Children's Books by Bulgarian Writers and Artists 2026



NATIONAL PALACE OF CULTURE
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ТОЗИ ПРОЕКТ Е РЕАЛИЗИРАН
С ФИНАНСОВАТА ПОДКРЕПА
НА МИНИСТЕРСТВОТО НА КУЛТУРАТА

Children's Books by Bulgarian Writers and Artists

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The Magical Grapes
Вълшебното грозде

Author and Illustrator: Kapka Kaneva

Children's picture book, 40 pages
ISBN: 9786197722536
List Publishing House, 2025

Once upon a time, there were three elderly women with a total of three teeth—one had two, another had one, and the third was toothless. One day, the Little Devil knocked on their door, holding a bunch of grapes in one hand. He needed their help to get married, and in return, he brought them magical fruit that could make them young again.





KAPKA KANEVA works in the area of paper sculpture, illustration and book design. She specialized and defended her doctoral thesis at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia, where she is currently an associate professor. During the last years, she has been experimenting with the pictorial potential of light in a series of large-format artbook installations. She is the author of *The Game as a Book* (2014, Panorama), the self-published catalogue *Paperworks* (2022) and the illustrated children's book *The Magical Grapes* (2025, List Publishing).

Her work has won a series of honors, including: the National Award and Certificate for Outstanding Artistic Achievement from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria (2014); the awards from the Eight and Tenth International Stage Poster Triennial, Sofia (2016, 2022); the photo illustration award from the International *BookILL* Fest, Novo Miloshevo (2018); and the best children's book award from the "Image of the Book" competition, Moscow (2019) In 2020 and 2021 Kapka Kaneva received an Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nomination, and in 2025 she was invited as a mentor in the Illustrators' Survival Corner of the Bologna Book Fair.





The Guardians of the Lantern: Oscar

Пазителите на Фенера: Оскар

Author: Radostina Nikolova
Illustrator: Boyan Yordanov-Bosilek

Children's book, 216 pages
ISBN: 9786197806106
Marmot Publishing House, 2025

The Guardians of the Lantern: Oscar takes readers on a journey through the story of a group of friends who learn at the start of the school year that the Lantern—the building where they had found refuge, freedom, and inspiration—has burned down. Determined to clear the name of their friend Harry, who had been unjustly accused of starting the fire, Oscar, Jandaya, Ruby, and Klutch set out on a quest for the truth.

They come across a mysterious sphere, and in their search for answers, they meet the legendary journalist Ned Knoxville, who shows them that the greatest weapon isn't power, but the courage to ask questions. Thus begins their mission as Guardians.

The novel is filled with adventures, secrets, and unexpected twists. But beyond these, the story raises important questions about friendship, justice, and the ability to think critically.





RADOSTINA NIKOLOVA is one of Bulgaria's most beloved contemporary children's authors. She has received numerous awards, including the Magic Pearl Award, as well as the "Children's Author of the Year" and "Most-Read Children's Series" award from Sofia City Library.

She is the author of the beloved children's series *The Adventures of the Motts* and *Nutty up to Her Neck*. These and her latest novel, *The Guardians of the Lantern: Oscar*, shine a spotlight on themes that resonate with adults today as well—truth, freedom of speech, and the power of critical thinking. She believes that reading instills values and that books are a path to shaping thoughtful, responsible, and compassionate people. She meets with children throughout the country and shares that these encounters inspire both her young readers and herself.

Her stories and messages transcend borders—Radostina is the first Bulgarian children's author whose books are sold in China, and today her titles have been translated and published on three continents.

Radostina Nikolova is also the founder of one of Bulgaria's most beloved children's book publishers—Marmot.



BOYAN YORDANOV-BOSILEK works in the fields of character design, conceptual design, typography, and traditional illustration. The common thread running through his work is the encounter between the wild and culture, whether through antiques, ethnology, or architecture.

He is a lecturer in the Department of Graphic Design at the Faculty of Fine Arts of St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo. In his work, he strives to convey the emotions of adventure, discovery, magic, and mischief, all rolled into one.

The Guardians of the Lantern: Oscar is the third book he has worked on in collaboration with author Radostina Nikolova, following the novels in the *Nutty up to Her Neck* series. His illustrations for *Misho in Tsar Pishman's Castle* (written by Slavi Stoev) were included in the 2024 White Ravens catalog.





Krustyo, Private Detective. Where Is the Baby?

Кръстьо частен детектив. Къде е бебето?

Author: Julia Spiridonova
Illustrator: Albena Kamenova

Children book, 180 pages
ISBN: 9786192702069
Fyut Publishing House, 2026

The book *Krustyo, Private Detective. Where Is the Baby?* (published by Fyut) is a sequel to *Krustyo, Private Detective in the Underworld*, continuing the adventures of the kind-hearted but rather clumsy underworld detective. This time, Krustyo sets out to find the missing baby of King Minovan the First, also known as the Passing Chap.

Julia Spiridonova has concocted an incredibly comical fantasy in which mythological, folkloric, and contemporary characters come together. In this second installment of the series, readers have the opportunity to revisit half-forgotten tales and legends, as well as to learn about some completely unfamiliar ones. All of these stories stem from the folklore of various peoples, so the book is sure to spark interest and curiosity in readers everywhere.

Julia Spiridonova's inimitable and lively sense of humor shines through on every page, showing children that reading can be a lot of fun.

The illustrations for the second volume are once again by Albena Kamenova, so fans will immediately recognize the characters from the first book. In harmony with the illustrations, the text is designed and split up using different colors, shapes, and fonts, helping children develop their reading skills.


НЯКОЛКО ВАЖНИ ПОДРОБНОСТИ, ПРЕДИ ДА ЗАПОЧНЕШ ДА ЧЕТЕШ!

Не знам дали знаеш, читателю, но на света има три земи:
• Долната, където живеят всички митични и приказни същества;
• Средната земя, на която живеем ние, хората;
• И Горната земя със Слънцето, Луната и звездите.

Кръстьо

Кръстьо е частен детектив от Средната земя. Единственият му разкрит случай е онзи с откраднатите приказки. За награда получава половината долноземско царство и ръката на принцесата.

Миналящото човече

Миналящото човече е бивш принц на Долната земя, бивш пътуващ търговец (често обвиняван в мошеничество) и настоящ владетел на Долната земя под името Минован Първи.



JULIA SPIRIDONOVA (also known as Julka) has published more than twenty books for children and young adults. She is the first Bulgarian writer to be nominated for the world's most prestigious award in children's literature, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award; she has been nominated seven consecutive years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Julia Spiridonova is the 2023 recipient of the PEP Lor'Est Children's Choice Award in France. She is the recipient of Bulgaria's highest literary honors: the 2023 Hristo G. Danov Award; the 2016 Author of the Year Award from the Sofia City Library 2016; the Magic Pearl National Children's Choice Award; the 2015 Quill Award for Children's Book of the Year and the 2024 Quill Award for Children's Literature; the 2010 P.R. Slaveykov Award for Contribution to Bulgarian Literature; and the 2010 Konstantin Konstantinov Author of the Year Award.Her books have been translated into French, Hungarian, Romanian, Macedonian, Czech, German, Ukrainian, Farsi, and Malay.

She has lived in the UK since 2021.



ALBENA KAMENOVA is a freelance artist, illustrtor and dreamer. She graduated from the National Academy of Arts with a degree in book and print graphics. Kamenova created the illustrations for several teaching aids for kindergartens and for bilingual children, as well as the books: *Circles, Lines: Alphabet for All Kinds* and *Tall Tales with Letters from A to Z*. She also illustrated Julia Spiridonova's previous book in the series: *Krustyo, Private Detective in the Underworld*. Her greatest joy is drawing for children, as this is her world, where she feels most at home.





An Encounter with Ropotamo

Среща с Рономам

Author: Tzveta Brestnichka
Illustrator: Elena Jablanova

Children's book, 64 pages
ISBN: 9786192701819
Fyut Publishing House, 2025

Tzveta Brestnichka's new book *An Encounter with Ropotamo* immerses us in the magical world along the banks of the Ropotamo River in southeastern Bulgaria, where strange creatures lurk—Ropotamo, the prickly Arkuti, and the hissing Alepus—all born from the imagination of two children. The creatures in the book are the product of Mimi and Gogo's turbulent thoughts and emotions.

An Encounter with Ropotamo is a story about how emotions can make us "step out of our own skin" and turn into something we can hardly control. And while it's challenging for adults not to give in to their feelings, for children the difficulty is immense. The characters in the book manage to find a way out and to fix the mess they've created through cleverness, clear thinking, and renewed goodwill.

The book's captivating sense of humor, making it fun for both children and parents; yet in addition to its entertaining side, it conveys important messages. Elena Jablyanova's illustrations are delicate watercolors that complement the story with their ethereal quality and lightness. Tzveta Brestnichka conveys her messages to young readers with respect—without patronizing finger-wagging or ready-made formulas for behavior.





TZVETA BRESTNICHKA is among the most popular and beloved contemporary Bulgarian children's writers. Generations of children have grown up with her rhyming tales from the *Enchanted Woods* series, while her stories from *Fairytales A to Z* inspired young readers to discover the beauty of their native language. She knows how to tell stories with passion and love, both stories that happened and ones that did not, inspired by her experiences with her four children, her growing grandchildren, and backpacking around the world. Tzveta is actively involved with improving the situation of children in Bulgaria. For more than 15 years she has been working in the Parents Association. For two consecutive years, she was the program director of the Sofia International Literary Festival for Children and Youth, the initiator of the initiative "A Child Wants Magic. Become a Wizard—Give Them a Book," which for three years in a row has enabled thousands of donors to send books to underprivileged children across the country.



ELENA JABLANOVA was born in 1975 in the city of Montana. She studied at the Iliya Petrov National School of Fine Arts and New Bulgarian University. Since 2000, she has been working as for Prosvesta Publishing House, illustrating over 60 textbooks and teaching aids and actively developing materials to help children with learning difficulties.

Jablanova also works with other leading prominent Bulgarian children's authors and publishing houses. She uses various techniques in her illustrations, while her favorite hobbies are oil painting and watercolor. She loves working with children and often participates in creative workshops. She has held numerous exhibitions and won awards, including a bronze medal in the 201 BELMA competition in Frankfurt; 2020 Grand Prize at the Biennale of Bulgarian Illustration; finalist at the 2024 Children's Book Fair in Bologna, Italy; and the 2024 Konstantin Konstantinov National Award in the Illustrator category, among many others.



– Ей, я стига! – кресна Гого. – Тоя наистина ще отлети.
Ропотамът и Мимето тупнаха на земята.
– Да, за малко да отлети – каза Мимето. – Нали е от балон...
– От балон ли? – смая се Гого. – Измислила си го от балон? Ха! Ха-ха! Сега да не вземе да се спука!
И той размаха едно бодливо клонче, което кой знае как се беше озовало в ръката му.





The Cloud That Remains
Облакът, който остава

Author: Mihaela Angelova
Illustrator: Studio PUNKT

Children's picture book, 20 pages
ISBN: 9786199213421
Studio PUNKT, 2025

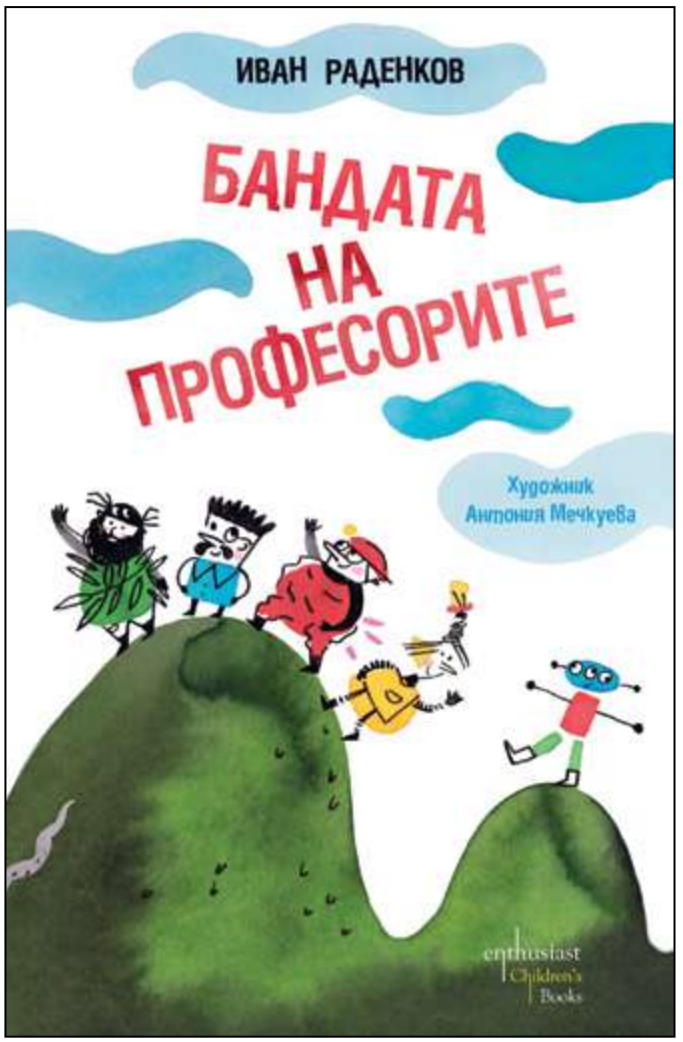
The Cloud That Remains is a children's book about emotional cycles, in which sadness is viewed as a natural part of life and as a starting point for change. Through recurring images of rain, sunlight, and growth, it explores a child's inner emotional world in a subtle, visual way. Designed as a pop-up book, it reflects the cyclical rhythms of nature and human experience.





MIHAELA ANGELOVA is a graphic designer and illustrator with over nine years of professional experience in visual communication. Her approach is shaped by her education in illustration, visual storytelling, and graphic thinking. A graduate from the National Academy of Arts, Sofia, and LUCA School of Arts, Brussels, she is now part of the team of Studio Punkt, Plovdiv. *The Cloud That Remains* is her first children's book as an author and illustrator. The book is part of the selection BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2026.





The Gang of Professors
Бандата на професорите

Author: Ivan Radenkov
Illustrator: Antonia Mechkueva

Children's book, 147 pages
ISBN: 9786191647583
Enthusiast Publishing House, 2026

What happens when three eccentric professors decide to save the Earth?

Professor Zapurtakov, the shortest astronomer in the Milky Way; Professor Hvalip Rutskov, a geologist with an extraordinary talent for spotting danger (and jumping up and down with excitement); and Professor Drezgavi Glas, a zoologist with a huge heart for animals, form the secret squad known as "The Gang of Professors." From their observatory in the mountains, they wage a battle against those who pollute nature, destroy animal species, and threaten the planet's future.

They are joined by ten-year-old Pchelina—curious, brave, and always ready to put adults in their place. Together, the four of them embark on a series of unusual missions in which they have to rely not only on their scientific knowledge, but also on their imagination, courage, and sense of humor.

With plenty of funny situations, colorful characters, and unexpected adventures, *The Gang of Professors* turns big topics like nature conservation, recycling, and animal welfare into a captivating tale that both amuses and inspires readers. This is a story about the power of setting a good example and how even the biggest changes begin with a small group of people determined to make the world a better place.



IVAN RADENKOV, a prankster who refuses to grow up, writes exclusively for children. Adventures and journeys are the central themes in his books, which burst at the seams with mouthwatering food, sincere friendship, fantastical reveries, and wordplay. His countless encounters with children in Bulgaria and abroad serve as inspiration for new stories with illustrations—and sometimes even music. Which is because Ivan is also a musician, and in his books we often read song lyrics and hear music featuring guitars and drums.

Ivan Radenkov is the most-read author of children's literature according to the Sofia City Library for 2023 and the recipient of the 2021 Konstantin Konstantinov National Award for Best Author and the Children's Choice Award. He is an ambassador for children's reading and was a special guest at the Salon of Contemporary Bulgarian Literature for Children and Youth in Rome 2023, Florence 2024, Brunate and Milan 2025.

He is the author of the series *Books for Dads* and *Stories from the Big Yard*, the musical book *Frant the Tomcat and the Mysterious Island*, the collections *The Taste of Adventures* and *A Fake Dictionary of Funny Phrases*, as well as the novels *Cyclists by Lake Papillon; The Adventures of Courage Forage, Grizni Halva, and Pane Kashkavale in the Kingdom of Patlajania*; and *The Gang of Professors*.

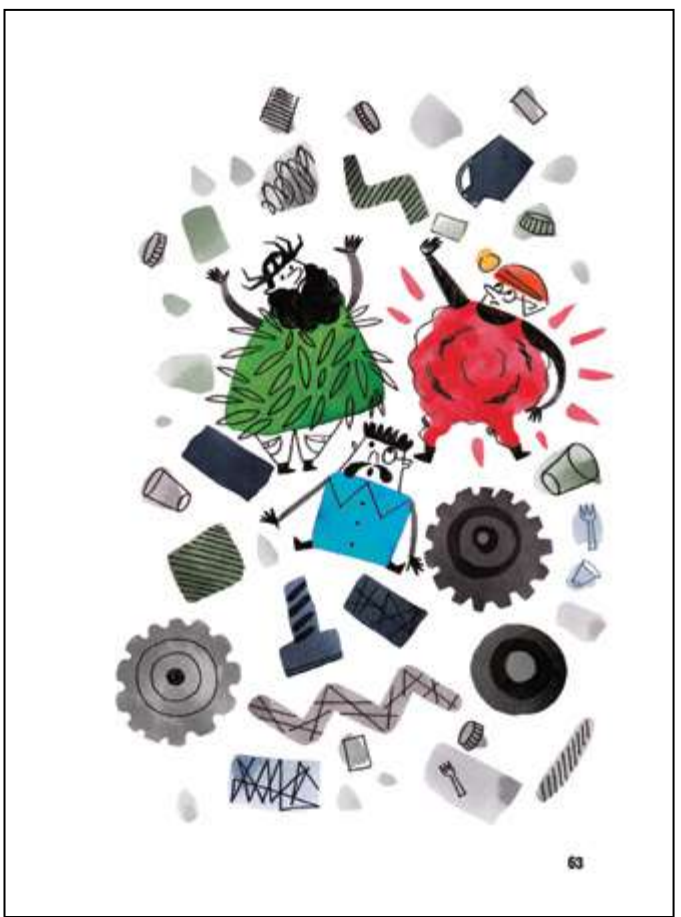


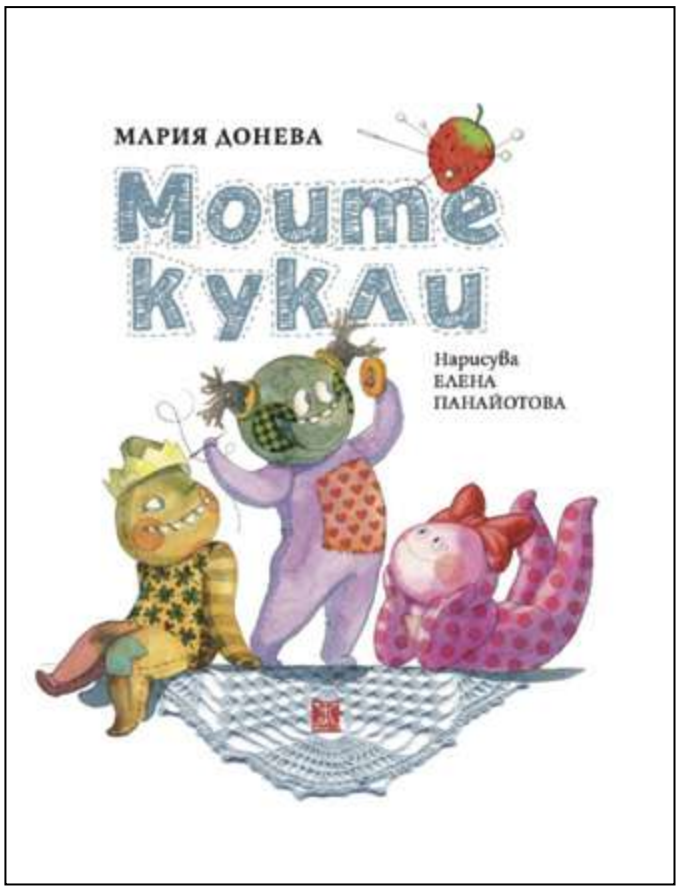
Besides drawing for children with great pleasure, ANTONIA MECHKUEVA loves planting flowers, going for walks in the mountains with friends, and making colorful jams from wild berries. Perhaps that's why her illustrations are always full of joy and bring so many smiles. In addition to *The Gang of Professors*, Antonia is also the illustrator of *The Adventures of Courage Forage, Grizni Halva, and Pane Kashkavale in the Kingdom of Patlajania* by Ivan Radenkov, *Yoo-hoo-inventicus* by Petya Kokudeva, which won the Quill Award, as well as *A Yawn for Sleep* by Desislava Yordanova.

Antonia was one of the artists selected to represent Bulgarian illustrators at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2024. She has participated in numerous exhibitions and charitable projects.


Точно когато започнахме да се отчайваме, а Хвалип Ръцков започна да подпръцква от усиленото въртене на педалите, видях два бора с отчупени върхове.

– Бързо, насочете фаровете си нагоре! – извиках аз. – Така си и мислех. Клоните са откършени съвсем скоро. Катастрофата се е случила там! Хайде, бързо!





My Dolls
Моите кукли

Author: Mariya Doneva
Illustrator: Elena Panayotova

Picture book in verse, 36 pages
ISBN: 9786191869732
Janet 45 Publishing House, 2025
Rights inquiries: Sofia Literary Agency (sofialitag.com)

My Dolls is the latest poetry book by Mariya Doneva, aimed at very young readers. This time, her main characters are dolls—the ones who show understanding, offer courage and comfort, and act as mediators between the innocent reality of children and the challenge-filled world of adults.

Despite its short length, the book covers an impressive range of themes. With an excellent understanding of children's emotional worlds and lived experiences, Doneva portrays various situations that may feel troubling to children, as well as important changes in their lives. With tenderness and empathy, she addresses topics such as moving to a new home, midnight nightmares, visits to the doctor, and welcoming a new member of the family.

The book offers delicately and playfully presented messages, free of moralizing; it speaks in a child's voice and communicates with children as equals.





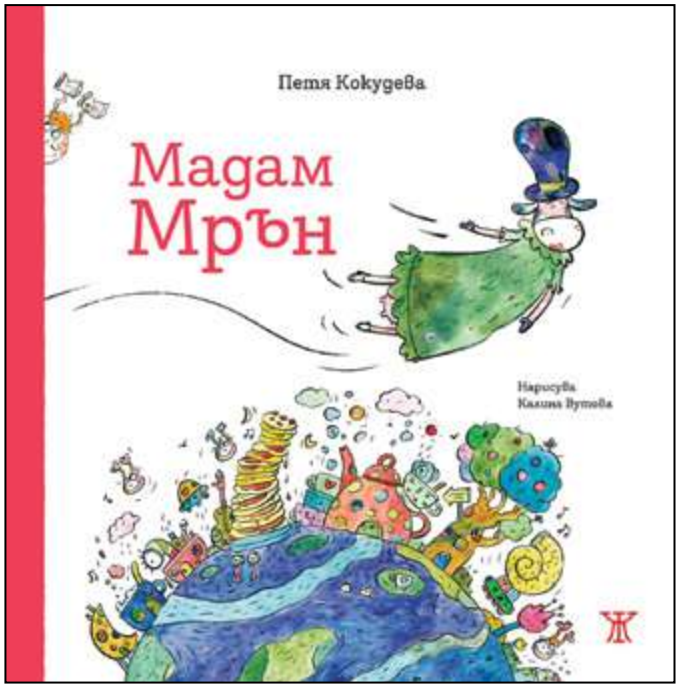
MARIYA DONEVA is the author of more than 20 books for adults and children and countless translations for various publishing houses. She hosts the "About Books" segment on the Bulgarian National Radio (BNR) and contributes articles to the children's media outlet *Vizhte*, as well as to *Sega* and *Mediapool*. She initiated her own reading marathon and is a frequent guest at educational institutions and libraries in Bulgaria and abroad. Doneva has received numerous awards, including the 2022 Knight of the Book Award from the Bulgarian Book Association.



ELENA PANAYOTOVA graduated with a degree in Architecture from the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG). She owes a great deal to the architectural profession and continues to practice it with pleasure. A few years ago, following an autograph-signing event with Mariya Doneva, she embarked on the path of a book illustrator. She already has two books in her portfolio: *The Ant's Letter* and *My Dolls*.







Lady Grumble

Мадам Мрън

Author: Petya Kokudeva
Illustrator: Kalina Vutova

Children's picture book, 56 pages
ISBN: 9786191869954
Janet 45 Publishing House, 2025
Rights inquiries: Sofia Literary Agency (sofialitag.com)

Has there been a lot of mumble-grumble lately? And how many times have you heard the line: "Stop the Earth, I want to get off!"

Well, now there's finally a place to do so.

Welcome to the planet Hrumeya!

Unlike us, its inhabitants adore problems and even import them, because they never seem to have enough. Hrumeya supposedly looks like Earth, but most things will surprise you: cakes have ears, ambulances are sea-snail shells, and the locals have as many as three noses – one for colds, one for pleasant smells, and one…with no purpose at all.

A breathless adventure through laughter and storms! The grumpiest cow in the world discovers that every GRUMBLE can become a GAME.





PETYA KOKUDEVA (b. 1982) graduated in Television Journalism and Creative Writing from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. She is the author of 11 books and the recipient of several prestigious national literary awards. Many of her children's poems have been included in textbooks or turned into songs. Her mini-series *Lupo and Tumba* (Janet 45 Publishing House) has been published in six languages: German, Turkish, Croatian, Hungarian, Persian, and Romanian.



KALINA VUTOVA graduated from the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts with a degree in Animation Directing and is considered one of the finest students of Prof. Donyo Donev. She works in computer animation for games and films, while in her free time she enjoys drawing. Observing people and "capturing" their personalities is her favorite pastime.







Snowmen's Clearing
Полянка за снежни човеци

Author: Ivanka Mogilska
Illustrator: Mila Yaneva-Tabakova

Children's book, 48 pages
ISBN: 9786191869930
Janet 45 Publishing House, 2025

Snowmen's Clearing is the second fairy-tale collection by Ivanka Mogilska. It brings together fourteen short stories devoted to children's superpowers: their ability to live simultaneously in reality and their imagination, to create friendships under any circumstances, and to care for beings and things that adults might overlook. This is a book about longing for what we want but cannot have right away, about the joy of living and the warmth of winter.

As in the author's first children's book, *Bubbles of Many Colors*, the main character is a boy who discovers the magical and inexplicable nature of the everyday world.





IVANKA MOGILSKA is the author of short stories, novels, poetry, and two children's books. She is recipient of the national Southern Spring, Vladimir Bashev, and Quill literary awards. A performance based on her poetry, "The DNA of Words, or a Tool for Writing Poetry," has been presented numerous times in Bulgaria and Germany. Her poetry and prose have been translated into English, French, German, Hungarian, Serbian, Persian, and Bengali.



MILA YANEVA-TABAKOVA graduated with a degree in book design, illustration and print-making from the National Academy of Art and holds a master's degree in Graphic Storytelling from LUCA School of Arts in Brussels. She works as a freelance illustrator and comic artist, creating book designs, collaborative projects, social campaigns, and educational materials. She is a co-founder of TI-RE, a platform for Bulgarian independent publications, and TIRAZH, a collective dedicated to independent publishing.







The Moon Fox

Лунното лисиче

Author: Violeta Hristova
Illustrator: Ina Hristova

Children's picture book, 48 pages
ISBN: 9786199208991
Buboleche Publishing House, 2026

Every night, a little fox arrives from the world of imagination. Lunar, inky, magical... It slips into your dreams, swishes its blue tail this way and that, and sprinkles stardust over the sleeping children. If you haven't seen it, you haven't peeked beneath your eyelids, haven't found the secret door in the mirror, the secret world under the bed, the secret path to the stars. The world of dreams is boundless. And the key to it is already in your pajama pocket. The little moon fox arrives, and the fairy tale begins. Let's take flight!







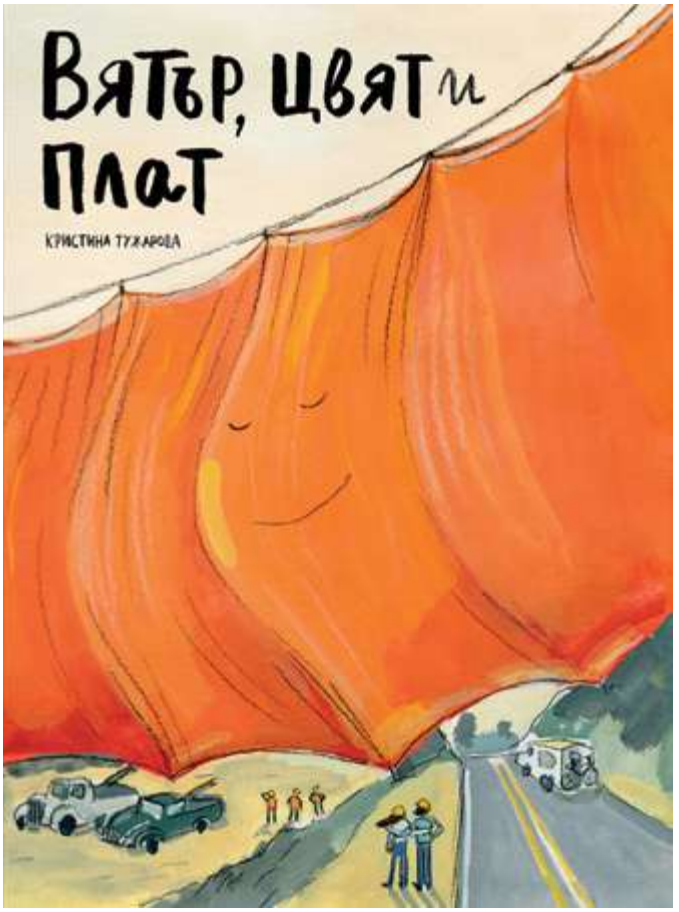
VIOLETA HRISTOVA is a Bulgarian poet, children's author, and publisher. She is the author of numerous poetry collections, most recently *The Master of the View* (2017), *Portrait of the Magician* (2019), and *The Bright End of Sorrow* (2023), among others. In 2013, together with other Bulgarian writers, she founded the Smisel ("Meaning") Literary Circle—a creative platform for publishing and promoting fiction, which she chairs to this day. Violeta Hristova is also the director of the children's publishing house Buboleche. Together with her daughters—artist Ina Hristova and animator/producer Ani Antonova—they have created and published the books *Little Roy* (2021), *Grandma's Granddaughters* (2022), *Marmaladko* (2022), *From Elephant to Mouse* (2023), *The Ear of the World* (2024), and *The Moon Fox* (2026). In 2023, *Little Roy* was published in German in Switzerland, while in 2025, *The Ear of the World* received the Children's Jury Award at the Children's Literature Festival in Sliven. Every year, the publishing house also organizes a national literary contest for children—"A Letter to Mi"—with numerous participants from across the country. Violeta Hristova is the recipient of numerous literary awards. Her poems have been translated into Spanish, Serbian, Russian, English, French, and Arabic. She lives and works in Sofia.



INA HRISTOVA is an illustrator and author who experiments with visual storytelling. After graduating from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia, she specialized in illustration at Escola Massana in Barcelona, Spain. In 2025, she completed a master's degree in Children's Books and Literature at the University of Zaragoza, Spain. She teaches at LABASAD University in Barcelona, Spain, as well as in the multimedia program at Anahuac University in Jalapa, Mexico. She is also the art director at Buboleche Publishing House.

Ina Hristova has participated in numerous international festivals for graphic arts and illustration, and her books have been honored with the IX Premio Muestra del libro infantil y juvenil de la comunidad de Madrid (2026); the Premi Serra d'Or, Catalonia (2025); Best Publication of 2025 by the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Junceda (2016); and the Flic Festival (2018). She was longlisted for the Illustrators' Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair (2021, 2022, 2025), received a Special Mention at the Bologna Portfolio Award, 2025, and her book was selected for the prestigious Braw Amazing Bookshelf. Ina has participated in the Bratislava Biennial of Illustration (2019, 2026). She has held two solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group exhibitions in Europe, Japan, and Mexico. She is the author of the book *Baba's Granddaughters* (2022) and has illustrated over 15 children's books.





Wind, Colour and Cloth

Вятър, цвят и плат

Author and illustrator:
Kristina Toujarova

Illustrated non-fiction for children, 96 pages
ISBN 9789549473841
National Gallery Sofia, 2026

This is a book about the imagination that shapes reality and about the boundless energy that accompanies inspiration. It speaks of the courage to cross borders and to discover new horizons of thought. Ultimately, it is a story about the ephemeral masterpieces of Christo and Jeanne-Claude and their eternal search for beauty and perfection.

The book presents some of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's most inspiring projects, from the initial sketches to their realization in fabric, rope, architecture, light, wind, and water. Most importantly, it introduces children to the ideas that shaped their work: freedom, imagination, collaboration, courage, and the belief that art can transform the way we experience the world.

Through the lives of these two extraordinary artists, it introduces young readers to some of the defining historical changes of the twentieth century, including the construction and the fall of the Berlin Wall. The story is told by the Wind—and there is no narrator better suited for the art of Christo and Jeanne-Claude. The forces of nature—wind, light, gravity, and water—are not merely a backdrop but an essential part of their monumental creations. At the same time, their art allows the Wind to become visible, giving it both form and voice.



Growing up in Bulgaria during the late 1970s and 1980s, KRISTINA TOUJAROVA rarely heard news about contemporary art beyond the Iron Curtain and did not know of Christo and Jeanne-Claude as a child. When she later discovered their monumental projects, she was captivated by the boldness, poetry, and imaginative power of their vision, as well as by the remarkable stories behind each project.



After graduating from the National School of Fine Arts and the National Academy of Art in Sofia, Kristina worked as a commercial illustrator for international clients. Since 2016, she has been developing her educational initiative, Art History for Amateurs, teaching art history, drawing, and creative thinking to both children and adults. She is also the founder of the independent publishing house Amateursbooks, which specializes in children's books about art and creativity.

Kristina is the author and illustrator of several children's books dedicated to Bulgarian artists, as well as highly popular children's cookbooks. Her latest book, *Wind, Colour and Cloth*, invites young readers to believe that imagination can truly change reality—just as the art of Christo and Jeanne-Claude proved.





Vitosha
Витоша

Author: Zornitsa Hristova
Illustrator: Siyana Zaharieva

Illustrated non-fiction for children, 64 pages
ISBN: 9786197172621
Tochitza Publishing House, 2026
Rights inquiries: Sofia Literary Agency (sofialitag.com)

How do we see nature? This is not just an ordinary encyclopedia about the living world around us, but a series of ten encounters that show us a seemingly familiar mountain in ten different ways.

The story of a famous hiking trail takes us on a series of real journeys along the paths of Vitosha Mountain, which rises at the southern edge of Sofia, Bulgaria's capital city. We see the mountain through the eyes of an artist, a forest ranger, a zoologist, an amateur ornithologist, an ethnographer and folklore collector, a caver, a ski instructor, a herbalist, and a warden of a mountain hut… and we come to understand just how rich and diverse it is. But we also learn something else—just how valuable different perspectives are and how important it is to learn to see.

The book comes with a special supplement featuring mountain activities, recipes, and words.





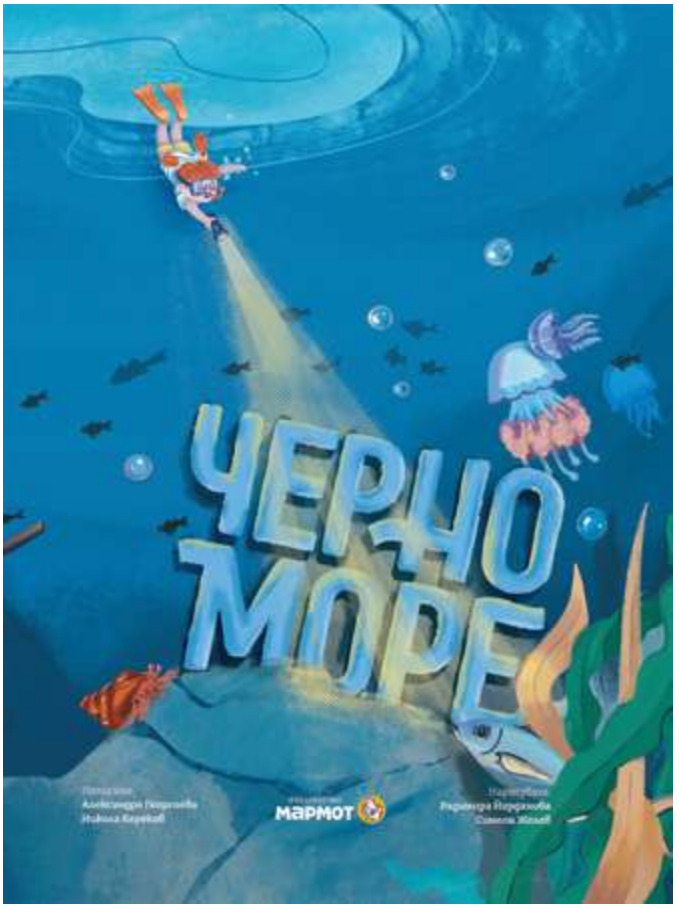
ZORNITSA HRISTOVA is a writer, translator, and editor-in-chief at a children's news website.

She believes that one must be sensitive to readers, yet also brave enough to take them on a journey. She studied at Sofia University and Oxford University before founding the Tochitza Publishing House. She is the winner of several national awards, including Hristo G. Danov (2014 and 2015), Quill (2021), Konstantin Konstantinov (2026) and Golden Lion (2021). Her books *Gradska geografia* (Urban Geography), *Oshte edin den v muzeya* (Another Day at the Museum) and *Slozhete gashti na tezi kartini* (Put Some Pants on These Paintings), co-authored with Siyana Zaharieva, were selected for the 2017, 2025 and 2026 White Raven Lists. Other titles, such as *When I Want to Be Silent* and *Sweet Pet Mosquito*, have been translated into Croatian, English, Farsi, French, Italian, Macedonian, Russian, Serbian, and Turkish.



SIYANA ZAHARIEVA is an illustrator based in Sofia, Bulgaria. She graduated in Book and Print Graphics from the National Academy of Art in Sofia, Bulgaria. At first she worked as a graphic designer in an advertising agency. Since 2016 she has worked as a freelance illustrator creating images for books, magazines, packaging and illustrations for advertising campaigns. She has participated in international exhibitions, including the 24th Biennial of Illustration in Bratislava, the 46th Golden Pen in Belgrade, and has won fifth place in the 2014 Epicase Art and Illustration Competitions, South Korea. Her books *Gradska geografia* (Urban Geography), *Oshte edin den v muzeya* (Another Day at the Museum) and *Slozhete gashti na tezi kartini* (Put Some Pants on These Paintings), co-authored with Zornitsa Hristova, were selected for the 2017, 2025 and 2026 White Raven Lists.





Black Sea

„Черно море“

Authors: Alexandra Georgieva with Dr. Nikola Kerekov
Illustrators: Radimira Yordanova and Simeon Zhelev

Illustrated non-fiction for children, 80 pages
ISBN: 9786197241853
Marmot Publishing House, 2025

How did the Black Sea come to be? What plants and animals live there? What winds stir its waters, and which birds fly overhead? In this richly illustrated book, children will discover the answers to these and many other questions and get an up-close look at the amazing world of the Black Sea.

The book covers everything—from the sea's formation and its topography to the diversity of its inhabitants, ranging from the tiny creatures in the shallows to the larger marine animals. It reveals how organisms are connected in a complex web of relationships and what place humans occupy within it.

Young explorers will learn about careers related to the sea, travel from the northern to the southern coast, and glimpse into the past of ancient cities like Varna and Nessebar. They'll also discover natural landmarks such as the petrified forest near Sozopol. They'll embark on underwater missions with the Institute of Oceanology's robotic submarine or choose a water sport.

Last but not least, the book draws attention to the environmental challenges facing the Black Sea and offers ideas on how children can contribute to its protection.

Black Sea brought together a team of specialists who did not know each other beforehand and work in different fields, but who joined forces around a common cause—to create an accessible, scientifically sound, and visually compelling book for children.

The project is part of an initiative to create modern Bulgarian encyclopedias that present the country's natural riches in a way that is both inspiring and accessible to children, and is being carried out with financial support from the National Culture Fund under the Creation 2023 program.





ALEXANDRA GEORGIEVA is an elementary school teacher and children's author. She graduated from the Faculty of Elementary and Preschool Education at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. She now works as a teacher at the Peyo K. Yavorov Elementary School in Burgas, where she also leads the Pine Cones Reading Club. She is the author of the series *Agatha: My First Year in School*. For the *Black Sea* encyclopedia, Alexandra has created engaging, non-didactic texts that adapt scientific topics for young readers and transform the marine world into a familiar and exciting place.



Dr. NIKOLA KEREKOV is a molecular biologist with a Ph.D. in immunology from the Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences with over 11 years of experience in scientific research. He is one of the leading voices behind the science communication platform Ratio and host of the "Ratio Weekly" podcast. For the *Black Sea* encyclopedia, he has served as a scientific consultant and co-author of the texts: he verifies every scientific detail, helps identify experts, and ensures factual accuracy while maintaining accessibility and sparking curiosity among young readers.



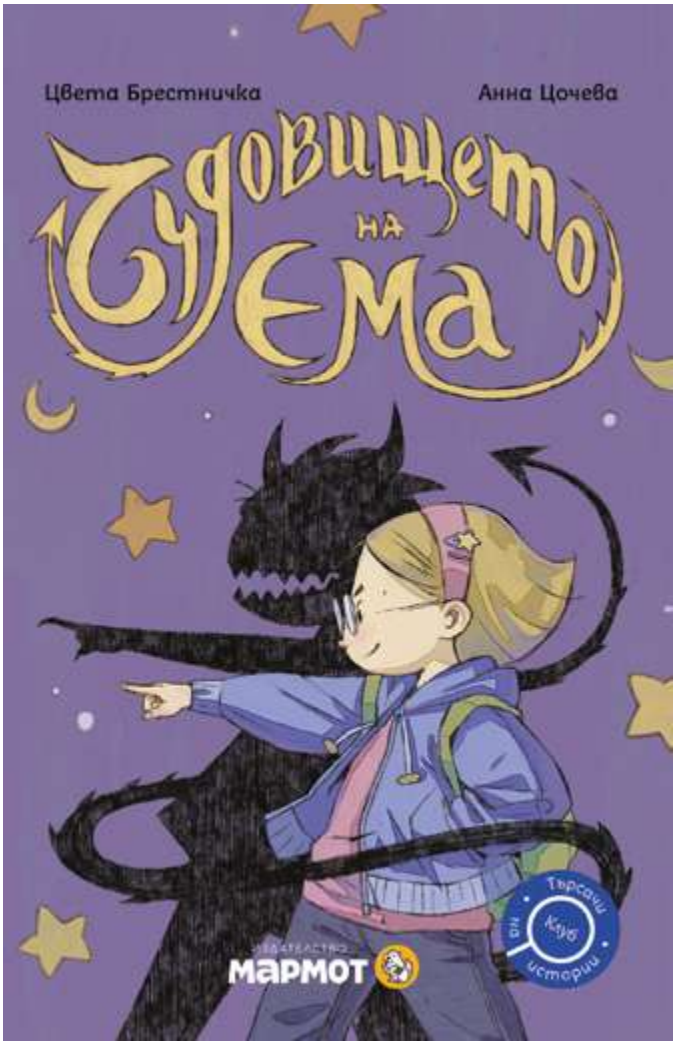
RADIMIRA YORDANOVA is a lecturer in typography at the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo (Department of Graphic Design and Visual Communications) and a senior brand designer. She works in the fields of book design, branding, and typography, including projects for children's literature. For *Black Sea*, Radimira was in charge of the typographic concept, font selection, and visual layout of the page, ensuring that the text and illustrations work together to enhance readability and evoke emotion.



SIMEON ZHELEV is a graphic designer, calligrapher, and lecturer working at the intersection of street art, calligraphy, and contemporary design. He creates visual solutions that combine typographic precision with graphic freedom and expressiveness. For the *Black Sea* encyclopedia, Simeon has contributed illustrations, calligraphic elements, and a bold visual language that gives the book a distinctive character and makes it appealing to both children and adults.







Emma's Monster
Чудовището на Ема

Author: Tzveta Brestnichka
Illustrator: Anna Tsocheva

Children's book, 72 pages
ISBN: 9786197806090
Marmot Publishing House, 2025

After a terrible day at school, Emma unexpectedly ends up with her very own monster. At first, it doesn't seem particularly scary, but it promises her that it will keep growing and gaining strength… And then everyone will see! But what's it like to have a monster? Can it solve your problems when you're angry, sad, or scared? Or do monsters sometimes make things even more complicated? Emma has a lot to learn… And maybe you do, too.

Story Seekers Club is a series inspired by the greatest story discoverers of all: children. The layout, font, and paper are tailored to the needs of the novice reader. This series will help children gain reading experience, and as a result, they'll improve their skills in understanding, learning, and exploring. In this way, before they even realize it, they'll become story seekers themselves.





TZVETA BRESTNICHKA is among the most popular and beloved contemporary Bulgarian children's writers. Generations of children have grown up with her rhyming tales from the *Enchanted Woods* series, while her stories from *Fairytales A to Z* inspired young readers to discover the beauty of their native language. She knows how to tell stories with passion and love, both stories that happened and ones that did not, inspired by her experiences with her four children, her growing grandchildren, and backpacking around the world. Tzveta is actively involved with improving the situation of children in Bulgaria. For more than 15 years she has been working in the Parents Association. For two consecutive years, she was the program director of the Sofia International Literary Festival for Children and Youth, the initiator of the initiative "A Child Wants Magic. Become a Wizard—Give Them a Book," which for three years in a row has enabled thousands of donors to send books to underprivileged children across the country.



ANNA TSOCHEVA is an artist, animator, and illustrator who graduated from the National Academy of Arts as an art restorer. As the founder and instructor at Manga Academy, she works primarily in the field of children's books and comics, combining traditional and digital techniques. In *Emma's Monster*, she uses brush, pencil, and comic-book approaches to transform the characters' emotions into images that resonate with a child's imagination.





Comics Class

Комикс клас

Author: Milen Halyov
Illustrator: Margarita Stamenova

Children's book, 184 pages
ISBN: 9789542851905
Ciela Norma Publishing, 2025

Through his fantasy series *Kalo the Dragon* and *Dormitory for Monsters*, the beloved Bulgarian writer and teacher Milen Halyov has proven that the right book can spark a love of reading in every child. In his dazzling new series *Comics Class*, Milen Halyov sets aside his rich arsenal of fantasy characters and creates a completely authentic and childishly entertaining story, inspired by his own experience as a teacher.

Gogo's school year gets off to a rocky start. Not only is he the new student in class (which would make even the bravest kid tremble), but on his very first day at Svyat School, he gets pinned in a wrestling match by… a girl!

At least Gogo is lucky that they've seated him next to the class clown—Spider. In the drawings Spider is constantly scribbling, every student is a superhero with special powers. But Gogo has to be careful. Whatever nickname Spider gives him now will haunt him for the rest of his life…

To truly become part of his new "Comics Class," Gogo will definitely have to show off his superpower. Meanwhile, Iva—a tiny beast in the body of a little girl with superhuman strength—is driving him up the wall. The comic book war between heroes and villains quickly spills into the classroom, triggering a dizzying series of antics that include a fruit fight, more than a few bumped heads, and a pile of mud-splattered clothes, until the climax of this epic spectacle unfolds on the stage of the Christmas celebration.

Complemented by the magnificent illustrations of artist Margarita Stamenova, *Comics Class* speaks the language of 21st-century children to perfection. Within its pages, young readers will discover the true meaning of words like "friendship," "understanding," and "forgiveness," while older readers will be transported back to their own school battles and the childlike euphoria that comes with every great victory.



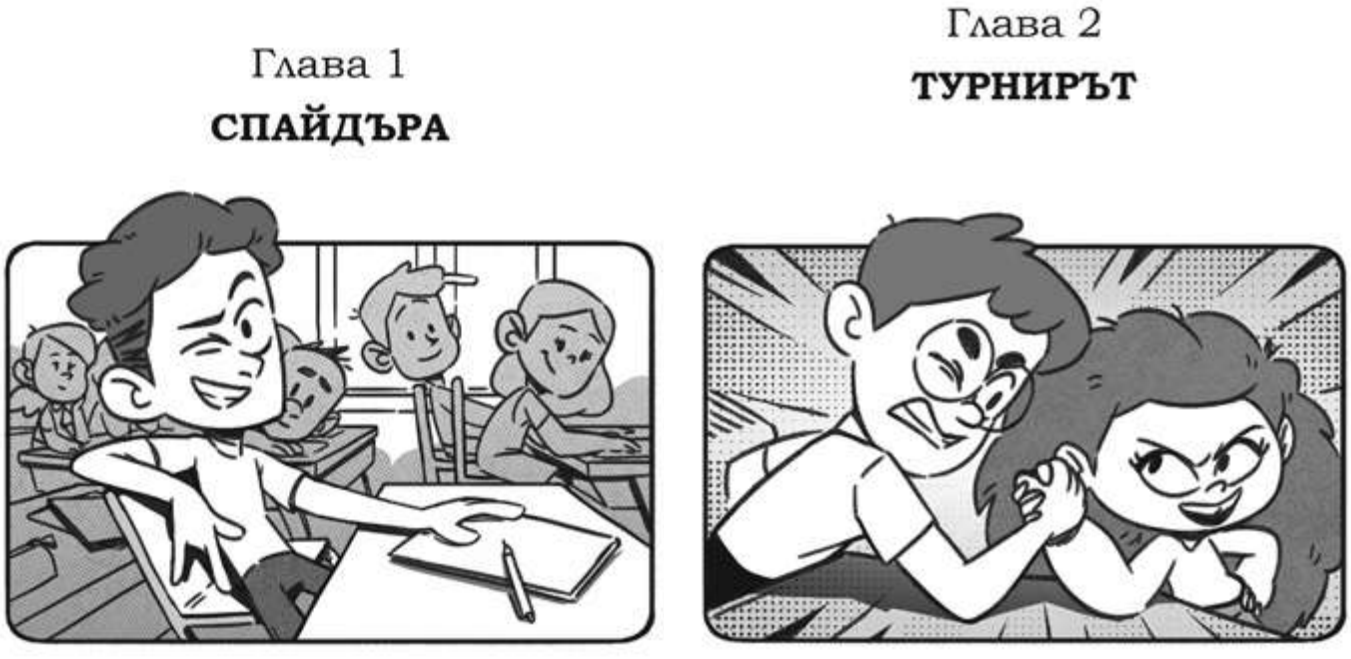
MILEN HALYOV (1988) was often sick as a child and spent lots of time in hospital rooms and waiting outside doctors' offices. To escape the boredom, he would make up stories and draw them. His love of writing and drawing inspired him to study Animation Directing at the National Academy for Theater and Film Arts. His graduation film, "Traffic," was screened at numerous festivals in Bulgaria and abroad.

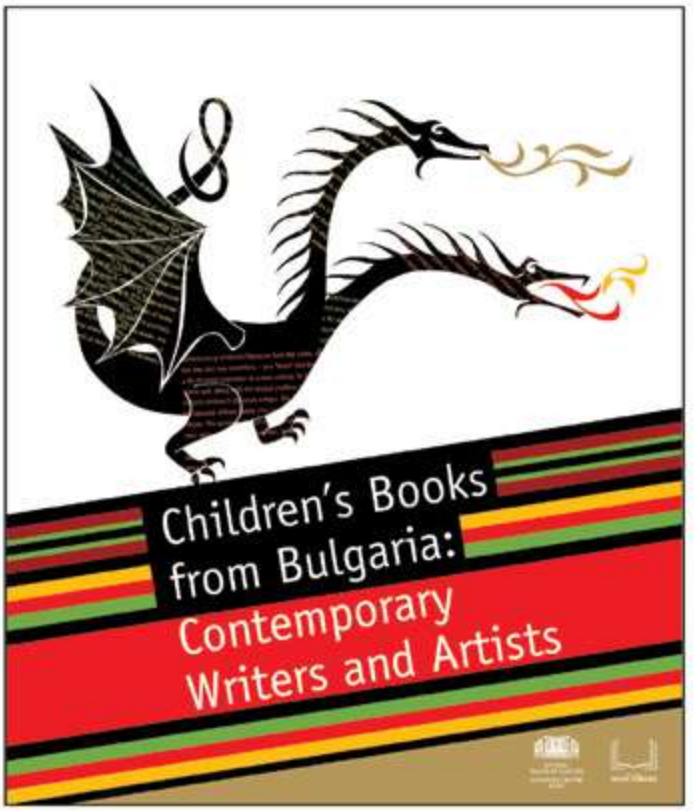
Even before receiving his diploma, Milen Halyov began teaching animation and art at Sofia high schools. He gets along very well with the students, and they eagerly await his classes. He creates entertaining videos to teach the material because he still loves telling stories.

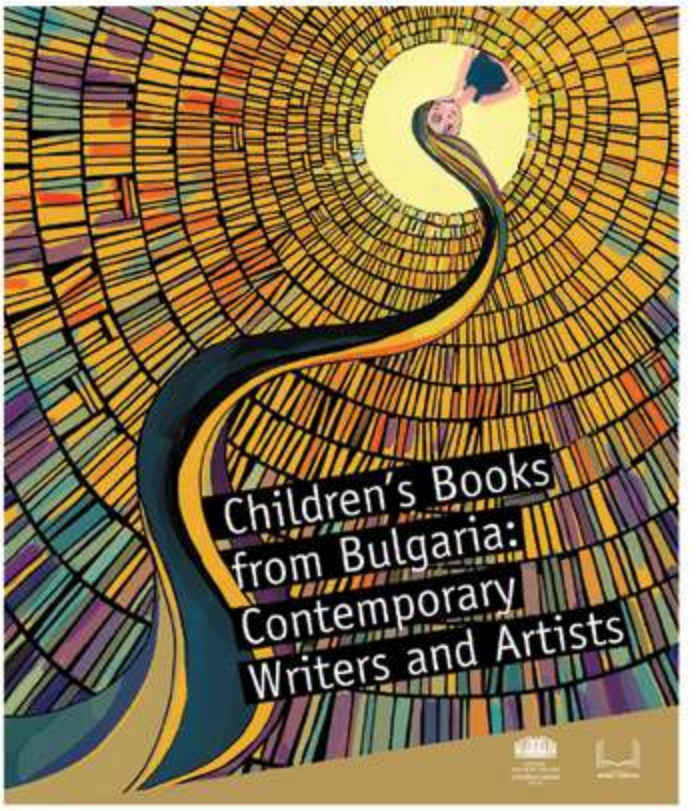
His first book, *Kalo the Dragon* appeared in 2019, and immediately became a bestseller, earning him the 2019 Most-Read Children's Author Award from Sofia City Library. The sequels in the series *Kalo the Dragon – Monsters Like Me* (2020) and *Kalo the Dragon—Heroes of Mud* (2021) were also wildly popular, earning him the 2020 Children's Choice Award at the National Children's Book Festival – Sliven, as well nominations for the 2020 and 2021 Magic Pearl Awards.

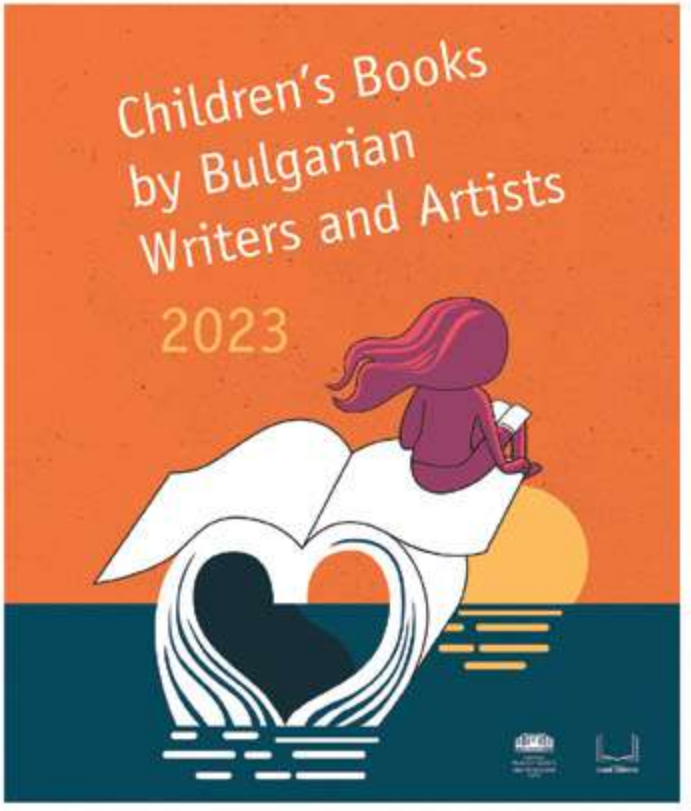


MARGARITA STAMENOVA graduated from the National Academy for Theater and Film Arts with a degree in Animation. She has worked as an artist on children's mobile games, animated series, and short animated films, as well as in book illustration and other projects. She currently works at a video game company and takes on a variety of freelance projects in her spare time.

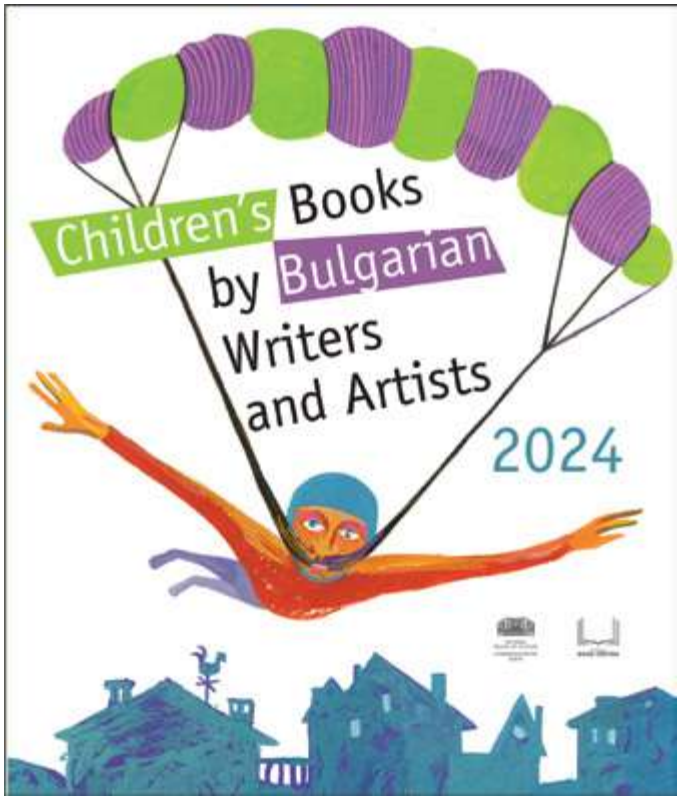


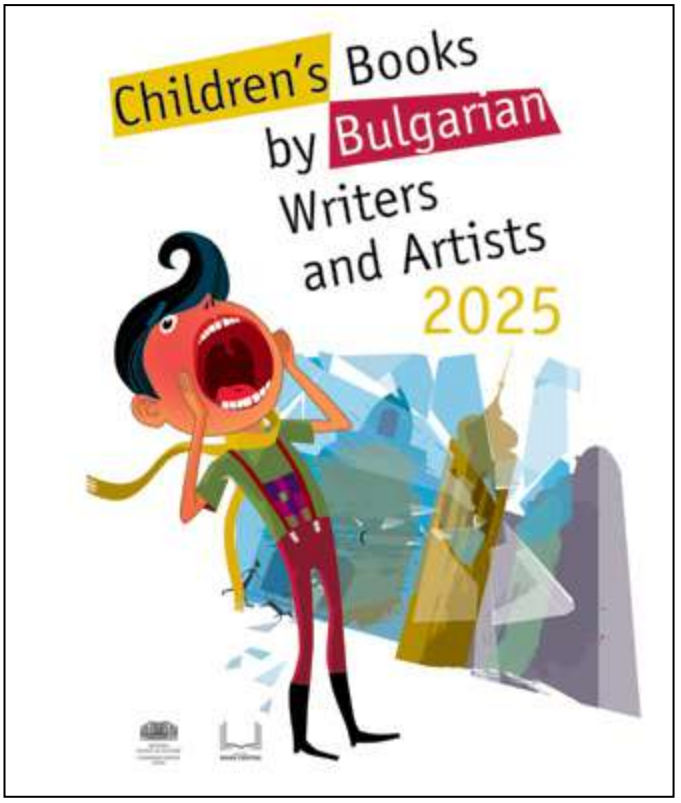

Children's Books
from Bulgaria:
Contemporary
Writers and Artists


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Children's Books
by Bulgarian
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2023


Children's Books
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Children's Books
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2024


Children's Books
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Writers
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2025

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