



# Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa

By Gerald McDermott

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Zomo the rabbit, a trickster from West Africa, wants wisdom. But he must accomplish three apparently impossible tasks before Sky God will give him what he wants. Is he clever enough to do as Sky God asks? “The tale moves along with the swift concision of a good joke, right down to its satisfying punch line.”--*Publishers Weekly* “Wildly exuberant, full of slapstick and mischief, this version of an enduring Nigerian trickster tale, featuring a clever rabbit, is a storyteller’s delight.”--*Booklist*

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This straightforward retelling by the Caldecott Award-winning illustrator of *Arrow to the Sun* features bold, vibrant shapes and hues. When Zomo ("He is not big. He is not strong. But he is very clever") beseeches the Sky God for wisdom, he is set three impossible tasks: he must bring back "the scales of Big Fish in the sea . . . the milk of Wild Cow and the tooth of Leopard." The cunning rabbit dupes the three creatures into giving up these prizes, but returns to discover that the joke's on him. His newfound wisdom? To run like mad from the three very angry animals. The tale moves along with the swift concision of a good joke, right down to its satisfying punch line. McDermott's gouache illustrations in brilliant hues of fuchsia, green and orange recall the color and geometric lines of West African textiles. The dazzling artwork shows Big Fish dancing until his scales cascade to the ground, the scrawny Wild Cow ramming a palm tree and getting stuck there, and Leopard tumbling down a hill and knocking out his tooth. Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3-- McDermott tells the story of Zomo the rabbit, the trickster who originated in Nigeria and who lives on in the lore of the Caribbean and the United States. When the irresponsible black rabbit asks the Sky God for wisdom, he is given three impossible tasks: he must get the scales of Big Fish, the milk of Wild Cow, and the tooth of Leopard. He does all these things and in the end the Sky God rewards him with wisdom, and warns that next time he sees his victims, he had better run fast. This colorful rendition of the story is done with the kind of bold graphics that gave McDermott's early works their immediate popularity. The horizon is low on the page so that there is a great sense of air and space. The bright gold of the sky adds warmth. The illustrations masterfully integrate a variety of styles the artist has used in the past. His characters are more realistically drawn than in his earliest work, but they are adorned with dramatic graphic patterns. It is larger and more visually expansive than McDermott's *Anansi the Spider* (1972) or *The Magic Tree* (1973; o.p., both Holt). With its small but triumphant hero clad in a colorful dashiki and a cap, its dazzling design, and its great good humor, this story will be a pleasure to use with children. --Marilyn Iarusso, New York Public Library

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Review

Zomo wants wisdom, but he must accomplish three impossible tasks before Sky God will reward him with the gift of wisdom. Is Zomo up to the challenge? He must use cleverness and trickery to obtain the scales of Big Fish, milk Wild Cow and bring Sky God the tooth of Leopard. The big bold illustrations are a perfect match for this engaging folktale. (*Children's Literature* )

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Michelle Curry:**

Do you one among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This *Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa* book is readable simply by you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable studying

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#### **Lauren Marine:**

Often the book Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa has a lot details on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was written by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after reading this book.

#### **Leslie James:**

Exactly why? Because this Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret that inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

#### **Harvey Sanchez:**

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