



DYING TO ASK

38 Mortal Questions from Children. With Answers!

Two writers and an illustrator walk into a book and find 38 questions about death asked by children. How will they answer?

TEXT: Ellen Duthie & Anna Juan Cantavella

ILLUSTRATION: Andrea Antinori

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KEY WORDS: death / life / philosophy / medicine / anthropology / psychology / biology / questions / illustration

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Dying to Ask is the result of an international project by Wonder Ponder, where we invited people between the ages of 5 and 13 to ask interesting questions about death based on a series of specially designed workshops. We received more than one thousand questions from all over the world and then set about selecting the thirty-eight questions that best represented the breadth and depth of children's interest in death and related matters.

Ellen, Anna and Andrea then set out to answer them in a written and illustrated dialogue that explores the certainties and uncertainties shared by all human beings regarding death. The result is a book that is at once tender, unprejudiced, rigorous, and oddly upbeat that invites readers to wonder and ponder about the inevitable.

Some of the questions: Will I die? How does the skin go away? Where do we go when we die? Will we all become extinct one day? Why do they dress the dead in white in India and Pakistan? Who looks after the children when the mummies and daddies die? If someone you love dies, how long are you sad for? Why do they say "rest in peace" rather than "rest in fun"?



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ellen Duthie is an author, translator and researcher specialising in children's literature and philosophical practice with children. She is the author of the critically acclaimed series of Visual Philosophy for All Ages (rights sold in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Germany and Italy), and, among other books, of *Is There Anybody Out There*, White Raven 2022.

Anna Juan Cantavella holds a doctorate in Social and Cultural Anthropology and a Master's degree in Children's Literature. She combines teaching, consultancy, research, and teacher training regarding children's literature, for which she designs and teaches training programs for both adults and children.

Andrea Antinori is an award-winning illustrator with books published across the world. In 2017, he won the Italian Andersen Award for "6/9 years old best book", for the book *La zuppa dell'orco*. In 2019 *The great battle* won the Best Picture Book award at The China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair and in 2022, his wordless picture book *La Montaña* (Liebre, Chile) was selected for the White Ravens catalogue.