

Architecture



Urban Design



Illustration

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Photography

BIOGRAPHY

Zarifi Haidar Marín is an Architect, Urban Designer and a self-taught Illustrator based in Beirut, Lebanon.

Zarifi obtained her BS in Architectural Engineering in 2005 and, since then, she has been working as an architectural consultant designing, developing and managing a wide range of projects in Lebanon and the region. Zarifi earned her MS degree in Urban Design from the American University of Beirut (2016) and has taught at the Beirut Arab University, lectured at the American University of Beirut and participated in various design workshops and researches in Lebanon and Europe. In addition to her experience in the fields of architecture and design, she is a self-taught Illustrator and has worked on a couple of award winning children books.

Zarifi is passionate about art and design and spends most of her free time taking photos, creating, drawing and doodling. She illustrates to smile and get smiles from those looking at her work.



“A doodle a day keeps the psychologist away” has been my favorite motto for a long time.

A few years ago, I started doodling as a way of expressing my frustrations, worries, and even my anxieties. I doodled almost every day, everywhere and anywhere; and, thanks to this practice, I learned to create something funny out of the events that are pulling me down.

Today, I see the world in colors. I do not only try to find the bright side of things, but I invent it if I cannot find it and I encourage others to do the same. I doodle and draw as often as I can. Any surface on

which I can capture my emotions and thoughts is a valid canvas and my favorite tools are those at hand. Most of the time - for practical reasons - these end up being my A5 sketchbook, ink liner pens and mobile phone. But I am always eager to learn, experiment and play with different techniques.

What do I want to say with my art?

Simile. Cry. Celebrate your emotions and humanity. Contemplate nature, the little miracles and tiniest details.

Treasure the genuine. Find beauty wherever you are.

RESUME

EDUCATION

- 2016 **Master of Urban Design** (Terminal Degree)
American University of Beirut, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2005 **Bachelor of Sciences in Architectural Engineering**
Beirut Arab University, faculty of Architectural Engineering | Beirut, Lebanon.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

- 2020 **"Tuhaf Yaratik"** (The Strange Creature). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Sana Chibani, published by EDAM | Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2017 **"الكائن العجيب"** (The Strange Creature). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Sana Chibani, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2016 **"Öfkelendiğinde"** (When You Get Angry). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Dunyazad al-Saadi, published by EDAM | Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2013 **"عندما تغضب"** (When You Get Angry). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Dunyazad al-Saadi, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2011 **"ما أحلى النوم"** (How Good is to Sleep). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Samar Mahfouz Barraj, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2010 **"اقرأ مع أحرفي"** (Reading with My Arabic Letters). Illustrations for a series of 15 booklets written by Maha Mousa, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2009 **"ماذا أفعل"** (What Shall I Do?). Illustrations for a series of 4 booklets written by Sana Chibani, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2009 **"سلسلة ظريفة"** (Zarifa Series). Illustrations for a series of 8 booklets written by Fatima Sharafeddine, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.

AWARDS

- 2015 **Kitabi Prize for Arabic Children Literature.**
Honor list for **"عندما تغضب"** (When You Get Angry).
- 2014 **International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).**
Honor list for **"ما أحلى النوم"** (How Good is to Sleep).
- 2013 **Etisalat Award for Arabic's Children Literature.**
Best Production for **"عندما تغضب"** (When You Get Angry).

EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 **"October 2019 ,17"**
Collective exhibition at Galerie Janine Rubeiz | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2019 **Mahmoud Kahil Award 2018**
Collective exhibition at Beit Beirut Museum and Urban Cultural Center | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2018 **"Talent Unbound"**
Collective exhibition at Ziko Haouse | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2016 **"Beirut Is"**
Collective exhibition at Glorietta Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS & FEATURES

- 2020 **"They Draw and Travel: 100 Illustrated Maps of Very Special Places"**
A Book by Nate Padavick | USA & Japan.
- 2020 **"The Lebanese Revolution...A Series by Zarifi Haidar Marin"**
The JFA (Justice for All) journal | UK.
- 2020 **"La pandémie du coronavirus, en huit illustrations réussies"**
L Orient-le Jour print and online journal | Lebanon.
- 2019 **"لبنان أعاد لي أملاً فقدته في فنزويلا"** (Lebanon brought back the hope I had lost in Venezuela)
Interview by BBC Arabic | UK.
- 2017 **"The Art of Life and Imagination: Talented Lebanese Illustrators to Follow on Instagram"**
ArabAd Magazine | Lebanon.
- 2015 **"Doodling in Beirut with Architect and Urban Designer @justZHM"**
Interview by Instagram | USA.
- 2015 **"Zari Haidar Marin: Breakthrough on the Social Lane"**
Outlook Magazine | Lebanon.
- 2015 **"One-on-One with ZarifiHaidar Marin"**
Interview by Ink Magazine | Pakistan.
- 2015 **"14 Fantastic Female Artists to Follow On Instagram"**
Buzzfeed | USA.
- 2013 **"حضور لبناني مميز في معرض الشارقة الدولي للكتاب"** (Distinguished Lebanese presence at the Sharjah International Book Fair)
National News Agency | Lebanon.

PERSONAL WORK

IL1

RAS BEIRUT ILLUSTRATED MAP

They Draw & Tavel: Mapping Special Places Contest.
Beirut, 2019.

IL2

BEIRUT IS...HETEROTOPIA

"Beirut Is" collective exhibition.
Glorietta Gallery. Beirut, 2016.

IL3

SKETCHES

Beirut, 2019.

PUBLISHED WORK

IL 4

THE STRANGE CREATURE | TUHAF YARATIK ("الكائن العجيب")

Illustrated book published by Asala Publishers. Beirut, 2017
Published in Turkish by EDAM. Istanbul, 2020.

IL 5

WHEN YOU GET ANGRY | ÖFKELENDİĞİNDE ("عندما تغضب")

Illustrated book published by Asala Publishers. Beirut, 2015
Published in Turkish by EDAM. Istanbul, 2016.

IL 6

HOW GOOD IS TO SLEEP ("ما أحلى النوم")

Illustrated book published by Asala Publishers.
Beirut, 2011.

IL 7

READING WITH MY ARABIC LETTERS ("أقرأ مع أحرفي")

Illustrated series of 15 booklets published by Asala Publishers.
Beirut, Lebanon.

RAS BEIRUT ILLUSTRATED MAP

They Draw & Tavel: Mapping Special Places Contest.
Beirut, 2019.

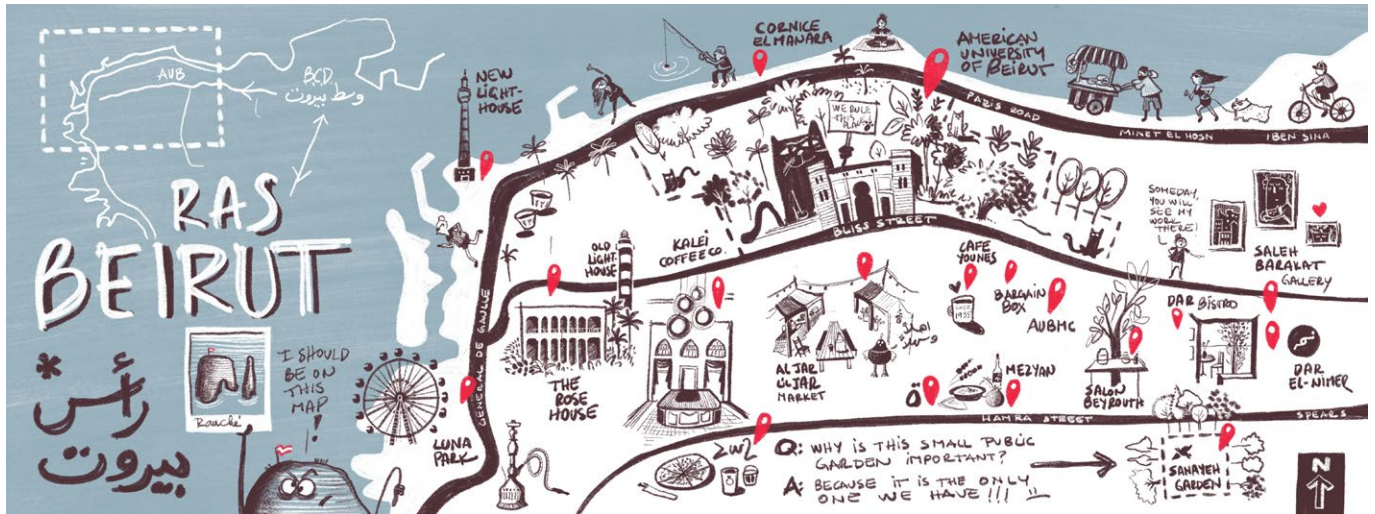
The map was included in the next TDAT book, a compilation of the 100 best maps submitted to the Mapping Special Places contest. The book will be available in early 2020.

« This place is special to me because it is where I studied and now spend most of my free time. We do not have many green or open spaces in Beirut but the American University neighborhood has it all: a botanical garden –which is also a cat haven,

heritage buildings, an archeological museum, art galleries, excellent restaurants and coffee shops, a weekly farmers' market and, last but not least, the seaside cornice – a beautiful promenade that leads to the iconic Rauche rocks site. One never gets bored in this area, never! »

Link to online map:

<https://strol.com/viewer/1577388419/>



Ras Beirut. Digital illustration.

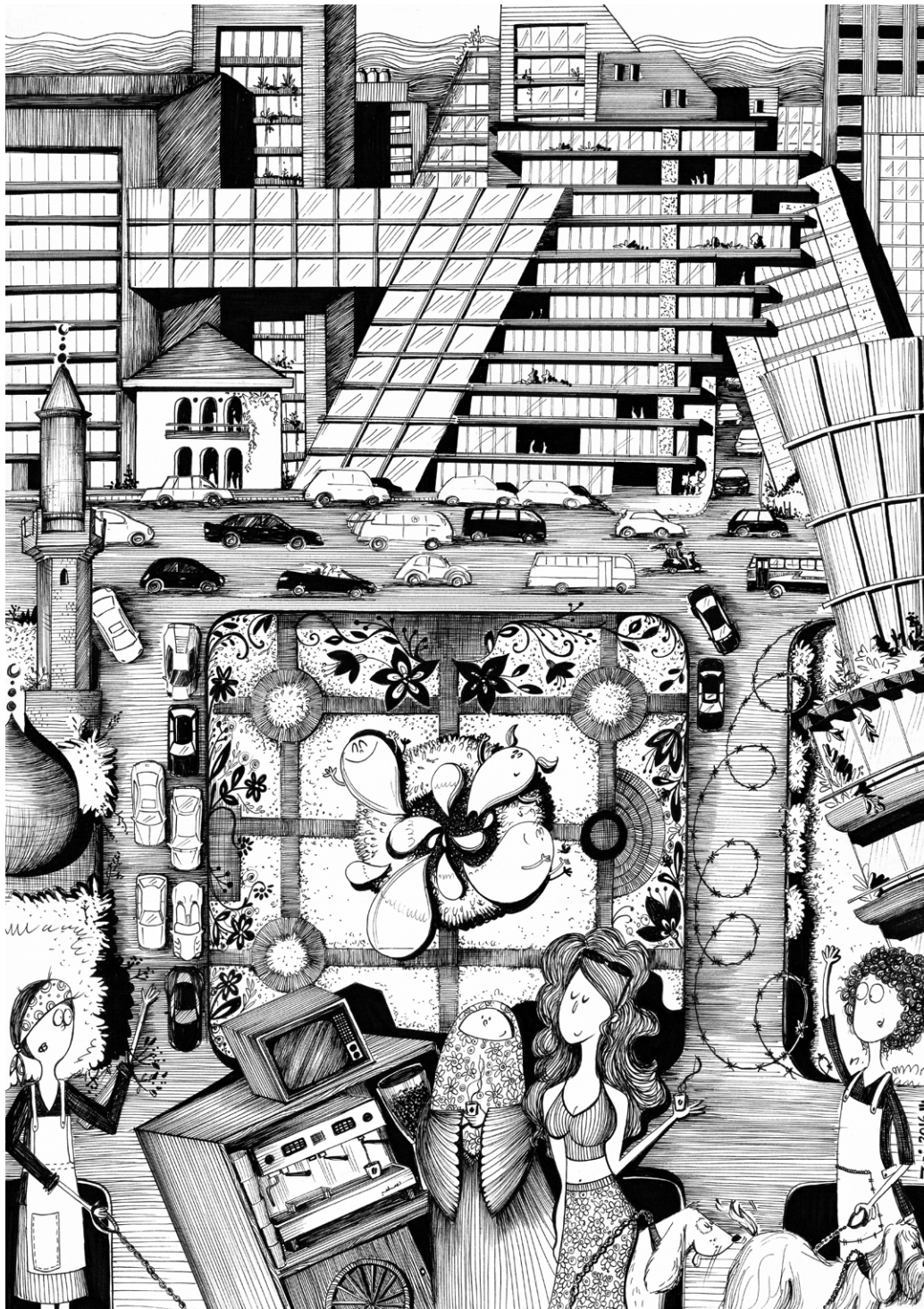
BEIRUT IS...HETEROTOPIA

"Beirut Is" collective exhibition.
Glorietta Gallery. Beirut, 2016.

The city is conceptualized as a heterotopic space in the Foucauldian understanding of the term: a space that functions in non-hegemonic conditions.

It is perceived as an alternative site – paradoxically a capital city, not a site at the peripheries like

the prisons, mental institutions and schools Foucault speaks about - where people's past and memories of the city as a site of everyday life overlap with its present appropriation by the real estate sector and with its controlled mobility and monumentality.



Beirut is...Heterotopia. Ink on paper. 42cm x 59.4 cm

SKETCHES

Personal work.

Beirut, 2008 till present.

“My motto is, ‘A doodle a day keeps the psychologist away,’ jokes Zari Haidar Marin (@justZHM), an architect, urban designer and self-taught illustrator living in Beirut... Besides doodles, Zari shares photos of Beirut’s buildings on Instagram, which show the city’s rich heritage and diverse architectural details.”

“Beirut is also a city of controversy and continuous troubles,” she says. “My posts come as either an attempt at sharing Beirut’s richness and beauty, or a reaction to whatever is happening in the country.”

Excerpt from interview by Instagram (2015)



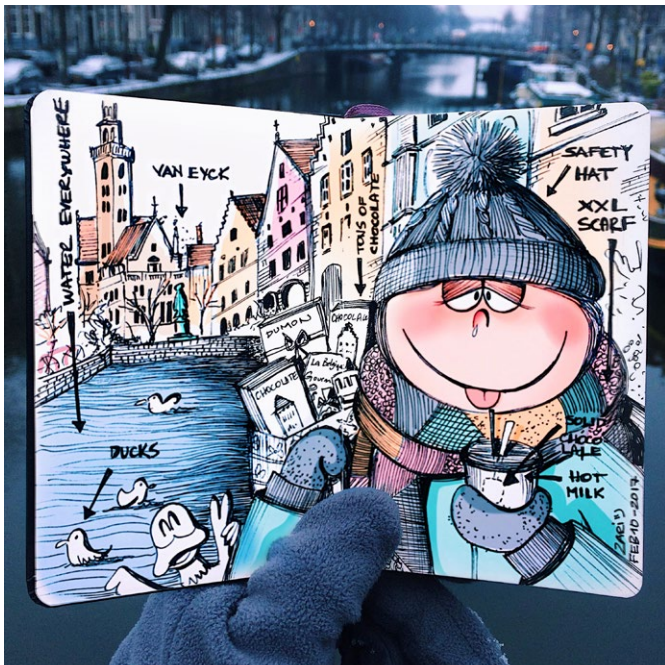
Clemenceau. Colored pencils on paper



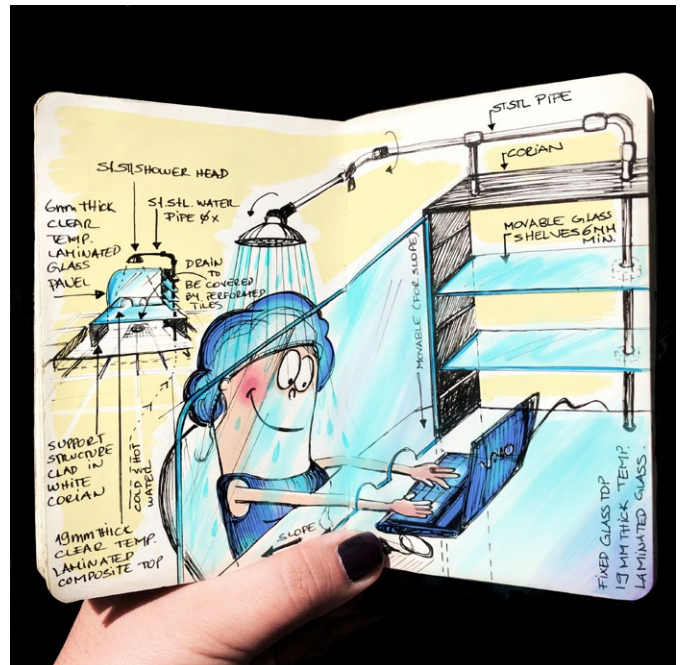
Gaudi's Casa Milà. Ink on paper



Clemenceau. Colored pencils on paper



Bruges. Ink on paper, digitally colored



Shower-desk. Ink on paper, digitally colored

A spaceship got closer to Earth. It roomed around all the countries. It went North and South, and landed in our playground. A strange creature got out the space ship, He didn't look like human. He was short and covered with straight fur. We taught him how to take a bath with a soap and sponge. He dressed like humans and he put on clean socks.

Subject: Difference, Accepting the Other, Cleanliness.

Writer: Sana Shabbani.

ISBN: 9789953951041

اُتَدَى مَلَابِيسَ إِنْسَانٍ وَجَوَارِبَ نَظِيفَةً.
شَمَمْنَا رَائِحَتَهُ، مَا أَخْلَاهُ !



17

16

Book spread. Colored pencils and markers on paper



عَلَّمْنَاهُ كَيْفَ يَغْتَنِي بِنَظَافَتِهِ، وَوَضَعْنَا أَغْرَاضًا فِي حَقِيبَتِهِ.
اسْتَحَمَ بِالصَّابُونَةِ وَاللَّيْقَةِ.
أَمَضَى بِالْمِيَاهِ الْمُتَعِشَّةِ وَقَتًا طَوِيلًا، حَتَّى فَرَكَ جِسْمَهُ
وَنَظَّفَ أَشْنَانَهُ الْكَبِيرَةَ.

15

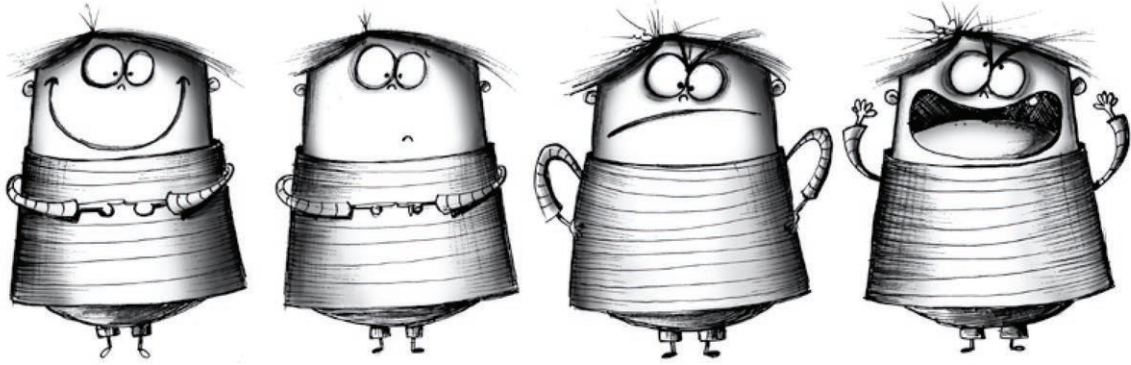
14

Book spread. Colored pencils and markers on paper

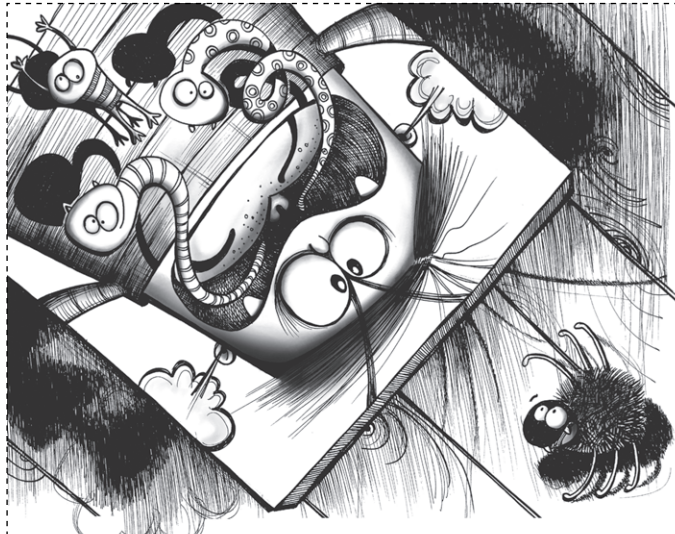
"Have you ever felt so angry that you wished you could break everything around you? Have you looked at the mirror and found that rage has turned you into a monster? If that is the case, welcome to the club and just listen to my story" What do you look like when you are angry?

"Best Production" Etisalat Award for Arabic's Children Literature in 2013.

Subject: Anger management, creative expression.
Writer: Duniyazad al-Saadi.
ISBN: 9786051691558



Book endpaper. Ink on paper



بالتأكيد فعلت! لكنك لم تتذكر أن تنظر إلى وجهك في المرآة وترى نفسك كيف تبدو كالوحش! لذلك انضم إلي يا صديقي في «نادي الغاضبين» بعد أن تقرأ حكايتي:

هل غضبت يوماً وشعرت أنك مظلوم ولم يسمح لك أحد بالدفاع عن نفسك؟
أو حرمت من شيء نتيجة لذلك معاقب؟ أو ربما تلقيت أمراً لم يعجبك لكن عليك تنفيذه؟
هل تمنيت أن تكسر شيئاً أمانك أو كسرتة لذلك غاضب؟
أو ربما ضربت أحداً أو غضضت يدك وشددت شعرك!



Book spread. Ink on paper

HOW GOOD IS TO SLEEP ("ما أحلى النوم")

Illustrated book.

Asala Publishers, Beirut, 2011.

"Hisham loves to sleep, that is why he is always late to school. But when he is faced with the obligation to wake up by himself, he gets an ingenious idea; do you know what it is?"

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) honor list, 2014.

Writer: Samar Mahfouz Barraj

ISBN: 9786144024119



Book spread. Digital work



Book spread. Digital work

READING WITH MY ARABIC LETTERS ("أقرأ مع أحرفي")

Illustrated booklet series.

Asala Publishers, Beirut, 2010.

A series of 15 booklets that introduce the Arabic alphabet in a cumulative progressive way; each booklet introduces 2 to 3 letters, which are used in monosyllable or two-syllable words and simple funny sentences.

They are great for preschool and kindergarten children as well as for any beginner reader.

Writer: Maha Mousa

ISBN: 9786144020616

