Helping your children choose books they will love

I reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

Zeraffa Giraffa

Written by

Dianne Hofmeyr

Illustrated by

Jane Ray

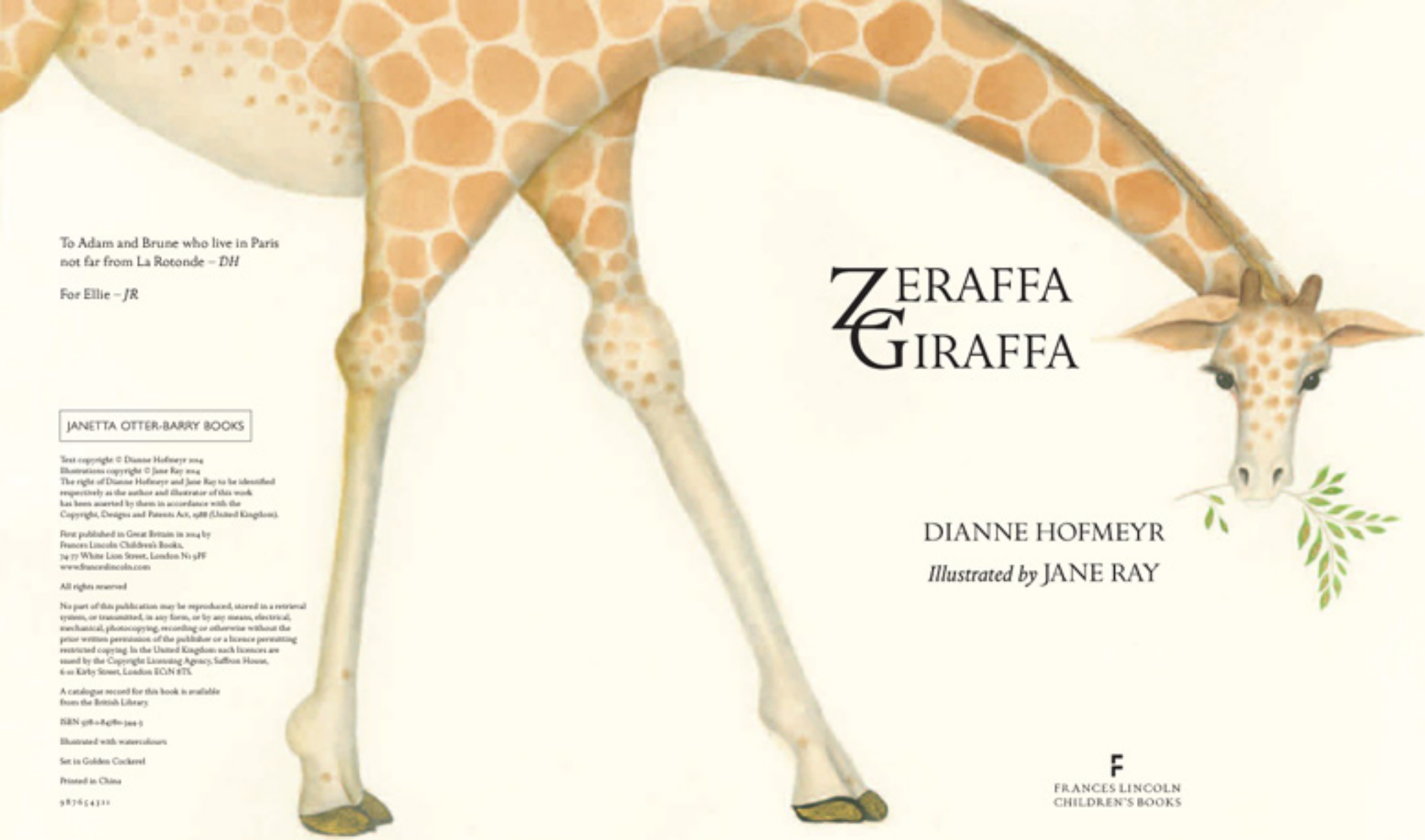
Published by

Frances Lincoln Children's Books

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk



ZERAFFA GIRAFFA

DIANNE HOFMEYR

Illustrated by JANE RAY

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

To Adam and Brune who live in Paris
not far from La Rotonde – *DH*

For Ellie – *JR*

JANETTA OTTER-BARRY BOOKS

Text copyright © Dianne Hofmeyr 2004
Illustrations copyright © Jane Ray 2004
The right of Dianne Hofmeyr and Jane Ray to be identified respectively as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988 (United Kingdom).

First published in Great Britain in 2004 by
Frances Lincoln Children's Books,
74-77 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF
www.franceslincoln.com

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electrical, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying. In the United Kingdom such licences are issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6-10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-84780-304-3

Illustrated with watercolours

Set in Golden Cockerel

Printed in China

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Across the plains of Africa where grass grows tall and acacias taste sweet, came the hunters from the Great Pasha of Egypt and the Sudan.

When they captured a small giraffe, no taller than the tallest of them, they tied her in a sling to the side of a camel and kept her alive on camel's milk on the journey home.



The Pasha was delighted.

"She is the perfect gift for my friend, the King of France!"

He appointed his servant boy, Atir, as her keeper and handed him a letter addressed to the King, along with a map.



Atir unrolled the map and measured the distance. Paris was very far away. It was beyond the edge of Africa, over the sea on the other side of the world.

But first they had to sail down the River Nile.

A *felucca* was built, with two elegant sails that see-sawed and pivoted to catch the breeze, with an awning to protect the little giraffe from the sun.

"I'll name you Zeraffa," Atir whispered as he hung an amulet around her neck. "I'll feed you milk sweet as lake water, and at night I'll roll back the awning so you can look at the stars."




Out past the markets of Khartoum they sailed, with the hot *haboob* wind filling their sails. . . past the silent giraffe paintings of Luxor. . .
They sailed past ladies combing their hair with porcupine quills who offered them dates and pomegranates. . .
past the lion-faced Sphinx and her Pyramids.
until they came to the place where the sea sipped up the Nile.

Atir led Zeraffa on board a boat bound for France.
And at night the sailors sang songs to the
beautiful long-necked creature that gazed down
at them from between the sails.

On the cobblestones of Marseilles, people pushed
forward for a glimpse of her.
The Mayor threw up his hands when Atir told him
he needed to travel to Paris.

"With a giraffe? How? It's impossible! We must consult
Monsieur Stravganza, inventor of things *extraordinaire*."

