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Little Suitcase Travel

The Real Boat

When Angels are Resting

Leek, Irina

Stars in Fluffy Paws

Octopus Osip - Agent 008

Starobinets, Anna

Beastly Crime Chronicles series

Land of Good Girls / Catlantis

Strokina, Anastasia

The Whale swims North

Pocket Dwarf Bead

The Owl Wolf

The Cloud Holder

The Bongo's Dreams

rights list

children's 2024

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news
awards
topseller
youtube channel

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authors

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Russian diaspora children's

Little Suitcase Travel

Children's book. Vremya. Moscow 2019. 128 pages
Illustrations by Vera Korotaeva
Age 5+

Awards: 2020 K. Chukovsky Prize

Translations: full English available

Once upon a time there was a suitcase family: a suitcase father, a suitcase mother and their son, a small suitcase. But maybe you only know carry-on suitcases? Those who walk hand in hand with the owner everywhere? But there are completely different, stand-alone suitcases. They lead a completely independent life. And the main thing for such suitcases is travel. The little suitcase goes on its first journey. He makes many strange encounters and has to face real dangers. But it makes him feel like he's living the life of a real suitcase. What could be nicer?



THE AUTHOR

awards

2020 K. Chukovsky Prize
2019 winner BIBF Ananas Grand
Jury Prize Beijing
2018 Klaus Flugge Prize
London
White Crows of International
Munich Child's Library

sample available

full English

other titles

The Real Boat
When Angels are Resting



Marina Aromshtam was born 1960 in Moscow. For nearly 20 years she worked as a school teacher. She also devoted twelve years of life to pedagogical journalism. The last ten years she has been engaged into issues around children's reading and support for young readers. She oversees several educational institutions for preschool children and orphans. In 2022 she left Russia. Aromshtam lives in Israel.

Marina Aromshtam about her decision to go into exile:

"The war Russia unleashed on Ukraine forced me and my husband to leave Russia. The spirit of war that drove us out of the country likely wanted to deprive us of more than just our homeland. It threatened to take away our language and ability to write — to reduce us to nothing."

Marina Aromshtam

Russian diaspora children's

The Real Boat

Children's book. Mann Ivanov Ferber. Moscow 2019. 72 pages
Illustrations by Viktoria Semykina
Age 4+

Awards: 2019 winner BIBF Ananas Grand Jury Prize Beijing
2018 Klaus Flugge Prize London

Foreign rights: English/ Templar, French/ Little Urban, Japanese (full English available)

The Real Boat, illustrated by Victoria Semykina, is all about a little paper boat who dreams of being real. One day he leaves his little pond to begin a long and sometimes scary journey. He wants to sail to the ocean, which he has heard is so big that the water joins the sky. When a paper boat learns about the ocean, he is determined to go there so that he can be a REAL boat. The little boat is very brave. On his journey he meets all sorts of friends, from the strong little tugboat to the glittering ocean liner. But he also learns that the real ocean is huge and deep and full of dangers.

No one is an island. But there are many wonderful children like brave little boats who won't be afraid to set sail into the future to search for what it means to be REAL. This is the most important thing in life.

Lyrical text and magical illustrations combine to create a modern fable with an important message about striving for what you want and escaping your comfort zone.

"A wonderful tale of courage, hope and imagination, The Real Boat is a feast for the eyes with its magnificent illustrations that perfectly complement this magical journey that will capture the hearts of young and old alike." READING EAGLE



THE AUTHOR

awards

2020 K. Chukovsky Prize
2019 winner BIBF Ananas Grand
Jury Prize Beijing
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London
White Crows of International
Munich Child's Library

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Little Suitcase Travel
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Marina Aromshtam

Russian diaspora children's

When Angels are Resting

Teenager book. KompasGid. Moscow 2016. 208 pages
Age 12+

Awards: Included in the list White Crows of International Munich Child's Library

Foreign Rights: China, Lithuania, Thailand, Ukraine

„If I had had a father, everything could have turned out differently, then my mother could have consulted with him. She would have consulted with him and would not have sent me to Tatyana Vladimirovna's school. And Tatyana Vladimirovna would not have said: „Get up! Hands behind your head!“ Grandfather would not have been shocked and would not have insisted that I be transferred to another school. And I wouldn't have gotten into Marsem's class. It was Marsem who told us about the angels - that they should rest. Many years have passed since then. But if something happens to me, good or bad, I remember it.”



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2019 winner BIBF Ananas Grand
Jury Prize Beijing
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Munich Child's Library

other titles

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The Real Boat



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Marina Aromshtam

Russian diaspora children's

Stars in fluffy paws

Children's book. Stroki. Moscow 2022. 160 pages.

Illustrations by A. Kuznetsova

Age 4+ and adults

> astronomical wonders, other lifestyles, courage, friendship, adventure

A fairy-tale story about lunar marmotics – fluffy cute animals that look like marmots and live on the far side of the Moon in their own magical world.

The main character is the restless Little Flo, a real fearless and very cool Marmot girl. She has a mom, dad, two older brothers, a traveling grandmother, a stay-at-home grandfather and a neighbor Shlyopych, who always finds himself in a variety of comical situations. For example, Little Flo is sure that most of the craters are the work of the paws of Shlyopych, who every evening is going to dig a hole for himself, but gets tired very quickly or he just gets lazy, and he falls asleep in the dug hole. In his sleep, he tosses and turns, the hole becomes larger and larger, until by morning it turns into a real crater. But this, of course, is not all the miracles that happen on the far side of the Moon.

The seasons there can be switched with a switch, and if someone wants summer three times a week, this can easily be arranged. All emotions have smells: Marmotics sense whether someone smells happy, sad, or angry. Shooting stars not only fulfill wishes, but deliver them right to the Marmots' doorstep – the main thing is not to miss the shooting stars and have time to place an order. Their wonderful world is surrounded by large and small stars, planets, comets and nebulae, similar to clouds of cotton candy. Marmotics hide from meteor showers under large umbrellas, and when they get bored or sad, they can always throw a ball to the constellation Canis Major.

When people cannot see the Moon during the day, lunar marmotics can move to the other side to take a warm bath in the craters, get ripened cheese from there, or go sled-ding. They also cannot see the Earth then, but they are very curious about who lives on it. So one day Little Flo, looking at the green-blue planet, noticed there a real human baby in blue pajamas. She wishes she could make friends with him...



THE AUTHOR

sample available

English

other works

Octopus Osip - Agent 008



Irina Leek was born 1972 in Moscow. After school she entered the Moscow Linguistic University at the Faculty of Translation for Dutch and also studied in Maastricht where after graduation she worked at the translation department of the Higher School of Translators. After returning to Russia Leek taught theory and practice of oral and written translation at the Department of Scandinavian, Dutch and Finnish languages at Moscow State Linguistic University for more than 10 years, collaborating also actively with the Dutch Institute in St. Petersburg. Leek is the well-known translator of Toon Tellegen, Annie Schmidt, Anna Woltz, and many other Dutch authors. And she is also an author of 14 children's books (0+, 3+, 6+, 12+) and 5 adult books. She writes with the sense of magic and humor and works in genres of detective, mystery, comedy.

Irina Leek

Russian diaspora children's

Octopus Osip - Agent 008

Children's book. Stroki. Moscow 2022. 160 pages.

Illustrations by Ekaterina Suvorova

Age 5+ and adults

> ecology, courage, friendship, adventure

Do you think Osip is an ordinary little octopus who goes to school and looks after the younger sisters Grunya and Granya? As if not so! Osip is a real secret agent 008. And he has to go on his first very important mission: the reef is in danger, and only Osip can help save its inhabitants. Put the hooligans in their place, save the secret box and help grandma neutralize the king of poisonous fish puffer Diodon — agent 008 is waiting for a serious job.

Osip the octopus has every chance of becoming the James Bond of the sea in the future. Seriously, there are chases, miracles of camouflage and a main villain who wants to destroy the entire underwater world. This is a story in the style of "Shark Tale" with an incredibly twisted plot.



THE AUTHOR

sample available

English

other works

Stars in Fluffy Paws



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Irina Leek

Russian diaspora children's

Beastly Crime Chronicles

Series of 6 Volumes (so far). Clever. Moscow since 2016. Approx. 100 pages each
For children age 6-13

Publishers: Arabic/ Thaqafa, China/ 21st Century, Czech/ Albatros, Estonia/ Tänapäev, Germany/ Fischer, Georgia/ Academic Press, Hungary/ Europa, Latvia/ Zvaigzne, Mongolia/ Nepko, Netherlands/ Querido, Poland/ Dwie Systry, Romania/ Frontiera, Serbia/ Kozikas, Slovakia/ Ikar, Spain/ Dolmen, Turkey/ Kalila, US/ Dover

Awards: 2021 longlist Astrid Lindgren Award
2021 shortlist Kornei Chukovski Award
2020 winner Russian Detective Award

Vol 1 In the Wolf's Lair
Vol 2 A Predator's Rights
Vol 3 Claws of Rage
Vol 4 The Plucker
Vol 5 Gods of Mango – Award Russian Detective 2020
Vol 6 Tail eaters
(Vol 7 planned)

AND: Beastly Ferry Tales

Life in the Far Woods tends to be tranquil because the animal denizens are strictly forbidden to kill (or eat!) one another. An elderly detective, Chief Badger, oversees the community and solves its petty crimes, from stolen pine cones to plucked tail feathers. His restless assistant, Badgercat, longs for some excitement — a desperate crime, a beastly crime!

All the heroes of this book series are animals, but they know how to love and hate, lie and tell the truth to their face, trust and despair, betray and save – no worse and no better than us humanoid readers. Who is friend and who is foe, who is an innocent, fluffy victim, who is a deadly female predator, who is a hostage and who is an intruder, you only find out at the end, because according to the rules of the genre, the perpetrator always remains unknown until the very end.

"A clever whodunit featuring believable animal characters in a convincing, recognizable society... Mystery fans (around the world) should rejoice." KIRKUS

"A children's detective is a rare genre, and a children's psychological detective is an even more unique one. A spectacular literary event." PSYCHOLOGIES

"Perfect for all fans of detective stories." THE STANDARD

"Racy, mischievous, suspiciously good!" CHILDREN'S BOOK FAVORITE



THE AUTHOR

translations
over 20 languages

awards
2021 Spanish Celsius-232

2018 ESFS award
«Best European Sci-fi author»

2017 Winner Imaginales
festival in Epinal/ France

2016 Grand Prix of Utopiales
Sci-Fi book festival/ France

2014 National Bestseller Russia

2014 Prix Masterton

2014 Winner «The Portal»
Scifi Assembly Ukraine

sample translation available
full english

Anna Starobinets was born in Moscow in 1978. She is a Russian and Israeli citizen, writer and scriptwriter who works in various genres: sci-fi, dystopias and horrors for adults, fairy and detective stories for children. She is a widow of Alexander Garros, a renowned writer from Latvia. Starobinets was in opposition to Russian government for the last years, and after the beginning of war with Ukraine she escaped from Russia with her two children and a dog.

Anna Starobinets

Summary

VOL 1 - The first case for forest police officer Badger - the Columbo among animal detectives.

When Badger - like every Friday evening - eats his back of bark in the tavern and secretly looks forward to the well-deserved hibernation, a terrible crime occurs: A rabbit has died! Some croaking frogs reveal the shocking news. Wolf appears to be the most likely culprit, because — duh — he's a lone wolf without an alibi, but Badger refuses to jump to conclusions. With the help of Vulture the crime scene investigator, Mouse the psychologist, brave witness Beetlebug Buck, and other curious creatures, the woodland detectives set out to discover the truth.

VOL 2 - Flush with success from having solved the case of the murdered Rabbit, crotchety detective Chief Badger and his impetuous young assistant, Badgercat, anticipate the return of peace and quiet to their community. But trouble recurs with a visit from Huntington Farm's bloodthirsty security team, who bring accusations of theft and harsh demands for justice. Guard dog Muxtar and hunting hound Polkan are searching for Chicken Four, a plucky little fowl who's just discovered what happens to her sister chickens when they disappear into Nina Palna's kitchen on Fridays. Now Badger and Badgercat have to persuade Palna to stop making chicken soup and to prevent Muxtar and Polkan from taking matters into their own paws (and jaws) suspecting the Fox. Guard dog Muxtar sets an ultimatum of twenty-four hours. After that he will come back with the other guard dogs from the security team and get the Fox. But is she really the culprit? Badger has his doubts. Will he succeed in convicting the culprit before there is a big row in the thick thicket? One thing is already clear: Badgers can forget his hibernation for the time being.

VOL 3 - The peaceful existence of the animals in the Far Woods is threatened by a crime wave. First, an underground art exhibition is robbed. Soon after, Marquise, a pampered, snow-white Persian, is kidnapped from the cat show. To Chief Badger and his ambitious assistant, Badgercat, all clues point to the snooty Arctic Fox as the culprit — until the emergence of Claws of Rage, a nefarious group of nonpedigreed agitators seeking vengeance against purebred, well-fed, happy-go-lucky animals. Can Chief Badger and Badgercat round up Claws of Rage members before they strike again? Will Badgercat be able to put aside his growing feelings for Marquise and uphold his duty as a Far Woods officer of the law? And what is that strange hairless animal up to?

VOL 4 - Chief Badger faces his most bizarre case yet, in which someone is plucking and burning the feathers of birds in the Far Woods. To make things even worse, the top suspect is his former assistant, young Badgercat. Chief Badger knows that Badgercat can't possibly be the Plucker, so who plucked Lady Cuckoo and attacked the owl twins, Chuck and Huck? Was it Warbler the barber, who's obsessed with hair, fur, and feathers? Or the sly, treacherous Arctic Fox? Was it the compulsive thief, Sneaky Sal the salamander? Or someone else?

VOL 5 - The Badgers of the Deep Forest Police are sent on a mission to the African savannah to investigate the kidnapping of newborn giraffe Rafik. They are constantly in mortal danger. After all, the Far Woodland spares no one: neither strangers nor natives. This is a terrifying and dangerous place where cruelty and lawlessness reign, brutal sacrifices are made and the law of the jungle prevails. But for a brave and honest animal, Woodland can also become a place of power that helps the animal find itself and find true love. Badger Senior, Badgercat, and Vulture Vulture don't shy away from trouble. They conduct their investigation on the fair principles by which residents live back home in Far Forest. But unraveling the complex case does not mean solving it. Because the hard truth from the investigation has yet to be taught to the residents of Woodlands, but those in power there don't need that truth at all.

VOL 6 - An epidemic has broken out in the forest.

VOL 7 (planned) - One of the beasts has disappeared far away in the woods of Sri Lanka

Anna Starobinets

Russian diaspora children's

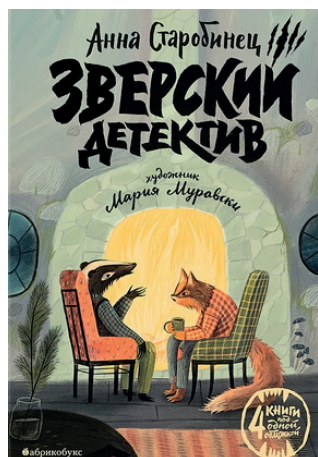
Beastly Ferry Tales

Children's book. Moscow 2020. 176 pages
Age 3-13

Beastly Tales by Anna Starobinets is a spin-off of the popular "Beastly Detective" series – for all fans and their younger sisters and brothers.

This book contains sagas and fairy tales, poems and songs, ancient legends and modern adventure stories, which animals from different forests of the world tell and sing to their young, mostly at bedtime. The collection also includes stories from the village of Okhotka. In this way, wild bookworms learn about the beliefs and myths, life and customs of little-studied rural animals.

The Big Badger from the Far Forest Police tells the Little Badger Kittens about the Sky Bears. The dog Polkan entertains the Muchtarchik pup with stories about the Great Dane and his sworn enemy Pusi-Don. The Persian cat remembers how the black magician Cat Noir lured her to the Forest of Shadows. The owl brothers Ug and Chuck learn that the location of the nearby forest used to be a field of honey carrots grown by the flying rabbit Wryluh. Badger Melesandra convinces her daughter that her father was the first badger on the moon. The Tail listens to the story of the laughing witch Koya, ancestor of the coyotes. The giraffe Rafik listens to the legend of the mango gods who created the first animals of the desert. The penguin boy listens to the shark penguin's hunting stories. And the Misfit listens to the scary fox story about the frozen demon.



Anna Starobinets

Russian diaspora children's

Land of Good Girls

Children's book. Moscow 2009. 160 pages

Age 7-14

"Oh, if only Polya was a good girl!" – more than once Polina Petrova heard these words from her mother and father, the elder brother, both grandmothers and both grandfathers. Even Baguette the cat seems to think of her in that way. Only the dog Balbes sees things differently, but his opinion doesn't count. And then, on New Year's Eve, a good girl is ringing the door bell and the wish comes true: the bad girl Polya stays in the old year, and instead the Petrovs get a new, well-behaved, neat girl. But a completely different one of course. The real Polya needs to be reeducated in a very clean and scary tidy place where kids only eat healthy food, love to clean and do everything according to a plan.

The „Land of Good Girls“ is a kind of child dystopia. This country cannot be found on any world map and its borders are closed. Only the faithful dog Balbes can sniff out the way. And only the red heroic cat Baguette can cross the border between past and present to save his beloved owner. After all, Baguette is not a simple Moscow cat, but the descendant of powerful old Catlantids.

Catlantis

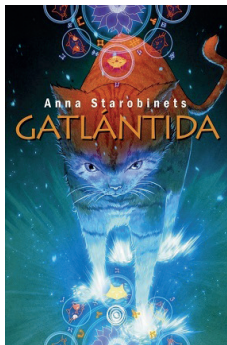
Children's book. Moscow 2011. 128 pages (sequel to Land of Good Girls)

Age 7-14

Publishers: Greece/ Octana, Spain/ Dolmen, Turkey/ Baobab, UK/ Pushkin Press

Awards: 2017 Observer and Telegraph Children's Book of the Year

Baguette is just a regular house cat. She likes to sit in the window, watch the birds, and eat three square meals a day. But what's a regular house cat to do if he falls in love with a beautiful street cat who has some very strange - and really rather dangerous - demands? Baguette inherited the ability to travel through time from her great-great-grandfather, who once came to Russia in a van carrying French bread. So now she must travel back through the Ocean of Time to the lost island of Catlantia. She must find a way to save the nine lives of all cats before it is too late. And she must outwit the wicked black cat Noir, who is hot on her tail. Only then can she hope to win the paw of Purriana...



"Madcap and highly original." THE OBSERVER

Anna Starobinets was born in Moscow in 1978. She is a Russian and Israeli citizen, writer and scriptwriter who works in various genres: sci-fi, dystopias and horrors for adults, fairy and detective stories for children. She is a widow of Alexander Garros, a renown writer from Latvia. Starobinets was in opposition to Russian government for the last years, and after the beginning of war with Ukraine she escaped from Russia with her two children and a dog.

Anna Starobinets



THE AUTHOR

translations

over 20 languages

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2021 Spanish Celsius-232

2018 ESFS award

«Best European Sci-fi author»

2017 Winner Imaginales
festival in Epinal/ France

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2014 National Bestseller Russia

2014 Prix Masterton

2014 Winner «The Portal»
Sci-fi Assembly Ukraine

sample translation available

full english

Russian diaspora children's

The Whale Swims North

Children's book. KompasGuide. Moscow 2015. 96 pages.

Illustrations by Irina Petelina

Age 6+ and adults

> philosophical tale, journey, ocean, North, indigenous peoples, fantastic animals

Translations: China, Croatia (full English translation available)

Written for the youngest readers, this philosophical tale gained many fans among older readers. It stands out among other texts for children because of the magical and unique atmosphere of the North it creates and the universal values it conveys.

Mamoru is a small fantastic creature with a very long tale. He has just finished his studies in a school of islands' keepers, and now he has to find his island to take care of it. He wasn't the best student, that's why a difficult condition was imposed on him: to recognize his island among hundreds of others, he has to first see it in dreams while sleeping. If he fails, he will turn into a stone.

Mamoru makes his journey through the oceans on the back of a whale. They go north, because in his first dream Mamoru saw that his island would be very far from all others, situated in hot climates, already occupied by other mamorus, who were better students. During their journey to the Bering sea, Mamoru and the whale will, partly in reality and partly in dreams, discover customs and legends of northern peoples, meet fantastic creatures and animals and help them to solve their problems.

Each encounter and dream deals, through parables, with an aspect of human life: friendship, family, hope, belief in one's self, kindness towards other beings. Friendship between Mamoru and the whale will be tested several times, and all their journey teach the reader that no one can find his island on his own but only being open to the world and other beings.



THE AUTHOR

translations
3 languages

awards
2023 Book of the Year Award
finalist
Internationale Jugendbibliothek
Munich
2022 Astrid Lindgren Memorial
Award nominee
2019 Arsenev Award
2018 Krapivin International Prize
2015 Kniguru Award

sample available
full English

other works
Pocket Dwarf Bead
The Owl Wolf
The Cloud Holder
The Bongo's Dreams



Anastasia Strokina was born 1984 in the Murmansk region. She graduated from music school with a piano major, taught herself the cello and was a member of the Collegium Musicum Moscow chamber orchestra. Strokina not only writes books for children, she is also engaged in literary research and translates from English, French, Dutch and Italian. Born beyond the North Pole, Strokina sets her stories in Northern Russia and Scandinavia, following Selma Lagerlöf and Hans Christian Andersen. Her philosophical fairy tales have been awarded numerous prizes. Strokina is always travelling a lot to where her stories take place.

Anastasia Strokina

Russian diaspora children's

Pocket Dwarf Bead

Children's book. KompasGuide. Moscow 2017. 160 pages.

Illustrations by Oleg Braude

Age 6+ and adults

> philosophical tale, journey, North, animals and humans, balance of nature, healing, power of words

And here are the heroes: Lille - an unusual dog, Vera and Varya - unusual sisters, Birdie - an unusual bird (despite its simple name). Lille is long, as long as the whole street. Vera and Varya are as different as polar day and polar night, and they can even talk to animals. Birdie is a learned, well-trained bird, white and round, like a snowball, warbling wise words.

When the news arrives that Varya is sick, events take over. The bird must scream not clever words, but alarming ones. Vera is sure that the pearl is to blame for everything, which the sisters stole from a scary cruel bearded dwarf and which is now embroidered on Varya's dress. What can help Varya? A book written by a famous storyteller from Finland! Putting it under the pillow will make the sister feel better! Vera, Lille and Birdie have to go to this storyteller or to Finland or somewhere to the north - the main thing is to save Varya.



THE AUTHOR

translations
3 languages

awards

2023 Book of the Year Award finalist
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other works

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Anastasia Strokina

Russian diaspora children's

The Owl Wolf

Children's book. Rosmen. Moscow 2019. 80 pages.

Illustrations by Irina Galkina

Age 8+ and adults

> philosophical tale, journey, Far North, indigenous peoples, fantastic animals, planet protection, friendship, support

Languages: China, Serbia (full German translation available)

A little girl lives in the far north, where she has no friends. And she invents a friend for herself: this is an Owl Wolf named Bubo. He teaches the girl to love the north, to understand its nature, its animals. He teaches her to look at the world through the eyes of a northern wolf.

But this book is not about nature only. There are many reflections on friendship, fear, fortitude, the planet and its protection. This book is the author's farewell to the childhood, an autobiographical recollection of life in the Arctic Circle.

It is interesting to note that the place described in the story now belongs to the "dead cities" of Russia: nobody lives there anymore. But once the first cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, lived and worked there.



THE AUTHOR

translations
3 languages

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Anastasia Strokina

Russian diaspora children's

The Cloud Holder

Children's book. Five Fourth. Moscow 2022. 96 pages.

Illustrations by Estonian artist Eva Eller

Age 8+ and adults

> philosophical tale, journey, meaning of life, value of family, friendship, faith

Translations: English sample available

The novel „Derzhioblako“ (Cloud-holder) is a philosophical fairy tale, which embodied a lot of spiritual knowledge about the world – from the philosophy of Plato and Taoists to Christian views and Islam.

The main character, Plato, is a strange creature made of leaves and feathers. His very name inclines the reader to a philosophical mood. This is not surprising: the heroes - Plato, the forest beast wolkolis (wolfofox) Augustus and the wooden doll Makka have to go through a difficult path in search of answers to important questions about the meaning of life, about the value of family and friendship, about faith, betrayal and forgiveness.

The book also contains a grammar and vocabulary of the wolfofoxish language.



THE AUTHOR

translations
3 languages

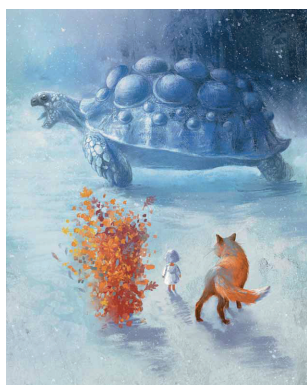
awards

2023 Book of the Year Award finalist
Internationale Jugendbibliothek Munich
2022 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award
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sample available
English

other works

The Whale Swims North
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The Owl Wolf
The Bongo's Dreams



Anastasia Strokina was born 1984 in the Murmansk region. She graduated from music school with a piano major, taught herself the cello and was a member of the Collegium Musicum Moscow chamber orchestra. Strokina not only writes books for children, she is also engaged in literary research and translates from English, French, Dutch and Italian. Born beyond the North Pole, Strokina sets her stories in Northern Russia and Scandinavia, following Selma Lagerlöf and Hans Christian Andersen. Her philosophical fairy tales have been awarded numerous prizes. Strokina is always travelling a lot to where her stories take place.

Anastasia Strokina

Russian diaspora children's

The Bongo's Dreams

Children's book. Mann-Ivanov-Ferber. 2024. 93 pages.
Age 8+ and adults

> philosophical tale, seasons, friendship, suffering, hope, self confidence

November: Fjuit. This is the adventure of a feather that fell out of a duck and began an independent life. The originality of this text is that it organically combines prose sketches and poems that can encourage readers to their own creativity. Duck feather meets a wind, a snowflake, a pine, a boy, a yard dog and other heroes on its way. Each of them has its own story. This text is about how important it is to give each other warmth.

December: Christmas. This is the key story in the book. The action takes place in the African savanna. Animals - an elephant, a lioness with cubs, a buffalo, two underground rats and a squirrel, an African raven and a blue antelope - each separately - go to the great baobab. Each of the animals has its own story. A lioness is trying to save her children from imminent death, a buffalo wants to punish the murderer of his brother, underground rats and a squirrel are seeking refuge, fleeing from the claws of a raven. And the blue antelope, an extinct species, comes to the earthly savanna from the heavenly one to help the souls of dead animals. All together they meet at the baobab on December 25. At this moment, the sacred tree blooms. This is a story that states that there are cruelty, fear and suffering in the world, but also there is hope and a miracle that can happen to each of us.

March: Shimada. This story tells about the friendship of an African turtle and a Japanese composer. Having met by chance, two lonely creatures — an African turtle that fell into the hands of poachers, and a poor young man from a working-class district of Tokyo — help each other in the most difficult moment of life. This story spans a lifetime, and we see how a poor young man became a world famous composer. But how will a strange friendship with a turtle end? A lyrical, tender story about friendship, hope, self-confidence, music and silence. Based on a true story about a Japanese man and an African turtle.

August: In search of Zubagail. This story takes place in a magical forest, where everyone lived in peace and harmony. But the cunning boar cruelly seized power over the animals and everything in the forest changed. For many years, the animals have been living at the mercy of the boar and his family, and only the beast Zubagail knows the truth. And one day he came back. Friends go in search of Zubagail, because the boar promised a generous reward to the one who catches him. But who is this Zubagail? What secret is he hiding? This story is about the true friendship of animals of different natures, a story about a dream and the ability to sacrifice the most precious in the name of goodness and justice.



THE AUTHOR

translations
3 languages

awards

2023 Book of the Year Award finalist
Internationale Jugendbibliothek Munich
2022 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award
nominee
2019 Arsenev Award
2018 Krapivin International Prize
2015 Kniguru Award

other works

The Whale Swims North
Pocket Dwarf Bead
The Owl Wolf
The Cloud Holder

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