

An interview with Leena Lehtolainen

Maria Kallio is a big fan of rock and punk music. Which is her favorite band?

She likes for example Die Toten Hosen!

Can you recommend a good Finnish band?

There are lots of great bands in Finland. Maybe you should check some punk rock ones, like Luonteri Surf, Pojat and Himanes.

Does Maria's personal development reflect your own. How much of Leena is in Maria?

Not very much. She is more sociable and courageous than me. We like the same kind of music and same kind of men, but that's it. She is a fictional character.



Foto: Sakari Majantie

Maria is smart and independent and a successful "working-mom". Do you think she represents the average Finnish woman or is she ahead of her time?

She represents the average Finnish woman. We are used to combine family and work, and we work hard. "Hausfrauen" are not very common in Finland, and women pay their own bills at the restaurant. In the police force, I think 30% are women nowadays.

Scandinavian crime-novels are successful all over the world and there are a lot of theories about why. What do you think is the reason for their success?

Maybe it is the conflict between the so-called ideal welfare state and the dark crimes. They follow the tradition of realistic novels by Ibsen and Strindberg. Some of them are also very well written, good

literature with interesting characters.

What are your plans for the future?

I just published a novel without crime in Finnish, a totally independent project. Then it might be time for crime again... Some people are demanding Hilja to come back; many are waiting for a new Maria Kallio... Let's see, maybe I'll do both!

Thank you very much for the interview!

**Besser
Nord
als nie!**