



THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE

New Books for Children from Israel

ITHL Fall 2017 Catalogue Supplement

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Tami Shem-Tov and Rachella Sandbank



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.

Rachella Sandbank was born in Jerusalem. She is the editor of children and Y/A books at Keter Publishing, one of the leading publishing houses in Israel. She lives in Hod HaSharon.

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR TAMI SHEM-TOV'S BOOKS ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR RACHELLA SANDBANK

Coming Home!

Tel Aviv, Keter, 2017. 31 pp.

AGE: 4-8

When World War 2 ended, thousands of European and North African Jews became refugees and set sail for Palestine to find a home. But the British who ruled Palestine did not let them land, and sent them to a detention camp on the island of Cyprus. Little Rosa and her father spent almost a year there, surrounded by barbed wire. Before, Rosa had had a voice like a bell, but in the camp she could no longer sing. However, there was a nice British sentry at the gate, and sometimes he let the children out to paddle in the sea.

The day that this story takes place is special: a famous singer is coming from Palestine to sing for the inmates. Her name is Shoshana Damari, later dubbed the Queen of Hebrew Song. Rosa goes to the hut where the choir is rehearsing for the show. She is dying to sing but she can't utter a word. In the evening, Shoshana Damari comes on stage and sings "*Habayita*"—"Homeward." Her voice is like a bell and her curls are black, just like Rosa's. And a miracle happens: Rosa starts singing along with her and the two voices mingle. Then the audience also joins in, singing out their longing to reach the place that they can finally call home.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Tami Shem-Tov



PHOTO © EMILIE QUIZEN

Rachella Sandbank



PHOTO © LIRON RINOT



Francesco Tirelli's Ice Cream Store

Tel Aviv, Keter, 2017. 32 pp.

AGE: 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 store 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 store every day.

Then the 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 store 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

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Italian rights sold to **Galluci**, Rome.

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 and at Bar-Ilan University. Meir is also member and head of various Ministry of Education committees responsible for the literature curricula at schools and kindergartens. In addition to her academic and literary work, Meir is a social activist, empowering women in the religious community. Tamar 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 Store, Meir's first children's book, was awarded the Yad Vashem Prize (2017).

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PHOTO © SHAHAR TAMIR

Yona Tepper



The Oil Lamp of Uri and Uriah

Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 2016. 30 pp.

AGE: 5-8

For his birthday, Uri asks to be taken to the dig where his father, an archaeologist, works: Uri dreams of discovering treasure. The two work together: Dad digs and Uri removes the dirt with a small brush. Suddenly, Uri sees something poking out of the ground. “Uri, you’ve found a treasure,” says Dad, “an ancient oil lamp from the time of Bar Kochba!” This special oil lamp is decorated with an image of the menorah that stood in the Temple in Jerusalem. Dad asks Uri to close his eyes, and he tells him the story of the oil lamp. Uri imagines that he is back in the times of the Bar Kochba revolt against the Roman Empire, almost two thousand years ago. Back then, a boy by the name of Uriah lived in the house where Uri and his father are now working. Uriah’s father, a potter, made oil lamps out of clay. One day, a messenger came from Bar Kochba and gave Uriah’s father a mold of the menorah. His father made lamps for the entire village and at night their light gave the villagers hope. “I saw it all,” says Uri when his father has finished the story. He insists that he even met Bar Kochba, who had come mounted on a lion and had asked him to ride along with him. “If you rode a lion thanks to the little lamp,” says his father with a smile, “you must really have found a treasure.”

Illustrations: Moran Yogev

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Yona Tepper was born at Kibbutz Dafna in 1941 and studied education and creative drama. She taught for many years and later became school principal. She is currently editor for children and youth at Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House. Tepper has published many books for children and youth. She has been awarded the Prime Minister’s Prize (2001), the Ze’ev Prize twice (1995; 2005) an IBBY Honor Citation (2007), the Israel Ministry of Science and Culture Award (2008) and the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2015).

Tepper’s books have been translated into English, German, Arabic and Korean. *Who Is Passing By?* was published in English by **Kane & Miller** to great acclaim.



PHOTO © DAN FORGES

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Yona Tepper

I Can Do It Too!

Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 2017. 22 pp.

AGE: 2-5



Yona Tepper was born at Kibbutz Dafna in 1941 and studied education and creative drama. She taught for many years and later became school principal. She is currently editor for children and youth at Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House. Tepper has published many books for children and youth. She has been awarded the Prime Minister's Prize (2001), the Ze'ev Prize twice (1995; 2005) an IBBY Honor Citation (2007), the Israel Ministry of Science and Culture Award (2008) and the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2015).

Tepper's books have been translated into English, German, Arabic and Korean. *Who Is Passing By?* was published in English by **Kane & Miller** to great acclaim.

Noga and her father were walking to her preschool one morning. On the way, Noga spotted a butterfly. "Look daddy, I can also do that," Noga shouted and waved her arms as if they were wings. "There's a little bird," dad said. "Can you hop like it?" "Sure I can, daddy," she replied, and hopped like a bird. When a tortoise crossed their path, Noga began crawling like it, then she jumped like a rabbit, scratched herself like a monkey, and licked herself like a cat. She could even imitate scary animals like a lion, a tiger and a bear. Then she asked her dad, "And what animal would you like to be, daddy?" Straight away he joined in her game, choosing to be a daddy elephant.

A story full of fun and imagination about a game you can play on the way to preschool.

Illustrations: Shahar Kober

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

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PHOTO © DAN FORGÉS

Ephraim Sidon

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David and the Spider

Tel Aviv, Keter, 2017. 24 pp.

AGE: 5-8



Ephraim Sidon was born in Tel Aviv in 1946, and was a member of Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak for a number of years. He majored in history and theater at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Since 1972, Sidon has written weekly satirical columns in various major newspapers. He writes for the theater, and has written for a wide variety of TV programs, including drama, entertainment and satire. Sidon has published many books for children, a number of which have been adapted for the stage. He was awarded the Bialik Prize (2004), the ASSITEJ Israel Award for Lifetime Achievement in the field of Children and Youth Theater (2016) and the Lifetime Achievement Prize for Television from the Israeli Academy of Film and Television (2016).

Sidon's books for children have been published in Spanish and Arabic.

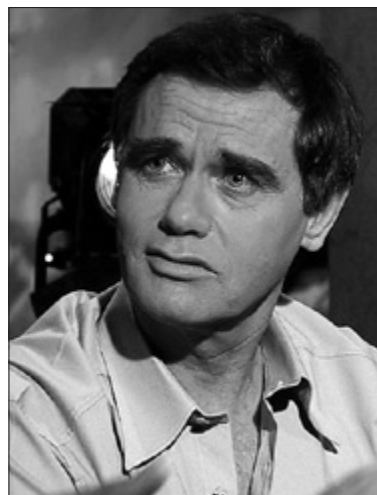
When King David was still a little boy he enjoyed walking through the fields, shepherding his flock and viewing nature. He was thrilled to see how each living creature gave something to the world: bees made honey, sheep grew soft wool. Until he came across a spider. “Why was he created?” David wondered, finding nothing useful in the spider’s web. God replied to him that everything in creation had its purpose, and that the day would come when David would see that the spider also had its role.

Years went by and David became a hero who had saved his people. King Saul was envious of him, and feared for his throne. He set out to hunt David and his followers down. One day during the chase David was hiding in a cave but Saul and his soldiers tracked him and were getting closer. David’s life was in danger. Who came to his rescue? A small spider quickly spun a web across the entrance to the cave. Saul and his soldiers didn’t bother to brush it aside and go into the cave, because they took the spider’s web as a sign that no one had entered it. That’s how David realized that the spider, like all other creatures, can be useful, and he immediately thanked it and said he was sorry for doubting that.

Ephraim Sidon has put to rhyme a Jewish legend from the Talmud which teaches that everything has its place on the face of the earth.

Illustrations: Danny Kerman

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



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Ms. More

Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 2017. 26 pp.

AGE: 4-7

Ms. More is an entertaining story about a woman whose passion for shopping knows no boundaries. She has a lot of things to do, though she does not work, write or exercise, nor does she dance, read or cook. Ms. More is mostly busy shopping. In the morning, when everyone around her is hurrying on their way to work or school, Ms. More rushes to the mall. There she wanders as though in a dream, hypnotized by the products displayed in the shop windows. She pulls out her purse again and again and is never satisfied. She buys and buys and leaves the mall laden with many heavy bags. Ms. More is tired, her back is stiff and her legs hurt, but when she gets home, she finds that there is no room left in her apartment. Her purchases clutter the space around her to bursting point, and she can not even sit down or rest. Poor Ms. More wonders in tears: “Who needs all these things?” From tomorrow, she swears, she will never buy anything unnecessary again.

Will Ms. More manage to save herself and change her habits? And how will she do it?

Both children and parents, who live with contemporary consumer culture, will enjoy observing the grotesque shopping extravaganza that carries on from page to page until the inevitable disillusionment and subsequent salvation.

Illustrations: Aviel Bassil



PHOTO © IRIS NESHER

Tal Nitzan, a poet, editor and a major translator of Hispanic literature, was born in Jaffa, Israel, and has lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Bogota, Colombia, and New York. Nitzan has published several poetry collections and books for children, and has edited an anthology of Hebrew protest poetry. She has translated numerous books into Hebrew and is the editor of two series, for Hispanic literature and for contemporary Hebrew fiction, as well as the editor of the literary magazine *Orot*. Among her awards: the Rosario Castellanos Prize (1985), the Ministry of Culture Prize for Translation, twice (1995; 2005), the WIZO Award for Women Writers (1998), an honorary medal from the President of Chile for her translation of Pablo Neruda’s poetry (2004) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2010).

Nitzan’s poems have been translated into over 20 languages.

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Amalia's Father Goes to Australia

Tel Aviv, Zmora-Bitan, 2010. 33 pp.

AGE: 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

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Italian rights sold to **Salani**, Milan.

Eshkol Nevo was born in Jerusalem in 1971. He studied copywriting at the Tirza Granot School and psychology at Tel Aviv University. Today, Nevo owns and co-manages the largest private creative writing school in Israel and is considered the mentor of many upcoming young Israeli writers. He has published novels, short stories and nonfiction. His novels have all been top bestsellers in Israel, and two of them, *World Cup Wishes* and *Three Floors Up*, have been adapted for the stage.

Nevo, whose novels are very successful abroad, has received the Book Publishers Association's Gold and Platinum Prizes (2005; 2006; 2008; 2011; 2014; 2015), the FFI-Raymond Wallier Prize (Paris, 2008), the ADEI-WIZO Prize (Italy, 2011) and the Steimatzky Prize twice, for *Neuland* (2012) and for *The Lost Solos* (2014). *Homesick* was a finalist for the prestigious 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* list of Books of the Year in Translation (2014).

Nevo's books have been translated into 10 languages.



PHOTO © DAN PORGES

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Shula Modan was born in 1944 in Tel Aviv. She studied Hebrew literature, French culture and social work at Tel Aviv University, and then trained as a psychotherapist. She works as a psychotherapist and is also an editor for Modan Publishing House. Shula Modan has published many books for children, cookbooks and a novel. Her cookbook, *Bishula*, and her children's book, *Where, Oh Where Is Miss Pinky?* are national bestsellers.

Modan's books have been published in English, Portuguese and Korean

Where, Oh Where Is Miss Pinky?

Tel Aviv, Modan, 2001; 2002. 20 pp.

AGE: 2-5

“Mister Thumb missed Miss Pinky a lot.
He met Miss Index, a lady with a bundle in her hair.
- Hello, Miss Index.
- Greetings, Mister Thumb.
- Do you know where Miss Pinky is?
Miss Index looked up,
Miss Index looked down,
and then she answered:
- No, no, no!
I don't know.

...

Mister Thumb cried a lot.
- I miss Miss Pinky so much!
Where, oh where can she be?”

A wonderful, simple tale of searching and finding, including a real, “live”, finger game. Children will find endless fun in this lighthearted, intimate story.

Illustrations: Alona Frankel

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



PHOTO © JONATHAN BLOOM

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Edna Mazya

Again, Granny, Again!

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, 2010; board book: 2016.
25 pp.

AGE: 3-6

Ory is visiting his granny in Tel Aviv for a day of fun. In the morning they go to a playground, and Ory tries to persuade granny to climb to the top of the slide and to slide down with him. Granny gets over her fears, holds tight onto Ory, shuts her eyes and the two slide down to the bottom. “Again, Granny,” says Ory, with his magic smile, and granny does it. Before lunch, they take a stroll along an avenue. Ory rides on his push car and granny runs along with him. “Again, Granny,” says Ory when he reaches the end of the path. “No, no,” puffs granny, but once again Ory smiles that magic smile, and adds a hug to it. How could she say no to such a cute grandchild? In the evening, granny gallops on all fours around the living room, neighing like a horse, with Ory riding on her back like a cowboy. And again, the boy does his magic and persuades granny to do what he wants, and again she gallops around. But, it looks like it’s not only Ory who’s enjoying himself, but granny is too. “Granny, I love you,” Ory whispers his magic words, as the two sit by the Tel Aviv seaside and watch the sunset.

In her first children’s book, Edna Mazya lovingly and amusingly describes the balance of power between little ones and grown-ups, and the magic webs that grandchildren spin around their grandparents.

Illustrations: Orna Smorgonsky

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



Edna Mazya was born in Tel Aviv in 1949. A playwright and author, she studied theater and philosophy, and received her MA from Tel Aviv University where she later taught dramatic writing. Several of Mazya’s plays have been performed abroad. She has also published two successful novels and four children’s books. Mazya was awarded the Margalit Prize twice, for her plays *Family Story* and *The Rebels* (1997; 1999). For *The Rebels*, she also received the Lea Goldberg Prize (1997) and was nominated Playwright of the Year (1998). A film based on a script of hers received the Israel Academy’s Best TV Film Award for the year 2003.

Mazya’s novels have been translated into four languages.



PHOTO © VARDI KAHANA

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Sheindel's Candles

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, forthcoming.

AGE: 7-10

Sketch for an inside page illustration



Nava Semel was born in Tel Aviv in 1954 and has an MA in art history. She has worked as a journalist, art critic, and TV, radio and recording producer. Semel has published novels, short stories, poetry, plays, children's books and TV scripts.

Many of her stories have been adapted for radio, film, TV and the stage in Israel, Europe and the USA. Her novel, *And the Rat Laughed*, has been made into an opera. It will also be a feature film, directed by David Fisher. Semel is on the board of governors of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum.

Among Semel's many literary prizes: the Women Writers of the Mediterranean Award (1994), the Austrian Best Radio Drama Award (1996), the Rosenblum Prize for Stage Arts (2005), and Tel Aviv's Literary Woman of the Year (2007). Her y/a book, *Love for Beginners*, received the One of the Best Seven Prize awarded by Radio Germany (2010) as well as the Educators and Scientists Association Award (Germany, 2010). Rights to Semel's books have been published in 11 languages.

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

For little Sheindel, the world was full of beauty. She loved picking flowers, skating on the frozen river in winter and gazing at the clouds changing their shapes in the sky. Sheindel and her family lived in a little village, a Jewish *shtetl*, in Europe. For hours on end she would watch her father the blacksmith at work, as he made different tools out of molten metal. One day he made a pair of candlesticks that came out all crooked. He wanted to scrap them, but Sheindel stopped him and said that she thought they were lovely. She lit candles in them every Sabbath eve, and never parted from them, even when she grew up, got married and had a daughter named Rochele. The candles in the crooked candlesticks lit up the little cradle and Sheindel hoped that her daughter would also learn to like things with flaws. Then there came days of darkness and evil. Sheindel's husband was shot dead; the only synagogue in the village was burned down, and the Jews were driven away and herded together into a ghetto. There were no candles to light, but Sheindel and Rochele kept on blessing the light although darkness covered the earth.

Nava Semel's story is one of memory and continuity and the need to seek out beauty in a world where there is so much ugliness. Sheindel's great-granddaughter, Nava, didn't know her, but the candlesticks survived and now, when Nava lights them and prays that the darkness won't return, she imagines the little girl in the *shtetl* waving at her.

Illustrations: Gilad Seliktar

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



PHOTO © NIZAN LOTEM

BESTSELLER



Operation Manhattan

(Secret Mission Series No. 1)

Tel Aviv, Achuzat Bayit, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2015. 316 pp.

AGE: 9-14.

Operation Manhattan is the first in a **sweeping series of spy thrillers** for youth, which introduces young readers to the intriguing world of espionage and intelligence services.

When Guy, Roy and Noam are chosen to participate in a special youth delegation to the United Nations in New York, no one understands why. Maybe Guy, a computer whiz, makes sense, but why in the world was Noam chosen? She's a total freak! And Roy? He barely knows any English! Only one person knows the truth—Hanan Shomroni, a top-ranking Mossad agent.

Ahmed Abu Bashir, the leader of an international terror organization, is about to arrive for a visit to the UN. Hanan decides that it's a one-time opportunity to break into his computer, but the Mossad isn't allowed to operate in the US. Against all reason and without telling anyone, Hanan decides that only these children can do the job.

The three go through tough training to prepare for the complicated and dangerous operation. But when they get to Manhattan, everything goes wrong, Hanan is kidnapped by Abu Bashir's men and failure looms. After overcoming massive obstacles, the three kids uncover a plot to bomb the UN headquarters, and manage to save Hanan's life. Their bravery and resourcefulness are rewarded when the president of the United States greets them at the White House.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Dana Elazar-Halevi was born in Israel in 1970 and lives in Tel Aviv. She holds a BA in Arabic literature and Middle Eastern studies and an MA in the history of education from Tel Aviv University. An editor and English-Hebrew translator, Elazar-Halevi has held various positions in leading Israeli publishing houses, including head of translated fiction at Kinneret Zmora-Bitan and non-fiction editor at Keter. She was also editor of the daily *Ma'ariv's* literary section and has taught translation and editing at Tel Aviv University and Beit Berl College.

Elazar-Halevi is the author of *Secret Mission*, a highly acclaimed series of best-selling spy thrillers for young adults. *Operation Manhattan*, the first book in the series, is recommended for youth by the Israel Ministry of Education, and the second, *Operation Berlin*, received the Ha-Pinkas Award (2016).

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PHOTO © GILI & MIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY

BESTSELLER



Operation Berlin

(Secret Mission Series, 2)

Tel Aviv, Achuzat Bayit, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2016. 252 pp.

AGE: 9–14

The school year has begun and Guy, Noam and Roy are now in 9th grade. They're trying to settle back into school routine after their summer adventure in Manhattan, when they hacked into an international terrorist's computer and averted a large-scale attack, together with Hanan Shomroni, the Mossad agent who recruited them for the mission. They're sure that their spying days are over: the Mossad doesn't enlist children, and what are the chances that Hanan will need their help again?

But then a dark secret emerges from Noam's family past; at the same time there are news reports about horrible acts being committed by a neo-Nazi organization in Germany. The three children host a girl from Germany. She has a clue that could lead them straight to the head of the organization, so they decide to go to Berlin on a secret operation to find him.

Hanan Shomroni and other Mossad agents, as well as the German secret service, are also trying to capture the neo-Nazi leader. But he has vanished, and no one has any idea how to find him. No one, that is, except the three kids.

Operation Berlin, the second book in the *Secret Mission* series, takes the three young spies to new heights of suspense, daring and danger. In a world full of cruelty, they discover the power of new friendships and get to know themselves better.

Dana Elazar-Halevi was born in Israel in 1970 and lives in Tel Aviv. She holds a BA in Arabic literature and Middle Eastern studies and an MA in the history of education from Tel Aviv University. An editor and English-Hebrew translator, Elazar-Halevi has held various positions in leading Israeli publishing houses, including head of translated fiction at Kinneret Zmora-Bitan and non-fiction editor at Keter. She was also editor of the daily *Ma'ariv's* literary section and has taught translation and editing at Tel Aviv University and Beit Berl College.

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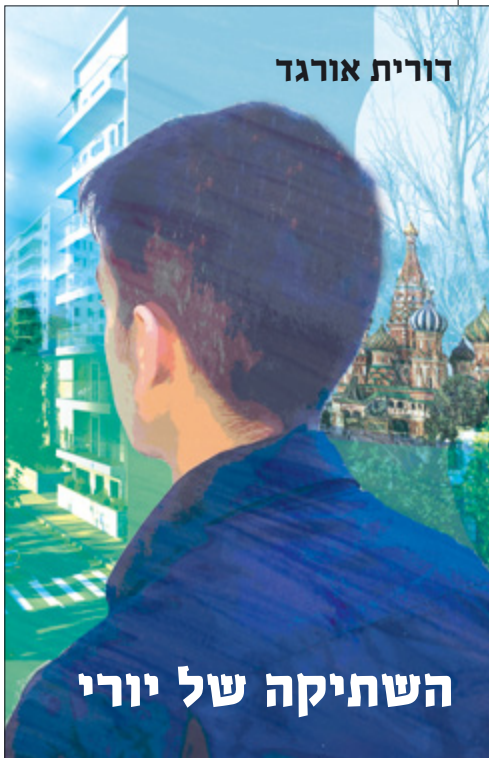
PHOTO © GILI&MIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY

Dorit Orgad

Yuri Breaks His Silence

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2017. 196 pp.

AGE: 10-15



Dorit Orgad was born in Germany in 1936, and came to pre-state Israel as a young child. She has a PhD in Jewish philosophy from Bar Ilan University. Orgad has taught at various schools and academic institutions. She now writes for the press and tutors writing groups. Orgad has published three adult books and 70 books for children and youth. Her many awards include the Ze'ev Prize (1987), the Bernstein Prize (1987), the Hadassah Prize (2000), an Honor Citation from the WZO for her books about children from Ethiopia (2005), and the Verghereto Award (Italy, 2006). Her y/a book *Kalkidan* was nominated Favorite Youth Novel by Israel's Ministry of Education (2007), and received the Ministry of Culture Prize (2007). It also received the Public Libraries Award (2012). Orgad was also awarded the Devorah Omer Prize for *Yuri Breaks His Silence* (2017).

Orgad's books have been published in 11 languages.

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An intriguing and suspenseful story that begins in Moscow and continues in Israel. Ilyusha, nicknamed Ilish, is a 12-year-old boy who lives in a Moscow neighborhood with his parents. One day, at the entrance to the building where they live, Ilish meets a strange, silent boy. All attempts to get the boy to talk fail. During the summer vacation, Ilish's grandmother comes to visit, and the two visit the neighborhood park, where they see that the strange boy has climbed a tree. All of a sudden, the branch he is sitting on breaks and he falls to the ground. The boy is injured and is taken to hospital. Ilish's grandmother assumes responsibility for him, and she and the boy become close. She visits him in hospital and after he recovers, brings him to her home. The boy's name is Yuri, but nothing is known about his family, and he still doesn't speak.

Meanwhile, Ilish and his parents have moved to Israel. Ilish makes new friends, learns Hebrew, becomes an outstanding student and likes his new hometown, Ashdod, a lot. In a local park he meets a boy called Uri, who looks remarkably like the silent boy in Moscow. Is there a connection between Yuri and Uri? Will Yuri find his family and start to speak? The answers are given when Ilish's grandmother and Yuri also come to live in Israel.

Yet again, Dorit Orgad has spun an engrossing tale about human relations that is cloaked in mystery.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



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