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A Chameleon, A Boy, And A Quest



Synopsis

The Adventure of a Lifetime Ten-year-old Mu, orphaned as a toddler, has lived his entire life in the heart of Africa. For as long as he can remember, he has served in the household of a great-uncle where he is unloved and ignored. In his drudgery-filled life, Mu has little hope of happiness and little hope that anything will ever change. But one day everything does change. On his way to draw water one morning, Mu is astonished when a chameleon greets him by name and announces that they will embark on a quest together. And what a quest it turns out to be! Mu faces danger and finds unexpected allies as they journey through an everchanging landscape. Through his adventure, Mu learns many things about himself. Along with Mu, you will walk through Africa, encountering good and evil. Read carefully and you just may find out who you are too. For 8-14 year olds

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

“The best stories enlarge our understanding of the world, excite our imagination, and make us think of THE story sung by angels in heaven. This book does all of that. It’s a rich adventure full of fantasy, yet all about the truest things in life.”—Jack Klumpenhower, author of *Show Them Jesus*; coauthor of *What’s Up?* and *The Gospel-Centered Parent* “Written by a true insider, this tale is rich in African texture. This allegory is sure to delight readers both young and old!”—Harry Kraus, bestselling author of *Could I Have This*

Dance? "When Tita the chameleon climbs onto the shoulder of young Mu, he not only sets the African boy on a heart-stopping adventure, but us too. It's a journey rich in the beauty and wonder of Africa, but it's also importantly a lesson on redemption and sacrifice. Young readers will gravitate to Mu and his animal guardians, but so do the rest of us. *A Chameleon, a Boy, and a Quest* is for all ages a lyrical introduction to the promise and peril of Africa.

--Mindy Belz, Editor, *World Magazine* "What an enchanting story! Africa comes alive in Dr. Myhre's delightful tale of a boy, a chameleon, and a dog whose adventures draw you into a deeper adventure of faith. I can't wait to read this to my grandchildren!

--Paul E. Miller, Author of *A Praying Life* and *A Loving Life*; Director of *seeJesus* "Like a Narnia tale, only set in the African bush, J. A. Myhre pulls readers into an extraordinary adventure within an already unordinary world. Children (and adults) enchanted by the magic of talking animals in *Aslan*'s country are sure to be enchanted by the hope amidst perils found in Myhre's Ugandan story.

--Kenneth G. Elzinga (a.k.a. Marshall Jevons), Author of *The Mystery of the Invisible Hand*, *Murder at the Margin*, and other *Henry Spearman* mysteries "Jennifer Myhre has written a realistic, delightful book for children of all ages. The story is told with compelling insight and compassion of a young African boy who is on a quest, but does not know why. The African landscape comes alive with animals, birds, mountains, meadows, bogs, and much more. A dog and a chameleon are loyal and faithful companions guiding him on his journey, delivering him from the ever-present enemy. And of course they speak. A must-read for parents to read to their children, and teens and adults will learn the delights and perils of the journey of life for themselves.

--Rose Marie Miller, Author of *From Fear to Freedom* and *Nothing Is Impossible with God* "Ten-year-old Mu lives in forced servitude in the loveless home of his powerful great-uncle. When plunged into a dangerous quest, Mu must summon the courage to move forward, assisted by a talking chameleon and a dog. He encounters the reality of evil in rebel fighters, child soldiers, and Ebola. His journey addresses his deepest questions: Who am I? Does anyone love me? Does my life matter? Ultimately, Mu must face evil in his own heart, and decide what sort of man he will become.

In *A Chameleon, a Boy, and a Quest*, Myhre captures the sights, sounds, and smells of Africa, where she has served boys like Mu and their families for decades. Like our best stories, it points to the one true Story: love, danger, betrayal, transformation. With skillful storytelling and engaging characters, Myhre has crafted an African Pilgrim's Progress for our day.

--Maria Garriott, author of *A Thousand Resurrections* "In a style that is reminiscent of C. S. Lewis, Jennifer Myhre writes a genuinely captivating tale while communicating beautiful theology. Honestly, I couldn't put this book

down! I highly recommend *A Chameleon, a Boy, and a Quest* for

teens and their parents (who will probably have to wait for their turn to read it)!
—Stephanie O. Hubach, Director, Mission to North America Special Needs Ministries; author, *Same Lake, Different Boat: Coming Alongside People Touched by Disability*
—J. A. Myhre's debut novella transports one to the heart of Africa, where a young orphaned boy, Mu, finds himself in harsh circumstances until he is befriended by a talking chameleon. Together they embark on a life-changing quest, overcoming real dangers such as hungry hyenas and rebel soldiers who are only too happy to make Mu their servant. Good choices precede a bad choice and Mu is forever changed. You won't be able to put the book down once you begin. We highly recommend it.
—Skip and Barbara Ryan
—“Here is the tale of a not particularly courageous boy, called to a journey he never expected, by a surprisingly small guide who will help him find something bigger than he has ever known. Myhre skillfully weaves layers of truth and beauty into a compelling adventure that reveals both lovely and less than lovely realities of Africa and the human heart. Together we learn that neither fear nor failure define us.”
—Lisa Repko Borden, Teacher; author of *Approaching God*
—“I cannot wait to have my nephews read this book. It is laced with adventure, suspense, excitement, but most importantly, truth and light. Jen is uniquely positioned to speak about these themes and is one of the smartest and best people I know.”
—Lina Abujamra, Author; speaker; Bible teacher; pediatric ER doctor
—“Reading *A Chameleon, a Boy, and a Quest* brought back happy memories of the poignant experience of reading certain favorite books I had as a boy. Lovingly written, Myhre's book is full of local color and tense with excitement and suspense. In the end it delivers a wonderfully generous share of wisdom, empathy, and, above all, hope.”
—Mike Bullmore, Senior Pastor, CrossWay Community Church, Bristol, WI

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.

We read aloud quite a bit in our family. Reading *A Chameleon, a Boy and a Quest* was a pleasure for our entire family with kids age 6-9 listening in. My 9 year old said it reminded her of *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Narnia* and my 6 year old was moved by the beautiful truth displayed that sometimes

good things are being worked out through bad or scary circumstances. As someone who reads many children's books aloud the rich vocabulary of this book is refreshing and feels respectful of the reader. It is more in line with much older children's literature than some of the dumbed down offerings of today's books. Having spent two years living in Africa it was a joy to read a book that reflects the culture so beautifully and also does not shy away from the harsh reality that is life for so many children in Africa. This book sparked so much wonderful discussion about good and evil, making choices and the impact of those choices. For the first time my children had to consider impossible choices that were made by Mu and understand the circumstances that could lead someone to such a place. This is a beautiful story on many levels. I hope publishers are paying attention when parents stand up and say "Please publish more books like this!".

I like the book very much, interesting twists and imaginative. I bought it for my 10-year-old grandson, and haven't given it to him yet. He will be the test, but he loves reading and love imaginative writing.

Having traveled to Africa twice in my life, the author shares many details about life there that helps to provide the reader with the context for this story. While the boy may not have realized that he needed to pursue this quest at first, the last few chapters beautifully weave together the circumstances of his life--and the reason for the quest. I imagine that this book would be a great read-aloud for parents to share with their children, and perhaps for a teacher to read to his or her students. This book wisely tells a story that follows the model of creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. I recommend this book to those who wish to enrich their understanding of how others live, sacrifice, and even die.

The illustrations are very poor and hand drawn, and not in an artsy kind of way. The story took a bit to get into. For these reasons I think you'd have to read it aloud to your children. They won't be drawn in by a compelling first page or by the illustrations, but it's a story worth hearing.

at face value this is a beautiful story with endearing characters and a clever fun plot- it is also one of those stories that is chock full of truth (the kind that hurts and heals to come face to face with). I can't imagine anyone not enjoying the read. She's up there with Kate DiCamillo and Leif Enger in my book!

It is a beautiful story of love, redemption, friendship, and forgiveness among the harshness of our current world. Great book for young and old alike. Fast reading, great illustrations, story weaves both fantasy and realistic events. I don't want to give away the story, so you'll have to buy it and find out for yourselves!

I read this book to my 10 year old daughter. She loved it and didn't want the book to end. It was a great conversation starter, and we will soon read it again! This is probably one of the best books she and I have ever read together. I can hardly wait for J.A. Myhre's next book to be published!

I read this to my grandchildren ages 2 through 9 this last week. Each night we read 4 chapters and were disappointed to stop. This is a well written, insightful book, thank you Mrs. Myhre for sharing.
Stephani

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