



Cohen & Shiloh Literary Agency

Spring 2023 LIST
Children & YA

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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.

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.

One Hundred Rooms

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 in progress.



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.



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 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, forthcoming

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

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



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

Karelia

MG/Crossover

Publisher: Petel Publishers

Year: Forthcoming (Fall 2023)

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Karelia, a Husky, was born on a balcony in Ashdod then taken to a kibbutz near Gaza. Treated badly there, she finds herself under missile fire and flees across the border to Gaza. Karelia barely escapes from the new dangers there, and almost drowns at sea before she is washed up on Lesbos, and a Syrian refugee camp.

Karelia cannot find her rest anywhere because she is seeking a path to the north. Not the north of Europe, but the North of canine myth: infinite white spaces and ancient wolves, the home of her ancestors, the North of the fables she was told as a puppy.

On her quest, she is joined by a band of loyal friends: an Israeli boy addicted to historical novels, an orphaned Syrian girl, a Finnish teen who prefers ancient, forgotten myths to the reality of the present. All three have all turned their backs on the world, choosing to search instead for the lost realms and magical lands of childhood. In their different ways, all are searching for a place that they can call home.

Karelia is a canine story; it is also a story for children, older children and for young adults. It is a story of the Caracals of the sands of Gaza, a Hungarian horse, of forgotten Finnish goddesses of myth: and, most of all, of a dog searching for the North.



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.

¡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.