



2020-2021

RIGHTS CATALOGUE

CHILDREN & YA CATALOGUE



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LITERARY AGENCY SINCE 1962



## MANNARELLA (WERE-PUPPYDUCK)

AND THE KINGDOM OF TWO MOONS

by **Fabrizio Fedele**, Illustrated by **Rosaria Iorio**

**Marotta & Cafiero**, 24 p.

AGE: 3-7

TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

In the Kingdom of the Two Moons there is a rumor that a werewolf called Werebabyduck devours anyone who approaches the lake. One day a little girl falls into the lake. Will Werebabyduck devour her? It turns out that Werebabyduck is not an executioner, but the victim of people that pollute and hate difference.

**Fabrizio Fedele** is a musician and a writer. Author of short stories and novels of which *Koala* was awarded the award "Letizia Isaia 2007". **Rosaria Iorio** has won the Critics' Prize in the Duemila9 Calendar Competition for her illustrations in *Who Sleeps does not Catch Fish*.





Dreamscapes from *Mannarella*.





# FAREWELL TO LITTLE CATERPILLAR

by **Heike Saalfrank**, Illustrated by **Eva Goede**

**Echter**, 24 p.

CURRENTLY IN ITS 23RD EDITION

**AGE: 3-7**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Two friends named Schmatz and Schmierle once lived on a meadow at the edge of the forest. Schmatz was a caterpillar and lived in a beautiful flower. Schmierle was a snail, and he carried his house around on his back. Every morning Schmatz impatiently shook Schmatz bedflower and called: "Get up, you sleepyhead! The sun is already in the sky. Have you at least thought about what we could do today?" And since Schmatz mostly knew an answer to this question, they had a lot of fun together.

Until one day Schmatz rattled the flower in vain and Schmatz was gone...

A lovingly and poetically told illustrated story about togetherness and separation, about joy and sadness, which depicts death as a beginning, as the beginning of another life.

"I can recommend this book with its lovingly painted pictures and the appealing and comforting story for children in their final year of kindergarten and for elementary school students." Lesejury 18.11.2019





## THE TELEPHONE

written by **Kornej Čukovskij**, adapted by **Mauro Di Leo**  
and illustrated by **Arianna Papini**

**Atmosphere**, 28 p.

**AGE: 3 +**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

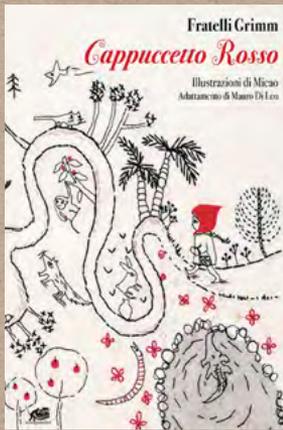
Drin drin. The phone rings and rings and rings! Drin drin. It never stops ringing. Incoming requests and more requests from his animal friends: the dove wants gloves, the crocodile asks for delicious shoes to eat! And the monkey, the bear, the stork, the pig... everyone is looking for the most absurd things. No hope for peace except, exhausted, going to the rescue of a hippo stuck in the mud.

A bright and rhythmic nonsense poem full of colors, written by one of the authors most loved by Russian children. The high visual energy perfectly interacts with the rebellious movement of the text.



**Kornej Čukovsky** (St. Petersburg, March 31, 1882 - Moscow, October 28, 1969) was a Russian poet, translator and literary critic, known above all as an author for verse tales for children. For his catchy rhythms, imaginative rhymes and absurd characters he has been compared to the American author for children Dr. Seuss.

**Arianna Papini** is a writer, illustrator, painter and art therapist. She studied art and architecture and was editorial and art director. She is active in promoting children reading and has published over 40 titles for children. Among other prizes, she received the Andersen Childhood Prize, the Palm Prize, the Compostela Prize, the National Book for the Environment Award. In 2011 she was selected for the IBBY Honor List.



## RED RIDING HOOD

by **Grimm Brothers** as adapted by **Mauro Di Leo**  
Illustrated by **Micaeo**

**Atmosphere**, 32 p.

**AGE: 4 +**

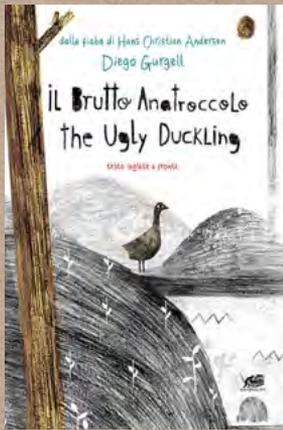
**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Who doesn't know the story of Little Red Riding Hood? How many times has it been written, rewritten and even modified? Little Red Riding Hood is a cheerful little girl and a little disobedient, who is bringing a basket of provisions to her sick grandmother. In the woods the little girl meets a wolf and...

The illustrations by Micaeo are first embroidered by hand on the fabric and then photographed. It is thanks to these images that this adaptation of the Brothers Grimm's ancient tale still manages to touch today's readers. «I want my art to remain in people's hearts and, through its warmth and humor, transmit the feeling of embroidery materials.

Mika Hirasa, aka **Micaeo**, is a painter and illustrator of Japanese embroidery. Her particular sewing technique earned her several awards, including the Kumio Tochiori Award in 2003. The book of embroidery Akazukin (Red Riding Hood of the Brothers Grimm) has not yet been published in Japan.





## THE UGLY DUCKLING

by **H.C. Andersen** as adapted and illustrated  
by **Diego Gurgell**

**Atmosphere**, 42 p.

**AGE: 4 +**

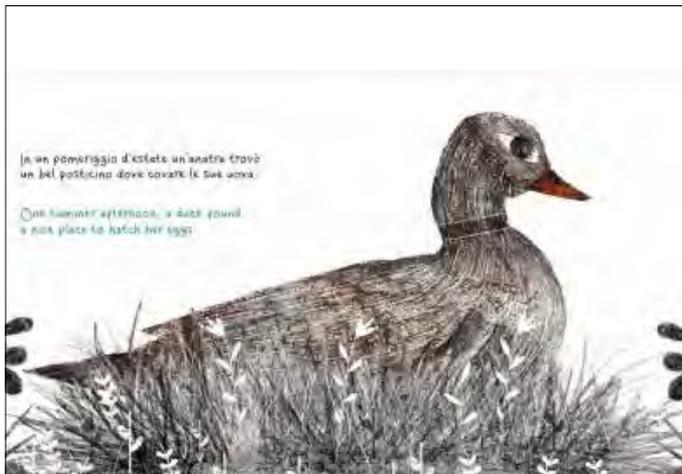
**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

A new take on an old classic: In the original version, dating back to 1843, the duck was, after all, a swan. So what was he expected to become in the end?

This book challenges the comparison of animals of different species and their labeling as “cute” or “ugly”: In this story, the “ugly duckling” is a duck from beginning to end, and conquers everything with its tenacity, not its appearance. The swan might of course be beautiful, but the duck, why should it be less?

Almost a metaphor for modern times, where a seemingly strange child or young person should not feel uncomfortable with those who are beautiful or who pose as the “group” decides.

Illustrations and adaptation by **Diego Gurgell**





## THE WINTER OF ANIMALS

adapted and illustrated by **Deco**

**Atmosphere**, 42 p.

**AGE: 4 +**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

How do animals protect themselves from the cold of winter? The bull proposes to the other animals to build a hut, but they refuse. When the frost arrives, however, the animals ask the bull to let them enter the hut and he accepts. But the hut is too small to house them all, so the fox comes up with a plan and together with the bear and the wolf chases away the animals from the hut.

A popular Russian tale of generosity and greed.

**Deco** began her experience as a cartoonist in 2001 creating the comic strip inkspinster, presented weekly on the website [www.inkspinster.com](http://www.inkspinster.com) and on Balloons. She has won several prizes and awards for satire contests, comics and illustration.





## KITTERELLA

by **Maddalena Gerli**

**Atmosphere**, 48 p.

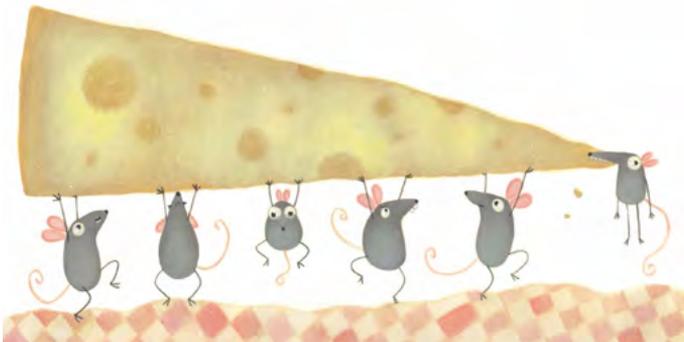
**AGE: 5-8**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Cats, among children's favourite animals, are the heroes in this fairy tale, vaguely inspired by the Grimm Brothers' Cinderella. Long ago Kitterella lived happily with her mother and father in a far away kingdom. When her mother died, Cinderella's father remarried with a cold, cruel woman who had two daughters. When in turn he died, Cinderella's wicked stepmother turned her into a servant in her own house. Meanwhile, the King determined that his son the Prince should find a suitable bride and provide him with a suitable number of grandchildren. So the King invited every eligible maiden in the kingdom to a fancy dress ball, where his son would be able to choose his bride. Cinderella had no suitable party dress for a ball, but her friends the mice and the birds lent a hand in making her one, a dress that her evil stepsisters tore apart on the ball evening.

At this point, the Fairy Queen, the pumpkin carriage, the royal ball, the midnight stroke, the glass slipper get in the game and the rest, as they say, is fairy tale history.

**Maddalena Gerli** is a freelance illustrator currently living in Milan. She graduated in 2008 at the European Institute of Design (IED), where she actually works. She has been awarded with national and international prizes among which the Italian Illustration Award in 2007. She has published for Einaudi Editore, ZOOlibri, Terre di mezzo, Walt Disney and many more.





## THE PRINCESS FROG

Adapted from the Russian version and illustrated  
by **Manuela Andreani**

**Atmosphere**, 28 p.

**AGE: 6 +**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

A classic of Russian tales.

The protagonist of this fairy tale is a very beautiful girl named Vassilissa the Wise who is endowed with magical powers, and who is forced by a spell to live under the guise of a frog. Vassilissa and his human husband, prince Ivan, are invited by the zar to attend a feast and in this occasion Vassilissa dismisses the skin of the frog and shows up as an elegantly dress lady. Price Ivan is charmed by the beauty of his wife (which he is seeing as a woman for the first time) and he destroys the frog skin. But that forces Vassilissa to leave him and run away. Ivan will go a long lenght to find her and free her from her bounding spell.



**Manuela Andreani** is a freelance illustrator. She has illustrated more than ten children' books, among them: *The Little Prince*, *Alice in the Wonderland*, *Les fables de LaFontaine*, *Esopo's tales*, *Peter Pan*, *Pinocchio*.





## THE COCKROACH

written by **Kornej Čukovskij**, adapted by **Mauro Di Leo**  
and illustrated by **Anastasija Mosina**

**Atmosphere**, 28 p.

**AGE: 5-8**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Help, there is a wrecker! Cockroach? Bug? A cockroach, that is a bad insect. All animals are frightened especially by his huge mustache ... Will they be able to get rid of him? Will it be a big elephant or a shy little sparrow who defeats him?

Who could imagine that an insect as bad as a cockroach would become the hero of a book? The animals knew no worries until a "scrounger" appeared among them. It was then that everyone "ran through the woods and through the fields, frightened by a pair of huge insect mustaches ..." But... would the shy elephants and crocodiles expect that a lively little sparrow comes and saves them? The happy return to normality of the animal family has been illustrated by Russian artist Anastasija Mosina. The story is the prose version of a poem by the Russian Kornej Čukovskij.

**Kornej Čukovsky** (St. Petersburg, March 31, 1882 - Moscow, October 28, 1969) was a Russian poet, translator and literary critic, known above all as an author for verse tales for children. For his catchy rhythms, imaginative rhymes and absurd characters he has been compared to the American author for children Dr. Seuss.

**Anastasija Mošina** is lead background artist in "Toonbox animation studio" and freelance illustrator.





## KAFKA FOR CHILDREN

THE BUCKET RIDER AND OTHER SHORT TALES

written by **Franz Kafka** and illustrated by **Strambetty**

**Atmosphere**, 32 p.

**AGE: 5-8**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

**The Bucket Rider:** A man is looking for coal to fill his bucket. He is a poor man and hopes that the coal-dealer will be generous enough to lend him some coal. He pleads for the coal and claims that he will pay for it later, but it soon becomes apparent that the coal-dealer and his wife are oblivious to his needs. The woman in particular ignores him, telling her husband that there is no one. So the poor man leaves them in anger for the region of the ice mountains where he disappears forever.

**The Bridge:** A bridge built over a ravine describes how it can connect both ends grasping onto each one. Helas, someone, or something, suddenly puts pressure on the structure and it collapses. The poor bridge's last words are to say it is breaking apart, falling upon the jagged rocks below.

**Crossbreed:** The story is about an animal that is half-kitten, half-lamb. The creature has characters of both animal breeds, yet also has distinctive attributes of its own as the peculiar eating habit of drinking milk while showing fangs.

**A Little Fable:** "Alas", said the mouse, "the whole world is growing smaller every day. At the beginning it was so big that I was afraid, I kept running and running, and I was glad when I saw walls far away to the right and the left, but these long walls have narrowed so quickly that I am in the last chamber already, and there in the corner stands the trap that I am running into." "You only need to change your direction," said the cat, and ate it up.

Elisabetta Barbaglia, aka **Strambetty**, born 1983, graduated in Communication Design at the Milan Polytechnic. She works as a graphic and she has illustrated books for Giunti and Atmosphere Libri.





## MY FIRST CARROL

PHANTASMAGORIA

written by **Lewis Carroll**, adapted by **Mauro Di Leo**  
and illustrated by **Strambetty**

**Atmosphere**, 32 p.

**AGE: 5-8**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

This is the story of a little ghost who visits a house with the intention of persecuting its owner. The meeting between the two starts a series of joke passes that is more fun than it is scary. This adaptation is conceived so that children can have fun and get to know something less usual than "Alice in Wonderland".

Elisabetta Barbaglia, aka **Strambetty**, born 1983, graduated in Communication Design at the Milan Polytechnic. She works as a graphic and she has illustrated books for Giunti and Atmosphere Libri.





## MY FIRST GOGOL': THE NOSE

by **Nikolaj Gogol'** as adapted by **Mauro Di Leo**  
Illustrated by **Strambetty**

**Atmosphere**, 32 p.

**AGE: 6-9**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

After disappearing from a man's face, a nose shows up in the city and takes his tour through the lively streets' life before returning to his rightful place. A poor man without a nose, a clumsy barber, a bewildered police inspector and, of course, a haughty nose who flees the city in a general's are the vivid characters in this bizarre story written by one of the greatest Russian writers, Nikolaj Gogol'.

Born in Cucciago in 1983, **Strambetty** graduated in Communication Design at the Milan Polytechnic and has worked as a graphic designer and illustrator since. She is the winner of the 1st prize at the 10th International Lace Biennial. Among her recent exhibitions: the Bambini oyster staff grow (Cucciago: 2011) and the collective Ciak si change (Vignoli di Seregno Museum: 2012), The passion for crime (Villa Greppi di Monticello Brianza: 2010), The art of fishing, fishing in art (Castel di Sangro: 2010), Nobody has seen us - Visual noise Festival (Villa Reale di Monza: 2010).





## MY FIRST DOSTOEVSKIJ: THE CROCODILE, AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE

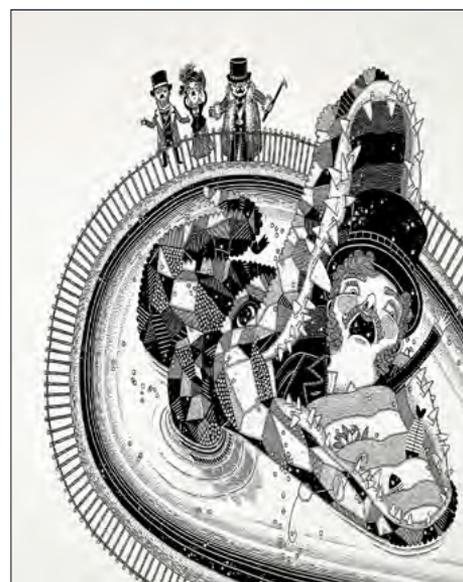
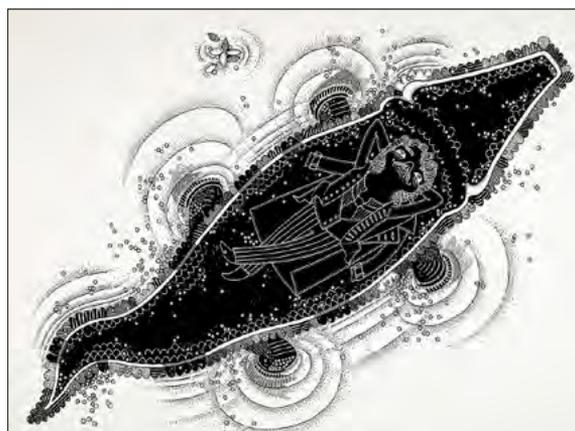
by **Fëdor Dostoevskij** as adapted by **Mauro Di Leo**  
Illustrated by **Strambetty**

**Atmosphere**, 32 p.

**AGE: 6-9**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

What happens if a big crocodile gets teased by a gentleman who wants to see if it's real or made of stone just because it stands too still? The poor animal, a little irritated at having been awakened from his nap, opens his mouth and eats the man in one bite. The great Russian writer Fëdor Dostoevskij tells a moral story of a drunkard, a terrible "I-know-better" man who ends up in the belly of a crocodile. In "Il mio primo Dostoevskij", the narrator **Mauro Di Leo** and the artist Elisabetta Barbaglia, aka **Strambetty**, adapt a novel by a giant of literature into a surprising, meandering and amusing story for all ages.





## MY FIRST CECHOV: THE ADVENTURES OF A PUP

by **Anton Checov** as adapted by **Mauro Di Leo**  
Illustrated by **Strombetty**

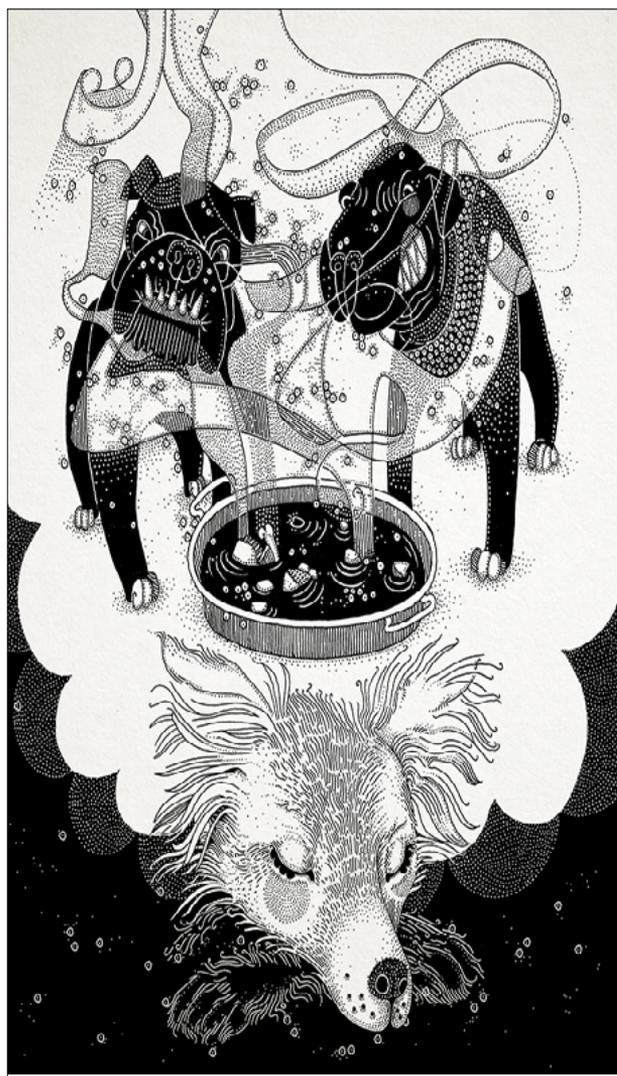
**Atmosphere**, 32 p.

**AGE: 6-9**

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Kastanka is a little dog with red fur and a fox face that has lost its owner. After spending a frightening night in the street, a kind man, who turns out to be a clown, collects her and after renaming her "Auntie", takes her in the house he shares with a goose, a white cat and a piglet, all actors in a circus. Kastanka begins to learn tricks and games, but the novelty of her new life is tempered by nostalgia for her first home. The night of Kastanka's debut she recognizes her original owner among the audience and knows she must choose her destiny. From a story by Anton Chekhov, published in 1887, a children adapted text by **Mauro Di Leo** and black and white illustrations by Elisabetta Barbaglia, aka **Strambetty**.

**Mauro Di Leo** is the publisher of Atmosphere books. He has written several essays including the illustrated text in English Sweet diabetes for children and young people, and Medication patients and a series of classics of literature adapted for a young audience.





## MY NAME IS EUGEN

by **Klaus Schädelin**, illustrations by **Rudolf Schnyder**

**TVZ**, 199 p.

**AGE: 9+**

**ITALIAN AND LATVIAN RIGHTS SOLD. OTHER TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

My name is Eugene (1955) originally written for young readers but appreciated by adults as well, is considered one of the masterpieces of the twentieth-century Swiss literature.

Eugen and Wrigley are two inseparable friends. They have that difficult age (thirteen years old) where childhood is long gone but adulthood is still far away. Their energy and desire for adventure will get them into the adventure of their lives when their parents forbid them to participate to the boyscouts' trip and Wrigley is told he will be sent to collegium. The two boys run away, taking along with them a treasure map they have discovered in Eugen's old family mansion and undertake a tour of Switzerland to reach Zurich, where the man who drew the map lives. On their traces, angry paesants, worried parents, the police and a carousel of picturesque characters who will enliven their journey to the real discovery: that friendship is the only real treasure to persue.

**The film My name is Eugen**, adapted from this book, brilliantly displays the four boys adventures and their way of living life as a constant adventure losing none of the candor and freshness of the original book version by Klaus Schädelin.

**Klaus Schädelin** (1918-1987), studied theology at the University and became evangelical pastor first in a countryside town, then in Bern, where he attended the City Council for 16 years as an officer for Health and Social Care. He got married and had three children.

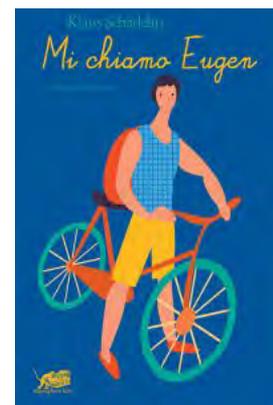
Original Swiss Title: *Mein Name ist Eugen*

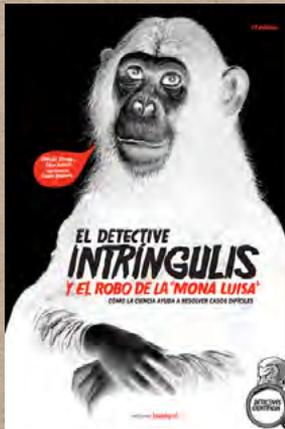
My name is Eugen, the novel which has inspired many generations is now **brought to stage!** Author and composer Roman Riklin and director Dominik Flaschka stage this classic as a musical for adults where children have their share of pleasure, too. The story of the four Berne teenagers who resist growing up, provides fuel for a fast-paced, humorous stage production.

### Two scenes taken from the film:



### The film's poster and Italian edition cover:



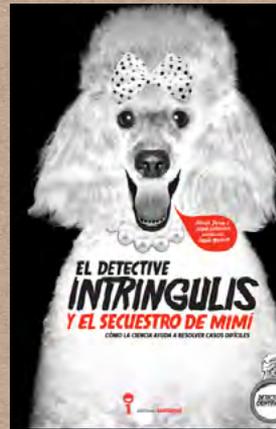


## DETECTIVE INTRINGULIS AND THE THEFT OF THE MONA LOUISA

by **A. Depino** and **C. Baredes**  
illustrated by **F. Mezquita**

**Ediciones Iamiqué, 48 p.**

**AGE: 7-12 Children's Fiction**



## DETECTIVE INTRINGULIS AND THE KIDNAPPING OF MIMI

by **A. Depino** and **C. Baredes**  
illustrated by **F. Mezquita**

**Ediciones Iamiqué, 48 p.**

### ALIJA (IBBY) STANDOUT BOOKS

### ACCESIT AWARD BEST BOOKS PUBLISHED IN ARGENTINA

As Detective Intringulis cracks a case, this series shows how science helps to solve crimes.

A highly original combination of information book and detective story.

The investigation of an art theft gives an explanation of the techniques and know-how involved in forensic science: what are fingerprints and how are they collected, how does the lie detector work, how can you tell if a painting is authentic, etc.

Also includes activities, anecdotes from the world of art and famous detectives from literature.

Who kidnapped Madame Glamour's spoiled pet poodle Mimi? Detective Intringulis sets out to crack the case using the knowhow of forensic science: how to look for clues, how to analyze footprints, what a bloodstain tells us, what DNA is, and why it's used to identify someone. And it doesn't stop here! A delicious combination of comicstrip and workbook.

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## THE FEW

by **Cathy McSporrán**

**Freight Books, 350 p.**

**AGE: 12 +**

**CROATIAN, FRENCH, GERMAN, SERBIAN AND SPANISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

Freya is coming, in rushing air and crackling light. If she isn't stopped, the world will burn.

Maggie thinks she is an ordinary teenager living on the South East Coast of England. But when she loses her father in the evacuation of France in the summer of 1940, she discovers within herself a devastating new power that could change the future of the war as it becomes clear that she and her younger brother Colin may have supernatural powers.

To defend the country in its hour of need, she must join a special group of wizards tasked with stopping the Gothi, a coven of German teenage wizards and witches, hell-bent on crushing British resistance.

As the Battle of Britain rages, Maggie meets and falls in love with Polish Spitfire pilot Michal. Will she be able to keep Michal safe? Will she, her brother and their friends manage to fight the overwhelming occult forces of the Nazi witches channeling the power of the ancient Aryan goddess Freya?

**Cathy McSporrán's** fiction has appeared in a wide range of magazines and anthologies such as Mslexia, Chapman, Nerve, Eclogia and From Glasgow to Saturn. She has been shortlisted for the Macallan/Scotland on Sunday prize, and was awarded the Constable Award by the Scottish Association of Writers. She has a PhD from Glasgow University's School of Creative Writing, and teaches classes in creative writing, poetry and Dante's Inferno in Glasgow's Open Studies department.

# QUESTIONS TO MAKE YOUR HAIR STAND ON END

ABOUT TO BE DUBBED A CLASSIC ANY DAY NOW, THIS SERIES GIVES SIMPLE ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE MYSTERIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE. FROM TWO CENTRAL IDEAS, THESE BOOKS OPEN OUT INTO A RANGE OF QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, CHALLENGES AND EXPERIMENTS.



## EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES FOR CURIOUS KIDS

by **Fernando Simonotti** and **Gabriela Baby** and illustrated by **Javier Basile**

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WINNER INNOVATIVE BOOKS SELECTION  
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## STORMS AND TORNADOES FOR CURIOUS KIDS

by **M.I. Campos** and **A. Cosarinski** and illustrated by **Eugenia Nobati**

**ALIJA (IBBY) STANDOUT BOOK**

Discover what are clouds made of, why does it rain stones, how is lightning formed, where do hurricanes come from and lots more.

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## THE EARTH AND THE SUN FOR CURIOUS KIDS

by **Carla Baredes** and **I. Lotersztain**, Illustrated by **Rocío Alejandro**

Discover why things don't fall upwards, where the Sun goes at night, why it's hot in the summer and why wool keeps you warm are just some of the crazy questions that this book answers.

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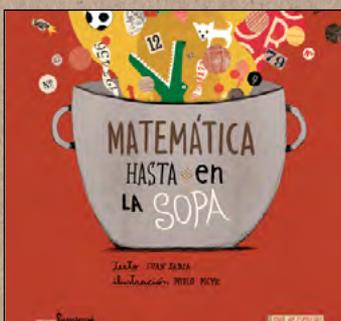
## CHEMISTRY, EVEN IN YOUR SOUP!

by **Silvana Fucit** and **Ileana Lotersztain** and illustrated by **Stéphane Jorisch**  
48 p. **Ediciones Iamiqué**

### ALIJA (IBBY) STANDOUT BOOK

How does an airbag work? Why are pencils like diamonds? Why do fizzy drinks go flat? Why do we cry when we chop onions? Discover the wonders of this enthralling subject!

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## MATH, EVEN IN YOUR SOUP!

by **Juan Sabia** and illustrated by **Pablo Pícky**  
48 p. **Ediciones Iamiqué**

Are there sums in videogames? What is a light year? Why are eggs sold by the dozen? What's so special about a circle? How many noodles are there in a bowl of soup? An afternoon with Uncle Juan is all Marcos needs to discover how thrilling Mathematics is and what a huge part it plays in everybody's life.

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## ECOLOGY, EVEN IN YOUR SOUP!

by **Mariela Kogan** and **Ileana Lotersztain**, illustrated by **Pablo Pícky**  
48 p. **Ediciones Iamiqué**

### ALIJA SELECTION BY THE ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH LITERATURE OF ARGENTINA, SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (IBBY)

What happens when a species dies out? What does it mean to be a responsible consumer? What is the greenhouse effect? Why should we care about water? Discover more about this exciting discipline!



## SCIENCE FOR THE WINTER MONTHS

by **Valeria Edelsztein** and illustrated by **Javier Reboursin**

48 p. **Ediciones Iamiqué**

**SECTION THE WHITE RAVENS (GERMANY)**  
**SPECIAL MENTION LEEUREKA! (SPAIN)**

Why do you shiver? Why you get sick more? Can cold burn? How does snow form? This book gives answer to lots of the questions of the coldest season and brings some very curious things about low temperatures.

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## SCIENCE FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

by **Valeria Edelsztein** and illustrated by **Javier Reboursin**

48 p. **Ediciones Iamiqué**

How does sunscreen work? Why do you sweat in hot weather? Why do fans cool you down? What's a mirage? Why do mosquitoes bite so much in summer? In these pages you'll find the answers to these and many other questions raised by the hottest season of the year, and you'll find out some pretty interesting weird stuff about heat and the summer.

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## SCIENCE FOR THE SPRING MONTHS

by **Valeria Edelsztein** and illustrated by **Javier Reboursin**

48 p. **Ediciones Iamiqué**

The arrival of spring makes some animals wake up from their winter slumbers... And, it's also a good time to ask a whole bunch of interesting stuff: How do plants know it's time to bloom? How does spring affect your mood? Why does it bring so many allergies? This book provides the answers to lots of the questions raised by the season of love.

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# MEASUREMENTS WEREN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS

by **Juan Sabia**, illustrated by **Javier Basile**

Ediciones Iamiqué, 42 p.

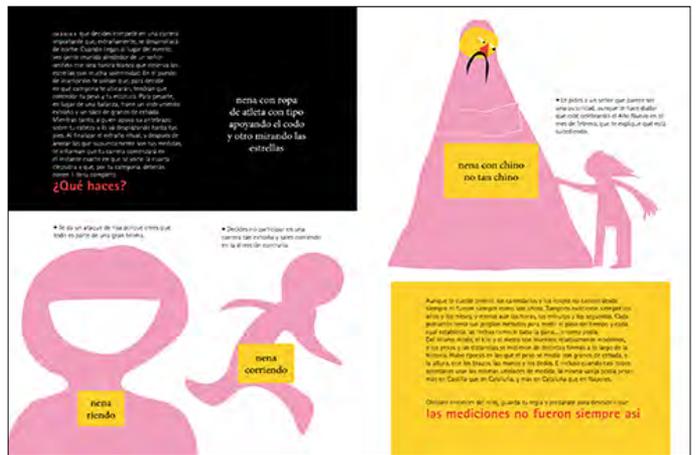
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From the observations of the night sky to the universally accepted definition of a second, from the days of the Sumerian calendar to the creation of the Gregorian chant, from the Ancient Egyptians clepsidras until the ultra-accurate atomic clock... From the days when lengths were measured in cubits or feet to the establishment of the standard meter, the production of "ready-to-wear" clothing, and the invention of the GPS.

This book clearly exposes the evolution of measurement systems and the way they have organized social and economic life throughout history in a way children will love.

Full of historic anadocds and colourful pictures, this book is food for thoughts for little curious minds!



The first mean of measurement was, of course, the body, which you always carry about with you! According to many scholars, the main measurement used by the Egyptians was the "royal cubit," which was the distance from the Pharaoh's arm elbow to his fingertips with his hand stretched out. When the Pharaoh changed, the measurement of the cubit changed too. What a mess!



## Medidas revolucionarias

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AUNQUE SOLO DURÓ DIEZ AÑOS, la Revolución francesa estableció cambios que continúan vigentes en el mundo. La consigna era cambiar y mejorar todo, y entre ese "todo" estaban las medidas, porque si bien ya estaban más o menos normalizadas en cada región, había muchas diferencias entre acá y allá. La pulgada, por ejemplo, medía más en Francia que en Inglaterra y más en Inglaterra que en Roma. La libra pesaba más en Castilla que en Cataluña, y más en Cataluña que en Nápoles.

Como buena revolución, en vez de emparchar lo viejo, se decidió inventar algo nuevo. La primera medida que se estableció fue el metro, y, para darle por creado, primero hubo

que definirlo. Tenía que ser algo que todos tuvieran en común, que no dependiera del lugar ni del observador... ¡ja Tierra! La decisión estaba tomada: se determinaría la distancia que había entre el Polo Norte y el Polo Sur, se dividiría esa distancia en veinte millones de partes iguales y cada una de esas partes sería un metro. Delambre y Méchain, dos científicos franceses, fueron los encargados de hacer las mediciones y las cuentas, un proceso que duró siete años. Y así fue que el 10 diciembre de 1799 se promulgó la ley que estableció el metro "para todos los pueblos y para todos los tiempos", una medida que hoy se usa en casi todo el mundo.

### ¡Habemus Sistema!

Lamentablemente, las mediciones de los franceses no fueron exactas (estrictamente, ninguna medición lo es) y el metro, tal como se lo definió, no es el resultado de dividir la distancia entre los polos en 20.000.000 partes iguales, sino, aproximadamente, en 20.004.000. De todos modos, ¡bravo, Delambre y Méchain! Cuatro kilómetros de error en una distancia tan grande es casi nada. Cuando se dieron cuenta de la diferencia, era un poco tarde porque el "metro equivocado" ya estaba en uso, así que en lugar de corregir la medida del metro, se decidió hacer algo muy extravagante: cambiar la definición. De todos modos, este cambio no afectó en nada tu vida diaria, en la que basta con saber que un metro es lo que miden cien centímetros de cualquier regla que tengas a mano.

Además del metro, se estableció el gramo como unidad de peso (que equivalía a 1 kilogramo), y así quedó conformado el Sistema Internacional de Unidades que, con algunas variaciones, es el que utilizamos actualmente.



### ¡Increíble!

LA PUNTA es una unidad inglesa que mide un poco más de medio litro y no forma parte del sistema métrico decimal. En el Reino Unido hay una ley que establece que la cerveza y la sidra suelta deben venderse por pinta y es por eso que los vasos de los bares tienen la medida marcada. De hecho, la palabra "pinta" se origina en la marca pintada.

### ERRAR ES HUMANO

En 1999, la NASA envió hacia Marte el primer satélite meteorológico interplanetario. Al aproximarse al destino, el satélite comenzó a desviarse de la ruta y, en lugar de ponerse en órbita, se acercó demasiado y se destruyó al entrar en contacto con la atmósfera del planeta rojo. La causa de semejante fracaso fue que los técnicos que ajustaban la trayectoria usaban el sistema métrico decimal y la nave estaba calibrada para realizar los cálculos en el sistema inglés de unidades que se usa en Estados Unidos. ¡Bum!



Eulama's Staff is looking forward to hearing from you!  
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