

Russian diaspora children's

# The Real Boat

**Children's book.** Mann Ivanov Ferber. Moscow 2019. 72 pages  
Illustrations by Viktoria Semykina  
Age 4+

**Awards:** 2019 winner BIBF Ananas Grand Jury Prize Beijing  
2018 Klaus Flugge Prize London

**Foreign rights:** English/ Templar, French/ Little Urban, Japanese (full English available)

The Real Boat, illustrated by Victoria Semykina, is all about a little paper boat who dreams of being real. One day he leaves his little pond to begin a long and sometimes scary journey. He wants to sail to the ocean, which he has heard is so big that the water joins the sky. When a paper boat learns about the ocean, he is determined to go there so that he can be a REAL boat. The little boat is very brave. On his journey he meets all sorts of friends, from the strong little tugboat to the glittering ocean liner. But he also learns that the real ocean is huge and deep and full of dangers.

No one is an island. But there are many wonderful children like brave little boats who won't be afraid to set sail into the future to search for what it means to be REAL. This is the most important thing in life.

Lyrical text and magical illustrations combine to create a modern fable with an important message about striving for what you want and escaping your comfort zone.

"A wonderful tale of courage, hope and imagination, The Real Boat is a feast for the eyes with its magnificent illustrations that perfectly complement this magical journey that will capture the hearts of young and old alike." READING EAGLE



## THE AUTHOR

### awards

2020 K. Chukovsky Prize  
2019 winner BIBF Ananas Grand  
Jury Prize Beijing  
2018 Klaus Flugge Prize  
London  
White Crows of International  
Munich Child's Library

### sample available

full English

### other works

Little Suitcase Travel  
When Angels are Resting



Marina Aromshtam was born 1960 in Moscow. For nearly 20 years she worked as a school teacher. She also devoted twelve years of life to pedagogical journalism. The last ten years she has been engaged into issues around children's reading and support for young readers. She oversees several educational institutions for preschool children and orphans. In 2022 she left Russia. Aromshtam lives in Israel.

Marina Aromshtam about her decision to go into exile:

"The war Russia unleashed on Ukraine forced me and my husband to leave Russia. The spirit of war that drove us out of the country likely wanted to deprive us of more than just our homeland. It threatened to take away our language and ability to write — to reduce us to nothing."

# Marina Aromshtam