## **HELICOPTERS** Oulunsalo Fiction, Pt. 3 Jani Ojala

Oulunsalo Fiction, Pt. 3

# HELICOPTERS

#### conclusive fiction

Jani Ojala

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Beginning, middle, **end**; setup, confrontation, **resolution**.

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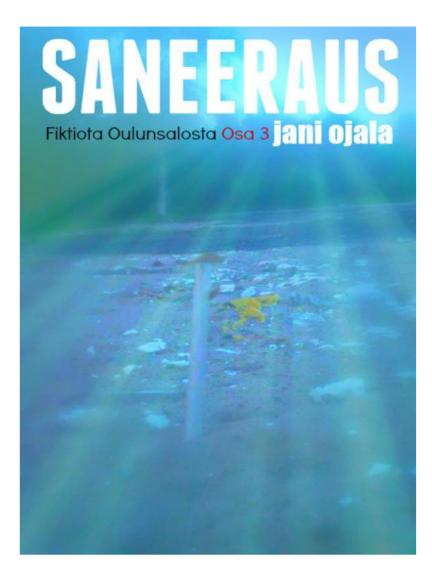
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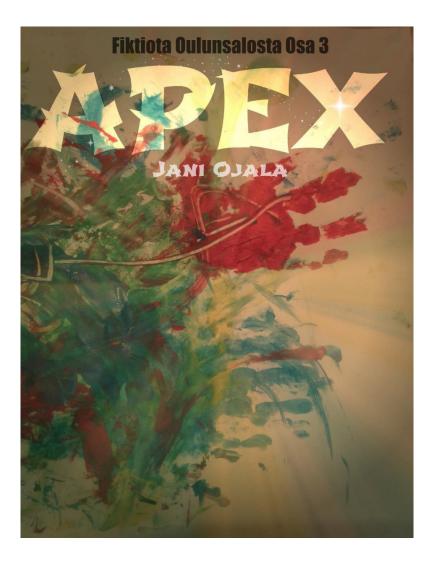
### Exhibition

I had a few ideas for this book's cover, and a couple name-changes happened in the years of working on this project – which began back when *Ice Road* was still being written.

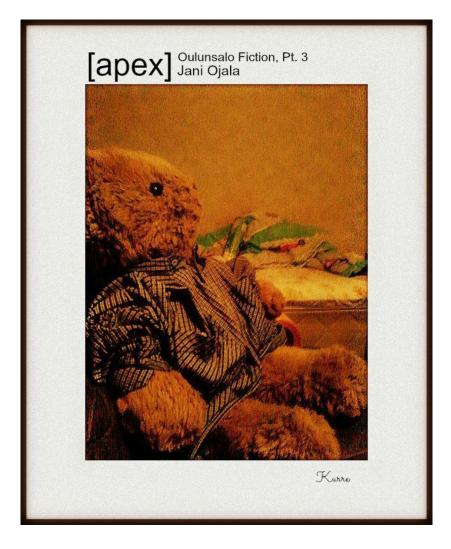
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The first cover I was happy with for its while, was made in the summer of 2015 which was back when I still thought *Oulunsalo Fiction* was gonna be written in Finnish and called *Fiktiota Oulunsalosta*. The cute picture featured here is of a severed piece of a wire that ran underneath the rowhouse neighboring my childhood home. That rowhouse got taken down the spring of that year, so the picture was taken at the clay court that remained from the ruins. *Saneeraus* means *renewal* in English.



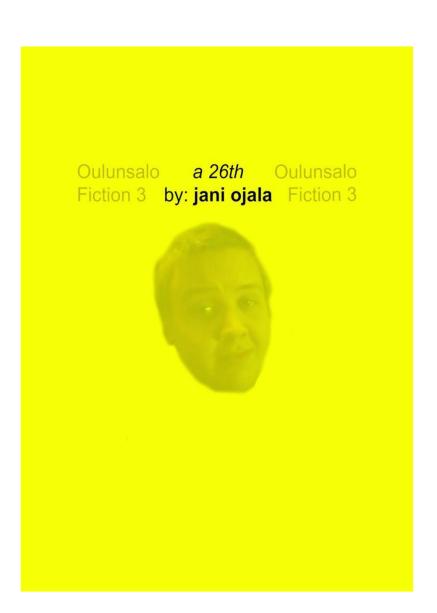
If I recall correctly, I'd just found out what the word *apex* stands for, in the autumn of 2015. My 2-year-old godson handpainted the picture here, and I thought the two recent events would make for a cool cover that I could smile at from time to time, remembering the couple of instances that, had they never taken place, this wouldn't be here. After editing the lighting and stuff of the picture and making it look really radiant, I realized that I didn't like it enough. That I could go on and explore different ideas. But hey, it was a sweet thought.



Featuring my childhood favorite stuffed animal, Kurre, whom I've written a story about when I was, like, eleven, and whom slept my my side until I got – by an unlucky chance – over 6 feet tall and couldn't fit him atop my head in my bed.

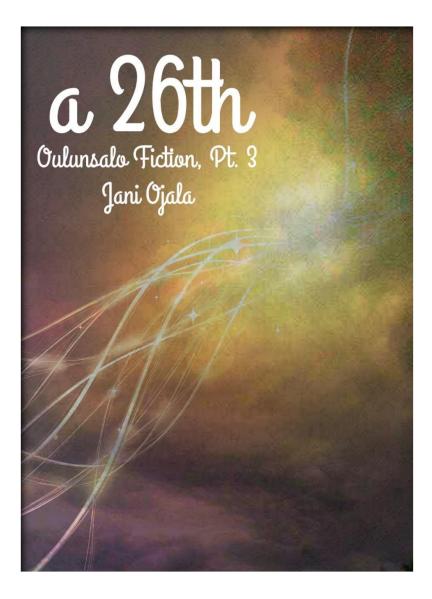
And oh yeah, I was still rolling with *Apex* at the time. That was one of the longest-sticking working-titles.

Kurre moved with me into my first apartment.



I was so overwhelmed thinking about how super fucking serious *Ice Road* and *Talisman* were at a time. For days I sat on that thought, sometime back in 2015, and planned at one point that this would have been a noticeably more lighthearted project than its' predecessors, and what better to accompany that idea, than an image of my meme self doing a *le funny*? Also yellow is the most attentiongrabbing color to the human eye and I thought having it fill most of the cover would have made the punch of seeing my stupid mug even more amusing.

Out of all the ideas for cover art, this one was scrapped the quickest. Took half a week, I think.







The last part of the Oulunsalo Fiction-series, "Helicopters" takes jumps back in time to draw contrasts with the troublesome present, looks at the pieces scattered on the floor, picks them up, asks the questions and gives the answers

Riku and Pasi return to a home vastly different from the one they left when they disappeared two years ago. The identity of The Russian is revealed, and with it, unveiled a web of deceit where everybody's played a part. Viktor and Samuli run into each other in the most unlikely circumstances after the former's stayed in hiding ever since last year's office-shooting, and the latter's fallen into a deep depression.

One having lost his parents and the other having lost his best friend in the multi-cliffhanger ending of Talisman, each man's path takes them to different spiritual directions. While pickin up the pieces of their lives in the aftermath of disaster, they must soar like a spectacle in the sky in order to reach their destinies before it's too late, and Oulunsalo gets frozen by Eastern mobsters.

