



Literary
fiction



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Minna Rytisalo (b. 1974) writes prose that has been described as delicate and yet masterful and strong, with a rhythm like that of a beating heart and breathing. Her debut novel *Lempi* (2016) was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, the Runeberg Prize and the Lappi Literature Prize, and it won the Blogistania Finland Prize and Thank You for the Book Prize. She works as a high school Finnish teacher and writes columns about literature.

Minna Rytisalo

Lempi

Love. Jealousy. Hate.

The consequences of an action from which there is no escape.

One summer and half a year, youthful play, a fairy tale-like happiness. But then war breaks out. Viljami leaves for the front, and Lempi, who is carrying her first child, stays behind with a maidservant. When the war soon ends, everything has changed, forever.

Lempi is a novel with a singular voice about love, the thirst for life, happenstance, and fate. Rytisalo writes with a timeless but completely fresh and controlled language as she describes the tragedy that's the turning point in the lives of three people. In the end the book shows how the main characters of their own lives are just supporting characters in the lives of others.

Minna Rytisalo's bestselling debut novel has been praised by critics and readers alike for its rich language and well-balanced tension. It was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, the Runeberg Prize and the Lappi Literature Prize. It won the Blogistania Finlandia Prize, voted by Finnish bloggers as the best novel of 2016, the Thank You for the Book Prize awarded by the Finnish Booksellers', Librarians' and Libraries Association, and the Botnia Prize. The novel has sold almost 20,000 copies so far.

"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."

Helsingin Sanomat newspaper

"Lempi is one of the books that seem to have been created easily, as if the perfect text would just have flown from the author's fingertips to the paper and set itself in a ready form. The novel is effortlessly stylish, a complete whole."

Aamulehti newspaper



Lempi

Gummerus, 2016, 234 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample,
German translation

RIGHTS SOLD

Germany, Hanser; Lithuania, Alma Littera;
Norway, Pax

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