



About the author:

SVETA DOROSHEVA was born and raised in Ukraine and is currently based in Israel. She is working in the areas of narrative art and illustration. A deep fascination for myth and fairytales, among other things, finds its way into her detailed works. She evolved as an artist by self-training and has primarily worked on book illustrations and art for magazines and brands. Her first author-illustrator book, *The Nenuphar Book*, was published in Russia in 2015, and was nominated for the National Bestseller Prize. It was translated into many languages, including Romanian, Japanese, Simplified and Complex Chinese, Arabic, Czech and English and is on its way to other markets since 2019. Her second book, *How to Handle a Child*, was published in 2016 in Russia and is following the same path. All of her books are personal art projects.

Sveta has three shortlist awards for the World Best Illustrations (AOI), her works are published in the world's leading compendiums of modern illustration, and in summer 2018 she enjoyed being selected for the prestigious three-month artist residency in Art Peace Swatch Hotel, Shanghai. The result was another book, published in Russia in 2022 – *Shanghai Chronicles: an Artist's Journey*.

Sveta creates hand drawn art on paper. She merges a lot of mythical and traditional motifs from various cultures with her own contemporary ideas. In a lot of her work past is often juxtaposed with the present. She takes inspiration in history of arts, local mix of cultures and the contradictions of human nature.

Selected Bibliography

- 2022 — **Shanghai Chronicles: an Artist's Journey**, *illustrated fiction*
- 2016 — **How to Handle a Child**, *a collection of stories with illustrations*
- 2015 — **The Nenuphar Book (The Land of Stone Flowers)**, *graphic novel*
- 2006 — **Mummy Hurries Home**, *graphic novel*

Nominated for the **Big Book Award 2023**

Honorary Mention Award at **Global Illustration Award 2017**

Shortlisted for **AOI World Illustration Awards 2017, 2018**

Hiii Illustration Award 2016

Nominated for the **National Bestseller Prize 2015**

**Azbooka**

Graphic novel, 2015
216 pp

Translation rights sold

World English Chronicle Books
Romanian Baroque Books
Japanese Maar-sha Publishing
Simplified Chinese Hunan Literature and Art
Arabic Egyptian Office For Publishing & Dit.
Albanian Fan Noli
Serbian Dereta
Complex Chinese (Taiwan) Azoth Books
Czech Omega

Complete
English translation
available

The Nenuphar Book (The Land of Stone Flowers)

The Nenuphar Book is a book about people written by fairies, dwarfs, elves and other fairy-tale creatures. It was found in a water lily under mysterious circumstances (hence the name). The whole book is a collection of evidence by fairy creatures proving that people exist. Bursting with intricate and evocative illustrations, The Nenuphar Book creates a world of fantasy and fable that slyly reveals many hidden truths about human existence.

It's a book about people and human world, as seen through the eyes of fairy-tale creatures. They don't generally believe in people, but some have traveled to our world in various mysterious ways. Such travelers collected evidence and observations about people in this book. It's an assortment of drawings, letters, stories, diaries and other stuff about people, written and drawn by fairies, elves, dwarfs and other fairy personalities. These observations may be perplexing, funny and sometimes absurd, but they all present a surprised look at the things that we, people, take for granted.

Each chapter is written by a different creature — elf, fairy, dwarf, ogre, giant, witch, etc. It comprises such topics as human anatomy, types and origin of people, magic human things and dwellings, language, beliefs, rituals, work, music, dance, and many more. Some ob-

servations are odd, some awfully inaccurate, some — plain funny, but they all weave together into a tongue-in-the-cheek playful picture of a world so incredibly odd to an outsider, that it's no wonder fairy creatures can't believe in it!

"This is a series of book illustrations that presents an attempt of fairy-tale creatures (who don't believe in people) to understand what is a man, based on testimonials of people themselves (quotes by famous people on the nature of man). The resulting impression is rather perplexing."

With her imaginative illustrations, Sveta is overlapping philosophy and literature, creating her own fictional narrative in the form of fairy tale, whilst actually defining many truths about human nature.

Selected quotes

After reading Nenuphar Book, you'll come away with a new appreciation for the magical world, for your own world, and for your place in it. And you'll learn to laugh a bit more at yourself and those around you. You may even start believing in magic. Magic that is invented in our minds and made real by our words and our pens. Magic that adds life to the human experience. Magic that touches even people like me who are strongly rooted in logic and objective truth... In the end, all I can say is, "Wow! This book is a masterpiece."

GeekDad/GeekMom

Ukraine-born artist Sveta Dorosheva has been dedicated to creating some of the most beautiful book illustrations I have ever laid eyes on... <...> The Nenuphar Book, one of Dorosheva's many graphic jewels, is a book about a world in reverse, where humans are Todorov's so-called paper beings, while fairytale creatures shiver under their blankets in fear of our mysterious ways. Starting as a completely different project, that is a catalogue of fairies, it came to be an entire chronicle on humans as seen by fairy-tale creatures. The book looks inquisitively at the abstract mechanisms of love and hate and money, our daily habits and their rationale, if any, and our origins. The lacunae are of course filled

with fantasy — since seen from afar, humans seem powerful beyond measure and their lives unknowable.

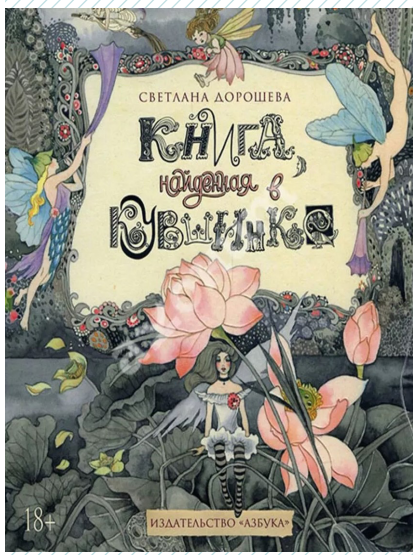
Andreea Saïoc
The Global Panorama

Sveta Dorosheva's fantastical art could be compared to a brilliant dream collaboration among noted artists, for whom the goal is a visionary book of enchanted tales. Imagine an artistic hybrid comprised of the intricately-lined illustrations of Harry Clarke or Aubrey Beardsley, the luxurious art deco magnificence of Romain de Tiroff (Erté) fashion plates, and the beautiful-on-the-verge-of-grotesque visages drawn by the enigmatic Alastair. But! In this imaginary scenario, the artists realize there is something... some je ne sais quois... missing from their efforts. They entice illustrator Sveta Dorosheva to join their endeavors: she flits in, and with a mischievous smile and a gleam of amusement in her eye, announces "yes, yes, this is all very beautiful... but let's make it FUN!"

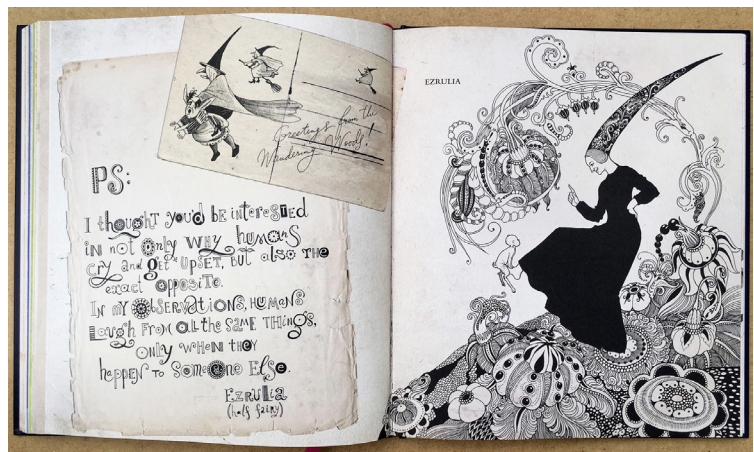
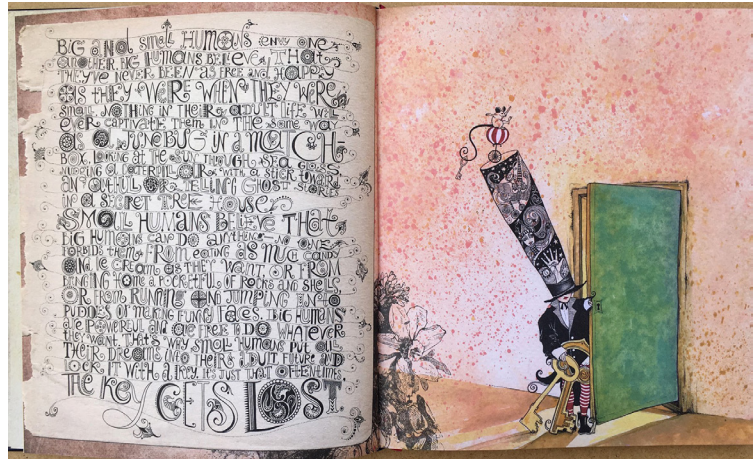
Coilhouse

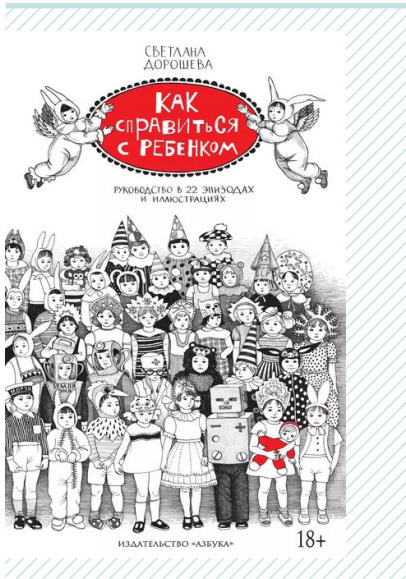
Her illustrations take me back to childhood being in love with fairytales and knowing there was infinite possibility for imagination in the world ahead.

Cupcake Punk



The Nenuphar Book (The Land of Stone Flowers)



**Azbooka**

A collection of stories with illustrations, 2016
48 pp

Translation rights sold

Romanian Baroque Books
Mongolian Nepko

English sample
available

How to Handle a Child

How to Handle a Child is mock “how to” book on parenthood (think Edward Gorey’s *The Recently Deflowered Girl: The Right Thing to Say on Every Dubious Occasion*). The book embraces the most arguable questions of parenthood, never really yielding a single sober advice.

The underpinning is — people shouldn’t be taught how to handle their kids. They should be soothed that parenthood is a most perplexing task in the universe, and so, whatever they are doing, they are doing a great job. Mistakes and failures are inevitable, joys and rewards sporadic, but with a little bit of humor and philosophy, the whole parenting business is a priceless fuel for observing life itself.

All the episodes in the book are based on true stories and conversations with my kids — Adam (aged three), Liran (aged six), and Alex (aged eleven). Each of the 22 episodes starts out with a maxim uttered by a child, be it the “AAAAAAA” of the newborn or a teenager’s verdict on life. The rest of the story elaborates on this “prophecy,” trying to deduct wisdom, lesson or principle, in the manner of a parable. The resulting stories are full of subtle humor, truth and are instantly recognizable and appealing to anyone who has dared to tread the unpredictable, full of trial, error and humility path of parenthood.

Each episode is illustrated with a scene from the author’s own childhood, loosely related to the topic of the text. The illustrations balance between the “child’s eyesight perception” (magic, unreal, enchanted, yet taken for granted as solid fact of life — just as kids do) and brutal truth (things that did actually take place and were actually the way they are depicted in the illustration. The truth is — the reality is way wilder than any fiction.

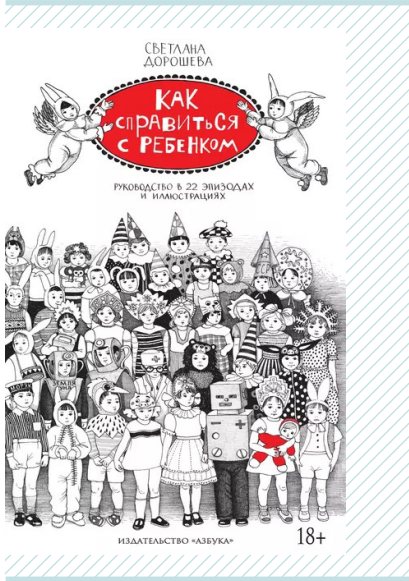
The illustrations address adult readers. After all, no matter how dramatically different their childhood was from that of their kids, the core things that make childhood what it is are intact — the freshness of perception, the agony of growing up, the mischief, and the absence of borderline between the real and the unreal.

Contents:

- How to have a child
- How to birth a child
- How to use a newborn child
- How to name your child
- Where to put the child you’ve birthed
- How to understand what a child is for
- How to wash a child
- How to understand what your child wants from you
- How to make your child sleep
- How to cure your child of illness
- How to make your child speak properly
- How to make your child be quiet
- How to understand what your child is doing
- How to survive your child’s temper tantrum
- How to deal to your child’s mischief
- How to make your child good
- What to do if your child isn’t as good as you’d hoped
- How and what to teach your child
- How to play with your child
- How to punish your child
- How to lie to your child
- How to fix the upbringing you gave to your child



How to Handle a Child



Nominated for the **Big Book Award 2023**

Livebook
Illustrated fiction, 2022
480 pp

English sample
available

Shanghai Chronicles: an Artist's Journey

A commercial illustrator in her forties leaves her family and routine for an adventure in Shanghai — three summer months in a glamorous artist residency, chock full of contemporary artists from around the world — in pursuit of her childhood dream to be a Real Artist.

In Shanghai, she grapples with two new realities, not one: that of the flamboyant, unimaginable Shanghai, and the extravagant, impenetrable world of contemporary art. Essentially, she is into two journeys. One — the usual story: mingling with the in-crowd, going places, and trying to make it in the free art world. And the other — an invisible shamanic journey to the underworld, where the actual people she meets are spirits that lead her through the desert one has to cross whenever one sheds one personality to grow a new one. She needs to do that because her dream of becoming a Real Artist gradually dies on her throughout the journey.

In the “visible” story she basically fails. Her whole Real Artist endeavor is a comic disaster. However, what she's really doing, without realizing it, is the “invisible” journey in search of meaning — of art, of an artist's place in the modern world, and of self.

Selected quotes

A fascinating journey into a crazy world of contemporary art and through the looking glass of China. Once open, this book will not be laid down.

Tatyana Tolstaya
a writer





Shanghai Chronicles: an Artist's Journey

