Tove Jansson (1914–2001) was born in Helsinki, in Finland’s Swedish-speaking minority. Her father was a sculptor and her mother a graphic designer and illustrator; as an adult she lived with her life companion, the artist and professor Tuulikki Pietilä, in Helsinki and in a cottage on the remote outer edge of the Finnish archipelago.

Jansson began as a visual artist, drawing humorous illustrations and political cartoons for an anti-Fascist Finnish-Swedish magazine from 1929 (at age fifteen) until 1953. It was there that she introduced her most famous creation: Moomintroll, a hippopotamus-like character with a dreamy disposition, a loving and tolerant family, and a world of mountains and river valleys that he explores with unfailing curiosity and kindness. Her children’s books about the Moomin family are beloved throughout the world and have inspired films, television series, an opera, and theme parks in Finland and Japan.
OTHER NYRB CLASSICS OF INTEREST

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Tove Jansson (Translated from the Swedish by Thomas Teal, Introduction by Kathryn Davis)

**Corrigan**  
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Georges Bernanos (Translated from the French by J. C. Whitehouse, Introduction by Fanny Howe)

**Wish Her Safe at Home**  
Stephen Benatar (Introduction by John Carey)

**The Strangers in the House**  
Georges Simenon (Translated from the French by Geoffrey Sainsbury, Introduction by P. D. James)

**Cassandra at the Wedding**  
Dorothy Baker (Afterword by Deborah Eisenberg)

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

Patricia Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*

Stephen King, *Misery*

Tove Jansson, Moomins books, including *Moominland Midwinter*

Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock*

Ruth Rendell,* The Bridesmaid*

Amy Hempel, *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom*

OTHER IDEAS FOR YOUR READING GROUP

*The Servant*, starring Dirk Bogarde and directed by Joseph Losey (film, United Kingdom, 1963)

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