



THE STORY COLLECTOR

*The Emperor's*  
NIGHTINGALE

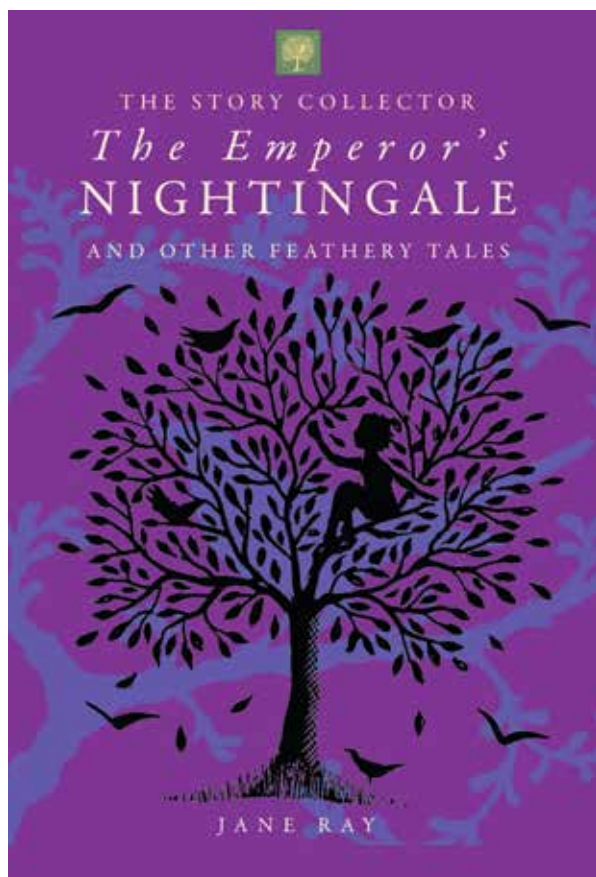
AND OTHER FEATHERY TALES



JANE RAY



Introducing Jane Ray's stunning new series  
**THE STORY COLLECTOR**



Jane Ray

New Style. New Collection.

To be published September 5th 2013

£12.00 Hardback with Jacket ISBN: 978-1-907152-59-7

Boxer Books





Jane Ray

## New Style New Collection

Jane enjoys the hustle and bustle of London, where she has lived all her life; however, she also has a yearning for a life by the sea, with long walks along the beach and the occasional conversation with a mermaid.

She works in a shed at the end of a lovely garden, which is full of birdsong, hedgehogs and bold London foxes. As a child she used to climb a tree in her parents' garden and sit among the birds, wishing that she could fly.

She shares life now with her husband, three grown-up children and an elderly cat. Even though she loves gardening, singing and reading, she is happiest in her studio and says she has the best job in the world.

We asked her a few questions about this collection.

Q: What gave you the idea for this collection of stories?

A: I've always been a collector – not expensive things like vintage cars or crystal ornaments, but everyday bits and pieces: shells and feathers, useful pieces of string and jam jars. I also collect stories and when I had so many that I'd run out of space in my head to keep them, I decided to write them down and turn them into books.

Q: What did you like most about working on this collection – the stories or the artwork?

A: It was a delight to retell these stories – some old and traditional, some mythic and legendary, fairy tales, folk tales and made-up tales. The variety of characters is immense: good and bad, trickster and magician, prince and pauper.

It was wonderful to be able to illustrate them too, and I decided that instead of working in watercolour and collage as usual, I would return to a technique that I had first tried as a teenager. All the illustrations in these books are done on scraperboard or scratchboard, where board is coated with finely ground white clay and then covered in a layer of black Indian ink. The image



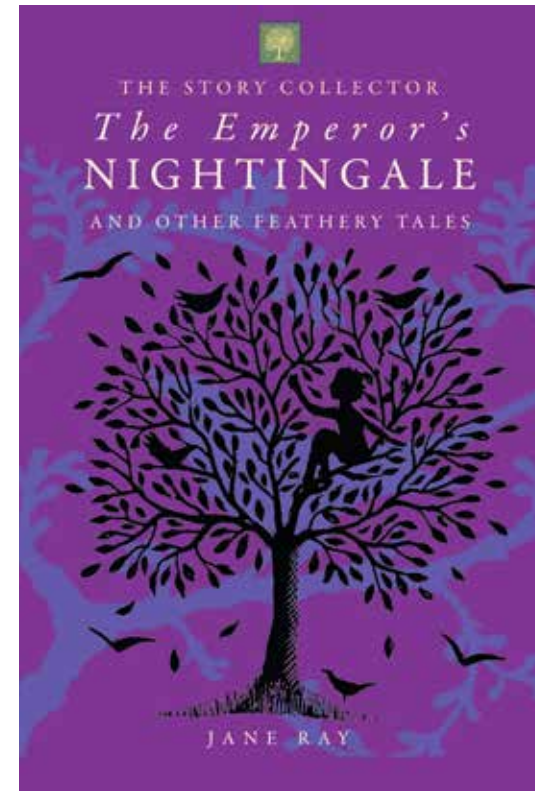
is created by scratching, with a sharp stylus, through the black ink to the white clay layer below. The result is almost like an engraving. The pictures are very small, which leads you, as an illustrator, to think in terms of tiny details that might be missed in bigger pictures.



Q: You've described the scraperboard technique, but there is a fantastic variety of artwork in the book – with amazing colours. How did this come about?

A: The stories come from many different countries and cultures, and this gave me the added creative thrill of incorporating traditional patterns from Africa, Inuit animal carvings or elements of Japanese woodblock prints into the illustrations.

David Bennett at Boxer Books then worked his magic with the images, enlarging, adding colour, cropping and generally 'playing around' with both the illustrations and the look and 'feel' of the books, until we felt we had made something really special.



## THE EMPEROR'S NIGHTINGALE and Other Feathery Tales



A magical and enchanting anthology, which includes some of the best-loved stories of all time.

Published September 5th 2013

### Contents

- The Happy Prince
- Mulungu Paints the Birds
- The Owl and the Pussycat
- Noah's Ark
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- The Emperor's Nightingale
- The Jackdaw of Rheims
- The Firebird
- Magpie Song



## THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT



*This is one of those poems that everybody knows and can't quite remember where they first heard it. Edward Lear was a master of the absurd and the nonsensical – does anyone know what a 'runcible spoon' is? Or the 'Bong-tree'? Only you can supply the answers!*

The Owl and the Pussycat

went to sea

In a beautiful pea-green boat,

They took some honey,

and plenty of money,

Wrapped up in a

five-pound note.

The Owl looked up

to the stars above,

And sang to a small guitar,

“O lovely Pussy!

O Pussy my love,

What a beautiful Pussy you are,

You are,

You are!





half the court, in their fine shoes and flowing silken robes, following behind.

As they struggled through the mud and brambles, a sound rang out.

“Ah!” sighed a courtier. “That must be the nightingale! What a glorious sound!”

The kitchen maid giggled. “Oh no, sir, that is not the nightingale. That is a cow!”



green, purple, red and blue. He gave the lovebird a sweet peach-coloured face and the hoopoe handsome black and white stripes and a russet-coloured crest.

Now, the boubou is a fussy bird who is forever running up and down, cheeping and twittering, trying to attract attention at all costs. He was near the end of the row but he couldn't



wait for his turn. He was very impatient, behaving like a spoilt child, hopping up and down saying, "Me next! Me next!"

At first Mulungu ignored him, determined to make him wait for his turn. He painted the cuckoo emerald green and the little kingfisher purple and blue. But still the boubou kept clamouring and fussing. Mulungu was





The Firebird

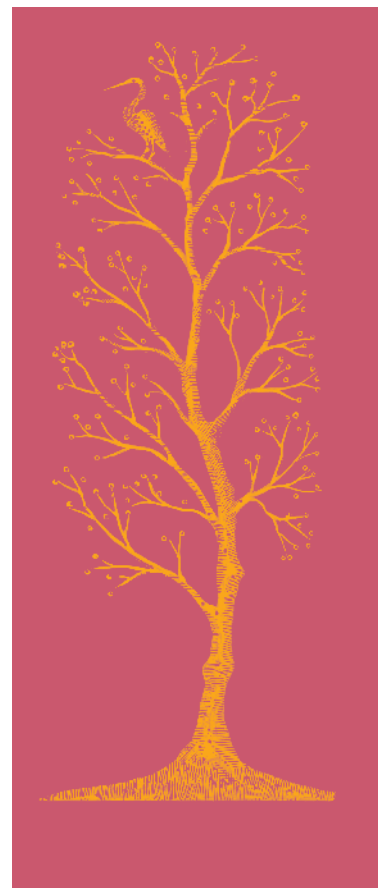


Noah's Ark



Joringa and Joringel

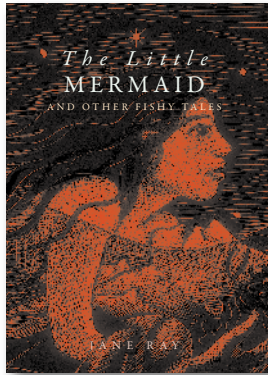
Heron and Hummingbird





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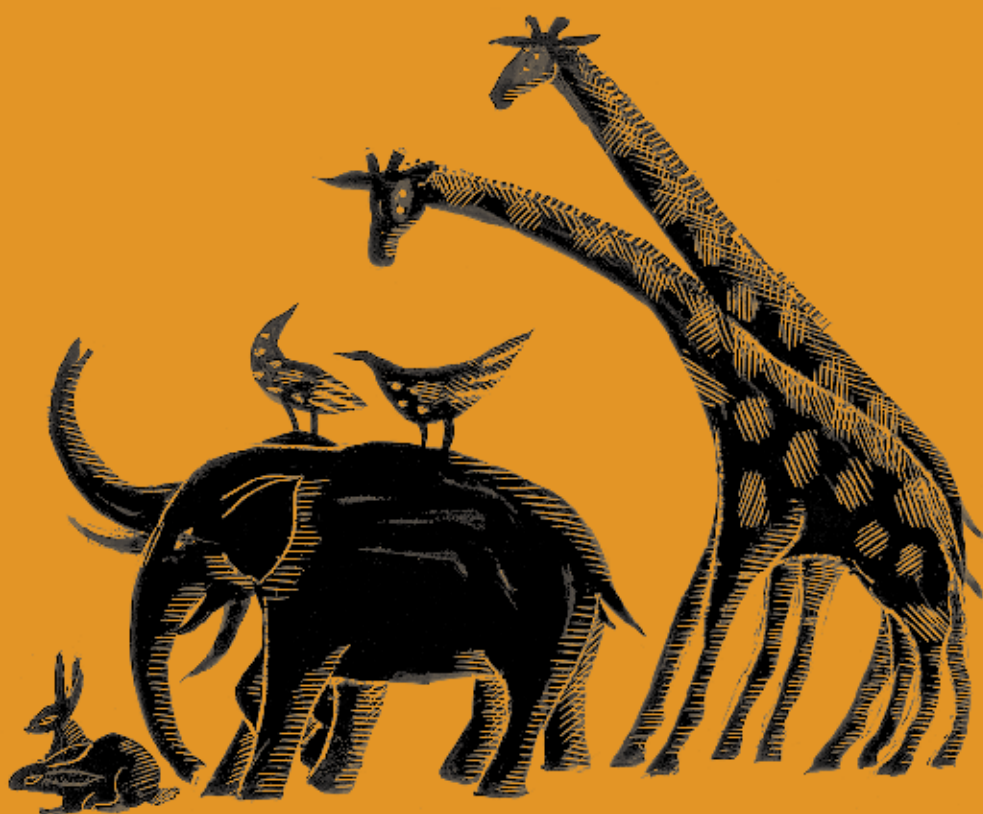
*Includes* Brer Wolf, The Singing Ringing Tree,  
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*Includes* The Pied Piper of Hamlyn, Puss in Boots,  
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An enchanting collection of bird stories  
written and illustrated by Jane Ray –  
one of today's most talented  
storytellers and artists.



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