



FICTION

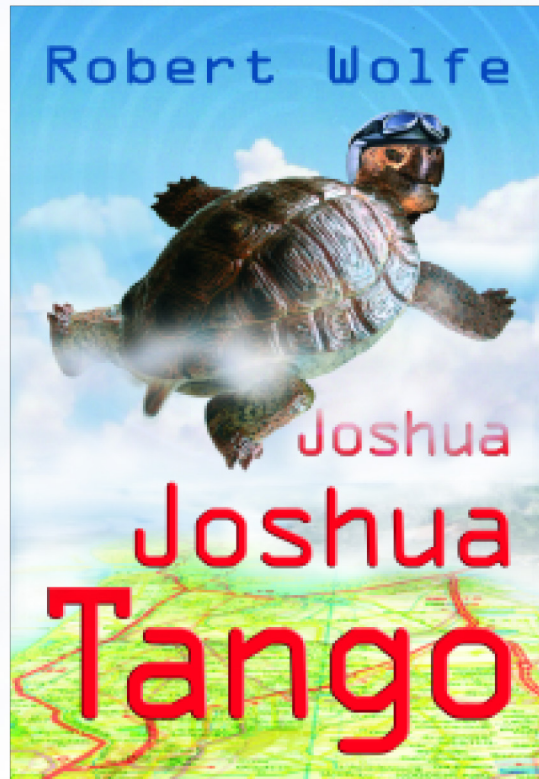
ROBERT WOLFE

Joshua Joshua Tango

A classic children's book from start to finish Joshua can talk, he can fly and he's telepathically gifted. He's rather a decent singer too, and in spite of his age he can still tango with the best of them. But what really makes this all so exceptional is the fact that Joshua is a Brazilian tortoise.

For years, scientists have been trying to prove that his species, *Geochelone elephantopus*, is at least as clever as people, but as yet without success. Professor Groen takes a tortoise home with him so that he can continue his research by day and night. Unfortunately for him, however, the animal will only reveal his talents to Marcel, the scientist's lonely son. Thanks to the magical tortoise, Marcel has the adventure of his life. And it's just as well, as his mother's away finding herself in India and he's being teased at school, because, just like his father, he always has his head in the clouds.

The blurb makes it perfectly clear: *Joshua Joshua Tango* by the Dutch author **Robert Wolfe** (Sydney, 1967) wants to be every kind of children's book at the same time. The story of Marcel's Harry Potter-like broomstick experiences on the flying tortoise is only part of it. *Joshua Joshua Tango* is also a modern realistic book about the problems of a shaky one-parent family. And as though all that weren't enough, Wolfe also weaves a football adventure through the book, along with a dignified asylum seeker who doesn't want to return to his own country, a crazy next-door neighbour who is not as scary as he seems, and a kidnapping. Astonishingly enough, the story works. More than that: Wolfe's captivating debut really is a most impressive achievement.



English translation available.

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Rights enquiries:

De Harmonie Stand 8.0 - C 922

P.O. Box 3547

NL-1001 AH Amsterdam

The Netherlands

tel. (+31)-(0)20 624 51 81

fax (+31)-(0)20 623 06 72

info@deharmonie.nl

www.deharmonie.nl