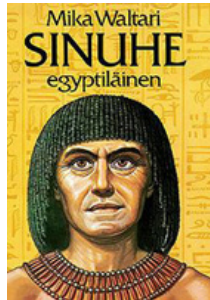


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Mika Waltari (1908-1979) was one of the best-known and most prolific Finnish writers, producing a wide range of works including poems, short stories, crime novels, plays, essays and film scripts. His best-known work, *The Egyptian*, is a historical novel about the fictional character Sinuhe, set in ancient Egypt during the reign of Pharaoh Akhenaten of the 18th Dynasty. The book was published in Finnish in 1945 and it has been translated into over 40 languages. It is also the only Finnish novel to have been adapted into a Hollywood film.

Mika Waltari: The Egyptian

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Sofi Oksanen (b. 1977) is an award-winning writer who has published six novels and won several international and national literary prizes. Her best-known work, *Purge*, published in 2008, is set in Soviet-occupied Estonia and features two strong female characters: the old Aliide living in the countryside and the young Zara, a victim of sex trafficking. Originally based on Oksanen's first play, *Purge* has also been adapted into a film in 2012, and made into an opera. *Purge* has won several awards, which is not surprising given its captivating story.

Sofi Oksanen: Purge

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Väinö Linna (1920-1992) is a well-known writer who depicts Finnish history, and his works are part of the Finnish national identity. His most famous work, *The Unknown Soldier*, tells a story from the Continuation War with vivid characters. Published in 1954, the book is so essential that almost every Finn has read it at school. *The Unknown Soldier* is an integral part of Finnish society, and a film based on the book is shown on television on Independence Day every year. In addition to three movie adaptations, it has also been adapted for the stage.

Väinö Linna: The Unknown Soldier

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Arto Paasilinna (1942-2018) was a humorous writer who was a master of using language and narrative to create entertaining works. His best-known work, *The Year of the Hare* (1975), is about a man who leaves his job and his old life behind in exchange for the freedom of the road. He sets out on a journey in the wilderness with a hare he nearly killed with his car, but nursed back to health and kept as a pet. The novel has been translated into almost 30 languages and made into a film.

Arto Paasilinna: The Year of the Hare

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Tove Jansson (1914-2001) was the creator of the beloved Moomins. She was also a novelist, artist, illustrator and cartoonist. Her best-loved series is about the Moomins, hippo-like trolls who live peacefully in the Moomin valley. All together nine books were released between 1945 and 1980, together with four picture books and a comic strip. The Moomin books have been translated into around 60 languages and the stories have enjoyed great international success. The adventures of the Moomins are not limited to novels; the stories and characters also live on in comics, TV series, films and fan products.

Tove Jansson: The Moomins

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