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**Tamar Meir**

*Francesco Tirelli’s Ice Cream Store*

Tel Aviv, Keter, 2017. 32 pp.  
AGE: 5-8

When Francesco Tirelli was a young boy he loved ice cream, and at least once a day he would find a reason to pass by his uncle’s ice cream wagon, where he would be given an ice cream full of different flavors by his uncle. When Francesco grew up he still loved ice cream, even when he moved from Italy to Budapest in Hungary. But there he couldn’t find anything that tasted like his uncle’s ice cream, so he decided to open an ice cream store so that the children in Budapest could also enjoy delicious Italian ice cream. One of these children was a boy called Peter, who loved Francesco’s ice cream so much that he would come to the store every day.

Then the war broke out, and the Germans invaded Hungary. Peter’s family was in grave danger because they were Jewish. Francesco had a brave idea: he decided to help them and other Jews. He hid them in his store the whole winter, until the war was over. That is how Francesco Tirelli saved the lives of Peter and his Jewish neighbors.

With humor, Tamar Meir has written a story about a good man, who despite all the evil around him rose up and performed a moral deed, choosing to save people when they were in trouble. The book is based on a true story that the writer heard from her father-in-law, who was the little boy whose life Francesco saved.

Illustrations: Yael Albert

ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS

Born in Israel in 1976, mother of six Tamar Meir holds degrees in Talmud and Jewish philosophy, and a PhD in literature from Bar-Ilan University. She currently serves as head of the Literature Department at the Givat Washington College of Education and teaches Aggadah at Efarta College and at Bar-Ilan University. Meir is also member and head of various Ministry of Education committees responsible for the literature curricula at schools and kindergartens. In addition to her academic and literary work, Meir is a social activist, empowering women in the religious community.

Tamar established and heads the “Kulana” women’s Beit Midrash, and is a member of the Board of Rabbis of Beit Hillel, an Orthodox rabbinical organization that also includes women in its ranks.

*Francesco Tirelli’s Ice Cream Store*, Meir’s first children’s book, was awarded the Yad Vashem Prize (2017).
Eshkol Nevo was born in Jerusalem in 1971. He studied copywriting at the Tirza Granot School and psychology at Tel Aviv University. Today, Nevo owns and co-manages the largest private creative writing school in Israel and is considered the mentor of many upcoming young Israeli writers. He has published novels, short stories and nonfiction. His novels have all been top bestsellers in Israel, and two of them, World Cup Wishes and Three Floors Up, have been adapted for the stage.

Nevo, whose novels are very successful abroad, has received the Book Publishers Association’s Gold and Platinum Prizes (2005; 2006; 2008; 2011; 2014; 2015), the FFI-Raymond Wallier Prize (Paris, 2008), the ADEI-WIZO Prize (Italy, 2011) and the Steimatzky Prize twice, for Neuland (2012) and for The Lost Solos (2014). Homesick was a finalist for the prestigious Independent Foreign Fiction Prize (UK, 2009), World Cup Wishes was a finalist for the Kritikerpreis der Jury der Jungen Kritiker (Austria, 2011), and Neuland was included in The Independent’s list of Books of the Year in Translation (2014).

Nevo’s books have been translated into 10 languages.

Amalia’s Father Goes to Australia

AGE: 3-6

Amalia’s father is going to Australia, but Amalia can’t go with him. After he leaves, she is very sad—she doesn’t feel like painting or going out for a walk. And then there’s an unexpected knock on the door. She leaps to her feet, thinking: It’s Dad! But when she opens the door, she sees an amazing creature called the Whipped Cream Man. He turns out to be one of many strange characters that visit her in the next few days, like the Kissing Queen and the Jumpy Kangaroo. They all share happy moments with Amalia and make her forget about her father’s absence for a little while. So the week isn’t as terrible as she’d expected and, at the end, her dad comes back with the scooter he’d promised her! David Hall’s lovely illustrations are an inseparable part of the plot. If young readers look at the last picture carefully, they’ll discover the mystery of the fantastic visitors. For in that picture, we see the kangaroo tail still glued to her mother’s behind!

Illustrations: David Hall

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
Edna Mazya was born in Tel Aviv in 1949. A playwright and author, she studied theater and philosophy, and received her MA from Tel Aviv University where she later taught dramatic writing. Several of Mazya’s plays have been performed abroad. She has also published two successful novels and three children’s books. Mazya was awarded the Margalit Prize twice, for her plays *Family Story* and *The Rebels* (1997; 1999). For *The Rebels*, she also received the Lea Goldberg Prize (1997) and was nominated Playwright of the Year (1998). A film based on a script of hers received the Israel Academy’s Best TV Film Award for the year 2003.

**Again, Granny, Again!**

AGE: 3-6

Ory is visiting his granny in Tel Aviv for a day of fun. In the morning they go to a playground, and Ory tries to persuade granny to climb to the top of the slide and to slide down with him. Granny gets over her fears, holds tight onto Ory, shuts her eyes and the two slide down to the bottom. “Again, Granny,” says Ory, with his magic smile, and granny does it. Before lunch, they take a stroll along an avenue. Ory rides on his push car and granny runs along with him. “Again, Granny,” says Ory when he reaches the end of the path. “No, no,” puffs granny, but once again Ory smiles that magic smile, and adds a hug to it. How could she say no to such a cute grandchild? In the evening, granny gallops on all fours around the living room, neighing like a horse, with Ory riding on her back like a cowboy. And again, the boy does his magic and persuades granny to do what he wants, and again she gallops around. But, it looks like it’s not only Ory who’s enjoying himself, but granny is too. “Granny, I love you,” Ory whispers his magic words, as the two sit by the Tel Aviv seaside and watch the sunset.

In her first children’s book, Edna Mazya lovingly and amusingly describes the balance of power between little ones and grown-ups, and the magic webs that grandchildren spin around their grandparents.

Illustrations: Orna Smorgonsky

**PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE**
Where, Oh Where Is Miss Pinky?

Tel Aviv, Modan, 2001; 2002. 20 pp.
AGE: 2-5

“Mister Thumb missed Miss Pinky a lot.
He met Miss Index, a lady with a bundle in her hair.
- Hello, Miss Index.
- Greetings, Mister Thumb.
- Do you know where Miss Pinky is?
Miss Index looked up,
Miss Index looked down,
and then she answered:
- No, no, no!
I don’t know.
...
Mister Thumb cried a lot.
- I miss Miss Pinky so much!
Where, oh where can she be?”

A wonderful, simple tale of searching and finding, including a real, “live”, finger game. Children will find endless fun in this lighthearted, intimate story.

Illustrations: Alona Frankel

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Shula Modan

Shula Modan was born in 1944 in Tel Aviv. She studied Hebrew literature, French culture and social work at Tel Aviv University, and then trained as a psychotherapist. She works as a psychotherapist and is also an editor for Modan Publishing House. Shula Modan has published many books for children, cookbooks and a novel. Her cookbook, Bishula, and her children’s book, Where, Oh Where Is Miss Pinky? are national bestsellers.
Tal Nitzan

Ms. More

Tel Aviv, Sifriat Poalim, 2017. 26 pp.
AGE: 4-7

Ms. More is an entertaining story about a woman whose passion for shopping knows no boundaries. She has a lot of things to do, though she does not work, write or exercise, nor does she dance, read or cook. Ms. More is mostly busy shopping. In the morning, when everyone around her is hurrying on their way to work or school, Ms. More rushes to the mall. There she wanders as though in a dream, hypnotized by the products displayed in the shop windows. She pulls out her purse again and again and is never satisfied. She buys and buys and leaves the mall laden with many heavy bags. Ms. More is tired, her back is stiff and her legs hurt, but when she gets home, she finds that there is no room left in her apartment. Her purchases clutter the space around her to bursting point, and she can not even sit down or rest. Poor Ms. More wonders in tears: “Who needs all these things?” From tomorrow, she swears, she will never buy anything unnecessary again.

Will Ms. More manage to save herself and change her habits? And how will she do it?

Both children and parents, who live with contemporary consumer culture, will enjoy observing the grotesque shopping extravaganza that carries on from page to page until the inevitable disillusionment and subsequent salvation.

Illustrations: Aviel Bassil

Tal Nitzan, a poet, editor and a major translator of Hispanic literature, was born in Jaffa, Israel, and has lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Bogota, Colombia, and New York. Nitzan has published several poetry collections and books for children, and has edited an anthology of Hebrew protest poetry. She has translated numerous books into Hebrew and is the editor of two series, for Hispanic literature and for contemporary Hebrew fiction, as well as the editor of the literary magazine Orot. Among her awards: the Rosario Castellanos Prize (1985), the Ministry of Culture Prize for Translation, twice (1995; 2005), the WIZO Award for Women Writers (1998), an honorary medal from the President of Chile for her translation of Pablo Neruda’s poetry (2004) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2010).

Nitzan’s poems have been translated into over 20 languages.
Dorit Orgad

Yuri Breaks His Silence

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2017. 196 pp.
AGE: 10-15

An intriguing and suspenseful story that begins in Moscow and continues in Israel. Ilyusha, nicknamed Ilish, is a 12-year-old boy who lives in a Moscow neighborhood with his parents. One day, at the entrance to the building where they live, Ilish meets a strange, silent boy. All attempts to get the boy to talk fail. During the summer vacation, Ilish’s grandmother comes to visit, and the two visit the neighborhood park, where they see that the strange boy has climbed a tree. All of a sudden, the branch he is sitting on breaks and he falls to the ground. The boy is injured and is taken to hospital. Ilish’s grandmother assumes responsibility for him, and she and the boy become close. She visits him in hospital and after he recovers, brings him to her home. The boy’s name is Yuri, but nothing is known about his family, and he still doesn’t speak.

Meanwhile, Ilish and his parents have moved to Israel. Ilish makes new friends, learns Hebrew, becomes an outstanding student and likes his new hometown, Ashdod, a lot. In a local park he meets a boy called Uri, who looks remarkably like the silent boy in Moscow. Is there a connection between Yuri and Uri? Will Yuri find his family and start to speak? The answers are given when Ilish’s grandmother and Yuri also come to live in Israel.

Yet again, Dorit Orgad has spun an engrossing tale about human relations that is cloaked in mystery.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Dorit Orgad was born in Germany in 1936, and came to pre-state Israel as a young child. She has a PhD in Jewish philosophy from Bar Ilan University. Orgad has taught at various schools and academic institutions. She now writes for the press and tutors writing groups. Orgad has published three adult books and 70 books for children and youth. Her many awards include the Ze’ev Prize (1987), the Bernstein Prize (1987), the Hadassah Prize (2000), an Honor Citation from the WZO for her books about children from Ethiopia (2005), and the Verghereto Award (Italy, 2006). Her y/a book Kalkidan was nominated Favorite Youth Novel by Israel’s Ministry of Education (2007), and received the Ministry of Culture Prize (2007). It also received the Public Libraries Award (2012). Orgad was also awarded the Devorah Omer Prize for Yuri Breaks His Silence (2017).

Orgad’s books have been published in 11 languages.
Ephraim Sidon

David and the Spider

Tel Aviv, Keter, 2017. 24 pp.
AGE: 5-8

When King David was still a little boy he enjoyed walking through the fields, shepherding his flock and viewing nature. He was thrilled to see how each living creature gave something to the world: bees made honey, sheep grew soft wool. Until he came across a spider. “Why was he created?” David wondered, finding nothing useful in the spider’s web. God replied to him that everything in creation had its purpose, and that the day would come when David would see that the spider also had its role.

Years went by and David became a hero who had saved his people. King Saul was envious of him, and feared for his throne. He set out to hunt David and his followers down. One day during the chase David was hiding in a cave but Saul and his soldiers tracked him and were getting closer. David’s life was in danger. Who came to his rescue? A small spider quickly spun a web across the entrance to the cave. Saul and his soldiers didn’t bother to brush it aside and go into the cave, because they took the spider’s web as a sign that no one had entered it. That’s how David realized that the spider, like all other creatures, can be useful, and he immediately thanked it and said he was sorry for doubting that.

Ephraim Sidon has put to rhyme a Jewish legend from the Talmud which teaches that everything has its place on the face of the earth.

Illustrations: Danny Kerman

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Ephraim Sidon was born in Tel Aviv in 1946, and was a member of Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak for a number of years. He majored in history and theater at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Since 1972, Sidon has written weekly satirical columns in various major newspapers. He writes for the theater, and has written for a wide variety of TV programs, including drama, entertainment and satire. Sidon has published many books for children, a number of which have been adapted for the stage. He was awarded the Bialik Prize (2004), the ASSITEJ Israel Award for Lifetime Achievement in the field of Children and Youth Theater (2016) and the Lifetime Achievement Prize for Television from the Israeli Academy of Film and Television (2016).

Sidon’s books for children have been published in Spanish and Arabic.
Noga and her father were walking to her preschool one morning. On the way, Noga spotted a butterfly. “Look daddy, I can also do that,” Noga shouted and waved her arms as if they were wings. “There’s a little bird,” dad said. “Can you hop like it?” “Sure I can, daddy,” she replied, and hopped like a bird. When a tortoise crossed their path, Noga began crawling like it, then she jumped like a rabbit, scratched herself like a monkey, and licked herself like a cat. She could even imitate scary animals like a lion, a tiger and a bear. Then she asked her dad, “And what animal would you like to be, daddy?” Straight away he joined in her game, choosing to be a daddy elephant.

A story full of fun and imagination about a game you can play on the way to preschool.

Illustrations: Shahar Kober
For his birthday, Uri asks to be taken to the dig where his father, an archaeologist, works: Uri dreams of discovering treasure. The two work together: Dad digs and Uri removes the dirt with a small brush. Suddenly, Uri sees something poking out of the ground. “Uri, you’ve found a treasure,” says Dad, “an ancient oil lamp from the time of Bar Kochba!” This special oil lamp is decorated with an image of the menorah that stood in the Temple in Jerusalem. Dad asks Uri to close his eyes, and he tells him the story of the oil lamp. Uri imagines that he is back in the times of the Bar Kochba revolt against the Roman Empire, almost two thousand years ago. Back then, a boy by the name of Uriah lived in the house where Uri and his father are now working. Uriah’s father, a potter, made oil lamps out of clay. One day, a messenger came from Bar Kochba and gave Uriah’s father a mold of the menorah. His father made lamps for the entire village and at night their light gave the villagers hope. “I saw it all,” says Uri when his father has finished the story. He insists that he even met Bar Kochba, who had come mounted on a lion and had asked him to ride along with him. “If you rode a lion thanks to the little lamp,” says his father with a smile, “you must really have found a treasure.”

Illustrations: Moran Yogev

Yona Tepper was born at Kibbutz Dafna in 1941 and studied education and creative drama. She taught for many years and later became school principal. She is currently editor for children and youth at Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House. Tepper has published many books for children and youth. She has been awarded the Prime Minister’s Prize (2001), the Ze’ev Prize twice (1995; 2005) an IBBY Honor Citation (2007), the Israel Ministry of Science and Culture Award (2008) and the Devorah Omer Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2015).

Tepper’s books have been translated into English, German, Arabic and Korean. Who Is Passing By? was published in English by Kane & Miller to great acclaim.

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