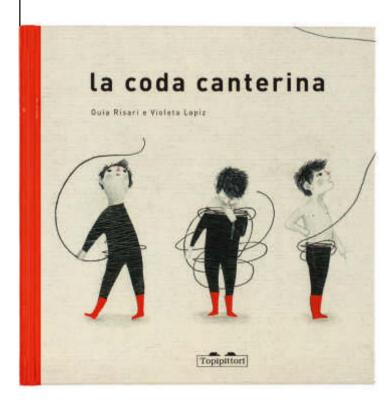




The use of just red and black against a textured, warm, off-white background gives the book a strong sense of continuity.





Text is sensitively integrated into the pictorial whole.



## 85 La coda canterina (The singing tail)

Guia Risari, illustrated by Violeta Lopiz Published by Topipittori, Milan, 2010 This copy: 1st edition 198 x 198 mm (7¾ x 7¾ in)

Milan-based independent publishers Topipittori are responsible for so many beautiful books that we are spoilt for choice. Here, writer and translator Guia Risari gives us a story of a boy who wakes up with a tail. Not just any tail, however, but a singing tail. And not just any singing tail but one that sings in Russian and does not stay still for a moment, to the considerable consternation of the boy's parents and the entire village.

This surreal concept is beautifully realized in a stunningly designed book. The string-like tail runs wild throughout the book, dancing with the text and creating patterns that form a structure for a totally integrated design. Printed entirely in two colours – red and various tones of black – Lopiz's illustrations employ a wide range of textures through drawing and creating collage with found material.

Lopiz was born in Ibiza but moved to Madrid, where, she says, she immersed herself in illustration and music in order to recall the lost sea and nature of her island home. She has studied with leading artists, such as Javier Zabala, Linda Wolfsgruber and Józef Wilkon, but claims that her own childhood has been one of the biggest influences on her work. Now based in Berlin, Lopiz contributes illustrations to a range of newspapers and magazines around Europe alongside her book work.