

ELIAS

IN THE VILLAGE OF

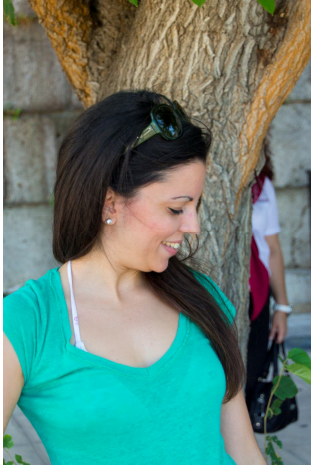
UNCLE

EURO

ANNA KONDIS



Illustrations by
APOSTOLIS IOANNOU



Anna Kondis was born and raised in Athens. She has studied Modern Greek Philology at the Kapodistrian University of Athens. She also holds a Master in Applied Linguistics from the University of Essex in the UK. She can speak English, French and play the keyboards piano professionally. For the last 4 years she has been writing children's books as long as her dream is to write stories and read them to little children at a bookstore where she can dedicate reading hours to them.

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Translation from Greek by
Vicky Kontaxi



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Little Elias lives in a very beautiful house near the sea. Every morning he bikes to school and when he comes back, he spends his entire evening playing with his toys. He is the only kid in school who has two entire rooms full of toys.



However, they are not enough for him. He constantly asks his parents anything new he sees at the malls or on TV.

A Sunday evening, after finishing his homework, he started calling his mother:
-Muuuuuuuuuuuuuum, I saw an amazing game on TV and I want you and dad to buy it for me! I will dig and discover dinosaur skeletons! I will be a paleontologist! When are we going to get it?

Little Elias' mother hesitated and said:

-We will see, darling, when we find the time with dad, we will go and see it.

-But I want it now. I was a very conscientious student and my grades were excellent. Why don't you buy it for me?

Don't I deserve it?

-You deserve it, my love, but you already have so many toys left in your room that other kids would be jealous of.

-Yeah, yeah... right... you and dad don't love me. You prefer to keep money for yourselves.

-My dear Elias, money doesn't grow on the trees to find them continuously and to be able to buy anything you want.



The little boy imagined a tree full of paper money and it really seemed odd.

So his mother tried to explain to him that people earn their money with their work. This is how it is: he goes to school, they go to work. But unfortunately, at this time, their family faces some financial difficulties and they can't fulfill all his desires anymore. Elias was sad; he laid in bed and tried to sleep. He quickly fell into a deep dream that was about to change the behavior he had so far.



-Meow... meow...

Little Elias was in a green field. He looked around but there was nobody.

-Meow... meow... sounded again.

An orange cat was hiding in a paper box under a tree.

-I am trapped in this box. Help me... I am hungry... purr... I need some fish.

-But where can I find fish in this field?
asked Elias.

-All the fish are hidden in the box but in order for them to come to my little mouth you have to put some coins into this little hole.

-But I don't have any money with me, said Elias disappointed.

-Do not worry... there are so many ways to find money. But are you ready to get tired in order to help me full my grumbling little belly?

-What do you mean by getting tired?

-If you want to make money, you and all people, have to struggle...

to work, to get tired and then you will get rewarded with the coins or paper money of euro as you know them.

-Really? asked Little Elias puzzled.

-Well ... let's think... do you know how to take care of trees or flowers?

-Yeeeeees! said Elias enthusiastically. My grandpa takes me with him at his garden in the summer and shows me how to take care of vegetables, trees and some flowers that may have decayed.

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