

Children's Books from Bulgaria 2021



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Children's Books from Bulgaria 2021



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National
Culture Fund
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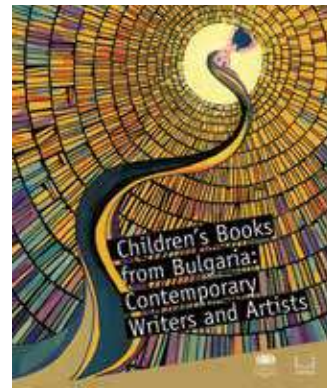
VIVACOM, along with the National Book Centre and Peroto Literary Club at the National Palace of Culture—Congress Centre Sofia, support Bulgarian literature.

Children's Books from Bulgaria 2021

2016



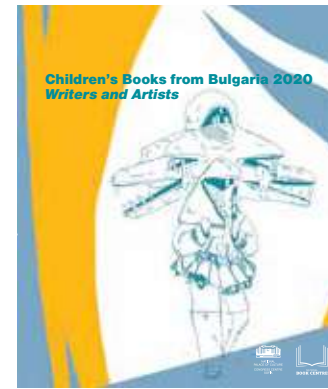
2017



2019



2020



Children's Books from Bulgaria 2021

National Book Centre Catalogue

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NATIONAL
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NATIONAL PALACE OF CULTURE

The National Palace of Culture—Congress Centre Sofia (known in short as the “National Palace of Culture”) is one of the largest multi-purpose venues in Southeastern Europe. Opened in 1981, the National Palace of Culture is designed to host a wide range of events, such as international congresses, official meetings, conferences, international conventions, summits, exhibitions, festivals, concerts and other cultural events. The National Palace of Culture houses a rich variety of the most distinguished Bulgarian collections of visual art designed by some of the country’s most prominent artists. These monumental works are integrated into the conceptual architecture and design of the building.

Currently, the National Palace of Culture seeks to give new dynamics to its environment by establishing diverse contemporary art spaces that are meant to shape Sofia’s cultural life. In 2018, the National Palace of Culture hosted the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

NATIONAL BOOK CENTRE

The National Book Centre was founded at the National Palace of Culture—Congress Centre Sofia in February, 2015. Currently, the National Book Centre, along with Peroto (The Quill) Literary Club, forms the palace’s Contemporary Literature Division—a unit under the direction of Svetlozar Zhelev—which is housed within Marketing and Production Department of the National Palace of Culture.

The National Book Centre at the National Palace of Culture assists in the publication, distribution, translation and promotion of Bulgarian literature—at home and abroad. The National Book Centre at the National Palace of Culture works to support Bulgarian literature nationally and internationally, to create conditions conducive to its participation and visibility in the global literary field, and to affirm the National Palace of Culture’s image as an active contemporary culture centre—a venue initiating, fostering and producing cultural activity in the field of literature.

The main programs of the National Book Centre at the National Palace of Culture include two sponsorship programmes: the Translation Programme, designed for foreign publishers, as well as the Bulgarian Book Programme, open to Bulgarian publishers. The National Book Centre at the National Palace of Culture has also established the annual Peroto (The Quill) Literary Awards, named after the palace’s literary space, where the award ceremony is hosted. The National Book Centre at the National Palace of Culture also annually compiles and prints the *Contemporary Bulgarian Prose* and the *Children’s Books from Bulgaria* hybrid catalogue/anthology series.

The National Book Centre at the National Palace of Culture works in a close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria, the National Culture Fund, the Bulgarian Book Association, VIVACOM, as well as other governmental, non-governmental and private bodies.

Complete information is available at <http://ndk.bg> or upon request at nbc@ndk.bg.

Children's Books from Bulgaria 2021



Bulgarian Myths and Legends presents the brightest mythological characters from Bulgarian folklore. For the Bulgarians' ancestors, these were not imaginary beings, but real creatures that inhabited mountains and caves, lakes and rivers.

For centuries, the myths and legends of the Thracians, Slavs and Bulgarians intertwined, and after the baptism of Bulgarians, the pagan deities gradually merged with images of Christian saints or other mythological beings.

Ancient legends were passed by word of mouth, from generation to generation, from language to language until they reached the present. During this long journey they have become so intertwined that it is no longer possible to divide them into purely Thracian, Slavic or Bulgarian. These myths and legends are the shared Bulgarian spiritual heritage from our ancestors.

This book collects the best of them, arranged and

Bulgarian Myths and Legends Български митове и легенди

Writer: Tsanko Lalev

Illustrator: Oleg Topalov

Published in 2020 by
PAN Publishing,
Sofia, Bulgaria.
ISBN: 9786192401924
236 pages



retold by the author. For greater reading convenience, they were divided into five parts.

The first part, "Thracian Myths and Legends", was written based on the texts of ancient authors such as Homer (Iliad and Odyssey), Orpheus (Hymns), Euripides (King Rhesus), Apollodorus (Library of Greek Mythology).

The next three parts—"Old Bulgarian Myths and Legends", "Fairies and Dragons" and "Mysterious Creatures"—are composed of Bulgarian mythological and heroic songs and edited folk tales. Folklore materials from the collections *Bulgarian Folk Art* (12 volumes) and specific parts from the *Collection of Folk Tales*, published by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, were used.

The fifth part is composed of "Bogomil Legends", based on the book by Prof. Yordan Ivanov, *Bogomil Books and Legends*.

The book would not be the same without the magnificent illustrations by artist Oleg Topalov.

Tsanko Lalev (born on August 31, 1962, in Sofia, Bulgaria) is a Bulgarian poet and author of children's books. He studied at the Sofia German Language High School and at Sofia University, majoring in Bulgarian Philology, as well as in History and Theory of Culture. Lalev worked as an editor and editor-in-chief in various publishing houses. Since 2010 he has been a partner at PAN publishing house. He is the author of two collections of poems *Hard Streets* (1988) and *Master of Shackles* (1994), which received prestigious national awards. Lalev is also the author of many poetry books for children. His poems include: "Winter Tale" (1994), "Pippo the Pup" (1995), "Teddy Bear Topcho: Playing in the Winter Forest" (1997), "What Did the Puppy Slavi Do" (2001), "The Seven Dwarfs and the Greedy Foals" (2009).

His poetry collections include *Mom and Me* (2003), *Book of Dogs* (2003), and *Sheltering under the Elephant* (2012). Lalev wrote a number of popular science books on history and folklore for young readers: *The Thracians Encyclopedia* (2010), *The Greatest Bulgarian Historical Figures* (2008), *The Greatest Rulers of Bulgaria* (2017), as well as many titles from the historical series *My First Book* and *The Big Book*. He also is the author of the literary texts in the Prosveta publishing house's textbook for first grade.

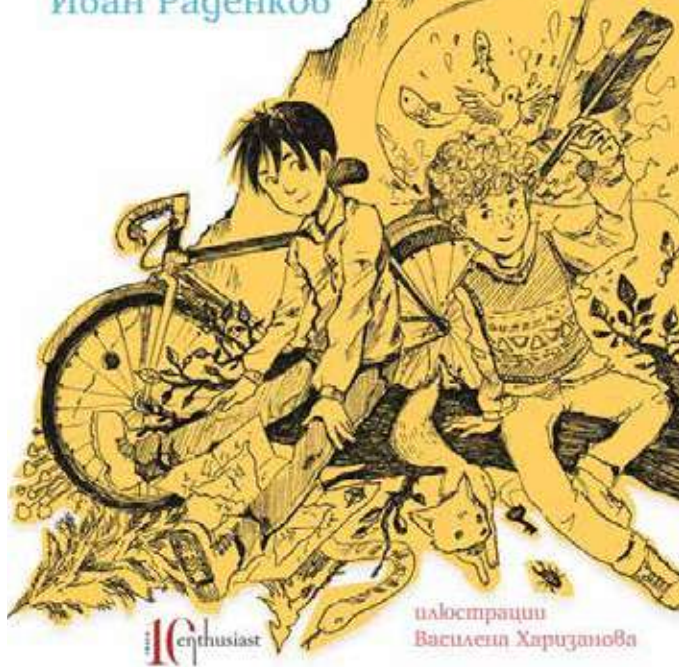
Over 300,000 copies of Tsanko Lalev's books have been sold.



Oleg Topalov is an illustrator and animator. He was born in the city of Bender, Moldova, as a descendant of Bulgarian settlers. He graduated from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia. Topalov is a freelance artist and specializes in illustration of children's books, modeling, animation and more. In 2010 he won the Konstantin Konstantinov Award for illustrating "Bulgarian Mythology: Gods and Heroes" (published by PAN), the first part of the *Bulgarian Myths and Legends* book. He collaborated with PAN publishing house again to create magnificent illustrations to *The Brothers Grimm's Best Tales* and *Andersen's Best Tales*. Topalov is very passionate about animation. He participated in the creation of the modern animated series *Gubelko's Summer* (2003-2007), broadcast on Channel 1, as well as in the animated impression *Firebird* (2019).

ВЕЛОСИПЕДИСТИ КРАЙ ЕЗЕРОТО ПАПИЙОН

Иван Раденков



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An exciting, thrilling, wet, hilarious and laughter-filled tale of two kiddies' adventurous journey through the air (on an old tow rope), in the water (in kayaks) and on land (in mighty tanks on two wheels) in the company of quirky characters and strange gear. In the most dangerous moments we become friends forever, and the road to victory is no less important than the victory itself, especially if it is hilarious and dizzying.

A novel written for every child who loves crazy outdoor games, inventions and solving mysteries sprinkled with a dash of scientific wizardry.

Cyclists near Lake Papillon Велосипедисти край езерото Папиџон

Writer: Ivan Radenkov

Illustrator: Vasilena Harizanova

Published in 2020 by
Enthusiast Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria.
ISBN: 9786191643653
200 pages



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Ivan Radenkov became a children's writer when he became a father (2012). He is experiencing a second childhood with his two sons, causing mischief and creating stories together. Each adventure inspires a new illustrated story or musical piece. Because Ivan is also a musician, we often read lyrics in his books and hear child-friendly music with guitars and drums in the enclosed CDs. (For reference, see the series *Books for Dads*, *Stories from the Big Yard*, *Frant the Cat and the Mysterious Island*, and *The Taste of Adventure*).

Ivan Radenkov's unadulterated, sincere and funny stories are already being studied by children in the third grade.

Vasilena Harizanova was born in Plovdiv, but now lives and works in Sofia. She graduated from the Technical University in engineering design. She works as a game artist, but most of all loves drawing on paper with thin black markers and India ink. Animals are her favorite subject, so she tries to include them in every illustration if possible. For her, drawing in black and white is an excellent form of relaxation.

**Drawing for Children
with Vadim Lazarkevich
Нарисува за децата
Вагим Лазаркевич**

Writer: Zornitsa Hristova

Illustrator: Vadim Lazarkevich

Designer/Illustrator: Miglena Papazova

Published in 2020 by
Tochitza Publishing,
Sofia, Bulgaria.
ISBN: 9786197172287
71 pages

Vadim Lazarkevich is one of the most important names in Bulgarian families' literary traditions, since grown-up children lovingly pass down the books Lazarkevich has illustrated to their own children and grandchildren. What's more, Lazarkevich worked with some of Bulgaria's most prominent children's writers, he also illustrated magazines and primers and was the driving force behind the children's series at one of the most successful Bulgarian publishers before 1944...

When we tell children Lazarkevich's story, we tell them about the Russian Revolution of 1917, about the Civil War, about the white and red armies. We tell how difficult it is when two brothers see the world so differently. We tell about what it means to be a refugee. And how art can give hope that even a photograph cannot capture.

Zornitsa Hristova is a writer of children's literature who has twice won the Hristo G. Danov National Award from the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture. Her books have been translated and published in Italian, Russian, Serbian and Macedonian. Along with Marin Bodakov and Valentina Boyadzheiva, she is co-founder of Tochitza Publishing House.

Miglena Papazova studied at the Iliya Petrov National School for Fine Arts and in 2005 graduated in fashion design from the National Art Academy in Sofia. She has been working in the field of graphic design and illustration since 2001. In 2011 she co-founded Studio Dada, and since 2012 she has been designing books for Tochitza Publishing House. In 2017 she and Zornitsa Hristova created the book *Short Tales for Dreaming*, which has been published in Belarus and Macedonia and which was nominated for the 2018 Magic Pearl Award.





Emmy and the Shadow Thief Еми и Крадецът на сенки

Writer: Marin Troshanov
Illustrator: Ralitsa Manuilova

Published in 2021 by
Ciela Norma AD,
Sofia, Bulgaria.
ISBN: 9789542835028
248 pages



Emmy and the Shadow Thief by Marin Troshanov is a heartwarming, sometimes dark, but always wise story that will introduce you to two children coming from different worlds, who are both willing to do anything to help the people they love.

Victor lives in a neighbourhood somewhere between the wooded park, the river and the old cemetery. In the cramped apartment he shares with his parents, his younger and annoying sister Sophie, his perpetually drunk uncle and his beloved grandmother Evdokia, he can rarely be alone with his thoughts, and books have become his only salvation. That is, until—on the verge of another lonely summer holiday spent with his grandparents by the sea—the boy runs into Emmy, the daughter of Joy and Sadness, whose hair shines in every colour of the rainbow.

The two find themselves embroiled in a dangerous adventure that takes them through unknown and terrifying lands to defeat Merculion—a powerful sorcerer whose magic flute makes sounds so haunting and irresistible that whoever hears them becomes entranced and helpless, and their shadow leaves their body and becomes the possession of the treacherous sorcerer.

But can an insecure boy and girl, who have not fully mastered their own magic, become heroes and save the worlds they belong to? Victor and Emmy are about to face their deepest fears and discover that there is light in the shadows as well as darkness. And that is where the story begins! Troshanov creates a thrilling and whimsical coming-of-age story where the most important thing is to follow your heart.

Marin Troshanov is originally from Burgas. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Sofia University and has sixteen years of experience in information technology. He is currently a scholarship holder at Sheffield University. He is a winner of the prestigious "Business Leader of a New Generation" award from Capital newspaper. In 2015 he reached the final of the Next Generation Leaders competition for young managers and entrepreneurs in Bulgaria. As a blogger, freelance writer, and screenwriter, he works on various fiction and journalistic works. Together with Evgeni Proykov and artist Petar Stanimirov, he created the comic *Damga*, which won the Best Traditional Comic Award at the Belgrade International Comic Book Festival in 2012 in a tough competition with 286 contenders from 29 countries. In November 2016 he published his first stand-alone novel, the beginning of the successful trilogy *LAMYA LTD.* Together with artist Petar Stanimirov and scriptwriter Anton Staykov, he created a series of children's books about the Robot Chapek and his travels in space. The series won the prestigious NPC, National Book Centre and Peroto Literary Club Award in the Children's Literature category (2019) and the Konstantin Konstantinov National Award in the Author category (2020). In May 2021, *The Robot Chapek on the Planet with the Three Suns* also appeared in a deluxe illustrated edition in Ukraine.



Ralitsa Manuilova was born in Sofia in 1971. She graduated in 2003 from the National Art Academy in graphic design, where she studied under Professor Hristo Staykov. She has won awards from the Goethe Institut, the British Consulate, and the French Cultural Institute. She was awarded the Amethyst Rose Prize for exceptional creative achievement for her illustration of *Maria's Summer Stories* (2007, Ciela Publishing) and a gold medal at Interexpo Plovdiv for design. In 2008 she won the Konstantin Konstantinov National Prize for her illustrations of Andersen's fairy tales for Egmont Publishing. Since 1990, Ralitsa has illustrated more than 60 titles in the fields of children's and educational literature, folktales, fiction, science fiction and poetry. Her work is known for its exceptionally unique, inimitable and recognizable style.



**Kalo the Dragon 2:
Monsters Like Me
Кало Змея 2.
Чудовища като мен**

Writer: Milen Haliiov
Illustrator: Damyan Damyanov

Published in 2020 by
Ciela Norma AD,
Sofia, Bulgaria.
ISBN: 9789542833116
304 pages

Superheroes are not always adults in colorful costumes. Sometimes they are perfectly ordinary kids, who nevertheless hide unsuspecting power within themselves. *Kalo the Dragon 2: Monsters Like Me*—the long-awaited sequel to Milen Haliiov's debut novel—weaves together motifs from Bulgarian folklore and fantasy, impressively telling a complicated story in a child-friendly way.

A year and a half have passed since Kalo defeated his greatest enemy, losing the beautiful golden apple in the process. This time has passed slowly and mercilessly, and there is no magic that can assuage the pain in his heart. A time during which the boy must face the consequences of his actions.

Kalo tries to hide his true essence from his very own self, but then a new threat comes to hang over the town of Rumitsa, thus the son of the dragon Vihren must come to the city's aid. An unknown force is kidnapping babies and only a true dragon can stand up to the invisible monsters who are targeting the innocent.

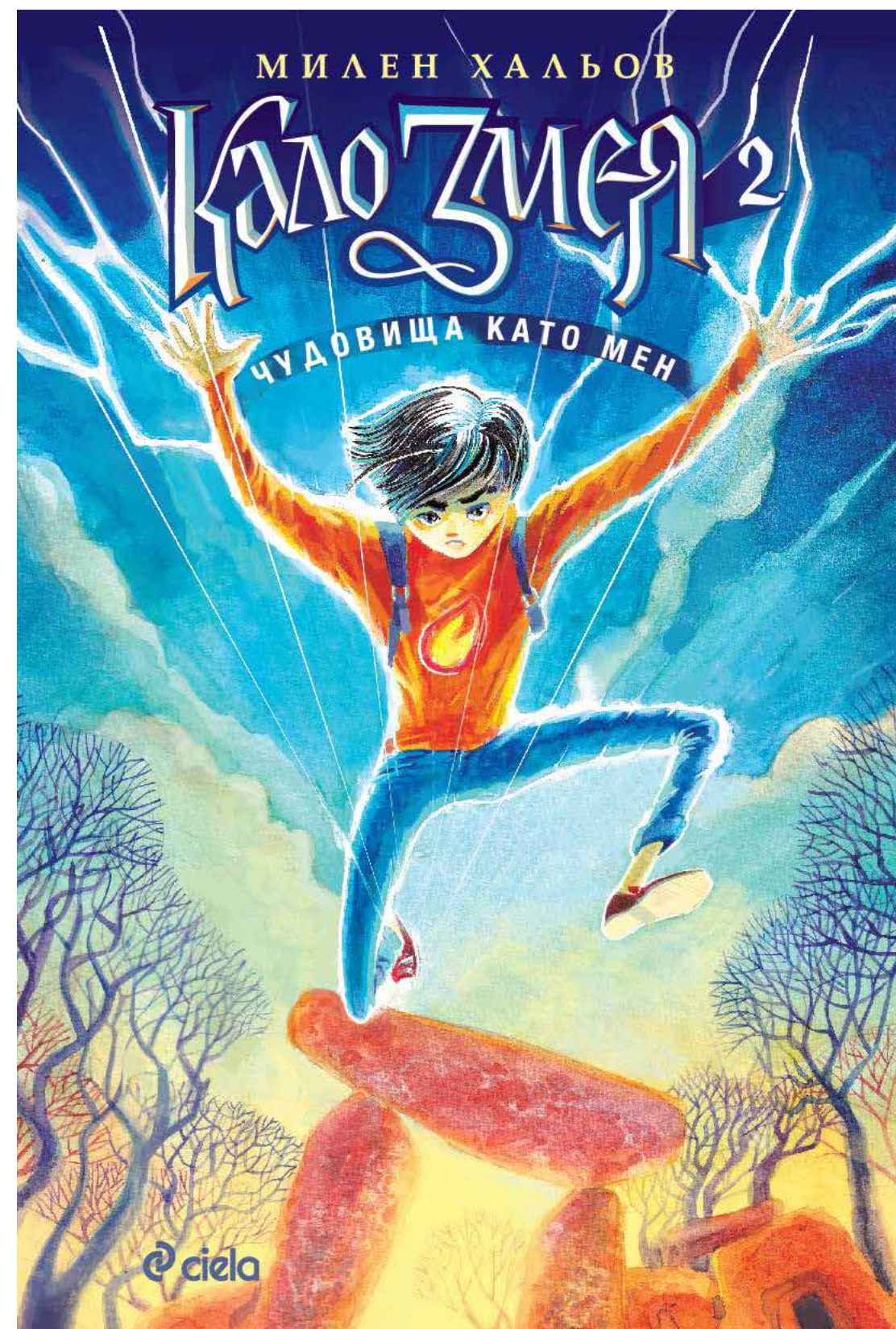
The quest leads Kalo to the Lower World—there, where the people of the golden apples live, where the Cosmic Tree grows and where the Eternal Ones hide in the hellish bowels of the earth. But Kalo won't be alone, because his loyal friends will follow him on this terrifying adventure, where danger lurks around every corner.

The time has come for the young dragon to learn the truth about his origins and to choose his path... Even if this means having to face off against his own self.

Chock full of even more hair-raising adventures, *Kalo the Dragon 2: Monsters Like Me* is a worthy continuation of the book that turned characters from Bulgarian folklore into true heroes.

Milen Haliiov was born in Russe in 1988. He studied at the Prof. Veselin Stoyanov National School of Arts in Ruse, where he won awards in the sphere of graphics and painting. His passion for writing and painting prompted him to continue his education at the Krastyo Sarafov National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts with a degree in Animation Directing. He has taken part in numerous festivals in Bulgaria and abroad with his final degree project, the film *Traffic*. He has taught animation for cinema in a private college in Sofia, as well as art at 127 High School Ivan N. Denkoglu. While working at these educational institutions, Milen obtained a degree in Pedagogy and worked in advertising. In 2016 he started teaching at a private school.

Damyan Damyanov is a multicultural artist whose works vary from posters, book design, illustration, postage stamps, typography and calligraphy. His illustrations for books by Gianni Rodari won him the National Award for Contributions to Book-Publishing for Children in 2017.





Sotir Gelev was born in 1960 in Asenovgrad. He took drawing lessons with Georgi Kovachev—one of the most gentle and elegant Bulgarian landscape painters. Sotir graduated from the School of Performing Arts in Plovdiv. In 1982 he made the animated film *The Chicken*. The following year he made it professionally at the State Animation Studio. *The Chicken* participated in the 1984 Berlinale and won the Golden Dove in Leipzig the same year.

While studying at the Academy of Fine Arts, he drew comics for *Rainbow* magazine. His series based on Tolkien's books *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* contributed to the popularization of fantasy literature in Bulgaria.

In 1991, Sotir and his brother Penko Gelev founded the comics magazine *Rix*. For the magazine, Penko drew the comics *The Song of the Axolotls* and *Ephreitor Nek* based on his brother's scripts. Sotir, on the other hand, draws the comic strip *Zhmak* and *The Secret of the Piers*.

Lullabies for Fairies and Monsters Приспивни песни за феи и чудовища

Writer, Illustrator: Sotir Gelev

Published in October 2020 by
Enthusiast Publishing
Sofia, Bulgaria.
ISBN: 9786191643721
32 pages

Every child loves falling asleep to a sweet lullaby. The children of goblins, giants, water spirits, trolls and fairies are no exception and also love lullabies. This book records some of these songs, translated into human language so that young readers can understand and learn them by heart. But be warned, they are meant for fearless children and parents. The more timid can also read and listen to them, but just in case, we recommend wrapping a blanket over your head.



After 1991, Sotir worked in graphic design, television advertising, and did special effects for several films. In 1997, he published the poetry collection *Afternoon Meatball*. In 1995 Sotir and Penko founded their own graphic design company. In a few years they created many posters, trademarks, book and magazine layouts. In 1997, they released the comic book *Mowgli* by Penko. In 1998-1999 they wrote the script of the film *Magicians* and realised it as producers. Sotir was the director of the film together with Ivan Georgiev. A year later, Sotir and Penko wrote the script and shot the film *Kolober* for the Bulgarian National Television (again directed by Sotir).

From 2001 to 2007 they were the producers of the TV series for children *Tales of Physics and Astronomy*. They made from two hundred and fifty episodes of it. Sotir Gelev is the scriptwriter of one hundred of them. In 2008 and 2009 the two brothers produced the series *Good Day, Mr. Jasmine* (again for children).

In 2011, a film was produced by the same name. In 2011 Penko produced the TV film *Yellow Dog* based on a script by Sotir Gelev and Maria Nikolova (she is also the director of the film), and Sotir created the original animated film *Chickens* (a remake of *The Chicken* from 1982).

After 2009, Penko and Sotir started working on a series of animated films. In 2016, their feature-length animated film *Zootrope* was released.

Penko is the producer and Sotir is the writer and director of the film.

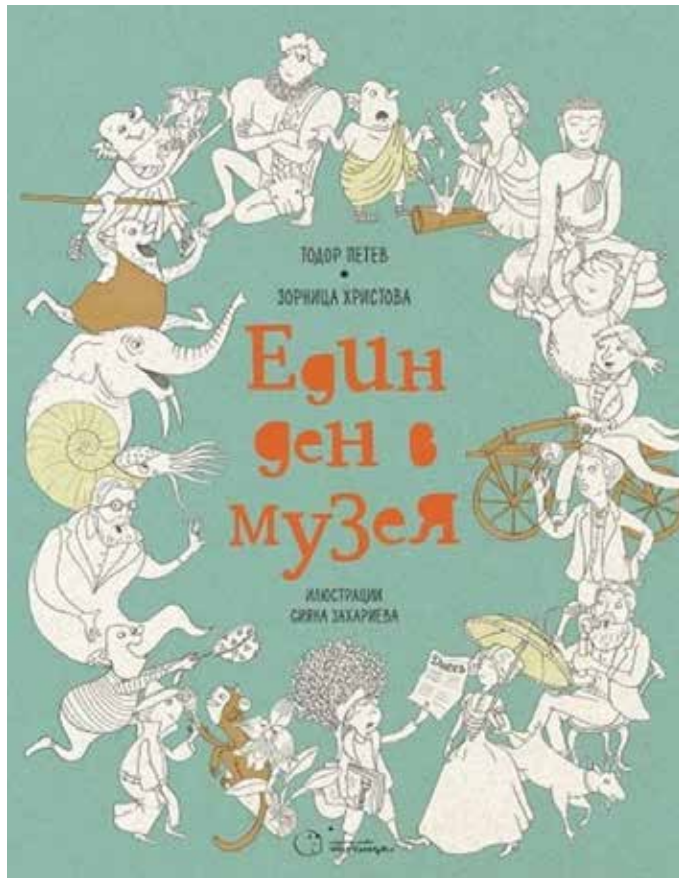
Sotir and Penko, together with their colleagues from *Rainbow* magazine, organised the group The Rainbow Project, which aims to promote and revive the art of comics in Bulgaria. After 2012 they released



the albums *Over the Rainbow*, *Over the Rainbow 2* and *Arakel*. For these albums Sotir created the comics *Ghost* and *Patent 64246*, and based on his scripts Penko drew the comics *Dicho the Field-Keeper Must Die* and *Tamara*.

The album *Arakel* is entirely based on Sotir's script. Sotir and Penko are the authors of the *Ilyicho and August* series of comics and books, which includes *Ilyicho and August*; *Ilyicho, August and the Seven Dwarfs*; and *Ilyicho, August and Gergin*.

In 2016, the book *Ordinary Conversations* was published with illustrations by Penko Gelev, written by Sotir Gelev. In 2018, his book *How Laura Learned to Count to Ten*, winner of the Peroto literary award in the category "Children's Literature", was published.



One Day at the Museum Един ден в музея

Writer: Todor Petev, Zornitsa Hristova
Illustrator: Siyana Zaharieva

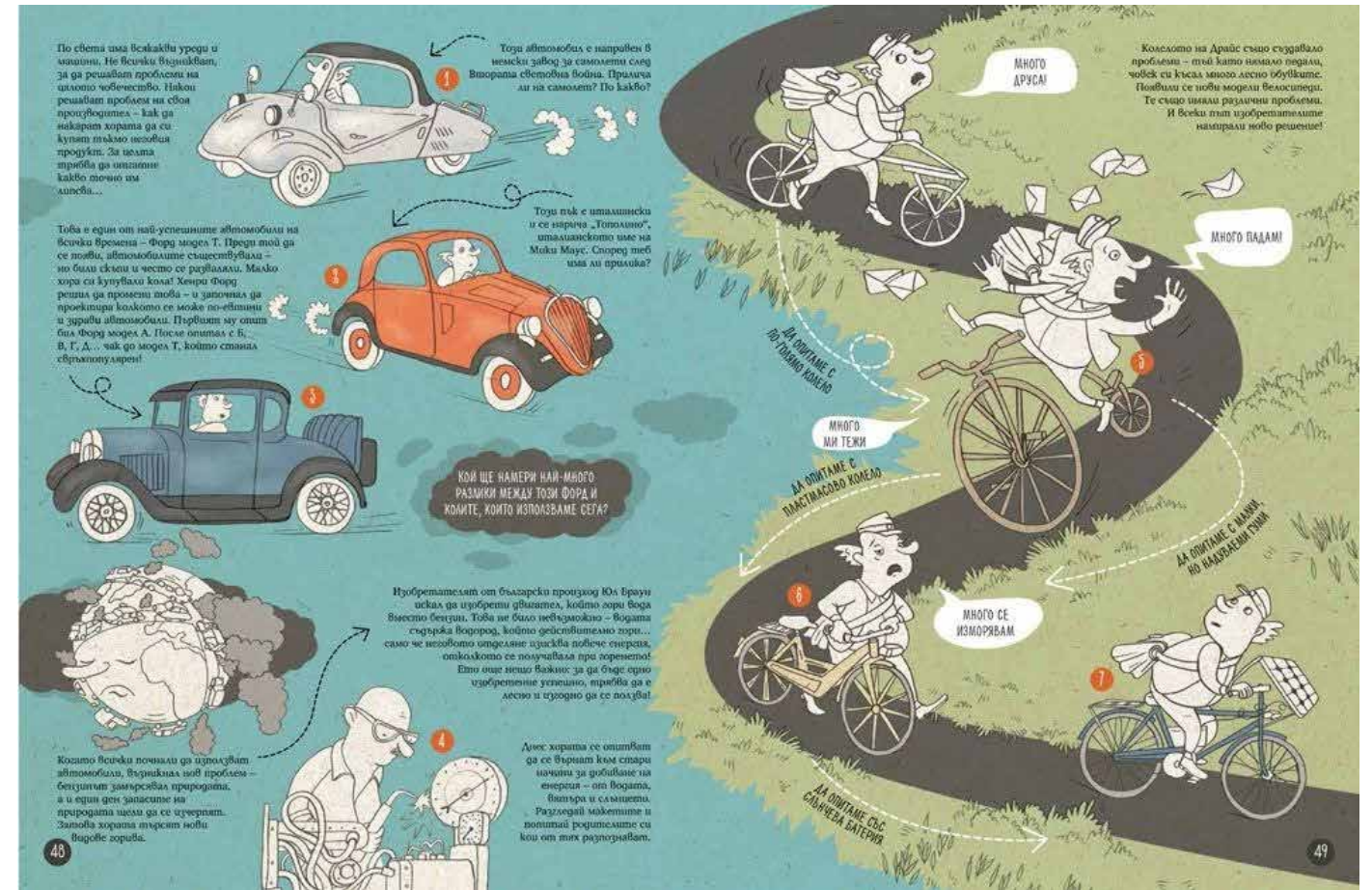
Published in 2020 by
Tochitza Publishing,
Sofia, Bulgaria.
ISBN: 9786197172294
72 pages



The goal of this book is different from that of other museum and gallery guides. It offers ten possible visits that use the best strategies from children’s literature to present—in a fun and non-didactic way—opportunities for contemplation and for discovering meaning on one’s own. Besides the four main characters/visitors (the children are curious, while the parents are comic in their primitive reactions), each of the chapters also has a fictional guide: one of the objects in the collection or a person deeply connected to them. The guide could be a Roman saltshaker, it could be an ancient oak tree, the spirit of the founding father of geology in Bulgaria, a modern-day inventor or your own grandmother.

The book is richly illustrated, almost like a comic book, the objects and characters interact, brought together by situations that invite a fair dose of imagination. The story seeks a connection between the various collections, such that each visit builds upon the previous one and fills in the landscape of knowledge—from geology to paleontology, pre-

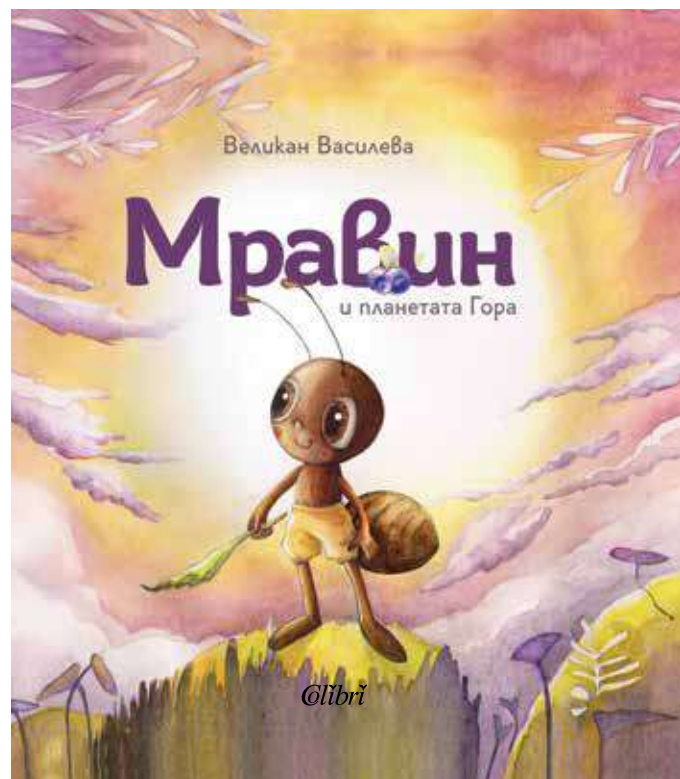
history, ancient history... Each chapter ends with ideas for activities for addition engagement beyond the boundaries of the museum—in the mountains, at home, on its streets, with recommended books, recipes or something you can make with your own two hands. The very ending of the book arrives at the idea of memory/memorialization, of the museum that you can create for yourself—out of things that are important to you.



Todor Petev is a museum studies expert who holds a PhD in art history from Princeton University. His work is focused on strengthening the concept of the connection between education and cultural heritage in Bulgaria. He has written articles on art history and museum studies for prestigious international journals, he has also served as a consultant and editor of museum publications, including *Princeton University Art Museum: Handbook of the Collections*, 2007.

Zornitsa Hristova is a writer of children’s literature who has twice won the Hristo G. Danov National Award from the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture. Her books have been translated and published in Italian, Russian, Serbian and Macedonian. Along with Marin Bodakov and Valentina Boyadzheiva, she is co-founder of Tochitza Publishing House.

Siyana Zaharieva is an illustrator based in Sofia, Bulgaria. She graduated in Book and Printed Graphics from the National Academy of Art in Sofia, Bulgaria. At first she worked as a graphic designer in an advertising agency. Since 2016 she has worked as a freelance illustrator creating images for books, magazines, packaging and illustrations for advertising campaigns. She has participated in international exhibitions, including the 24th Biennial of Illustration in Bratislava, the 46th Golden Pen in Belgrade, and has won fifth place in the 2014 Epicase Art and Illustration Competitions, South Korea. The book *Urban Geography* published by Tochitza was included in the 2017 White Ravens List.



The Ant Mravin and the Forest Planet Мравин и планетата Гора

Writer and Illustrator: Velikan Vasileva

Published in 2021 by
Colibri Publishers,
Sofia, Bulgaria.
ISBN: 9786190207450
36 pages



Velikan Vasileva's pen name has sentimental value for the author, because a person dear to her heart called her a "giant" [*velikan* means "giant" in Bulgarian].

The idea for writing the book came from the person whom it is dedicated to, as well as from the need for children's literature to tell stories about those who are "different", through the eyes of animals and insects.



The Ant Mravin and the Forest Planet is the first book in an upcoming series.

The little ant Mravin has lost the anthill that until recently he called home. While grieving in the woods and not knowing what to do, Mravin meets the forest courier Miss Beetle and her life partner, Miss Butterfly. Their adventures begin with a blueberry that satisfies the hunger of the orphaned ant, and continue as they search for a new home where he can be loved and happy. Along the way the characters will meet different forest dwellers, each with their own oddities and differences. *The Ant Mravin and the Forest Planet* will take both young and older readers to a world where the most important thing is to be together and to love on another, despite our differences.



The Sylphs СИЛФИТЕ

Writer: Rositsa Dobрева

Illustrator: Gergana Grancharova

Published in 2020 by
Ecrier Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria.

ISBN: 9786197507270

40 pages

This children's book is unlike any familiar titles you've come across before. If you're looking for an interesting and inspiring story, this is it!

The Sylphs fairy tale will introduce you to the world of Sylphs and Gnomes. You will meet Goodwill and see how easy it is to get into trouble, but also how important it is to take care of nature and other living beings. You will meet Chris, a boy who loves books and knows how valuable they are. And who finally saves the world!

Let's not forget Mindspirit, Treebark, and Hardbark. This magical adventure will leave you breathless.

To be continued: A blind boy will realize how strong he really is, thanks to his new friends. Sylphs, Gnomes, Salamanders, Undines will all be summoned once again in an exciting odyssey, and Goodwill will unleash his new abilities with the help of Callisto and Erin.

"This work carries an infinite number of messages, conveyed with a childlike lightness, ease and curiosity. I've read and reread this story many times! It is as magical as it is realistic, and each time I discovered a new pearl hidden within the story, a thought, an idea, a scientific statement and/or an achievement, and the most valuable thing for me, as an educator, was the immediate way in which the wonderful universal values and virtues, encoded in the writing, reach children's hearts and minds. I hope this work finds its way to even more families and children."

Miroslava Ivanova, Montessori teacher



Rositsa Dobрева is a young Bulgarian writer and a citizen of the world in spirit and worldview. She has studied and worked in different parts of Europe, starting out from Sofia University, through Poland, to Great Britain, Austria and Israel.

Dobрева is the author of the collections of poems *Bread from God* (2016) and *Return* (2020). She wrote the children's book *The Sylphs* in 2018, and after many edits, she started the creative process of creating illustrations for the book.

Some of the goals that Dobрева has set for herself include to have her Bulgarian works translated into a foreign language, and to describe her story through the eyes of a girl who lived in the 17th century. Spiritual development holds a special place in her life.

Gergana Grancharova is a freelance illustrator with experience in various fields of the visual arts—from graphic design through scenography to digital painting. Grancharova has a long-standing private practice in Italy where she has worked on many advertising projects. She has participated in various initiatives of the Cultural Center of Milan (Centro Artistico Culturale Milanese), and has collaborated as a mockup designer and decorator with studios like Pupazzia di Pietro Armuzzi, Le cornici di Luna and others.

After returning to Bulgaria, Grancharova devoted herself entirely to her greatest passion—books and their outlook.



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