

Russian diaspora children's

# The Bongo's Dreams

**Children's book.** Mann-Ivanov-Ferber. 2024. 93 pages.  
Age 8+ and adults

> philosophical tale, seasons, friendship, suffering, hope, self confidence

**November:** Fjuit. This is the adventure of a feather that fell out of a duck and began an independent life. The originality of this text is that it organically combines prose sketches and poems that can encourage readers to their own creativity. Duck feather meets a wind, a snowflake, a pine, a boy, a yard dog and other heroes on its way. Each of them has its own story. This text is about how important it is to give each other warmth.

**December:** Christmas. This is the key story in the book. The action takes place in the African savanna. Animals - an elephant, a lioness with cubs, a buffalo, two underground rats and a squirrel, an African raven and a blue antelope - each separately - go to the great baobab. Each of the animals has its own story. A lioness is trying to save her children from imminent death, a buffalo wants to punish the murderer of his brother, underground rats and a squirrel are seeking refuge, fleeing from the claws of a raven. And the blue antelope, an extinct species, comes to the earthly savanna from the heavenly one to help the souls of dead animals. All together they meet at the baobab on December 25. At this moment, the sacred tree blooms. This is a story that states that there are cruelty, fear and suffering in the world, but also there is hope and a miracle that can happen to each of us.

**March:** Shimada. This story tells about the friendship of an African turtle and a Japanese composer. Having met by chance, two lonely creatures — an African turtle that fell into the hands of poachers, and a poor young man from a working-class district of Tokyo — help each other in the most difficult moment of life. This story spans a lifetime, and we see how a poor young man became a world famous composer. But how will a strange friendship with a turtle end? A lyrical, tender story about friendship, hope, self-confidence, music and silence. Based on a true story about a Japanese man and an African turtle.

**August:** In search of Zubagail. This story takes place in a magical forest, where everyone lived in peace and harmony. But the cunning boar cruelly seized power over the animals and everything in the forest changed. For many years, the animals have been living at the mercy of the boar and his family, and only the beast Zubagail knows the truth. And one day he came back. Friends go in search of Zubagail, because the boar promised a generous reward to the one who catches him. But who is this Zubagail? What secret is he hiding? This story is about the true friendship of animals of different natures, a story about a dream and the ability to sacrifice the most precious in the name of goodness and justice.

Anastasia Strokina was born 1984 in the Murmansk region. She graduated from music school with a piano major, taught herself the cello and was a member of the Collegium Musicum Moscow chamber orchestra. Strokina not only writes books for children, she is also engaged in literary research and translates from English, French, Dutch and Italian. Born beyond the North Pole, Strokina sets her stories in Northern Russia and Scandinavia, following Selma Lagerlöf and Hans Christian Andersen. Her philosophical fairy tales have been awarded numerous prizes. Strokina is always travelling a lot to where her stories take place.



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
3 languages

## awards

2023 Book of the Year Award finalist  
Internationale Jugendbibliothek Munich  
2022 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award  
nominee  
2019 Arsenev Award  
2018 Krapivin International Prize  
2015 Kniguru Award

## other works

The Whale Swims North  
Pocket Dwarf Beard  
The Owl Wolf  
The Cloud Holder

# Anastasia Strokina