



SMALL INDIE PRESS AURORA METRO DOMINATES SHORTLIST FOR MARSH TRANSLATION AWARD 2009

AURORA METRO PRESS, an independent publisher based in Twickenham has beaten off larger and more established rivals to have 3 titles shortlisted for the Marsh Translation Award 2009.

Background:

The company embarked on publishing an international series of novels for young people in 2005 with the aim of making the best foreign literature for young people available to an English readership. Only a small percentage of foreign books for children are translated into English each year, while in Europe around 30% of new titles are translated from another language, giving their young readers a much wider cultural experience.

Aurora Metro raised financial support from Arts Council England to publish a further 5 books in the series working with Cultural Organisations to bring the authors to the UK. Several of the authors either took part in Literary Festivals or gave talks/workshops to numerous schools and colleges across the country.

The shortlisted titles:

Tina's Web by Alki Zei, the popular and highly-regarded Greek children's writer and former dissident, has already won the IBBY PRIZE FOR BEST BOOK FOR TEENAGERS in Greece and the BOOKWORMS TEEN READERS PRIZE in France for her tale of a troubled teenage girl, her descent into drug-taking and final recovery. It has been translated by **John Thornley**. (For 13+)

My Brother Johnny by Francesco D'Adamo was rejected by his Italian publishers because of its strong anti-war message, detailing the story of an ex-pilot returning from the war and incurring the wrath of those in his community by setting up a peace protest. The author moved to another publisher and has continued to publish his books with them, winning awards for many of his books so far. It has been translated by **Sian Williams**. (For 12+)

Letters From Alain by Enrique Perez Diaz is a moving story for younger readers (10+) about the migration of boat people and those left behind on the island of Cuba, told from the point of view of 11 year old Arturo who loses his best friend to the sea. The Cuban author is the President of the

Cuban Children's Book Association and has won many awards for his novels and short stories. It has been translated by **Simon Breden**.

Review Quotes:

Tina's Web

"Zei's description of Tina's unravelling makes the heart beat faster and frequently puts a lump in the throat... There are stories within stories here, each one given its own shape and space. Highly recommended."

Inis, Children's Books of Ireland magazine

My Brother Johnny

"Some stories need to be written and deserve to be read all over the world. My Brother Johnny is one of these..."

Nicolette Jones, *The Sunday Times*

Letters from Alain

"Combines the serious issue of illegal immigration and the plight of boat people with an understated and distinctly Cuban magical realist style to powerful effect. A compelling and very particular human mystery."

CubaSi Magazine

Of the series:

"Aurora Metro have been bringing to the UK books from countries around the world and they are creating an impressive list of great titles."

Chris Brown, The School Librarian

Quote from publisher:

"We've tried to find the best books for young people from other countries and deliver them in fine translations for the enjoyment of English teenagers. We're delighted that the judges of The Marsh Award have shown appreciation for our efforts to give young people a wider cultural and literary experience..."

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