

I Liedđi Sáme cus

Kirste Paltto

In her new book of short stories for adults, *I Liedđi Sáme cus*^{*}, Kirste Paltto has once again opened her treasure-chest of sami mythology, myths and legends, which she uses as the basis for her stories. The following 3 texts provide a taste of the book that contains a total of 7 short stories.

The Marsh Girl,

is the story of bachelor, Ove, who still lives with his mother. He steals his mother's clothes so that he can give them to the Marsh Girl that he's found. Finally, he too has found somebody he likes. She's called Savda (morning dew).

The Cave,

tells the story of the two young people, Anja and Johan, who are reunited after several years of living in different parts of the country.

Johan asks if Anja wants to go with him to look for the cave behind Dead Man Mountain, but adds that people shouldn't go there if they're not ready.

I Liedđi Sáme cus,

is the story of two women who were kidnapped from their home in Sápmi (Samiland) and brought to a foreign land, poverty and a hard life.

One of the women was pregnant and gave birth to a daughter in this foreign land. The daughter is now 19 years old and her real name is Liedđi Sáme cus, but when she is out among strangers she is known as Margrethe.

The monk, Dominic, becomes their friend and supporter.

The stories deal with the various challenges that we face in life and how help can reveal itself in different forms.

^{*} I Liedđi Sáme cus is the title of the short story that gives its name to the collection. It means: I Flower of Sápmi (the land of the Sámi).



I Liedđi Sáme cus

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Kirste Paltto grew up in the Tana valley in northern Finland and now lives in Rovaniemi. She became the first sami female author to be published with the release of her collection of short stories, *Soagju* (The Betrothal) in 1971. Several of her novels have been translated into Italian, German, English and Hungarian, in addition to the Nordic languages.

“Paltto has an ability to incorporate an understated humour into short stories that do not immediately lend themselves to it.” **Aftenposten**