

Half a Banana and the Order of the World

Sarah Michaela Orlovský

Original Title: Eine halba Banane und
die Ordnung der Welt

Working Title: Half a Banana and the
Order of the World

**Original
Language:** German / Austria

Publisher: Tyrolia Verlag (Austria)

**Publishing
date:** 2021

**Number of
pages:** 60

**Recommended
age:** 9+



**Shortlisted for the German
Children's Book Prize 2022**

**Potential funding available
to support the translation**

A creative, moving novel showing the internal monologue of a girl whose older sister is suffering from anorexia

About the author

Sarah Michaela Orlovský is an award-winning Austrian author. She has been writing since 2009 throughout her travels to different countries in Europe and Africa – but always for children and teenagers. She has filled her notebooks at the University of Vienna as well as in Zambia, Armenia, Ethiopia, Slovakia and in Rwanda. She is now settled with her family in the Salzkammergut (Upper Austria).

About the translator

Claire Storey is a translator working from Spanish and German into English. She translates for adults and children, but has a particular interest in YA and MG. Claire is co-editor of **World Kid Lit**, highlighting the importance of books in translation for young readers. In 2021/22 Claire received Arts Council England funding for a translation project looking at YA Literature from Latin America. In 2021, she was named Outreach Champion by the Institute of Translation and Interpreting for her work promoting languages in schools. She would be happy to discuss school visits and marketing events.

Publishing Rights

World English language rights are available.

Rights holder: Tyrolia Verlag
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HALF A BANANA AND THE ORDER OF THE WORLD
SARAH MICHAELA ORLOVSKÝ // AUSTRIA

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Overview

This novel focuses on the illness anorexia. Unlike many other books on this subject, the author does not let the sufferer herself speak; it is her younger sister who talks to us. In condensed monologues - written in free verse - addressed to the older sister who remains speechless behind the closed door of her room throughout, the protagonist tries to bridge the abyss of the illness and win back her admired big sister for herself, the family, and life. This is an important text about the far-reaching effects of a serious illness.

Tyrolia Verlag have become known for publishing "unconventional and experimental children's and youth literature, literature beyond the mainstream" (White Ravens editorial team, 2022) and this novel is no exception. Presented on the page as short vignettes comprising single line sentences, almost like a series of lists, this short but impactful novel shares the pain and heartbreak of witnessing a family member struggle.

Praise for Half a Banana

In this unusual, poetic second-person monologue, a young girl struggles with her relationship with her older sister. Free verse written in precise and moving language gives voice to her memories of better times and her worries for the future. Her concern for her older sister and her mental illness together with the suffering of the whole family can be felt through the girl's words without ever explicitly naming the condition anorexia. The family's isolation is made visible through the image of the closed door behind which one sister conceals herself and before which the other family members remain standing. We witness the internal perspective of a distressed family, full of pain and open-ended questions. At the same time, the external view of the sister unfolds, the ways in which she is changing, her not-just-physical disappearance. Helplessness and despair, but also love and hope are expressed in this monologue by the younger sister, underpinned by the author's creative, rhythmic language

Jury of the German Children's Book Prize, 2022

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Financial Assistance for Translations

This book was originally published in Austria and as such may be eligible for financial assistance from the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport. From the [New Books in German website](#):

Applications are processed by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture the Civil Service and Sport

Applications for children's books should be made in good time before the book goes to print.

You will need to fill out the application form [here](#). The form is in German but help can be given from the contact below.

You will also need to include:

- copies of the contracts between the publishing houses and with the translator
- information about the translator (CV and list of translated works)
- the translation or part thereof (where possible)

For more information or for assistance with the application form please contact:

Lara Gallob, MA:
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I would be happy to explore this with you

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