

The Night Before Christmas in Africa



By Jesse, Hannah, and Carroll Foster • Illustrated by Jean Christodoulou

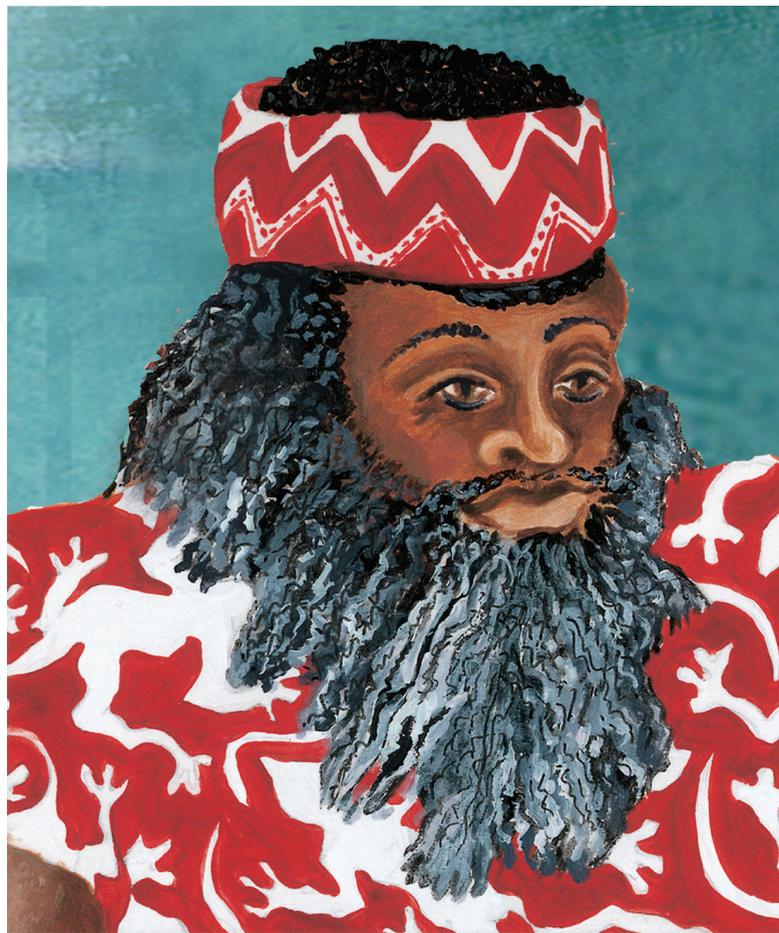
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On the arid South African plain, families sleep on floor mats waiting for Father Christmas to arrive with his bag of goodies. However, members of the Shangaan tribe only wish for simple items such as candy, soccer balls, and chickens during the holiday season. They long for relief from the hot, dry climate, but they dare not bother the man in red with such a large request. When his donkey cart arrives, pulled by kudu and a black rhinoceros, Father Christmas is willing to try. Don't American children wish for snow on Christmas?

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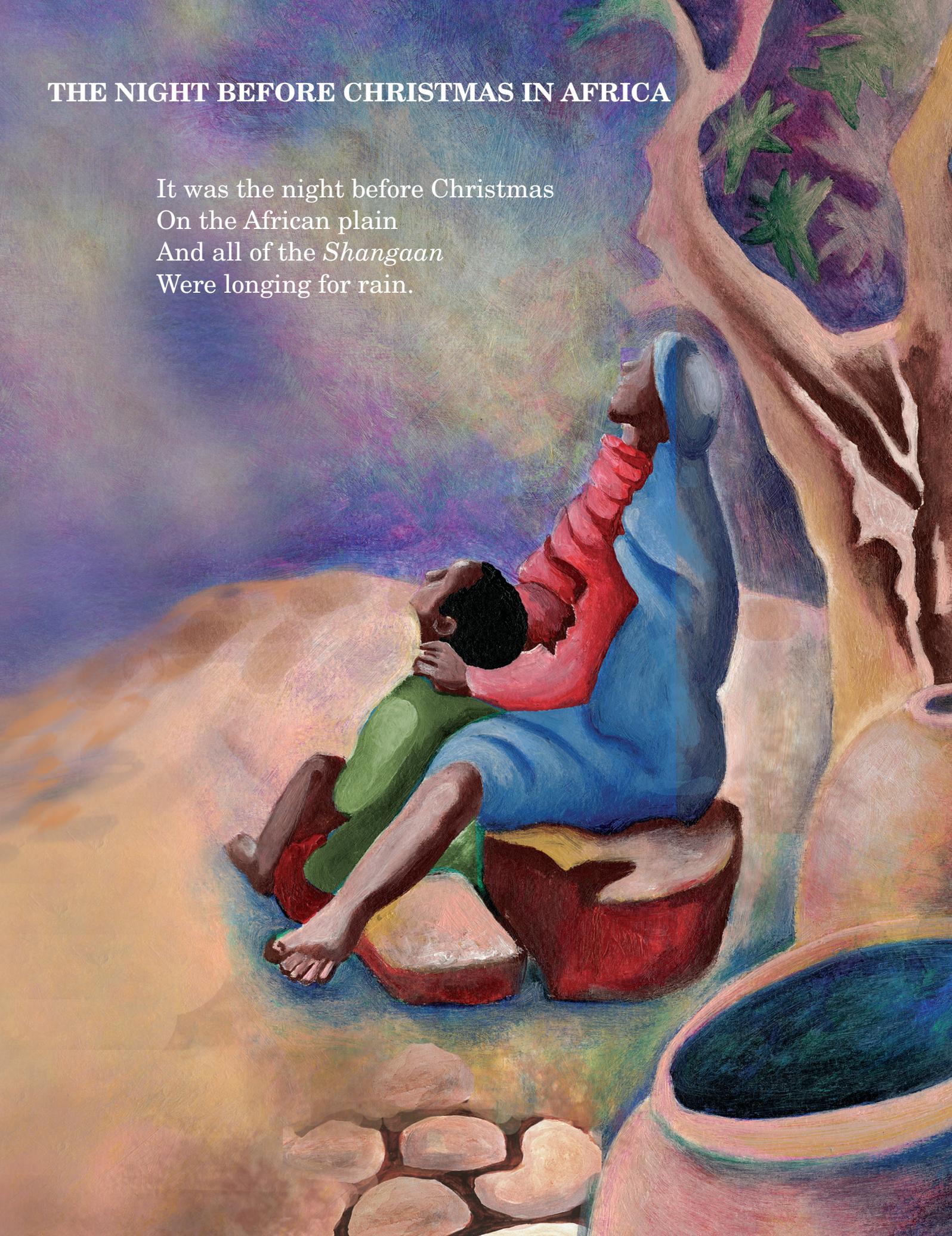
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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN AFRICA

It was the night before Christmas
On the African plain
And all of the *Shangaan*
Were longing for rain.





The cattle were parched;
The rivers ran dry.
The *mielies* were scarce;
Still not a cloud crossed the sky.







My household and I
Were settling down
For another long night
On the hard and dry ground.

The children were nestled
On mats on the floor,
Dreaming of monkeys
That chatter and roar.

