

# Books to fall for



Latvian children's books  
*Recommended by  
the Latvian Publishers' Association,  
Latvian Writers' Union, International  
Writers and Translators' House and  
the Latvian Section of IBBY*

## **IBBY Latvia**

The Latvian Section of IBBY was founded in 1993. The section administrates and confers the Jānis Baltvilks Prize, annually awarded to a Latvian author and illustrator and a foreign author and the translator of his work into Latvian; holds annual International Children's Literature Readings in Riga; nominates candidates for the ALMA and H.Ch. Andersen Award; organizes presentation of Latvian artists at the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava and the 'Power of Pictures' Tallinn Illustrations Triennial; with the National Library of Latvia, it is also a co-organizer of the 'Picture Story' Riga Picture Book Quadrennial, a contest and exhibition for illustrators from the Baltic Sea region.

At home, the main cooperation partner of the Latvian Section of IBBY is the Children's Literature Centre of the National Library of Latvia.

## **Translation grants for foreign publishers**

The Latvian Writers' Union administers a number of grant programs that focus on the promotion of Latvian literature and publishing abroad. The Latvian Writers' Union organises regular open calls for foreign publishers and supports translators of Latvian literature.

Information about the grant program, rules and regulations, application procedures and documents can be found on the Latvian Writers' Union web site at [www.rakstnieciba.lv/en/support](http://www.rakstnieciba.lv/en/support)

## **The most important prizes in Children's Literature & Book Art in Latvia**

*The International Baltic Sea Region Jānis Baltvilks Prize*

*The Annual Latvian Literature Prize*

*The Children's Jury Chocolate Award*

*The 'Golden Apple Tree' National Book Art Contest*

**We travel!**

Latvian books invite you on a journey – through different countries and seas, hospitals and fairy tales, through history, sleep and clouds, through the worlds of elves and shadows.

Every year, some 300 books for children are published in Latvia; about a third of them are original works by Latvian authors. More than 15 publishing houses are active contributors to the area.

We are progressing slowly yet surely, working on children's books that share a unique mood, combining the legacy of previous generations and the typical trends of the modern children's literature. In our books, Nordic reticence alternates with an encouraging ironic view of ourselves, our time and character. Illustrators are our special driving force: both young and experienced, but all of them – talented and enthusiastic, they bring their knowledge of different art genres to book illustration, boldly working to expand the diversity of the world of Latvian children's books.

## Nenotikušais atklājums

## The Discovery that Never Was

Naturalist Karl Darwing is on his way to the letterbox where he hopes to find the latest issue of a scientific magazine, this time dedicated to the magical three-legged raven. For a moment, he is forced to hop on one leg: a snake has been hiding in his boot. On his way back Karl notices the footprints of a one-legged creature in the snow. As the naturalist attempts to follow the trail and make a discovery, he is surprised to find the number of footmarks increasing. By the time Karl's guesses go as far as a ten-legged space alien or five bandits, he decides that the potential discovery is best given up for now. The reader can have all the pleasure of getting to the bottom of things.

Age  
3+

by Mārtiņš Zutis (1988)

Illustrations by Author

liels un mazs, 2015

200 x 230 mm, 32 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9934-533-24-2

Info: [pasts@lielsmaza.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmaza.lv), [www.lielsmaza.lv](http://www.lielsmaza.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

— the International Baltic Sea Region Jānis

Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book

Art — the Jaunaudze Award for the best debut

— the 2016 Latvian Children's Jury Award



## Runča vakariņas Cat's Supper

The adventures of a little girl named Baiba and her cat Muris begin at supper time when Baiba does not like her porridge. 'Come along, I will treat you to something MUCH tastier, to something VERY tasty – to something I offer only to my friends,' says the cat. Baiba follows the cat happily because she is looking forward to the promised treats. What are the delicious snacks offered by Muris?



*by Ruta Svaža (1957)*  
*Illustrations by Dāvis Ozols*  
 Mansards, 2015  
 200 x 215 mm, 24 pages, hard cover  
 ISBN 978-9934-12-122-7  
 Info: [aija@apgadsmansards.lv](mailto:aija@apgadsmansards.lv),  
[www.apgadsmansards.lv](http://www.apgadsmansards.lv)  
 Foreign rights: All languages available

## Slepenie svētki The Secret Celebration

*by Jānis Joņevs (1980)*  
*Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons*  
 liels un mazs, 2014  
 297 x 210 mm, 40 pages, hard cover  
 ISBN 978-9934-533-11-2  
 Info: [pasts@lielsmazs.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmazs.lv), [www.lielsmazs.lv](http://www.lielsmazs.lv)  
 Foreign rights: All languages available



It's the birthday of the big wardrobe closet. He celebrates his birthday at night when the guests bring him gifts and they have a wild party. So the parents shouldn't be upset if the room is in a mess in the morning – it's not the children's fault!

Jānis Joņevs and Reinis Pētersons' work is marked by cheerful irony and a sense for the grotesque. The celebrations of the furniture mirror the daily rituals of adults as imagined and acted out by children.





Lupatiņu rīts

# The Shammies' Morning



by Inese Zandere (1958)

Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons

183 x 132 mm, 96 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9934-533-41-9

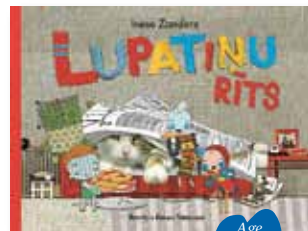
liels un mazs, Atom Art, 2015

Info: [pasts@lielsmazs.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmazs.lv), [www.lielsmazs.lv](http://www.lielsmazs.lv)

[www.theshammies.com](http://www.theshammies.com)

Foreign rights: All languages available

— The 'Shammies' project has received several awards in China, Latvia and USA. Films about the Shammies have been selected for 40 festivals all over the world



Age  
2+

The Shammies are four little curious beings – Sockie, Mitten, Pillow and Hankie – who live in a colourful textile house. They already know how to play, but many exciting things are still to be discovered: how to share their toys with others, how to behave at the table and how to take a bath. Luckily the dear wise Mr Cat is always around to help.

The project features a series of short films and books.

'The Shammies' Morning' is the story of the difficult jobs that the Shammies have to face every morning: how do you wake up yourself and awake the light? How do you sit down by the table if the chairs feel like galloping and twirling around? Is it better to behave like a sparrow or like a little goat? The story can be published like three separate picture books: 'How the Shammies Woke Up', 'How the Shammies Behaved' and 'How the Shammies Sat Down by the Table'.

The first book published in the series is 'How the Shammies Swapped' (2011).

## BIKIBUKS

## BICKI-BUCK BOOKS



*Design by Rūta Briede (1984) and  
Artis Briedis (1977)*

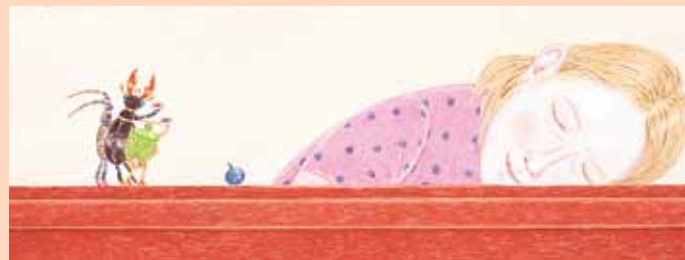
105 x 145 mm, 20-32 pages, stapled, paperback  
liels un mazs, 2012

Info: [pasts@lielsmazs.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmazs.lv), [www.lielsmazs.lv](http://www.lielsmazs.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

— *The Bicki-Buck Books series* won several  
Jury's Special Mentions in book art and design  
competitions in Latvia and was included in the  
White Ravens 2013 Collection.

A series of 100 small picture books: a wide scale of outstanding children's poetry, visually interpreted for children by artists of different styles and genres: graphic artists, painters, stage designers, textile artists, animators etc. A marvellous school of diverse thinking, the series help develop the young readers' aesthetic taste.



**'The Three Bugs'** by Jānis Baltvilks, Illustrations by Anita Paegle



**'The Zoo'** by Aivars Neibarts, Illustrations by Lāsma Pujāte



**'The Three Hunters'** by Laimonis Pēlmanis, Illustrations by Liene Mackus

**Trīs draugi vienas upes krastā****Three Friends on the Coast  
of the Same River**

Three friends – a Swedish horse, a German lobster and a Russian crow – decide to build a house together to live with their whole families. However, it turns out that they have a very different idea of the perfect house.

The illustrations help develop the child's artistic taste; they are childish, playful and joyful, but never simple.



*by Inese Zandere (1958)*

*Illustrations by Juris Petraškevičs*

liels un mazs, 2014

210 x 280 mm, 32 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9934-533-10-5

Info: [pasts@lielsmazs.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmazs.lv), [www.lielsmazs.lv](http://www.lielsmazs.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

**Krupim patīk visas krāsas****The Toad Likes all the Colours**

*by Baiba Grīnberga (1984)*

*Book design by Elīna Bērziņa*

*Illustrations by Sarmīte Māliņa and*

*Kristaps Kalns, Raimonds Staprāns,*

*Edvards Grūbe, Rudīte Dreimane, Paulis*

*Liepa, Rūdolfs Pinnis, Laila Bogustova*

droši un koši, 2015

150 x 150 mm, 14 pages, board book

ISBN 9789934840845

Info: [inga@mula.lv](mailto:inga@mula.lv), [www.mula.lv](http://www.mula.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available



Baby's First Art Book series featuring artworks by outstanding Latvian artists inspires to recognize different objects and learn the names of colours. Each spread is devoted to one colour whose character is revealed in the artwork. The book's small size is especially handy for the little readers.



## Vai otrā grupa mani dzird?

### Can the Back Row Hear Me?

The daily life of a family is like a point of intersection in which the daily events and relationships of children and adults meet up. This book is a similar point of intersection that can be read by adults as well as children of all ages.

Alongside her witty illustrations, Anete Melece has created games, exercises and colouring pages.



by Inga Gaile (1976)

Illustrations by Anete Melece

liels un mazs, 2014

184 x 240 mm, 64 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9934-533-09-9

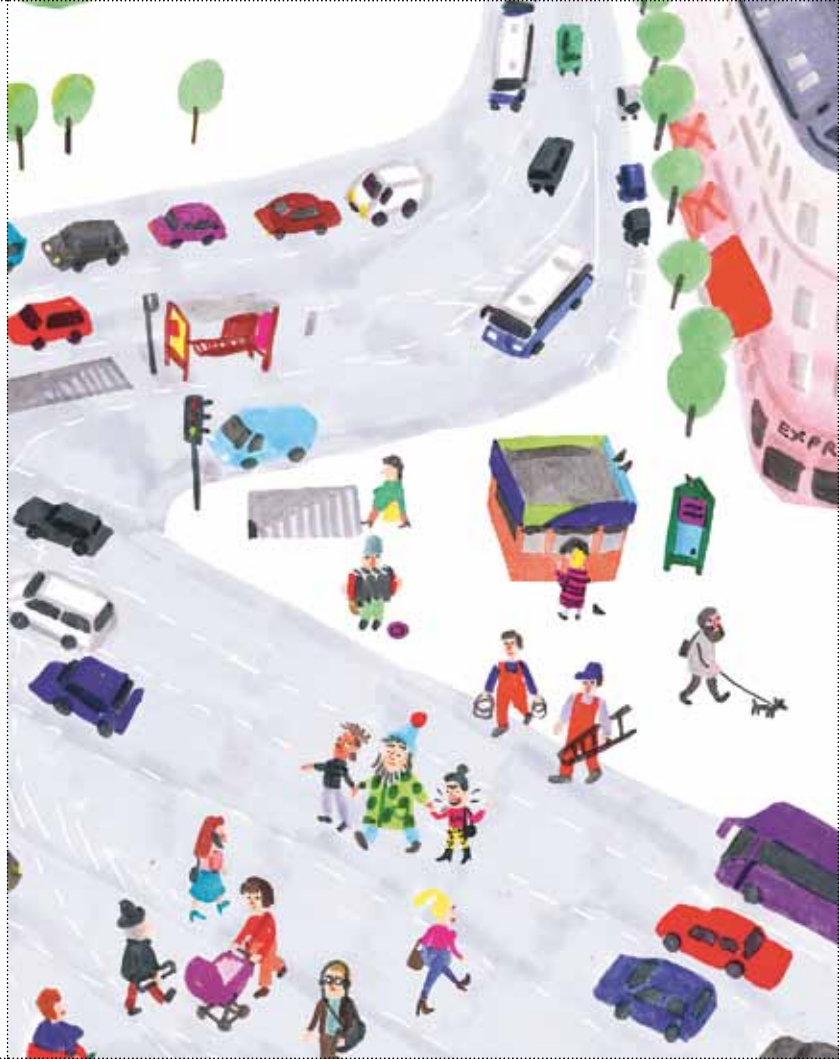
Info: [pasts@lielsmazs.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmazs.lv), [www.lielsmazs.lv](http://www.lielsmazs.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

— The Annual Latvian Literature Prize 2015 for Inga Gaile's poems

— A Special Mention to Anete Melece at the 2015 International Baltic Book Art Contest for her illustrations and book design

— International Baltic Sea Region Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2015 (the Jury's Special Mention)





**Līze Analyze un citi slimnīcas skaitāmpanti**

## **Medicine Maddy and Other Hospital Nursery Rhymes**

*by Inese Zandere (1958)*

*Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons*

liels un mazs, 2012

210 x 210 mm, 32 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9984-820-46-0

Info: [pasts@lielsmazzs.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmazzs.lv), [www.lielsmazzs.lv](http://www.lielsmazzs.lv)

Foreign rights: sold to Estonia

— *The Annual Prize for Literature 2013*

for Inese Zandere's poems

— *The National Book Art Contest Award*

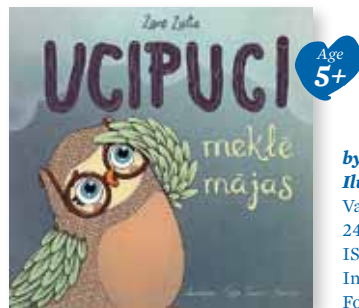
'Golden Apple Tree' 2013

— *Latvian Children's Jury Award 2013*



The book offers a dose of positive 'art therapy': by looking at the pictures and reading or listening to the poems, young children can cope better with their fear of getting sick and medical treatments.

The illustrations by Reins Pētersons create a colourful and lively atmosphere, emphasising the element of play and humour in the poems. The hospital, as seen by the artist, is a place where life goes on, a place where there is room for some adventures and friendship.

**Ucipuci meklē mājas****Ucipuci Is Looking for Home***by Zane Zusta (1982)**Illustrations by Evija Timma – Novika*

Valters un Rapa, 2015

245 x 245 mm, 43 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9984-805-89-4

Info: [ucipuci@ucipuci.lv](mailto:ucipuci@ucipuci.lv), [www.ucipuci.lv](http://www.ucipuci.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available



Ucipuci the Owl is a sweet, friendly and interesting character. The adventure itself is exciting and even a little dangerous, with a fascinating intrigue about the ending. The book is interactive - the ending contains an integrated puppet theatre.

**Rrrr! jeb Lauvas rūciens****Rawrrr! or The Lion's Roar**

This book by the popular Latvian writer Juris Zvirgzdiņš was intended as a children's story about animals, flowers and toys, speaking about serious matters like compassion, putting oneself into someone else's shoes, solidarity and working together towards solving problems in an easy and light-hearted manner. The author does not instruct his reader or try to teach him a lesson – nor does the illustrator of the book, the renowned artist Lina Dudaite. It was her ideas that inspired the writer to create this book.

*by Juris Zvirgzdiņš (1941)**Illustrations by Lina Dudaite*

Pētergailis, 2015

160 x 230 mm, 64 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9984-33-397-7

Info: [maru.uljanova@petergailis.lv](mailto:maru.uljanova@petergailis.lv)[www.petergailis.lv](http://www.petergailis.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

**Kaķis brīvdienās**

## **Cat on Vacation**

This collection of fairy tales is a wonderful collaboration between two artists much loved in Latvia.

Observations of daily events turn into games, tales and contemporary legends in an easy and effortless way, broadening the child's horizons. The book will suit the whole family: from toddlers just learning to speak to teenagers who love to speculate about life. The book can almost be seen as an exhibition with paintings of a small town and a metropolis with its suburbs, a sea wind blowing over the roofs, summer houses, parks, a castle and an opera house – all these are the places where the eleven fairy tales in this the collection are set.

*by Inese Zandere (1958)*

*Illustrations by Aleksejs Naumovs*

liels un mazs, 2015

230 x 270 mm, 84 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9934-533-40-2

Info: [pasts@lielsmazs.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmazs.lv), [www.lielsmazs.lv](http://www.lielsmazs.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

Age  
**6+**



## Mufa

# Muffa: Story of the White Baby Rhinoceros

The amazing story of a baby rhino's travel from Northern Europe to Africa. Muffa is an orphan; zoo keeper Ibu assumes care for him. Soon Muffa learns to speak and read and hides from cold and heat by wrapping himself up in the newspapers he has read. Muffa speaks the HUMAN language: no matter which country the two friends end up in, Muffa understands everybody and everybody understands him. But when Muffa reaches Kenya where a huge variety of animals live on the lakeside, they are attacked by poachers.

The book was included in the White Ravens 2012 Collection.

Age  
6+by **Juris Zvirgzdiņš (1941)**Illustrations by **Reinis Pētersons**

liels un mazs, 2011

220 x 260 mm, 96 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9984-820-32-3

Info: [pasts@lielsmazs.lv](mailto:pasts@lielsmazs.lv), [www.lielsmazs.lv](http://www.lielsmazs.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

— *The National Book Art Contest Award*

‘Golden Apple Tree’ 2012

— *Latvian Children's Jury Award 2011*

## Have a nice day! Gandrīz mīlas stāsts

# Have a Nice Day! Almost a Love Story

Age  
7+by **Juris Zvirgzdiņš (1941)**Illustrations by **Elīna Brasliņa**

Pētergailis, 2015

163 x 265 mm, 80 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9984-33-398-4

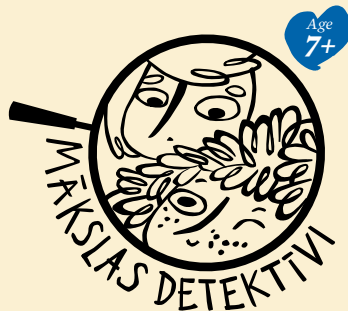
Info: [maru.uljanova@petergailis.lv](mailto:maru.uljanova@petergailis.lv)[www.petergailis.lv](http://www.petergailis.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

The protagonist of the book is a boy who has lost his parents in a car accident. For four years he is tossed from one family of relatives to another like a football. The boy's relatives do not need such a 'retarded' and 'slow' child. The boy is sent to a specialised establishment, after that – to an ordinary school, where, following countless complications, he finds his classmate's friendship and his first love.



## Mākslas detektīvi Art Detectives



by **Luīze Pastore (1986)**

Illustrations by **Elīna Brasliņa**

210 x 200 mm, 60 pages, paperback  
Neputns, 2015

Info: [dace@neputns.lv](mailto:dace@neputns.lv), [www.neputns.lv](http://www.neputns.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

— International Baltic Sea Region Jānis Baltvilks  
Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2015,  
Latvian Children's Jury Award 2016

Can works of art become alive? What about the possibility to step into a painting and experience the depicted story? What are the secrets that the artists have hidden in their paintings? The 'Art Detectives' books invite you behind the scenes of the art world, full of adventures and mysteries. The series features the young detectives Theo and Button, who investigate the hidden secrets of works by some of the best-known Latvian artists.

Three titles have been published in the 'Art Detectives' series in 2015 – 'The Missing Monkey', 'The Invisible Man' and 'The Arrival of a Stranger'. In all three books of the series, Theo and Button go on the greatest chase in the history of the art world.

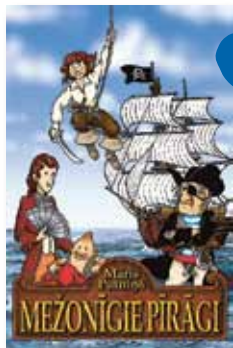


## Mežonīgie pīrāgi

## The Wild Pierogi

It is a strange world, inhabited by unusual folks: muffins, buns, biscuits, cookies, sausages, tortellini, croissants, hams and lot of other nations. But the best known among them are the wild pierogi with bacon stuffing, lead by their captain Mordan.

Four books have been published in the series: 'The Wild Pierogi and the Dumpling Pot' (2004); 'The Wild Pierogi and Henry the Great' (2005); 'The Wild Pierogi and the Stuffed Peppers' (2007); 'The Wild Pierogi and the Emperor' (2015). The Wild Pierogi travel seas, explore countries and fight for their homeland; a number of new characters appear, including the Burritos; the Tacos; the Carrot Mummy, etc.

Age  
8+

by Māris Putniņš (1950)

Illustrations by Māris Putniņš

Valters un Rapa, 2003

145 x 225 mm, 560 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9984-768-04-5

Info: kristine.kirkila@valtersunrapa.lv,

www.valtersunrapa.lv

Foreign rights: sold to Germany, Lithuania, Russia

– Nominated for Annual German

Youth Literature Prize 2013

## Nepareizas dzīves skola

## The School of Living Wrong

by Maira Dobeļe (1976)  
Illustrations by Anete Melece  
liels un mazs, 2008  
175 x 235 mm, 112 pages, hard cover, dust jacket  
ISBN 978-9984-820-13-2

Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsmazs.lv

Foreign rights: sold to Lithuania

– The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2009

– Diploma for illustrations at the 3rd Tallinn  
Illustration Triennial in 2009

The book comprises nine stories dealing with the tiny daily catastrophe-filled life of a teenage girl named Mētra and her road to getting to know herself. Mētra lives in the real world, in a real environment. This is not a book of imaginary problems and pink princesses – rather a story of life in the Latvian countryside.

Sālās pankūkas

## Salty Pancakes

Age  
9+

by Māris Rungulis (1950)

Illustrations by Elīna Brasliņa

Pētergailis, 2014

165 x 245 mm, 108 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9984-33-403-5

Info: [maru.uljanova@petergailis.lv](mailto:maru.uljanova@petergailis.lv)

[www.petergailis.lv](http://www.petergailis.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available



A spooky adventure story for school-aged children, set in the 1960s. If someone is as adventurous as Mārtiņš, trouble is never far away even in today's world. However, at the time when the events described in the book took place, books held a more esteemed place in people's lives – even when it came to choosing a life's profession.

## Spēles meistars

## The Master of the Game



by Signe Kvaskova (1976)

Cover by Anete Bajāre

Jumava, 2015

145 x 200 mm, 344 pages, paperback

ISBN 978-9934-11-733-6

Info: ilze.fogele@jlv.lv, www.jumava.lv

Foreign rights: All languages available

Christian is a 12 years old boy who lives an ordinary everyday life – until strange events start to happen. What is the matter with Mrs Folkmane, the nanny of Christian's little sister? Christian and Marth are following Mrs Folkmane. Unbelievable things are discovered, and the children end up travelling to Iceland!

## Bulta, Zvaigzne un Lai

## Arrow, Star and Lai

Castor's plans are simple: he wants to get a good, strong name and become one of the tribe's hunters. But when his friend Pelle is exiled from the tribe, Castor cannot let her go alone. Unexpectedly they are joined by Neena, the daughter of the tribe's witch. And a journey can begin – a journey to the faraway elf lands governed by the rules of the wizard world, a journey revealing secrets kept by both elves and humans.



by Ieva Melgalve (1981)

Cover by Artūrs Bērziņš

Zvaigzne ABC, 2014

140 x 210 mm, 160 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9934-0-4511-0

Info: apgads@zvaigzne.lv, www.zvaigzne.lv

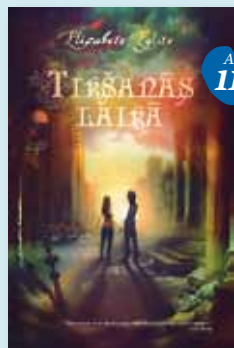
Foreign rights: All languages available



## Tikšanās laikā

## Meeting in Time

The 16-year old Eleonora has just started to attend college. Everything is new – new friends, new school, new love. However, her favourite walking grounds – the churchyard of Krustpils – remain the same. It is there that she first sees the mysterious stranger – a boy who sits in the storm untouched by rain, who acts and dresses in a fashion much older than that of the 21st century... Strange adventures await Eleonora – adventures taking places in two epochs at once...



by *Elizabete Eglīte* (1993)

Cover by *Artūrs Bērziņš*

Zvaigzne ABC, 2015

140 x 210 mm, 352 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9934-0-4708-4

Info: [apgads@zvaigzne.lv](mailto:apgads@zvaigzne.lv), [www.zvaigzne.lv](http://www.zvaigzne.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

## Danse Macabre (trilōģija): Deja ar nāvi

Danse Macabre (Trilogy):  
The Dance with Death

by *Laura Dreize* (1990)

Cover by *Artūrs Bērziņš*

Zvaigzne ABC, 2015

140 x 210 mm, 352 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9934-0-4765-7

Info: [apgads@zvaigzne.lv](mailto:apgads@zvaigzne.lv),

[www.zvaigzne.lv](http://www.zvaigzne.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available



It is the first book in the fantasy-steampunk trilogy 'Danse Macabre'. London, 1869. Victoria Elligton's only chance to discover the truth about the death of her father, the Archimagus of Great Britain, is to enter the Royal Academy of Magic. As soon as she turns 18, the girl travels to Upper London – the glorious city in the sky. Soon she is sucked into a whirlwind of conspiracies and secrets. Death and betrayal, sweet promises and cold calculation walk the halls of the Academy.

The second and third titles of the trilogy are 'Under Artificial Stars' and 'The Shards of Heaven'.

## Pirmā reize

## The First Time

by **Daina Tabūna (1985)**Cover by **Zane Ernštreite**

Mansards, 2014

130 x 187 mm, 152 pages, paper back

ISBN 978-9934-12-084-8

Info: [aija@apgadsmansards.lv](mailto:aija@apgadsmansards.lv), [www.apgadsmansards.lv](http://www.apgadsmansards.lv)

Foreign rights: All languages available

How can you prepare for your life as an adult if you constantly have to experience new and undiscovered things? The protagonists of Daina Tabūna's short stories deserve praise for their fighting spirit. However, life always has some sort of surprise in store for you – and suddenly nothing is like what it was before.

## Jelgava 94

## Jelgava 94

Joņevs' debut in the genre of novel has proved to be a real hit and bestseller in Latvia. Set in the 1990s in the town of Jelgava, the story is centred on the rather short-lived craze for the alternative culture of heavy metal music. The text incorporates elements of both an intimate diary of a youngster trying to find himself and a skilful depiction of recent Latvian history.

by **Jānis Joņevs (1980)**Cover by **Reinis Pētersons**

Mansards, 2013

130 x 190 mm, 312 pages, paperback

ISBN 978-9984-872-85-8

Info: [baiba@apgadsmansards.lv](mailto:baiba@apgadsmansards.lv)[www.apgadsmansards.lv](http://www.apgadsmansards.lv)

Foreign rights: sold to Bulgaria, Turkey, France, Slovenia

– European Union Prize for Literature 2014

– The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2013



LATVIA