



HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD 2024



DOSSIER

FOR NOMINEE

Children's Writer

NOUNEH SARKISSIAN

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

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BIOGRAPHY

NOUNEH SARKISSIAN

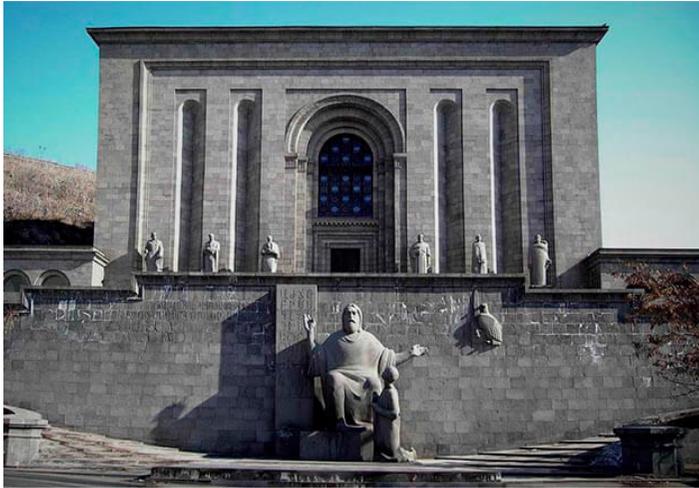
Nouneh was born into an intellectual family in the Republic of Armenia, USSR. Her father was a writer and editor-in-chief of the newspaper 'World of books'. Her mother was a teacher of Armenian language and literature.

In Yerevan she went to a special English language school, where the English was taught parallel to Armenian and Russian. At school, she became an active member of The Drama Circle at the age of seven and had leading roles in school performances. She was noticed by the Armenian National TV and was invited regularly to participate in children's programmes.

The school was staging Bernard Shaw's and Shakespeare's plays in the original language. Nouneh considered herself lucky to have the parts of Eliza Doolittle in Pygmalion, Cordelia in King Lear and Juliet in Romeo and Juliet. It was then when Nouneh started to write stories and rhymes, being as well a member of the school Literature Club.

This didn't prevent her to go by bus to the State Radio occasionally during school holidays and every Sunday morning, to be recorded in children's plays and programmes. Alongside school life, she studied music at a special Music School.





Matenadaran

The life in the communist regime was harsh and difficult with restricted freedom. Nouneh's parents were making enough money to buy food, clothes and books. Her mother's salary was spent on transport, food and clothing, her father's – on books. Most objects of necessity were considered to be a luxury, including good books. One had to register, queue and wait for months for a good dictionary or a novel. Many books were forbidden, like *Master and Margarita* by Bulgakov, so the books were secretly circulating among teenagers and students. In spite of all restrictions and lack of goods, the children of Soviet society were getting excellent education, for free.

After graduating from the special English language school, Nouneh entered the Department of Romano-Germanic Languages at Yerevan State University.

This was followed by her work at the Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Matenadaran, in Yerevan. The work there has given Nouneh even more knowledge and information about history and culture of medieval world, especially of Armenia. Matenadaran, one of the largest manuscript depositories of the world is a unique institution. While working there, Nouneh had the opportunity to meet with many scholars and observe thousands of medieval manuscripts with gorgeous, skillfully done illustrations. This had improved her professional skills. She was paid very little, but so-called material life was not a priority.



Medieval Armenian Gospel on Parchment

Parallel to her work at Matenadaran, she started to write essays for the Armenian Radio and newspapers about old parchment manuscripts, art and culture, as well as about the work of prominent artists and musicians. She has made up a rich and fundamental basis for herself, based on her work and her family library.

As a family of four, Nouneh and her husband Armen Sarkissian, professor of theoretical physics and astrophysics and their two sons Vartan and Hayk, settled down in London in 1991. Due to Nouneh's husband who worked at Cambridge University and later, at Queen Mary and Westfield College, the family visited Great Britain since 1984.

Once Nouneh's husband became the first Ambassador of the independent Republic of Armenia in the UK in 1992, she entered the Department of History of Art at Goldsmiths' College, London University and graduated with an MA. Her dissertation was on the art of American-Armenian abstract expressionist Arshile Gorky.

Art became Nouneh's priority and later she did numerous courses at Sotheby's and Christie's Auction Houses, in order to improve her knowledge, as well as at Westminster College, London – to improve her drawing and painting skills. She continued to write about art and culture for newspapers in Armenian Diaspora in England, France, the United States, as well as in Armenia.

In 1998 – 2000 Nouneh was the Cultural Counsellor at the Armenian Embassy in London. She was actively organising exhibitions and cultural events, presenting Armenian classical literature and contemporary art. Her role with the Embassy has seen her provide a platform for many artists as well as contributing to some extraordinary and diverse exhibitions such as; Fabergé which she helped to transfer from the Kremlin to Las Vegas, through to 'Symbols and Mysteries; Art in Transition' in Kensington, London.

In 2000 – 2005 Nouneh was managing the Manoukian Cultural Centre at St. Yeghiche's Armenian Church, in London.

For many years Nouneh dedicated her time and energy to international and Armenian charities, raising funds through concerts of classical music, inviting famous musicians, choirs and orchestras for good causes.

After a few years Nouneh returned to her love of music and started a partnership with Steinway Hall, putting on concerts for aspiring and talented young musicians at home in London, including a piano recital by Kit Armstrong, who she has supported since the age of 15.

Parallel to this, she continued writing for children. She said in one of her interviews: *'Our world is complicated. It is becoming more and more difficult to preserve moral values in such a complex environment for very young minds. It is extremely important priority for my generation to present to the young generation of our children and in my case – grandchildren as well, values like kindness, love, family, friendship through books and word of mouth. It is important to teach them not to be lazy and to have goals and to have dreams in their lives. That is why I spend a lot of time visiting schools for talks and workshops with children. Good moral and disciplinary values are shaped in human beings at very early age in childhood, that's why it is utmost important to pay more attention to the education of children at nurseries and schools. The world of children is different. It is not easy to write for them. One has to look at things through their prism and keep them interested in books, having the huge flow of media information around them. I find inspiration for my books in the world of children, who I love.'*



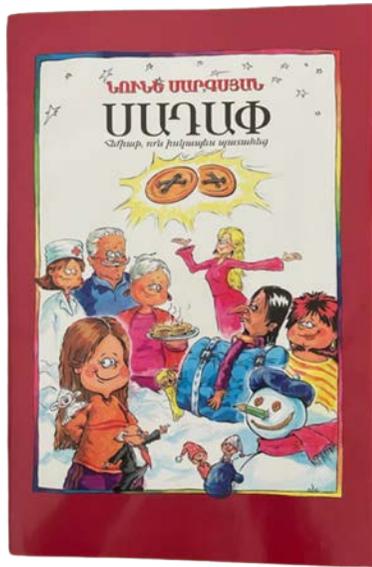
Three Dragons

Nouneh is the author of over 20 books for children. Her children's books, translated into Arabic, Italian, Georgian, Russian and Ukrainian, have gained huge popularity among young readers in Europe and beyond. Most of these books were donated by the author to children of Yerevan and regional schools and libraries and to children of Armenian Diaspora in Great Britain, Russia, the USA and elsewhere.

One of her books -Three Dragons- was among the final 300 winners (the final 15%) in 2006 'Write A Story For Children' competition of The Academy of Children's Writers in the UK.

Following her husband's advice, who has become the President of Armenia in April 2018, Nouneh has arranged the adaptation of some of her books into Western Armenian, as well as different dialects of Armenia - and donated all the books to the regional and Diaspora schools and libraries. She has done it for two reasons: first to keep the extinct dialects alive and second, to connect the children who are far from Armenia to children's modern literature.

(Armenian is a pluricentric language, having two modern standardized forms: Eastern Armenian spoken in Armenia, and Western Armenian spoken in the Diaspora, as well as numerous other dialects.)



Sadap, A True Fairy Tale

Since 2005 Nouneh's books have been published in Armenia, 'Sadap, A True Fairy Tale' being the first one. Then appeared many others, which became children's favourites.

In 2010 her book 'Shoes for Dragon Nessie' was published by the publishing house Mikko, in Kharkiv, Ukraine, in Russian and Ukrainian.

In 2015 one of Nouneh's earlier books, 'The Magic Buttons', was published in the UK by Quartet Books.

In 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2021, 2022 Nouneh's books have been presented at numerous International Book Fairs, including in the UK, Italy and Armenia.

Some of her fairy tales have been turned into puppet shows and are successfully presented at the Hovhannes Toumanian Puppet Theatre and The State Marionette Theatre in Yerevan.

The story about Bald Hedgehog, one of Nouneh's famous stories, was turned into a ballet for very young children (Music by Grig Balasanyan, Choreography by Vahe Babajanyan, Costume design by Aigana Gali) and has been on the stage at Yerevan State Choreography College, performed by its students since 2021.

Nouneh likes to devote time to painting and drawing and she has illustrated one of her own books 'Anteaters', which was published in 2020. The book is teaching the children to look after their health and hygiene, especially their teeth.

In February 2018 Nouneh's paintings were displayed at an exhibition at Everard Read Gallery in London.

'The result in each case is a distinct visual musicality; a story told by means of process and the act of free expression.' wrote about her paintings Jason Carey, Head of Impressionism and Modern Art, Christie's, London.

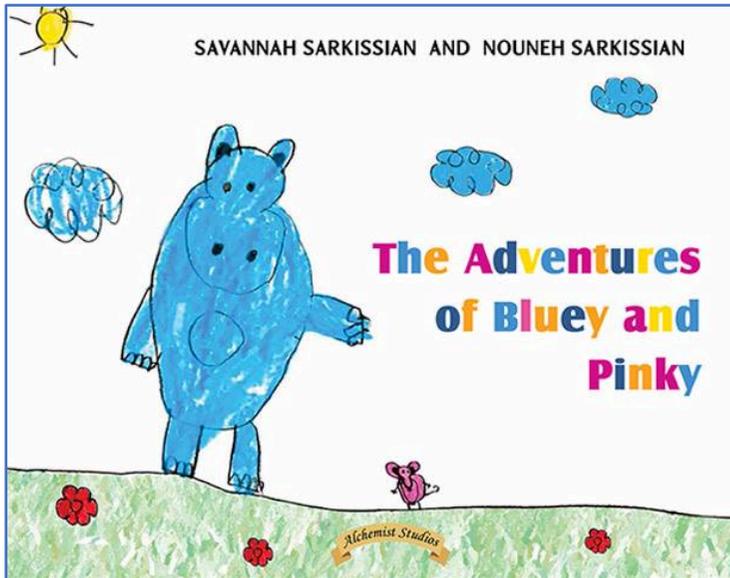
In 2008 His Holiness Garegin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians has granted Nouneh Sarkissian with the Order of St. Gregory the Illuminator for her philanthropic work.

In July 2018 Nouneh was awarded with the highest-ranking honour of the Republic of Italy – Cavaliere di Gran Croce (Dame of Grand Cross) - for 'merit acquired by the nation' in the fields of literature and arts.

In November 2018 Nouneh was honoured with the Global Inspiration Leadership Award on the 6th South America-Africa-Middle East-Asia Women Summit-SAMEAWS Dubai-UAE 2018.

On December 11, 2019, Nouneh Sarkissian has become a UNICEF High Level Advocate for children.

Armenian PR Association's award 'Woman of The Year' was given to Nouneh Sarkissian on December 23, 2019. According to the Chairperson of the association, conducted public research has proved, that 'The society appreciates the activity of Nouneh Sarkissian, especially her constant attention to disabled children and those suffering from autism.'



In 2021, 'The Adventures of Bluey and Pinky' Book One, was distinguished for excellence and nominated by the International Board on Books for Young People for the IBBY Honour list 2022 as an 'Outstanding Book'. Her books have also been selected for inclusion among the top picture books chosen by librarians of the International Federation of Library Associations for the World Through Picture Books programme.

Nouneh Sarkissian's 'The Magic Buttons' in Armenian, published in 2020, and 'Three Dragons' in Armenian are included in Khnko Aper National Children's Library's 'Most Read Books' list of 2022 and she is among the library's 'Most Read 20 Authors' list.

<https://natchildlib.org/en/the-most-read-books-of-2022/>

<https://natchildlib.org/en/20-most-read-authors-of-2022/>



Nouneh's grandchildren, especially her granddaughter Savannah, have been a constant creative source and inspiration to her children's books. Savannah and Nouneh joined their skills in 'The Adventures of the Blue Hippopotamus and the Pink Mouse', Book One, 'Bluey and Pinky Go to School', Book Two, and 'New Adventures of Bluey and Pinky', Book Three. Savannah Sarkissian is the illustrator and the co-author of all three books. In this way Nouneh is encouraging parents and teachers to give support to creative children. She says: *'All children are born with this or that talent. We, grown-ups, have to encourage and support their talents and give opportunity to develop it.'*

Nouneh Sarkissian is married to Dr Armen Sarkissian, former President of Armenia (2018-2022). She has two sons and three grandchildren.

<http://www.nouneh Sarkissian.com>

STATEMENT

A STATEMENT ON NOUNEH SARKISSIAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULTS' LITERATURE



Nouneh Sarkissian is the author of over 20 books translated into 28 languages: Italian, English, Arabic, Ukrainian, Georgian, Russian, as well as Armenian dialects of Karin, Artsakh, Gavar and into Western Armenian.

Most of these books were donated by the author to the children's libraries and schools in Armenia and children of Armenian Diaspora in the UK, Russia, the US, Italy, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE and elsewhere.

Nouneh Sarkissian has adapted some of her books in Western Armenian and Armenian dialects of Karin, Artsakh and Gavar*. This has been done for two reasons: to keep extinct dialects alive and to connect the children far from Armenia close to literature. She has donated most of the books to regional schools, libraries, kindergartens and Armenian communities in abroad. This is a rare phenomenon in the Armenian children's and young adults' literature, given the diversity of Armenian dialects and the widespread nature of the Armenian nation.

At the same time, such an initiative contributes to the cultural and linguistic diversity of Armenian children and young adults living in different parts of the world and stimulates their appreciation of national identity.



During the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Nouneh Sarkissian didn't stop her mission of encouraging children in communicating and educating themselves. Distant conversations with Armenian educational establishments in the country and abroad were carried out by her. Nouneh has held such meetings with the students and teachers of Armenian schools in Armenia and Kuwait, Boston, Aleppo and elsewhere. She was having online meetings with her readers, proposing a number of ideas and initiatives to make distance learning efficient.

One of her projects was the Pen Friend initiative. In the framework of this programme, the schoolchildren in Armenia and their peers abroad exchanged letters with the use of AI technologies. A poetry contest in Western and Eastern Armenian between two schools in Kuwait and Yerevan is worth to mention.

Nouneh Sarkissian stressed the importance of online meetings through educational institutions, aimed at the strengthening of ties between Armenia and Diaspora. The teachers of all schools who participated, presented issues related to the difficulties of distance learning during the coronavirus pandemic.

This way, Nouneh Sarkissian has succeeded to strengthen the bridge between Armenian children and teachers of Motherland and Diaspora. The teachers usually accepted her proposals and expressed readiness to implement them.

Nouneh Sarkissian's stories have turned into puppet shows and ballet and are regularly presented to very young audience, accompanied by classical music. In fact, she initiated the first Armenian ballet for four to five-year-old children and implemented excerpts of operas in Bald Hedgehog puppet show, to bring young audiences closer to classical music.



Nouneh Sarkissian is a strong believer of educating children through ART and MUSIC. Children in Armenia love her ballet The Bald Hedgehog.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmoksUyQLKY>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Y2jkg_t-3k

<https://www.president.am/hy/chronicle/item/2021/10/05/Nouneh-Sarkissian/>

Nouneh believes that reading stories aloud has its positive influence on children: it's improving their concentration, imagination and their ability to listen.

<https://nounehsarkissian.com/book-readings/>

<https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/stories/why-read-aloud-your-child>





Nouneh Sarkissian, due to her long-standing experience in the world of art and culture, folklore and traditions, enriches Armenian children's and young adults' literature with her broad worldview. Her books are well-designed, have a high print quality and contribute to the improvement of book publishing standards in Armenia. She makes an update of traditional characters of Armenian fairy tales such as kings, good and evil noblemen, maidens of outstanding beauty, courageous princes, wizards, gnomes, animals and dragons by presenting them to children in a new style and profile.

Nouneh Sarkissian is trying to give a message to children of an ecologically clean planet in her books. For example in *The Magic Buttons*, Chapter 5, page 26.

She says in one of her interviews: The children sometimes have so much positive energy that, they think they can save or change the world. And to them, all obstacles seem to be manageable. These days children are upset that people pollute nature. And they want the relationship between people and nature to be changed right now. I am sure that when my grandchildren and their generation grow up, they will change the world. However, I hope that my generation saves and improves the world and hand a green and clean planet over to our children and their children.

Nouneh Sarkissian has always promoted children's literature and encouraged new authors and illustrators. In September 2019, she, as the wife of the President of the country, established a special award for authors writing for children and illustrators, which was announced by Armenian National Section of IBBY in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of Armenia, as well as Khnko Aper National Library, Arevik publishing house and in partnership with Artbridge bookstore and was aimed at boosting the culture of publishing books with skillfully done illustrations for children and teenagers in Armenia.

In the modern world, where the media, computer games and other new technologies take control of children and limit their imagination, provoking extreme emotions and creating aggression by taking child's fragile world into temptation, Nouneh's simple, kind, and bright narratives give birth to genuine response and initiate their attachment to the nature, people and reading.

In one of her interviews with Armenpress journalist, Nouneh said: *The book will never lose its charm. Especially - children's books. Not surprisingly, in the last ten years, while E-books have been preferred by adult readers, the children's book market has, on the contrary, grown stronger. Parents want their children to read books, look at the pictures in the books, touch the book, read and play with the books and put them under their pillows. The way people like to read is personal and depends on the individual. For me, all kinds of reading are applicable, be it digital or not. I love all of it: books, kindle, or audiobooks.*

Nouneh is not limiting the age of her reader. Her books don't have age limitations. In another interview, she was asked an interesting question:

'A good children's book definitely attracts an adult reader as well. How do you explain this? Is children's literature for both adults and children?'

Nouneh answered, *'A child lives in all of us. Good children's literature has a long life and is read by both adults and children.'*

<http://ardi.am/mets-u-poqr-erekhanery-Kartsum-en-te-K/>

**Armenian is a pluricentric language, having two modern standardized forms: Eastern Armenian spoken in Armenia, and Western Armenian spoken in the Diaspora, as well as numerous dialects. According to UNESCO WEBPAGE 'The most important thing that can be done to keep a language from disappearing is to create favourable conditions for its speakers to speak the language and teach it to their children. This often requires national policies that recognize and protect minority languages, education systems that promote mother-tongue instruction, and creative collaboration between community members and linguists to develop a writing system and introduce formal instruction in the language.'*

APPRECIATIVE ESSAYS, INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES

THE BOOK LAUNCH OF NOUNEH SARKISSIAN'S 'THE MAGIC BUTTONS'

Armenian Church News, Volume 1, Issue 20
19 December 2015

Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland

Children's stories author Nouneh Sarkissian's first story book in English, *The Magic Buttons* (Quartet Books), was launched at 'Linley' showrooms in London on 10th December. Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, the Primate, was among the invited guests, who were welcomed by Lord David Linley.

Nouneh is the author of many enchanting and captivating children's story books, including *Dragon Nessie*, *Heroes*, *Basiliscus*, *Three Dragons*, *Sadap* and others, some of which have been published in Armenian, Russian and Ukrainian.

Speaking about her new beautifully illustrated book, Nouneh noted that this children's tale is 'about resourcefulness, courage and friendship.' Indeed, Nouneh's delightful tales nurture values and advocate moral challenges, that children, as well as adults face. No doubt, like her other books, *The Magic Buttons* will charm both children and adults alike. The story is about the International Conference of Wizards and Witches which has been sabotaged. Izzi Berton has stolen all the magic from those attending the conference, causing havoc everywhere.

Will Pearl save the magic and cure the people from the terrible Blue Fever? Read to find out!

<http://quartetbooks.co.uk/shop/magic-buttons>



Nouneh Sarkissian's books in Armenian and Russian are on sale on www.foyles.co.uk and at Foyles bookshop at 113-119 Charing Cross Road.

'The Magic Buttons' is on Amazon or at Waterstones and it's possible to order it at any other major bookshop in the UK. For her other books see <http://www.nouneh Sarkissian.com>

Nouneh Sarkissian has written stories for children since her early university years and her books have proved popular among children aged three to thirteen. For her other books see <http://www.nouneh Sarkissian.com>

NOUNEH SARKISSIAN'S LITTLE PEOPLE AND THE 'BLUE FEVER'



The book 'The Magic Buttons' by Nouneh Sarkissian, wife of the President of the Republic of Armenia Armen Sarkissian, children's writer and art critic, is about a fearless girl named Pearl Darzi, who wants to save the world from evil. The book was published by 'Zangak' publishing house. The illustrations were done by Agnes Avagyan.

Mediamax conversed with Nouneh Sarkissian about the children's fairy tale 'The Magic Buttons'.

Children's authors, writers in general, state that it is more difficult to write for children than for adults. You're the author of over twenty children's books - why is it more difficult?

This question will be better answered by a writer who does not write for children. Writing for a child is a serious and difficult task. It is impossible to fake in children's books. The child will feel it immediately.

I think that for a good children's writer, writing comes naturally, like a fountain pen. And that does not mean that the children's book is childish. On the contrary, by most of the authors, books for children are psychologically thought and deeply considered.

The first factor in writing for a child is sincerity, the second is love towards children, and the third is the authors gift of writing.



What makes 'The Magic Buttons' stand out from your other books?

'The Magic Buttons' is for children aged 6-12 and it is longer, it's a novel. The main character is a girl, Pearl Darzi. Pearl finds four tiny friends: Professor Kaspar, Tumbletash, Ping and Pong. They accompany the girl during her adventures. We all know that many children, especially those who don't have siblings or friends, create imaginary people who help them overcome obstacles and difficulties. In 'The Magic Buttons', Little People bring joy and liveliness to the story.

The book is available for younger or older children. We all know that younger children enjoy listening when someone reads to them. So 'The Magic Buttons' is good for 4-5 year old children as well.

All of my books have a message. 'The Magic Buttons' is special because after reading it the children learn to appreciate the most important values: health, family and friendship.

Does the main character have a prototype?

Pearl doesn't have a prototype, she is the result of my imagination. However, I now see Pearl's wisdom and will power in my granddaughter Savannah.

In the book, Pearl finds the magic to help people to get rid of Blue Fever. These days, the world is confused, because of Covid-19, and it seems that we don't talk much about what children really feel, how they perceive danger and isolation, and where do they see the way out of the situation. In your book, we see how anxious Pearl Darzi is about danger.

Yes, you are right, because of the Blue Powder, the so-called Blue Fever is spreading everywhere. Even Pearl's grandfather gets sick, turns blue and stops breathing. However, Pearl, being a brave girl, decides to save her grandfather and the whole world from Blue Fever. You are comparing Blue Fever with Covid 19. You know, every child dreams of magic. Unfortunately, there is no magic in real life, but children love to dream. Being optimistic and brave, children in Armenia are often mentally more resilient than adults. There will be no magic about Covid-19! But I am sure that the days of Covid 19 will pass like a bad dream. Unfortunately, many of our children will have sad memories.

'Grandma sat at the table. As she sipped her tea, she sighed softly. She looked worried, but Pearl thought that Grandma sometimes worried for no reason.' It seems to me that many of our questions can be answered along these lines. Sometimes we worry for nothing...



We, adults, are not worried for no reason. It's alright to be worried, but moderately. Anxiety is necessary to prepare for worse, but it should be reasonable and not turn into depression or aggression. It would be good to transform concern into useful actions and make it a motivation to fight for good goals.

Pearl interrupts her important work by helping the girl she met in the forest. We say that kindness and self-sacrifice will save the world. Is that what we lack today?

Yes. If people helped each other, the world would have been a better place. Greed, selfishness, materialism, jealousy - these are the human qualities that we should try to protect our young generation from.

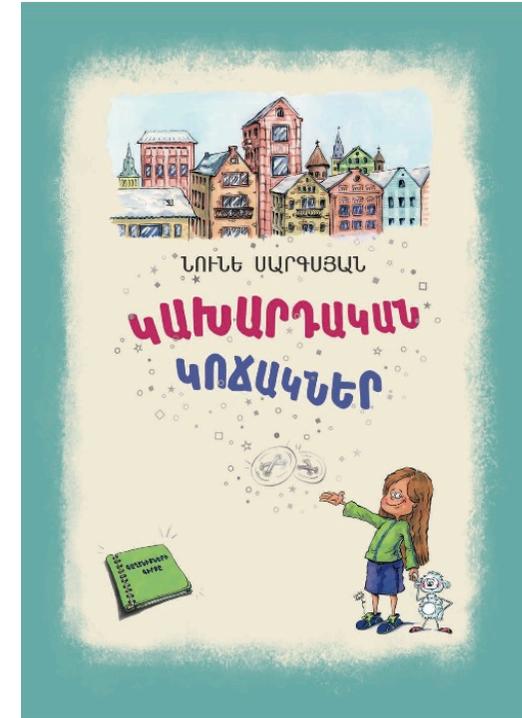
Why Pearl?

Pearl is beautiful, pure. This name symbolizes beautiful and pure character of the girl. In addition, this name is not common among Armenians, and when I started the book, I was looking for a name that was not common. And I used my friend Lord Ara Darzi's last name as Pearl's surname. Ara is well aware and very happy.

Everything is in order in the house, Pearl herself puts everything at its place. The name of the town is Spic-and-Span. Why?

The rules and regulations, tidiness and cleanness described in the book have the purpose of educating children. The grandmother who I created is tidy and neat. The entire Spic-and-Span town is well preserved and very organized. Everything has its certain place in the grandparents' house. Haven't you noticed that children learn faster seeing, rather than being lectured? I described all this in my book not only for Pearl, my heroine, but also for the children who read the book.

Pearl has no friends in Spic-and-Span town and goes to the garden, talking to trees, plants and insects. It seems to her that all trees have characters. Is there an attempt to instill in children a love for nature through these descriptions?



You are right, the book has some input and educational significance for the love of nature. And not only that. It also has humorous or conflicting relationships, moments and episodes to attract the reader.

In the book, I also tried to teach children to notice the beauty in nature, around us, be it a small ladybird or a giant tree. For Pearl, nature lives and needs care. Pearl hugs the trees and talks to them. Have you tried to do the same? It is a strange feeling that connects a person to nature.

If we instill love for nature in our children from the very young age, perhaps we can save many species which are facing the threat of extinction on our planet.

The family is the most important subject in this story.

Of course. Everything starts from the family. From a young age, it's good to inspire in children love for family, love for sisters and brothers, appreciation for grandparents, respect for father's and mother's teachings and life experience. For Pearl her family is very important!

Izzy Berton had no friends, and it turns out that it is the lack of friendship and love that makes this person mean. But no matter how positive the ending of this book is, this story does not avoid a 'black spot' at the end. Izzy becomes a 'black spot' on the Moon. Maybe the child has to get to know the real world from early childhood, to understand that 'black spots' are inevitable in our lives?

Now I am working on the second book of 'The Magic Buttons', where Izzy Berton, the evil character of the novel, will continue his mean and wicked behaviour against the whole world. Pearl, together with her friends and witches and wizards will try not to destroy Izzy, but to change him. Let's see how she will succeed.



Children's books are the most popular and best sold not only in Armenia but in the whole world. What exactly can your novel give to a young reader in terms of educating and bringing up children?

To tell the truth, I don't write intentionally to give something to the reader. I write sincerely and from my heart. My reader finds me and contacts me. However, I can say that the novel 'The Magic Buttons' clearly teaches children about positive values of life.

Will the book be translated or presented to foreign readers?

'The Magic Buttons' was first published in Yerevan in 2005, and in 2015 it was published in London, in English. The book was also published in Uzbek in Tashkent, and in 2017 - in Western Armenian for children of the Armenian Diaspora. It is also translated into Russian.

What about the book illustrations and design?

'Zangak' publishing house's book shop is one of my favourite places in Yerevan. Choose your favourite books and read them with cup of coffee in a friendly and cosy atmosphere... what else does a book lover need?

As a publisher, 'Zangak' is exceptional! They know how to listen and they have good taste. They are familiar with Armenian and World literature. They know what they want, that is, they are purposeful and hardworking.

Right now, I am working with the 'Zangak' publishing team on our joint fourth book for children, which will be called 'Anteaters'. It is about hygiene and health of children described through anteaters' lifestyle. 'Anteaters lost all their teeth because they were not brushing them'- that's the message in this fable. I made the illustrations for the book, which means I feel extra responsible. I don't worry about the design, 'Zangak' is by my side!

Who is your first reader?

Can you guess? Of course, my husband, Armen Sarkissian. He is the first one who reads the manuscripts of all my books. He is the one who inspires and motivates me.

Interviewed by Armine Sargsyan of Mediamax

Date: May 3, 2020

Link: <https://mediamax.am/am/news/BookHouse/37586/>

A RAGS TO ROUBLES FAIRY TALE:

Writer And Ambassador's Wife Nouneh Sarkissian On Her Journey From Soviet Armenia To Chelsea



*By Charlotte Pearson Methven
For Daily Mail YOU Magazine,
Sunday, 16 October 2016*

Writer and ambassador's wife NOUNEH SARKISSIAN's life in privileged Chelsea is a far cry from her upbringing in Soviet Armenia. She tells Charlotte Pearson Methven about the unexpected benefit of communism: creativity

I am sitting in a sumptuous drawing room overlooking the Thames, enjoying watermelon slices and cherries from a silver salver. My hostess, Nouneh Sarkissian, 62, is the wife of Armenia's ambassador to Britain.

She also has one of the world's largest collections of David Linley furniture and numbers the designer himself – the Queen's nephew – among her closest friends. A journalist by background, she is now a successful children's author (Linley hosted the launch party for her latest book, *The Magic Buttons*, at his flagship store last December). But there is nothing showy about Nouneh.

Her exquisite furniture collection – bespoke Linley tables, chairs and bookshelves, alongside art deco treasures, antiques, rare pieces of Japanese art and old masters – is referred to with quiet appreciation.



Nouneh as a toddler with her mother and aged 16 in communist Armenia

Nouneh can't tell me exactly how many Linley pieces there are, but they seem to be everywhere, blending in seamlessly in this immaculate Chelsea town house. 'We met David at the wedding of Armenian friends in Beirut in 1995 and have been close to him and [his wife] Serena ever since. We like his style. If I buy a set of Russian Imperial chairs, he will build a table to match.

We don't consider our Linley collection to be furniture. We see each item as a work of art that will be passed down to future generations,' she says.

Nouneh's husband Armen – an astrophysicist and former prime minister of Armenia – is now serving his third stint as Armenian ambassador in the UK. As well as being a prominent diplomat and politician, he is one of Armenia's most esteemed scientists and professors, and was, therefore, in a perfect position to broker oil and energy deals with the West when his country gained economic freedom from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Hence his wealth, and the seven-storey house at one of London's best addresses (he's also one of the creators of the cultishly popular tile-matching video game Tetris, which may have helped, too).

But Nouneh is too erudite and polite to talk about money. She and Armen met at school in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia (then communist, and a part of the Soviet Union), when she was 14 and he was 15. In contrast to their current gilded existence, they grew up in the austerity of the Soviet regime – a life Nouneh remembers as repressive, but also secure and nurturing of creative talent.



'I don't regret sacrificing my own ambitions for the wellbeing of my family,' says Nouneh

'My father was a journalist and my mother a teacher, so we were part of the intelligentsia. There were no classes in our society back then, just layers, and we were the second layer, after the nomenklatura – politicians and dignitaries who were allowed to travel and had access to foreign goods. 'We weren't rich but we were educated, with enough money to feed and clothe ourselves. I never felt deprived. It wasn't a bad childhood and I knew no different.' Nouneh does, however, recall some sinister moments.

'There was always a sense that we were being watched,' she recalls. 'My mother would say to us, "Be careful. Don't tell jokes. The walls have ears.'"

'And you felt it from a young age. It is something I will never forget. The fear was everywhere – that's how the regime lasted so long.

'My father, as a journalist, had to be very careful to use the right words and phrases. When he became the editor-in-chief of the monthly newspaper World of Books, he had to make sure not to allow the "wrong" titles to be reviewed. 'You could lose your life for using the wrong word or picture. I remember a story of someone spilling tea on Stalin's photo in a newspaper and having to go for an interrogation. 'The fear was even worse during his regime; I was born a year after his death – nine years after the Second World War ended – and can still remember seeing people who had lost limbs fighting in the war. It was very gruesome.'

But there was an upside to growing up in a communist regime: the huge emphasis that was placed on culture. ‘Our schools were amazing,’ says Nouneh, ‘and we were given tickets to theatre, opera, classical music and the best ballet in the world – all for free!’ Nouneh was a bright talent in her own right; her early promise evident when she got herself a job at a local radio station aged ten, which meant travelling half an hour on her own by bus every Sunday morning.

‘I was given children’s books to read on air. They would pay me some roubles, which I then gave to my mother, who needed them. I also wrote children’s stories and tried to get them published.’



Nouneh with her English bulldog Kolo

It was at secondary school that she met – and fell in love with – her husband. ‘He is my first and my only,’ she smiles. ‘Armen was the best student at our school and I was the best actress. We did Shakespeare and George Bernard Shaw plays – in English, because learning English was a big part of a communist education back then – and I always landed the main parts. ‘Because of this, I had boys running after me.

But I was an independent soul and always said no. Armen became curious and thought, “Who is this girl rejecting all the boys?” The two wound up at a Young Communists conference together, ‘which was very boring’, so she invited the other students back to her house.

Armen was wowed by her father’s book collection and asked to borrow a volume of poetry, ‘which was against the rules, as my father hated loaning his books.’ Fearing her father’s wrath if the tome was not returned, Nouneh tracked down Armen at school to retrieve it, ‘and this was how our friendship started,’ she explains.

They went together to Yerevan State University – Armen to study physics and Nouneh languages. Upon graduating, Armen was offered a position at Cambridge University. ‘He was invited 13 times by different universities before the communists allowed it.’ By the time he arrived in the UK in 1984, he and Nouneh were married with two sons, Vartan, now 36, and Hayk, 32. ‘Wives were not allowed to go abroad with Soviet scientists. We were kept behind as hostages. It was right after Hayk’s birth, so that was difficult. Moscow only allowed me to visit him for one month in April 1985. ‘I was 30 and when I arrived in London [en route to Cambridge] it was the first time I had ever been abroad. Before that, I had only travelled around the Soviet Union to places like Siberia, which are beautiful but, of course, all any of us wanted was to see London and Paris.



Armen meeting the Queen in 1998, and with Nouneh in 1996

NOUNEH'S NOTES

Reading John le Carré's *A Delicate Truth*. I love intellectual crime fiction.

Favourite children's books Anything by Dr Seuss or Roald Dahl – and the Armenian national fairy tales

Watching *Versailles* was amazing – the script and acting were brilliant. Armen and I also watch *Game of Thrones*, but sometimes it gets too tense.

Go-to designer Jun Ashida, who has stores in Tokyo and Paris. Every time I go in, I buy a piece.

Holiday hotspot Other than my beautiful Armenia, I love Sardinia, which has the clearest water, and Japan, where the minimalist art and culture appeals to me.

Last meal on earth Something traditional and Armenian – red kidney bean soup with crushed walnuts, followed by lamb stew with slices of quince and tomatoes.

Most prized possession My English bulldog Kolo. He is a full member of the family. Bulldogs are easy as they sleep so much and are cuddly and friendly.

'I fell in love with London. Armen and I said, "If only we could live here for the rest of our lives..." At the time it didn't seem possible, but Gorbachev had just come to power and declared his glasnost and perestroika – loosening censorship and allowing greater communication. We had friends from the West who told us about chewing gum, bell-bottom jeans and Jesus Christ Superstar – and, slowly, people began to rebel.'

Once the communist regime collapsed in 1991 and Armenia became independent, the country's first elected president asked Armen – by then a prominent academic – to open an embassy in London, and by 1992 Nouneh and the boys had joined him there. After several years as ambassador, Armen was appointed prime minister of Armenia in 1996.

Nouneh spent two years commuting between London (where the boys were at top public schools) and Yerevan to visit her husband, with her mother coming to London to stay with their sons while she was away.



Nouneh with husband Armen, sons Hayk (left) and Vartan, Vartan's wife Michael Rae and grandchildren Savannah and Armen

After stepping down as prime minister because of illness (from which he has now recovered), Armen became ambassador for a second time.

He then gave up the role for a few years to focus on other projects, before taking it up again in 2013, this time on an honorary basis.

Nouneh points proudly to a framed photo of Armen bowing to the Queen when she gave her blessing to his most recent appointment in 1998. 'She said, "Armen, you are the champion of all ambassadors. This is the third time you have come back to us." I admire Her Majesty so much. She is such a gracious soul and so intelligent.'

Nouneh and Armen are also friends with Prince Charles: they gave him a private tour when he visited Armenia in 2013. 'The prince and my husband share a passion for preserving heritage,' explains Nouneh. 'Armenia has some of the earliest Christian churches and our basilicas and sacred monuments have been beautifully preserved. Charles loved it.'



Nouneh with her friend David Linley



Nouneh meeting Pope John Paul II in 1995

The Sarkissians have their own charity, Yerevan My Love, which restores 'dilapidated and destroyed late 19th- and early 20th-century buildings' and repurposes them as music, community and sports centres where disadvantaged children can develop their talents.

The charity has held events at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, as well as in Yerevan. 'The Prince has supported all of these and our charity has partnered his Prince's Trust project at Dumfries House [a Palladian mansion in Ayrshire, which was restored for the community].'

Art and culture have retained a major influence on Nouneh. The holiday she and Armen most look forward to each year is their annual pilgrimage to the Mozart Festival in Salzburg.



© Debra Hurford Brown

'My book - the fairy tale - developed on its own,' says Nouneh, 'which is the magic of writing'

And she found a channel for her own creativity through writing – for many years as a freelance arts journalist for Armenian publications and now through her children's books, which are beautifully illustrated, full of imagination 'and each with a strong moral.'

The Magic Buttons is her 14th book and the first to be published in English. (She has written ten in Armenian and three in Russian.)

It tells the story of a little girl called Pearl, who is sent to live with her grandparents in Spic-and-Span Town after a plague takes hold in their village; she spins off on an adventure to save everyone, picking up friends with names such as Tumbletash along the way.

It is inspired by Nouneh's childhood and the close relationship she had with her grandmother growing up. 'I sat down to write something that would reflect my own experience but when the words started to flow it became something completely different – a fantasy fairy tale. The story developed on its own, which is the magic of writing.' Nouneh is now working on a sequel.

When she isn't writing or playing the dutiful ambassador's wife, Nouneh's energy goes on her English bulldog Kolo – 'my first dog, and I am totally in love with him' – and her grandchildren, Savannah, four, and Armen, two, Vartan's children with his American wife. 'Savannah has such an imagination.

She loves books and loves us to sit down and write stories together. Many of my best ideas come from her. We write about little domestic problems that can seem very large to children, such as worrying about needing the loo on the way to school and whether this will make you late.'

Her sons feel British, she says, though they are still proud of their roots. 'I miss the less formal relationship between people in Armenia – the way you can just ring someone's doorbell, have a coffee, empty your concerns and come home feeling better.

'We have a home in Yerevan and my sister [her only sibling, a graphic designer] is there, so we visit often. But I love London as much now as I did the day I arrived. There is no other place like it.' Nouneh admits that she has forfeited some of her potential to support Armen's career, but she clearly relishes family life and feels any sacrifices she's made have been worth it. 'I adore being a grandmother. My younger son Hayk is still single. I keep saying to him, "Hurry up! I want more grandchildren while I am still young." 'When I push too much, he says, 'You find me a woman then. I have just three conditions: she must be beautiful, clever and kind,'" she smiles wryly.

‘At least they live close to me. What I did to my mother by moving away!’ Her idea of a perfect Sunday is the family coming together at their house in Surrey. ‘I think I did sacrifice my own ambitions for the wellbeing of my family,’ she says. ‘But I never regret it. I have two beautiful children who are mentally strong and ambitious [Vartan runs his own cyber-security company and Hayk works with his father]. ‘If my life was ever frustrating, I tried not to show it. I was like “happy face” – she assumes an exaggerated smile that brings to mind the grinning emoji – ‘because this was what everyone needed from me...Happy Mum. Sad face never works.

‘It’s difficult to find the right balance in a relationship. Armen is strong and I’m strong. That could have been a clash, but I let him be our leader and he appreciates me for it. He always says he couldn’t have done any of it without me.’

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/you/article-3834282/A-rags-roubles-fairy-tale-Writer-ambassador-s-wife-Nouneh-Sarkissian-journey-Soviet-Armenia-Chelsea.html>

THE MINISTRY OF DIASPORA OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

On June 15, 2017 The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia organised the presentation of Nouneh's books.

Hranoush Hakobian, RA Minister of Diaspora, 'Armenian children's writer Nouneh Sarkissian has been known to Armenians and foreigners for a long time. She is able to portray a unique world of colors where dreams and reality are intertwined. In her stories even dragons can be kind and beautiful, and where good always wins over evil - this is what every child sincerely desires. Today, Nouneh's fairy tales are available in Ukraine, Russia and England, conveying love and warmth to children and putting smiles on their faces. The Language Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of RA (NAS RA) helped Nouneh to translate her fairy tales into two of the local dialects of Armenia. It is worth to mention that we are now working on translating them into Western Armenian which will help Armenian children around the world to find more children's literature in their own dialect.'



Victor Katvalian, Director of Language Institute of the NAS RA, expressed his appreciation to Nouneh Sarkissian, ‘Those children who grow up with fairy tales enjoy the best of them. Nouneh Sarkissian’s fairy tales show children beauty, kindness and grandeur. And if there is a noble goal, then even the chance comes to help to find the way out.’

Nayiri Mouradian, Head of Department of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, ‘I am glad to translate Nouneh Sarkissian’s fairy tales into Western Armenian, and I believe that if local Armenian language bearers wish to translate their works into Western Armenian, then Western Armenian language and culture will never be lost.’

Vardan Devrikian, Director of the Literature Institute of the NAS RA, emphasized that one can see the harmony between form and content in Nouneh Sarkissian’s fairy tales. ‘We see the combination of British and Armenian cultures in her fairy tales, and this makes them more charming,’

Serge Srapionian, Deputy Minister of Diaspora, ‘It is quite difficult to satisfy children in the 21st century and be interesting for them. Nouneh Sarkissian’s fairy tales are interesting for children, especially Armenian children. The Armenian mythology can be much seen in Nouneh’s genes.’

<http://www.mindiaspora.am/am/News/5291>

**The Ministry of Diaspora was recently closed by the Government of Armenia*

BLACK AND WHITE & SOMETHING ELSE

***Nouneh Sarkissian's exhibition at
Everard Read Gallery
30 January – 17 February 2018***



The Meeting of Elephants

The creative process gives me happiness and satisfaction [...] I sign my name with the spiral, a symbol for eternity. Life is eternal, and yet we are in this world to do something; to give birth to composition.”

– Nouneh Sarkissian

Born in Armenia, Nouneh Sarkissian is an artist, author and philanthropist based in Chelsea, London. She holds an MA in History of Art from Goldsmiths College, and is formally trained in studio painting and drawing.

Nouneh has published 14 children's books in Armenian, Russian, Ukrainian and English, and is an impassioned patron of social and architectural projects in Armenia. Nouneh is a creator, collector and enthusiast of fine art, and she instils this passion in her friends and family every day.

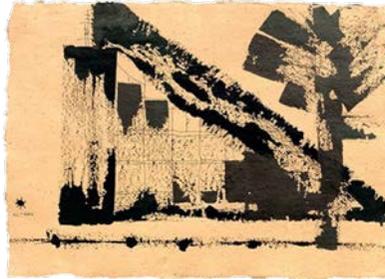
Black and White & Something Else represents a series of eight compositions of ink on paper, each portraying a unique abstract narrative by emerging artist and celebrated author Nouneh Sarkissian. Bordering on the verges of conceptual, representational and psychological pictorial approaches, Nouneh's artistic process is wholly automatic and unhindered by intention or any conventional aesthetic. Rather, her method offers meaning in its honest and candid approach to expression and composition.



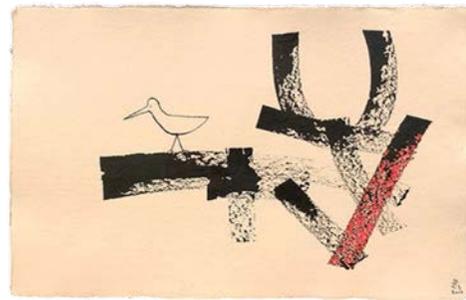
The Microscope in Boots



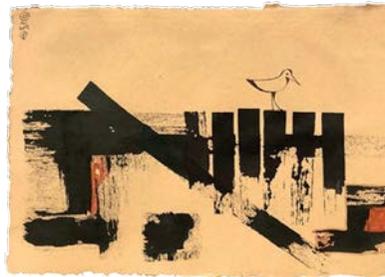
Polina's Secrets



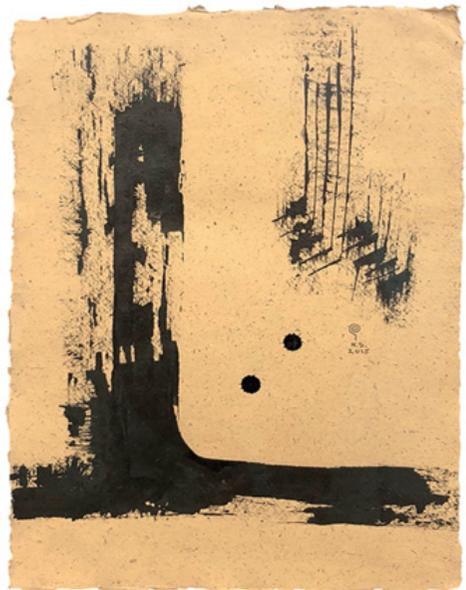
The Architect's Dream



Jack the Bird in Sardinia



Salvador, the Seagull



Tea with Kandinsky

Executed on fibrous, handmade paper, lustrous India ink is applied to each sheet with reeds of varying widths, sometimes detailed with a range of sanguine and red pens, and then playfully accented with figurative components, birds being a common feature.

The surrealist association with this dreamlike motif is further echoed in the title assigned to each work, inspired by an ephemeral thought, free association, mood or personal circumstance.

The act of gesturally applied ink is reminiscent of calligraphy, an art also explored by the artist in her early experimentation with the medium. The result in each case is a distinct visual musicality; a story told by means of process and the act of free expression.

<https://nouvehsarkissian.com/black-and-white-something-else/>

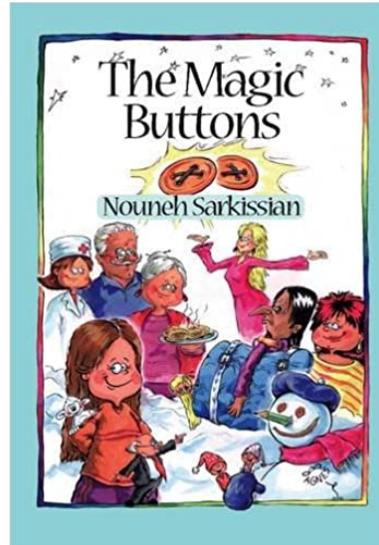
Jason Carey,

Head of Impressionist and Modern Art, Christie's London

Printed in association with Christie's

Book Review: The Magic Buttons By Nouneh Sarkissian

*By Assadour Guzelian for hetq.am,
12 January 2016*



A reception to launch Nouneh Sarkissian's The Magic Buttons was organised at Linley London Centre on December 10, 2015 by Lord David Linley and Naim Attallah of Quartet Books.

Lord Linley welcomed the guests and congratulated Nouneh Sarkissian, highly praising her book. On behalf of Quartet Books, Mr. Naim Attallah greeted the guests, praised the author of “The Magic Buttons” and spoke about the literary merit and contribution the book will make to UK children’s literature.

Sarkissian stated that stories of her previous books, as well as the one just published, teach children not only to love and respect moral values, but also to be resourceful and brave in defending them.

Sarkissian was born in Yerevan and graduated from the Romano-German faculty of the State University of Armenia. In 1991, together with their two sons Vartan and Haik, Nouneh and her husband Armen settled in London, UK, where she obtained a MA degree from Goldsmith College, London University.

Nouneh is not a newcomer to children's literature. Her stories were published in Soviet Armenian children's magazines during her early university years. Although " 'The Magic Buttons'" is Nouneh's first English book, Armenian children have been enjoying her stories for many years.

"The Magic Buttons" is a beautiful tale written by an author who has great creative talent and an intimate knowledge and understanding of a child's world. She can communicate with them, nourish their minds and feed their imagination with noble ideas. The story of the book is about the International Conference of Wizards and Witches, which has been sabotaged by Izzi Berton, who has stolen all the magic from those attending, causing havoc everywhere. He has also stolen the magic buttons. The hero of the book is a little girl called Pearl. Can Pearl find and bring back the magic buttons and cure her grandfather and many others infected with Blue Fever by Izzi Berton?

If with her earlier books, N. Sarkissian succeeded in revitalising Armenian Children's literature, undoubtedly with "The Magic Buttons" she has made a triumphant entry to English literature as children's author.

The only remark I wish to make is related to the appearance of the book and not its literary merit. In my opinion the publishers could have chosen a more child-friendly font in printing the book and done at least some of the illustrations in colour.

<https://hetq.am/en/article/64949>

LIST OF AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS



- **Order of St. Gregory the Illuminator**
from His Holiness Garegin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, 2008.
- **Cavaliere di Grand Croce (Dame of Grand Cross)**
the highest-ranking honour of the Republic of Italy, July 2018.
- **Global Inspiration Leadership Award**
on the 6th South America-Africa-Middle East-Asia Women Summit-SAMEAWS Dubai-UAE 2018, November 2018.
- **High Level Advocate for Children, (UNICEF Armenia)**
Nouneh Sarkissian was appointed as a High Level Advocate for Children in December 2019.



- **‘Woman of The Year’**

by Armenian PR Association, 2019.

- **IBBY Honour list 2022**

In 2021, Book One ‘The Adventures of the Blue Hippopotamus and the Pink Mouse’ was distinguished for excellence and nominated by the Armenian National Section of IBBY for the IBBY Honour list 2022 as an ‘Outstanding Book’.

COMPLETE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



1. ՍԱԴԱՓ, ԶԵՔԻԱԹ, ՈՐՆ ԻՍԿԱՊԵՍ ՊԱՏԱՐԵՑ

Sadap, A True Fairy Tale, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2005, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 8+)

2. ԵՐԵՔ ՎԻՇԱՊ

Three Dragons, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2009, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 3-8)

3. ՎԻՇԱՊ ՆԵՍԻՆ

Dragon Nessie, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2009, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 3-8)

4. ԶԵՐՈՍՆԵՐ

Heroes, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2009, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 5+)

5. ՆՈԱՆ ԶԱՏԻԿՆԵՐ

The Seeds of Pomegranate, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 5+)

6. ԹԱԳԱՎՈՐՆ ՈՒ ՎԻՇԱՊԸ

The King and The Dragon, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 3-8)

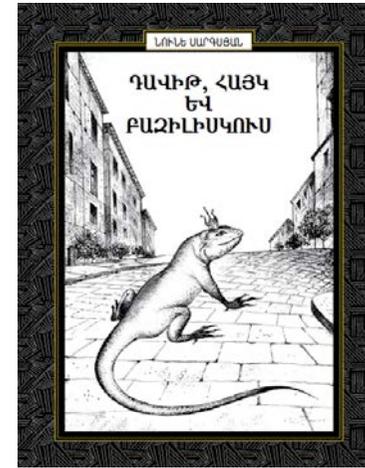
7. ԿԱԽԱՐԴԱԿԱՆ ԿՈՃԱԿՆԵՐ

The Magic Buttons, in Armenian, published by Zangak Publishing House, 2020, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 8+)

** In this edition the author added one chapter at the end where she sends the villain to the Moon.*

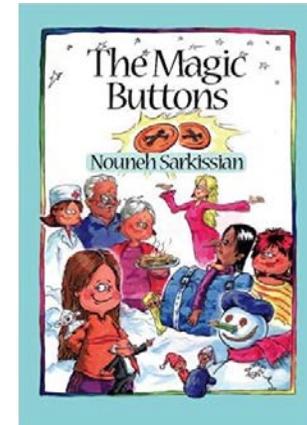
8. ԹԵ ԻՆՉՊԵՍ ՓՐԻԿԸ ՃԻՇՏ ՇՆՉԵԼ ՍՈՎՈՐԵՑ

How The Little Elephant Learnt To Breathe Properly, in Armenian published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 3-8)



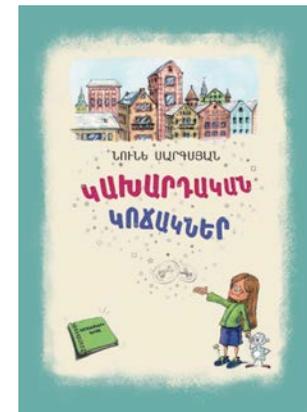
9. ՔԱՉԱԼ ՈՉՆԻՆ

The Bald Hedgehog, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 3-8)



10. ԿԱՊՈՒՅՏ ԳԵՏԱԶԻՈՒԿԻ ՈՒ ՎԱՐԴԱԳՈՒՅՆ ՄԿՆԻԿԻ ԱՐԿԱՃՆԵՐԸ

The Adventures of Bluey and Pinky in Armenian published by Alchemist Studios, 2019, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 5-10)

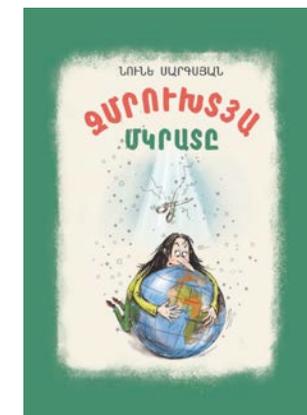
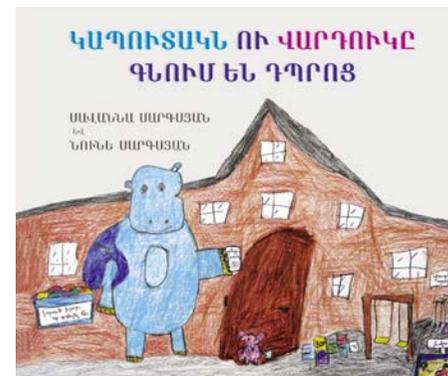


11. ԿԱՓԻՂԿԱ

Ka-Pigh-Ka, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2011, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 3-8)

12. ԴԱՎԻԹ, ՀԱՅԿ ԵՎ ԲԱԶԻԼԻՍԿՈՒՄ

Davit, Hayk And Basiliscus, in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2012, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 8+)



13. ԿԱՏԱՐԴԱԿԱՆ ԿՈՃԱԿՆԵՐ

The Magic Buttons, in English published by Quartet Books, 2015, London, UK (age group 7-12)

14. ԹՉՈՒԿ ՄՉՈՒԿԸ

Jerome The Gnome (Tzouk Mzouk), in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2016, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 3-8)

15. ՄՐՋՆԱԿԵՐՆԵՐ

Anteaters, in Armenian, published by Zangak Publishing House, 2020, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 5+)

16. ԶՄՐՈՒԻՆՏՅԱ ՄԿՐԱՏԸ

Emerald Scissors in Armenian, published by Zangak Publishing House, 2021, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 8+)

17. ԿԱՊՈՒՏԱԿՆ ՈՒ ՎԱՐԴՈՒԿԸ ԳՆՈՒՄ ԵՆ ԴԴՐՈՑ

Bluey and Pinky go to school in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2021, Yerevan, Armenia (age group 5-10)



18. ԿԱՊՈՒՅՏ ԳԵՏԱԶԻՈՒԿԻ ԵՎ ՎԱՐԴԱԳՈՒՅՆ ՄԿՆԻԿԻ ԱՐԿԱՃՆԵՐԸ

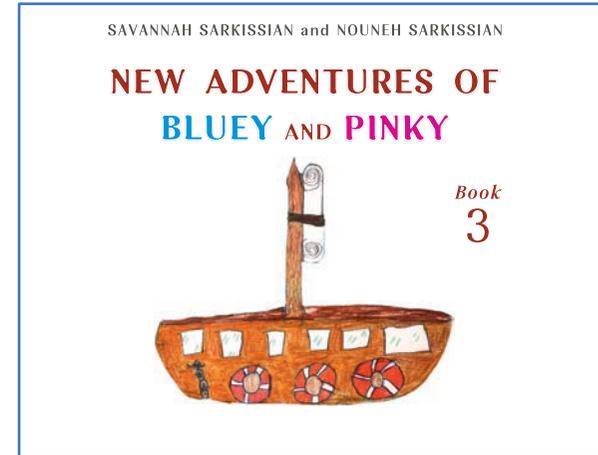
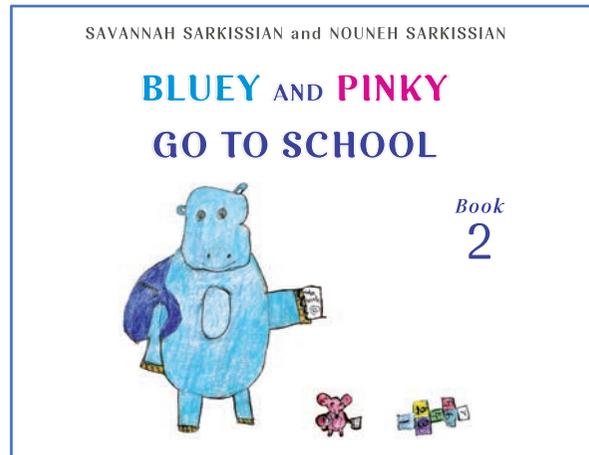
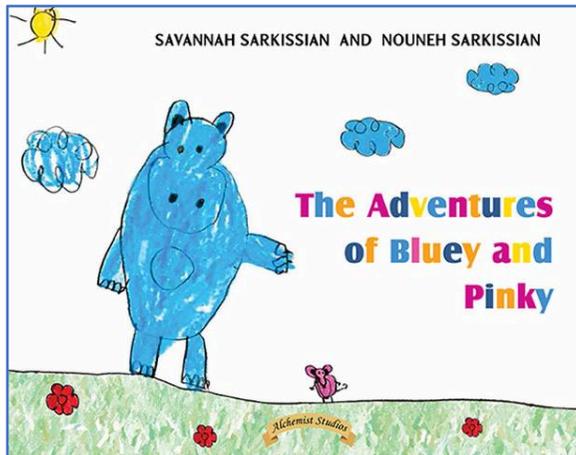
The Adventures of Bluey and Pinky – **Book One**, in English
co-authored by Nouneh Sarkissian's granddaughter, Savannah Sarkissian
Published by Alchemist Studios, 2019, Yerevan, Armenia
(age group 5-10)

19. ԿԱՊՈՒՏԱԿՆ ՈՒ ՎԱՐԴՈՒԿԸ ԳՆՈՒՄ ԵՆ ԴՊՐՈՑ

Bluey and Pinky Go to School - **Book Two**, in English
published by Alchemist Studios, 2022, Yerevan, Armenian
(age group 5-10)

20. ԿԱՊՈՒՅՏ ԳԵՏԱԶԻՈՒԿԻ ԵՎ ՎԱՐԴԱԳՈՒՅՆ ՄԿՆԻԿԻ ՆՈՐ ԱՐԿԱՃՆԵՐԸ

New Adventures of Bluey And Pinky - **Book Three**, in English
published by Alchemist Studios, 2022, Yerevan, Armenian
(age group 5-10)



LIST OF TRANSLATED EDITIONS

1. ЗЕРНА ГРАНАТА

The Seeds of Pomegranate, in Russian
published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia

2. ЧЕРВОНІ ЧЕРЕВИЧКИ ДЛЯ НЕССИ

Red Shoes For Dragon Nessie (Dragon Nessie), in Ukrainian
published by Mikko, 2010, Kharkiv, Ukraine

3. ДРАКОН НЕССИ

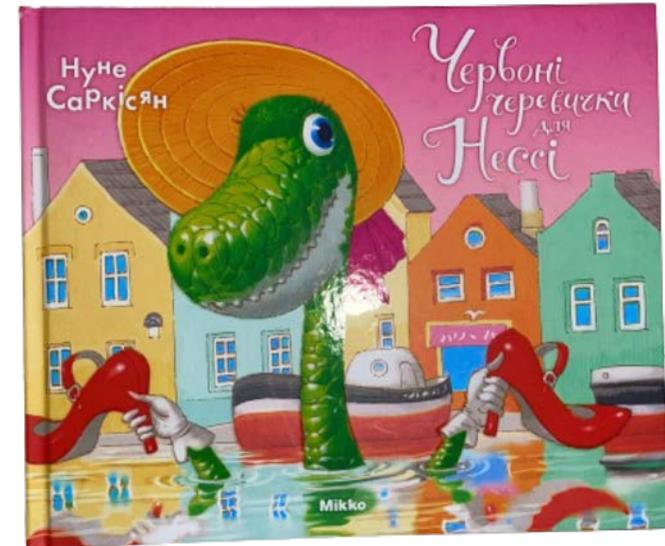
Dragon Nessie, in Russian
published by Mikko, 2010, Kharkiv, Ukraine

4. ЦАРЬ И ДРАКОН

The King and The Dragon, in Russian,
published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia

5. ГЕРОИ

Heroes, in Russian
published by Alchemist Studios, 2015, Yerevan, Armenia

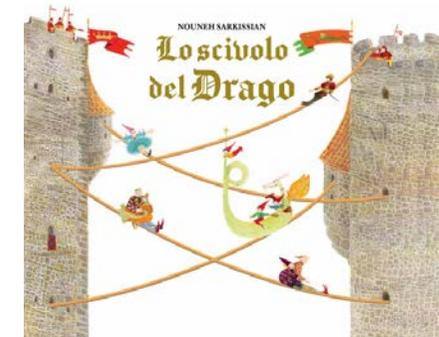
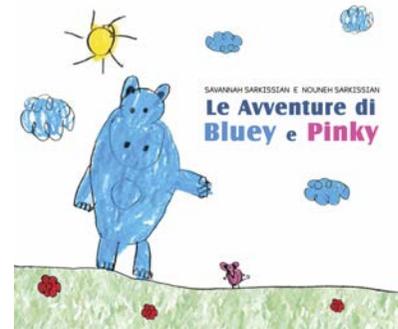


6. THE KING AND THE DRAGON

In Italian, published by il Brucofarfalla publishing house through Associazione Di Promozione Sociale 11Radio 2021, Rome, Italy.

7. THE ADVENTURES OF BLUEY AND PINKY

In Italian, published by il Brucofarfalla publishing house through Associazione Di Promozione Sociale 11Radio 2021, Rome, Italy.

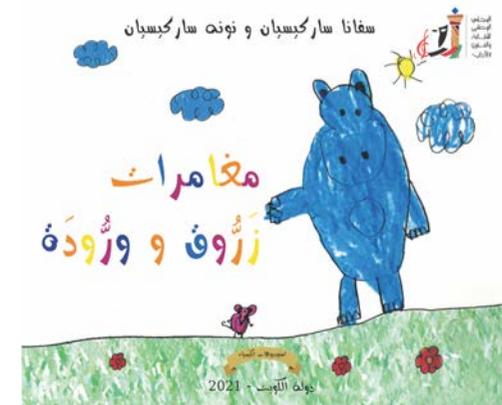
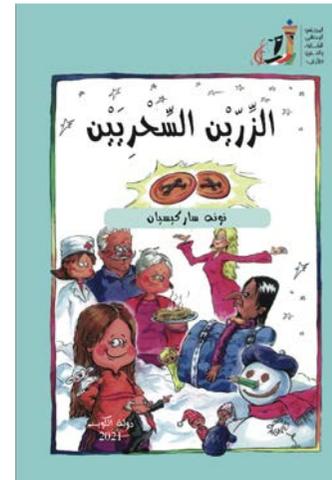


8. THE MAGIC BUTTONS

in Arabic and English
published by National Council for Culture,
Arts and Literature (NCCAL)
2021, Kuwait City, Kuwait

9. THE ADVENTURES OF BLUEY AND PINKY

in Arabic and English
published by National Council for Culture,
Arts and Literature (NCCAL)
2021, Kuwait City, Kuwait

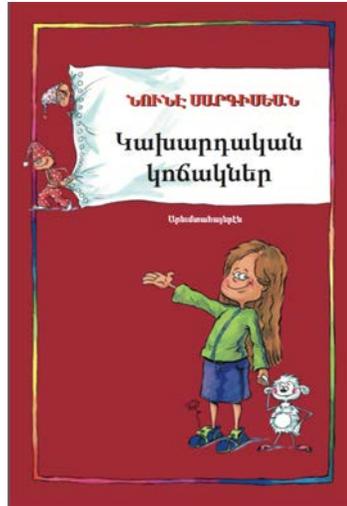


THE BOOKS TRANSLATED INTO DIFFERENT DIALECTS OF ARMENIAN LANGUAGE AND PUBLISHED BY ALCHEMIST STUDIOS, 2015-2017, YEREVAN, ARMENIA



- The King and The Dragon
- The Seeds of Pomegranate
- Jerome the Gnome
- Ka-Pigh-Ka
- The Bald Hedgehog
- Three Dragons

TRANSLATED INTO WESTERN ARMENIAN



DRAGON NESSIE

in Western Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2017, Yerevan, Armenia

THE MAGIC BUTTONS

in Western Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2018, Yerevan, Armenia

THE BALD HEDGEHOG

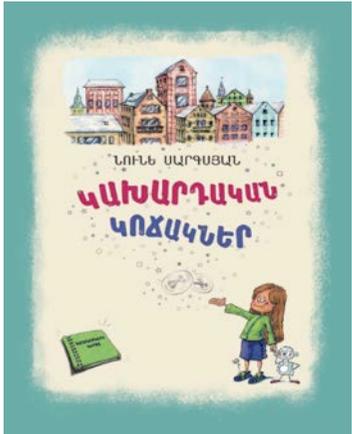
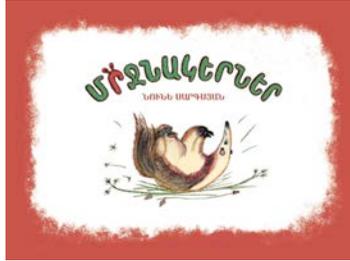
in Western Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2017, Yerevan, Armenia

JEROME THE GNOME (Tzouk Mzouk)

in Western Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2017, Yerevan, Armenia



TEN OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TITLES



1. THREE DRAGONS

in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2009, Yerevan, Armenia

2. THE SEEDS OF POMEGRANATE

in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia

3. THE KING AND THE DRAGON

in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia

4. THE BALD HEDGEHOG

in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia

5. KA-PIGH-KA

in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2011, Yerevan, Armenia

6. DAVIT, HAYK AND BAZILISCUS

In Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2012, Yerevan, Armenia

7. JEROME THE GNOME (TZOUK MZOUK)

in Armenian, published by Alchemist Studios, 2016, Yerevan, Armenia

8. THE MAGIC BUTTONS

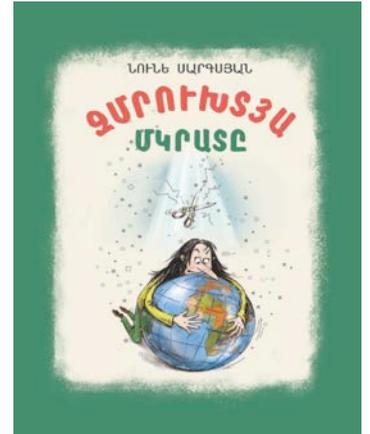
In Armenian, published by 'Zangak' Publishing House, 2020, Yerevan, Armenia

9. ANTEATERS

In Armenian, published by 'Zangak' Publishing House, 2020, Yerevan, Armenia

10. EMERALD SCISSORS

In Armenian, published by 'Zangak' Publishing House', 2021, Yerevan, Armenia

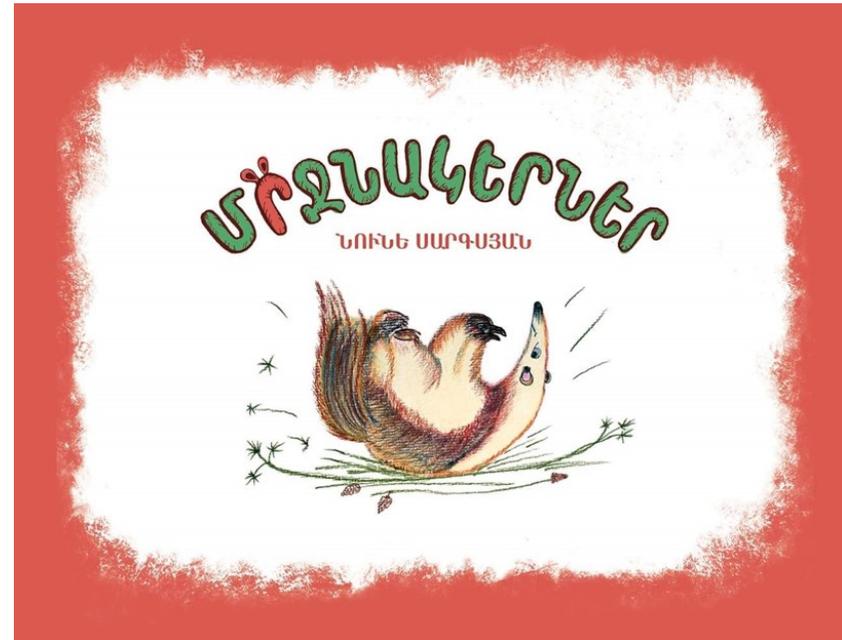


LIST OF THE FIVE REPRESENTATIVE BOOKS



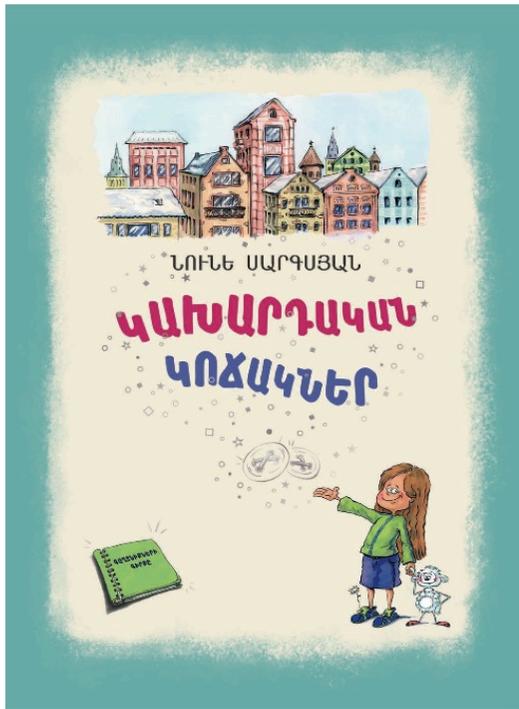
‘Three Dragons’

in Armenian
published by Alchemist Studios
in 2009
Yerevan, Armenia



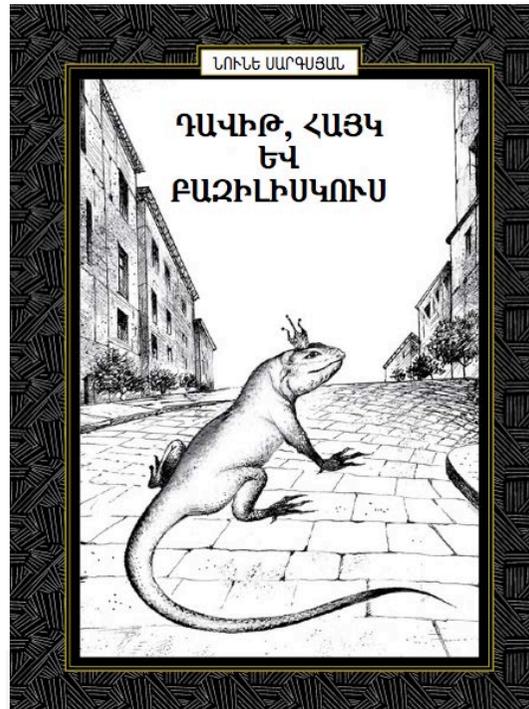
‘Anteaters’

in Armenian
published by ‘Zangak’ Publishing House
in 2020
Yerevan, Armenia



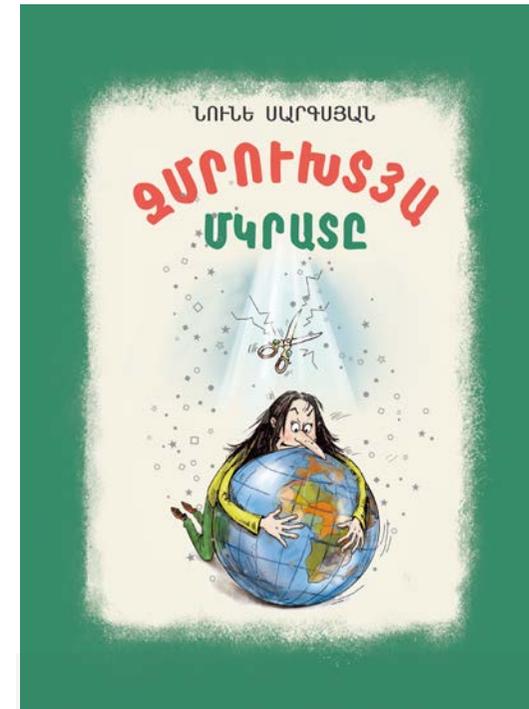
'The Magic Buttons'

in Armenian, published by
'Zangak' Publishing House
in 2020,
Yerevan, Armenia



'Davit, Hayk And Basiliscus'

in Armenian, published by
Alchemist Studios
in 2012,
Yerevan, Armenia

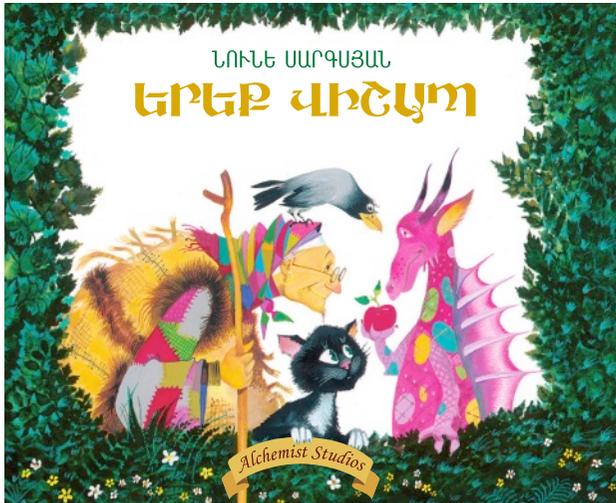


'Emerald Scissors'

in Armenian, published by
'Zangak' Publishing House
in 2021,
Yerevan, Armenia

REVIEWS

‘THREE DRAGONS’



Recently looking through the fairy tales of modern Armenian children’s authors my attention was caught by a delightful dragon book published in 2009 and intended for very young readers. ‘Three Dragons’ is one of Nouneh Sarkissian’s many stories addressed to them. It opens with the traditional Armenian fairy tale formula ‘Once upon a time’. However, instead of telling us about a powerful King or a beautiful Princess, it relates the story of the three dragon brothers, who lived cozily at the bottom of the deep lake. As in most wonder tales, the elder siblings are remarkably good-looking, they have colourful spotted skins and can roar scaring the fish in the lake and raising waves on its surface.

The youngest dragon, just like the youngest brother of the classic fairy tale, is quite plain: he is brown-skinned with no spots on and he cannot roar. But even children know that appearances are deceptive. The elder brothers are envious and wicked, and it is the youngest that is chosen to be the protagonist of the story because he has a compassionate heart full of fraternal love.

Following the remarkably formulaic patterns of the traditional folk tale, the author makes interesting shifts in the established roles of the characters. She creates truly remarkable personnel of subversive personages: a witch, who is tired of being scary, a black cat, who is no longer a bringer of ill luck, and a Dragon who is helpful and tame.

For the sake of her young readers Sarkissian brings the wild born dragon into the nursery, neutralizes the eerie mood of the dragon epics and domesticates him. In her other stories the author becomes even more 'adroit' 'making' dragons turn into nurses of royal children and tell them wonderful bedtime stories ("The King and the Dragon") or act as patrons of brave and smart little girls ("The Emerald Scissors").

The story is marked for its well-chosen and relevant wording and the measured pace of the narrative. The Three Dragons' makes an enjoyable reading. With an easy-to-read text, gripping content, and bright colored illustrations on almost every page, the book will undoubtedly capture the interest of the young readers.

Alvard Jivanyan

*Head of the Centre for Fairy Tale Studies,
Hovhannes Toumanian Museum.*

*Editor of Hasker:
A Yearbook of Children's Literature and Folklore*

<http://ardi.am/kartsiq-nune-sargsyani-ereq-vishap-grqi-masin/>

Published: 28.12.2022

‘THREE DRAGONS’



Unique thinking, brilliant imagination, always a bright mind: this is the way to briefly describe the children's writer Nouneh Sarkissian, the author of the book 'Three Dragons'. 'Three Dragons' is one of her books, another testament to her authenticity. At first sight, it is a fairy tale, however, it appears to be a fairy tale because after reading it you get the feeling that you have somehow seen it all. This is the so-called mastery of the writer, who takes the reader in an unusual way to a reality that is magical, but mundane at the same time.

Nouneh Sarkissian has the magic key to the depths of children's souls, reproducing the imaginary world hidden there. She does it with children and through children.

The vivid proof of these words is the literature created by the author, which is multilayered and close to the soul, which seems to be only for children, but successfully attracts adults as well.

Nouneh Sarkissian's fairy tales are honest and kind, even if they are about a dragon. Kindness prevails in them, and evil loses its essence.

The author always chooses her illustrators carefully. The book illustrations are a separate topic, which seems to have been fed by the authenticity of the books' content and have become vivid images that speak to the reader.

The fairy tale 'Three Dragons' with its simple narration and colourful images enchants from the beginning. The tale of the three dragon brothers is trying to prove that in reality the evil beings can be turned to good. People's actions can be viewed as evil based on events and circumstances. However, feelings motivated by jealousy are eventually corrected when a person realizes the mistake. In this fairy tale, it is emphasized, the idea of accepting mistakes, renewing the relationship, solidarity, care love and unity in the family.

A child's personality and character are formed in the family. And the reading of Nouneh Sarkissian's literature forms a culture for the correct upbringing of a child in the family.

Reading as an educational method is evident in the author's magical stories. National Children's Library named after Khnko Aper is one of the active advocates of this method and its application.

The 'Three Dragons' tale is one of the best and most visible evidence of the use of this method. This is why the story of Three Dragons is very popular with children visiting the library because not only Nouneh Sarkissian's dragons are not evil, but they are able to attract children.

Ruzan Tonoyan

*Director of Khnko Aper
National Children's Library*

Armenian

<https://natchildlib.org/hy/ereq-vishap-y-nune-sargsyani-kaxardakan-ashxarhy/>

English

<https://natchildlib.org/en/three-dragons/>

Published: 10.12.2021

‘VARTAN, HAYK AND BAZILISCUS’



Fairy tales are a piece of the carefree, sunny period of life. A good fairy tale heard in childhood can accompany a person throughout life. It is a mosaic of many introductory lessons about daily life, language, traditions, culture, psychology of relationships and many other aspects of life.

This is exactly the impression created by Nouneh Sarkissian's book 'Vartan, Hayk and Basiliscus'. This fairy tale will be equally interesting for both children and parents, everyone will find in it a philosophy appropriate to their age. The plot is captivating in such a way that you want to quickly find out how good will finally defeat the evil. The story flows in a soft, beautiful and very literate language, harmonious syllables create a sense of melody.

The plot of the book is inspiring: even small creatures can do great things. This story has a very important idea: in any hopeless situation, there is a bright goal to strive for and you should never lose hope. In addition, the final chord of the story is very important - the idea of creation.

The book is perfectly complemented by the illustrations of artist Ruben Grigorian. They are soft and give the impression of good antiquity, but the reader also feels the confidence of the artist's hand, his professionalism and the authenticity of the created images. They leave room for personal imagination, involving the reader in co-creation.

** In the original Armenian version the name of Vartan is Davit.*

Arevik Grigoryan

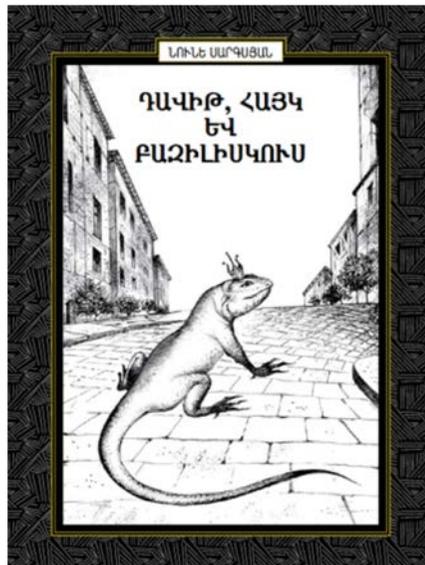
<https://nunehsarkissian.com/book-reviews/>

Published: 20.11.2020

Designer

‘VARTAN, HAYK AND BAZILISCUS’

‘Only enlightened people can create fairy tales, because the way to that world is forbidden to others.’



The fairy tale as a genre is simple and complex at the same time. It's clear because the world is divided into bad and good, the characters are either exclusively positive or strongly negative, and the good always wins. And it is sophisticated because simplicity is only obvious. Nowadays, the author must be endowed with an extraordinary imagination to create a recognizable and unique fairy-tale reality. Nouneh Sarkissian, the author of the fairy tale 'Vartan, Hayk and Basiliscus', has completely succeeded in this.

Here is both the malevolent and insidious Grakoma, queen of the underworld kingdom of the hard-working but miserable Gondiks, the dwarf creatures, and brave Basiliscus, the dethroned but undefeated Prince of the Lizardos Tribe, and the loathsome, bloodthirsty General Aharo.

Moreover, Nouneh Sarkissian skillfully and unobtrusively draws witty parallels between imagination and modern reality, right down to gossipy neighbours, a police car and a tram.

A children's fairy tale should be appreciated, first of all, for the spark of kindness it carries in our cruel world of violence, and for the values it promotes. The spark of goodness in the story 'Vartan, Hayk and Basiliscus' is infinite, you even feel sorry for the ruthless Grakoma, who after all, was deprived of parental love since childhood and took refuge in the kingdom of the Gondiks, feeling useless and orphaned.

The values promoted in the book, are the most important ones for the human race: family, children, compassion and the most absorbing love. It is boundless love that is the source of the well-being of mankind, the mysterious secret and the guarantee of the existence of future generations, only love will save mankind from destruction. Even Basiliscus, who is terrified of the dark deeds of humans, after seeing the sincere and pure kindness of Vartan and Hayk, turns into a loyal defender of humans.

Nouneh Sarkissian's vivid, bright and picturesque language is also important, which instils in children a love for their mother tongue, for the inexhaustible riches of the Armenian language.

** In the original Armenian version the name of Vartan is Davit.*

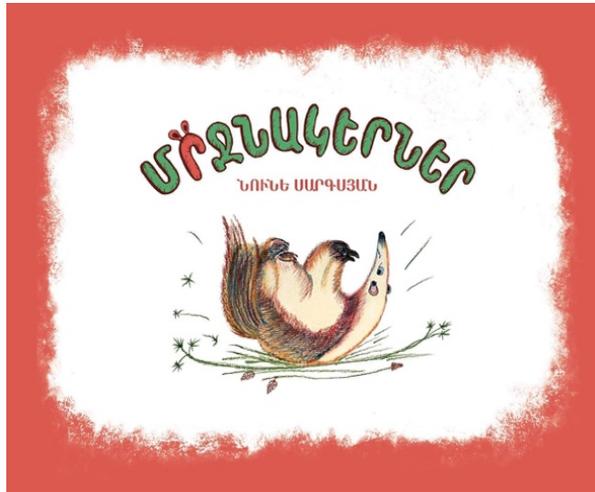
Hasmik Markosyan

*Deputy Director of the Yerevan
State College of Choreography,
an Honoured Pedagogue of the
Republic of Armenia*

<https://www.aravot.am/2022/12/31/1314790/>

Published: 31.12.2022

‘THE ANTEATERS’



Anteaters are large animals, which have no teeth, but they have long and narrow tongues. Ripping open the ant nests they flick their long tongues out and eat the insects they find inside. However, long, long ago things were quite different. Back then anteaters had white and strong teeth and they ate berries, crunchy roots and tasty twigs they could find in their native wood. They munched their way into these forest delicacies and never cared to brush their teeth. And although the Badger, the thoughtful forest dentist warned them that their teeth might get black and decay, the unwise animals paid no heed to his warnings. Soon enough the Badger had to pull out all their teeth...

‘The Anteaters’ does not have a happy ending, because it is not a fairy tale, but rather a modern creation myth, an origin story. It can also be seen as a new harsh fable since it features skillfully anthropomorphized animal characters who behave so much like human creatures. A whole team of anthropomorphic animals and fantastic creatures can be found in other works of the author too. The text of this remarkable book leads to a moral lesson added more explicitly at the end of the story: because the anteaters did not brush their teeth, they were doomed to lose their teeth and be deprived of the scrumptious forest food.

It is doubtless a very intricate task to create a story that is both entertaining and moralistic. However, Nouneh Sarkissian, the author of this tale has achieved her goal. As a storyteller, she speaks in a steady, unhurried voice. Her style is playful, reminiscent of a wise parent who knows how to instruct her children through a captivating narrative.

Nouneh Sarkissian has illustrated the book herself. The sameness of the author and illustrator makes the text even more consistent: the two parallel narratives, the linear and the visual stories are flawlessly unified, and the text and image make one seamless whole.

Alvard Jivanyan

Head of the Centre for Fairy Tale Studies,

Hovhannes Toumanian Museum.

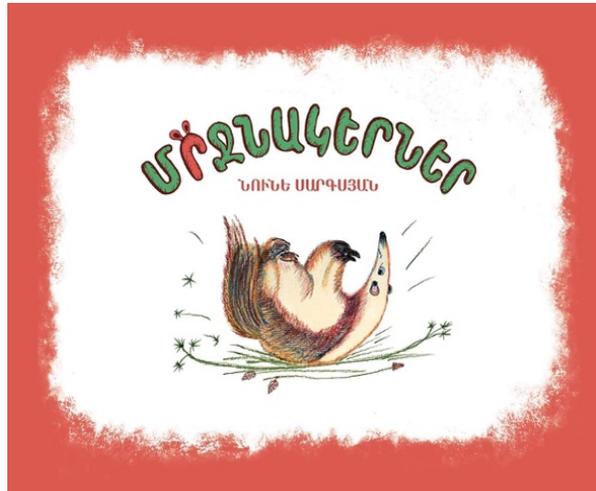
Editor of Hasker:

A Yearbook of Children's Literature and Folklore

<https://www.zangak.am/news.php?m=news&only=165>

Published: 19.04.2021

‘THE ANTEATERS’



Responsibility and conscientiousness, mental health and wellness, friendship and care are the fundamental personality traits and life skills that shape responsible and productive individuals. ‘Anteaters’ fairy tale delicately touches upon these concepts and importance of self-care.

Teaching life skills and responsibility should start from early childhood in the family. Building these skills among children, especially those with mental and physical disabilities should be well-organized, in a simple yet interesting, visually attractive, colorful way, considering the cognitive and developmental approaches which lie in the fundamentals of this fairy tale.

‘Anteaters’ is an interactive story that creates a dialogue with the reader in an explicit, understandable way using championing language, coaching methods, and positive reinforcement. The well-thought illustrations help the reader visualize the important messages and the content. The story creates a unique and unconditional bond between the parents and the child. It provokes interest and motivation to finish the book uninterrupted. The reader is eager to learn what happens next or how the characters’ behavior unfolds. Furthermore, it leads to a fruitful discussion by analyzing the characters and finding similarities and differences among the characters or between the character and themselves. It helps children develop a daily routine and follow the rules.

The content, language, and concepts are simple, clear, and understandable for children with different abilities and disabilities. The Bock-Bock family is a true reflection of their routine and touches upon issues their children's families might face. The Anteaters' family also neglects the importance of dental care and always brings up thousands of reasons and lame excuses for justifying their poor decisions. Once the story unfolds, the reader witnesses the consequences rooted in their laziness and irresponsible behavior.

Both in the story and in real life we tend to choose easy solutions or bring multiple excuses which often lead to complex issues and wrong decisions later. Through the story, children with disabilities understand the importance of their own deeds and carry responsibility from an early age. This is one of the many reasons, that the book became friends with even the youngest children of the 'Louse' center. It taught them to be responsible and follow Doctor Badger's recommendations on dental care.

Because of children's attraction to the story, we thought about designing colorful posters on mastering tooth cleaning practices which later become a skill for our children with special needs.

The children of 'Louse' rehabilitation center have discovered their favorite tale, and they keep their teeth always clean.

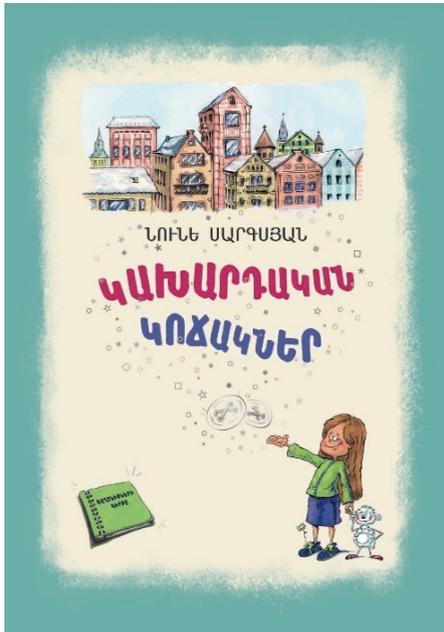
Gohar Galstyan

Director of Louse ' Rehabilitation Center Foundation

<https://www.aravot.am/2023/01/05/1315452/>

Published: 05.01.2023

‘THE MAGIC BUTTONS’



The students of Yerevan Music School Named after Alexey Hekimyan are very active and participate in national and international competitions, winning awards. In 2016, the musical ‘Once in a Dream’ was staged with the participation of the students of the school's vocal and brass department, the success of which motivated us to continue staging musicals. It was this circumstance that introduced us to Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian and her ‘The Magic Buttons’ fairy tale. When choosing the plot and music of the musical performance, it was initially decided to choose an Armenian children's writer and an Armenian composer, so that our children could participate in a completely Armenian performance.

Nouneh Sarkissian’s fairy tale ‘The Magic Buttons’ was different from other books and immediately attracted the attention of our children, especially since most of them were already familiar with the first edition of the fairy tale in 2005.

Nowadays, it is very difficult to find a work intended for children with diverse and colourful characters and educational elements. Communicating with the heroes of the fairy tale, the ideas of the importance of friendship and kindness come up. Purposefulness and the very important ability to overcome difficulties are unwittingly formed and valued in the child when reading this book.

As for turning the fairy tale into a musical performance, our composer, Anna Harutyunyan, with great enthusiasm and ease, was able to find the way in which the heroes of 'The Magic Buttons' had their songs. The songs are very harmonious with their characters. All this only speaks about the merits of the fairy tale.

We wish success to Mrs Nouneh Sarkissian and all her works, especially the 'The Magic Buttons' fairy tale, which has already become very familiar to us.

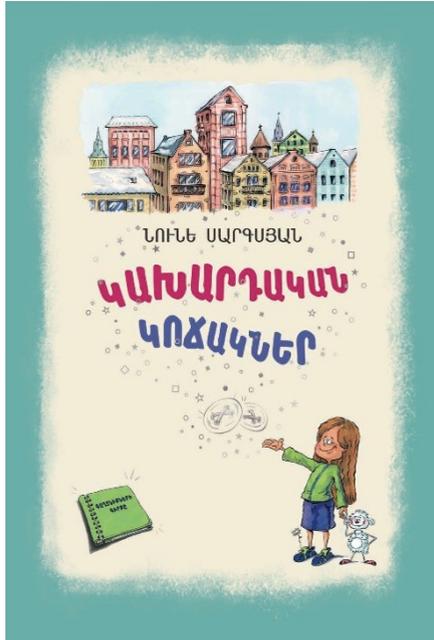
Monika Petrosyan

*Headmistress of Yerevan Music School
Named After Alexey Hekimyan*

<https://nunehsarkissian.com/book-reviews/>

Published: 19.12.2020

‘THE MAGIC BUTTONS’



Children's literature is the most delicate and responsible field of multi-layered literature. It educates, guides and shapes the child's worldview. Many factors contribute to the creation of the work: the language, the direct simplicity of the composition, and the ability to understand and reproduce children's thinking. All these exist in Nouneh Sarkissian's fairy tales and can be presented to children safely and reliably. The pure, unpolluted Armenian of the fairy tale, the high quality of the publication of the work, and the masterfully done illustrations are attracting the reader.

The fairy tale ‘The Magic Buttons’ is the biggest work of the author, which can rightly be called a novel. The heroine of the tale is ten-year-old Pearl. The plot is built around Pearl's reflections, on inner fears, overcoming them and facing the challenges of the outside world. All these testify the author's love and responsibility towards the composition, her care and her dignified attitude towards children.

The author unobtrusively informs the little reader about the surroundings and the world. In one episode, a little boy fell ill and could only be cured by a medicine made of incense and honey. The author uses this opportunity and tells the children what incense is, where the incense tree grows and what it looks like. The fairy tale is full of such episodes, which are educational and informative. Befitting the child's thinking, the real and imaginary images follow each other, building an interesting story.

The author managed to make Pearl a real literary heroine, by talking with children about evil and kind, good and bad, honesty and dishonesty, talking about the big problems of life in a language understandable to children and guiding them to eternal truth.

The series of Nouneh Sarkissian's fairy tales are a continuous conversation with the child, and each new fairy tale is expected and welcomed.

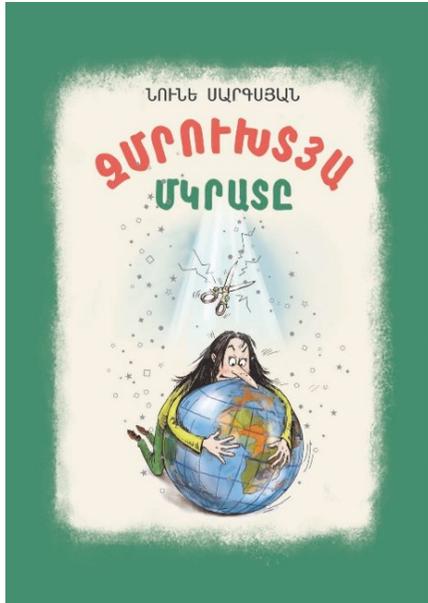
Vanane Ararktsyan

*Senior Corporate Fundraiser
SOS Children's Villages In Armenia*

<https://nunehsarkissian.com/book-reviews/>

Published: 31.12.2020

‘EMERALD SCISSORS’



Kindness is contagious; even the smallest act of kindness can irreversibly change the meanest person. The book ‘Emerald Scissors’ by Nouneh Sarkissian tells about the contrast between good and evil. The book is the continuation of ‘The Magic Buttons’ fairy tale, which is very popular among little readers.

The main character of ‘Emerald Scissors’, 12-year-old Pearl Darzi, is an honest and truthful schoolgirl, concerned about the future of the planet Earth. Her normal routine changes in an instant when the residents of the wizards’ and witches’ town of Crystalburg inform her of a new threat to Earth. Brave and knowledgeable Pearl appears on the Moon to protect the planet Earth and its people and manages to defeat the robot army of the Queen of the Moon, restore the peace of Crystalburg and save the inhabitants of Earth from evil beings.

Nouneh Sarkissian, using her typical simple and skillful writing, shows children how unacceptable and reprehensible human greed and evil are, how contagious love and kindness can be, capable of transforming even the most terrible villain. At the same time, the author emphasizes the importance of education, shows the power of knowledge and presents in a unique way what kind of heroic deeds a person armed with knowledge can do. This interesting story expands the boundaries of children's and grown-ups’ imagination and allows us to think that there will come a day when flights to the moon and settlements by humans on other planets, for example, Mars, will become very common phenomena.

In the book, the author also makes an important reference to the question that all children, regardless of appearance or mental and physical abilities, are unique, active and intelligent, talented and even 'with a more sober mind than many adults', capable of changing the world and making it better.

This fascinating and at the same time educational story of Pearl and her friends, which captivates from the very first pages and the colourful and interesting illustrations, transports young readers to a fairy-tale world of wizardry, fantasy and magic.

Araks Kasyan

*Deputy Director of
'Armenpress' News Agency*

Armenian

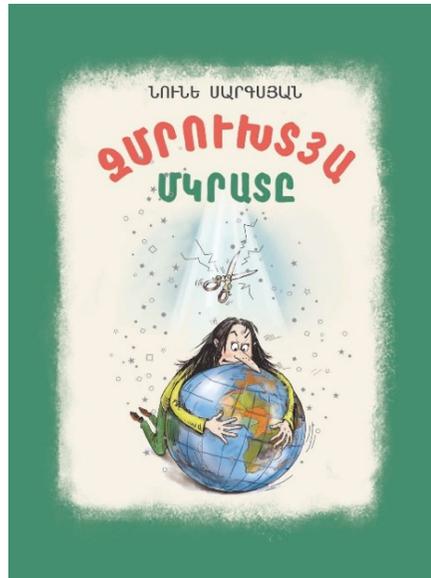
<https://natchildlib.org/hy/nune-sargsyani-zmruxya-mkraty-heqiati-masin/>

English

<https://natchildlib.org/en/emerald-scissors-by-nouneh-sarkissian/>

Published: 18.08.2022

‘EMERALD SCISSORS’



The creation and distribution of children's literature have been one of the main directions of the ‘Zangak’ publishing house for two decades. Works of both foreign and Armenian classical and modern children's authors have been regularly published at ‘Zangak’.

Nouneh Sarkissian's works have been known to our readers for many years. Both the reprinting of her already popular works and the publishing of new books are a continuous process for the ‘Zangak’ publishing house, and for children, it is highly anticipated.

Over the years, we have always received positive feedback and encouraging responses regarding the presentations, meetings and performances with Nouneh Sarkissian, which has contributed to strengthening the effective cooperation with the author.

Nouneh Sarkissian's fantasy novel "Emerald Scissors" is one of her unique works, which encourages children to look forward to the future and to contribute to a better, more beautiful, kinder planet. ‘Zangak’ publishing house gives great importance to the content of books and its educational value, as well as their contribution to the development of the imagination of the child. And in "Emerald Scissors" the above are combined in their best and with inexplicable beauty. We can confidently say that this illustrated, multi-content book will be read today and for generations to come.

Emin Mkrtchyan

<https://www.zangak.am/news.php?m=news&only=164>

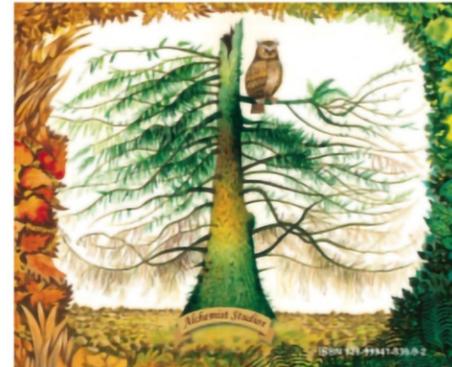
Published: 14.10.2021

Executive director of Zangak-97 LLC
(Zangak publishing house)

REPRODUCTION OF BOOK COVERS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

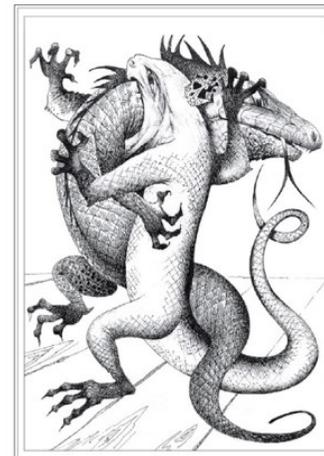
THREE DRAGONS, 2009, ALCHEMIST STUDIOS

ILLUSTRATOR: ROUBEN GRIGORIAN



DAVIT, HAYK AND BAZILISCUS, 2012, ALCHEMIST STUDIOS

ILLUSTRATOR: ROUBEN GRIGORIAN



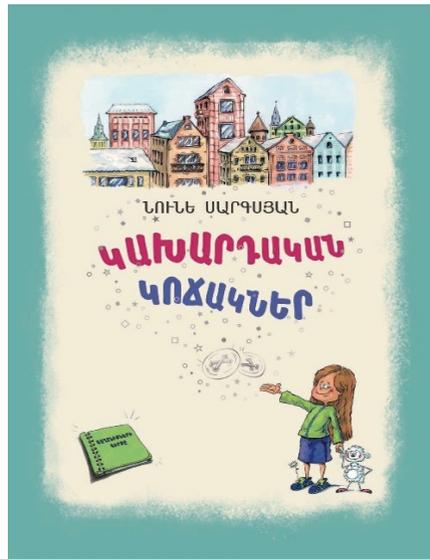
ANTEATER, 2020, ZANGAK PUBLISHING HOUSE

ILLUSTRATOR: NOUNEH SARKISSIAN



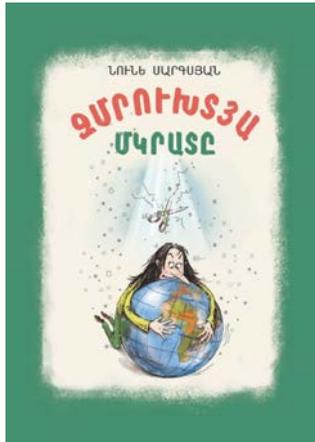
THE MAGIC BUTTONS, 2020, ZANGAK PUBLISHING HOUSE

ILLUSTRATOR: AGNES AVAGYAN



EMERALD SCISSORS, 2021, ZANGAK PUBLISHING HOUSE

ILLUSTRATOR: NAIRA AHARONYAN



NOUNEH HAS SAID...

'Our world is complicated. It is becoming more and more difficult to preserve moral values in such a complex environment for very young minds. It is extremely important priority for my generation to present to the young generation of our children and in my case – grandchildren as well, values like kindness, love, family, friendship through books and word of mouth. It is important to teach them not to be lazy and to have goals and to have dreams in their lives. That is why I spend a lot of time visiting schools for talks and workshops with children. Good moral and disciplinary values are shaped in human beings at very early age in childhood, that's why it is utmost important to pay more attention to the education of children at nurseries and schools. The world of children is different. It is not easy to write for them. One has to look at things through their prism and keep them interested in books, having the huge flow of media information around them. I find inspiration for my books in the world of children, who I love.'

'All children are born with this or that talent. We, grown-ups, have to encourage and support their talents and give opportunity to develop it.'

'The book will never lose its charm. Especially - children's books. Not surprisingly, in the last ten years, while E-books have been preferred by adult readers, the children's book market has, on the contrary, grown stronger. Parents want their children to read books, look at the pictures in the books, touch the book, read and play with the books and put them under their pillows. The way people like to read is personal and depends on the individual. For me, all kinds of reading are applicable, be it digital or not. I love all of it: books, kindle, or audiobooks.'

'A child lives in all of us. Good children's literature has a long life and is read by both adults and children.'

'My book - the fairy tale - developed on its own, which is the magic of writing'

'Children are most important to us in this world, in this life. I always emphasize this idea as a priority in my work. In my books, I want to prove that every child is a treasure, every child is significant, no distinction can be made between children. Children have an endless ocean of fantasy. I would like to ask parents and teachers not to put pressure on their imagination and fantasy. Let them dream, let their ideas fly, let them become cosmonauts, artists, scientists or whatever they want.'

'Every day is important. I am trying to live my every day fully, as if it's the last day of my life.'

'The children sometimes have so much positive energy that, they think they can save or change the world. And to them, all obstacles seem to be manageable. These days children are upset that people pollute nature. And they want the relationship between people and nature to be changed right now. I am sure that when my grandchildren and their generation grow up, they will change the world. However, I hope that my generation saves and improves the world and hand a green and clean planet over to our children and their children.'



Acknowledgment

Many thanks to Greta Hovhannisyan and Vahagn Gulakyan for helping me to set up this Dossier.

APPENDIX

ATTACHED FILES

1. Candidate's photo with high resolution
 2. Electronic files of the five books
 3. Translations of the five books
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*'My book - the fairy tale - developed on its own,
which is the magic of writing'
Nouneh Sarkissian*