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/ Rasel Meseri ; with illustrations by Sanne Karssenberg ; translated by

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Pen in the Park is a unique revolutionary children's book written by Rael Meseri and illustrated by Sanne Karssenberg. Meseri narrates the Gezi Park protests in Istanbul through the figure of a penguin named Pen, whogoes on a trip from Antarctica to Gezi Park to save his fellow penguins, and gets involved in various adventures with his friends Chapulletta, the cat Trafo, and the dog Loukanikos. The Gezi movement of 2013-14 started with the threat of the destruction of the Gezi Park, a public space, which became quickly occupied by protestors from all generations and political backgrounds to build a movement that addressed not only the destruction of green areas and gentrification of public space, but also the democratic deficit of the country as such. At the height of the protests, dozens of protesters were killed and thousands injured. As the result of the protests, the park remained a public space and the struggle continues in different forms up to this day. During the protests, penguins were reclaimed as one of the symbols, as the main television channels preferred to show documentaries about the lives of penguins, instead of the uprising in Turkey. In Meseri's story, Pen the brave penguin, Pen, is both a symbol and an active agent in the course of events, guiding us through the

process of political emancipation, democratic experiment, friendship, and solidarity that characterizes the Gezi movement.