

IZZY
THE RHINO



ILLUSTRATED BY

**STEVEN
WOMACK**

**BASED ON
TRUE EVENTS**

(CONTAINS SOME GRAPHIC CONTENT)



South Africa

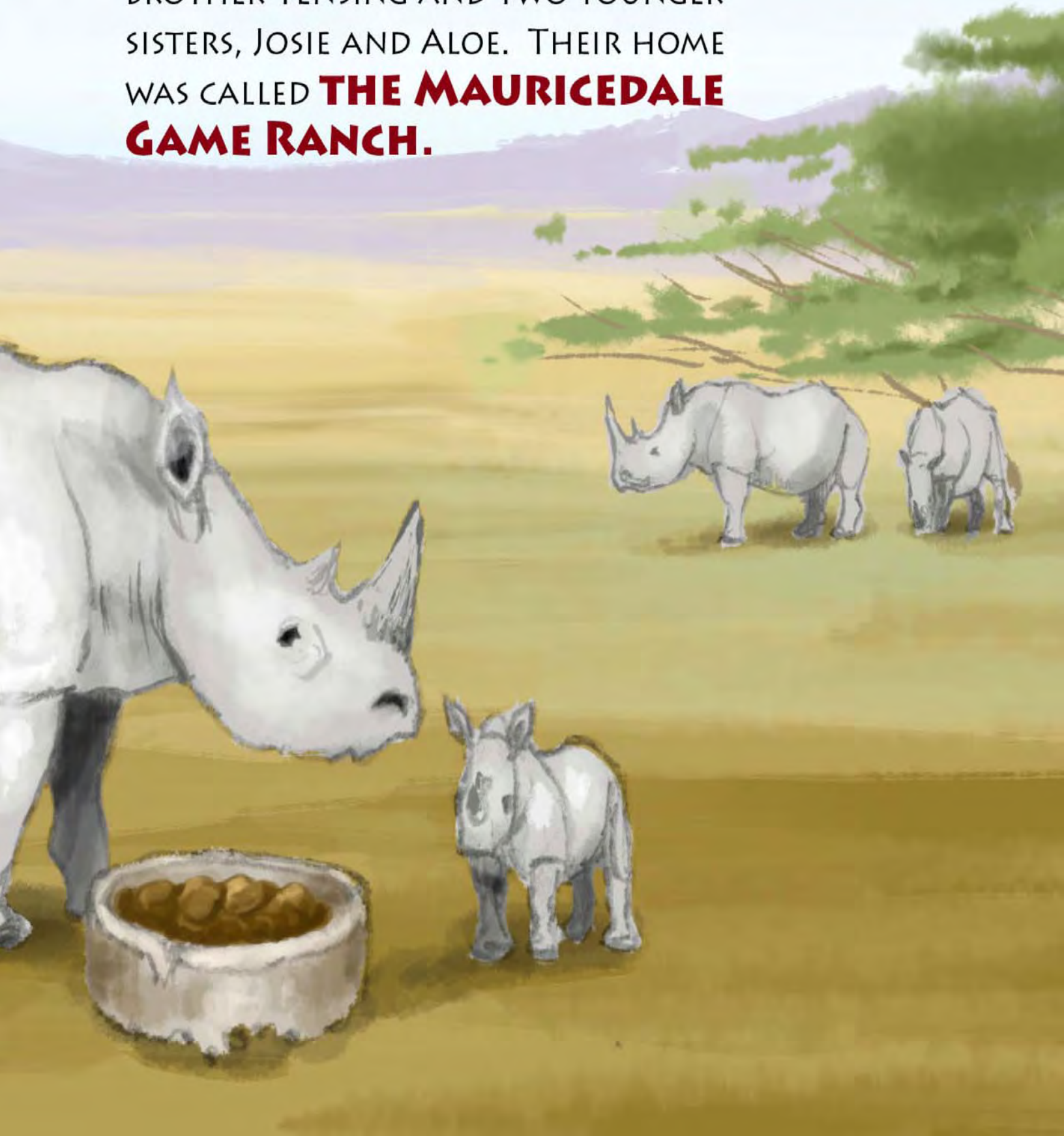
ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A
SMALL FARMING VILLAGE IN SOUTH
AFRICA, THERE LIVED A YOUNG
WHITE RHINOCEROS NAMED **IZZY**.





IZZY LIVED WITH HER FAMILY

- HER MOTHER HILLARY, HER OLDER BROTHER TENSING AND TWO YOUNGER SISTERS, JOSIE AND ALOE. THEIR HOME WAS CALLED **THE MAURICEDALE GAME RANCH.**





DURING THE HOT, SUNNY DAYS,
IZZY LIKED TO SIT IN THE SHADE AND LISTEN
TO HER MOM'S STORIES.

IZZY'S MOTHER OFTEN TOLD HER ABOUT A
LAND FAR, FAR AWAY WHERE PEOPLE BELIEVE
THAT RHINO HORN HAS MAGICAL POWERS.





IZZY ROAMED AROUND THE RANCH, DAYDREAMING OF THE AMAZING THINGS SHE COULD DO WITH HER MAGIC.





SHE OFTEN WENT TO A SECRET PLACE IN THE WOODS, CLOSED HER EYES, AND CONCENTRATED AS HARD AS SHE COULD.

BUT NOTHING HAPPENED.





THEN, EVERYTHING CHANGED.

IZZY WAS SENT AWAY TO A SPECIAL DOCTOR,
WHERE SHE WAS PUT TO SLEEP FOR A LITTLE
WHILE, AND WOKE UP WITHOUT A HORN.
IZZY'S MOTHER REFUSED TO TELL HER WHY
AND THIS INFURIATED HER.

HER MAGICAL HORN WAS GONE.





EVERY MORNING, IZZY SNUCK AWAY AND STARED AT HER REFLECTION IN A NEARBY LAKE. SHE HOPED THAT HER HORN WOULD GROW BACK SO SHE COULD FINALLY DISCOVER HER MAGICAL POWERS.

EVERY DAY SHE NOTICED ITS GROWTH AND PROUDLY MARCHED BACK HOME.






ONE NIGHT, WHEN HER FAMILY WAS SLEEPING, IZZY SNUCK OUT TO HER SECRET PLACE IN THE WOODS, CONVINCED THAT HER HORN WAS NOW LONG ENOUGH.

SHE WAS GIDDY WITH EXCITEMENT.







IZZY CLOSED HER EYES, AND
WAS DEEP IN CONCENTRATION, TRYING TO
SUMMON THE MAGIC, WHEN SHE HEARD ALL
SORTS OF STRANGE NOISES. A STRONG WIND
WAS BLOWING, SENDING THE LEAVES SWIRLING
AROUND HER.

IT WAS WORKING!
IT WAS REALLY WORKING!



SUDDENLY, SHE FELT A SHARP PAIN IN HER SIDE AND IT QUICKLY COURSED THROUGH HER ENTIRE BODY.

THE PAIN BECAME UNBEARABLE.



**AND THEN EVERYTHING
WENT DARK.**

WHEN SHE WOKE UP, SHE WAS IN TREMENDOUS PAIN. BENEATH HER WAS A POOL OF BLOOD, SHE REALIZED, AND IT WAS DRIPPING FROM HER HEAD. IT GOT INTO HER EYES AND SHE COULD BARELY SEE.

SHE HAD TO GET BACK TO HER FAMILY – HER MOTHER WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO – HER MOTHER KNEW EVERYTHING.



AS SHE STUMBLED TOWARD HOME,

HER THOUGHTS BEGAN TO JUMBLE. SHE THOUGHT
OF HER SISTERS – SHE THOUGHT OF HER BROTHER
– SHE THOUGHT OF THE STRANGE PEOPLE IN A FAR
AWAY LAND WHO KNEW ABOUT HER MAGIC POWERS.

AND THEN HER THOUGHTS WENT
COMPLETELY BLANK.

**HER FAMILY NEVER
SAW HER AGAIN.**



IZZY, MAURICEDALE GAME RANCH, AUGUST 11, 2011

EPILOGUE

ONE WEEK LATER, ON AUGUST 11 2011, A PICKUP TRUCK FOUND A GIANT CARCASS LYING IN A FIELD. VULTURES HAD BEEN FEEDING ON IZZY'S REMAINS AND HER HEAD HAD BEEN MOSTLY EATEN BY MAGGOTS.

IZZY'S HORN (AND THE HORNS OF HER FAMILY MEMBERS) HAD BEEN CAREFULLY REMOVED IN AN EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE POACHERS. HER HORN HAD REGROWN TO APPROXIMATELY 2.5 KG, ENOUGH TO ATTRACT POACHERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. OFFICIALS THINK THERE WERE THREE POACHERS THAT NIGHT. THEY SHOT HER WITH A .375 RIFLE AND HACKED OFF THE REMAINS OF HER HORN DOWN TO THE BONE— LEAVING HER TO BLEED TO DEATH. HER BODY WAS FOUND APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS FROM WHERE SHE WAS SHOT. SHE WAS SIX YEARS OLD.

SOME CULTURES BELIEVE THAT RHINO HORN HAS MEDICINAL PROPERTIES, THOUGH THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS CLAIM. THIS BELIEF FUELS POACHING, A LUCRATIVE AND DANGEROUS BUSINESS. RHINO HORN IS SOLD FOR OVER \$50,000 USD PER KILOGRAM – MAKING IT MORE EXPENSIVE THAN GOLD.

UNFORTUNATELY, IZZY'S STORY IS INCREASINGLY COMMON. IN 2007, 13 RHINOS WERE KILLED IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN 2011, APPROXIMATELY 450 RHINOS WERE KILLED.

IZZY'S HORN WAS NEVER RECOVERED AND NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE.



**WHEN THE BUYING STOPS
THE KILLING CAN TOO**

PLEASE **CLICK HERE** TO DONATE
TO WILDAID'S RHINO CAMPAIGN

WILDAID

