



Multilingual picture story books from the Quartier Malleribes publishing house expand children's knowledge of languages

Why multilingual children's books?

Foreign languages are becoming increasingly important. In a shrinking, multilingual world, knowledge of languages opens many doors. It is the key to understanding other people and their way of thinking, which makes it an effective means of overcoming prejudice and intolerance. Consequently the European Union has proposed a target that all EU citizens should be able to speak two other foreign languages in addition to their mother tongue, and that lifelong acquisition of language from a very early age should become the norm – and not just for a small elite.¹

The Quartier Malleribes publishing house would like to help achieve this target. It offers the youngest among us a playful introduction to the main European languages with easy-to-understand, brightly coloured, hard paperback picture story books. The books are suitable for early learning of foreign languages and to awaken and build upon children's interest in their language ability.

The Quartier Malleribes Publishing House

The family business was started in 2005. The name is taken from the former family seat, which was situated in a district known as Quarter Malleribes in southern France.

The first book: "The Matchstick Man Counts"

On June 7th 2005 the title "The Matchstick Man Counts" was published in the *Titelschutzanzeiger* (title protection gazette). As luck would have it, shortly afterwards Harald Schmidt quoted from the gazette in his television show and read out the title, and the name and address of the authoress. It looked like the matchstick man had found his own way into the public eye.

On eight pages the matchstick man presents brightly-coloured, gleaming objects. Sometimes he hides in a house of cards, sometimes he falls asleep in the flowered jug for the flowers that he is supposed to be counting.

Three languages are included in every book. The standard languages are German and English, and for the third language you have a choice between French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Turkish and Polish.

A simple display style has been chosen so that children are not too overwhelmed by the multiple languages. Gradually a series of picture books will be created that will cover children's entire field of learning and daily life. Of course the friendly matchstick man will also be there again.

¹ Source: <http://europa.eu.int/languages/de/home>

The authoress

J. M. Antoine was born in Hemer on February 17th 1976. Her school years saw her at various schools including international schools in France and Switzerland. After completing secondary school in Wiesbaden, she started studying law, initially in Frankfurt and then Bochum. In order to combine her studies and writing to better advantage, she later changed to a long distance course in business law. She acquired knowledge of image processing and illustration in various internships in Munich and Berlin prior to commencing her studies.

Reviews and recommendations

Quartier Malleribes is recommended on the website of the association for early bilingualism in nurseries and schools (*Verein für frühe Mehrsprachigkeit an Kindertageseinrichtungen und Schulen - FMKS*). The association has just been awarded the “Leap Frog Learning Award“ in the category “Best Initiative“ for promoting early language competence in children.

www.fmks-online.de

The independent and objective reviewers of the professional organisation for those working in the field of libraries and communication (*Berufsverband Information Bibliothek*), of the German association of libraries (*Deutscher Bibliotheksverband*) and of a library services company (*EKZ Bibliotheksservices*) recommend “The Matchstick Man Counts” in two reviews.

If you would like further information or a reviewer’s copy, please contact Eva-Christina Schauerte: eva.schauerte@quartier-malleribes.com

We would be delighted to receive a review reference!

Best wishes

Your team from Quartier Malleribes



“The Matchstick Man Counts” – for two-year-olds and older
8 pages, bound, 14 x 19.8 cm, €9.90

available for immediate delivery:

German – English – French

ISBN 3-938937-00-9

German – English – Italian

ISBN 3-938937-01-7

German – English – Spanish

ISBN 3-938937-02-5

German – English – Turkish

ISBN 3-938937-03-3

German – English – Russian

ISBN 3-938937-04-1

German – English – Polish

ISBN 3-938937-05-X