



Literary
fiction



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Minna Rytisalo (b. 1974) writes prose that has been described as delicate and yet masterful and strong, with a rhythm like that of a beating heart and breathing. Her debut novel *Lempi* (2016) was shortlisted for the Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize, the Runeberg Prize and the Lappi Literature Prize, and it won the Blogistania Finland Prize, Thank You for the Book Prize and Botnia Prize. Rytisalo's bestselling second novel, *Mrs C.* (2018) has been nominated for the Lapland Literature Prize, the Torch-bearer Prize and Bonnier's Grand Journalism Prize as Book of the Year. She works as a high school Finnish teacher and writes columns about literature.

Minna Rytisalo

Mrs C.

“Maybe that’s what a marriage is, Minna thought, quickly put together in two words but with a slow growth.”

At the bottom of a hillside stands a grey house with eight bedrooms, six children, a schoolmaster and his wife. Inside the wife a storm is ravaging trees, unable to calm down. In her kitchen the cakes come out either burnt to a crisp or uncooked, and what satisfies others is not enough for her. Inside her there’s a force looking for a way out, growing in size and wreaking havoc, questioning the laws of nature and at times pulling her deep into melancholy.

Mrs C. is a story of a marriage. The daughter of a maid and a cotton merchant marries her teacher and ends up pregnant, time and again. And she becomes a writer everyone knows a hundred years later: Minna Canth, the first notable female author, journalist, entrepreneur, prominent figure in society. A role model, a fighter, an effigy.

Mrs C. is a powerful and subtle novel, a love story and a story about friendship. Even in a different century the question remains the same: where do you draw your boundaries?

Mrs C. is Minna Rytisalo’s second novel. It rose straight to the bestseller list when it came out, and it has been nominated for the Lapland Literature Prize, the Torch-bearer Prize and for Bonnier’s Grand Journalism Prize as Book of the Year.



Rouva C.

Gummerus, 2018, 367 pp.

READING MATERIAL

Finnish original, English sample

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ALSO AVAILABLE

Lempi (*Lempi*, 2016)

Rights sold: Germany, Hanser; Lithuania, Alma Littera; Norway, Pax

BESTSELLER #2

NOMINEE FOR THE LAPLAND LITERATURE PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR THE TORCH-BEARER PRIZE

NOMINEE FOR BONNIER'S GRAND JOURNALISM PRIZE 2019