

Children's Books from Bulgaria: Contemporary Writers and Artists





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**Children's Books from Bulgaria:
Contemporary Writers and Artists**

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Children's Books from Bulgaria: Contemporary Writers and Artists



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Dear publishers, readers and future friends of Bulgarian literature,

It is my pleasure to present to you a catalogue of contemporary Bulgarian children books, containing the most established Bulgarian authors and artists and their most interesting works. This collection represents a cross-section of what is happening in the field of Bulgarian children's literature at the moment. Without claiming completeness or exhaustiveness, we have tried to present to you a representative sample of the most interesting books and authors over the last seven years; this edition lays the foundations for such an annual catalogue to be published by the National Book Center at the National Palace of Culture (NDK), which from now on will include books published within a given literary year. Although over the years attempts have been made in this direction, I believe that for the first time through this catalogue, readers abroad can get a sufficiently full impression of the art of children's books in Bulgaria, of our best authors, and of the exceptionally high level Bulgarian children's books has reached in recent years. We fully recognize that our literature is not sufficiently known outside of Bulgaria and it is precisely for this reason that we founded the National Book Center at NDK this year, which, through its Translations Program supports the translation, publication and popularization of Bulgarian literature abroad in foreign languages. In the name of the institution I represent, I would like to assure you that we are doing everything possible to support every single author represented in this catalogue, while also supporting you, their publishers, in order to help Bulgarian literature take its rightful place on the global literary scene.

Miroslav Borshosh

*Executive Director National Palace
of Culture – Congress Centre Sofia*

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Bulgarian Literature for Children – A Historical Overview

Bulgarian literature for children arose during the Bulgarian Revival in the 19th century as a result of ideas adopted from European Enlightenment and in direct connection with the idea of national liberation from the Ottoman Empire. The maxim “Only an enlightened people can be free!” illustrates the strength of this connection. Non-religious schools took up the practical-educational task of creating a model of the “enlightened child” or the “enlightened young Bulgarian,” thus the first subjects of this literature were teachers, whom we call “enlighteners of the people” even today.

Before the appearance of the first literary book for children, the first specialized children's magazine *Pchelitsa* (Little Bee) came out, published by the great Revival-era writer Petko R. Slaveykov in 1871. On its pages we can literally see how poetry from children was born from rhymed maxims summarizing a child's “duties.” We can see the magazine as a “dictionary” of Bulgarian literature for children, containing its basic metaphors and themes, which would be interpreted poetically for decades to come: from “what is the fatherland” to “what is eternity”; from the catechism of the “clever” child to that of the “bad” child. The voice of the child itself is still silent or can barely be heard behind the strong, edifying voice of the adult, but even the first poets clearly realized that a child possesses a different kind of perception.

After Liberation (1878), the consolidation of children's literature and its own liberation from literature for adults began. This happened above all thanks to qualitative accumulation: after the appearance of the first poetry collection in Bulgarian children's literature, *A Child's Gusla* (1880) by Vasil Popovich, numerous authors began publishing at least one such collection each, and all of them had repetitive topics (school, family, homeland, nature, God, the poor and the unhappy) and images, but of course differed greatly with respect to the level of poetic skill. Children's magazines and newspapers began to flood the market; their Sezession-inspired layouts introduced “imported” European modernity into their style (one interesting genre was the poem “based on a picture,” in which the picture was most often a photograph of a European urban child, which was something still quite far from Bulgarian social reality). At the same time, established authors such as “the patriarch of Bulgarian literature” Ivan Vazov and Konstantin Velichkov also responded to the need to increase the supply of Bulgarian literature for children with high-quality works, each publishing a poetry collection for children. The liberation of children's literature from that for adults and its already ap-

parent conservative character in comparison to new ideological and aesthetic experiments in literature for adults did not go unnoticed by the first modernist literary circle *Misal* (Thought). In its printed mouthpiece, the magazine *Misal*, an important critical article “Our Children’s Literature” by Slavcho Paskalev appeared in 1906 and pleaded for purely artistic and not merely moralistic-edifying pedagogical aims in this literature; it also pleaded for provoking above all aesthetic emotions in children.

The poet who turned children’s language and children’s games into the standard for children’s poetry was Chicho Stoyan (Uncle Stoyan). For this reason, his name is tied to the ultimate overcoming of didacticism as a leading characteristic in children’s literature.

At the end of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th centuries, however, Bulgarian children’s literature had yet to measure up to one more standard – that of High Literature. This happened for the first time in children’s literature in the work of one of Bulgaria’s best storytellers, Elin Pelin – he first found a path to a young audience, while remaining true to his style as a writer for adults, and even expanding his talent even further by proving his mastery not only in prose, but also in poetic genres: he even surprisingly interwove into his poetry for children some elements of “lessons” learned from the Symbolists. In the magazine *Veselushka* (the first humoristic magazine for children), which he edited in the early 20th century, as well as in the newspaper *Chavche*, Elin Pelin deliberately did not publish texts by already established children’s authors, but rather lyrical poems and excerpts of artistic models from High Literature.

The period between the two World Wars came to be defined as the “Golden Age” of Bulgarian children’s literature – both in terms of quality and quantity. Periodicals for children and youth reached the impressive number of 217, published in 69 cities and 20 villages; they had large pressruns and were inexpensive (this was also true of publications with rich illustrative materials, full-color supplements, and those printed on high-quality paper) and were enthusiastically received by subscribers. There is almost no prominent writer from that period who did not try his hand at works for children. It could also stimulate their creative works for adults and add new nuances to their artistic “portrait”: for example, Asen Raztsvetnikov’s experiments with poetic speech in his poetry for children creates an entirely different impression in comparison to his poetry for adults, and furthermore, one can observe the poetic “fusion” between the two at times; poetess Dora Gabe’s deep absorption in the child’s soul turned her on the one hand into “a born children’s poet,” but on the other hand also into a modern writer, who was championed by *Zlatorog*, the most authoritative interwar magazine (her associative prose *Nyakoga* (Sometime) to this very day stands indivisibly between the literature of modernism and literature for children); Angel Karaliychev’s fairytale stories, which created a model for original fairytales for children, at the same time brought about a true amalgam with his lyrical prose for adults; we can call the volumes with retold fairytales by the writer/theosophist Nikolay Raynov a true compendium of magical fairytales, but at the same time they also contain a fair amount of the esoteric symbolism developed in his works for adults; the animalistic prose of Emilian Stanev, containing philosophical depths for children as they are growing up... The engage-

ment of Bulgaria's best artists (such as Vadim Lazarkevich, Georgi Atanasov, Iliya Beshkov, Aleksandar Bozhinov, Stoyan Venev, Rayko Aleksiev, Sirak Skitnik, and others) with children's illustration raised it to the status of an independent text and visibly changed the culture of books and periodicals for children to a level inimitable even with today's technical capabilities.

There were two main reasons for the flourishing of literature for children and youth in the 1920s and 30s: one was institutional, while the other had to do with the overall culture. The institutional reason is related to the *Law on Children's Literature* from 1920, which forbid any ethical excesses and any political tendentiousness whatsoever in children's literature, "which might provoke division, hatred, class antagonism and violence between children." On the other hand, it recommended the free publications of "selected works by the best authors" and awards and subsidies for the best of them. The Ministry of the People's Enlightenment was directly responsible for applying the law.

The other reason was the general cultural movement for "Native Art," which was Bulgarian modernism's answer to the universal collapse of humane values after World War One. In their search for primordial ethical-aesthetical mainstays, "native artists" discovered them in the roots of human culture, which they reached through Bulgarian myths, folktales and folksongs, Bulgarian needlepoint, old Bulgarian architecture, and Old Bulgarian manuscripts. In them they sought the spiritual purity of the primitive artist, his nativism and intuitivism, which seemed to be reborn in the intuitivism, naiveté and simplicity of the child. The child, who still preserved memories of the spiritual proto-homeland from which it came (Dora Gabe's article "On the Child's Soul"), brought life-saving ideas for a despondent, "waning" mankind; the child stood closer to the transcendental than an adult – these are all ideas and conditions for the aestheticization of the child and childhood.

Thus we reach the great social transition after 1944, called the "socialist revolution." It covered the years from the second half of the 1940s until 1956. Children's literature not only was not forgotten in this period; rather, party functionaries turned it into one of the "tools" of Change. It was saddled with excessively important social and party tasks: one of them was the minting of the basic verbal clichés of socialism. This again returned children's literature to the "dictionary" stage. But if Revival-era children's literature is reminiscent of a "small instructive dictionary" addressed to young Bulgarians, then children's literature in the period mentioned above looked more like a "small canonical dictionary" for the socialist child. As a result, these "big tasks" destroyed the autonomous world of the child, turning it into a "reserve" of the party (this was a favorite cliché of the 1950s). A notable act of "concern" on the part of the Bulgarian Communist Party towards children's literature was the rewriting of the old *Law on Children's Literature* in 1946. The law exhaustively lists all the "progressive" problematics to be addressed by children's literature, codified as the "only" topics to be addressed. The "constant rattle" of this closed thematic circle in works for children in this period assured the desired construction and programming of the child's worldview. Thus it appears that this literature has phenomenal pretensions – to change the worldview of an entire nation.

During the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, children's literature continued to develop within the conditions of socialism, but its reclaimed functional essence and high literary qualities do not allow us to call it "socialist." It once again won its true aesthetic status, which meant winning back the ideological autonomy of authors and the autonomy of the child's world. This initially happened in the word-play genre, which is naturally protected from any kind of ideology. The heirs to Raztsvetnikov's linguistic experiments turned the poet's language play and children's language play into the heart of their works for children (Ivan Tsanev, Yanaki Petrov, Victor Samouilov, Nikolay Kanchev, Binyo Ivanov, Velizar Nikolov and many others). Ivan Tsanev characteristically combines "technical" virtuosity with purely lyrical experience and something very important: by keeping the author's presence strongly in a work, he doubles the role of the child in the communicative act by deliberately turning it into his "fellow playmate."

The genre of original fairytale especially underwent a surge during this period. Within it, the "Aesopian" language of fairytales was developed, which allowed for such works to be read "between the lines," i.e. such fairytales could have dual addressees and a socio-allegorical emphasis, aimed against the System. Such language turned out to be within the grasp of authors with a talent for satire (such as Boris Aprilov, Yordan Radichkov, Stanislav Stratiev, Valeri Petrov and Stefan Tsanev). A quite interesting phenomenon arose: after the 1960s, authors practiced above all the Aesopian language of the fairytale, while critics silently agreed to read these texts from a "child's" viewpoint. The author was free and had a tacit "understanding" with the institution which was trying unsuccessfully to limit the author's address to children alone. The counter-language of the fairytale in this period as well as today has potential, despite the change in the System more than twenty years ago, precisely due to its indirectness.

Contemporary children's literature from the 1990s onward shows the characteristics of not one, but two transitions – one "reads" the lessons of democracy, while the other is a fin-de-siècle transition to a new century. In it, the problems of globalization clearly stands out, along with the related problem of the ever more difficult task of making a nation's children's literature unique. The dynamics of today's literary process could not be captured without taking into account the extreme visualization and virtualization of culture. The generally shared truth is that children are in fact far more "international" than adults. It is an open question, however, as to what extent contemporary literature, freed from ideological pressure, has succeeded in responding to this supranational nature found in children; and to what extent and whether "children's" writers of today know their readers? The current challenge faced by those writing for children is precisely that: catching up, not with the world or with Europe, but with the reader. Are artists and illustrators perhaps not a step ahead already in this respect?

We hope that this catalogue will at least hint at the answers.

Professor Svetlana Stoicheva

Books by Bulgarian Writers





Păstri prikazalki Colourful Tales

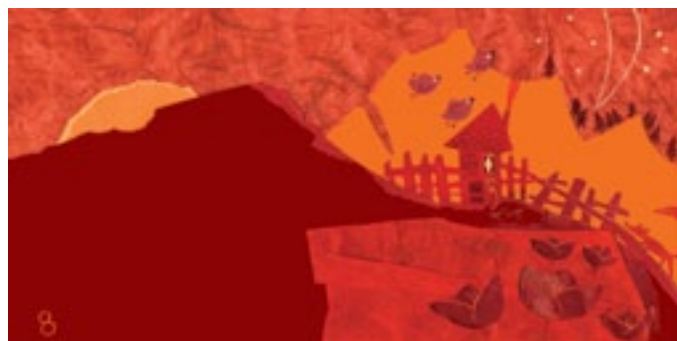
Author: Maya Dălgăcheva

Illustrator: Kapka Kaneva

Published in 2008 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-491-441-7

■ The book is illustrated by Kapka Kaneva – see p. 136

Păstri prikazalki is a book in which every fairy tale has its own colour. The text does not follow the traditional model of fairy tales and actually is reminiscent of playful or poetic impressions, inspired by the colours around us and in our pure imagination.



The red tale dyes the strawberries, raspberries and the briar, the cap of the woodpecker and the autumn forests. The colour red is warm and merry – one can see it even in the sunset, which resembles an old man with a scarlet mustache. The colour yellow shines in a picture painted by a ray of sunshine. It is as shiny as reflected light and as ripe as an ear of wheat. A small green insect dreams of becoming golden. Green is so ordinary – just like the grass, in the middle of which the little bug is almost invisible! What happens, though, when his dream comes true? The blue tale is a memory left from a drop of ink. It tells the story of the blue sea waves, where a blue jellyfish is sewing a quilt. Everything is pink in the pink tale – the bees as well as the Christmas trees and the sparrows are pink. Even the granny's white hair has become pink! You are looking at the world as if through the rose-colored glasses of childhood. What about a grey tale, is it possible to have a grey one? Well, sure we may have a grey tale, too. Otherwise who will ask the question: 'Imagine if this world of beauty tomorrow wakes just full of greyish duty?'



MAYA DĂLGĂCHEVA (5 May 1967, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria) is a Bulgarian author of children's books of fairy tales, riddles and rhymes. She has written several plays for puppet theatre and several librettos for musicals, as well as more than 100 texts for children's songs. Some of her texts are included in Bulgarian literature textbooks and music textbooks for primary school. Maya loves the melody created by rhythm and rhyme – that is the reason she has created many of her fairy tales in rhymed prose. She has been awarded the Golden Age Award by the Ministry of Culture (Bulgaria, 2006), Second Place in the International Fairytale Contest "Europe in a Fairy Tale" (2007), the Children's Literature Award (Union of Bulgarian Writers, Bulgaria, 2009), Best Author in the Konstantin Konstantinov National Award (Bulgaria, 2009), and the Petya Karakoleva National Award for Children's literature (Bulgaria, 2013).

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Slon I chadăr (*An Elephant and an Umbrella*), 1999; **Skublyo – nadhitreniyat pirat** (*Plucker – The Deceived Pirate*), 2003; **Papiyonka za velikiya Shturaldi** (*A Bow Tie for the Great Shturaldi*), 2004; **Podslon za Tritochka** (*A Shelter for Tridot*), 2004; **Kak găsenitsata se săbudi ili kak se razhdat peperudi** (*How the Caterpillar Woke Up or How Butterflies Are Born*), 2007; **Păstri prikazalki** (*Colourful Tales*), 2008; **Kolednite chudesă** (*The Christmas Miracles*), 2008; **Na kakvo uhae zimata** (*What Does the Winter Smell Of*), 2010; **Prikazki ot Onaya gora** (*Fairy Tales from that Forest*), 2012; **Razkazhi mi v rimi** (*Rhyme Me a Tale*), 2015.





Gradăt na skeitbordovete: Rechnoto chudovishte Skateboard Town: The River Monster

Author: Maria Martin

Illustrator: Iva Grueva

Published in 2014 by
Eco Kids Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-6-19-7133-03-5

■ The book is illustrated by Iva Grueva – see p. 138

Rechnoto chudovishte is the third book from the children's book series *Skateboard Town* – *Stories about Good Deeds, Harmony and Smiles*, created by the Bulgarian authors Maria Martin (writer) and Iva Grueva (illustrator). The book series features the adventures of a little boy named Bob and his wise and brave grandfather, which all take place in a peaceful, old-fashioned rural small town, known for its joyful residents who love sports, preserve nature, value traditions and therefore since ancient times have not used any other means of transport, but... skateboards. Each book reveals a new adventure and a new moral. Through funny characters, adventures and humorous situations, children learn about the everlasting values of healthy living, positive self-esteem and respect for each other, preservation of nature and true friendship.

In Book 3 - **Rechnoto chudovishte** - the usually peaceful and quiet life in the small town is suddenly disturbed by an unknown danger. The old Mr. Fishcatcher is horrified by a weird figure that he notices in the clear mountain waters of the Raving River. His screams for help awaken the residents of Skateboard Town and make Bob and his grandfather Skato leave their afternoon work in their house's basement to go on a monster hunt. The fisherman's voice brings them and the residents of the town up the mountain and leads them to the very banks of the river, where finally the monster turns out to be Grandfather Skato's old friend – named Swimmy the Swimhead – an ex-resident of the town and a current scuba diver whose job is to regularly clean the river of garbage and junk. The funny and unexpected outcome of the story brings everybody together happy and smiling and makes the residents of the town change their attitude towards the river and finally start taking better care of the whole of nature around them.



The author of the book series *Skateboard Town – Stories about Good Deeds, Harmony and Smiles* is Maria Georgieva (artistic pseudonym Maria Martin) – graduate of the First English Language High School, Sofia, Bulgaria, and a holder of a Master's degree in International Law and International Relations from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. Besides her long-term experience as a commercial lawyer, legal counselor and manager, Maria Martin is also a teacher of English language for children and the mother of a seven-year-old son, Martin, who is the inspiration for the stories and for whom the stories were initially created.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Skateboard Town series: Bob i padashtite zvezdi (Bob and the Falling Stars), 2013; *Kak dyado Zhele otkri patya na usmivkite (How Old Mr. Jelly Found the Road of Smiles)*, 2014; *Rechnoto chudovishte (The River Monster)*, 2014; *Sloncheto ot tsirka (The Little Elephant from the Circus)*, 2014; *Godishното sàstезanie (The Annual Competition)*, 2015.





Vseki den da e nedelya Let Every Day Be Sunday

Author: Yanaki Petrov

Illustrator: Maglena Konstantinova

Published in 2012 by
Prosveta Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-9-54-01-2698-2

■ The book is illustrated by Maglena Konstantinova – see p. 132

The book *Vseki den da e nedelya* collects some of the most entertaining works for children by Yanaki Petrov. His poems, tongue-twisters and riddles provoke children's linguistic awareness and imagination as they deploy rich gaming intonations, surprise with semantic twists, entertain with the infinite possibilities of words and rhymes – humming, singing, arguing, laughing, etc. Yanaki Petrov's poems come alive when the untrained tongue pronounces them. They imperceptibly reveal to children that language is the magic key that unlocks magical powers... And new worlds.

Slâncho gleda slânchogleda The Sun Looks at the Sunflower

Author: Yanaki Petrov

Illustrator: Maglena Konstantinova

Published in 2012 by
Prosveta Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-9-54-01-2697-5

■ The book is illustrated by Maglena Konstantinova – see p. 132

Slâncho gleda slânchogleda collects six of the funniest poems for children written by Yanaki Petrov, known as Uncle Oriole, and wonderfully illustrated by Maglena Konstantinova. Petrov's work is cheerful and colourful and brings together the whole range of children's experiences, thoughts and feelings. The beauty of the flowers, which children often notice more than we adults do, is described in "Crocus" and "The Sunflower and the Sun". The animal world is described in the poems "Chickens" and "Bunny", whereas "Snowflakes" will prepare the audience for the adventures inherent in the cold but fluffy winter season.



YANAKI PETROV (1947 - 1999) was born in Golyamo Bukovo, Burgas. He graduated from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski with a degree in Bulgarian Language and Literature. He worked as a miner and a printing press worker. He was an editor at Bulgarian Artist publishing house, *Children, Art, Books* magazine and the almanac *Sea*. He is the author of the poetry collections *Lirichno yato* (*Lyrical Flock*), 1975 and *Zimna ptitsa* (*Winter Bird*), 1978, as well as children's books under the pseudonym Uncle Oriole. His works have been translated into Russian, Polish, Turkish, Serbian, Czech and Slovak.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Chicho Chichopei (*Uncle Oriole*), 1980; **Afrikanets na komin** (*African on a Chimney*), 1981; **Lovets-hrabrets** (*Brave Hunter*), 1985; **Kashtichka s ogledala** (*House of Mirrors*), 1986; **Robin Bobin** (*Robin Bobbin*), 1990 etc.



Razkazhi mi v rimi Rhyme Me a Tale

Author: Maya Dălgăcheva (see p. 15)

Illustrator: Tonya Goranova

Published in 2015 by
Bulvest 2000 Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-9-54-18-0933-4

■ The book is illustrated by Tonya Goranova – see p. 142



Maya Dălgăcheva met the brilliant illustrator Tonya Goranova by mere chance. The melodious flow of the rhymes and the playful drawings will immerse the reader into a world of amusing and witty characters, a world full of magic and adventure. Like a tender goodnight-hug, hope, kindness and friendship will touch young and adult readers, thus inviting some dreams of brightness into their night.

From the tales, the children will get to know how once the wide white world was dyed in colours. With the butterfly magic of the caterpillar, they will be taught not to compare themselves to others but rather to value their own uniqueness. While transferring the readers into the world of her surprising characters, the

author tenderly creates, as though painting a picture, miracles which simply wait to be discovered, building the plot around the traditional Easter themes.

The story about the proud rooster touches on the topic of conceitedness, pride and arrogance, thus teaching the reader valuable lessons. Overcoming fear is assigned to the character of the Lion, thus aiming to imply to the young reader that everyone has his own fears, even those we suspect are fearless. To put yourself in someone else's shoes, to come back home and to fall in love are as priceless as diamonds. The author describes these skills and desires so magically that the reader wishes to sigh with trepidation and start the book all over again from the beginning.

Novi prikazki ot tsial sviat New Fairy Tales from All Over the World

Author: Lyubomir Nikolov

Published in 2012 by
Softpress Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-6-19-151-022-1

Tales are most nations' treasures, where wise men all over the world have hidden the most interesting life stories and many precious lessons. Colourful as the rainbow, Lybomir Nikolov's tales introduce to the reader some familiar and unfamiliar characters, princesses and wonderful beasts living in far-away countries. Each story is inspired by the folklore and the values of the country it presents.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lybomir Nikolov is the author of the fairy tale collections **Novi prikazki ot tsial sviat** (*New Fairy Tales from All Over the World*), 2012 and **Novi valshebni prikazki** (*New Magical Fairy Tales*), 2015; the collection **Prikazki lyubimi v rimi** (*My Favourite Nursery Rhymes*) coauthored by the great Bulgarian author Leda Mileva and Lybomir Nikolov (2014); **Azbuchni gatanki** (*Alphabet Riddles*), 2014.



LYBOMIR "NARVI" NIKOLOV is a Bulgarian writer of fairy tales, science fiction and fantasy books. He also works as a freelance translator, editor and journalist. He has received a number of prestigious Bulgarian and international literature awards. His book *Fire Desert* was the first Bulgarian gamebook, which popularized the genre in Bulgaria. Some of his latest bestsellers are the new translations of the all-time classics *Le Petit Prince* (2015) and *Pushkin's Fairy Tales* (2015).

In 2015 his children's book *Azbuchni gatanki* (*Alphabet Riddles*) was awarded second place in the category 'Young Discoverers' at the Magic Pearl National Children's Literature Award 2015. Lybomir Nikolov's fairy tales take children on a journey to the magical world of legends and myths.



Kniga kak se pravi How a Book Is Made

Author: Asya Koleva

Illustrator: Asya Koleva

Published in 2014 by
Biala Lodka Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-90286-1-2

■ The book is illustrated by Asya Koleva – see p. 134



Anyone can be a writer – the grocery lady, the neighbour with the funny dog, the girl you meet every day in the park, your best friend. Even you.

The first book by Asya Koleva – author, illustrator, publisher and experimenter with paper – is a poetic tale about how books are made. With simple language and vivid illustrations it takes the children on a journey all the way from the author's mind to the reader's hands, disclosing the function and importance of the editor, translator, designer and everyone else along the chain of book production.



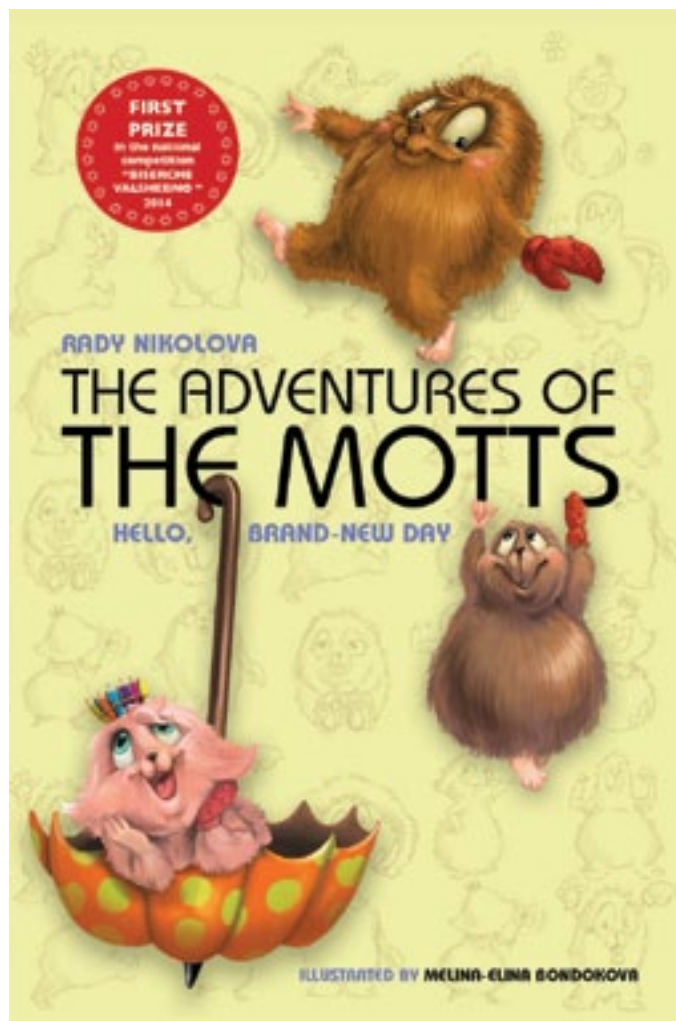


ASYA KOLEVA spent years among words, languages, translation and editing before turning back to her long-life love: drawing. Over the last ten years, she has been working as an illustrator and graphic designer. In 2014 she created a small publishing house *Biala Lodka (White Boat)* where she experiments with paper and images to create innovative products for children and adults.

Kniga kak se pravi (*How a Book Is Made*) is her first book project in which she combines her experience with both words and images.

The book is one of the two Bulgarian titles selected for the 2015 White Ravens Catalogue.





The main characters in the *Priklyucheniya na motovete* (*The Adventures of the Motts*) book series are funny, fluffy creatures called the Motts, who live in every home. They are invisible to people and show themselves only to those whom they trust. The idea behind *Zdravei, Novo utre* (*Hello, Brand-New Day*) focuses on people's growing obsession with technology. Because of it the Motts feel unneeded and they're about to disappear. This important lesson is delivered both to kids and their parents in a subtle and humorous way without being instructive. The book won first place at the Magic Pearl National Children's Choice Award 2014.

Priklyucheniya na motovete: Zdravei, Novo utre The Adventures of the Motts: Hello, Brand-New Day

Author: Radostina Nikolova

Illustrator: Melina-Elina Bondokova

Published in 2013 by
Motove Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7241-01-3

■ The book is illustrated by Melina-Elina Bondokova –
see p. 156



The *Priklyucheniya na motovete* (*The Adventures of the Motts*) book series features three chapter books. Another series for younger kids – *Prikazki ot sveta na motovete* (*Tales from the World of the Motts*) — as well as coloring books and a pack of stickers are also part of the project portfolio.



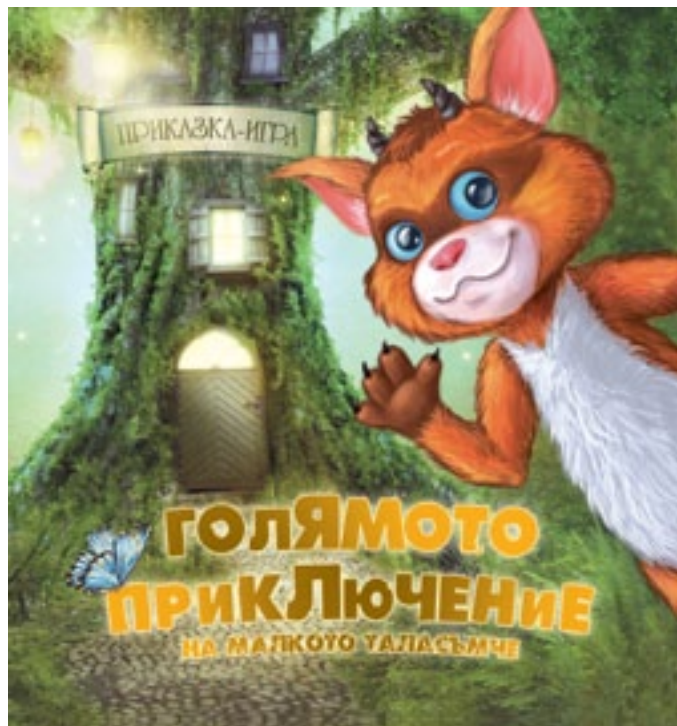


RADOSTINA NIKOLOVA (born 1986 in Bulgaria) is an e-marketing specialist by profession. She graduated from Sofia University in 2009 in English Literature. In 2013 she made her debut as a children's writer by self-publishing her first book. She is the author of the chapter book series **Priklyucheniya na motovete** (*The Adventures of the Motts*) and the series **Prikazki ot sveta na motovete** (*Tales from the World of the Motts*). Her book **Priklyucheniya na motovete: Zdravei, Novo utre** (*The Adventures of the Motts: Hello, Brand-New Day*) won the Magic Pearl National Children's Choice Awards in 2014. Her book **Priklyucheniya na motovete: Hãltsashtata printsesa** (*The Adventures of the Motts: The Princess Who Had the Hiccups*) was nominated in the Pero Literary Awards in 2015, in the category of children's literature.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Priklyucheniya na motovete: Zdravei, Novo utre (*The Adventures of the Motts: Hello, Brand-New Day*), 2013; **Priklyucheniya na motovete: Mux otvrãshhta na udara** (*The Adventures of the Motts: Mux Strikes back*), 2014; **Prikazki ot sveta na motovete: Pãrvata belay na Mux** (*Tales from the World of the Motts: Mux's First Mischief*), 2014; **Prikazki ot sveta na motovete: Printsesa Pagu ne mozhe da zaspi** (*Tales from the World of the Motts: Princess Pagu Can't Go To Sleep*), 2014; **Priklyucheniya na motovete: Hãltsashtata printsesa** (*The Adventures of the Motts: The Princess Who Had the Hiccups*), 2015.





Prikazka-igra: Golyamoto
priklyuchenie na malkoto
talasamche

GameTale: The Little Gremlin's Big Adventure

Author: Nikola Raykov

Illustrations: collective

Published in 2013 by
Polygraph Commerce Ltd.,
Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-91865-3-6

How do you make little children fall in love with a book? How about giving them the chance to choose what will happen inside? The opportunity for a child and a parent to play together and make the decisions that will shape the fairy tale is something you will not find anywhere else.

Golyamoto priklyuchenie na malkoto talasamche (*The Little Gremlin's Big Adventure*) sparks the imagination of children, as it can be read in nearly a hundred different ways and helps them understand how their choices shape their reality with twenty different endings. In only two years, the GameTale series became a bestseller and received over ten awards and nominations, including the most prestigious award for children's literature in Bulgaria.

The first book has been picked up by Avots Publishers in Latvia and is available in English on its website www.gametale.eu.



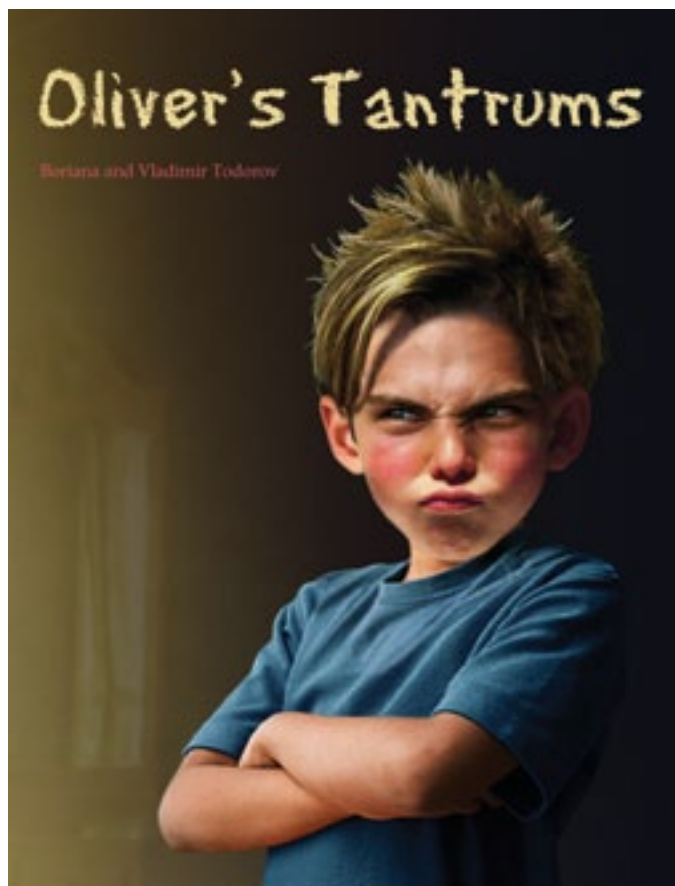


NIKOLA RAYKOV was born on June 21, 1981, in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. He went to university in the USA and returned home where he fell in love, married and became the father of a little boy.

He has written and published adult-oriented SF, fantasy and dystopias, including a film script. They have garnered various Bulgarian awards. However, he rose to fame with the first of his children's books, written for his three-year-old son: **Prikazka-igra: Golyamoto priklyuchenie na malkoto talasămche** (*The Little Gremlin's Big Adventure*, 2013). His second book **Prikazka-igra: Oshite po-golyamoto priklyuchenie na malkoto talasămche** (*GameTale: The Little Gremlin's Even Bigger Adventure*, 2014) won the Ministry of Culture's national award. Nikola Raykov is the youngest author to ever receive these high honors.

He is a well-known aficionado of free sharing and publishes all his works under Creative Commons.





Kaprizite na Oliver Oliver's Tantrums

Author: Boriana Todorov

Illustrator: Vladimir Todorov

Published in 2011 by
Todor Neykov Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-8670-11-1

■ The book is illustrated by Vladimir Todorov – see p. 110

Oliver has a younger sister. He believes his mother dedicates too much of her time and attention to his sister and not enough to him. He discovers three fluffy balls in the attic – his tantrums. They are the best way to start requesting everything he wishes for – all of his mother's attention, new toys, an unlimited quantity of candies.

The magic power of the balls makes his mother fulfill all his wishes and confronts her with terrifying monsters. However, she is very tough and creative and therefore is able to chase them away. Shortly afterwards, mother and son unite their efforts and put away the tantrums in the dusty chest upstairs.

In *Kaprizite na Oliver* (*Oliver's Tantrums*), Boriana Todorova reminds us that maternal love is the answer to children's whims – a desperate cry for attention and

love, often arising from the jealousy between siblings. Vladimir Todorov's illustrations are interesting and realistic. The unbelievably gloomy background implies something creepy, while his monsters made of spaghetti and broken toys are both impressive and frightening.





BORIANA TODOROV grew up on three continents – Asia, Australia and Europe. She has a Master's degree in English and American Studies and is a certified TEFL teacher.

After fifteen years of working with children and adult students in Sofia, Bulgaria, and London, England, she finally settled in the U.S. Her love of literature, storytelling and different cultures led to the creation of her first children's fantasy novel, *The Moon Rock* (2007) in collaboration with her husband, Vladimir Todorov. Her experience as a mother inspired her to follow up with *Kaprizite na Oliver* (*Oliver's Tantrums*, 2011) - a colorful and vibrant picture book about a little boy's first year as a big brother.

Boriana currently lives in Los Angeles and divides her time between bringing up her two children, Alex and Angelina, and writing her first YA novel.





Ribka Fishie

Author: Katya Antonova

Illustrator: Evgenia Nikolova

Published in 2013 by
Ribka Publishing,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7131-01-7

■ The book is illustrated by Evgenia Nikolova – see p. 120

A book ready to become a children's favourite! What could you possibly expect a book called "Fishie" to be about? A cat, of course! A cat well-known from the author's book **Printseseshki istorii i drugi neobiknoveni sluchki** (*Princessy Stories and Other Extraordinary Adventures*).

For those unacquainted with Fishie, he is a young white cat who leaves his home and friends to embark on a quest for true love! His adventure turns out to be much more intriguing and exciting than we would have expected. Fishie meets lots of characters, both friendly and odd, gets into situations that make him surprised, upset, and happy. He dwells in a hat, meets Gabby who has trouble pronouncing "m", makes friends with the great artist Raphael, and almost buys a rabbit. And in the end... he falls in love!





KATYA ANTONOVA is the author of the wonderful stories in the children's books **Printseseshki istorii i drugi neobiknoveni sluchki** (*Princessy Stories and Other Extraordinary Adventures*, 2011), **Ribka** (*Fishie*, 2013), **Dvete kralstva: Prikazki za glasovete na shtastieto** (*The Two Kingdoms: Tales about the Voices of Happiness*, 2014), and a part of the team of Ribka Publishing, but most of all she is a mother! The search for more direct ways into the world of children is the driving force behind her new creative projects.





Malkata Bozhana v denya na boklutsite Little Bozhana on Garbage Day

Author: Bozhana Apostolova
Illustrator: Kostadin Kostadinov

Published in 2012 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-491-838-5

■ The book is illustrated by Kostadin Kostadinov – see p. 130



“...In her mind, Bozhana still wasn't done with garbage. Who knew what was running through her head? They had hardly left the house before her eyes were drawn to the trash scattered by the overflowing dumpsters. Bozhana kicked at a plastic bag, spilling its contents on the ground, and then made a show of inspecting them. Scattered all around her were bones, empty beer cans, crushed yoghurt cups, cucumber peels, hard heels of bread...”

This is a unique book with a shocking title. In it, each piece of garbage turns into a fairy tale: the red eggshells in the trash tell the story of an old man and his wife, a torn shoe reminds us of the dancing shoes the Plovdiv belles used to wear to the balls, even the icky bones tell a wonderful story of friendship between the little lamb and the wolf cub.

The book is part of the series about Little Bozhana, consisting of five books on different topics. The main character is also the star in the series Malkata Golyama Bozhana (The Little Big Bozhana) by the same author, as well as in the first interactive Bulgarian children's book, available for iPad.

The book won the Magic Pearl National Children's Choice Award 2013.



SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Modern tales for children: Chovekăt s nebeto (*The Man with the Sky*), 2002; *Chudoto na senzorite* (*The Wonder of the Sensors*), 2010; *Malkata Bozhana v noshtta na chudesata* (*Little Bozhana in the Night of Wonders*), 2012; *Malkata Bozhana v denya na boklutsite* (*Little Bozhana on Garbage Day*), 2012; *Malkata Bozhana v podvodniya svyat* (*Little Bozhana in the Underwater World*), 2013; *Malkata Bozhana v magazine za smehorii* (*Little Bozhana in the Shop for Funny Things*), 2013; *Malkata Bozhana i chudovishteto Tump* (*Little Bozhana and the Tump Monster*), 2013; *Malkata Golyama Bozhana i dyavolcheto Tuk* (*Little Big Bozhana and Tuk the Devil*), 2014; *Malkata Golyama Bozhana i edna prikazka ot zhivota* (*Little Big Bozhana and a Tale from Life*), 2014; *Malkata Golyama Bozhana i tainite* (*Little Big Bozhana and the Secrets*), 2015; *Malkata Golyama Bozhana i venchavkata na gugutkite* (*Little Big Bozhana and the Wedding of the Turtle Doves*), 2015.



BOZHANA APOSTOLOVA'S name is invariably associated with one of the most authoritative Bulgarian publishing houses – Janet45 Publishing House, which she founded and owns. Nevertheless, since 1978, when her first book of poems, *Fire-Dancer's Lot* came out, until 2015, when her twenty-third book was published – she has been winning over persistently and without extraneous clamor more and more readers both of poetry and prose.

Bozhana Apostolova is the one of the founders and organizers of the largest literature festival in Bulgaria “Plovdiv Reads”, during which writers from different countries and from all over Bulgaria visit Plovdiv and talk about their books with the friendly audience. Moreover, she organizes the festival of young authors “Young Plovdiv Reads” and is also the founder of the annual Ivan Nikolov Poetry Prize.

In addition to the numerous honors for her publishing activities, Apostolova has been awarded a number of prizes for her own creative works, including the Order of Cyril and Methodius, the greatest award for significant services to Bulgarian culture; the Plovdiv Prize for prose; the Golden Chainlet of the *Trud Daily* for poetry, the Golden Muse for her creative work and contribution to Bulgarian-Russian cultural relations; the Hr. G. Danov Award – 2012 for children's literature (*Little Bozhana in the Night of Wonders*) and others.

Although the awards delight her, she considers readers' interest in her works far more gratifying.





Prikazka Fairy Tale

Authors: Zachary Karabashliev
& Silvia Karabashlieva
Illustrator: Iva Sasheva

Published in 2010 by
Ciela Norma AD,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-28-0852-7

P*rikazka* (*Fairy Tale*) is an original fable in which an enchanting doll maker creates his masterpiece during a blinding blizzard in a faraway town. Visually, it revisits the Old World fairytale tradition to counterbalance the modern sensibility of the tale.

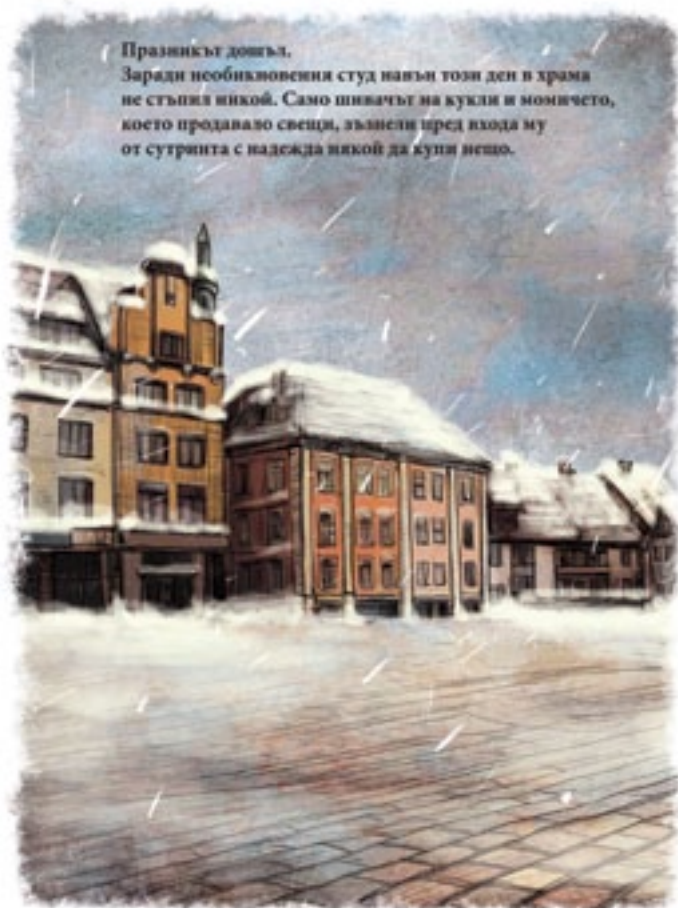
Zachary and Silvia's book is a fairy tale for children and grown-ups. Iva Sasheva's unique illustration technique gives an additional dimension to this story about a miracle, about the moment in which illusions end and faith appears.





ZACHARY KARABASHLIEV is a fiction writer and playwright. His novel **18% Sivo** (*18% Gray*, published in Bulgaria, USA, France, Serbia, Poland, and Macedonia) won the 2009 Bulgarian Novel of the Year Award, given by the Edward Vick Foundation, and was voted among the 100 most-loved books by Bulgarians in the BBC survey "The Big Read." He is the author of five books of fiction.

Silvia Karabashlieva is an artist and educator. She holds master's degrees in English and Bulgarian literature, and an MFA in painting and printmaking. In addition to her studio practice, she has worked as a schoolteacher and college professor in Bulgaria and the United States. She now teaches art in Dubai. **Prikazka** (*Fairy Tale*) is their first children's book.



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19



Malki sashtestva Tiny Creatures

Author: Petya Kokudeva

Illustrator: Romina Beneventi, Italy

Published in 2014 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-186-003-6

Malki sashtestva (*Tiny creatures*) is a whimsical collection of 37 rhymed poems, each devoted to a different imaginary creature: Doctor Other who heals one's troubles by letting him try a spoonful of someone else's bitterness; Mr Burning Head who loves to think so much that his head is on fire and can keep a whole village warm in the winter; the Achooo little fellas who are allergic to haste and have special anti-hurry sprays, etc. The book explores abstract, ticklish subjects like the benefits of loneliness and the bravery of making mistakes through a series of fanciful characters entangled in surprising plots and concrete language that is enchanting for both kids and adults. It is the second book by Petya Kokudeva, who writes in an eccentric self-invented genre: children's poems for grown-ups.





PETYA KOKUDEVA (1982) is a Sofia-based author of poetry books for children. She has a BA in Journalism and an MA in Creative writing from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. For the last ten years she's been working as a copywriter for several international creative agencies. She is a passionate globetrotter and an ardent collector of children's books illustrations.

Petya has been writing in a self-invented literary genre: children's poetry for grown-ups. Her first book **Lulu** (*Lulu*, 2011), won the special award at the National Debut Book Contest (2012) in Bulgaria and has been reprinted four times so far. Her second book **Malki sashtestva** (*Tiny Creatures*, 2014) was nominated for one of the most prestigious literary awards in Bulgaria – Hristo G. Danov, as well as for the Konstantin Konstantinov National Award for Children's Literature (2015). Her last book – **Pitanki** (*Questions*), was published in 2016. On all of her books Petya has worked in a fruitful collaboration with the Italian illustrator Romina Beneventi.

Over the last few years, she has been devoted to the mission of holding creative literary workshops for kids. Since 2013 she has been an ambassador of "The Amusing Summer Reading" – a nationwide initiative promoting reading among children. Petya is also a co-author of a few textbooks for primary school.



ROMINA BENEVENTI

is an Italian illustrator living in Prato. She started to paint with watercolors when she was 16 years old and since then she has been constantly developing her style by experimenting with various techniques and textures. She graduated from a classical high school, and then studied Slavic languages in Florence. Drawing was her driving passion during all those years. Her debut in illustrating children's literature was *Lulu* – a book with poems by the Bulgarian author Petya Kokudeva. Her second book – *Tiny Creatures* – is also a result of the fruitful collaboration with the same writer, as is her third one – *Questions*.

In recent years Romina Beneventi has been collaborating with the Italian Associazione *Culturale Gruppo Bianka* association for children doing courses and workshops in watercolor painting. She has also illustrated a number of covers for magazines and books dedicated to parents and children (cover for the book "In giro con i bambini, guida ai luoghi baby friendly del Piemonte, ed. Espressione Editore, 2013; cover for the Magazine *Giovani Genitori*, February 2014). She illustrated the book "L'ingrediente Segreto" for the Italian publisher Fasi Di Luna in 2015.





Illustrations:
Romina Beneventi, Italy





Neveroyatnite priklyucheniya na Unki Marlyunki.

Kniga za tatkovtsi

The Incredible Adventures of Unki Marlyunki: Book for Dads

Author: Ivan Radenkov

Illustrator: Lili LaMaire

Published in 2013 by
Ciela Norma AD,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-28-1423-8

■ The book is illustrated by Lili Lamer – see p. 126

Everything starts on a calm day, when the local detective Unki Marliunki is preparing his tasty afternoon meal. Unfortunately, he has to delay his delicious snack, because something terrible has happened: all the pupils from the local school have gone missing, together with their teachers and even the principal Pitterson. Such a tragically-mysterious enigma can be solved by no one but Unki – a private detective who uses deduction and logic. But it turns out that the situation is much worse than Unki has ever expected. The local investigator sets out on a journey to find the only witness, accompanied by a pretty dance teacher, a peculiar ward and... his own child from the future. After a series of mishaps including flying on a balloon, falling from a rope bridge and down a cave, they finally manage to find the truth.

The book is full of the adventures of a child and his father in a beautiful, romantic and not-so-fictional world. These remind us to praise what is worth living for. The text is rounded out by the fine ink illustrations by Lili LaMaire, drawing parallel worlds in this amusing story. As a gift for the readers, Ivan Radenkov has designed a website in which all the songs, composed especially for the book series, can be found together with more than 100 illustrations for download and colouring.

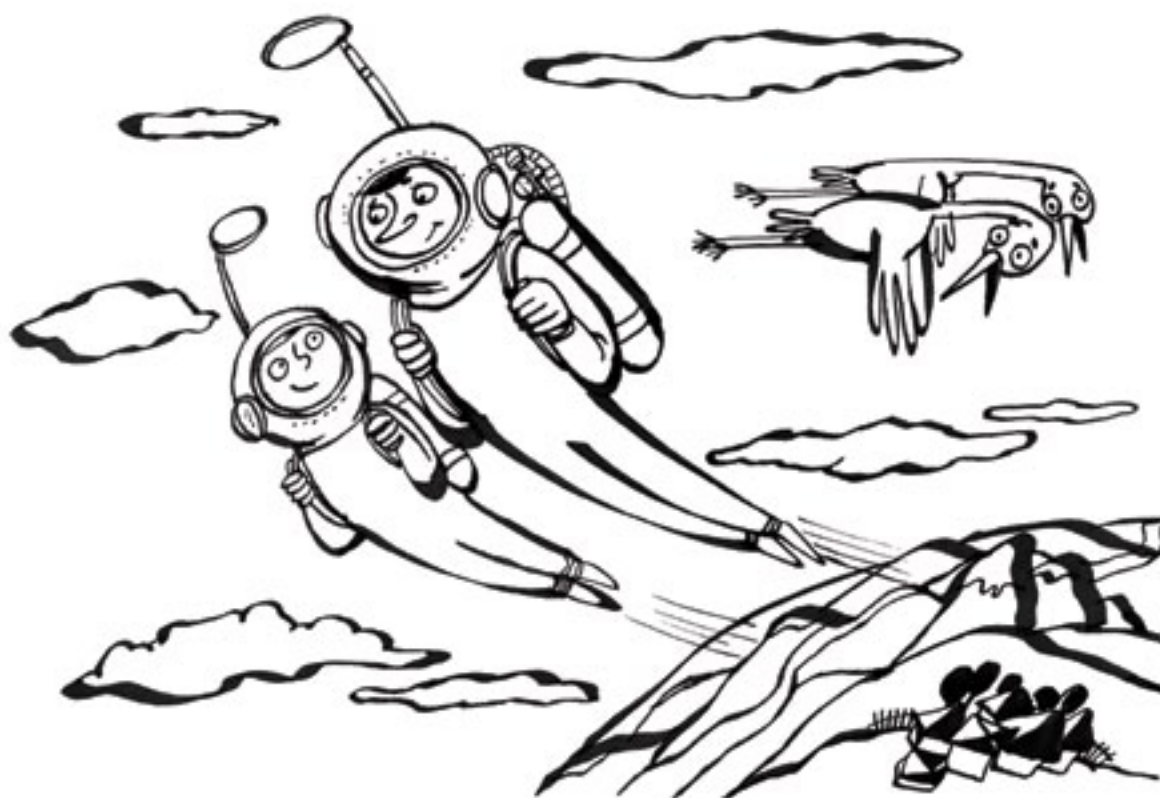
Neveroyatnite priklyucheniya na Unki Marlyunki. Kniga za tatkovtsi (*The Incredible Adventures of Unki Marliunki: Book for Dads*) has its sequels – **Unki pateshestva v kosmosa: Oshte edna kniga za tatkovtsi** (*Unki Travels in Space: Another Book for Dads*) and **Unki I velikanite: Treta kniga za tatkovtsi** (*Unki and the Giants: The Third Book for Dads*).



IVAN RADENKOV is a father of two and it is precisely his eldest son who made him start writing. He loves spending time with his children because it makes him feel young. He writes children's books and loves discussing them with both kids and adults.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Neveroyatnite priklyucheniya na Unki Marlyunki. Kniga za tatkovtsi (*The Incredible Adventures of Unki Marliunki: Book for Dads*), 2013; **Unki pateshestva v kosmosa: Oshte edna kniga za tatkovtsi** (*Unki Travels in Space: Another Book for Dads*), 2014; **Istorii ot golemiya dvor: Izchezanaloto slantse** (*Stories from the Big Yard: The Missing Sun*), 2014; **Unki I velikanite: Treta kniga za tatkovtsi** (*Unki and the Giants: The Third Book for Dads*), 2015; **Istorii ot golemiya dvor: Patuvane do kraja na sveta** (*Stories from the Big Yard: A Journey to the End of the World*), 2015.





Ne e chestno It's Not Fair

Author: Victor Samuilov

Illustrator: Zara Buyukliiska

Published in 2015 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-186-110-1

■ The book is illustrated by Zara Buyukliiska – see p. 154

Victor Samuilov is a rare breed of writer who manages to engage both kids and parents in his game. And that's probably because he himself still plays with a child's amazement – and he does this with words, viewpoints and important subjects. He turns them upside down, shakes out the stale meanings and fills them with extraordinary things. He plays with such mastery that he somehow manages to submerge us in deep thought while we are still laughing out loud. And vice versa.

Ne e chestno (*It's Not Fair*) consists of 39 poems written in the author's well-known way of writing. They are so bright and fair, and illuminate the truth in the relationship between children and grown-ups, brilliantly revealing the controversial messages sent from adults to kids in everyday life. The book has such an intriguing design, smoothly complemented by the illustrations by Zara Buyukliiska, that it is really hard to find where the picture of the words ends and the story of the brush begins.



Nie, mushmorotsite We, the Mischief Makers

Author: Victor Samuilov
Illustrator: Yana Levieva

Published in 2004 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-491-822-4



Nie, **mushmorotsite** (*We, the Mischief Makers*) is like a cheerful spring shower of short verses, full of naughty, crazy things and funny stories with didactic but at the same time merry misunderstandings between young and grown-up mischief

makers. In other words – this book is for clear-sighted, cordial and playful people.

The book design and the illustrations by Yana Levieva are so brilliant that they transform the book into a much-desired present for children of all ages.

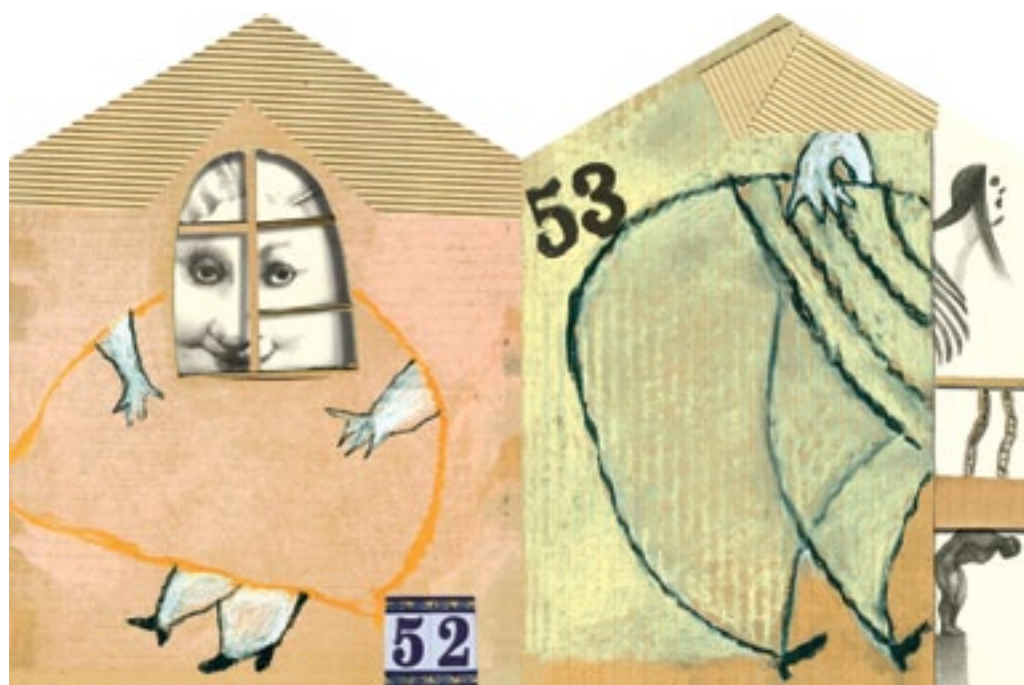


Chudovishte vkăshi A Monster at Home

Author: Victor Samuilov
Illustrator: Yana Levieva

Published in 2009 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-9-54-491-497-4

With this book Victor Samuilov and Yana Levieva (once again, it is hard to tell who exactly is the poet and who is the artist) keep connecting adults with the real world of modern children. No fake beauty, no conceited morality. And they do it with irony and softness, with masterly linguistic, visual and font jokes.





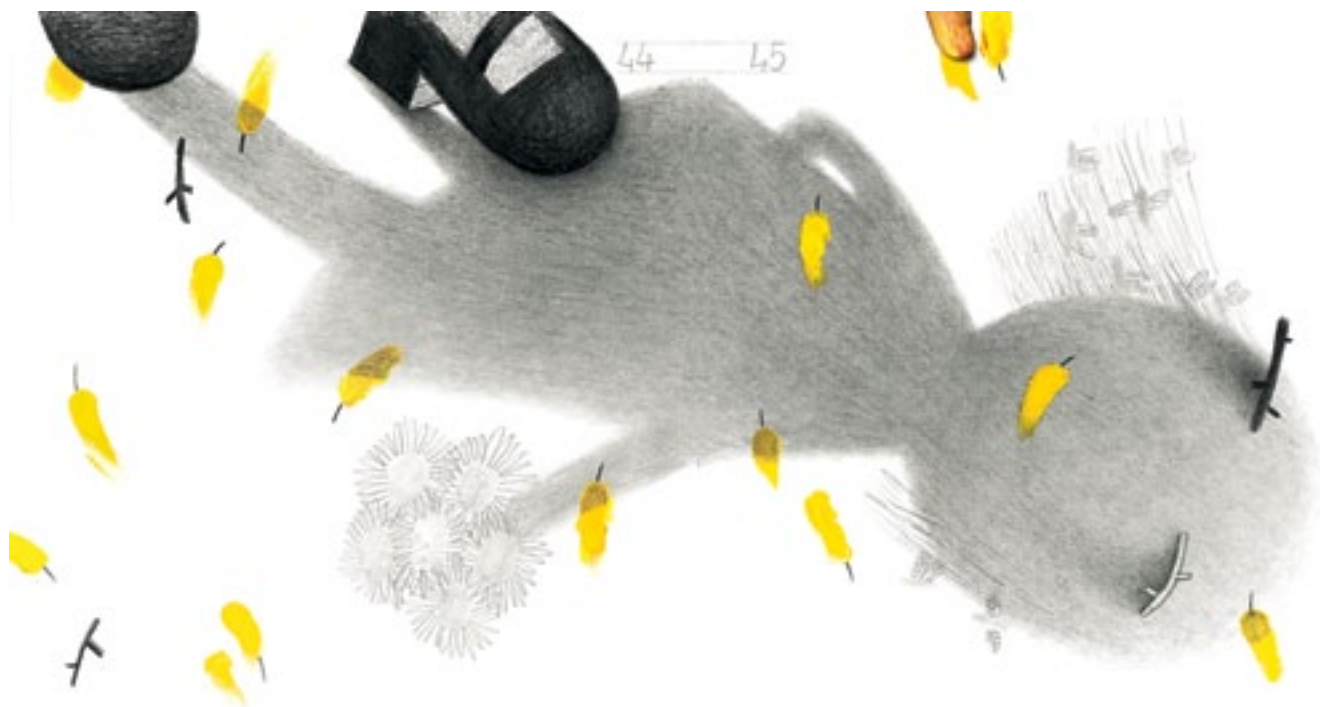
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bezsărdechen gramofon (*Heartless Gramophone*), 1982; **Homemade Sea** (1984); **Ei taka** (*Just Like That*), 1987; **Mezhdu nas da si ostane** (*Between You and Me*), 1989; **Vdān progled-niya mrak** (*Deep into the Penetrable Darkness*), 2001; **Nie, mushmorotsite** (*We, the Mischief Makers*), 2004 – three editions since then; **Obstinate Child** (2005); **Chudovishte vkāshti** (*A Monster at Home*), 2009; **Prez devet lokvi v deseta** (*In a Far Away Puddle*), 2011; **Zodiya “Hlapak”** (*The Kid Zodiac Sign*) – a calendar book, 2014; **Ne e chestno** (*It's Not Fair*), 2015.

VICTOR SAMUILOV was born in Sofia in 1946. He graduated from Sofia University with a master's degree in Bulgarian philology and worked for youth, literary and satirical editions. He was a script writer and editor at the Cartoon Studios of Sofia Cinema Center and a compiler of many anthologies, students' books and training aids. He has written 19 books, most of which are for children. The winner of three national awards, Victor Samuilov was also First Prize Laureate of the South-Eastern European Literature Center – for his contribution to literature for children and teenagers.







Illustrations: Yana Levieva



Bădi mi priyatel Be My Friend

Author: Julia Spiridonova
Illustrator: Penko Gelev

Published in 2015 by
Kragozor Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-9-54-771-341-3

■ The book is illustrated by Penko Gelev – see p. 150

A long, long time ago... or maybe not that long, who knows, there was a little frog. Not just a frog – a scabby frog. Nobody in the whole wide swamp liked the scabby little frog and so it went on a journey to see the world and find a friend. But who would befriend a scabby frog? Not the beautiful veela. Not the greedy goblin, nor the treacherous echo, nor the mighty zmej. Only the gluttonous lamia needed the scabby frog... for a snack. The brave little frog outwitted the lamia, locked her in her cave and gave the key to the good old sentinel, the guardian of the lake. And finally the scabby frog found a friend – the forest witch had been looking for just such frog for a long time, because scabby frogs have the strongest magical power.

Bădi mi priyatel (*Be My Friend*) has a sequel – **Kakva magiya krie se v snega** (*What Sorcery Had Snow*).





SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Guguletata (*The Goo Goo Birdies*), 1999; **Prikazki za guguleta** (*Goo Goo Birdie Stories*), 2000; **Priklyucheniya s Djigo** (*Adventures with Djigo*), 2003; **Tina i polovina** (*Big Deal Tina*), 2008; **V Dolnata zemya. Krăstyo – chasten detektiv** (*A Private Eye's Adventures in the Underworld*), 2009; **Lyubimi popătecho** (*My Sweet Pathwalker*), 2009; **Grafinya Batori** (*Countess Bathory*), 2010; **Kralska krăv** (*Blood of Kings*), 2011; **Maks** (*Max*), 2012; **Iglata na Labakan** (*Labakan's Needle*), 2013; **Prikazka za vâlshebnata fleita** (*The Tale of the Magic Flute*), 2013; **Bădi mi priyatel** (*Be My Friend*), 2015; **Kakva magiya krie se v snega** (*What Sorcery Had Snow*), 2015.



JULIA SPIRIDONOVA (YULKA) was born on October 30, 1972, in Sofia into a family of artists. She was first acknowledged as a writer in 1995 when her first short story “The Pacifier” won the annual UNESCO award. Her story was then included in English and French short story anthologies. In 1996 Julia Spiridonova was invited to take part in the screenplay jury of the Student Film Festival in Munich. In 2006, her first novel *My Sweet Pathwalker* won the biggest ever annual children's book manuscript competition, held by the Bulgarian Writers Association. In 2007 she was invited by the Russian Presidency as an official guest to the International Bookfair BibliObraz in Moscow to represent Bulgaria. In 2008 Julia's children tale *The Scabby Frog*, illustrated by the internationally acclaimed artist and illustrator Ivan Gantshev, was presented to very positive acclaim at the International Bookfair in the Hague. In 2010 the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science awarded to Julia Spiridonova the Special Merit Award in recognition of her distinctive support in the development of the spiritual culture of the young generations. In 2011, research carried out by the Azcheta.com (“I Read” website) in 27 public libraries in Bulgaria, showed that Julia Spiridonova's books are the most often asked for and borrowed books. Julia Spiridonova is also well known for her screenwriting work, having authored more than 400 scripts for the Bulgarian National Television. She is the creator and author of several TV shows and series for children and teenagers. She is a member of the Association of Bulgarian Writers.

The awards received by Spiridonova include: Europe in Fairytale competition third prize winner (2005); the annual Hristo G. Danov award nominee, Book of the Year category (2010); the annual Konstantin Konstantinov award winner, Author of the Year category (2010); the annual P.R. Slaveykov - Contribution to Bulgarian Literature award winner (2010); the Child Honorary Diploma for lifetime contribution to the happy childhood of Bulgarian children (2012); the annual Quill Award winner, Children's Book of the Year category (2015).

Julia Spiridonova is also well-known for her charitable work. From 2009 to the present she has been the founder and organizer of the weekly “Who Loves Fairytales” initiative at the Children and Youth Department of the Sofia City Library. From 2010 to the present she has been the founder and organizer of the “Where Children Live, There Should Be Children's Books” campaign, which aims to set up libraries of newly published books for orphanages. Her most recent initiative is the establishment of the Flying Pig Club for reading teenagers at the Children and Youth Department of the Sofia City Library.



Dvete kralstva: Prikazki za glasovete na shtastieto The Two Kingdoms: Tales about the Voices of Happiness

Author: Katya Antonova (see p. 31)

Illustrator: Martina Andonova

Published in 2014 by
Ribka Publishing,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-713-107-9

■ The book is illustrated by Martina Andonova – see p. 158

Welcome to the Two Kingdoms! Over there, in the Kingdom of Happiness, you can see what Countess Honesty looks like, where Prince Trust lives and why Queen Love is so powerful. Take a look inside the Kingdom of Sorrow – here we have Baron Anger, Duchess Hurt, Prince Shame and many others. You can see Queen Hate and find out why it is so important to stay away from her.

You will see how all their noble subjects can affect the lives of children and their parents. You will read their stories and although some of them may have also happened to you, you will now be able to look at them from a new perspective. You will have a great time and in the end you will learn more about your own feelings, where they come from and some really useful ways for dealing with those moments in life.





Iliicho i Avgust Elijah and August

Author: Sotir Gelev

Illustrator: Penko Gelev

Published in 2014 by
Enthusiast Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-164-120-8

■ The book is illustrated by Penko Gelev – see p. 150

Elijah is still young and the only thing he is truly scared of is birds. Anyone who has looked a bird in the eye should know why. Elijah loves his mother, candy, Christmas and a bunch of other stuff. He has been waiting to receive a bicycle as a birthday gift since last year. Elijah's best friend is the purrfellow August. August lives under Elijah's bed (not exactly under the bed, but this is difficult to put in a nutshell). Every time Elijah and August are together, something remarkable happens.

We forgot to mention Gergin, but he sleeps from first to last anyway.

Iliicho i Avgust (*Elijah and August*) has a sequel – **Iliicho, Avgust i sedemte dzhudzheta** (*Elijah, August and the Seven Dwarves*).





SOTIR GELEV was born in 1960 in Asenovgrad. He was in the army, worked in a factory, drew comics, worked as a graphic designer, made special effects for the cinema, wrote film scripts, directed two full-length and eight animated films (*The Chicken*, *Doroga*, *Kerata*, *Orbis*, *Vector and Lector*, *Chickens*, *Imago*, *Gas Mask*, produced films (*Wizards*, *Kolobar*, *Yellow Dog*, *Lyuben Zidarov's Magic Mirror*) and TV series (*Fairytales about Physics*, *Fairytales about Astronomy*, and *Good Afternoon*, *Mr. Jasmine*). He lives in Sofia.



SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

“Bilbo Baggins” – comics, script and illustrator, 1984-86, *Daga* magazine; “The Lord of the Rings” – comics, illustrator, 1986-89, *Daga* magazine; “Zhmak” – comics, script and illustrator, 1984-86, *Riks* magazine; “Aksols’ Song” – author, 1991, *Riks* magazine; “Corporal Neck” – author, 1991, *Riks* magazine; “Doctor Know-It-All,” “Brothers Grimm” – illustrator, 1991, *Pleiad*; *Afternoon Meatball* – poems, author, 1997, Free Poetry Society; *Dicho the Field-Keeper Must Die* - author, 2012, Daga project; *Ghost* – author and illustrator, 2012, Daga project; *Elijah and August* - author, 2014, Enthusiast; *Elijah, August and the Seven Dwarves* – author, 2016, Enthusiast.





Kogato iskam da mälcha When I Want To Say Nothing

Author: Zornitsa Hristova
Illustrator: Kiril Zlatkov

Published in 2014 by
Tochitsa Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7172-01-0

■ The book is illustrated by Kiril Zlatkov – see p. 106

A short book about silence, about the vast and beautiful territories of the unspoken. Also, a book about words, and the love of them, and the things that remain beyond their power. About the art of listening.

A bear cub loves playing with words, which he sees as boxes to put his things in. Some things, however, are too large to fit in – like music, or light, or dreams. Other things might be lost inside – and you'd never be able to find them. They might still be heard - if we listen carefully to somebody's silence.

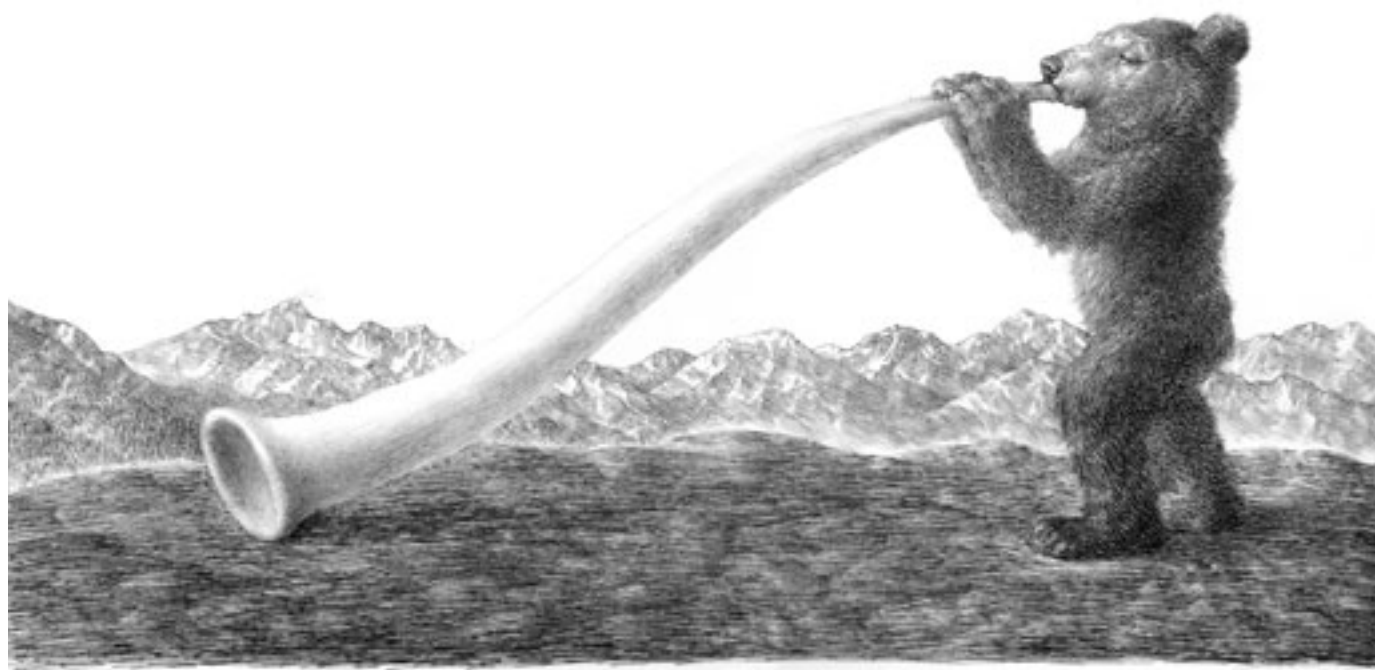
The masterful black-and-white graphics take the reader through the various emotional states of the bear cub. The reader becomes instinctively drawn into their world where gesture and expression speak louder than words.





ZORNITSA HRISTOVA was born in 1974 in Dobrich. She studied English Philology at the University of Sofia and Postcolonial Studies at Oxford University. Her work as a translator includes authors such as Don DeLillo, Julian Barnes, Tom Wolfe, Jhumpa Lahiri, Tony Judt, etc.

She won the Bulgarian Translator Union's Award for 2012 for the translation of *White Noise* by Don DeLillo. Co-founder and editor-in-chief at Tochitsa Publishers. Laureate of the Hristo G. Danov Award for Best Children's Book of 2014 for **Vkusna geografiya** (*A Taste of Geography*) - written in collaboration with Anna Bodakova, Dara Varadinova, and Dessislava Dimitrova - and the Hristo G. Danov Award for Best Children's Book of 2015 for **Kogato iskam da mālcha** (*When I Want To Say Nothing*) - in collaboration with Kiril Zlatkov. Other titles include **Sladoledena retorika** (*Ice-Cream Rhetoric*), **Vakantsiya v Srednite vekove** (*Medieval Vacation*), **Blok No 4** (*Building No 4*), and **Igri na glas** (*Voice Games*).





Vkusna geografiya A Taste of Geography

Authors: Zornitsa Hristova (see p. 55)
In collaboration with Dessislava Dimitrova,
Dara Varadinova and Anna Bodakova
Illustrator: Alya Markova

Published in 2013 by
Tochitsa Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-92708-9-1

■ The book is illustrated by Alya Markova – see p. 122

What happens when two ten-year-old boys set about writing their own geography textbook? They travel around the country with their grandmother (a NG photographer) and sometimes with little Maya, a fearless and inquisitive little girl. They liberate a bunch of hens, chase each other through stinging nettle, fall off trees and into love, and make scary onion teeth. They also learn to bake fish in burdock leaves, overcome their distrust of all things green, hear some scary vampire stories and get a taste of life outside the city. Plenty of different tastes, as it turns out.

All the recipes in the book have been tried and tested in the authors' kitchens and have been approved by some very picky city girls. The same applies to most of the mischief.

Vkusna geografiya (*A Taste of Geography*) received the 2014 Hristo G. Danov award of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture.





Detsata na kaktusa The Children of the Cactus

Author: Velizar Nikolov

Illustrator: Rositsa Yachkova

Published in 2009 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-491-532-2

■ The book is illustrated by Rositsa Yachkova – see p. 108

As in his books for grown-ups, in **Detsata na kaktusa** (*The Children of the Cactus*) Velizar Nikolov observes the world silently, delicately and subtly, and he transforms it into unexpected and astonishing poetic images.

Nikolov fills his poems with bittersweet melancholy, playful irony and bright sadness. **Detsata na kaktusa** convinces us so easily that age borders do not exist in poetry and the poetic image can be understood both by children and by grown-ups – all we need is a fine tuning of the senses.





VELIZAR NIKOLOV (8 May 1949, Lovech, Bulgaria) graduated from high school in Sofia. He studied Bulgarian philology at Sofia University, Bulgaria. He worked at *Tishina* newspaper, at Sofia Press and in the Literature and Arts House for Children and Young Adults.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Children's books: **Svirki ot kaisiya** (*Flutes from Apricot Wood*), 1976; **Razseyan den** (*Distracted Day*), 1979; **Bratya kvadrati** (*The Square Brothers*), 1994; **Detsata na kaktusa** (*The Children of the Cactus*), 2013.





Pet prikazki Five Fairy Tales

Author: Valeri Petrov

Illustrator: Miroslava Nikolova

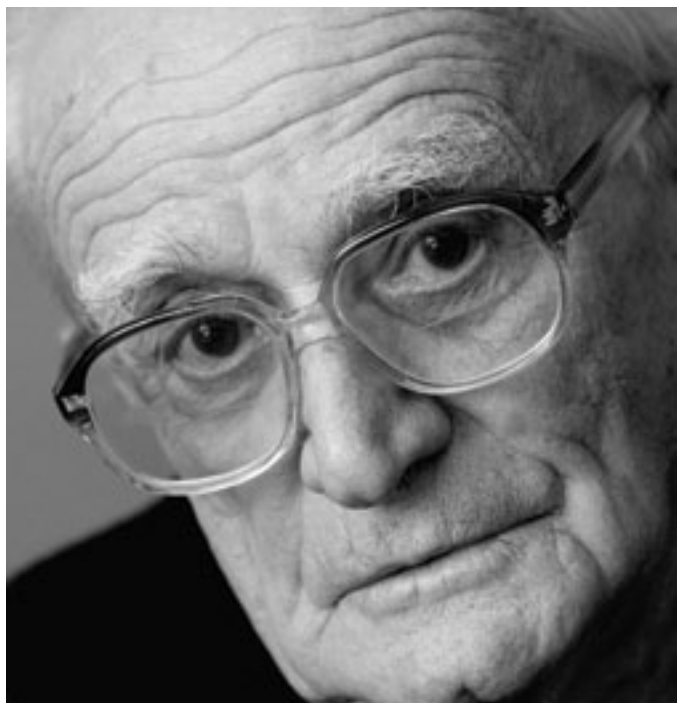
Published in 2004 by
Pan PublishingHouse,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-660-560-3

The eloquent Valeri Petrov takes us on a wondrous journey high in the mountains, but also deep in the sea; under the bright rays of the sun, but also beneath the glimmering moonlight. In **Pet prikazki** (*Five Fairy Tales*), the author enchants with words and rhymes, saddens us but also makes us cry tears of laughter. We meet a deer, a fox, a bear and a cat who play kick-the-pinecone and leap-over-the-stump; a woodpecker looking for aspirin for his headache; little worms who learn how to bend themselves into hook shapes, so as not to be eaten by fish... and many more fantastical characters, headstrong children, and cheerful animals...

The story inevitably includes a dream button, which can be turned only clockwise, otherwise time would go backwards and nobody would be able to fall asleep.

Valeri Petrov creates an incredible symphony of fables, word-play, light satire and important morals to the story. It is such an exquisite symphony that it would even provoke the envy of the many who lives in the piano – Bechstein-Steinway, Stradivarius on his mother's side. Through jokes and verses the author actually asks very important questions: how important is it to be good, why shouldn't we lie and is there a barometer for friendship?

Pet prikazki is a true treat for little ones and a nostalgic return to childhood for older readers. They are like five magic pearls, which "make us better people."



VALERI PETROV (22 April 1920 – 27 August 2014), was a popular Bulgarian poet, screenplay writer, playwright and translator of Jewish origin. He graduated in medicine from Sofia University in 1944. When he was 15, Petrov published his first independent book: the poem *Birds Northwards*. Petrov later wrote the poems *Tom Thumb*, *En route*, *Juvenes dum sumus*, *By the Blue Sea*, *A Reminiscence from an Attic* and the series *Endearments*. In 1978, Petrov wrote the children's musical *Kopche za sän* (*A Dream Button*). He is particularly esteemed for the quality of his translation of the entire works of Shakespeare - the authoritative rendition of the Bard in Bulgarian.

Valeri Petrov also worked as a journalist and wartime writer during the Second World War. He was among the founders of the humoristic newspaper *Stärshel* (*The Hornet*) and its assistant editor-in-chief (1945–1962). Between 1947 and 1950, Petrov worked in the Bulgarian legation in Rome as a press and cultural attaché. He was also an editor in a film studio and in the *Balgarski pisatel* publishing house. He served as a deputy in the Grand National Assembly. Since 2003, he was an academician in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Petrov Ridge in Graham Land, Antarctica, is named after him. The image of the magic pearl from one of his fairy tales gave the name to the Magic Pearl National Children's Choice Award.



SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Poetry: *Stari neshta malko po novomu* (*Old Stuff in a Somewhat New Way*), 1945 – poetic series; *Stihotvoreniya* (*Poems*), 1949; *V mekata esen* (*In the Mild Autumn*), 1960 - poem; *Poemi* (*Poems*), 1962 - a collection of poems; *Na smyah* (*In Jest*), 1970 - satirical poems etc.

Travelogues: *Kniga za Kitai* (*A Book about China*), 1958; *Afrikanski belezhnik* (*An African Notebook*), 1965.

Children's books: *Byala prikazka* (*A White Fairy Tale*), 1977; *Kopche za sän* (*A Dream Button*), 1978; *Pet prikazki* (*Five Fairy Tales*).



Malki zhabeshki istorii Little Froggy Stories

Author: Yordan Radichkov
Illustrator: Victor Paunov

Published for the first time in 1994
Dr. Ivan Bogorov Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-90077-4-7

■ The book is illustrated by Victor Paunov – see p. 118

The great Bulgarian writer Yordan Radichkov makes children and parents alike laugh with his *Malki zhabeshki istorii* (*Little Froggy Stories*). Every one of them is peppered with unexpected whims, as well as with interpretations of well-known fairy tales, folk beliefs and even sayings. The author's style is refreshingly different, while his imagination knows no bounds. Everything is possible – a water vampire who only knows punctuation marks and doesn't want to learn a single letter; little frogs who help little wells be less lonely; and amphibians setting out for Europe in a train car.

From this book, wonderfully illustrated by Victor Paunov, we further learn when frogs argue, how come they never hang their underwear out to dry, why their favorite words are “corridor” and “monokini,” and whether they learned them from their froggy ABCs book.

In 1996, for his *Malki zhabeshki istorii*, Yordan Radichkov was included in the Honour List of the Hans Christian Andersen Award by the IBBY.





YORDAN RADICHKOV (24 October 1929 – 21 January 2004) was a Bulgarian writer and playwright. Some literary critics have referred to him as the Bulgarian Kafka or Gogol. Radichkov is well-known for his numerous short stories, novels and plays. He is also famous for his screenplays of the Bulgarian film classics *Torrid Noon* (1966), *The Tied Up Balloon* (1967) and *The Last Summer* (1974).

Radichkov's literary career began with short stories for the **Vecherni novini** (*Evening News*) newspaper, while his early collections caught the attention of readers and critics. The socialist-realist official style from his early works was gradually replaced by a style of parody and grotesque, with an increase in folkloristic elements, including folk fantasy and humor. Radichkov began parodying styles and reality: his works deprived objects of their natural dimensions and took them out of context; he combined disparate genres and transformed reality into a comic theater, defusing absurd aspects of life by means of laughter. A mixture of the fantastic and the real, Radichkov's works combined images of industrial civilisation with those of a remote mythical past, and were sometimes defined as a Balkan magical realism.

Yordan Radichkov also wrote a number of domestically and internationally acclaimed children's books. Of these **Nie, vrabchetata** (*We, the Sparrows*, 1968) has gained particular popularity in Bulgaria. For his **Malki zhabeshki istorii** (*Little Froggy Stories*, 1994) the author was included in the 1996 Honour List of the Hans Christian Andersen Award, administered by the IBBY. His works have been translated into more than 30 languages and in 2001 he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Radichkov has been awarded a wide number of prizes for literature, theatre, and film, both in his homeland and abroad, among them the Order of Stara Planina (the highest order of Bulgaria, 2003), the Italian Grinzane Cavour Prize (1984) and the prize of the International Academy of the Arts in Paris (1993). A founding member and first president (1984–1991) of the Bulgarian-Swedish Association for Friendship, he received the Swedish national Order of the Polar Star (1988). Radichkov Peak on Livingston Island in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica, is named after the prominent author.





Kukuvitsata The Cuckoo

Author: Elin Rahnev

Illustrators: Assia Kovanova

and Andrey Koulev

Adaptation from the original play:

Nevena Dichlieva-Krysteva

Published in 2012 by
ICU,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-92864-5-8

■ The book is illustrated by Assia Kovanova and Andrey Koulev
– see p. 128

Have you ever been late for school due to a very serious, rather hindering reason? Like, say, a butterfly has kidnapped you, or an Indian chief was in trouble and needed help. Your help. Personally. Well, everything is possible in this town...

Kukuvitsata (*The Cuckoo*) is the story of nine-year-old Hristo and his Dad, who never manage to get to school on time and, in order to justify their delay, the father makes up these incredible, albeit quite convincing excuses. So convincing that even the boring Headmaster of the school starts singing in his bathroom, and the teacher, Miss Stella, musters up the courage to dream the captain of her life.

An adaptation of Elin Rahnev's original play by the same name, **Kukuvitsata** is a tale about the imagination's power to make dreams come true. Andrey Koulev and Assia Kovanova depict the fantastic stories, weaving the plot of the tale in twenty beautiful water-colour illustrations.

"A book about children's imagination and how fathers grow up together with their children, while they stumble upon daisies, fly away to the Butterfly Land and are convinced that cuckoos are meant to fly, not to stay locked inside clocks."

24 Chasa Daily

"Elin Rahnev's book is one of those works not limited to any age. The wonderful design and beautiful illustrations by Andrey Koulev and Assia Kovanova grip the attention of the youngest readers, the crazy stories made up by Hristo will appeal even to the bigger kids, and the truth hidden between the lines will be revealed to those who have actually grown up. Our only option is to make up our minds and fly away on the wings of our dreams!"

www.detskiknigi.com



Born on July 3, 1968, in Sofia, Elin Rahnev graduated from Sofia University with a degree in special pedagogy and from the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts as a theatre director. He has worked as a journalist, publisher and editor-in-chief for *Vitamin B*, a magazine for literature and poetry. Elin has also been a playwright in various theatres, including the Ivan Vazov National Theatre, where he created the Topmost Floor Theatre Stage. He is the founder and screenwriter for different culture related TV programs, and is a columnist in both electronic and print media.

Rahnev is the author of four poetry collections and nine dramatic works, among them, the children's play *Kukuvitsata* (*The Cuckoo*), later turned into an illustrated children's book. His works exist in more than 20 languages. He is a holder of prestigious Bulgarian dramaturgical and poetry awards: (Overall Creative Work Award in Dramaturgy Category given by Stage on a Crossroad Festival (2006); The Union of Bulgarian Actors Award for Dramaturgy; V. Drumev New Bulgarian Drama Award (2000); The Union of Bulgarian Actors Award (1999); New Dramaturgy Award (1999); Ivan Nikolov Poetry Award (1999); Veselin Hanchev Grand Poetry Prize (1992), etc.)





Tsvetniyat chovek The Colourful Man

Author: Ivan Teofilov

Illustrator: Rositsa Raleva

Published in 2015 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-186-138-5

■ The book is illustrated by Rositsa Raleva – see p. 116

Tsvetniyat chovek (*The Colourful Man*) consists of two parts: *About the Most Fabulous Time* – poems for children and *About the Most Important Things* – free stage plays based on the fairy tales *Ole, Close Your Little Eyes* by Andersen and *Puss in Boots* by Charles Perrault.

“Most of the poems I have written are based on curious deeds and events with my grandchildren”, the author says in the epilogue of the book.

In the stage plays based on fairy tales, the author with his playwriting skills manages to renew the existence

and viewpoints of the tales without destroying the classical situations. Rather, through his own concepts and dialogue, he makes them topical and modern with regard to the needs of the present-day child. **Tsvetniyat chovek** appeals to the reader with its admirable sense of humour and imaginative surprises, as well as with the virtuoso form and warmly strict character of the content.

“The overall perception is of a book which we are going to hand down from child to child for generations to come.”

Kultura magazine



Ivan Teofilov, born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, in 1931, is a poet, playwright and translator. A graduate of Sofia's National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts, he worked as a playwright in Burgas and Russe, as well as at the Puppet Theatre in Sofia.

He was president of the Association of Bulgarian Writers, chief editor of the *Popular Library of Contemporary World Poetry* series created by Narodna Kultura, poetry editor for *Plamak* magazine and founding editor of the literary magazine *Sezon*. His poetry and theatre plays have been translated into 16 languages.

He has won the P. Yavorov National Prize for Poetry and has also been recognized by the Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria for his overall contribution to Bulgarian culture and letters.

He has published nine poetry collections, the last two being *Geometry of the Spirit* (which won the National Poetry Award in 1996) and *Infinitive* (which won the National Literature Award in 2004). His other books include plays, an Anthology of Bulgarian Symbolism and Monologues, and a collection of travel and literary essays.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Books: *Nebeto I vsichki zvezdi* (*The Sky and All the Stars*), 1963; *Amphiteatăr* (*Amphitheater*), 1968; *Grad vārhu gradove* (*City over Cities*), 1976; *Bogatstvoto ot vreme* (*The Wealth of Time*), 1981; *Spodeleno bitie* (*Sharing Existence*), 1984; *Dārvenoto konche ot vārtelezhkata* (*A Wooden Horse from a Carousel*), 1985; *Da* (*Yes*), 1994; *Geometriya na duha* (*Geometry of the Spirit*), 1996; *Tsvetniyat chovek* (*The Colourful Man*), 2015, etc.

Plays: *The Clockmaker* (1965); *Prince Marko* (1967); *The Little Prince* (1970); *The Colourful Man* (1977); *Puss in Boots* (1980).





Prikazka za La Minor A Fairy Tale about A Minor

Author: Angel Wagenstein

Illustrator: Maglena Konstantinova

Published in 2014 by
Janet-45 Publishing House,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-186-026-5

■ The book is illustrated by Maglena Konstantinova – see p. 132

This is a short musical fairy tale for grown-up children, one of whose main storylines tells the sad tale of a violet jacket whose even-numbered yellow polka dots have been stolen. Like most fairy tales, here, too, there is a love story, but one that ends happily, with orange marmalade.

But as you might imagine, the story does not take place in some fairy tale kingdom far away, but upon the keys of a piano – and every Friday at that, because on Thursday, before the cleaning lady comes, the piano is dusty and does not accept guests. And what happens is nothing more than an opera score, peopled, as you might expect, by notes, scales and other good, albeit rather strange inhabitants: a love-struck oddball who has confused mathematics with music, a former

director of the Philadelphia Philharmonic and current house manager, the magnificent young scale A Minor, a Jewish tailor who sews yellow stars to the sky, as well as Andante Maestoso, an Italian nobleman in exile, along with his servant Allegro Vivace. For now let us not give away the other characters who so graciously agreed to take part both in the choral as well as the solo parts of this lyrical score.

In any case, this story is not some made-up fable about fairy tale princesses and princess, but is entirely authentic, as Angel Wagenstein insists, as he was personally invited to join this musical staff to eat, sing and be merry with the characters as they celebrated a happy engagement.



ANGEL RAYMOND WAGENSTEIN (born 17 October 1922) is a Bulgarian film director and author. He was born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, but spent his childhood in France where his Jewish family had emigrated for political reasons due to their leftist politics. Angel Wagenstein returned to Bulgaria due to an amnesty, and as a student at a lyceum he joined an anti-fascist group. For his acts of sabotage, he was arrested and condemned to death in 1944, and it was the invasion of the Soviet Red Army that saved him from execution.

After completing a degree in 1950 in screenwriting at the S. A. Gerasimov All-Union State Institute for Cinematography in Moscow, he worked as a screenwriter for the Bulgarian Cinematography Center and for DEFA Film Studio. He is the author of over fifty screenplays for films, documentaries and cartoons.

His film *Stars* (1959, directed Konrad Wolf) was awarded the Special Jury Prize at the 1959 Cannes Film Festival. In 1980, he was a member of the jury at the 30th Berlin International Film Festival. His fiction includes the triptych *Isaac's Torah*, *Far from Toledo* and *Farewell, Shanghai*, which have been published in more than 10 languages. In 2002, *Far from Toledo* was awarded the Alberto Benveniste annual prize of the Sorbonne, while his novel *Farewell, Shanghai* received the Jean Monnet Prize for European Literature in 2004. The French government awarded Angel Wagenstein the high distinction of Chevalier of the French Order of Merit, and later Chevalier of Arts and Literature. He is also the bearer of the highest Bulgarian distinction – the Order of Stara Planina.



Sladoledena retorika Ice-Cream Rhetoric

Author: Zornitsa Hristova (see p. 55)

Illustrator: Alya Markova

Published in 2014 by
Tochitsa Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7172-04-1

■ The book is illustrated by Alya Markova – see p. 122

Improbable as it might seem, people often do not agree with us as quickly as they should.

They need to be convinced. There are plenty of things that cause arguments: do one's socks really need to match if they're inside one's shoes, should one put on a cardigan if his mother is cold, and whether boys have it easier than girls.

There's a whole art whose point is to convince people that you're right.

And even if you don't practice it, others practice it on you. Even when you're a baby and they're making you eat one more spoonful of mush. Or when somebody's making you want that one toy.

You could master the force of rhetoric, too. But you should never cross over to its darker side. Little by little, this book will teach you to keep a balance between the three main ingredients of rhetoric – logic (the cone that holds your ice-cream together), feelings (the sugar

and flavor that makes ice-cream pleasurable to you) and finally ethos (the milk and other useful stuff). You will learn to spot false arguments and make sure yours support your thesis; why the 'absurd alternative' is so beloved by many (hint: laughter is memorable), what a metaphor is and how it can help you draw pictures in people's minds. You'll also learn about other kinds of magic, like hyperbole, litotes and playing with the keywords in a sentence, or twisting the opponent's metaphor so it works against him. There are secret weapons to be deployed, such as dictionaries, and the book has some tips about finding your way around them real quick. And Shakespeare's comedies. And little brothers and sisters that might be argument masters as well. But when as you think you know everything about rhetoric, you start learning to argue with yourself. Until you reach the truth.

And that's sweeter than ice-cream.





Prikazka za vālshebnata fleita The Tale of the Magic Flute

Author: Julia Spiridonova (see p. 49)

Illustrator: Penko Gelev

Published in 2013 by
Enthusiast,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-164-062-1

■ The book is illustrated by Penko Gelev – see p. 150

The rebellious, yet level-headed Nicky, who no longer harbors any illusions about people and the world, along with her pensive brother, Philip, who – before giving his opinion on anything at all, always first thinks it over or listens to his heart – are modern-day children. This is also accentuated by the fact that their parents are getting divorced. Modern life isn't particularly conducive to family life. The two kids spend lots of time with their grandfather, an opera director; during rehearsals, they sit behind, in front of or even on the stage, but this hasn't inspired any great love of theater in them. When they were younger, the stage and the sets were like a huge amusement park for them, but now that the twins are eleven years old, the rehearsals are often simply boring, even tedious. Everything in theater seems so fake and over-the-top to them! It doesn't have anything to do with their lives, their schoolmates, those computer games they love...

Things seem to be different, however, with the opera *The Magic Flute* – starting with the fact that their grandfather possesses a mysterious chest of dark wood with silver plating, which plays a main role in the opera, as it contains the magical silver and gold bells that guide the characters. Furthermore, this time, the children enter into a wondrous, magical world; they often cannot tell: is the landscape on stage real or is it simply another set? Everything is swathed in strange magic!

The book is based on the opera *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The text is based on the libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder in the Bulgarian translation of Boris Parashkevov, and the concept is by Ina Kancheva. This high-quality edition of the story of Tamino, Papageno, and the Queen of the Night includes a CD with an audio dramatization of the fairytale and musical extracts from the opera.





Lapi Paws

Author: T. Yana Yakova

Illustrator: T. Yana Yakova

Published in 2014 by
Janet-45 Print and Publishing,
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-186-068-5



Big city cats know their place under the sun. It's the warmest, sunniest and coziest spot and nothing less. But what happens when a cat from the large downtown cat community disappears? The answer is: a series of funny situations and unexpected outcomes, since by the unspoken rules of cats' laziness, no one would lift a tail to save their neighbor.

Enter the world of the fluffy cat community where beautiful means proud, friendly means naïve and independent means grown-up. Follow the journey of the self-driven predators who accidentally help, amuse and discover new things and are generous enough to rule the city instead of you. A story full of mysteries, kidnappings, evil plans and hairballs!

Lapi (*Paws*) is a classic children's novel, focused on universal human problems and their solutions in a comic context and through the eyes of the favorite feline friends many children love and adore. Stepping into

the world of cats, children learn to deal with life's big questions and to find their own way, overcoming life's difficulties with ease and grace, the way cats do. The seemingly comical situations tell stories about bravery and fear, life and death, the pursuit of happiness and our inner power which we never realized was there – one of the main searches a child has. **Lapi** teaches compassion and a humane approach to animals.





Lapi (*Paws*) is the debut novel of the Bulgarian author T. Yana Yakova (born 4 July 1978, Sofia). Yana is a marketing professional with years of experience in combining text and visual content. Although initially focused on writing and without having even basic training in painting, drawing or illustration, the author took up the challenge of illustrating her own book, encouraged by the publisher.

The creative process 'skips' the connection between the author and the illustrator, necessary in order to ensure the text and illustrations' unity. The illustrator-turned-author recreates the very character's faces, circumstances and colorful context the way she saw it in her imagination. Using the rare techniques of semi-transparent watercolor without contour, she creates delicate images that still provoke laughter.

Prior to publishing her book, T. Yana Yakova had taken no part in literary activities or illustration related events and had been focused entirely on her marketing career. Being a young author and illustrator under these circumstances is a completely new experience for a person who "just wanted to have fun, recreating childhood memories with her favorite animals".

The book is listed in the White Ravens 2015 catalogue of the International Youth Library (IYL), Munich, an annual selection of the world's 200 best books for children.





Mina, magiite i byalata
staklenitsa

Mina, the Magic and the
White Vial

Author: Vesela Flamburari

Published in 2015 by
MBG Books Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-2989-70-7

Mina, magiite i byalata staklenitsa (*Mina, the Magic and the White Vial*) is the first book by Vesela Flamburari of a children's trilogy in the fantasy genre. The book and the trilogy as a whole are for those who are interested in Bulgarian and Slavic folklore and magic fairy tales and songs, or in ancient mythology in general. It is for the kid who learns about magical folklore fairy tales at school. For the kid and the teenager who want to read one complete, great, but also contemporary and modern story closely connected with fairy tales and mythology.

The book is also for the adult who still loves fairy tales and likes going back in his mind to the crazy things from his own childhood, because he has not forgotten that he had one.

The main characters in the book and the trilogy are three kids: Mina, Yanil and Kitan. It all begins at Christmas time, on our Lower Earth, in our time.



After that the story goes into the second world, the Upper Earth. The enchanted Middle Ages rule there with all their magic, swords and wizards. But... there is also a third world. This is the world of fairy tales from the Upper Earth. Time there is mythical and cosmic. A wonderful Palace on the Black Sea (The Palace in Balchik, Bulgaria) is the link between the Lower and the Upper Earth. The Palace is wintry, beautiful and mysterious. On the Upper Earth the story develops in an empire called the Green Realm. The third world, the world of fairy tales told on the Upper Earth, is mythical and cosmic. There are gods and galaxies. The gods are called the Guardians. These are: the Woman with the Feathery Dress (the Wood Nymph), the Girl with the Fish Tail (the Mermaid), the Old Man with the Long, Long Beard (Inch High Long Beard) and the Brave Boy with Burning Eyes and Little Wings (The Dragon).

The book and the trilogy are magical.

VESELA FLAMBURARI was born on 17 January 1967 in the city of Dobrich, Bulgaria. She is a graduate of Sofia's National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts and is also a member of the Union of Bulgarian Writers.

Vesela Flamburari has won several awards, including: the Petya Karakoleva National Award for Children's Literature, Bulgaria (2010); the Aleko Konstantinov National Award for Contribution to Children's Book Publishing, Bulgaria (2011); Plaketa "Mali Princ", Bosnia and Herzegovina (2012); National Award for Best Children's Fantasy Writer, Bulgaria (2015). She has won an ESFS Nomination (after European selection) – "The Spirit of Trust: Best Creator of Children's Books in the Genres of Sci-fi and Fantasy", 37th Eurocon European Convention of Sci-fi and Fantasy, Saint Petersburg, Russia (2015).

Vesela has published 13 books in the genres of children's and juvenile fantasy and literature for the youngest readers. Theater plays, TV series and radio shows have also been made based on her fairy tales. She was also a part of the Bulgarian National Television's initiative to discover Bulgaria's favorite children's book: the Little Big Read (under the license of BBC's "The Big Read") and reached number 65 among authors and books for children from all over the world and for all time. In the past fifteen years she has been a guest at many meetings with children in Bulgaria and abroad. All of the author's meetings with children are a text performance, as Vesela uses her professional knowledge of acting and presents her books with the artistic devices of puppet theater.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Prikazki za mănicheta (*Tales for Whelps*), 2000; **Prikazki ot Gornata zemya – kniga 1** (*Fairy Tales of the Upper Earth – Book One*), 2005; **Prikazki ot Gornata zemya – kniga 2** (*Fairy Tales of the Upper Earth – Book Two*), 2006; **Prikazki** (*Fairy Tales*), 2006; **Prikazki za teatăr** (*Theater Fairy Tales*), 2009; **Prikazki, prikazki** (*Fairy Tales, Fairy Tales*), 2010; **Koledni prikazchitsi** (*Christmas Tales*), 2010; **Prikazki za teatăr** (*Theater Fairy Tales*), 2012; **Maiska nosht s feyata kandilka** (*A Night in May with the Columbine Fairy*), 2012; **Iskaaaaaam! Prikazki za porasnali detsa** (*I Waaaaaant! Stories for Grown-Up Children*), 2013; **Mina, magiite i byalata staklenitsa – kniga 1** (*Mina, the Magic and the White Vial – Fantasy Trilogy Part One*), 2015; **Mina i magiyata za predskazanie – kniga 2** (*Mina and the Prophetic Magic – Fantasy Trilogy Part Two*), 2015.



Prăstenăt na nibelunga. Reinsko zlato The Ring of the Nibelungs: The Rhine Gold

Author: Elena Pavlova

Illustrator: Peter Stanimirov

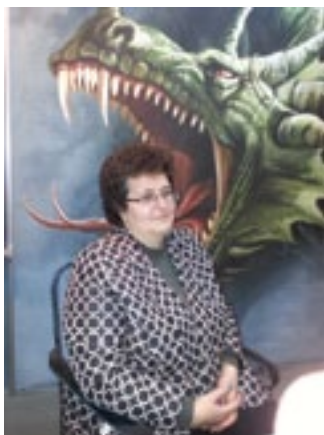
Published in 2014 by
Kibea Publishing Company,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-474-683-4

■ The book is illustrated by Peter Stanimirov – see p. 114

Prăstenăt na nibelunga. Reinsko zlato (*The Ring of the Nibelungs: The Rhine Gold*) is a unique adaptation for children of Wagner's libretto based on Norse sagas and the epic German poem the Song of the Nibelungs. It is skillfully illustrated by the famous Bulgarian artist Peter Stanimirov. The book is an exciting and comprehensive way for children to understand the mystical power of European myths and legends. Open the book and discover the Tree of the Worlds Yggdrasil, gods, dwarves, giants, nymphs, dragons, and the Rhine Gold from which will be wrought the Ring that brings doom to its possessor. The plot intertwines love and hatred, the thirst for power and avarice with healthy portions of humour.

The exciting characters Elena Popova describes and Petar Stanimirov depicts bring the giddily wondrous world of early Medieval German epic to life.

Prăstenăt na nibelunga. Reinsko zlato is part of a tetralogy based on the libretto of Richard Wagner's famous opera. The text is adapted to be understandable and interesting to children and teenagers. The text by Elena Pavlova and the wonderful illustrations by Peter Stanimirov are skilfully mixed by Krasimira Despotova to result in a fascinating new look at the world of Richard Wagner and also of Norse mythology.



ELENA PAVLOVA is one of the Top Ten Bulgarian contemporary writers in the SF&F field. The author of more than 30 books, she has won many different awards over the years – both for her short stories and novels – and is a participant in more than ten SF&F Bulgarian almanacs. Her most recent works (excluding *The Ring of the Nibelung* series together with the illustrator Petar Stanimirov) include the short stories collection *Two Moons*, the game-book *Urban Witch* and three new short story awards won in 2015.

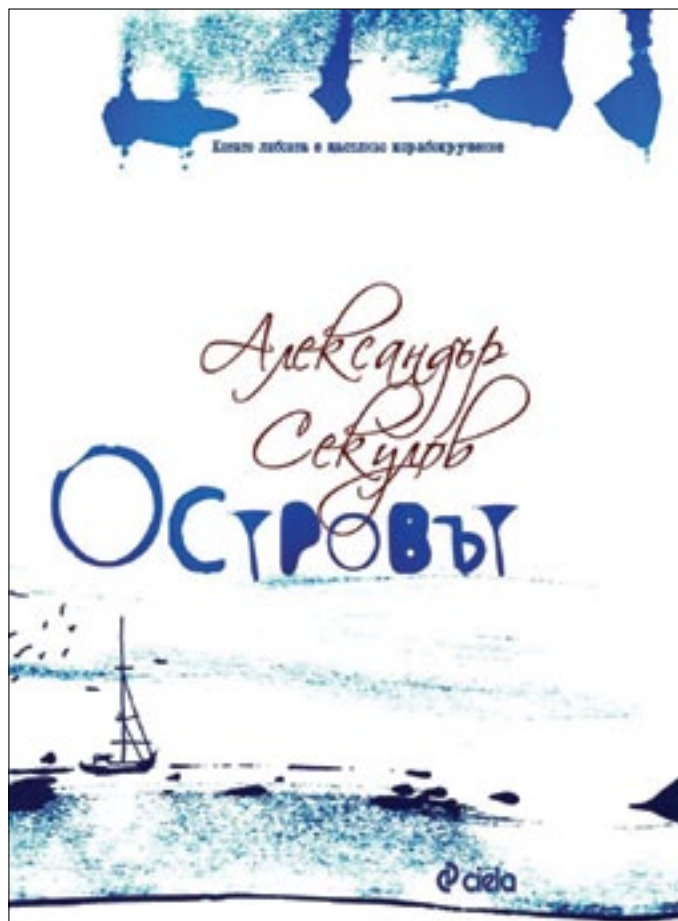
Elena Pavlova is also one of the most prominent Bulgarian translators in the SF&F field. In recent years she has worked on books by writers such as Robert McCammon, John Skalz, Peter Watts, Wilbur Smith and Charles Stross; in 2014 she was nominated to the short list for the Krastan Dyankov Award (for English-to-Bulgarian translation) for the novel *Blindsight* by Peter Watts.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror: Fire Lodge Trilogy; Dead Stars; Nomad: The Very Inferno; The Light Warrior; The Bloodsheders' Chronicles Books 1 and 2; Two Moons ; The Ring of the Nibelungs: The Rhine Gold; The Ring of the Nibelungs: Valkyrie.

Gamebooks: Urban Witch; Ice Silence; Caramba!; Nemesis; The Dragon's Shadow; Nomad: Desert Warriors; Dead Stars: The Strategic Game; The Rainbow Waterfall Series; The Rise of Galteya Series; Tilldar Chronicles Series; Silver&Gold Series; Cosmic Highways Songs Series.





The Island

Author: Alexander Sekulov

Illustrator: Chavdar Ghiuzelev

Published in 2012 by
Ciela Norma AD,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-28-0870-1

■ The book is illustrated by Chavdar Ghiuzelev – see p. 148

Three boys spend their summer holiday on Aphythos Island in Greece. All three of them share many things as well as a common passion – the love for a small limestone island. However a girl from Dublin comes along, wanting to conquer the island...

Alexander Sekulov's style is exquisite, at once romantic and mercilessly precise in its psychological assessments and descriptions of the characters' inner life. The plot is absorbing, dynamic, and contains a healthy dose of twists and turns.

The novel indisputably brings the joy of reading both to children and adults. The former will recognize the freedom of summer: wandering free as a bird on beaches, trying their luck at marine adventures, friendship and love, which turns their ideas of the world upside-down. The latter will sense the calm of the long-awaited summer break and the return of childhood memories, when the world was larger and more interesting, and when dreams soared on seagulls' wings.





ALEXANDER SEKULOV (6 January 1964, Plovdiv, Bulgaria) graduated from a professional school for stage arts as an Assistant producer and studied Bulgarian philology as a master in Plovdiv university "Paisii Hilendarski". He is an author of poetry books, essays, dramas and novels, a columnist and a playwright at the Plovdiv theatre.

Sekulov's book for young adults *Ostrovăt* (*The Island*, 2011) had been nominated for the Hristo G. Danov Award, Children's literature category. In 2015 the book was published in Serbia and won the award of the Serbian blog Knjigoskop for foreign book of the year for young readers.

Alexander Sekulov's poetry and prose is translated in English, German, French, Serbian, Macedonian and Hungarian language.

Sekulov had been a journalist and an editor in *Maritza* and *Novinar* newspapers (1991 – 1997) and is an author of the daily column *Under the Yoke* in *Maritza* newspaper since 1993, for which he had been awarded with the Plovdiv Prize for Journalism in 1995. Sekulov is a creator and owner of two of the most popular music clubs in Plovdiv, Bulgaria – *King's Stables* and *Rorschach's Spot* – which implement long term programs in the field of jazz, theatre, literature, classic, pop and rock music, cinema, education. He is also the creator of the Art festival *Summer Time* in the old part of Plovdiv, established in 1997, as well as he was an executive director of the European Cultural month – Plovdiv 1999.

Sekulov has the following national literature awards: National Tzvetan Zangov Award for poetry (1985, 1986, 1987), Academia Award (1988), Ivan Nikolov Poetry Award (1998, 2004). He had been awarded with the Plovdiv Prize for Literature for the book *Văzhititelno i leko* (*Enchanting and Light*, 2003).

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Poetry books: *Sedmo nebe* (*Seventh Sky*, 1988); *Visoko, nad dalechinata* (*High above the Distance*, 1997); *Văzhititelno i leko* (*Enchanting and Light*, 2003); *Karti i geografii* (*Maps and Geographies*, 2010) – poetical anthology.

Essay collections: *Maistorăt i kamănite* (*The Master and the Stones*, 1996); *Visokite kamenni hălmove* (*The High Stone Hills*, 2006) - book with fragments; *Istoriya na minimalnata săprotiva. Hronologichen roman v edna kolona* (*The History of the Minimum Resistance. Chronological novel in one column*, 2008).

Novels: *Kolektsioner na lyubovni izrecheniya* (*A Collector of Love Sentences*, 2007); *Malkata svetitsa i portokalite. Istoriya na izchezvaneto* (*The Little Saint and the Oranges. The Story of the Disappearing*, 2009); *Ostrovăt* (*The Island*, 2011); *Gospod sliza v Atina* (*God comes down to Athens*, 2012); *Gravior na sănishta* (*Engraver of Dreams*, 2013); *Skitnikăt i sinovete* (*The Wanderer and the Sons*, 2015) – sequel of *Ostrovăt*.



Tina i polovina Big Deal Tina

Author: Julia Spiridonova (see p. 49)

Published in 2009 by
Kragozor Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-771-187-7

Tina i polovina (*Big Deal Tina*) is a teenage novel about a 14-year-old with a bunch of problems, the problem with a capital “P” being – of course – her looks. Fortune can be a sadistic bitch with a foul sense of humor sometimes. So Tina has the face of a model and the body... of two models. According to Countess Bathory (who considers herself the re-born Transylvanian noblewoman), Tina is too weak-willed. So Tina gets down to it, this time with some success. But neither will nor lifelong friendship can help when you and your best friend fall in love... with the same boy.

Tina i polovina already has three sequels – the novels **Grafinya Batori** (*Countess Bathory*), **Maks** (*Max*) and **Kronos** (*Chronos*).

Books by Foreign Authors Illustrated by Bulgarian Artists



Silver: *Return to Treasure Island* is a novel by the former British Poet Laureate Andrew Motion. The book follows Jim Hawkins, son of the character of the same name in Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 novel *Treasure Island*, as he and Nat, the daughter of Long John Silver and also a character in *Treasure Island*, return to the island visited by their fathers to claim abandoned bars of silver.

The Bulgarian edition was published in 2014 and it was illustrated by the 90-year-old Lyuben Zidarov – one of the most prominent illustrators of children's books in Bulgaria. He also illustrated Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island*... more than half a century ago.

Silver: Return to Treasure Island

Author: Andrew Motion

Illustrations in the Bulgarian edition:

Lyuben Zidarov

Published in Bulgarian language in 2014 by
Prozorets Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-733-826-5

■ The book is illustrated by Lyuben Zidarov – see p. 102







Andersen's Fairy Tales

Author: Hans Christian Andersen

Illustrations in the Bulgarian editions:
Lyuben Zidarov

2006 Bulgarian language edition by
Zaharii Stoyanov Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 954-739-902-0 – vol.1

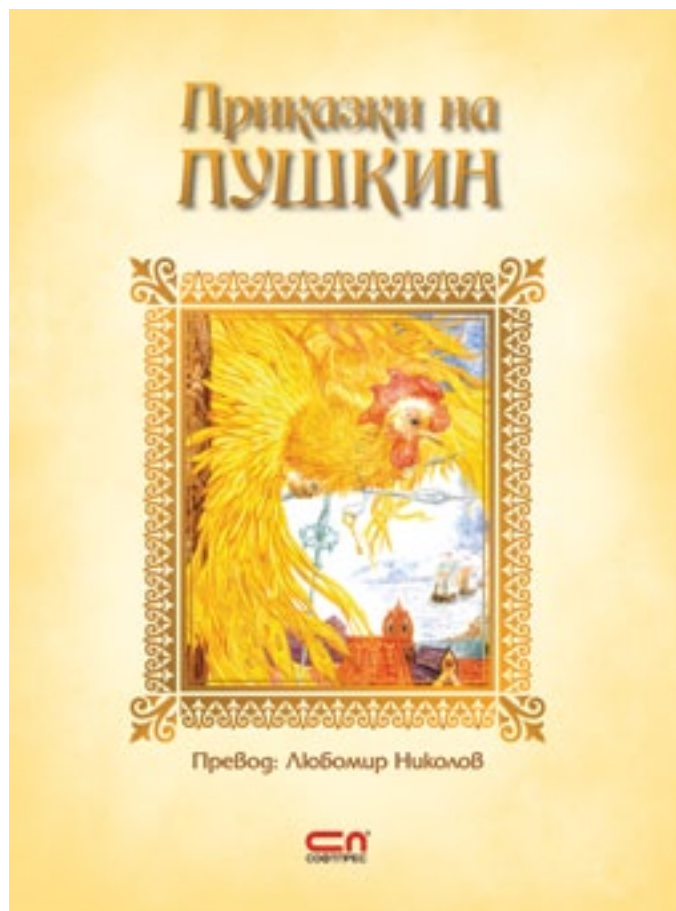
■ The book is illustrated by Lyuben Zidarov – see p. 102

There is hardly a single child who hasn't heard of at least one of the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen. His works are so memorable that they last forever in adults' lives as an integral part of childhood. For Bulgarian readers from several generations, *Andersen's Fairy Tales* are entwined with the illustrations of Lyuben Zidarov, who has caught every aspect of the great writer's stories.

The *Andersen's Fairy Tales* series consists of five volumes, containing the most beloved stories.







In the treasure trove of Russian classics, the poetic fairy tales of Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin sparkle like diamonds. In the magical world he has created, there are enchanted queens, sly and wily farmhands, secret kingdoms, legends, kings from the days of yore and a golden fish that makes wishes come true.

The amazing illustrations in the Bulgarian edition, which masterfully hew to the style of fairy tales, are the work of the talented artist Ralitsa Manuilova, winner of the Amethyst Rose Prize and the National Konstantin Konstantinov Prize.

Pushkin's Fairy Tales

Author: Alexander Pushkin

Illustrations in the Bulgarian edition:
Ralitsa Manuilova

2015 Bulgarian language edition by
Softpress Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-151-268-3

■ The book is illustrated by Ralitsa Manuilova – see p. 124







Kolko yagodi rastat po moreto? How Many Strawberries Grow in the Sea? Nursery Rhymes

Nursery rhymes selection:
Professor Alexander Shurbanov
Illustrations: Yassen Grigorov

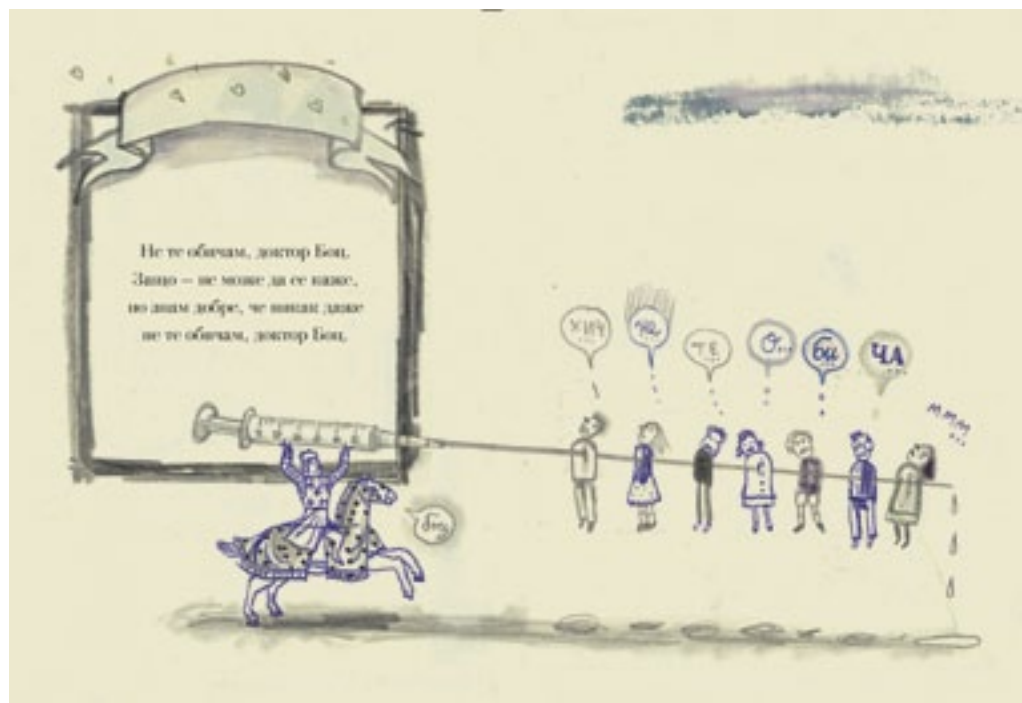
2015 Bulgarian language edition by
Tochitsa Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7172-07-2

■ The book is illustrated by Yassen Grigorov – see p. 140

Kolko yagodi rastat po moreto? (*How Many Strawberries Grow in the Sea?*) is a unique collection of over 100 nursery rhymes, selected by the prominent academician and translator Professor Alexander Shurbanov.

The illustrations by Yassen Grigorov, drawn with pencils, pens and art materials every child has at home, offer a playful approach to the nursery rhymes and invite the young reader to take part in this game.





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Валчо-Палчо седна на стобора.
Валчо-Палчо се търкусна в двора.
Всички кралски конници и цалата войска
не можах Валчо пак да вдигнат на крака.



— 171 —

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Author: Lewis Carroll

Illustrations in the Bulgarian edition:
Iassen Ghiuselev

2015 Bulgarian language edition by
Helikon Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-2984-05-4

■ The book is illustrated by Iassen Ghiuselev – see p. 146



The year 2015 marked the 150th anniversary of the moment when the world for the first time was simultaneously captivated and puzzled by the story of the little girl Alice who fell down a rabbit hole and ended up in a fairytale world inhabited by creatures like the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, the March Hare, and the White and the Red Queens.

In his book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll cleverly mixes the logical and the illogical, charmingly playing with words and spaces, and masterfully interweaving the borders between our ideas of the real and the unreal. This collector's edition is illustrated by one of Bulgaria's most prominent contemporary illustrators, Iassen Ghiuselev.

"Iassen Ghiuselev's illustrations recall the well-known pictures from John Tenniel's first edition, but then pass beyond them in a quite unique and carefully thought-out way. The text is placed amongst wondrous arches, Gothic dimensions and furnishings from the nineteenth century: darkened and leading into the nightmarish realm of Tenniel."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The book has a sequel, also illustrated by Iassen Ghiuselev – *Through the Looking-Glass*.

Children:



The Adventures of Pinocchio

Author: Carlo Collodi

Illustrations in the Bulgarian edition:
Iassen Ghiuselev

2015 Bulgarian language edition by
Helikon Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-2984-07-8

■ The book is illustrated by Iassen Ghiuselev – see p. 146

For 130 years already the story of the wooden boy whose nose grows when he tells a lie has been a favorite of millions of young readers around the world. Somewhere in the heavens or wherever his spirit resides, Carlo Collodi must be overjoyed. To give life to a dry piece of wood with only a chisel is a masterful bit of craftsmanship, but it requires even more skill to create an immortal character only with words.

Collodi is surely happy for yet another reason. Just as Gustave Dore gave a new dimension to Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Cervantes' *Don Quixote* with his unforgettable illustrations a century and a half ago, today Iassen Ghiuselev has done the same. An artist with exceptional skill and refined taste, at once traditional and modern, he is internationally renowned for his exquisite artwork.

Iassen Ghiuselev's memorable, award-winning illustrations add wonderful flavor to the engaging story of the wooden boy who longs to become human.







Le Petit Prince The Little Prince

Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Sculptural models and illustrations
in the Bulgarian edition:
Damyan Damyanov

2014 Bulgarian language edition by
Ciela Norma AD,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-28-1717-8

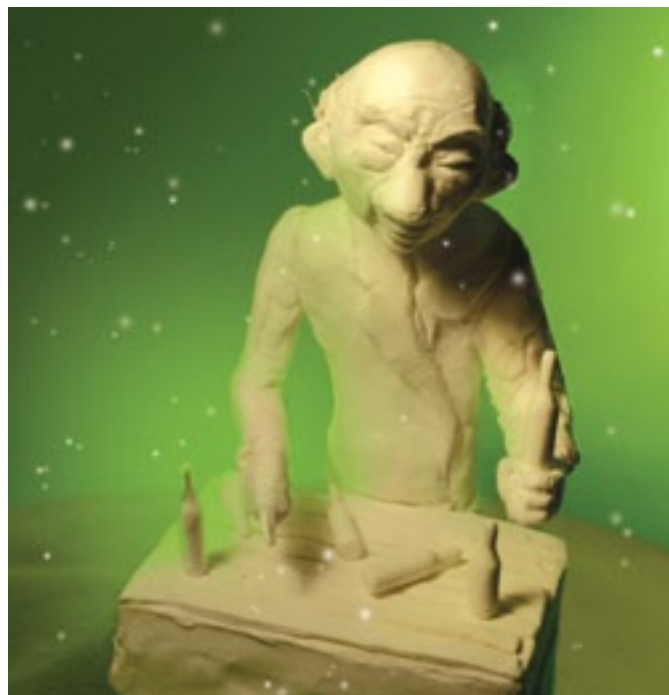
■ The book is illustrated by Damyan Damyanov – see p. 152

Le Petit Prince (*The Little Prince*), first published in 1943, is the most famous work of the French aristocrat, writer, poet, and pioneering aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900–1944). The novella is the fourth most-translated book in the world.

Unlike most of the editions of this classic book in different languages, which are published with Exupéry's original illustrations, one of the Bulgarian editions is quite different. The young and talented illustrator Damyan Damyanov creates a new universe, based on the famous plot, using sculptures of the rose, the fox, the Businessman, the Snake and, of course, the Little Prince. The drawings in the book were also created by Damyanov and are far closer to the world modern-day children are growing up in.

Damyanov not only retells the well-known story with his intriguing idea of including sculptures and brand-new drawings, but he has also created an additional book for drawing, learning and creative activities, based on the beloved classics – *Narisuvai mi ovtsa* (*Draw Me a Sheep*).







Fiabe Lunghe Un Sorriso Fairy Tales As Long As a Smile

Author: Gianni Rodari

Illustrations in the Bulgarian edition:
Damyán Damyanov

2014 Bulgarian language edition by
Ciela Norma AD,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-954-28-1523-5

■ The book is illustrated by Damyan Damyanov – see p. 152



In *Fiabe Lunghe Un Sorriso* (*Fairy Tales As Long As a Smile*) you will find 49 miniatures and four stories, written for the times we're living in, not for "once upon a time". And you will smile not only at the amusing stories by the great writer Rodari, but also at the more than 50 illustrations by the young and talented artist Damyan Damyanov.

While the children of various generations were re-reading *Fairy Tales over the Phone*, the world was changing dramatically. And the fairy tales' phone number is now also missing. Today smartphones can

tell us stories with just a few clicks of the touch screen. But those phones still haven't mastered the magic of telling you how the homework machine works, who Mr. Boemondo is, where the flying house of Mr. Venceslao is going, or why Mr. Egisto is so sad. Only the pure writing talent of Gianni Rodari can tell you which is the shortest fairy tale in the world or how a cat's concert should be arranged.

And only on the pages of the Bulgarian edition of *Fiabe Lunghe Un Sorriso* can you find all of the Italian writer's characters drawn by Damyan Damyanov.





Works by Bulgarian Artists



Lyuben Zidarov

(born 23 December 1923 in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria) is one of the most prominent Bulgarian illustrators and painters. He graduated from the Sofia National Academy of Art in 1948 and since then he has illustrated more than 300 books for children and grown-ups.

Among his widely recognized works are the illustrations for *Arabian Nights*, *Tales by E.T.A. Hoffmann*, R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer*, *Huckleberry Finn* and *The Prince and The Pauper*, H. C. Andersen's *Fairy Tales*, Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte-Cristo* and many more.

Zidarov is also creatively active in the field of graphics and painting. For his works he has been awarded: a silver medal in 1959 and gold medal in 1965 from the International Book Fair in Leipzig; the Boris Angelushev Award for illustration from the Union of Bulgarian Artists (1976); the National Order of Saints Cyril and Methodius (1963). For his illustrations on *Fairy Tales from Around the World* by Nikolay Raynov (1974), Zidarov was included in the Honour List of the Hans Christian Andersen Award, administered by IBBY.

Several generations of Bulgarian readers connect their favorite childhood books with the name of the gifted illustrator who remains very much artistically creative in his early nineties.











Kiril Zlatkov

(1969, Varna, Bulgaria) graduated from the National Academy of Art in 1996. He works in the spheres of graphics, painting, posters, mural painting, graphic design, illustration, calligraphy and fonts.

He has had several solo exhibitions and has also taken part in various events in Bulgaria and abroad. Zlatkov has also worked in the field of advertising as an art director and creative director.







Rositsa Yachkova

(10 May 1983, Sofia, Bulgaria) graduated from the National Academy of Art in 2008. She was awarded the Amethyst Rose Award in 2008 for her book **Prikazka za vāprositelnata** (*A Fairy Tale about the Question Mark*).

Yachkova is also the illustrator of the book **Detsata na kaktusa** (*The Children of the Cactus*) by Velizar Nikolov.







Vladimir Todorov

is a film concept artist, author and illustrator with over fifteen years of experience in feature films. Having studied Fine Art and Animation in his native country of Bulgaria, he began his career as an animator in 1990 at Steven Spielberg's Amblimation Studio in London, UK. There he worked on a number of feature animated films, including *An American Tail 2*, *Fivel Goes West*, *We're Back*, and *Balto*. He left Amblimation in 1995 to join Uli Meyer Studio in London. During this time, he worked as a lead animator on the films *Space Jam*, *Lost In Space* and various TV commercials. In 1997 he joined Warner Brothers, to work on their animated feature *The Quest for Camelot*. In 1998 Vladimir was invited to become a part of the creative team at Sony Pictures Imageworks in Los Angeles, where he worked as an animator, storyboard and concept artist on a number of films, including *Stuart Little*, *Stuart Little 2*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, as well as the Academy Award winning animated short, *The Chubb Chubbs*. In 2002 he served as a character design supervisor for Robert Zemeckis' *The Polar Express*.

Vladimir left Sony in 2005 to become a freelance artist and worked on Zemeckis' next film *Beowulf*. He then took a year off film work to spend time on his own book project, *The Moon Rock*. After the book was published in 2007, Vladimir re-joined Zemeckis as a character designer on his next film, *Christmas Carol*, followed by *Mars Needs Moms*. Between 2010 and 2012, he worked as a concept artist on *Yellow Submarine*, *Jack the Giant Slayer*, as well as on his second book, *Oliver's Tantrums*. He is currently dividing his time between several film projects and his third illustrated novel, *Archipelago NY*.

Vladimir lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two young children.





Works by Bulgarian Artists





Svoboda Tzekova

is a visual artist, based in Sofia (1974).

She graduated from Lucerne School of Art and Design, Switzerland (2001).

Tzekova's artistic focus is on book illustration, design, animation, and photography.

Her important international projects include: *Kinderrecke* / DEPOT Historisches Museum Luzern; *Shortlist* / The Gaudenz B. Ruf Award, etc.

As an illustrator and designer, she is a co-author of the books *Bulgarian Primer. 200 Years in First Grade*, Prosveta Publishing House (2015); *I'm in First Grade!*, Prosveta Publishing House (2013); *Wonderful Alphabet*, Prosveta Publishing House (2012); *Wunderkamera*, format.bg (2011)

The book *Bulgarian Primer. 200 Years in First Grade*, won the Golden Lion Prize (Bulgarian Book Association Award, 2015).

It was nominated in the Art of the Book Category for Hristo G. Danov Award (2015) and for the international A 'Design Award & Competition (2016).

Tzekova's recent projects include a picture book about the little mouse Fi-fu and a graphic novel telling the stories of her childhood.

In *Wonderful Alphabet* the idea of the book is for children to learn the letters through pictures and rhymes. Everything is as easy as a game. Moreover, the book is a wonderful family book that parents and children can share to color, draw, paint or write in. This is the first children's book by the poet Nadezhda Radulova. Her poems are casual and filled with lots of humor. Svoboda Tzekova skillfully captures this mood and carries it in the illustrations of animals that complement the rhyming stories.

Svoboda Tzekova and Anton Staykov are authors (both of the textual and visual content) of one of the most interesting titles published in 2015 - *Bulgarian Primer. 200 Years in First Grade*. This award-winning study gathers the most captivating Bulgarian primers from 1824 until 2014. The edition combines features of pictorial encyclopedia with a collection of short and interesting articles related to the history and politics of early education.





Детският свят

Детският свят е първият български детски списък, издаван от Анна Гешик. Той съдържа 100 илюстрации и 100 стихотворения, които са изготвени от деца. Книгата е предназначена за деца от 5 до 10 години.



Детският свят

1896 – 1908

Детският свят и ролята на детския списък

Първа книга в българските детски списъци е издадена през 1896 г. – „Детският свят“ на Анна Гешик. Тя съдържа 100 илюстрации и 100 стихотворения, които са изготвени от деца. Книгата е предназначена за деца от 5 до 10 години. В нея са представени различни аспекти на детския свят, като игра, учене, труд и т.н. Книгата е била много популярна и е била издавана в няколко издания.



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Peter Stanimirov

(12 November 1952, Sofia, Bulgaria) is a Bulgarian illustrator, author of comics and publisher of game books. He has won a number of awards, including the Graviton Award for contribution to Bulgarian science fiction, the Belgrade 10th International Comics Salon Award for best classical comics language, the Kniga Za Teb best cover award, and the 2014 Eurocon best science fiction artist award. Peter is a member of the Proekt Daga community and chairs the Union of Bulgarian Artists' Comics Section.

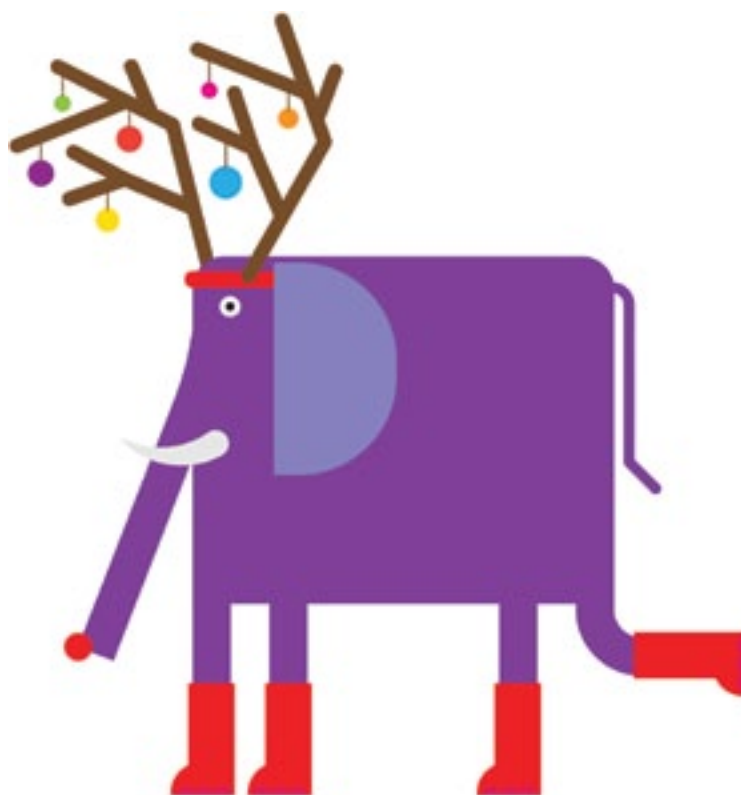






Rositsa Raleva

(1979) graduated from the National Academy of Art in Sofia in 2001. Since then she has been working as a graphic designer, art director and illustrator for several advertising agencies. In the meantime she continues to work as a freelancer, creating illustrations, corporate identities, posters and T-shirt design (for the brand dushman.org). Her debut in animation direction is the animated documentary film *Father* (2012).







Victor Paunov

Professor Victor Paunov (17 November 1957, Sofia, Bulgaria) graduated from the National Academy of Art in Sofia in 1984. He has illustrated more than 50 children's books and designed over 700 books for children and adults. Among his works are the illustrations to **Malki zhabeshki istorii** (*Little Froggy Tales*) by Yordan Radichkov, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, *Brother Grimm's Fairy Tales*, *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame and many more. Besides numerous exhibitions in Bulgaria, his works have also been shown abroad in Austria, Sweden, Hungary, Russia and the USA, as well as elsewhere.

For his work he has been awarded: the Boris Angelushev National Award (1990); an Honorary Diploma for significant contribution to children's literature by the Ministry of Education and Science (2001); Diplomas from the Hristo G. Danov Awards in 2004, 2007, 2010, and 2011. In 1998 Paunov was included in the Honour List of the Hans Christian Andersen Award, administered by the IBBY for his illustrations of **Do nemai kăde i obratno** (*To No-Land and Back Again*) by the Bulgarian writer Petya Alexandrova.

He is a full-time lecturer in the Book and Printed Graphics Department of the National Academy of Art in Sofia, Bulgaria.





Works by Bulgarian Artists





Evgeniya Nikolova

graduated from the National Academy of Art and works as an art director. But more importantly, she keeps creating beautiful illustrations. You can find some of them in *Capital Light* magazine (BG), *Anorak – The Happy Mag for Kids* (UK) and the children's book *Printseseshki istorii i drugi neobichaini sluchki* (*Princessy Stories and Other Extraordinary Tales*) by Katya Antonova, *Ribka* (*Fishie*) by Katya Antonova, and *7 prikazki zeleni s krila, kracheta i anteni* (*Seven Tales in Green with Wings, Legs and Antennae*) by Neli Margaritova. She is also a part of the team of Ribka Publishing.







Alya Markova

(1986, Sofia, Bulgaria) first started drawing at her parent's atelier and later continued, following the advice of some wonderful painters, teachers and friends such as Rossen and Johan. She continued her education in Madrid, where she still lives and works.

Her illustrations can be found in children's books, cookbooks, magazines, newspapers, web pages, games, blogs and cultural events, as well as on her own blog, Cartoon Cooking.

Alya Markova has worked for *El Pais*, The Report Company (The Guardian), Oxford University Press, SM Editorial, McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Endless Vacation. She has also illustrated some of the children's books from Tochitsa Publishing House – *Sladoleдена retorika* (*Ice-Cream Rhetoric*) and *Vkusna geografiya* (*A Taste of Geography*).







Ralitsa Manuilova

(1971, Sofia, Bulgaria) graduated in 2003 from the National Academy of Art with a major in graphic art. Her teacher was Professor Hristo Staikov. Since 1990 she has illustrated over 30 children's fiction books for different Bulgarian publishers such as SoftPress, Zlatnoto Pate, Poni Press, Bern, Ciela, Egmont Bulgaria, etc.

Ralitsa Manuilova's works have earned her many awards such as the Amethyst Rose Award for Sonya Momchilova's book *Letnite prikazki na Maria* (*Maria's Summer Fairy Tales*) and Konstantin Konstantinov's National Illustrator Award for the series *The Best of Hans Christian Andersen*, published by Egmont Bulgaria.







Lily LaMaire

graduated with a BA from New Bulgarian University. She also has a postgraduate degree in 3D animation and illustration from Central Saint Martins, London, UK.

She leads an art therapy group in a nature reserve for people with mental health problems and also helps in a hospice with people who suffer from dementia. In her spare time she loves petting her cats.







Assia Kovanova and Andrey Koulev

have been a creative tandem for more than ten years. They have designed and illustrated more than 30 books and magazines. They have created more than fifteen animated films and all have been selected for different international festivals, including the International Animation Festival Hiroshima, Balkanima, the KROK International Animated Films Festival, Golden Fish, International Festival of Films for Children and Young Adults, Sofia International Film Fest, Tampere Film Festival, Montecatini International Short Film Festival. Since 2011, Andrey had been the art director of the World Festival of Animated Film Varna, where Assia is the organizer and designer.

Assia Kovanova has a degree in animation directing and graphic design and works as a director, script writer, illustrator and graphic designer. Andrey Koulev has a degree in film and television directing and works as a producer, director, script writer, and illustrator. Both have graduated from the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts. Assia and Andrey live in their hometown, Sofia.





Пак се установи – Вълчице баваша. – Вълчица, не се получава.
 – Нещо не се получава – пром се Христос.
 – Какво бурличаша стениците. Но нима да се опитваше. Утре пак ще опитваш
 да спомени напрежа.
 – Ти Вълчице така криво.
 – Какво друго ми остава? Нима само да мога мисла – как да спомени напрежа
 и да не забравя?
 – И аз, момко. Другите деца как го правят?
 Подхвърля в мислите да мисля, после Христос пак погледна:
 – Господице Спаси си ми се кара.
 – Нима, ще ѝ разкажи някаква история и Вълчица ще бъде наред. Унес
 момиче много история. Ако нямаше история, животът би бил тъжен като
 неговата канелена курабушка.



Татко, татко, как забърбаме.
 – Забърбаме.
 – Ти забърбаме ли за училище?
 – Значи ли... трябва да ти разкажа нещо.
 – Какво?
 – Вълчице започна от кукубуцата...



Вълчице е Вълчице в този град:
 лебедът си има покурвай,
 а пак светофарите на крак
 си покриват още от обег.

Вълчице е различно в този град:
 залезите са от аниас,
 даже полиците в дъ бест –
 той забърбаме Хърбард с тъмна шест.

Този град изкислен е напук,
 даже не е койде на йа.
 Може сам да си го построчи,
 и така, дажато слух.

Вълчице е Вълчице в този град:
 цялото небе от вадмалд,
 и почитат снежни балерина,
 вълбени дъд Моцарт и Феликс.

Вълчице е различно в този град:
 спонците е винаги Мадрат,
 спонците е от лъч и месечина,
 пеперудите крат млечи.



Kostadin Kostadinov

(21 March 1962, Belozem, Bulgaria) graduated from the National Academy of Art in 1998 with a major in illustration. He works in the area of graphics, illustration, painting and graphic design.

Besides numerous exhibitions in Bulgaria, his works have also been shown abroad, for example in Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Greece and the USA.

In 2002 he received an award for his illustrations of the children's book **Pismata na edin dakel** (*The Letters of a Dachshund*) by Stanka Pencheva. In 2015 he received the Konstantin Konstantinov National Award for Best Illustrator of the Year.







Maglena Konstantinova

(1948, Sofia, Bulgaria) graduated from the National Academy of Art in Sofia with a major in illustration. She has illustrated over 600 books - fiction, textbooks, children's coloring and painting games, cards, mosaics and more. Her drawings in the primer and the basic reader published by Prosveta Publishing House have been accompanying Bulgarian first-graders for over 13 years. She is the author of a series of postage stamps "Locomotives", "Europe - Folk Customs", "Postal Wagons", "Folk Musical Instruments", "Rare Protected Plants", etc.

Konstantinova has received many awards for illustrations and book design, games and stamps. She has worked as an art editor in Prosveta Publishing House (1976 - 1983) and Narodna mladezh (1983-1993).







Asya Koleva

spent years among words, languages, translation and editing before turning back to her long-life love: drawing. Over the last ten years, she has been working as an illustrator and graphic designer. In 2014 she created a small publishing house Biala Lodka (White Boat) where she experiments with paper and images to create innovative products for children and adults.

Kniga kak se pravi (*How a Book Is Made*) is her first book project in which she combines her experience with both words and images.

The book is one of the two Bulgarian titles selected for the 2015 White Ravens Catalogue.







Kapka Kaneva

(1978, Sofia, Bulgaria) studied at the National Academy of Art, specializing in Book and Printed Graphics. In 2006 she won a competition for work and residence at Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, and in 2008 she successfully defended her doctoral thesis on non-traditional book editions for children.

Kapka Kaneva works in the sphere of illustration, book design, paper plastic and collage. For her work she has been awarded the Bronze Lion for Best Publishing Project (2010), second prize and certificate for illustration at the Biennale of Bulgarian Design II (2011), the national award and certificate for outstanding artistic achievements (Ministry of Culture, Bulgaria, 2014) and many more. Besides numerous exhibitions in Bulgaria, Kaneva's works have also been shown abroad, for example in Slovakia, Russia, and Hungary. She took part in the 2014 Best Book Covers (exhibition and competition); 2012 New Acquisitions in the National Gallery Collection (exhibition); 2011 FARA selection of Contemporary Bulgarian Illustrators; 2011 and 2009 BIB International Illustration Biennale, Bratislava; and the 2009 Annual MTel Exhibition/Competition.

She is a senior assistant in the Department of Book and Printed Graphics at the National Academy of Art, Sofia. She is also a member of the Union of Bulgarian Artists and ADC Bulgaria.







Iva Grueva

is a Bulgarian illustrator. She studied animation, graphics and illustration. Besides illustrating the book series *Skateboard Town*, she is also part of a small team which self-publishes the Bulgarian comic magazine *Co-mixer*. Her comics are published in comics zines from Romania and the USA.

Exhibitions: National Caricature Exhibition, Sofia, 2009-2012; First National Exhibition of Bulgarian Comics, Sofia, 2013; Sofia Comics Expo, Sofia, 2014.







Yassen Grigorov

(16 July 1974, Sevlievo, Bulgaria) graduated from the High School of Applied Arts in Angoulême, France, the National Academy of Theater and Film Arts (Film and TV Directing), the National Academy of Art (Illustration and Book Design) in Sofia, Bulgaria, and the Geneva University of Applied Arts, Switzerland (Visual Communication).

As an illustrator and author of children's books, Yassen Grigorov has published more than 60 books in Bulgaria and abroad. He has received a number of prestigious international awards for children's literature and book illustration (including the Bologna Children's Book Fair Award in 2002).

As of 2003, Yassen Grigorov has been working as a director of TV advertisements, music and social videos, short and feature films, TV series and shows. He has directed over 150 TV commercials for major clients on the market. He has directed many social campaigns for Save the Children, SOS Kindersdorf and Face-to-Face. His shorts include *A Gift* (7min.), 2007, and *Thank You for the Opportunity* (4 min), 2013. His features are *The Wooden Lake* (90 min.), 2009, and *Little/Big* (90 min.), 2011.







Tonya Goranova

(12 October 1949, Sofia, Bulgaria) is one of the prominent Bulgarian illustrators of children's books. She graduated from the National Academy of Art, Sofia in 1975 with a major in illustration. Goranova has illustrated over 170 children's books and textbooks and has worked for Bulgarian, Japanese, German, English and American publishing houses.

Considered one of the best Bulgarian illustrators of children's books, Goranova has received 16 awards for her work, including the Boris Angelushev Award. She was nominated twice – in 1994 and again in 1996 – for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Tonya Goranova was included in the Honour List for the award in 1988 for her illustrations for *Patilantsi* by Ran Bosilek.

Tonya Goranova works as a freelancer in the sphere of painting, illustration and graphics.









Works by Bulgarian Artists





Iassen Ghiuselev

(24 July 1964, Sofia, Bulgaria) graduated from the National Academy of Art, Sofia in 1990. As a student, he illustrated books for publishing houses in Bulgaria, as well as for Conde Nast – Vanity and Vogue, Milan, Italy. Ghiuselev illustrated books, book covers, tarot cards and did graphic design for different publishers and magazines in Italy. He has worked with the German publishing houses J.F.Shreiber, Rowohlt and Aufbau - Verlag; with Grimm Press, Taiwan; Simply Read Books, Canada; Walker Books – UK; and with Vicens Vives, Spain. Besides numerous exhibitions in Bulgaria, Ghiuselev's works have also been shown abroad in Austria, France, Italy, Serbia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and the USA.

Ghiuselev is well-known for his illustrations of *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (Carlo Collodi), *The Queen Bee* (Brothers Grimm), *Arthur and Excalibur: The Legend of King Arthur and the Great Magic Sword* (Angelika Lukesch), *Orpheus and Eurydice* (Sybil Gräfin Schönfeldt), *The Birthday of the Infanta* (Oscar Wilde), *The Queen of Spades* (Alexander Pushkin), *Socrates: Greek Philosopher* (Fu Peirong), *Michelangelo: Renaissance Artist*, *The Adventures of Don Quixote* (Jürg Schubiger), *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass* (Lewis Carroll), *The King of the Golden River* (John Ruskin), *Oliver Twist and Great Expectations* (Charles Dickens) and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Arthur Conan Doyle).

For his work he has been awarded: Luchs Radio Bremen and Die Zeit, (Germany, 1994); Illustrator of the Year Award from the Bologna Fair (1994); an honorary diploma from Golden Pen of Belgrade (Serbia, 2001); a silver medal from the Society of Illustrators, New York (USA, 2004); and the Hristo G. Danov Award for Best Illustrated Book (Bulgaria, 2010).





Works by Bulgarian Artists





Chavdar Ghiuselev

(13 March 1961, Sofia, Bulgaria) is a renowned Bulgarian artist and scenographer. He graduated from the National Academy of Art in Sofia with a major in illustration. Ghiuselev worked for Italian magazines such as *Vogue*, *MAX* and *Vanity* in Italy, and also as a stage design assistant at the opera Teatro Reggio Parma. From 1993 to 2003 he worked as a stage designer for television and theater and as a graphic designer. After that he was a host on the Bulgarian TV show “Dolce Vita”. From 2007 until the present he has been working as a professor and lecturer at the New Bulgarian University (Department of Visual Arts).

Chavdar Ghiuselev works in the area of graphic design, photography, and stage design. Among the numerous exhibitions in Bulgaria showing his drawings, paintings, installation projects, photographs, pastels, water colors and stage design projects, his works have also been shown in Parma, Italy (1984), Milano, Italy (1992), Prague, Czech Republic (2010), Berlin, Germany (2011), and Paris, France (2015).

Ghiuselev has won an IKAR Award (Union of Bulgarian Actors) in 2011 and in 2015 for his stage design projects, as well as an Askeer Award in 2015, also for stage design.







Penko Gelev

(1968, Assenovgrad, Bulgaria) gained experience as a teacher and as chief editor of the comics magazine *Ricks*. He created special effects for cinema productions; he has also written movie scripts, produced three feature films (*Wizards*, *Kolobar*, *Yello Dog*), three educational TV broadcasts (*Fairytales about Physics*, *Fairytales about Astronomy*, *Good Afternoon, Mr. Jasmine*) and several animated films (*Doroga*, *Kerata*, *Orbis*, *Vector and Lector*, *Imago*, *Gas Mask*). He has illustrated 24 comic books and several children's books. He has designed the covers of over 250 books. At present Penko Gelev works as an illustrator, comics artist, and creates animated movies. He lives in Sofia.



Gelev created the script and illustrations for the comics *The Wizard of Oz*, L. F. Baum (1990), *Ozma of Oz*, L. F. Baum (1993), *Mowgly*, Kipling (1994), *Dicho the Field-Keeper Must Die* (2012) and *Elijah and August* (2014). He also illustrated several comics by Sotir Gelev, such as *Aksols' Song* (1991), *Corporal Neck* (1991), *Iliicho and August* (1994). Since 2006 Penko Gelev has collaborated with the UK publisher Salariya Book House, for which he has illustrated more than 20 comic books by prominent authors such as Victor Hugo, Charles Dickens, Herman Melville, Jules Verne, R. L. Stevenson, Alexander Dumas, Bram Stoker, Mark Twain, and William Shakespeare. He also illustrated a textbook for the Oxford University Press.



The books illustrated by Penko Gelev include: *Prikazka za vālshebnata fleita* (2013, Cultural Perspectives Foundation, Enthusiast), *Graphic Horror* (2012, Salariya Book House), *Bādi mi priyatel* (2015, Kragozor), *Graphic Shakespeare* (2015, Salariya Book House), *Kakva magiya krie se v snega* (2015, Kragozor); *Iliicho*, *Avgust i sedemte dzhudzheta* (2016, Enthusiast).



Works by Bulgarian Artists

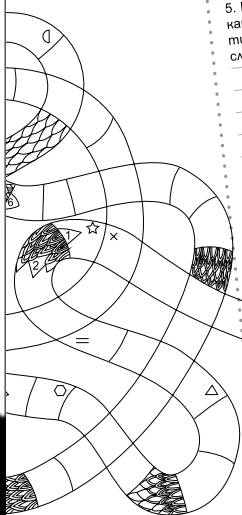
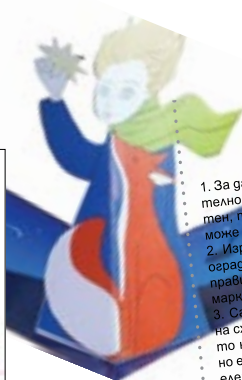




Damyan Damyanov

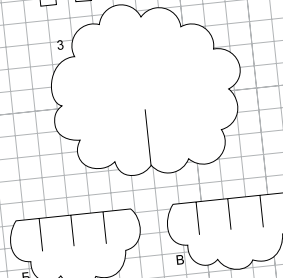
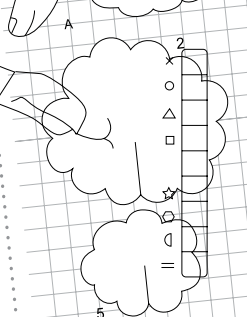
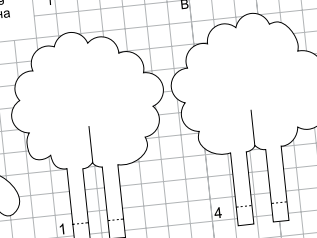
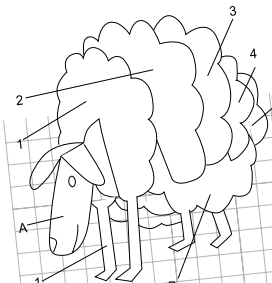
(5 April 1982, Bulgaria) works in the area of book design (with more than 1,000 book covers), illustration, posters, postage stamps and calligraphy. He is the author of numerous articles on the art of the poster and graphic design. His works include illustrations for *Fiabe Lunghe Un Sorriso*, *Le Petit Prince*, *Fairy Tales of 1001 Nights* and his original book *Narisuvai mi ovtsa* (*Draw Me a Sheep*), full of educational games and coloring pages, based on the classics by Exupery. Damyanov was the author of a series of postage stamps between 2004 and 2015, including the series “Winter Olympics – Sochi 2014”, “120 Years of Sofia University”, “Christmas”, and “Wild Roses”. Besides at numerous exhibitions and competitions in Bulgaria, Damyanov’s works have also been shown abroad in Russia, Turkey, Slovakia and China.

From 2007 to 2015 he was an assistant in the Department of Poster and Visual Communication at the National Academy of Art, Sofia. Since 2016 he has been a lecturer at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia.



1. За да си направиш тази овца, задължително ще ти трябва помощ от възрастен, тъй като се използва ножичка, а тя може да е опасна.
2. Изрежи всички елементи по силуета, озграден с пътен контур. След това направи срезовата в елементите, също маркирани с контур.
3. Сглоби елементите, както е показано на схемата. Следвай този ред: Към тялото на овцата (А) прикачи последователно елементи 1, 2, 3, 4 и 5. Накрая добави елементи Б и В, които трябва да бъдат отдолу, като се свържат с вече сложени елементи 2, 3 и 4.
5. Прегъни по пунктирните линии. Крайната на овцата можеш да залепиш за нуктията, модел за която ще намериш на следващите страници.

НАПРАВИ СИ ОВЦА





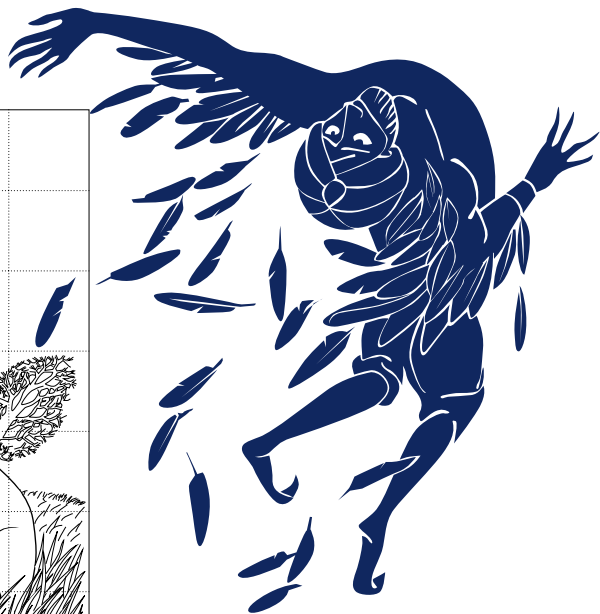
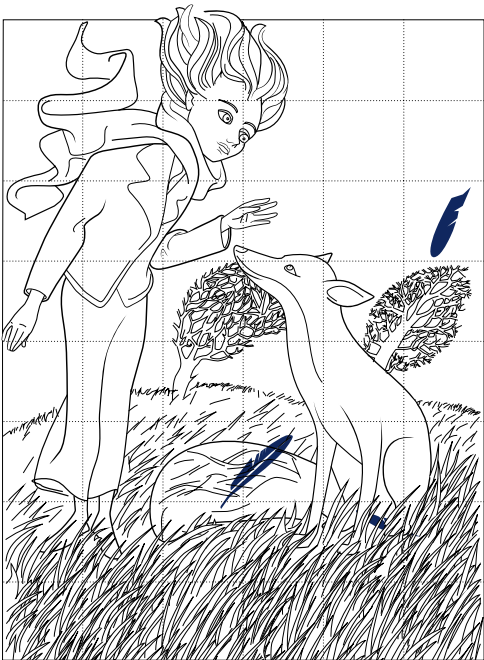
Хвърча и егра нощ



GIACOMONE by DAMYANO DAMYANI

Works by Bulgarian Artists

DRAW ME A SHEEP





Zara Buyukliiska

(19 June 1981, Sofia, Bulgaria) graduated from the National Academy of Art in Sofia in 2006 with a major in Book and Graphic Design. Between 2006 and 2010 she illustrated advertisement materials, magazines and newspapers, and book covers. In 2010 Zara worked on a series of illustrations for the Bulgarian telecommunication company Mtel. In 2011 her children's book *Sinyoto duhche* (*The Blue Ghost*) was published.

Since then she has illustrated the children's book *Mitko, koito se usmihvashe na zvezdite* (*Mitko Who Smiled at the Stars*) by Magi Blagoeva, created illustrations for the television program Asian Times on the Travel Channel, and illustrated preschool textbooks. Her most recent creations are the illustrations for the children's book *Ne e chestno* (*It's Not Fair*) by Victor Samouilov.





Melina-Elina Bondokova

was born in Bulgaria and lives in Bourgas. She graduated from high school with a profile in painting and continued her education in film animation and directing. Melina is a co-founder of Animation Studio Pavilion based in Bourgas. She has participated in many European and international film festivals and has won numerous nominations and awards. She has illustrated many books for both the Bulgarian and the foreign market, one of them being the book series **Priklyucheniyata na motovete** (*The Adventures of the Motts*).







Martina Andonova

studied at the European Institute of Design in Milan. She worked as an artist and art director in various Italian cultural associations. **Dvete kralstva: Prikazki za glasovete na shtastieto** (*The Two Kingdoms*) marks her debut as an illustrator of children's books.







**Children's Books from Bulgaria:
Contemporary Writers and Artists**

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