

# Kari Hotakainen



LAURA MALMIVAARA

## LATEST PRODUCTION AND TRANSLATIONS:

**Henkireikä**, SILTALA 2015 (Danish)

**Luonnon laki**, SILTALA 2013  
(Danish, Italian, Norwegian, Slovenian)

**Jumalan sana**, SILTALA 2011  
(Croatian, Czech, Danish, Italian, Norwegian)

**Ihmisen osa**, SILTALA 2009  
(Czech, Danish, English, French, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish)

**Huolimattomat**, WSOY 2006  
(Danish, German, Norwegian)

**Punahukka**, WSOY 2005 (Russian)

**Iisakin kirkko**, WSOY 2004  
(Czech, Danish, Faroe, Norwegian, Swedish)

**Juoksuhaudantie**, WSOY 2002  
(Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Faroe, French, Georgian, German, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Latvian, Lithuanian, Marian, Norwegian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish)

## AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS:

Prix Coup de Coeur (PRIX DES JEUNES EUROPÉENS) 2012

Prix du Courier International (BEST EUROPEAN NOVEL) 2011

The Runeberg Prize 2010

The Nordic Drama Award 2006

Short-listed for The Finlandia Prize 2006

The Nordic Council Literary Prize 2004

The Finlandia Prize 2002

Short-listed for The Finlandia Prize 2002

The Topelius Prize 2000

Short-listed for The Finlandia Junior Prize 1997

Short-listed for The Finlandia Prize 1997

The Young Finland Prize 1993

Short-listed for The Runeberg Prize 1991

The Kalevi Jantti Prize for new outstanding voices 1988

(b. 1957) brought his distinctive, personal voice to the Finnish literary scene in 1982. Since then he has published 22 works comprising novels, poems, and books for children and young people. He has received the Nordic Council's Literary Prize, the Finlandia Prize, Prix du Courier International and the Prix Coup de Coeur, amongst others. His novels have been translated into more than 20 languages.

**HOTAKAINEN** constructs his relationship with the world explicitly through language: its jagged edges and voices are compressed into sentences where nothing is trivial. His protagonists are antiheroes whose dignity is long lost but who still embark on a furious crusade against illusions and misunderstandings that often are of their own making. An elderly shopkeeper sells her story to a writer, an investment banker gets stuck in Lapland due to a volcanic ash cloud, an entrepreneur struggles to survive a car crash. Hotakainen pries the lid off everyday life for his studies and discovers unexpected meanings wherever he looks.

"The energetic variations of a contemporary story and an interest in literature's language and the possibilities of storytelling make Hotakainen probably the most significant Finnish prose writer of the last decades. -- He started as a poet in the early 1980's, which can still be seen in his prose work as an enduring interest in the qualities of speech and language in a way that only poetry can activate."

– CRITIC MERVI KANTOKORPI

## Praise for Kari Hotakainen's Books:

"*Law of Nature* is full of the same fateful spirit than *The Human Part* and *The Word of God*, but with the same playfulness as well. -- There are no actual lines in the novel. The speech of the characters flows with the narration. And how it flows! You can hear all the keys, pitches and tones."

– PÄIVI TAUSSI, ETELÄ-SAIMAA

"*Law of Nature* is at the same time a societal and an extremely individualistic novel!"

– IRINA BJÖRKMÄN, ET-LEHTI

"Despite the theme, the quite intimate *Law of Nature* is full of joyful moments. Once again Hotakainen gives his insights on man and life. Aphoristic prose is his forte. A praise for the narration itself is in place. The narrator keeps distance with the objects of his study and doesn't give way to voyeurism. *Law of Nature* is thrillingly shallow and deep at the same time.

– JUKKA PETÄJÄ, HELSINGIN SANOMAT

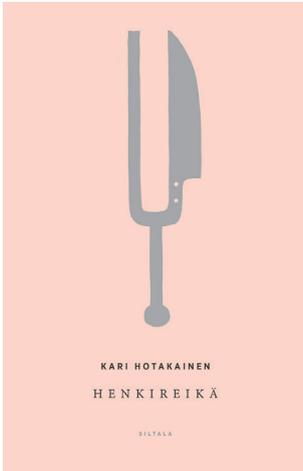
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## "Henkireikä"



**THE SOLITARY**, nameless Detective Superintendent sings in a mixed choir as an escape from the crushing weight of his work. But the Verger and the Hairdresser also sing in the choir, and as their ordinary and extraordinary troubles spill out, the superintendent is unable to avoid becoming involved. The problems become shared, and a desperate, tangled web is formed. Those who have tolerated and endured everything can endure no more. Anxiety grows from everyday concerns, from secret dark deeds, and from the hum of the choir a gasp for breath is choked. Lifeline is a dizzying plunge into the anatomy of murder, and moreover into those decisive moments before an irrevocable deed is committed.

This novel allows those who do not usually have a voice to speak and act. Those who have always put others before themselves, but who cross the line just once, and can never again return to life as a 'normal' person. Are we all capable of murder?

*"A weak person finishes off that which a strong person leaves unfinished. The weak become strong when the powers are no longer. Beware of the weak. Those who have had enough."*

Kari Hotakainen's new work is a humorous, intense crime novel written in a fury of raw emotion, about the workings of love and hate.

### Praise for *Lifeline*:

"When it comes to key ingredients, quality is prioritised over quantity. Kari Hotakainen requires just three people, a couple of strong motives, and one simple, yet suitably off-the-wall situation, to build a quality novel." – JUHANI KARILA, HELSINGIN SANOMAT

"There is humour to be found in the novel. And for the most part, it is as black as dried blood." – PEKKA JÄNTTI, KESKISUOMALAINEN

"This is a book of great epiphanies ... Hotakainen's novel throws together love and hate, revenge and murderous feelings. The author does not paint above-mentioned characteristics as symptoms of illness, rather as integral parts of the structures of the human psyche." – JUHANI BRANDER, AAMULEHTI

"This is the Hotakainen we know: aphoristic, bold and with unexpected trains of thought. And unquestionably thought provoking." – VEIJO HIETALA, TURUN SANOMAT

"Author Kari Hotakainen is in the fortunate situation whereby everything he touches becomes uniquely his own." – LIISA KUKKOLA, ETELÄ-SAIMAA

SILTALA

Kari Hotakainen

A LAW OF NATURE

SILTALA (2013), 280 PP.  
RIGHTS SOLD: DANISH (GYLDENDAL),  
ITALIAN (IPERBOREA),  
NORWEGIAN (CAPPELEN DAMM),  
SLOVENIAN (KUD SODOBNOST)

## “Luonnon laki”

Unique perspective  
on the laws of nature  
and on the nature of man



**A CAR CRASH ON THE HIGHWAY**, and Rautala is hurled into another reality. Day after day he lies immobilised in a hospital bed, at the mercy of others, dependent on the care of others. Laura the nurse has tended to patients, given them hope and tolerated everything, but Rautala is beyond Laura’s ability to cope, he quite simply pushes her beyond the limit. Rautala’s daughter Mira is a politically aware young woman who is on a constant collision course with her father. Rautala’s accident and Mira’s pregnancy make father and daughter try to overcome their differences – but can the proximity of death and birth really bring any lasting change to their relationship?

Kari Hotakainen’s novel *A Law of Nature* throws its readers into the midst of a situation where the private and personal suddenly moves into a wider social reality and context. Horror and beauty, life and death, laughter and tears change places at lightning speed, and the book is at once darkly serious and divinely humorous. Nature has its own laws, man has his nature, and Hotakainen has a unique perspective on both.

**DARKLY SERIOUS AND  
DIVINELY HUMOROUS**

“Law of Nature is full of the same fateful spirit than *The Human Part* and *The Word of God*, but with the same playfulness as well. – – There are no actual lines in the novel. The speech of the characters flows with the narration. And how it flows! You can hear all the keys, pitches and tones.” – PÄIVI TAUSSI, ETELÄ-SAIMAA

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