

Kyeema stared at Jake. "It wasn't luck, Dutch." Their eyes met in the sparkling firelight.

"Paths cross for a reason," said Kyeema. She looked over to where Pim and Maritska slept under the trees. Jake leant back and used his jacket as a pillow.

"How do you know which way to go?" he asked sleepily. "Everything that happens in life leaves a mark in the world," said Kyeema. "There'll be a scar on the earth where your plane crashed. The tree will show a wound where I cut off the branch. Those are recent things. Our songs tell stories from when the world came into being during the Dreamtime. You see that big rock on the horizon? That's where the lizard ancestor was buried after he died on his walk to the sea."

15 "But that's just a story."

"After our lives have ended, what's left but stories people tell about us? I want someone to tell a story about me one day. I want to make a mark on the world and change it for the better. I don't want to be forgotten. Get some sleep, Dutch. We've got a big day tomorrow."

20 The fire crackled. Jake's eyes closed. Kyeema and the outback disappeared into blackness and he fell asleep.

## Chapter 6 Kyeema's song

Jake had strange dreams. One minute he was on a plane, the next he was falling through the air. One second everyone was congratulating him for doing something good and the next moment people were blaming him for doing something bad. For one second, just before he woke up, he dreamt his real mother and father were still alive.

1 Dutch [dʌtʃ] Holländer/-in • 8 scar [skɑː] Narbe • 9 wound [wuːnd] Wunde • 13 to bury [ˈberɪ] begraben • 21 to crackle [ˈkrækəl] knistern • 25 to congratulate [kənˈgrætʃ(ə)leɪt] gratulieren

Jake opened his eyes and blinked. The sunlight was shining directly into his face. "Kyeema?" he sat up and looked around. They had all gone. Jake panicked. Where were Pim and Maritska? Suddenly he was scared that they had all run off and left him alone.

"Ow!" Jake cried out. Something hit him on the back of the head. He picked it up and saw it was a round, red fruit.

"Got ya!" he heard Pim shout.

"Good shot," came Kyeema's voice. Jake turned to find Kyeema, Maritska and Pim running across the sand.

"Eat it fast. We've got to get moving," shouted Kyeema. Jake bit into the fruit. It was a bit like a peach, with a hard stone in the middle.

"It's called a 'quandong'," Pim said confidently.

"Fruits which are red are usually good to eat," said Kyeema. "You mustn't eat any yellow things. And any fruit which doesn't look good to eat probably isn't."

20 Maritska finished her quandong. She threw the stone away and picked up her bag. "I've had enough of this. Let's go and get rescued."

Pim picked up his bag of computer stuff.

Kyeema stared at them like they were crazy. She shook her head gravely. "You must leave it all behind."

25 Maritska and Pim insisted they bring their things with them.

"It took me years to save up for this," Pim said and held up his Playstation.

Maritska held her bag of clothes and make-up tightly.

"Which would you rather have," asked Kyeema, "your life or your possessions?"

"I want both," replied Maritska.

Her honesty made Jake laugh. "Come on," he said. "See how Kyeema travels. She only has what she needs."

1 to blink [blɪŋk] blinzeln • 13 peach [piːtʃ] Pfirsich • 14 stone [stəʊn] Stein • 15 quandong [ˈkwɒndɒŋ] essbare Frucht • 24 gravely [ˈɡreɪvli] ernst • 31 possession [pəˈzɛʃn] Besitz • 33 honesty [ˈɒnɪsti] Ehrlichkeit



Jake pushed his bag to the side. It had his phone and all his clothes and books in it. "We can't carry this stuff with us."  
Pim and Maritska knew Jake was right. Sadly they left their possessions behind.

5 Kyeema held her hand above her eyes and looked into the distance. Then, after closing her eyes for a moment, she began to sing quietly. After a couple of notes she began to walk.

Mystified, Jake, Pim and Maritska followed her.

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10 They didn't understand the words of the song Kyeema sang. It was in her language and many of the words were secret. It would be wrong to teach them to someone who wasn't of her tribe. In fact, because she was a girl, there were some words nobody would ever teach her. This upset her; it meant there'd always be some part of her history she'd never know. And just because she was a girl!

After they had walked for an hour or so Jake began to understand that there was a connection between the music of her song and the landscape. When the notes of Kyeema's song were long and the same tone, then the land was flat and empty. If the notes got faster and higher, the land was uneven and high. If they were fast and low, the ground was uneven and low.

25 They passed the big rock, the one Kyeema called the resting place of the lizard ancestor. It was on their left. The sun was nearing its high point in the sky and all the mysterious shadows on the rock disappeared.

Kyeema found a watering hole at the base of the rock and they drank. Pim was already hungry again. While they were drinking, they suddenly heard some noises. They looked up to see two animals' faces above the rock.

"Sshh," said Kyeema putting her finger to her lips.

The kids stood still. The animals stared down at them.

9 *mystified* ['mɪstɪfaɪnd] verblüfft • 22 *uneven* [ʌn'i:vn] uneben • 25 *resting place* ['restɪŋ ,pleɪs] Ruhestätte

Jake thought they looked like dogs. They had sandy, red coloured fur, long pointed snouts and amber eyes. Their colouring was perfect in the desert. They blended in so well with the earth and rocks one could hardly see them.

5 "We should go," whispered Kyeema. "They're dingoes. This is their place. Let them drink."

"My stomach is empty," moaned Pim. He tried to grab one of the spears from Kyeema's back. "You said I've got good aim. Let's kill one and eat it!"

10 "Leave them!" Kyeema took the spear from his hand and pushed him away from the rocks. She was very angry. Pim looked scared. "Come!" she ordered. Kyeema marched off. After a moment the kids trailed after her.

Jake looked back. The dingoes stood on the lizard ancestor's rock and watched them leave. They didn't go to drink. They just watched. Jake felt their eyes on him as he walked away.

Kyeema sang low and quiet and they could hardly hear her as she marched on ahead. After a while Jake ran to catch up with her. "I'm sorry. He shouldn't have tried to take your spear without asking." He thought this was the reason she was upset.

"It would have been a bad thing if we had hurt them."

25 Kyeema said. She explained that to allow a dingo to be killed would be the worst thing she could ever do. Her people believed certain animals are your totem. For some it would be the golden ant. For others the emu. Their belief was that this totem animal watched over you and was sacred. So sacred, it would be wrong to even draw a picture of a dingo if it was your totem.

30 Jake understood now why hurting a dingo would have been so upsetting for her. He went back and tried to explain this to Pim.

2 *fur* [fɜ:] Fell • 2 *snout* [snaʊt] Schnauze • 2 *amber* ['æmbə] bernsteinfarben • 3 to *blend in* ['blend ɪn] sich optisch angleichen • 8 to have *good aim* [gʊd 'aɪm] gut zielen können • 28 *belief* [br'i:lɪ:f] Glaube • 29 *sacred* ['seɪkrɪd] heilig



Pim didn't really understand, but he liked Kyeema and wanted to be friends with her again. He ran ahead and spoke to her. Pim and Kyeema exchanged words. Kyeema's anger faded. A moment later Pim said something which made her laugh. She waved at Jake and Maritska.

5 "She's weird," muttered Maritska as they caught up, "she eats snakes and has terrible taste in clothes."

The group walked on for a few more hours, but the sun was getting high in the sky and they were in open ground. Bright green and orange birds flew overhead. Then they turned and disappeared.

Kyeema signalled to the kids and they followed the birds.

15 In a deep dip in the land they found a small area of short and thick trees and bushes around a watering hole. If they hadn't seen where the birds had gone, they would have missed it.

20 "That's why you must look at everything," explained Kyeema. "Really look. Do not miss a thing. If you ever need food or water, follow the animals that live here."

They rested under the trees. Kyeema dug in a tree stump with a stick. It was full of witchetty grubs and ants. She picked up a wriggling grub and offered it to the kids. Pim ate it greedily and happily.

25 Maritska still didn't want to eat strange things. She kept on coughing. Jake thought it was a sign she was trying to hide how scared she really was.

30 Jake asked Kyeema about the songs she sang. She told them about her people's belief in the Dreamtime. This was the period before living memory when spirits came out of the earth and down from the sky to create the land and all living things. The song she sang on this journey told of how the lizard ancestor crawled across the earth looking for the sea. Every part of the song spoke of something the

4 anger [ˈæŋgə] Ärger • 14 dip [dɪp] Senke • 21 stump [stʌmp] Stumpf •  
24 greedy [ˈɡriːdi] gierig • 30 living memory [ˈlɪvɪŋ ˈmeməri] Menschengedenken  
• 33 to crawl [kroʊl] kriechen

lizard had done that changed or created the landscape. The group of hills was where it had laid its eggs. A group of deep grooves were made when its babies crawled away. And the big rock was where the lizard lay down and died.

5 After a short rest they walked on. Kyeema said she couldn't teach them any of the sacred words of the song, but they could sing the melody. So they walked on and raised their voices, making up funny words to go with the music.

10 Even though they weren't singing the right words, Jake made a connection between the melody and the landscape. He saw the landmarks which Kyeema described in her song.

"Nearly there," said Kyeema.

15 They stopped and stared at a huge bank of rocks in front of them.

"What's on the other side?" asked Jake.

"You'll see," said Kyeema. She ran forward and sprinted over the boulders.

20 "Now we have to climb?" asked Maritska weakly. "What next?"

Pim started climbing over the rocks. Jake reached back and helped Maritska.

25 "This is crazy," Maritska moaned. "We've been walking all day. How much further do we have to go? Why is this stupid country so big? Back in Holland ..." Her words trailed off as they got to the top of the rocks.

"Ha!" cried Kyeema triumphantly.

They looked down and smiled at one another.

30 There, cutting through the outback, was a solid, tarmac road.

9 groove [ɡruːv] Furche • 19 boulder [ˈbəʊldə] Geröll • 30 solid [ˈsɒlɪd] fest •  
30 tarmac [ˈtɑːmɑːk] Asphalt



## Chapter 7 Bob and Jolene to the rescue

Pim and Maritska laughed with joy as they stumbled down the rocks. The road was empty, but at least it was a road. They knew it wouldn't take too long until someone drove by. In fact, a cloud of dust in the distance meant traffic was already heading their way.

Jake smiled at Kyeema. "Your songlines seem as good as any map," he said. "I don't understand the conflict between your people and the modern world."

Kyeema pointed to Pim. He was already at the side of the road jumping up and down with excitement. "When he's back in the city, he'll soon forget about the magic of this land. And your sister has no interest in the journey, only the destination." Kyeema stared at the dust on the horizon.

"I love modern things, too, but I value the knowledge you've taught me. Surely there's a way the old world and the new can live side by side?" asked Jake.

Kyeema looked doubtful as she followed Jake down the rocks towards the road.

"Believe one thing," he said to her, "I'll never forget you."

Kyeema shrugged. "Words are easy," she said, "it's the things we do which leave marks on the earth."

The car in the distance got closer. It was a white camper-van, but it was covered by a thick layer of red dust.

Pim jumped up and down. "Hello!" he shouted and waved his arms. Maritska joined in. "Help!"

Jake was nearly at their side when Kyeema grabbed his arm. "Let it go," she whispered.

"We have to get help," said Jake. He couldn't understand why Kyeema would want them to miss their chance of rescue. He wondered if she didn't want their adventure to end just yet.

1 to stumble [ˈstʌmbəl] stolpern • 4 dust [dʌst] Staub • 13 destination [ˌdestɪˈneɪʃn] Ziel • 17 doubtful [ˈdaʊtftʊl] zweifelnd, skeptisch

"I've got a bad feeling about what's coming, Dutch." Kyeema's dark eyes were troubled as she watched the van get closer.

But Jake wouldn't listen. He walked away from her. "I have to think of Maritska and Pim," he said. "They need proper food and rest." Jake turned round to find Kyeema wasn't at his side anymore. "Kyeema?" he called out. Jake immediately remembered what she had taught him. He checked for her tracks to see which way she had gone. All he could make out were small dents like the tracks of a dingo. It was as if she had vanished into thin air.

The camper-van was very close to them and it showed no sign of slowing down.

"Can't they see us?" asked Maritska.

"Hey, hey!" screamed Pim.

The van was nearly on them.

Maritska was terrified the van might drive past and not pick them up. Jake held her arm, but she wriggled free and ran into the middle of the road. "Don't!" yelled Jake, but Pim followed her at once.

Jake couldn't bear to look as the van came to a halt. It stopped centimetres from Pim and Maritska's legs.

"Stupid idiots," roared a rough man's voice as the door opened. "You nearly got yourselves killed!"

The other door opened and a woman jumped out. "Oh my God, Bob! Were you driving with your eyes shut? Kids, are you OK?" The woman came towards them. She wore lots of turquoise necklaces and had a guitar hanging around her neck.

Maritska started crying. The woman took off her guitar and carefully put it in the van. She ran to Maritska and hugged her. She looked at the kids. They had dirty, sunburnt faces and ripped clothes. "What the hell happened to you guys?"

6 proper [ˈprɒpə] richtig, anständig • 11 to vanish into thin air [ˈvænɪʃ] sich in Luft auflösen • 23 rough [rʌʃ] rau • 28 turquoise [ˈtɜːkwaːz] türkis • 28 necklace [ˈneɪkləs] Kette • 32 to hug sb [hʌŋ] umarmen



“Our plane crashed,” said Pim.

“The man who was flying it died,” Maritska blurted out. “We’ve walked all day to get here.”

“You found your way across the outback by yourselves?”  
5 asked the man.

Jake’s eyes ran along the horizon, searching for Kyeema. “Someone showed us the way,” he said. “An Aboriginal girl.”

The woman was concerned. “I don’t see anyone. Where  
10 did she go?”

“I don’t know,” said Jake.

The woman looked at the man. “Funny to take off  
just like that.” She turned her attention back to the kids,  
“Sounds like you guys were very lucky.”

15 They saw another car in the distance, a shiny black Mercedes. The man looked at the car, then at his watch. “Can’t hang around all day, Jolene,” he said to the woman. “We said we’d make it to Doomadgee by sunset.”

“We don’t have to do everything according to a stupid  
20 timetable, Bob,” said Jolene angrily. “You nearly ran these kids over because you were driving like a maniac!” Jolene guided Maritska towards the van, “The map says there’s a gas station up ahead. We’ll give you a lift there and you can call for help.”

25 “Don’t you have a phone we can use now?” asked Jake. “We should let our parents know we’re safe.”

Jolene laughed and shook her head. “Bob and me are a couple of old hippies. We’re hopeless with modern stuff. I mean, look at this old van we’ve got.”

30 “We’re wasting time,” said Bob, “let’s get going.”

“There’s always time to help someone,” said Jolene. She gave Maritska another hug and helped her into the camper-van.

The other car slowed down a bit as it passed the van.

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2 to blurt sth out [ˈblɜːt sʌmθɪŋ aʊt] mit etw. herausplatzen • 9 to be concerned [kənˈsɜːnd] besorgt sein • 15 shiny [ˈʃaɪni] glänzend • 18 Doomadgee [duːˈmædʒiː] Stadt in Queensland • 19 according to [əˈkɔːdɪŋ] nach

Jake noticed the two men in the car both had beards and wore black baseball caps pulled down low over their eyes. He thought it was odd that they didn’t even look at them as they drove past. Jake was relieved Jolene and Bob were giving them a ride and not the weird looking guys in  
5 the black car.

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Jake sat in the back of Bob and Jolene’s van. As they drove off, he stared out of the window, hoping he’d catch a glimpse of Kyeema. He felt bad that they had parted  
10 without saying goodbye.

Jolene fished some Coca-Cola cans out of something she called an ‘Esky’. It was a white polystyrene box filled with ice and water. The drinks were freezing cold. Pim, Maritska and Jake thankfully drank them in almost one  
15 gulp. Jolene switched the radio on. Pim and Maritska were extremely happy to have contact with the familiar world again.

As some country and western music played in the background, Jolene told the kids why she and Bob were on the road. They were on their way to a music festival.  
20 Jolene grabbed her guitar and began to play along to the radio. Then she started to sing along, too. Jake thought she was very good, but he wished everyone would be quiet. He wanted to keep the melody of Kyeema’s song clear in his mind.

Maritska admired Jolene’s jewellery.

“Here,” Jolene took a turquoise necklace from round her neck. She put it on Maritska. “A gift for you, it’ll bring you good luck. It did me.” Jolene winked at Bob.

“Really?” Maritska proudly admired her new necklace  
30 in the rear-view mirror. “It’s so beautiful! I’ll treasure it forever. Thank you.” Maritska hugged Jolene.

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1 beard [bɜːd] Bart • 9 glimpse [ɡlɪmp] kurzer/flüchtiger Blick • 9 to part [pɑːt] auseinandergehen • 12 Esky (Aust.) [ˈɛski] Kühlbox • 12 polystyrene [ˌpɒlɪˈstiəriːn] Styropor • 15 gulp [ɡʌp] Schluck • 29 to wink at sb [wɪŋk] jmdm. zuzwinkern • 31 rear-view mirror [ˈriːvjuː ˈmɪrə] Rückspiegel



Jake noticed that Bob didn't say much. He'd just let out a dry laugh every time Jolene said something funny. Jake also noticed Bob kept looking at the mirror, which seemed odd since the road was empty.

5 Pim started looking at things in the back of the van.

"Don't touch anything," Jake told him.

"It's OK. I'll be careful," said Pim, but he kept on wriggling around and playing with things.

After a while the music on the radio stopped and the news came on. The main topic was a report on the sandstorms which had blown up in the past days. Several small planes had gone missing in the Northern Territory because of the bad weather. The newsreader continued with the next story, "Armed robbers who stole a million dollars from the Darwin Cattle Auction are still on the run. Police warn the public to watch out for two bearded men. Anyone who sees them should call the police immediately. They are considered dangerous and should not be approached."

"I saw them," said Jake suddenly.

20 Bob switched off the radio. "Don't be silly," he laughed.

"I think they were the men in the black car which was behind you," Jake continued.

"What, the one that drove past when we picked you up?" asked Jolene.

25 "I saw them," insisted Jake. "Two men with beards wearing baseball caps."

The twinkling lights of a small town and the big yellow sign of a petrol station appeared in the distance.

30 "Look, look!" cried Pim. "We're nearly there!" Pim was over-excited. He pulled out something that was stuffed down the back of the seat.

"After we've rung our parents, we must call the police," said Jake.

6 to touch [tʌtʃ] anfassen • 11 several [ˈsevrəl] mehrere • 14 armed [ɑːmd] bewaffnet • 18 to approach sb [əˈprɔʊtʃ] sich jmdm. nähern • 27 to twinkle [ˈtwɪŋkl] funkeln, blitzen • 28 petrol station [ˈpetrɪ ˈsteɪʃn] Tankstelle • 30 to stuff [stʌf] stopfen

"Why would armed robbers take a quiet road like this?" said Jolene. "Forget about them. You kids need to get home as soon as you can after the day you've had."

"Police ask lots of questions. We've got no time for that. We've got to get to Doomadgee tonight," Bob said wearily.

"I still think we should tell someone," said Jake.

"I think you should forget it!" Bob said firmly. "Bob!" said Jolene angrily. "Don't shout at him. He's just trying to do the right thing."

10 "There's the petrol station up ahead." Maritska laughed and pointed at the lights. "We're nearly home!"

"This is funny," giggled Pim. "See what I'll look like as an old man."

15 The van swerved as Bob turned to see what Pim was talking about.

Pim was wearing a fake beard. "Here, Jake, I've got another one. Put it on. Let's see what you'll look like when you grow up!" Pim held out another fake beard for him.

A terrible silence filled the van.



5 tonight [taɪnait] heute Abend/Nacht • 14 to swerve [swɜːv] ausscheren



## Chapter 8 The mine shaft

Jake looked up. Jolene had turned round in her seat and stared at Pim. Her blue eyes weren't kind anymore; they were as cold as ice. "Bob," she said softly, "we've got a big problem."

5 Bob looked over his shoulder. "I should have never listened to you," he said to Jolene. "I should have run them over."

"If that black car hadn't come up behind us, it would have been an option," Jolene replied.

10 "There's the petrol station ahead," cried Pim.

Maritska jumped up in her seat as Bob made a U-turn. "Why are we turning back?" she asked. "We're almost there."

"This would be all over if your nosy brother hadn't gone snooping back there," said Jolene.

15 "Pim, I told you not to touch anything!" said Jake. Maritska's heart sank. "We won't say anything. I promise we won't," she said to Jolene.

"Sorry, love," Jolene said and patted Maritska's hand. "We can't risk you telling the police."

20 "Pim!" Maritska looked at her brother angrily. "Why don't you ever do as you're told?"

"I'm sorry," said Pim. He realized they were heading back into the desert. He threw the fake beards down on the floor.

25 Jake's heart pounded in his ears. He wished he had trusted Kyeema's instinct. They shouldn't have got in this van.

30 Jake had no idea where the couple were taking them. All he knew was it would be somewhere bad.

12 U-turn [ju:tɜ:n] • 180°-Wende • 15 nosy [ˈnɔ:zi] neugierig • 16 to snoop [snu:p] herumschnüffeln • 20 to pat [pæt] tätscheln • 27 to pound [paʊnd] pochen

Jolene forced Maritska into the back of the van with Jake and Pim. The three of them lost track of how long they had driven back along the road. The sun had nearly set and dark, purple clouds formed in the sky. A strong wind blew clouds of red sand from the roadside into the air. The van's headlights made two orange shafts of light in the dust in front of them.

Without any warning Bob suddenly spun the steering wheel. The van left the road. They all had to hold on tightly as it rattled over rough ground.

10 "Why are we going off the road?" asked Jake nervously. Maritska and Jake looked at each other fearfully. They were glad Pim was sleeping and couldn't see how scared they were.

15 The van's headlights suddenly fell on some rough buildings. A tall, old chimney and a lift shaft rose in the sky before them.

Bob stopped the van. "End of the line. Everybody out," he barked. Jolene grabbed a torch and jumped out at the passenger side.

20 Jake and Maritska heard Bob and Jolene muttering as they walked round the van. "Should we make a run for it?" asked Maritska.

Jake nodded. "Pim, wake up," he said softly and shook him.

25 Pim's eyes opened slowly and he blinked sleepily. "Where are we? Why have we stopped?"

30 "I don't know, but we've got to get away." Jake could still hear Bob and Jolene arguing outside the back of the van. "This way."

shaft [ʃɑ:ft] Schacht; Lichtstrahl • 6 headlight [ˈhedlaɪt] Scheinwerfer • 8 steering wheel [ˈstiəriŋ, wi:l] Lenkrad • 16 chimney [ˈtʃɪmni] Schornstein • 19 torch [tɔ:tʃ] Taschenlampe