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CHILDREN'S
BOOKS FROM
GEORGIA
2016

CHILDREN'S BOOKS FROM GEORGIA 2016

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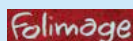
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Cover illustration by Ana Chubinidze

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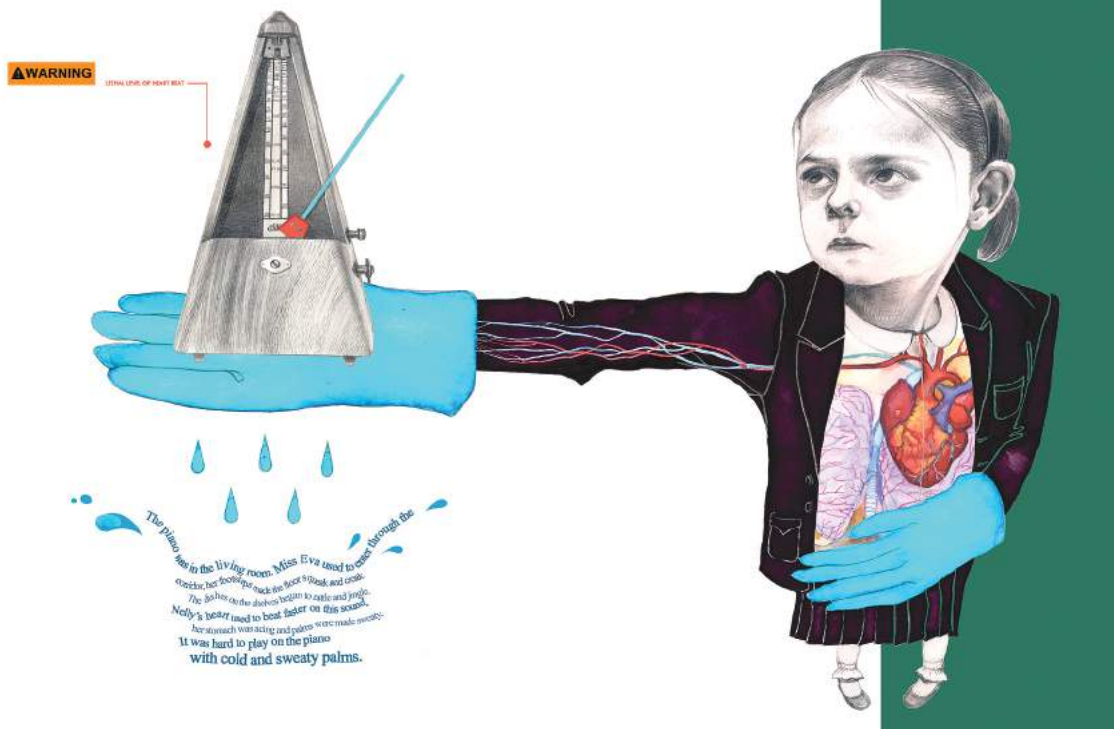
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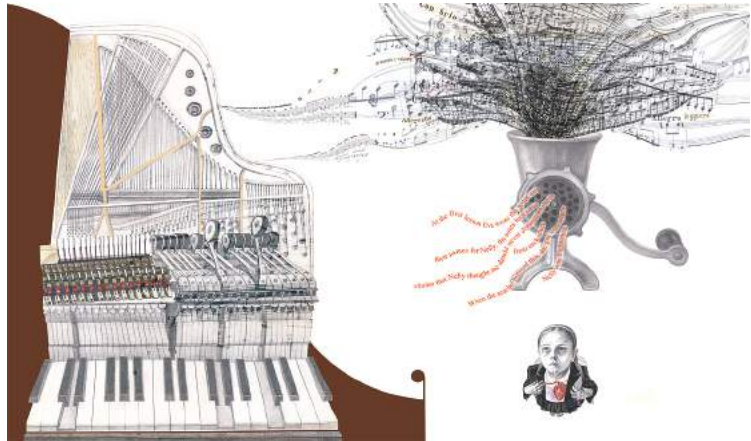
INTERNATIONAL CHARITY FOUNDATION CARTU
საერთაშორისო საკეთილშობილო ფონდი კარტუ





Born 1987. Author and illustrator of children's books. Also works on various artistic crafts. Winner of the GALA Award of the Tbilisi City Hall for the illustrated Book of the Year 2012. Worked as art teacher with visually handicapped children. Member of Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2009.

Tools: painting, collage, printmaking, mixed media, enamel.

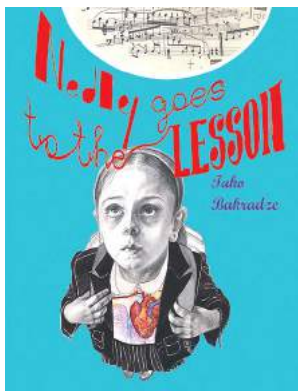


Tako Bakradze / Nelly Goes to the Lesson

This book is about how misgiving our childish perceptions may be. It's also about children feeling annoyed when they can't make decisions on their own and must depend on adults will. 8-year-old Nelly is afraid of her music teacher. She sneaks away from her lessons and passes her time drawing mean pictures of her teacher. When this becomes known to her parents, Nelly hides in a park where her music teacher finds her and sees her drawings. Next day she takes her to her friend, an art teacher who will teach Nelly to draw.



Category: Fiction, picture book
 Features: Hardcover, full color, 40 pages
 Rights: Tako Bakradze
 takobaqradze@yahoo.com





Born 1991. Freelance graphic designer and illustrator. Member of Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2013.

Tools: acrylic, crayon, collage.



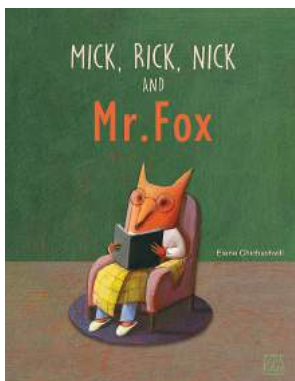
Category: Fiction, picture book
 Features: Hardcover, full color, 32 pages
 Rights: Elene Chichashvili
 elenechichashvili@gmail.com



Elene Chichashvili / Mick, Rick, Nick and Mr. Fox

While in many stories bunnies are presented as fluffy and peaceful and the fox is mostly thought to be cunning and sneaky, this book shows them from a different angle. The story also shows that sometimes one may cause trouble on oneself, and help may come from the least expected source.

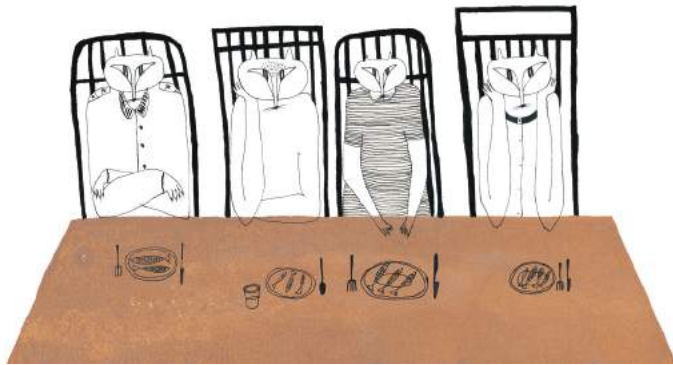
Mr. Fox lives on a small farm and his life would be pleasant and quiet like himself, if it were not for the three rabbits – Mick, Rick and Nick, who constantly play tricks on him. But one day the three get caught in a trap they had set for Mr. Fox. They would sit there up to this day had not Mr. Fox come to rescue them.





Born 1992. Artist and illustrator. Also creates art books and photo books. Winner of the Tbilisi Picture Book Idea Award 2015. Selected for the Bologna Illustrator's Exhibition 2016. Member of Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2012.

Tools: drawing, printmaking, mixed media, photography.



Khatia Chitorelidze / The Fox Family

The book shows, that animals and humans have similar everyday regime. They experience the feelings like us: they desire, get happy or sad and have their own business like we do. They mark and defend their territory like us. While we go to work, their work is to hunt.

This is a diary of a fox family, which members have different characters and desires. The book tells us about their daily routine: shopping, having dinner, going swimming together and etc.



Category: Fiction, picture book

Features: Hardcover, full color, 32 Pages

Rights: Khatia Chitorelidze

khatiachitorelidze@gmail.com





Born 1990. Author, illustrator and animation film maker. She worked in several Georgian publishing houses as an illustrator and pop-up book designer. She has done various workshops for children and adults about pop-up book techniques. Member of the Book Art Center Tbilisi and Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2012. Ana Chubinidze's book and animation film project *The Pocket Man* will be the first Georgian-French co-production financed by the Georgian and French National Film Centers.

Tools: acrylic, printmaking, crayon, pop-up, collage, sculpture, animation.



Ana Chubinidze / *The Pocket Man*

A story about friendship, sharing, and caring about each other. It shows that even somebody who seems helpless himself can give a lot to others. Little Edgar lives in a big city, in a small box by the sidewalk. He is so tiny that nobody notices him, but he is very happy in his little world, curious about everything happening around him. He is especially fascinated by books and reading, and is happy about any written piece of paper he can find. One day a heavy rain comes and the little man saves himself by clinging to the clothes of a blind old man passing by. This is how he gets into the blind man's house – a new world full of books. A wonderful friendship starts between Edgar and the old man, and both are happy they found each other.

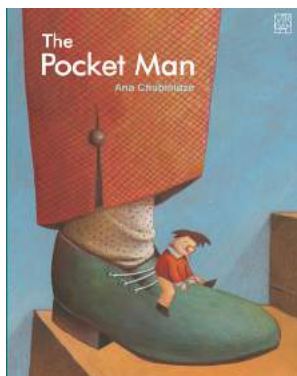


Category: Fiction, picture book

Features: Hardcover, full color, 48 pages

Rights: Ana Chubinidze

anabookart@gmail.com





Born 1982. Author and illustrator of children's books. Winner of the Tbilisi Picture Book Idea Award 2015. Member of Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2010.

Tools: drawing, painting, printmaking, graphic programs.



Sonia Eliashvili / I Am A Bus

'I am a bus and every day I ride many passengers on their business. They are all different and go to different places. Mrs. Boyce hurries to her patients, Mr. Joyce is going to visit his dentist and Mrs. Dudley is taking her dog Lulu to a beauty salon. Little Amy is hurrying to the kindergarten where she's going to play with her friends. And at the end of the day, when I have safely delivered everybody, I go home where other buses wait for me.'

The story, awarded at the Tbilisi Picture Book Idea Award 2015, shows how different people are and how interesting it can be to observe them.



Category: Fiction, picture book

Features: Board book, full color, 34 pages

Rights : Sonia Eliashvili

sopoeli@gmail.com

FENRIR

Son of **LoKi** Father of **Sköll** and **Hati**



High says that Odin sent the gods to gather the children and bring them to him. Upon their arrival, Odin threw Jörmungandr into "that deep sea that lies round all lands", and then threw Hel into Niflheim, and bestowed upon her authority over nine worlds. However, the AEsir brought up the wolf "at home", and only Týr had the courage to approach Fenrir, and give Fenrir food. The gods noticed that Fenrir was growing rapidly every day, and since all prophecies foretold that Fenrir was destined to cause them harm, the gods formed a plan. The gods prepared three fetters: The first, greatly strong, was called Leyding. They brought Leyding to Fenrir and suggested that the wolf try his strength

with it. Fenrir judged that it was not beyond his strength, and so let the gods do what they wanted with it. At Fenrir's first kick the bind snapped, and Fenrir loosened himself from Leyding. The gods made a second fetter, twice as strong, and named it Dromi. The gods asked Fenrir to try the new fetter, and that should he break this feat of engineering, Fenrir would achieve great fame for his strength. Fenrir considered that the fetter was very strong, yet also that his strength had grown since he broke Leyding, yet that he would have to take some risks if he were to become famous. Fenrir allowed them to place the fetter. (1)

When the AEsir exclaimed that they were ready, Fenrir shook himself, knocked the fetter to the ground, strained hard, and kicking with his feet, snapped the fetter - breaking it into pieces that flew far into the distance. High says that, as a result, to "loose from Leyding" or to "strike out of Dromi" have become sayings for



when something is achieved with great effort. The AEsir started to fear that they would not be able to bind Fenrir, and so Odin sent Freyr's messenger Skírnir down into the land of Svartálfaheimr to "some dwarfs" and had them make a fetter called Gleipnir. The dwarves constructed Gleipnir from six mythical ingredients. After an exchange between



8

Born 1981. Illustrator, freelance designer and artist. Has lead numerous workshops on printmaking at the Book Art Center Tbilisi. The artful pencil drawings by Gio Jincharadze, loaded with detail and allusions to mythical motifs, have won the Tbilisi Picture Book Idea Award at the Tbilisi Book Days 2015. Member of Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2012.

Tools: drawing, painting, printmaking, graphic programs.

Little Red Riding Hood

The story unfolds around a girl called Little Red Riding Hood. The girl walks through the woods to deliver food to her sickly grand-mother. She had the order from her mother to stay strictly on the path.

A mischievous wolf sees that the girl and the food in the basket she secretly carries her behind her, he approaches Little Red Riding Hood and she is only able to turn when she is going, he suggests that the girl pick some flowers, which she does. In this meantime, he goes to the grandmother's house and gets ready by pretending to be the girl. He waits for the grandmother while and waits for the girl, disguised as the grand-mother.

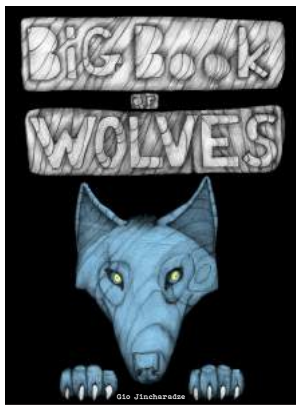
When the girl arrives, she notices that her grandmother looks very strange. Little Red Riding Hood says, "What a lovely voice you have!" ("The better to eat you with!"), "Goodness, what big eyes you have!" ("The better to see you with!"), "And lovely, what a big mouth you have!" ("The better to eat you with!"), at which point she had jumped at her, and ate her up too. Then he falls asleep.

A woodcutter notices the noise and with his axe cuts open the sleeping wolf. Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother emerge unharmed. They then fill the wolf's body with heavy stones. The wolf awakens and tries to flee, but the stones cause him to collapse and die.



Gio Jincharadze / Big Book of Wolves

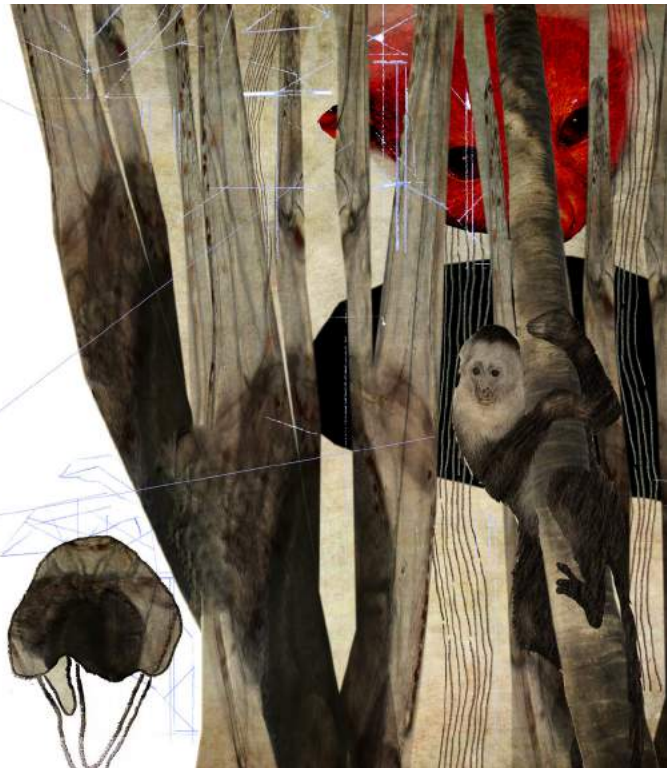
A catalogue of wolves from different fairy tales, legends, and myths. Gives out a different perspective, telling the story of the wolf in the fictional world. There are connections between wolves from different stories, and the book contains a family tree of wolves, classifying them in different groups.



Category: Non-fiction, picture book
 Features: Hardcover, full color, 32 pages
 Rights: Gio Jincharadze
 giojincharadze.bac@gmail.com

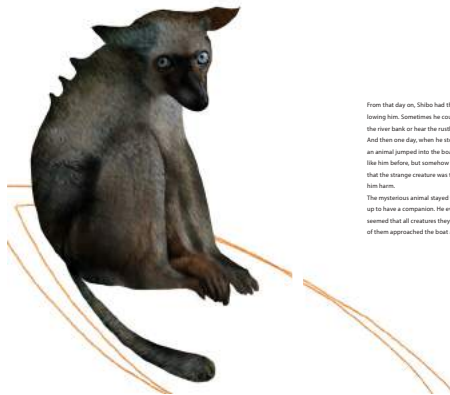


When the sun rose, he was already far from the village. He paddled on and on, rain fell in streams, and he could hardly see where he was going. Dangerous animals lurked between the trees on the river bank, shoals of piranhas swarmed around his canoe. He did not dare to leave the boat for long to pick some fruit; it seemed as if the river and all its creatures were against him. And there was no clue of where the land of the tall trees might be.

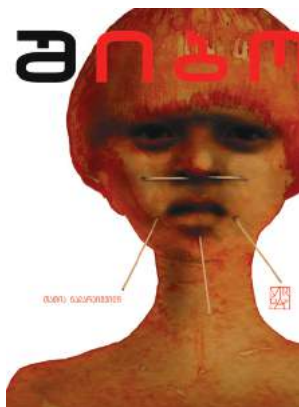


Born 1988. Author and illustrator of children's books. 2005-2011 studied Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. Freelance illustrator for various magazines and publishing houses. Has worked as an art therapist and art teacher. Member of Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2009.

Tools: mixed media, painting, digital art, 3D objects, printmaking.



From that day on, Shibo had the feeling that someone was following him. Sometimes he could glimpse a shadow flitting on the river bank or hear the rustle of leaves in the undergrowth. And then one day, when he stopped his canoe near the bank, an animal jumped into the boat. Shibo had never seen anything like him before, but sometimes he was not afraid – it seemed that the strange creature was there to protect him, not to do him harm. The mysterious animal stayed with Shibo, and it showed him up to have a companion. He even gave him a name – Maha. It seemed that all creatures they met were afraid of Maha. None of them approached the boat any more.



Tatia Nadareishvili / Shibo

Adventure story for 8-10 year old children about a mysterious journey where myth comes to life, a story of a boy who penetrates the barrier between reality and imagination on the quest of freeing the enslaved souls of dead children. Shibo, a boy from the Varao tribe in the Orinoco delta, loses his twin brother at birth. It is believed by the Varao that the souls of dead children are captured in the Land of Tall Trees – a place outside this world that can only be reached by following a river branch that nobody knows how to find. Shibo senses that he will not have peace with himself until he finds his brother, so he sets out on a long, dangerous adventure to rescue his twin even at the risk of his own life.



Category: Fiction, illustrated book
 Features: Full color, hardcover, 88 pages
 Rights: Tatia Nadareishvili
 tatia.nadareishvili@gmail.com



Born 1988. Author and illustrator of children's picture books, freelance designer with several publishing houses. Has worked as an art teacher at school. 2014 Virgam member Eka Tabliashvili spent a month at the International Youth Library in Munich with a scholarship from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Member of Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2010.

Tools: acrylic, gouache, printmaking, graphic programs.

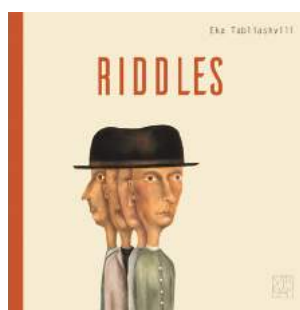


Eka Tabliashvili / Riddles

A cognitive picture book for children and their parents to guess the answers together. Riddles are part of different cultures. They are fun, educational and mind-opening. The riddles present in this book are gathered from all around the world and the illustrations convey the text word-by-word.



Category: Non-Fiction, picture book
 Features: Hardcover, full color, 40 pages
 Rights: Eka Tabliashvili
eka.tabliashvili@gmail.com



NATALIE DAVITASHVILI

In and Beyond the Fog



After the earth and the sky have separated, the entire world is wrapped in eternal fog and people fall into misery. The last hope of mankind lies with a tiny village nestling in the mountains, an exceptionally strong-willed old musician and an orphan boy. Only the Chosen can take care of those living in and beyond the fog, only the most valiant and pure-hearted can rid the rest of the world from this treacherous element.

The plot of the book consists of two parallel narratives. The first tells of Erekle, a 14-year old boy and his girl friend Gvantsa, who live in the village of Guro, which is sheltered by Mount Tsroli. After a vicious attack from White Wolves serving the Fog, a colt with a holly mark on its brow is on the verge of death, but Erekle saves it. He fetches the Vedzi water known for its curative powers; more importantly, he sacrifices his own legs to heal the dying colt. Travelling with his fellow villagers to Vedzi, he comes across many strange creatures, escapes many dangers and eventually learns about his own exceptional destiny – he is the Chosen one. Meanwhile the Fog becomes stronger by the day, looming over Guro and threatening its inhabitants. Despite his lost ability to walk, at around New Year Erekle heads for Mount Tsroli accompanied by his devoted friend Gvantsa. Thanks to his friend's unconditional loyalty, he manages to climb the mountain, his candle ignites without fire and its light reaches the sky.

The second narrative focuses on the travels through the fog-wrapped region of the old musician Anania and a little boy Makhare. The old musician's sole wish is to free his native land from the encroaching Fog. Makhare suggests that they should try to reach the sky with their voices so that the sun shines down on earth as before. So they set off in search of a place from which they can make the sky hear their plea. After an arduous journey, on New Year's Day they reach the Sky Tree hidden in the heart of the holly forest of the White Mountain. The seemingly dry tree springs to life as Makhare plays his flute. Likewise, the sound of his flute breaks up the Fog and reaches the sky. Thanks to the efforts of Erekle and Makhare, earth and sky unite as they did before the Fog, while an army of Heavenly Warriors is sent to protect mankind from evil creatures. Eventually, the sky clears and its azure shines down on the world.

Sample translation available in English.

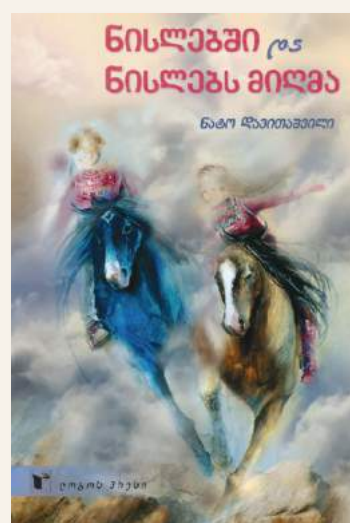
*Born in 1964, Natalie Davitashvili is a writer of fantasy fiction. She had already written few tales for children, but her real career as a writer began after 2000 when she set about creating original texts in a successfully chosen genre: children's fantasy. Her first book *The Story of Lile from Iro* was published in 2007. The following year, she won the first prize in the Golden Feather competition for hitherto unpublished works of children's literature with *When The Winged Lions Return*, which was published in 2009. In 2010-2015 years four more books by Natalie Davitashvili were published, one of which won the GALA Literary Prize and instant popularity with readers. The author creates her own unique world. The stories of her creative works unfold within a world which, as required by the fantasy genre, has a strong logic and a firm structure. Natalie Davitashvili has a teenage son for whom she writes.*



Number of pages: 318

Published in: 2011 / Logos Press

Rights, Contact: Natalie Davitashvili
nato.davitashvili@gmail.com



NAIRA GELASHVILI

The Order of Great Dag



The work is dedicated to Dag Hammarskjöld, the Swedish diplomat who was secretary of the UN in the 1960s. Hammarskjöld was remarkable as a personally mysterious person of great spiritual depth and with high-minded ideals: he took an interest in the oppressed peoples of Africa, did all he could to bring agreement and peaceful co-existence among them. But it was in African skies that his aircraft *Albertina* was blown up in 1961. Dag and his fifteen young followers perished. The introduction to the novel, where Dag's story is told, tells us: 'In general, the story is more real than reality. And here we should note the real truth, which is that Dag and his friends are alive and are still carrying on with their cause, albeit secretly.' The novel's action is driven by the order of great Dag, who does not appear in person. Only once are we shown a secret meeting of its members and leaders on an inaccessible African mountain. Dag is the patron and inspiration of the order, the 'prince of peace', but still does not appear. The peculiarity of the order is that, as well as human beings, animals and fantastic beings also appear as its members. In addition, some people may not even know that they are members of the order. Anyone who serves the same ideals as the order is a member and acts individually. The order has the secret of the 'art of reconciliation' and passes it on to its members. All over the world, but especially in bloody conflict zones, it has set up 'schools of the art of reconciliation', in which it teaches chosen persons. Most important are those who have themselves suffered from war. Reconciling two of these nations in conflict is the highest rung of the 'art of reconciliation'. Before that stage the members have to be able to reconcile two members of the order, two human beings, two families, two streets, and so on. The interests of the order require that two dragons, Zango and Dango, be reconciled: they live in the dragons' forest kingdom. All day they quarrel relentlessly with one another, and thus destroy living nature. The novel begins with their vicious quarrelling. The reason for this endless conflict is the lack of education of the little dragons, their senseless way of life and the dreadful boredom. Suddenly, strange beings appear in their lives: Saturn's children, a brother and sister who systematically steal away to their mother's world, because they are members of the order; a woman who gathers healing herbs, her friend a squirrel, a noble beaver, a little parachuting stoat, etc. Only after mutual reconciliation and after graduating from the 'school of the art of reconciliation', do the dragons become the being that once were representatives of their race – the Unbruised. Once upon a time the Unbruised sailed down through the air from Saturn. They were then powerful and beautiful beings: they had a third eye on their brows, as well as golden manes and wings. But because the chief mysterious law was broken, they gradually turned into dragons, and their forest kingdom was burnt down. The order now needs these two beings and they have to become great conciliators... their race and kingdom has to be resurrected. Finally, on Africa's secret mountain they become the defenders of a mysterious palace erected by the order of great Dag. Humorous images mingle with the sad ones, realistic ones with the fantastic.

Naira Gelashvili in translation / Rights of Gelashvili's novels have been sold in Germany (Verbrecher Verlag, 2016; Suhrkamp, 2000).

Sample translation of The Order of Great Dag available in German; Sample translations of The Giants' Green Island and Nia-Nia, a Refugee Girl available in English and German.

Born in 1947, Naira Gelashvili is a Georgian writer, philologist and civil society activist. She graduated from the faculty of Western European Languages and Literature of Tbilisi State University, majoring in German language and literature. Gelashvili began her literary activities with translations of German philosophy and poetry. The author gained popularity among readers for non-conformist prose, which eventually provoked a negative reaction from the Soviet authorities. Despite this, Naira Gelashvili has written a number of novels and short stories and has won several literary awards, including the Ilia Chavchavadze Prize for Artistic Work (2008). The range of Naira Gelashvili's literary writings encompasses novels, stories, essays, poetry and children's prose, as well as children's songs and musical tales. In 1994 the author founded and still heads the cultural-educational NGO Caucasian House Centre for Cultural Relations, which plays a significant role in the peaceful cooperation of different cultures and religions among the people of Caucasus.



Number of pages: 124
Published in: 2013 / Palitra L Publishing
Book Illustrator: Eto Gzirishvili
Rights: Naira Gelashvili
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BONDO MATSABERIDZE

Tales of Bekna and Tekla



The collection tells the fascinating adventures, heroic deeds and hunting stories of a boy called Bekna over a period of nine days. Bekna is a tiny boy with a brave heart, who longs to fight a giant at the very least. As a rule, every warrior off to war needs a good horse and good weapons. So, he has his toy horse ready. While he and his playmates are searching for a giant, they come across a pack of wolves to fight. The wolves are after Aunt Nato's goat which has been let out to graze in a field. Thus the first day passes. Then there is a second day, a third, eventually the ninth... but not a giant is to be seen. Finally, they decide to look for a giant in fairy tales, not in the forest. Bekna draws on a lot of tales from his ancestral home, but in vain: there is no giant in fairy tales, either. Then on the ninth day, the giant comes in person to visit Bekna together his offspring and asks Bekna to spend the winter with him. So the giant and the hunter make friends...

As for the girl Tekla, she could be called the little queen of the mirror who endows everyone with dreams, determination, the beauty of a butterfly and a bee's sweet nectar. But the point of a fairy story is that a dream should become reality, and reality a dream. These two fairy stories and two heroes, Bekna and Tekla, are mirrors of the child's spiritual world, bright and pure, perceptive and palpable. This makes both heroes enchanting and sympathetic. Who has not, as a child, dreamt of being a hero, of being extraordinary, of being beautiful? The fairy stories of Bekna the boy and Tekla the girl are exceptional in their warmth, humour and simplicity, and in the author's knowledge of children's psychology.

Bondo Matsaberidze in translation / Matsaberidze's stories and poems have been translated into English, Lithuanian, Armenian and Turkish. The rights on *Tales of Bekna and Tekla* have been sold to the following countries: Russia (Detgiz, 2015); Lithuania (Tykra Kniga, 2016); Ukraine (Astra, 2016).

Sample translation available in German.

Born in 1959, Bondo Matsaberidze graduated in 1990 from the Maxim Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow (Poetry Faculty). Back in his homeland, Bondo Matsaberidze established Alaverdi, one of the first independent publishing houses in Georgia, which he headed until 1994. Years later he founded another publishing house, Bakmi, which specialises in children's literature and fiction with high design standards. Matsaberidze is still the head of Bakmi. Since 1995 he has been a member of the Writers' Union of Georgia. He is the author of a poetry collection, as well as of a collection of essays.



Number of pages: 64

Published in: 2015 / Bakmi Publishing House

Book Illustrator: Rusudan Kipiani

Rights: Bakmi Publishing House

Contact: Rusudan Mosidze

bakmipublishing@gmail.com



SULKHAN-SABA ORBELIANI

The Wisdom of Fancy

Have you heard how a dog and a cockerel built a village, how a cruel Shah of Chorasmia became merciful, and how an artist, who had to paint a one-eyed king, managed to get out of trouble? Today's children are sure to enjoy these uplifting tales, which were written three centuries ago. The collection contains thirty of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani's parables and fables (they have been chosen from more than 300 stories) and are written in an elegant, easily understandable, refined language, using short phrases and crisp expressions. The author's text has been very carefully worked on so that the modern reader will have no difficulty understanding; at the same time Sulkhan-Saba's narrative style, manner and phrasing have been preserved unchanged. This book, designed with beautiful illustrations, is very agreeable reading matter for the whole family.

The author places the action in foreign parts and cities, and as well as human beings enlists as characters animals and birds. They are allegories of human relationships and aspects of everyday life.

There was one famous king, named Pinez. He had two viziers, the wise and noble Sedrak, and Ruka, the king's eunuch, a quick-tempered and alert man, who was evil, although, clever. Late in life the king had a son, whom he named Jumber. As tutor to the prince he invited a foreign youth called Leon, whom he had seen in a dream one night and then, while hunting, had found under a tree. Leon said that he would agree to be tutor to the prince if he could have a oath from the king that he would never be punished without a fair trial and an investigation. Leon became the prince's tutor, and used very unorthodox methods. Once, Ruka denounced the tutor to the king, saying 'Your son is being treated too cruelly.' The furious king summoned Leon and intended to have him killed, but Leon said that he had been given an oath by the king and that he could not be killed. A big dispute ensued. Leon defended his views on education. Ruka brought up opposite views. Sedrak was definitely on the side of Leon. The king summoned his son Jumber, tested him, and approved of the education, and entrusted the throne to him. In this work the dispute is mainly expressed by parables and fables. The fables alternate with legends, fairy stories, anecdotes, aphorisms, riddles, proverbs, and so on.

'Saba Orbeliani's *Fancy* is a fairytale, a parable, a fable, at the same time the face, the skin of an idea which gives our intellect and our moral nature a thorough, fully fleshed portrait, and teaches us sense, instructs us, trains our morality, shows us the choice we have between good and evil. Moreover, I would say, that he is blessed in the sense that he can reveal an idea and pass it on, he is the path and bridge of understanding, a living icon, with a great human magical power.'

/ I. Chavchavadze, writer, public and political figure /

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani in translation / Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani's works have been published in several countries among them: UK (Octagon press, 1982); Germany (Pop Verlag, 2015; Rütten & Loening, 1973; Wilmersdorf, 1933; Pierson Verlag, 1900).

Translation available in German.



Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani (1658-1725) was a famous Georgian writer, civic leader and diplomat. He belonged to a distinguished feudal noble family. He was often a guest at the royal court, where he grew up with his elder cousins, the sons of Vakhtang V, King of Kartli. He was entrusted with being tutor to the heir to the throne, the future Vakhtang VI. On a diplomatic mission he travelled to Europe and tried to have Georgia freed of its subordination to Iran and to the Ottomans. For this purpose he met Louis XIV, King of France. In 1724 Vakhtang VI decided to take refuge in Russia. For preliminary discussions, he sent Orbeliani to Moscow. The elderly writer was unable to complete his last mission, for he died in Moscow in 1725. He is buried in Vsesviatskoe (Moscow). Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani has left a deep trace on Georgian literature and scholarship.

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Number of pages: 76

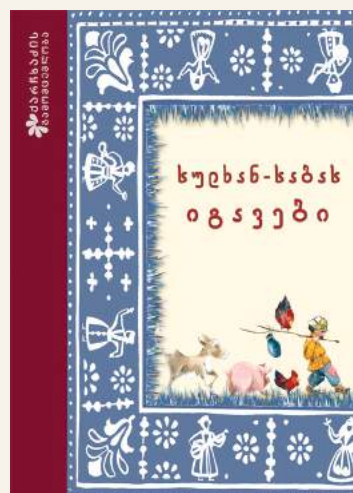
Published in: 2015 / Karchkhadze Publishing

Illustrator: Nino Gurabanidze

Rights: Karchkhadze Publishing

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GURAM PETRIASHVILI

Tales of a Small Town



Guram Petriashvili's book contains about thirty tales. Each story has something in common: a small town where every single strange event in the book has taken place. At first sight, there is nothing unfamiliar in these tales: birds live with people in the town and there are frequent winds; many towns have both a zoo and a fountain; the streets are walked by violinists and dreamers, such as a man who never laughs and a lover of rain, not to mention a painter and a hatter. But this town is unique, for little humans live in the trees with birds, a pensive tiny elephant walks the streets and a hippopotamus has escaped from a dream. Every single being – human, animal, plant and fountain – has its own soul, thought, dream, feeling and adventure. For more than twenty years Guram Petriashvili has been writing fairy stories about a small town where strange stories and miraculous events happen. This book is a collection of amazing stories. As the writer himself writes, *Tales of a Small Town* is for everybody in whom a child's heart still beats and yet you won't find in this book fairy stories in the classic sense: you will find stranger and rather different stories. Of course, there are no monsters or witches here. Nor is there a magician or a good fairy, dragons and wonderful beauties, nor princes and princesses, for example... Nothing of that kind, or the opposite: just good stories which, when you've read them, will make you good, generous, kind and, above all, better. Who are the heroes? An actor who fulfils children's dreams and a little dinosaur who has fallen in love with the sun and found the way to get to it; also a hippopotamus, which has had an interesting dream and finds its dream coming true. Here is the story of an obstinate man and a melancholy clown; there is another man who tames the wind, and a ballerina who is followed into the street by the theatre lights. A joyful painter walks about the town and a man who never smiles, a lover of rain and a man who walks on his hands, and all of them, absolutely all, have a lot to tell, to entertain little children with. After reading these fairy stories you will see a lot of things differently, you will feel more warmth and kindness, and you will believe that 'love really can do anything.'

“With his very deep subtext this storyteller talks to us about general problems of spirituality – those that the Georgian reader faces thanks to a totalitarian ideology, and those which he faces today in a period when everyday values are being reassessed.”

/ M. Tsiklauri, poet / newspaper 24 Hours /

Born in 1942, Guram Petriashvili graduated from Tbilisi State University (Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics) in 1964 and then in 1978 from the Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film University (Film and Television Production Faculty). He is the author and producer of film scripts and screenplays. He has also had a distinguished acting career. He has earned acclaim for his very interesting and character roles in more than twenty films. Guram Petriashvili is a writer, above all for children. No one can read his tales without being moved, the highest criterion for a writer.



Number of pages: 202

Published in: 2014 / Palitra L Publishing

Book illustrator: Nino Chakvetadze

Rights: Palitra L Publishing

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NINO SADGOBELASHVILI

The Theatre of Treasure



In a riverside town there is a puppet theatre where happy and mysterious puppeteers work. Among them is the Gaburi family – Gagi, a blind puppeteer who makes eyes for the puppets, his wife Eva, who writes the music for the shows, and their 12-year-old daughter Taya, who has inherited a white birthmark on her shoulder the size of an ash-tree leaf, a sign that she can expect an eventful life... Taya's friend is the artist Batu, who also works in the theatre. He comes from a town that no longer exists after a war, and the boy has found refuge in the Gaburi family, where he has undertaken to paint Taya's room, which is how Batu and Taya became friends. The theatre is getting ready for a premier: a play about *Amirani* (the Georgian Prometheus) is to be staged, although for some reason nothing is going right and the frustrated director, Leo Lediani, consults the clairvoyant Tsalulina, who tells the director of imminent danger... This danger is hidden somewhere, in some part of the theatre, which will soon become clear. On her ninth birthday, Taya's grandfather Leko reveals the secret of her family: their family has been cursed by a snake and that is why blind boys are constantly born in the family. The curse is connected with their family chalumeau which a distant ancestor Mindia took when he escaped from demons who had captured him. The chalumeau is now silent and, as a tradition says, when a red-haired girl with a birthmark is born and finds the tree from which the chalumeau has been carved, the musical instrument will regain its sound and the curse will be lifted. This is the tree to which the hero Amirani was chained... Taya gets to know the hunter Doro, who is to help her seek out Amirani. Doro has his own aims in this venture: once upon a time he lost his closest friend because of vengeance and this is whom he has to find. Batu will not let Taya go alone and leaves with her on this long journey. Their plan is this: on the last day of spring, Amirani has to sing his seventh song, and Taya must listen to this song to make the chalumeau sound out again, but to get to the seventh song they must find traces of the other six songs and recite them.

Born in 1980, Nino Sadgobelashvili graduated from the State Institute of Culture, specialising in literary technique. In 2007 the director of the Kutaisi Dramatic Theatre, Giorgi Sikharulidze, staged Nino Sadgobelashvili's play, *The Bombazine Paradise*. In 2010, with Avto Varsimashvili as producer, a film of the same name was made. Several of her plays have been staged in various Georgian theaters. Since 2012 she has been working in Tbilisi's Khomli film studio. In 2015 a documentary and historical film *Queen Tamar* was shot in Khomli, using her script. She is the author of two collections of poetry and novels: *Pregnant* (2010), *A Moment Here, A Moment There* (2014). She won LITERA 2016 prize by Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Writer's House of Georgia for *Theatre of Treasure* (fantasy) in the category of Best Children's Book of the Year.

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“Nino Sadgobelashvili's book is very varied in genre, it is a fantasy which has been put together in a masterly way, a fairy story, an adventure. If *The Theatre of Treasure* is translated into a foreign language, international readers will learn a great deal about Georgian culture, traditions, customs.”

/ M. Dumbadze, writer /

Nino Sadgobelashvili in translation / Sadgobelashvili's stories and poems have been translated into English, Lithuanian, Armenian, Azeri and Turkish. Rights of her novel *Refuge* have been sold to Turkey (Gece Kitaplığı Publishing, 2016).



Number of pages: 330

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ARCHIL SULAKAURI

The Adventures of Piccolo



What do you think, do ladybugs and fireflies have shepherds too? You think not? I'm afraid you're mistaken. Piccolo is a little ladybug shepherd and he can play the flute beautifully, too. One day he loses his ladybugs and begins to look for them. Night falls while Piccolo is searching and he comes across Camellia, a little firefly shepherdess who helps him to find the lost ladybugs. Piccolo wants to do her a favour in return and when Camellia tells him that she's never seen the sunrise, Piccolo promises her that for one night he will take over all of her shepherding duties and after that they will watch the sun rise together. But it doesn't happen, because spies from Lilliputia kidnap Camellia that night: the lazybones Prince Putty wants to play with her. When Piccolo hears about it, he decides to find his new friend and make his promise come true. To rescue his friend, Piccolo walks the earth and, in case anything should befall him, he has learnt tightrope walking and fisticuffs... When he reaches the land of poets, he gets to know Printa, the daughter of the prime minister and Chief Secretary of Savory Land. Meanwhile the Savory people have come out with a demand that an unfairly imprisoned footballer Trip-You-Up be freed. Whirlwind strikes everyone down, but Piccolo stands up to the prime minister's bodyguard. At the princess's command, the battle resumes, and Piccolo and his friends fight on and the dough is kneaded. The father puts on a big show for Hilario Buera's father: dressed as a tightrope walker, Piccolo does a somersault and lands deliberately in the dough-kneader's moustache, so that his identity is revealed. Piccolo and Whirlwind stand up to one another. Meanwhile in Savory Land tension grows: the locals are irritated by the tyrannical behaviour of the king and his prime minister: they rebel and are victorious. Piccolo helps his new friends, releases Camellia and shows her the sunrise. Years later, when they are grown up, they try to find Savory Land and their friends, but this is impossible, because, as the author explains, 'to find Savory Land and see it, you have to be as little as the people of Savory Land are.'

The Adventures of Piccolo by Archil Sulakauri is full of danger, action and numerous relationships and teaches us how big the strength of friendship is and what beautiful and impressive things friendship and kindness can do.

Sample translations available in English and German.

*Archil Sulakauri (1927-1997) Georgian writer and winner of the Shota Rustaveli State prize for children's literature, graduated from Tbilisi State University with a degree in Georgian language and literature. By the age of nineteen he was already a published poet. Sulakauri was head of a children's literature publishing house Nakaduli and editor-in-chief of the literary journal Mnatobi. He wrote numerous poems, stories and novels, including such acclaimed works as *Holiday on My Street*, *Waves Strive for the Shore*, *The Goldfish* and many others. Archil Sulakauri achieved immense success with Georgian audiences with his fairy tales *The Magic Dress*, *The Blue Deer* and *The Stubborn Rabbits*. His work *The Adventures of Piccolo* instantly became one of the most acclaimed children's books in Georgia. He also contributed to the Georgian film industry and wrote several popular film scripts. Archil Sulakauri is buried in the Pantheon of Celebrated Authors and Public Figures.*



Number of pages: 248
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Publishing House
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing House
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TEA TOPURIA

Tales Too Good to Sleep Through



‘These stories are for the little sleepyheads who are often late for school or nursery. They should be read at the crack of the dawn, in a loud, piercing voice. If your child still doesn’t wake up you can always pour cold water over him or her. I collected these tales in a part of Georgia which is sometimes scorching hot, where the mothers spend their days cooling down water specifically in order to pour it over their children,’ the author writes in the preface to the collection *Tales Too Good to Sleep Through*. The compilation consists of twenty-six fairy-tales and in the category of Best Children’s Book won the Literary Prize GALA 2012. The tales presented in the collection are recommended for pre-school and elementary school children. The book has brilliant illustrations by Iakob Gigolashvili. The structure of her fairy stories is based on opposition, inversion and reversal. What is needed to send children to sleep is used to keep them awake, domestic and wild animals change places, a woman wears her clothes back to front so that she can do exceptionally well, etc. The creator of *Tales Too Good to Sleep Through* explains ‘Suppose this woman didn’t exist; I’ll finish her backwards. Perhaps someone will read it and it will strike everyone in the opposite way.’ Something like a series of pseudo-finales follows: the fairy story seems to end, but as it ends, it is followed by the story of an existing fairytale’s publication and of the protest action made by parents against it. After that an omitted fairy story appears in the text, and after the omitted fairy story we get yet another conclusion... In short, this is no classic fairy story. ‘Sorrow here, joy there; bran here, flour there,’ is how the ending puts goodness and badness, everybody and everything somewhere other than their right place. In their entirety, the non-linear nature of the stories is a part of the contemporary literary experience and, as we see here, such a literary genre is allowed to be as organic, as is a fairy story. One fairy story, entitled *Ninika and the Magnetic Clouds*, happens in a land which other lands are hostile to, because it can’t always hold out against an enemy attack: this land on every occasion flees somewhere. The author considers that this is very like Georgia.

‘On the whole, Tea Topuria has a very individual way of proceeding, her own logic which she constructs, and everything in it is perfectly correct, yet when you stand back from it, it looks very strange. But if you grasp what is going on, you too will join in the game.’

/ L. Liqokeli, poet /

‘These stories are so heavily loaded that they really are export stories to be translated. Nevertheless, Georgian details, which characterise us, creep into them.’

/ M. Ldokonen, writer /

Sample translation available in English.

Born in 1977 in Sukhumi, writer and poet Tea Topuria graduated in 1998 from the faculty of Journalism at Tbilisi State University. Since 1998 Tea Topuria has been working as a journalist in the field of Human Rights and Environmental Protection. Currently she works as a journalist for radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty, Tbilisi bureau. Tea has written a collection of prose and poetry *The Mint Threshing Floor* (2007), a poetry collection *Ecocide* (2011) and a number of highly acclaimed books of short stories for children, including *The Holidays of Paradea* (2011), *Tales Too Good to Sleep Through* (2011) and *One Long Day on Another Planet* (2014), a collection of stories *Two Rooms in Cairo* (2016). Nowadays Tea Topuria is regarded as one of the notable authors in Georgia, contributing to children’s literature. She has been short-listed and has won many prestigious literary competitions.

4+

Number of pages: 168

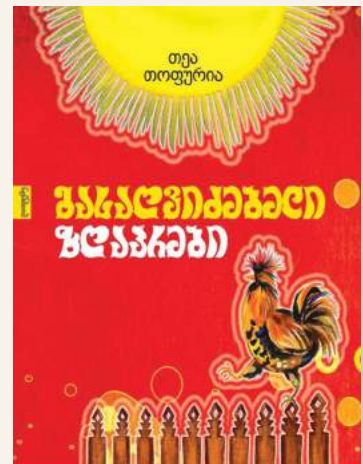
Book Illustrator: Iakob Gigolashvili

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