

New Books for Children from Israel

Summer 2021

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE



Cover illustration by Aviel Basli
From: *Iris Argaman, Emilia and the Hat*
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THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE



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All contracts and negotiations through the ITHL

Spotlight on

Nurit Zarchi

A living legend, Nurit Zarchi, winner of the 2021 Israel Prize for literature, is a luminary of Hebrew literature. The over 100 books she has written for children and teenagers have inspired the Israeli literary scene.

Throughout her oeuvre, ranging from books for children who are just starting to read and up to teenagers on the brink of adulthood, Zarchi celebrates the innate freedom of the world of childhood. Her work reflects children's vivid imagination and unspoiled curiosity, and explores their infinite universe of emotions. With subtle empathy, she liberates the subconscious of her readers, both children and their parents. Zarchi eschews conventional boundaries relating to genre, characters, plot developments and language. The fundamental logic of her writing is a disorderly order, through which the impossible is revealed within the possible, the fictional within reality.

A daring sense of humor, magical word games, surprising interpretive parallels with the classics of children's literature, stylistic virtuosity, and a mixture of sober reality with fantastic and dreamy voyages—these are some characteristics of Zarchi's writing. A humanistic sensitivity is revealed in the rich gallery of characters she introduces, all of whom receive an attentive



PHOTO © DAN PORGES

ear: nice kids and some who are not so nice; practical kids and dreamy, starry-eyed ones; the beloved and the rejected. There are anthropomorphic creatures from beetles to elephants, and imagined characters like witches and kings and queens. And there are both loving parents and nasty ones, grown-ups who listen and care, and those who are unfeeling.

Many of the best Israeli illustrators of recent generations have provided the art for Zarchi's books, among them Hila Havkin, Rutu Modan, David Polonsky, Batia Kolton, Danny Kerman, Ora Eyal, Ora Eitan, Ruth Zarfati, Anat Warshavsky and Avner Katz.

We are delighted to present here, as an enjoyable taster, a selection from Nurit Zarchi's vintage and recent books for children and teenagers.

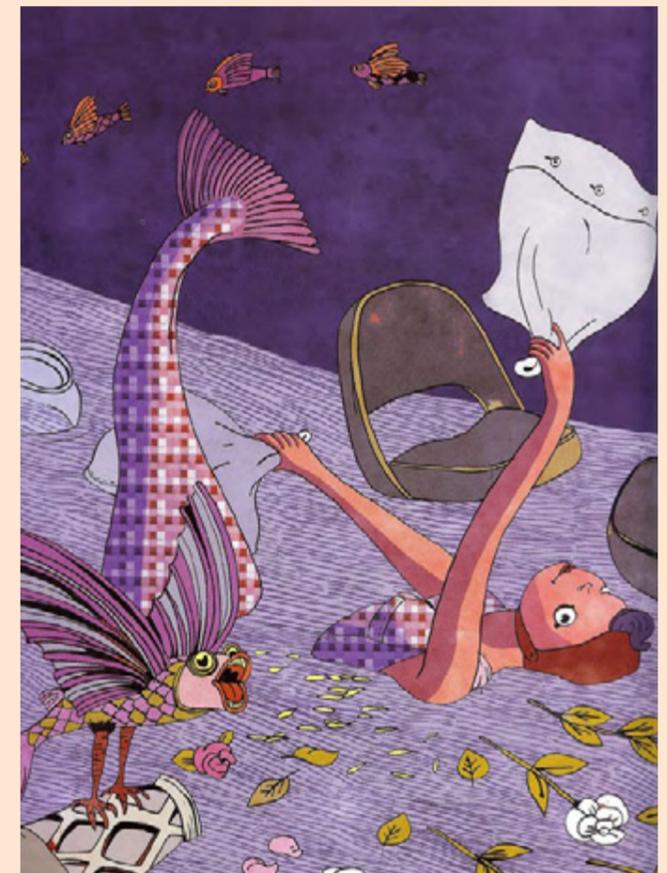
Nurit Zarchi was born in Jerusalem in 1941 and grew up in Kibbutz Geva. She studied literature and philosophy at Tel Aviv University. She has worked as a journalist and holds creative writing workshops for children and adults.

Zarchi has published more than 150 books in almost every genre: novels, short stories, poetry, collections of essays and children's literature. She has received every major Israeli literary award from poetry to children's literature, including the Prime Minister's Prize twice (1980; 1991), the Ze'ev Prize (five times), four IBBY Honor Citations (1980; 1984; 1998; 2004), the Bialik Prize (1999), the Education Minister's Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2005), the Yehuda Amichai Prize (2007), the Ramat Gan Prize (2010), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2011), the Landau Prize for Poetry (2013), the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2014), the Arik Einstein Prize (2015), the Israel Center for Educational Innovation Award for Lifetime Achievement (2016) and most recently the Israel Prize for Literature (2021).

Zarchi's work has been translated into a dozen languages, including English, French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi.

[CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ZARCHI'S BOOKS ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON NURIT ZARCHI



Nurit Zarchi

Color Crown Ketchup Love

PB

Yedioth Ahronoth, 1998
31 pp.
Ages 4+

A mischievous classic, loved by children and adults

There is a crown, but it isn't really a crown. So, what is it really? A cookie? A cactus? A flower? Is it a queen's crown? No, no, and no. Everyone thinks the crown is theirs, and everyone wants to wear it? So, what is this crown really? What is this thing that everyone is going in circles around? Is it only a crown, or is it everything or anything? Is it a riddle and its answer? Or perhaps it is something else? Is it love? What's love?

In the spirit of the classics of nonsense, the works of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear, Nurit Zarchi unfolds a poem of minimalist foolishness, in which one may see a succinct, mischievous key to her work: a mystery of great peculiarity, as ancient as history, pondering an enormous unknown that looks different to all human beings and from all the angles from which it is observed.

Illustrations: Hila Havkin



A children's book that contains additional layers of meaning and could easily be purchased as a gift book for children and grown-ups alike.

Haaretz

Simply put: Wonderful. A fountain of imaginative associations, boundless illustrations and a spirit of elation that pervades the entire book.

Blog for children's literature

Nurit Zarchi

Memories from the Sleeve

YA

Am Oved, 1979
108 pp.
Ages 11+

A brilliant, rediscovered gem about the essence of history and its narrative course

Josefina Hermina von Justina shares a historical document with us: her diary. Josefina is a wise and learned little mouse, charming but also a bit arrogant, who lives on an estate in Russia. After taking leave of her beloved mother, she travels as a stowaway with Baron Platon, who is outstanding at keeping a secret. Platon is going to the Land of Israel to settle in a community of the Templars, a Christian German sect. While hiding in the Baron's sleeve, Josefina tells us a little about herself and a lot about Platon and his adventures. She describes her voyage to the Holy Land, and tells us what life is like in the new country. From her diminutive point of view, she gives an account of massive historical processes such as migration, acclimatization and politics, as well as both significant and petty events affecting the fates of individuals who play a role in history—loves, partings, treacheries, gossip, and more.

A wise, amusing tale, filled with sharp insights into cultural differences and trenchant psychological and historiographical observations, all recounted clearly in everyday language. A book that was ahead of its time and that retains its vitality and freshness decades later.

Illustrations: Avner Katz



Nurit Zarchi

See You at the South Pole

An adventure story that begins with a surprise package and ends at the end of the world

Everyone needs to care for someone other than himself, says the mail carrier who hands Mr. Zoom a package. Mr. Zoom isn't interested in the package because he's in a hurry to get to the office, but the package shakes in his hands and makes vague noises. Mr. Zoom doesn't understand what the package is saying, and doesn't care that much. When he arrives at the office he unwraps it impatiently. An egg appears, and the voice which emerges from it says: "South Pole. Open on Sunday." Today is Friday, thinks Mr. Zoom in panic, I opened the package three days too early. He hangs a sign on the door of his room so that he won't be disturbed and sits down to incubate the egg. After three days, a baby penguin hatches from the egg and calls Mr. Zoom "Daddy." The penguin wants to go to the South Pole, and Mr. Zoom, who no longer cares only for himself, buys tickets and flies with the penguin to the southern continent that very same day. Multitudes of penguins suddenly appear, and who runs towards them and greets them? A mother penguin, of course! The baby penguin immediately knows that she is his mother and runs to her. Mother Penguin is happy to discover that there are still people in the world who are willing to care for someone other than themselves, and thanks Mr. Zoom. She reassures him that from now on she will take care of her penguin, and Mr. Zoom, who must return to his land, says goodbye to the two of them and hands the little penguin a cellular phone. "When you miss me, call me," he tells him and climbs onto the sleigh. "Will you be back?" asks the penguin. "Sure," promises Mr. Zoom. "Life is an adventure," he adds and waves. "See you at the South Pole!"

Illustrations: Batia Kolton

ENGLISH
TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE



PB

Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir, 2005
37 pp.
Ages 4+

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French (Actes Sud), German (Gerstenberg),
Spanish (Adriana Hidalgo)



Nurit Zarchi

The Mermaid in the Bathtub

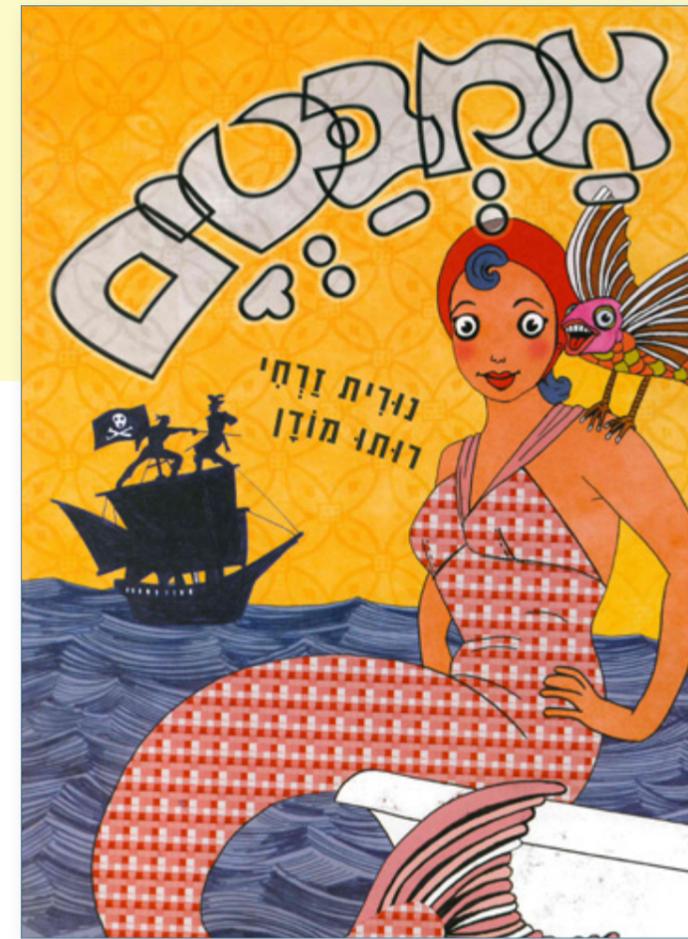
ENGLISH
TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE

A lyrical love story with a feminist touch, and a Hollywood ending

Everyone is familiar with Hans Christian Andersen's story, *The Little Mermaid*, a tragic story about the gap between man and nature. Nurit Zarchi's story, on the other hand, is a fantastic-comic tale with a happy ending, because sometimes the seemingly impossible actually happens. All one needs to do is keep an open mind and ignore convention, and then even a mermaid—half-woman and half-fish—can find a human bridegroom to love her.

The hero of the story is an ordinary young man called Whatwillthaysay. One day he finds a charming mermaid called Sandgrain in his house. Whatwillthaysay tells her that her top half is very attractive, but he can never marry a fish. What would people say? Sandgrain is very sad and decides to leave, and the young man returns to his normal life. But then he begins to miss Sandgrain, so he takes a fishing boat out to sea, and the mermaid is waiting for him.

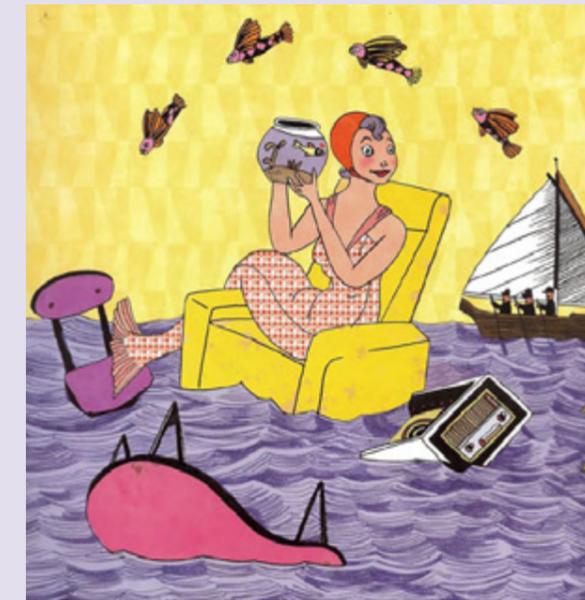
Illustrations: **Rutu Modan**



PB

Am Oved, 2001
33 pp.
Ages 5+

FOREIGN RIGHTS SOLD
English (Restless Books)



Nurit Zarchi

Tinkertank

A realistic story on the essence of childhood, and Zarchi's answer to Tinkerbell.

Tinkertank lives in fairyland, but she's not like the others. She's clumsy and absent-minded and bumps into things; she even squashed the fairy queen's birthday cake by mistake. After yet another calamity, the fairy queen banishes her and Tinkertank falls to earth like a sack of potatoes.

Where will she go? "If I'm heavy, why am I a fairy and if I'm a fairy, why am I heavy?" she wonders in despair. But a wise she-raven comes to her aid, and the two fly off to see a professor in his laboratory. "Eureka!" shouts the professor, after studying the case, "she's actually a little girl!" Tinkertank thinks about it and eventually decides to be a girl. She even agrees to go to school and the professor promises her that a mom and dad will be waiting for her after school.

"And do you think I'll fit in?" Tinkertank asks hesitantly. "Oh, of course. All little girls ask themselves that question," the professor answers.

A clever and original story.

Illustrations: David Polonsky



PB

Keter, 2012
27 pp.
Ages 5+



Nurit Zarchi

Freaky

A tiny creature's voyage in search of the answers to great existential questions

Freaky, a young female dinosaur who has popped out of the primeval forest, wants to know where she belongs nowadays, because it seems that things that used to be are no longer and there's no way back for anyone. To live in this world means, first of all, getting used to things—and this is a grueling task for Freaky, who changes from a lifeless toy into a living being, searching for answers.

Illustrations: Hila Havkin



Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2020
27 pp.
Ages 4-8

A little toy dinosaur that has come to life is at the center of a superb new children's book by Nurit Zarchi. The story of how the prehistoric creature adapts to our world unfolds in the void between the psychedelic and prosaic reality... How lovely!

Haaretz



Nurit Zarchi

Nurit Zarchi's Fantastic Book

A spectacular treasury of stories and illustrations

This gorgeous anthology gathers together ten of Nurit Zarchi's fantastic stories. The stories, some of which were originally published as separate books, hurl the reader far, far away into other worlds and at the same time touch upon their most familiar and closest feelings in the most intimate way. Most of all, they are enjoyable to read—alone, with friends, with the family—and no less enjoyable to read aloud. They enflame the imagination, arouse dream-like images, and make a kid roll around with laughter.

Among the contents: *Amory Catches Up and Flies*, about a little witch who fails her final test at the school for witches; *Milligram Giraffe*, about a giraffe who was born as tiny and short as a bean, and *If My Mom Can't Love Me, Who Else Will?* that begins with telling us about Petunia, a little kitten who has lost her mother in the dark, and later on also tells us about the parenting difficulties of Hatulima, the mother cat, thereby enabling the reader to identify with both and get a grasp of the complex conflicts and contradictory feelings that often exist between children and their parents.

Illustrations: Rutu Modan

PARTIAL
ENGLISH
TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE



PB MG

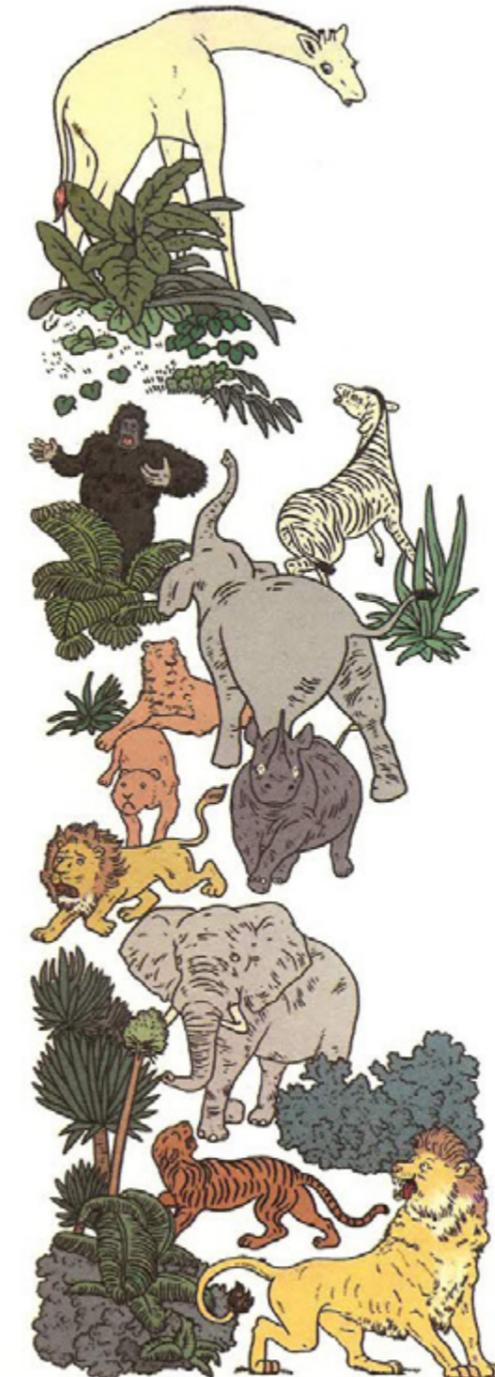
Yedioth Ahronoth, 2008

104 pp.

Ages 6+

FOREIGN RIGHTS SOLD

The story *Tinturu, a Tiny Elephant*:
English, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi (Star, India)



Nurit Zarchi

Tanina



Keter, 2009
128 pp.
Ages 6+

Beware! A bewitching read

Tanina seems to be the most beloved of all Zarchi's characters among Israeli children. And it's not only kids who love her. Tanina is a young witch, but is she a child or is she a woman? Like Lewis Carroll's Alice, she grows and shrinks intermittently. And as befits a witch, everything she says comes true.

Tanina has a cat named Belly Button, who talks to her and serves her loyally (another wink at *Alice in Wonderland*). Tanina puts Belly Button through magical crises, turns herself into a falling leaf, releases characters and letters from their books, and drives her two little sisters, Gol and Yat, absolutely crazy. Tanina lives in a perfectly realistic world of ordinary people. Her encounters with them, however, end either in wonder at their way of life (in the best case) or in amusing catastrophe (the almost-worst case). There's magic all around Tanina and she excels in the art of witchcraft and takes full advantage of the perks that come with a magical existence. She is

brimming with philosophical ideas and ingenuity and insists on living her life the way she sees fit.

Over forty years have passed since Tanina first appeared. This collection consists of twenty-one stories that offer, all at the same time, an abundance of different ways in which they can be read: straightforwardly or searching for symbolism; helter-skelter or deeply probing; sidesplittingly or seriously; scanned quickly, or perused slowly and curiously; as poetry or as narrative, and from many more alternative viewpoints. This wonderful multiplicity opens a wide scope for interpretation, and invites the reader of any age to read Tanina again and again.

Illustrations: Odelia Lifshitz



Nurit Zarchi

Tanina Sticks Her Nose into Other People's Plates



Dvir, 1993
56 pp.
Ages 6+

In this early collection Zarchi describes a series of strange adventures and occurrences which Tanina and her cat experience. In one of them Tanina decides to dine with Belly Button in a restaurant. But what will they order? The menu is not efficient, because reading is one thing and eating another. So Tanina sends Belly Button to peek at the plates of the other diners and to dip his tail in their food. Before he can report to Tanina on the different tastes, however, a riot breaks out in the restaurant, in the course of which Tanina organizes all the diners into a pressure group that demands to taste the dishes before deciding what to order.

In a different adventure, Tanina finds herself in serious danger because a witch with one tooth in the middle of her mouth wants to eat her. Unfortunately for Tanina, Belly Button is away at summer camp at the time, but since whatever Tanina says comes true, Belly Button arrives at the moment she says his name. Tanina orders him to swallow the witch, who is indeed swallowed up and is no more. Belly Button does not even notice that he has swallowed her. Tanina is no loser. She loves to fight and to win, and she despises ordinary people who are slaves to lives of routine and habit, like taking the bus to work in the morning, sitting in a cafe, and shopping in the supermarket. Tanina loves a life full of drama. She is an original type, independent and proud, and no one will tell her what to do.

Illustrations: Hila Havkin



Alma or the Sixth Day

PB

Am Oved, 2003
35 pp.
Ages 5-8

ENGLISH
TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE



Reality and fantasy in a small book about integration and individuality in childhood

Alma is an individualistic child with a vivid imagination, but she also wants her classmates to like her and elect her Queen of the Class. Sadly, this doesn't happen and they all treat her as an outsider. Even the teacher, Meira, doesn't understand Alma, and keeps telling her off because she doesn't behave like everyone else. The story has two parts, the first realistic and the second a fantasy. It shows how one little girl manages to draw 39 pupils and the teacher, too, into her fantasy world. By the time the story ends, they've all become individualists with vivid imaginations—for a day or two at least.

The imaginary world conquers the familiar real one while Alma is waiting for her mother after school one day. She suddenly sees 39 girls who all look exactly like her. "How will all 39 get into Mommy's car?" Alma wonders. And then, magically, 39 ponies appear and the 39 girls get on them and ride along beside the car. Only one pony, Almo, has no rider, and he is Alma's pony. Almo comes to school the next day and Alma asks the teacher to let her bring him into the classroom. At first, the teacher doesn't see Almo, but before she can answer, Almo jumps in through the open window. All the children are excited when they see him. Will the teacher be able to use her imagination? The spell, it seems, works on her as well, and she also gets her own pony. Now she's not so strict any more, and she allows each child to bring something to school that is truly her or his own.

Illustration: Rutu Modan



Nurit Zarchi

The Cooking Penguins

PB

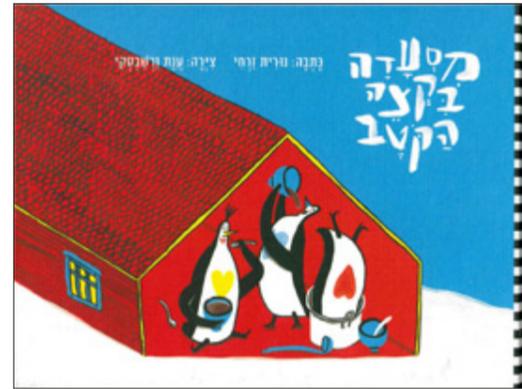
Modan, 2018
35 pp.
Ages 3-6

Captivating comics about creativity, independent thinking and determination

Three penguin brothers, Amos, Hans and Max, decide to open a restaurant at the South Pole. They prepare pengvina—a portmanteau of the words penguin and cheese—and they lay the tables, hang up a sign and wait eagerly for the customers to show up. But they don't. At the Pole, after all, there's not much tourism. When they eventually turn up, the penguin brothers get a rude surprise. Their peculiar delicacy does not appeal to the diners' taste. Amos, Hans and Max don't give up. All's well that ends well, and one day some other customers arrive, and pengvina becomes a hit.

This narrative dish was cooked up by Zarchi using her usual ingredients: nonsense, anthropomorphized animals and humor that does not strain to be childish.

Illustrations: Anat Warshawsky



Nurit Zarchi

Malki Monro Morduch

PB MG

Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir, 2010
31 pp.
Ages 8-12

What child doesn't want to be a celebrity?

"If someone wants to be a star in Hollywood, it's very good if the initials of their first name and family name are the same." This is what Malki Monro Morduch thinks. Malki is an up-to-date, down to earth girl. She can't read well and she can't write well. She is not particularly smart and not particularly pretty. Malki has one great big rosy dream: to become a famous movie star in Hollywood. So she dyes her hair blond. She has a dog, which really is blond and likes eating and TV, and she calls her Marylin Monro Morduch, because "Three 'M's gives them both an even a bigger chance of making it" to Hollywood.

Malki's dream never comes true for herself, but it does for the dog, big time. One day a limousine draws up outside their house, picks up Marylin and takes her to Hollywood. Malki, the little girl who doesn't succeed and isn't attractive is left behind, to follow her dog's success from afar. Malki's parents, her neighbors, and her classmates are doubtful or couldn't care, but Malki is totally proud of Marylin and carries on living on the edge of the dream. An enchanting and entertaining book.

Illustrations: Batia Kolton

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French (Actes Sud)



Nurit Zarchi

Nina Runs Away

A touching tale about a child's deepest fear

Mom holds the family's dog on her lap. Her daughter Nina is jealous and feels she doesn't belong. She teases the dog and Mom scolds her. Nina is cross and goes out of the house, and she ignores her worried mother's calls. While she is wandering around outside, all alone, she meets different kinds of folks: a girl with a parrot on her shoulder, a man carrying two suitcases, and two women who may be somebody's grandmothers.

Nina asks them if they love her. Their replies are vague and insincere, and do not satisfy her. Nina doesn't believe what they say and she is not nice to them, and even a little rude. But in the end, all's well. Nina comes across a teddy bear that was once hers, and she remembers she'd given it up when it lost one of its ears. She realizes that her mom isn't perfect. The teddy bear tells her: "Whoever is abandoned always finds their way home," and Nina remembers where there are people who love her. When she gets home, her mother is cross, but affirms her eternal love for Nina, and this time Nina believes her.

Illustrations: Hila Havkin



PB

Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2016

23 pp.

Ages 3-7



Nurit Zarchi

A Feel for Business

On children, business and family affairs

Ma'ayan is not one of those sweet little girls who spend their time playing with dolls. She is practical, and she thinks young girls have a role to play in the adult world. Ma'ayan is proud of the business sense she has inherited from her father. Recently, her father has been having financial problems. "How can I help him?" Ma'ayan wonders. Then she comes up with an original plan. She'll sell their most valuable possession, her younger sister, who everyone likes so much... No need to worry, the potential buyers are family friends but no one can believe that Ma'ayan is serious. In the meantime, her mother also thinks of a plan. She will sell all the antiques that her grandmother brought to Israel from Germany. But Ma'ayan's 'business sense' tells her to save a small chest, and in one of the drawers she finds a book, listing all of the family members and their birth dates. Ma'ayan understands that family members are not to be sold.

Illustrations: Hila Havkin

FRENCH
TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE



MG

Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1998
43 pp.
Ages 8-10

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French:(L'Ecole des Loisirs), Spanish (**SM Spain, SM Peru**), Portuguese (**SM Brazil**)



Tamar Hochstadter

Peekaboo

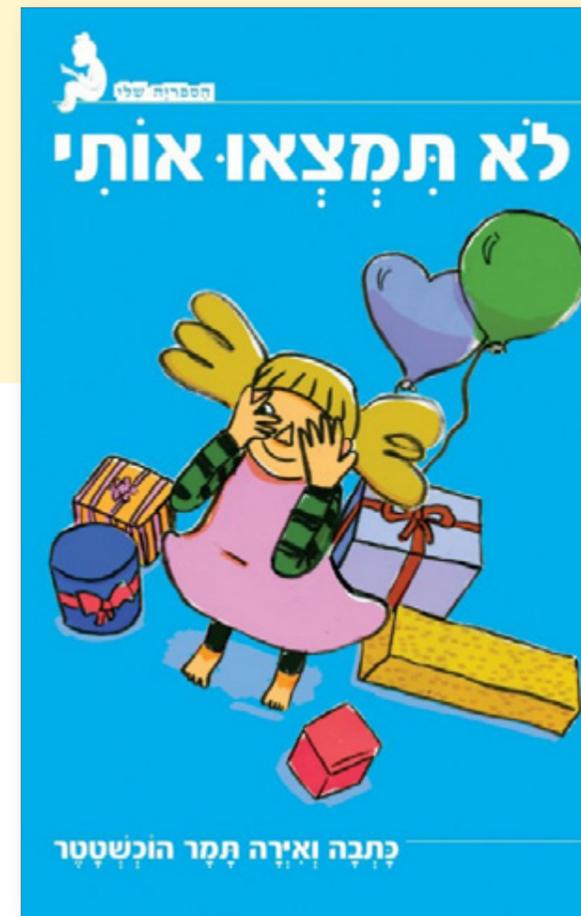
Karni is a little girl who is bad at hide-and-seek. She has never managed to hide in time. "Even if she found a hiding place, some part of her was always sticking out, and they found her easily." Her failure hurts, so she starts practising in her free time, all alone. On her birthday she invites everyone to a hide-and-seek party, and she wins the game.

Behind this simple story of determination and failure, followed by Karni making her dream come true, lies a rich psychological world of kids' relationships with themselves and with their parents. The illustrations show an awkward girl and her panicky expression when she runs. Karni's practising is self-inflicted torture: "She practised not moving and not breathing and squeezing into small places." Karni is the product of a competitive society, and the game, which should be fun, isn't. To succeed, she tries to hide her identity and her differentness. She also gets the wrong grasp of a game that is basically a social one. Even after her success, the story raises questions: Is winning a game really a victory? Is it a good idea to sacrifice happiness for any goal? Does victory achieved through suffering make one happy? Perhaps it would be worthwhile to give up on winning and simply enjoy your birthday?

A contemporary tale, ripe and polished, illustrated with original, lighthearted drawings by the author.

Illustrations: Tamar Hochstadter

ENGLISH
TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE



PB

Yedioth Ahronoth and Tal-May Publishers, 2018
34 pp.
Ages 4-8



Tamar Hochstadter

Tamar Hochstadter was born in the Western Galilee in 1985. She earned a BA in visual communications from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design and an MA from Tel Aviv University's program for Child and Youth Culture Research.

Hochstadter's first book, *Cauliflora*, won the Ramat Gan Prize for Literature in 2013 and *Dono and the Remarkable Things that Happened to Him* won the Devorah Omer Prize for children's literature in 2019. *You Won't Find Me* was listed on the Education Ministry's 'Parade of Books.' She has also published *Dono Learns What's Gummy and What's Funny*.

Hochstadter established, and for 10 years edited, an online journal on children's literature and culture, *The Notebook*. She has served as editor of translations of books for youth at the Kinneret-Zmora-Dvir publishing house. Since 2020 she has been director of the children's and youth books department at Am Oved publishers.

[CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE](#)

Tamar Hochstadter

Cauliflora

An ordinary day during the summer vacation. Cauliflora, a clever and mischievous redhead, with little ponytails sticking up on the top of her head, like Bilby's plaits, is awfully bored. And she has used up her allowance. She wants to save up and buy herself "a pony, a rubber snake, and a trampoline," so she decides to go out and sell something on the sidewalk. Her mother suggests she should "sell all the stuff and nonsense that your room is full of," and at the same to tidy up. Cauliflora can't decide what to sell. To her, the "stuff and nonsense" is "nice and important things." After nostalgically rummaging through her belongings, at last she finds something that "isn't worth anything" — "an old toy duck that is falling to pieces." Out on the sidewalk, Cauliflora puts an inflated price on the useless article, and drives a hard bargain with adults passers by. But the moment someone comes along who is prepared to pay, Cauliflora's heart makes a u-turn. The ugly duckling does not become a beautiful swan, but nevertheless, she falls in love again with her childhood toy. So her room will not be neat and tidy now.

Tamar Hochstadter's first children's book deals cleverly with children's deep attachment to their belongings.

Illustrations: Tamar Hochstadter

ENGLISH
TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE



PB

Matar, 2012
36 pp.
Ages 4-8



Tamar Hochstadter

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Iris Argaman

Emilia and the Hat

ENGLISH
TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE

A red hat pops suddenly into Emilia's life, and she can't stop thinking what she should do with it. Keep fruit in it? Hang it in the living room? Use it as a culinary object, or an aesthetic one? Emilia chooses something else. She renovates a store, and sells hats there, special hats that she colors and sews herself, hats that fit in with secrets and dreams. In the beginning, there are no takers but with time the customers begin to pouring in, and the hats make them smile.

But who is Emilia? We are not told at the beginning of the story, and throughout it she never says anything, but only observes, listens and makes hats. She can read and write, she's mature, and as we read, a girl who thinks and behaves differently from others emerges from the pages. Emilia does not drift with the current, but rather drives the current herself. She has her own world and her own vision, through which she makes people wishes come true.

Illustrations: Aviel Basil



PB

Keter, 2021
32 pp.
Ages 3-7



Iris Argaman

Iris Argaman was born in 1967 in Ashdod, Israel, and now lives in Givatayim. She has a BA in comparative literature and education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an MA in literature from Tel Aviv University. She is director of children's literature at the Karev Project for Educational Involvement, a nationwide enrichment program for disadvantaged children. Argaman is also a curator, a lecturer on children's literature, holds writing workshops for the young and writes activity books for kids which promote museum education.

Argaman has published nine books for children. Her book *Bear and Fred* was awarded the Yad Vashem Prize (2016) and the Giovanni Arpino Prize for Children's Literature (Italy, 2017). It has been translated into English, French, Italian, Spanish and Russian.

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Eshkol Nevo

Hold That Thought

Nimrod wanted to tell his mom something important, but when he came into the room she was on the phone.

“Can’t you see I’m in the middle of something?” she said. “Hold on to that thought for just a bit longer.”

How can Nimrod hold on to his thought until his mom has time to listen? How will he keep it from running away? Keep it healthy? Happy?

This is the wonderful story of a boy who discovers how to become best friends with his thoughts, what they like to eat and how long it takes them to change. The closer Nimrod grows to his own thoughts, the better he gets to know himself.

Illustrations: David Hall



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Italian (Salani)



לא היה לו משג איך שומרים מחשבה. נעור מחשבה תשובה.

PB

Kinneret Zmora Dvir, forthcoming
Ages 3-7



PHOTO © SNIR KATZIR

Eshkol Nevo

Eshkol Nevo was born in Jerusalem in 1971. All his books have been bestsellers in Israel. Several of his works have been adapted for the stage or the big screen. Italian cult director Nanni Moretti’s most recent adaptation of Nevo’s *Three Floors Up* was nominated for the Palme d’Or at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

Nevo’s novels have won or been nominated for several literary prizes. Nevo has received Israel’s Gold and Platinum Book Prizes (2005; 2006; 2008; 2011; 2014; 2015), the Reimond Vallier Prize in France (2008), and the ADEI-WIZO Prize in Italy (2011). *Homesick* was a finalist for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize (UK, 2009), *World Cup Wishes* was a finalist for the Kritikerpreis der Jury der Jungen Kritiker (Austria, 2011), and *Neuland* was included in *The Independent’s* Books of the Year in Translation (2014). *The Last Interview* was voted one of the Best Books of the Year 2019 by the *Corriere della Sera*, shortlisted for the Lattes Grinzane Prize (Italy, 2020) and has been nominated for Prix Femina étranger (France, 2020).

Nevo’s work has been translated into a dozen languages.

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Tsipor Frumkin

The End of the World

One day, “after a millennium, a thousand dark years,” an eccentric old woman called Savta — which means ‘grandma’ — drops out of the sky into a remote village. Savta has survived an awful disaster that happened on a distant planet, Alienalia, and as a little girl she was smuggled onto Earth in an oven converted into spaceship. Humanity and Israeli-ness are foreign to her. Food is a nuisance to her. Pleasure, love, softness and warmth mean nothing to her. She adopts and raises on her own an abandoned baby named Oncmor, after the first two words she uttered, “once more.” Savta feeds Oncmor blue, burning-hot alien porridge, and hides her from the menacing outside world. Later on, a variety of characters and events are encountered: a bird-lady, Siamese twins, an aristocratic woman with a beard, a fairy, an interstellar journey, a legendary tiger, talking trees, an experiment that goes wrong, to name just some or them. The story is set against in a typical Israeli reality, enhanced by whacky unrealism: a guru-rabbi conman; ludicrous security agencies; and educational authorities that are incapable of understanding what Savta and Oncor are doing there.

A highly imaginative, artistic story that reads like a creative carnival of styles and themes: legends, colorful psychedelic fantasy, family drama in the shadow of trauma, realism and surrealism, tension between individuality and collectiveness, and between alienation and belonging. A funny, mischievous tale that is also at times disturbing.



YA

Yedioth Ahronoth and
Tal May Publishers, 2019
185 pp.
Ages 11+



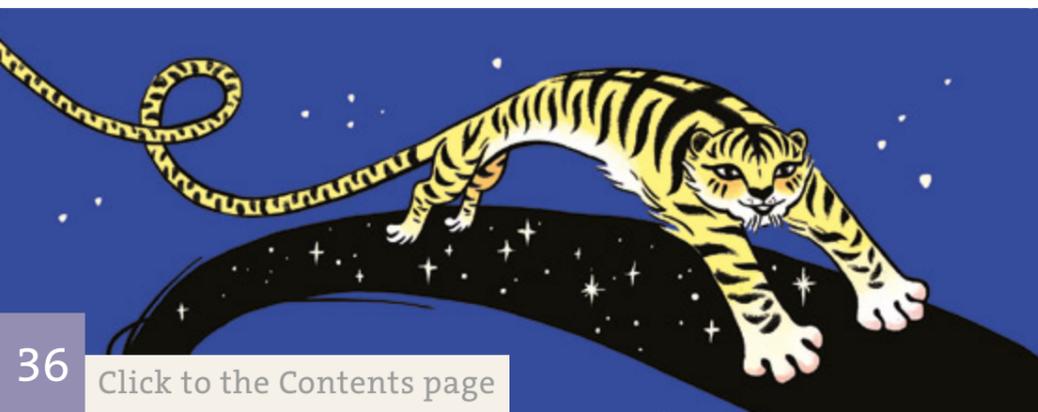
PHOTO © SNIR KATZIR

Tsipor Frumkin

Tsipor Frumkin was born in Jerusalem in 1967. A graduate of the School of Visual Theater, until 2018 she worked at the Train Theater as an actor, puppeteer and director. Her plays for children and adults have been produced at international and Israeli festivals, where they have won prizes.

Frumkin's first book, *Ricky Lee Voo is Stuck to a Chair!*, published in 2017, won the Devorah Omer Prize for children's literature in 2019. Within four years she published four more books, all of which won critical acclaim: *End of the World* (2019), *Bookmobile Takes Off (and Other Adventures)* (2019), *A Royal Feast* (2020), and *Bishma Crosses the Line* (2021).

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Yehuda Vizan

At Hillel and Lilleet of Galilee City

Hillel and his wife Lilleet live in a large house in a town in the Galilee. They have a small daughter and an older son, twenty cats and a little dog, and even a twisty snake and a whale that swims around in a bowl. Their son's name is Z'voov, which means 'fly,' and the daughter's name is Goolgalata. Their grandma also lives in the house, and she has no name because she's so old, and no, she isn't dead, just fast asleep.

A wonderful tale in verse, full of ingenious humor, about a very special family obsessed with words. An ode to the imagination, and to the creative power of language.

Illustrations: Noa Vikhanski



PB

Keren Books, 2019
34 pp.
Ages 5+



Yehuda Vizan

Yehuda Vizan was born in 1985 in Yehud, Israel and lives in Tel Aviv. His grandparents emigrated from Tunisia, Libya and Turkey. Vizan is a poet, editor, translator and critic and is a founding editor of the literary magazine and publishing house Dehak. He served as a critic for the Walla internet site, Time Out Tel Aviv and Haaretz, and in the past worked as a basketball coach, construction laborer and teacher. His novel *Pekah* (2016) was awarded the Israeli Ministry of Culture Prize for debut fiction.

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Sagit Emet

Gaya's Dawn

Gaya is a lovely seventh-grader who has cancer. She must undergo painful and exhausting treatment. When she loses her hair, she begins wearing a wig, which she is sure everyone at school notices. She becomes reclusive and untrusting, fearing her schoolmates' ridicule, and allowing only her good friend Anat to support her in her time of need.

Gaya does not understand why she is sick, and how she is to deal with her predicament. She converses with God to seek strength, with no results. One day, her father brings home Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*. The book teaches her that every trial life presents us has a hidden meaning, that it is an opportunity for us to search for our inner strength and improve ourselves. Inspired and encouraged, Gaya begins examining her life. She realizes that her illness has helped her overcome her vanity, strengthen her endurance and think of her parents.

Gaya's ordeal ends well. She is on her way to recovery. Perhaps her illness really was a gift, teaching her about herself, about the truly important things in life, and a whole lot about love—teenage young love and family love.

A life-affirming contemporary Israeli classic that over more than twenty years has been warming the hearts and souls of young readers and their parents.



Keter, 2000
127 pp.
Ages 10-14



PHOTO © SNIR KATZIR

Sagit Emet

Sagit Emet is an author, a playwright, and a writing workshop facilitator. She has won the Zeev Prize and the Leah Goldberg Prize for children's literature for her novel *Gaya's Dawn*. The book has also been adapted for the stage.

Emet is the author of the bestselling adult novel *Days to See*, for which she received Israel's Gold Book Prize (2017). In 2020 she was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Hebrew Literary Works.

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Iris Argaman

Bear and Fred



Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2016
43 pp.
Ages 6-8



“Once upon a time, in a faraway land called Holland, in a city called Delft, I was Fred’s teddy bear.” Thus begins the tale of a teddy bear who was Fred’s best friend. Fred was a little Jewish boy who had to leave his home and his parents, and live in hiding during the Second World War.

The story is told from the point of view of Bear who doesn’t quite grasp what is going on. But he senses that something bad is happening and is scared that Fred will forget him. But Fred never parts from his only friend. First, they go to Grandpa in Amsterdam, where Fred is warned not to tell anyone who he is. Bear doesn’t get it: Has Fred done something wrong? And what is the yellow star that Grandpa has sewn onto his friend’s coat? And then, living with Grandpa also becomes dangerous, and Fred is given to a strange family. He hides out with them until the war is over, and all this time Bear makes sure to look after him. The two do not part even after Fred is reunited with his family and the world isn’t a scary place anymore.

This is the true story of Fred Lessing, who moved with his family to the USA after the war. Even after he grew up and had his own family, he kept Bear as a reminder of what he had been through. Many years later he gave him to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, so that other children could learn about their story.

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IRIS
ARGAMAN'S
NEW BOOK

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English (**Amazon Crossing Kids**), Italian (**Gallucci**), French (**Chandeigne**), Spanish (**Santillana**, Mexico), Russian (**Knizhniki**)

Iris Argaman was born in 1967 in Ashdod, Israel, and now lives in Givatayim. She has a BA in comparative literature and education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an MA in literature from Tel Aviv University. She is director of children’s literature at the Karev Project for Educational Involvement, a nationwide enrichment program for disadvantaged children. Argaman is also a curator, a lecturer on children’s literature, holds writing workshops for the young and writes activity books for kids which promote museum education.

Argaman has published nine books for children. *Bear and Fred* was awarded the Yad Vashem Prize (2016) and the Giovanni Arpino Prize for Children’s Literature (Italy, 2017).



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Illustrations: **Avi Ofer**

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Tamar Meir

Francesco Tirelli’s Ice Cream Shop



Keter, 2017
32 pp.
Ages 5-8



When Francesco Tirelli was a young boy he loved ice cream, and at least once a day he would find a reason to pass by his uncle’s ice cream wagon, where he would be given an ice cream full of different flavors by his uncle. When Francesco grew up he still loved ice cream, even when he moved from Italy to Budapest in Hungary. But there he couldn’t find anything that tasted like his uncle’s ice cream, so he decided to open an ice cream shop so that the children in Budapest could also enjoy delicious Italian ice cream. One of these children was a boy called Peter, who loved Francesco’s ice cream so much that he would come to the shop every day.

Then war broke out, and the Germans invaded Hungary. Peter’s family was in grave danger because they were Jewish. Francesco had a brave idea: he decided to help them and other Jews. He hid them in his shop the whole winter, until the war was over. That is how Francesco Tirelli saved the lives of Peter and his Jewish neighbors.

With humor, Tamar Meir has written a story about a good man, who despite all the evil around him rose up and performed a moral deed, choosing to save people when they were in trouble. The book is based on a true story that the writer heard from her father-in-law, who was the little boy whose life Francesco saved.

Illustrations: **Yael Albert**

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English (**Kar-Ben**), Italian (**Gallucci**), Czech (**Prah**), Russian (**Knizhniki**), Hungarian (**Infopoly Foundation**)

Born in Israel in 1976, mother of six, **Tamar Meir** holds degrees in Talmud and Jewish philosophy, and a PhD in literature from Bar-Ilan University. She currently serves as head of the Literature Department at the Givat Washington College of Education and teaches Aggadah at Efrata College.

In addition to her academic and literary work, Meir is a social activist, empowering women in the religious community. She established and heads the “Kulana” women’s Beit Midrash, and is a member of the Board of Rabbis of Beit Hillel, an Orthodox rabbinical organization that also includes women in its ranks.

Francesco Tirelli’s Ice Cream Shop, Meir’s first children’s book, was awarded the Yad Vashem Prize (2017) and the Devorah Omer Prize for Children’s Literature (2017).



PHOTO © SHAHAR TAMIR

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Eshkol Nevo

Amalia's Father Goes to Australia

PB

Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir, 2010
33 pp.
Ages 3-6



Amalia's father is going to Australia, but Amalia can't go with him. After he leaves, she is very sad—she doesn't feel like painting or going out for a walk. And then there's an unexpected knock on the door. She leaps to her feet, thinking: It's Dad! But when she opens the door, she sees an amazing creature called the Whipped Cream Man. He turns out to be one of many strange characters that visit her in the next few days, like the Kissing Queen and the Jumpy Kangaroo. They all share happy moments with Amalia and make her forget about her father's absence for a little while. So the week isn't as terrible as she'd expected and, at the end, her dad comes back with the scooter he'd promised her!

David Hall's lovely illustrations are an inseparable part of the plot. If young readers look at the last picture carefully, they'll discover the mystery of the fantastic visitors. For in that picture, we see the kangaroo tail still glued to her mother's behind!

Illustrations: David Hall

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ESHKOL
NEVO'S
NEW BOOK

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Italian (**Salani**), Spanish (**Leviathan**, Argentina), Hindi (**A & A Book Trust**)

Eshkol Nevo was born in Jerusalem in 1971. All his books have been bestsellers in Israel. Several of his works have been adapted for the stage or the big screen. Italian cult director Nanni Moretti's most recent adaptation of Nevo's *Three Floors Up* was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

Nevo's novels have won or been nominated for several literary prizes. Nevo has received Israel's Gold and Platinum Book Prizes (2005; 2006; 2008; 2011; 2014; 2015), the Reimond Vallier Prize in France (2008), and the ADEI-WIZO Prize in Italy (2011). *Homesick* was a finalist for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize (UK, 2009), *World Cup Wishes* was a finalist for the Kritikerpreis der Jury der Jungen Kritiker (Austria, 2011), and *Neuland* was included in *The Independent's* Books of the Year in Translation (2014). *The Last Interview* was voted one of the Best Books of the Year 2019 by the *Corriere della Sera*, shortlisted for the Lattes Grinzane Prize (Italy, 2020) and has been nominated for Prix Femina étranger (France, 2020).

Nevo's work has been translated into a dozen languages.



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Tami Shem-Tov

Saba Sabich

PB

Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir, 2017
40 pp.
Ages 4-7



"Grandpa, why did your parents name you after a dish?" twins Keren and Or ask their Saba—Grandpa—Sabich. Join them on a journey that begins in Iraq and ends in a small kiosk in Ramat Gan, and you will discover the answer as well.

Sabich is a sandwich made from fried eggplants, hard-boiled egg and *tahini*. This story goes back to the roots of this dish where we discover that the word *sabich* comes from the name of the man who brought the Iraqi dish to Israel and sold it from his kiosk. At first, customers used to say, "Sabich, give me a plate", but soon it changed to "give me a plate of *sabich*", and so the name of the man became the name of the dish. The book tells this personal, but also very public story, and shows how food becomes intertwined in our lives through characters, immigration, chance and appetite.

Tami Shem-Tov, whose children and youth books have won numerous prizes and have been translated into several languages, dedicated this book to her father, Sabich. Her story, about a family, interweaves the colorful texture of Israeli society. Through it, the readers learn about the *Aliyah* and the absorption of immigrants in the early days of the State of Israel.

Illustrations: Shimrit Elkanati

Tami Shem-Tov was born in Kiryat Ono, Israel, in 1969, and lives in Tel Aviv. After working as a journalist for a number of years, she now teaches creative writing at the University of Haifa and holds meetings with children. Shem-Tov has written several books for children and youth and a children's play. Her first book, *Just for Milli*, was awarded the Ze'ev Prize (1999); her second, *Matti's Orange Revolution*, has been adapted for the stage. *Letters from Nowhere* received the Yad Vashem Prize (2007), the Ze'ev Prize (2008) and the German Children's Literature Award (2010). She also received the Prime Minister's Prize (2011). Shem-Tov's latest book for youth, *I'm not a Thief*, was awarded the DafDaf Prize (2012), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2013), an Andersen Honor Citation (2014) the Public Libraries Award (2014) and the Bialik Prize (2014). Her books have been translated into eight languages.



PHOTO © EMILIE QUZEN

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Ori Elon

At Jakrobat's Market

PB

Keter, 2015
26 pp.
Ages 5-7



Most of the week, from dawn to dusk, Yosef repairs shoes. But on Friday, as the Sabbath nears, his happiness soars sky-high and everyone in Jakrobat knows there isn't a happier or tastier Friday night dinner than that of Yosef, who loves the Sabbath.

Everyone in Jakrobat is happy except Baltosar, the richest person in town, who's scared someone will steal his silver coins.

At Jakrobat's Market is an enchanting fable about poverty and wealth, and happiness too, in modern dress and full of humor and color.

Illustrations: Menahem Halberstadt



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English (**Green Bean Books**), Spanish (**PJ Library**), Portuguese (**PJ Library**)

Ori Elon was born in Kibbutz Shluhot, in Northern Israel, in 1981, and graduated from the Ma'aleh School of Television, Film and the Arts in Jerusalem. He is the co-creator and writer of the critically acclaimed television drama *Shtisel*, now on Netflix. The series won 17 Israeli Academy Awards, including best series and best screenplay. He was also a co-writer of the drama series *Srugim*, the mini-series *Autonomous* and the comedy *The Choir*. As an author, he wrote *Invisible Show*, which won him the Israeli Ministry of Culture Award for Debut Novels, as well as several children's books including *King Gogle*, *In The Z'akrobat* and *The Chickens that Were Turned into Goats*.



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Ori Elon

A Basket Full of Figs

PB

Tchelet Books, 2017
24 pp.
Ages 6-9



When the Emperor Hadrian rides into the village on his horse, the people hide in fear. All except for one: an old man who is almost a hundred years old. He comes outside to plant a fig tree.

Hadrian stops his horse. "What are you doing?" he asks the old man. "That tree is so small and you're so old! You won't live long enough to eat its fruit!" "Well," the old man replies, "If I don't, then my children will eat them!"

Three years later, Hadrian returns. Meeting the old man again, he is surprised to see that the tree has grown and is covered in figs. The old man's prophecy of gifts for future generations has come true!

Recreating one of the Midrash's most beautiful tales, *A Basket of Figs* teaches the importance of caring for the environment and consideration for our fellow human beings.

Illustrations: Menahem Halberstadt

