con sentimiento para nuestra agua viva.
Bélico y Pepe: con el más profundo amor. el mayor orgullo e infinta inspiración, ¡nojita! 

EL SALADO
PEACE THROUGH WATER

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LAYOUT, COLOR & DESIGN
SHARPBALL

COLOMBIAN CHRONICLE FICTION

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HECHO EN COLOMBIA - MADE IN COLOMBIA
A long time ago...

In this dark world, the original settlers, the Obscures, were performing experiments on the infinite.

They placed stones on the earth, but were in need of something more. Something to enlighten and fathom the depths of that in which the world rested: the living-water where everything lay afloat.

*The first appearances of indigenous Zeno Cosmogony.*

Before the beginning there was neither day nor night to help keep track of time.

They created the charms: the sun, the moon and the stars, to measure the size of the world and keep track of time, days that ended and nights that began.

And so the light shone by the charms was sent to the land of the first men, those who had no knowledge of water.
...becoming a beautiful and sprawling swamp.

Thousand of years later, in Los Montes de María, el Carmen de Bolívar.

From that light, a dove belonging to the world of the obscurities fled and made its way.

With the flap of its wings it dissolved the mists and created the wing, it gazed below and was upset by the excess of darkness and lack of water.

It landed on the highest point it could find, the branch of an old saman tree, and upon seeing how the light with which it came lit the land of the first men it rejoiced.

It became so emotional that a tear rolled from its eye to its beak.

AND SLIPPED.

It dropped into the deepest basin there was and filled the valley with water.

With the arrival of light, the first men saw their land for the first time and how far the glow of the sun, the moon and the stars could reach from the swamp to the valley and the valley to the mountain where the world split in three, where all was generous, rich and plenty, where the water was life-giving and before the enchantment of the charms...
AND THEN THE MINOR LEAGUE TALENT SCOUT ARRIVES.

HERE WE GO AGAIN.

AND ME, FRANCIS NÚÑEZ JR., THE YOUNGEST.

PLAYING LIKE THE KING WITH HIS MOJO ON.

“LÉGAL LA MÉSA DE LA PATRONA ANÍA LA CHEA GUAPA * MORENA

“LÉGAL LA GENTE ES LA MARANTALES.

HERE’S FRANK, THE TANK, READY TO TACKLE ANY PICKLE.

PLEEEASE DON’T TALK ‘BOUT FOOD.

I’m EATING FOR TWO, THESE EMS.

HOW ‘BOUT CLEANING UP THE MESS.

Pipe down! I’m on the verge of exploding.

I expect at any given moment.

SO YOU'RE EXPECTING?

HA, HA, HUSH YOU!

COME HERE YOU, FEEL IT?

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT THINKING "ABOUT..."

THE GIRL KICKS LIKE A MULE, RIGHT?

GOD BLESS THE MADD LED, MATILDA

SHE’S A STRIKER.

FIRST HALF IS OVER AND THE SCOUT COMES UP TO ME AN SAYS...

owie, hui.

“HEH!...

Hey, Star. The trials for the major league are tomorrow.

GOSS! I TOLD YOU THAT ONE ALREADY?

JUST A BAZILLION TIMES.

No, never.

Hey, Eums.

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS CHILL?

NO CHILL, BONITA.

CORRÉN LOS BESOS Y LOS RUMORES...

IT'S JUST HEATING UP.

...TOMIS QUAKIS ENCARTE.

“LA REA, THERE...

SOME TRICKS HERE.

...EL TÓR OROLO SALÍ A LA ARENA.

...EL MAS COBARDE DE ENGAMETON.
NOS ASESIAN COMO PUGUYES

HERE COMES THE JAPEROCO
TWO DAYS LATER

FRANCIS
WE'RE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE
Bienvenidos a El Salado

Just what’s necessary, please.

But we need to be ready for the worst.

And it might be weeks, or years... our entire life!

What ever help there is is not on its way... and who knows anything?

Should be all that’s needed?

I’m sorry Bonita it’s just wrong.

I know it ain’t easy.

I wish I could do much more... all of us.

Forgive me you. Oh my Bonita.

The Lord, Francis.

Well he better step on it and make an appearance...

Francis.

Let’s hope it’s his allmighty self...

The Miracle Worker.

Francis.

Francis.

No, it’s not...

Dancing, singing and drinking while they’re at it.

They’re partying. What monsters.

Yes, but... there’s kids around, Francisco.

Scream softer.

The last thing we lose, Francis.

If there’s anything else we can actually lose...

...anything more to lose...

Francis.

Francis.

Francis.

Francis.

If it’s about all that’s necessary.

Fine by me.

That’s the path and all the hope of all these folks right here.

We’re gonna need all of us.

OK.

For now we do all that’s necessary.

Fine by me.

OK, OK sorry.

Try ‘n get some rest, Bonita.

Francis.

OK OK sorry.

Now get over here, Francis more jr. 

Don’t.

Damn! She’s so strong. She’s going to make the starting line...

Francis.

OK OK sorry.

Sweet dreams, my dear Carmen.
TWO YEARS LATER

CARMEŅ QUERIDO TIERRA DE AMORES

HAY LUZ EN ENSUEÑOS BAJO TU CIELO...

SO THE OLD MAN'S ONE TOUGH NUT TO CRACK AM I RIGHT?

FRANKS! THAT'S NO WAY TO SAY HELLO.

OUCH!

DON'T SANDVIK, PLEASE EXCUSE HIM. YOU KNOW HOW RECKLESS HE CAN BE.

OHH OUR LITTLE TOWN... LOOKS LIKE THE LOST CITY.
UNFORGETTABLE, MY CHILD...
BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?

TWO YEARS GIVE OR TAKE.
I'VE BEEN COUNTING THE DAYS AS IF EACH ONE WAS THE LAST.

WELL, STAY HERE IN LA TRAMA* AND THE REST OF YOU CAN GO TO EL PINAR.*

*THE FIRST WATER HOLES IN THE TOWN.

AND SPEAKING OF THE LORD...
WHAT'S THIS LITTLE GIFT OF GOD CALLED?

THIS GIFT OF GOD, IS CALLED...
CARMEN.

YO! MY LOVE... SAY HI!... HHHH...

THE WATER DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO SEND US STRAIGHT TO THE FLUSHED.

SO THE ONLY THING SHE GOT FROM MMM'S HEAD WAS THE HARE.

DON ELMUNO!
HOME IS HOW YOU LEFT IT.

TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

MA, I'M... SLEEPY!

SIGH...

HUSH, LITTLE BABY, DON'T SAY A WORD.

MOMMIE'S GONNA BUY YOU A HERSHEY...

FRAY...
...CIS!!!

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE HOUSE!

WHAT THE...

...ANYONE THERE?

HEY!

OK OK, WELL, SINCE THERE AIN'T ANY MORE OPTIONS...

OK OK, HERE AND ONE FOR THE ROAD... MMM...

OH YEAH, BONITA, I DIDN'T FIND A THING...

NOTHING, BONITA, I DIDN'T FIND A THING...

BUT WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

WELL AT LEAST A LITTLE SMOOCH SO I CAN GET SOME SLEEP-EYE...

BUT IN SOME LOVE

BONITA, YOU'RE UNBELIEVABLE...

BUT NOTHING, THIS IS SERIOUS...

BUT I'M STAYING WITH THE OLD MAN BONITA...

...I'M STAYING WITH THE OLD MAN BONITA...

WHAAAAT?!

OK, OK, HERE AND ONE FOR THE ROAD... MMM...

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NOTHING, BONITA, I DIDN'T FIND A THING...

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BONITA, YOU'RE UNBELIEVABLE...

BUT NOTHING, THIS IS SERIOUS...

BUT I'M STAYING WITH THE OLD MAN BONITA...

WHAAAAT?!
Meanwhile in El Salado:

No way old man. Age before beauty. The years don't come cheap you know.

¡HAI! Bet this old man shakes the hips like you never could.

But of course and battle like a bag of bones.

Kid, that's what the pussy think. That the skinny don't eat.

Look at you. You can barely get off the hammock. Gotta lay off the arequipeño. A pair of horns and you'll look just like an ox.

That's it. I'd rather be strong like an ox then slow like a fox.

Late for your own birth. Huh? It's swift like a fox, blockhead.

You said it yourself, Francis. The years don't come cheap.

Listen to the old man. Get some rest because tomorrow's work is not easy.

I'll do this shift. Truth be told, since that moment I'm barely sleeping.

Is this about what Matilda thinks she saw?

No, Francis. After everything that happened nothing in this world can scare me.

But I'm afraid of my dreams. To let my guard down, close my eyes and have my mind take me back to that moment.

Old man?
TIME WENT BY AMIDST THE ADVERSITY UNTIL...

ALRIGHT, FOLKS, EVEN THOUGH THIS GIVES ME THE SHIVERS THERE'S SOMETHING WE AIN'T DONE YET... AND IT'S A MUST...
THE NEXT DAY BUT AT NIGHTTIME.

AND SO THAT'S WHEN YOU LOOK ONE WAY.

BUT TWIST THE HIP THE OTHER WAY...

...AND THEN YOU LEAVE EVERYONE LOOKING FOR THEIR OWN SHADOW.

THAT'S WHAT I CALL DANCING YOUR WAY OUT OF A FACE-OFF.

FRANK, CAN I PLAY?

PLEASE?

WHAT DO WE SAY?

YAY!

THANKS.

DAMN, REALLY?

THE TANK?

EASY NOW, FRANCIS. THIS IS A TALL TALE FOR THE BOOKS.

ALRIGHT, FOLKS...

GATHER UP!

INTER: WAS ALIVE AND KICKIN' AND WE WERE ROUNDOING UP THE HORSES TO GO LOOK FOR THE CATTLE. LADY CARPENZA HAD LOST UPON WAKING UP AND SINCE FRANCIS HAD ALREADY STARTED TO FLIRT WITH HER DAUGHTER, AND COULDN'T MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY AND IMPRESS HER. WELL, "THE TANK" JOINED THE SEARCH PARTY BUT BEWARE... HAH! THE KID DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT HORSEBACK RIDING, BUT HE DIDN'T LET HIS SECRET SLIP. I SUSPECTED BY THE WAY HE TRIED TO MOUNT BABECA AND DECIDED TO STEP IN TO AVOID A CATASTROPHE! SO INSTEAD I TOOK HIM TO GET ON TOP OF RXCO, THE MULE, AND THANK GOD, IN SPITE OF HIS STUBBORNNESS, HE TOOK MY ADVICE.

AND SO WE LEFT LADY CARPENZA ON PALOMO, MATILDA ON BABECA, FRANCIS ON RXCO, AND MYSELF ON ROKINANTE AND WE WENT LOOKING FOR THE CATTLE. I TURNED BACK EVERY NOW AND THEN TO CHECK ON FRANCIS AND COULD SENSE THE POOR BOY'S WORRIES. BOY WAS HE SHOOK UP. HE PATTED AND PATTED HIS CHEST, PRESSING HIS HANDS AGAINST HIS SHIRT'S LEFT POCKET. I SAW IT WAS THE NERVES, BUT IT ONLY I HAD KNOWN. TURNS OUT FRANCIS HAD IT ALL FIGURED OUT. HE WENT TO TARDYS AND ORDERED A CUSTOM-MADE CIGAR. THE SIZE OF A PRETTY GIRL'S RING FINGER, AND PUT ON IT A BEAUTIFUL RING HE HAD Brought ALL THE WAY FROM CARAGENA. NOW THE REST OF HIS PLAN AT LEAST IN THEORY, MADE PERFECT SENSE. SINCE MATILDA DESPERED WHEN FRANCIS SMOKED ALMOST AS MUCH AS THE THICK AND HEAVY BEARD HE USED TO SPORT IN THE DAY, AND WAS USED TO PULLING THE TOBACCO STRAIGHT OUT OF HIS MOUTH. FRANCIS WAS GOING TO WAIT UNTIL SUNSET TO PULL OUT THE CIGAR, AND LIGHT IT UP AND AS SOON AS MATILDA GRABBED IT, SHE WOULD NOTICE IT WAS... HMM... LET'S SEE... ENGAGED! BUT OH, FOLKS, IF ONLY YOU KNEW...
AND SO?


I TOOK ONE OF THE BOYS AND WENT FOR RUCIO. WHEN I CAME BACK, BOTH MATILDA AND LADY CARMENZA WHERE AWAY. I(SSAID THAT NO ONE EVER HAD SEEN HIM LIKE THIS. NO KNEES DRIVEN INTO THE MUD, WAVING HIS HANDS INSIDE THE MUCK. DESPERATE AND WORRIED... WITH EYES LIKE AN OVERFLOWING DAM, BUT WITHOUT SPOOLING A TEAR, THE SUN Began TO SET AND MATILDA WAS NOW GETTING WORRIED, SQUEEZED IN A FOUNTAIN. HE WAS STILL FOR A FEW SECONDS PETRIFIED, AND THEN STARTED TO LAUGH LIKE A LOON, I SAID TO MYSELF, THAT’S IT, HE’S LOST IT. KIDS GONE CLEVER, THE PROMISE OF LOVE HAD DEFEATED HIM, MATILDA CLOSED IN ON HER HORSE, ASKED HIM IF HE WAS ALRIGHT, AND THIS IS YOUR PART, MY GIRL.

WELL, THE BEST PART OF THE STORY, FRANCISCO SEES A WORM IN THE MUD, COVERED IN MUSH FROM HEAD TO TOE...

WITH HIS FACE LIKE A PINEAPPLE FROM ALL THE STINGS, AND TELS ME, CONFIDENT LIKE NO ONE ELSE...

WHAT THE HELL! THE ONLY THING THAT AIN’T A PAIN IN THE ASS IS THAT I’M ALREADY ON MY KNEES!

THEN HE PULLED HIS HANDS OUT OF THE MUD AND SHOWED THEM OFF. BUT ALL WE COULD SEE WAS A BIG BALL OF MUD. POOR KID!

IF MATILDA COULDN’T MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF IT, MISS CARMENZA, WHO WANTED TO BEAT HIM SILLY, HAD NO CHANCE. BUT RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT, HE TURNED HIS HANDS, JUST A TINY LITTLE BIT, AND WITH THE LAST HOPE OF LIGHT, A SPARKLING GLOW LEFT US BLIND. ALL OF US, IT WAS THEN WHEN WE HEARD HIM SAY...
WHAT YOU JEALOUS BUNCH.

HA! ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. NOW TRUTH IS HATS OFF TO YOU SIR FRANCISCO NÚÑEZ JR., THE MOCKERY IS INDEED CAUSED BY JEALOUSY, BUT OF THE GOOD KIND, 'CAUSE...

"SOME HAVE A CRYSTAL CROWN AND THEY ALL HAVE PEARLS, BUT IN MY HEART YOU'LL SEE, YOU ARE THE QUEEN."*

*TU ERES LA REINA. DIOSMÉS DÍAS.

NO, PLEASE STOP IT, I'M BLUSHING.

HEY, WAIT... AND THE CATTLE?

TRUE WE ASKED HERE AND THERE, BUT ALL WE WERE TOLD WAS TO STOP LOOKING FOR THEM AT ALL.

LET'S SAY THEY GOT LOST.
BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE WE FOUND THAT DAY.

WHAT?

WELL, A WAY TO STAY TOGETHER WHEN THE TIMES ARE TOUGH.

'CAUSE IN THIS WORLD, YOU CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH JUST BY YOURSELF, RIGHT?

RIGHT

YEARS AFTER TIRELESS WORK SHIFTS.

OLD MAN?

OLD MAN!

OLD MAN!

HERE

LIKE IT'S FALLEN FROM HEAVEN

ALMOST, OLD MAN. ALMOST.

BUT DON'T YOU GO AND SPILL IT.

SO... HOW IS IT?
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
AND IF THE POWER RUNS OUT...
HUSH!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO BACK IT UP WITH SOME SOLAR ENERGY PANELS.

BUT YOU HAVE TO PREPARE AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTALLATION, THE OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE.

TODAY, THIS IS YOURS. BUT FROM TOMORROW ONWARDS IT WILL BE FOR YOUR CHILDREN, AND AFTER THAT, THE CHILDREN OF YOUR CHILDREN.

IT'S A SUSTAINABLE METHOD OF POWERING THE NEW PIPE SYSTEM.

FROM THIS DAY FORTH.

SO?

WE HAVE TO BREAK THE PIGGY BANK.

HOW COME?

BECAUSE WE HAVE TO!

NO 'CAUSE ONLY LIKE THIS CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

BE A TOWN WITH AS MUCH HISTORY AS MEMORIES.

WHAT A SIGHT

A PIECE OF HEAVEN, AM I RIGHT?

YUP, IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

CAN SOMEONE TELL US WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT?

HA! FRANCIS, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT?

DO YOU HAVE THE PANTS?

YEAH AND THE CAMERA TOO. THE TIME'S PERFECT.

IT'S A BIT HIGH, DON'T YOU THINK?

LET'S SEE.
FINALLY THE MOMENT ARRIVES.

DO YOU THINK...?

QUIET.

YES GOD... DAMN!!!

@#$%!

WHAT WAS THAT?

COULD IT BE?

NOT AGAIN.
THAT IS THAT! WINTER IS HERE, FOLKS.

WHAT A FEELING!

IS THAT...?

NEVER IN MY LIFE HAVE I SEEN IT RAIN LIKE THIS.

HOW DO YOU FEEL, KID?

HMM... LET'S SEE... I'M FEELING SATISFYING.

FRANK!
GETS PRETTIER BY THE DAY, RIGHT?

WHO? ME?

WHY NOT?

HA!

YOU STILL NEED TO HEAR IT FROM TIME TO TIME, RIGHT, MY GIRL?

AND THE TOBACCO ROLLING AND KNOTTING?

ME TOO.

DON EMLIANDO.

ALL OF US.

DON EMLIANDO.

WOULD YOU TELL CARMEN A STORY WHILE I HIT THE DANCE FLOOR WITH OL’ FRANKIE?

YOU GIVE ME THE NEXT DANCE.

GOSH, SONGS ALMOST OVER! DAMN, MATILDA.

OK, OK. SORRY AFTER ALL.

DON’T FORGET ME, MILLIE OL’ MAN.

THERE’S A FEAST TO CELEBRATE.

TODA LA FIERA DE TUS MONTAÑAS...

...LAS LLUVIA ELLAS SENTENPE LOS OÍOS.

...TIERRA DE PLACERES, DE LUZ, DE ALGÚN...

...TÍENEN TUS RUBIAS LOS LABIOS ROJOS.

COME LAS MEÑEZ QUE DAN SUS CARRAS.

HOW I MISS HER.

EVERYTHING.

IN DEED.

THE TRADITIONAL COASTAL HAT.

LOOK AT HER. I THINK SHE GOT THE BEST OF THEM BOTH.
AND ONCE LIFE SETTLED IN THE LAND OF THE FIRST MEN, THE
OBSCURITIES DIVIDED THE WORLD INTO THESE: A CELESTIAL WORLD
OF THUNDER, LIGHTNING, RAIN AND HURRICANES WHERE THE CHAMPS
WOULD ROAM; AN EARTHLY WORLD SCATTERED WITH THE MEN AND WOMEN OF EACH
AND EVERY COLOR; THE GOLDEN ANIMALS AND THE SPIKEY PLANTS; AND
THE UNDERWORLD OF ENDLESS HOLLOW TUNNELS THAT CONNECTED
EVERYTHING WITH THE EVERFLOWING LIVING WATER WHERE EVERYTHING
WAS BORN AND NEEDED TO FEED OF IT TO LIVE. AND WHEN THE MEN
AND WOMEN OF EACH AND EVERY COLOR, THE GOLDEN ANIMALS AND THE SPIKEY
PLANTS FELT THAT WATER WAS WHAT THAT SURROUNDED THEM...

WELL... THEY FELL
UNDER THE ENCHANTMENT
OF THE CHARMS AND JUST
LIKE OUR GRANDMOTHERS SAID:

"THEY WERE FUL-
FILLED TO THE POINT
OF FULFILLMENT"*

Ah, my girl, if you only
knew.

WHAT?

damn!

CARMEN!

CARMEN TEX/MÁ **

YEE-HAW!

NOW.

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with in our encounter with the real story of this tale: the region of Los Montes de María, Zenú culture,
coast folklore and the Caribbean mythology of Colombia.

¡Enhorabuena!
GLOSSARY*

Atravesado  Reckless, daring, bold.
Avispado    Smart, shrewd, cunning.
Bulla        Noise, hullabaloo.
Camello      Work.
Cañaña       Courage, desire.
Carreta      Lie, unlikely story.
Cipote       Reaffirm the size of something.
Cotudo con paperas Expression of redundancy.
Cule         Reaffirms the action.
Chicharrón  Problem, mess.
Enguarpados Tearful, weeping.
En pila       Attentive.
Erda         Expression of dislike.
Fogueo       Ability to face adversity.
Huesera      Something boring, bad or uninteresting.
Jodido       Difficult, complicated to solve.
Levantante   Couple. Hook-up.
Macancán     Person of great stature and strength.
Nojada       Expression of disbelief/admiration.
Parale bolas Pay attention.
Parranda     Party, celebration.
Pegote        Upstart, impertinent, burden.
Perrenque    Courage, desire.
Salar        Spoil.
Turrulete    Stunned. Like crazy.
Viendo un polvo Unfit. Left cold.
Yoyo         Temporary discomfort, fainting.
Zaperoco     Problem, mess, fuss.

*complement for the Spanish version

Ferrovial

Ferrovial is a global operator of transport infrastructure and services for cities, focused on operational excellence and innovation within its projects. Through its Social Programs, the company sees investment in the Community as a strategic instrument for the development of society. Their projects seek to train and promote the mobilization of the community in favor of care and access to water.

In its project to improve the availability and access to quality drinking water in the town of El Salado (Colombia), Ferrovial participates with the NGO Ayuda en Acción and its partner Fundación Semana. The objective is to help the inhabitants of this population enjoy a continuous supply of quality water.

SHARPBALL

SHARPBALL is a company created by The Brothers Jiménez with the aim of conceptualizing, developing and producing original content for different transmedia entertainment outlets that’s inspired by Colombian cultural customs.

Their catalog ranges from illustrations of fictional circulation to celebrated graphic novels, passing through unforgettable animated short films, risky music videos and, most recently, daring film productions.

Currently their work is recognized for a healthy and genuine balance between conceptual identity, narrative challenges, artistic ambition and notorious messages of social awareness.

They’re known under the alias of the creative pit.

Turnja, Boyacá, Colombian natives José Luis and Miguel began their career in the arts from an early age. Attracted by an innocent luring towards action figures, comic strips and animated films, they went astray in the multidisciplinary tasks of the creation of universes; drawing of characters, writing of scripts and performing the soundtracks for the tricks of their minds.

Over the years and marked by the daily lives of living in Colombia, their style begins to brood a fatal but hopeful tone, characteristic of the duality of the country’s news. They exhibit it in their first book “The Eleven”, an undertaking celebrated by critics, which is followed by the theatrical release of the animated short film “The Nabbing”, the publication of the successful graphic novel adaptation of “The Vortex” by José Eustasio Rivera and, currently, the live-action short film “One Of These Nights”.

When they are not attending the customs of everyday life, they deal with the creative pit’s alter ego, the extreme metal band A.C.P.

They are known under the alias of the cultural dealers.
The people of El Salado lived in an earthly paradise, between the blessings of nature and the care of The Charms, until the day they were displaced by the arrival of a violent and fearsome invader, the horrifying Zaperoco. Years later, in the middle of an aggressive drought, Francis and Matilda return with their family and the rest of the town to face their biggest fears and, with unexpected help, bring harmony back to their land.