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**TRANSLATION RIGHTS CATALOGUE**

**NON-FICTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**202**

**KATERINA GORDEEVA**

**MIKHAIL SHISHKIN**

**SVETA DOROSHEVA**

## About the author:

**KATERINA GORDEEVA** (b. 1977) is one of Russia's most famous independent journalists. Until 2012, she worked as a TV reporter for the federal television channel NTV. During her time at NTV, she reported as from the frontlines of Chechnya, Afghanistan, and Iraq as a war correspondent. She later resigned from the channel due to a disagreement with the channel's programming agenda.

Katerina left Moscow out of protest in 2014, after Russia's remorseless annexation of Crimea and seizure of part of Eastern Ukraine. In 2020, she created her own YouTube channel, which today has more than 1.65 million subscribers.

To make her documentary film *Humans At War*, Katerina Gordeeva travelled to dozens of refugee shelters in both Europe and Russia. She collected first-person accounts by interviewing of people with opposing views about their experiences and how the war had drastically changed their lives. This three-hour testimonial film has been viewed by more than 3 million people.

In the summer of 2022, Gordeeva was named as one of the top 10 most influential independent journalists in Russia. She is a five-time winner of the Redcollegia Award, an independent prize that recognizes the work of journalists doing ground-breaking work despite government pressure. Gordeeva was awarded the Anna Politkovskaya International Journalism Prize in August in 2022, an award that truly honors her commitment to independent journalism. In September 2022, the Russian government named Gordeeva a "foreign agent," a title that is often compared to the term "enemy of people," which was used in the Soviet Union during the Stalin era.

Katerina's daily work continues to demonstrate her tremendous devotion to unbiased journalism during these very challenging times.



## The author about the book:

"In the darkest of times, in the midst of it all, a journalist has one single task: to document everything that is happening. Eyewitnesses and their stories will be of value one day soon, so that new history books will not need to lie about what people saw with their eyes," says Katerina Gordeeva, the only journalist in the world who has visited places inaccessible to the public eye, in Europe, Russia, and beyond, speaking with refugees living in temporary camps.

Katerina's book captures 140 hours of interviews, tens of thousands of kilometers spent on the road, and, most importantly, immeasurable grief. In this book you will find twenty-four first-person stories that are both chilling narratives and impartial evidence offered by eyewitnesses.

"This world has enough provocations and fakes. It is time to slow down and simply listen to the voice of a human being." — Gordeeva says.



"Read this book... If you put it off, you'll find yourself defenceless in the face of evil!"  
SVETLANA ALEXIEVICH, WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Katerina Gordeeva

#### Take My Grief Away

Non-fiction, reportage, interviews  
Meduza, 2024  
388 pp

#### Translation rights sold

World English Ebury/Penguin Random House (pre-empt)  
German Droemer Knaur (pre-empt)  
Dutch Murrow/Overamstel Uitgevers (pre-empt)  
Czech Maraton (auction)  
Italian 21Lettere  
Hungarian Helikon  
Swedish Celander  
Estonian Sinisukk  
Latvian Zvaigzne  
Finnish Minerva  
Polish Sonia Draga  
Japanese Hakusuisha Publishing

Full German and  
English translations  
available

French sample  
available

## Take My Grief Away

Take My Grief Away contains raw and heartbreaking first-person accounts of harrowing war experiences, collected by Katerina Gordeeva, a prize-winning independent journalist who was named “a foreign agent” by Russian state officials in autumn 2022. Gordeeva interviews people at refugee centers in Russia and Europe after February 24th, when the war in Ukraine began. Common grief unites these people who come from different backgrounds and whose views are often diametrically opposed. These stories, will transform what you know about this ongoing war. These voices need to be heard.

Take My Grief Away is a book of reportage and interviews conducted and written by Katerina Gordeeva. Gordeeva, one of modern Russia's most famous independent journalists, received the Anna Politkovskaya International Journalism Prize in August of 2022 and was named one of the top 10 most influential independent journalists in Russia by Romir Research Holding.

Katerina spent months shuttling between refugee centers in Russia and Europe, and visiting Ukraine. The result of her travels is Humans at War, a 3,5-hour documentary on her YouTube channel. It has been viewed by 2,5 million viewers. Material that Gordeeva gathered while making the film but left out of the final cut was adapted for Take My Grief Away.

Katerina succeeds in collecting and telling the life stories and dramas of people who express diametrically opposed views. The book juxtaposes twenty-four unique stories: each story is a first-person account of lives ruined in the most unthinkable ways.

The list of the stories' heroes includes:

- Julia from Mariupol, a young woman joking that she can stick a magnet on the shrapnel in the back of her head.
- Marina from Mariupol, who told Katerina about cockroaches.
- Svetlana Petrenko, an eighty-four-year-old retiree who lost her mind after shellings and slipped back into her childhood, thinking it was 1942 and fascists had occupied her native Avdiivka.
- Ruslan Miroshnichenko, a physical education teacher from Mariupol who dreamed of a demon shortly before their section in the apartment building collapsed.
- Stefania Cecchini, a farmer from Italy who sheltered three families from Mykolaiv at her home.
- Inna from Mariupol, who went out for a walk with her dog. While she was gone, one of Kadyrov's tanks fired at her apartment, where her husband and other dog were. They died.
- Ilya, a guy missing a leg. He volunteered for the Security Service of Ukraine and was severely injured by a mine.
- Lyuba, a pregnant woman who couldn't crouch down while under fire.
- Tamara Sergeevna, mother of a soldier who returned from captivity with his eyes poked out.
- Lena, a woman whose husband was killed by Russian soldiers, though she was saved by Russian soldiers.
- Kora, a dog who was saved in Bucha.

**...Gordeeva has no archaic dilemmas about sticking to professional standards or intervening in a life. The storylines and people collected in this book are staggering. Tragedies, the journey of the Ukrainian people from incomprehension to fury, through rage...  
A wound that is now permanent.**

— Dmitry Muratov, chief editor of Novaya Gazeta, Nobel Prize winner



## About the author:

**MIKHAIL SHISHKIN** is one of the most celebrated Russian authors today. Born in 1961 in Moscow, he worked as a school teacher and journalist. In 1995 he moved to Switzerland, where he worked as a Russian and German translator within the Immigration Department and specifically with Asylum Seekers. His writing debut in 1993, *Calligraphy Lesson*, a short story translated into French and Finnish, has won him the Prize for the Best Debut of the Year. Since then his works – both fiction and non-fiction – have been translated into 35 languages and have received a large number of prestigious national and international awards, including Haus der Kulturen der Welt International Literature Award (2011), Premio Strega Europeo 2022, the Russian Booker Prize (2000), the National Bestseller Prize (2006), the Big Book Award (2006, 2011) and many others. Today Shishkin is a fearless critic of Putin's regime and Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Mikhail Shishkin's prose fuses the best of the Russian and European literary traditions. The richness and sophistication of the language, the unique rhythm and melody of a phrase, the endless play with words and the nuanced psychological undercurrent are reminiscent of Nabokov and Chekhov. The change of narration styles and narrators within a text yield a fragmented, mosaic structure of composition that focuses on the language itself, recalling James Joyce's genius.

## *Selected Bibliography*

2019 — **Peace or War. Russia and the West**, *essays*

2017 — **Half-Belt Overcoat**, *short stories, essays*

2010 — **Letterbook**, *novel*

2005 — **Maidenhair**, *novel*

2002 — **Tracing Byron and Tolstoy in the Alps**, *novel*

2000 — **Russian Switzerland**, *essay*

2000 — **The Seizure of Izmail**, *novel*

1993 — **Calligraphy Lesson**, *short story*



## Complete list of prizes and awards



### Premio Strega Europeo 2022

Shortlisted for **Leipzig Book Fair Prize 2013**

### Haus der Kulturen der Welt International Literature Award 2011

### The Big Book Award 2011

### Halpérine-Kaminski Prize for the Best Translation 2007

Shortlisted for **Giuseppe Berto Prize 2007**

### Grinzane Cavour Prize 2007

### The Best Foreign Book of the Year of the 21st Century (China)

Shortlisted for **Bunin Literary Award 2006**

### The Big Book Award 2006

Shortlisted for **Andrei Belyi Literary Award 2006**

### The National Bestseller Prize 2005

### The Best Foreign Book of the Year (France) 2005

### Main Literary Prize of Zürich 2002

### The Russian Booker Prize 2000

### Globus Prize 2000

### Literary Prize of Canton Zürich 2000

### The Best Russian Debut of the Year 1994

## Selected quotes

One of the most prominent names in modern Russian literature.

*Publishers Weekly*

[Shishkin] takes Nabokov's remarkable linguistic flexibility but none of his arrogance; like Chekhov, he looks on humanity with humor and compassion. Shishkin's Baroque turns of phrases seem written out of necessity and joy rather than pretention; he respects his readers, he delights in language, and he does not need to show off.

*Madeleine LaRue*  
*The Quarterly Conversation*

If someone in this world has the right to claim the title of "the Sun of Russian Literature" it should be Mikhail Shishkin. <...> As soon as he finishes writing, delightful reviews and awards immediately follow. After

that — a new plunge into creative vortex until the next triumphant emersion.

*Galina Yuzefovich*  
*Expert*

Shishkin proves to be one of the most gifted authors of the Russian literary stage, especially because he manages to disregard fashion and create his own style and literary concept.

*Ulrich Schmidt*  
*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

Shishkin's agile, inventive narration reveals his homeland anew, showing once again why he has become one of Russia's most valued storytellers — and an important new author in the West.

*Literalab*

**Random House**

Essays, German language  
 2019  
 384 pp

*Translation rights sold*

World English Quercus Books  
 Italian 21 Lettere  
 Swedish Fri Tanke  
 French Noir sur Blanc  
 Spanish Armaenia  
 Polish Noir sur Blanc  
 Lithuanian Vaga  
 Finnish WSOY  
 Norwegian Cappelen Damm  
 Estonian SA Kultuurileht  
 Romanian Curtea Veche  
 Slovakian Slovart  
 Croatian Tim Press  
 Japanese Hakusuisha  
 Dutch Querido  
 Spanish Impedimenta

## Peace or War

### Russia and the West — A Path to Understanding

A unique insight into a foreign mysterious country nearby. Is there a reason to fear Moscow? Could Russia have any reason to distrust the West? How are the tensions between the East and the West fuelled? And could they be solved?

The award-winning writer Mikhail Shishkin shares his understanding of Russia and the West and the contrasts and tensions that have been exacerbated for several years. With his deep knowledge of Russia the writer explores how the epoch of peace and a supposed end of the East-West confrontation could come to the current crisis. Shishkin's love for Russia is uncompromised, yet he sharply criticizes Putin's authoritarian rule and the politics of the Kremlin. Personal insights, sharp political analyses, historical overviews make it a crucially important book in difficult times.

From the author: "This book is a collection of essays about Russia, written specifically for the western reader. Having lived in Europe for so many years helped me recognize the general misconceptions about Russia and Russians that western people often nourish.

This book is for the reader who refuses to accept clichés and platitudes as ultimate truth.

This book answers some of the most important "Russian questions". Why do 21st century westerners travelling the world write about my country as if it were

another planet? What is wrong with my country, and why? What is this whole notion of "Russianness"? Why do revolutions and attempts at democratic reforms only lead to new dictatorships? Why can't the West and Russia reach understanding, after centuries and centuries of war and peace? What does it mean to love Russia? Can one still believe in Russia, as Tyutchev once bequeathed?

The essays are devoted to such eternal topics as "the mystery of the Russian soul" (here is a spoiler: there is no mystery, only the lack of knowledge that adds to a mysterious glare); patriotism and tyranny; "Live not by lie" (but neither by the truth); "Neither the church nor the tavern"; "Russian universality" and hybrid wars; writers and power, and many others.

The future is a glove, and the past is a hand. This is a book about the future of Russia. Therefore, it has a lot of history. I explain to the Western reader its underwater, deep currents, invisible from the outside, but determining its course. Without this, the present of my country cannot be understood. The last two chapters are devoted to what awaits us in the coming years and in the not so distant future."

### Selected quotes

Pleitgen and Shishkin, both sharing a deep knowledge of Russia, duel in a pointed exchange of views of both internal and external sides of things.

*Kölner Stadtanzeiger*

The long-time ARD reporter in Russia and USA and a Russian writer who won every important literary award in Russia, search together for possible ways of handling relations between the West and the East.

*Tagesspiegel*

The mysterious Russia: in his book, Mikhail Shishkin explains the nation that the West fails to understand.

*L'Union Sarda*

From as back as the 19th century the West have considered tsarist Russia as a "prison of people".

In his emotionally charged book, Mikhail Shishkin, revisits this concept and discuss it from the actual modern angle.

*La Repubblica*



#### 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.

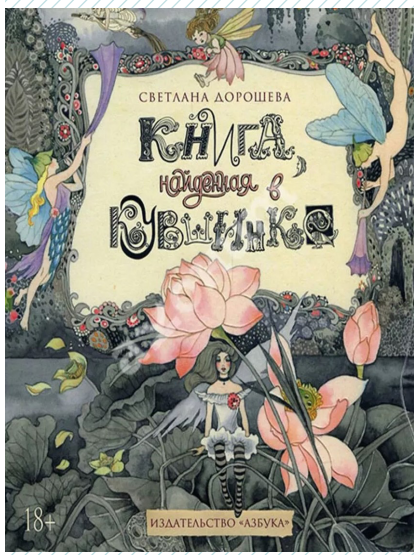
**Andreea Saïoc**  
*The Global Panorama*

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!"

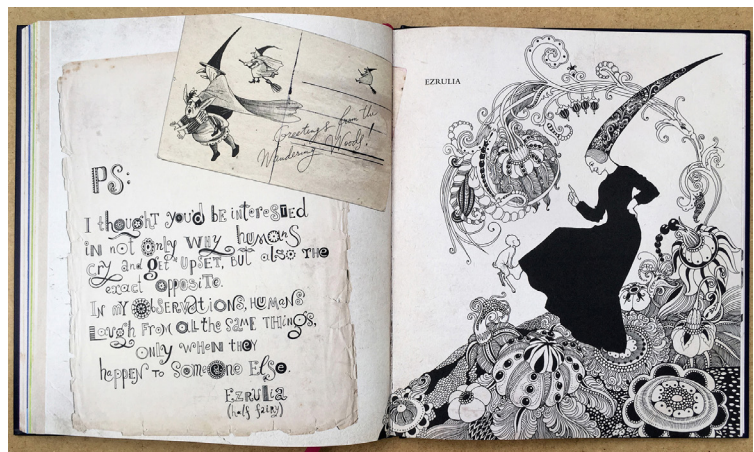
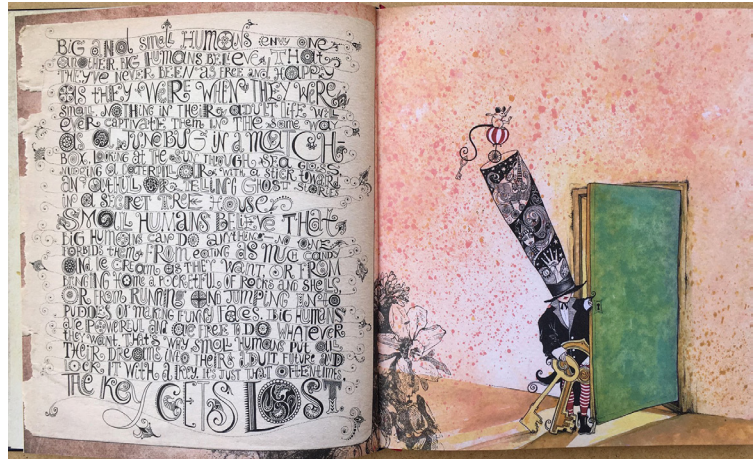
**Coilhouse**

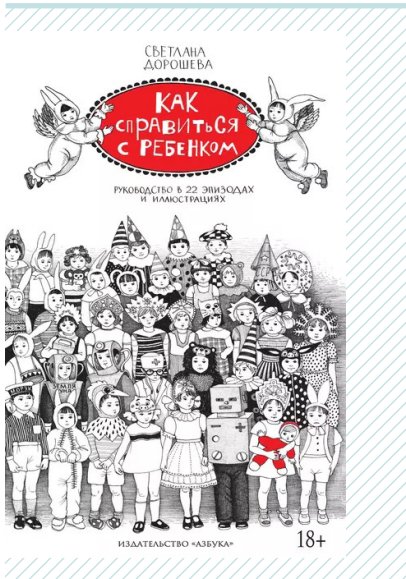
Her illustrations take me back to childhood being in love with fairytales and knowing there was infinite possibility for imagination in the world ahead.

**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.

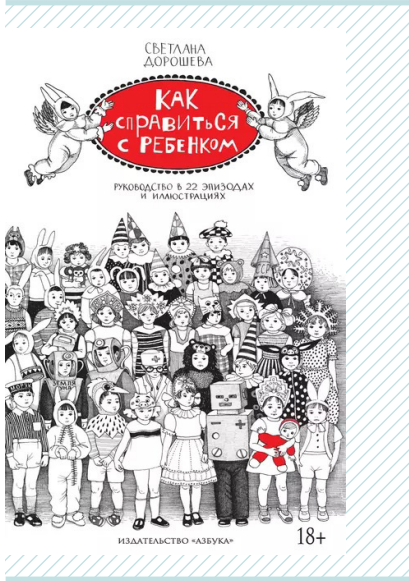
The illustrations address adult readers. After all, no matter how dramatically different their childhood was from that of their kids, the core things that make childhood what it is are intact — the freshness of perception, the agony of growing up, the mischief, and the absence of borderline between the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

