

Illustrated by Nasim Abaeian

**MANY CULTURES  
ONE STORY**

**INTERNATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOK DAY**

**April 2nd 2015**

**iBbY**  
INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**uaeBbY**  
المجلس الإماراتي للكتب المصغر  
The UAE Board on Books for Young People

## Many Cultures One Story

"We speak many languages and  
come from different backgrounds,  
Yet we share the same stories"  
International stories... folklore stories  
It's the same story told to us all  
In different voices  
In different colors  
Yet it remains unchanged...  
Beginning...  
Plot...  
And End...  
It is the same story we all know & love  
We all heard it  
In different versions by different voices  
Yet it is always the same  
There is a hero... a princess... & a villain

No matter their language  
Their names  
Or their faces  
It is always the same  
Beginning,  
Plot  
And Ending  
Always that hero...that princess and  
that villain  
Unchanged through centuries  
They keep us company  
They whisper to us in our dreams  
They lull us to sleep Their voices long  
gone  
But they live in our hearts forever  
For they bring us together in a land  
of mystery and imagination  
So that all different cultures melt into  
One Story

*written by: Marwa Al Aqroubi*

literature awards, in addition to the Read, Dream, Create reading campaign initiative – launched by the UAEBBY to support children's ability to read, write, and be creative. As part of this initiative, she frequently participates in reading sessions for children with the aim of strengthening children's interest in books.

At the international cultural level, she is a member in the Advisory Committee of the Sharjah-IBBY Fund, and shares its objectives of supporting the creation of a culture of reading and providing books for children whose lives have been disrupted through war, civil disorder, or natural disasters in the region of Central Asia and North Africa. She recently participated in the high level visit made by the emirate of Sharjah to the Emirati-Jordanian Refugee Camp in support of Syrian refugee children, and was involved in the opening of the 3000 book "Big Heart" Library for the camp's children.

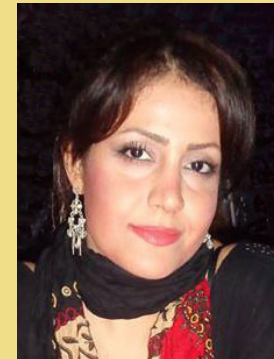
Al Aqroubi completed her Bachelor's Degree in Information Science from Zayed University in Dubai and held the position of Business Development Manager at the Executive Office of Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi. Since publishing her first book Ahmed El Helou (Sweet Ahmed), in which she takes a journey to explore UAE's heritage and traditions, the world of writing children's books and promoting children's culture has become her first interest.



## MARWA OBAID RASHID AL AQROUBI

Marwa Obaid Rashid Al Aqroubi is one of the prominent figures in children's book industry in the UAE and holds the position of President of the UAE Board on Books for Young People (UAEBBY) Executive Board, one of the leading organisations concerned with promoting children's culture, fostering reading culture, and encouraging the book industry's professionals to develop their work.

She is a significant contributor to promoting the Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature, one of the largest and most important Arabic children's



## NASIM ABAEIAN

Born in 1980 in Isfahan Iran, Nasim spent her elementary school and childhood in Genova Italy, in an artistic ambience and full of inspiration. In 2003 she earned a bachelor degree in Visual Communication from the American University Of Sharjah, and headed to the United States to complete a master's degree in illustration at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Today, Nasim is a faculty at the Art and Design department of Zayed University and works as a freelance illustrator for children's books.

