



# CATALOGUE

KUD Sodobnost International

2023/24



# The Magical Wardrobe

Once upon a time, there lived a princess. She did not have lips as red as blood, nor golden curls. And oh, how stubborn and sharp-witted she was! Nothing pleased her. Especially not on her birthdays. The weary king and queen are at a loss, unsure of how to please their contrary daughter. They are saved from their dilemma by a deaf castle magician who gives the princess a magical wardrobe. Inside the wardrobe are six drawers, each with the power to grant one of the little girl's deepest wishes...

Step into a world where wishes come to life in unexpected ways! From whimsical adventures to peculiar twists and layers of symbolism, this captivating story takes readers on a journey filled with humour, imagination, and a touch of nonsense.



## Jana Bauer

is a bestselling children's author. Her writing features a blend of witty, amusing characters coupled with compelling stories. Although her books are meant for children, their magic and originality give great pleasure to readers of all generations. Her first work, *The Witch Vanisher*, was nominated for the Večernica Award (2003). However, she gained by far the greatest popularity with *Scary Fairy in Wicked Wood* (2011), which has so far been translated into 18 languages. In 2020, Jana Bauer received the Desetnica Award from the Slovene Writers' Association for her *Ding Dong Stories*. For the picture book *How to Hug a Hedgehog*, she received the 2022 Kristina Brenk Award for the best original Slovenian picture book.

## Ana Košir

was born in 1970 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. During her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana, she started working on illustration, and after graduation, she pursued it professionally. She has illustrated a variety of books for children and young adults and collaborated with numerous Slovenian writers for both young and adult audiences. She has received the My Favorite Book Award five times for her illustrations in the *Anica* book series and has also written and illustrated an original picture book about astronomy.



NEW

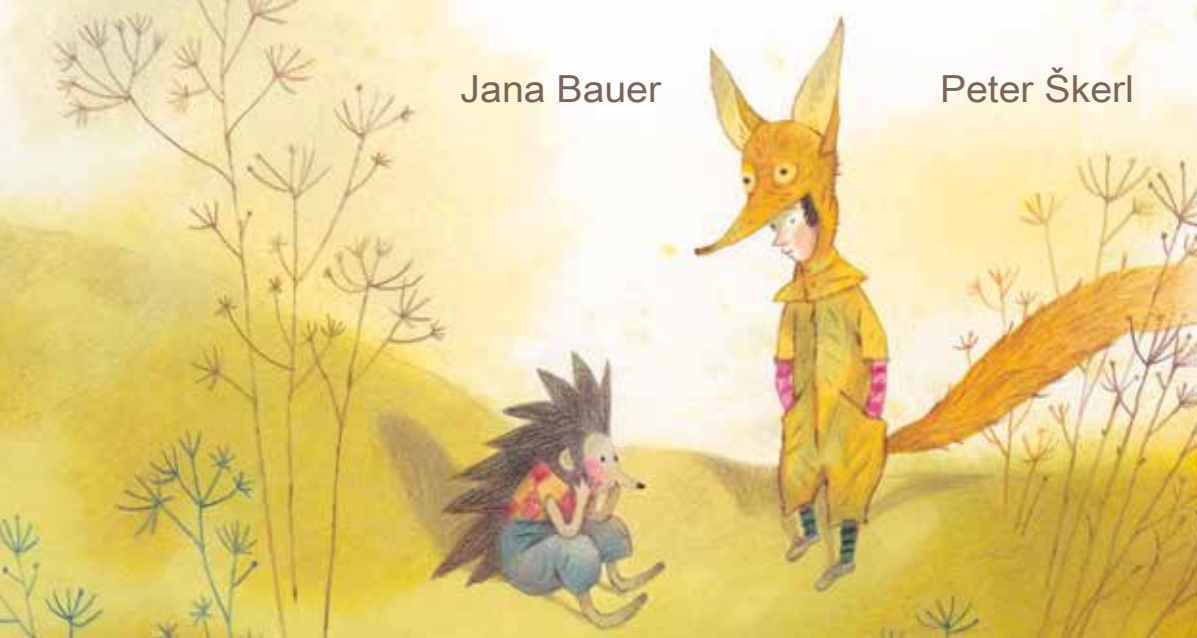
### Details:

Picture book  
21 x 30 cm | 40 pages  
Colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 5+  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to: Italy, Estonia, Croatia**

### Selling points:

Unique fairytale about a spoiled princess and a magical wardrobe, with just a touch of nonsense. *The Magical Wardrobe* encapsulates all the elements that define Jana Bauer's style: finely crafted, lively dialogues, ingenious ideas, carefully built tension, and intertextual references. Ana Košir's illustrations bring vibrancy to the narrative and excel in imaginatively portraying the characters' personalities and portraying the journey of children growing up. In the small details, the artwork captures the story's humour with finesse.



Jana Bauer

Peter Škerl

# How to Hug a Hedgehog

The hedgehog lived peacefully until a mighty desire to hug someone overwhelmed him. But who would hug a prickly hedgehog? No one seems to have the guts to do it. Poor hedgehog, he's down and desperate. The good news is that Bobby the fox lives in the forest! He undertakes the endeavour with the cunning shrewdness of a true fox.



## Details:

Picture book  
23 x 29 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 4+  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Germany, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Estonia, Czech Republic, UAE, Pakistan, Greece, Croatia

## Awards and nominations:

Nomination for the Večernica Award; nomination for the Desetnica Award (2022); Kristina Brenkova Award 2019 (Original Slovene Picture Book Award).

## Selling points:

The main ingredient of the story about the miserable hedgehog and Bobby is sparkling wit. Bobby has a number of ideas, none of which, however, is quite the right one... A true hug can only arise out of true friendship. The author, under a veil of humour, subtly outlines the human desire for closeness, sadness at rejection, and friendship that overcomes all obstacles, however painful they may be.

PICTURE BOOK



Jana Bauer

Malgosia Zajac

# How to Frighten a Monster

Is there a monster under your bed? Is it fat, with only one eye and big sharp claws? Then this is a GROSS monster. But don't worry, it is terrified of brass bands! All you have to do to scare it away is play some loud marching music. But what if the monster is a TOOTHED one? Or even a FURRY one? Here's a good piece of advice: "Call OTTO LOCUST!"



## Details:

Picture book  
21 x 26 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 4+  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Germany, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Greece, Taiwan, Turkey, North Macedonia, Nepal, Albania, Mongolia  
**Rights reserved for:** Malaysia

## Awards and nominations:

White Ravens Catalogue (2020)

## Selling points:

A thrilling story about a brave boy who comes to the aid of a frightened friend with a small encyclopedia of monsters and a guide for tricks to chase them away. The picture book *How to Frighten a Monster* is multi-layered. It speaks about the monster that lives within all of us and causes problems that seem insurmountable. It also tackles peer violence and bullying, but ultimately is about two boys on a wonderful adventure.

PICTURE BOOK



# Rainstop Soup

It was summer. Or so they thought. Seven days of relentless rain had trapped the bored kids inside their homes. Luckily, Aunt Cook has the perfect solution – a Rainstop Soup adventure! Join the inventive children as they collect ingredients to create the wackiest soup imaginable. But be prepared: when Aunt Cook adds a special ingredient to chase away the rain, things take a slightly unexpected turn...

*Rainstop Soup* is just what you need on a rainy day! This entertaining heartwarming story will make you laugh, chase away boredom, and make you long for your very own cooking adventure!



## Majda Koren

is one of the best-loved Slovenian children's authors. She has been writing for children since 1982. Besides her writing career she is a primary school teacher, which enables her to find the subjects for her books in every corner. No wonder her stories are so witty, optimistic and full of humorous details! She received the Večernica Award for her book *Eva and the Goat* in 2006 (in 2008 the same book was included in The White Ravens Catalogue) and the Levstik Award for *Mitzi from 2A*.

## Ana Maraž

works in the fields of illustration, painting, and design, and leads art workshops for both children and adults. In 2014, she received the Hinko Smrekar Recognition at the 11th Slovenian Biennial of Illustrations, and in 2021, she won an award in the category of Best Book Illustrations at Ilustrofest in Belgrade. At the 14th Slovenian Biennial of Illustrations, she received a special commendation for her illustrations in the book of fairytales *How Long Is Time*. Her works have been published in publications in Slovenia, Serbia, Australia, the USA, Japan, and China.



### Details:

Picture book  
21 x 26 cm | 40 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 3+  
**Text available in English.**

### Selling points:

Lively, cosy writing style of award-winning author Majda Koren. Fantastic drawings by Ana Maraž. Grow along book for young readers. *Rainstop Soup* masterfully captures the childhood experience on a rainy day, especially resonating with preschoolers. Through the process of counting soup ingredients, young readers also have a chance to familiarise themselves with numbers. Rhythmic and playful repetitions add depth to the story, making it both entertaining and perfect to use in schools. Majda Koren's humour shines through wordplay and an unexpected twist at the end, and Ana Maraž's colourful illustrations enhance the reading experience.

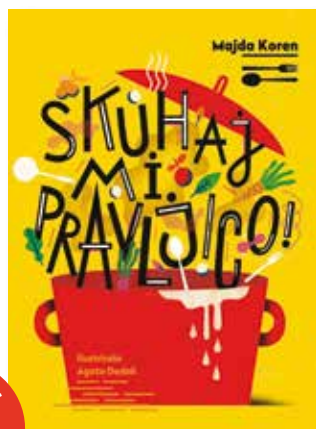
NEW

Majda Koren

Agata Dudek

# Cook Me Up a Fairytale!

What do you cook for a child who is a picky eater? A fairytale, of course! You take a pink pot with green dots, throw in a pinch of salt, two potatoes, a teaspoon of snake tooth powder and three small spoons of laughter. And if the child doesn't like it? You try again. In a green pot with blue dots. But what if a child is as hard to please as Honey Bunny? Then he should try this fairytale. He will eat it up in a jiffy!



**Details:**

Picture book  
21 x 26 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 4+  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Italy, Poland, Turkey, Estonia, Latvia, North Macedonia

**Awards and nominations:**

Nomination for Book of the Year 2017 held by the IBBY Polish Section.

**Award-winning author.**

**Selling points:**

Funny story with an interesting twist at the end.

PICTURE BOOK

Slavko Pregl



Kristina Krhin



# Princess / Monster

Our Biberbav series of children's books has a special concept: there are two stories to be read, one from each side, but the same end joins them together. Picture book *Princess / Monster* tells the story of the girl Chloe and the boy Gal. One day at kindergarten, Chloe decides that she will become a princess, while Gal chooses to turn into a monster.



PICTURE BOOK

**Details:**

Picture book  
22 x 31 cm | 26 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 3+

**Rights sold to:** North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania

**Selling points:**

This wonderful picture book offers two perspectives with an adorable double storyline. It takes us into the endless world of children's imagination and offers us bright illustrations, enriched with little details that add value to the text.



# Little Curly Stories

When Slavko Pregl breathes life into everyday objects, they appear before the reader in sharp, playful, and witty scenes. The character's opinions clash in pointed dialogues, revealing a whole range of human traits, from arrogance, bluntness, and mockery to humour and wisdom. In Pregl's narrative world, we meet the lowercase "o" that observes fairy tales and the behavior of uppercase letters; the boredom that can't be bothered to move from the couch; and the light bulb that comments on the actions of objects nearby. We also listen to the dialogue between a camel and a fish in the desert.

*Little Curly Stories* are witty, playful and, at times, teasing. Slavko Pregl and Damijan Stepančič have combined their stories and illustrations with great skill. Now we can enjoy and explore the world from a different perspective, turning our expectations upside down along the way. Just don't forget your hairbrush!

*"I'd really like to see those children who prefer you to me," boasted the candy.*  
*"All the children who like you come to me," replied the dental drill.*

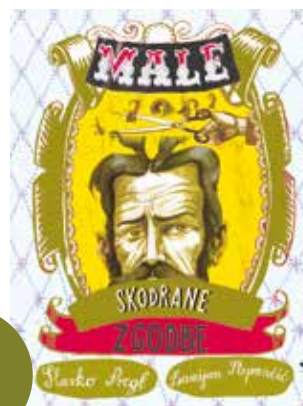
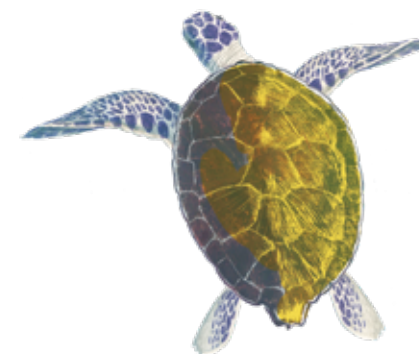


## Slavko Pregl

is an author for young adults, storyteller, fable writer, publisher, and editor. He has published more than 50 books, primarily works for children and young adults, which have been translated into numerous languages. He has received several major national awards, including the Levstik Award, Večernica Award, Desetnica Award, and Župančič Award. His works have been published in numerous anthologies and have been the subject of academic discussions. He was the President of the Slovene Writers' Association, the President of the Reading Badge Association, and the President of the Slovenian Publishers' Association, as well as the first director of the Public Agency for Books of the Republic of Slovenia.

## Damijan Stepančič

graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana. Soon after completing his studies in painting, his attention was drawn to illustration as it offers more possibilities for the exploration of different media. He has so far illustrated almost a hundred books, co-created many comic books, and had several independent exhibitions in the field of illustration. He has also illustrated around a hundred textbooks, exercise books, handbooks for teachers, and other educational material, as well as more than 120 articles in children's magazines. He has received a number of Slovenian and international awards for his illustrations.



NEW

### Details:

Picture book  
 20 x 26 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations  
 Hardcover | age 9+  
**Text available in English.**

### Selling points:

Each of Pregl's stories is a world of its own, but they are connected by his ability to challenge our expectations. Damijan Stepančič's masterful illustrations once again follow the narrator's rhythm in an innovative and dynamic way. Young readers will see the world from a different perspective and have immense fun, and not just them but adults too.



Andreja Peklar

# A Thousand Birds

The king of a faraway land lives in a palace, lonely in its luxury. It's only the sounds of birds singing that can still take him beyond the palace walls and bring a smile to his face. One night, he hears a very special song, and he wants to listen to it over and over again. The king gives his order to catch the singing bird and to cage it. But caged, the tiny bird does not sing. Servants keep bringing more birds and they make a new, even larger, and more beautiful cage but still, the birds will not sing. The king's last hope is a poor boy from the outskirts of town. All he has is a cage and a bird, singing beautifully in it. What is his secret?



## Details:

Picture book  
23 x 28 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 4+  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** UAE, Croatia, Turkey, Pakistan  
**Rights reserved for:** Spain, Malaysia

## Selling points:

In poetic language, this dainty story tells of freedom, subtly encouraging us to give thought to nature and to the living creatures around us. All Andreja Peklar's original picture books open up questions of acceptance and difference, through a wonderful combination of words and remarkable, complementary illustrations.



PICTURE BOOK



Andreja Peklar

# Pupa

Our Pupa is small and green, and has red cheeks. She is very adventurous and curious. After receiving a letter from her brother, she bids farewell to her little sisters and sets out on a journey. Have you seen her? Her journey is as dangerous as it is exciting, and even though curiosity leads Pupa further, she will have to overcome her fears and doubts. She will have to take care of herself, avoid hunger and danger, and make sure she weaves her silky coat on time. Sounds familiar? Of course! Pupa's journey is also a tender story about growing up.



## Details:

Picture book  
24 x 24 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 4+  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Spain, Estonia, Poland, Croatia, North Macedonia, Greece

## Selling points:

Astonishing illustrations and fairytale details draw us into the world of little Pupa and her magical transformation into a butterfly. At the end of the story, there is a section with information about how real pupae transform into butterflies.

PICTURE BOOK



Andreja Peklar

# Moon and Me

If the Moon is your friend you are never bored at night. You can play hide-and-seek or count the stars in its company. You can go on a long, mysterious boat trip! But when you fall asleep, Moon guards you all through the night. Its friendship never fades even though Moon is sometimes as thin as a mouse's tail.



## Details:

Picture book  
23 x 23 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 3+

**Text available in English.**

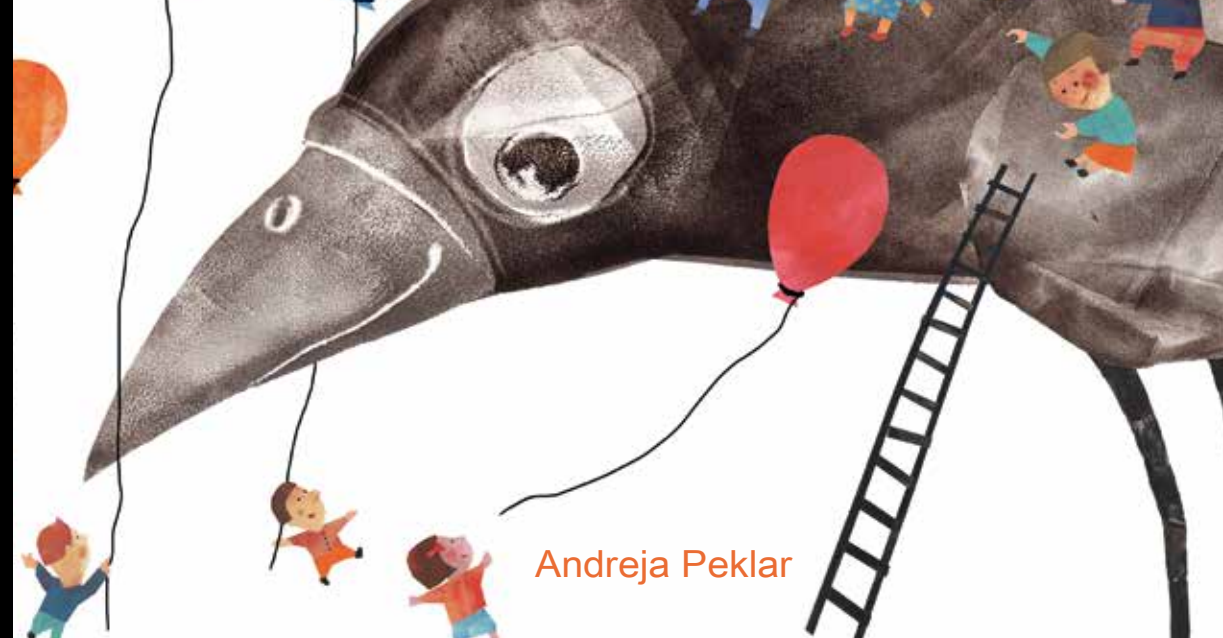
**Rights sold to:** Mongolia, China, Croatia, Italy, North Macedonia, UK, Pakistan, Turkey, Greece, South America, Finland, UAE

**Awards and nominations:** Purple Island Award at Nami Concours 2015; selected for the Illustrators Exhibition of Bologna Children's Book Fair 2018; Merit Award at Hii Illustration 2018; Kristina Brenkova Award 2019 (Original Slovene Picture Book Award); award at Book Fair in Moscow; special award at the 8th Croatian Biennale of Illustration 2020; first award at the 9th Sharjah Children's Book Illustration Exhibition 2021.

## Selling points:

Poetic text and beautiful illustrations make an ideal bedtime story about the changing Moon and everlasting love.

PICTURE BOOK



Andreja Peklar

# Ferdo, the Giant Bird

This is a wordless picture book about a clumsy but charming giant bird, who loved playing with children, helping people and living peacefully with them... until one day after working very hard, he drank all the water from the lake. After this terrible mistake, people banished him from their town, to wander around alone and desperate. But with the help of a little friend, everything turns out well in the end.



## Details:

Picture book  
24 x 24 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 4+

**Rights sold to:** Finland, Mongolia, Turkey

## Awards and nominations:

IBBY Honour List 2018; Silent Book Concours 2015, selected finalist; Bologna Children's Book Fair, Italy 2015; Golden Pear 2016; Kristina Brenkova Award 2017 (The Original Slovene Picture Book Award); The Best Designed Slovene Book Award - Books for Children and Young Adults 2016.

## Selling points:

Extensive cut-out style illustrations that focus on just a few pictorial elements intensify this story about friendship, forgiveness and the environment.

PICTURE BOOK

Ida Mlakar Črnič

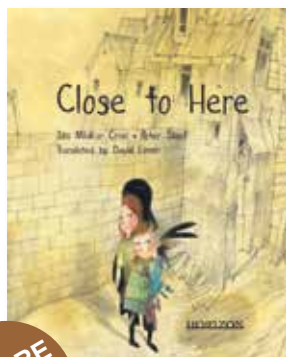


Peter Škerl

## Close to Here

“This book is like a diary with monthly entries that span a year: Two girls set down their observations about a third girl who they perceive as very different from them. Not as pretty, the girl in question doesn’t even have a name (or at least the girls have forgotten it), nor is she a princess (like they are). She is practically invisible, without a home of her own. In September the girl disappears, leaving only a few drawings behind. ( ... ) Told entirely from the perspective of the two girls, the rhythmic text shows how easy it is to embrace prejudices and stereotypical views of strangers and to ostracize others.”

International Children’s and Youth Library, 2019



### Details:

Picture book

21 x 26 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations

Hardcover | age 5+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Germany, Croatia, South America, Pakistan, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Turkey, Brazil

### Awards and nominations:

White Ravens Catalogue (2019).

### Selling points:

A touching story about compassion, written from a child’s point of view. It gives a powerful insight into how children perceive poverty and multiculturalism. Ida Mlakar’s text is short, yet has tremendous power. It reaches deep and undermines the walls of prejudice and hatred. Strong, impressive illustrations by an award-winning illustrator.

PICTURE  
BOOK

Rok Tkavc



Sabina Šinko

## The Wooden Footstool

The girl Sofia and her faithful friend, the dog Parsifal the Brave, are inseparable adventurers. When on vacation at her grandparents’ house, Sofia discovers an old, forgotten wooden footstool in the garden shed. This simple object in her hands becomes a versatile tool. She cleverly uses the footstool for play and as a bridge to discover new things: with it, she can look over the fence, reach the tree branches to pick peaches, use it as a bridge to cross a stream, or as a basket to carry fruit. But is Sofia now because of the footstool big enough for her hidden wish to finally come true?



### Details:

Picture book

20,5 x 26 cm | 32 pages | colour illustrations

Hardcover | age 4+

**Text available in English.**

### Selling points:

Boredom can awaken children’s playfulness and imagination, and the picture book *The Wooden Footstool* draws attention precisely to this “lost” virtue. With a wooden footstool, that is, with imagination, “you reach higher and overcome obstacles. But if you hide it in a shed, it becomes covered with dust.” The intertwining of the real and the imaginary is constantly supported by the alternating colour scale – and a story full of warmth comes vividly to life.

PICTURE  
BOOK



## Pick and Pocket – comic book series

Pick and Pocket. Two bandit pigs. They are the most thieving, most deceitful villains, cunning as foxes. The dumbest among criminals. The cutest among thieves. They also each have a sweet tooth and would do anything for a doughnut. They attract rogueries like a magnet. They steal cash registers, cars and paintings, but things never go according to plan, so they always end up behind bars. Not for long! Do not let their silliness and cuteness fool you!

The adventures of Pick and Pocket and their encounters with Inspector Joe have completely won over Slovenian children, while comic books about them have also started to be read with zest in Croatia, Spain, and Catalonia. Readers fall for Pick and Pocket's witty dialogues and humorous illustrations, the combination of which is a guarantee for explosions of laughter.



### Majda Koren

is one of the best-loved Slovenian children's authors. She has been writing for children since 1982. Besides her writing career she is a primary school teacher, which enables her to find the subjects for her books in every corner. No wonder her stories are so witty, optimistic and full of humorous details! She received the Večernica Award for her book *Eva and the Goat* in 2006 (in 2008 the same book was included in The White Ravens Catalogue) and the Levstik Award for *Mitzi from 2A*.

### Damijan Stepančič

graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana. Soon after completing his studies in painting, his attention was drawn to illustration as it offers more possibilities for the exploration of different media. He has so far illustrated almost a hundred books, co-created many comic books, and had several independent exhibitions in the field of illustration. He has also illustrated around a hundred textbooks, exercise books, handbooks for teachers, and other educational material, as well as more than 120 articles in children's magazines. He has received a number of Slovenian and international awards for his illustrations.



Comic  
book  
series

#### Details:

Comic books

20 x 26 cm | 56–66 pages | colour illustrations

Hardcover | age 6+

**Texts available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Spain, North America, France, Italy, Poland, Croatia





# Stone-Eaters

Stone-Eaters belong to the *Petrofagus* genus. Their common trait is that they eat rocks, and they are extremely shy and hard to spot. Despite the considerable difficulty of studying Stone-Eaters and their habits, a diligent and dedicated team of experts has managed to collect enough credible data over more than fifty years to publish this book. Enter the world of these marvelous creatures, open your eyes, and sharpen your ears – perhaps you will notice a Stone-Eater nearby. Who knows, you might even discover a new species!

As readers delve into this cleverly crafted (pseudo)scientific portrayal of Stone-Eaters, they are in for a delightful journey. Within the descriptions of Stone-Eaters, they will uncover concealed humour, allusions, and references to diverse cultural and natural phenomena across the globe. Enhanced by exquisite illustrations by Galina Miklínová, this book promises to captivate readers of all ages.



## Aksinja Kermauner

is a professor of Slovenian language and visual arts, a tiflopedagogue, writer and poet. In her works, she draws attention to the challenges faced by blind, visually impaired, and deaf individuals. She wrote the first Slovenian tactile book for visually impaired children, which was chosen as an outstanding achievement at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. So far, she has published 39 fiction books for children, young adults, and adults, along with numerous articles and three monographs in the field of individuals with special needs.

## Janja Plazar

has a PhD in biology and is a lecturer at the Faculty of Education, University of Primorska. Her scientific work focuses on the field of science education, as well as on teaching science to blind and visually impaired students. The book on microorganisms titled *The Secret World of Tiny Creatures*, which she co-authored with writer Dima Zupan, received recognition for excellence as an original Slovenian youth educational book. Together with Aksinja Kermauner, she created *With Fingertips to the Stars*, the first tactile book about the universe.

## Galina Miklínová

is a Czech illustrator and animated film director. She is the author of the popular animated series *O Kanafáskovi* and five original short films. In collaboration with writer Pavel Šrut, she brought to life the *Lichožrouti* trilogy, receiving awards such as the Magnesia Litera 2009, Most Beautiful Book of the Year 2009, and the Magnesia Litera Book of the Decade. She has illustrated over 30 books for children.



NEW

### Details:

20 x 22 cm | 56 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 9+

**Text available in English.**

### Selling points:

Funny book about a special species! Great for family reading. *Stone-Eaters* possesses the qualities of a crossover work. For instance, adults will burst into laughter at the Tumbling or Intoxicated Stone-Eater, known in the Anglo-Saxon world as the Rolling Stone Eater, while the authors provide witty explanations for younger readers in such cases. Inquisitive children will have an enjoyable time reading imaginative descriptions, and the key to identifying Stone-Eater species, revealed by the authors, will further immerse them in the world of exploration.



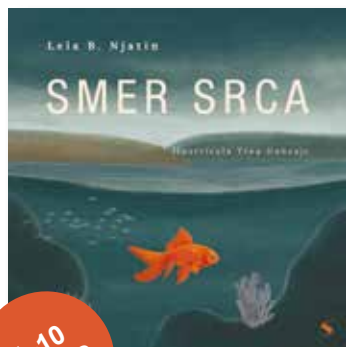
Lela B. Njatin

Tina Dobrajc

## Direction of the Heart

A little fish finds herself in a completely new environment. Is this the sea – the place of freedom of which all the fish in the aquarium spoke? No, she soon comes to learn that while her freedom is now greater, it is still not unlimited. Her precious confidant, the little girl from the edge of the water fountain, offers her comfort and new insights, and the little fish, after many trials, faces her future courageously.

The public fountain in Kočevje, a small town in Southeast Slovenia, features a beautiful bronze statue of a sitting girl with a flute from which water sprays (the statue was made by Stane Jarm). It is this town fountain with the bronze girl that inspired Lela B. Njatin to write a poetic tale of a search for freedom and for one's own identity.



### Details:

23 x 23 cm | 40 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 5+  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to: North Macedonia**

### Selling points:

This poetic text is concerned with life's crucial questions: what is freedom and where can it be found? How do we find our way in the world? Well, listen to friends and to wise older people and, above all – to your heart. Beautifully written and illustrated, this book inspires us to trust our instincts and the correctness of our own decisions, offering courage for a bold step into the future. It will speak powerfully to both children and sensitive adults.

5-10  
YEARS



Jana Bauer

Bojana Dimitrovski

## Ding Dong Stories

*Ding-dong. Who is at the door?*

*Ding Dong Stories* won't allow you to shut your eyes for a second! In this superb series of stories, which can be read from both sides of the book from two different perspectives, you will meet ninjas, a witch and an alien. You will have to deal with rude pirates, make a cake for the aunt of the Water Man and write a poem to defeat a fearless knight! These funny and beautifully written stories are suitable for all readers, including those who have just learned to read.



### Details:

15 x 21 cm | 128 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 5+  
**Sample translation available in English.**

**Rights sold to: Germany, Croatia, Ukraine, Spain, UAE**

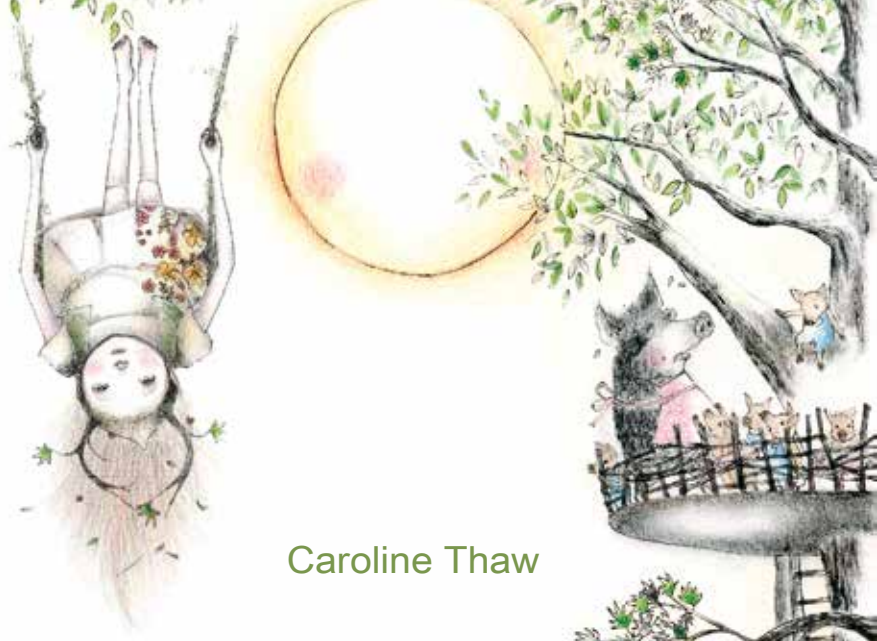
### Awards and nominations:

Desetnica Award 2020.

### Selling points:

Not only funny, but also subtly educational.  
All the stories are told from a girl's and a boy's point of view. Easy to identify with: the stories are written in second-person singular.

5-10  
YEARS

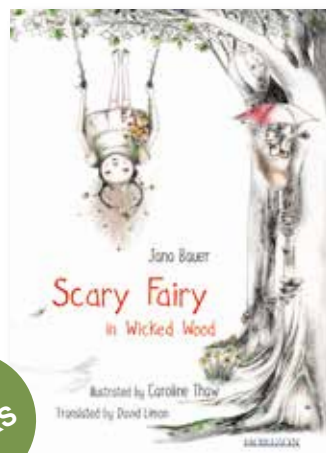


Jana Bauer

Caroline Thaw

## Scary Fairy in Wicked Wood

All of a sudden Scary Fairy lands at the whim of the South Wind in Wicked Wood. Banished by her grandmother after breaking one of her beloved china tea cups, she has no other option than joining the animals of Wicked Wood. But will they accept this mischievous and very cheeky Fairy? They have no idea how dramatically the stubborn, brave and crafty Scary Fairy will change their lives.



### Details:

15 x 21 cm | 104 pages | colour illustrations

Hardcover | age 5+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Germany, Croatia, Island, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Turkey, Serbia, UK, North Macedonia, Indonesia, Russia, Ukraine, Mongolia, India, Romania, Latvia, USA

### Awards and nominations:

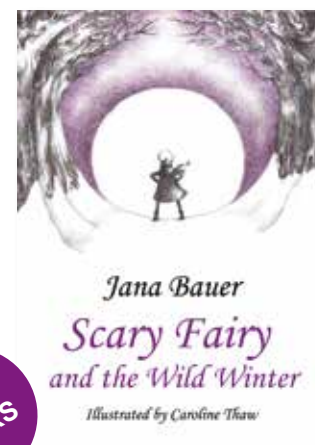
Nomination for the Desetnica Award 2012; Nomination for the Večernica Award 2012; the Golden Pear 2012; included in the list of best children's books in Croatia 2014; The Most Important and The Most Artistic Translation of the Year for Children, Lithuania 2015.

5-10  
YEARS



## Scary Fairy and the Wild Winter

The animals missed Scary Fairy immensely after she flew away in her teapot. In fact, they missed her so much that they built themselves an airship and set off to find her, straight into the Scary Fairy nest! When they bring her back, Wicked Wood once again becomes the setting for new adventures. You can expect an encounter with an ancient monster and with an exploitative squirrel in a red hat. Ringing a bell does not only conjure up a bilberry pie and the enchanted stone turns out not to be really that dangerous until you pick it up. And all this in the midst of a wild winter that spares nobody.



### Details:

15 x 21 cm | 159 pages | colour illustrations

Hardcover | age 5+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Latvia, Poland, Croatia, Lithuania, Spain, North Macedonia, Ukraine, Romania

### Awards and nominations:

Nomination for the Desetnica Award 2018; nomination for the Večernica Award 2018; the Golden Pear 2017.

5-10  
YEARS

Cvetka Bevc



Malgosia Zajac

## The Summer with Shooting Stars

It's summertime. Sparky the bunny is not particularly high-spirited, as her friend Fia is away on vacation while back at her home they're expecting a baby, and Sparky already feels that everything is revolving around it. What's to come?! Then, one night, that sky is flashed by shooting stars, and mum Jora sends Sparky to Frido the stargazer. But it's not only shooting stars that are falling from the sky – a cat, in fact a poet cat!, suddenly bumps in front of Sparky. All at once her summer becomes fun and full of adventure.



### Details:

15 x 21 cm | 142 pages | colour illustrations

Hardcover | age 5+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to: Estonia, Italy, Croatia**

### Selling points:

Cvetka Bevc is a writer with a keen understanding of the youngest, and a subtle sense of children's distress and fears. Her storytelling is not only witty but it also inspires zest for learning, courage, and love of life. She makes up a whole range of animals who come to life in images created by Malgosia Zajac. *The Summer with Shooting Stars*, warm tale of a bunny who is very quickly growing up while discovering the beautiful world of true friendship and first love, is perfect for first independent readings!

5-10  
YEARS

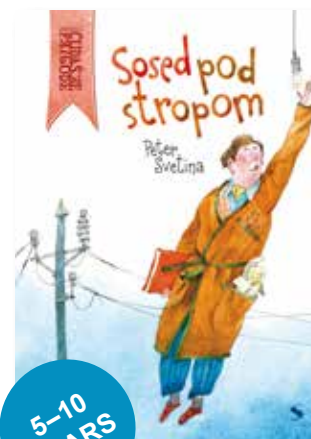
Peter Svetina



Peter Škerl

## My Neighbour Up There

*My Neighbour Up There* is a collection of quirky, happy, loving and cheeky short stories from a world where granny climbs into grandad's heart, where Mr Antonelo's elbow gets stuck in a house, while his neighbour Dodič is lifted to the ceiling by love. There is also a tiny man in a cup of coffee, demanding Mr Kravos's sugar, a fat baker, who secretly climbs into doughnuts at her bakery in order to lick the jam, and the narrowest street in which only very thin people live. The stories, full of verbal humour and nonsense, are unputdownable, and the lively wit has been colourfully enriched by the award-winning illustrator Peter Škerl.



### Details:

Illustrated short stories

15 x 21 cm | 104 pages | colour illustrations

Hardcover | age 5+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to: Italy, Estonia, Serbia**

**Rights reserved for: UAE**

### Awards and nominations:

Nomination for the Večernica Award 2017; the Golden Pear 2016.

### Selling points:

Peter Svetina, one of the six finalists for the Hans Christian Andersen Award (2020, 2022), found inspiration for the characters in the stories by observing strange people in real life and adding a plethora of fantasy elements, exaggeration, word play and eccentricity.

5-10  
YEARS



# Something in the Air

First, Brie makes a paper daddy so that her true dad can go off to Vienna on business while the paper dad can accompany her on a school trip. Then some other Brie takes her grandpa on a trip to Prague where, ages ago, he'd forgotten the phone number of an utterly charming colleague of his, Fiona. Prompted by sparrows, Carbonneau the merman starts a journey, too, coming right to America. Meanwhile the duck – the one with the eyes of a super falcon – is flying towards where we're living – but what's to be done when there are so many stories in the air, which need to be brought neatly to the ground.



### Details:

Illustrated stories  
15 x 21 cm | 128 pages | two-colours illustrations  
Hardcover | age 10+

**Rights sold to: Italy, Croatia**

**Selling points:**

Adventures full of warm humour, droll characters, and sparkling imagination! The stories making up *Something in the Air* speak of warmth and mutual affection, encouraging us to make contacts and to maintain relations – it's worth to make effort for family and friends. Meanwhile, the adventure called life just happens. The fact that the stories are laid out to us in linguistically agile sentences with particular heroes speaking in a style recognisable from afar is why teenage and adult readers will also enjoy reading them.

Peter Svetina

Damijan Stepančič



# The Blue Portuguese

In *The Blue Portuguese: A Little Novel*, we join Annie-Claire and Everett the rat who come to know, step by step, a land with its funny rules and weird dwellers. At once, we find ourselves in an unusual and at times grotesque fantasy world. Here is the Chronicler, who walks about with a paint roller called Penzel, and the upright General who dispenses orders like *Do not sneeze with your nose full, Do not eat with a full stomach, Do not laugh at bad jokes*, but we move on and find ourselves in grave danger: Guilia Government is the commander of a camp of forgotten children...



### Details:

15 x 21 cm | 124 pages | colour illustrations  
Hardcover | age 10+  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to: Italy, Estonia**

**Selling points:**

Using well-considered and ingenious linguistic means, the author brings about a finely imagined world imperceptibly mirroring the moral and ethical questions of every day. With a great deal of wit, and even a kindness towards human oddities and weaknesses, the author cuts into the deepest problems of the present moment, while he also very clearly points out the solution. Nonsense in *The Blue Portuguese* engages in a dialogue with the worldwide literary tradition, and the writer seduces readers with a charming imaginary story.



# And the Dragon Ate the Sun

In her skillfully crafted travelogue novel, Aksinja Kermauner doesn't just provide teenage readers with a literary window into another land; she also explores the uniqueness and struggles of the main characters. Their challenges become even more profound when faced in a foreign setting, and through their emotional experiences, they evaluate the complexity of China – a land that embodies wisdom and madness, kindness and despair, modernity, and a millennia-old culture.

The author, who has devoted decades to working with blind and visually impaired youth, places Sunčan, a nearly completely blind protagonist grappling with identity trauma, at the center of the narrative. *And the Dragon Ate the Sun* is not just an original travelogue across China but one of the most nuanced accounts of blindness, serving as a valuable guide for sighted readers.

## Review

The poignant narrative by Aksinja Kermauner masterfully combines the experiences of a blind first-person narrator with the voices of other students in unusual circumstances during their excursion to China, along with academically

sound reports on the history of this distant and little-known culture. Any reader of this book will struggle to put it down before they reach the end.

Meta Grosman: *Encounter with a non-European culture*, *Otrok in knjiga*

## Aksinja Kermauner

is a professor of Slovenian language and visual arts, a tiflopedagogue, writer and poet. For 25 years, she taught Slovenian language and visual arts and worked as a tiflo-mobile pedagogue at the Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired Youth in Ljubljana. In 2010, she earned her doctorate in the Department of Special and Rehabilitation Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education in Ljubljana. Until 2022, she lectured at the Department of Inclusive Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education, University of Primorska. She wrote the first Slovenian tactile book for visually impaired children, which was chosen as an outstanding achievement at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. So far, she has published 39 fiction books for children, young adults, and adults, along with numerous articles and three monographs in the field of individuals with special needs.



### Details:

15 x 21 cm | 300 pages

Hardcover | age 12+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to: Spain, Portugal, North Macedonia**

### Selling points:

Adolescence, romance and a touch of China. The novel takes teenage readers on a genuine journey and introduces them to another culture in all its complexity. Besides providing insight into the experience of blindness through the first-person narrative of the main character, the novel, with its well-drawn teenage characters, also explores numerous themes that resonate with teenagers, such as the search for identity, infatuation, crushes, and parent-child relationships.



# Snow

Once the districts Mist, Patch and Harbor formed a united city, but then Harbor was filled with concrete and asphalt. Between Harbor and Mist, a new, arrogant district named Elysium, full of glass palaces, sprouted. The city's landfill also expanded, encroaching on the old forest. Now the world is controlled by swarms of drones and order is enforced by so-called guardians, through violence and repression. Soon, there will be no place left for those who refuse to submit, for the non-conformists, for the undesirable... and also for many other things and people. For libraries and books. For trees and forests. For community.

In such a challenging moment, the paths of three teenagers, Ed, Oscar, and Yara, become intertwined. Each comes from their own world, and each is trying to find their path. However, they are unaware that they share a mysterious past, and delving into it may be dangerous... *Snow* is a novel about the coming of age and maturation of teenagers in critical circumstances, where their youth is defined not only by their personal stories but also by a historical moment that calls for rebellion.

## Marjana Moškrič

is a librarian by profession and she has had a successful literary career. She has published eight works for children and young adults, as well as a novel for adults. For her works, she has received several awards: her first novel, *Carbonado*, earned her a nomination for the Best Debut of the Year award, while *Icy Magnolias* received the Večernica Award. She also received the Desetnica Award from the Slovenian Writers' Association for two of her novels, recognizing them as the best children's and young adult works. She is a member of the Slovenian Library Association and has been a member of the Slovenian Writers' Association.



NEW

### Details:

15 x 21 cm | 256 pages

Hardcover | age 12+

**Text available in English.**

### Selling points:

Marjana Moškrič takes readers on an exciting journey of discovering those truths that transcend the world of superficial glamour, leading back to the essence, to nature, and to higher wisdom. Her latest novel inspires hope and strengthens belief in love and friendship. With plenty of dialogues and written in a fluid, engaging style, it captivates teenagers, making it impossible for them to put down until the last page.

Evald Flisar



## Alice in Crazyland

When Alice returned from Wonderland, she jumped into a mountain lake after her uncle, Professor Hopper, and they were washed ashore on an unknown island called Poterunia. You may not find it on the map, but Poterunia is a dusty land far away in the middle of an ocean, where inhabitants have used up all their resources except for poti. Everything is made of poti, which they excavate from beneath their capital city, Potington. Is it in danger of collapsing into the growing hole beneath it, despite the supporting pillars that Poterunians construct from broken poti products? Uncle Hopper, an economic adviser, is employed to find a solution. However, things are not as simple as they seem...



### Details:

15 x 21 cm | 205 pages | colour illustrations

Hardcover | age 10+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Germany, Latvia, Croatia, Spain, North Macedonia, Portugal, India, Indonesia, Greece

### Awards and nominations:

Short-listed for the Večernica Award 2010. Selected for the list of books, which youngsters read for the national competition of native language knowledge (The Cankar Competition).

### Selling points:

A fantasy tale, subtitled as an “ecological farce”, that deals with questions about the end of the world, post-human society and ecological catastrophe. The story also shows optimism, suggesting that children as researchers can be the initiators of progress.

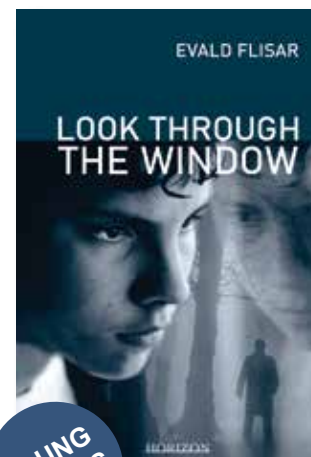
10+ YEARS

Evald Flisar



## Look Through the Window

On his fifteenth birthday, a boy receives a shocking present from his parents, who don't realise that he will see their act as a crime that will radically change his view of reality. Already mildly autistic from a blow to his head, he decides to drown in a nearby river which forms a border between Croatia and Slovenia, and is a popular crossing point for migrants. In the nick of time, he is saved by a Syrian refugee a few years his senior. Gratefully, he joins him in an adventurous journey across Europe all the way to London, where he discovers that nothing is what it seems. Along the way, the boy and his travel companion try to overcome their cultural and religious differences and align their ideas about friendship, liberty and equality.



### Details:

14 x 21.5 cm | 204 pages

Hardcover | age 14+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** Italy, Serbia, Croatia, Germany, India (Hindi, Malayalam, Bengali), Greece, Latvia, North Macedonia, Mongolia, Austria, Azerbaijan

### Selling points:

A multi-layered crossover novel touching upon many burning social issues. It is also a deeply moving story about two unusual friendships.

By using an economical, clear style, the author conveys profound messages concerning the present state of the world. *Look Through the Window* is a touching story about friendship between a human and an animal, a boy and his pig, as well as a story about friendship between a Christian boy and a Syrian Muslim migrant.

YOUNG ADULTS



Evald Flisar

## Evald Flisar

is a multi-award-winning Slovenian author and internationally performed playwright. His works have been translated into 41 languages, with 253 translations so far. Flisar has won the Prešeren Foundation Prize, the highest state award for prose and drama, the Župančič Award for lifetime achievement, three awards for Best Play of the Year and, in addition, 18 nominations for other literary awards.

# Soul Merchant

Now in his later years, Evald Flisar, the author of this unusual novel, embarks on a journey following the traces of his past travels. He wants to discover how much the world has changed in four decades, and how much his own “self”, which is becoming increasingly alien to him, has become different. He accidentally finds himself on Simba, a small island in the eastern part of Indonesia, where he encounters unusual people and strange events. The island, where the inhabitants cling to spirituality and ancient customs, has become a victim of an American merchant named Wilson, who exports life-sized carved elephants made of teak wood, while importing gadgets that will help him “modernize” the island and colonise it. The tense and humorous narrative, intertwining extraordinary events with profound insights, ultimately turns into a tragedy. Simba warns us about human greed, which relentlessly pushes the world towards ruin.

However, the author, who has 253 translations in 41 languages (which means that his works can be read by half of the world’s population), is interested in something else. To what extent does what we experience and what we imagine eventually merge into a mixture of both, where we can no longer determine what is true and what is imagined? To what extent is what we perceive as memories of past events, fiction? To what extent are we not much more than characters in a story that we ourselves create with interpretations of the events that befall us and the actions we choose in life?



### Details:

14 x 21.5 cm | 231 pages  
Hardcover | Fiction for adults  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to: India (English)**

### Selling points:

Surreal elements can be found not only in the story itself but also in the simultaneous presence of entirely different discourses: existential, colonialistic, and fantastical. Flisar’s language masterfully adapts to all roles. The humour ranges from sarcasm and irony to situational comedy. However, just as this novel defies easy genre categorisation, life is too complex to fit into neat boxes.

Somewhat ironically, we could say that in his misfortune, Flisar also has luck, as the key themes of his work – the multifaceted self and the journey – are extremely exciting and appealing to European subjectivity in general. In addition to

the fact that his novels are exceptionally readable and communicative, each time they unmistakably address something fundamental within us.

Majda Travnik Vode in the foreword to the novel

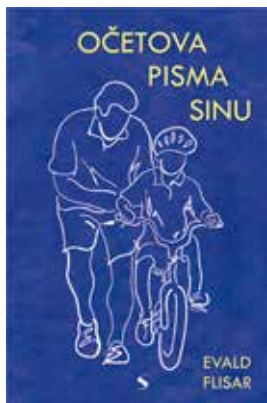
Evald Flisar



## Letters from a Father to his Son

*With these letters of mine, I'd like to guarantee you that your mum and I will always stand by you and that we won't fall out if you don't always follow our advice, as it's natural, indeed almost necessary, that you yourself decide about plans for your future. And a bigger or smaller share of rebelliousness is part of growing up. After all, you'll soon be a young man and then a man.*

"Letters from a Father to his Son is a well-considered selection of short conversational essays on different topics by which Flisar endeavours to explain the world, its workings, and the role of an individual in it to his son Martin. Flisar describes this in his typical idiosyncratic style immersed with many elements of his own publicly known biography, and with his own intimate reflections." Samo Rugelj in Bukla



**Details:**

14 x 21.5 cm | 260 pages

Softcover | age 14+

**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to: UAE**

**Selling points:**

The letters constitute interesting reading for all teenagers as well as their parents, as wisdom lovingly passed from father to son is universal, and it shows to the reader differently in different life periods. Evald Flisar addresses challenges and problems of life for which parents sometimes find it difficult to find the right words.

Evald Flisar



## My Kingdom is Dying

When the main character, a successful writer, experiences writer's block, he withdraws from his malign fate to Berghof, a Swiss clinic. A number of famous names in world literature are already receiving treatment there, from Martin Amis, Graham Greene and Saul Bellow to J. M. Coetzee. But is Berghof really what it purports to be? And what role does the dumb Scheherazade play in the novel?

*My Kingdom is Dying* is not just a hybrid of the genres of confession, detective story, memoir and fictional biography, but also a unique combination of fiction and metafiction, literature and meta-literary reflection. Readers follow a gripping story in which unusual events unobtrusively mingle with meaningful reflection and deep insights.



**Details:**

14 x 21.5 cm | 384 pages

Hardcover | Fiction for adults

**Rights sold to: India (English), Croatia**

**Review**

*My Kingdom is Dying*, subtitled *Storytelling at the End of the World*, is not only the sum, but also an

upgrade, almost *summa summarum* of Flisar's prose.

Matej Bogataj in Mladina



Evald Flisar

## If I Only Had Time

Lost in the imaginary landscapes of novels and films, 22-year old Simon Bebler learns that he is terminally ill and has at best a year to live. Now the young student wants to cram everything life has to offer into this radically reduced lifespan. Inclined to see himself in the roles of fictional heroes, he begins to live out all the stories he has read or seen on film and experience every mental and physical state a man can experience – good and bad, moral and immoral. He refuses to die feeling he has been robbed of life, so he decides to enact it with real dramatic suspense. But once the drama is set up, it quickly escapes his control. The narrative merry-go-round of this philosophical thriller poses questions faster than Flisar's characters can handle, let alone answer...

### Details:

14 x 24.5 cm | 279 pages  
Softcover | Fiction for adults  
**Text available in English.**

**Rights sold to:** USA, Poland, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Ethiopia (Amharic), India (English, Malayalam), Turkey, Indonesia

### Review

Flisar has proved once again that he is a master of storytelling and of sudden twists that frequently disrupt the world around us but

often happen only in our heads, where we have too many secrets and not enough information...

Milan Vincetič in Večer

Uroš Zupan



## The Archeology of the Present

In his essays, Uroš Zupan, with the calm step of a unique and lonely walker, leads us to thinking about books and, above all, about reading. Almost unwittingly, since this splendid poet and essayist is really just sharing his thoughts, we start to follow his reading passions and paths. With refined and measured gestures, he depicts those masters of words: Tomaž Šalamun, Aleš Debeljak, Švabič, and shares anecdotes, while in the background echo the poems that marked the decades of the past. Zupan again proves that he knows how to reveal the soft glow of the past and subtly listen to life, be it life that is realistic and real, or that between book covers.

### Details:

13.5 x 20.5 cm | 269 pages  
Hardcover | Essays

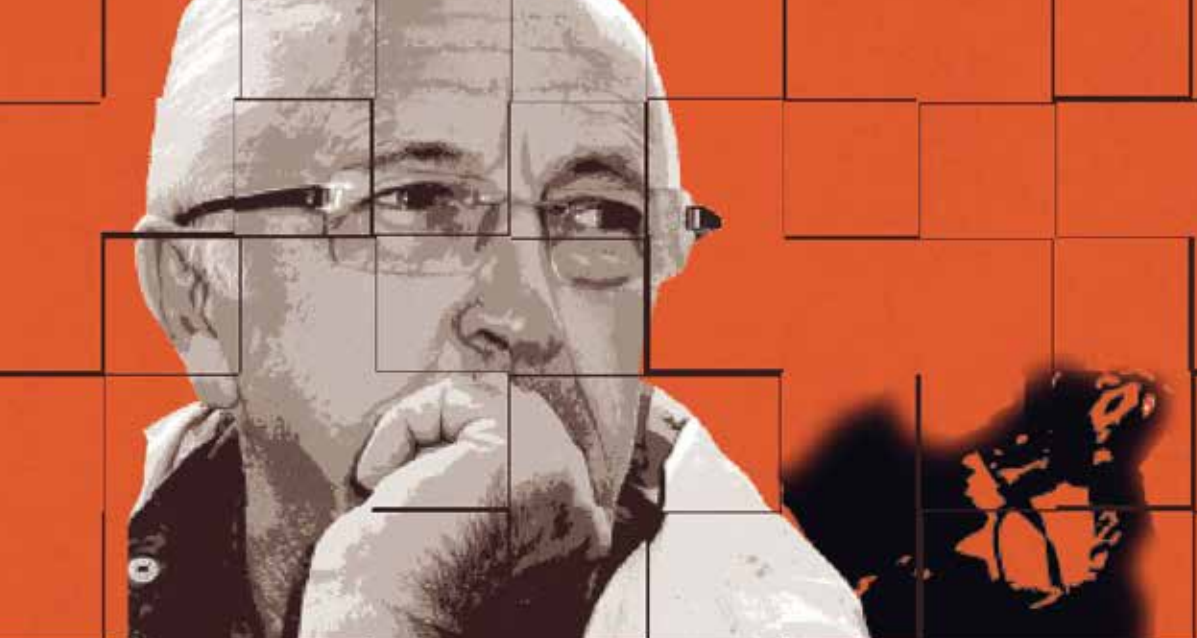
### Review

Zupan knows how to step into the artistic world of a person he writes about, into his way of thinking and his writing technique, to focus on the good and bad points of his work. The warm essence of his writing keeps the reader of the essays alert so that he follows the

writer between Azra and Peyton Place, Bukowski and Kovačič, to the last page. Since he not only enthusiastically consumes art, but also creates it, his discussions have a special lyrical mark.

Barbara Leban for Radio Slovenia, channel Ars





## Tone Hočevär

is a legend of Slovene journalism, a television presenter and even a cameraman when necessary, documentary-maker, editor, and the former editor of a pool of press agencies from non-aligned countries. He began working as a journalist in the early 1970s at TV Slovenia, for many years he worked as a correspondent from Latin America and the Caribbean, where he wrote the book *Volcanoes Do Not Die*. Between 1987 and 1992, he presented and edited Slovenia's main evening news programme, where he was one of the presenters during the country's war of independence. He also worked as a journalist at the television foreign policy editorial office. Tone left television in order to be the Foreign Policy Editor of the newly founded newspaper Republika and after it ceased publication he took on that job at the newspaper Delo. In 1996 he started working as Delo's correspondent from Rome, publishing in 2011 *Rome: Eternal and Holy, Transient and Secular*.

# A Correspondent From Havana

*A Correspondent from Havana* leads us behind the scenes of bloody dictatorships, political machinations, untruths and half-truths, and censorship, as well as doubts and dilemmas the author faced in his career as a journalist. It talks about friendships forged among journalists and describes vividly such exceptional events as a meeting with Gregorio Fuentes, Hemingway's boatman and the "old man" in his novel *The Old Man and the Sea*, a conversation with president Giulio Andreotti and taking part in the working breakfasts of Opus Dei. Tone Hočevär is a born storyteller, who draws the reader into the heart of stormy events when history was in the making. The book *A Correspondent from Havana*, which traces his professional path, reads like an exceptionally tense narrative, revealing what went on behind the scenes on the political world stage over the past five decades...



### Details:

14 x 20.5 cm | 374 pages  
Hardcover  
Documentary memoir



### Details:

14 x 20.5 cm | 278 pages  
Hardcover  
Documentary memoir

# The Hairy Bunch

Once again Tone Hočevär comes through as a brilliant storyteller: he intertwined the stories of dog heroes – including a rescue dog, a therapy dog, a dog who learned to give warning when it was necessary to act in diabetes, and even a movie star dog – with memories of his childhood and of his living around the world. "It's much, truly much to their credit that in many places I'd got hold of behind-the-scenes insights and truths that otherwise I would not have known. In Mexico, in Cuba, and in Italy," writes Hočevär. Everywhere where he was stationed, he and his family were accompanied by – pups. Come to know the mischievous, the sharp, the hunting, and the cuddly little dogs that enriched the life of Hočevärs, or even saved it at times. Three four-legged family members lay at his feet when he was writing the book just like they did during his journalist career.

## Review

I can say without hesitation that there has never been a book like Hočevär's *The Hairy Bunch*, and not just in Slovenia. (...) *The Hairy Bunch* is a remarkable book. Finely written, without any airs or the writer's showing off his knowledge, experience, or importance, with just the right balance of the popular and the scientific, the funny and the tragic, the canine and the human, the domestic and the foreign, of personal memories and of

other people's stories. However, it is vital and precious that in addition to dogs, Tone Hočevär loves people, that he loves approaching them and keeping them company and that despite all his cosmopolitanism, he's remained a simple boy from the rural Koseze. "The world would have been void without mongrels," he wrote. It would also be void and dull without people like Tone Hočevär.

Katarina Mahnič for Radio Slovenia, channel Ars



# KUD Sodobnost International

**KUD Sodobnost International** was founded in 2004 and has been publishing books for adults and children ever since, specializing in picture books and quality fiction. Many books have been nominated for major prizes (for stories and/or illustration and book design), with quite a few actually winning the prizes, including the Most Beautiful Slovenian Book of the Year Awards. We are proud that our children's programme is recognized for outstanding quality by the Slovenian Centre for Youth Literature.

## CONTACT

**Foreign Rights: Katja Kac**

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00386 1 4372101

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*sodobnost*

## Translation and printing grants

Slovenian Book Agency awards grants to foreign publishers for translations of literary works by Slovene authors. Additionally, it awards Trubar grants that cover up to 70% of printing costs.

## Contact for translation and Trubar grants:

Slovenian Book Agency

[www.jakrs.si](http://www.jakrs.si)

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