

Aapo Kukko: *The Socialist and the Nihilist*

Original title: Sosialisti ja nihilisti

Publisher: Arktinen Banaani / Zum Teufel / Täysi Käsi oy

The Socialist and the Nihilist is a graphic novel about a trip taken by two artists who are struggling with war trauma.

A middle-aged socialist poet and a young nihilist artist meet in Helsinki in the winter of 1948. The socialist had refused to serve in Finland's Continuation War with the Soviet Union, while the nihilist had left for the front as a volunteer. On a whim, they travel across Europe together in search of a working example of socialism. As a result of their journey, both the socialist and the nihilist are changed – as individuals and as artists.

The story is based in part on the lives of the poet Arvo Turtiainen and author-artist Henrik Tikkanen.

“*The Socialist and the Nihilist* depicts with striking depth the severeness of the spiritual landscape – of being, living, and creating – after the Second World War.”

—Markus Määttänen / *Aamulehti* (Tampere)

“Kukko knows how to let his images speak. Dialogue and other text is often sparse. In places, dreams, desires, and memories intertwine with reality in a visual stream of consciousness.”

—Harri Römpötti / *Helsingin Sanomat*

Synopsis translated by Christina Saarinen.