

Reviews

Minna Rytisalo: LEMPI

“Rytisalo has created a precious tapestry where the feelings of the protagonists are timeless, dependless of place and totally fresh, as always in the best of fiction. The novel as a whole is excellently drafted and the language is amazingly balanced at all times. ... *Lempi* is a story of love with a tone of a murder ballad. The people in it don't do evil because of evil itself but because of weakness. ... The grand tales and intertwining fates are caused by things that were supposed to be simple, like love.”

– *Helsingin Sanomat newspaper 1.8.2016*

“Minna Rytisalo's debut novel is a beautiful, balanced and touching story with Lapland War as only a background, a stage on which the fatal coincidences and unconditional emotions work, leading the characters of the book to the borderlines of right and wrong.

From the first pages *Lempi* seems an exceptionally strong novel. The structure supports the story so seamlessly that you don't even pay attention to it. The story offers surprises regularly.

...

The novel is effortlessly stylish, a complete whole. It is easy to predict that it will be awarded, appreciated and made into plays. Hopefully the feedback will encourage Rytisalo to keep on writing. It is only rarely that you get to see such a skilful debut.”

– *Aamulehti newspaper 1.9.2016*

“A wonderful and captivating debut.”

– *Parnasso literature magazine 4/2016*

“The main character of Minna Rytisalo's novel is Lempi. Her character is built from the memories of three different people. It is rarely if ever that I have seen a debut novel with this kind of a technique. Such *tour de force* you don't come across often.”

– Yle, Finnish broadcasting company, 19.9.2016

“*Lempi* is a novel that is mature and masterly. It is narrated tortuously patiently, its choice of narrators is innovative, and its language is breathtakingly beautiful. The drama builds perfectly towards the end to its climax.

– *Keskisuomalainen newspaper 3.11.2016*

“*Lempi* is an exceptionally strong and complete debut novel. A skilled author has created a beautiful language characterized by long, winding sentences. The story is told in a powerful, yet unassuming manner, leaving room for the reader to think by himself.

The flaming frenzy driving the characters of the novel is vividly described. The stories of the three narrators form little by little a picture of Lempi. ... The structure of the novel is masterly, and it works well. After the first round the book entices the reader to read the book anew.”

– *From the statement of the jury of the booksellers' and librarians' "Kirja vieköön" award 22.4.2017*

“Minna Rytisalo’s *Lempi* is a unique and successful debut. – Rytisalo has a strong voice of her own and the way of her writing is individual and close to the rhythm of speaking. As a whole the novel is a beautiful package where everything is where it should be.”

– *Turun Sanomat newspaper 26.11.2016*

“Minna Rytisalo’s *Lempi* is an exceptionally well-balanced and finished debut novel. Rytisalo’s writing is at the same time delicate and refined but also frenzied and powerful. The characters are made of flesh and blood and the feelings – be they sadness, envy, confusion or passion – are extreme.”

– Botnia award jury statement

“Rytisalo’s language is clear and crystallized. She uses intriguing and almost lyrical metaphors that offer the text a possibility to breathe and the reader a chance to stop. ... Rytisalo has managed to write a novel that doesn’t surrender to its reader right away.

– *Kiiltomato literature site 10.12.2016*

“The family tragedy is skillfully written to the form of a jigsaw, nature is described astonishingly beautifully, and human destinies are dictated by instantaneous decisions. This wise novel leaves a long, melancholy aftertaste.”

– *Me Naiset magazine*

“The novel’s language is without comparison: rich, delicate, strong. Its rhythm is like that of the heart, or of breathing.”

– *Sinisen linnan kirjasto ('The Blue Castle Library') blog*

“The atmosphere is as calm as that of a lake in the wilderness, but the changes, actions and words cause it to ripple ominously. Rytisalo has succeeded in her attempt to create tension... The novel holds the readers in its grip, making them breathe a little faster, conjecture, but always be surprised.”

– *Eniten minua kiinnostaa tie ('The Road Interests Me the Most') blog*

“*Lempi* is one of those books you find difficult to write about without ending up using superlatives and excessive praising. – It is a beautiful, tender, powerful and devastating novel about how life always doesn't go as you have imagined or expected.”

– *Kirjanurkkaus blog, 25.1.2017*

“*Lempi* is Minna Rytisalo’s magnificent debut. – I was left without words facing this strong and tragic story. A great novel.”

– *Kirja viekoon blog, 12.8.2016*

“I haven’t read anything as unconstrainedly poetic in a long time. The descriptions of nature paint the reader a scenery of tussocks, roots of spruce trees, lakeside views. The language is so natural and real that you can almost feel the characters breathing against your own skin. This is a story that touches you deep.”

– *Mrs. Karlsson lukee blog, 18.9.2017*

“Rytisalo writes amazingly beautifully with words that affect deeply and create strong images of the characters of the novel. How differently they see Lempi and how their fates fold around one another even if they don’t want them to. And when you have created an image of Lempi the next narrator crushes it. Through it all, the plot drives you with full speed. Once you think you know how all of it will end a new twist turns everything around and you have to reassess.”

– *Sivujen välissä blog 17.1.2017*

“There is nothing missing from *Lempi* and there is nothing too much. It is a skillfully written, polished and carefully drafted novel without a hint of calculation or clinical approach. It is filled with passion, love, hate, guilt, longing, envy and gratitude.”

– *Villasukka kirjahyllyssä blog, 6.7.2016*