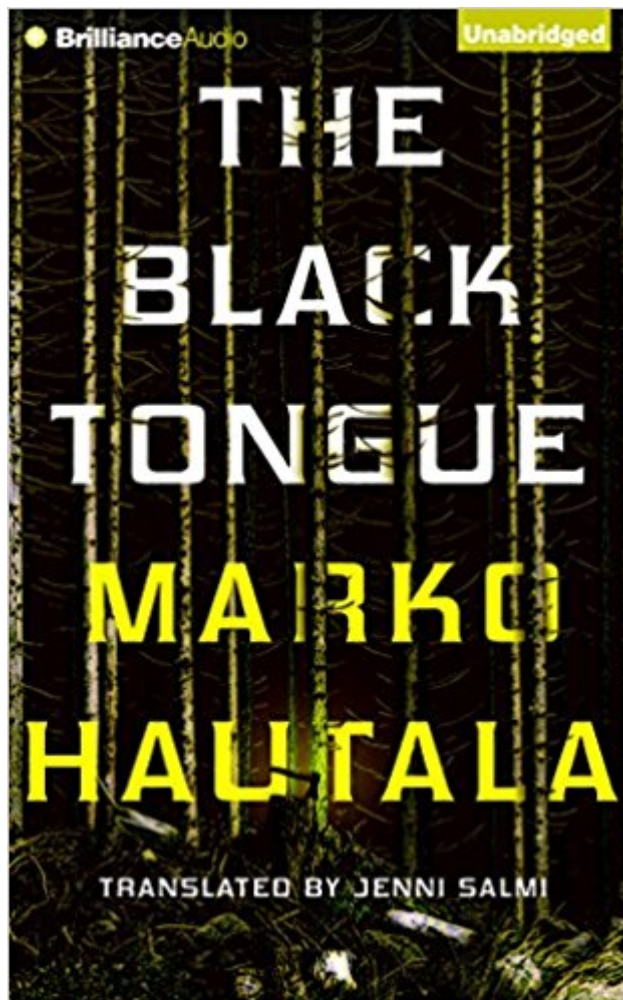


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# The Black Tongue



## Synopsis

For generations, the urban legend of Granny Hatchet has plagued the quiet residential area of Suvikylä in northern Finland. As the story goes, this immortal killer murders her victims with a hatchet, then buries the hearts in a potato field and eats them after they've rotted black. But not everyone is convinced it is just a story. Maisa Riipinen has returned to her hometown to complete her dissertation on urban folklore at the same time that Samuel Autio has come home to arrange his father's funeral. As hazy, disturbing memories from their pasts meld with strange events in the present, Maisa and Samuel attempt to make sense of the town's fearful obsession with the mythical Granny Hatchet. But if it's only a legend, then why are people still vanishing without a trace? From Finnish author Marko Hautala comes *The Black Tongue*, a gripping novel about a terrifying story with the power to silence and the power to make those who dare speak disappear.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Marko Hautala's unique blend of psychological thriller and realism has attracted readers of all genres, earning him a reputation as the Finnish Stephen King. His first novel, *Itsevalaisevat* (The self-illuminated ones), received the Tiiliskivi Prize, and *Kärrinliinat* (Shrouds) received the Kalevi Järvinen Literary Prize for young authors in 2010. *Unikoira* (Seeing eyes) was nominated for the Young Aleksis Kivi Prize in 2013.

Hautala has crafted a complex, layered horror mystery within *The Black Tongue* that is sure to

alienate readers who expect to have their hands held. Spanning multiple timelines and centered around a secretive island villa in the small Finnish town of Suvikylä, the story weaves together folklore and reality so tightly that the narrative often feels like a fever dream, and critical details are easily lost in the fog. *Black Tongue* can become tedious at times, as the motives and memories that drive its characters are mostly kept hidden until well over halfway through the book when glimpses are slowly revealed, yet lyrical ambiguity is maintained right up to its ending. This is a novel that holds its weight in a constant sense of dread, with every reveal both haunting the reader with its nightmarish imagery as well as inspiring more questions than before. Fans of concrete plot and clear resolve may want to pass, fans of impressionistic, subtle horror are in for a treat.

Sufficiently creepy, sure. And an interesting thru-line. But something about it didn't engross me the way I wanted to be. Characters were all done well, story line as well. I think as a short film it might deliver better?

Marko Haulala writes like a Finnish Stephen King. The story was a mixture of mystery and fantasy. All though I don't like fantasy this book held my attention and I couldn't wait to find out how the book was going to end. The urban legend of Granny Hatchet has been told for years in Suvikyla in Northern Finland. Granny Hatchet kills her victim with a hatchet, and buries their hearts in the potato fields, eating it when it turns black. A woman returns home while working on her dissertation on folklore and gets drawn into missing villagers and the towns obsession with Granny Hatchet. I look forward to reading more books by Marko Hautala.

I'm a lifelong fan of urban legends and oral tradition, so I was pretty sure I would like this book when the recommendation popped up on my Kindle Paperwhite screensaver. What I wasn't expecting was to find a marvelous gothic book full of children's secrets, and what happens to those secrets the older they get... when they take on a life of their own. I heartily recommend this book.

Did not like it!!

Seriously weird. Couldn't get into it.

i have only not finished two books i have started in last 10 to 20 yrs, this was one of those two, could not follow the plot & it was sex & violence for just that purpose, i did not see any plot to this,

terrible book but i should have paid more attention before downloading, maybe i would have realized that i would not have liked it then instead of trying to read it for an hour or so, a waste of my time

Quite revolting - literally! I couldn't get past the first part of the book.

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