

# I ACCIDENTALLY WROTE A BOOK

Directed by NÓRA LAKOS

Hungary, Netherlands, 2024

This is the very personal and inspiring story of a 12-year-old girl, Nina, who discovers the healing power of writing. As she learns to write, Nina uncovers her family's history, experiences the long-suppressed grief of her long-lost mother, and gains a deeper sense of self. Through her writing, we follow the daily life of a young teenage girl as she struggles to create art while experiencing her first love and all the difficulties and beauty of becoming a young woman.



## DISCUSSION POINTS

A discussion about the film can naturally follow the screening. Here are some questions that might spark conversation, if needed:

- 🗣️ **"Sometimes it's easier to write something down than to say it out loud"**, says director Nóra Lakos. Do you find this to be true? Why or why not?
- 🗣️ **Why do you think writing by hand helps Nina understand herself and her family better?** What do you use to express your feelings, maybe writing, drawing, music, dancing or another creative activity?
- 🗣️ **Do you think storytelling can be healing?** Can you think of a time when hearing someone else's story changed how you saw them?
- 🗣️ **What does the film show about dealing with sadness or grief?** Why is it important to talk or write about our emotions, even when it's difficult, and to address family issues?
- 🗣️ **The film combines live action with playful animation.** How does the animation help us understand Nina's imagination and emotions? What moments in the film felt the most creative or visually beautiful to you?
- 🗣️ **Did you notice how the colours of the background and the costumes are always connected?** What effect does this create?
- 🗣️ **The world in which Nina lives has a fairy-tale atmosphere.** What elements help to create this?
- 🗣️ **If you were to "accidentally" write your own book, what would it be about?**

## BEHIND THE SCENES

- 🎬 Demeter Villő, who plays Nina, was selected from three hundred children during a year-and-a-half-long casting process.
- 📺 The film's visual style, which blends live action with 2D animation and playful visual effects – such as deleted scenes playing backwards and letters or drawings appearing on screen – was developed in response to a challenge: how do we visualise the girls' feelings?
- 🎥 The filming took place in a house in Budapest, built in the 1920s in the Bauhaus architectural style. This influenced the entire style of the film – the colours (blue and red), the costumes, the sets – all of which are carefully coordinated.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 📖 The film is based on a children's novel by the Dutch writer Annet Huizing, *How I Accidentally Wrote a Book*.
- 🎬 Nóra Lakos is a film director, writer, producer, and also the founder of Cinemira – International Children's Film Festival in Budapest.
- 🌱 The film was Hungary's first officially eco-friendly production, reflected in the green choices made on set, such as using bicycles, biodegradable props and borrowed costumes.
- 🏆 A Hungarian film aimed at a young audience is rare, and this one became one of the country's most successful family films in recent years.

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

The **European Young Audience Award** is a category of the European Film Awards that celebrates three outstanding European films for young viewers aged 12 and over. For two months, young people across Europe watch the nominated films and act as jurors, voting for the winner.

The films are presented through **cinema screenings**, online via [europeanfilmclub.com](https://europeanfilmclub.com), interactive **Watch Parties**, and a **Concluding Jury Event** on **Saturday 17 January 2026**, the day of the European Film Awards ceremony.

Follow the livestream starting at 18 CET!

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SCAN TO VOTE

