

## **Jere Vartiainen: *Minuus* | *Miinus***

Original title: *Minuus* | *Miinus*

Publisher: Kolera, 2018

*Minuus* | *Miinus* is the third work of poetry by psychologist Jere Vartiainen (b. 1983) from Oulu, Finland. The collection is diverse and intimate in its expression, diving headlong into the hidden and sometimes brutal aspects of masculinity. The book takes inspiration from pop culture and graphic visuality as it presents and unravels the knotted loops of violence that run through many experiences of manhood and growing up as a man. *Minuus* | *Miinus* provides harrowing but also humorous insight into subjects such as sexuality, loneliness, working and student life, and the emotional attachments of childhood and youth. The book is dedicated to all young boys and men who suffer from anxiety.

### **Selected reviews:**

"Vartiainen sings the boy in his poems with the gentleness of a lullaby, and then turns around and screams dark bile as through a megaphone into the ears of society at large. Vartiainen's craft helps both man and boy be heard, even through the roar."

— Yle *Tanssiva karhu* Literary Award jury note

"The collection is a welcome voice in the broad contemporary conversation about changing narratives of maleness that the 20th century has brought to bear. ... Many of the concepts related to the discourse often tend to be hastily or partially investigated; Vartiainen's collection is perhaps the best of explanations for many of them that I've ever seen."

— Jarkko Korpua, Kaltio magazine

"In this collection, harrowing childhood experiences are poetically integrated and linked to the many forms taken by the demands of masculinity."

— Miikka Laihinen, Turun Sanomat newspaper

"Vartiainen is able to access the very deepest of human emotions on a broad scale; the private sphere expands toward shared truths as the book's "examinee" stumbles inward, approaching hope."

— Minna Mikkonen, Kaltio magazine

Synopsis translated by Kasper Salonen.