

Petteri Hannila, Science Fiction, History, Neutral, English

The Man of the Land

Desperate people struggle in near-dystopian conditions.

It is the year 1990, but not as we remember it. The oil crisis of the 1970s had lead to a nuclear incident in the Near East and to an eve of Third World War. It was barely prevented, but recession and isolation politics have run rampant across the world.

Finland had it worse than most countries. During the restless years a movement called Green Dawn seized power. They managed to rally most of the people behind their cause, promising better tomorrow for all.

Since then, the borders of Finland have been all but shut down. The land is ruled by an elite class; the Green Guardsmen, who control the land that has lapsed back to agriculture. There have been infiltrators and resistance cells operating the whole time, but they haven't managed to rally strong enough an opposition to get a chance to throw the new government.

There is no freedom of speech or press, most of the people live in farmlands that operate under bad conditions and broken machinery. The people are held back by a promise of violence. Everything is monitored, all is bought with government coupons (except from the black market). The population of the land has diminished greatly, dropping to around three million citizens.

And now there is the first generation of young, who have grown under the Green Dawn propaganda. They firmly believe, that the government is their benefactor. And if someone would fall from the lawful path, every man is his neighbours guardian.

Grains

- Green Dawn is used by the power-hungry
- Finns are a humble and hardy folk
- The clueless ones are tools

Veikko Hirvonen, The Man of the Land

Veikko is a farmer quickly approaching sixty. He has seen it all, from experiencing the Second World War as a child and proceeding to follow the budding rise of urbanization to the city only to be pushed back to poverty and need after the events of the 70s.

His wife had died long ago, leaving Veikko to take care of Marja, his only daughter. Nowadays, giving birth was highly regulated, but Marja was born just before that took place.

During the late 70s and 80s, Veikko helped the resistance. His contact was Markku Kasurinen, a man from the nearby village. Together they helped many nonconformists to flee the goverment, mostly to

Sweden and Norway. Veikko kept his head down, though, because of his young daughter and the frail life he had in the countryside. Years ago Veikko kind of just stopped his activities with the resistance. He grew tired of them as they seemed to get nothing done.

Veikko has problems. His health is slowly deteriorating alongside the rusting machines he operates to make a living out of his fields. Worse than this, his daughter Marja is viciously courted by Pekka Ketola, a local Sergeant of the Green Dawn. This cocky and rash young man would not take no for an answer. Marja and Pekka were both of the new generation, brainwashed and manipulated by the Green Dawn. True products of the system.

But what could a single farmer do?

Traits	
3	Straightforward "And be a simple kind of man. Oh be something you love and understand."
2	Experienced He has seen both ideas and men rise and fall.
2	Silent "Speech is silver, silence is golden."
1	Farmer He has soil under his fingernails.
Burdens	
1	Poor Health Veikko has seen many winters.
1	Worry about Marja If something would happen to her, his world would collapse.

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