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Mika Lietzén

Yesterday, Tomorrow (*Eilen, huomenna*)

GRAPHIC NOVEL

August 1993. Three young men spend a final weekend in the Finnish archipelago before going off to study in the city. Over a few long days and bright summer nights the outlines of their future lives are sketched in the weather-beaten stone cliffs and lush green fields of their native countryside.

Yesterday, Tomorrow is a major graphic novel about small things, about the brief moments between youth and adulthood when the decisions we make truly begin to affect the rest of our lives. Narrated in documentary fashion complemented by a sharp, clear, realistic drawing style, the events of "*Eilen, huomenna*" play out against the breathtaking scenery of the Finnish archipelago, creating lifelike portraits of three young men dealing with choices and problems familiar to us all.

Mika Lietzén is one of the most skilled and versatile realistic comic artists in Finland. He depicts the entire spectrum of human relationships and emotions subtly, yet with painful honesty. But sticking to realism is no straitjacket for Lietzén, because his work is stylistically varied, often experimental.

Lietzén's previous albums include *Stories from the West* (Tarinoita lännestä, 2007) and *Elegy* (Elegia, 2008). *Elegy* was nominated for the most prestigious award for comic strips in Finland, the Sarjakuva Finlandia Comics Award, and a translation of it was published in France in 2009. Lietzén was awarded an Aboa grant (formerly the Aboa Prize) by the city of Turku in 2010, and he has been honored in the prestigious Kemi Arctic Comics Festival competition three times: in 2000, 2002 (main prize), and 2005. He won the Sarjis competition in 2004.

More about the album:

www.lietzen.com

www.asemakustannus.com



MIKA LIETZÉN (b. 1974) earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Turku. He has worked as a freelance comic artist, illustrator, and, since 2001, as a comics publisher at Asema Publishing. Lietzén's newspaper comics have been published in *Suomen Kuvalehti* and the *Helsingin Sanomat* "NYT" supplement. Lietzén has also participated in numerous comic art exhibitions in Finland and abroad.

Reviews of Lietzén's previous work:

"Life wins out over dreams, Lietzén seems to be saying. But oh how engrossing those dreams are. ... Mika Lietzén is a gifted artist"

– Heikki Jokinen, *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper

"Well-told graphic novels."

– Petri Hannini, *Keskisuomalainen* newspaper

"This unique dramatic script, realized in comic form, creates something new both for the comic book and theater fields."

– Suomalainen.com

"Mika Lietzén's elegant drawing focuses ... on people—that's what this is about."

– Heikki Jokinen, *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper



Original name: *Eilen, huomenna*

Publisher: Asema Kustannus

Summer 2011

170 pages

Hardcover 172 x 250 mm

Cover design: Mika Lietzén

www.asemakustannus.com

For foreign rights please contact:

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Literary Agent Maria Sántti

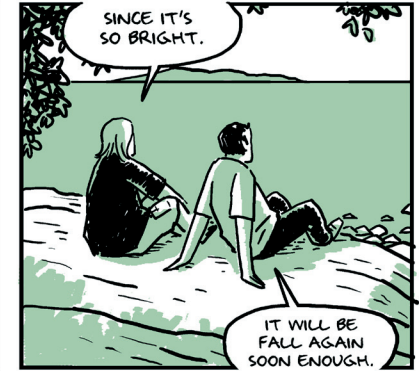
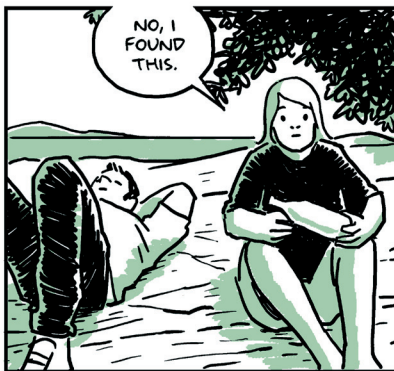
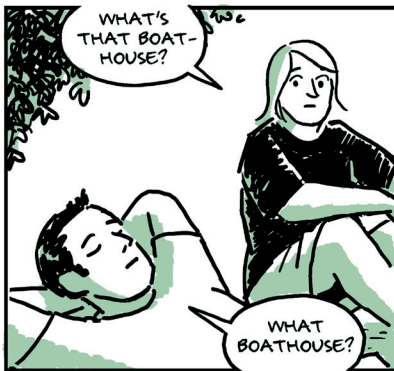
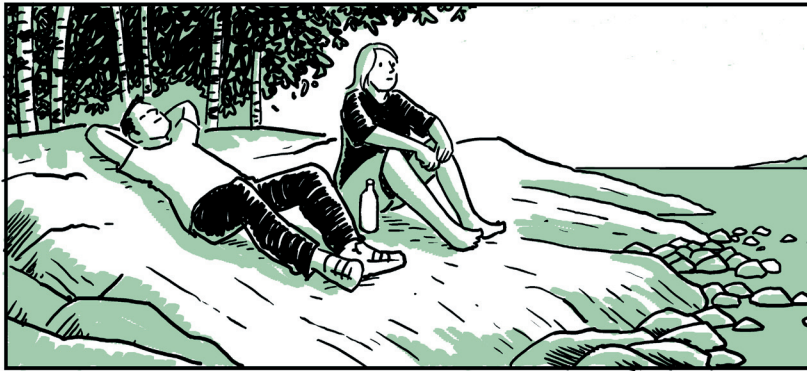
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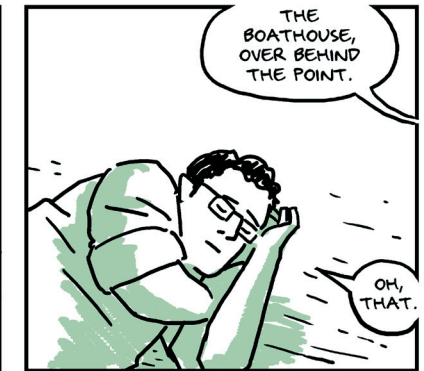
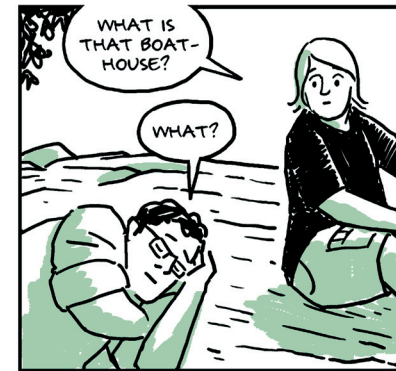
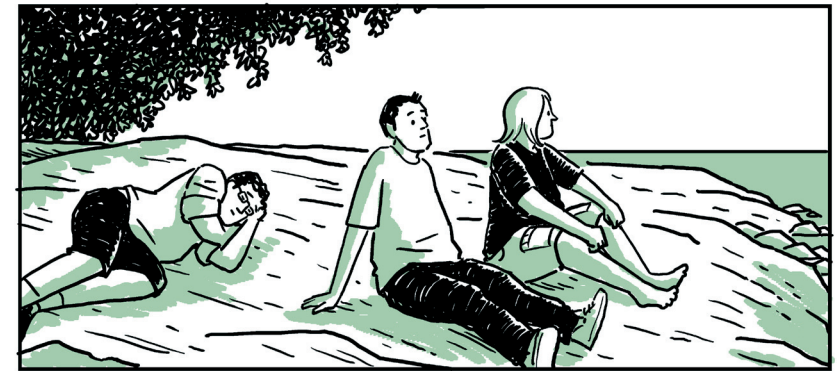
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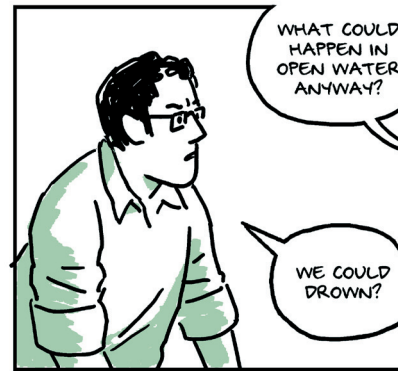
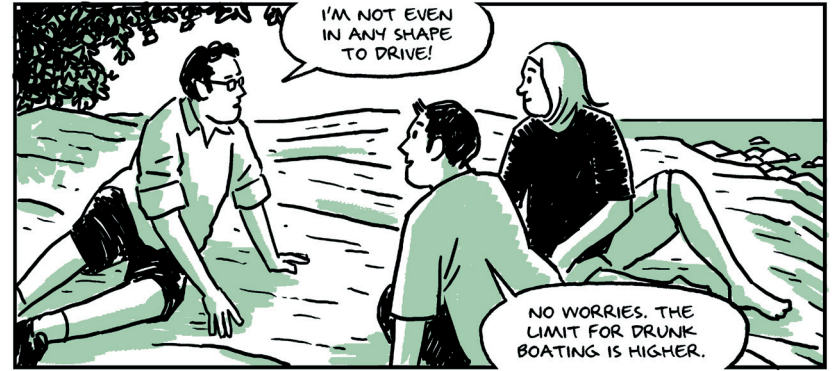
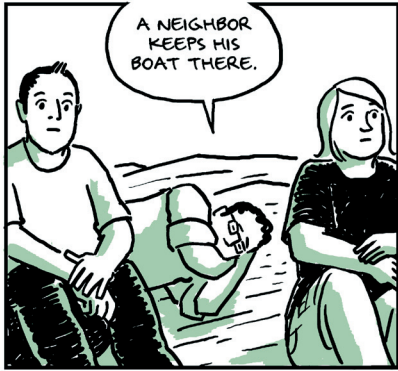
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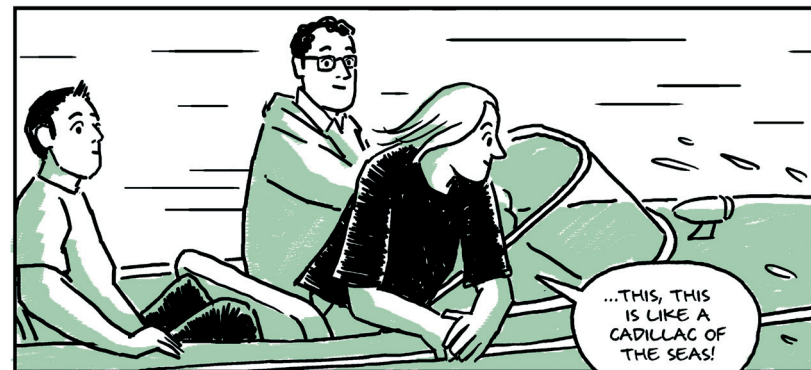
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Ave Koskela

Mr. Bastard's Flower Book (Armaksen kukkakirja)

COMIC STRIP ALBUM

Mr. Bastard doesn't kowtow to anyone or anything. The Bastards speak out on everything no one else even bothers to ask about.

Pen name **Ave Koskelas'** comic strip Hemmo Bastard was the crowning gem of the legendary Finnish humor magazine *Pahkasika* from 1988 to 1998. Hemmo Bastard was a devious schoolboy who, along with his pals Stegu and Löka, mercilessly berated Hemmo's father, the prestige-hungry Mr. Bastard.

Beginning in 2007, the Bastard comic strip began to appear again in albums published by the Turku-based Zum Teufel. In these new albums, Hemmo's father, Mr. Bastard, has taken the reins of the strip. The head of the family holds forth and takes it on the chin in both politics and business life. Mr. Bastard lets it all hang out during his exploits into the darker side of history and modernity.

More comics by Ave Koskela:
www.hemmopaskiainen.fi



BEHIND THE PEN NAME AVE KOSKELA are the brothers **Ari** and **Vesa Koskela**. The Koskelas are dedicated professionals who, alongside their comics, have done large amounts of graphic work for advertising agencies and businesses. Their other comics include *The Koskinen Family (Koskinen perhe)* and *Ballheads (Pallopää)*.

Reviews of the Bastard comics:

"The best things about the Hemmo Bastard comic strip are the unbridled language and Ari Koskela's unbelievable illustration. The setup of the stories is reminiscent of classic Donald Duck strips, but the end result is more full of life, more ribald."

– Petri Hannini, Keskisuomalainen newspaper

"An exceptionally good collection, hard cover, excellent printing. The contents are even better."

– Kirjavinkit.fi

"After starting out as schoolboy humor, saturated with cursing and drinking, the strip grew into one of the best-written comics in Finland. Hemmo clobbered bureaucracy and small-mindedness, and ripped on television and politicians."

– Olli Sulopuisto, Ylioppilaslehti magazine

Original name: Hemmo Paskiainen 11
– Armaksen kukkakirja

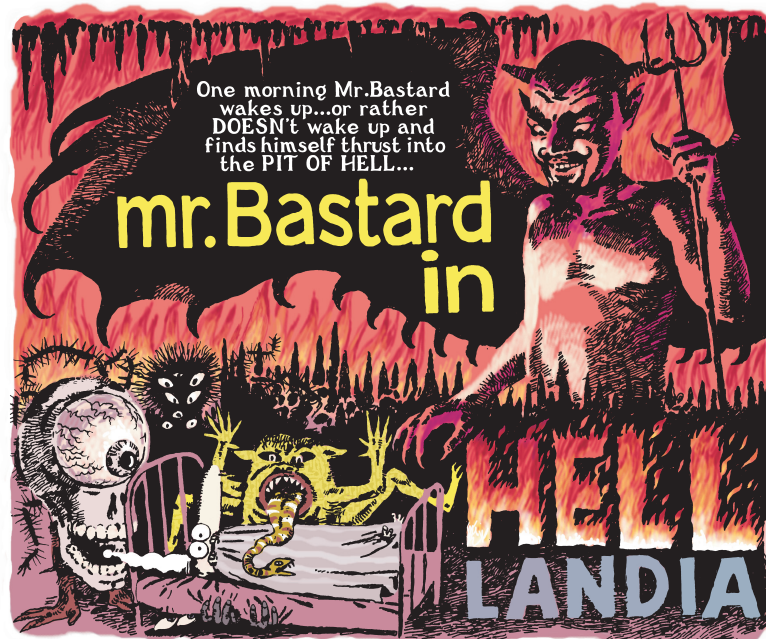
Publisher: Zum Teufel
April 2011
96 pages, all 4-colour
Hardcover 172 x 245 mm
ISBN 978-952-5754-28-5
www.zumteufel.fi

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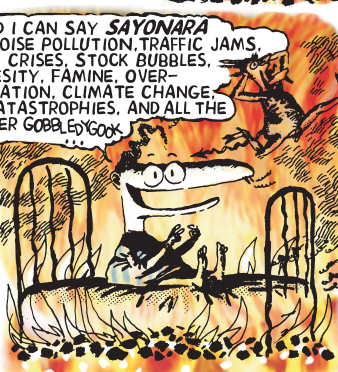
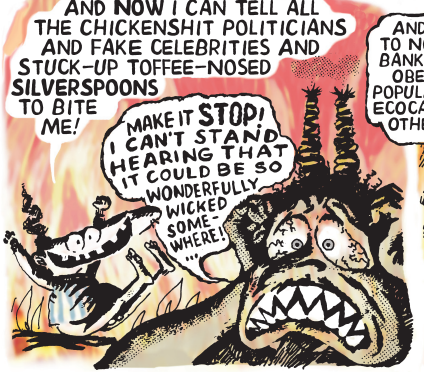
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Milla Paloniemi

Kiroileva siili (The Cursing Hedgehog)

COMIC STRIP ALBUMS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

The first *Cursing Hedgehog* album has sold a total of more than 40,000 copies, and the next four albums have also been sales successes, totaling 100,000 sold copies. The fifth album was published in February 2011, and the first album in English for the Finnish market in April 2011.

The Cursing Hedgehog comic character appeared on the corner of Milla Paloniemi's lecture notebook for the first time in the fall of 2003. The angular ball of spines began to take life in insightful strips that go straight for the funny bone. The first *Cursing Hedgehog* collection quickly gained widespread popularity.

The Cursing Hedgehog won the biggest Finnish comics prize, the Comic Finlandia, in 2008 and the Kemi Comic Festival Lempi Prize in 2007.

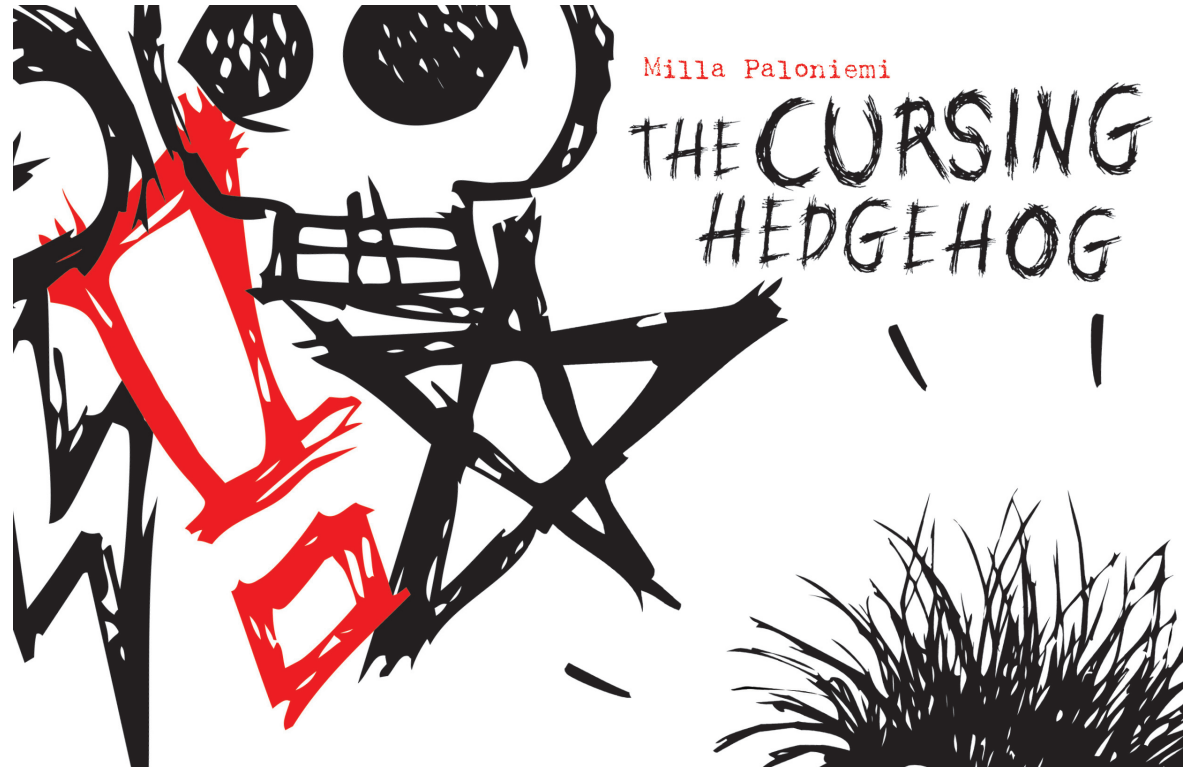
More about The Cursing Hedgehog:
www.thecursinghedgehog.com

MILLA PALONIEMI (b. 1983) graduated as a graphic designer in spring 2007. The Cursing Hedgehog collection, published by Sammakko, was this Helsinki-ized Ostrobothnian's senior project. Her published comics include also *Tassutellen (Padding Along, Sammakko 2007)* and *En vaan osaa! (But I don't know how!, Sammakko 2008)*, which is based on her own comic blog, which is one of Finland's most popular. Paloniemi now works on comics, illustration, and graphic design.

Reviews of The Cursing Hedgehog comics:

"The Cursing Hedgehog's rapid breakthrough has been dazzling."
– Elina Lappalainen, Keski-suomalainen newspaper

"Paloniemi has reason to rejoice because the first printing of her prickly hero's adventures was sold out in one month."
– Iltalehti newspaper



"Everyone loves The Cursing Hedgehog!"
– Juha Tolvanen, Iltta-Sanommat newspaper

"The Cursing Hedgehog hits me at least full-on. So far I haven't found anyone who hasn't burst out laughing at Milla's genius hedgehog comics."
– Juha Vuorinen, author

"The Cursing Hedgehog will steal your heart!"
– Janne Suominen, Eläinmaailma

"Saves the day!"
– Antti Aro, Miss Mix teen style magazine

Original name: Kiroileva siili
Publisher: Sammakko
96 pages, b/w
Hardcover 215 x 135 mm
ISBN 978-952-483-174-1

Cover design: Milla Paloniemi
www.sammakko.com

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In the autumn hedgehogs seek out to hibernate under piles of leaves.

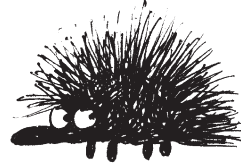


OH, FOR F***'S SAKE!!



©mlk-04

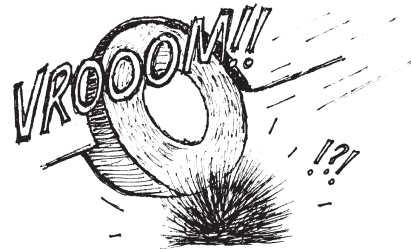
How does a hedgehog scratch its back?



It doesn't.

©mlk-03

Traffic is a hazard for hedgehogs.

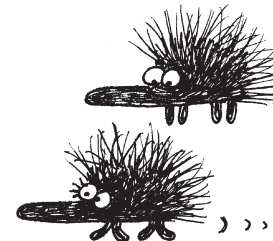
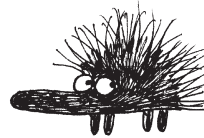


F***ING ROAD HOG!?!



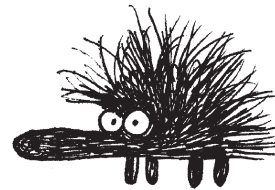
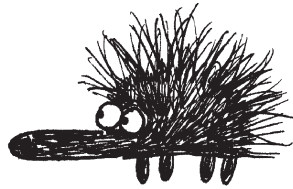
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Hedgehogs mate in springtime.

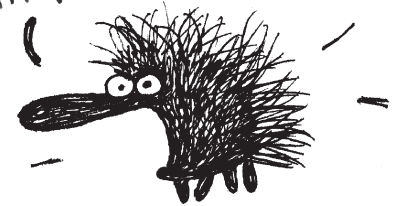


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Hedgehogs are protected.

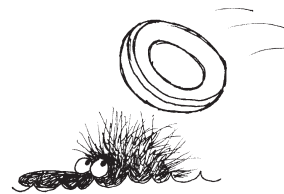


DO NOT F***ING
PATRONISE ME!!



©Milla -05

The hedgehog
is drowning.



TSSSS...
PSSSSH...

WELL
THANKS
A F***ING MILLION!!



©Milla -05

HI! I'M AN
AFRICAN PYGMY
HEDGEHOG!!



WHAT KIND OF
HEDGEHOG ARE
YOU?!



A F***ING
NORMAL
HEDGEHOG!!



©Milla -05



Anni Nykänen

Granny (Mummo)

COMIC STRIP

Everyone needs their Granny! *Granny* is a popular cartoon by **Anni Nykänen**. The strip won The Nordic Comic Prize in Kemi Arctic Comics Festival in 2009. The energetic Grandma says and does exactly what she wants. She can also be as unruly as an adolescent. Her family consists of a loving and calm Grandpa, and a plump Cat.

This spry *Granny* will straighten you out and whip you into shape in her new dynamic comic strip album. Previously *Granny's* energy has been charming Finns from the pages of *Seura* magazine, where the strips appear regularly.

The *Granny* comic album is jam packed with this eternally young oldster's anarchistic antics. *Granny* doesn't miss a trick, no matter how newfangled. She goes with the flow, babushka headscarf flapping in the wind, whether it be a one-person demonstration, Sudoku weight loss, or any other of our modern miracles.

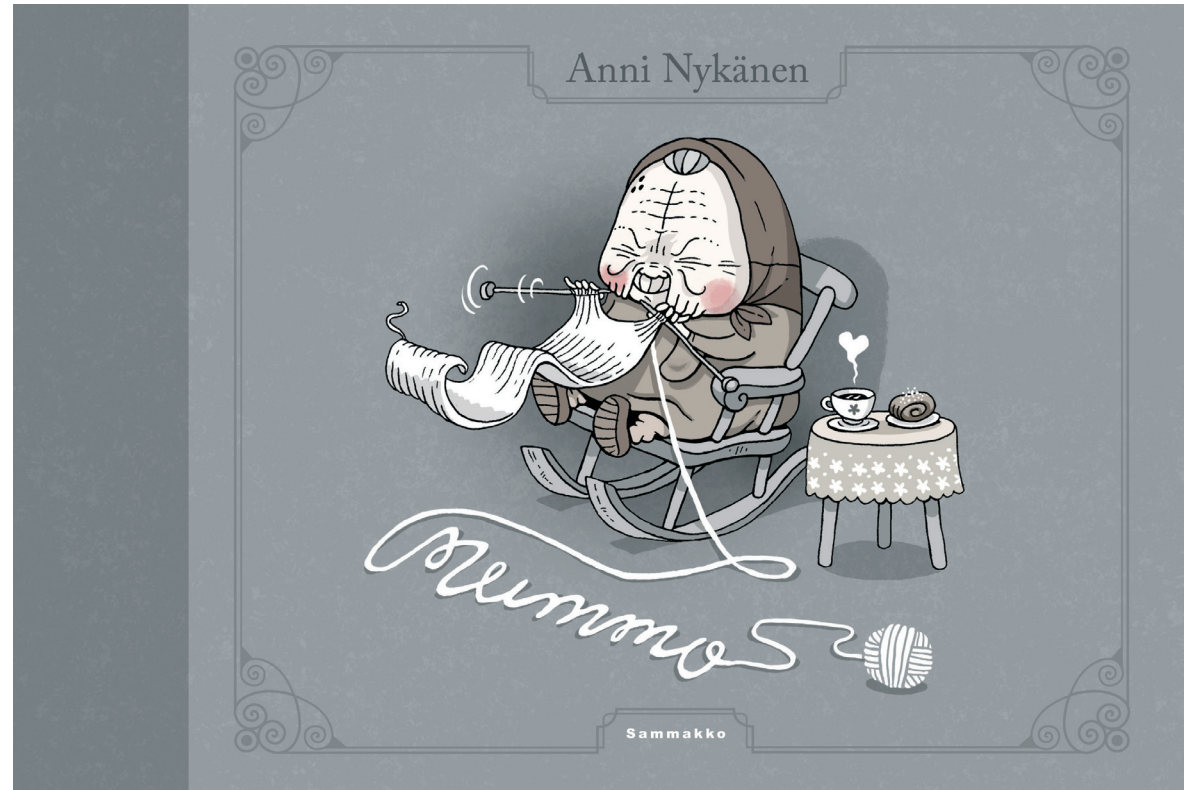
More *Granny* comics:
mummo.sarakuvablogit.com

ANNI NYKÄNEN (b. 1983) is a graphic designer from Helsinki. The *Granny* comic got its start from Nykänen observing elderly women in the swimming pool sauna and listening to their conversations. She hopes her comic strip will spark dialog about treatment of the elderly.

Reviews of the *Granny* comics:

"Anni Nykänen's Granny is a supergrandma, sometimes full of vinegar and sometimes cutting, but always conscious of her own worth and mischievous even when she doesn't mean to be."

– Carita Forsman, Kaleva newspaper



Original name: Mummo
Publisher: Sammakko
Autumn 2010
104 pages, b/w
Hardcover 245 x 165 mm
ISBN 978-952-483-166-6
Cover design: Anni Nykänen
www.sammakko.com

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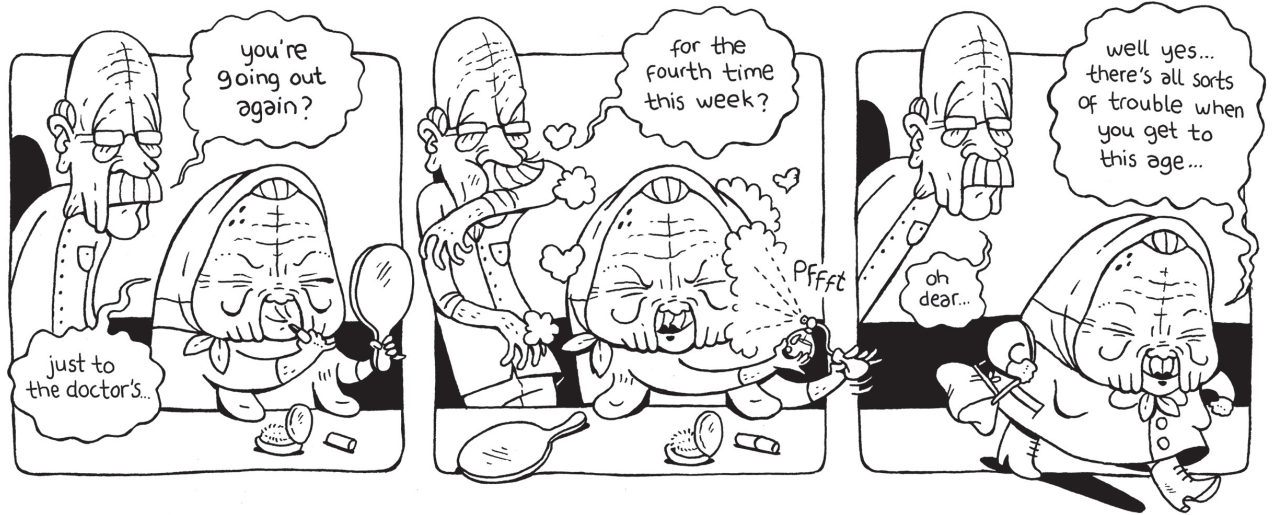
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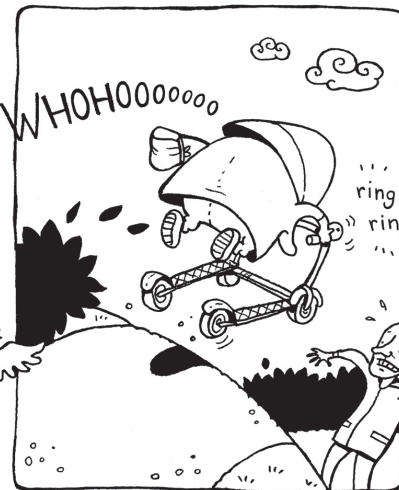
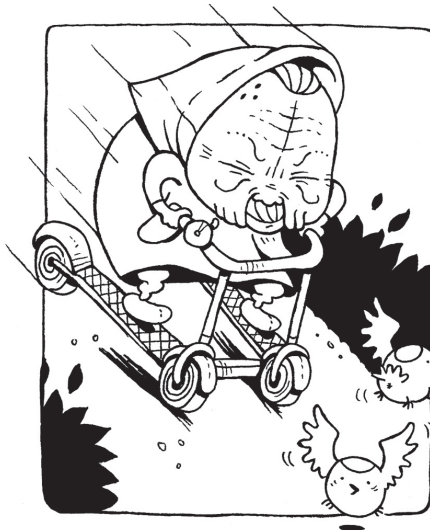
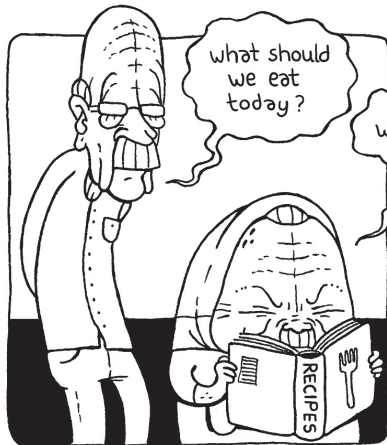
"Granny is drawn so brilliantly that just looking at the pictures makes you feel good."

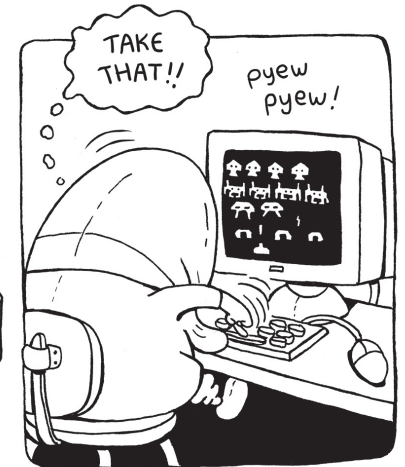
– Kirjavinkit.fi online literary magazine

"Granny's frankness is invigorating ... The illustration is smooth and pleasing to the eye."

– Heikki Jokinen, Helsingin Sanomat newspaper







Tuuli Hypén

Nelly (Nanna)

COMIC STRIP

After completing a course in human social acceptability, a young fox girl moves to the city to live as a student. Soon Nelly finds herself bewildered by her new surroundings, the intricacies of bureaucracy, indoor plumbing and the other city animals. She finds daily delight in her human roommates, computer games, and other novelties.

The Nelly comic strip appears in Finland's largest newspaper, *Helsingin Sanomat*, and Turku's *Turun Sanomat*, among others. The strip is currently a nominee for the Comics Finlandia Prize as of this writing in spring, 2011.

The second Nelly album is to be published in 2011.

TUULI HYPÉN is a self-taught master illustrator and a skilled color manipulator. It is almost like drawing Nelly's life comes naturally to her. Hypén is currently studying cultural history at the University of Turku.

Reviews of Nelly comics:

"A debut carried off with good taste and professional skill that hits its target audience. ... The characters' expressions and body language are a pleasure to look at. They work!"

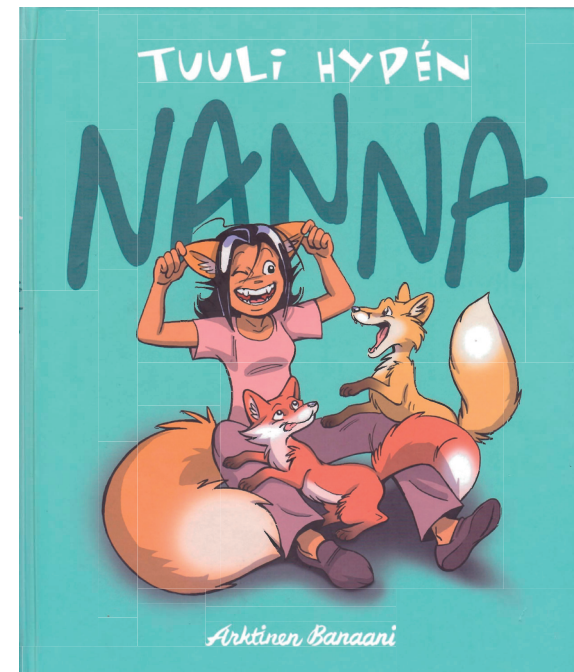
– Comics Finlandia jury remarks

"In terms of the illustration, Nelly resembles the Norwegian Lise Myhre's strip Nemi, but only resembles. Hypén succeeds in her own right."

– Kimmo Rantanen, Turun Sanomat

"It isn't serious if things go badly sometimes, just so long as people care about each other."

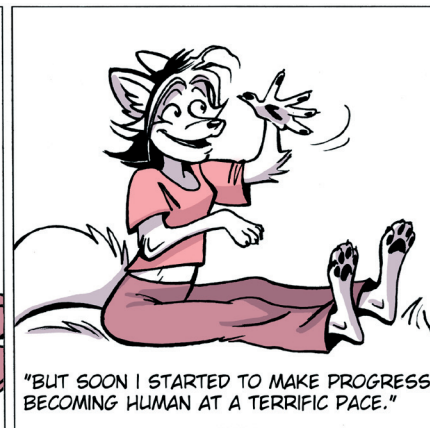
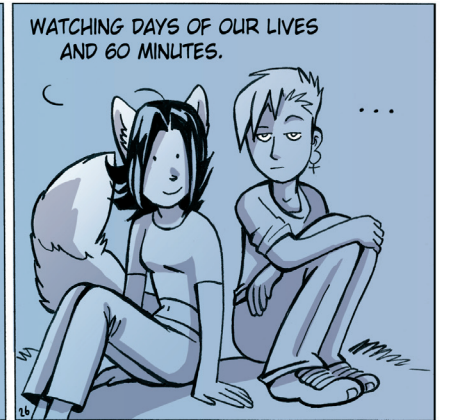
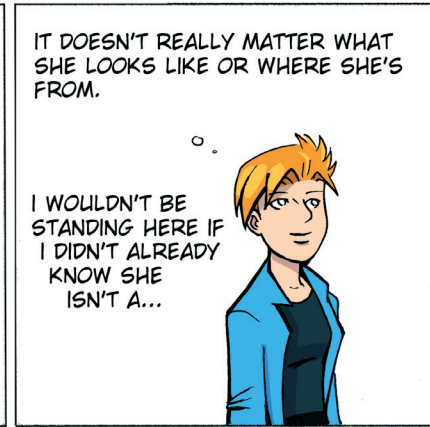
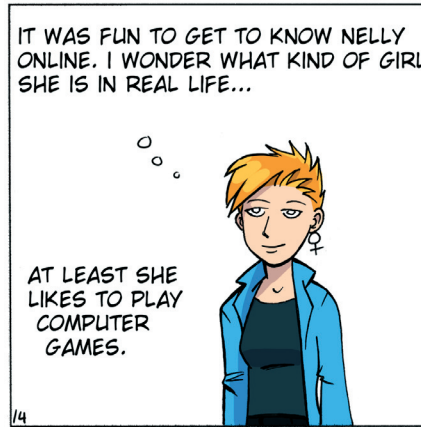
– Tuuli Hypén

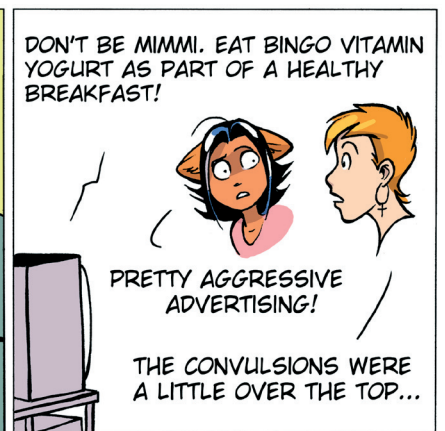
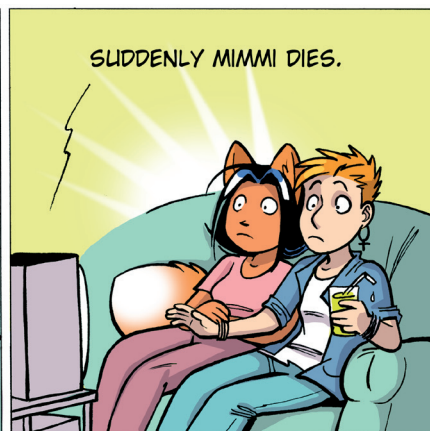
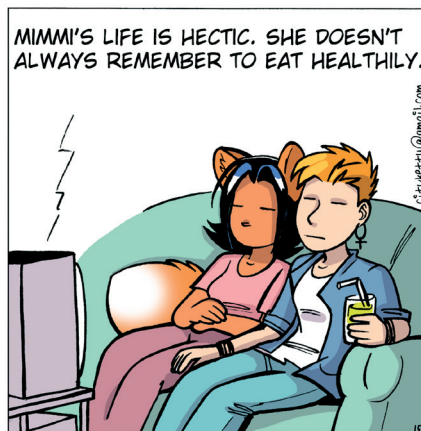
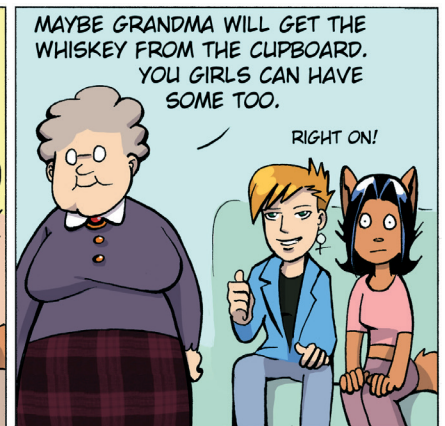
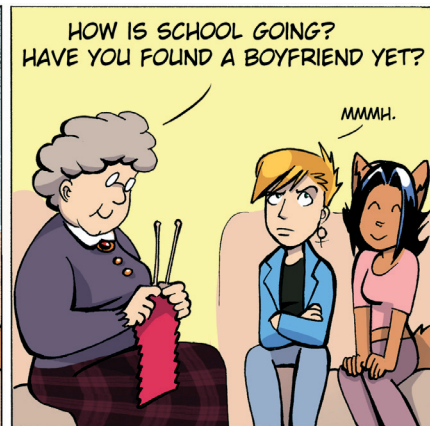
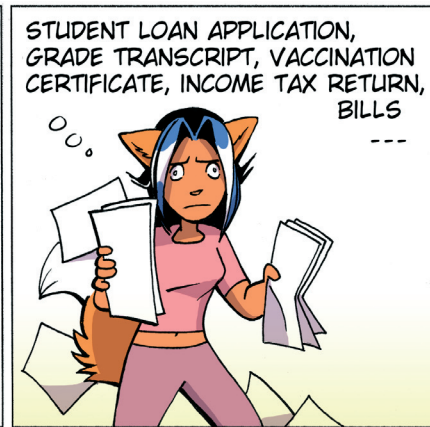


Original name: Nanna
Publisher: Arktinen Banaani
Autumn 2010
64 pages, all 4-colour
Hardcover 215 x 255 mm
ISBN 978-952-5768-57-2
Cover design: Bunny duck Grafiks, Tommi Hänninen
www.sarjakuva.com

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Jupu

Barbutterfly (Baarien nainen)

COMIC STRIP

Barbutterfly is an introduction to the not-always-so-glamorous life of a thirtysomething single woman. **Jupu** shows her alter ego lying around with friends on the sofa, at bars being approached by weird guys, and back home meeting the really peculiar members of family. *Barbutterfly* was a finalist for the Comics Finlandia Prize in 2010.

Second album by Jupu will appear Spring 2011, by the working name "Dog Park Woman".

More comics by Jupu:

jupu.vuodatus.net

JOHANNA "JUPU" TOLONEN (b. 1977) is a comic artist who lives in Helsinki and has training as both a seamstress and a design ceramist. She has previously lived in Iisalmi and a little all over the rest of Finland too. She has been studying and drawing comics regularly since 2002. Her blog has won her a faithful flock of admirers, and it is one of Finland's most-read comic blogs.

Reviews of the Barbutterfly comics:

"A fresh shot of home-grown comics spiced with such bubbly humor that you sink right in."

– Kirjavinkit.fi online literary magazine

"You can't help but envy the Barbutterfly's sharp comebacks to the bar men and their outlandish pick-up lines."

– Pirjo Nenonen, Iisalmen Sanomat

"Tolonen's strips are rough and direct, not the usual smoothed-over humor. Few have produced anything like this."

– Esa Mäkinen, Helsingin Sanomat

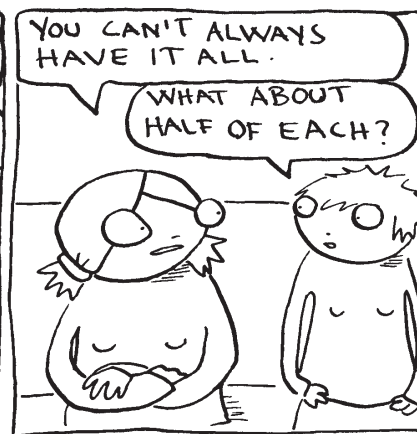
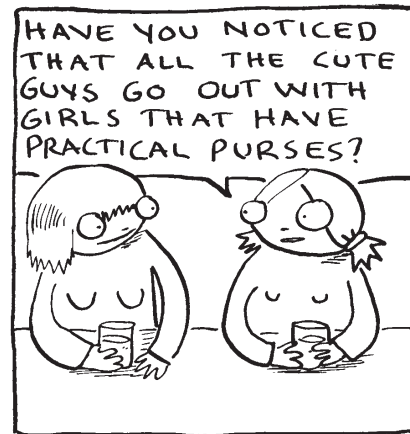


Original name: Baarien nainen
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Joonas Lehtimäki

Anonymous Animals (Anonyymit eläimet)

COMIC STRIP

Anonymous Animals is a comic strip that walks the fine line between bad taste and really bad taste, with themes ranging from incest to seppuku. It has risen to cult status on the pages of the "Nyt" ("Now") entertainment supplement of Finland's largest newspaper, *Helsingin Sanomat*.

JOONAS LEHTIMÄKI was born in Raisio, south-western Finland, in 1981. Lehtimäki has previous education as a school teacher and is currently working on his graduate thesis in the visual arts education training program at Aalto University.

Lehtimäki teaches courses and workshops for the Helsinki Comics Center, and has worked as a comics publisher in the publishing house Naama since the beginning of 2009. His comics have been published in several magazines and anthologies, including *Aino* magazine and the *Ilta-Sanomat* tabloid, to name just a few.

Original title: Anonyymit eläimet
Publisher: Sammakko
Summer 2011
Cover design: Joonas Lehtimäki
www.sammakko.com

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