



# BOOKS FROM

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# Colombia

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The publishing of picture books in Colombia is recent. Since the eighties, when the edition of books for children and youth began in our country, only few outstanding works have remained in our publishing market.

In this selection of picture books we want to highlight the books written and illustrated by Ivar Da Coll, an emblematic author of our country, as well as the work of Alekos, Clarisa Ruiz and Antonio Caballero.

Fundalectura -the Foundation for the Promotion of Reading- is a private, non-profit enterprise. It leads interdisciplinary assessment committees, which assess the bibliographic offer for children and youngsters. Their voluntary work feeds the lists of recommended books of the institution.



## 1 Clarisa Ruiz • Alekos, ill. **Tocotoc, el cartero enamorado [Tocotoc, the postman in love]**

Panamericana, 1998 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1993) • ISBN 958-30-0475-8

If ever you visit a town called Cataplun and see going by the park two lovers, a postman and a beautiful girl with a jelly bean nose and cheeks like apples, you should know that they are the protagonists of a curious story of love, a romance by correspondence. Tocotoc, the postman, was in love with Mary, a seamstress, but he was so shy that he did not dare to say he loved her. But

he had an idea: to write her letters to express all things he had not the courage to say face to face. This charming tale is a tribute to epistolary dialogue, to the old habit of putting in a mailbox dreams, happiness, woes, and hopes. For his work in this book, the illustrator was nominated to the IBBY Honour List 1994.



## 2 Antonio Caballero **Isabel en Invierno [Isabel in Winter]**

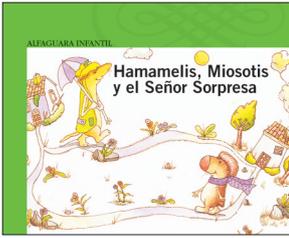
Panamericana, 2003 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1990) • ISBN 958-30-0519-3

Many things happen to Isabel in Winter. She gets bored, sits to think, dresses and undresses and also she goes for a walk. At times she is alone, and sometimes she remembers that she is not, as the weasel Muchareja and the bear Nicholas. Isabel feels and thinks a lot. Her father knows

this and so he wrote this book for her. When he showed it to Isabel, she felt represented in the character. A reading recommended to share with children living the game as their greatest adventure. The illustration line reflects the doodles children make at this age.

### 3 Ivar Da Coll **Hamamelis, Miosotis y el señor Sorpresa** [Hamamelis, Miosotis and Mister Surprise]

Alfaguara, 2008 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1993) • ISBN 958-704-372-3

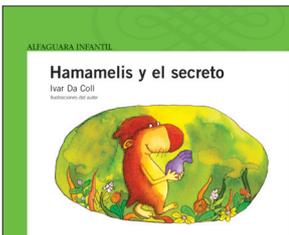


Mr. Surprise is a mysterious character that no one sees but everyone knows. When his visit is approaching, houses are decorated with candles, ribbons and flowers; behind doors, bags are put waiting for those gifts all have demanded from Mr. Surprise in a letter the wind carried to him.

Hamamelis and Miosotis, two friends who like to visit each other to chat while drinking cocoa and eating cookies, make their requests to the expected visitor. But instead of asking gifts for themselves, each one asks for something that would make his neighbor happy.

### 4 Ivar Da Coll **Hamamelis y el secreto [Hamamelis and the secret]**

Alfaguara, 2006 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1991) • ISBN 958-704-219-0



As Hamamelis is famous by his discretion, Miosotis, his best friend, carries a secret to his home. Hamamelis keeps it in a chest, so carefully, together with a sword, a prince's crown and a striped ball. But the secret begins to move and make strange noises, and Hamamelis must fight against the curiosity and the temptation he feels

to open the chest. More important, he has to be strong enough to avoid being convinced by her friend (Calendula) Marigold, who offers him some delicious cookies in exchange for revealing the secret. What a problem!

### 5 Ivar Da Coll **¡No, no fui yo! [No, it wasn't me!]**

Alfaguara, 2011 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1998) • ISBN 978-958-758-058-7

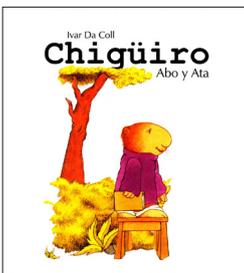


With a topic children love as it expresses with humor the harshness of eschatological matters, The situations depicted will make the reader smile. Three friends go out for a walk, sleep together and believe each other in the fabulous characters they invent to blame for the noises

their bodies produce. Although many parents and teachers try to veil some topics to children, the author suggests the need to recognize that our body produces noises we cannot control, when least expected, overcoming the shame.

### 6 Ivar Da Coll **Chigüiro Abo y Ata [Chigüiro, Abo and Ata]**

Babel, 2010 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1993) • ISBN 978-958-8445-04-5

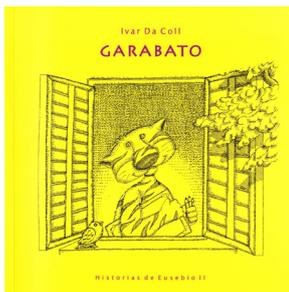


Chigüiro, a capybara, is very intrigued and wants to understand the secret explaining why adults have to be so big, so serious, with such a big appetite. Why can't he eat as much as Abo or have a couch like his couch, or cook with sharp knives as Ata does? They always tell him: "Now you are young, but when you grow up..." And he

wonders when it will happen. "As time passes", Abo comforts him and until this time arrives, Abo shows him how the adult's world is. Then Chigüiro decides it is boring to be big and thinks it is better to wait to grow up and while waiting, carry on eating lollipops, riding his tricycle, and painting with crayons on his own small table.

## 7 Ivar Da Coll **Garabato: historias de Eusebio II [Doodle]**

Babel, 2006 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1990) • ISBN 958-97602-6-0



Eusebio is a beautiful cat with a look between sad and sweet look in his eyes. He is usually engaged in activities slightly spiritual, sensitive and even poetic. In this book, Eusebio begins to draw, specifically, to draw portraits. A cheerful morning, he decides to paint, and carrying the necessary elements, he sits under a shady tree to reproduce other beings on a paper. Then his friends began to parade in front of his improvised and airy studio to ask him for a portrait. The hen Ursula, duck Ananias, goat Eulalia, cat Camila and also dog Horacio want a portrait. All of them prove to be very fickle as models:

they all have an excuse to leave soon the rigors of this activity so quiet and calm. Finally, Eusebio decides to paint landscapes, and then they ask him, again, for their portraits. At the end, Eusebio finds a final solution. With this book, Ivar Da Coll demonstrates his stories and illustrations, his imagination and poetry, are an outpost in our country and beyond.

*Doodle*, to be published soon with new illustrations by the author, is part of the series Eusebio's Stories, which include *Birthday cake* and *I'm afraid*.

## 8 Ivar Da Coll **Tengo miedo [I'm afraid]**

Babel, 2006 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1990) • ISBN 958-97822-3-X



It is night and Eusebio, the cat, cannot sleep because he is scared. But, fortunately, he is not alone. His friend Ananias, a wise duck, tells him a secret to stop him being frightened. He reveals him that monsters also have to brush their teeth and drink their soup, that they must take baths with soap and water, and go to sleep at eight in the evening. Also, he reveals that the monsters

like colorful ice cream. Knowing these monsters weakness, Eusebio decides to go to sleep. He is peaceful, after all somebody who has to drink soup, as him, monsters included, cannot be so bad.

This book will be published soon with new illustrations by the author.

## 9 Ivar Da Coll **Torta de cumpleaños [Birthday cake]**

Babel, 2006 (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1990) • ISBN 958-97602-5-2



Horacio, the dog, remembers that his friend Ursula had her birthday recently. He packs some fruit in a basket and runs to give them to Ursula, a hen, before she celebrates another birthday. Ursula receives her present and when she remembers that her friend the cow Eulalia had her birthday recently, runs to her home carrying in the basket fruit and some eggs before the cow celebrates another birthday. Then, the cow remembers that her friend, the cat Camila,

recently had her birthday and runs to her home carrying fruit, eggs and also butter and cream, before the cat... and in this way continues a delicious play of repetition that makes this book one of the most beloved books of the Colombian author. At the end, the basket arrives to Eusebio, who decides to bake a cake, and guess who arrives at his home, attracted by the aroma? This book will be published soon with new illustrations by the author.