



# VAN AGGELEN

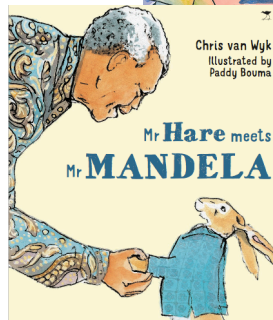
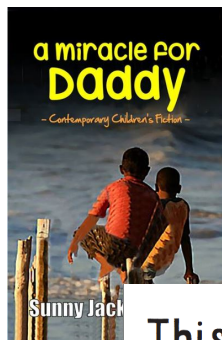
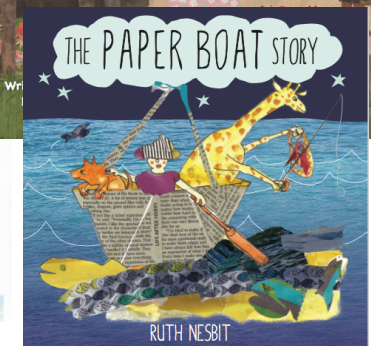
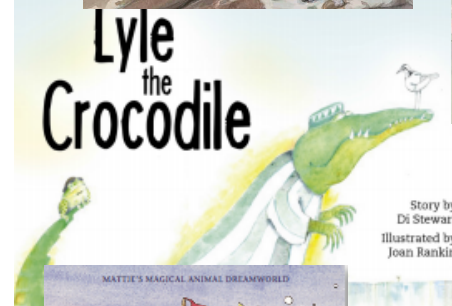
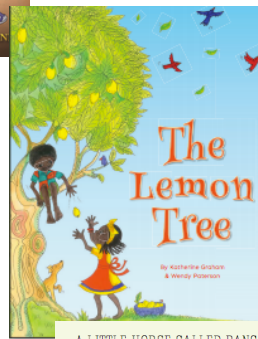
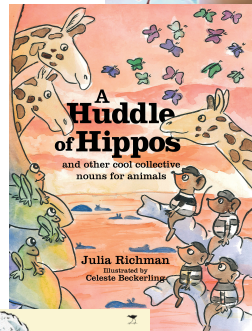
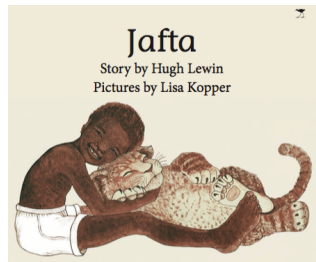
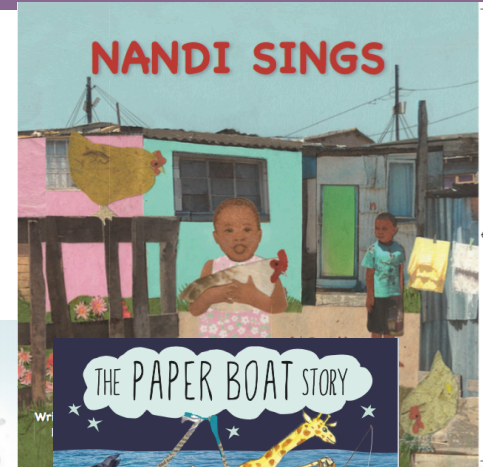
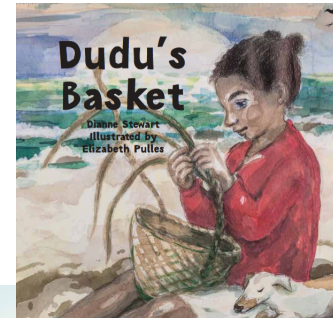
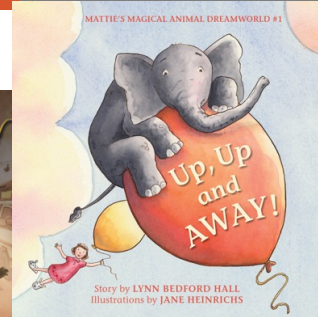
## African Literary Agency

[www.africanliteraryagency.com](http://www.africanliteraryagency.com) | contact: [bieke@africanliteraryagency.com](mailto:bieke@africanliteraryagency.com)

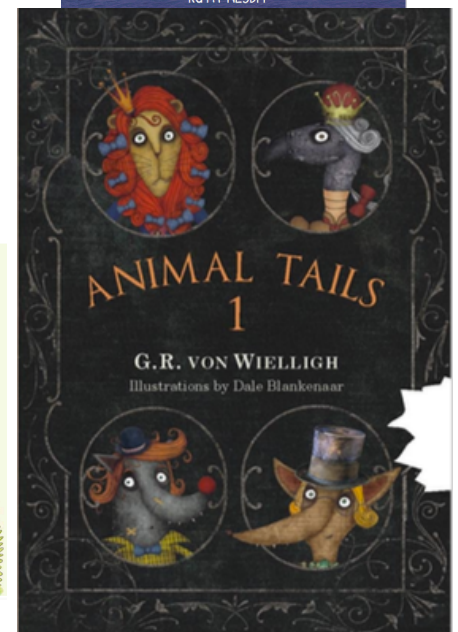
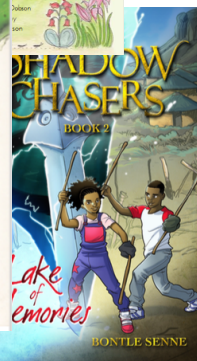
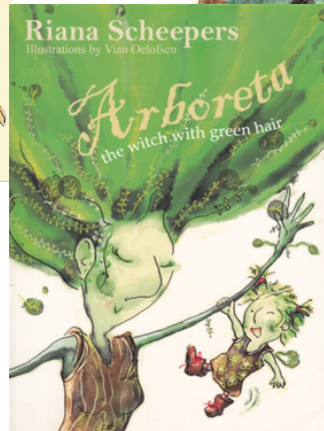
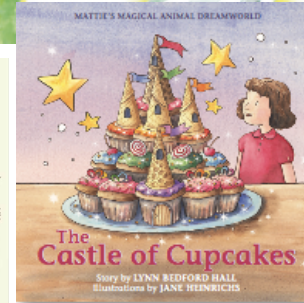
**VAN AGGELEN – African Literary Agency is a boutique literary agency. We work with a select group of books, authors and publishers. Our focus is on African fiction and non-fiction books and high-quality children books. We are excited to expand our genre to African Speculative Fiction from October 2020.**

**Our experience in the international book world spans decades and continents. Meet our diverse, inclusive and passionate books and spread the words.**





A LITTLE HORSE CALLED PANCAKES  
AND THE BIG MOUNTAIN FIRE



This is the Chick



Story by Wendy Hartmann Illustrated by Joan Rankin



## Verdies - *Tales from the Lakeside* by Judit Berg

4 book series, - distributed by Netflix from March 2020, by Hungarian Bestselling children book writer Judit Berg



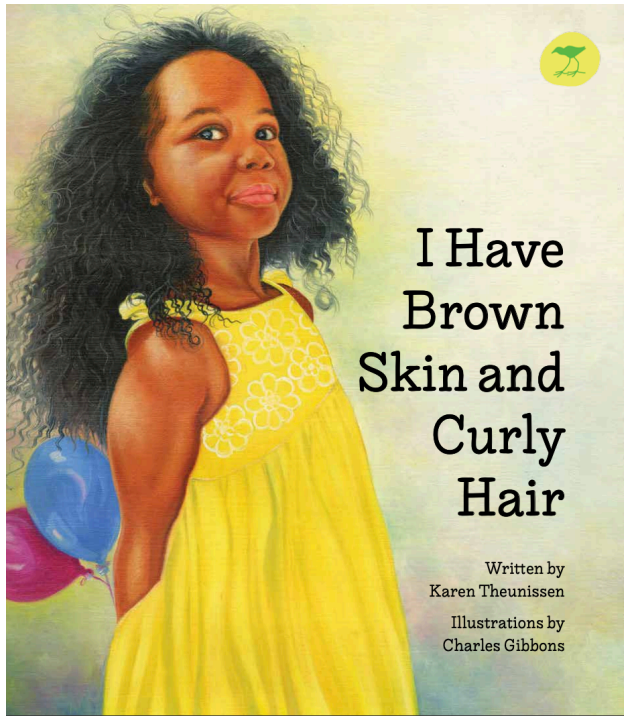
This beautiful saga is centred around the ecosystem of a lake. The Verdies are small green-skinned defenders of the Sea of Reeds. They fly around on warblers protecting all living creatures of the Babbly Lake. Their favorite pastime is the Bullfrog Rodeo where the champions of Verdes and Frogs compete. Their main enemies are the red-skinned Grimps and their allies, the swans and rats of the neighboring lake. All this are the ingredients of the tales of all living creatures in and around the Sea of Reeds.

Children's knowledge of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter is deepened through the adventures of the characters, while they are actively involved in all kind of the events.

Rights available, excl Chinese Mainland

Click this link for all product information and the spin-off of the series.

<http://africanliteraryagency.com/Verdies-African-Literary-Agency.pdf>



Written by Keren Theunissen  
Illustrated by Charles Gibbon

## I have Brown Skin and Curly Hair

This rhyming picture book is about the identity crises many children face when they look different from their family members. The book takes children through the unique and often untold history of South Africa, explaining how a mixed-race heritage can contribute to their physical differences and yet they can still be part of one family. This book can also be used by educators or parents who wish to teach their children about diversity.

Everyone in this family looks different. Dad is tall and dark. Mum has light brown hair with green eyes. Some of the children have straight hair; others have curls. People regard them curiously until, one day, one of the children musters the courage to speak up proudly about her identity after she learns where she comes from and why she looks different.



**Karen Theunissen** writes to ignite the imagination, creativity and curiosity of young children. Her writing is inspired by her four young children and their quest to discover the world around them. This is her first book.

From the early age of five **Charles Gibbons** has been passionate about drawing and painting. Charles has had several one-man exhibitions in Zimbabwe and South Africa and continues to paint on commission for individuals and companies

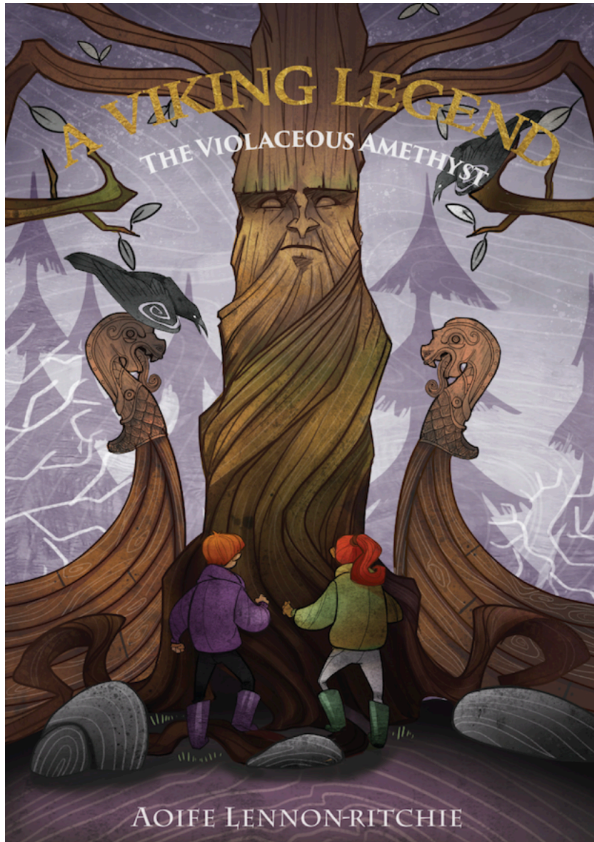
**Rights:** World Rights available

**Genre:** fiction

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, , Johannesburg

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** May 2020



Written by Aoife Lennon-Ritchie

## A Viking Legend - The Violaceous Amethyst

“As witty as A series of Unfortunate Events, highly imaginative and wholly original, it’s a total blast. Chockablock with story, larger-than-life characters, mythology and monsters...It’s Fun with a capital F” – Sarah Lots

Bloody brilliant. Sharp and funny, and perfectly pitched to the age group.-  
Goodreads fan

This winter, siblings Ruairi and Dani Miller visit their grandmother in the legendary Viking island of Yondersaay. In less than twenty-four hours of their arrival, Ruairi is mistaken for the lost Boy King of Denmark, kidnapped by Vikings, and scheduled to be sacrificed at sundown. Granny isn’t very pleased. But when they are the only ones in town who fail to go “Viking,” the three turn to Granny’s extremely epic tales of the legends of Yondersaay, The Gifts of Odin, and King Dudo the Mightily Impressive for clues.

**Rights:** World Rights available, excl SA english

**Genre:** fiction

**Publisher:** Imaginary House, Cape Town, SA

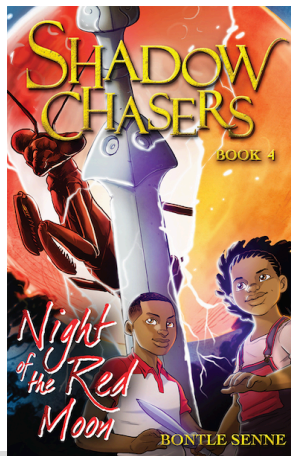
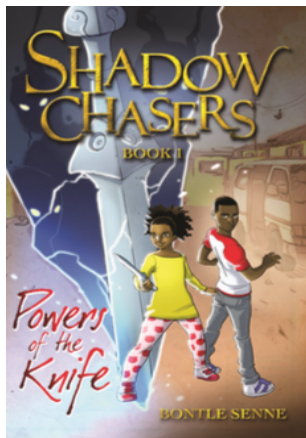
**Format:** 240 pages

*\* Originally published as 'The Extremely Epic Viking Tale of Yondersaay' by Month9Books in the USA (Oct, 2015).*



**Aoife Lennon-Ritchie is an Irish native author, living with her two children in Capte Town, South Africa, where she works as a literary agent for some the country’s best literary and film talent. A Viking Legend: The Violaceous Amethyst is her first novel for teens and Young-adults**





**Rights:** World Rights

**Publisher:** Cover2Cover, Cape Town

**Format:** Paperback, 128 pages each

**Publication date:** 2016 - 2019

Age 8-10 Years

Bontle Senne

## Shadow Chasers – series

Each adventure is thrilling! These books are so amazing that you just want to scream “noooo” when the books come to an end. – youth reader **Acehi Jaswa**

Only the Shadow Chasers, with their magical knives, can save the world from the evil that lives in the dream world ... Nom and Zithembe’s lives are turned upside down when an Army of Shadows threatens everyone close to them. It’s the beginning of a quest that takes them into the dream world.

Zithembe has to find his knife to rescue his mother from the evil Army of Shadows. The only way to find it is to go to the Lake of Memories in the dream world, where it is guarded by the evil Mami Wata water spirits...

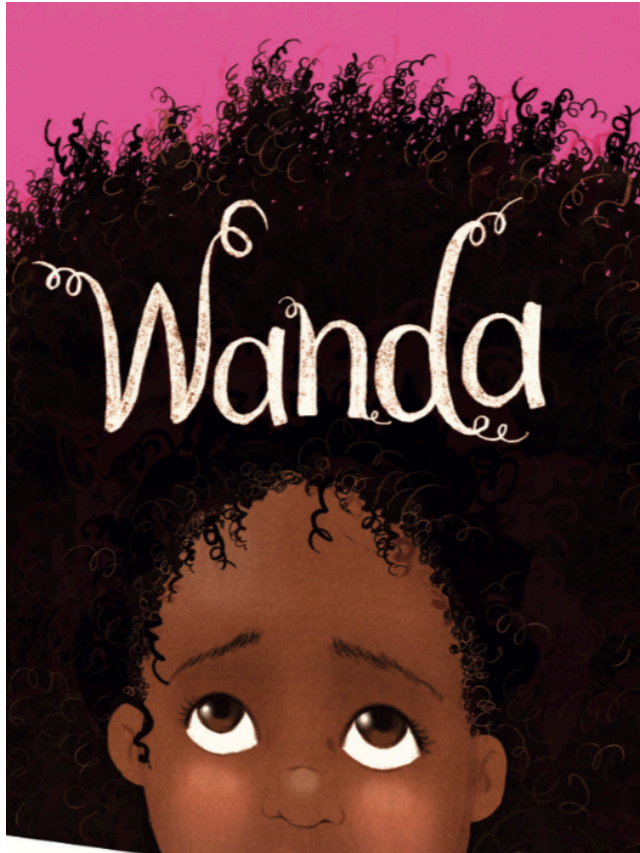
The powerful goddess Oyo has a Shadow Chasers knife... and only the cleverest and bravest can withstand the Flame of Truth to win it back from her. With the guidance of Zulaika, a helpful ghost, Nom, Zithembe and Rosy travel through the terrors of the dreamworld to regain the knife.

It’s a race against time for the Shadow Chasers. Led by the General, an army of monsters is intent on destroying this world. As the minutes tick by, and the moon turns blood red, the Shadow Chasers are joined by the ancient god/Kaggen. But the General is the fiercest and most dangerous warrior of all... are their combined forces going to be enough?



Deliciously creepy, fast, fun and a blast to read. Get this for the reluctant reader in your life right now! – Sarah Lotz, author of Day Four and The Three.

UK based **Bontle Senne** is a children's book writer and literary advocate. Her latest novel *Night of the Red Moon*, is the fourth book in an Afrocentric adventure/fantasy trilogy for nine- to 12-year-olds called "Shadow Chasers". She was shortlisted for the Golden Baobab Prize in 2014 and has spoken at Frankfurt Book Fair, Paris Book Fair, South African Book Fair and other international literary festivals.



Written by Sihle Nontshokweni and Mathabo Tlali  
Illustrated by Chantelle and Burgen Thorne

# Wanda

This book stands at the intersection of identity and beauty, celebrating how cultural pride is learned and passed on over the generations. This book encourages young children to love themselves for what they are born with, despite what society may say or think.

Wanda is sad. She is often teased at school because of her hair, which her classmates say is bushy. Every day Wanda's mom tells her how beautiful she is, but she still feels like she has to try and 'fix' her hair all the time. Then, one day, her granny decides to sit her down and have a chat about all the different and wonderful hairstyles amazing women have. This beautifully-illustrated story is one many girls can relate to.



**Sihle Nontshokweni** is a PhD candidate at KU Leuven. Her research is focused on the successes and failures of school desegregation in post-apartheid South Africa. Prior to that, she lived in China, completing a master's at Peking University, where she studied the aspirations of African migrant entrepreneurs living in Guangzhou, south of China.

**Mathabo Tlali** was born and bred in the Eastern Cape and has the yearning to understand and engage the thoughts and realities of others through various artistic and digital platforms. She seeks to explore intersectional ways of connectivity between the past, present and future, more so pertaining to identity politics within the performance and academic space.

**Rights:** World Rights available

**Genre:** fiction

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, , Johannesburg

**Format:** 32 pages

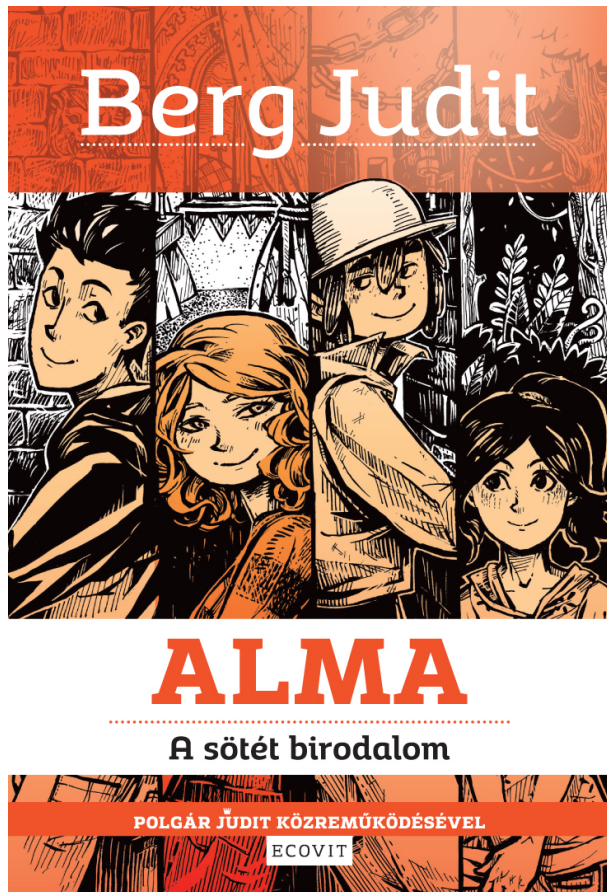
**Publishing date:** June 2019





**Chantelle and Burgen Thorne** are internationally published illustrators with over 25 years experience in educational publishing. The two are now focusing on picture books for children with several titles being released this year.

**Clients include:** Little Tiger Press, Imagine That, Jacana, Pearson International, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Heinemann, Spork/Clear Fork, Macmillan, PanMacmillan, BenchMark, Mitr, Hodder and Stoughton



Judit Berg

## Alma – The Dark Dominion

Challenging Science and Adventure series for teens

Alma intends to show the world of chess as it has never been shown before. The main characters of the book are four lost teenagers (Alma, Drifter, Felix and Bella) who must face the evil Lord of Chess in order to find their way back to their own world. Alma is the first book in a series of four. Part 3 and 4 are in progress.

### THE BATTLE

During the adventures several chess riddles are to be solved by the main characters. These are deeply embedded in the dramaturgy of the novel: some riddles can be used as maps, others function as codes for secret doors or show the heroes which way to take.

The most exciting part of the book is the final battle between the protagonists and the Dark Lord of the Chess Empire. The movements of the two armies and the fighting itself make the whole chapter the dramatic climax of the novel.

However, this is not a randomly made up battle scene. The moves are identical with those in the famous chess game between of **Judit Polgar**.

Chess players can follow the game step by step in the appendix of the book. On the other hand, it is not necessary at all for the readers to be chess players in order to enjoy the novel.



### UNUSUAL COLLABORATION

Alma was written by Judit Berg in collaboration with Judit Polgar, the best female chess player of all times.

**Rights:** World Rights, excl UK, Czech

**Publisher:** Ecovit Publishing, Hungary

**Format:** Paperback, 276 pages

**Publication date:** 2018 published, 3 and 4 planned

**Series:** 4 books,

**Illustrated:** b/w

Age group: 10+ Years





**Rights:** World Rights, excl UK, Czech  
**Publisher:** Ecovit Publishing, Hungary  
**Format:** Paperback, 276 pages  
**Publication date:** published 2018, 3 and 4 planned  
**Series:** 4 books,  
**Illustrated:** b/w

Age group: 10+ Years

## Judit Berg **Drifter –**

Challenging Science and Adventure series for teens

In the last chapter of **Alma** the young heroine becomes the new queen of the Empire of Chess. The sequel, entitled **Drifter**, takes place a few months later. From <me to <me Alma and her friends, living their everyday lives in their own world, must return to the Empire. But things are changing in both worlds.

A stranger starts to follow Alma around in the real world, while there is an uprising being organised against her in the Empire of Chess. Who is behind these frightening events? Drifter suspects the former ruler, the Dark Lord of Chess, especially when he discovers that the Lord has a smartphone, since there is no use of this device in the Empire.

When Alma gets kidnapped, he soon finds himself the number one suspect of the crime. Drifter has no other choice but to follow the trail and start investigating in order to clear himself. With the help of a real hacker, he soon finds out that a quick learner Artificial Intelligence is behind the frightening events whose main goal is to seize control over both worlds.

The novel introduces young readers to the latest achievements of computer science, shows the directions of technological progress, and its possible dangers as well. It is very informative and up-to-date, while being suspenseful and exciting at the same time.



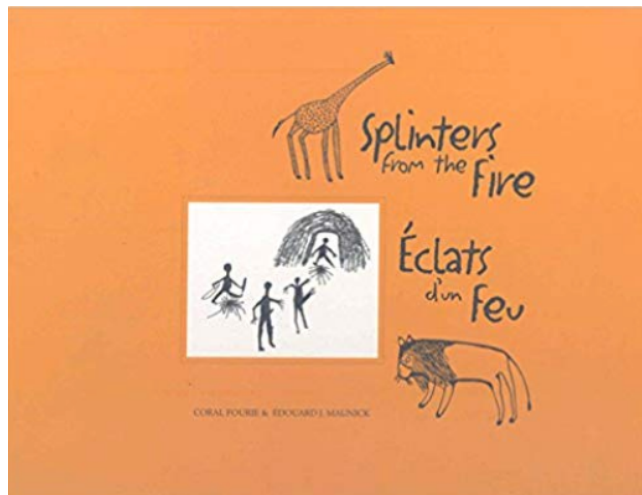
### MAIN TOPICS IN THE SERIES

Alma: The World of Chess

Drifter: Artificial Intelligence

Felix: Science (Physics and Chemistry)

Bella: Animals and Environment protection



**Bushman Stories** collected and edited by Coral Foerie

## Splinters from the Fire



The result is twenty stories illustrated by Bushman artists. We are in Africa, the country of Timbuktu, where the book trade dates from the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. During this fantastic period countries arose such as Ghana, Mali, Egypt, to name a few. The Bushman, though a small community, are an essential fraction of the African soul. The absence or death of the Bushman would mean imbalance. Read the stories, the legends and the fables contained in this volume and you will learn so much which quicken and enrich your being. Simple happiness that comes with harmony for all ages. May their stories and art live and perpetuate.



**Rights:** World rights available

**Publisher:** Protea Boekhuis, Pretoria

**Genre:** Illustrated Fiction

**Format:** Paperback, 32 pages, Illustrations b/w

**Available languages:** English, Afrikaans, French, German :



Acclaimed children's author Helen Brain's new YA novel is a smart and pacy dystopian thriller. *Elevation: The Thousand Steps*, was published late last year in South Africa by Human & Rousseau and is already a local best-seller. The book has an original mythology that draws on the power of ancestor legends.

Helen Brain has written over 40 books for children. Also a creative writing teacher, Helen lives in Cape Town. When she's not writing or teaching writing, Helen draws cartoons, and makes incredible crafty things for fun.

## A STORY OF THE SUN

Everywhere, the whole world was dark. There was darkness all over and people could not see to collect food. Parabhize had light. He kept it in his armpit and was sleeping most of the time. Only when he woke up and stretched himself, would the people have a little light.

One day a woman, who was hungry and tired of sitting in the dark all the time, said to her son, "You must go to Parabhize while he is sleeping and get the light from under his arm." This young man was afraid of Parabhize, but he knew he had to do something about the situation.

Parabhize was lying asleep under a tree. The young man felt his way in the dark until he found the old man. He lifted his arm very slowly, but as the light became visible, Parabhize woke up. The young man got a fright. He grabbed the light and ran away with it. He could see clearly because he had the light. Then he said to himself, "I cannot keep this light to myself; I must share it with all the people and the only way that is possible is to get it up higher." At that moment, the light started to burn his hands and he threw it up high into the sky.

The people were very happy. They looked up into the sky and they could see everything around them. They sang songs of praise, took their bags and started collecting food.

Thus, up to this day, the women sing while collecting veldkos.

TOLD BY MODUMO AT DIPHUDUHUDU, SOUTH-EASTERN  
KALAHARI, BOTSWANA.

ILLUSTRATED BY KGORO/WHAA.



**Splinters from the Fire**





## Judit Berg, Illustrated by **Rumini, The series**

10 book series, 10 book deal China and 10 years bestselling in Hungary

The tales of Rumini's travel are full of twists and turns, conflicts and clashes. Whether they are fleeing pirates on the open sea, learning of strange and magical creatures on an uncharted island, or freeing new friends held unjustly captive in underground caverns beneath an unfamiliar city. Rumini and his mates learn the importance of friendship and integrity, and they never fail to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Ten books in the series, all equally exciting and adventurous enhanced by illustrations that drag you even more in the stories of our small hero Rumini.

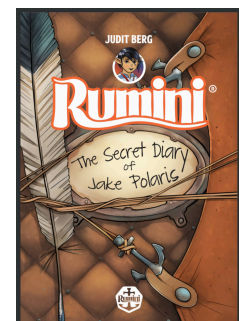
Four of the books are available in the English language, the other 6 are currently in the process of being translated.

**Awards:** For "Rumini – The Adventures Begins" IBBY "Book of the Year" Award, 2007, IBBY Honour List, 2008. Rumini was elected "The Children's Book of the Decade" in Hungary in 2010.

**Rights:** World Rights, sold to China, Netherlands, Poland, Russia,  
**Publisher:** Rumini kft, Hungary,  
**Format:** Ppb, 32 pages each  
**Age** 3-10 Years

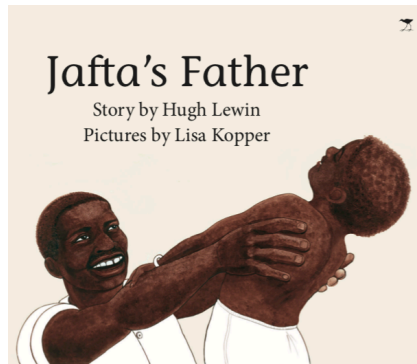
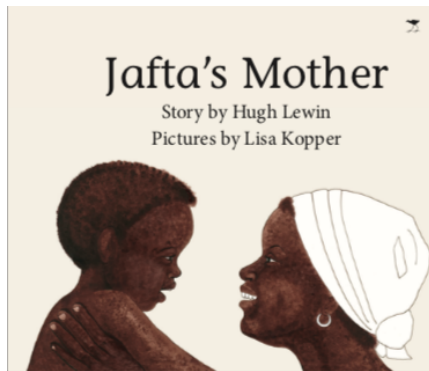
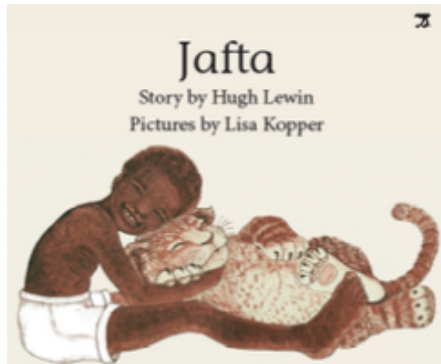
**Judit Berg** is one of Hungary's most popular writers of children's literature. She writes for all age groups from toddlers to teens. Although her career only started in 2005, she has already published 37 books.

In 2011, Judit was presented with Hungary's preeminent literary distinction, the "József Attila State Award" for her outstanding contribution to children's literature.



Written by Hugh Lewin, illustrations by Lisa Kopper

# Jafta



“The South African setting lends texture and a sense of history in the making while the story embraces readers of any nation with its universal themes. Kopper rises to the demands of the text, using gentle lines and the series' brown-and-white palette to convey a broad sweep of emotions”. - **Publishers Weekly**

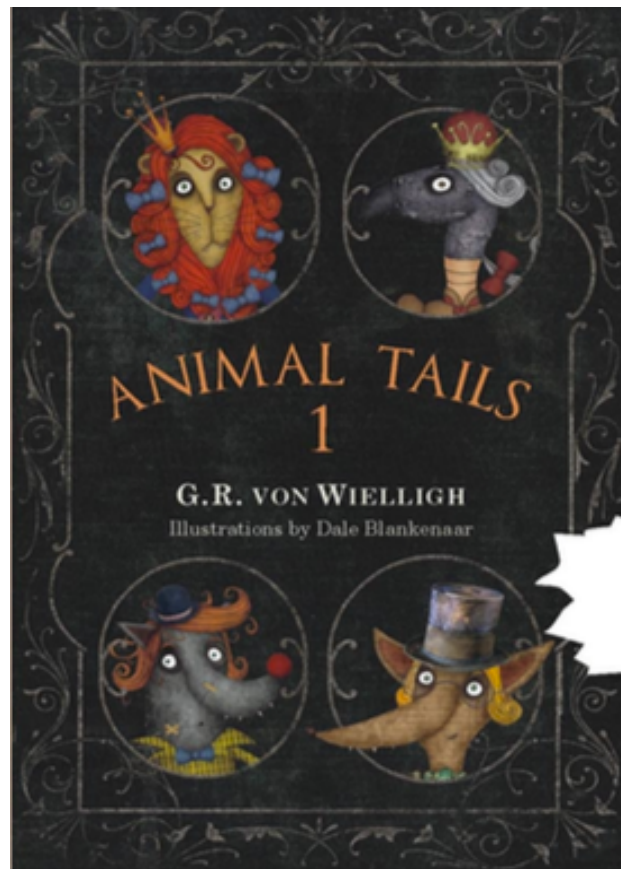
“This deceptively simple book provides a solid and strong read-aloud for the youngest listeners. The author helps children to name and put words to their strongly felt emotions.

And the illustrator provides vibrant drawings of the animals named in each simile. Without screaming "multiculturalism", this lovely book also shares some of the environs of S. Africa. JAFTA has stood the test of time with my two toddlers.” – a mum

*“ When I get tired, I like lazing in the sun like a lizard, or wallowing warm like a hippo, and feeling cuddly like a lamb.”*

Jafta, a young boy growing up in Africa, describes some of his everyday feelings by comparing his actions to those of various African animals. The book is lled with rich illustrations and clever similes to explain all sorts of feelings and actions.

**Rights:** World Rights , sold to China, US, Spain,  
**Publisher:** Jacana Media, Johannesburg  
**Format:** Paperback, 192 pages  
**Age** 3-6 Years



G.R. van Wielligh, illustrated by Dale Blankenaar

## Animal Tales - series



The tales of Jackal and Wolf are to South Africans what apple pie is to Americans. No one should grow up without them. Yet the sly Jackal and the whimsical Wolf is older than apple pie. These stories come from the Khoi-Khoi, a group of Bushmen who narrated them into existence shortly after the Stone Age.

Animal Tales Volume I-4 are freshly translated into modern English, the stories get a new look thanks to the beautiful, full-color illustrations of Dale Blankenaar. All volumes are a compilation of 15 stories. We read about the big war between the walking and the flying animals; we are told who gets crowned as the king of the animals and we meet sly Jackal and poor, gullible Wolf.

The publisher **Protea Boekhuis** is nominated for the **Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the World 2019**

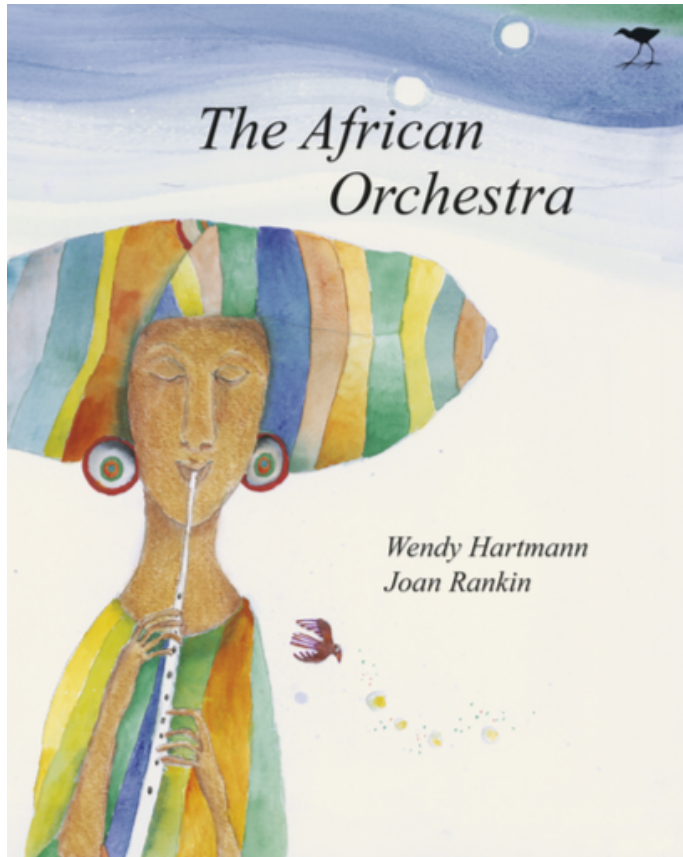
**Rights:** World Rights  
**Publisher:** Protea Book House, Pretoria  
**Format:** Paperback, 96 pages  
**Publication date:** 2011  
**Series:** 4 books  
**Illustrations:** full color

Age 9-100 Years



Dale Blankenaar is a full-time picture book illustrator and designer. He has illustrated about 30 picture books (locally and internationally). Dale was a finalist in the 2010 Maskew Miller Literature Awards Illustration category and was selected for IBBY SA's Honour list 2015/2016 for his rendering of the eerily atmospheric world of the writing in [Rhinocephants on the roof](#) by Marita van der Vyver (NB Publishers, Cape Town).





## Wendy Hartmann & Joan Rankin **The African Orchestra**

*'Wendy Hartmann has a musician's ear for words and Joan Rankin's pictures sing with color and expression.'*

With magical illustrations from Joan Rankin, and poetry from masterful story teller, Wendy Hartmann, *The African Orchestra* lyrically captures the magic of the African sounds of nature. From the clicking of crickets to the crackle of the re, follow the journey that celebrates these sounds, in the rhythm and music of Africa.

*"Cicadas, crickets, beetles and frogs  
Seedpods, cocoons, hollowed out logs  
Crackling res, the patter of rain  
thundering hooves on the African plain.  
Birds in the air, in the trees – on the trees  
Wind in the grass, through the leaves – over sand.  
In the beginning, when all things began,  
these were the sounds which were music to man."*

**Rights:** World Rights, Northern American rights sold, Mainland Chinese  
**Publisher:** Jacana Media, Johannesburg  
**Format:** Paperback, 32 pages  
**Publication date:** June 2016

Age 3-6 Years



**Wendy Hartmann** has been writing for many Years. She has had more than forty children's books published. her books have been selected for honor's lists and nominated for awards for writing and illustration.

**Joan Rankin** has illustrated over thirty books for children including numerous books on the mcElderry list . She received many awards for her work and was listed on the IBBY 2012 Honors for illustrations.

# This is the Chick



Story by Wendy Hartmann Illustrated by Joan Rankin

Wendy Hartman & Joan Rankin

## This is the Chick

A tiny guinea fowl chick hatches early one morning and lets out a 'cheep'. Find out what happens in the bush when the 'cheep' is heard by all the African animals.

Written in rhyme by best-loved children's author Wendy Hartmann, this humorous story will enchant and entertain.

Joan Rankin has illustrated over 30 books for children. She received the South African HAUM Daan Retief Prize for Children's Book Illustration in 1986 and the Katrine Harries Award for Children's Book Illustration in 1991.

She has illustrated numerous books on the McElderry list, including A Frog in the Bog by Karma Wilson and Off to First Grade by Louise Borden. Joan recently won the MER Prize for best illustrated children's book for Just Sisi/Net Sisi written by Wendy Hartmann.

The beautiful **African Orchestra** by Wendy and Joan was published in 2016 and hit the SA book market.

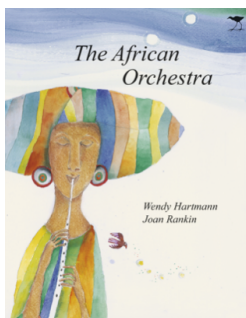
**Rights:** World rights , excl. Northern Americas, Mainland Chinese

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, SA

**Format:** Paperback, 32 pages full color

**Age:** 4-8 years

**Publication date:** June 2017



Wendy Hartmann has been writing for many years, with more than 40 children's books published. They range from concept and counting, beginner readers, high interest/low vocabulary readers to picture books. Her books have been selected for honour's lists and nominated for awards for writing and illustration.





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