

Maaria Päivinen

Writer in Residence / Finland

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Maaria Päivinen was born in 1982 in Tohmajärvi, a village close to the Russian border in Eastern Finland. Her family moved to Moscow and lived there for three years, when Maaria was a teenager.

She started writing poems for a newspaper at the age of 13. Later on she studied Russian Translation, but changed her major to Comparative Literature, and graduated with a Master of Arts in 2006. For five years Maaria Päivinen worked as a Finnish teacher at a junior high in Helsinki.

Silja and Mai, her first novel, was published in 2010. Shortly after that, Maaria moved to Germany, where she spent a few years writing and working part-time as a kindergarten teacher. Her second novel, *I love You Young Man* (ntamo 2011), was shortlisted for a literary prize of Mahdollisen Kirjallisuuden Seura in Finland. With her third novel, *Scratches*, Maaria got shortlisted for The Runeberg Award 2014, one of Finland's most prestigious literary prizes. Her debut collection of poetry, *Your Parts Don't Move* (ntamo 2014), got great reviews. In 2014 Maaria's fourth novel, *Hungry, Thirsty* (Into Kustannus) came out. Before it was released in Finland, its rights were sold to German speaking countries, where it was published as *Bin hungrig, bin durstig* (Ennsthaler 2015), and Iceland. *Hungry, Thirsty* saw its premiere as a puppet theatre play in 2015 in Helsinki. Her fifth novel *Kellari* ("Basement") was published in 2015.

Maaria Päivinen currently lives in Kotka, Finland.