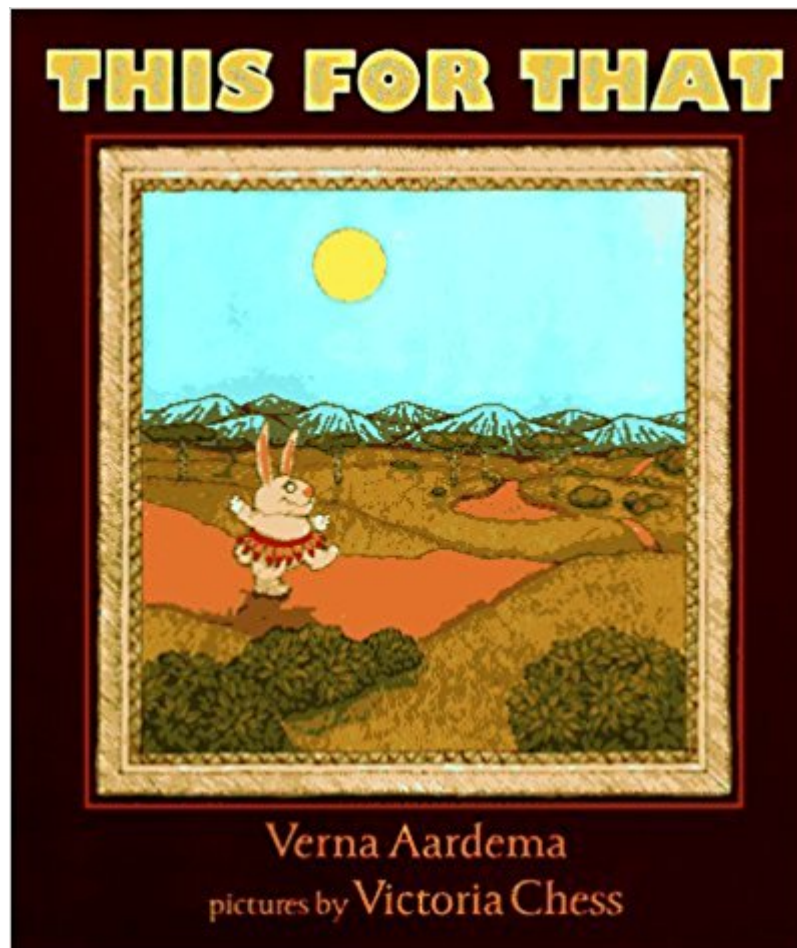


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# This For That



## Synopsis

When Rabbit is unable to convince Lion and Elephant that even though she didn't help dig their watering hole, she's entitled to drink from it, she sets off to find other more gullible creatures. Venturing from ostrich to man to ant and back again, Rabbit's crafty bartering techniques are quite successful--until her own boastfulness gets the best of her. Full color.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Lexile Measure: 500L (What's this?)

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## Customer Reviews

In this humorous tale, revised from an entry in the author's 1973 collection *Behind the Back of the Mountain*, an opportunistic rabbit on an African savanna unrepentantly cons her friends. She gets Ostrich to locate some berry bushes, slyly devours all the fruit and blames Ostrich for the theft. Then, to make up for the "missing" berries, Rabbit demands one of Ostrich's feathers, which she exchanges for other valuables. In the finale, mildly disappointing because it shows a punishment but no lesson learned, the trickster receives a mighty kick from Ostrich, along with the moral: "A lie may travel far, but the truth will overtake it." Consummate storyteller Aardema (*Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*) reworks this Tonga folktale with her trademark onomatopoeia--Rabbit eats berries "lup, lup, lup

Kindergarten-Grade 3. A retelling of a Bantu fable, set in the "region north of the Limpopo River." When the animals' water hole runs dry, Rabbit refuses to help dig the new well, even though she

expects to drink from it when it is finished. Lion and Elephant say, "No work, no water." Thirsty Rabbit complains to Ostrich, who generously shares some juicy berries. Rabbit goes back and devours every last berry but denies the theft, setting off a chain of events and trades with other animals that result in Rabbit's getting an old-fashioned kick in the seat for lying. Aardema's storytelling is highly readable, spiced with original sound effects such as Ostrich running ("tuk-pik, tuk-pik"). Chess interprets the tale nicely in her devilishly droll style. The characters' facial expressions are hilarious, particularly Rabbit's range of smug looks when someone new falls for her tricks. Watercolors in the bright earth tones of the African plain are detailed with light, textural hatching to suggest fur, feathers, parched soil, or the giraffe-skin bark of indigenous trees. Each drawing is framed with a sepia border, a zigzag design that resembles thatching. A satisfying tale of comeuppance. ?Karen MacDonald, Teaticket Elementary School, MACopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Verna Aardema's retelling of this Tonga tale of a little mischievous rabbit who finally gets what is coming to her is excellent. It is one of my favorite Aardema tales because of the rhyme, onomatopoeia, and characters who just are funny and relatable. The other reason for its success as a story is the great illustrations that accompany the story. Some might get confused when they see the word Tonga on the title page and then get dropped into Africa. It's because this is about the Tonga people who live in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana--a tribe, not Polynesians. Remember Aardema mainly retells African tales. Anyways, it is a good read, so check it out and have a little chuckle at rabbit's misfortune.

This has got to be "A Togo Tale" since there are no giraffes or rabbits in Tonga. Correct the mistake for future shoppers.

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