

Leena Mäkijärvi, born in 1959, graduated from the Helsinki University in 1984 with a Master's degree in Pedagogy. She has created a remarkable career as an educator, researcher and teacher, as well as training teachers at the Helsinki University. She has three daughters, and lives with her family in Helsinki.

As an innovative and courageous educator, Leena Mäkijärvi has developed her own vision in pedagogy. She has pointed out mistakes and fought for the rights of children and young people.

Leena Mäkijärvi started her literary career as a journalist. She has worked as an editor-in-chief, as well as a publisher.

Her first book *Viikonloppulapsi* (A Weekend Child), concerning matters in the Finnish society, was published in 1995, followed by *Iloa ja voimaa opettajan työhön* (Joy and Strength into the Teacher's Work), *Koulukiusatun päiväkirja* (Diary of an Child Pestered at School), *Sepe Sankarikoira* (Sepe, A Hero Dog), in 1999, *Saana Ponikurssilla* (Saana Learning How to Ride a Pony), in 2001, and *Saana ja hoitoponi Tucker* (Saana and Tucker, the Pony in Her Care), in 2002. She has translated children's books, of which the most beautiful is *Lasten Runojen Aarteet* (A Treasury of Children's Poems), in 2000, an anthology of international traditional poetry.

As soon as the idea was born in 1999, Leena Mäkijärvi's *Aito Purkkisatu®*, a *Story in a Can®*, was a success. A *Story in a Can* is presented as a gift, a tale from one human being to another, a story of love, life events, memories and dreams. Leena Mäkijärvi has written as many as 2500 stories, individually created for one person, each of them unique in the world.

The latest book is a novel, *Vaihtolämpöinen nainen* (A Poikilothermic Woman), published by Queen Publishing in 2002. A collection of her poetry, *Ihmettelen ihmistä* (Wondering about Human Nature) was published earlier the same year.

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