

troylloyd

Sari Hakala, Satu Kaikkonen, & Reijo Valta



KARRI KOKKO'S NEXT WORK

ntamo

With a foreword by Karri Kokko

Karri Kokko's Next Work

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Foreword

Late one evening in June 2009, with nothing but time on my hands, I posted a simple question on my poetry blog, *Lyhyttavaraliike*. In effect, this is what I asked:

Who wants to author my next book?

Also, I assured that the “best” suggestion would be “realized” and that all profits from such enterprise would be “forwarded to Calhoun, Georgia.”

The solicitation may have come out of some occasional despair, but it was none the less meant to be taken seriously, aiming right at the question of authorship and the origins of a work of art. I thought, well, if you’re stuck and feeling uninspired, what would Kenny Goldsmith do? Why not stop worrying and do like he says and be totally *uncreative*? You could be out of ideas, but no matter—maybe somebody else will pitch in and write your next book for you. (My ironic stance may have been more apparent in the Finnish original where all the words referring to the act of authoring, or the perpetrator of such act, were placed inside quotation marks.)

Referring to this particular geographic location, in faraway America, was just an afterthought. Knowing fully well that there was no money to be made, I could just as well make a promise to ship the imaginary bundles across the Atlantic to a fellow poet who lives in that town and country and is, like any poet, in need of support.

Well, what do you know? I sure enough didn’t have to wait long to get an answer.

Within two hours of my original post, Sari Hakala, an artist friend, responded with a short notice—all of seven

words—that amounted to a “maybe.” Less than six hours after that it was none other than my friend Troy Lloyd from Calhoun, Georgia, who first reacted to the invitation by copying my initial message—a somewhat freakish but clear signal that he considered this a personal challenge. After that things got rolling fast. Seven minutes later, Troy filled my comment box with the first of four separate installments that would constitute a long list poem. And four hours after that, it was again Sari’s turn, this time with no hesitance. That same evening, the two poets were at it again, deep in dialogue that included three different languages. Bergman’s “Persona” was discussed. At that point, I knew we were on to something. All I had to do is step back and watch.

What ensued was a two-month exchange that would eventually involve four individual poets. The early adaptors, Sari and Troy, were soon enough joined by poet and non-fiction writer Reijo Valta, and, initially under the pseudonym ‘para hacia’, a poet specializing in visual poetry, Satu Kaikkonen. For what it’s worth, I had made friends with all four of them through the Internet, but had only met Sari and Satu in person. The members of the quartet itself, however, knew each other by their respective work only.

As evident by the text published here, the writers were keen to follow each other’s cues, but also felt free to introduce new themes and poetic forms into the mix. And not only that—in the course of the book, the three Finns and one American would be using maybe a dozen or so different languages, among them Finnish, English, Swedish, Norwegian, Estonian, Russian, German, French, Spanish and Greek. Now, how often does that happen?

Along the way, during those wondrous summer months, I had little else to do except to stand in awe and keep breathing. A few words of encouragement here and there, but I never interefered with the process—or the emergency of the work,

if you will. You may call me the author, or originator, of the book, but I kept my distance even while overseeing the editorial process. What is there is what got written.

Karri Kokko

Saari Residence, September 29, 2009

mä voin
ei ideaa
no (on) idea

SH

June 16, 2009 11:15 PM

”Kuka” haluaa ”kirjoittaa” ”mun” seuraavan ”teoksen”?
”Paras” ehdotus toteutetaan.

PS. ”Tekijän’ ’oikeudet’” ja niistä kertyvät ”tulot”
suuntaamme Calhouniin, Georgiaan.

TL

June 17, 2009 5:09 AM

I would be happy if Helsinki was a helicopter.

I would be happy if I get \$ 5 for each sentence.

I would be happy if the future makes me a normal person.

I would be happy if I had nothing but something.

I would be happy if someone will check my letter and find mistakes.

I would be happy if the Supreme Court were composed entirely of liberal Jews.

I would be happy if you would just read mine.

I would be happy if I could just cut and paste my way toward the primum signum.

I would be happy if I could just block spam.

I would be happy if i could fall in love.

I would be happy if you would send me a note.

I would be happy if I would to never hear the words "toxic asset" ever again.

I would be happy if you can contribute to the inspirational stories.

I would be happy if only I lost 10 pounds.

I would be happy if Atlanta was by the ocean.

I would be happy if this text device was palm sized.

I would be happy if the lights on my street were removed or turned off.

I would be happy if the design model code examples were up to date.

I would be happy if I forgot how to have erections.

I would be happy if I served others through works and deeds.

I would be happy if my child(ren) grew up to be like me.

I would be happy if someone could help me with the translation of this sentence.

I would be happy if I had a copy of the Fluxus Codex.

I would be happy if I had a better job.

I would be happy if only _____.

I would be happy if communication appeared as an item on the agenda.

I would be happy if there was a photocopier with endless toner.

I would be happy if all lines were centered, but not if they are mixed.

I would be happy if this mail would not be regarded as some noise issued by a moron.

I would be happy if a common unity created concretion.

I would be happy if nobody had ever shown me that drug.

I would be happy if I could move this out of the fragment bundle.

I would be happy if you could help me out.

I would be happy if my life wasn't a search engine.

I would be happy if any one answers me within a week or so.

I would be happy if my natural vision was significantly improved.

I would be happy if I could find something.

TL

June 17, 2009 5:16 AM

I would be happy if a person with a disability was my next door neighbour.

I would be happy if Bergman's "Persona" played at the Starlight Drive-In.

I would be happy if this paper would help trigger the discussion on this topic.

I would be happy if someone who is reading this get up and be like yea if dis nigga cud do it then i cud do it.

I would be happy if you would use any quotes or comments that I've made so far and would be happy to provide a

further testimonial.

I would be happy if there was a magic drug machine.

I would be happy if the latter can work but I'm not sure.

I would be happy if someone called to let me know the dog humped my pillow.

I would be happy if French cigarettes were easily available.

I would be happy if you could spread the word, you can use this wee banner.

I would be happy if television would air anything besides those pathetic "Housewives" shows.

I would be happy if my wife supported me in the way I thought she should.

I would be happy if reading this didn't make me so sad.

I would be happy if the apocalypse comes.

I would be happy if I would never have to hear Bohemian Rhapsody again in my whole life.

I would be happy if one of you can tell me how can I fix my ping.

I would be happy if you would write back.

I would be happy if you could at least give me the language to describe both the table and chairs.

I would be happy if you can tell me that I'm wrong and explain how, for instance, I might create a more successful persona.

I would be happy if either Quest or Beat Freaks won the throwdown.

I would be happy if the desired functions of the system were behaving as they should.

I would be happy if anyone could give me some advice on the normal procedures for clearing this infection in chinchillas.

I would be happy if Asterisk was a ZRTP speaker.

I would be happy if David Markson fits my niche when I finally read one of his books.

I would be happy if no one died or were very sick.

I would be happy if androids or geminoids were part of my daily life.

I would be happy if neither of us were growing up quite so quickly.

I would be happy if you let me add some submissions that are written in other languages than English.

TL

June 17, 2009 5:16 AM

I would be happy if you just take a bite.

I would be happy if someone could tell me what's up with pressing F6.

I would be happy if the Mayans are right.

I would be happy if someone could point me towards a particular document or web page that proves me wrong.

I would be happy if I was able to get a picture of one and send it to the channel 5 news.

I would be happy if I were able to run a 3-mile time in the 20-21 min range.

I would be happy if we could increase cooperation, to avoid writing the same articles and share other ideas.

I would be happy if my top front teeth overlapped my bottom slightly.

I would be happy if I could squirtscreen my squidself thru shitty pixels on the other side of the world.

I would be happy if I could simply get rid of ancient websites names that come up in the address field as autocompleted 'suggestions'.

I would be happy if the comments were removed entirely—they

are fun sometimes but for the most part they are tiresome.

I would be happy if you could send me few pictures of humeral fractures treated with flat nailing.

I would be happy if you could share an interesting marketing concept which is related to your field.

I would be happy if you resonate with this.

I would be happy if the retry loop macro changed to only loop twice.

I would be happy if other people tried to change things and I could just live in a tree or something.

I would be happy if you could tell me the difference amongst all of these.

I would be happy if I, myself, with my own ten fingers could work to pay off the money.

I would be happy if you could provide me with the scientific revelations because I intend to make plastic briquettes.

I would be happy if you could help me to find a job in Poland.

I would be happy if the skin looked exactly like QuickTime 7 not iTunes mod emulations.

I would be happy if there were lots of various papers that I could sort and file.

I would be happy if you guys would take a look at this early draft and let me know what you think and where improvements



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“You could be out of ideas, but no matter—maybe somebody else will pitch in and write your next book for you.”

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