

Ghelghelak's Cocoon was beside Grandma



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Grandma said:

- These green vegetables have too much mud in them. This little one will die here.

I like her hand. There was a green big worm in her palm. It was pretty. It continued to twist as if it kept bowing to you saying, "hi, hi".

I step forward. Grandma held my hand and put the worm in my palm. It started to tickle my hand. I laughed and said:

- What should I call it?
- It's your friend. It is you who chooses the name.
- Ghelghelak

Grandma looked at the berries tree in the courtyard through the net-like curtains and said:

- *I'm sure* Ghelghelak is now hungry.

I dumped my toys bucket and followed Grandma into the courtyard. She picked a few fresh leaves from the

berries tree. She placed both the leaves and Ghelghelak inside my bucket.

- We must take care that it doesn't run out of leaves. It needs to keep feeding itself. That's how it lives until it enters its cocoon. It will then get ready for a nicer life.

Mommy and dad were both in the hospital. Grandma was sick. Ghelghelak and I had accompanied mom and dad to visit the Grandma. A thin soft silky envelop had been spun around it. Grandma was placed inside a huge bag in a room made of glass. She was delighted to see us. With a gesture she greeted Ghelghelak. I said:

- I think it is dead.
- No dear. It has spun its cocoon and enveloped itself. / It has entered its cocoon. Look. Already you can distinguish its wings outside its cocoon.
- The cocoon had become harder. It wasn't soft when I touched it.
- It's dark inside the cocoon. I hope Ghelghelak won't be scared.
- No dear. It knows that this darkness will pass. It will be reborn and will be (converted into) prettier. Then it can fly.

* * *

Mommy repeated a few times, "mother..., mother .." she started crying loudly. I knew Grandma is inside that white cloth. She was placed into a large pit/pit-hole and shovel soil on her. I thought to myself: "I hope she won't be scared". Everybody was weeping. When I looked at the white cloth carefully I noticed the shape of her wings.

A few days later: The entire guest had left. Ghelghelak's envelop had a crack. We went to visit Grandma. I carried Ghelghelak to show it to the grandma. Mom and dad placed flowers on the tombstone while kneeling by the tomb. I placed Ghelghelak above her head. I lifted the bucket lid. Ghelghelak's cocoon shell was lying inside the bucket. Staring at me, there was a very beautiful butterfly inside the bucket. It seemed to be wet and heavy. I placed it in the sunlight. Mom and dad found a tiny pebble and knocked softly on the tombstone and said a prayer. Ghelghelak started flying. I said: "Slowly. This way you'll awaken the grandma."

Daddy laughed and said:

- She isn't asleep. She has flown away.
- Just like the butterflies?
- Just like the butterflies.

Daddy buried the cocoon next to the grand ma's tiny garden. A few butterflies were flying around the grand ma's flowers. Perhaps one of them was my Ghelghelak and another one was the grandma.



Mozghan Babamarandi has started writing for children since ۱۹۹۰ focusing mostly on teenagers. She is a well-known figure in Iranian children & teenagers' literature and her books are published by famous Iranian publishers. Her stories reflect her own childhood. Her books contain ethical and social themes. She is fond of short-story format and this is the prominent format of her books which are published in Iran.. At the time being, she lives in Tehran. She is the author of more than ۷۸ books of novel and collection of stories for children and young Adults .Among her books are:

Children & Young Adults Stories:

۱. **The news presenter was silent**, Rowzaneh Publication, ۲۰۱۸
۲. **I was my grandma's mom**, Peidayesh Publication, ۲۰۱۸
۳. **Daddy's Laugh Paint**, Monadi Tarbiat Publication, ۲۰۱۷
۴. **In the name of god, Raise exam sheets**, Monadi Tarbiat Publication, ۲۰۱۷
۵. **The yard was full of bird and song**, Monadi Tarbiat Publication, ۲۰۱۷

٦. **Ghelghelak's cocoon was beside grandma**, Amir Kabir Publication, ٢٠١٦
٧. **Whish under the all snow was viola**, Soroosh Publication, ٢٠١٥
٨. **The Story of Situation and Wishes of an Ass**, Peidayesh Publication, ٢٠١٥
٩. **The aunt oldwoman liked storytelling**, Elmi-Farhangi Publication, ٢٠١٥
١٠. **The Seven Steps**, Soroosh Publication, ٢٠١٢
١١. **My mother is lost**, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults Publication, ٢٠١٢
١٢. **I will become a Spiderman like Rostam**, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults Publication, ٢٠١٢
١٣. **Even the Sun Cried**, Amir Kabir Publication, ٢٠١٢
١٤. **My Indian Name**, Soroosh Publication, ٢٠١٢
١٥. **Lady Poetess and Mr. Beethoven**, Peidayesh Publication, ٢٠١١
١٦. **Let's go paint the sky**, Madrese Publication, ٢٠١١
١٧. **Every Year Before the First Bell**, Beh Nashr Publication, ٢٠١١
١٨. **What is the taste of secret?**, Elmi-Farhangi Publication, ٢٠١٠
١٩. **A Shying Guest**, Elmi-Farhangi Publication, ٢٠١٠

- ۲۰. **Only the father can awakening me from sleep**,
Institute for the Intellectual Development of
Children and Young Adults Publication, ۲۰۱۰
- ۲۱. **Sun Passed Me and Moonlight**, Amir Kabir
Publication (Shokoofe), ۲۰۰۹
- ۲۲. **Hi Grandpa**, Madrese Publication, ۲۰۰۸
- ۲۳. **Even Men Sometimes Crying**, Madrese
Publication, ۲۰۰۸
- ۲۴. **The Butterfly Was My First Word**, Soroosh
Publication, ۲۰۰۸
- ۲۵. **All Stars for You**, Madine Publication, ۲۰۰۱
- ۲۶. **Gold Fountain Pen**, Madrese Publication, ۲۰۰۱
- ۲۷. **A Gift for Narges**, Farhang Eslami Publication,
۱۹۹۶

- And ۸ story books in print.
- She has more than ۱۰۰ **published stories** at
prestigious magazines for children and young
adults in Iran like Doost, Salam Bacheha, Roshd,
Soroosh, Docharkhe, Baran, etc from ۱۹۹۰ to
present.

Babamarabdi was awarded many literary prize
including:

- Winner of Institute for the Intellectual
Development of Children and Young Adults ۱۶th
Festival for novel “I will become a Spiderman like
Rostam”, ۲۰۱۳
- Winner of Salam Bacheha Festival for book “Hi
Grandp”, ۲۰۰۹

- Appreciation of the book "Gold Fountain Pen" at Roshd Educational Festival, ۲۰۰۳
- First Prize in story for "Hi Grandpa" at Press Festival, ۲۰۰۱

Other Career Successes:

- Top Trainer Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran Province, ۲۰۰۹
- First Prize in Drama for the Play "I Miss the Sun" at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults ۵th Puppet Show Festival in Tehran Province, ۲۰۰۳
- Third Prize in Music Selection for the Play "I Miss the Sun" at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults ۵th Puppet Show Festival in Tehran Province, ۲۰۰۳
- First Prize in Directing for the Play "The Man Had No Lips" at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults ۴th Puppet Show Festival in Tehran Province, ۲۰۰۲
- Top Trainer Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in the country, ۲۰۰۱
- Top Trainer Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran Province, ۱۹۹۹

- First Prize in Stage Design for the Play “Aunt Cockroach” at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults First Puppet Show Festival in the country, ۱۹۹۹
- Storytelling Festival Winner of Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran Province, ۱۹۹۸
- The use of the my novel **Only the father can awakening me from sleep** as one of the references in the book **Fatherhood in contemporary discourse** by Anna Pilinska, Cambridge

Other artistic activities:

- Jury member in Drama Festival The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran province, ۲۰۱۶
- Jury member in Razavi Festival stories and memories The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, ۲۰۱۴
- Jury member in Drama Festival trainers of The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in the country, ۲۰۱۰
- Jury member in Drama Festival trainers of The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in the country, ۲۰۰۶

- Jury member in toytelling competition The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in the country, ۲۰۰۵
- Jury member in Theatre Festival Ministry of Education in Karaj, ۲۰۰۶
- Designer scene in the play “Sabr e Zard” in Chahar Soo Hall at the City Theatre, ۲۰۰۶