

Uri Orlev was born in Warwaw, Poland, 1931. When World War II broke out, his father was captured on the Russian front and was only reunited with his sons in Israel in 1954. Orlev, his mother and his younger brother spent the first years of World War II in Warsaw and in the Warsaw ghetto. After his mother was killed by the Nazis, Orlev's aunt cared for him and his brother. The brothers were smuggled out of the ghetto and hidden by Polish families. In 1943 they were sent together with their aunt to Bergen-Belsen. They were liberated by the 9th U.S. Army. In 1945, Uri Orlev and his younger brother moved to a kibbutz in Lower Galilee. Orlev now lives in Jerusalem. Until 1976, Orlev wrote for adults. He has since written for youth and children and also writes scripts for radio and TV programs. Furthermore, he translates books for children and adults from Polish into Hebrew.

Orlev has won several prizes and awards both in Israel and abroad including the 1996 Hans Christian Andersen Author Award. Orlev was selected as the winning author from among 23 countries by an international jury of children's specialists from eleven countries. The jury's arguments were: "Uri Orlev's experience as a Jewish boy in war-torn Poland is the background of this outstanding writer for children. Whether his stories are set in the Warsaw ghetto or his new country Israel, he never loses the perspective of the child he was. He writes at a high literary level, with integrity and humor, in a way which is never sentimental, exhibiting the skill to say much in few words. Uri Orlev shows how children can survive without bitterness in harsh and terrible times." In 2002, he was awarded the Ze'ev Prize in Israel for his lifework. *Run, Boy, Run* was awarded the Cento Prize in Italy and the Italian Andersen Award, both in 2003, and the Yad Vashem Bruno Brandt Award in Israel.



Photography: Alexa Gelberg