

Ovllá libretto in English

[Etusivu](#) › **Ovllá libretto in English**

Libretto in English

Libretto:

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–

Ovllá is skillful

♪

Ovllá is a big boy

Ovllá is helpful

–



ONLYN7EATER!

What do you want?

Do you want?

Do you want to want?

Do you wish to wish?

What?

I don't understand.

Boys! Can someone translate?

I don't understand shit.

Women! Women! Women!

Women! Women! Women!

Don't you understand?

Really?

That you don't understand?

Do you understand?

You do understand?

Isn't that right?

Isn't that right?

What?

I speak Swedish,

if you don't speak Finnish.

Can you say that in Swedish?

Miksi piksi polkatriksi?

What? God damn it, boys,

you won't let us in.



ONLYN7EATER!

Look, we have money!
How much do you want?

How much does it cost for four?

Well, do you just want
concert tickets, –

or do you also want tickets
for the camping area?

We are definitely staying the night.
Concerts, camping spot, –

the works.

Ooh-ah the whole night long!

–

Oh right, that's what everyone says.

But I see.

I know.

I understand.

Lost sheep, that's what they are.
The ones we're here for.

Here they can lick their wounds.

Tend to their roots.



ONLYN7EATER!

A festival in Gárasavvon! What?

Apparently a lot of people from all over the northern regions are coming.

Artists from around the globe.

This weekend!

It's going to be packed with women!

Women!

Women?

Women!

There might be a lot of Sámi.

Sámi?

Didn't you say women?

Sámi women!

Sámi women!

Have you heard what they say about Sámi women?

Sámi women,
Sámi women!

–

Goddammit, there is gonna be
f---, booze and nicotine!

OWL N' EATER!

That's school boy vitamin!

♪

—

Muzet muzet muzet
(a dark-featured reindeer)

I am muzet.

Not muzetsággi.

You're not muzetsággi.

Why?

A Finn's kisses are not that sweet.

A Finn's hands are not that soft.

A Finn's body isn't that agile.

Hold me.

Embrace me.

Won't you be there?

Won't you be there?

Yes, I am.

I am.

I am.



OWL N' EATER!

I am.

I am.

And you are muzet.

I am.

I am.

Yes, I am.

And you are light-featured.

–

Hey Oula, where are you?

Are you with a woman?

We don't want to disturb,
but are you there?

I saw him with that
pretty Sámi woman.


The dark-haired one.

Ho hey! Sámi women!

Sámi women!

Don't come in! I am here!

No no no!

 won't come in!

OWL N' EATER!

nothing to see here!

Go find yourselves some women,
damn drunks!

Sámi woman, of course!

A Sámi woman, for fuck's sake!

Sámi women!

–

I guess you grew up
in the Sámi territory?

Perhaps in the Teno valley,
if I'm hearing correctly?

That's right, the Teno valley.
Grew up there, fishing salmon.

And you?
Are you from Máze, or?

♪

I am from Kautokeino.
Grew up in Biltaveadji.

Right by the river, me as well.

We were also fishing.
But I don't know anymore –

at fish they might have
the future, you know.



ONLYN7EATER!

Where?

Around Alta.

Sautso is the name of the place.

Oh no.

You probably haven't been following very closely –

what is happening on the Norwegian side of Sápmi?

No, I really haven't.

What's happening on the Finnish side then?

I live in Kiruna.

I work in a mine.

I handle the iron ore for steel factories.

I drive a Kiruna Truck!

What is happening on the Swedish side of Sápmi then?

I haven't been following so closely.

But you found your way here, to Davvi šuvvá?

It wasn't me, but my friends.



t tagged along.

OWL N7EATER!

(the symbol of Sámi activism)

What's that?

Oh my god!

I'm just trying to survive.

ČSV ČSV ČSV ČSV...

Show Sáminess!

Show Sámi spirit!

Gather Sámi for victory!

Show Sámi strength!

Gather a Sámi crowd! Yeah!

Hide under the bed! ČSV!

ČSV! ČSV!

Tell me Kauko, is it Sámi he speaks?

Well, it's definitely not Finnish...

How does he know to speak it?

Indeed, how can he speak it?

How the hell does he know it?

–

Hey, Oula, answer this:



you a Sámi?

ONLYN7EATER!

But why do you know Sámi?

I have not spoken any Sámi.

Yes you have, we all heard you!

I also heard!

We all heard you speak Sámi!

–

The youth today cannot do anything.

They cannot slaughter.

They cannot cut hay.

They cannot fish.

They cannot pole a riverboat.

They are just useless.

When I was growing up,
it was not so easy.

Then we worked outside all day long.

Went indoors only to eat.

Now they just sit there
lazing around at school.

Learning useless stuff.

Things that nobody
ever need.



ONLYN7EATER!

Shut up, you old bastard!

Why, why?

Why did I end up with
such a clumsy son?

–

I have heard that here
they like Finns

From the Republic of Finland

I have heard
that we work hard

We're strong and skilful

I have heard that they pay well and
organise accommodation as well

I've heard you can get a licence
for just about any machine here

Lectrahaul,
Scania

Excavator,
power drill

And a Kiruna Truck!

Yes, I will drive a Kiruna Truck!



ONLYN7EATER!

Here you're allowed to be a Finn
and live like a Swede

Here you can speak Finnish
and live in a Swedish way

I have heard
that here I am the future

Life is here

There's food here,
and a roof over your head

There's work here
for centuries to come

Longer than my
life's path will last


Finnish men, Finns,

will find a job and a life
and Swedish women

And Kiruna, Kiruna,
Kiruna is the place

I have heard that here one can dig
and make a racket

Here you're allowed to be a Finn
and live like a Swede

 Here you can speak Finnish
and live in a Swedish way

ONLYN7EATER!

Life is here

There's food here,
and a roof over your head

There's work here
for centuries to come

Longer than my
life's path will last

Finnish men, Finns,

will find a job and a life
and Swedish women

And Giron, Giron,
Giron is the place

–

You are also one of us

You belong to our group

You are not a Finn

You are not a Finn

You have left us,
Sámi as you are

You are Sámi

You are Sámi

 are Sámi

ONLYN7EATER!

Even if you try to flee

Even if you try to run off

You are Sámi

Now and forever

Now and forever

Shut up!

Now and forever

Now and forever



I probably shouldn't say it like this

But it would be very good
to be close to you now

Your arms around me,
in your embrace

I probably shouldn't be
so completely direct

But I wouldn't mind at all

if you would drop by
or if you would stay

I probably shouldn't be
straightforward



OVLÁ/TeaTeR!

when I'm close to you

Ovlá, may I call you my love?

Ovlá, when you are with me,
you are my Ovlá

So warm

Ovlá, hold me, hold me tight

Don't go anywhere

Could you, my Ovlá

Stay, stay with me

I probably should not say this

But I had to come to you
right now

I just needed to be close to your arms

I probably should not say this
quite so directly

But I wouldn't mind at all

if you would drop by
or if you would stay

I probably shouldn't be
so straightforward

But that's just how it is

OWL N' EATER!

Anna

Ovlá

May I call you my love?

Anna

Ovlá

When you are by my side,
you are just my Anna/Ovlá

So warm,
my Anna/Ovlá

I hold you in my arms

Dear Ánná, don't ever go away

Could you, my Anna/Ovlá

Stay, stay with me

–

Well, finally I get to meet
the famous Ovlá!

World-famous Ovlá!

He thinks I talk about you a lot.

She is the most precious thing I have.

You must take good care of her,
you'll have to deal with me!

ONLYN7EATER!

But when you came,
he put the shotgun away.

Not just anyone is allowed
into the kitchen –

let alone gets coffee
in this house.

Yes, you are a real river Sámi
from Teno valley.

If I understand correctly?

Yes, I am from there.
A Finn.

I grew up in Outakoski –

and Utsjoki and Inari
and Ivalo.

In Vuovdaguoika and Ohcejohka
and Anár and Avvil?

Outakoski, Utsjoki,
Inari, Ivalo.

Vuovdaguoika.

Outakoski! Utsjoki!

Rovisuvanto!
Akukoski! Talvadas!

Avvil.
Ohcejohka.



OVLLÁ/ÉATERI

Well, what is this village
called then, Ovllá?

Oh? But...?

What is the name of
this little village?

Wonder what it is?

But this is Norway!

This is Biltaveaddji
and until now –

not a single fool
has come up –

with any Norwegian name for it.

No one has tried to lie about
what the real name of this place is.


And where are you from again?

The Teno valley.

You come from the
Deatnu river valley?

And then some
Finnish rascals appeared –

and came up with
Finnish-like names.

 are these the real names?

OVLÁ/Teater!

Don't be like that.

–

Father!

Explain the truth?

This young man,
your dear Ovlá...

This fine young Sámi man
must begin to unlearn –

all the colonial bullshit that's been
forcefully shoved down his throat!

I was the most skilled soldier
in our group.

I am ready to defend Finland
with my life.

Oh, is that why you work in Sweden
and your girlfriend lives in Norway?

It's not like that at all.

Who lives in Sápmi
in these borderless areas –

that the colonial powers...

Father, stop it!
Let Ovlá be!



, Ánná likes you exactly

OWL N' EATER!

Riitta Rinkinen's son.

Oh. Rinkinen is your father then?
From the family of Alla-Máhtte?

And your mother, she must
belong to the Guhttors?

Guhttor one, two or three?

How should I know?

You have to find out whether
the two of you are related.

She is probably Guhttor one.

Your mother came from Karasjok
and then moved to the Finnish side.

Got married to Rihtta-Ovllá.
Well, your grandfather.

I wonder how they are doing,
Rihtta and Juhán?

How come you know Sámi
if you are a Finn?

Father! Stop it!

Alright. You are very welcome
with the two of us.

As long as Anna wants you.



matter what family you

ONLYN7EATER!

A warmhearted
welcome to you.

Make yourself at home.

The door is open.

Well...

He's very handsome.

Strong as well.

Handy.

But at the same time...

Father, don't even try!

I want only him.

–

The youth today cannot do anything.

They cannot slaughter.
They cannot cut hay.

They cannot fish.
They cannot pole a riverboat.

They are just useless.

Incompetent, of no use.

OWL N' EATER!

dad's football player!

Or maybe mom's super-skier?

But that's just how it is, life is
at its best when you are near.

Anna.

Ovlá.

May I call you my love?

Anna.

Ovlá.

When you are with me,
you are just

My Anna.

My Ovlá.

How warm you are, my Anna/Ovlá.

Stay, stay with me.

–

I wonder when
your parents will come.

Surely they will now, finally.

Just listen, Ovlá!

ONLYN7EATER!

which would be totally different.

–

At least we agree
on one thing, right?

What?

About the language.
We will speak Sámi to the child.

But...?

They'll learn Norwegian
in any case.

Almost everyone here in Áltá
mainly speaks Norwegian

It will be hard to maintain
the language.

We must be strong.

Is this really wise?

Wise?

What do you mean?

No, I just...

We are speaking Sámi!

ctly.

ONLYN7EATER!

We shouldn't...

What shouldn't we?

Ruin the child with that
kitchen table language?

I wonder how it will go –

if they can't speak
Norwegian at school?

It's just terrible!

A horrible thing to do
to a child!

–

But, Ovlá, it won't be like that.

Things aren't like that anymore.

Maybe not in Kautokeino.
But here in Alta!

Anna, you're going to
create an outcast!

They will be left –

totally –

alone.

body –

ONLYN7EATER!

you cannot even speak
Norwegian properly!

My child will not become
someone like...

Someone like...

Someone like you?

–



–

Finland, behold,
thy daylight now is dawning

The threat of night
has now been driven away

The skylark calls across
the light of morning

The blue of heaven
lets it have its way

And now the day
the powers of night is scorning:

Thy daylight dawns,
O Finland of ours!

ONLYN7EATER!

I trust you are going to –

welcome him to the class.

And that you are good classmates.

And you, Rinkinen, since you
also live in the dormitory:

You can surely see to it –

that Pokkanen feels –

welcome here with us.

Here.

Pierijä? (In English: “farter”)

Pie! Ri! Jä!

Pie! Ri! Jä!

Pie! Ri! Jä!

Pie! Ri! Jä!

Pierijä, pierijä...

Stop this bullying right now!

I'll tell you one thing, so that
you'll always remember:

I do not hang out
with the Sámi.

OWL N7EATER!

Is she asleep?

Yes. She just uses me
as a pacifier.

Wait a second...

Go on and take her.

Nuku nuku, nurmilintu

Väsy väsy, västäräkki

–

Our own little princess.

You are so sweet!

You have such pretty ears,

Even fingernails
so adorable.

I have never seen
something like this before.

No, father has never seen
such a fine little girl.

Neither has mum seen –

such a fine little girl.

And her ears as well as fingernails
so adorable.

ONLYN7EATER!

What use is Finnish to her
here in Alta?

Well, what use is Sámi to her
here in Alta?

I am being serious.

What use is Sámi to her
here in Alta?

Everyone here speaks Norwegian.

In Guovdageaidnu we seem
quite ordinary.

While in Alta, we seem...

Perhaps we should move.

What? Move?

Do you honestly have anything
to keep you here?

And then, when her school starts, –

if they do not get a Sámi class
here after all...

A thing you were so sure about
six months ago.

And your parents, of whom
I haven't seen even a glimpse?



at if you sent them

OWL N' EATER!

And they would also learn
that they have a new descendant?

Does he not remember anything?
Does he never miss anything?

What has happened to him
that made him so stubborn?

Does he not remember anything?
Does he never miss anything?

Do I even know my own husband?
What is it that he does not say?

Does he not remember anything?
Does he never miss anything?

I wonder if he even knows himself?
What has he hidden deep inside?

Does he not remember anything?
Does he not remember anything?

Does he not remember anything?

—

Sometimes you start to think...

Perhaps there wasn't
that much to remember...

A person is no more one thing
than the other, but...



just are what you are.

ONLYN7EATER!

She just talks and talks.

Problems just get bigger
with her talking.

Couldn't she just...

Why must she...

Talking never did any good.

It is just pointless.

It is just pointless.

It is just pointless.

Could we not just have a laugh?

Life only lasts for a short while.

One tiny little moment.

What difference does it make
what one does?

When at the end you just die?

What difference does it make
what one does?

When at the end you just die?

When



ONLYN7EATER!

When

You...

–

Well, how was your night here?

Do you like our warm bed?

Our clean bedsheets?

Our warm bedroom?

Our warm water
straight from the tap?

Our indoor toilet?

Did dreams find you,
little Sámi child?

What are you saying?

How was your night here?
Did you sleep well?

What is she saying?

How was your night here?
Did you sleep well?

–

From a Finn.



ONLYN7EATER!

Finland has suffered
from the burden of colonialism –
for centuries.

The Swedes starved us –
almost to death.

But we are Finns and we do not
give up for any reason.

No other nation –
is as strong as the Finns of Finland.

No other nation has the kind of grit
as the Finns do.

No other nation can get by
with as little as the Finns can.

Certainly not!
Certainly not!


Well, look here now.

What has Rinkinen written today?

I am a dumb, dumb Sámi.

I cannot do anything.

My parents cannot do anything.

 s I can't do anything myself.

OWL N' EATER!

And if I don't learn quickly –
how to read and write Finnish, –
I shall be poor for all my life –
and die poor, too.

I was born poor.
Poor I am still.

And if I don't learn quickly –
how to read and write Finnish, –
I shall be poor for all my life –
and die poor, too.

–

You know.
This moving thing.

Yes. It will happen.

When Anna has decided
what she wants.

And she has been obsessing over it
for seven years now.

Could you not imagine living here?

I don't have work here.



ONLYN7EATER!

with you or without you.

Some day...

–

It's none of my business really...

But how would you feel
if Elle Sára grew up, –

went out into the world
and never came back here?

–

Then I would have understood
that I had done –

something terribly wrong
while she was growing up.

I also lived in a boarding school.

We were poor –

and I had many
young siblings.

–

I did get to go home
every weekend.



OWL N' EATER!

about such things.

You are like me
when I was young.

Anna had a fantastic mother.

–



After she passed away, –

I had to fill her shoes.

I became someone else.

For Anna's sake.

A person cannot just –

decide to become
someone else.

One can decide what one wants
to try to achieve.

What one wants to strive toward.

One can decide to give up –

or keep trying.

One can decide
to stop forgetting.



can decide

OWLÁNTÉTER!

When I was your age I was setting
ptarmigan snares in my sleep!

When I was your age
I was fishing alone with a drift net.

When I was your age I chopped
firewood for the whole winter myself!

–

The youth today cannot do anything.

They cannot slaughter.
They cannot cut hay.

They cannot fish.
They cannot pole a riverboat.

–

They are completely incompetent.

I never got to live with you.

Ovlá is a big brother

Ovlá is skilful

Ovlá is efficient

Ovlá is careful

Ovlá is handy

Ovlá is a language talent

OWL N' EATER!

Ovlá is skillful

Ovlá is a big boy

Ovlá is helpful

–

Here everyone must be the same.

Here everyone must talk the same way.

Here everyone is clean.

Wash the clothes and the body –

and cut the hair.

Eat everything that is put on the plate.

Be obedient, tidy, and good.

Be obedient, tidy, and good.


But I don't understand
what you're saying.

Here everyone must be the same.

Here everyone must talk the same way.

Here everyone is clean.

Wash the clothes and the body –

 cut the hair.

ONLYN7EATER!

Be obedient, tidy, and good.

But I don't understand
what you're saying.

Here everyone must be the same.

Here everyone must talk the same way.

Here everyone is clean.

Wash the clothes and the body –

and cut the hair.

Eat everything that is put on the plate.

Be obedient, tidy, and good.

Be obedient, tidy, and good.

We wake up when the alarm rings
we do our tasks on time

We are helpful and kind

When the lights go out,
we are already under the blankets

Then we close our eyes and
in the name of our heavenly father

We welcome the night

Content in our safe haven

ONLYN7EATER!

What is she saying?

We wake up when the alarm rings
we do our tasks on time

We are helpful and kind

When the lights go out,
we are already under the blankets

Then we close our eyes and
in the name of our heavenly father

We welcome the night

Content in our safe haven

–

You are not the one leaving
but decide to stay.

I cannot go.
I don't decide to stay.

It's not that
I don't love you anymore.

–

What is this life?

It's all in vain.

What is life?



Person is born, they live.

OWL N' EATER!

Why bother?

Why run around?

What is the meaning
of everything?

–

I can't do it!
Believe me!

I cannot!
Accept it!

I can't keep going!
See it!

I can't! I can't!
I can't!

–

Mother!

Mother!

Mother!
It is me, Ovlá!

–

You are not Ovlá.

Ovlá is not a Finn.

OVLÁNTÉTER!

–

You took your time.

This is my Ovlá,
my Ovlá

Now I am joking for my own Ovlá

Went out into the world

but remembered his roots

♪

He is Ovlá

My Ovlá

My own Ovlá

Ovlá from the banks
of the Deatnu river.

–



OULUN TEATTERI

OULUN
TEATTERI

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