

HELICOPTERS

Oulunsalo Fiction, Pt. 3 | Jani Ojala



*Beginning, middle, **end**;
setup, confrontation, **resolution**.*

CONTENTS

Exhibition

Quote

First Words

PLAY 1: The Scheme of Weeks

Letter to the World #1: expression

PLAY 2: All Good Things Are Free

Letter to the World #2: STLO

PLAY 3: In the Middle

Letter to the World #3: on purpose

PLAY 4: Packt Like Sardines in a Crushd Tin Box

Letter to the World #4: ground zero

PLAY 5: It Ends

Letter to the World #5: the past

Closing Words

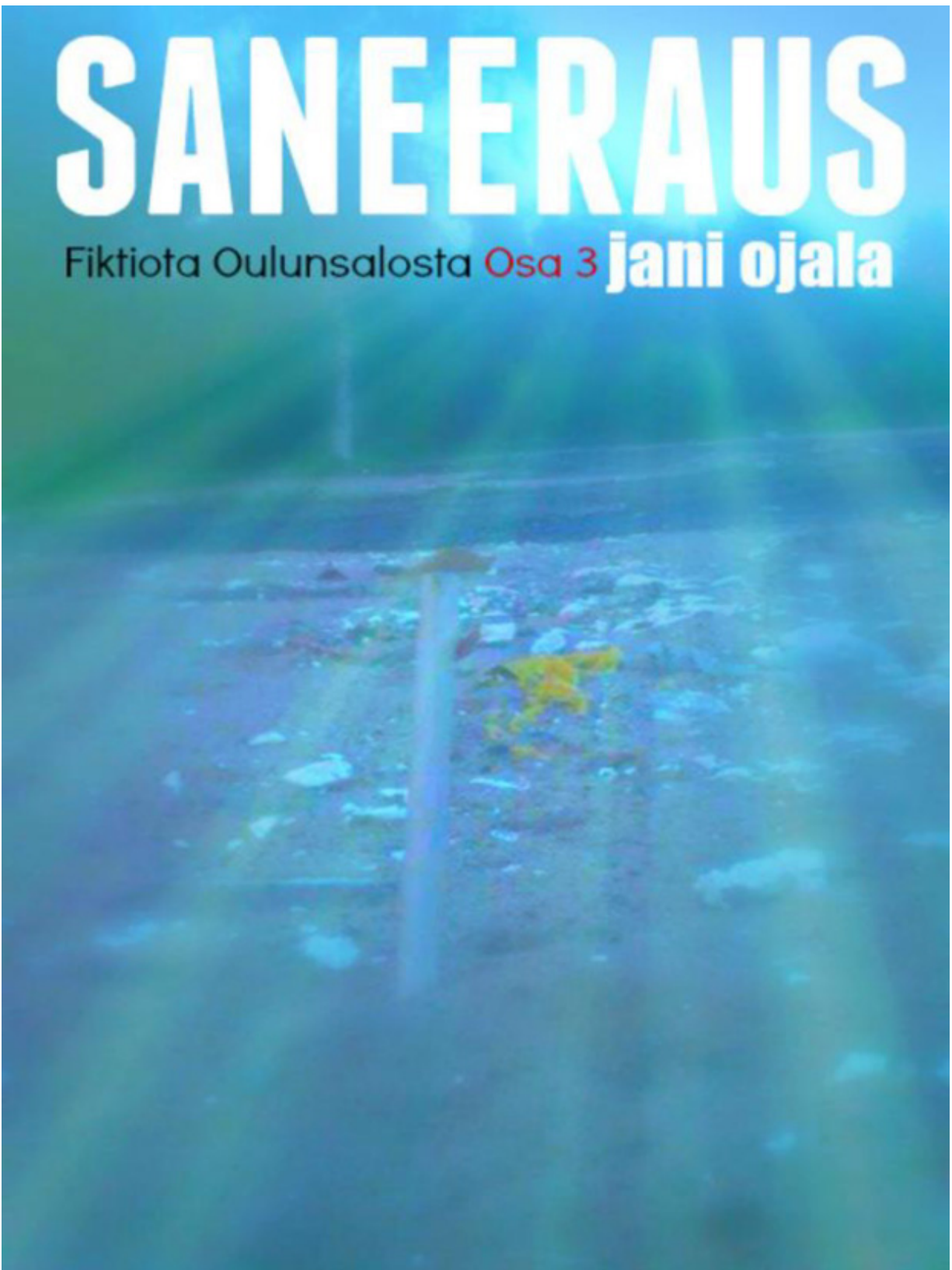
Exhibition

I had a few ideas for this book's cover, and a couple name-changes happened in the years of working on this project - which began back when *Ice Road* was still being written.

[]

SANEERAUS

Fiktiota Oulunsalosta **Osa 3** jani ojala



The first cover I was happy with for its while, was made in
the

summer of 2015 which was back when I still thought

Oulunsalo

Fiction was gonna be written in Finnish and called *Fiktiota
Oulunsalosta*. The cute picture featured here is of a severed
piece of

a wire that ran underneath the rowhouse neighboring my
childhood

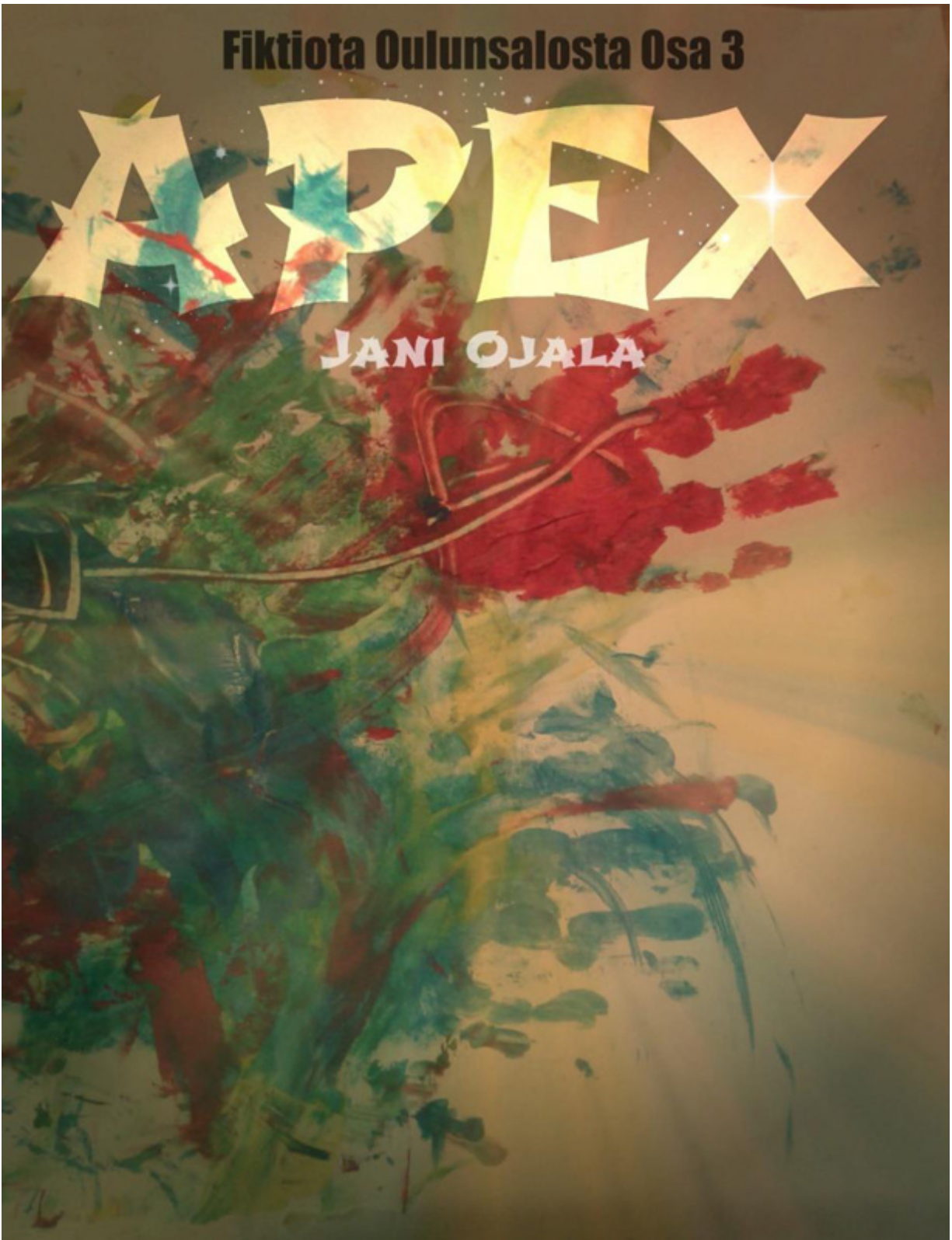
home. That rowhouse got taken down the spring of that
year, so the
picture was taken at the clay court that remained from the
ruins.

Saneeraus means *renewal* in English.

Fiktiota Oulunsalosta Osa 3

APEX

JANI OJALA



If I recall correctly, I'd just found out what the word *apex* stands for, in the autumn of 2015. My 2-year-old godson handpainted the picture here, and I thought the two recent events would make for a cool cover that I could smile at from time to time, remembering the couple of instances that, had they never taken place, this wouldn't be here. After editing the lighting and stuff of the picture and making it look really radiant, I realized that I didn't like it enough. That I could go on and explore different ideas. But hey, it was a sweet thought.

[apex] Oulunsalo Fiction, Pt. 3
Jani Ojala



Kurre

Featuring my childhood favorite stuffed animal, Kurre, whom
I've
written a story about when I was, like, eleven, and whom
slept my
my side until I got - by an unlucky chance - over 6 feet tall
and
couldn't fit him atop my head in my bed.

And oh yeah, I was still rolling with *Apex* at the time. That
was one
of the longest-sticking working-titles.

Kurre moved with me into my first apartment.

Oulunsalo *a 26th* Oulunsalo
Fiction 3 by: **jani ojala** Fiction 3



I was so overwhelmed thinking about how super fucking
serious *Ice*
Road and *Talisman* were at a time. For days I sat on that
thought,
sometime back in 2015, and planned at one point that this
would
have been a noticeably more lighthearted project than its'
predecessors, and what better to accompany that idea, than
an image
of my meme self doing a *le funny?* Also yellow is the most
attention-grabbing
color to the human eye and I thought having it fill most of
the cover would have made the punch of seeing my stupid
mug even
more amusing.

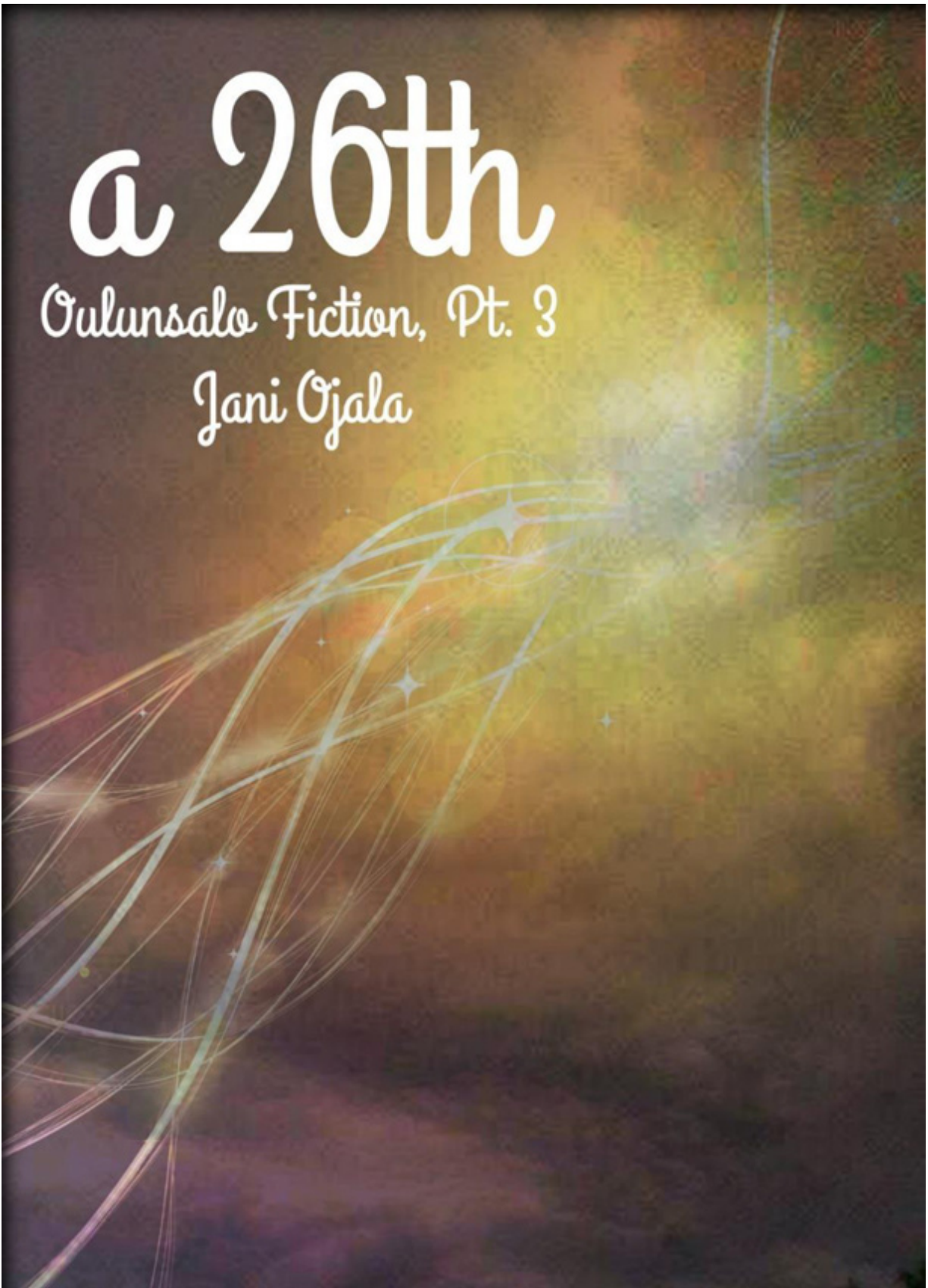
Out of all the ideas for cover art, this one was scrapped the
quickest.

Took half a week, I think.

a 26th

Oulunsalo Fiction, Pt. 3

Jani Ojala



At a point of my life, even before making these occasional
new
Helicopters-covers, I noticed that a 26th of a month was
always a big
day for me, spiritually. That's why the working title stuck.

The untouched version of the gloomy photo of clouds ended
up
serving as one of Talisman's back-cover arts, so that was
the second
reason this idea got dumped. The first was, I was too hasty
with the
effective editing and on second or third sight of the final
product,
found those rays of light to be ugly. I just didn't find them to
have
the longevity I required from the trilogy's ender's cover art. I
have
all the cover-artworks of my novels on the wall and will for
any
place I'll live at.

a 26th.

Oulunsalo Fiction Pt. 3
Written by Jani Ojala

The cool breeze-like atmosphere of a J. Cole song inspired
this color-scape.

I was thinking about minimal artwork for a long time, since
Talisman's art was already a step in that direction, from that
of *Ice*

Road. The turquoise was a nod to the album at hand - *2014*
Forest

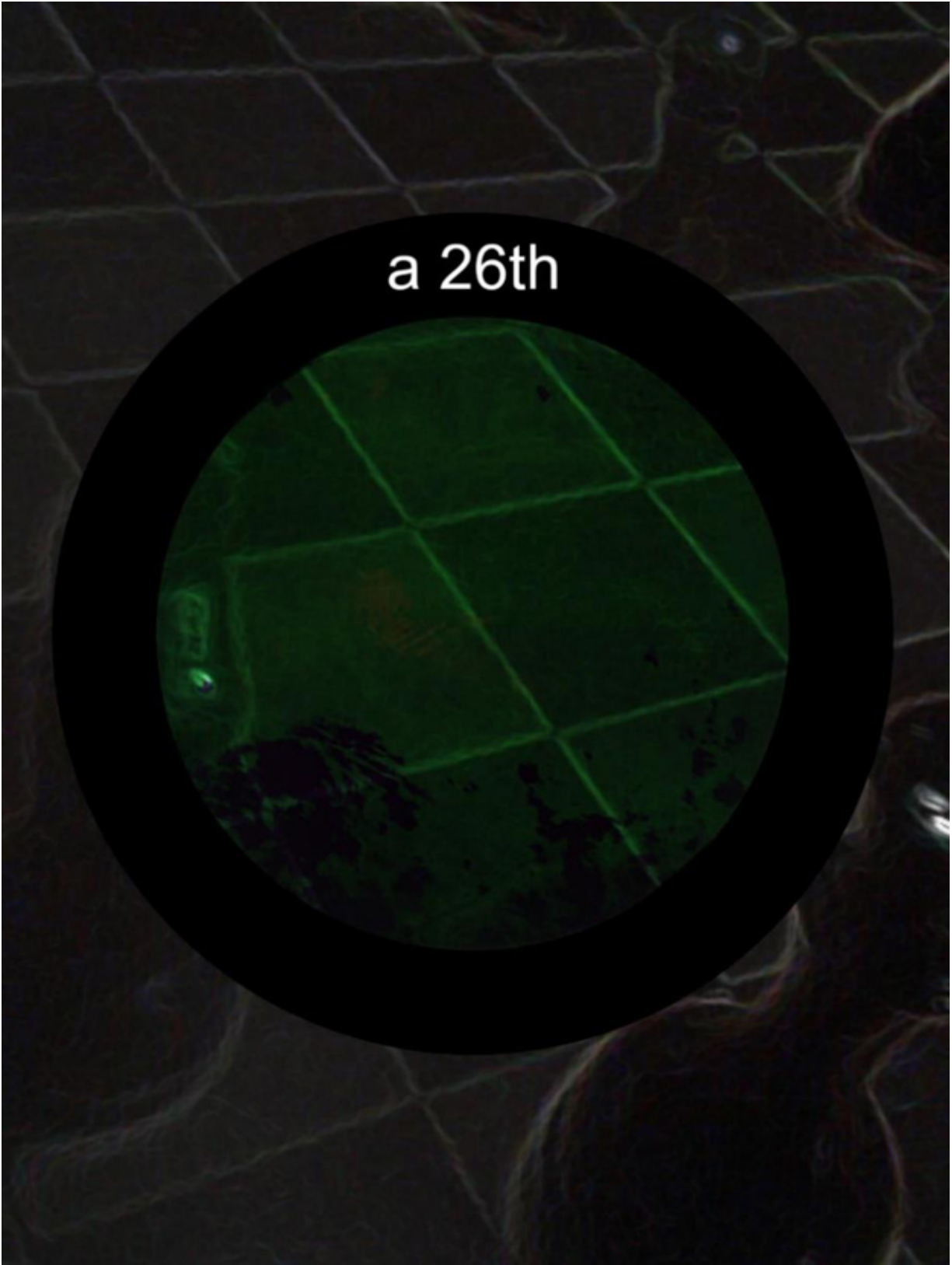
Hills Drive. The song was *January 28th*. I still like the song
even
though the album isn't anything I listen to regularly; hasn't
for years.

Writing the words "written by" before my name was an idea

I was
sometimes *for*, sometime *against*, but it would have been
pointless
since the other two books' covers didn't have that, and this
would
look too off-pattern.

A minimalistic design like this could be cool though, maybe
for a
future project.

a 26th



The chess-pieces were another idea that I scrapped in early 2015.

Those were meant to represent the heavy focus this book was about to take, on the fact people get ranked in everyday life - in their jobs, domestic situations even. There's always a hierarchy that's unwritten, or otherwise impossible to break free of. Or, maybe that was just my gloomy outlook-on-life talking, at the time of making this cover-candidate.

Then, the green scope was meant to add a whole "two perspectives"-angle to the idea. It was inspired by the cover art Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks*, a highly conceptual classic Folk/Rock album that separates itself from anything else in my favorite artist's discography by the genius use of contrasts, even higher and lower registers ingeniously interplaying with one another in, sometimes ways that *shouldn't* work, but *do*. I've talked about that album being an inspiration to *Oulunsalo Fiction* before, in-brief, in the acknowledgments-section of *Ice Road*. Listening to the title track one tired December's morning in 2014, is when the story of *Ice Road* first started forming. *Astral Weeks* is my second-favorite

album of all
time. I'll reveal #1 much, much later in this book.

I still like this cover, but I do think it would have been a little
too
explicit for my tastes. I've always liked how the only thing
keeping
these three books from being completely different creatures
is that
they have the same characters, and each one's name
begins with
"Oulunsalo Fiction, Pt...". The intention always was to make
three
different books. The emotional, the superstitious, and the
conclusive.

This cover got scrapped after I thought it was a little too
straightforward
and striking... And of course, a little ways down the road I
realized that it wasn't about the cover, but the name. I
needed a
book-title that would echo the glory which the bells of
destiny chime.