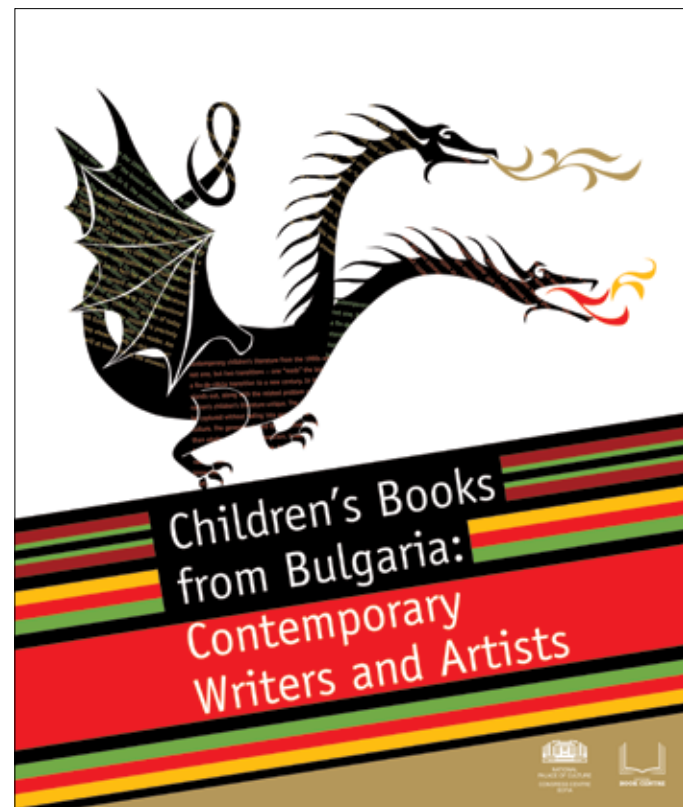


Children's Books by Bulgarian
Writers and Artists

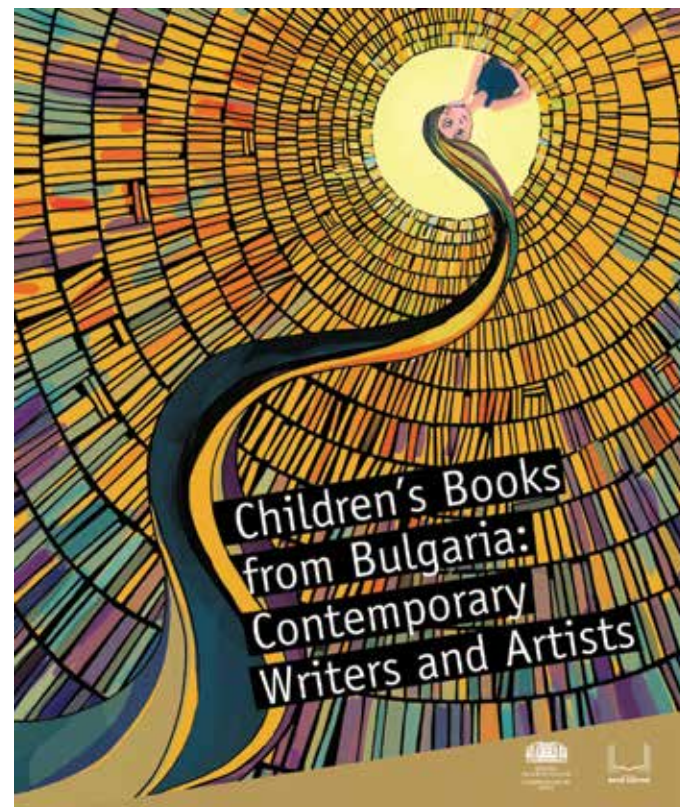
Children's Books
by Bulgarian
Writers and Artists



2016



2017



Children's Books by Bulgarian Writers and Artists

Children's Books by Bulgarian Writers and Artists

- © National Palace of Culture – Congress Centre Sofia 2019,
National Book Centre
- © Translation by Angela Rodel, Dessyslava Nikolova, Dessyslava Toncheva
- © Angel Mitev, preface

Svetlozar Zhelev, editor
Angela Rodel, Proofreading and editing

- © Damyan Damyanov, cover and book design



Dear publishers and friends of Bulgarian literature,

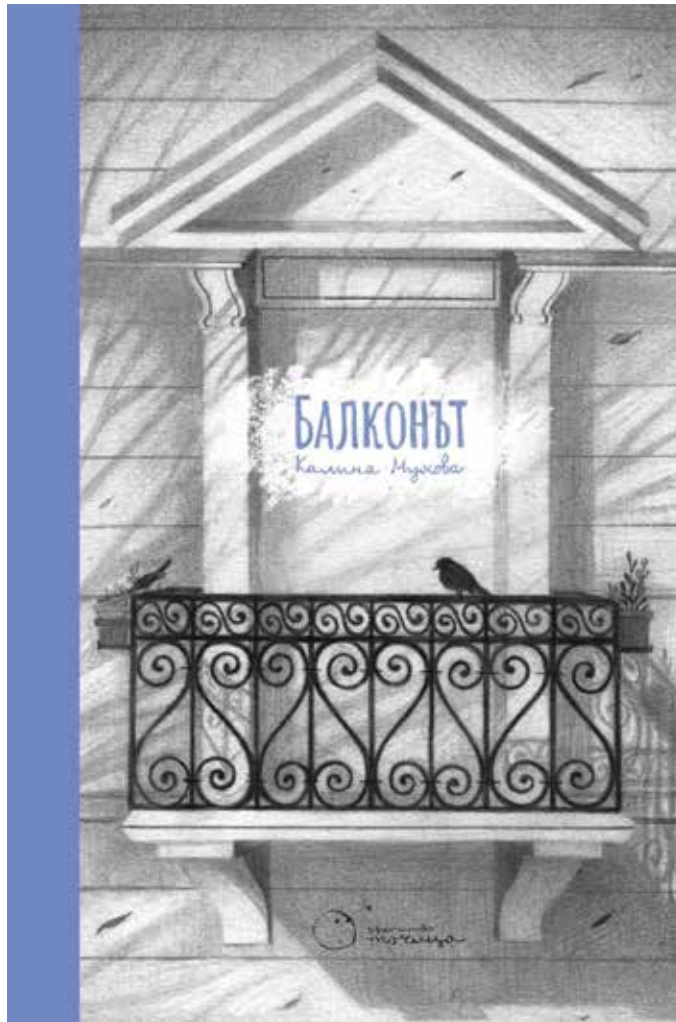
You are holding in your hands the new catalogue containing the most interesting, important and notable children's books produced over the past year by Bulgarian writers and artists.

Through children's books we can understand much about a people, a country and a culture. The purity's of a child's mind, the path towards it, the way we unite it with the values and the spirit of our society and our times – all of this allows us to touch the most authentic, sincere and transparent essence of a nation, its past, present and future. The National Book Centre and the National Palace of Culture for the third year in a row present to you these magical works of art, which represent the talents and achievements of Bulgarian writers and artists in their noble mission to engage children's minds and to win them over to the knowledge, goodness and light of literature.

Children are the most critical, least burdened and most fragile readers. Thus, to reach them, both writers and artists must put their whole heart and soul into their work. I am convinced that every one of the authors and artists featured in this catalog has succeeded in this. I hope you appreciate their efforts.

Welcome to the fairy-tale world of contemporary Bulgarian children's literature!

Angel Mitev
Chief Executive of The National Palace of Culture



The Balcony Balkonăt

Illustrator: Kalina Muhova
Text: Zornitsa Hristova

Published in 2018 by
Tochitsa Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7172-19-5

Rights sold to Italy

A silent book about learning to see beyond self-imposed expectations. An old house has a beautiful balcony that has been walled-in and remains unused by the family. Then a little mischief helps the young daughter discover a new source of light.

A story about the need for a broader outlook on the world inspired by the eponymous poem by renowned Bulgarian poet Atanas Dalchev. *The Balcony* is illustrated by Kalina Muhova, the scenario was written by Bulgarian author Zornitsa Hristova.



KALINA MUHOVA is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts, Bologna, where she studied Illustration. In 2018 the Italian publishing house *Tunué* published her first book, the graphic novel *Sofia of the Ocean* (*Sofia dell'Oceano*). *The Balcony* is her second work and it won her a place at the 2018 Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators' Exhibition. You can find out more about her work at: www.behance.net/KalinaMuhova

ZORNITSA HRISTOVA is the author of *Delicious Geography*, *Short Stories for Dreaming*, *City Geography*, *When I Want to Be Silent* and more. Her first published work is *Make Your Own Fairytale*, a gamebook that develops children's creative writing skills.





The Sugar Bowl Fairy Feyata ot zaharnitsata

Author: Katya Antonova
Illustrator: Mila Lozanova

Published in 2017 by
Ribka Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7131-32-1

Who is Vanilla? A charming and infuriatingly unruly troublemaker! A not-so-sweet little fairy that will make you double up with laughter!

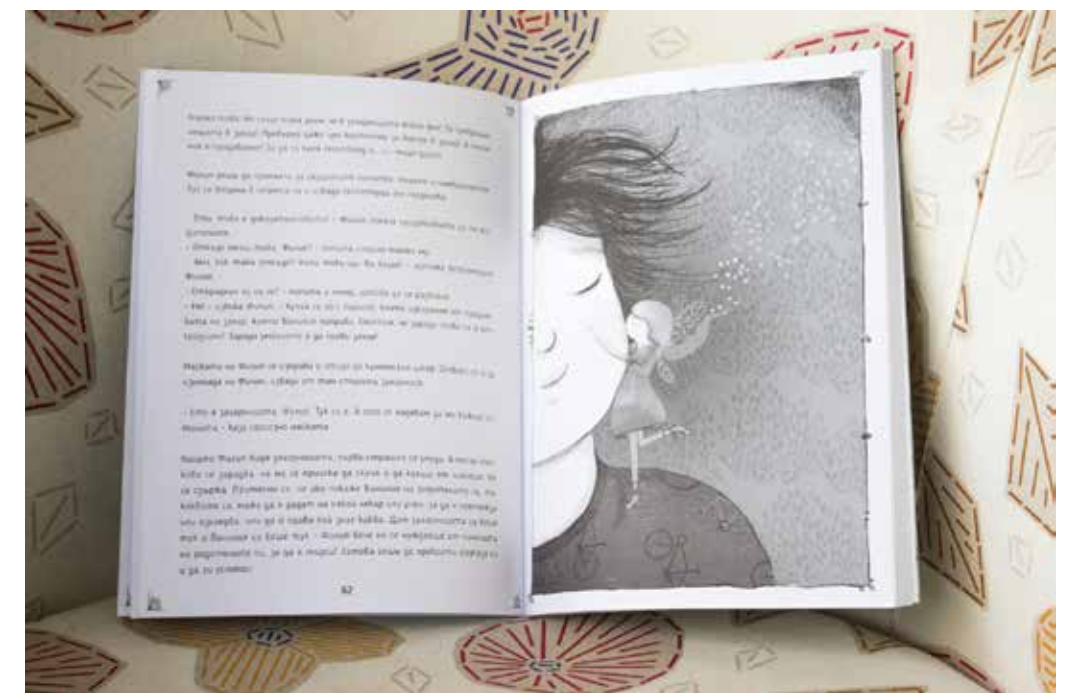
The Sugar Bowl Fairy is a hilariously funny but definitely not sugar-coated children's book. It tells about a fairy and a little boy named Philip. A story of a strange friendship and all the fun that can come out of it. A city adventure that could happen to any child... as long as they have their own Sugar Bowl Fairy. The book includes a disgusting cake, a missing pair of underwear, a few ridiculous letters to Santa and heaps of... sugar.

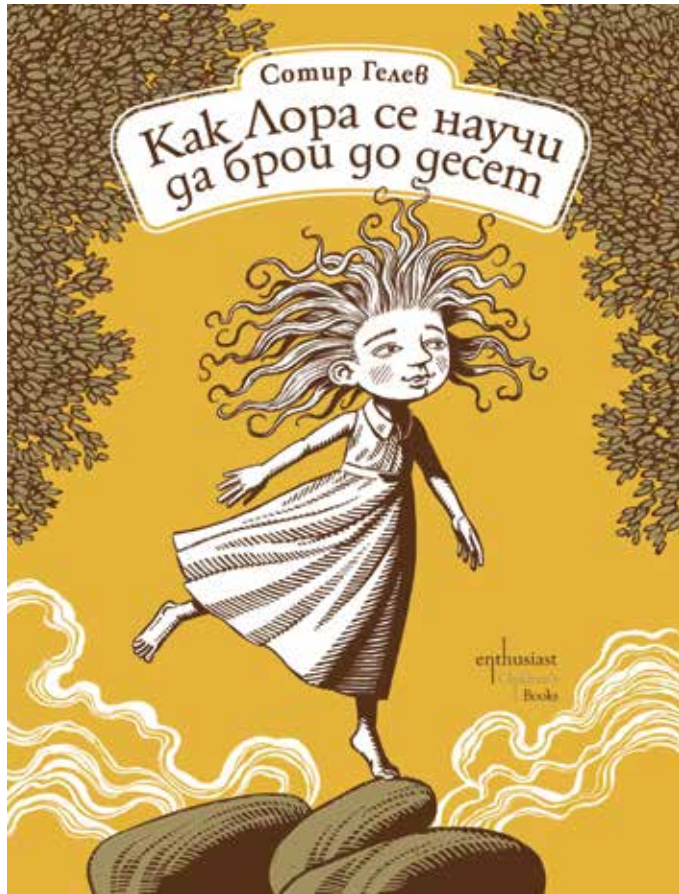
There are many fairies that are not your typical girly fairies. There are many fairies that are really annoying. There are many fairies that don't do anything right. No, wait. Actually, there are not that many. There is only one and her name is Vanilla. She can definitely give you a headache but chances are you are going to laugh so hard your stomach will start to hurt! Vanilla thinks she is many things (she is not), but one thing is certain: she is the most hilarious fairy!

The Sugar Bowl Fairy is Katya Antonova's best-loved book. The sequel is called *Fourteen-and-a-Half Vanillas*.

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.

MILA LOZANOVA has been drawing since she was very young. That's how she communicates things she can't find words for. It's a therapy, a hobby and a job. It's what makes her happy. Mila has recently received her PhD degree in Fine Arts and Arts Critique. During the IV Theatre Poster Biennale in 2004 she received the award for debut. Her works were awarded at the 2008 Biennale as well. During the last 12 years she has been working as Art Director for an advertising agency. You can find out more about her work here: behance.net/milozandra





How Lora Learned to Count to Ten

Kak Lora se nauchi da broi do deset

Author: Sotir Gelev
Illustrator: Sotir Gelev

Published in 2018 by
Enthusiast Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-164-271-7

не
до
мо

In 2018 the book won the
Quill Award for Best Children's
Book.

Counting to ten is actually not that hard. That is what a person who has done it at least ten times would say. But Lora has not. She only knows the number one, which is extremely insufficient. Especially when you would like to eat one pancake, then another one, and one more after that. This takes brave little Lora on a series of adventures but, luckily, she is not alone. With the help of a monster, dwarves, a dragon, fairies, mice and a cat, counting proves far less difficult.

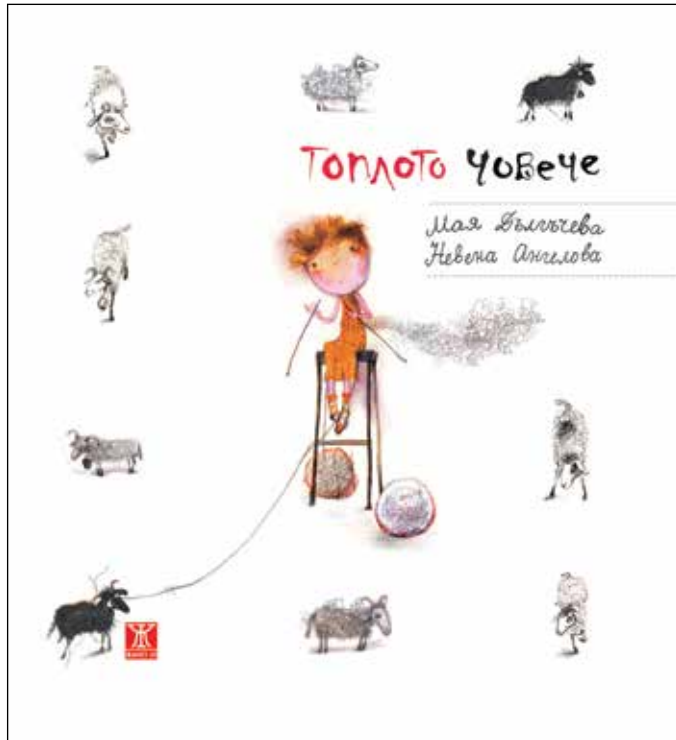
How Lora Learned to Count to Ten is a story for children but contains important lessons we learn in our everyday life. Sotir Gelev paints a witty picture (literally and metaphorically) of growing up. Learning something new may seem scary at first because the unknown is always frightening, but it is actually not that hard. And when Mum's delicious mashed potato balls with yoghurt sauce are waiting for you on the other side, you realize it was all worth it.

"Sotir Gelev is the author of both the text and the illustrations done *in the spirit of German Romanticism with a technique* reminiscent of ancient woodcarving with an addition of gold ornamentation. This unusual concept strays from contemporary Bulgarian illustration and enhances this play with classical genres, which gives irresistible charm to the book. Gold makes turning the pages entertaining and serves as a reminder of how magical and whimsical the world of childhood fantasies is."

Anton Staykov, artist



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.



The Warm Little Guy Toploto choveche

Author: Maya Dalgacheva
Illustrator: Nevena Angelova

Published in 2017 by
Janet 45 Publishing House
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-186-370-9

Maya Dalgacheva is an Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nominee.

Winter is the busiest time of the year. People often feel cold then. Some sigh, leaning their elbows on the windowsill. Some squeeze their eyes shut and count sheep until dawn. Others give up counting altogether and just stare at the ceiling. This is when *The Warm One Little Guy* starts making house calls.

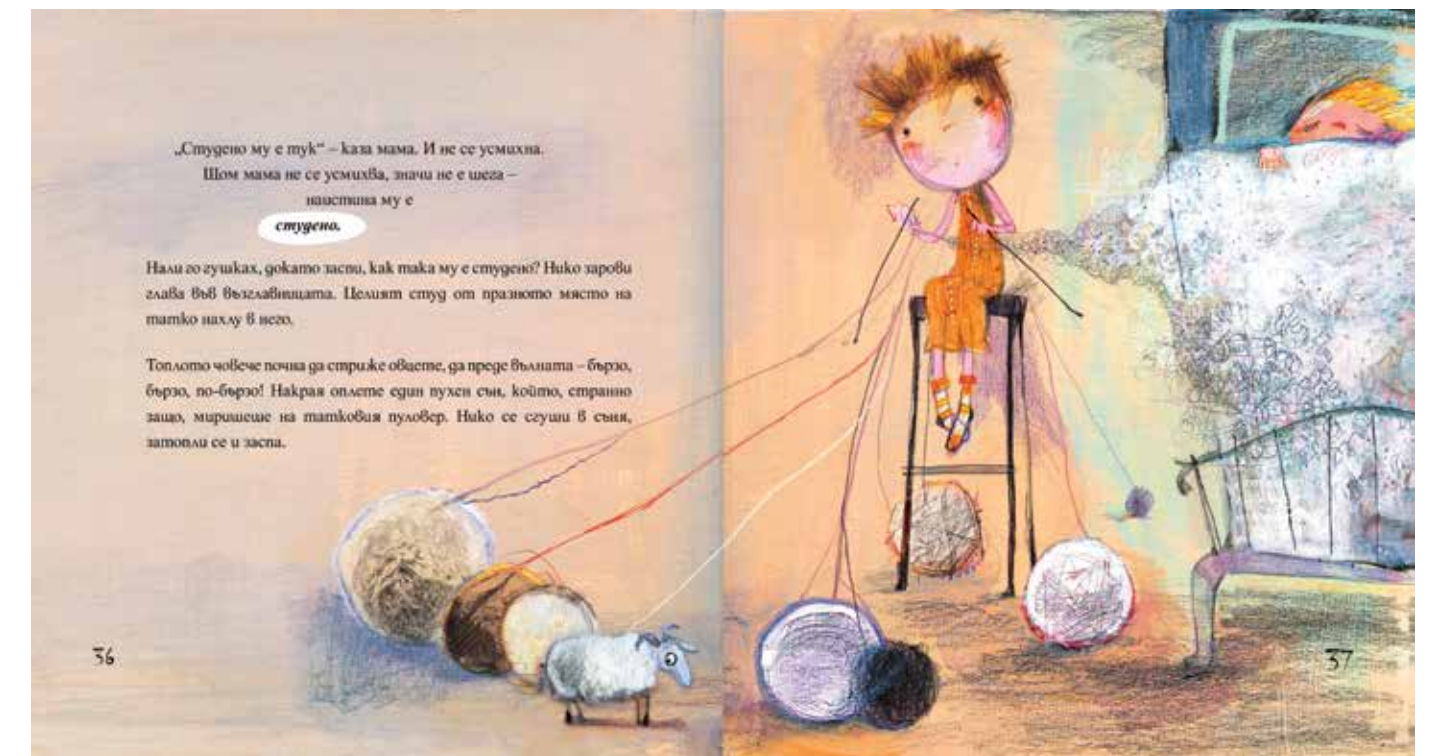
The Warm Little Guy is a beautifully written, smart and moving children's book which is not looking to win readers over by toying with children's natural predisposition towards all things entertaining. It explores issues that worry children feel deeply but that adults usually steer away from. Inspired by these communicative objectives, the book shares with its young readers in an understand-

able way and with no false optimism secrets about dying and immortality with a soothing intimacy, demonstrating a remarkable intuitive awareness of the particular relationship children have with death. The child is guided with sympathy through painful family dramas that reverberate in its soul with the emotional undertones of sadness, guilt and abandonment; the book is not afraid to problematize early childhood jealousy of younger siblings, to explore what it is like to be different or to shed light on the fears children have that adults often underestimate, namely the fears of being rejected by their peers, of being made fun of and humiliated.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mladen Enchev
Portal for literary criticism vsichkozaknigite.com

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

NEVENA ANGELOVA (b. 1974) graduated from the National Academy of Art, Sofia, specializing in Book and Printed Graphics. Over the last 10 years she is a lecturer at the same Academy. Besides at numerous exhibitions in Bulgaria, Angelova's works have been shown abroad in the Netherlands, Switzerland and other countries. She is the author of the illustrations and book design of numerous editions for children and adults.





Lupo and Tumba

Lupo i Tumba

Author: Petya Kokudeva
Illustrator: Romina Beneventi

Published in 2018 by
Janet 45 Publishing House
Plovdiv, Bulgaria

First part:
ISBN paperback: 978-619-186-407-2
ISBN hardcover: 978-619-186-406-5

Second part:
ISBN paperback: 978-619-186-413-3
ISBN hardcover: 978-619-186-414-0

Rights sold to Germany

Lupo and Tumba is a book inspired by children's fascinating lateral thinking and ingenious logic. This palette of 40 short dialogues between two furry friends – the long-nosed dog Lupo and the naughty raccoon Tumba – will amuse both kids and adults with unexpected views and startling revelations.

If you ask Tumba why we yawn at night, he will tell you that sleep was taking a peek to check if we had brushed our teeth. And if you ask Lupo why the fish in the lake never says anything, he would confidently answer: "Well, who would like all that water in their mouth when they talk?"

These miniature stories are easy to read, blending laughter and wisdom in a variety of topics: the beauty of the world, troubles, friendship, dreams, etc. They echo the absurdly funny and minimalistic spirit of *Heart and Brain* and *The Peanut Family* and the lyrical laconism of *Open House for Butterflies* by Ruth Krauss.

Lupo and Tumba is a book about the most important topic of the day: the long-forgotten art of conversation and the pursuit of a different, albeit sometimes absurd, point of view. Daring and wild, just like children themselves,

the book is the author's homage to her favorite book *From Two to Five* by Korney Chukovsky.

The book is published in Germany by eta Verlag.



PETYA KOKUDEVA (b. 1982) is a Sofia-based author of poetry books for children. She has a BA in Journalism and an MA in Creative Writing from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. For the last ten years she's been working as a copywriter for several international creative agencies. She is a passionate globetrotter and an ardent collector of children's books illustrations. Petya has been writing in a self-invented literary genre: children's poetry for grown-ups. Her first book *Lulu* (*Lulu*, 2011), won the special award at the National Debut Book Contest (2012) in Bulgaria and has been reprinted four times so far. Her second book *Malki 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.





Moon Luna

Author: Nikolai Grozni
Illustrator: Iva Sasheva

Published in 2017 by
Begemot Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-90528-6-0



The book is included in the 2018
International Youth Library White
Ravens catalogue.

Two anteaters with unusual names investigate different craters on the moon and end up in philosophical conversations about existence and their way of being. What happens when an anteater doesn't identify itself as such? Can an anteater even be an anteater if it doesn't eat any ants? If so, what makes an anteater an anteater? Its appearance? Its behaviour? Or its wants? In this "picture book for everyone," Bulgarian pianist and author Nikolay Grozni makes his affinity for the Buddhist worldview known and invites readers to join in philosophical contemplation. Iva Sasheva's illustrations and the typography extend the invitation by playing with spatial perspectives, allowing textual passages to snake along or curl snail-like, sympathetically casting the two protagonists and their profound reflections and concerns.

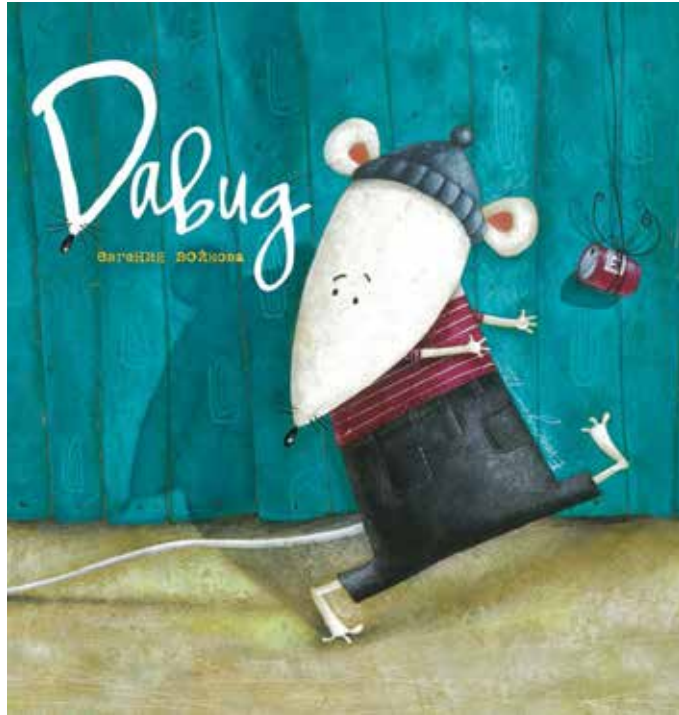
White Ravens database



NIKOLAI GROZNI began training to become a classical pianist at the age of five. He won his first piano award in Salerno, Italy, when he was ten, and continued winning awards and performing until his untimely dismissal from the music high school in his native Sofia. He moved to Boston to study jazz and composition at Berklee College of Music, but, having set his sights on the pursuit of the transmudane, he suddenly left for India to become a Buddhist monk and study at the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics in Dharamsala. Five years later he disrobed and returned to Sofia, ostensibly to focus on his writing. Since then Grozni has published five novels and one memoir, received an MFA from Brown University, and worked on his photography, all the while traveling in triangles between Bulgaria, France and the US.

IVA SASHEVA is a master printmaker, painter, sculptor and book illustrator. Her first exhibition at the age of 13 was followed by a number of solo and group shows in Europe and America. As an artist she has contributed her work to more 25 feature films and collaborated with authors in the creation of several graphic novels, literary novels and children's books.





David is a story about believing in yourself. A story of love and understanding, of acceptance and tolerance.

At Mouse School all mice look the same but a very long tail sets David apart. This flaw is the reason why he feels lonely and why his classmates make fun of him and tease him. David and his good heart will weather any storm with insight and wisdom. Very soon, as is often the case, things change and the world shifts before his eyes. A new girl arrives at the school, a sweet little mouse named Emma, who chooses David as her friend. The pair get on very well and have a lot of fun, not paying attention to any problems. David starts to feel strange emotions and because he is not only kind but brave as well, he decides to tell Emma. After a silly incident during a school trip everyone finds out what the little mouse has been hiding in his big heart. His fearless and swift reaction leaves everyone speechless and changes their attitude. As for David, he embraces love, thankful and happy.

David David

Author: Evgenia Voinova
Illustrator: Evgenia Voinova

Published in 2017 by
David Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-90986-0-8

“I wrote this book with a lot of love for the more sensitive children in particular, as they tend to get into such situations often and have a very special place in my heart. My wish was to pass on a message to them through David: to believe in themselves, come what may! To know that everyone is destined to feel love and they should never stop waiting for it, looking for it, and believing in it!”

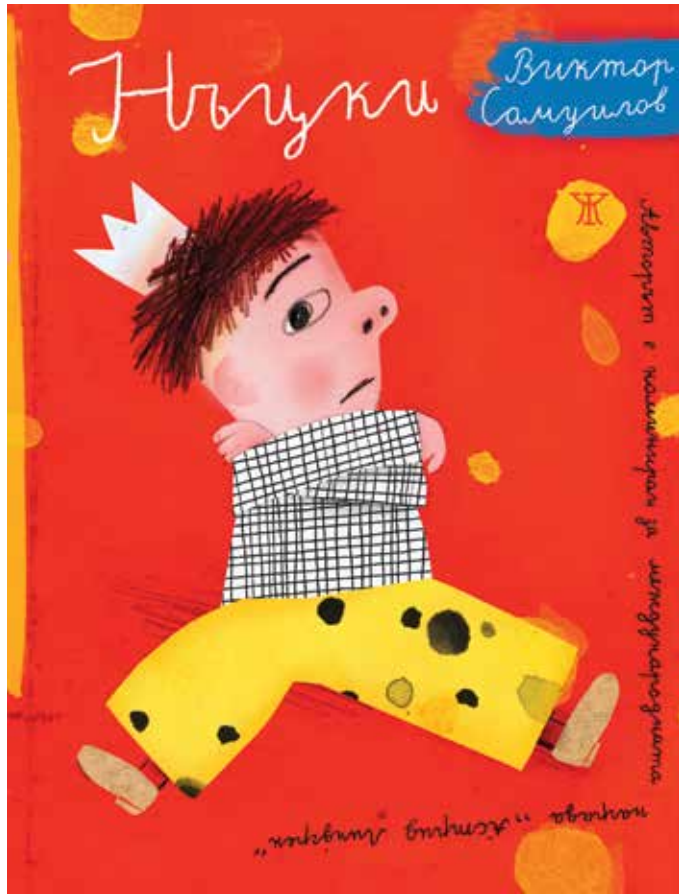
The character of David turned out exactly as I had imagined him: delicate and loveable in his own way. I tried walking on the edge, evoking a bit of sympathy without turning him into a hopeless victim in order to force those with a negative attitude to look at themselves from the outside.”

Evgenia Voinova

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) and *David* (*David*, 2017).

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.





Nope Nătski

Author: Victor Samuilov
Illustrator: Luba Haleva

Published in 2017 by
Janet 45 Publishing House
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-186-428-7

Victor Samuilov is an Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nominee.

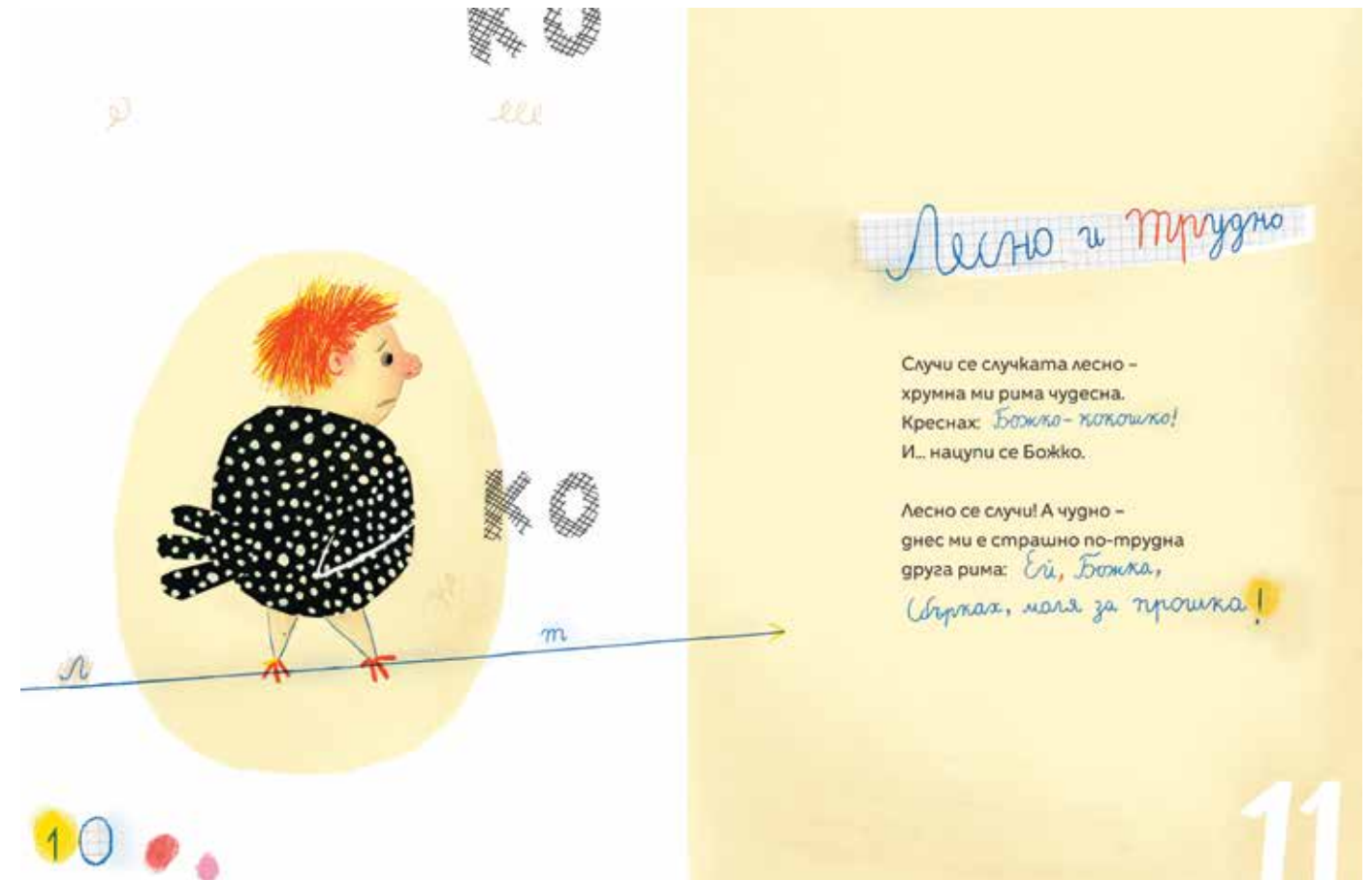
Victor Samuilov's world is warm, understanding and accepting. It is also principled: something uncommon in this time of moral ambiguity and negligence. It is a world in which children play tricks but never lie. And play they do, with words, reveling in the gift of communication. *Nope* is a dialogue with the contemporary child, a book of poems that reflect directly or echo interactions between the child and those around him, mostly adults, and mostly about mischief and growing up. In the masterful banter we see explanations, excuses, apologies, and miniature wars of independence based on wordplay, witticisms, figurative meanings and ambiguity, on the miracle of humor itself. After all, isn't mischief conducive to the development of our language skills? It is quite difficult to describe, especially if you are the one who is at fault...

For all my literary experience, *Nope* made me burst out laughing. Some of the quips stuck with my daughter and now they are part of her vocabulary. Victor Samuilov's world is the world of a kind person. And when Luba Haleva enters this world, you get a book you can definitely boast about.

Dr. Marin Bodakov, journalist and poet
Culture, Issue 20 (2944), 25 May 2018

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

LYUBA HALEVA graduated from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia in 2003, specializing in Poster and Visual Communication under Prof. Ivan Gazdov. She works as an illustrator and graphic designer. In both 2014 and 2015 she was nominated for the Hristo G. Danov National Award in the Book Design category. She won the award in 2015. In 2016 she was also nominated, this time in the Publication of Children Literature category, for her work on *The Book of Everything* by Guus Kuijer and *Jolly Tickling Laughter* by Margarit Minkov. Her work was nominated for the Golden Lion Award in 2015 for E. E. Cummings' *I Carry Your Heart With Me*. In 2016 the Janet-45 Publishing House, along with Haleva, won the Golden Lion Award for best overall children's publishing project for *Jolly Tickling Laughter* by Margarit Minkov. In 2017 they won again for *Jolly Tickling Laughter Part 2* and *The Book of Everything*. You can find out more about her work here: behance.net/lubahalevafdd9





The bird village Ptiche selo

Author: Katina Nedeva
Illustrator: Katina Nedeva

Published in 2017 by
Janet 45 Publishing House
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-186-315-0



The book is included in the 2018
International Youth Library White
Ravens catalogue.

This little story is about a flock of birds who want to take their bird houses with them on their flights south for the winter. They tie together a great bundle of houses and start flying, until they notice that the bundle is too heavy and several houses have fallen out. One of the birds wants to stay with his house, but then he discovers that a sparrow has already made itself at home there, and wishes to use it through the winter. Comforted, the other bird heads south: his house has not been abandoned and will provide shelter to another bird.

This book was made by the young illustrator Katina Nedeva (b. 1993) as her final project at the National Art Academy in Sofia. She created the bird characters and the houses as little collages made of fabric scraps, patterned paper, and newspaper clippings, combining these with painterly elements.

White Ravens database



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. You can find out more about Katina at: behance.net/KatinaNedeva



Doggy Business

Kucheshka rabota

Author: Anelia Pashova
Illustrator: Anelia Pashova

Published in 2017 by
Tochitsa Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7172-16-4

Doggy Business is a book about breeds and careers, character and vocation. Are we happy with what we do every day? A very simple yet essential question.

A teacher, an astronaut, a general, a watchmaker, a teacher... a set of unusual four-legged characters. Their presence in the human world makes it magical and fun. The characters introduce the readers to their respective professions but do not claim that one job is better than another, nor do they try to convince anyone to follow their path; they merely give food for thought. The majority of the characters are real people, friends of the writer or complete strangers. Some of the illustrations are inspired by her favourite places in Bulgaria.

Doggy Business is part of the original series *Dog Stories*, whose mission is to raise awareness of the plight of homeless dogs among young and old readers alike. Each book carries the message to adopt animals, and not to buy them.



ANELIA PASHOVA is a graduate of the National Art High School, Plovdiv, where she studied Mural Painting. She went on to obtain a Master's Degree in Illustration from the National Academy of Art, Sofia (2015). Her work has been featured in a number of exhibitions, including the Science Illustration exhibition in the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia (2013), her individual exhibition *Doggy Business* (Sofia, 2015) and the Bulgarian Art Festival in Bratislava, Slovakia, in 2016.

Anelia Pashova currently works as a freelance illustrator and has her own line of products. *Doggy Business* is her second work after *LORy's tiME* (2014).



10 Books
Illustrated
by Bulgarian Artists



Advice to Little Girls Săvet kăm malkite momicheta

Author: Mark Twain
Illustrator: Kapka Kaneva

Published in 2017 by
List Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7350-11-1

“At first I wanted to realistically represent the era the book was written in. I studied children’s rooms from the time period, toys, furniture, even cradles. I got to know how wealthy Americans moved around, even where they hung their umbrellas... I made an effort to acquaint myself with the everyday life of Mark Twain’s contemporaries. But then I asked myself: “How would a child relate to this reality now, would it be familiar enough to them? Will the story be able to win the child over and bring it into its fictional world?” After consulting with my five-year-old-daughter, Yana, I managed to find the right approach”.

The illustrator of this book creates her characters through a nip/tuck method. She is a popular book cover designer and a master in creating paper sculptures, who builds a complex multi-layered reality from simple drawing paper, aided by her scissors and her imagination.



KAPKA KANEVA works in the field of illustration, book design, paper sculpting and collage making. She attended the Sofia National School of Fine Arts and then the Bulgarian National Academy of Arts, specializing in Book and Printed Graphic Design. In 2006, she won a competition to attend the Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris, and in 2008 she became a Doctor of Fine Arts, exploring non-traditional children’s editions in her doctoral work. Kaneva is interested in the spatial object aspects of books. Her works are exhibited in the Bulgarian National Art Gallery and in galleries and private collections in Bulgaria, France, Germany, Norway, Greece, USA etc. Between 2009 and 2014, Kapka Kaneva taught an illustration and layout class as part of the Book Publishing bachelors program at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication at Sofia University, and from 2014 onward she has been an associate professor in the Book and Printed Graphic Design Department at the National Academy of Arts. You can learn more about her work here: facebook.com/KanevaKapka/





How Kolka Pankin Flew to Brazil and Petka Ershov Never Believed

Kak Koleto Pankin letya za Braziliya, a Petyata Ershov hich ne vyarvashe

Author: Daniil Kharms

Illustrator: Damyan Damyanov

Published in 2017 by
List Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7350-14-2

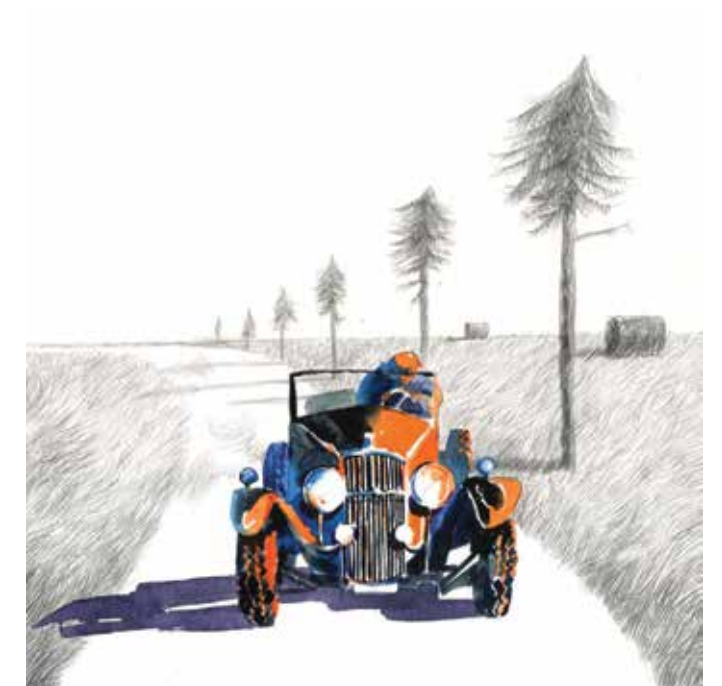
This short and truly funny tale tells the story of one of the most notable Russian authors and the “godfather” of absurdist literature, Daniil Kharms. Many of his works were banned during his lifetime and were destroyed in the Soviet Union, while he himself was brutally repressed by the Stalinist regime. Forced to make a living by creating fairytales, poems and stories for children, he wrote one of the best works of Russian children’s literature. In *How Kolka Pankin Flew to Brazil*, Daniil Kharms follows the exploits of two children in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). Bored of their life there, they dream of going to Brazil to explore the Amazon jungle. At a nearby airport, they meet a real pilot who agrees to “give them a lift” and thus begins a truly exciting adventure which will hardly take them to the jungle but which will show them the boundless and infinitely interesting world of children’s imagination.

Illustrating this book was a true journey through history and imagination for me. It began with research on the post-Revolutionary epoch in Russia, with its characteristic suits, retro automobiles, airplanes and architecture, which took me back a whole century. I have attempted to recreate this atmosphere through the illustrations. I used classic watercolor technique, which breathes life into the characters in the story. I have placed them amidst “sets” drawn in ordinary pencil – sometimes a gray urban landscape, other times the wild Amazon jungle. In this way, I have given readers a hint of the two worlds inhabited by Kolka Pankin and Petka Ershov – the real(istic) one and the one created by their boundless imagination.

Damyan Damyanov (5 April 1982, Bulgaria) works in the sphere 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. The most notable authors he has illustrated include: Antoine de Saint-Exupery, Gianni Rodari, Fredrik Backman, Daniil Kharms, and Marten Sanden, among others.

He also teaches and has had several solo exhibitions, one of which – “SUBLingual” – also exists in book form. “SUBLingual” is a typographical experiment that transforms letters from the Cyrillic alphabet into ideograms. After beginning on social media, the project quickly expanded and has now had several exhibitions in Sofia, Luxembourg and Brussels.

You can find out more about Damyan at: [behance.net/damyandamy3d74](https://www.behance.net/damyandamy3d74)





To Put It Mildly Meko kazano

Author: Valeri Petrov
Illustrator: Luba Haleva

Published in 2018 by
Colibri Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-02-0319-3

To Put It Mildly is an autumn tale about a boy named Svetlio. Svetlio is planning to lie to his grandmother in order to get more toys and has a dream about the consequences of his actions. In this story, Valeri Petrov, a Bulgarian children's author beloved by multiple generations, explores the eternal themes of honesty, human relationships, friendship and kindness.

"The story is gracefully written and takes a look at morality and grown ups who are always right with a delicate sense of humor and irony. This is represented in the story by a woodpecker, a turtle and a mole, who can be quite frightening at times, so in my illustrations they are expressed as part of the autumn landscape. Their images are made as a collage of autumn leaves, scanned, real and pencil-painted, so that they don't upset children too much.

My work on this book coincided with autumn, so I used it as inspiration in order to both convey anxiety with the lustrous shades of yellow, and at the same time make the color feel like a gentle embrace".

LYUBA HALEVA graduated from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia in 2003, specializing in Poster and Visual Communication under Prof. Ivan Gazdov. She works as an illustrator and graphic designer.

In both 2014 and 2015 she was nominated for the Hristo G. Danov National Award in the Book Design category. She won the award in 2015. In 2016 she was also nominated, this time in the Publication of Children Literature category, for her work on The Book of Everything by Guus Kuijer and Jolly Tickling Laughter by Margarit Minkov. Her work was nominated for the Golden Lion Award in 2015 for E. E. Cummings' I Carry Your Heart With Me. In 2016 the Janet-45 Publishing House, along with Haleva, won the Golden Lion Award for best overall children's publishing project for Jolly Tickling Laughter by Margarit Minkov. In 2017 they won again for Jolly Tickling Laughter Part 2 and The Book of Everything.

You can find out more about her work here:
[behance.net/lubahalevafdd9](https://www.behance.net/lubahalevafdd9)



Защото и тя имаше
на гърба си същата буква.
- А това?
Кучето се дърпаше и викаше:
- Аз Светльо си го обичам! - но
Светльо завъртя и него и то също тръгна да си признае: -
„К“ като Куче.





Dream-button Konche za sãn

Author: Valeri Petrov
Illustrator: Maria Nalbantova

Published in 2018 by
Colibri Publishing House,
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-02-0274-5

Valeri Petrov's *Dream-Button* is a precious gem in children's literature. It is filled with emotions, friendship, tenderness, attention, understanding, and sympathy, all in a colorful world where magic exists, and play is a driving force for moral purification.

In her work illustrating the publication, Maria Nalbantova strived to create a multicolored world filled with mice, cats, fish, toys, and many more images that gently encourage and develop children's imagination. The

illustrations create visual connections between the real world and the dream world. Children do not differentiate clearly between game and reality, and therefore the artist chose to visualize precisely this versatility in perception by referring to different elements and characters from the illustrations subsequently on the book's pages. She used different techniques such as watercolors, acrylics, ink, collage and combining different textures and fabrics. She aimed to create a tactile sensation when looking at the book and thus, through the senses, to provoke the reader.



MARIA NALBANTOVA (born in 1990 in Sofia) is an illustrator, visual artist and graphic designer, who is interested in literary fiction. She has a master's degree in Illustration from the Book and Printed Graphic Design Department at the Bulgarian National Academy of Arts. She is also the author of the Black Bears for *White Days / White Bears for Black Days* pop-up book (Tochitsa Publishing House, 2016) and the fiction books *Bear* (2015), *Bear Dream* (2015) and *A Book For* (2014). She won an Illustration and design award for the newly discovered Hans K. Andersen fairytale *The Tallow Candle* (University St Kliment Ohridski Publishing and Izkustva Publishing, 2014).

Her own exhibition (titled "Black Bears for White Days / White Bears for Black Days") took place in 2016 within the framework of the ONE DESIGN WEEK International Design and Visual Culture Festival in Plovdiv. In 2017, her book was selected for the second *Children's Books from Bulgaria: Contemporary Writers and Artists* catalog, presented at the International Children's Book Fair in Bologna. In 2018, the Vaska Emanuilova Gallery presented her "Weather Forecast" exhibition curated by Daniela Radeva as part of Sofia City Art Gallery's Meeting Room platform for contemporary art and young artists.

You can learn more about her work here: behance.net/omno





Maurice, or the Fisher's Cot

Moris, ili kashchikata na ribarya

Author: Mary Shelley
Illustrator: Mila Yaneva-Tabakova

Published in 2017 by
List Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7350-05-0

M*aurice, or the Fisher's Cot* is Mary Shelley's only children's book. It was written in 1820, but the manuscript was only discovered in 1997 in Italy. In the story, with a little sadness and a lot of hope, Mary Shelley tells a beautiful tale about a boy looking for a home.

"Whenever I paint a story, I am intuitively guided by the feeling it inspired in me. *Maurice, or the Fisher's Cot* is a classic sad tale with a beautiful twist. I've tried to express this story's hopefulness through a little white boat that floats through almost every illustration. While working on the book, I learned that the author herself loved playing with paper boats, so I made the boat a character, appearing sometimes as a paper boat, sometimes as a real one, accompanying Maurice in his story, as he never loses hope. The whole tale is painted as if viewed from above, from high up, where the problems seem insignificant and the good outcome can be seen more clearly. Though this story was written in a specific age, the longing and hope it conveys are eternal themes, which is why I decided not to adhere to historical correctness in my drawings but rather to find symbols that recreate the atmosphere."



MILA YANEVA-TABAKOVA (born 1991) is among the youngest children's book illustrators in Bulgaria. She graduated from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia, where she majored in Book and Printed Graphic Design and then in Comics and Illustration at the LUCA School of Arts in Brussels. She founded the TI-RE platform, which organizes exhibitions of original handmade books.

You can learn more about her work here: [behance.net/YanevaMilla](https://www.behance.net/YanevaMilla)



Ahmed and the Oblivion Machines

Nyavgabăde

Author: Ray Bradbury
Illustrator: Mira Miroslavova

Published in 2018 by
BG Knig@ Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-229-016-0

The unexpected meeting between young Ahmed and an ancient god, the Keeper of the Ghosts of Lost Names, sets off an incredible journey through time and space. Ray Bradbury's desert tale reminds the reader that dreams are not only for children but for anyone who has the courage to fly.



MIRA MIROSLAVOVA is the book's illustrator. When she began working on the book, she first created small sketches of the illustrations. After carefully selecting the paper, she began working on the drawings that she later used as a basis for the final product. Feeling most comfortable working with a pencil and paper, Mira used hard pencils and graphite powder for the base. Then she scanned the finished illustrations and added digital coloring and details with special brushes that mimic pencil texture.

Mira Miroslavova works as a professional illustrator and her style is inspired by classical tales, magical stories and endless forests. She began reading at a very young age and her earliest memories are of her creating new worlds with a pencil in hand. She lives and works in Sofia, Bulgaria, but loves to travel. She graduated in English Literature and Textile Design at Manchester Academy, England, where she rediscovered illustration as a means of expressing ideas. From the beginning of 2019, Mira has been part of the BGKniga team and the Raketa Publishing House.

You can find out more about her work here: [behance.net/miramiroslavova](https://www.behance.net/miramiroslavova)



The Eagle, the Sparrow and the Eaves

Orelăt, vrabetsăt i kapchukăt

Author: Zornitsa Hristova
 Illustrator: Anna Tsocheva

Published in 2018 by
 Tochitsa Publishing House
 Sofia, Bulgaria
 ISBN: 978-619-7172-20-1

Mrs Thump is a most frightening literature teacher - she hates stray thoughts and has fixed opinions about everything. But when a little sparrow tries to steal his test back (so he can correct a stray thought), the whole city jumps into movement. Landmark eagles come alive, and poetical rhythms stop a cat army in its tracks.

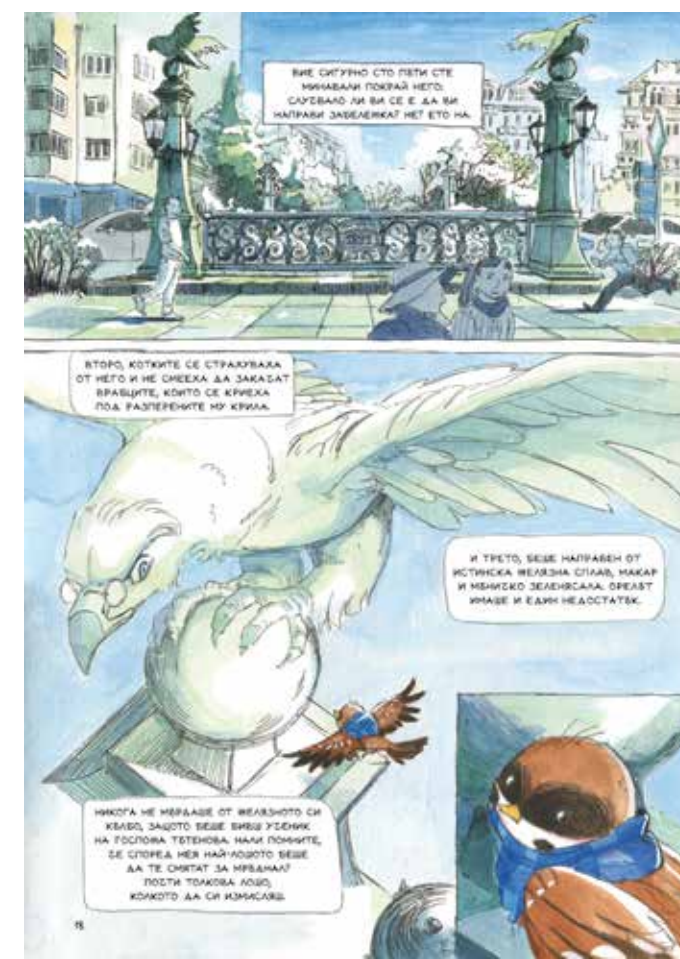
A comic book about the art of poetry and the art of holding your ground.



ZORNITSA HRISTOVA is the author of *Delicious Geography*, *Short Stories for Dreaming*, *City Geography*, *When I Want to Be Silent* and more. Her first published work is *Make Your Own Fairytale*, a gamebook that develops children's creative writing skills.

ANNA TSOICHEVA attended the Sofia National School of Fine Arts and has participated in numerous international workshops for comics, illustrations and children's books. She has combined her passion for illustration and comics with bookbinding skills and creates books and albums. In 2011 she founded the Manga Academy - a place where young comic lovers can learn to tell stories with drawings. She has participated in Bulgarian comic book exhibitions in 2013, 2014 and 2017, a TI-RE platform exhibition of art books in 2017 and has published her own comic books. Recently she has also been working as an animator at Studio Zmei.

You can find out more about her work here:
behance.net/rikae





The Crows of Pearblossom Gargite ot Belokrusha

Author: Aldous Huxley
Illustrator: Ina Hristova

Published in 2018 by
List Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7350-30-2

The Crows of Pearblossom is the only children's book by English writer, novelist and philosopher Aldous Huxley. He wrote the book for his niece Olivia who often visited his family. The original was destroyed when Huxley's family home burned down in a fire. Fortunately, a copy of the story was saved by his neighbors and was published after his death.

The Bulgarian edition was illustrated by Ina Hristova, who shared: "I tried to make Aldous Huxley's remarkable tale even more fascinating for young readers. My work on the book began with a study of illustrated editions from Spain, Italy, Poland and England. The story's rhythm makes illustrations possible on every page of the book and gives the opportunity for the creation of a so-called

picture book where text and images go hand in hand. I worked on several variations of a visual narrative, from which in the end I chose the most expressive scenes and thus the final images were born. My main idea was to paint the scenes as if viewed by the reader, so that young readers could discover the Pearblossom village, flying along with Mr. Crow over houses, chimneys and trees. My favorite details in the book are the sun, expressed as a yolk in the crows' embrace and the snake song, where a tree branch turns into the serpent's hands and feet. The original sketches for the book were painted with watercolors and pencils. The illustrations were colored digitally, mixing the two technical concepts of flat color and graphic lines".

INA HRISTOVA (1988) lives and works in Barcelona, Spain. She attended the Bulgarian National Academy of Arts and majored in Art Studies and Illustration in Escola Massana, Barcelona. She illustrates children's books, poetry and prose and works on various projects related to graphics and author's handmade books. She is the founder of the Espai Brut Gallery, where she teaches illustration and graphic techniques.

You can find out more about her work here: www.inahristova.com





Beautiful Cassandra Prekrasnata Kasandra

Author: Jane Austen
Illustrator: Vyara Boyadjieva

Published in 2018 by
List Publishing House
Sofia, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7350-31-9

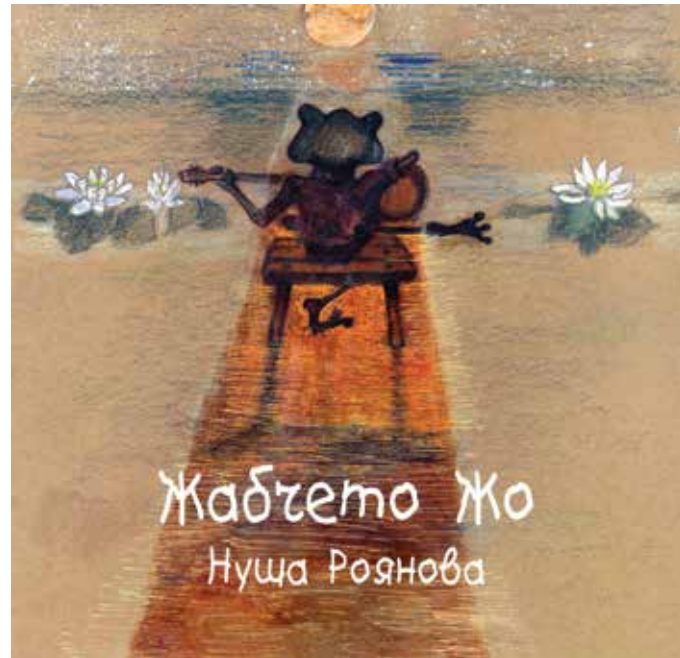
Beautiful Cassandra is the only story in which a Jane Austen heroine does not get involved in wedding schemes. Instead of secretly dreaming of becoming a certain gentleman's wife, the sixteen-year-old Cassandra falls in love with a hat, eats as much ice cream as she can and kicks around. Then, after wandering around London all day and getting into all kinds of mischief, she finally goes back home. The book tells a twelve-part story, parodying the sentimental melodramatic novels of the 18th century that were so popular at the time. Austen wrote the book when she was only twelve years old and dedicated it to her older sister, Cassandra, with whom she was very close.

The Bulgarian edition is illustrated entirely with acrylic paints, each color being mixed and created individually by Vyara Boyadjieva. She began working on the book by creating character sketches and a storyboard. "The storyboard is the foundation of every illustrated book, so it must be well thought out before work on the originals begins. Then I scan the finished image, touch it up on Photoshop and regulate the color tones," said the artist.



In 2018 Vyara Boyadjieva graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna with a degree in Comics and Illustration. She is currently pursuing a master's degree at the Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, specializing in Children's Book Illustration.

You can find out more about her work here: [behance.net/bovinima](https://www.behance.net/bovinima)



Zho the Frog Zhobcheto Zho

Author: Nousha Royanova
Illustrator: Nousha Royanova

Published in 2018 by
Dabovi lista Publishing House
Varna, Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7268-08-9

Once upon a time, there lived a little frog named Zho. He was in need of nothing, he was healthy and owned a little house, and also had his three best girlfriends. Still, Zho kept thinking he was missing some THING. Zho had to look for and find the THING at any cost.”

Zho the Frog is a short story about the meaning of life and about a person’s calling. The protagonist seeks to find his calling and passes through different stages, trying different occupations, but cannot seem to find his own “thing”. Zho’s search is typical of every person who realizes that he can develop himself endlessly and must do so in order to have peace of mind. The philosophical thoughts provoked by the writer and the artist help children realize that it is important to seek your calling, but it is also important to remain true to yourself.

The techniques used by Nusha Royanova in illustrating the book are experimental for her and very different from her usual style of work. Readers will find prints, linocuts and different mixed techniques.



NOUSHA ROYANOVA (born in 1969, Sofia) has worked as an artist and graphic designer both in Bulgaria and in the US. Her work involves illustration for children’s books, covers and magazines. She currently resides in Varna, Bulgaria, with her family, where she writes children’s books and teaches applied and fine arts in her own painting school. She is also the owner of a publishing house and publishes her own work.

Children's Books by Bulgarian Writers and Artists

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Translation by Angela Rodel Dessyslava Nikolova, Dessyslava Toncheva

Proofreading and editing by Angela Rodel

Cover and book design by Damyan Damyanov

Preface by Angel Mitev

Printed in Bulgaria

Published by the **National Book Centre**,

National Palace of Culture – Congress Centre Sofia 2016

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The National Book Centre at the National Palace of Culture aims to support and popularize Bulgarian literature at home and abroad. Through its "Bulgarian Book" and "Translations" programs, which are open year-round to applications from Bulgarian and foreign publishers, the National Book Centre offers yet another opportunity for Bulgarian authors to reach readers around the world.

