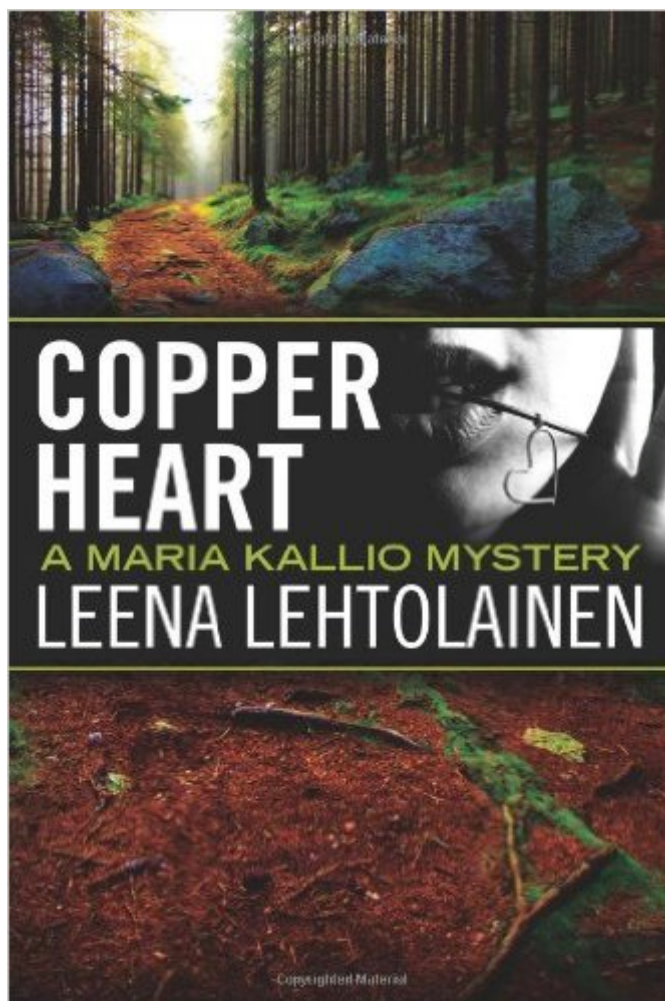


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# Copper Heart (The Maria Kallio Series)



## Synopsis

Former police sergeant Maria Kallio gladly left her tiny Finnish hometown of Arpikylä without looking back. But even though Maria despises the small town and the acrid smell from its now-closed copper mine, when Arpikylä's sheriff asks her to serve as deputy sheriff for the summer, she agrees. What should have been a quiet summer soon turns dramatic—and deadly. Meritta, an outspoken local artist, plunges to her death from the copper mine's tower, and Maria immediately suspects someone helped her fall. Now Maria must face the harsh truth that one of the town's residents killed Meritta, and friends Maria has known for decades all harbor their own murderous motives—even Johnny, her gorgeous former crush who almost makes her forget about her long-distance boyfriend, Antti, who is studying in Chicago. In this thrilling addition to the internationally successful Maria Kallio mystery series, the past and present of the beloved Finnish detective violently collide, leaving her future in grave danger.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the 3rd title in the Maria Kallio series from Finland (after *My First Murder* and *Her Enemy*). I enjoyed the former, found the latter spotty but enjoyed the armchair travel and feel like she's really hit her stride with *Copper Heart*. Maria Kallio is a former law student who alternates between law enforcement and practicing law. As law enforcement she faces challenges being a female in a male world, especially in 1990s Finland. (A bit of background-this series began in the 1990s and has only

recently been translated. Some of the details are 90s related but I felt, that of the first three, this one is the least affected by the changes in the times.) In Copper Heart Maria returns to the hometown where she grew up, a small, rural Finnish town, to act as sheriff for a summer. Of course there's a murder and she is forced to question her friends and family, while at the same time confronting the ghosts of the past and current relationship with her boyfriend, who is ready to take it to the next level. One of the main reasons I enjoy this series is the Finnish setting, and this is no different. She does an great job describing this small Finnish town, the copper mine that's the backdrop for the drama, and the locals. I'll admit to even looking at a map of Finland and checking out Karolian and Finnish historical references because I wanted to know more. The mystery is stronger in this one and kept me guessing, which I enjoyed more than the last one (Her Enemy). This series isn't for everyone-Finnish names are a bit confusing (there's a list of characters thoughtfully provided at the beginning of the book), it's set back in the 90s and then there's the Finnish historical references.

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