

Search and find in the jungle

Come And Find Me!

NATALIE LOUIS-LUCAS & KRISTIEN AERTSSEN

When Hummingbird asks Croc to play a game, the crocodile's reaction is a little condescending: 'No, you're far too teeny-tiny.' When Croc finally comes round and they play hide-and-seek together, Hummingbird's size is its strength: it's not easy for the crocodile to find the little bird in the dense jungle. Croc asks various animals for help, including a rabbit, a lion and a raccoon. Each time, the recurring question 'Hey, have you seen Hummingbird?' is accompanied by a different, extremely brief description, so nobody can help. At the end of the story the curious jungle dwellers all wonder who this Hummingbird might be. Croc can only find Hummingbird once he acknowledges that the bird is his friend.

Aertssen's illustrations are an effortless visualisation of the story

CUTTING EDGE

Search and find books come in all shapes and sizes, but Louis-Lucas and Aertssen manage to give the genre a contemporary look. The inventive illustrations reflect the suspenseful text, while adding stimulating and funny surprises. Unlike Croc, attentive children should be able to locate the charming Hummingbird after some searching.

Visual surprises and plenty of funny details

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AUTHORS



The French author **Natalie Louis-Lucas** has written several children's books, all of them in collaboration with illustrator Kristien Aertssen. She is now shifting her focus from literature to psychology and currently works in an institution with children. **Kristien Aertssen** (b. 1953) introduced a refreshing new style with African and Asian influences in Flemish illustration. Her use of colour is characterised by bright, exotic colours she uses to create atmosphere and emotion in her artwork. She manages to keep her tone light and optimistic throughout, even though that isn't always the case for the themes she keeps returning to: her books are about relationships and the desire for security, tenderness and recognition.

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