# Half a Banana and the Order of the World

### Sarah Michaela Orlovský

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Original	
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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.

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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**

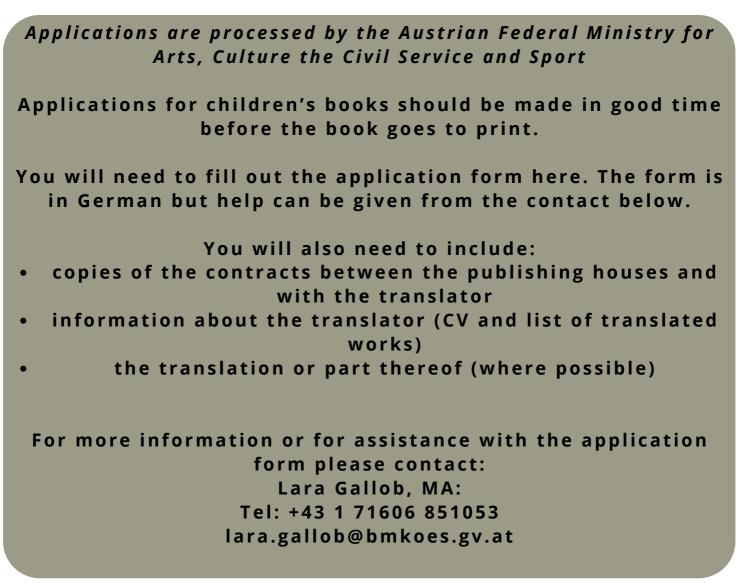
In this unusual, poetic second-person monologue, a young girl struggles with her relationship with her older sister. Free verse written in precise and moving language gives voice to her memories of better times and her worries for the future. Her concern for her older sister and her mental illness together 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 ws 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 <u>New Books in German website</u>:



I would be happy to explore this with you

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