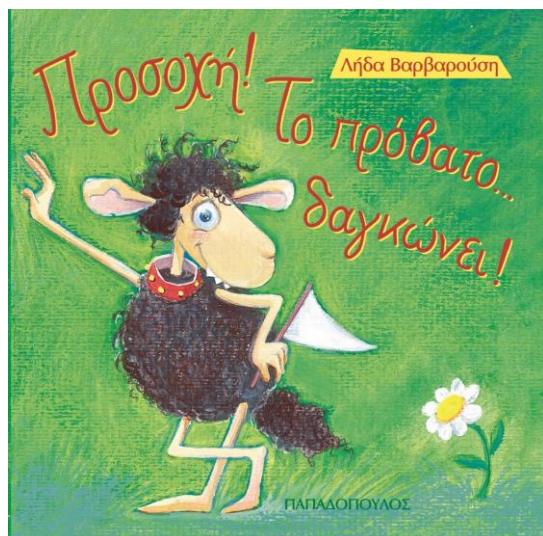


ITHACA - 1/3/2003



Lida Varvarousi is a new presence in children's literature. She not only writes but also illustrates her books, which means that her illustrations are to a large extent complementary to the text and sometimes provide an interpretation of it. This fact makes the book we present here of particular interest, given that the reader has many possibilities, taking the position either of judge or of creator, to apply the text by finding in it equivalents to his own everyday life and experience. The story it contains has intertextual references both to literature and to teaching practice...At heart, however, it is romantic, sensitive and enjoys learning...In the multicultural conditions in which we live - and especially if the reader views the story and its outcome with a critical eye - it may have an indirect educational effect, teaching us all to approach all the black, in more senses than one, individuals of our times with humanity.