

The Rainbow Kingdom

Mary Ailonieida Sombán Mari
Sissel Horndal (ill.)

Now it's going to be a party!

Here where we live, everything has a color, but what is the color's own joik*?

Join us, we go on a visit to the kingdom of colors; **The Rainbow Kingdom – where the nights, the music, the joik and the caramels are in all the colors of the rainbow.**

This is a story about how the rainbow came to be, and takes the reader into the realm of color. Each color is in the shape of the reindeer, and the author describes good and playful characteristics of each color.

The author has excellent storytelling and handles important themes such as human dignity, friendship and love in a fine and lively way.

Sissel Horndal has illustrated the book. Horndal has created good illustrations of the colors and their properties. The illustrations are aesthetic and colorful just like the story.

Colors have a central role in the Sámi. The traditional clothes in Sápmi are colorful, and the nature in Sápmi has strong contrasts from one season to another.

The book is very relevant in today's social debate and handles the topics around the rainbow and diversity in a very pleasant and playful way – just as is natural for a children's book. The story is original and is clearly rooted in the Sámi way of thinking, values and understanding of the world.

* Sámi singing

- This book has been nominated for the Nordic Council's prize for literature 2023.
- The author has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2025.



Arvedávgeriikii

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32 pages • Fairytale • 6–9 years

Mary Ailonieida Sombán Mari was born in Tana and grew up in Sirbmá. She is a well-known Sámi writer and cultural worker and now lives in Tromsø. Mary debuted in 1976 with the book *Ámmul ja alit oarbmælli* (Ámmul and the blue cousin) – notable for Sámi literature as the first children's book written in Sámi. The book has since become a Sámi classic.

She has written poetry, short stories, novels, and other fiction and non-fiction texts for adults.

Her texts and poems have been featured in several anthologies in Sápmi, the Nordic countries, America, and Germany. Excerpts from her books have been translated into many other languages.

Sissel Horndal is a writer, illustrator and visual artist from Mørsvikbotn in Nordland, who has received many awards for her works.