, Cold Trail, Against the Wall, and Vengeance. Originally published in Finnish from 2006 to 2009. Violence and strong language. 2013.

DB110308 A History Of Finland by Henrik Meinander

Author paints a brisk and bold picture of the history of Finland from integrated part of the Swedish kingdom to autonomous Grand Duchy within the Russian empire, gradually transformed and maturing into a conscious nation, independent state and skillful adapter of modern technology. The main geographical context for his study is the Baltic region, and the author links his analysis to structural developments and turning points in European history. The book blends politics, economy and culture to show how human and natural resources in Finland have been utilized and the impact its cultural heritage and technological innovation have had on its development. 2006.