

STRIPBURGER

Catalogue



ABOUT US

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Stripburger, based in Ljubljana, Slovenia, is **an internationally renowned comics magazine and an independent publisher of comics and graphic novels**. Stripburger has been publishing international and Slovenian comics authors with personal styles and stories **for 30 years** now.

Stripburger also publishes **comics for children**, created by renowned and award-winning Slovenian children's book illustrators and comics artists, to help children develop artistic and literary tastes and to introduce kids to the magic of reading.

Additionally, an important part of Stripburger's activities is organizing comics exhibitions, workshops, contests, lectures and other events that aim to promote comics culture and creativity in Slovenia and abroad.

To learn more about our books and authors, please contact us by email.
Full English translations available upon request.



Reinventing folk literature: traditional tales meet comics

FOLK TALES IN COMICS

This collection of comic books, dedicated to the youngest readers, reimagines entertaining and educational stories from the treasury of Slovenian folk tales and gives them new life by refreshing and repacking them within the comics medium.



These outstanding comics adaptations impress with their artistic skill and witty folk wisdom that entertains both the young readers and their parents. At the same time, their reader-friendly design makes them a perfect fit for budding new readers who are just beginning to discover the joys and pleasures of reading.



AWARDS:

Golden Pear – a sign of quality children's literature by Pionirska – Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship (Ljubljana City Library). It is acquired by books that stand out in terms of content and execution and are among the excellent editions of the year.

Maja Kastelic

CRICKET THE FIDDLER

or How the ants learned to love art

folk tale, animals, seasons, diligence, music, the power of art, friendship, help



2020 | 36 pages, full colour | 15 x 15 cm, hardcover | age: 3+, early readers

AWARDS:

Golden Pear, 2021

The world without art would be a boring and lonely place to live

A well-known tale comes to life in this rendition of a classical story of the cricket who plays his fiddle all summer long while the hard-working ants are toiling and gathering resources for the winter. When the cold season comes, the cricket is saved by the ants and taken into the ant hive to play for their pleasure. A story about both the virtue of work and the virtue of art that shows how important it is to cooperate and stay in solidarity with each other.

Maja Kastelic's style is always absolutely wholesome and friendly, her simple shapes and gentle colours appeal to young readers, invoking the feeling of a "happy place" where it is safe to read and learn and grow one's imagination.

Maja Kastelic (1981) is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. She has received a range of prizes and awards for her work in illustration. Her wordless picture book 'Deček in hiša' (A Boy and a House) was selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition, the White Ravens Catalogue, Kirkus Best Wordless Picture Books and the IBBY Honour List. She collaborates with some of the most prestigious publishers in Slovenia and abroad.

MUREN PA JE VES
LJUBI DAN IGRAL

PH!



Igor Šinkovec

A HUNTER'S LUCK

folk tale, animals, humour, imagination, daydreaming, luck, illusion



2020 | 24 pages, full colour | 15 x 15 cm, hardcover | age: 3+, early readers

AWARDS:

Golden Pear, 2021

Good fortune is volatile

This very entertaining folk tale retells the story of a young, naive, and reckless hunter who finds a rabbit in the forest, asleep under a tree. He starts imagining how he captures the rabbit and trades it for a hen which will lay eggs and have chickens, then sells them and buys a nanny goat that will have kids which he will also sell away and so on, until he's able to afford a horse. His excitement over the possibility of owning a horse leads him to inadvertently yell "Yeekaw!". This wakes up the rabbit that escapes and disappears just as the hunter's dreams of riding a horse.

A major part of the story takes place within the hunter's imagination, and this makes it a sort of "a comic within a comic" with which the artist is stretching the comics format and creating an interesting visual dynamic. The biggest strength of the story lies definitely in Šinkovec's use of an exaggeratedly cartoony style which reinforces the humorous nature of the tale.

Igor Šinkovec (1978) is an illustrator, animator and comics artist. He's been collaborating with many publishing houses in Slovenia and abroad, illustrating children's books, while his illustrations are being regularly published in the Slovenian children's and youth magazines. He has received several awards for his work in illustration.



Gašper Rus

THE FOUR MUSICIANS

folk tale, music, power of art, thankfulness, poverty, life in the past



2020 | 36 pages, full
colour | 15 x 15 cm,
hardcover | age: 3+,
early readers

AWARDS:

Golden Pear, 2021

Thankfulness is a virtue

This amusing story is about four musicians who have been cheated out of their pay and had to go back home penniless. On the way back they must camp overnight next to some ruins, and they decide to play a song to cheer themselves up. An odd old man comes from the ruins, congratulates them for their music and gives them each a walnut branch. Other band members scoff at the gift and throw it away, but one takes it home where, over the night, the branch turns out to be made of solid gold.

A skilled use of colour and a dynamic & flowing drawing style are the hallmarks of Rus' story. At the same time, his story authentically depicts life in the past and teaches children to be thankful for each gift, even if it seems insignificant.

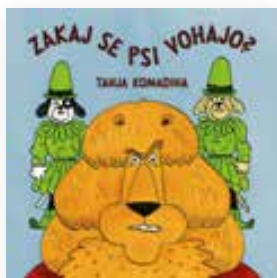
Gašper Rus (1983) is a comics artist, illustrator, and animator. He made his debut in the *Stripburger* magazine, later becoming one of its editors. He has worked with other Slovenian newspapers and magazines, illustrating children's books and textbooks for several Slovene publishing houses. Translation of his graphic novel 'Gugalnica' (*The Swing*; based on a script by Žiga Valetič) has been published in France (*La balançoire, Des ronds dans l'O*, 2016).



Tanja Komadina

WHY DO DOGS SNIFF EACH OTHER

folk tale, fable, animals, feast, humour, animal behaviour and qualities



2017 | 36 pages, full colour | 15 x 15 cm, hardcover | age: 3+, early readers

AWARDS:
Golden Pear, 2018

How a pepper-less party changed the behaviour of dogs forever

His Majesty the Lion gets bored with his life, nothing can make him happy, so he decides to prepare a huge feast. All the animals come, the tables are full of foods, the band plays, but His Majesty still can't find any satisfaction – now he thinks it's only because there's no pepper on the table. He sends his servant dogs to find pepper, which explains why the dogs like sniffing each other so much: they're still looking for the pepper shaker for the king!

This humorous story is well illustrated and employs a rich language with many puns, while children can recognize different human qualities in the animals' behaviour, which makes them appreciate the story even more.

Tanja Komadina (1976) is a comics artist and illustrator. She works as an illustrator of books for children and youth for several Slovene publishing houses and has her work regularly published in the Slovenian children's magazines. Her clear and distinct style of drawing seems to appeal to young readers, while her illustrations often feature elements of comics. She's received several awards for her work. Her comic book debut 'Fino kolo' (Cool Bike) has been selected for the prestigious White Ravens 2015 catalogue.



miha ha

YOU CANNOT PLEASE EVERYONE ALL THE TIME

folk tale, common sense, humour, life in the past, countryside, animals, submissiveness, self-confidence



2017 | 24 pages, full colour | 15 x 15 cm, hardcover | age: 3+, early readers

AWARDS:
Golden Pear, 2018

A truly universal life lesson clearly understandable to everyone

A father and son travel to the market to sell their donkey. At first the boy rides a donkey and the father walks by, but people they meet criticize them for being unfair towards the poor old man. When they change positions, people in the next village object to poor little boy walking. Then they both walk and people mock them for being stupid for not riding the donkey. Finally, they both ride the donkey and people complain about their cruelty towards the poor animal. »There's always something wrong. Because ... you cannot please everyone all the time,« states the father, but it doesn't matter any longer – they have reached their destination.

Miha ha's clear and obvious drawing, spiced up with just the right number of details, makes for a flowing narrative. The scenes are rich in visual depictions of farming and country work that contribute to the educational value of the book.

Miha Hančič (1986) who hides under the penname of miha ha, is a comics artist and illustrator. He mostly creates comics for the youngest readers (often in tandem with the writer Maša Ogrizek) and these are regularly published in Slovenian children's magazines. He has also illustrated several children's books.



Matej Lavrenčič

THE PRETENTIOUS MISS MONKEY

fable, monkey, vanity, public image, egocentrism, values



2017 | 24 pages, full
colour | 15 x 15 cm,
hardcover | age: 3+,
early readers

*Perfect story for the contemporary self-
obsessed times*

The little Miss Monkey, never caring for anything but herself, her looks, her hairstyle, nail polish and Facebook profile, made herself a garland one day and went for a walk to the nearby forest. Suddenly a lion came out of the bushes and chased the monkey. Unfortunately, Miss Monkey couldn't escape as she got stuck on a branch with the garland around her neck and nobody could help her. Her extreme and egoistic vanity cost her life and the little Miss Monkey learned a very important lesson in the end.

The story teaches children the importance of things other than physical appearance and good looks.

Matej Lavrenčič (1980) works in animation, comics and illustration. He started publishing his short comics stories with the *Stripburger* magazine. He has also received several domestic and international awards for his work in animation.

SVOJE NOHTKE VSAK DAN JE
VESTNO NEGOVALA,



David Krančan

BEASTIE

folk tale, animals, craftiness, negotiation, common sense, humour



2014 | 36 pages, full
colour | 15 x 15 cm,
hardcover | age: 3+,
early readers

AWARDS:
Golden Pear, 2015

Yet another proof of how brains beat brawn every time

Beastie the monster is a voracious but a less than brilliant creature that one day goes hunting rabbits and coincidentally gets caught in a trap. Luckily the beast can escape thanks to the help of a passerby peasant who almost get eaten by the hungry beast. But then a smart and cunning fox enters the stage and brings an amusing plot twist. Playing the role of a lawyer in a courtroom, the fox tricks Beastie into climbing back into the trap and thus saving the nearly eaten peasant.

Krančan employs his thought-out and lively artistic imagination to design meaningful and multi-layered stories. The cartoony look of the characters quickly seduces the young reader's eye and heavily contributes to the instant likeability of the book.

David Krančan (1984) is a comics artist, illustrator, and graphic designer, for more than a decade, he is also a comics editor at the Stripburger comics magazine. His illustrations are regularly published by newspapers and magazines in Slovenia. Some of his biggest strengths include theoretical sagacity, skillful montage, relatable characters, and extreme attention to details. He has also received several domestic awards for his work in comics and illustration.

RAOUURR! KAKO SEM LAČNA!
ŠE VOLKA, SMRDUHA STAREGA,
BI POŽRLA!



Kaja Avberšek

THE FLYING FOX

folk tale, animals, humour, craftiness, cheating, justice, theft, punishment



2014 | 36 pages, full colour | 15 x 15 cm, hardcover | age: 3+, early readers

AWARDS:

Golden Pear, 2015

What goes around comes around

A fox is a cunning animal, that much is true, but even though it's able to escape all troubles it gets into, trick a hungry and naïve wolf and eat all the farmer's sausages, it still gets tricked itself by the crows with their promise to teach it how to fly. The reader is thus reassured that "what goes around comes around" and that a thieving, cheating and backstabbing fox will receive a just punishment.

This comic book tries to appeal to our moral sense of justice and features an intriguing and dynamic plot presented in a very specific and unique visual style, while the artist throws in several entertaining bits into the story as well.

Kaja Avberšek (1983) is a visual artist, creating in the fields of comics, illustration, object design, theatre scenography and text writing. Her comics shine with a playful departure from the conventions of the comics medium on a formal level and with an extremely stylized, almost pictographic drawing.



Andrej Štular

RUN, THE WORLD IS COMING DOWN

folk tale, animals, travel, humour, friendship, craftiness



2014 | 36 pages, full colour | 15 x 15 cm, hardcover | age: 3+, early readers

AWARDS:

Special Prize, Biennial of Puppetry Artists of Slovenia, 2017

Within unity lies strength

Gravity is inescapable, as a chicken learns when a nut falls on its head. Thinking the world is ending, the chicken panics and runs for its life while a cock, a goose and a ram follow it on a very special adventure. When it gets dark, they follow a light in the distance and come to an empty house, get in and fall asleep. The story escalates when this group of animal friends beats and scares away a group of evil thieves.

The book is innovative in its use of ready-made, thrown away and then re-used objects that are combined, arranged, and shaped as characters of the story.

Andrej Štular (1967) is an all-round artist, with admirable experience in the field of all kinds of visual practices: illustration, comics, video, film, sculpture, painting, photography, and puppets. Štular is one of the most daring Slovenian comics artists who's able to create ready-made masterpieces of artistic expression and to challenge the viewer with his humour and freshness again and again. He is a member of the Puppet Theatre Nebo; he received several awards for his work.



In je šel do klopi, da bo sedel. Ga je piknila kokoš.
»Jojme, kako me je piknila, kako me je zbodla šivilja!«

Andrej Štular

THE BEAR

folk tale, winter, home, bear, cunningness, humour



2019 | 44 pages, full
colour | 17 x 21 cm,
hardcover | age: 3+,
early readers

Common sense and a little ingenuity prevails

A snowy countryside, far from cities and people, a cold that cuts to the bone, the crackling sounds from the fireplace and the pleasant warmth of home where an elderly couple lives in peace and tranquillity. The old man sets off to the woods to fetch firewood and inadvertently wakes up a bear. The hungry bear wants to eat him, but the clever old man tricks it by giving him a glove instead of a hand under a pretence that it's a good idea to try him first before eating him.

Štular intricately weaves this story of an encounter between man and beast with a thought-out visual design. He used different items and objects: pieces of wood, stone, metal and other scrap material in the collage technique to recreate the atmosphere of a Russian folk tale full of microdramaturgy and small meaningful details.

Andrej Štular (1967) is an all-round artist, with admirable experience in the field of all kinds of visual practices: illustration, comics, video, film, sculpture, painting, photography, and puppets. Štular is one of the most daring Slovenian comics artists who's able to create ready-made masterpieces of artistic expression and to challenge the viewer with his humour and freshness again and again. He is a member of the Puppet Theatre Nebo; he received several awards for his work.



Saša Kerkoš

HIDING

animals, nature, love, curiosity, hiding, finding



2019 | 56 pages, full
colour | 16,5 x 21 cm,
hardcover | age: 3+,
early readers

*Playfulness and magic of all the tiny hidden
details of everyday life*

This book of questions employs a poetic style of drawing to take children to tree canopies and meadows where many unknown and interesting animals and other things hide. It teaches young readers how to understand visual narratives in images without words and is dedicated to pre-school children, to their parents and to all those young at heart who value curiosity, playfulness, and humour.

A beautiful hide-and-seek book filled with fun things to look for! The story is bilingual and thus perfect for the early steps of learning English as a foreign language.

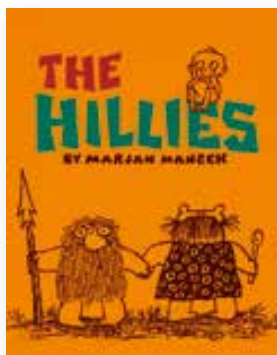
Saša Kerkoš (1977) is a graphic designer, illustrator, and comics artist. Her work is characterized by a bold experimentation on the fringes of sequential art and illustration. She published many books and her works won her several prizes and awards while she presented her opus in numerous exhibitions at home and abroad. She lives and works in Perth, Australia.



Marjan Manček

THE HILLIES

comics classic, prehistoric life, family, humour, educational, personal relationships, family roles



2011 | 104 pages, B&W |
21 x 27 cm, hardcover |
age: 6+

AWARDS:
Golden Pear, 2012

The enchanting comics classic with an amusing prehistoric family and their humorous adventures for all generations

THE HILLIES is a collection of one-page black & white comics that deal with the peculiar conditions of being human in the times of prehistory and shows the everyday life of a curious and inquisitive prehistoric family. A slightly dreamy and philosophically inspired father marvels at life, nature and everything, his much more grounded wife urges him to provide something to put in their cauldron, while their little cutesy son is still learning the ropes and about life in general.

The Hillies are by far the most popular creation of Marjan Manček, an illustrator and comics artist with a long line of works dedicated especially to children. His simple drawing style and a didactical approach, presented as light-hearted humour, allow him to create evergreen comics that kids enjoy and parents appreciate. Excellent comics fun for the whole family!

Marjan Manček (1948) is a renowned Slovenian comics artist, illustrator, creator of books for children and youth and of animated films. He's an amazing storyteller with a kind sense of humour, a sophisticated and creative approach to language and a flair for precise design of his main characters: curious explorers of their environment, much like children are. His work is infused with warm humour and characterized by an unobtrusive educational note. His light, flowing drawings are lucid and full of playful imagination. He received, among other awards, the Hinko Smrekar Lifetime Achievement Award at the 12th Slovenian Biennial of Illustration in 2016.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK



• CRASH

Tanja Komadina

COOL BIKE

based on a short story by Manka Kremenšek Križman

war, xenophobia, theft, friendship, refugee, desire, dreams



A touching story about a refugee boy who dreams of owning a bicycle

COOL BIKE is based on a short story that deals with unfulfillment of a strong child's desire and with the unfortunate consequences of a forceful realization of it. The protagonist is a little boy from Mostar (Bosnia) who dreams of owning a bicycle but cannot have one. In the meantime, war breaks out and he escapes as a refugee to Slovenia, where he befriends Lana, a girl who owns the same bike he always wanted. When the bike gets stolen, Mile is accused of being the thief and a 'Balkan gypsy'. The bike is then returned but the slander sticks.

2014 | 64 pages, B&W |
19 x 27 cm, softcover |
age: 9+

AWARDS:

Golden Pear, 2015
White Ravens, 2015

RIGHTS SOLD:

Sweden (Tusen Serier,
2016)

A heart-breaking story where the young reader can empathize with the protagonist and learn the lesson along with him. The story features a consistent artistic style and a distinct moral note with added educational value.

Tanja Komadina (1976) is a comics artist and illustrator. She works as an illustrator of books for children and youth for several Slovene publishing houses and has her work regularly published in the children's magazines. In Slovenia she's received several awards for her work in illustration.

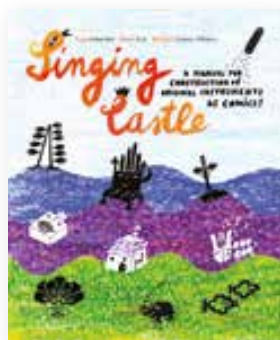


Kaja Avberšek, Peter Kus & Boštjan Gorenc Pižama

SINGING CASTLE

The manual for the construction of original instruments in comics form!

music, fairy tale, musical instruments, curiosity, creating, education, didactic tool



For everyone who likes fairy tales, comics, music and creativity

The Singing Castle is a handbook for creating original music instruments from materials anyone has already at home. It features an original fairy tale of a king who wanted to sing like a nightingale, so he built a singing castle made of musical instruments, a comics story inspired by the fairy tale and instructions for assembly of home-made musical instruments.

2010 | 88 pages, full colour | 17 x 21 cm, softcover | age: 9+

An innovative and imaginative children's book that ties the art of prose with musical and visual art in an original way. As such, it is an exciting and fun didactic tool as well as a starting point for spending creative quality time together for children and parents.

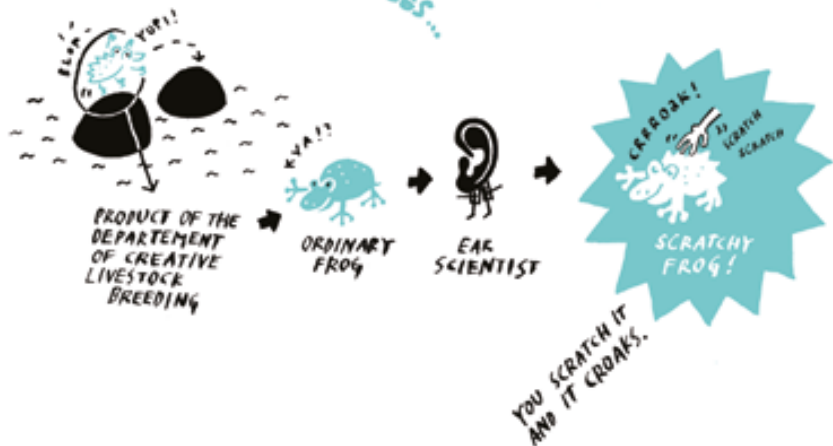
Kaja Avberšek is a designer, illustrator and comics artist who contributed the illustrations and comics. *Peter Kus* is a composer and the creator of the concept of the book who is constantly on the search for innovative approaches in musical pedagogy. *Boštjan Gorenc Pižama* is a writer, translator, and popular culture connoisseur of a large format.

POND - FROG - FISH

IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE FOREST:
A POND!



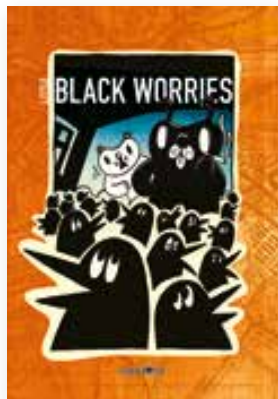
IN THE POND LIVE SPECIAL FROGS...



Matej Lavrenčič

LITTLE BLACK WORRIES

humour, friendship, worries, every day, fears



2005 | 68 pages, B&W |
19 x 27 cm, softcover |
age: 12+

Worry-busters: a funny and amusing story about contemporary struggles of the average everyman in the modern world

This witty and engaging comics story shows the adventures of two human-like cats who realize they have plenty of “little black worries” in their lives. Question arises: how to get rid of them? Simply drawn characters animate this straightforward narrative that provides a lucid and amusing commentary on modern life, stress, burnout, and fear. This is why it's appropriate for younger readers, but older ones will appreciate it as well, since this timeless story with relatable characters and a light-hearted approach will never get old.

Matej Lavrenčič (1980) works in animation, comics and illustration. He started publishing his short comics stories with the *Stripburger* magazine and this is his debut album. He has also received several domestic and international awards for his work in animation.



Matej Kocjan Koco

MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF ELEMENTS

The development of modern chemistry in comics

chemistry, history of chemistry, chemical elements, science, education



2013 | 112 pages, B&W |
19 x 27 cm, softcover |
age: 12+

A didactic graphic novel which brings the reader closer to the history of chemistry

The comic book features several stories that present the basic principles and laws of chemistry. It's not just stories on discoveries of chemical elements, they also explain why and how they were discovered. The script for the book was adapted from the 'Element Tales' book by I. Nechayev, first published in the USSR in 1940. It is also a story of evolution of modern chemistry and of scientists that tried to make sense of the world – our lives wouldn't be as they are without them.

The book presents science to the young readers in an exciting and interesting way.

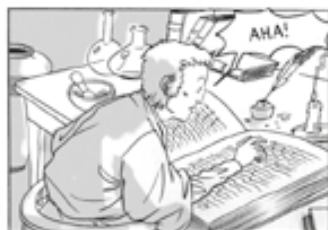
Matej Kocjan - Koco (1978) is a comics artist, illustrator, and visual educator. His comics often feature uncommon topics and themes. He's a staunch supporter of common sense and is highly allergic to dogmas. So far, he's created several solo comics books and published his comics stories both in Slovenia and abroad.

KO JE NEHAL PRIPRAVLJATI ZDRAVILA IN LEKE, JE ZAČEL IZPAREVATI IN DESTILIRATI RAZLIČNE KEMIJSKE SNOVI.

V LABORATORIJU JE DELAL DNEVE IN NOČI.



SKRBNJO JE PREUČEVAL STARE KEMIJSKE KNJIGE, KI JIH NISO RAZUMELI NITI BOLJ IZKUŠENI LEKARNARJI.



IN NI BILO REDKO, DA SO SE NJEGOV POSKUSI KONČALI TUDI S KAKŠNO EKSPLOZIJO.



Koco & Nikolovski

AN OTHER A BROTHER

refugees, others, solidarity, Europe, help, friendship, survival, multiculturalism



2018 | 64 pages, B&W |
27 x 19 cm, softcover |
age: 12+

A poetic rap narrative in comics about the fate of refugees and of their flight to safety

An Other a Brother, a rap poem in comics, depicts the fate of modern refugees and their struggle to reach safe havens. We follow the story through the eyes of a stray cat that joins the main protagonists Sabri and Zahira on their journey. A heart-rending but also hopeful story that takes place in a boat in the raging seas, in a refugee camp and in the “brave new world” ... The animal serves as a leitmotiv and as a narrator who observes our human actions without commenting upon it.

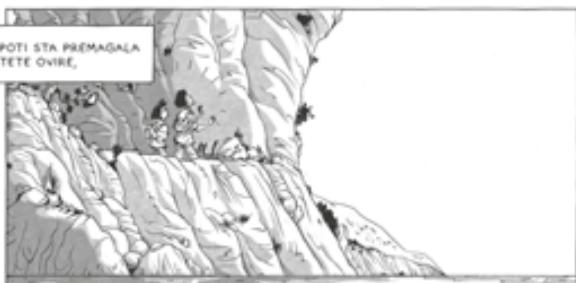
Koco's forthright artwork and Nikolovski's expressive verbalization gently stimulate the conscience of the young reader and remind them that a better world is possible and reachable - for all of us, if only we join forces and strive for greater solidarity between us all, regardless of who we are and where we come from.

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Darko Nikolovski (1978) is a Slovenian rapper, actor, director, and social activist. He deals with social, political, and historical subjects in his works.



NA POTI STA PREMAĞALA
NEŠTE TE OVIRE,



NITI GORA NI USTAVILA
SABRITA IN ZAHIRE.



55



NEKJE POD VRHOM STA TABORNI
OGNET ZVEČER PRIŽGALA,



TISTO NOČ JE ZAHIRA
PRVIČ MIRNO ZASPALA.

Funding opportunities for foreign publishers:

SLOVENIAN BOOK AGENCY

For more information visit:

www.jakrs.si/en/
(Tenders and public calls)

CONTACT:

katja.stergar@jakrs.si
(subsidies for translations and printing costs)

katja.urbanija@jakrs.si
(special subsidies for Slovenia – Guest of Honour at FBF 2023)

Slovenian Book Agency awards grants to foreign publishers for the **translation** and **printing costs** of books by Slovenian authors. Additionally, it also offers **mobility grants** for Slovenian authors who are invited to literary events abroad.

Haven't you heard? Slovenia will be the **Guest of Honour** at the **Frankfurt Book Fair 2023** and at the **Bologna Children's Book Fair 2024**.

Special subsidies for publishers from EU countries for translating and publishing Slovenian works in **German, French** and **English** available in 2022 and 2023!




Stripburger Catalogue
Slovenian Comics for Young Readers

Cover illustration by: Igor Šinkovec (A Hunter's Luck)

Ljubljana 2022

Produced for promotional purposes.

Co-funded by The Slovenian Book Agency



*Great comics
from a small
country!*

STRIPBURGER

www.stripburger.org