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Award-Winning Author and Illustrator Takes Readers on an Existential Journey through  
a Worm's-Eye View

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Did you know earthworms can eat rose thorns without harming themselves? Or that, when not consuming such *haute cuisine*, most of a worm's diet is simply the soil through which they dig endless tunnels?

Behind a façade of playfully ironic language and delightful illustrations, award-winning author Noemi Vola's *The Unfortunate Life of Worms* reveals these facts and more as she reaches for earnest human truths through her collected notes on earthworms.

The book strikes a balance between thought-provoking, curious poetry and extremely approachable nonfiction for nature lovers and satire aficionados alike. Fans of contemporary comics will also appreciate Vola's simple, clever drawings and commentary.

*The Unfortunate Life of Worms* has already garnered a positive critical response in her home country of Italy, where the book received a special mention in the annual Bologna Ragazzi Crossmedia Awards in 2022.

As comic book outlet, *Dimensione Fumetto* puts it, "Vola, in a state of unattainable grace, manages to insert the most surreal situations and the strangest worlds between the pages."

*The Unfortunate Life of Worms* resulted from the author's jarring realization that, upon seeing a worm split in two, she had no idea how the two bodies could continue living independently.

She embarked on a four-year quest to learn more about these underappreciated creatures, gathering esoteric knowledge, launching a four-part worm-themed podcast, and eventually creating the book and the story of a worm who must deal with the crisis

of having been separated from its other half. This story lends an engrossing narrative arc to the latter portion of the book and invites readers to recognize how even the smallest, strangest, and most unknown creatures can be welcomed and celebrated.

While its bright colors and brief text may indicate that the book is geared toward a younger audience, *The Unfortunate Life of Worms* is truly a book for any reader on a journey to find their purpose and a place in the world.

### About This Title

Tra Publishing

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Hardcover

8.3 x 5.9 in.

265 Pages

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\$24.99 USD, \$33.99 CAD

### About Noemi Vola

Noemi Vola is an Italian author and illustrator. She was born in 1993 in a small town in Northern Italy and is the author and illustrator of three books published by Corraini: *The Unforgettable Party*, *From Here to Far Away* (2019), *A Book of Horses\* (\*Revolutionary Ones)* (2018) and *Bear with Me* (2017), selected in the 100 Outstanding Picturebooks Exhibition curated by dPICTUS at the 2018 Frankfurt Book Fair and awarded the 2019 Illustrators' Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

Her book *FIM? Isto Nao Açaba Assim* (Planeta Tangerina, 2018) won the International Serpa Picturebook Prize in 2017 and was awarded Best Foreign Illustrated Book in 2018 at the Amadora BD Festival. She works with magazines such as *Vogue Kids*, *Mousse*, and *AWW*.

### About Tra Publishing

Tra Publishing creates beautifully crafted books about fine and decorative arts, architecture, and design that inspire social, cultural, and environmental awareness. Particular emphasis is placed on the physical components of the bookmaking process, resulting in books that are both works of art and modes of expression. Tra began publishing children's books in 2020, with the best-selling *And the People Stayed Home*

by Kitty O'Meara. Based in Miami, Tra was founded in 2016 by graphic designer and author Ilona Oppenheim. The publishing company works closely and often collaboratively with its artists and writers, treating each title as an entirely original experience. Tra is passionate about books and the contribution each book can make. As part of that commitment, proceeds from many of Tra's titles are donated to environmental, arts, and activist organizations. Tra's books are distributed worldwide through Simon & Schuster.