



Literary  
fiction



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Pauliina Rauhala (b. 1977) works as a Finnish teacher and lives in the northern city of Oulu. *Heavensong* (2013) is Rauhala's debut novel. It became the most talked about book of the year and was awarded the Christian Book Prize and Gummerus' Kaarle Prize. Her second book *Harvest* (2018) continues on the themes of love and religion.

Pauliina Rauhala

## Harvest

*What kind of shadows cast the people who are trying to help?*

Rural Western Finland in the end of the 1970s. In a village by a river people live on the edge of time and eternity – the second coming of Jesus is near.

In the daytime Taisto chats to birds and flowers in his garden, but at night he is building a tight, religious ark for those who are willing to confess their sins and repent.

Aliisa still remembers a different way of practising her faith and dares to question spiritual Care Assemblies. Her daughter Auroora is battling with love that transgresses boundaries.

Aaron, a ten-year-old, prays devotedly so that none of his relatives ends up in hell. He writes secrets in The Notebook of Important Things and is building an ark of his own.

*Harvest* is a novel about an introverted religious community and the various nuances of love.

The story of a family deepens into a portrayal of spiritual control and longing for love.

Pauliina Rauhala's debut novel *Heavensong* has sold 67,000 copies in Finland.

*"The novel is especially accomplished in the way it uses language and the brave way it approaches its themes. The shifting narrators and blog texts enhance the world of the novel and provide a fitting contrast to Vilja's first-person narration. [...] Heavensong is unsettling and courageous. It's a lyrical call for help, a story of survival and love."* Turun Sanomat newspaper



*Synninkantajat*

Gummerus, 2018, 367 pp.

### READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

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### ALSO AVAILABLE

*Heavensong* (Taivaslaulu, 2013)

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