

## **Popular music from Vittula – Mikael Niemi**

This is both funny and with a good amount of substance. The prologue catches you in an instance with its funny description of the narrator's unlucky mishap in the Himalaya Mountains. Matti, the head figure of the book, looks back at his childhood and youth years growing up in Vittula in the most Northern part of Sweden, bordering Finland. Here the people have little to do, except drink, fight and hold sauna contests. This amounts to numerous funny incidents (rarely have I laughed this much), but not only that, it is at the same time a heartfelt story about the people living in this rugged and remote part of the world. Niemi himself grew up here and the book and the people you meet in it is treated with much warmth and love, even though many of the characters in the book are a bunch of sorry individuals.

This is a fun book and when read alongside the Kevin book it was much lighter relief!! Again a good choice from Lisa who is herself Swedish but from more a more southerly location.