VERONIKA MARÉK CANDIDATE FOR HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD AUTHOR NOMINEE



Photo: Miklós Kaunitz

BIOGRAPHY IN A NUTSHELL Website: http://marekveronika.hu/xen_main.html

I was born in Budapest, on 19th December 1937. My father was a doctor, and was also a successful writer. My mother was a dental surgeon, later she worked as a school doctor. My older brother became also a doctor: he was an eye-specialist professor.

I have been very fond of children books and stories since my early childhood – so much that I learnt to read when I was 4 years old. Later I discovered the joy of drawing. At high school I fell in love with the theatre, I wanted to be a dramaturge. I was 17 when I entered the enchanted world of puppets. In 1956 our troupe played a marionette adaptation of "Wooden Prince," a one-act pantomime ballet composed by Béla Bartók. The performance was successful however the revolution came and the troupe fell apart. I was 17 when I drew my first book for children. It was published in 1956.

I was hesitated what to study when I was finally accepted to attend the **State Puppet Theatre.** After 4 years I graduated as a **puppet actor** and I entered the world of theatre. I also graduated from the literature at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.

In 1963 I decided that I only wanted to write and draw. I married and have two sons, Tamás and Miklós.

Many of **my books appeared at Móra Publishers.** Suddenly I realised my speciality: I write and draw my own stories, such as Vladimir Suteev, Munro Leaf or Antoine de Saint-Exupéry at that time. **Many of my books have been launched in foreign languages** by Corvina Publishers. In 1965 "Tommy and the Lion" appeared **in Japanese** translated by professor Tokunaga Yasumoto and it is a never-ending story: each year has its new edition. The number of copies of this title is over 600,000.

I was a **freelancer author of two magazines** for children. I made **comics and riddles.** I created many **successful board games.** I wrote countless **stories, puppetries, radio plays.** I wrote **scripts and TV series** for children aged 8–12 for many years for Hungarian Television. Between 1974 and 1976 I wrote a series for the television and it became a **cartoon series** *(The Rabbit with the Checkered Ears).* This series is still popular among children and adults. The stories have no texts, they are based on only pictures and musical effects.

Travelling is a very important part of my life. I was invited to countless **Q&A meetings** in all over the country: children's libraries, schools in big cities or tiny villages. I would tell stories, then do some drawings on big boards with colourful chalks, and sometimes I would even make puppet theatre. I learnt Hungary very well.

My second husband is an architect. We established our own office and also a publishing house called Ceruza Publishers.

We travel a lot in Europe and Japan. In 2005 a gallery in Osaka, Japan made an **Oeuvre Exhibition** from my works. The exhibition later went on with merchandising products related

to my figures. In 2006 Ceruza Publishers had a booth in Bologna Children's Book Fair. In 2009 there was an **exhibition in Tokyo and Osaka titled "Hungarian Christmas with Veronika Marék".** Any new book in Hungarian is immediately followed by the Japanese edition. 30 titles of mine have appeared in Japanese language and 50 in Hungarian. There are books in other translations, as well: **Polish, Serbian, Romanian, Slovakian, English, French, German, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese in two versions.**

In a cooperation with the Hungarian compositor Zsófia Tallér we created a DVD titled *Boribon Makes Music*. It was awarded with the best disc for children in 2010.

There are two plays of mine on stage in Kolibri Theatre, Budapest. Budapest Bábszínház (Puppet Theatre Budapest) made a musical puppetry titled *Boribon and Annipanni* and it is been on stage for 3 years. It is very a dream come true!

I am a member of the Hungarian Association for Authors. I have two grandchildren.

I am over 80 years old. I have never believed I live such a long life. I feel very blessed I can still work however a bit slower than I used to. I still have plans. But at this age each day is a gift as they say...

STATEMENT – VERONIKA MARÉK AND HER WORKS

"THE BORIBON CONSTANT"
Happy 55th birthday, Boribon!
Written by Ákos Tóth

Published on pagony.hu

https://www.pagony.hu/a-boribon-allando



No one should look for his previous knowledge, his studies, the Boribon constant is not an expression from the concepts of mathematics. The "unit of measure" of the persistence, the real permanence, of the book of Veronica Marék, the books of Boribon, which is so unprecedented in our book publishing that it can only be measured with itself — with its own story. The Boribon series indicates that there are a few million parents and children in this country (through translations around the world) for whom Boribon is a familiar, first and most favorite reading experience from birth. That's who we are in Boribon since we know it. Or a little before.



Speaking of Boribon's most recent "adventure", one should not go without saying besides the truly unprecedented performance of more than 50 years of success of Boribon's books, the continuation of the audience's feedback. The first *Boribon* book, *Boribon*, *The Teddy Bear*, was published in 1958, and neither does it indicate its value and durability more than even in the 2000s when it was relocated, there were only minor changes in the book – in a world that had changed a lot. The presence of Veronica Marék's books and

series in the past decades has created a steady and reassuring feeling that he has always avoided dumping or becoming a fashionable phenomenon in the field of children's literature.

Perhaps due to this patience, which is the result of serious results, the first real Boribon book, *Boribon and Annipanni* (in 1970), is born 12 years after the first of the teddy bear. In this little volume, everything and everyone is there, who returns to the pages of the next volumes and can create the centrepiece of a story, the main issue of the story.



Boribon, the brown bear, is the brave and sometimes helpless protagonist of every coming compliment. "It's a nice summer afternoon," we'll see him for the first time on his arm with an empty basket as he "started to hawk". Perhaps it is no exaggeration to say that Boribon is already here as an individual, mature and unmistakable fairy tale, as we will always recognize.

However, the pantheon of famous children's literature and teddy bears of modern children's literature boasts better and more famous figures. Above all, there is Vackor, the kindergarten and schoolboy puppy, who, even when doing business trips, could cross the way of our Boribon. Or, there is Dörmögő Dömötör, who has been written by other writers for decades through Zsigmond Sebők's life, but also a member of the Bear Family. We could speak of the protagonist of Béla Bodó's books, which he had comprehended in several parts, but we could also quote here the colony of legendary bear of Dezső Tandori, who is now being broadcasted by several volumes of poetry reports. And then we naturally should mention the most likely ancestor, Winnie the Pooh.



It can be said that Boribon lost the wild-andpredatory features of the bear, but he was not tamed (as it sometimes happens to his "fellows"), but still retains something of the characteristics of a grumpy, heavy-duty, and wintering character. Boribon is as much a bear as a man, at least as bad as a kid. Someone who knows a lot, but there's always more to learn. Someone whose noble feelings inadvertently lead to the best paths and the right choices, but who can be embarrassed by

the simplest, everyday situations. Boribon, this real fairy-tale "intermediate creature", comes with the self-evident nature of the incarnations of the infinite world of infancy, as well as those who move in the realms of imagination as well as the so-called realities.



Veronika Marék's tales – Boribon at the forefront – know this great science: from childhood to unconscious / unclassified / pre-emptive, delivering a responsible adult experience system (social happiness, sharing advanced learning lessons) at an event, forever and ever. In other words, these stories avoid and pass through what we can call education. Indeed, the most sane and vivacious advice they get is that it ultimately reminds us of the common dogmas of pedagogy, rather it is a solitary solution of a narrative. What the Boribon Stories proclaim with great force, but even more exemplify, is the basic experience of the diversity of worlds on the one hand, and the unity and unity of these worlds on the other. The difference between distributed knowledge shared by each actor – knowledge of a common event – and its inequality give rise to those conflicts, shaping the boundary situations that are only through reciprocity, empathy, mind-based assistance, and patience and return. It can and should be overcome with the virtues of faith. Boribon can survive, although in the short term, in the moments after his decision, he takes a loss (by distributing balloons or by giving up the most beautiful apples), but the laws governing life, beyond him, give him the truth and his decision, and are confidently approving his choices. Boribon can experience the nonself-evident but credible life program that focuses on goodness and aspiration.

Doing it in a non-complicated and non-alienating way by the didaxis is a special virtue of

these tales. The fairy tale, the story takes you back to its original task: to fulfil the need to listen to and understand the other. Veronika Marék tells the story of what we are talking about: to get out of one's sovereignty and to understand the life, reason, choices with common words and signs, and even a less favourable life situation (e.g. a sad, rainy day) can also create hope (rainbow) just by getting to know the perspective of others. This original story-centred and natural, all-but-all-frill-free narrative in the Boribon tales is linked to the child's fabulous ability.



Let's look at the first already mentioned, Boribon story (BORIBON, THE TEDDY BEAR), where the real story is a lean and almost unintended event (the sudden disappearance of a teddy bear) by the fictional work, conjecture and conjecture of the two child actors, Gabi and Gyuri's fears are shaped and rounded into a fun story. In every Boribon tale, we can discover the mutually assertive and story-generating co-operation between external events and internal reactions.

The latest Boribon fairy tale, *Boribon's Kitten*, is once again a great deal if it does not show the most of the power of the language from this magical, revitalizing, world-moving power. Boribon, who is left without Annipanni in the apartment and loses his kitten friend, finds his name in the usual environment through the naming movement, and is able to rebuild the peaceful state of the world with others. Instead of demonstrating to us the importance of the name, the universality of human culture and thinking, Veronika Marék shares a turn-based and all-round story about the responsibility and necessity of naming. Find out why Tish-ho is a better name than Kitty. Specifically, why can one act as a name, and why not consider the latter one? On a nice closing post, he even puts this name at risk, and at the same time exposes the community nature of the name, because we can realize that every name can mean something else. Except perhaps Boribon, whose name is surely all of us in our old and recent history, and in our upcoming tale, we are thinking of a homely bear, who is a child (and an adult) at all times – more precisely, constantly, most steadily – a willing resident.

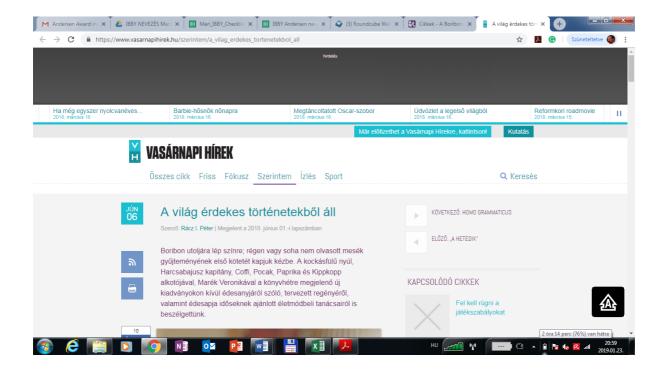
ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS

"The world consists of interesting stories"

Written by Rácz I. Péter

Published on 1st June 2018

https://www.vasarnapihirek.hu/szerintem/a vilag erdekes tortenetekbol all





The first piece of a five-volume series, featuring a collection of tales in the book so far, appears with the title *Clown and Little Monkey*. You've been publishing for six decades, I guess you was picking it out, though it couldn't be easy. What did you choose?

I keep a lot of tales at home, and I never thought they would have another life. At that time, I have been visiting schools and children groups all over the country as a writer, and my method was to draw on a blackboard while I was telling. This is how the tales evolved, most of them quickly gaining their final form. Then I picked a stack and showed it to Eszter Kovács, editor-in-chief of the Pozsonyi Pagony Publisher who found them interesting and worth publishing. But there are still more tales coming out! We only publish the best ones, we choose relentlessly, so we've already come up with five volumes. The stories that come into the anthologies are sorted by age, so that everyone, from small to bigger, will find it for himself.

Was there any fairy tale that surprised you during the selection or brought up some special memories?

Surprisingly, I didn't remember some of my tales I wrote myself. And, indeed, many memories have come to mind. But the anthology itself is also an exciting process. When the *Coffi, Pocak, Paprika (Tressy, Pudgy and Paprika)* series was compiled by Móra Publishers, it turned out that the stories came up with a coherent story – some mysterious glue tied the parts. The same thing happened with the Blue Fence, which was one of my most popular series besides the Checked-Earned Bunny.

I also remembered that I was always late with the deliveries, and because publishers were rigorously taking delivery times — especially at magazines —, the editors had given me prior dates. Once I asked a Danube captain in Visegrad to transport an urgent package of my drawings to Pest. Or the other day I had to send materials par avion from Switzerland.

These tales have not illustrated by you in this edition. Why not?

We commissioned a very talented, young graphic artist, Panka Pásztohy, and she made very nice, lovable drawings, I think the readers will love them. I also like it very much, though I certainly would have drawn the pictures differently because I see the world in a harder and more controversial way.

If you were publishing tales now in magazines, which one it would be? How do you find the situation of kids' magazines today?

I don't say I know the current kids' magazines, but I know the time has gone by. It used to be a little separate universe – they can't compete with smart games today.

What do you think, your tales, drawings can alive on a tablet?

I think my stories, even though they represent children without gadgets, are still actual. Some of them are also processed into digital form. But I still believe in books — as you take it, flip it, it's a miracle and much more direct than the digital interface. However, my grandchildren are 17–23 years old, I have no updated experience. Of course, I read *Toldi* the epic drama or my eternal favorite, The Two Little Beavers. I laughed a lot when I was a little

girl when the little beavers looked at the bucket water as the entrance to the burglar, and jumped into it...

In children's books today there is a trend to defeat some so-called taboos. Death, grief, acceptance, divorce, gender, harassment...

Yes, my dad is in jail, my mom is an alcoholic ... It was a terrible taboo in my time, there was impossible to write about these cases, and other writers told me stories about the Swedish way of thinking on these issues. I remember a story of the grandfather's death. We were impressed how brave they are but later several books have appeared in Hungarian such as Death book or the book of Poo from Swedish authors. These are great things, I really like it. I think it is very good and important that children should know a lot of things rather than getting information in a secret way from their pals. For example, if they talk honestly about sexuality early in their childhood, it will not cause such a shock later – as the village kids have no problem with how the little baby will be. When I was a child, I often stayed in village, I saw the chicken's throat cut off, as the rabbit snapped into the head. Not good experiences, but necessary for life. My American friend explained her ten-year-old children that the meat they were eating was actually a bunny, or a little chick, or a little lamb or a little calf. The kids thought the dog was the husband of the cat, and the goose to the duck. When faced with the reality, these two boys were shocked and had to see a psychologist. It is amazing if I think a child grows up between such delusions.

Is it also a delusion of your readers if they think you live in a real fairy-tale family? How tradition, storytelling is focused in your family?

Well, you would think I am a good-grandmother who has spoiled her children and grandchildren with her tales because she was flooded at the time, wouldn't you?... Right... My daddy wanted to be a writer, then he became a doctor, but he was very pleased to discover that I was also writing poems and tales and kindly helping me out of this aspect of my life. But neither he nor my mom told me stories. Such an experience that someone sitting next to me and telling me stories was never occurred in my life. My dad wanted to tell me a fairy tale once, then he managed to choose one of the most terrible tales. A princess is killed, a little maple-tree is growing out of her body, a shepherd is making a flute, and the flute begins to sing: I was once a princess, I became a tree, and I became a flute...

It's total horror!

After a while, my dad was embarrassed and broke off the story. Then I have read the tales of Andersen, the Grimm brothers and Elek Benedek myself – there were the source of everything....

Maybe even of Boribon's stories? The Book Week is expanding with a new volume of this series. What's happening this time with Annipanni and the kitten?

Last year, a little child wrote a letter to me: he wants Boribon to go to the beach and bathe. It became a new Boribon story. At first I sketched everything as I used to, I thought I'd have a good swim with this big sunbath: Annipanni would get herself on the beach, and Boribon, who was bored, suddenly dropped sand from a bucket saying Annipanni the snow is falling! The girl gets angry and they both get sanded in the end... Well, in the end all of this eliminated, and many other interesting ideas were realized. This will be the 15th Boribon volume, and I will finish the series because I decided not to skimp on poor Boribon.

I am very sorry to hear that. Please tell me something because I have been always wondering how Gyuri and Gabi's teddy bear came to Annipanni a decade later?

Well, I saved the name of the bear, because I found Boribon's name funny. Boribon, the toy teddy bear, was released in 1958, but when I wrote the stories of Annipanni and her teddy bear ten years later, I thought no one would remember Gyuri and Gabi's gray teddy bear. And now, o my..., parents are forced to buy the gray teddy bear book!

Teddy bears are never enough, as is shown in the volume of *Santa Claus and Silver Teddy*. For example, for my son it was not easy to get one of these silver bears on December 6th.

It would have been good to produce them, in line with the fairy tale, with a couple.

Since October 2003 there is a successful production at Budapest Puppet Theater titled **Boribon and Annipanni**. How did you participate in staging the piece?

It's a brilliant performance, quite charming, but I did not participate directly in the work. I have always wanted to write lyrics. I told it the composer Zsófia Tallér in 2010, and she composed music for the lines I sent her immediately. The songs she'd been singing were waiting in my email account every morning. Finally, Adrienn Mórocz sang for the album Boribon Music, which won the Fonogram Award for Best Children's Disc in 2011.





Photo: budapestbabszinhaz.hu

I'm so proud of that. The Budapest Puppet Theater released a performance called *Boribon* and *Annipanni*, the text was written by Dóra Gimesi, she also incorporated the songs, and the piece became almost musical.



In the lobby of the Puppet Theater of Budapest, an exhibition will be on display until the 10th of June. I told them how I work: there is a paper basket next to my desk, in which I throw my spoiled drawing ideas into dumplings. They've done this: we see how many paper balloons get out of the basket. I'll see the mess I am doing around myself, creating a book that I think is very big.

Meanwhile, the stories of *Knocknock* conquered the Kolibri Children's Theater, and in two performances: *Knocknock and Tipptopp*, and *Knocknock's Children*. How do you like them?

Both performances are fabulous, I love them. I have always loved the puppet theater, and I appreciate the puppet artists' knowledge. I have been writing a lot of puppet pieces, but I have been always been an outsider for professional puppet theaters, and it was a bit painful! However, I have a puppet artist qualification, and I know exactly what to do and what not, but that was not counted for being a professional. After the change of the regime I finally saw my pieces in the puppet theaters. (...)

Veronika Marék is turning 80 Stories with Instinctive Love

https://konyves.blog.hu/2017/12/19/marek veronika 615



"There was something left of the child in me, so I can think of it as a child many times, rather than thinking like an adult," Veronika Marek said when we met two years ago at her favorite Buda cafe. There are generations grew up based on her books, and nowadays those children reading Boribon and *Knocknock* reading their books for the first time. Today, Veronika Marek, an eighty-year-old, who has such tales as the *The Rabbit with the Checkered Ears* or *Tommy and the Lion*, we thought this time not to ask her personally, but the editors, illustrators, writers, and colleagues whom her world was greatly influenced; we asked them to recall how they remember their first encounter with Veronika Marék.

ALEXANDRA ÁGOSTON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, VIVANDRA PUBLISHERS:

With Vera we have known each other for a long time when we established my publishing house. She has always encouraged me: "Good books find their readers!" When we figured out that decades ago, the Öcsi and Bátyó stories appeared on the back side of the Kisdobos magazine, we were immediately enthusiastic about how beautifully worked a thirty-year-old animated series, The Rabbit with the Checkered Ears episodes as comics in print. Without her texts to Zsolt Richly's elephant stories The Blue-Spotted Elephant would not exist today. Vera is important to me also outside the book world. It's good to talk to her, listening to her and ask her about anything. Sometimes I am just amazed at her stories, her experiences, her curiosity, her knowledge, and how she is dealing with the world today. Happy Birthday!



Photo: Gábor Valuska

ERIKA BARTOS, AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR:

Myriads of memory pieces come to my mind when I think of Veronika Marék's birthday greeting. First of all, I think of the nice picture when we celebrated my fortieth birthday. I got a figure of *Knocknock* drawing from Veronika, one of which is the only one!



For me, Veronika Marék is the one I always rely on as a stone for both professional and human issues. I keep her advices and tips in my heart like little pearls and pull them out when I need them. The question arose in countless situations: What would Veronika do now? Because what she was doing was always a guide for me, I always felt some kind of protector force in her whole being.

The question of her books is always the same: What's the secret? What makes Veronika's stories penetrate the heart of the toddler so straight, deep and clean? I think it's the secret that there's no secret. Stories come from Veronika Marek's instinctive love. She owns a study that she can't learn at school. As a child, in the possession of this knowledge, we carry our heart a clear, simple and loving vision, a helpful, aspiring, devoted and curious openness to the world. As we grow up, unfortunately it fades. But there are some who stay there, and there are some who can pass it on to others. Veronika Marék is such a person. In her, this knowledge did not fade, retained the beauty of the childhood, and not only preserved it, but passed it on to us.

I was happy when in 2015 I was able to hand over Pagony Roaming Pen to Veronika for her unique life achievement. I think I was more excited than she was. For weeks I formulated a greeting speech, and I tried very hard to make my thoughts come true.

I just want one thing now: to give joy and happiness. Dear Veronika, I wish you lots of happiness!

ANDRÁS DÁNIEL, AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR:



When the books of Veronika Marék come into topic, a special mood immediately comes to mind, the most accurate of which would be simply to call a handful. Not only is it an atmosphere, it is also a color and space experience. The memory of a place called home. Not all books come to mind first, but a whole, self-contained, unmistakable world, in which the spatial relationships are different, the sun shines differently, and other rules apply than anywhere in the worlds outside of it. If I had to choose a single word about handicraft, I think I'd say security. Because everything in this world is close, even distant, all colors are clear and every form is understandable. There is hardly any shadow, and if there is trouble, if the dark corners are threatened, the solution is within reach, ready for the cure for fear and illness. The secret of this, though not for a moment, is mysterious, certainly lies in the author itself. In her particular knowledge, which, along with its simplicity – or just because of this – is a very rare knowledge.

If I go beyond the mood of the first, and stepping back three, I look at Veronika's books from the distance of adulthood, the most striking lack of adulthood. In this world, there are no disciplined great ones, no top-down solution, truth, judgment and command. Things are happening outside the scope of adults in the handicraft world. Not against them, not in their absence but simply elsewhere than they are. In a dimension, in the smallness that they – from top to bottom – have no insight. But the author has. And this is where her great science lies: to know from the inside and not to forget for a moment. She does not bend down to it, does not raise it, does not enlarge it, but she is there too, talking about it: the little one.

The hidden world of the game, which is so closed that there are no boundaries. In Veronika's books, the game itself happens – over and over again, downstairs, in your own, fully enclosed world. There is little to know about this with such a natural sense. In simple words, with simple colors: just the point. This is a fact that childhood can be seen and can be depicted in many ways. With more question marks, different tones, scratchier. Or like a grown-up. But this place looks like this: the little girl who is guiding her bear, the chestnut kid stumbling in the grass, and the little boy who has the courage from his imaginary lion – the world of toys is still reality. I know it because I was there. The "being of Marék Veronika" is getting well. And I hope that it will stay for a long time. Without our grown-up chipping.



Photo: Gábor Valuska

"Originally, she wanted to write a story about creatures living in the grass, and she needed a little figure to walk between the blades of grass to get to know the frogs, the ants, and other creatures. At first, she couldn't decide whether elephant, dwarf or fairy should be the hero of the fairy tale, and then she remembered a chestnut doll that hadn't been ruined, molded, thrown out but lifted" – as we wrote about Knocknock in our previous article.

VIKTÓRIA DIAN, EDITOR:

When I met Veronika Marék for the first time it was in my childhood, through her books, as most of us did. When I learned about the fruits' name, shape, color from the book titled Where Do the Fruits Grow? it seemed unbelievable that I would meet the author, and I would become her editor. I had worked for the Móra Publishing House for a year when I was given to reedit the Tommy and the Lion book in 2003. I could not imagine what can be edited on few sentences, simple, clean, breath-breaking picture books, which had several editions by that time. Well, Veronika proved it how to do that! She had been working on weeks to ponder a sentence, to place a figure, or on typographic questions, sounding words, adjusting colors. But even this work of full of precision planning does not provide any answer to the secret of Tommy and the Lion's domestic and international success. Only after editing many of her books I discovered a possible answer of her secret. Veronika is a healer. A modern-age shaman, whose fairy-tale worlds are being moved by adults to unrecognizable infantile souls, and restored to what was broken, injured and will find what is lost. I learned a lot from her, mostly about myself and my own childhood, but also about children's literature and publishing.

ESZTER KOVÁCS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, POZSONYI PAGONY PUBLISHERS:

I had three meetings with Veronica.

At first, of course, as a little kid: *Good Night, Annipanni!* was one of my favorite books, so much so that I imagined myself to be Annipanni for a long time, and both the text and the pictures (especially the kitten in that tiny little slippers and the phrase "they eat strawberries with croissants") burned forever.

Second meeting I met her was as parent – my son worships Boribon just as I loved as a child, he calls himself Boribon, and me Annipanni... It doesn't matter that it passed thirty years, the images, the texts work with the same force.

And the third, most decisive encounter in my adult life was that I could get to know Veronika personally – in a very strange situation, because we, as a very young book publisher, published the books of Marek Veronika whose tales we grew up with, for whom we loved... and then suddenly we got into a business, partner relationship. Then this business relationship soon became much more, and now, after 15 years, I can safely say that Veronika is my friend. I could write a long essay about why *Boribon, Knocknock*, and *Tommy and the Lion* is important, but it's more important to me that I know only a few such positive, intelligent, smart and sensitive people as she is. And I can't say much more – I really like Veronika, I consider it a great gift of life that I know her.

ZSOLT RICHLY, DIRECTOR - BÉLA BALÁZS AWARD:

I met Veronika Marek for the first time in the sixties, in the editorial office of *Kisdobos* children's magazine. (...) At the time of deadlines, we always ran into each other and loved each other's work.

A cartoon of *The Seven-Spotted Car* made in the Pannonia Film Studio was written by Vera. This is a so-called stand-alone film, an exciting story about a living car, and it was a preparational work for the extremely popular *The Rabbit with the Checkered Ears*. Then I went to work meetings in their apartment overlooking the Danube and Bem Square. She invented our hero, of a puppy-like bunny with checkered ears. For several years, she has written the stories, and I tried to conceive her ideas as a series of pictures and films. The story of the *Catfish Captain's* series was also her initiative, the story with my drawings lived with two diaphragm episodes, but the great stories still lie in Vera's drawer.

FURTHER INTERVIEWS:

https://www.pagony.hu/boribon-a-gyerekek-erzelmi-tukre

https://www.pagony.hu/az-onallosodo-kisgyerek-annipanni-meselj-nekem

https://www.pagony.hu/marek-veronika-szuletesnapi-interju-1-resz

https://www.pagony.hu/marek-veronika-szuletesnapi-interju-2-resz

https://noklapja.nlcafe.hu/kulonszamok/kulonszamok-gyerek/2018/06/02/megalmodta-

boribont-es-annipannit-interju-marek-veronikaval/

Reviews from Japan please see the attached files.

AWARDS

2018 Budapest Award for Lifetime Achievement

2016 Pro Familiis Award
(by Ministry for Human Resources for Lifetime Achievement)

2015 Candidate for Astrid Lindgren Award

2015 Pagony Publishers' "Aranytoll" (Golden Pen) Award

2014 IBBY Hungary Award for Lifetime Achievement

2010 Attila József Award

2006 Éva Janikovszky Award

1983 Youth Award

FIVE IMPORTANT TITLES

LACI ÉS AZ OROSZLÁN (TOMMY AND THE LION)

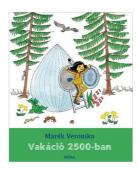
VAKÁCIÓ 2500-BAN (HOLIDAY IN 2500)

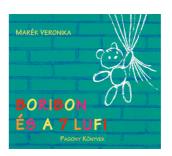
BORIBON ÉS A HÉT LUFI (BORIBON AND THE 7 BALLONS)

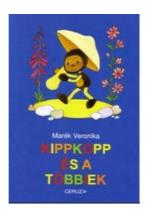
KIPPKOPP ÉS A TÖBBIEK (KNOCKNOCK AND THE OTHERS)

TÉLAPÓ ÉS EZÜSTMACKÓ (SANTA CLAUS AND SILVER BEAR)











ANNOTATIONS OF THE FIVE IMPORTANT TITLES









LACI ÉS AZ OROSZLÁN (TOMMY AND THE LION)

III. by the author

1st edition: Budapest: Móra Publishers, 1961

(Above: the Hungarian, the English, the German, and the Japan cover)

Foreign publications of the title:

- Tomi und der Löwe (German), Halle: Postreiter Verlag Budapest: Corvina, 1962, 1963; Budapest: Móra, 2013
- Lucas und der Löwe (German), Budapest: Schenk Verlag, 2006
- Tommy and the Lion (English), London: Hutchinson, 1964
- Tommy and the Lion (English), Budapest: Móra, 2009, 2013
- Dragan I lav (Serbian), Beograd: Mlado pokolenje, 1965
- Ianci și Leul (Romanian), București: Tineretului, 1963
- Tommy and the Lion (Japanese), Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten, since 1965
- Tommy and The Lion (Korean) Seoul: BIR Publishing, 2001, 2007
- Tommy and the Lion (Chinese) Beijing: 21 Century, 2011
- Tommy and the Lion (Chinese) Taiwan: Abula Press, 2012

Dear Keronika-san

I found your Love and the

Red Lion in the 100 illustrated

book which should be read

forever. I hope you'll like it.

Have an wonderful

holidays and a happy new
gear.

Yo to.

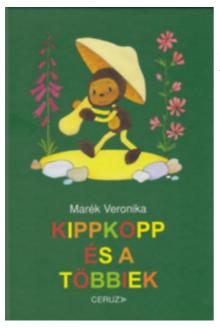
Marek Veronika is one of the famous and popular writers of illustrated books in Hungary, as well as in Japan. Amongst of all, this book is well known and mostly liked by Japanese. A coward boy Laci who wants to be a pilot ran away from dogs, can't stay in a dark room. But he overcomes his weakness with the red lion and step by step he becomes a brave boy.

The 100 most important titles in Japan book there is TOMMY AND THE LION by Veronika Marék is #41 in CASA magazine.

KIPPKOPP ÉS A TÖBBIEK (KNOCKNOCK AND THE OTHERS)

III. by the author

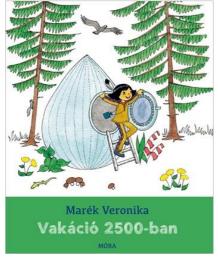
1st edition: Budapest: Ceruza Publishers, 2016



In the 8th piece of the *Knocknock* series the little chestnut boy meets the dwellers of the meadows and woods: frogs, a squirrel, snails, a spider, a hedgehog, a hare, thrushes, tortoises, and the little owl. Here you can find some short stories and many colorful pictures.

VAKÁCIÓ 2500-BAN (HOLIDAY IN 2500) III. by the author

1st edition: Budapest: Móra, 1987



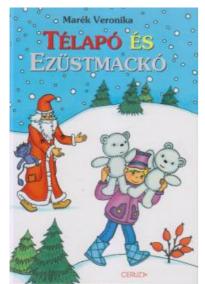
Ato lives in the year of 2500. He has a chance to time travel in a ten-day vacation. He leaves behind his home in a metropolis beneath the ocean and goes back 1000 years to meet Sioux native people. During his special holiday he meets two Indian kids and Ato gets to know the everyday life of the tribe. He thinks he has read everything about them from his books back at home. Soon he has to realize his knowledge needs to be updated... And what about that Energy Cube medal in his neck? Is it really helpful in danger?

A refreshed edition of this 30 years old charming, heartful story by Veronika Marék.

TÉLAPÓ ÉS EZÜSTMACKÓ (SANTA CLAUS AND SILVER BEAR)

III. by the author

1st edition: Budapest: Ceruza, 2007





Both Marci and Mónika want a little gift from Santa: the only and unique Silver Bear. When Santa Claus comes and gives them a beautiful little bear the siblings fights for the it. Marci, the big brother finally takes pity on his sister and goes for an adventurous trip for seeking a solution for a peaceful Christmas time.

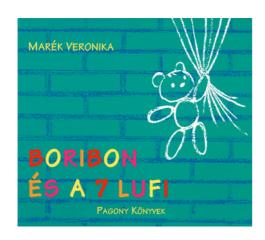
Foreign language publication:

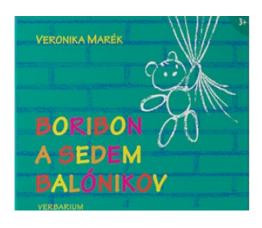
• Santa and the Silver Teddy Bear (Japanese), Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten, 2007

BORIBON ÉS A HÉT LUFI (BORIBON AND THE 7 BALLONS)

III. by the author

1st edition: Minerva, 1976







On a rainy day, Boribon gets seven colored balloons from Annipanni: red, orange, yellow, green, light and dark blue, and a purple. The balloon heads soon blow out, only the red remains, and Boribon gives it the rabbit, who always used to dream about having a ballon. The balloons run out but the sun is shining now and the color of the weekend shines in the colors of the rainbow ...

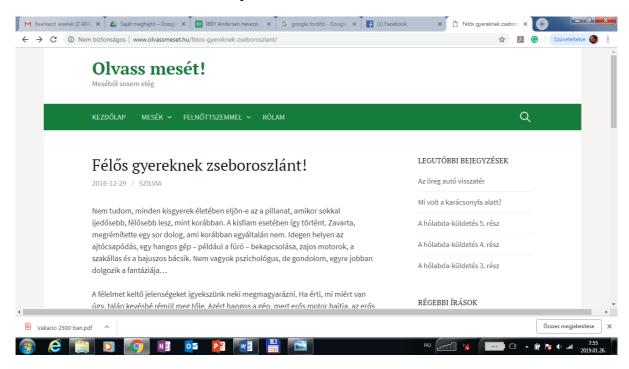
Foreign language publications:

- Boribon and the Seven Ballons (Japanese), Tokyo: Futohsha Publishing, 2004, 2005
- Boribon a sedem balónikov (Slovakian), Bratislava: Verbarium, 2012

REVIEWS OF THE FIVE IMPORTANT TITLES

LACI ÉS AZ OROSZLÁN (TOMMY AND THE LION)
http://www.olvassmeset.hu/felos-gyereknek-zseboroszlant/

Give a Pocket Lion to a Shy Child!



I don't know if every little child's life will come to the moment when he will be much more frightening, more fearful than before. That's what my little son did. He was disturbed, frightened by a series of things that had never been before. In a foreign location, door-knocking, turning on a loud machine such as a drill, noisy engines, men with beard or mustache. I'm not a psychologist, but I think his fantasy is getting more active now...

We try to explain the phenomena that cause fear. If you understand the reasons, you might be less frightened of it. The machine sounds loud because it is powered by a powerful engine and the powerful engine has a great voice. But it's just noisy, no harm. You should not be afraid of a mustached and bearded man, having mustache or beard does not mean that they are bad. Maybe they just don't like shaving. Uncle Géza is mustached / bearded, but you are not afraid of him.



Japan has a real cult around it

And of course – as always – I tried to call a book for help. I bought Veronika Marek's classic *Tommy and the Lion*. The book contains a fairy tale about a coward boy. Laci is afraid of everything, but then teaches the little red lion for courage. The book is great for reading with a small child, because there is very little text on one side and the story is accompanied by many pictures.

An adult may comment that the helicopter and the airplane are not the same, that instead of using the word 'coward' a subtler synonym could be used, and why there is none to be seen around Tommy in the evening turning on the lamp, or how the red lion would get into Tommy's room at all. But the book isn't for adults but for kids. My little son was not disturbed by these little things, he likes this undoubtedly nice, charming tale. And I hope there is something to add to this story to fight his fears.

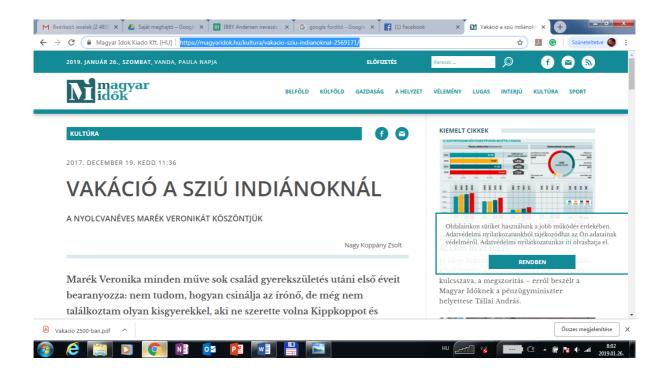
Veronika Marek's story book in Japan has had an amazing career, hundreds of thousands of copies have been sold since the sixties, there is a real cult around her. Of course, you can also find it in bookshops at home, and the story has a diaphragm version.

You can see more reviews on TOMMY AND THE LION in Japanese in the attachment.

VAKÁCIÓ 2500-BAN (HOLIDAY IN 2500)

Review

https://magyaridok.hu/kultura/vakacio-sziu-indianoknal-2569171/



HOLIDAY AT THE SIEUX TRIBE

Veronika Marék Turning 80

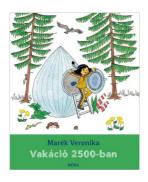
Written by Zsolt Koppány Nagy

All the works of Veronika Marek bring golden age for many families in the first years after childbirth: I do not know how the writer makes it, but I have not yet met a small child who would not like *Knocknock and Tiptoe*, the *Boribons, The Pebble Tale*, the *Tressy, Pudgy and Paprika* – and these are just the volumes we have (alas, dedicated ones!).

This time, the book published in 1987 titled *Holiday in 2500* appeared again, in 2017, when the writer is turning eighty. The title seemed to a bit strange to me: I didn't even know that there was a book like that, but as soon as I looked at the cover, I got to know all the impressions of the graphic knowledge of Veronica Marek and I knew what I could expect. In the work, the author is exploring the field of the Hungarian sci-fi, but so that the features she is familiar with remain the book's own.



And what about that Energy Cube medal in his neck? Is it really helpful in danger? — asks the cover text. And there will be a 'yes' to both questions, with the proviso that the handful of Marék Veronika's characteristics in the volume are so strong that in fact the story, which is written with a scientific-fantastic claim, promises that the story could be, anywhere else, but the most important factor to discuss the problems may occur between children. (The same thing happens in *The Blue Fence* two boys and one girl do all kinds of "childhood".)



Of course, this is not a problem at all, in fact. The story is complete, lovable, the energy cube helps the heroes, it has some sense of humor (Ato from the future tells the Indians to "shut down" the rain) and there is a lesson that can be easily digested by young people, but not strongly didactic, and the energy cube (it's a little funny name, but what else would it be?) it will be great beneficial to the two Indian children and their future comrades. (Perhaps the potential of science-fantasy could have been further exploited and not just used as a frame – but of course it is easy to think as a reader, every writer knows.)

The illustrations are perfect and instantly recognizable, the *Knocknock*-trained father's eye notices the inner rhythm and symbolism (for example, a cover letter is a kind of migratory motive in these books) and everyone from small children to toddlers likes it to read or listen to.

We (as a family) are very pleased with this book, and besides further reissue, we hope that the celebrating writer will come with many new books for our joy. Happy Birthday!

BORIBON ÉS A HÉT LUFI (BORIBON AND THE 7 BALLONS)

Review

Veronika Marék: 5 Boribon-tales, Pagony, 2017

https://www.revizoronline.com/hu/cikk/7697/marek-veronika-5-boribon-mese/ Published 28 Jan 2019



Viktória Dian

Heroes of the tales go in couple

(A shorted version)

Sometimes in the world of Veronika Marék, Annipanni is the child whose imaginary teddy bear friend imitates her: looking at picture books, bathing, snacking, dreaming. They do the same as Boribon Annipani's fictional mascot who is always with her. He is a fictionial, fantasy toy, imaginary friend for Annipanni. This kind of imagination is common in preschool age when fictional people, animals or even plush figures personalize friends. The function of the symbolic game is to enable the toddler to cope with his / her management and competence problems. The imaginary friend can help in this, and after this fantasy has played its role in spiritual development as it came, it will stay out of the child's everyday life. Annipanni and Boribon are therefore a couple in the sense of psychology.

Tommy and Lion, Knocknock and Tiptoe, Little Bro, Big Bro, Annipanni and Boribon – heroes of Veronika Marek's tales mostly go in pairs, they are companions each other, but they also work at a psychological level.

The innocently loving five small picture books are actually a powerful, deeply psychological, healing storytelling world. This world is an essence of Veronika Marek's unique knowledge, based on the stripped, interacting complexity of the word and image. Using of these

subconscious symbols has a liberating effect on the children. This is most evident in the title *Boribon and the 7 Balloons* among the five small volumes.

Boribon gets seven colored balloons from Annipanni: red, orange, yellow, green, light and dark blue, and a purple. He starts to show them to his friends, but visiting the dog, the hedgehog and the frog the balloons burst out. Boribon is clumsy and can't take care of his treasured treasures. He gives the last, red balloon the rabbit selflessly. Not one of the seven balloons left, and Annipanni comforting Boribon that the balloons are just like that, they blew out soon, just staying in the colors visible in the rainbow. The fairy tale is a classic parable, and has many layers: moral – it is right to share with others what we have; meta-aesthetics – the clear colors are the elemenets of the sunlight; psychology - the conflict between the story and the loss, the passing away; philosophical - the theme of the tale is life and death; theological - is based on one of the biblical symbols of the covenant between man and God. When Boribon loses his balloons in awkwardness, we know that we would do the same, and when there is no one left of them, we also feel that everything is lost. When the rainbow is shining on the last page of the book, the reader will be comforting, uplifting, and reassuring that nothing is lost on the ground, it doesn't go in vain.

Veronika Marek has created exceptional works in many different genres: she wrote picture books (Tommy and the Lion, The Ugly Little Girl), interactive books, educational books, novels, puzzles, and many coloring, puzzle, board games, diaphragms and animation films are also associated with her name, the most famous of which is *The Rabbit with the Checkered Ears*. It is not easy to take into account all aspects of such a rich, diverse lifestyle, and maybe even the tools of today's children's literature critique do not allow Veronika Marék to analyze her works, which are easy to accommodate, especially for preschoolers. Examining her booklets could have a fertile effect on theoretical debates, because the value of her books could not be explained by her visual or linguistic solutions. In her stories, the common subconscious symbolic system of folk tales cannot be traced, her figures are too contemporary. If someone were to look for the educator's goal in the works, he would surely find it, but he would be very mistaken if he were looking for a way to get the books into action. Veronika Marek's books can open up to the analytical analyst at the intersection of child psychology, intermediality and (in some cases) religious psychology.

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Budapest: Pagony, since 2004

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