Ana Maria Machado is one of the most significant Brazilian writers of children's books. She received the international Hans Christian Andersen Medal in 2000 for her "lasting contribution to children's literature." Her writing is marked, in the style of "magical realism," by a subtle mix of social satire and fantastic elements as well as a conscious and playful use of language and narrative structures. She always dresses up her messages in humorous stories and trusts the ability of her young readers to read between the lines. Ana Maria Machado has published more than a hundred books for children and adults in 17 countries for which she has received the most significant Brazilian awards and many international honors. The biennial Hans Christian Andersen Award conferred by the International Board on Books for Young People is the highest recognition available to a writer or illustrator of children's books. Machado lives with her family in Rio de Janeiro.

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