



Cohen & Shiloh Literary Agency

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Children & YA

P.O.Box 10054, Tel Aviv 6110001, Israel

Tel: +97236490811

www.cohen-shiloh-agency.com

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Ora Eitan

Ora Eitan is one of the most distinguished illustrators and children's book writers in Israel. For 40 years she taught at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem; she was also a guest lecturer at the Rhode Island School of Design. Eitan has illustrated 120 books, such as *No Milk* (Tambourine), *Sun Is Falling*, *Night Is Calling* (Simon & Schuster), *Hanna's Sabbath Dress* (Simon & Schuster), *Cowboy Bunnies* (Putnam Juvenile), *Georgia Rises: A Day in a Life of Georgia O'Keeffe* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) and more. She has also written several children's books. Her books have won dozens of prizes, both locally and internationally.

Big or Small

Picture Book

Publisher: Magnes Press

Year: Forthcoming

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translation: English translation by Gilah Kahn

Dan is almost four. When he gets dressed on his own, he feels big, but when he breaks a plate by accident, he is told that he is small. How confusing. How will Dan know if he is big or small? Perhaps he is both? Softly and wholeheartedly, Dan expresses the complex feelings of many children his age.

Critical Praise

Eitan is of the generation of illustrators who started a revolution in Israeli illustration; She rescued Israeli illustration from its ideological restraints and charged it with personal and artistic inspiration. In the early eighties, Eitan broke free from the traditional dominance of the line in illustration and developed a pictorial language with a colorful and unique emphasis. Her illustrations are steeped in diverse techniques and are characterized by stylistic freshness. If 'style' is above all 'the fixed form' - and sometimes the fixed elements, features, and expression...then Ora Eitan eludes the 'fixed' and the stable, refusing to surrender to them.

Tali Tamir, News 1

Eitan's art is indeed rooted in childhood. Even when she talks about the means of expression available to her, she unwittingly compares herself to a child in a toy store.

Marit Benisrael



Hagai Dagan

Born in 1964 in Kibbutz Ein HaMifratz, Hagai Dagan is an Israeli writer and scholar. Educated in Israel and Germany, he received a PhD in Jewish Thought and Philosophy from Tel-Aviv University. He is currently head of the Israeli Culture department at Sapir College, Israel.

Dagan has published seven novels, four non-fiction books, and a volume of poetry. His body of work is anchored by themes from Jewish history, myth, fantasy and demonology, and their links to contemporary Israeli life and identity. Dagan was awarded the Levi Eshkol Literary Award in 2007 and the Geffen Prize for Best Fantasy Book in 2013

Call of the North: Karelia's Journey

MG/Crossover

Publisher: Petel Publishers

Year: 2023

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Karelia, a Husky living in a kibbutz near the Gaza Strip in southern Israel, doesn't have an easy life: it's too warm, she is chained in a small yard, and her owner is mean to her. She dreams about a faraway northern homeland, a mythical place of which she heard as a puppy, before she was separated from her mother. She also has helpful confidants: a dog with a Jewish soul and a quixotic child who goes by the name of Wilfred Ivanhoe. With their help she escapes her captivity and embarks on an adventurous journey to the Norse country of her dreams.

Along her adventures, Karelia keeps running into trouble, but she also finds true friends—a Finnish girl who lives “under the map,” an orphaned Syrian refugee, smugglers from Hungary, and various animals and magical creatures: donkeys, geese and wolves, and even northern goddesses and bears who float in the sky. We might say that throughout the story, our seemingly familiar world is transformed into a fantastical world, but Karelia, on her quest north, would say that it has been there all along.

What kind of book is this? Human or canine? A children's book, or a crossover? The answer is both, and more. This adventure book leaves no other choice—whoever reads it must join Karelia and run with her all the way beyond the horizon, to the map under all maps.

Author's Introduction following October 7th:

When I wrote *Call of the North* my main thoughts were about a husky dog living in a Kibbutz nearby the Gaza Strip, about her life there, and her yearning for her faraway northern homeland. I never thought I was writing a requiem, or a tribute to the Kibbutzim on the Gaza border. I was writing about a Kibbutz that is probably too warm for a husky, but where life was overall normal and even pleasant. A place for families with young dreamers like Dotan, for dogs, cats, and even parrots who pass the time doing aerial gymnastics in the trees. Once in a while the Kibbutz is threatened by Qassam rockets, but they rarely hit their targets. I myself have spent a large portion of my life in such an environment: My partner lives in Kibbutz Be'eri (which inspired Kibbutz Megadim in the book), and I teach at Sapir College just outside Sderot.

The blows that struck us on October 7th give the story an entirely different meaning. Kibbutz Be'eri was crushed and decimated. Over a hundred residents were murdered. Women, children, young and old. Many were injured, many kidnapped into Gaza. My partner's home was burned down. We don't know what happened to her cat. Inside this horror, I now think about Karelia's story as a kind of tribute to the Kibbutz. Nothing in this tribute is embellished. Life in the Kibbutz wasn't a paradise. But it was a life. Now there is no life there. Karelia, the husky who sets out from the Kibbutz on an adventure quest, encounters in Europe Syrian refugees and their suffering. In a sense, she is also a refugee. When I was writing I thought all of us were refugees, in some manner, but it didn't cross my mind that members of the Kibbutzim in the western Negev would become refugees in the term's simplest, cruelest sense.

Karelia is a northern dog, but she is also a southern dog. Her soul yearns for the far north, but once she is on the journey, she remembers with longing her friends in the southern Kibbutz, the people and the dogs she left there. Now, after everything that has happened, the entire book is a memory, a yearning for something that may never return.

Critical Praise

This human dogginess is delightful, and the attempt to inhabit the soul of a dog and see reality through its eyes, to understand its "worldview," its perspective on the human beings around it, as it turns out, is inspiring. Dagan's love of dogs is evident in every line of the book . . . There is something very original about this book, different from anything I have known so far.

Ofra Offer Oren, Author

"At times, Dagan successfully weaves a gripping adventure story and provides fantastical escapism—while also evoking our unsettling here and now."

This comprehensive review in Israel's leading newspaper positions Hagai Dagan's YA novel among the classics of world literature. Karelia, the husky who embarks on a quest from a kibbutz on the Gaza border to her mythical Norse homeland, is a "blue-and-white White Fang" and her story draws on Tolstoy's "Kholstomer", Virginia Woolf's *Flush*, and even Edgar Allen Poe's ominous raven.

Leo Gurevich, Haaretz



Daniella Carmi

Daniella Carmi, an Israeli author, translator and screenwriter, was born in Tel Aviv. Her books have been translated into 18 languages, and have won many prizes. *Samir and Yonatan*, a book for young adults, received an Honorable Mention from UNESCO for Children and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance (1997); the Berlin Prize for Best Children's Book in Translation and the Silver Quill Award (both Germany, 1997); the Batchelder Award for Best Translated Book by the American Library Association (US; 2001), and the Italian WIZO Prize (2003). *Artane*, a play, won first prize at The Akko Festival (1998); and her book *Where Do Grandpas Fly?* (2015) won the Ramat Gan Prize. Carmi has also been awarded the ACUM Prize (2002), and was nominated for the Astrid

Lindgren Prize in 2015. Carmi's work is anchored by her unflinching belief in the values of tolerance and equality. She is an active participant in social initiatives promoting peace and coexistence.

Samir and Yonathan on Planet Mars

YA

Publisher: Hakibutz Hameuchad

Year: 1994

124 pp.

Translation rights available: World except for English

Translation: The book has been translated and published in 19 languages around the world

Translation rights and reading materials on request.

"I never saw the sea," Samir tells his friend, Ednan. Ednan doesn't understand why this matters so much. "In my head, I know what's missing for me," Samir tells him. "Something that doesn't end in a wall or behind a checkpoint. Something that belongs to everyone. Or to God, maybe..."

Samir, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy from the West Bank, goes to an Israeli hospital to undergo surgery. There he encounters for an unfamiliar world, and Israeli kids. One of them, Jonathan, invites him on a journey to the planet Mars, resulting in a close friendship.

Samir and Jonathan on Planet Mars has won numerous prizes in Israel and worldwide, including an Honorable Mention from UNESCO for Children and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance (1997); the Berlin Prize for Best Children's Book in Translation and the Silver Quill Award (both Germany, 1997); the Batchelder Award for Best Translated Book by the American Library Association (US; 2001), and the Italian WIZO Prize (2003). The book has been translated into 19 languages and has been adapted into theatrical productions in Israel four times.

Critical Praise

In this sharply observed novel... budding friendship alters... political views.

New York Times Book Review

A sad but not heavy tale of life and death on the West Bank...This hospital story will leave readers pondering the resilience of children in the face of tragedy.

Kirkus Reviews

Readers will sympathize with Samir's fear and loneliness and welcome his new friendships. Written in Hebrew...the book is smoothly translated and will have wide appeal.

Kathleen Isaacs, School Library Journal

A Palestinian boy comes to terms with his younger brother's death...the book's understated tone and detailed character development prevent its message from becoming obvious or heavyhanded.

Publishers Weekly

Daniella Carmi has written a book that is worthy of attention... One almost hesitates to write that it is a children's book, because as an adult who is unacquainted with both societies from within, you read the book and emerge equally enriched...Carmi's artistic powers come to the fore, enabling the reader to create his own imaginary dimension...One does not experience "history" or the "war," but rather stories about me and others....Here we are told just such a little story, and therefore it can justifiably be called "great."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Young teens will relate to Samir's feelings of being an outsider and will appreciate the message of peace that is the central theme of the book.

Julie Roberts, Voice of Youth Advocate

It is truly amazing how Israeli writer Daniella Carmi, who tells the story of Samir and Yonatan, succeeds in entering into the mentality of the Palestinian patient, reflecting it with such credibility...Carmi's imagination is vital, allowing the children's dreams to develop and to fly to distant fanciful places.

Die Zeit

Author Carmi excellently represents the unhappy reality of Palestinians in the Occupies Territories, and the confusion of a young boy who is both thankful and regretful to be removed from that world for a short period of time. This book and its main characters move beyond the typical stereotypes of Israelis and Palestinians, showing how young people are often able to conquer fear and hatred in ways that their elders are not.

Enid Schatz, Lilith



The Explosion on Ahlan Street

YA

Publisher: Keter

Year: 1985

135 pp.

Translation rights available: World

Translations: The book was translated and published in 4 languages around the world

Translation rights and reading materials on request

Who caused the explosion on Ahalan Street? The police have no clues and no witnesses. The newspapers have some theories, but nothing to justify the daily discussions of the street in the press. Meanwhile, Samir Marouan is in jail. This is the bleak story of his 12-year-old daughter Natasha Marouan, whose Jewish mother and Arab father struggle to protect the love and unity that has kept their small family together in the face of social prejudice and bigotry. Natasha is Daniella Carmi's greatest success in this book, and her voice continues to sound long after readers have put the book down.

The Explosion on Ahalan Street has been adapted for children's theater.

Critical Praise

The child in *The Explosion on Ahalan Street* discovers exclusion and compassion, incomprehension, and love. Daniella Carmi attacks the difficult subject of coexistence between Jews and Arabs with great sensitivity.
Le Nouveau Politis

An excellent, strong book!

Notes Bibliographique

The Explosion on Ahalan Street deals with exciting subjects in a down-to-earth, matter-of-fact, impressive way: members of diverse ethnic groups adhering to different religions, the difficulties inherent in the coexistence of people from different backgrounds... It deals with the futile fight against injustice, and also with mutual support and shared love - and how children grow, living through such experiences.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The Explosion on Ahalan Street is an impressive documentary of Israel today, the tense relations described from the perspective of a co-patriot. Very informative and exciting. Highly recommended for all teenagers.

EKZ

Daniella Carmi sensitively tells the story from the girl's point of view, sharply criticizing the lack of tolerance in her environment. The portrayal of the attempt to live together and accept each other both critiques and encourages.

Die Zeit

This thought-provoking novel offers older readers a glimpse into children's resistance when countries are at war.

The Reading Teacher



To Be the Daughter of a Gypsy

YA

Publisher: Hakibbutz Hameuchad

Year: 1996

143 pp.

Translation rights: World

Translations: French, German and Italian translations are available

Translation rights and reading materials on request

"And what will you do with the husband and children you'll have?" I ask Becky. "Didn't I tell you I'm not thinking of ever getting married?" Becky replies, filling her mouth with salty crackers. "Have you ever loved someone?" she asks when she sees I've gone quiet.

The first boy that comes to mind is Guy Gordon, from my old class. Deep down I know that if he hadn't pressed me against the tree and pulled his pocketknife on me, if he has asked me to be his girlfriend instead, I couldn't have resisted him... but that was back then, in the distant past...now that I'm a "troubled" girl in "Oranim," suddenly the troublemaker Iggy is stuck in my head and he won't come out...

This is the story of the brave friendship of Talilah and Beck, two girls in the "Oranim" home for special children. Becky, a strong-willed girl whose fiery imagination charms the narrator and readers alike, strives to

have a “permanent father.” When she hears gypsy music coming from Kami’s ice-cream van, she latches onto the young Arab man from the Gaza Strip, and through him encounters the modern gypsies of Israel, without a home or a homeland.

Critical Praise

Smartly and with pugnacity, Daniella Carmi develops, throughout a work of fiction for young readers, a pedagogical work marked by tolerance and respect for the other...With *To be the Daughter of a Gypsy...* Daniella Carmi continues to examine, with words and pictures specific to childhood and adolescence, the moral dimension of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict...Her writing is as tender and nostalgic in describing the children’s sadness as it is brisk and mischievous in describing their relationships and their dreams. For the mysterious Becky, who claims to be a gypsy girl, the most important thing is to find a father for herself; and she finds him in Kami, a young Palestinian from Gaza. By his side, in the depth of an almost mute relationship, she can soothe her anguish of being from nowhere and share the nostalgia of a true home... The metaphor of the gypsy people, people of wandering and expulsions, gives the book a strong poetical dimension...The Israeli-Palestinian conflict will violently burst in Becky’s life as a return to identity reveals to her Kami’s helplessness when faced with the occupation. Yet, nothing will be able to destroy the hope Kami has created in Becky’s heart to find a father and a home...For Daniella Carmi, dreams never die.

Laura Alcalá, Politis

Young readers will love this book because it takes their fantasies seriously.

Frankfurter Rundschau



Bianca the Ghost

YA

Publisher: Hakibbutz Hameuchad

Year: 2001

100 pp.

Translation rights: World

Translation: Complete German translation available

“And then something wonderful happened. Giddy threw his hat up into the sky, and it didn’t come back. We held our breath, as a quiet whisper was heard from the tree branches...”

An independent, rebellious girl called Talya and her best friend Irma, a new immigrant from the former Soviet Union, hide a runaway soldier in the old cemetery of their quiet village. Weird things happen in this sleepy village, and they all seem to point to Bianca, the local ghost who came to Israel from Hungary. Bianca’s bridegroom was killed in a war, and the young bride was so unhappy that she drowned herself. Ever since then, she visits the world as a ghost and lives in the village cemetery. One day, Talya and Irma meet an Israeli soldier who has deserted from the army and found shelter among the tombstones. Together with the son of a Thai cook, the two friends help the soldier hide from the military police. The soldier is touched by Bianca’s story and the two lonely souls become friends.

Although the story takes place in an Israeli agricultural village, this book is written in the tradition of the European Gothic novel, where reality and fantasy each play a role.

Critical Praise

When I finished reading *Bianca the Ghost* I immediately started again. Not just because [...] I forgot how it started, but also because I wanted the joy it brought me to last longer and longer...Because there is something naive, a little old-fashioned in Daniela Carmi's book, and this innocence only adds charm to it...Talya and Irma don't belong, and together with other misfits...they form [a group of] non-belonging...Together they fantasize, take risks...learn about how important friendship is, about the love that is born precisely in the remote corners, in places that no one looks for, and that it takes time to build love and trust...In fine language, with fine humor and without being didactic, Carmi allows readers to approach the subject of death... Not only *Goosebumps* and *Harry Potter* are able to frighten and calm, create tension followed by relief. Even the good old ghost, the ghost that came from a small village in Hungary, has this power.

Tzippi Gon-Gross, *Ha'aretz*



¡Ay Carmela!

MG

Publisher: MS; to be announced

Year: Forthcoming

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Just like any other child her age, nine-year-old Noa lives in a carefree world full of laughter. Life revolves around playing with Omer, her naughty kid brother, instructions from mom on what to eat for lunch – and also a bit around Roberto, the new kid in class, from Argentina. It's Noa's birthday in a few days, and the excitement is mounting: will Dad invite a balloon artist to her birthday party?

But one day, without warning, everything changes. Mom is tense and absent-minded. Dad is preparing for reserve duty, but strangely does not take his army boots with him and says that he'll be away for longer this time. Will Noa's birthday have to be postponed?

Neither Noa nor her brother understand what's going on. Omer is disappointed that Dad won't come on vacation with his Army rifle, and that he won't have the chance to brag about him in the neighborhood. Noa doesn't get why Dad won't be coming back from reserve duty with the strawberry-flavored waffles that she loves, or why he won't be escorting the class trip – or, in fact, why he is going to jail for a few weeks...

Dad tries to explain what's going on to Noa, but Mom is certain that the truth isn't at all suitable for children. For the first time in her life, Noa learns that reserve duty isn't just about training in the hills. It is also at a place called a "checkpoint," and that Dad doesn't like being there.

Noa secretly tells her best friend that her dad is going to jail. But no one seems to understand. If her teacher finds out that Dad is not a hero like the Maccabees in the Chanukah story, she'll be really unhappy.

Ay Carmela! the new story by beloved writer Daniela Carmi, is a gentle and touching tale about an Israeli girl coming face to face with the political situation in her country for the first time in her life. As with *Samir and Yonathan* – her international bestseller for teenagers (published in 18 languages), awarded many prizes including a Honorable mention from UNESCO for Children and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance – Carmi brings her extraordinary talent to this tale, enchanting its young readers with its captivating central characters, in a story that combines painful reality and the message of solidarity and peace.



Haya Shenhav

Author Haya Shenhav was born in 1936 in the village of Kfar Yehoshua, in the Jezreel Valley of northern Israel. Her parents, Frieda and Shmuel Dagan, were immigrant farmers from Germany and Poland respectively. After graduating from high school in nearby Kiryat Amal-Tivon, Shenhav studied Geology and Hebrew Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, before working in petroleum research at the Geological Institution in the same city. An author of stories and poems for both children and adults, her books have won many awards. In 2004, she was awarded the Bialik Prize for Literature, acknowledgment of a lifetime's work in children's literature. Haya Shenhav lives in Jerusalem.

One Hundred Rooms

Text: Haya Shenhav

Illustrations: Yirmi Pinkus

Picture Book

Publisher: Magnes Press

Year: 2022 (September)

34 pp.



Translation rights: World except Arabic

Audio visual rights: World

Translation: Complete English translation by Gilah Kahn; Spanish and Portuguese available

Rights sold: English language North American rights: Kalanriot, USA

The protagonist orders builders to build for him a house with one hundred rooms. He arranges his many belongings in ninety-nine of them: one room for chairs, one for books, one for plates, and so on. Only the last room is kept empty. The man is hungry: but to eat, he must take a fork from one room, food from another, and fetch a table from a third. He tries to fall asleep in the room with the beds; but it is a bright moonlit night and the curtains are in another room... Next morning, hunting for the room with the clean clothes, he accidentally enters a room with a single mirror. Confronted by his sad and exhausted face, he realizes that his new house is much too big for him. He goes from room to room, gathering only what he really needs, moves into the empty room, and then sells the rest. Freed from his burden and finally happy, our hero goes to the park to spend time with his new neighbors.

This amusing story conveys an important moral lesson to children—and perhaps to adults too— at a time when mankind must deal with the ecological consequences of consumer culture and an age of abundance. The protagonist and his dilemma captivate the reader. *One Hundred Rooms*, selected as a prescribed text by Israel's Ministry of Education in 2021, was printed in its Hebrew paperback edition with a print run of 120,000 copies.

Critical Praise

A new book by Haya Shenhav, who has created... original and wonderful books for toddlers, is always happy news.

Maariv

This real-estate fairy tale could not have a better illustrator than Pinkus, who brings it to life with a stunningly colorful, multilayered, and infinitely brilliant world.

Haaretz

In the wise and wonderful inventiveness of 100 Rooms, the house becomes a mirror for the malady of extreme self-absorption.

Yedioth Aharonoth

Recommended for both children and adults.

Haaretz

Yirmi Pinkus

Illustrator Yirmi Pinkus is a novelist [see his novels in the C&S adult publications catalogue], comic book artist, and interdisciplinary creator, widely acclaimed as one of the leading illustrators in Israel. In 2014, he was awarded the Israel Museum Prize for his illustrations of children's books. His books have been published by Grasset (France), Avant Verlag (Germany), Fantagraphics (USA), and other publishing houses around the world. Pinkus is Professor of Illustration and Visual Storytelling at Tel Aviv's Shenkar College of Design.



Tamar Weiss-Gabbay

A writer, editor, and screenwriter, Tamar Weiss-Gabbay writes for both adults and children. Co-founder and editor of the leading Israeli literary journal *HaMussach*, Weiss-Gabbay has initiated a number of literary-social projects, including The Israeli Women Writers' Forum, The Street Libraries in Jerusalem, Two: A Bilingual Project for Arabic and Hebrew Contemporary Literature, and others.

Her books *Babylonian Mythology* and the children's book *Vainana Chooses a King*, both published in 2003, are based on Sumerian and Akkadian myths. Weiss-Gabbay has also written two fiction books for adults, *Zeppe-lin* (Keter) and *Blind Spot* (Ha'Kibbutz Ha'Meuchad).

Her children's books *Tali Under the Table* (Kinneret Zmora, 2020) and *Just an Empty Field* (Kinneret Zmora, 2022) were both selections of the PJ Program, with 120,000 copies distributed in kindergartens and preschool facilities across Israel. The PJ Program published special limited editions of both books in Spanish and Portuguese.

Her picture book *Tali Under the Table* was the Winner of the prestigious Dvora Omer award (2021), and her book *The Thank You Tomatoes* was shortlisted for the Jewish Children's Book Award (2022)

Tali Under the Table

Picture Book

Text: Tamar Weiss-Gabbay

Illustrations: Zoya Cherkassky-Nandi

Publisher: Kinneret Zmora Bitan

Year: 2020

32 pp.



Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translations: Complete English by Shira Atik; Complete Spanish; Complete Portuguese

Winner of the prestigious Dvora Omer award 2021

Have you ever felt as ornery as an ostrich? As prickly as a porcupine? Tali has, and it's not very nice... In a delightful story for young children, Tali becomes cross with her family and refuses to join them at Grandma and Grandpa's table for lunch. Shira, her cousin, knows exactly what to do: in a tale inspired by the classic Jewish fable, she joins Tali under the table, and patiently draws her back to the happy family gathering. *Tali Under the Table* is inspired by *The Turkey Prince*, the Hassidic folk tale attributed to the legendary Jewish teacher Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. This enchanting book conveys an important message for young children growing up in a multi-faceted world, its illustrations reflecting Zoya's own experiences of diverse family life.

Critical Praise

A perfect story for Family Day... wonderful illustrations.

Shai Rudin, Critic

What's really beautiful about the book is that Tali's father is black and her mother is white, so Tali and her brother are painted with dark skin—and there is no hint in the text, only in the amazing illustrations.

Atara Ofek, Critic

Zoya Cherkassky-Nnadi

Zoya Cherkassky-Nnadi was born in Kiev, Ukraine in 1976, and emigrated to Israel in 1991. A distinguished painter and sculptor, her work draws from the narratives of first-generation Israelis, and is primarily concerned with questions of individual and social identity. Her awards include the Sandberg Prize for Art (2020) and the Israeli Ministry of Arts and Culture Award for Encouraging the Arts (2014).

Cherkassky-Nnadi has exhibited in museums and galleries in major cities around the world, including Los Angeles, New York and Berlin. Her works are in the permanent collections of The Jewish Museum NYC, The Jewish Museum of the City of Vienna, The Jewish Museum Berlin, The Israel Museum Jerusalem, The Tel Aviv Museum of Art, and the private collection of Doron Sabag

Just an Empty Field

Picture Book

Text: Tamar Weiss-Gabbay

Illustrations: Bella Potchebutzky

Publisher: Kinneret Zmora Bitan

Year: 2022

36 pp.

Translations: Complete English
by Jessica Setbon; Complete
Spanish; Complete Portuguese



One morning, the neighborhood kids discover a shortcut to their kindergarten, passing through an empty field. Great! There's nothing in the field, just thorns and stones and dirt, so they can pave a path through its middle...but wait, is it really empty? Or might there be something there...?

If you sit very still and open your eyes like the curious kindergarten kids, you too might find what is hidden in the empty field—the one in the book, and the one next door to you. Because when you look very closely, you'll find out that there are no empty places...

This enchanting book presents an important message for young children growing up in cities: about opening their hearts to the wonders of nature, and the understanding that we human beings are not alone in the world.

Bella Potchebutzky

Based in Haifa, Bella Potchebutzky studied visual communication at Shenkar College for Engineering and Design, majoring in Illustration. She wrote and illustrated the best-selling gardening book “Garden for Rent—An Indoor Gardening Guide” (Modan, 2019). Potchebutzky is a member of SIRA—The Collective of Independent designers of Haifa.



Tamar Verete-Zehavi

A renowned children's author and social activist, Tamar Verete-Zehavi lives in Jerusalem, the city of her birth. She has written almost twenty books for children and teenagers, most exploring issues relating to inter-cultural ties and human rights. She studied at University of Paris VIII, where she received a PhD for research into how children develop socio-political attitudes. For many years Verete-Zehavi has promoted initiatives for co-existence between Jews and Arabs. Together with Abedalsalam Yunis, she has published two bilingual children's books. Together, They were jointly awarded the Jerusalem Foundation Award for Furthering Tolerance in the City (2000). Her book *Rosie's Song* was awarded the Devora Omer Award by the Israel Ministry of Culture in 2018.

A gifted writer with a unique voice, Verete-Zehavi's previous books have been translated into German, Italian and Korean, and are hugely popular in Israel.

Diabolo Mint

YA

Publisher: Tal-May / Yedioth books

Year: 2021

102 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translation: Long synopsis in English



“When I first got to Paris, Louise told me that to survive in the city, a girl like me needed to radiate confidence. After her speech, she showed me how she puts her hands in her jeans’ back pockets then walks, steady and in a straight line. How she stays on the path.

“I can sometimes manage walking along the Metro platform at a steady pace, but not to stop talking to myself. When I talk, I’m actually taking to my mom. For as long as I can remember, I’ve always told myself everything that happens to me, so that I can remember to tell her. Now she’s dead, and I still tell her.”

After her mother dies, Miriam moves to Paris from Jerusalem to live with her aunt and uncle. Her cousin teaches what she needs to know to survive, but even this can’t save her from falling in love with the guy with the magnetic eyes—the one she’s not supposed to love.

Tough and fashionable, with a lifetime of bad fortune behind her, Miriam is at once repelled and fascinated by “the other” Paris that she discovers: the Paris of the Banlieues, of immigrants with tough lives. Her talent for fashion and design could lead to a bright future; but after a terrible secret comes to light, Miriam stands to lose everything.

This heartbreaking tale of adolescence crafts a portrait of pain, shame, and loss—but also of hidden beauty, and of dreams that may just come true. *Diabolo Mint* is a story that captures the importance of independence and liberty, and impact of boundaries and limitations on one’s life—no matter where we came from and where we are.

Rosie's Song

YA

Publisher: Tal-May / Yedioth books

Year: 2017

176 pp.



Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translation: Complete English translation by Gilah Kahn

Book in translation: Italian: Gallucci, Rome, 2023

Rosie is angry with the world. Angry with the people who don't understand her; with the disease that struck her mother down; with Morris, her brother, who changed his name to the Hebrew name Mor and signed up with the army, leaving her to cope all on her own; with manipulative Michaela, who wants to become a star at any price; with Mish, who she loves but doesn't have the time of day for her. More than anything, Rosie is angry because nobody cares about the brilliant songs she writes for a promising young pop combo.

An unplanned trip takes her from Jerusalem to a place nearby but so very far away—Hebron, in the West Bank. Rosie makes friends with two women: Emuna, Jewish and a settler, and Sana, a Palestinian Arab; through them, she sees first-hand the hatred and anger that seeps through the area.

In a suspenseful and moving plot, and with language both contemporary and poetic, Tamar Verete Zehavi describes a staggering experience and a journey that will help Rosie discover her own true song.

Critical Praise

In the young adult novel *Rosie's Song*, music becomes the *trait d'union*, the element of connection in a sincere attempt to create dialogue between the parties. With a pen bright and enthralling, the writer and Israeli peace activist Tamar Verete-Zehavi photographs everyday life in the occupied territories, and offers above all a starting point to reflection on the Palestinian issue for younger readers.

Il Venerdì (Repubblica)

The hatred that bleeds the Middle East, the reasons of both sides, in a confrontation between teenagers with the same anxieties and the same desire to understand. From an Israeli activist writer, who has been involved in projects to encourage dialogue and tolerance for years, a children's book set between Jerusalem and Hebron. Where three teenagers, with a passion for music, will discover more about themselves and about the roads to peace.

L'espresso

As a young mother, I could not find any children's books concerning the Israeli–Palestinian conflict... So I wrote them. Writing for children about this conflict became an activist mission for me... As my own children grew older, I began to write novels for young adults in which young Jews and adolescent Palestinians bravely confronted the bleeding conflict, trying to retrace its origins, tragically demanding to love each other... *Rosie's Song* is a novel I wrote when my friend Naama and I volunteered for one year as Hebrew teachers of a group of Palestinian women in Hebron... We went there knowing that conversations reduce violence.

Tamar Verete-Zehavi in an interview for La stampa

Rosie's Song is an excellently crafted book... unusual for fiction of this kind, the book engages with (among other things) the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It even brings the Palestinian narrative centre-stage... Rosie is interesting, as narrator and as a character. She has a sharp and direct gaze, and her language is especially natural.

Haaretz

Rosie's Song, Tamar Verete-Zahavi's new novel, is characterized by three poetic elements: its inventiveness, fast-paced plot, and extraordinary central character... the plot, and the novel, are consumed in a single breath. Tamar Verete-Zahavi, who has contributed unforgettable books to the Israeli YA literature canon... gives us a unique book, the first of its kind, making important social and political statements.

Shai Golden, Critic



Amalia Rosenblum

Amalia Rosenblum is a writer and psychologist. Born in 1974, she spent her infancy at New York's (in) famous Chelsea Hotel, and grew up in the Jewish-Arab city of Jaffa—a captivating and polarized environment that often features in her writing.

At eighteen, Rosenblum moved to New York, where she lived and studied for more than a decade. Graduating Class Valedictorian at CCNY, she subsequently took a PhD in Psychology from The New School for Social Research. Rosenblum began writing professionally at an early age; her novels have been published in several languages, earning both commercial success and critical praise.

A couples therapist, Rosenblum writes a widely read weekly column for the Israeli national daily Haaretz. Discussing insights from her work, the column explores hot-button relationship issues ranging from polyamory to the use of psychedelics in couple work.

Saul Searching, her most recent novel, was praised by the Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot as “positioning Rosenblum in the top tier of Israeli writers.” Her literary output, which also includes two prime-time television dramas, is influenced by her professional work. Most recently, she was part of the production team for Hagai Levy's HBO adaptation of the Bergman classic “Scenes from a Marriage.”

Where the Village Road Ends

MG/Crossover

Publisher: Keter

Year: 2006

118 pp.



Translation rights: World except for German and Italian

Audio visual rights: World

Translations: Complete English, German, Italian

Book published in translation: German: Weinheim, Beltz & Gelberg, 2009 /Italian: Milan, Salani, 2010

A charming fable for young people, and one that adults will certainly enjoy too. Anyone who has ever raised a dog will surely warm to this portrayal of the hidden canine world.

Goni, a mongrel dog, is heart-broken when his best friend Arthur leaves the safe sanctuary of their village to try his hand in the forbidding city. In his place arrives Choco, who Goni can't stand at first. But slowly, the pair form an enduring relationship, and together rescue their village from the threat of cruel boar hunters.

The canine world of *Where the Village Road Ends* is a magical and enchanting place: dogs who compose haiku, keep up with current affairs, party into the night, and reminisce about Laika, the first dog in space. They also wonder about the imagination of men—adventurous enough to travel to the moon, but so unimaginative that they give their supposed best friend silly names like Choco.

Where the Village Road Ends is a charming, unforgettable story about friendship and growing up, about human beings and their foibles, and of course about animals—mostly dogs.

Critical Praise

It's hard to believe that such a slim book can contain so much wisdom about life!

Frankfurter Rundschau

Rosenblum's story is serene, yet full of deep thought; it touches the heart and makes [the reader] happy.

Berliner Zeitung

One of only four books we recommend this summer.

Myheimat.de



The Sheep with a Black Spot

YA

Publisher: Kinneret Zmora-Bitan

Year: 2014

284 pp.



Translation rights: World excluding German

Audio visual rights: World

Translation: German translation by Mirjam Pressler

Book published in translation: German, Weinheim, Beltz & Gelberg, 2018.

Lily is a gifted teenager. She likes school, especially maths, and astronomy, literature, and art. She's also in love with her teacher, but she can't tell anyone. Her mum is an artist and dad is a baker, and everything is OK at home until it isn't. Mum and dad are splitting up.

On a weekend trip, Lily finds an old sheep with a black spot on its forehead. On a whim, she smuggles it back to town with her. The sheep listens to her, understands her, and gives her good advice; she believes that it has supernatural powers. Maybe it could help get her parents back together, tell her what to do to win her teacher's attention?

But caring for a stray barnyard animal in town is a task and a half. So she asks Zohar, a cocky boy she meets in the park, to help her out. Zohar is good-looking and rather mysterious, a street kid and tattoo artist with secrets of his own. But suddenly Lily finds herself swept up by her heartfelt desires, and her life begins to unravel...

Astute and empathetic, *The Sheep with the Black Spot* is an evocative tale about the complexities of adolescence, and how hard it can be to be the outsider kid looking in on everyone having fun. Compelling and relatable, Rosenblum's Lily displays equal measures of humour and pathos, vividly depicting the uncertainties of growing up and being alone.

Critical Praise

Outstanding language and witty handling of the topic of separation. The thoughts and dialogues of the protagonists, who are either more devoted to the arts or the natural sciences, are funny, considered and very credible. The sheep plays a key role: the imagination as a vehicle to master the reality. Very well done!

Buchhandlung zum Mittelmeer und Mehr

A wonderful novel for teenagers even without much math skills, whose parents have separated and temporarily do not know how to continue.

Kinder und Würde

The story is translated into such a wonderful and perfect German, as it can only in the section youth book Miriam Pressler. Light and precise, accurate and without an unnecessary word. Absolute reading recommendation!

Stadt Land Kind

Streams along such that one can't put it down, or part from the girl ... tumultuous, overwhelming dialogue.

Haaretz

A convincing coming-of-age book that any outsider—or even classroom queen—can relate to.

Israel Hayom

A brave book, not afraid to face the complexities and complications of adolescence: its expectations and disappointments, and the awareness of new, unpleasant, aspects of one's self-identity, in a constant state of flux – if only for this reason, [the book] is highly recommended. [...] written with talent and originality, and a proud addition to the excellent series "Stories from the Real World."

Marmalada