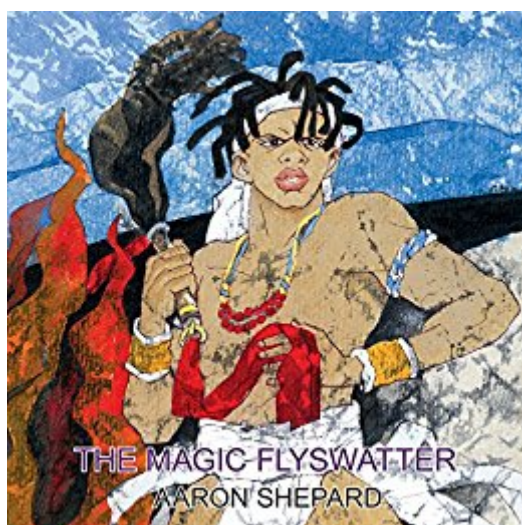


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The Magic Flyswatter: A Superhero Tale Of Africa, Retold From The Mwindo Epic (Ancient Fantasy)



Synopsis

The storyteller stands beside the fire, swaying, dancing, miming, singing, reciting. With one hand he shakes a gourd rattle, with the other he swings a conga -- a flyswatter made with a buffalo tail on a wooden handle. Anklet bells tinkle as he moves. Three young men beat a wooden drum with sticks.Â Â Listening to him is a crowd of men, women, and children. They sing along at a song's refrain, they repeat whole lines of the story when he pauses to see if they're paying attention. They encourage him with little shouts, whoops, claps. Food and drink are passed around.Â Â In a mountain rainforest of the Congo, a Nyanga village hears once more the tale of its favorite hero -- Mwindo, the one born walking, the one born talkingÂ Â For ages 10 and up. Not illustrated!Â Â //////////////////////////////////////Â Aaron Shepard is the award-winning author of "The Baker's Dozen," "The Sea King's Daughter," "Lady White Snake," and many more children's books. His stories have appeared often in Cricket magazine, while his Web site is known internationally as a prime resource for folktales, storytelling, and reader's theater. Once a professional storyteller, Aaron specializes in lively retellings of folktales and other traditional literature, which have won him honors from the American Library Association, the New York Public Library, the Bank Street College of Education, the National Council for the Social Studies, and the American Folklore Society.Â Cover artist Xiaojun Li, a native of Inner Mongolia, was an award-winning children's book illustrator and art director in China before moving to the United States.Â //////////////////////////////////////Â SAMPLEÂ She-Mwindo heard the noise. He went to the house of his favorite wife. He saw the boy and was full of rage. "What is this? Did I not say 'no sons'? Did I not say I would kill him?"Â He threw his spear at the baby. Mwindo waved his conga. The spear fell short and stuck in the floor. Mwindo pulled it up. He broke it in two.Â She-Mwindo cried out. "Aieeeeeeee! What kind of child is this?"Â Mwindo sang and danced and waved his conga.Â Â Â I am Mwindo,Â Â the one born walking,Â Â the one born talking.Â Â O my father, you do not want me.Â Â O my father, you try to kill me.Â Â But what can you do against me?Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One of Aaron Shepard's many skills is his ability to retell foreign tales in an interesting fashion. This kindle book is virtually free and will be enjoyed by children. It tells the story of the superhero Murindo who was born with the ability to think, walk, and talk. His father wanted only girl children and ordered all sons born to him to be killed. The story tells how he was able to escape many attempts to kill him. It has an interesting ending. Shepard adds an explanation after the story in which he tells its origin and the meaning of some African terms.

This book encouraged me to love each of my children. When I was pregnant with my second child, I told the doctor that I didn't want it because he told me it was a girl. I grow to love her more and more each day. Today I am proud of her because she is great!! I would recommend every parent to read this book and to also read it to their children.

Not that great

I actually liked this. I do understand one reviewer's comment that it was repetitive but many children's ancient stories are. I really appreciated hearing an old children's story from another culture. We only know Mother Goose and the like. It's refreshing to hear someone else's tales. It actually felt to me to have some parallel to Moses and Jesus but, didn't actually feel like a religious story. Kind of had an Aesop's Fables feel to it.

Wow! This is a great folk tale for teaching about African culture as well as family values and worth of others! I really appreciate Aaron's research, attention to authenticity, and notes. I'm looking forward to using this in my classroom next fall!

My grandsons, ages 10 and 7, were enthralled with this story. Each of us read pages and they were captivated throughout. The story was neither too short or too long, and the author took great pains to provide pronunciation, definitions, and cultural history. A great read.

The author does a capable job of retelling this tale. Due to the simple nature of the retelling and the repetition, it's probably more suitable for children than for adults. The author does a good job of providing context for the story.

I read this with my nine year old son and we enjoyed it.

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