



Mellel Publishing House

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**Mellel Publishing House**

**2026 Catalogue**



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## About Jonathan Yavin

Author and Publisher



**Jonathan Yavin** is an Israeli author of 18 books for children, young adults, and adults, and a recipient of the 2012 **Prime Minister's Literary Award**. His books are consistent bestsellers, often reprinted ten times or more, and many continue to sell nearly 25 years after their first publication. His most successful title, *Pumpkin the Kitten*, has sold over 200,000 copies, reached platinum status, was adopted for TV and more.

Yavin's works have been translated into English, Arabic, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, and Croatian, with Spanish forthcoming in April 2026. His long-running children's show, "Literary Standup Comedy," has been performed in schools for almost two decades, and several of his books are included in school curricula. "I value honesty and clear communication between parents and children," he says. "You should always tell them the truth, even if it's not pleasant. Just try to make it funny."

For nearly 30 years, Yavin worked as a journalist in national media and appeared widely on television and radio. He is also an editor and translator from English (including *Three Men in a Boat*, *Tarzan*, and more). During the Covid-19 period, he recognized the severity of the crisis in Israel's book market and founded Mellel Publishing House.

To date, Mellel has released Yavin's fourth novel, *Loyal to None but Himself*, which received enthusiastic praise from critics and readers alike ("A brilliant book," wrote *Maariv*). Mellel has also published two children's books of his, a revised edition of his 2012 writer's guide, *Building a Story*, a Croatian children's book, and *Hybrid Bird*, a poetry collection by Yael Gavey. A culinary memoir and a YA financial storybook are slated for publication in 2026–2027 alongside other imported and original projects.



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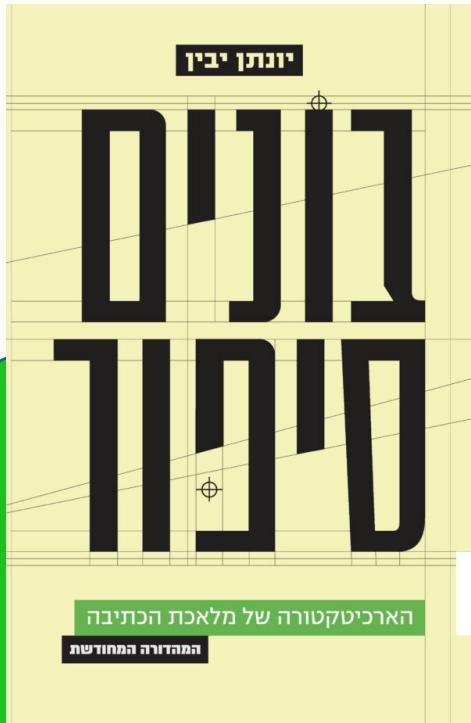
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Newest:

## *Building a Story*

A writer's guide



A renewed edition of the 2012 blockbuster  
the became the writer's best friend. The  
guide is divided into 3 parts, the short first  
2 offer insight into the philosophy and  
psychology of the trade and the main and  
3<sup>rd</sup> part offers 20 lessing in the practice:  
protagonist, dialogue, plot forming,  
symbolism etc. [Ask for sample](#)



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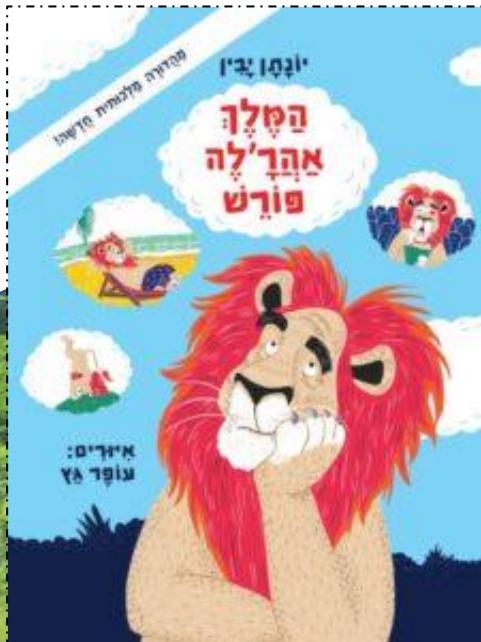
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Newest:

## King Leo Retires

Renewed Edition, March 2025



A renewed edition for this 2015 bestseller!

King Leo's had it with running the jungle! In wake of his retirement the animals form a terribly dysfunctional government... Leo doesn't enjoy sitting around either... A story about democracy and doing what's natural for you.

Ages 4-9

40pp. Mellel Publishing House, 2025. Originally published in Kinneret-Zmora Publishers, 2015.

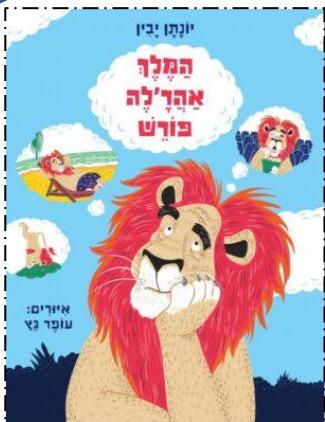
Illustrations: Ofer Getz.

Translations: Chinese (2018), Spanish (due April 2026)

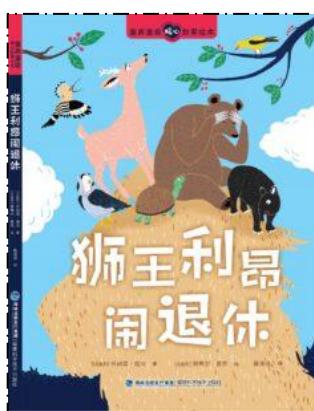
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Original edition, 2015



Chinese edition

Comin soon: Spanish edition



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New:

## *Rona's Moving Out*

May 2024



**Rona doesn't want to tidy up her room and decides to move to her best friend's from upstairs. There**

Rona realizes there's no place like home.

Ages 4-8, 40pp.

Illustrations: **Aviel Basil.**

Mellel Publishing House, 2024.

Rights availability:

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## *A Night at the Playground*



**What a strange boy he is, Ben Guggenheim!**

**He always wants things when it's not the right time!**

Ben persuades his parents to go to the playground at night. Only then does he understand the logic of grown-ups, while his parents are reminded it's good to have fun sometimes...

Ages 4-9, 32pp.

Illustrations: **Aviel Basil**.

Am-Oved Publishers, 2021.

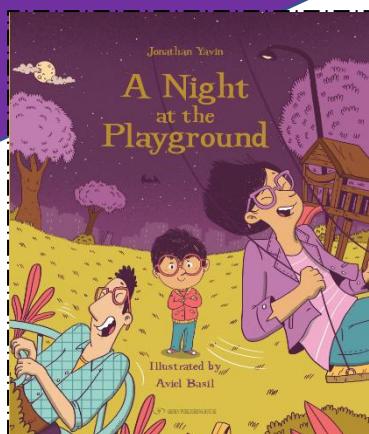
Acheivements: 1<sup>st</sup> edition sold within 6 months.

Elected for the Board of Education's "Book Parade".

Translations: English USA (due 2023).

Rights availability: All other languages.

Representation: [Assia Literary Agency](http://AssiaLiteraryAgency)



**USA edition**

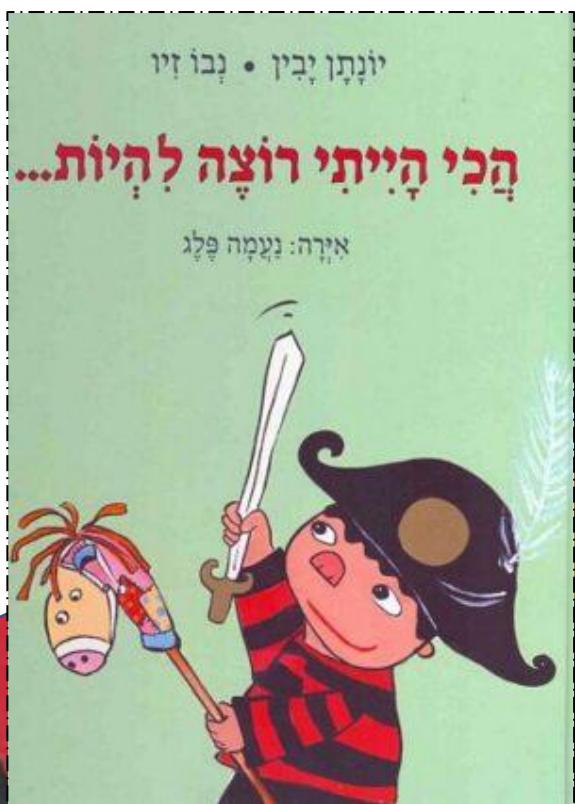


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## When I Grow Up...



An amusingly rhymed catalog of professions, over 10 re-prints! Grandma asks her grandson what he wants to be when he grows up and he browses through professions.

Ages 4-8.

Co-written with **Nevo Ziv**.

Illustrations: **Na'ama Peleg**.

36pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2002.

**Rights availability:**

All languages/territories.

**Representation:** [info@jonyavin.com](mailto:info@jonyavin.com)

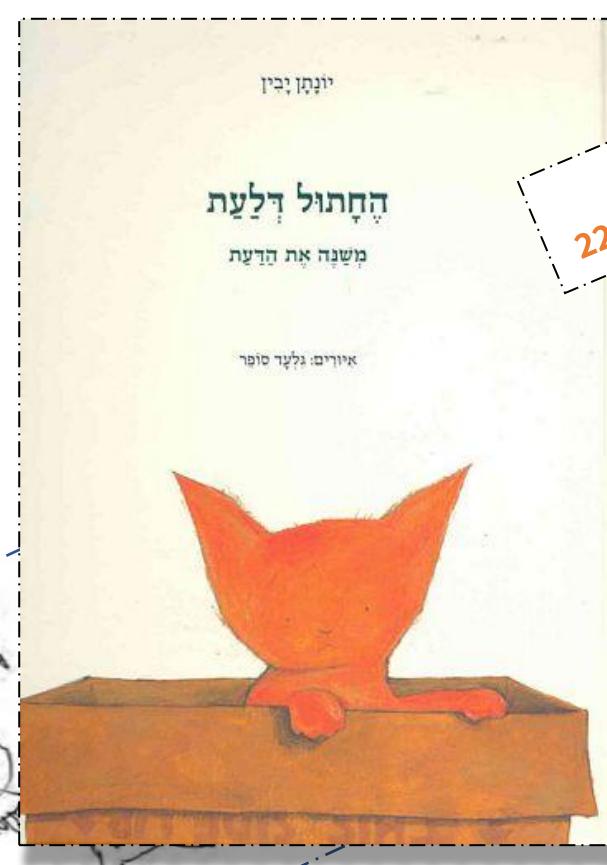


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## Pumpkin the Kitten



Amazing bestseller!  
220K copies and counting...

A boy afraid of cats can't resist Pumpkin, a shelter kitten his father brings home. A story about false fears of the unknown.

Ages 4-8.

Illustrations: **Gilad Soffer**.

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2004.

Achievements:

\* PJ Library grand issue

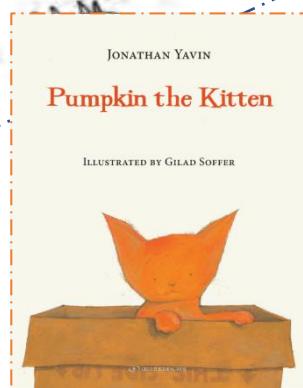
\* **Platinum book**

\* TV adaptation

Translations: Arabic (2006), English USA (2023), Croatian (2023).

**Rights availability**: All other languages.

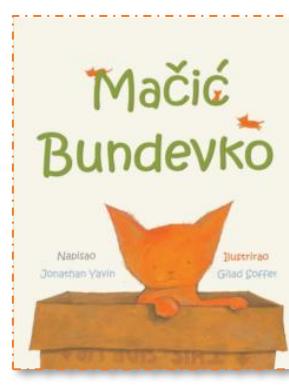
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English (USA)



Arabic



Croatian

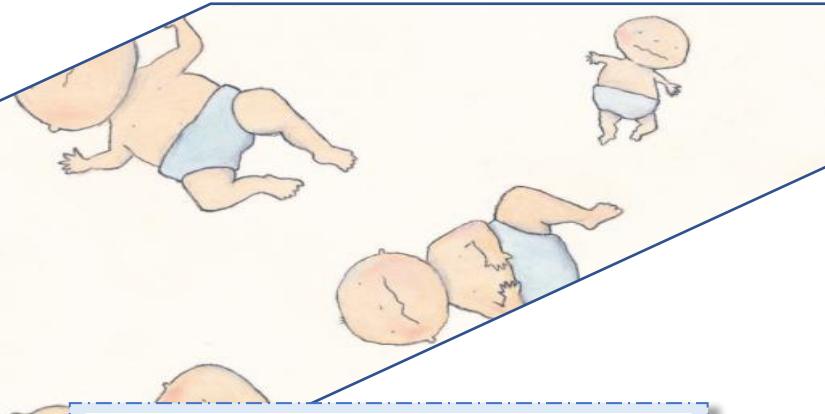
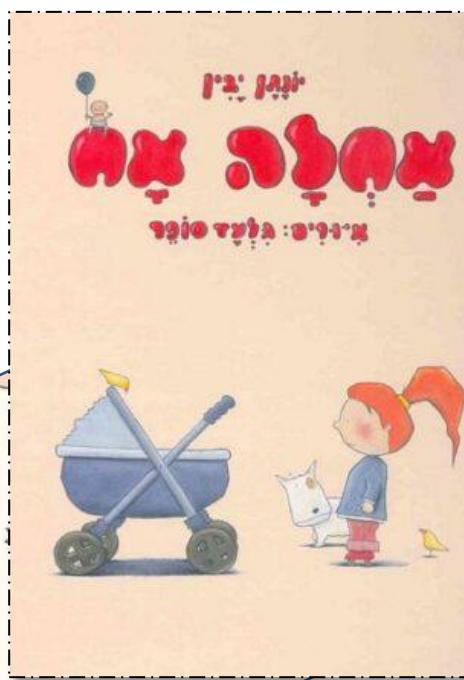


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## Oh, Brother



A new baby overshadows older sister. She persuades her parents to take him back to the hospital and swap it, and they agree! But there she realizes their special connection and her important role as a firstborn.

Ages 2-6.

Illustrations: **Gilad Soffer**.

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2005.

Achievements:

\* The Israeli Museum Illustration prize.

\* Huge best-seller, over 10 re-prints.

**Rights availability:**

All languages/territories.

**Representation:** [Assia Literary Agency](http://AssiaLiteraryAgency.com)



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## When Sad was Sad



Noa is sad over some silly nonsense, so Dad makes up a silly nonsense story to pull her out of it. A sad golden fish named Bleak saves the day! 6 re-prints and counting...

Ages 4-8.

Illustrations: **Gilad Soffer**.

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2008.

**Rights availability:**

All languages/territories.

**Representation:** [Assia Literary Agency](http://AssiaLiteraryAgency.com)



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## In the Neighborhood



The neighborhood's kids are running around looking for an adventure, old school! A salutation to the 1980's childhood.

Ages 4-8.

Illustrations: **Noam Nadav**.

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2010.

**Rights availability:**

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## Dorri the Dragon



Dorri dreams he's a dragon and decides to stay in character all day. His fiery behavior causes trouble at home and in kindergarten, eventually teaching him that being "on your own" can get lonely. A story especially cherished by children and parents on the spectrum.

Ages 4-8.

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2013.

Illustrations: **Ofer Getz**.

Rights availability:

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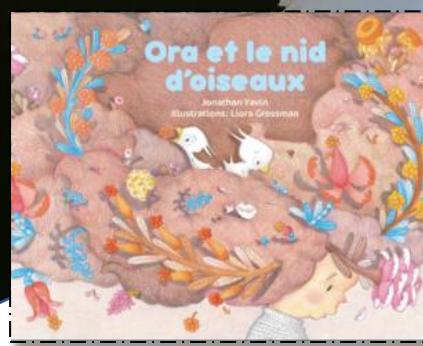


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## Cockatoo Hairdo



French edition



German edition

Rama's hair seems to have a life of its own. One morning, she discovers two tiny hatchlings nestled in it, lost and unsure where their mother has gone!

Ages 4-8.

Illustrations: **Liora Grossman**.

36pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2017.

Translations: German (2017), French (2017).

**Rights availability:**

All languages/territories including German and French (rights retrieved to author).

**Representation:** [info@jonyavin.com](mailto:info@jonyavin.com)



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## Young Adults

Golden Ones



428pp. 2011, Am Oved Publishers,  
Representation: [info@jonyavin.com](mailto:info@jonyavin.com)

Anti

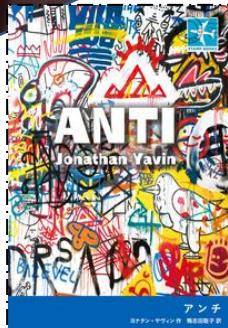


247pp. 2011, Am Oved Publishers,  
Representation: [ITHL](http://ITHL)

Love vs. Friendship



216pp. 2011, Miskal PH,  
Representation: [info@jonyavin.com](mailto:info@jonyavin.com)



Japanese edition

Jonathan's 3 fiction novels for young adults met with an enthusiastic crowd and critics. Specifically, their power to touch young hearts was repeatedly mentioned. **Golden Ones** is a classic boarding-school thriller; **Anti** - a hardcore realistic rap novel; **Love vs. Friendship** - a rom-com for boys.

Regardless of its heavy-weight onset of a suicide in the family (the uncle), **Anti** was translated into Japanese. "Young adults ache to be listened to and are looking for books that will affirm what they think matters and what they feel is okay," says Jonathan.



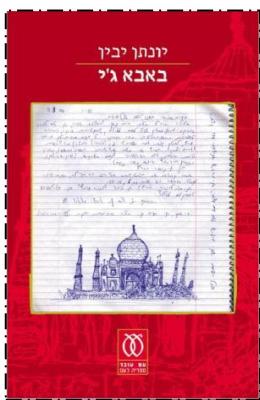
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## Fiction Novels

Baba Gee



House-Sitter



The Misanthropist



Loyal to None but Himself



369pp. 2004, Am Oved PH

357pp. 2011, Am Oved PH

479pp. 2014, Kinneret-Zabam PH

348pp. 2022, Melel PH

Jonathan's 4 fiction novels are literary events *per se*. His unique worldly ability to write about the human condition won him a crowd of devotees that is growing by the book. His masterful use of drama and style was repeatedly acknowledged by star Israeli authors like **David Grossman, A.B. Yehoshua, Haim Be'er** and others. His 2<sup>nd</sup> novel, *House-Sitter* secured Jonathan's the Prime Minister Literary Award 2012.

His novels, described by critics as "brilliant... sexy... highly entertaining" are smartly plotted, humorous and edgy, cruel at times. He mercilessly dives into sensitive themes like father and son issues, existential insignificance, cultural violence and in his latest and highly praised novel, *Loyal to None but Himself*, loyalty & betrayal.