

The Golden Circle from Endorvárri

Liisa Tellervo Helander

The Golden Circle from Endorvárri is a book that tells of Sámi traditions and worldviews in new ways. Through imaginative descriptions and dialogues, the author ties longstanding and important elements of Sámi culture into the narrative.

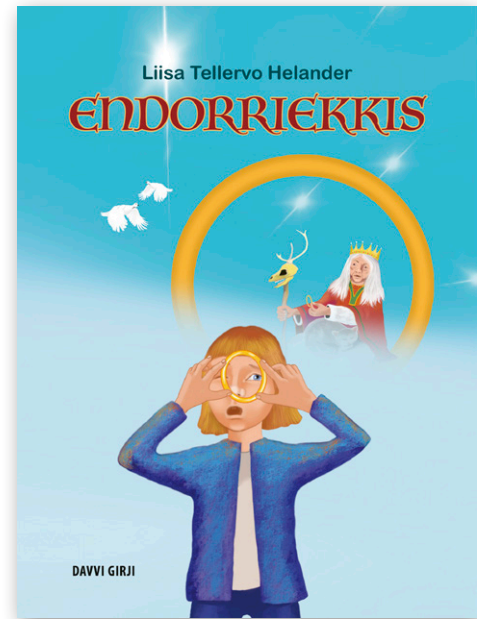
The two main characters, Miá and Minná, visit a fantasy world. There, they get to experience things they've only ever heard of in stories: they make offerings at a sacred stone, they receive help from ptarmigans, and they learn about animals, protective charms, and a small circle of gold. In the real world, they find a golden circle, which becomes very useful to them and has the special ability to carry out one's thoughts.

The value of being helpful comes through clearly in the book, and in the end the sisters Miá and Minná realize:

“Grandma really does know everything. She's always rushing to where the need is greatest.”

You can read about Sámi traditions, culture, and thought in textbooks. But if you don't understand the context, they won't give you all of the hidden knowledge of what has been written down. Liisa Helander has tied Sámi traditions, culture, and thought into her children's stories. At once it becomes so much easier to understand, when through the story you get the opportunity to imagine and reflect on feelings and intentions. There are also many dialogues in the book, which bring the story to life.

Believing in something is so important. And the most important is to believe in yourself and to believe one can manage, no matter what the circumstances. *The Golden Circle from Endorvárri* is a bridge between the worlds of fantasy and reality. The book shows that sometimes you need to use fantasy in the real world, or to explain it more clearly, there needn't be such a big difference between fantasy and reality. This is because our ancestors still follow us in our daily lives through turns of phrase and folk beliefs. If you want to learn the Sámi way of thinking, then this will be a very enjoyable read for you. And after you have read the book, we hope you will have learned something.



Endorriekkis

December 2024 (original publication) • 80 pages • Novel
• 9–12 years

Liisa Tellervo Helander grew up on the Finnish side of Sápmi in the village of Roavvesavvon, where the oral tradition is a central part of the culture. She currently lives in southern Norway, but still frequently returns to her hometown to enjoy the nature and meet family and friends. She has always been drawn to the nature in Sápmi and to Sámi mythology.