



# LITERALLY ESTONIAN

Falling shadow jump  
and other Estonian  
words translated  
into English.  
Literally.

Created by Karel Põlt  
Illustrated by Kristina Tort



## HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

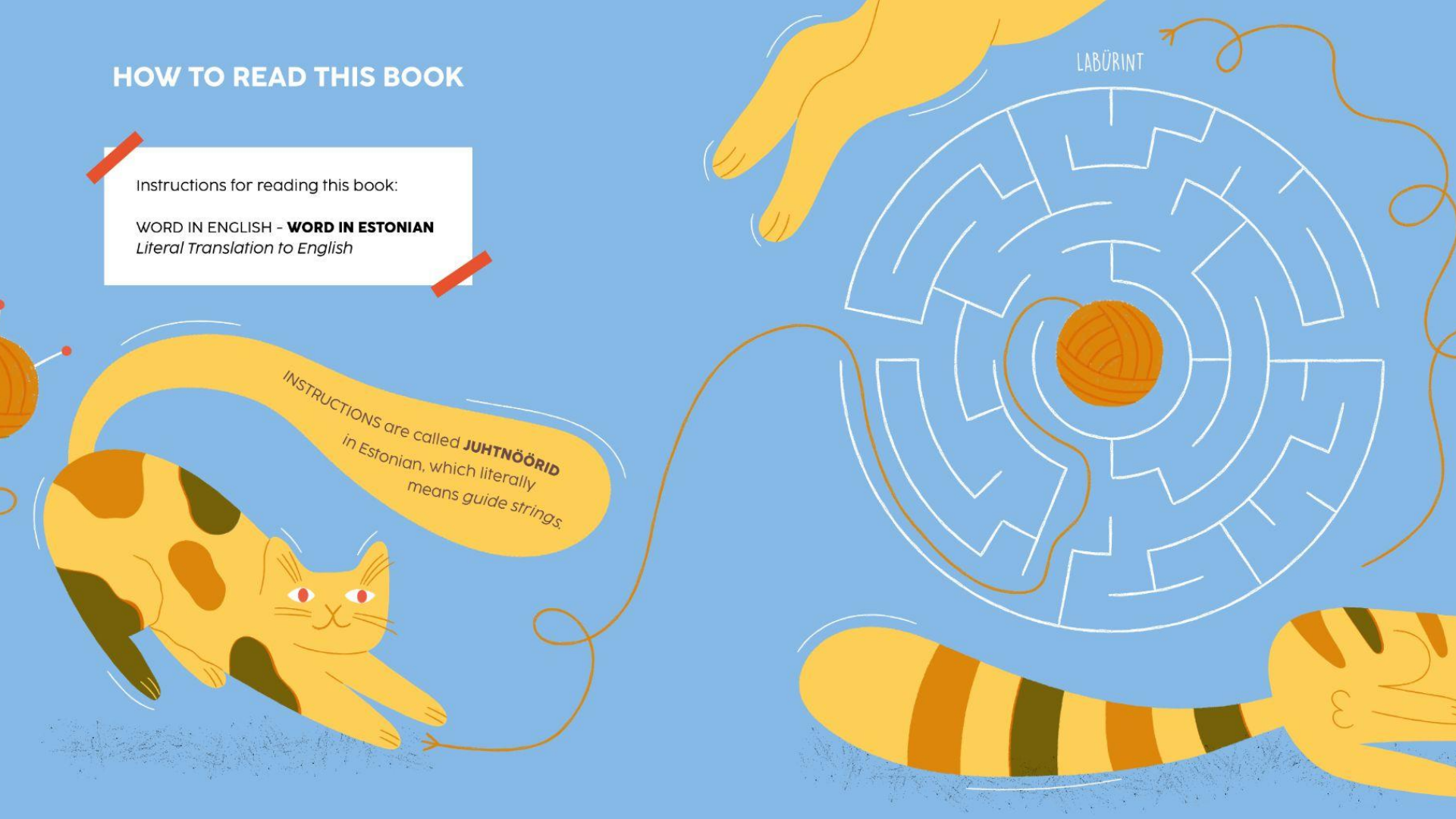
Instructions for reading this book:

WORD IN ENGLISH - **WORD IN ESTONIAN**

*Literal Translation to English*

INSTRUCTIONS are called **JUHTNÖÖRID**  
in Estonian, which literally  
means *guide strings*.

LABÜRINT





**CAP - NOKAMÜTS**  
Beak hat

Estonians are a sauna nation and sometimes call a bare person **PALJAS NAGU PORGAND**, which literally means *naked like a carrot*.

**PALM - PEOPESA**  
Palm nest



**WATCH - KÄEKELL - Hand clock**

**TOWEL - SAUNALINA**  
Sauna sheet



**BRA - RINNAHOIDJA**  
Breast holder



**ELBOW KÜÜNARNUKK**  
Elbow corner



**CALF SÄÄREMARI**  
shin berry



The richness of the Estonian language is evident in the many fascinating names for its animal kingdom, such as Mouse King (a cat), Bush Wilhelm (a wolf), Rayner's Godparent (a fox) and Madam of Aspen Wood (a rabbit).

**Andri Maimets**, literally *Andrew Mayforest*

In fairytales and old stories she is called **HAAVIKUEMAND**, which literally means *madam of aspen wood*.



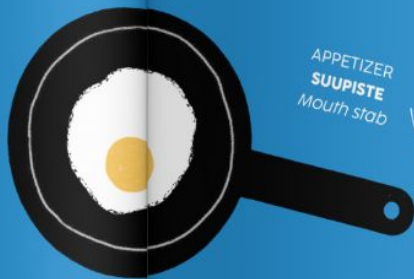
BREAKFAST in Estonian is **HOMMIKUSÖÖK**, which literally means morning food.



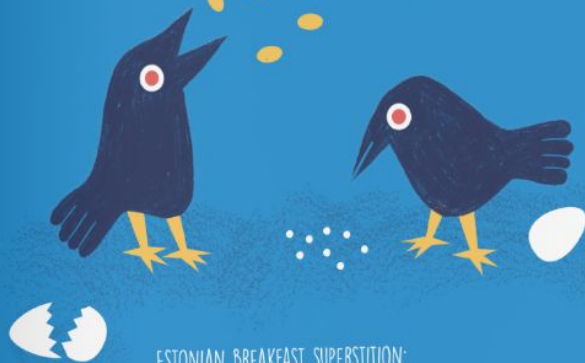
TOAST - **RÕSTSAI**  
Roast bread



In Estonian language LUNCH and SOUTH are the exact same word **LÕUNA**, probably because in Estonia the sun is always shining from the south during lunch time.



APPETIZER  
**SUUPISTE**  
Mouth stab



ESTONIAN BREAKFAST SUPERSTITION:

**LINNUPETE** (literally *bird deceit*) is a meal of a small piece of bread that has to be consumed early morning in spring time, during the return of migrating birds. It is important to eat this bread before seeing or hearing any birds to prevent sickness, injury or death in the coming year!

# KOHTU AUTORI JA ILLUSTRATORIGA MEET THE CREATOR AND THE ILLUSTRATOR



**KAREL POLT**  
*Charles Bolt*



CREATOR



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**KRISTINA TORT**  
*Christina cake*

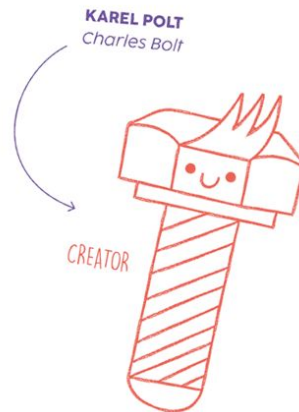
ILLUSTRATOR





## CREATED BY KAREL POLT

Karel is what Estonians call a VÄLISEESTLANE (literally *outside Estonian*). As a native Estonian and a language enthusiast, Karel has always had the Estonian language close to his heart. Living in a foreign cultural space has awarded him a deeper appreciation for the uniqueness of the Estonian language, its beauty and charm.



**KRISTINA TORT**  
Christina Cake



## ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTINA TORT

Kristina's creativity knows no bounds. From illustrating children's books to collaborating with magazines and museums, she sprinkles laughter throughout her designs. She is an award winning illustrator and a guest lecturer for illustration at the Estonian Academy of Arts.





## CROWDFUNDED ON KICKSTARTER

136 backers from around the world pledged \$10,133 to help bring this project to life. The funding goal was reached within the first week of the campaign with support of Estonian communities from Australia to Canada and Singapore to United Arab Emirates.

Kickstarter named it as a “Project we love”

Watch the introduction video of the project here:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/karelpolt/literally-estonian>



## LAUNCHED TO A GREAT SUCCESS

Book launch events in Tartu and Tallinn led to selling out of all the remaining copies within the first month.



NOW AWARD  
WINNING!

## 25 BEST DESIGNED ESTONIAN BOOKS OF 2023



## SPECIAL PRIZE **GOLDEN BOOK** OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA



Jury:

**A humorous and playful picture book** for all age groups, full of effervescence, vivacity and sparkle, all tied together with **highly skilled digital illustrations**.

Form and content come together into an ingenious whole. Expert application of compound colours, appropriate use of uncoated paper.





# BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

## REPRESENTING ESTONIA

Kristina Tort's illustrations scaled up to national level, decorating the Estonian box.



LANGUAGE and TONGUE are the same word KEEL in Estonian and on March 14th Estonians celebrate **EMAKEELPÄEV**, which literally means *Mother Tongue Day*.

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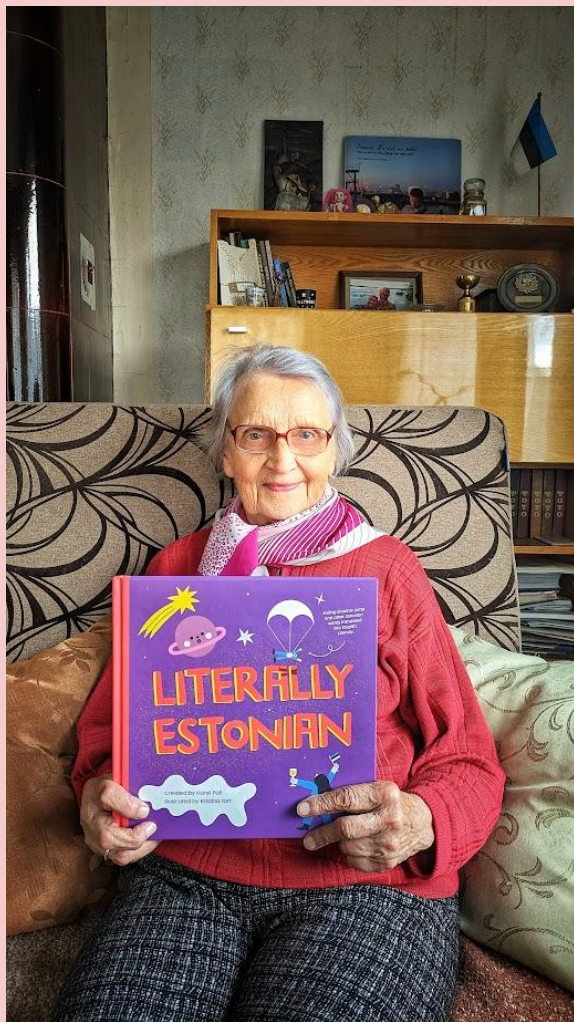


LIBRARY in Estonian is **RAAMATUKOGU**, which literally means *book collection*.

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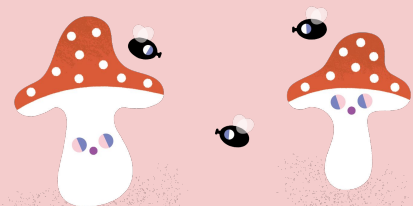


VOCABULARY  
**SÕNAVARA**  
*Word treasure*



## DEDICATED TO GRANDMA ESTER

One of my favorite pieces of advice from her, which I try to follow as often as possible, is this: Find something in life that you're not very good at. Then don't do it.



LITTLE MERMAID in Estonian is  
VÄIKE MERINEITSI,  
which literally means  
*small sea virgin*



THANK YOU.

АІТӘН.

