

Indrek Koff

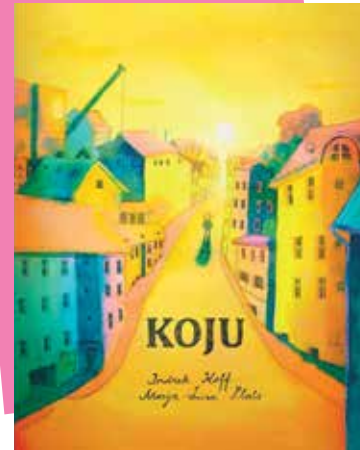
ESTONIA

Indrek Koff (1975) is a writer, translator, and publisher, who graduated from the University of Tartu in French language and literature. He writes for both children and adults, translates French and Portuguese literature into Estonian, and runs a publishing house. Koff has written twelve children's books and several plays (in collaboration with Eva Koff). The author's works are characterised by compact writing in broad strokes, occasional inner monologues, and alternating viewpoints.



Homeward

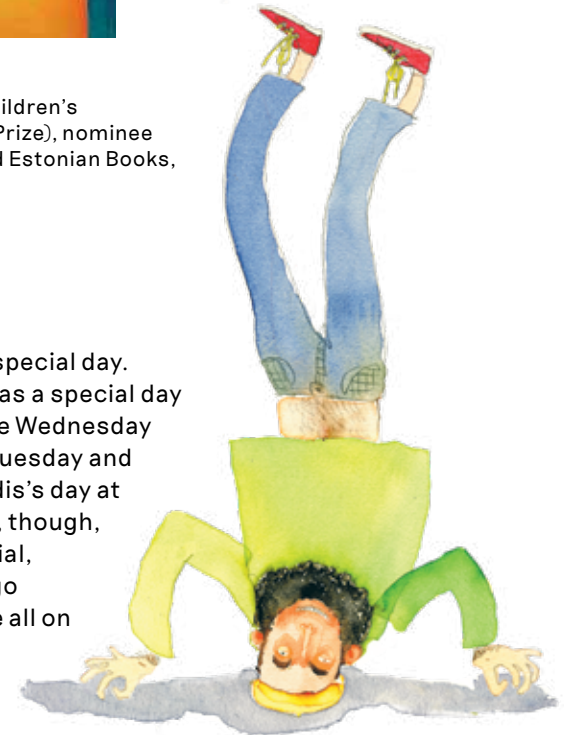
Illustrator: Marja-Liisa Plats
Härra Tee & proua Kohvi 2014, 48 pp
ISBN: 9789949339396
fiction, picturebook
Age: 5+
Rights sold: Latvian



Awards:

2014 Tartu Prize for Children's Literature (Childhood Prize), nominee
2014 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books, Certificate of Merit

This Tuesday was a special day. Although Tuesday was a special day in general, too, since Wednesday always came after Tuesday and Wednesday was Madis's day at home. This Tuesday, though, was especially special, since Madis was to go home from day care all on his own for the first time. Completely alone!





I'm Doing Well

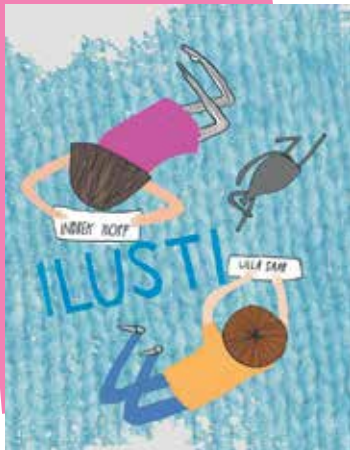
Illustrator: Ulla Saar
Härja Tee & proua Kohvi 2016, 32 pp
ISBN: 9789949813100
fiction, picturebook
Age: 5+

Award:
2016 25 Best-Designed Estonian
Books



Paul the duckling and Sander the bunny are great friends – probably the best friends in the whole wide world! They live a long way from each other, but true friendship knows no bounds. At least not as long as there are mailmen and mailboxes! Paul has written Sander a letter. It sure is taking a long time for him to reply! Does Sander even remember Paul anymore? He must remember him – something important probably just came up in the meantime. It only takes a few more days until a wonderful surprise winds up in Paul's mailbox.





Nice

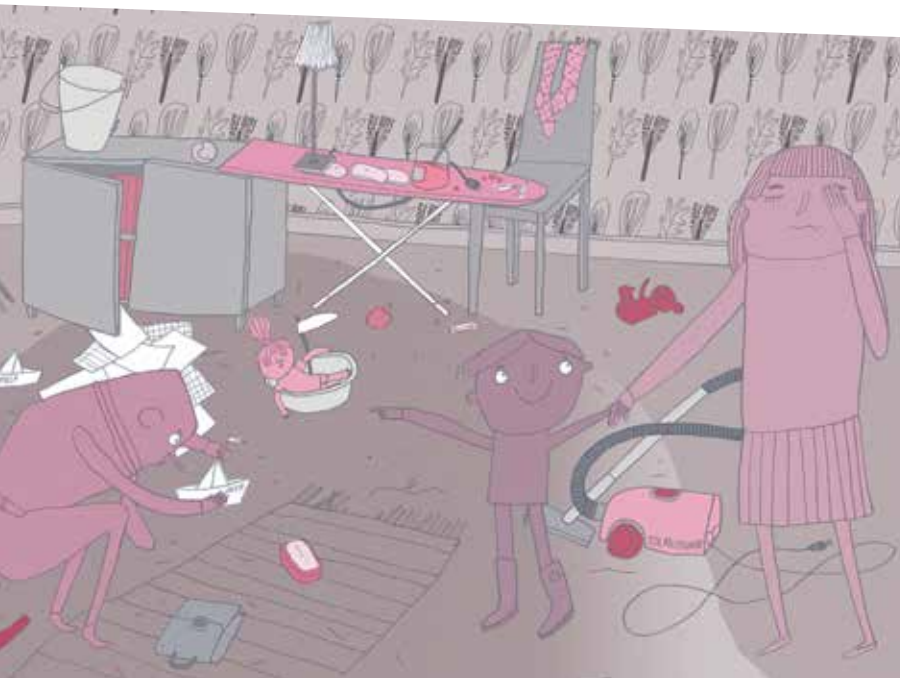
Illustrator: Ulla Saar
 Härra Tee & proua Kohvi 2016, 54 pp
 ISBN: 9789949388592
 fiction, picturebook
 Age: 5+
 Rights sold: Finnish, German,
 Latvian

Awards:

2016 5 Best-Designed Estonian
 Children's Books, Special Prize of
 the Estonian Graphic Designers'
 Association for illustration
 2016 Good Children's Book



Leen and Oskar are big and busy kids! When they have a day off from preschool and their grandmother comes to keep an eye on them, the children decide to be especially good so that their mother will be pleased when she gets home. They tidy up their rooms, do the laundry, and clean their shoes. To top it off, they even make their mother a pie. They do these things all on their own, without any help from Grandma. Will their mother like what they've done?





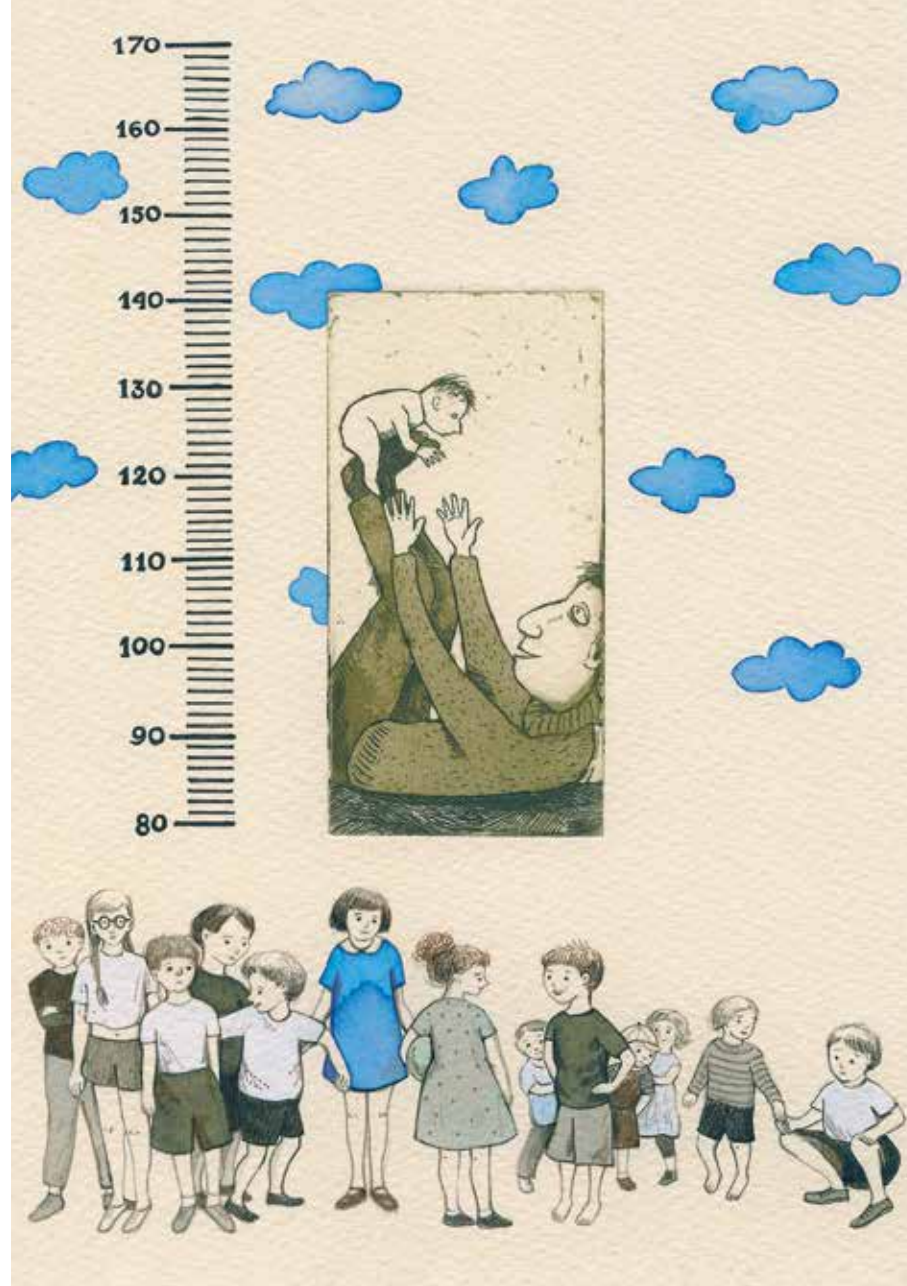
If I Were a Grandpa

Illustrator: Kadi Kurema
 HÄrra Tee & proua Kohvi 2020, 40 pp
 ISBN: 9789949986170
 fiction, storybook
 Age: 6+
 Rights sold: Mari

Award:
 2020 5 Best-Designed Estonian
 Children's Books, Certificate of
 Merit



In *If I Were a Grandpa*, a little boy dreams about becoming a grandfather one day. He would always be a fantastic grandpa to his grandchildren. He would play all kinds of exciting games with them and let them do all sorts of things all the time. His grandchildren would be very good and well-behaved, so he would never need to scold them. Grandpa and his grandkids would love one another and always have fun times together. Koff regards inter-generational harmony and strong mutual ties as important elements of such relationships.





Fever Flowers

Illustrator: Lucija Mrzljak
 Härra Tee & proua Kohvi 2020, 31 pp
 ISBN: 9789949986163
 fiction, picturebook
 Age: 5+
 Rights sold: Croatian

Award:
 2020 5 Best-Designed Estonian
 Children's Books, Special Prize of
 the Estonian Graphic Designers'
 Association



Alma absolutely loves walking home from school in the spring – right when the weather is still crisp but the sun already feels warm on your face. It's wonderful to breathe in the fresh air that tingles your nostrils and to know that summer is just around the corner. Alma is well aware that you must still wear a hat and wrap a scarf tight around your neck, not to mention button up your jacket. She's no silly little tot, of course! The snow is so soft it begs you to touch it, and the icicles' beauty makes it hard to keep your hands to yourself. Yet, that night, Alma doesn't feel quite right. She suddenly has shivers from head to toe, and not even her wool blanket can warm her up.



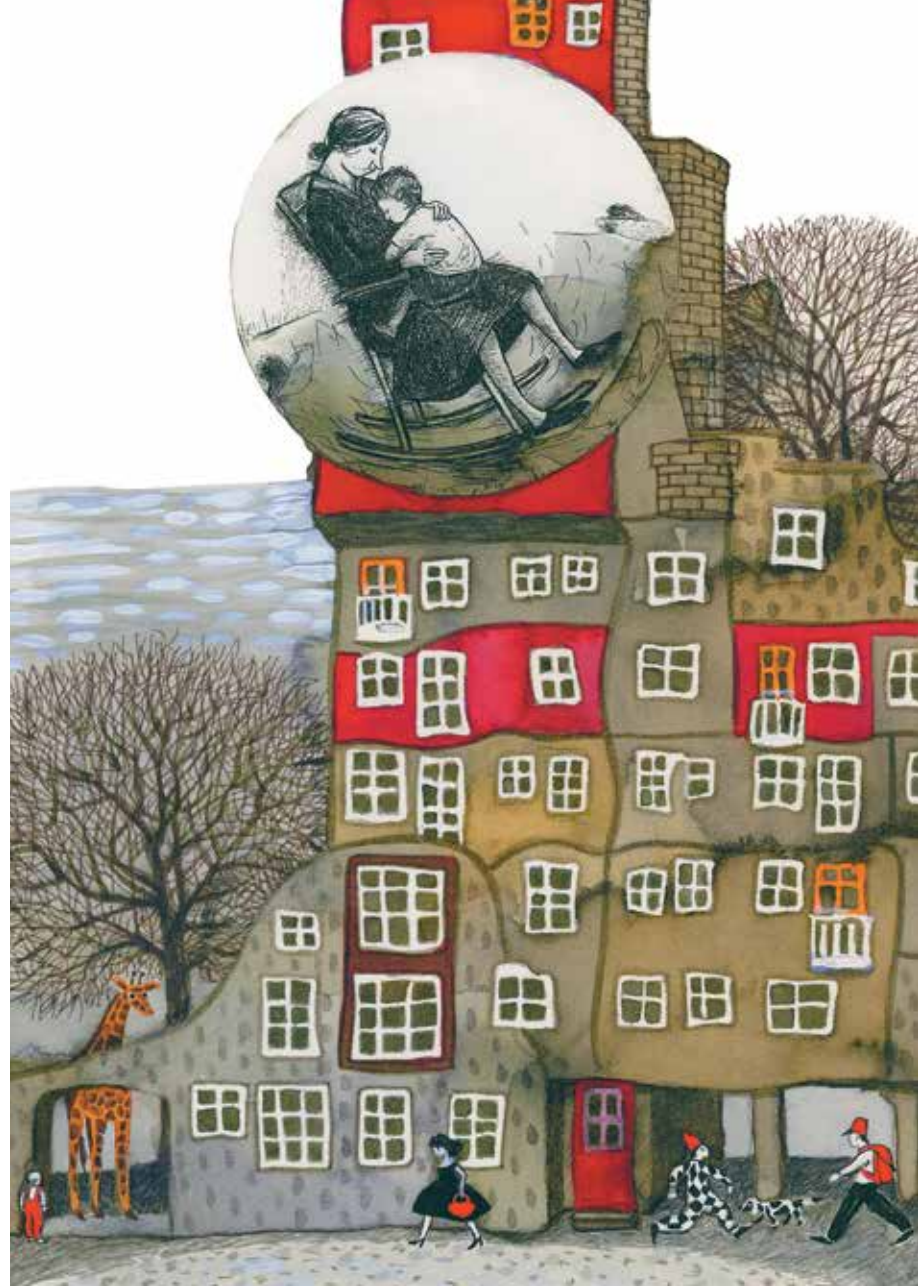


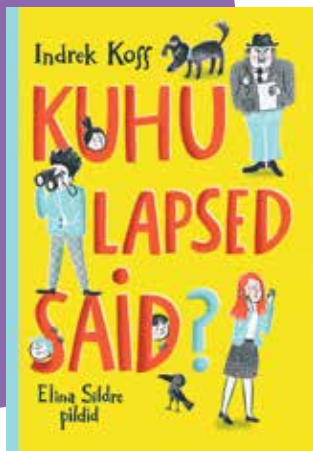
If I Were a Grandma

Illustrator: Kadi Kurema
 Härra Tee & proua Kohvi 2021, 48 pp
 ISBN: 9789916964910
 fiction, storybook
 Age: 6+



If I were a grandma, then I'd be a sprightly little old lady. My heart would be big enough to fit in each and every one of my grandchildren – all 77 of them, at least! And I'd have gigantic, burly muscles for tossing them all into the air at once. Still, my hands would be as soft as downy feathers so that whenever I comforted and cuddled them, they'd know any problem would go away in seconds. I'd run around and roughhouse and play with my grandkids, tell them bedtime stories, and push them on the garden swing. They'd be as good as can be and would never get into trouble! And whenever I felt worn out and needed a break, I'd throw them the best party that 77 grandkids could ever dream of.





Where'd the Kids Go?

Illustrator: Elina Sildre
Härja Tee & proua Kohvi 2021, 70 pp
ISBN: 9789916964927
poetry, fiction
Age: 6+

Award:
2021 Raisin of the Year
2021 25 Best-Designed Estonian
Books, Certificate of Merit

Life couldn't be better in the bustling little village. That is until one day when all the kids decide to run away to the woods because they feel they've been bossed around too much, which leaves their parents devastated. The grown-ups miss all the shouts of glee and the children running around, playing hopscotch, and jumping in the leaves. The mayor dispatches the army, the teacher tries luring them back with cake and candy, ornery Uncle Rein makes angry threats, and the conductor tries using Mozart and Bach, but nothing works. How can they tempt the kids to come home so there's life in the village again?



Indrek Koff

If I Were a Grandpa

From If I were a Grandpa

If I ...

If I were a grandfather, then ...

Yes—if I were a grandfather, then I would be one all-around mighty grandfather, and I'd have a lot of grandchildren. At least ten, but maybe so many as twelve or thirteen. We would have great fun together, and I think they would probably like me even more than their own mothers and fathers, because I would make them laugh all the time and would play all sorts of exciting games with them both night and day, and would always allow them to do all kinds of things.

I would be big and strong, and they would never have to be afraid of anything when they were with me. My legs would be really long, because all of my grandchildren would have to fit on my lap all at once. At first, my legs could actually be completely ordinary, too; but every time another grandchild came along, they would have to grow a little bit so that by the end, they would be about eight or ten feet long. Or twelve. I would be so strong that all of my grandchildren could sit on my knee at once, and I would bounce-bounce-bounce them like on a pony, and would never, ever say that we should stop now because I'm getting tired. I would always have the energy to keep playing.

Excerpt translated by Adam Cullen

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