

# **Kairi Look**

ESTONIA

**Kairi Look** (1983) is a children's writer and publisher. She graduated from the University of Tartu in physiotherapy, and from the University of Amsterdam in children's rehabilitative therapy. Look works in academic publishing, but writing children's books is her greatest passion. She has penned a total of eight books to date, many of which have been awarded and translated into a number of languages, including Finnish, French, German, and Lithuanian. In addition to this, she writes plays, and short stories for the children's magazine *Täheke*.

Look's third book, *Peter – "Pete" to his Friends*, which won the Tartu City Children's Literature Award and was staged in NUKU Theatre and LendTeater in 2015. *Piia Biscuit moves in* has been staged as an audio play in the Estonian National Radio. In 2015, Institut français d'Estonie awarded the author a residency in Paris and she cooperated with the renowned illustrator Isabelle Bonameau (L'Ecole des loisirs). In 2016, her book *The Kooky Museum of Mr Glass* was gifted to all the children starting school in Tallinn.

Kairi Look has lived abroad for many years, mostly in Amsterdam and Paris, and has a deep love for travelling, cats, and caramels. Not to mention laughing and being a little silly every day, just like in every one of her books. The author's works stand out for their stunning fantasy, brisk pace, unusual characters, playfulness, and humour.



## Ville the Lemur Flies the Coop

Illustrator: Elina Sildre  
Tänapäev 2012, 164 pp  
ISBN: 9789949271587  
fiction, storybook  
Age: 8+  
Rights sold: German, Lithuanian

**Awards:**  
2012 Children's Story Competition  
"My First Book", 3rd place

Little Ville might be the very first clever lemur – in fact, he's as sharp as a tack and very curious. Ville often visits the squirrels who have family all around the globe and sends postcards from exciting places. On one rainy fall day, Ville meets Pierre, a squirrel from Paris and the duo forms a plan to head to France together. They embark on a large steamboat and soon enough arrive in Paris. Yet the Paris they arrive in is very peculiar: everyone rides around on bicycles, and there is one canal after another. It comes out that the ship has actually brought them to Amsterdam!

After many Dutch adventures, the globetrotters finally reach Paris and discover the city of wonders. They pass through the sale racks of grand department stores and gaze at the Eiffel Tower; they stroll through Montmartre and study the Mona Lisa. Paris is certainly lovely, but Ville realises that the world is much wider than it first appears and who knows – there might be new adventures waiting ahead for him.





## Peter - “Pete” to his Friends

Illustrator: Elina Sildre  
Tänapäev 2014, 60 pp  
ISBN: 9789949276196  
fiction, storybook  
Age: 6+

**Awards:**  
2015 Tartu Prize for Children’s  
Literature (Childhood Prize)



On a completely ordinary December morning, a boy named Pete arrives to a completely ordinary preschool class. He has a mysterious telephone receiver and an awfully exciting secret. You shouldn’t share your secrets with strangers, of course, but Pete isn’t the envious kind – he won’t mind striking a little deal with you. Pete’s new friends are very interested in his secret... the closer Christmas gets, the more they want to be a part of it... Pete will need all his wits about him!

A warm-hearted winter story about friendship, magic, and the power of imagination.





## The Airport Bugs Fight On

Illustrator: Kaspar Jancis  
Tänapäev 2014, 208 pp  
ISBN: 9789949276141  
fiction, storybook  
Age: 8+  
Rights sold: Finnish, French,  
Latvian, Russian



### Awards:

2014 Annual Children's Literature  
Award of the Cultural Endowment of  
Estonia, nominee  
2014 Good Children's Book  
2014 Children's Story Competition  
"My First Book", 1st place

"The Airport Bugs Fight On" is an uplifting children's book that will put a smile on everyone's face. Ludvig the bedbug lives a fun, laid-back family life at the airport. One day, a health inspector arrives and threatens to shut the whole place down. Giving up is not an option for the bedbugs, no way – now is the time to be clever and take control in their own hands. I mean legs. Allied with the airport beetles, the bedbugs embark on an adventure to save their home. "The Airport Bugs Fight On" is a story about bravery, the power of working together and is chock full of laughs, surprises, and jelly donuts!



## Piia Biscuit Moves In

Illustrator: Ulla Saar  
Tänapäev 2015, 104 pp  
ISBN: 9789949278459  
fiction, storybook  
Age: 6+  
Rights sold: Finnish

### Awards:

2015 Annual Children's Literature  
Award of the Cultural Endowment  
of Estonia, nominee  
2015 Good Children's Book



Piia Biscuit is a happy-go-lucky six-year-old girl who is not afraid of much. On January 1st, she and her family move to a cosy wooden building on Poplar Alley, where she plans to make many new friends. Luckily, the place is packed with colourful characters: a sweet-loving St. Bernard, a clever moth in the wardrobe and a Canadian called Jack, who loves bears more than anything. Not to mention the World's Best Uncle, Rasmus, who is fond of punk and petunias and knows how to fit hundreds of meatballs in his tummy at the speed of light.

Full of witty and warm-hearted stories that take place over a year in Piia's life.



## The Kooky Museum of Mr. Glass

Illustrator: Marge Nelk  
Tallinn Central Library 2016,  
72 pp  
ISBN: 9789949935383  
fiction, storybook  
Age: 7+



One busy day at school, right when Mr. Robert's students are about to leave for home, a snow-white parrot flies up to the classroom window. The bird is carrying a newspaper with an advertisement inviting children to take part in the art museum's special programme called "Real and Pretend". Without thinking twice, Mr. Robert decides to attend and, before long, the curious and excited first-graders step into the art museum, too. It soon turns out that the museum, which seemed boring at first, has quite a lot to offer. The director of the museum – Mr. Glass, sporting a handsome green moustache – is just as mysterious himself. Will the children find out what is real and what is pretend?

In any case, they'll see plenty that is recognisable... yet, something is always a bit different.



## Piia Biscuit and the Bandits

Illustrator: Ulla Saar  
Tänapäev 2019, 144 pp  
ISBN: 9789949856473  
fiction, storybook  
Age: 7+  
Rights sold: Finnish, Latvian

**Awards:**  
2019 Annual Children's Literature  
Award of the Cultural Endowment of  
Estonia, nominee



In the second part of the *Piia Biscuit* book series, Piia's wonderful life turns upside down when her triplet baby brothers arrive. At the same time, some bizarre things start to happen in her house, which call for immediate action. The newborns appear to be able to talk at night and that startles Piia. Also, the trouble seems to involve a young mysterious, and almost invisible politician neighbour with some romantic issues. Piia sets out to solve the mystery before things get really out of hand.

A contemporary and hilarious adventure story with a touch of criminal mystery, and jokes that appeal to small and big readers alike.





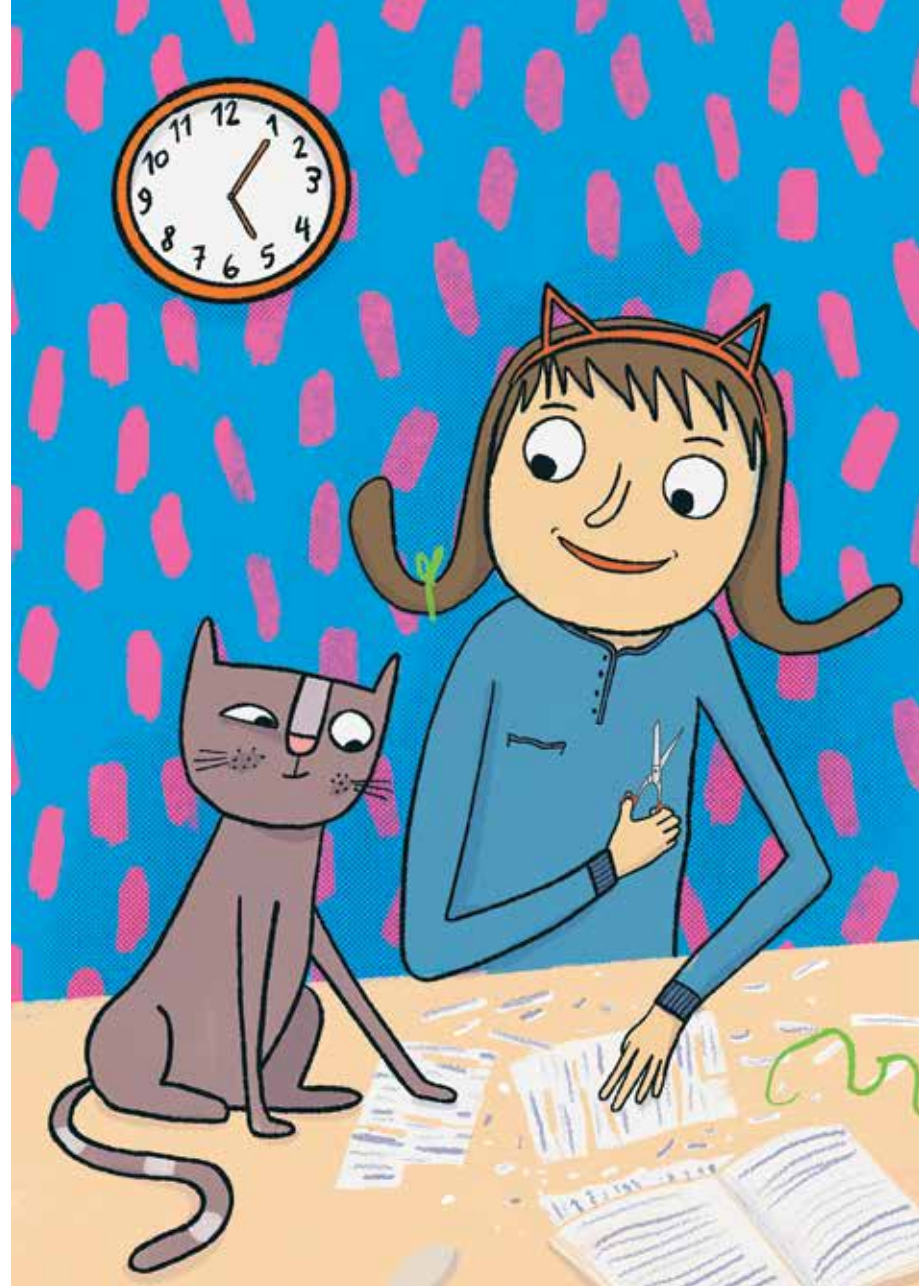
## Piia Biscuit and the Word-Snatcher

Illustrator: Ulla Saar  
Koolibri 2021, 120 pp  
ISBN: 9789985047637  
storybook, fiction  
Age: 7+



In the third part of the beloved *Piia Biscuit* book series, Piia starts school. Right from the start it is obvious that something strange is going on in their classroom: there are purple footprints on the wall, a chocolate Easter bunny is ripped out from the calendar, and someone is murmuring from a locker!

At the same time words keep on disappearing, not only from the ABC books but from the blackboard and elsewhere as well... words like SWEETS, PUDDING, and even HAGGIS. Who's behind the mysterious message HOTDOGSWITHKETCHUPHOLD-BACKONMUSTARD and what are they on about? Piia and her friends set out to find out who or what has moved into their classroom. *Piia Biscuit and the Word-Snatcher* is a modern story about living in a multilingual world, but even more about words and the love for reading.





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## **Surprise**

From Piia Biscuit and the Bandits

It happened in February, before Pancake Day. It was so cold that even the screech owls were snuggled down in the warmth of hollow trees. Shivering behind the building, sixty snowmen were looking forward to the thaw so that they could swim south. Just stepping into the yard was enough to freeze your eyeballs!

Polar bears sent tinned food and letters of commiseration. On the radio the American President said, "See, folks, it's like I always said, climate change is fake news. Doesn't exist." Even the skiers passed up on winter training - they moped about at home instead and got on their wives' nerves. But the cold was no bother to Piia and Grandad. They were sitting in the kitchen painting eggs.

"And anyhow, who said you can only paint eggs at Easter?" said Grandad.

"The President?" Piia suggested.

"No. The President keeps an eye on the Ministers. Makes sure they don't pull any fast ones. Fifteen bad eggs, up to no good, the lot of them." Grandad stuck out his tongue and drew a frog on an egg. It bore a passing resemblance to the Prime Minister.

The Biscuits' kitchen was choc-a-bloc with eggs. They were rolling around in drawers, in flower pots, under the fridge and, of course, on the kitchen table, which was an actual Everest of Eggs. Just below the ceiling, Loofah the cat was swinging on the lamp - he was partial to sausages, not eggs. He was in the middle of an expedition to the sausage pan when the door slammed. There were whispers in the hall. Piia jumped to her feet.

"How did it go? What did they say?"

Mum and dad were as green as Grandad's frog.

"What are they?" asked Dad, gawping at the eggs.

"Froggies!" shouted Piia, "Like in Mum's tummy."

Mum sank, pale-faced, into a chair and absent-mindedly stroked Loofah.

"What did the doc say? Is everything all right?" Grandad asked quietly.

Dad nodded and rested his hand on Mum's shoulder. "Well... we have some news."

"News?" Grandad slowly sat back down. "What is it, spill the beans then...?"

"Yeah, what did they say? Is it a boy or a girl?" Piia demanded.

Mum patted her tummy in concern and smiled weakly.

"Triplets," she said at last.

"Triplets!" shrieked Piia.

"Triplets," nodded Dad. "Made 'em myself!"

There was a loud thud. Grandad had fainted. He was sprawled on the floor, as still as a statue.

Excerpt translated by Susan Wilson







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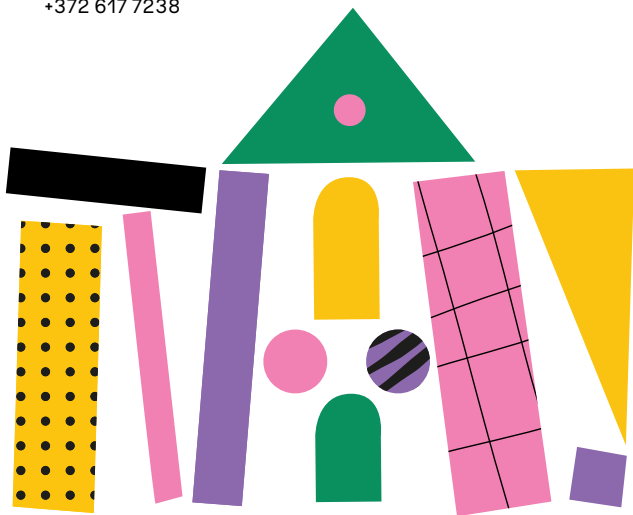


Photo: Dmitri Kotjuh

