

SYNOPSIS

Tuomo Pirttimaa: *Quagmire*

Original title: Hete

Publisher: Johnny Kniga, 2021

Four dead-end roads all leading to the same place: Petty criminals searching for a place to hide after robbing a gun shop. Reindeer herders who know they'll be caught after illegally killing a bear. An accountant escaping his chronic pain and the dark moments it brings. A preacher in a religious movement, returning home to lick his wounds after being convicted for the sexual exploitation of a child.

In this strongly atmospheric novel, pain, revenge, and grace go hand in hand. On the roads and villages of the north, time stands still, and there is no savior in sight.

Quagmire tells about exploitation and shame, drugs and painkillers, predatory anger, the fast-arriving northern springtime, and the rumble of large diesel engines.

Book review quotes:

“Pirttimaa has written no basic detective story: The language of the novel is skillful and multifaceted. Behind the ugly and the barren arises nuances and shades of color, beauty, and wisdom. [The book’s] language is not just a tool, rising in places to a level where it is precisely the method and skill of narration that leaves you entertained and dumbfounded, taking the story and themes to a deeper level.”

—*Keskipohjanmaa* (Kokkola)

“The boldly provocative Pirttimaa certainly knows he has given birth to a bouncing and energetic firstborn, which people are still talking about.”

—*Kaleva* (Oulu)

“If [celebrated modernist Finnish author] Timo K. Mukka and Quentin Tarantino wrote a thriller together, it might be this good.”

—*Seura* magazine

“Tuomo Pirttimaa daringly fits together irreconcilable elements. A promising start to a career.”

—*Helsingin Sanomat*

“Tuomo Pirttimaa has written an uncompromising debut novel.”

—*Karjalainen* (Joensuu)

“Tuomo Pirttimaa already early in the year took his place as one of the most interesting debut writers of the year.”

—*Mesta.net*

“The combination of tough events and subtle linguistic description results in a captivating novel. The fatalism of descriptions of the backwoods is there, and fantastic characterization.”

—*Kansan Uutiset* (Helsinki)

Synopsis translated by Christina Saarinen.