



***The Sour Cherry Tree* Wins the 2022 Governor General's Award for Young People's Literature—Illustrated Books**

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The Sour Cherry Tree, written by Naseem Hrab, illustrated by Nahid Kazemi, and published by Owlkids Books, has been named the winner of the 2022 Governor General's Award for Young People's Literature—Illustrated Books.

Inspired by the author's own memories, *The Sour Cherry Tree* is a picture book about a girl's trip to her recently deceased grandfather's house. While there, she goes exploring and finds things that evoke memories of the special relationship she shared with her baba bozorg. At once whimsical and matter of fact, the book is a heartwarming and authentic look at love and loss, centred on the experiences of a child. The ethereal illustrations include elements of the Persian backgrounds of both the illustrator and author.

The book's previous accolades include being named a White Raven 2022; a Best Picture Book of 2021 by *The Globe & Mail*, CBC Books, *Kirkus Reviews*, and USBBY; and starred reviews from *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, and *Quill & Quire*.

"This book was made with so much love," said Naseem Hrab. "Simply getting to create with Nahid and everyone at Owlkids Books was extraordinarily special. And now, being recognized by our peers with the Governor General's Award is a tremendous honour. I feel so grateful to get to make books for children."

Nahid Kazemi said, "*The Sour Cherry Tree's* cover is going to be even more beautiful with the GG seal. I'm happy that more children will see and read our book. Every illustration in this book has been a great adventure for me and being recognized by this prestigious award is very encouraging. I can't wait to make more stories for children."

"We're so pleased that Naseem and Nahid are being recognized for their work," said Karen Boersma, publisher of Owlkids Books. "The way in which they captured a child's perspective is masterful, and Owlkids Books is thrilled to be the publisher of *The Sour Cherry Tree*."

For more information, please contact:

Taylor Lytle-Hewlett, Marketing & Publicity Coordinator, Owlkids Books
taylor.lytle@owlkids.com
416.340.2700 ext. 2312