

ELLI PEONIDOU

***THE GREEN TOWER  
(O PRASINOS PYRGOS)***

Review by Andreas Kounios  
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Elli Peonidou's wonderfully tender prose leaps off the pages of her book "*The Green Tower*" (Patakis Publications). Peonidou is a dedicated author who, through her poetry, prose and plays, left her mark on the Cyprus literary scene long ago. This book, which is published in the "Contemporary Literature for Children and Young Adults" series, reflects the concerns of modern-day society (at least of those who continue to be concerned) and, with an elegance of style and wonderful romanticism, records the author's thoughts, adapted one might say to the signs of the times.

"In a place suffocating under concrete, the Green Tower and its huge garden are its residents' only breath of fresh air. The last wish of old man Thomas is that it be turned into a public park and a children's library. However, some unscrupulous people have other plans. In the face of the power of money, young Stathis and his friend Lakis fight to save the Green Tower. Will they succeed? This is an exciting novel with elements of mystery and a detective story-style plot, living, modern characters and a great deal of nostalgia for the past, which will not only stir up stagnant waters but will challenge and excite the reader."

The description is very apt. The contrasts between sensitive nostalgia and ruthless reality lead the reader to make comparisons, to see parallels and, of course, to become aware of a style of writing that spreads across pages, not to fill them but in order to send messages. Elli Peonidou is recognized and well-established in her field and has many awards to her name and here she narrates a wonderful story which not only moves and provides food for thought but makes the reader give a bittersweet smile as he/she is whirled around between what is true and what is not.