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Opening extract from

When the Rain Come

Written by

Tom Pow

Illustrated by

Malika Favre

Published by

Polygon

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For Annunciata, Beatrice, Charity and Dorothy
with huge admiration for the work they do and
for the love and joy they bring to it.
TOM

To Hélène, Marie and Ouiza for being amazing mums,
with love MALIKA

First published in Great Britain in 2012 by Polygon, an imprint of Birlinn Ltd,
West Newington House, 10 Newington Road, Edinburgh EH9 1QS
www.polygonbooks.co.uk

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ISBN: 978 1 84697 206 5
British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available on request from the British Library.

The publisher acknowledges investment from Creative Scotland
towards the publication of this volume.

CREATIVE SCOTLAND
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Design by Teresa Monachino. Printed and bound in the EU.

Beatrice walks along the dusty red road that leads into the village. She is holding the twins, Oscar and Jennifer, by their hands. The first person she sees is a man picking lemons from a tree. Each lemon is like a small, bright sun.



"Moni. Muli bwanji? Hello, how are you?" she says.

"Ndili bwino. Muli bwanji? I'm fine. How are you?" he replies.

"Hot," says Beatrice. "It's a long and dusty road to get here."

"Yes it is," says the Lemon Man.

"I'm looking for Grandmother Rose," says Beatrice.

"Well, you've almost found her. Past this tree, on you go, and you're there," says the Lemon Man.

"Zikomo. Thank you," says Beatrice.

They find Grandmother Rose in her vegetable garden, chasing a hen from the fresh, green shoots. She flaps her arms like a large, colourful hen herself.

