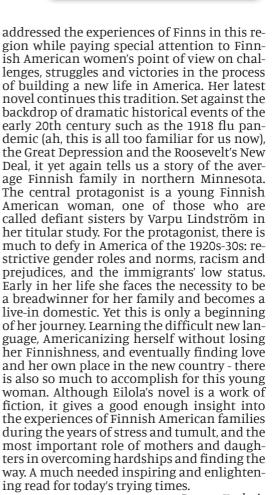


Eilola, Patricia. Gifts of the Spirit. Novel. North Star Press of St. Cloud, St. Cloud 2016. 290 p.

During the mass migration from Finland to North America in 1870-1929, there was a saying: Amerikka on "naisille taivas, miehille helvetti". America is a heaven for women and hell for men. While Finnish men in the new country were offered hard, dangerous and backbreaking jobs in mines and lumber camps, women took allegedly easier jobs as domestics. Finnish females as servants, maids and kitchen helps were a common sight in the USA in the early 20th century. In the newspapers there were advertisements placed by Finnish women seeking employment as domestics, and even the iconic novel of the 1920s, The Great Gatsby by Francis Scott Fitzgerald, mentions the protagonist's maid, "a Finnish woman, who made his bed and cooked breakfast". Nevertheless, there was no heaven for Finnish females in the USA. and the jobs as domestics were hardly easier than mines and lumber camps. Sadly, there is still too little written about Finnish working women in the early days of Finnish America. A female perspective on work is regrettably too often not seen under the iconic masculine images of Finnish American lumberjacks and miners. This makes the recent historical fiction novel *Gifts of the Spirit* by Patricia Eilola all more precious.

The author is a third-generation Finnish American from Minnesota. In her previous novels *The Fabulous Family Hölömöläiset* (1996), *A Finntown of the Heart* (1998) and *A Finntown of the Soul* (2008) she has skillfully



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