

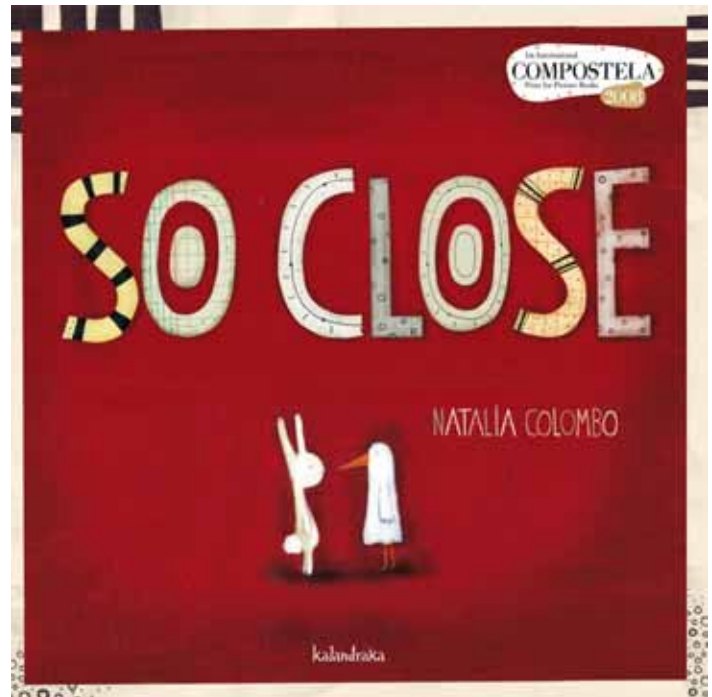
Text and illustrations: **NATALIA COLOMBO**  
Translation: **ESTHER SARFATTI**

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## SO CLOSE

**1st INTERNATIONAL COMPOSTELA PRIZE FOR PICTURE BOOKS 2008**

**Mr. Duck is going to work, like he does every day.  
Mr. Rabbit is also going to work, like he does every day.  
They always walk past each other...**

*So Close*, the winning entry of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Compostela Prize for Picture Books, is a contemporary fable about isolation, and a poetic reflection on relationships and individualism, on people and their emotions.

From a literary point of view, the story stands out for its simplicity and coherence. The protagonists, a duck and a rabbit, live parallel lives, each one imprisoned in his own loneliness. The work invites the reader not to turn one's back on other people, in effect, the author explains, "depriving oneself of the possibility of sharing the simplest and happiest moments in life".

Aesthetically, Natalia Colombo mixes diverse media, from acrylic to collage, and even designed a typeface specifically for the work. She also pays special attention to the use of light and plays masterfully with movement and symmetry, combining colour, texture

and materials to give the work its unique style and character.

**NATALIA COLOMBO** (Buenos Aires, 1971)

studied at the Architecture and Graphic Design Faculty of Buenos Aires, where she lives. She works for publications such as *La Nación* and regularly exhibits her work. She also illustrates textbooks and children's picture books.

As winner of the 1st International Compostela Prize, organized by the Municipality of Santiago and KALANDRAKA, "So Close" was chosen over more than 300 competitors for the perfect interweaving of text and illustration, which "narrate, flow and evolve". The prize, awarded annually on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the International Day of YA and Children's Literature, is valued at 12,000 euros.

- **Themes:** isolation
- **Recommended age:** all ages
- **Main themes:** awarded with the 1<sup>st</sup> International Compostela Prize for Picture Books; typeface designed and hand-made by the author
- **Applications:** interpersonal relationships, individualism, human emotions

[comunicacion@kalandraka.com](mailto:comunicacion@kalandraka.com) | [www.kalandraka.com](http://www.kalandraka.com)

