

Translated from Finnish
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To whom it may concern

I am a Finnish writer with a Master's Degree in Social Sciences. I am also vice-chairman of Ukri, the writer association of North Karelia, and chairman of Suomen Maakuntakirjailijat (Provincial Writers of Finland). I review manuscripts within the associations' review services.

Through the review services, I have reviewed two works by Pekka Laine (by pseudonym Eelis Laine); *Elämän chatti* (written in Finnish, The Chat of Life in English) and *Särkynyt enkeli* (Broken Angel).

The philosophical *Elämän chatti* (2011) presents key perspectives of life in a structured way, challenging conventional thinking. The work includes reflections from a seeker's journey. Contradiction, normativeness, significance of insight, crossing the lines of narrow-minded thinking and time-specific norms, and surpassing the self-serving approach, are among key themes in the book.

Särkynyt enkeli (2010) was an interesting read. The collection of texts moves on personal and societal levels, addressing contemporary problems such as violence, medicalisation, and the downsides of economic and working life. At the same time, it tells the story of writing and of finding the truth. In my opinion, this book is best viewed as a collection of essays. This man has a message, it is clear from his philosophical reflections.

Based on the works I have reviewed, I can say that Mr Laine has the ability to think independently and to seek for something new. He also expresses himself well in writing in a structured manner. These are abilities I consider important in successful international student exchange programmes, and I can recommend him for international studies at your university.

Joensuu, 5 August 2013

Yours faithfully

Kari Tahvanainen

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