

Children's Books  
from Bulgaria:  
Contemporary Writers  
and Artists



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

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

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

Dear publishers, readers and future readers of children's literature,  
It is a pleasure for me to present to you the second catalogue of contemporary Bulgarian children's literature. With each subsequent volume, we become ever more accountable in our mission to support contemporary authors, since we have created expectations among the people engaged in Bulgarian literature that their efforts will receive the necessary recognition. Our goal is to surpass these expectations and to attain the self-confidence that would allow us to ever more boldly present the best work by Bulgarian authors and illustrators.

The National Book Center at the National Palace of Culture has declared this year to be the year of children's literature. We decided to focus more efforts on provoking interest in reading among the younger generations. This, of course, is not a task that can be finished within the framework of a single year, but it offers a good opportunity to open a more serious discussion about children's literature and to attempt to change children's environment – which is made up of parents, teachers and friends – since we know that love of books is instilled through personal example.

For this reason, this year's catalogue of children's literature is particularly important. For many years, Bulgarian children's literature was absent from the international literary scene. The publication of this second catalogue by the National Book Center clearly shows that this absence does not mean that authors and illustrators were neglecting children's literature. On the contrary – the Bulgarian tradition of children's literature has not been lost, but rather has borne new, interesting fruits, while remaining in step with the issues engaging the world today. The catalogue's modern design and carefully selected titles, which are suitable for different age groups and varied in terms of topics and illustration style, show that at the moment children's literature in Bulgaria is prospering. Our goal is to take maximum advantage of this flourishing so as to stimulate new authors, as well as to reach foreign publishers and experts in the field. I strongly believe that with every subsequent edition of the children's catalogue, Bulgarian children's literature will attract new followers and foreign publishers. It will create new partnerships and more confidently find its way into kindergartens, schools and libraries. We will be glad if this – children's literature – is our contribution to the creation of a generation raised to value the most important human virtues through the power of their first encounter with a book.

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All of these specific characteristics found in Bulgarian culture and history also deeply inform the work of Bulgarian children's authors. Albeit very different from one another, their works for children bear the stamp of a rich soulfulness, which formed over the centuries and which was passed down from generation to generation. Eternal themes addressing the meaning of life, the power of friendship and love, the notion that we all share the same basic nature – these messages and musings can be found in the work of Bulgarian children's authors. They are complimented by the rich imagination of each individual writer, as well as by the authors' deep understanding of the needs of children and their soul-searching in the modern world, as well as their endless curiosity about what is happening around them.

In this catalogue you will discover a small portion of the children's books by Bulgarian authors published in recent years. Some of them are by well-established names, whose works are known beyond Bulgaria's borders. Other works are by young authors who are only now coming into their own and who have succeeded in skillfully integrating themselves into global tendencies in the development of children's literature. Besides presenting authors, we will also introduce you to the work of the Bulgarian artists who create illustrations for children's books not only in Bulgaria, but around the world. The catalogue is divided into four parts. In the first you will find 23 books by Bulgarian writers and a short introduction to their authors. The second section presents four works by foreign authors that have been translated into Bulgarian and illustrated by Bulgarian artists. The third section, entitled "Past and Future," features two historical studies – one on Bulgarian comics and the other on Bulgarian primers – as well as the

only Bulgarian book nominated twice for the international Hans Christian Andersen Award for Children’s Literature; it also features a three-dimensional book reflecting the future development of Bulgarian children’s literature. The fourth section will acquaint you with the artists who illustrated some of the books in the catalogue and will show you samples of their work in the sphere of illustration for children and teenagers. The second catalogue in the series “Children’s Books from Bulgaria: Contemporary Writers and Artists,” compiled by the National Book Center at the National Palace of Culture attempts to present a small fraction of the rich spectrum of children’s books published in the country every year. Through it, we hope to show that although Bulgaria may not participate actively in various international events related to children’s book publishing, nevertheless children’s literature in Bulgaria has never ceased to progress, while Bulgarian authors and artists can easily take up their place on the shelves of foreign bookstores, as their work is every bit on par with that of writers and artists from Europe and around the world.

Valentina Stoeva,  
Detski knigi Foundation

# Contemporary Writers

|     |
|-----|
| 4+  |
| 6+  |
| 8+  |
| 10+ |
| 13+ |



## Tigărçeto Spas The Little Tiger Spas

Text: Rada Moskova

Illustrations: Kostadin Kostadinov

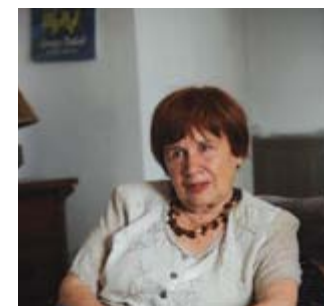
Published in 2016 by  
Janet-45 Publishing House,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-186-260-3

■ The book is illustrated by Kostadin Kostadinov – see p. 96

Mrs. Dinosaur – this is the pen-name Rada Moskovska uses on the cover of the new edition of her book *Spas the Tiger*. Thirty-six years after the first edition of the book, one of the best Bulgarian children's authors stands before her favorite audience with works that deserve to be read and which are read over and over again by every generation, by readers big and small. The world created in these works is truly enthralling. Rada Moskovska simply knows the key to children's hearts. Given her sense of humor, her vivaciousness, and all the brilliant light that streams from these verses with their sonorous rhymes, you will want to become a child again, sounding out the story of the big little elephant or the brown cow... How could you help but listen to the story of the little dog Willie, who actually wants to be called and to be William Tell? This is truly a smile of a story. But the same could be said about the beetle with his brown suit and impressive name... These short poems, which interweave many popular themes – they encourage you to pay attention to the little

things, to be happy with what you have, to let your imagination run wild – remind us of how one should write for children. Because young readers will always rediscover the eternal truths about life, but not in a pretentious and admonishing way, but with a smile and a sense of freedom.

*Gergana Racheva*



RADA MOSKOVA (3 May 1933, Gabrovo, Bulgaria) is a Bulgarian screenwriter. She is a physician by training, but has worked as a dramaturge at the Central Puppet Theater, at the National Theater for Youth (1962-1980) and the Sofia Puppet Theater (1981). She is the author of puppet and theatrical plays for children, as well as poems and fairytales. She wrote the stories in *The Little Tiger Spas* for the television show *Good Night, Children!* in which every story was drawn in every episode by the talented artist Kliment Denchev. Moskova is the screenwriter for *Dog in a Drawer* (1982), *Up in the Cherry Tree* (1984), *Hi, Grandma!* (1992), *A Conversation with Birds* (1997), *Mrs. Dinosaur* and others. The topic of the inner need to give and receive love is present in all her works.

Prizes won by Rada Moskova include: the Union of Bulgarian Filmmakers prize for the film *Dog in a Drawer* (1982); first prize at the film festival in Varna, Bulgaria (1983); Liv Ullmann award for the film *A Conversation with Birds* (Chicago, USA, 1998)

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Works for children: **Peperudka** (*The Little Butterfly*, poems, 1968); **Hei, konche!** (*Hey, Little Horsie!*, fairytales, 1982); **Tigărçeto Spas** (*The Little Tiger Spas*, 2016).

Puppet and theatrical plays: **Razsărdenite bukvi** (*The Angry Alphabet*); **Brămchiloto** (*The Rattle*)

Film scripts: **Kuche v chekmedzhe** (*Dog in a Drawer*, 1982); **Gore na chereshata** (*Up in the Cherry Tree*, 1984); **Zdravei, babo!** (*Hi, Grandma!*, 1992); **Razgovor s ptitsi** (*A Conversation with Birds*, 1997); **Gospozha Dinozavăr** (*Mrs. Dinosaur*) and others.







## Dakel, ne! ili Mechkite 2 Dachshund, Don't! or The Bears 2

Text: Mila Popnedeleva-Genova  
Illustrations: Mila Popnedeleva-Genova

Published in 2016 by Ultra Red, Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-90641-0-8

— The book is illustrated by Mila Popnedeleva-Genova –  
see p. 104

The book *Dachshund, Don't! Or the Bears 2* is the newest fairytale by Mila Popnedeleva-Genova. While a bear family is enjoying their cozy winter sleep, a dachshund that got lost in the woods comes into their little house. Mama Bear takes on the absurd task of returning the dog to his owners, but while looking for them, she tries to re-educate the animal – a task that ends up becoming a true challenge, as the uninvited guest is very disobedient.

This funny story was inspired by the author's own troublemaking dachshund, known as an unmatched master of mischief. Apart from making kids laugh, the fairytale teaches them to be responsible for their pets and shows them that cute animals are not toys, but real creatures, which need care.

*"In her books, writing and drawing are so intertwined that they melt into one another, they complete each other and make us use our imagination. The written story goes on continuously and logically, but is often interrupted and enriched by the illustrations' story, which have their own life—which seems to stick to the main plot, but at the same time is free-willed and opens little doors to hidden rooms, in which imagination runs free and goes around the main plot"—Mila Vasileva, art critic.*

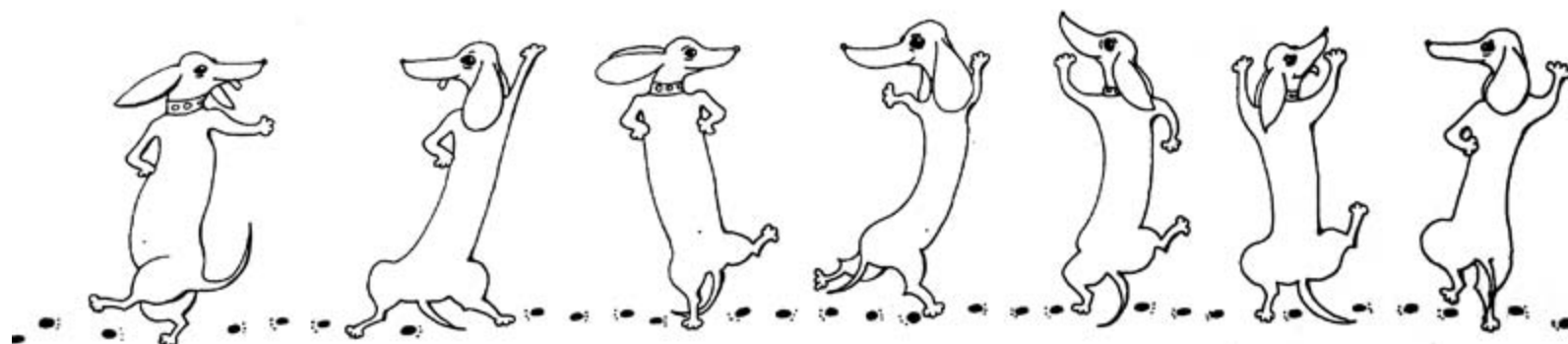
*"It is through illustrations that the child learns about the world and sees abstract concepts such as 'good', 'evil', 'beautiful' and 'ugly' in the flesh. For the child, books are a model of the world, even before he has completely mastered the secrets of words. Mila Popnedeleva realizes how complex the mission of the artist-illustrator is, and looks at books as united complete entities, which have to reach the heart of every child. Apart from showing talent and a distinct way of thinking, Mila's illustrations and formatting choices also show her ability to look at the world through a child's perspective, to compare her reactions with the child's, to speak her readers' language in order to be understood"—Dr. Daniela Chulova-Markova, art critic.*



MILA POPNEDELEVA-GENOVA graduated from the National Academy of Arts with an MA, as well as a BA in Book and Printed Graphics. She has had many individual art exhibitions and shows, as well as several illustrated books. She started writing books in 2009. As of this moment, she has published six books with her own illustrations. Mila was nominated for several national awards for children's literature, and the rights to her book *The Rustling* were sold in Turkey.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

**Shumoleneto** (*The Rustling*, 2009); **Prikazka prosto taka, praseshka pri tova** (*Just a Tale, a Piggy One at That*, 2011); **Strashna prikazka** (*A Scary Tale*, 2012); **Velomaraton** (*A Cycling Marathon*, 2013); **Mi ne mi se spi** (*I Don't Feel Sleepy*, 2013); **Dakel, ne! ili Mechkite 2** (*Dachshund, Don't! Or The Bears 2*, 2016).







## Dobrosătsite (prikazka-igra) Pipsqueaks (game-tale)

Text: Nikola Raykov

Illustrations: Maya Bocheva

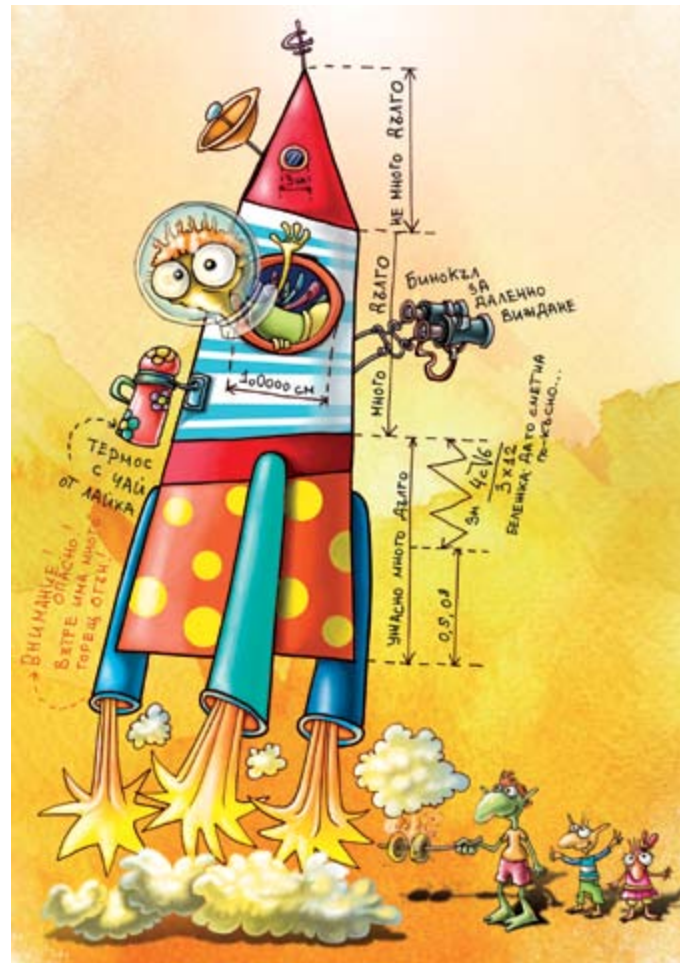
Published in 2016 by  
Talasamche Foundation,  
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-7269-03-1

■ The book is illustrated by Maya Bocheva – see p. 84

In our homes live little *dobrosatsi* (pipsqueaks) – hidden in armchairs, under carpets or in electric bulbs. There, behind the couches, among children's toys or underneath the bed their world is absolutely different than the one of the strange Big People. This book is for them! However, this is no ordinary book but a Game-Tale where the young reader decides which way to go, writes letters and predestines the actions of the main characters, making the adventure different every time!

The collaboration between the author Nikola Raykov and the painter Maya Bocheva – two young and talented Bulgarian artists – will bring long hours of games, laughter and fun to the young readers through this book with three beginnings and 18 endings.

The book made the long list for the Quill Award at the National Book Center in the category "Children's literature".

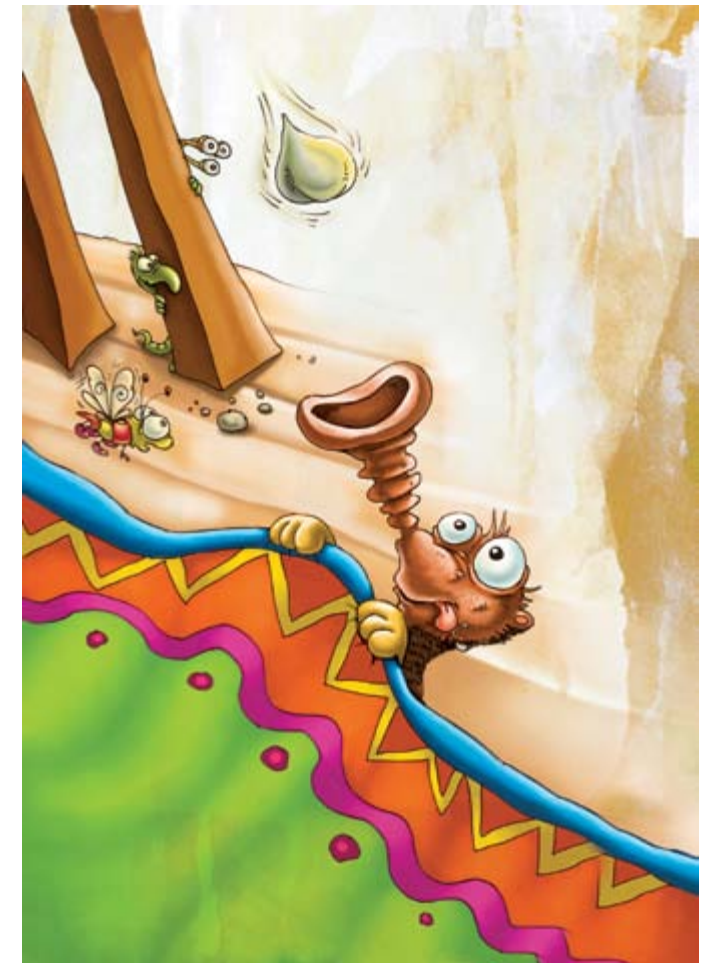


NIKOLA RAYKOV (born 21 June 1981, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria) graduated IT in Chicago but was deeply disappointed by the American way of life and mindset, so right after his graduation he returned to Bulgaria. He's the author of the first-of-its-kind Game-Tales for youngsters *The Big Adventure of the Little Gremlin*, *The Even Bigger Adventure of the Little Gremlin* and *Pipsqueaks*. In just a few years he had become one of the most popular and beloved children's writers in Bulgaria and his books have sold thousands of copies.

With his Game-Tales, he has won more than ten awards and nominations including the Konstantin Konstantinov National Award for Children's Literature. His e-books are translated by volunteers around the world and the *The Big Adventure of the Little Gremlin* was published in Latvia in 2016.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

**Prikazka-igra:** *Golyamoto prikluyenie na malkoto talasămche* (*GameTale: The Little Gremlin's Big Adventure*, 2013); *Oshte po-golyamoto prikluyenie na malkoto talasămche* (*The Little Gremlin's Even Bigger Adventure*, 2014); *Dobrosătsite* (*Pipsqueaks*, 2016)







## Nyama greshka, ima smeshka There's No Mistake, It's Jokes We Make

Text: Vasil Sotirov

Illustrations: Kiro Mavrov

Published in 2016 by  
Janet-45 Publishing House,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-186-270-2

■ The book is illustrated by Kiro Mavrov – see p. 98

In his new book for little rascals, Vasil Sotirov cleverly uses rhymes to paint funny situations which children and their parents often find themselves in. To these, he also adds stories from the animal world, weaving together in his happy-go-lucky poems phrases that turn meaning upside-down and challenging children to think.

The book of 20 poems is brightened up by illustrations by the artist Kiro Mavrov, who has skillfully captured and transmitted the spirit of the works, additionally strengthening their teasing tone.



### МАЙСТОР ФОТОГРАФ

Могат вече аз да снимам  
и не давам пет пари –  
фотоапарат си нямам,  
със светкавица дори!

Трибна ми чудесна гледица  
(да е нещо по-така!)...  
Гледам поп на моторетка –  
ще го изпозва ей сега!

Но пък с гледката чудесна  
стана чудо изведнџе:  
целом светкавицата блесна,  
чу се гръм и...  
ручка джас!



VASIL SOTIROV (31 May 1947, Sofia, Bulgaria) was born into a family of artists. He graduated from the French Language School. He studied Bulgarian language and literature at Sofia University St. Kliment of Ohrid. He worked at the main editorial office for Humor, Satire and Entertainment at Bulgarian National Radio, for *Caricature* magazine, Boyana Studio for Animated Films, and the newspapers *Pardon*, *Duma*, and *Republic*. He is a member of the Union of Bulgarian Writers (UBW).

Sotirov has won many prizes, including: the Silver Date Prize for a humorous story (Bordighera, Italy, 1977); Southern Spring Award for debut poetry collection (Haskovo, Bulgaria, 1983); Silver MladEzh (1981) and Gold MladEzh (1986) prizes for humorous stories in the Aleko International Competition; the Lamar Prize for poetry (1990); the prize of the Union of Translators in Bulgaria (1993); Golden Plaque award for satire in the Third National Poetic Competition "For a More Humane World" (2003); the Elin Pelin Award for a short story (2007); Kaun first prize for prose (2008); the Raiko Alexiev Prize for humor and satire (2008); the Annual Literary award from the UBW for poetry (2013); Kaun first prize for poetry (2015), and others.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Poetry for children: *Tsvete v saksiya* (*A Flower in a Pot*, 1990); *Da pogalish taralezhche* (*To Pet a Hedgehog*, 1991); *Nyama greshka, ima smeshka* (*There's No Mistake, It's Jokes We Make*, 2016)

Poetry: *Ubiistvo na shturets* (*Murder of a Cricket*, 1982); *Smarten skok* (*Deathly Leap*, 1989); *Padene na loshi duhove* (*Casting out Bad Spirits*, 1991); *Dushata na kompaniyata* (*Life of the Party*, 2004); *Izlizane ot peizazha* (*Leaving the Landscape*, 2013) and others

Prose: *Lavovete nikoga ne plachat* (*Lions Never Cry*, 1981); *Da ti izleze nomerät* (*May Your Turn Come*, 1989); *Leka kavaleriya v podleza* (*Light Cavalry in the Underpass*, 2000)

Epigrams: *Zvezdi posred pladne* (*Stars at Noon*, 1994);

*S dzhakpot na cheloto* (*With a Jackpot on the Forehead*, 1997)



### ТЕНЕКИЕНО ПЕТАЕ

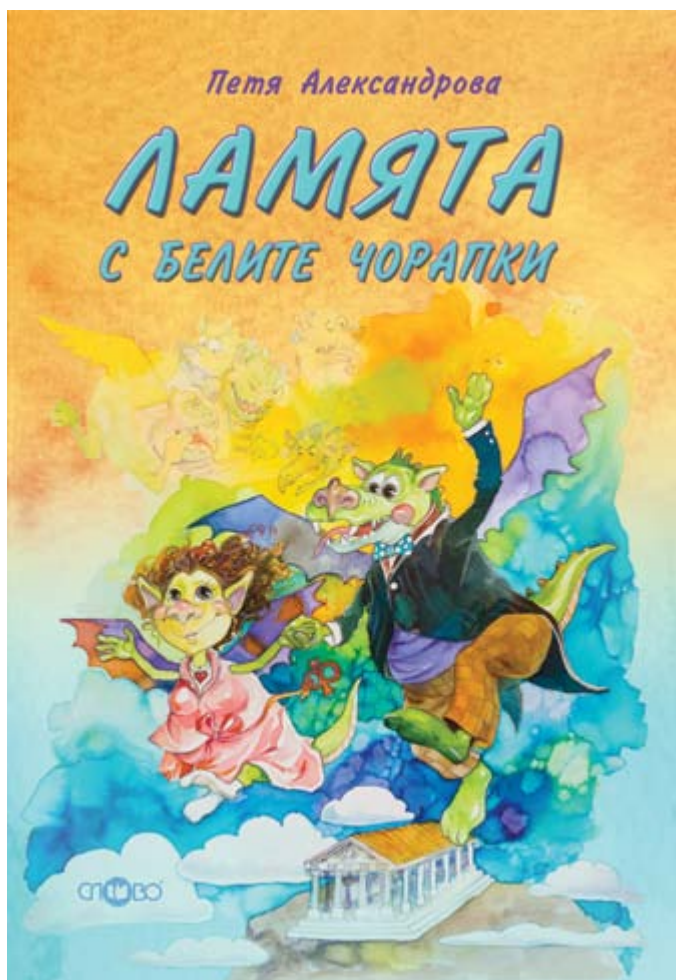
Върху оня покрив има  
тенекено петле –  
в знойно лято, в люта зима  
казва: „Тук не ми е зле!“

Сият го труп, дъжд го мокри,  
то не вика „Оле-ле!“,  
а с все на оня покрив –  
тенекено петле!

Носи се гласът му чуден  
над смълчаното поле –  
сутрин тук дешта буди  
тенекено петле.







## Lamyata s belite chorapki The Dragon with White Socks

Text: Petya Alexandrov

Illustrations: Silvia Kaloyanova

Published in 2016 by  
Slovo Publishing House,  
Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-212-012-2

■ The book is illustrated by Silvia Kaloyanova – see p. 94

**T**he *Dragon with White Socks* is a collection of fairytales including works from all of Petya Alexandrova's colors and periods, as her talent matured over the years. It is as if the author has decided to show that modern fairytales can be written in a different way and they can always be interesting.

In the book, which is illustrated by Silvia Kaloyanova, readers can discover classic plots and reworkings of familiar stories – respectful nods to Charles Perrault and Andersen, as well as cheerful and amusing nonsense stories; lyrical miniatures that resonate with Bulgarian folkloric tradition and which are similar to eastern parables. Somewhere there, amidst the absurd claims that the mountain needs a seaside resort, that a whole village can be gathered up in one basket, that northern lights can break into pieces and been given out as souvenirs, the au-

thor also slips in situations, conclusions and life lessons, into whose verbal cloth she has invariably woven a kernel of truth and wisdom, meting out justice and goodness, fighting for trust and mercy.

Over and over in this book, Petya Alexandrova, like all inspired storytellers around the world, dresses up humanity's eternal heroes in puppet clothes: the self-confident fool, the naïve dreamer, the good-natured fellow, the adventurer, the odd duck, the overly proud one, the clerk/enemy of all that is new and unknown, the sad wise man...

Gianni Rodari claims that a good fairytale can be made even from just two words which seem to have no way of sitting next to each other. Petya Alexandrova is of the same opinion, and she shows it in *The Dragon with White Socks*.



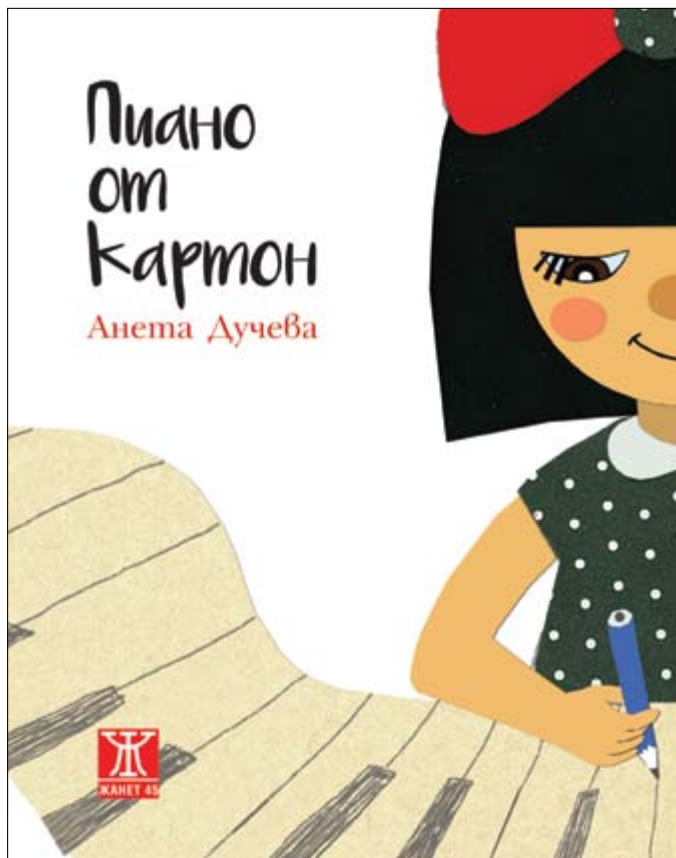
PETYA ALEXANDROVA (1948, Yambol, Bulgaria) graduated from Veliko Tarnovo University SS Cyril and Methodius in Bulgarian language and literature. She has worked as an editor at the newspapers *Trud* (Labor) and *Woman*, the magazines *Native Speech*, *Evolution* and others. She is the author of 28 books, mainly for children, some of which are poetry, while others are prose fairytales. Her oeuvre includes a YA novella, a puppet play, scripts for animated films, a collection of romantic poetry, and journalistic works. Her book *Bulgaria in Folk Breeches, But with Top Hats* won her new readers, fans of that genre of short political stories and portraits of famous people from the beginning of the past century, livened up by contemporary, female, jokingly ironic analyses. Her poems have been translated into English, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Serbian and Turkish. Her latest book *The Dragon with White Socks* shows her interest in prose fairytales for children, which has not changed throughout the decades. Petya Alexandrova's poems have been used in primary school textbooks.

Petya Alexandrova has won many prestigious awards for literature, including the P.R. Slaveykov award for life-long achievement in children's literature (Ministry of Education, 2007); the National Konstantin Konstantinov Award for her contribution to children's book publishing (2008); the UBW's Annual Prize for Children's Literature (2012 and 2016); the National Petya Karakoleva Award for best children's book (2015) and others. For the illustration to her book *To Nowhere Land and Back Again*, Professor Victor Paunov was included in the Honour List of the Hans Christian Andersen Award, IBBY, in 1998.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Works for children: **Pochiven den za eskalatora** (*A Day Off for the Escalator*, fairytales, 1985); **Visulki prismehulki** (*Icicles-Mockingbirds*, poems, 1990); **Do nemai-kāde i obratno** (*To Nowhere Land and Back Again*, fairytales, 1997); **Smokinovo momiche** (*Fig Girl*, YA novella, 2001, 2014); **Kogato feite sānuvat** (*When Fairies Dream*, fairytales, 2007); **Chadārche ot koprina** (*The Little Silk Umbrella*, fairytales and poems 2007); **Detentse s izgubeno klyuchentse** (*The Little Child with the Little Lost Key*, poems 2012); **Koleden venets** (*Christmas Wreath*, poems 2012); **Mozhe bi sām ribka, mamo?** (*Maybe I'm a Fish, Mom?*, poems, 2013); **Lamyata s belite chorapki** (*The Dragon with White Socks*, fairytales, 2016) Works for adults: **Dai mi hilyadi tseluvki** (*Give Me a Thousand Kisses*, 21 love stories, 2008); **Da, Lyubov!** (*Yes, Love!*, poems, 2010); **Bulgaria v poturi, no s tsilindār** (*Bulgaria in Folk Breeches, But with Top Hats*, 50 Bulgarian stories from way back when, 2016)





## Piano ot karton Cardboard Piano

Text: Aneta Ducheва

Illustrations: Katina Nedeva

Published in 2016 by  
Janet-45 Publishing House,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-186-268-9

— The book is illustrated by Katina Nedeva – see p. 102

Alex has been dreaming of a piano for a long time, but her mother can't afford to pay for expensive private lessons. One day, the little girl plucks up the courage to go into the music room and ask her teacher for help. Albeit reluctantly, she spares some time for Alex's first lesson. She is surprised to learn that the girl is talented and learns effortlessly, so she starts teaching her for free. The talented girl advances quickly and in a couple of months she can play some easy etudes. Unfortunately, the teacher falls ill, and her substitute refuses to continue teaching Alex. To make her dream come true, the girl gets inventive and makes a cardboard piano. Her persistence is rewarded by a stroke of luck that helps her follow her dreams despite being poor.

Aneta Ducheва's book gives children hope that they can achieve their dreams if they really want to. *Cardboard Piano* continues the themes touched upon in her book *The Moon Swing*, in which, through a fairy story, the author shows children how important it is to believe in yourself and to value and respect those who are different.



ANETA DUCHEVA (1960, Provadia, Bulgaria) has a degree in English and American studies from the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo, then she worked as an English teacher. Between 1986 and 1990 she published in periodicals and worked as an associate for Radio Varna. She is the author of the books *Tony-Pony* (also published in German under the title *Tony-Pony* by Aneta Fehrmann), *Gogo*, *The Tiny Pocket Man*, *The Moon Swing*, and *Cardboard Piano*. For *The Moon Swing*, published by Janet-45 Print and Publishing House, the author was awarded the prestigious Konstantin Konstantinov Award in 2014.

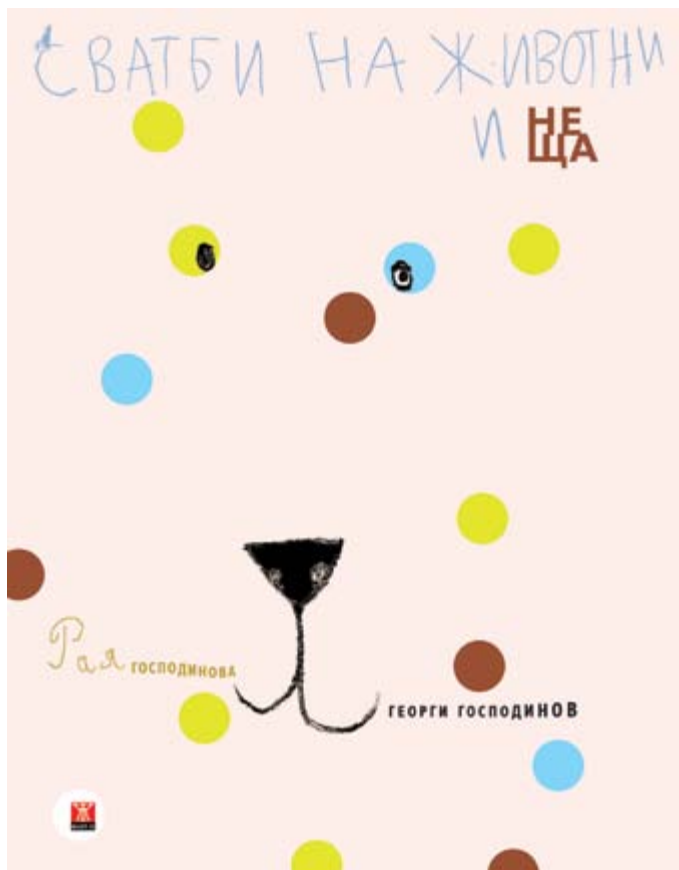
Aneta Ducheва's books have been presented in many schools and libraries in Bulgaria, at the National Children's Book Festival in Sliven, the Leipzig Book Fair, in various libraries in Germany, at the Bulgarian Cultural Institute in Berlin and the Bulgarian schools in Berlin and Hamburg.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

**Toni-Poni** (*Tony-Pony*, children's book, 1989); **Gogo** (*Gogo*, short novel, 1994); **Dzhobnoto choveche** (*The Tiny Pocket Man*, children's book, 2006); **Lunnata lyulka** (*The Moon Swing*, children's book, 2013); **Piano ot karton** (*Cardboard Piano*, children's book, 2016).







## Svatbi na zhivotni I neshta Weddings of Animals and Things

Text: Georgi Gospodinov/Raya Gospodinova

Illustrations: Georgi Gospodinov/Raya Gospodinova

Design and book cover: Yana Levieva

Published in 2015 by  
Janet-45 Publishing House,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-186-161-3



### A Giraffe and the Eiffel Tower

A circus was passing through France. There was a little motherless giraffe in the circus. One day the circus stopped beneath the Eiffel Tower. The giraffe raised its head, saw the tower and said: "Mum..."

-- Raya Gospodinova, age 6

One very bizarre and curious book, filled with words and pictures by Raya Gospodinova and her father, the writer Georgi Gospodinov. A book about the invisible life of the things around us, about the fantasies of late afternoons, when both little ones and older ones are ready to come up with games. What would happen, if... a couch and a crocodile, a turtle and a cupboard, a book and ice-cream, a camel and a tea-kettle came together... Some would say "bye and farewell", others would wish to create hedge-flies, croco-couches and camelo-kettles, which smell of chamomile and honey. For every unexpected meeting, each of them draws their own animal-thing and gives it a short story. Each time Yana Levieva, the designer of the book, keeps up the

competition: on the left side is the drawing and the text of the father, and on the right side – that of the daughter. Readers can compare, choose and also come up with their own versions.

A playful book, made up when Raya still hadn't reached six, and her father was seven times the older. A book which invites you: "come on, now's your turn".

The book was a finalist for the Quill National Literary Award, Children's Books Category, 2016. A finalist for the National Award of the Association of Bulgarian Publishers, 2015.



RAYA GOSPODINOVA was born in 2007 in Sofia. Now she is nine and loves reading, drawing and taking invisible animals for a walk. She has some very secret stories in her notebooks. She also has an invisible horse. Co-writer of the book *Weddings of Animals and Things*, about which the adult critics say "an experiment, more than magical" (Vihren Chernokodzev, *Liter-net.*), "a book like an ice-cream cone, which you can eat with the covers" (V. Valkanova, book design); "in this book things come together as if for the first time..." (Zornitsa Hristova, *Culture Newspaper*).

GEORGI GOSPODINOV (1968) is a Bulgarian writer. He has published 15 books, including poetry, short stories, novels, a graphic novel, essays, plays, an opera libretto, etc. His debut novel, *Natural Novel* (1999), was translated into 23 languages including English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Icelandic...

His second novel, *The Physics of Sorrow* (2012), has been published in nine languages including German, English, French, Italian, Dutch, praised by the *New Yorker*, *Le Monde*, *La Repubblica*, *Liberation*, *NZZ*... It won several national and international awards, among them Jan Michalski Prize (Switzerland, 2016) and Best Literary Translation in the US (AATSEEL, 2016). The novel was a finalist for international prizes in Italy, Germany and the US, among them: Premio Strega Europeo, Premio Gregor von Rezzori, Brueke Berlin Preis, the PEN American Prize for the Best Translated Books, etc. According to the *New Yorker*, "Georgi's real quest in *The Physics of Sorrow* is to find a way to live with sadness, to allow it to be a source of empathy and salutary hesitation..."

*Blind Vaysha*, a short film based on Gospodinov's short story and directed by Theodor Ushev is an Oscar nominee for 2017.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

**Estestven roman** (*Natural Novel*), **Fizika na tågata** (*The Physics of Sorrow*), **Tam, kădeto ne sme** (*There, Where We Are Not*), **I drugi istorii** (*And Other Stories*), and others.







## Blok No 4 Block № 4

Text: Zornitsa Hristova  
Illustrations: Youlian Tabakov

Published in 2015 by  
Tochitsa Publishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-7172-10-2

— The book is illustrated by Youlian Tabakov – see p. 108

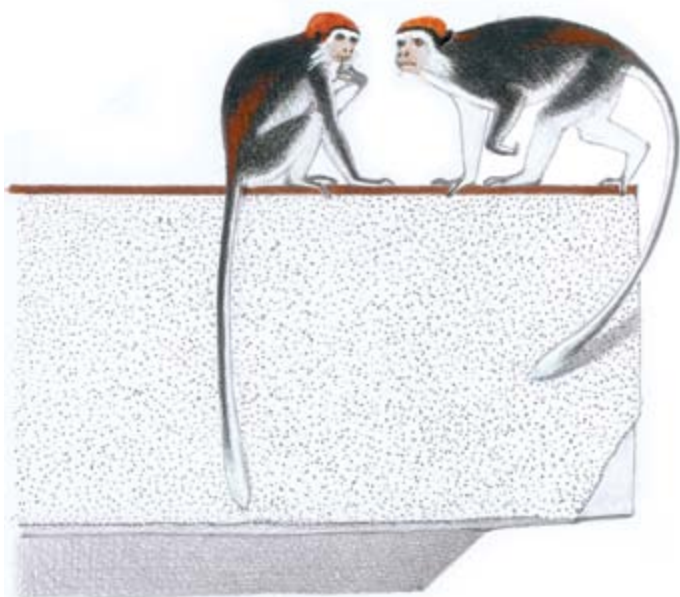
*B*lock No. 4 is the story of a little boy who grows up in a Soviet-style concrete panel apartment block and “improves” it in his imagination with rope bridges, tropical forests, tigers and friendly snakes.

A story about architecture and dreams. About the fact that they can sometimes be unpredictable. Like tigers. And even more so – like people.

The text, in which all burdensome details have been removed, gives grounds not only for thought, but also for conversations with children. It is fleshed out by Youlian Tabakov's exquisite illustrations, which are precise down to the tiniest detail, and through which young Mitko's fantasies seem to come to life. The successful collaboration between the Hristova-Tabakov tandem also guides young readers towards the work of one of the pioneers of modern architecture: Le Corbusier.

*Block No. 4* is not a book that simply tells a story. It is a book to inspire reflection and to develop children's imagination.

The book was included in the shortlist for the 2016 Quill Literary Prize in the “children's literature” category.



ZORNITSA HRISTOVA was born in 1974 in Dobrich. She studied English Philology at the University of Sofia and Post-colonial 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 Translators 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.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

*Vakantsiya v Srednite vekove* (*Medieval Vacation*); *Vkusna geografiya* (*A Taste of Geography*); *Sladoledena retorika* (*Ice-Cream Rhetoric*); *Kogato iskam da mālcha* (*When I Want To Say Nothing*); *Blok No 4* (*Block No 4*); *Igri na glas* (*Voice Games*); *Gradska geografiya* (*Urban Geography*).







## Pitanki Quirky Queries

Text: Petya Kokudeva

Illustrations: Romina Beneventi (Italy)

Published in 2016 by  
Janet-45 Publishing House,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-186-213-9

**Q**uirky Queries is a book inspired by Petya Kokudeva's numerous funny meetings with kids in kindergartens and schools. The main character, Pitanka, is a little boy with a pilot's cap and lots of questions: how do I become an explorer, do words ever get a vacation, should I be compared to others, what do bears play with, is it useful to be a slob, what does the rain dream of... Every one of these rhymes searches the answer to a specific question, weaving together the funny and the serious, the absurd and the perspicacious. Actually, the idea of the book is not to give answers to children, but to encourage them to ask questions because although there might be wrong answers, the questions are always right. This is Petya Kokudeva's third book together with the Italian illustrator Romina Beneventi.

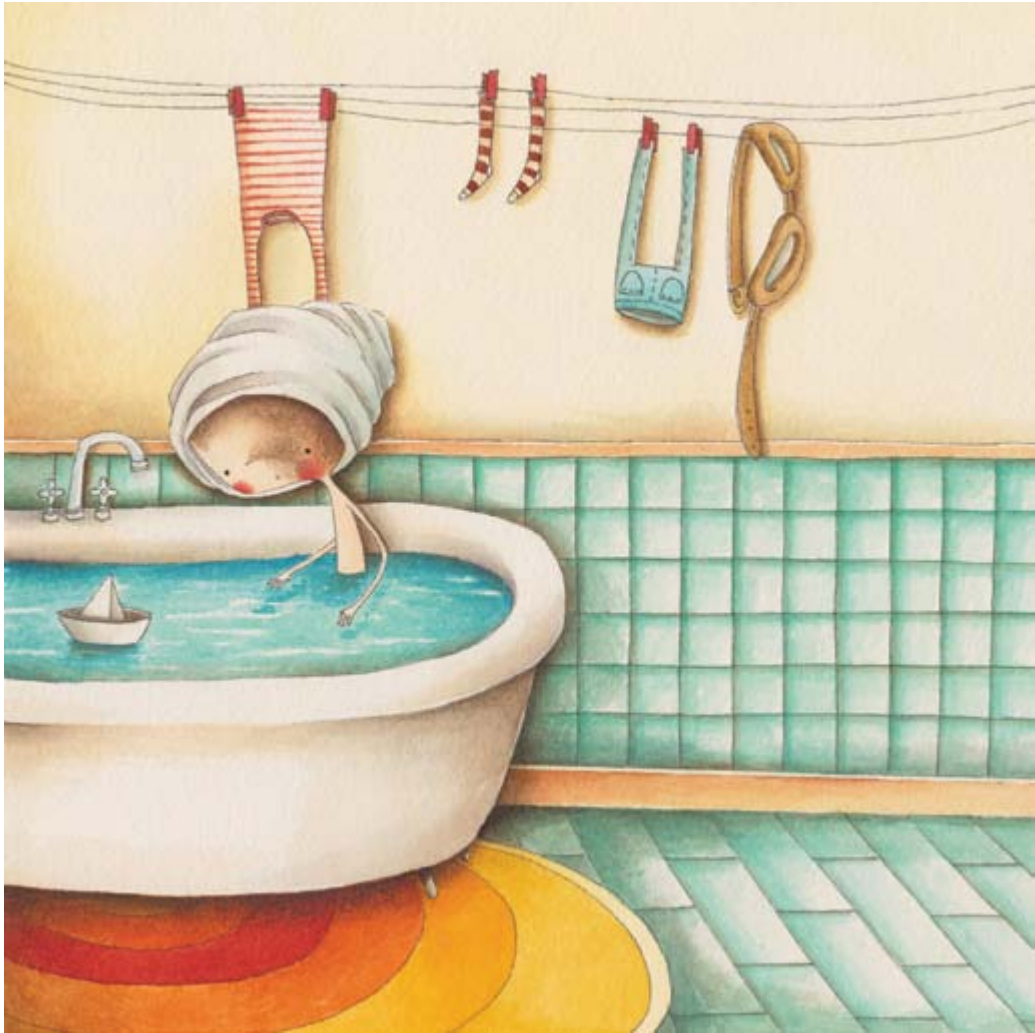


PETYA KOKUDEVA (1982) is a Sofia-based author of poetry books for children. She has a BA in Journalism and an MA in Creative Writing from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. For the last ten years she's been working as a copywriter for several international creative agencies. She is a passionate globe-trotter 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 sāshtestva* (*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* (*Quirky Queries*), was published in 2016. In all of her books Petya has worked in 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 of 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 – *Quirky Queries*. 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







**S**ecrets and Magic at 13 Rosemary Street is the debut trilogy by author Nelly Margaritova. Full of fairytale coziness and a whiff of magic and rosemary, the short story of little Rada weaves together in a delicate way universal messages for today's children about goodness, commitment and generosity. Childhood in a big city is often a lonely endeavor, but children discover the answers to important questions in their own imaginary worlds, filled with adventures and friendly characters. Colorful characters such as the hatter Kapelanov, the "fixer-upper"

## Taini i vālshebstva na ulitsa "Rozmarin"13 (poreditsa) Secrets and Magic at 13 Rose- mary Street (series)

Text: Nelly Margaritova

Illustrations: Valentina Radeva-Lapcheva

Published between 2012-2013 by  
Slovo Publishing House,  
Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria  
ISBNs: Hi, Rada! (Book 1, 2012): 978-954-439-961-0  
Good Night, Rada! (Book 2, 2012): 978-954-439-965-8  
Merry Christmas, Rada! (Book 3, 2013): 978-954-439-970-2

of all sorts of broken things, Mr. Gulubichkov, and two elderly musicians Cornelia and Emilia wander through the pages of the series. Of course, at the center of the action is a little ghost, Victor – a kind-hearted and amusing magical creature, who, with the help of his fantastical powers, leads little Rada and her white cat Milena through a whole slew of adventures; they puzzle their way through complex enigmas and scary mysteries. The editor of the books from the series is another Bulgarian children's author – Dilyana Kruseva.



NELLY MARGARITOVA (Nedyalka Margaritova) is a Bulgarian author of poetry and prose for children. She lives with her husband and daughter in a little town in the mountains near Bulgaria's southern border. At the university, she studied various fields – economics, law and engineering. She has worked in various jobs, including as an English teacher, translator, specialist in tourism, and a free-lance journalist. She began writing soon after the birth of her daughter, who became the prototype for many of the female characters in her children's books. She has written five books of poetry and prose for children, one reference book for adults, and a play which was nominated for the Third National Competition "Dramaturgy for Children" in 2015 from the ARTTOC International Club for Talent. Her book *Glorious Sunflower Happenings* was nominated for the Quill Literary Award in the "Children's Literature" category in 2015.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

**Zdravei, Rada!** (*Hi, Rada!*, Book 1 from Secrets and Magic at 13 Rosemary Street, 2012) – also available in English; **Leka nosht, Rada!** (*Good Night, Rada!*, Book 2 from *Secrets and Magic at 13 Rosemary Street*, 2012); **Vesela Koleda, Rada!** (*Merry Christmas, Rada!*, Book 3 from *Secrets and Magic at 13 Rosemary Street*, 2013); **Slavni slānchogledovi sluchki** (*Glorious Sunflower Happenings*, 2013); **7 prkazki zeleni s krila, kracheta i anteni** (*Seven Green Fairytales with Wings, Legs and Antennae*, 2015).



VALENTINA MIHAILOVA RADEVA-LAPCHEVA (19 September 1967, Razgrad, Bulgaria) graduated from the Art High School in Kazanluk in painting, then continued her education at Veliko Turnovo University SS Cyril and Methodius in painting. Since 2000 she has been a member of the Dupini art group. She works with the Bulgarian publisher Slovo. She is a member of the Union of Bulgarian Artists. Lapcheva has had solo exhibitions and has taken part in a series of group exhibitions, plein-airs and art actions. She has been nominated for and won numerous prizes for painting.







## Ako iskash vyarvai Believe It or Not

Text: Pancho “Grandpa Punch” Panchev  
Illustrations: Yana Levieva

Published in 2006 by  
Janet-45 Publishing House,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-491-308-3



**B**elieve it or not, but this is the latest wise-cracking, smooth-talking, sage children's book by the ageless Grandpa Punch. In it, readers will discover 13 fairytales, in which the impossible turns out to be completely possible, while miracles rain down like fluffy snowflakes – as long as you believe in them.

In this book, the author invites his readers on an unusual journey through the kingdoms of greedy and foolish kings, past snowmen and Santa Claus, all the way to the story of the goldfish, which doesn't look a bit like the one from Pushkin's fairytale. The short stories are not only entertaining, but they also inspire children to use their imaginations and reflect upon important life questions. The author has added a poem as sweet as chocolate to each of the 13 stories.

The book's design and illustrations by Yana Levieva supplement the plays-on-words begun by the author and turn the book into a must-have volume in every child's library.



PANCHO PANCHEV (17 November 1933, Sofia, Bulgaria) is better known among young readers as GRANDPA PUNCH. He is a Bulgarian writer, dramaturge, screenwriter, and publicist. He graduated from the Russian Language High School, then studied theater. He was the editor-in-chief of the magazine *Theater* (1966 – 1969), as well as of the magazine *Little Nightingale* (1997 – 2002). He has written over 50 plays, which have been performed on various stages in Bulgaria and abroad: in Russia and all the former Soviet republics, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Belgium, USA, Romania Mongolia, Serbia, Hungary, Finland, Norway, Cyprus, and so on. Panchev has created children's books and booklets for children. He has also written in all other literary genres.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

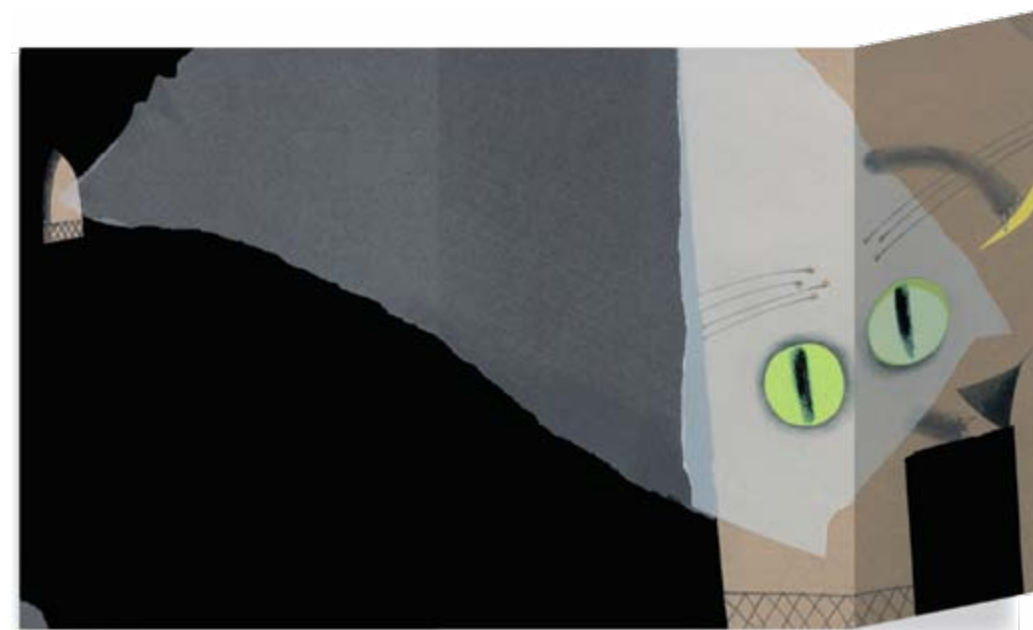
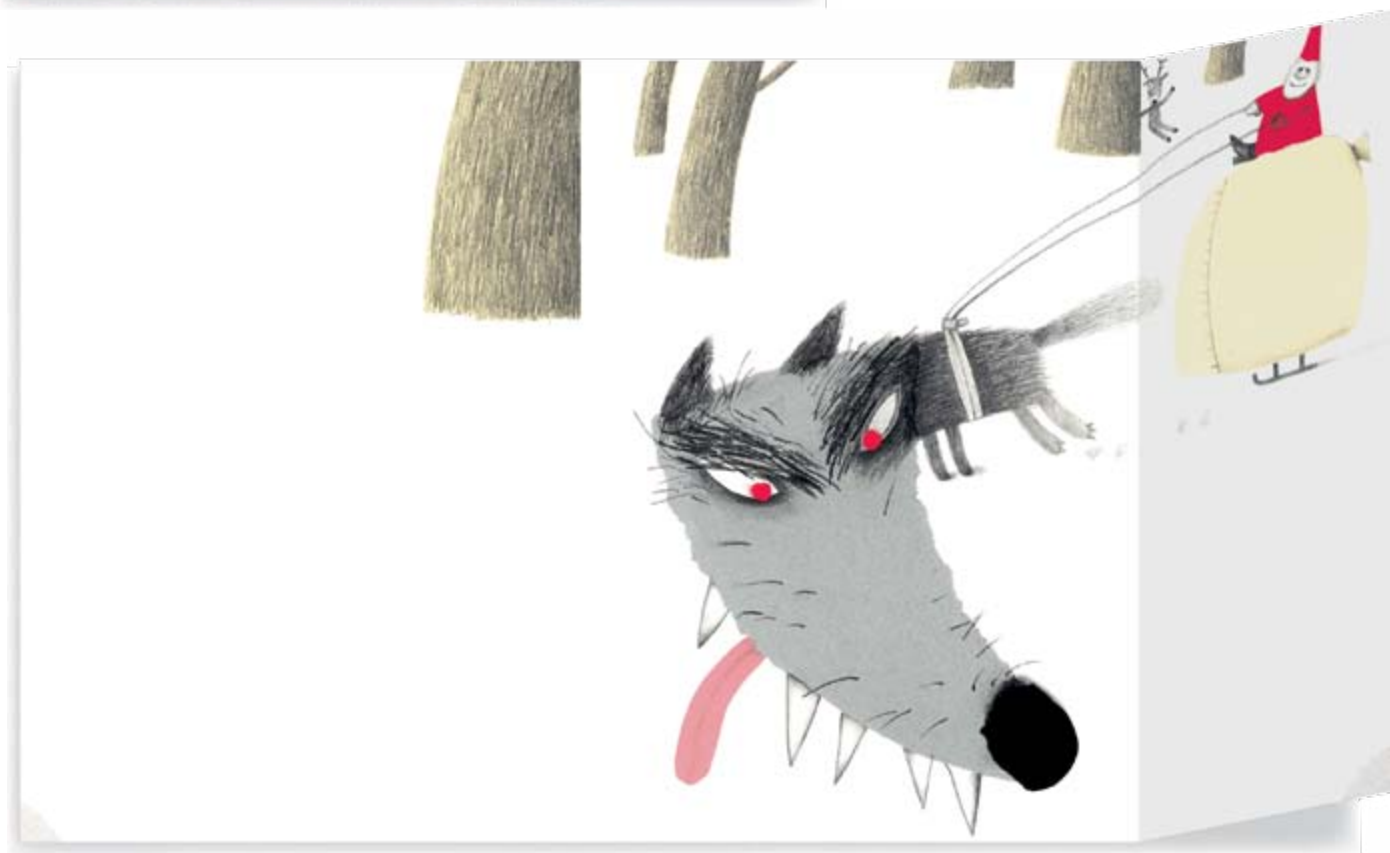
Works for Children: **Zoologicheska azbuka** (*A Zoological Alphabet*, riddles); **Gatanki za leka nosht** (*Good Night Riddles*, riddles); **Stihotvoreniya za tebe** (*Poems for You*, poems); **Dnevnik na sloncheto Modi** (*The Little Elephant Modi's Diary*, novel); **Prikazki ot blizo i daleche** (*Fairytales from Near and Far*, fairytales); **Duzina prikazki s lăzhi** (*A Dozen Fairytales with Lies*, fairytales); **Otgatnete gradovete!** (*Guess the Cities!*, riddles); **Prikazki za teatăr 1 & 2** (*Fairytales about Theater – 1 and 2*); **Ako iskash vyarvai** (*Believe It or Not*, fairytales with dessert); **Bau- bau, Sharo!/Pis- pis, Pisano!** (*Arf Arf, Sharo!/Meow-Meow, Kitty!*, a book with two faces); **Stihotvoreniya s mustatsi/Stohotvoreniya s pandelki** (*Poems with Mustaches/Poems with Bows*, a book with two faces) and many others.

Plays: **Ochi v ochi** (*Eye to Eye*); **Tainata na starata kăshata** (*The Secret of the Old House*); **Pokana ot Parizh** (*An Invitation from Paris*); **Golyamoto imane** (*The Big Treasure*); **Prolet po nikoe vreme** (*Spring at Any Old Time*); **Prikazka za kalpatsite** (*A Fairytale about Kalpak Hats*) and others.





Illustrations:  
Yana Levieva







## Mateya

Text: Evgenia Voinova  
Illustrations: Evgenia Voinova

Published in 2013 by  
A&T Publishing Ltd.,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-7106-08-4

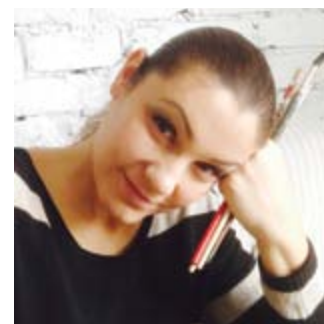
— The book is illustrated by Evgenia Voinova – see p. 114

*Mateya* is a story about kindness, understanding and tolerance which aims to introduce children to the problems of the people with different needs and develop their empathy.

Mateya is a little girl. She is beautiful, gentle, curious, but born deaf. Challenged by finding herself in a new place, rejected and with no friends, she manages on her own to achieve all her goals. Children in the small town write her off as something different from them. She feels loneliness and fills this void with colorful paper figures which she keeps in an old suitcase along with her dreams. The fail-

ure of the most important event in the city gives Mateya the opportunity for self-expression and she displays determination, imagination and courage, which put her at the center of events. The children already know that she is just like them and the only thing that sets her apart is a kind heart.

The book *Mateya* raises questions and provides space for discussions between children and parents on important topics which exist and form young readers as future good people willing to help.



EVGENIA VOINOVA was born in Sofia. She graduated from the National School of Applied Art and earned an M.A. in Poster Design under Prof. Ivan Gazdov's guidance at the National Academy of Art. Since 2005 she has been working as an illustrator of children's books. Since 2011 she has been mainly devoted to creating her own books for children: the first of which is *Tsvetna bärkotiya* (*Crazy Colored Chaos*, 2012), followed by *Mateya* (*Mateya*, 2013).

In 2014 Evgenia's books were honored by the child psychologists of Child and Space Association with an award for her contribution to opening the door to the world of art for children. Voinova is the creator of many paintings for children which are in private collections in Bulgaria and abroad. At the moment she is working on her next project – on the book *David* (*David*), in which she again touches upon the theme of difference but this time through school bullying.







## Kakvo znachi da si silen/ krasiva/bogat What Does It Mean To Be Strong/Beautiful/Rich

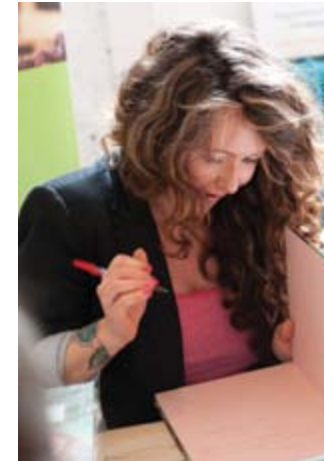
Text: Katya Antonova  
Illustrations: Martina Andonova

Published in 2016 by  
Ribka Publishing Ltd.,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBNs:  
What Does It Mean To Be Strong: 978-619-7131-26-0  
What Does It Mean To Be Beautiful: 978-619-7131-25-3  
What Does It Mean To Be Rich: 978-619-7131-26-0

— The book is illustrated by Martina Andonova – see p. 82

What are strength, beauty and wealth, actually? Katya Antonova discusses this in a series of three books and recalls the values that today are barely gasping for breath, crushed under tons of make-up, muscles and shiny objects...

Three invaluable books, filled with virtues. Books which today's world is desperately in need of.



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.







**E**lijah, August and the Seven Dwarves is the second comic book from the brothers Sotir and Penko Gelev. It is a continuation of the first volume in the comics series – published in 2014 and presented at the first-of-its-kind International Comics Exhibition in Sofia.

This exciting adventure, told in 19 captivating and amusing episodes, continues to follow the awesome adventures of Elijah and his *murkolak* friend August, but this time *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, wood fairies, a brave soldier, trolls, wizards and all kinds of known and unknown fairytale characters are involved.

“Don’t you understand, I’m a kid!”, exclaims little Elijah. Yes, that’s right! And that’s great, because through children’s eyes, the world is so wonderful and different, adventures are exciting, friendships are real, a word given is a law followed, and miracles are everywhere. In 2016 Sotir and Penko Gelev won the Quill Literary

Iliicho, Avgust i sedemte  
dzhudzheta  
Elijah, August and the Seven  
Dwarves  
(comics)

Text: Sotir Gelev  
Illustrations: Penko Gelev

Published in 2016 by  
Enthusiast Publishing House.,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-164-167-3

■ The book is illustrated by Penko Gelev – see p. 88



Club Prize in the Children's Literature category for their comics *Elijah, August and the Seven Dwarves*.



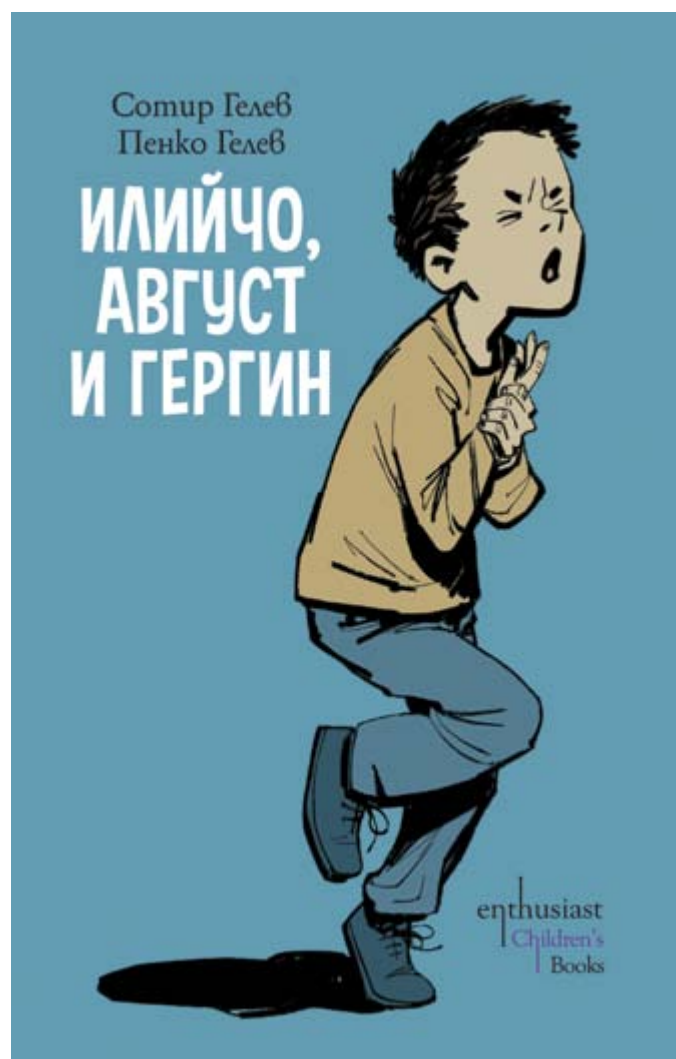
SOTIR GELEV was born in 1960 in Asenovgrad. He was in the army, worked in a factory, drew comics, worked as a graphic designer, made special effects for the cinema, wrote film scripts, directed two full-length and eight animated films (*The Chicken, Doroga, Kerata, Orbis, Vector and Lector, Chickens, 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 Begins** (*Bilbo Baggins*, comics, script and illustrator, Daga magazine, 1984-86); **Vlastelināt na prāstenite** (*The Lord of the Rings*, comics, illustrator, Daga magazine, 1986-89); **Zhmak** (*Zhmak*, comics, script and illustrator, Riks magazine, 1984-86); **Pesenta na aksolite** (*Aksols' Song*, author, Riks Magazine, 1991); **Efreitor Nek** (*Corporal Neck*, author, Riks magazine, 1991); **Bratya Grim** (*Brothers Grimm*, illustrator, Pleiad, 1991); **Sledobedno kyufte** (*Afternoon Meatball*, poems, author, Free Poetry Society, 1997); **Dicho Pādarya tryabva da umre** (*Dicho the Field-Keeper Must Die*, author, Daga project, 2012); **Prizrak** (*Ghost*, author and illustrator, Daga project, 2012); **Iliicho i Avgust** (*Elijah and August*, author, Enthusiast, 2014); **Iliicho, Avgust i sedemte dzhudzheta** (*Elijah, August and the Seven Dwarves*, author, Enthusiast, 2016).







After their success with their comics for children, which won the Konstantin Konstantinov Award in the Illustrator category, artist Penko Gelev and his brother Sotir Gelev created a children's book which tells the captivating story of little Elijah, the *murkolak* August and their new friend Gergin. The three heroes' ups-and-downs are presented in twelve exciting and adventure-filled chapters, accompanied by beautiful illustrations, which make the book even more valuable and desirable.

*Elijah, August and Gergin* tells the full story of the unusual friendship between a young boy, who is not afraid of anything, and his loyal sidekick, the *murkolak* August. Everything begins when his family moves to a new house.

## Iliicho, Avgust i Gergin Elijah, August and Gergin

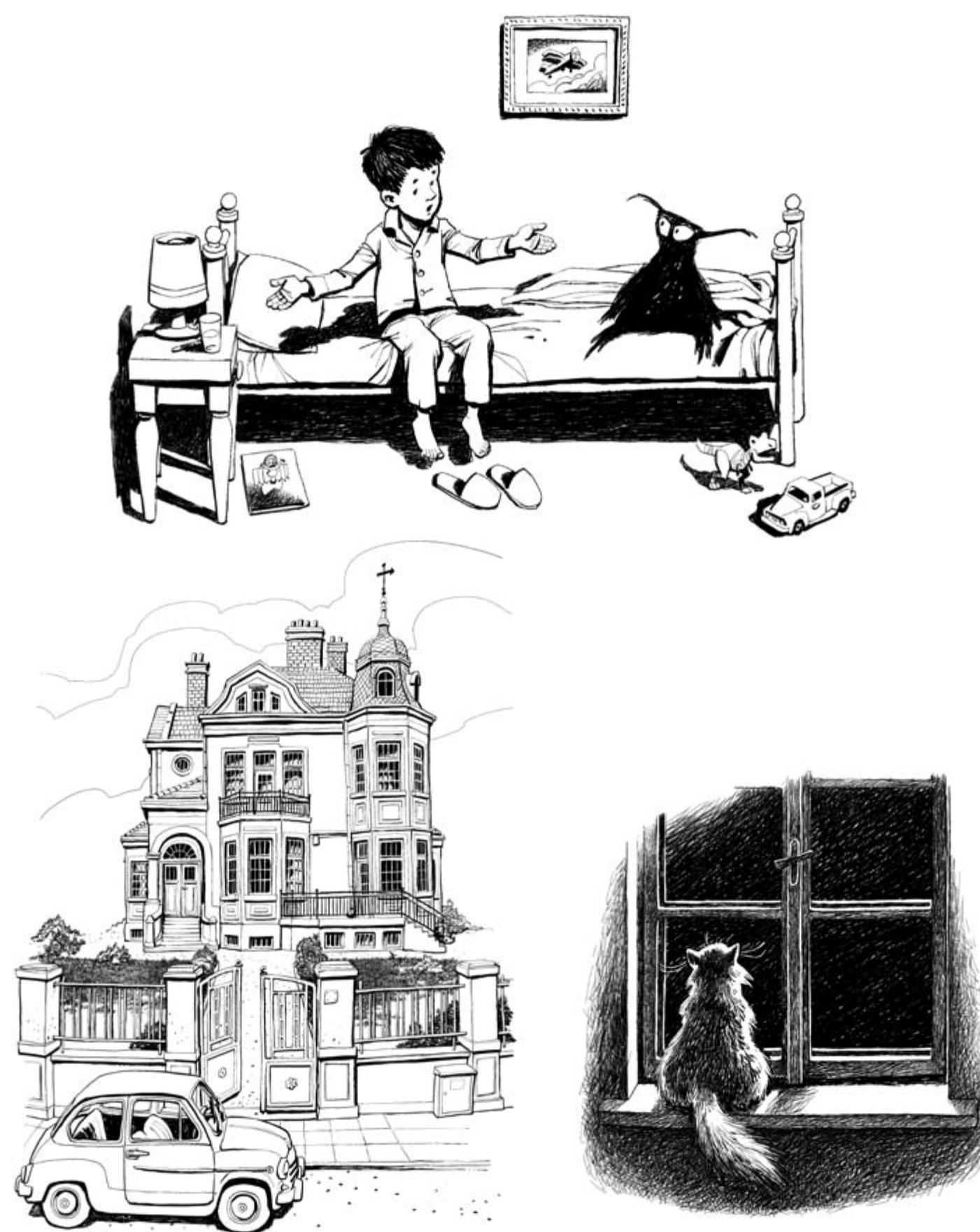
Text: Sotir Gelev  
Illustrations: Penko Gelev

Published in 2016 by  
Enthusiast Publishing House.,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-164-213-7

- The book is illustrated by Penko Gelev – see p. 88
- The book is written by Sotir Gelev – see p. 43

Elijah and his sister finally have their own rooms. But the little boy's room is no ordinary room, because under his bed lives a real-live *murkolak*. Elijah names him August, and the two quickly become friends, and every day turns into a wonderful adventure.

August is the best friend a little boy could ever dream of having – he does magic and always runs to the rescue when Elijah needs help. The two of them together master the art of “levitactics”, which allows them to switch the places of the floor and the ceiling, they think up a great present for Elijah's mom's birthday, and even embark on a brave journey to the sea, using a seashell as a door to space and time. One day Elijah's mother comes home with a basket with a flat top and pulls out of it a white tomcat with long fur, a fat stomach and a pink nose. His name is Gergin and he becomes the two friends' new roommate. And even though the cat pretends to be sleeping all the time, he nevertheless takes part in the unbelievable stories in his own way.







## Vesel, gädelichkasht smyah Jolly Tickling Laughter

Text: Margarit Minkov  
Illustrations: Luba Haleva

Published in 2015 by  
Janet 45 Print and Publishing,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-186-202-3

— The book is illustrated by Luba Haleva – see p. 92



Pleasure, joy and light stream from the fairytales in the book *Jolly Tickling Laughter*. They are a model for contemporary literature, written in an easily understandable style, with respect for children's mentality. There is much poetry in Margarit Minkov's fairytales. They are fun and delightful, with discrete morals to the story – just how true fairytales should be. And after having fun with Minkov's magical stories, young and old readers alike can put them on their bookshelves next to Donald Bisset and Rudyard Kipling. And next to the fairytales of Gennady Tsyferov. And next to the fairytales of Julio Cortazar (if Cortazar had written fairytales).

*“Margarit Minkov was known far beyond Bulgaria for his plays. Less well known is that the author, who passed away in 1997, also wrote outstanding stories and anecdotes for children. This aspect of his oeuvre is featured in the first volume of an impressive book series in his honour being published by Janet 45 Press.*

*Luba Haleva's (b. 1974) illustrations are intriguing, as they filter Minkov's stories, each of which is only two or three pages long, through a suitably absurd lens. In Minkov's stories anything can happen. Not only do all things and creatures have their own personality and attitude, the stories also make Minkov's fantastical ideas plausible concerning the what, how and why of Earth's events. For instance, we learn that birds invented flying only because their legs were tired from all the walking, and that a dachshund's long body is best played as an accordion.”*

– White Ravens 2016, IJB – Munich

The book is included in the White Ravens 2016 catalogue of the International Youth Library in Munich.



MARGARIT MINKOV (11 May 1947 – 1997) began working at the Children's Editorial Office of Bulgarian National Television (BNT) in 1970. His very first fairytales for the show *Good Night, Children!* were filled with a sparkling sense of humor, with brilliant dialogue and a sense for paradoxes and tall tales. Margarit Minkov wrote dozens of fairytales for television, as well as plays, films, novels and musicals... He won the Hans Christian Andersen competition for original fairytale organized by BNT; later he won the National Competition for Contemporary Drama in Varma for his play *The Chess Pieces' Grand Ball* (1979), a competition for a historical play tied to the 1300th anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian state with the play *Book of Kings* (1980) and others. These drama competitions opened the doors to the stage, and Margarit Minkov energetically threw himself in theater. He worked as a dramaturge in theaters in Sliven and Vratsa, as well as artistic director of the Laughter and Tears Dramatic Theater (Sofia). He is the author of 18 plays. In 1984 his book *Fairytales to be Told* was published, while in 1987 *Endless Fairytale* appeared. Some of his plays were gathered together in the anthology *Plays: I* (2001). During all those years, Margarit Minkov was also writing poems. The writer died in 1997. Posthumously, in 2015, Sevadlin Genov gathered some of his fairytales for children in the book *Jolly Tickling Laughter*, illustrated by the young artist Luba Haleva. The book has been received joyfully by readers and scholars of children's literature, and it was included in the catalogue White Ravens 2016 of the International Youth Library, Munich.

#### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

**Prikazki za razkazvane** (*Fairytales To Be Told*, 1984);  
**Bezkraina prikazka** (*Endless Fairytale*, 1987); **Vesel, gädelichkasht smyah** (*Jolly Tickling Laughter*, 2015 - paperback, 2016 - hardback).







## Moite krasivi roga My Beautiful Antlers

Text: Radostina Nikolova

Illustrations: Melina-Elina Bondokova

Published in 2016 by  
Motove Ltd.,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-7241-04-4

The deer Vundaba is a cocky silver-tongued fellow. When you look at him you would think to yourself: “But he has just one antler!” When you listen to him you would say: “But he talks so much!”

Yes, his peers find him odd and avoid him, but he can’t figure out why his appearance should be a reason to make fun of him. Instead of giving in to the feeling of shame, the deer decides to go and live on his own. Trying to meet new people, Vundaba comes to know what fear is. But instead of falling into despair, he decides to calmly wait for fate to send him new friends instead of risking his life again. Not much time passes and exactly this happens. Vincent is a lady-bird that lands on his antler one beautiful day and even though he does not ever speak, the deer thinks he is the most special thing in his life. Constance is a small brave swallow that falls onto Vu’s meadow with a sprained wing. Thanks to these two acquaintances, Vundaba grows and changes very much. He experiences pleasant and sad emotions, only to be convinced once again that everything in life happens for a reason..



RADOSTINA NIKOLOVA (born 1986 in Bulgaria) is an emarketing 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 *The Adventures of the Motts* and the series *Tales from the World of the Motts*. Her book *The Adventures of the Motts: Hello, Brand-New Day* won the Magic Pearl National Children’s Choice Awards in 2014. Her book *The Adventures of the Motts: the Princess Who Had the Hiccups* was nominated in the Quill 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 otvrashata na udara** (*The Adventures of the Motts: Mux Strikes back*, 2014); **Prikazki ot sveta na motovete: Pervata belya na Mux** (*Tales from the World of the Motts: Mux’s First Mischief*, 2014); **Prikazki ot sveta na motovete: Printsessa Pagu ne mozhe da zaspi** (*Tales from the World of the Motts: Princess Pagu Can’t Go To Sleep*, 2014); **Priklyucheniya na motovete: Haltsashtata printsessa** (*The Adventures of the Motts: the Princess Who Had the Hiccups*, 2015); **Moite krasivi roga** (*My Beautiful Antlers*, 2016).

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, some of them being the book series *The Adventures of the Motts* and the book *My Beautiful Antlers* by the young writer Radostina Nikolova.







## Kakva magiya krie se v snega? What Sorcery Had Snow?

Text: Julia Spiridonova  
Illustrations: Penko Gelev

Published in 2015 by  
Krăgozov Ltd.,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-771-352-9

— The book is illustrated by Penko Gelev – see p. 88

If the snow doesn't fall this winter, the wheat will freeze. There won't be bread, bagels or even traditional rolls with fortunes inside them for Christmas Eve. A forest witch wraps up a little frog in a piece of her scarf and sends him to the dragon Zmey in the Upper Kingdom. The dragon says that snow will fall only if the dragon Lamya flies in for a heroic battle against him. Some time ago the frog had locked up the bad dragon Lamya and now he must free her. On the way the frog gives a thread of the scarf to everyone who helps him – to the dragon Zmey and the southern wind, to the innkeeper and to the goblin.

In this book, which is a continuation of the story about a warty little frog in *Be My Friend*, the author cleverly weaves together folkloric legends and mythological creatures to show young readers the power of friendship, bravery and goodness. In her stories the little frogs can save whole worlds, as long as they are wrapped in a shawl of love. And if you have love, you have everything.



### 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; **Kronos. Toya neshtastnik!** (*Chronos*), 2016.

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 a special 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); The Magic Pearl Children's Choice Award 2016, "Explorers" category, ages 6-8 (2016); 2016 "Writer of the Year Award", given by the Sofia City Library for most popular children's author. Julia is also the first Bulgarian writer nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2017. The rights for her book "Chronos" have been sold in France, Switzerland and Canada.

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.





## Gradska geografiya Urban Geography

Text: Zornitsa Hristova

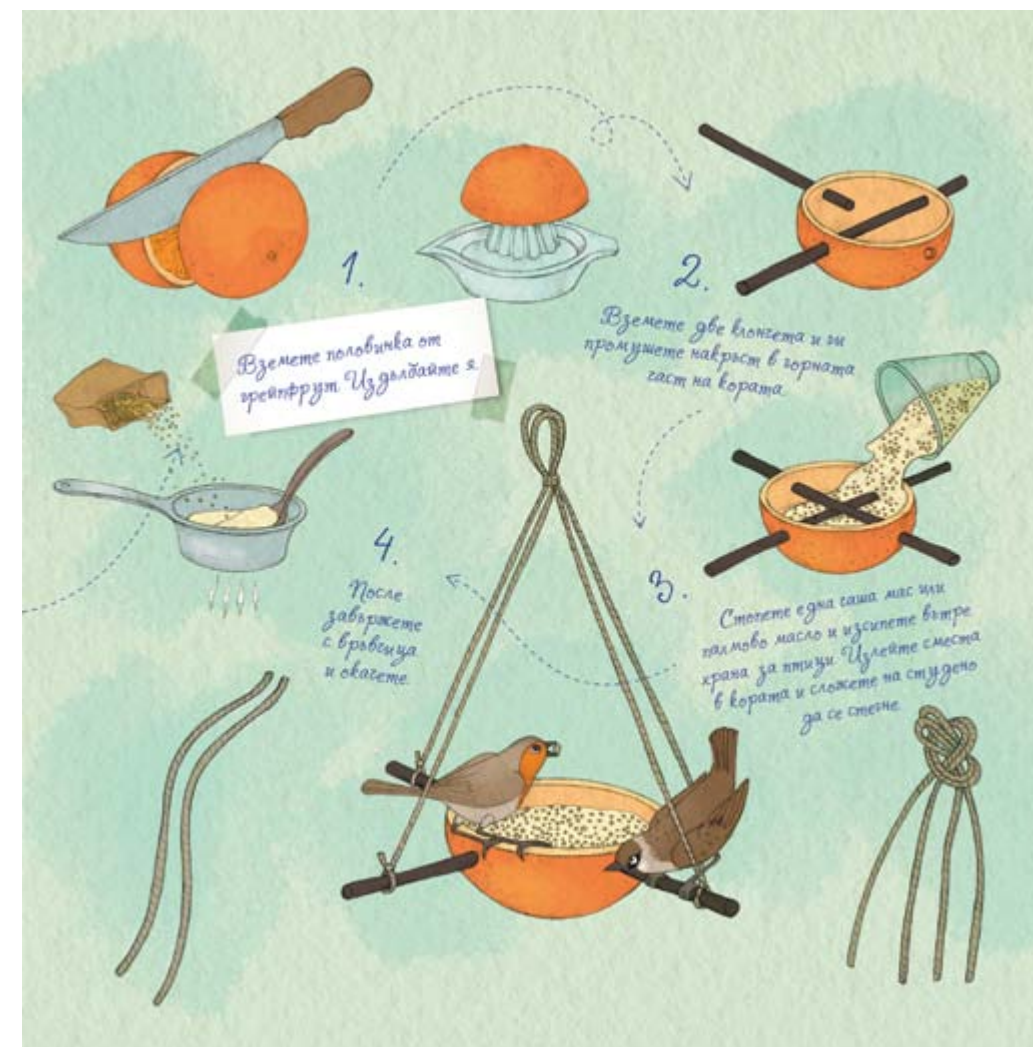
Illustrations: Siyana Zaharieva

Published in 2016 by Tochitsa Ltd,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-7172-14-0

- The book is written by Zornitsa Hristova – see p. 27
- The book is illustrated by Siyana Zaharieva – see p. 116

**U**rban Geography tells the story of two twelve-year-old boys and their encounter with nature in the big city.

Marty is worried that he's not growing up fast enough and so he does everything possible to look older than he is. His cousin Tony feels out of place at home, where his parents are constantly fighting. Add bad romantic advice, gardening mishaps, one far-too-good little sister and her garden pets, several priceless pieces of advice about taking care of plants and feeding birds, as well as dramatic clash with the most terrifying of urban beasts – lice. With a special app with nature-related activities for children in the big city.







## 4 prikazki bez vrashtane Four Tales of No Return

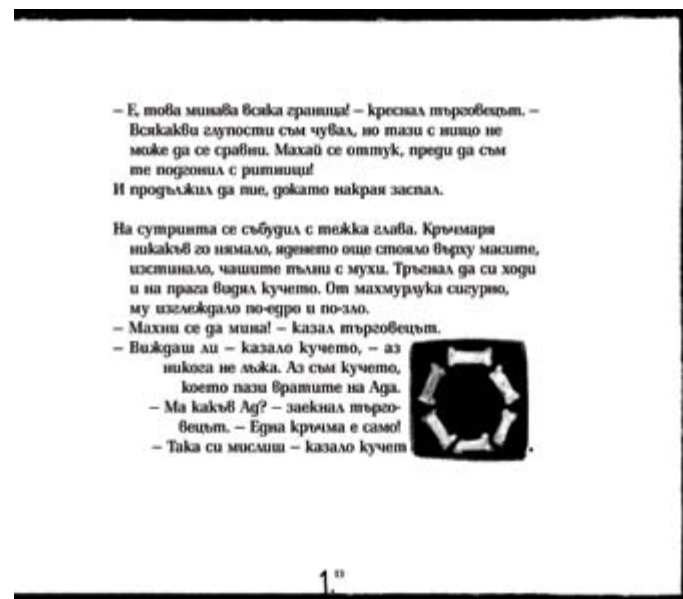
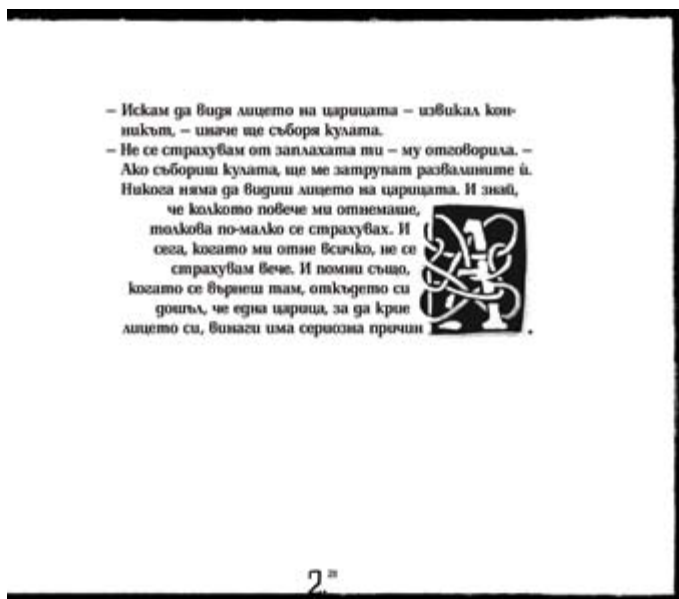
Text: Iana Boukova

Book design: Yana Levieva

Published in 2016 by  
Janet-45 Print and Publishing,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-186-291-7

**F**our Tales of No Return uses the means of the fairy tale – a fantastic plot, hardship overcome by the character, the triplet rhythm of the narration – to raise difficult existential questions with ambivalent answers. The paradoxes and dark humor which mark all four stories in the book refer to the roots of the fairy tale genre, to the authentic, unadapted children's fairy tale

with its archetypal severity and multi-layered poetics. Topics such as betrayal and punishment, the strength of the weak and the weakness of the strong, time as a gift and the gift as a trial and discovery, challenge the reader to think and to seek and to explore, avoiding easy outcomes and predictable interpretations. The book is aimed at the young adult audience, but also at grownups.



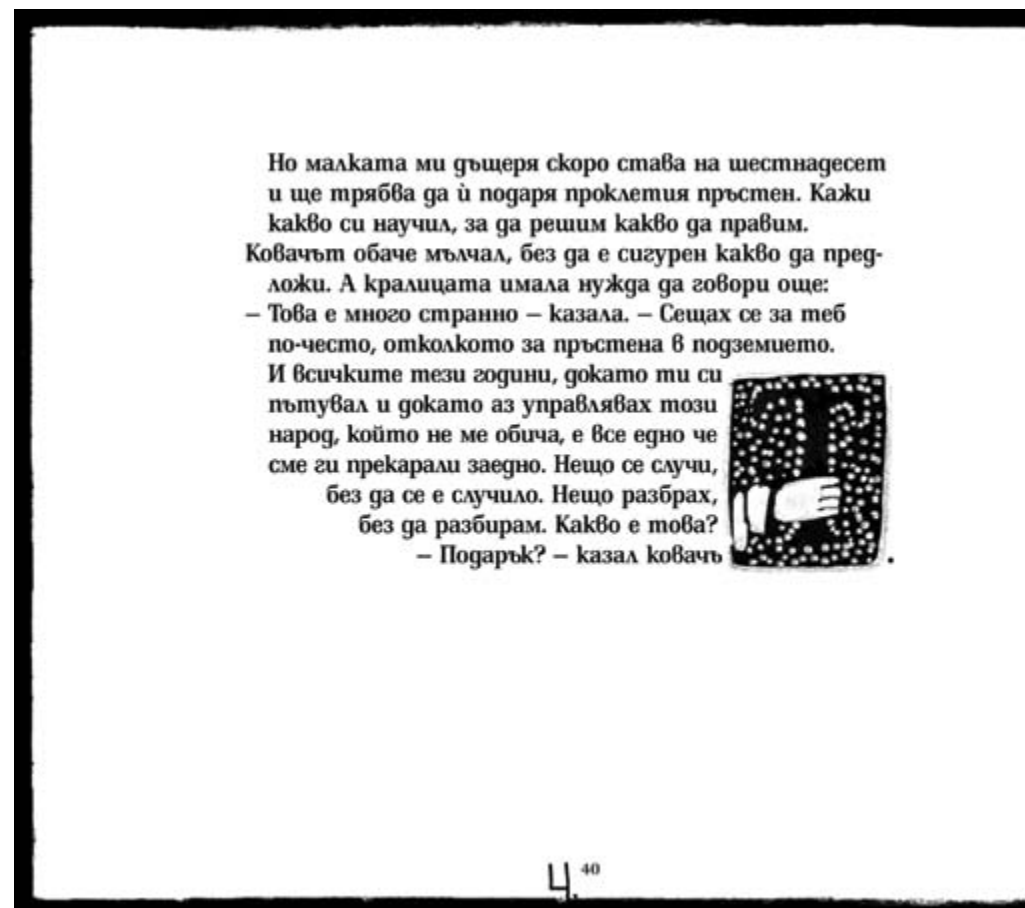
IANA BOUKOVA (1968, Sofia, Bulgaria) is a poet, writer and translator. She has a degree in Classics from Sofia University. She has published two books of poetry, a collection of short stories and a novel, as well as translations of more than ten collections and anthologies of modern Greek poetry, “Sappho’s Fragments”, the collected poetry of Catullus and the Pythian Odes by Pindar.

She has lived in Greece since 1994, where she has collaborated with a number of literary and cultural magazines.

Poems and short stories by Iana Boukova have been translated in English (last publication in “Best European Fiction 2017”, Dalkey Archive Press, USA), Greek, French, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish, Arabian and several other languages.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

**Dvortsite na Diokletsian** (*Diocletian’s Palaces*, poetry, Svobodno Poetichno Obshtestvo, Sofia 1995); **Lodka v okoto** (*Boat in the Eye*, poetry, Heron Press, Sofia 2000); **K kato vsichko** (*A As in Anything*, short stories, Stigmati, Sofia 2006); **Pätuvane po posoka na syankata** (*Journey along the Shadow*, novel, first edition Stigmati, Sofia 2009, second edition Janet 45, Plovdiv 2014); **4 prikazki bez vräshane** (*Four Tales of No Return*, 2016, Janet-45 Print and Publishing House, Plovdiv).







The trilogy *Fairytales from the Upper World* by Vesela Flamburari brings Bulgarian mythology back to life. With exceptional skill, she combines traditions from Bulgarian magical fairytales and classical children's literature with the modern style popularized by J.R.R. Tolkien and J.K. Rowling. We people have a particular need for magical, fantastical worlds.

The story of the fantasy series begins in the Lower World, in modern times. The events continue in the second world, the Upper World. There a fairytale-like Middle Ages reigns with magic, swords and sorcerers. The third

## Prikazki ot Gornata zemya – fentăzi trilogiya Fairytales from the Upper World – fantasy trilogy

Text: Vesela Flamburari

Published between 2014-2016 by  
MBG Books Ltd.,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-2989-86-8

world is the world of fairytale from the Upper World, where time is mythological/cosmic. Wintry, beautiful and mysterious, the palace in Balchik (Bulgaria) is the connection between the Lower and Upper World. Flamburari's characters are dedicated to doing good. As thinking and feeling creatures, they rush to save all worlds – both made-up and real – and they show that only thought and action can make real life transform into that which we have always dreamed it would be. With her beautiful, colorful and rich language, Vesela Flamburari tells stories about happiness and success. The unbelievable success of being human.



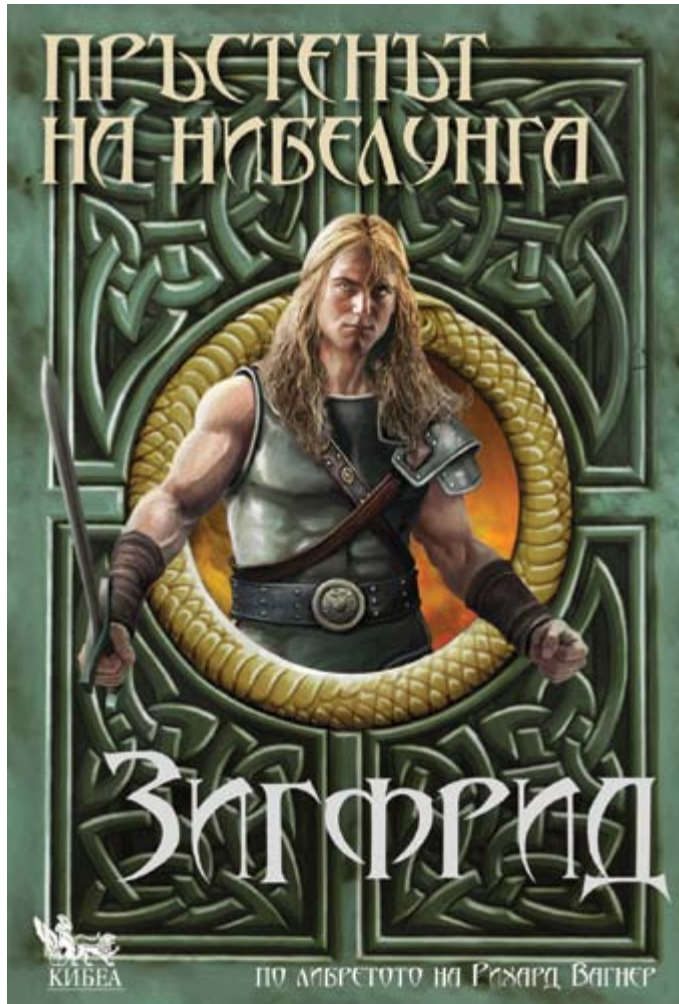
VESELA FLAMBURARI (17 January 1967, Dobrich, Bulgaria) is a graduate of Sofia's National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts and is also a member of the Union of Bulgarian Writers. Vesela Flamburari has won several awards, including: the Petya Karakoleva National Award for Children's Literature, Bulgaria (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", 37<sup>th</sup> 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 World – Book One*, 2005); **Prikazki ot Gornata zemya – kniga 2** (*Fairy Tales of the Upper World – 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); **Iskaaaaam! 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); **Mina i tainata na magiite – kniga 3** (*Mina and the Secret of Magic – Fantasy Trilogy Part Three*, 2016).





## Prästenāt na Nibelunga: Zigfrid Ring of the Nibelungs: Siegfried

**Text:** Elena Pavlova

**Illustrations:** Peter Stanimirov

Published in 2016 by  
KibeaPublishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-474-751-0

— The book is illustrated by Peter Stanimirov – see p. 106

Siegfried the free-willed hero seizes the sword Nothung – newly forged in fire and magic – pierces the dragon Fafner in the chest, and takes the magic ring that rules over the fates of gods and men. Captured by Brunnhilde’s beauty, he is ready to give her more than his heart alone. Only Erda – the earth goddess – knows what is about to happen to the tree of the universe Yggdrasil that grows through all the worlds and carries all their wonders through the Sea of Time...

*Ring of the Nibelungs: Siegfried* is the third part of the tetralogy which retells Wagner’s impressive work through Elena Pavlova’s masterly narration and Peter Stanimirov’s

illustrations. The cycle is presented in a fascinating way and inspires children and grown-ups to immerse themselves into the world of fantasy and to feel the power of the Ring.

*The Ring of the Nibelung* cycle is the first book series in Bulgaria created using augmented reality technology. Inspired by the idea of giving their readers a chance to experience the adventures described in the tetralogy in an extraordinary way, Kibea publishing house created the KIBEА application for smartphones and tablets, which revives scenes from the books before the astonished reader’s eyes.



ELENA PAVLOVA (1974, Varna, Bulgaria) 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*, the short story collection *Marked Swans*. In the last two years Elena has won four new short story awards in 2015 and 2016 and the first place in the Sea Award by the Lumen association. 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. In 2017 Elena won the Best Translator for 2016 Award of the Citadelata club for the novel *World After* by Susan Ee.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror: Fire Lodge Trilogy; *Märtvi zvezdi* (*Dead Stars*); **Nomad: Samiyat pākāl** (*Nomad: The Very Inferno*); *Svetliyat boets* (*The Light Warrior*); *The Bloodshedders’ Chronicles Books 1 and 2*; *Dve luni* (*Two Moons*); **Prästenāt na Nibelunga: Reinsko zlato** (*The Ring of the Nibelungs: The Rhine Gold*); **Prästenāt na Nibelunga: Valkiriya** (*The Ring of the Nibelungs: Valkyrie*); **Prästenāt na Nibelunga: Zigfrid** (*The Ring of the Nibelungs: Siegfried*).  
Gamebooks: *Urban Witch*; **Ledeno bezmālvie** (*Ice Silence*); **Karamba!** (*Caramba!*); **Nemesis** (*Nemesis*); *The Dragon’s Shadow*; *Nomad: Desert Warriors*; *Dead Stars: The Strategic Game*; **Vodopadāt na dāgata** (*The Rainbow Waterfall Series*); *The Rise of Galteya Series*; *Tilldar Chronicles Series*; *Silver&Gold Series*; *Cosmic Highways Songs Series*.







## Kronos. Toya neshtastnik! Chronos

Text: Julia Spiridonova

Published in 2016 by  
Krăgozor ublishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-771-356-7

— The book is written by Julka Spiridonova – see p. 51

Chronos is seventeen. He is a mathematical genius, a titan in logic and... a drug addict. He is a student at the most prestigious high school and has won medals and awards. He lives alone with his mother. He doesn't have any friends except Goshka (also a drug addict) and his imaginary comrade Evariste Galois, an ingenious mathematician from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One day his half-brother, Marin (a comics artist) shows up and takes him to a far-away village. There Chronos finds himself in another world and starts believing that he might be able to free himself from the clutches of drugs. The question is whether the drugs really want to let the young man go...

Spiridonova's story touches on an important topic that too few authors dare write about. Written in the first-person, Chronos' story is not admonishing, it does not take the reader into a made-up world, where the struggle against drug addiction looks like child's play. The author's extensive research into the topic shows in her full-blooded characters and their fully believable actions, but that which sets Chronos' story apart from similar books is the hope that despite difficulties, there still may be a way out.

The author's bold approach to this difficult topic brought her a nomination for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2017 – the first time the Swedish Arts Council has approved a Bulgarian author's nomination. The rights to the book have been sold in France, Switzerland and Canada.

## Foreign Works Illustrated by Bulgarian Authors





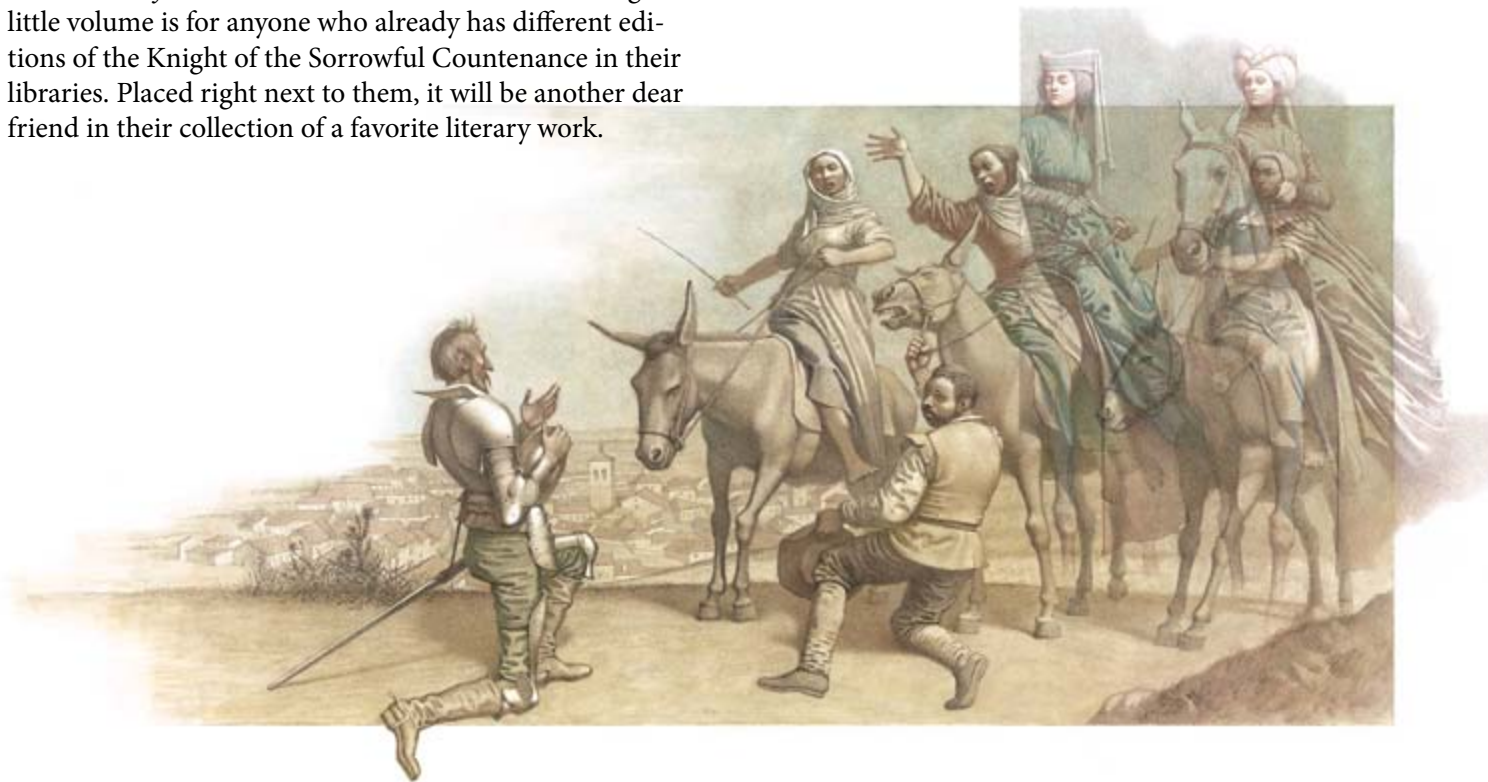
## Priklyucheniya na Don Kihot po Migel de Servantes The Adventures of Don Quixote, based on Miguel de Cervantes

Illustrations: Iassen Ghiuselev

Published in 2016 by Helikon,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-2984-10-8

— The book is illustrated by Iassen Ghiuselev – see p. 90

There is hardly a more appropriate book for adults that can be retold for children. That's because the main character in it – Don Quixote – is a grownup kid. And there is hardly a more appropriate Bulgarian artist than Iassen Ghiuselev who could have illustrated it. Because of his extraordinarily skills he succeeds in “completing” this great work, too – as he already did with *Alice in Wonderland*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* and *The Adventures of Pinocchio*. But besides children, this elegant little volume is for anyone who already has different editions of the Knight of the Sorrowful Countenance in their libraries. Placed right next to them, it will be another dear friend in their collection of a favorite literary work.







## Knigata na vsichki neshta The Book of Everything

Text: Guus Kujer

Illustrations and book design: Luba Haleva

Published in 2017 by  
Janet 45 Print and Publishing,  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-474-751-0

— The book is illustrated by Luba Haleva – see p. 92

**T**he Book of Everything brought Dutch writer Guus Kujer one of the most prestigious awards for children's literature: The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

The topics the author discusses provoke teenagers to think, to be open-minded and lead the way to serious self-knowledge. The Bulgarian edition of Kujer's story has a distinguishing feature – it was illustrated by Luba Haleva with the greatest attention to detail, which makes it a true work of art.

*“In the subtle, delicate illustrations in the Bulgarian edition of The Book of Everything, Luba Haleva skillfully combines the fragility and wisdom of a child with those of an elderly woman – the gentle lines of their faces and bodies; the yearnings of their imagination (his directed to the future, hers to the past); their small magical friendship, in order to depict implicitly, without naming it (just like in*

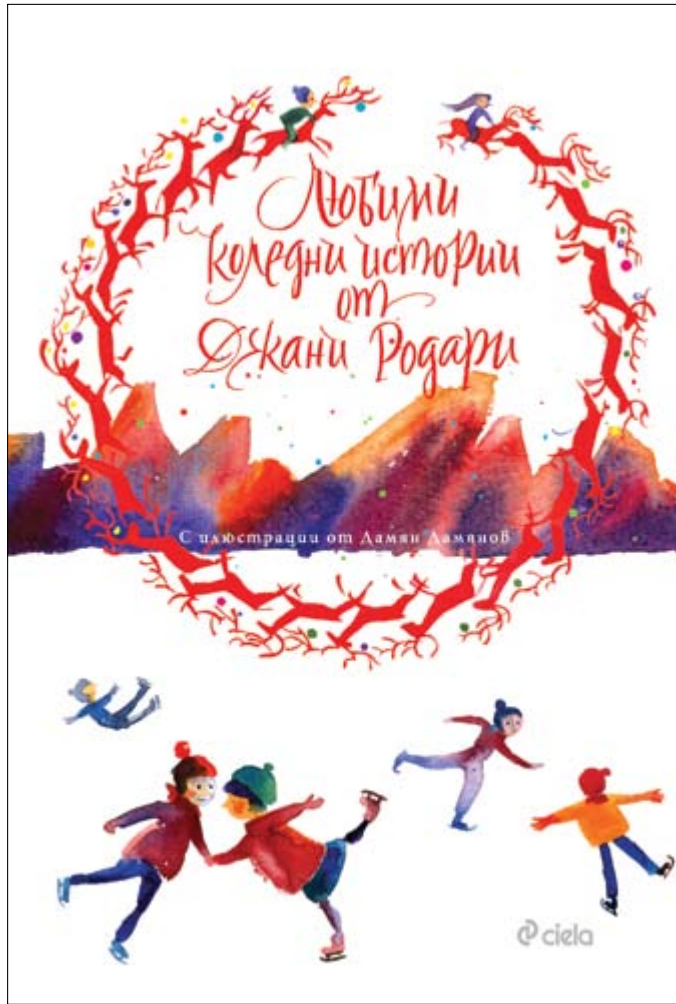
*the text) the brutal stupidity of domestic violence. Haleva's work is handmade, she uses four colored pencils, draws on recycled paper and using a very realistic approach achieves a perfect parable. Angels exist. Music is visible. A piece of raw meat is screaming on a finely painted porcelain plate. A wooden spoon turns into a dragon. Fear and shame pulsate behind the images. In the style of an old family album, the whole book is movement, reincarnation, enthusiasm, anxiety, escape.”*

Neva Micheva

The specific references to foreign lands and times (architecture, objects, style) do not distance us from the drawn story in the least; everyone could recognize its human nature as their own.







Lyubimi koledni istorii ot  
Dzhani Rodari  
Favorite Christmas Stories by  
Gianni Rodari

Text: Gianni Rodari  
Illustrations and book design: Damyan  
Damyanov

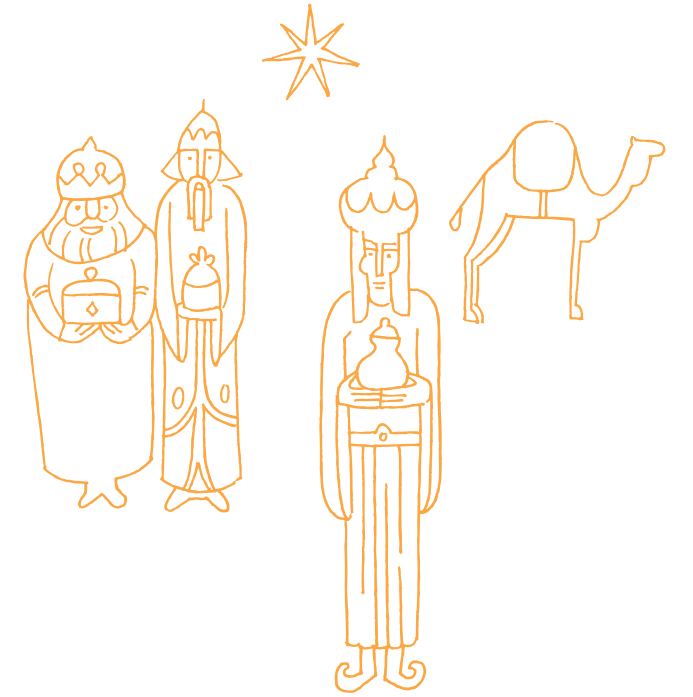
Published in 2016 by  
Ciela Publishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-28-2223-3

— The book is illustrated by Damyan Damyanov – see p. 86



In this richly illustrated edition, Damyan Damyanov turns to the traditional technique of water colors. On the book's pages, the artist recreates a picturesque world inhabited by fairytale-like winter scenes, filled with wonderful Christmas trees and children ice-skating around snowmen, while in the sky the witch Befana flies on her broomstick.

The illustration are made using the “wet on wet” technique, which lends additional beauty to the snowy landscapes and glittering skies tinted with stars and northern lights. The painted illustrations are accompanied by free linear drawings, which wonderfully supplement the light poems and fairytale-like stories of Gianni Rodari.







## Dzhelsomino v Stranata na lázhtsite Jasmine in the Country of Liars

Text: Gianni Rodari

Illustrations and book design: Damyan  
Damyanov

Published in 2016 by  
Ciela Publishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-28-2189-2

— The book is illustrated by Damyan Damyanov – see p. 86



*Jasmine in the Country of Liars* is one of the best-loved and most continually reprinted children's novels by Gianni Rodari. In this edition, the artist Damyan Damyanov mixes various traditional and computer techniques in order to illustrate the fantastical world of the loud-voiced hero, Jasmine, who ends up in the most absurd place on earth – the Country of Liars.

The images of Jasmine, Giacomone, Benvenuto and others stylistically resemble animated characters who inhabit the surrealistic decors and pictures. Here and there on the pages the cat Giopino, a not-quite-finished drawing on a wall, steps in with its three legs and overall, everything is as fun as it can only be in a world of unlimited imagination.



## Past & Future





The *Bulgarian Primer: 200 Years in First Grade* is the first visual history of Bulgarian primers and ABC books (1824-2010), compiling more than 130 titles, written by more than 100 authors and illustrated by 60 artists. The study offers a visual interpretation of different historical periods, social collisions, times of war and peace, of economical crises and industrial progress. It also puts an accent on everyday life, material culture, family relations, and attitudes towards child rearing, guidance, and education.

“An ABC book of Bulgarian ABC books. This is a brief and accurate visual interpretation of primers from the first one published until now, through the changing images and text, through the styles of compilers and painters. This book could be read as an encyclopaedia, an album or as easy reading. The history of primers, which is to some extent a history of Bulgarian life in the past two centuries. The way the state, ideology and the world enter through letters. A step toward the unwritten history of the Bulgarian child, a book to start spelling out the world with.”

Georgi Gospodinov, writer

## Bălgarskiyat bukvar: 200 godini v pǎrvi klas The Bulgarian Primer: 200 Years in First Grade

Research and text: Anton Staykov  
Book design: Svoboda Tzekova

Silver A' Design Award Winner for Writing, Literature and Content Design  
Category in 2015

Published in 2015 by  
Prosveta Publishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-01-3100-9



Anton Staykov is an artist and a journalist, engaged in the history and analytical overview of the comics of Bulgaria and around the world, as a researcher, collector and popularizer of Bulgarian comics.

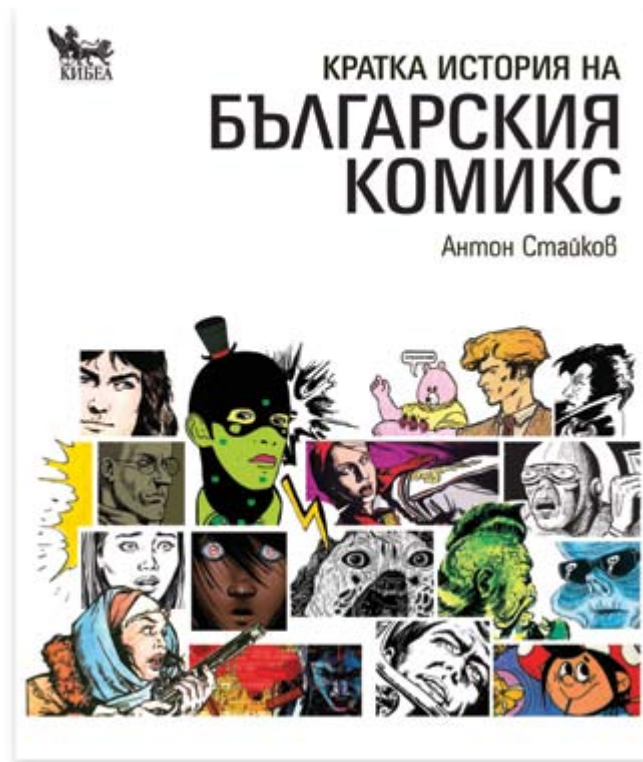
‘Comics and Advertising. Poetics and Semiotic Aspects’, is the title of his doctoral dissertation. Anton Staykov is an active participant as a lecturer at Bulgarian and international seminars. (2012, 2013 ‘Actualites du FLE’, Varna ; 2012 ‘BD en 45 minutes’, Sofia)

In 2011 and 2012 he was the model maker of the ‘How Do You Make Comics?’ studios in Sofia. His articles and interviews were published in BAN (Bulgarian Academy of Science) catalogues. He has written for *LIK* magazine, *Kultura* and *Literaturen* Newspapers, *Bulgaria on Air*, *Nad dagata* (Over the rainbow) catalogue.

He is one of the founders of the Comics Dept in the Union of Bulgarian Artists, active participant in Project Rainbow, curator of the First National exhibition of Bulgarian comics 2013, which took place in Sofia.







## Kratka istoriya na bŭlgarskiya komiks

### A Brief History of Bulgarian Comics

Research and text: Anton Staykov

Published in 2013 by  
Kibea Publishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-474-640-7

■ The author of the research is Anton Staykov – see p. 73

The history of Bulgarian comics is an integral part of the history of our culture. During the thriving years (1979-1992) *Dăga* (Rainbow) and *Chuden Svyat* (Wonder World) magazines sold more than 10 million copies. Talented artists and scriptwriters have created some of the best Bulgarian sequences telling exciting stories about warriors and wizards, detectives and sailors.

For the first time, a book traces the emergence, chronology and development of the ninth art in Bulgaria in the period from the 19th to the 21st century. With the help of more than 700 illustrations from chosen comics, the book gives an inside view of the authors, their heroes and the time they were created, about the censorship, the publishers and the successful stories of some Bulgarian artists around the world.







## Priklyucheniya na Tuffo rizhiya pirat

### The Adventures of Tuffo the Ginger Pirate

Text: Gueorgui Konstantinov

First edition published in 1980  
Izdatelstvo Otechestvo  
Bulgaria

Published in 2011 by  
Hermes Publishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-954-26-0364-1

When the author started writing this humorous children's book, he probably didn't expect that it would have such a fate. Its hero, the ginger-colored cat Tuffo, made a tour around Bulgaria, jumped over its borders and reached distant lands. The humorous novel *The Adventures of Tuffo the Ginger Pirate* has been translated in France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Russia and some other countries. The book won several national awards and its author was nominated in two consecutive years for the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Children's Literature. The book, written a few decades ago, since edited and expanded, continues to be published today.

Actually, what is the book about? In its pages little readers will learn how Tuffo the ginger pirate ran away from his home and how he ended up on the TV screen. They will see him board a transoceanic ship, without realizing what awaits him in the Bermuda Triangle. They will learn about his meeting with a Nubian lion, about his rocket flight to the outskirts of the Solar System and about the many fearsome adventures of the heroic cat. They will be especially fascinated to follow Tuffo's space travel to the Planet of Cats, where the length of his tail significantly raises his authority and almost puts him on the presidential throne...

If little readers follow this ginger long-tailed cat on all of his adventures, they are sure to have a lot of fun.



GUEORGUI KONSTANTINOV (20 December 1943, Pleven, Bulgaria) is one of the most famous Bulgarian poets and publicists. He graduated in Bulgarian philology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". He worked as a TV journalist, assistant chief editor of *Narodna Mladezh* newspaper, chief editor of the student magazine *Rodna Rech*. Konstantinov has been chief editor of *Plamak* magazine from 1983 until now. He was a member of the Seventh Grand National Assembly (1990-1991), deputy-minister of culture (1995), chairperson of the Bulgarian P.E.N.-center (2000-2013). Today Konstantinov is an honorary chairperson of the Bulgarian P.E.N.

Poems and prose works by Gueorgui Konstantinov have been translated in about 30 languages, his poetry and prose books have been published in French, German, Russian, Polish, Macedonian, Serbian, Kazakh, Ukrainian and other languages. Many of his poetic works - more than 200 - have been turned into popular songs, which were loved by several generations of Bulgarians. Animated films such as *Bravo*, *The Argument* and others were based on his fairytales.

Gueorgui Konstantinov is the author of more than 35 poetry books. In the autumn of 2012, his poems, in French, Flemish and Bulgarian, were placed on billboards in the Brussels' subway. He has won the national awards Geo Milev, Ivan Vazov, Izvorat na belonogata, Konstantin Konstantinov for children's and young adult writing, and others. He personally received a bronze medal Medalika Pontificia from Pope John Paul II in the Vatican.

#### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Children's books: **Priklyucheniya na Tuffo rizhiya pirat** (*The Adventures of Tuffo the Ginger Pirate*); **Papagalcheto Bravo** (*Bravo the Parrot*); **Kak planinata otide na more** (*How the Mountain Went to the Sea*); **Prikazka za golyamoto i malkoto vreme** (*A Story of the Big and the Small Time*); **Prikazki za Rumpi-Rump** (*Tales of Rumpi-Rump the Elephant*); **Văprosi v zooparka** (*Questions at the Zoo*) and others.

Poetry: **Edna usmivka mi e stolitsa** (*One Smile Is My Capital*); **Lichno vreme** (*Personal Time*); **Negramotno sãrtse** (*Illiterate Heart*); **Obshtitelen samotnik** (*Sociable Loner*); **Budna koma** (*Waking Coma*); **Dãrvo i ptitsa** (*Tree and Bird*); **Obicham te dotuk** (*Love You So Far*); **Aspirinov snyag** (*Aspirin Snow*); **Chovekãt e vãpros** (*The Person Is a Question*); **Novi stihove. Lirika. Satira** (*New Poetry. Lyrics. Satire*) and others.





## Beli mechki za cherni dni/ Cherni mechki za beli dni White Bears for Black Days/ Black Bears for White Days (pop-up book)

Text: Maria Nalbantova  
Illustrations and book design concept:  
Maria Nalbantova

Published in 2016 by  
Tochitsa Publishing House,  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
ISBN: 978-619-7172-13-3

— The book is illustrated by Maria Nalbantova – see p. 100

**W**hite Bears for Black Days / Black Bears for White Days is a literary work, which presents its idea through the capabilities of pop-up books and space. The main topic focuses on traditional proverbs - an integral part of Bulgarian folklore. They teach us important lessons through centuries-old wisdom, based on life experience. Passed by word of mouth, accompanying the people down through the ages, proverbs are that part of the language that has survived the test of time.

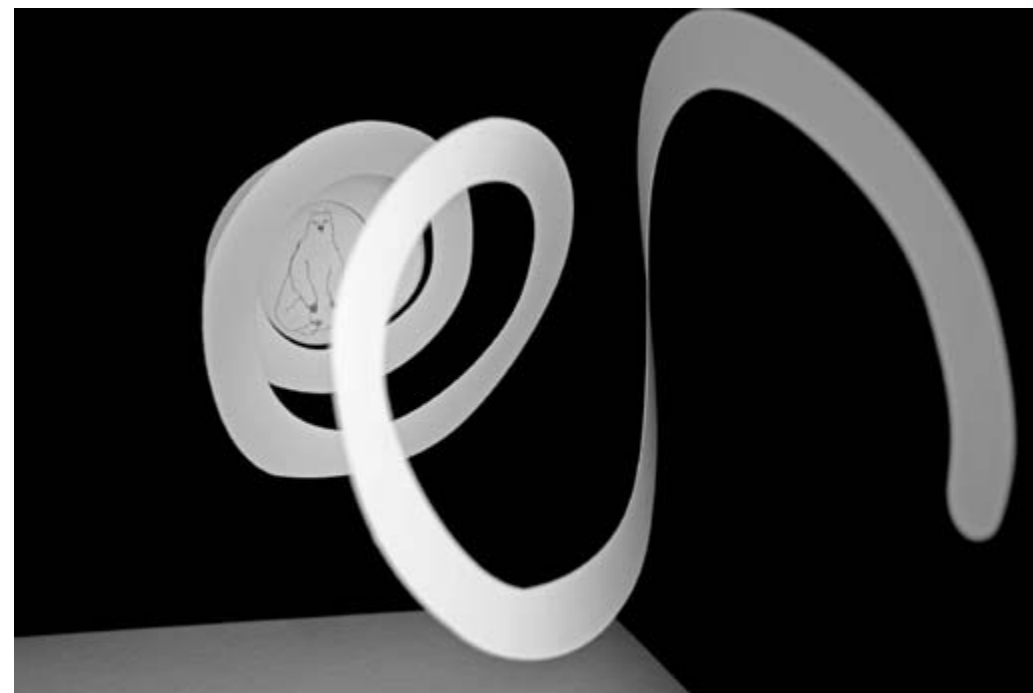
In this book, created in today's fast-changing world, proverbs are given a contemporary interpretation through the vantage point of a bear's universe. Thus the Balkan as Mountains are recreated as a bear, lifted up by the force of unity, water takes on the shape of a bear and so "drop by drop a bear is made" (to paraphrase a Bulgarian saying) and the eyes of your loved one become two bears that easily drop out of your mind, if they're out of your sight. The twist in the original interpretation and the underlined associations provoke the readers to discover the hidden message on their own.



MARIA NALBANTOVA (born in 1990 in Sofia) is an illustrator, visual artist and graphic designer with interests in the sphere of art books and alternative printed matter. She has a master's degree in Illustration from the Department of Book and Printed Graphics at the National Academy of Art. She has participated in a series of European residency programs in France, Romania and Spain. Maria is the author and illustrator of the pop-up book *White Bears for Black Days / Black Bears for White Days*.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

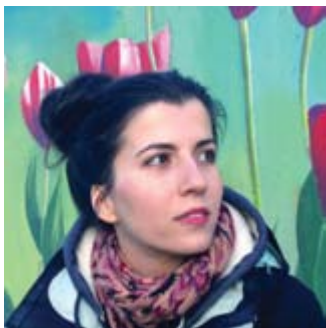
Art books: *Kniga za* (*A Book about*, 2014); *Mechka* (*Bear*, 2015); *Mecheshko mechtanie* (*Bearish Dreaming*, 2015); Pop-up books: *Beli mechki za cherni dni/Cherni mechki za beli dni* (*White Bears for Black Days / Black Bears for White Days*, 2016).





## Works by Bulgarian Artists





## 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, followed by the three books from the *What Does It Mean To Be* series by Katya Antonova. You can find out more about Martina at: <http://martinaandonova.blogspot.bg/>







## Maya Bocheva

is among the most emblematic and well-loved children's artists in Bulgaria. She has illustrated for the *Dāga* comics magazine and has worked with all the big Bulgarian publishers for children. She creates animated videos, advertising, games, interactive apps, textbooks and textbook accessories. Maya Bocheva has won first prize in the International Computer Space Festival many times and has created the first large-scale Bulgarian mobile app for children "Who Lit Up the Moon?" You can find out more about Maya at <http://wickyhouse.com/>.



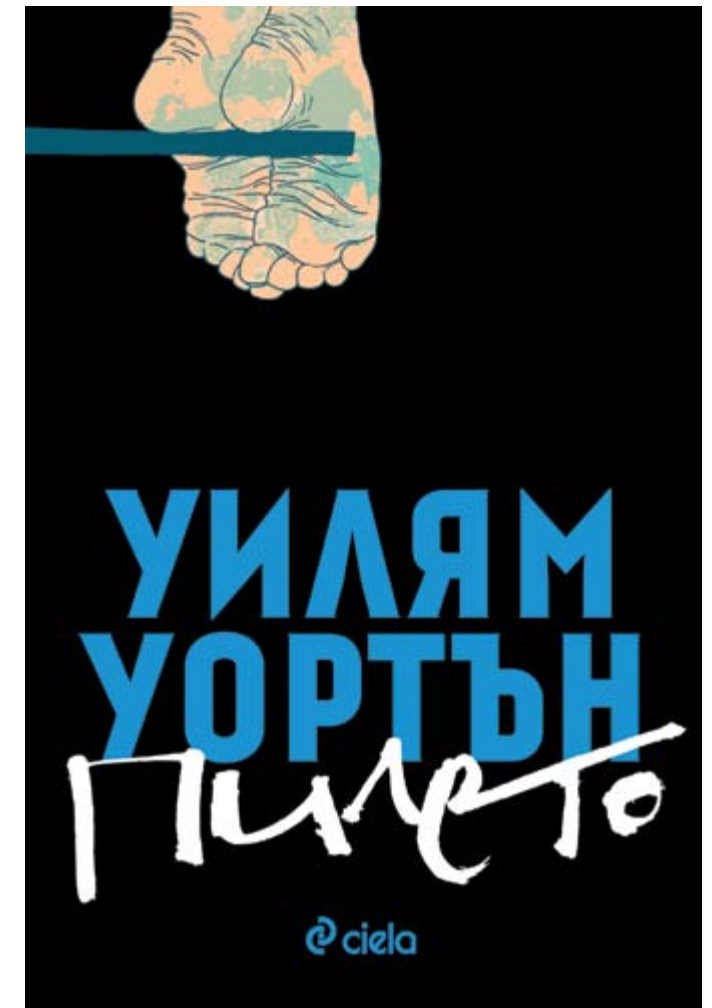




## Damyan Damyanov

(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 2017, including the series “Winter Olympics – Sochi 2014”, “120 Years of Sofia University”, “Christmas”, “Cosmos” and “Wild Roses”. He has also taken part in 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.

You can find out more about Damyan at: <https://www.behance.net/damyandamy3d74>







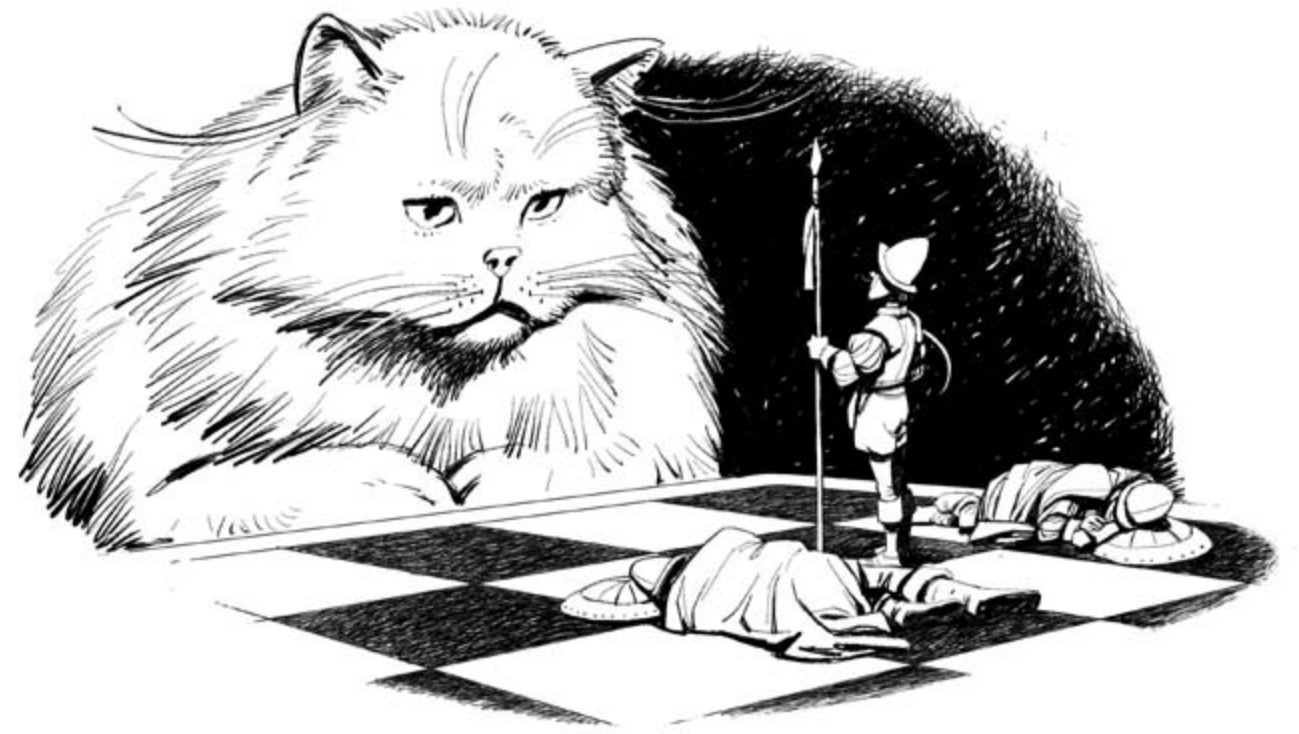
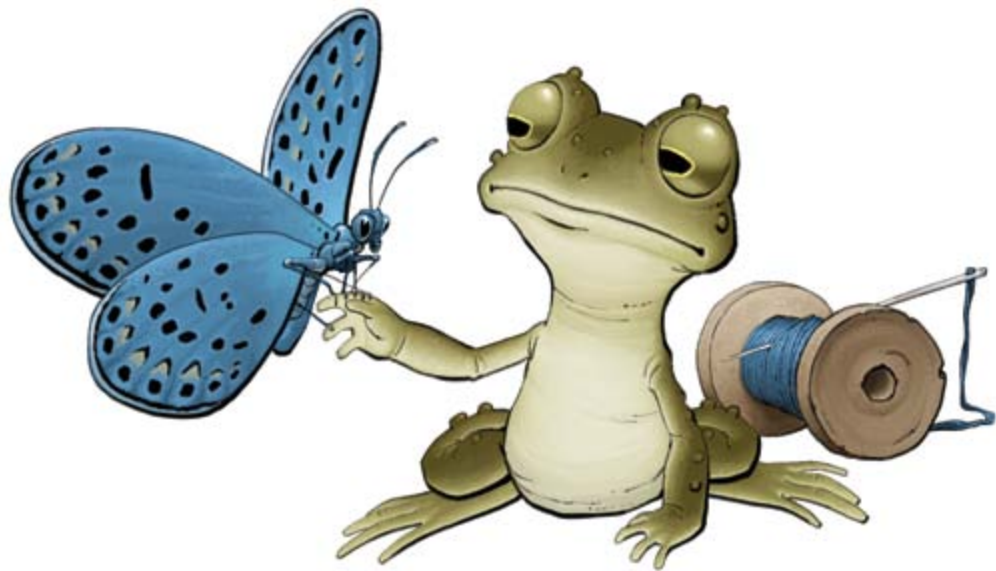
## Penko Gelev

(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*, *Zoetrope*). 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); *Iliicho, Avgust i Gergin* (2016, Enthusiast).

You can find more about Penko at: <https://www.behance.net/PenkoGelev>







## 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; SimplyRead 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).

You can find more about Iassen at: <http://iassen.com/>







## Luba Haleva

(17 May 1974, Razlog, Bulgaria) works in the area of illustration and graphic design. She was a winner of the Hristo G. Danov National Award in the category of the Art of the Book in 2015 and the Golden Lion prize for best overall publishing project, an original synthesis of text and graphics for the book *Jolly Tickling Laughter* by Margarit Minkov in 2016.

With her illustrations, Luba Haleva contributed to the selection of *Jolly Tickling Laughter* for the prestigious White Ravens 2016 catalogue of the International Youth Library, Munich, Germany.

You can find out more about Luba at [www.behance.net/lubahaleva](http://www.behance.net/lubahaleva)







## Silvia Kaloyanova

(1968, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Bulgaria) graduated from the School for Applied Arts with a specialization in woodcarving, then got her diploma from Veliko Turnovo University SS Cyril and Methodius in graphics. She works in the field of graphics, watercolors and illustrations, and book design.

In 2000 she took her first steps in the field of illustrations for children, and her works can be found in a series of kindergarten and primary-level textbooks for children. In 2013 she finished illustrations for the first book from the trilogy *The Wizards of O-III*, written by Dilyana Kruseva. For her work on the second part of the trilogy, *The Brave Prince and the Heavenly Kingdom*, Kaloyanova won the National Konstantin Konstantinov Prize for 2016 in the illustrator category.

You can find out more about Silvia here: <http://bit.ly/2m7xj3s>







## 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.







## Kiro Mavrov

(b. 1949, Varna, Bulgaria) is a Bulgarian artist and illustrator, who also works in the field of painting and graphics. He graduated from the National Art Academy in Sofia in 1978, majoring in illustration. Over the years he has illustrated more than 60 books, including: *The Fairytales of the Brothers Grimm*, *Ronia the Robber's Daughter* by Astrid Lindgren, *Tales for Naughty Children* by Jacques Prevert, *Parkinson's Laws* by Cyril Parkinson, and many others. He has illustrated a series of textbooks for various age levels and made illustrations for magazines and newspapers.

He prefers to illustrate works with a comic and satirical tone. For several years now he has been digitalizing the better part of his illustrations, which later will be published on national websites. He takes part in joint and solo exhibitions in Bulgaria and abroad. His most recent solo exhibition was in Barcelona, Spain (2009). One of his exhibitions, shown in Sofia, Varna and Plovdiv, included not only drawing but also kinetic mechanisms. Kiro Mavrov has won various prizes, including first and third prize from the International Biennale for Humor in Gabrovo; first and second prize at the National Exhibition for Illustration in Sofia; first prize in the International Biennale for Sports-related Illustrations, in Ancona, Italy, and others.







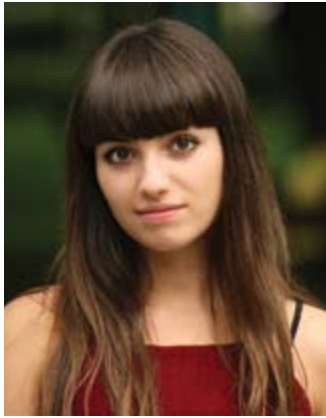
## Maria Nalbantova

(born in 1990 in Sofia) is an illustrator and graphic designer with interests in the sphere of art books and alternative printed matter. She has a master's degree in Illustration, from the department of Book and Printed Graphics at the National Academy of Art. She has participated in many international programs - *Own Vision Own Way*, Quern, France; *The CAN* (The Collective Art Neighborhood), Bucharest, Romania ; Erasmus at the Department of Fine Arts in Universidad de Granada, Spain.

In 2014 Maria won a contest for illustration of the Bulgarian edition *The Tallow Candle* – the first Hans Christian Andersen story, discovered in 2010. Maria is the author of three art books and one pop-up book *Black Bears for White Days/ White Bears for Black Days*. You can find out more about Maria at: [www.omno.eu](http://www.omno.eu) and [www.behance.net/omno](http://www.behance.net/omno)







## Katina Nedeva

(28 September 1993, Sofia, Bulgaria) graduated from the Tsanko Lavrenov National High School in Plovdiv, with a specialty in Graphics. She did her bachelor's degree in Books and Print Graphics at the National Academy of Art in Sofia under Professor Victor Paunov. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Photography at the NAA. Katina does graphic design and illustrations, photography and comics, she also paints portraits and landscapes. She works as a graphic designer.

Katina Nedeva has taken part in numerous independent and collective exhibitions and international projects. Her comic book *Broderick* was included in issue 7 of the specialized magazine *Co-mixer*, and in 2016 Katina illustrated the books *A Tale of the First Birthday* by Maria Kostadinova and *Cardboard Piano* by Aneta Ducheveva. Her first book as an author, *Bird Village*, will be published in 2017.

You can find out more about Katina at: [www.behance.net/KatinaNedeva](http://www.behance.net/KatinaNedeva)







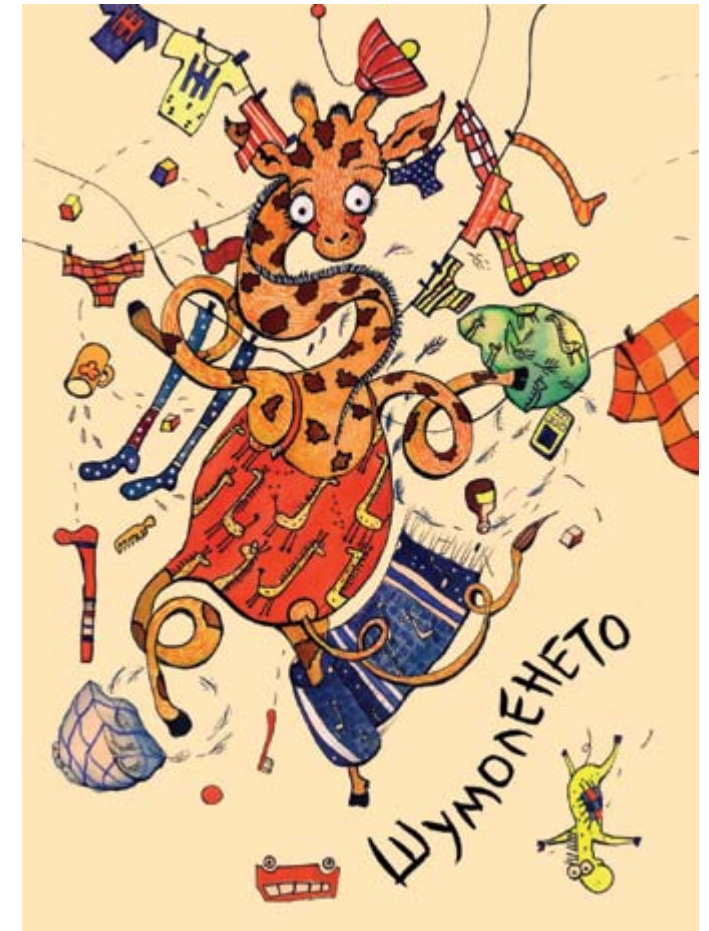
## Mila Popnadeleva-Genova

graduated from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia with a Master's degree in Book and Print Graphics. Her CV includes many solo expositions and presentations as well as many books illustrated by her from 2001 – 2016. She began writing for children in 2009. As of now, she has six books to her name with her own illustrations.

Mila has been nominated for many national prizes for literature for children; the rights to her book *The Rustling* have already been sold in Turkey. In 2011, Mila Popnadeleva-Genova wrote her first children's play *Just a Tale, a Piggy One at That* in Sofia, then in Plovdiv in 2012, she wrote another play for the program Bambini with the Trakart Cultural Center.

Mila is a member of the Bulgarian Union of Artists, Section "Painting".

You can find more about Mila at: <http://mpopnadeleva.blogspot.bg/>







## 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 Dăga community and chairs the Union of Bulgarian Artists' Comics Section.







## Youlian Tabakov

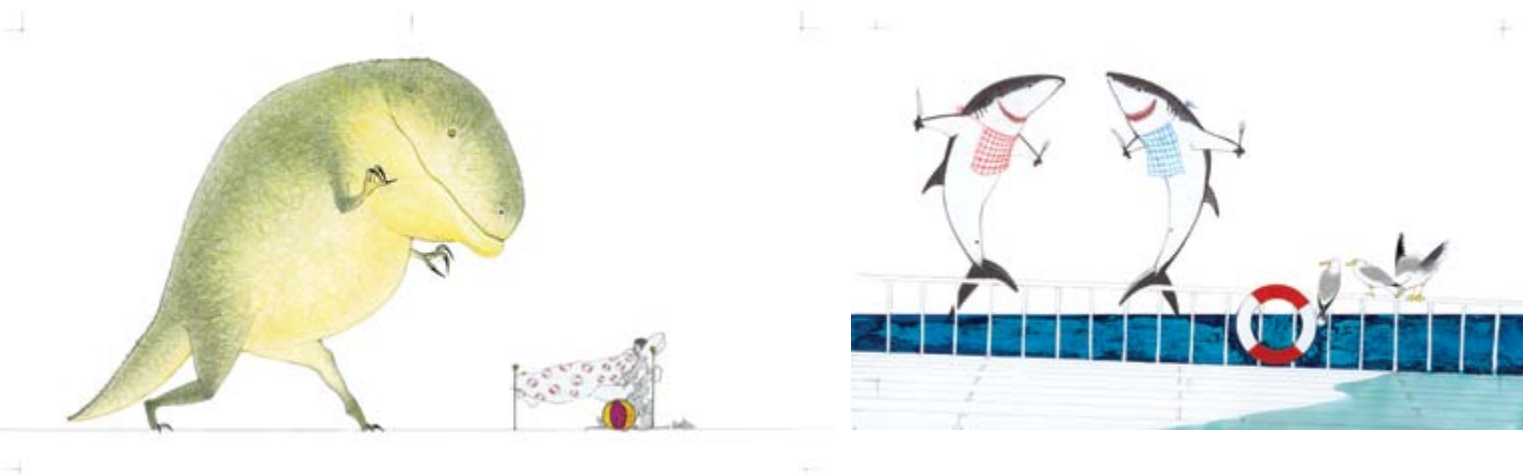
(2 July 1975, Sofia, Bulgaria) graduated from the High School of Applied Arts in Sofia in 1994 – in the department of toy and game design for children. In 2000 he received his first master's degree in Scenography and Costume Design from the National Art Academy "N. Pavlovich" in Sofia and in 2002 a second one in Fine Arts - photography and sculpture from ENS des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

His first professional appearance as a set designer and director was in Chekov's play *Three Sisters* at the Tears and Laughter Theater in Sofia, Bulgaria (1999 – 2000 season). Since 2002 he has been working in Sweden and Bulgaria and has made the sets and costume designs for more than 45 productions in Sweden, Bulgaria, Russia and Lithuania. Youlian Tabakov has illustrated numerous poetry and children's books and has presented some of them in several group and solo exhibits in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and the USA. In 2016 he was chosen as runner up for the Stevan Dohanos Award from the Society of Illustrators in New York City.

In 2012 he finished his first documentary film *Tzvetanka*. The movie was subsequently selected for: Documentary Fortnight 2013, MoMA's International Festival of Nonfiction Film and Media and by: CPH: DOX, Dok Leipzig, and more than 25 other festivals, and received 12 international awards. In 2014, he, together with Anne-Kathrin Peitz, directed the documentary *SATIESFICTIONS*; the film won Best European Movie Award in Jakarta IFF.

Youlian Tabakov has had several solo photography exhibits in Sofia, Rousse, Varna and Stockholm, and has participated in various group exhibits. He has also designed several fashion collections. His solo expositions include: *Footnotes about Beauty* in 2007 in Giljotin Stockholm and The Red House in Sofia, *Tzvetanka* in 2013 in Sofia and Rousse Art Galleries, and in Contemporary Space in Varna. In April 2015 he presented the large scale photography project *MOMENTS* in the Rayko Alexiev contemporary art gallery in Sofia. In 1998, Youlian Tabakov was awarded the third annual Smirnoff fashion prize. In 2011, he received the Golden Age Prize for his contributions to the development of Bulgarian culture, and in 2013 received the Asker 2013 award for achievements in stage costume design.

You can find out more about Youlian at: <http://www.youliantabakov.com/>







## 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: *Kinderecke* / 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 won the international Silver A Design Award for Writing, Literature and Content Design Category in 2015.

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

You can find out more about Svoboda at:  
<http://svobodatzekova.com/>





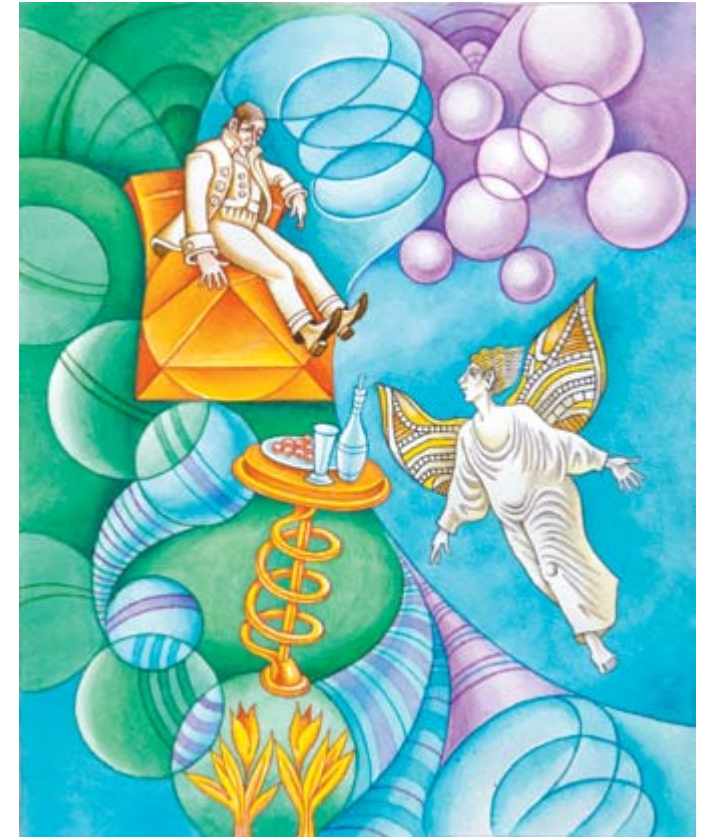
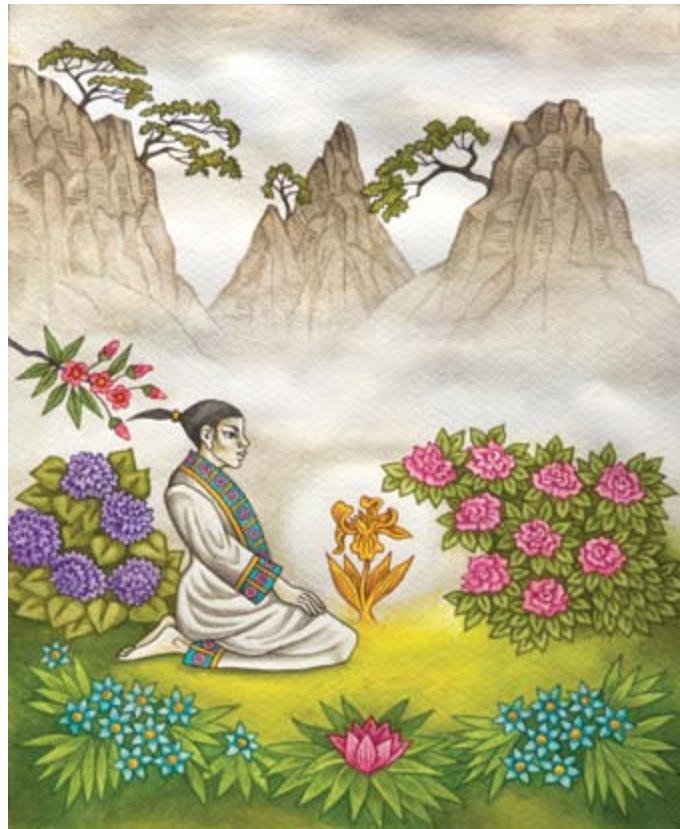


## Venelin Valkanov

is an artist, illustrator and author of fairytales. He has published over 20 books, of which he is the author and the illustrator. His works have been published in Japan, South Korea, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Russia and Cuba. He has kept the child in his soul alive, he sees and recreates his fairytale characters with a child's curious eye and with exceptional professionalism.

Examples of books he has illustrated wonderfully include: *The Fisherman and the Golden Fish* by Alexander Pushkin, *Rootabaga Stories* by Carl Sandburg, *The Hump-backed Horse* by Pyotr Ershov, *The Fairytale about the Beetle* by Tsvetan Angelov and many others. Valkanov was included in the list of honorable mentions for the Hans Christian Andersen Prize in 2000 for his illustrations of *Jesus' Childhood: The Gospel of Thomas* by Ivan Serafimov.

For 12 years, Venelin Valkanov has been working exclusively with the children's author Lyubov Georgieva. The two of them have created a fairytale series of rhymes *Sunny Sorceries*, of which 15 books have been published so far. Lyubov Georgieva and Venelin Valkanov's new project includes magical fairytales in two volumes entitled *The Tales of the Wizard and the Fairy*, in which the artist is also the co-author. The first volume has also been published in English.







## Evgenia Voinova

was born in Sofia where she graduated in Poster Design under Professor Ivan Gazdov at the National Art Academy. Since 2005 she has been working as an illustrator of children's books and since 2011 she has been dedicated mainly to publishing children's books, the first of which is *Crazy Colored Chaos*, published in 2012 and followed by *Mateya* in 2013. Voinova has also made multiple paintings for children which are now owned by private collectors throughout the world.

At the moment Evgenia is preparing for the publication of her third book *David*, in which the main character is a little mouse with a very long tail, which separates him from the others and which causes him trouble and is the reason for endless mockery. Despite all this, David is patient, good-hearted and brave. Thanks to those characteristics, he manages to change the opinion others have of him. He even finds love...

You can find out more about Evgenia at: <https://evgeniavoinova.com/>







Siyana Zaharieva

(24 April 1982, Pernik, Bulgaria) graduated in illustration from the National Art Academy in Sofia. She works in the sphere of illustration, graphic design and children's books. She has made illustrations for various advertising campaigns and products for Coca Cola Bulgaria, Jacobs Monarch, Take a Cake and others. Her newest illustrations are for the children's book *Urban Geography* by Zornitsa Hristova and Desislava Dimitrova (Tochitsa, 2016).

She has taken part in national and international exhibitions and competitions, with her latest participation bringing her fifth place in the international illustration competition *5th EPICASE Art&Illustration Competition 2014* in South Korea.

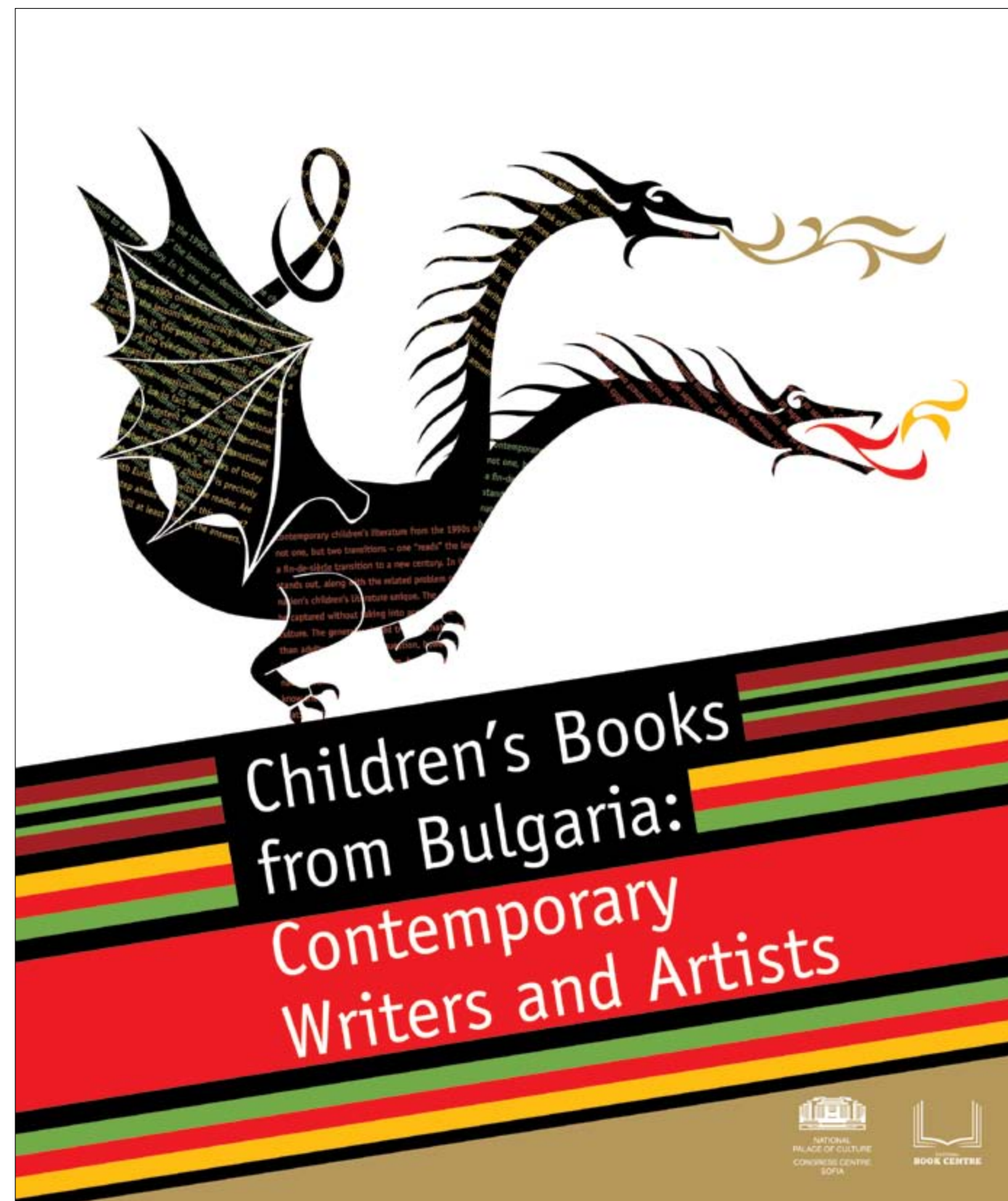
Find out more about Siyana at: [https://www.behance.net/siyana\\_zd487](https://www.behance.net/siyana_zd487)







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