

GRANDPA'S BOOK OF DAYDREAMS

Feridun Oral (1961, Kırıkkale) graduated from Marmara University's School of Fine Arts in 1985. He participated in numerous exhibitions, biennials, and competitions in Turkey and abroad. Having been displayed at the annual "Exhibition of Illustrators" at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy in 1986, 1992, 1993, and 1995, the artist's works were also included in the book fair catalogue. In 1991, he was invited to the "World Pinocchio Illustration Biennial" where director Federico Fellini was the guest of honor. With his book entitled *The Voice in the Forest*, he was selected the runner-up in the biennial organized in Japan by the UNESCO Noma-Concours in 1992. The book was published in Japanese by Kagyusha Press and was included in the curriculum of a school in Nagasaki as a supplementary textbook. He was the recipient of an Honorary Mention at the Biennale of European Illustration in Japan in 2001 with his book *Düş Kedileri* (Imaginary Cats). First published in 2008, *Kırmızı Elma* (The Red Apple) was selected the "Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year" by the International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) Turkey the same year. It was printed in English, German, French, Spanish, Catalan, Korean, and Bulgarian. The Red Apple was launched as an iPad/iPod application by its English publisher WingedChariot Press and thus became the first Turkish children's book to be published on line. In 2012, *Pirinç Lapası ve Küçük Ejderha* (The Congee and The Little Dragon) was chosen the "Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year" by IBBY Turkey. Having joined the Miniedition family, a leading, prestigious publishing house in the field of children's books, Oral illustrated books for preschoolers written by foreign writers in addition to the *The Red Apple* released by the same publishing company. In 2012, he was invited to the exhibition "Aria" organized by Museo Diocesano in Padua, Italy and his works were included in the exhibition catalogue. *Farklı Ama Aynı* [Different but The Same] was selected "The Best Picture Book of The Year" by ÇGYD in 2015. Nominated by the International Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2012 by IBBY Turkey, Feridun Oral was granted 2017 TET Export Success Award for having the most published books abroad. Bologna Children's Book Fair granted him an Award for Excellence for having been selected as a Participant in the 2019 Bologna Illustrators Exhibition. Oral participates in various exhibitions at art fairs with works other than books and illustrations for children and continues to work out of his studio in Istanbul.

Hazel Bilgen (Istanbul, 1988) Graduated from Saint Benoît French High School and completed her B.A. in Translation and Interpreting at Istanbul University (French-Turkish). She works as an editor.

To my grandpa whom I've never met...



Yapı Kredi Yayınları - 5454
Doğan Kardeş -

Grandpa's Book of Daydreams
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Book Editor: Hazel Bilgen

Graphic design application: Feridun Oral

Print: Printed by Bilnet Matbaacılık ve Yayıncılık A.Ş.
Dudullu Organize San. Bölgesi 1. Cad. No:16 Ümraniye-İstanbul
Tel: 444 44 03 • Fax: (0216) 365 99 07-08 • www.bilnet.net.tr
Sertifika No: 42716

1st print: Istanbul, October 2019
ISBN 978-975-08-4575-8

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Yapı Kredi Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık
is a member of PEN International Publishers Circle.

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Feridun Oral

Translated by
Hazel Bilgen



“Sometimes nothing is what it seems to be. To be able to see, one should know how to look and how to imagine.”

These lines were written on the notebook that my grandpa gave me on the first day of the school.

“This was my daydream book... If you wish you can draw things that you like or dream of on the empty pages” he told me on that day. This notebook with a straw weave cover was like a storybook without a story written in it.





