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A Bird, A Girl, And A Rescue



Synopsis

Eleven-year-old Kiisa had no idea why her parents would send her away to boarding school. She wondered why they couldn't all stay together in their beautiful African valley home. But no matter what she said they were firm: she must go, and she must go to this school. As she said a tearful goodbye to her father, he whispered, For such a time as this. . . . Remember that phrase, and try to open your trunk soon. You'll find something unexpected inside. When Kiisa opened the trunk, she was astonished to find a small heap of black and white feathers that quickly unfolded into a little bird, a wagtail to be exact. Her surprise only deepened when the bird started to speak, My name is Njili. I am one of the Messengers, though a small one. I have been sent to assist you with the Rescue. Kiisa had no idea what she meant, but she would soon find out. Join Kiisa on the adventure of a lifetime a dangerous rescue mission that includes rebels, stolen girls, illegal logging, a hungry cobra, and more messengers who help in unexpected ways. Kiisa sets out to rescue others, but finds herself rescued from fear and bitterness as she learns that bravery is nothing more (or less) than being in the right place at the right time and taking action despite her fears. This page-turning story, the second in The Rwendigo Tales (A Chameleon, a Boy, and a Quest is the first book), is an adventure that children, young adults, and even full-grown adults will not be able to put down. A Bird, a Girl, and a Rescue creatively and convincingly explores universal themes like family, forgiveness, bullying, and courage by blending magical realism and compelling storytelling. Written by a long-time medical missionary to Africa and featuring realistic pen and ink illustrations, it draws first-world readers into another (equally real) world where young girls are captured by rebel soldiers, terrorism is a way of life, and environmental resources are exploited without a second thought. As Myhre's characters deal with these real-life issues in the news, readers of all ages will gain a deeper interest in global human concerns.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Ã¢ "A childrenÃ¢ "s book is a gem if it enables a child to journey into a bigger world, and a prize if it woos an adult to return to being a child. This book is an enthralling story that weaves myth, fantasy, and harsh truth about living in the world while also conveying what it means to become a person of character in a hostile terrain. As the father of two girls and two granddaughters, I am especially happy to have a story that magnifies the resilience, courage, savvy, and playfulness of a girl who embodies what it means to grow in wisdom. I love this story and canÃ¢ "t wait to read this prize to my grandchildren.Ã¢ " Dan B. Allender, Professor of Counseling Psychology and Founding President, The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology Ã¢ " Much of the beauty of fiction is its unique ability to transport us to places we have never been so we can enjoy experiences through the eyes, hands, and minds of fictional characters. J. A. MyhreÃ¢ "s novels invite boys and girls to embark on distinctly African adventures that are as exciting as they are instructive. I think your childrenÃ¢ " and perhaps also their parentsÃ¢ " will love them.Ã¢ " Tim Challies, Author; blogger at challies.com Ã¢ " A Bird, a Girl, and a Rescue by Jennifer Myhre captures life in an African school in vivid detail. A mysterious bird befriends Kiisa, the new girl in school, when she feels most alone. More than just a story about school and soccer and adventure, the book also explores universal themes like self-confidence, standing up for friends, and forgiveness. Worth reading for parents and kids alike.Ã¢ " Shel Arensen, Editor of Old Africa magazine; author of nine childrenÃ¢ "s books. Ã¢ " Jennifer MyhreÃ¢ "s grasp of GodÃ¢ "s grace and gift of writing are a marriage made in heaven. A Bird, a Girl, and a RescueÃ¢ " the second entry in her The Wendigo Tales seriesÃ¢ " is a feast of imagination-fueling, heart-engaging, gospel storytelling. If JenniferÃ¢ "s original audience was children and teenagers, then IÃ¢ "m not as old as my birth certificate indicates. IÃ¢ "ll recommend this book to friends of every age. Thank you, my sister, for giving us an honest, formula-free, reflection on the gospel of the kingdom, birthed from your own tears, journey, and hope-filled heart.Ã¢ " Scotty Smith, Teacher in Residence,

West End Community Church, Nashville, TN

“Dr. Jennifer Myhre’s stories are birthed from the African outpost where her husband and family have shared their lives, skills, and hearts for the cause of the Christ. Each account, written so that her own family would embrace and rejoice in the power of the gospel, is told in engaging narrative fiction but also rings true with deep knowledge of the African experience and biblical hope for all nations.”

• Bryan Chapell, Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, IL

“Kids love adventure stories. A Bird, a Girl, and a Rescue will have them begging you to read the next chapter, and each one seemed to hold a surprise—a great family bedtime story.”

• Marty Machowski, Family Pastor; author of *The Ology*, *The Gospel Story Bible*, *Long Story Short*, and other gospel-rich resources for families

“Having lived and worked in rural Africa for many years, I appreciate Jennifer’s poignant use of allegory to draw the reader into the wonder, beauty and sadness of life experienced by Kiisa. With vivid detail, you are quickly drawn into and captivated by Kiisa’s adventures. Don’t be fooled to think this is just a nice children’s book—it is a powerful read for anyone at any age.”

• Bob Osborne, Executive Director, Serge

“The geography, tumult, and humanity of Africa loom large in this second installment in J. A. Myhre’s *The Rwendigo Tales*. Myhre ably brings to life for young adult readers the wild wonder of the continent, and so much more. As the reluctant boarding schoolgirl Kiisa takes a leap of faith, we join in her breathless rescue involving sacrifice and reconciliation—plus one fearless monkey.”

• Mindy Belz, Senior editor, *World* magazine; author of *They Say We Are Infidels*

“After reading *A Chameleon*, a Boy, and a Quest, I was eagerly anticipating, and then very excited to see, the arrival of A Bird, a Girl, and a Rescue. Here is another delightful tale from Jennifer Myhre, full of adventure, surprise, and a wonderfully compelling picture of emerging friendship. There is plenty of excitement here to keep our full attention as we witness the awakening of bravery and the beauty of selflessness. A Bird, a Girl, and a Rescue both captivates and teaches. Find a cozy chair and enjoy!”

• Mike Bullmore, Senior Pastor, CrossWay Community Church, Bristol, Wisconsin

“Another delightful gospel-tinged story from Jennifer Myhre. Her storytelling is enchanting. You won’t be disappointed!”

• Paul E. Miller, Author of *A Praying Life* and *A Loving Life*

“Myhre’s delightful and fast-paced story brings readers to the unfamiliar to explore the familiar. It is spiritual without being religious; and important without being self-important. Myhre offers in both Kiisa and her father, Mugisa, compelling characters who model courage and humility and make us care about them and their choices; what happens in the story really matters (at many levels). This work of magical spiritual realism is true in the most important sense of that

word. • Matthew Dickerson, Author of the medieval historical novel *The Rood and the Torc*: *The Song of Kristinge*, Son of Finn and the fantasy novel *The Gifted*: Volume 1 of the *Daegmon War*, as well as numerous works about fantasy literature and ecology

J. A. Myhre, MD, serves as a doctor with Serge in East Africa where she has worked for over two decades. She is passionate about health care for the poor, training local doctors and nurses, promoting childhood nutrition and development, and being the hands of Jesus in the hardest places. She is married to her best friend and colleague Scott, and together they have raised four children for whom *The Rwendigo Tales* were written as Christmas presents. The first book in the series, *A Chameleon, a Boy, and a Quest* was published in 2015 and is available at newgrowthpress.com.

I enjoyed this book tremendously. I don't want to give anything away so I'll just say this - It's written from a unique cultural perspective yet has universal applications and sympathies. I read it in two sittings, it's really hard to put down. I'm hoping my 13 year old daughter will read it next. It is a great stand alone sequel to her equally good first novel *A Chameleon, A Boy and A Quest*.

My 7 year old daughter LOVED this book. She wanted to know if there was a movie made about it so we could watch it. The night that we finished it (usually read it at bedtime), she thanked God for the author during prayer time. We also got *A Chameleon, A Boy and a Quest* for my son, but haven't read it yet. My daughter would love a hundred more books in the same genre! I very much enjoyed reading it also! Thank you J.A. Myhre! Keep on writing!

A Bird, A Girl, and a Rescue by J A Myhre kept me on the edge of my seat throughout the book. . . and I think it will you too. *A Bird, A Girl and a Rescue* is the story of eleven year old Kiisa and her adventures during her first year of boarding school in Africa. Kiisa is young and misses her family but her father sends her a special bird to keep her company, Njili. Njili keeps Kiisa updated with news from home and guides her as she learns to make decisions on her own. Kiisa faces some exciting adventures as she deals with African rebels and sets out on her own rescue mission. Myhre writes an exciting story that is the second in her *Rwendigo Tales* series. The first book is about a boy, entitled, *A Chameleon, A Boy, and a Quest*. I just learned about this series so we have not read that book but I plan to purchase it and use both books for our homeschooling. I like that these books teach about life in Africa in a ways that is interesting and will draw my child in to learn. I also like that these books help children see how they can be brave and resilient in the face of big

challenges. I also found the book to be a great way to immerse my child in another culture, learning in an interesting way through Kiisa's adventures. I would highly recommend A Bird, a Girl, and a Rescue. Besides being a great book to read as a homeschooler, it would also be a great book to read aloud as a family. Even as an adult, I found the story to be quite good and one that reaches through the ages to provide both entertainment and lessons to learn. As a plus, the author donates half of her royalties to "a fund that enables real children to emerge with resilience from childhoods threatened by poverty, rebel warfare, human trafficking, malnutrition, loss and fear." Myrhe writes fictional stories but she has also served as a doctor in East Africa for over two decades so she knows about the culture that she writes about. I received a copy of this book from New Growth Press. I was not required to write a review in exchange for the book.

Several months ago, I read and loved A Chameleon, a Boy, and a Quest. I was greatly looking forward to A Bird, a Girl, and a Rescue, and I wasn't disappointed. I'm also excited to read the final two books in the series. There's no worries about cliff hangers. Each story has an ending (so far), but there are connections. I would recommend reading the first book before picking up this one. The leading lady in this story is the sister of the leading guy in the first one. They are separate stories, but there are connections that will be better understood with knowing the first story. I especially like the fact that a mother wrote these books for her children. For 4 years, a new story was given to them at Christmas, and that makes these books more special to me. The lessons hidden in the story and the story itself are things that this mother wanted her children to tuck away inside their minds. I just love that! I enjoyed the details of life in Africa. The first one had a focus more on home life, but this one is more on school life, though both move away from home and school during part of the stories. Giving my children books that open their own worlds to the worlds of others that live very different lifestyles has become more and more important to me as they've gotten older. This series has proven to be excellent choices so far. There are also animals from the area discussed, which will most likely promote a little extra interest led learning. Aside from life in Africa, there are things within the book that children anywhere can appreciate. Courage and dealing with the mean folks in life are a couple of things included in the story. Overall, I've greatly enjoyed this series so far. It's a pleasure to tuck these lovely stories away on our shelf for my boys! As a side note, I've also loved the beautiful covers, and I'm thrilled that they go together so nicely! It's always even more pleasurable to add beautiful stories to our shelves when they have beautiful covers. *I was given a free copy of this book.

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