

FROM ANNA MARIA TO LONNIE OF DUNKRI

Lonnie of Dunkri, whose real name was Anna Maria Anspuu, was born in Mulgi County, Haliste Parish December 24, 1878. She was the fourth child of her parents Jüri and Maret. When Anna was 3, her father Jüri died of a chest disease. In October of the same year, Maret married a her widowed brother-in-law, Juhan, who brought three more children into the family. When she was 15, Anna Maria started working as a maid.

Around 1907, Anna moved to St. Petersburg. With luck, this great city offered poor Estonian girls pretty well-paid maid or nanny jobs. Anna didn't do so well. For an unknown reason, she was fired from a housemaid's position, and having no money, she was unable to return to Estonia. A woman she knew took her to a brothel, earning 5 roubles from her pimp. That way, Anna Maria became a harlot.

In 1915, 37-year-old Anna Maria returned to Estonia and settled in Tallinn. Her place of residence was Dunkri 21. The dark and narrow Dunkri Street was a dubious place in the Old Town, where a decent person would not be happy to set foot in late hours of the evening.