



# **VAN AGGELEN**

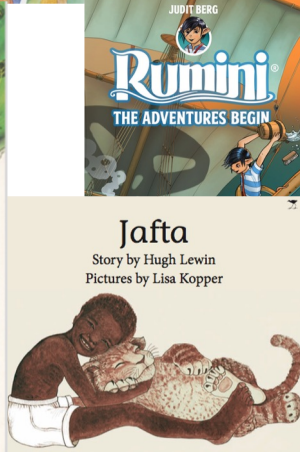
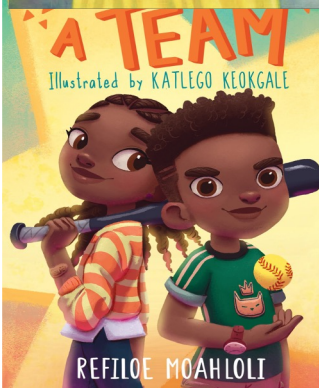
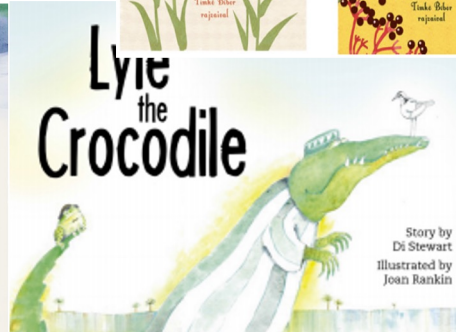
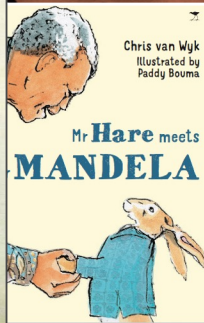
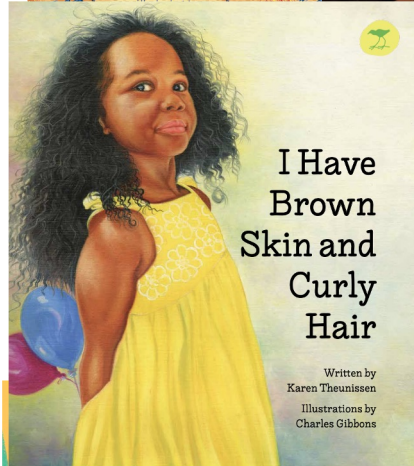
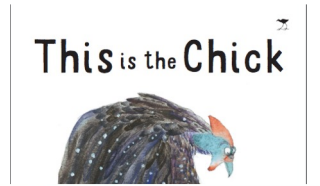
## African Literary Agency

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

**African Literary Agency is a specialised literary agency. We work with a select group of books, authors and publishers. Our focus is on African fiction books and high-quality illustrated children's books and, African Speculative Fiction.\***

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

**\*Also ask for our new African Literary Rights List and/or African Speculative Fiction Rights List.**







Written by Zandile Ndhlovu  
Illustrated by Katlego Keokgale

## Zandi's Song

Zandi dreams of the big blue ocean and bright colourful fish even though she lives far away from the sea and hasn't learnt to swim. One day the sea gives her a gift that changes everything. Zandi goes on an adventure full of amazing discoveries but something is threatening this magical world ... is the key to protecting it buried in stories from the past?

An empowering and inspiring story about our connection to the natural world, following your dreams, and caring for the environment.

**Rights:** World Rights available ex Southern Africa English

**Genre:** Illustrated Children's fiction

**Publisher:** PanMacmillan, South Africa

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** May 2023

**Zandile Ndhlovu** is South Africa's first black female freediving instructor. After looking beneath the surface of the ocean for the first time in her life at 28, she felt at home and realized she needed to help make the seas more accessible and diverse. Realizing it needed to start with young people, Ndhlovu set up the Black Mermaid Foundation, which works to create diverse representation in ocean spaces, in sports, in careers and recreationally.

**Katlego "Kat" Keokgale** is a children's books illustrator and loves reading and watching anything with magic in it. She's also a wife and mother of two beautiful girls and loves sharing the work she does with them. She hopes to inspire many more black creatives to pursue children's book illustration and grow the industry because there are so many amazing stories that need to be told.





## *The Black Mermaid*

Featured in *the Guardian*, Zandila says that "the environmental degradation of the ocean is something that concerns Ndhlovu greatly and she believes that connecting children with the underwater world helps raise their awareness."



**How do we unbox the water from only being a white people's space? I wanted to change the narrative**



Written by Jaco Jacobs  
Illustrated by Tori Stowe

## The Girl with the Wings

Wilson's name, just like her life, is anything but normal. She lives in a house on wheels with her parents and they have to move to a new town every few months. She finds this extremely annoying, almost as annoying as Errol, who has recently decided that Wilson is his friend and has to accompany him on silly outings like bird watching.

Wilson expects this town to be as boring as all the others until she discovers a secret - a wonderful and extraordinary secret that must stay hidden. But someone sinister is lurking in the shadows, determined to get revenge. Suddenly danger is much closer than Wilson ever thought possible ...



Jaco Jacobs is the author of more than 190 books and more than a million copies of his books have been sold. His work has been awarded 42 times and his books were translated to English, Dutch, Italian and Portuguese. He has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal twice and two of his books were adapted to film.

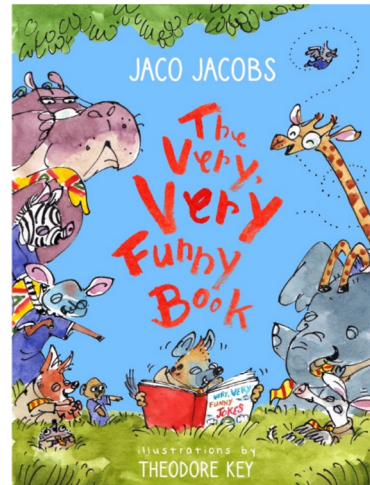
**Rights:** available ex South African Engl.  
**Publisher:** Pan Macmillan SA  
**Age:** MG  
**Pages:** 232  
**Publication date:** October 2022  
**Illustrations:** b/w



Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Theodore Key

## The Very Very Funny Book

The kids in Miss Hippo's classroom are terribly busy this morning! They play and have fun; they draw pictures and sing songs. But Hyena just can't stop giggling and guffawing. What on earth could be so funny? Find out for yourself in this very, very funny book and have double the fun when you read the jokes in a jokebook that is hidden in the middle section of the book!



Theodore Key is a Cape Town based freelance illustrator. He obtained a Graphic Design degree from the University of Pretoria and is an editorial illustrator as well as an illustrator of children's books and advertising campaigns.

**Rights:** World available  
**Age:** 3+  
**Pages:** 40 FC  
**Publication date:** 2021  
**Publisher:** PanMacmillan SA

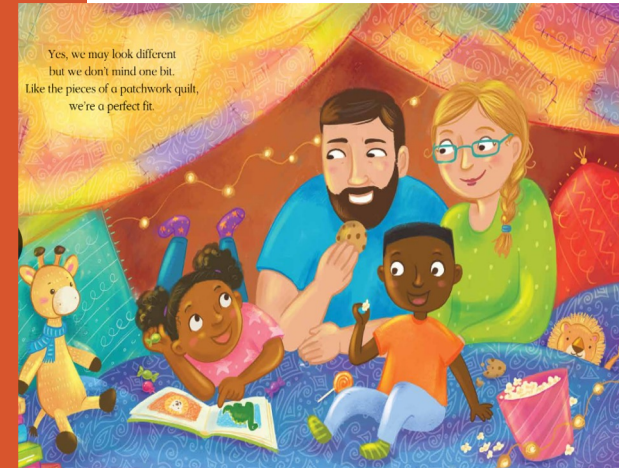


Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Tumi K Steyny

## You Are A Wish

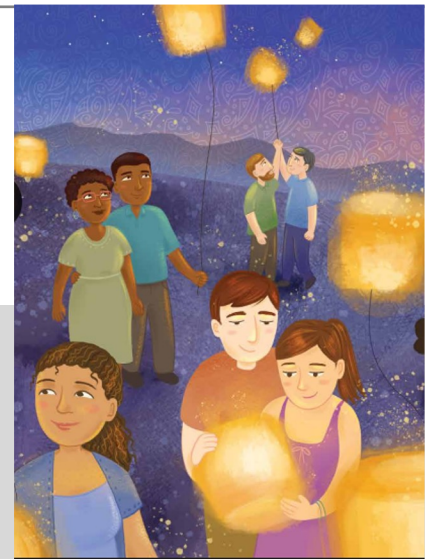
**Jaco Jacobs** is a popular and prolific South African Children's book writer.

An endearing book about adoption, ideal as a starting point for young children.

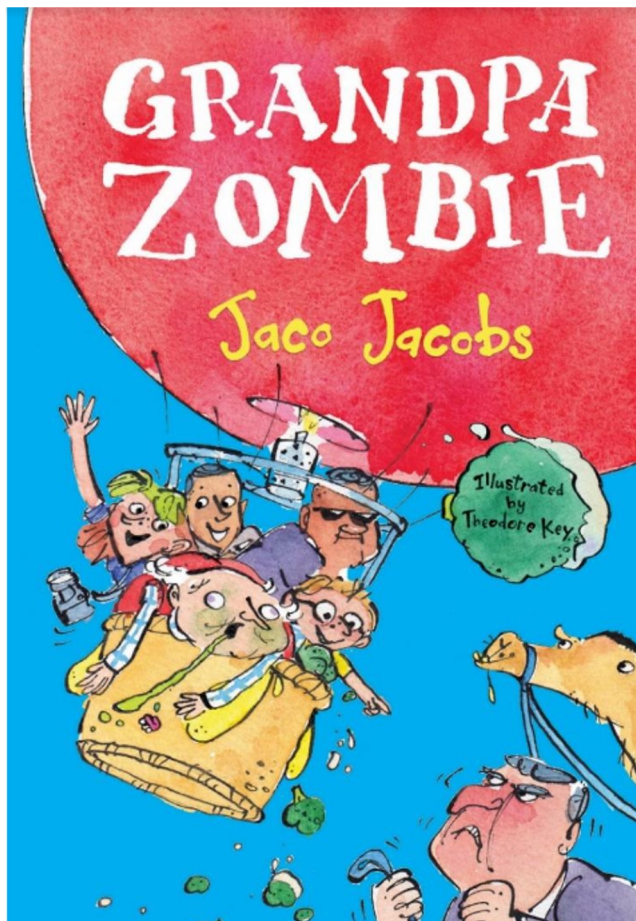


**Tumi K Steyny** is an artist and illustrator. She has illustrated several other children's books.

**Rights:** WW available ex SA  
**Age:** 3+  
**Pages:** 32 FC  
**Publishing date:** 2022  
**Publisher:** PanMacmillan SA







**Rights:** World available, ex South Africa  
**Age:** 9+  
**Pages:** 196, BW  
**Publication date:** 2020  
**Publisher:** Pan Macmillan, South Africa

Written by Jaco Jacobs  
 Illustrated by Theodore Key

## Grandpa Zombie

Alex's grandpa has grey hair and false teeth and he loves watching travel shows on television. But then he suddenly develops an interest in ... *BRAIIINNSSS!*

Grandpa is turning into a zombie and if Alex wants to rescue him before the Zombie Squad shows up, he'll need to come up with a plan (and heaps of broccoli). Their travels to find a cure takes them across Africa – from Zambia to Egypt – and along the way they meet a range of interesting and wonderful characters.



REFILOE MOAHLOLI

PART OF  
A TEAM

REFILOE MOAHLOLI

You are

KNOW MY  
NAME

Illustrated by KATLEGO KEOKGALE

LOLI

ZINEEDA McDONALD

Illustrated by  
ZINEEDA McDONALD

REFILOE MOAHLOLI





Written by Refiloe Moahloli  
Illustrated by Zinelda McDonald

## We are One

Moahloli's work makes for a stunning picture book for young readers and their grown-ups that focuses on our shared sense of community.

The book is inspired by the Xhosa and Zulu word "ubuntu," meaning "I am, because you are," according to the publisher's note, and is "a concept of shared humanity, compassion, and oneness."

The story has a strong message of kindness and togetherness in the sparse text, which is ideal for reading aloud with younger readers and early independent readers



**Rights:** sold ww Portuguese, ww Arabic, Turkish and English World sold to Amazon Crossing in co-operation with the Lennon-Ritchie Agency.

**Genre:** Children's fiction

**Publisher:** PanMacmillan, South Africa

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** September 2020

**Refiloe Moahloli** is the best-selling author of *You are Loved*, *Know my Name* and *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?* She is passionate about writing stories that bring out the best in the human spirit, stories where children and the inner child in adults can identify and celebrate themselves.

**Zinelda McDonald** is an award-winning South African illustrator who lives in Wellington in the Western Cape of South Africa. She has illustrated numerous children's books and is also a well-known designer and illustrator of children's book covers. Awards for her work include the Alba Bouwer Prize and the Exclusive Books IBBY SA Award.



Refiloe Moahloli, illustrated by Katlego Keogale

Early Readers

## Part of a Team



Refiloe Moahloli is passionate about writing stories that bring out the best in the human spirit and that children can identify with. She wrote the bestseller *We are One* published in the US/UK and Turkey, the Arabic regions and Portuguese.

Katlego "Kat" Keogale is a children's books illustrator and hopes to inspire many more black creatives to pursue children's book illustration and grow the industry because there are so many amazing stories that need to be told.

Morena loves his new school! There are so many fun extramural activities and games to play that he and his friends have set up their own championship. Before school starts and at break Morena and his friends plays marbles, cards, soccer and shoot hoops.

If there's one thing Morena takes seriously it is being the captain of his school's softball team. He is good at pitching and his twin sister Rorisang is an excellent batter. But their team keeps losing! Morena isn't scared of a challenge, he'll try his best at any game to be a superstar. How can he help his team to do their best?

**Rights:** World Rights available, excl English South African

**Genre:** Children's fiction, Early Readers

**Publisher:** PanMacmillan, South Africa

**Format:** 64 pages, b/w illustrated

**Publishing date:** September 2021

Refiloe Moahloli, illustrated by Katlego Keogale

Early Readers

## Know my Name



Rorisang and her twin brother Mo must start the school year at a new school after their mom decides that the family needs to get out of their comfort zone. The twins have attended the school across the road since they were toddlers. All their friends are there, and their dad is best friends with the headmaster.

The new school is far from their house. Luckily Rorisang makes new friends quickly, learns to play softball and performs a praise poem at the Eisteddfod. She even survives the long trips in the car with her pest of a brother!

**Rights:** World Rights available, excl South African

**Genre:** Children's fiction, Early Readers

**Publisher:** PanMacmillan, South Africa

**Format:** 64 pages, b/w illustrated

**Publishing date:** September 2021



Written by Refiloe Moahloli  
Illustrated by Zinelda McDonald

## You are loved

Athandwa's heart is different. Her heart can sing. At first it scares her. Why is she not like her family and friends? When she tries to silence her heart, she discovers a secret ... and a special song. One that Mama, Gogo and Koko also know.

You are loved is a lyrical story about accepting the things that make us unique and celebrating the intergenerational love that lifts and protects us.



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

**Genre:** Children's fiction

**Publisher:** PanMacmillan, South Africa

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** September 2020

Refiloe Moahloli is the best-selling author of *I am You* ( US Title of *We are One*), *Know my Name*, *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?* She is passionate about writing stories that bring out the best in the human spirit, stories where children and the inner child in adults can identify and celebrate themselves.

Z

inelda McDonald won numerous awards for her work including the Alba Bower-award and the Exclusive Books/IBBY-award



Written by **Thembi Kгатlana** and **Nikolaos Kirkinis**  
Illustrated by **Chantelle & Burgen Thorne**

## Girls don't do that

The story of **Thembi Kгатlana** The greatest soccer player in Africa. Before Racing Louisville FC: Kгатlana played previously in the NWSL for the Houston Dash and has also represented clubs in China, Portugal and Spain

In this courageous and inspiring book, Thembi Kгатlana tells the story of her beginnings in the tough streets of Mhlakeng. She always had the talent and a dream to play soccer for South Africa but she was told that 'Girls Don't Do That'.

This is the story of her hard work, her determination and of her bravery. Read her story to find out how she came to play for Banyana Banyana and was named the greatest player on the African continent.

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

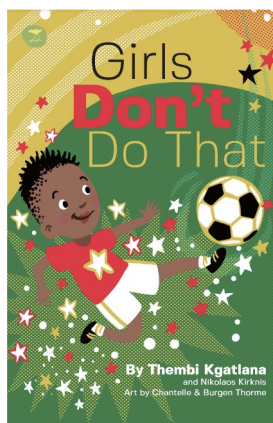
**Genre:** Children's fiction age 6-10 yrs

**Illustrated:** b/w

**Publication date:** April 2023

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, Johannesburg

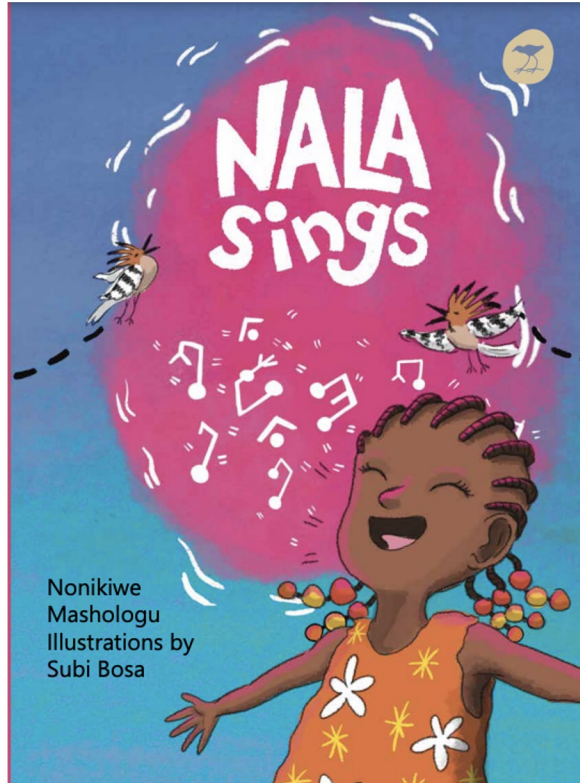
**Format:** 88 pages



Banyana Banyana's **Thembi Kгатlana** has had an illustrious career – she represented South Africa in the 2016 Summer Olympics;; she netted South Africa's first-ever goal at the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019. She has played for international clubs Houston Dash (USA), Beijing BG Phoenix (China), SL Benfica (Portugal) and SD Eibar and Atlético Madrid Femenino.(Spain). Thembi now plays with Racing Louisville, Kentucky

**Nikolaos Kirkinis** is the author of the bestselling book The Curse of Teko Modise. He was born and raised in Johannesburg and is passionate about the local game, sports writing and the people who make up this extraordinary world.





Written by Nonikiwe Mashologu  
Illustrated by Subi Bosa

## NALA sings

**Nala Sings is a popular Setswana tale, infused with the beauty of nature that reimagines the much-loved African folktale, Tselane and the Giant, originally written in Sesotho.**

Singing was Nala's favourite thing to do. Sadly, though, she was not allowed to sing while she was beside the river. "Don't ever go to the river," the parents of the village always warned, because they feared Ledimo, the giant ogre, would take the children. But Nala loved the sound of the river. It made her parents' warning fade away. She listened to the gentle flow of the water with the Upupa birds singing in the distance, and then created beautiful melodies in tune with the calming sounds around her. One day Nala decides to take a risk, and goes to the river alone, where she meets Ledimo. Ledimo discovers something about Nala that he feels will help him. What does Ledimo want with Nala? Will she be able to get away in time?

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

**Genre:** Illustrated Children's fiction 5-8 yrs

**Publishing date:** April 2023

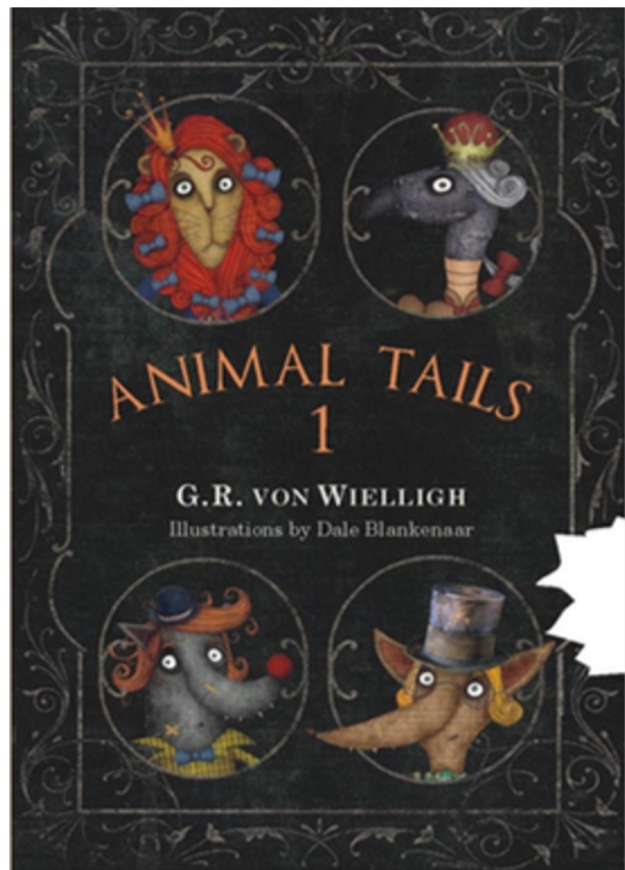
**Publisher:** Jacana Media, , Johannesburg

**Format:** 32 pages



**Nonikiwe** has contributed to the South African children's literacy space for over a decade in various roles such as project manager, editor, facilitator, translator and reviewer. She is the previous chairperson for IBBY SA and was one of the judges for the Exclusive Books IBBY SA award and the Golden Baobab Prize.

**Subi** started illustrating when he was busy with postgraduate studies. He aims to create warm and colourful scenes in his illustrations and to represent African people in all their beautiful textures, tones, sizes and features.



G.R. van Wielligh, illustrated by Dale Blankenaar

## Animal Tails



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

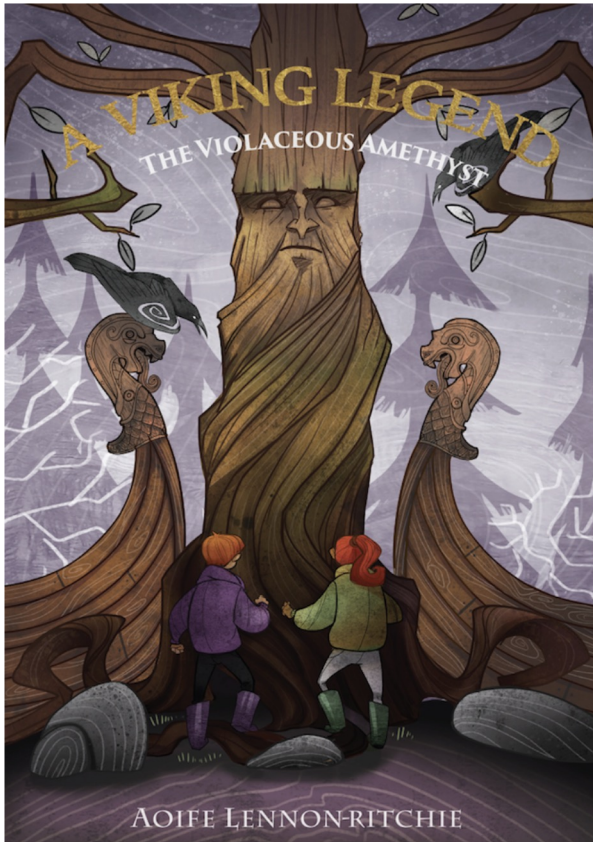
**Rights:** World Rights  
**Publisher:** Protea Book House, Pretoria  
**Format:** Paperback, 96 pages

**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).



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

**Age:** MG

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

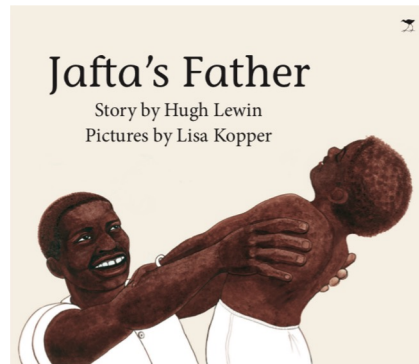
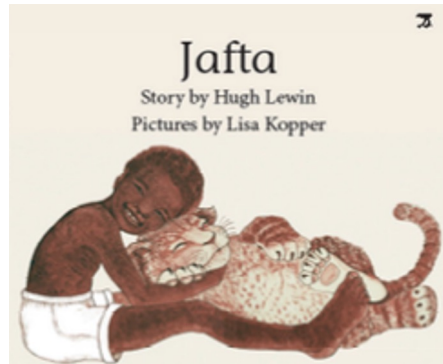


Aoife Lennon-Ritchie is an Irish native author, living with her two children in Cape Town, South Africa, where she works as a literary agent for some the country's best literary and film talent. A Viking Legend: The Violaceous Amethyst is her first novel for teens and Young-adults



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

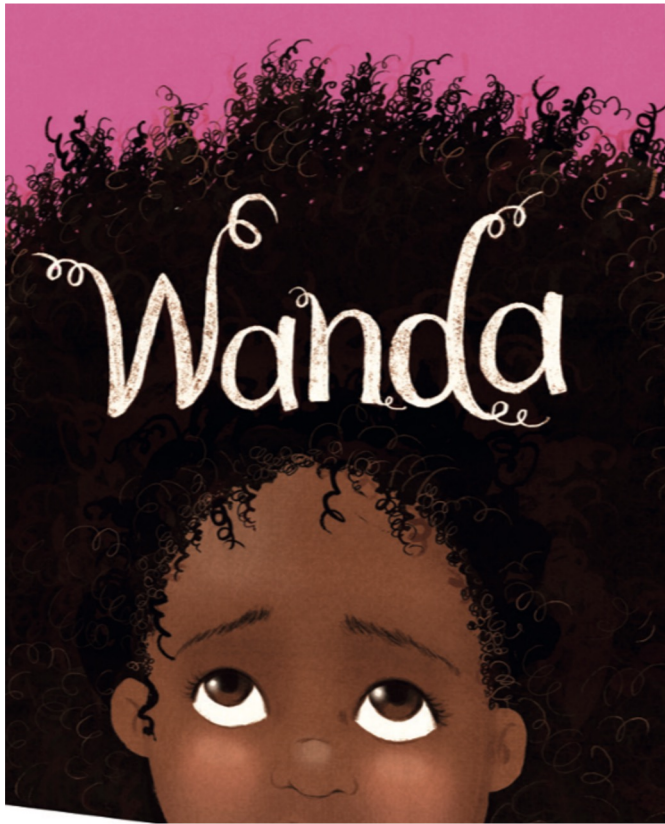
"This deceptively simple book provides a solid and strong read-aloud for the youngest listeners. The author helps children to name and put words to their strongly felt emotions.

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 filled with rich illustrations and clever similes to explain all sorts of feelings and actions.

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



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

## Wanda

One of Bank Street College of Education's Best Children's Books of the Year 2022!

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.

*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.*

**Rights:** Rights sold to UK, North America, Europe and Australia

**Genre:** Fiction

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, Johannesburg

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** June 2019

**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.



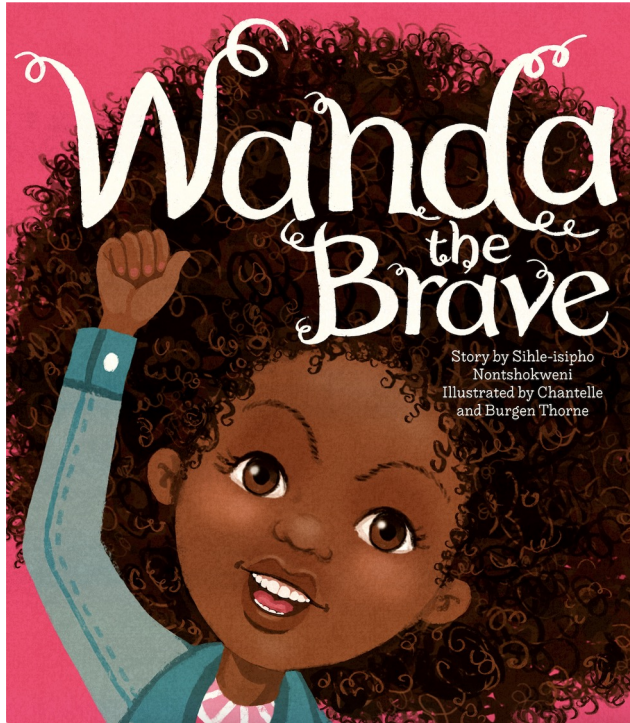




Chantelle and Burgen Thorne are internationally published illustrators with over 25 years experience in educational publishing. The two are now focusing on picture books for children with several titles being released this year.

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





Written by Sihle Nontshokweni  
Illustr. by Chantelle & Burgen Thorne  
**Wanda the Brave**

This book is the second book in the Wanda series and is again a celebration of girl power, and a reminder that courage and friendship is a mighty force!

Meet Wanda, with her glorious head of hair.

Today, Wanda is visiting the hair salon where she'll use all the hair secrets Makhulu taught her. But Auntie Ada wants her to straighten her hair with a white chemical. Wanda and her friend Sandra come up with a plan and both girls stand strong and brave in the face of this big challenge.

**Rights:** Non-English Rights available , English Rights sold to Interlink US

**Genre:** fiction

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, , Johannesburg

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** September 2021



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Chantelle and Burgen Thorne are internationally published illustrators with over 20 years experience in educational publishing. The two are now focusing on picture books for children with several more titles being released internationally this year, because the magic of children's books is that they're not just for kids.



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