

Nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2026!



KIA LITERARY AGENCY

Dear friends & Colleagues

As we approach the New Year holidays, I wish you all joy, health, and peace. May the new year bring us all a time of tranquility, free from violence and war. Let's work together to create a better and more peaceful world.

Happy New Year!

Best regards,

Lili HAYERI Yazdi



Author Ahmad Akbarpour and Illustrator Alireza Goldouzian have been nominated by IBBY Iran for the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2026.

Iran's candidates for the Hans Christian Andersen Award - 2026!



Alireza Goldouzian has been nominated by IBBY Iran for the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2026!

Born in Tehran on: 1976
Education: MA in illustration

Publications:

He has illustrated more than 100 titles for children and young adults so far.

Some of his books are as follows;

- The Marriage, My Grief is Blue, 2000, Tehran, Iran,
- (winner of the Honorable Diploma at the 2001 BALJ Biennale of Asian Illustrators in.
- 2002 Tehran, Iran (winner of the Golden Pen at the 2003 Belgrade Exhibition of Illus
- (selected work at the 2004 The Holed Sock, Bologna Children's Illustration Exhibitic
- titles on the Iranian legends; "The Rich-Thinking Stories", OFOQ publications, Tehran, Iran 2007
- "The Mother's Fear", Arka Editions, Italy, 2011
- "La Balade De Poule Poulette",

Lirabelle, France 2013

- oh no said elephant minedition zurich swiss 2016

Awards:

- Nominated for Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2014
- 3rd Winner of the 1st Edition of Sharjah Exhibition for Children Books' Illustrations,
- Grand Prix winner at the BIB Grand Prix at the Biennial of Illustrations of Bratislava, 2005 (BIB 2005)
- Selected Artist at the 2018 & 2013, 2012, 2009,2006,2004 Bologna Children's Illustration Exhibition
- 1st winner of the Golden Pen at the 2003 Belgrade Exhibition of Illustration
- Honorable Diploma at the 2001 BALJ Biennial of Asian Illustrators in Japan

Nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2026!

I love you and you know that



Illustration
Alireza Golduzian

This is a symbolic story of the paradoxes of love. Sometimes, children become so engrossed in their toys that they cannot bring themselves to giving them up even for a moment. As they grow up and make a friend, they want that friend to be only theirs. Even when they are grown-ups, the anxiety and the preoccupation of losing a relationship stays with them. In truth, you do not achieve what you like easily; and friendship are hard to get, and when you

get it, you are always anxious to keep it somewhere inaccessible. But is there anywhere in the world which is inaccessible?



Illustration
Alireza Golduzian

Author:
Ahmad Akbarpour

Thousands of pomegranate seeds

The woman would get pregnant every year and instead of a child, she would give birth to 7 snakes. Each time, her husband would take these baby snakes and release them outside the city. Until one year, one of the baby snakes slowly crawled out and hid behind the beds. The old man and the old woman wanted a child and now they were childless.

Suddenly, the baby snake spoke up and said, "I am your daughter!" Is it possible for a baby snake to become a human child? But Thousand Thousand Pomegranate Seeds is not an ordinary baby snake! He has a strange adventure ahead of him that is worth reading. This book is a collection of stories from Iranian tribes that

Tales by NASREDDIN



Illustration
Alireza Golduzian

Mulla Nasrudin is the starring character in a vast number of amusing tales told in regions all over the world, particularly in countries in or near the Middle East. Each tale depicts Nasrudin in a different situation and through his viewpoint they humorously reveal commentary and lessons on various life themes.

Nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2026!

Inside Story Headline



Author Ahmad Akbarpour has been nominated by IBBY Iran for the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2026!

Ahmad Akbarpour, born in 1960, is a prolific Iranian writer who writes for children and teenagers. His books have been translated into various languages and have been praised by experts in the field of children's literature.

Ahmad Akbarpour wrote the book "Good Night, Commander" in 2004 for a competition held by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Children's Book Council.

This work was selected by the council and has been translated and published in Canada by a reputable Canadian publisher (Grand Wood). Illustrated by Narges Mohammadi, it won five turtles at the Flying Turtle Festival. In addition to English, it was also translated into Chinese and Korean.

The book "I Am Not My Father's Servant" was selected as a book by the Munich International Library.

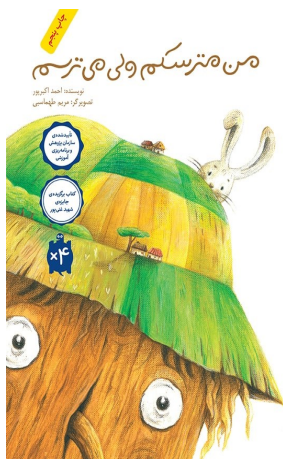
The book "I am a scarecrow, but I am afraid" illustrated by Maryam Tahmasbi was published in 2017 and was able to win four flying turtles.



Dal's daughter

The woman asked the sage to pray for her to have a child. The sage gave her a bird's egg to take care of for forty days. But does a baby come out of a bird's egg? Her husband did not believe in such a thing. So she took the bird's egg and threw it in the trash! The Dal bird came along and took it with him. From that egg a beautiful girl

was born who even learned to fly from Dal. One day, the prince saw the image of Dal's daughter in the water... This book is a collection of stories from Iranian tribes that ...



I'm scared, but I'm afraid.

Do you like a scarecrow who is not very brave? What if he is not brave at all? What would you do if a scarecrow who is a little timid wanted to be your friend? The scarecrow in our story was made very ugly so that animals and birds would be afraid of him. Unlike many scarecrows, he does not want to scare anyone at all.

He is very kind and afraid of being alone. Finally, he decides to run away from the farm and befriend the children.

You may be the first person to see him. If that happens, you have something very important to do...