




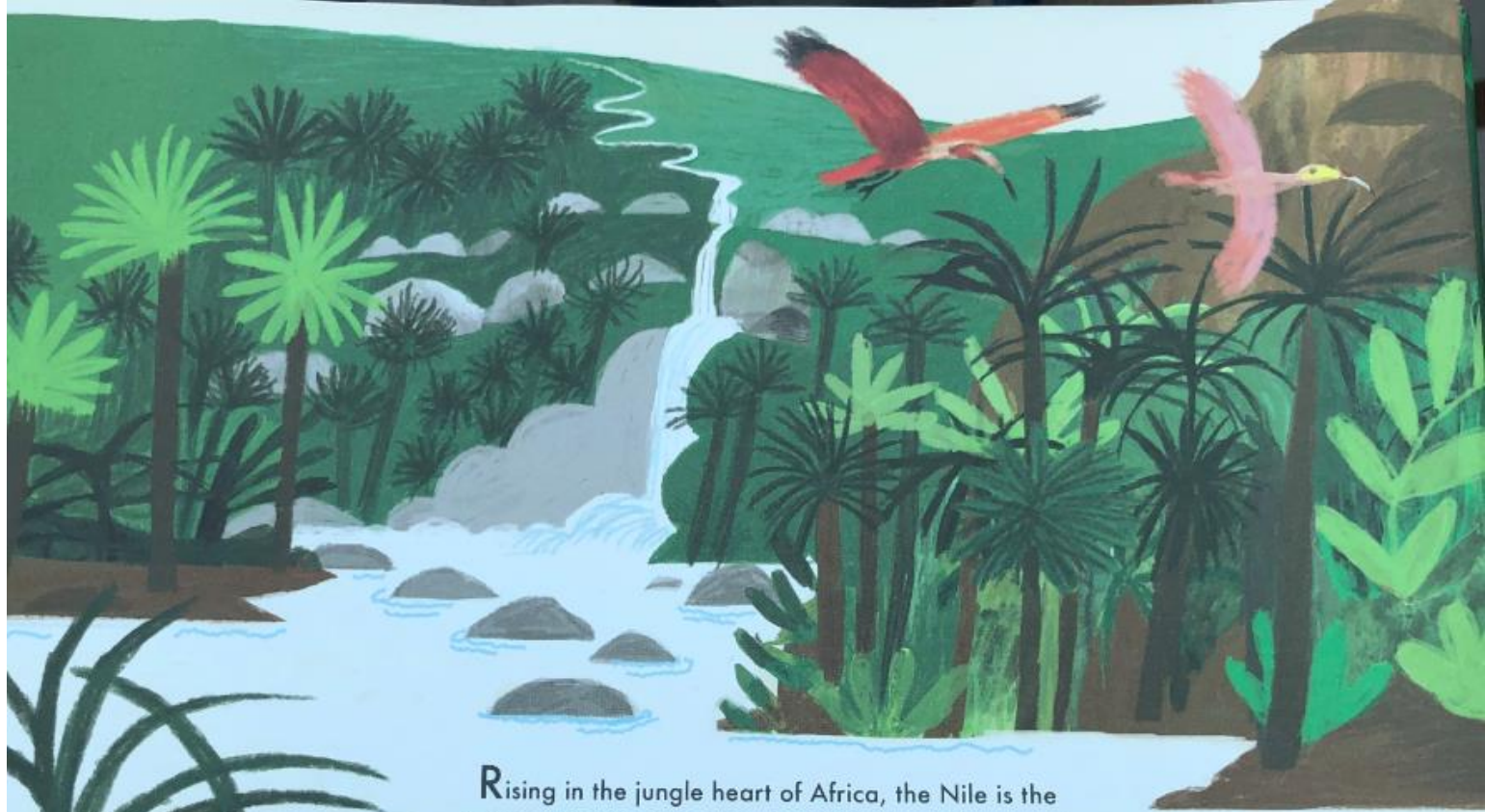
TIMOTHY KNAPMAN

RIVER STORIES

ASHLING LINDSAY
& IRENE MONTANO



The Nile



Rising in the jungle heart of Africa, the Nile is the longest river in the world. For 6,695km, it flows past mysterious forests and towering mountains, sparkling lakes and dusty deserts, as scarlet ibises wheel and soar overhead. The river tumbles down waterfalls and races along rapids until, at last, it empties into the Mediterranean Sea.

Let's journey along this mighty river and learn the legends that were spoken here and the stories that were spun. These are tales of life and death, of people and their gods, of mystery and adventure . . .

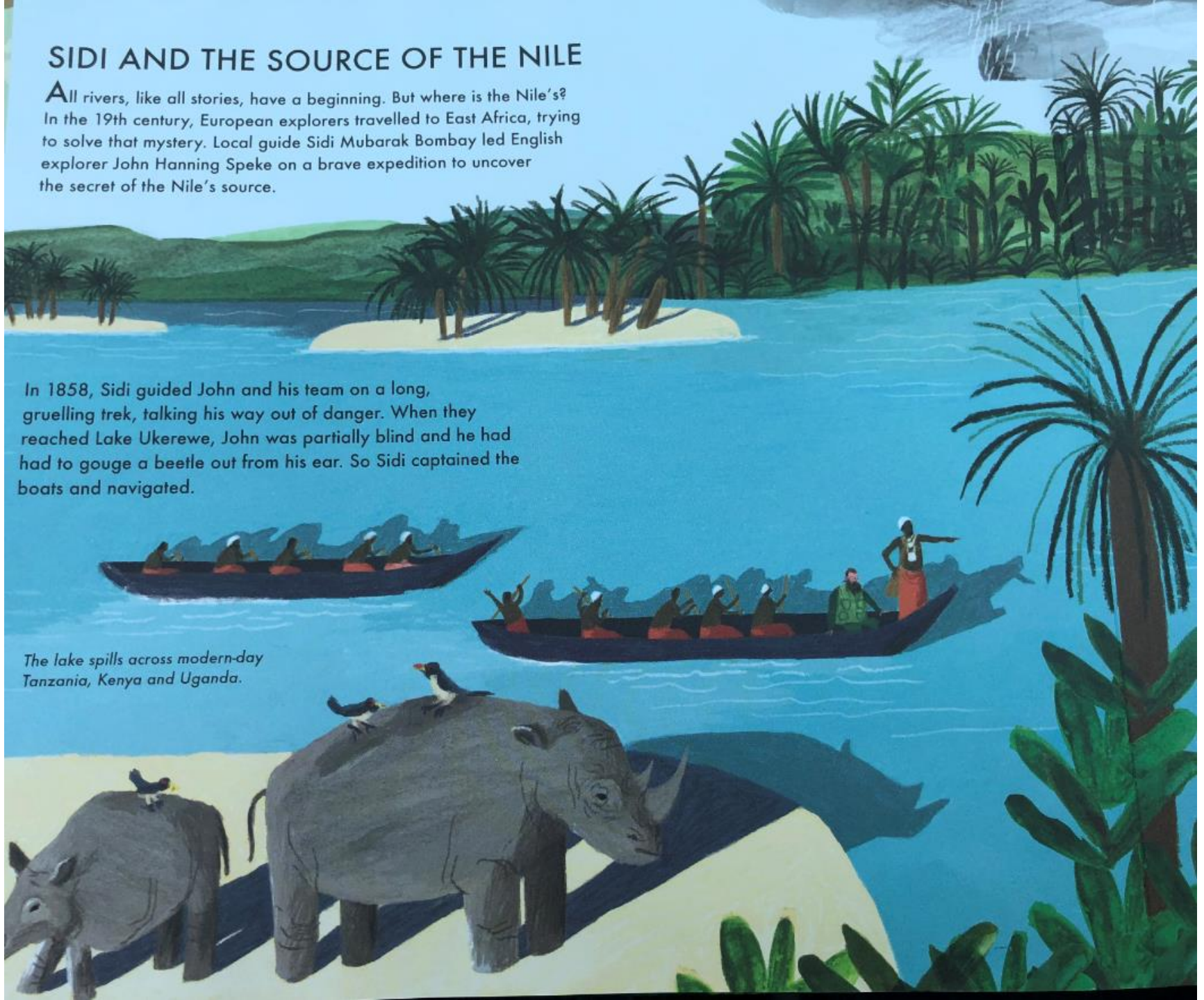



SIDI AND THE SOURCE OF THE NILE

All rivers, like all stories, have a beginning. But where is the Nile's? In the 19th century, European explorers travelled to East Africa, trying to solve that mystery. Local guide Sidi Mubarak Bombay led English explorer John Hanning Speke on a brave expedition to uncover the secret of the Nile's source.

In 1858, Sidi guided John and his team on a long, gruelling trek, talking his way out of danger. When they reached Lake Ukerewe, John was partially blind and he had had to gouge a beetle out from his ear. So Sidi captained the boats and navigated.

The lake spills across modern-day Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.





John declared the lake to be the source of the Nile. He was nearly right: the true source is one of the tributaries of the Kagera river, which flows into the lake from the west.

Lake Ukerewe was renamed Lake Victoria in honour of the queen of England.

Now we know where to begin, let's sail down the river in search of more stories of courage, endurance and friendship . . .



DOUBLE DISASTER

Adventure-loving writer Ernest Hemingway and his wife Mary were flying over Murchison Falls in 1954 when their plane crashed. They survived and boarded a rescue plane - but, on take-off, that crashed, too! They continued their journey by car.

About 85 per cent of the Nile's water comes from the Ethiopian Highlands.



Kagera River

RWANDA

BURUNDI

UGANDA

TANZANIA

Lake Victoria

KENYA

KISUMU

Murchison Falls

White Nile

ETHIOPIA

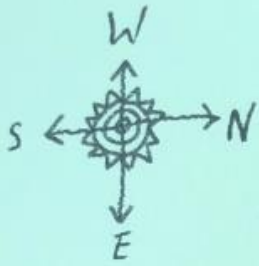
Blue Nile

FESTIVAL TIME

Music, dance and art events at Kisumu on the shores of Lake Victoria celebrate the river's many cultures. The festivals also warn of the flooding and drought that climate change brings.

THE SPIRIT OF THE BLUE NILE

On the first day of the year, Ethiopian farmers throw milk and bread into the river as offerings for its spirits. They believe the river has healing powers and connects all who live by it into one family.



MASTERS OF THE FISHING SPEAR

Long ago, according to legend, a woman wept at the river's edge because she wanted a son. The river gave her a fishing spear and a baby. The boy, Aiwel, grew up to be the leader of their people, the Dinka of South Sudan. Ever since, the Dinka have been ruled by priest-kings called the 'Masters of the Fishing Spear'.

THE TEMPLES THAT MOVED

When the Egyptians built the Aswan High Dam, Lake Nasser was created. This would have flooded the ancient temples at Abu Simbel, so they were cut into more than 1,000 blocks, moved to higher ground and put back together on the shores of the new lake.



MONSTER FISH
The largest Nile perch ever caught weighed 104.32kg. In 2000, American William Tath and his local guides landed the monster.

THE TEARS OF ISIS

The god Set was jealous of his brother Osiris, ruler of Egypt, so he killed him and threw his coffin into the Nile. But Osiris's wife Isis found it. Osiris was reborn and became ruler of the underworld. In ancient times, the Nile floodwaters were said to be caused by the tears Isis wept for Osiris.

Osiris is often shown with green skin, the colour of rebirth.



SUDAN

SOULS SAILING

The mighty pyramids were built by the ancient Egyptians as tombs for their royalty. Often, boats were buried in pits next to the pyramids so that the vessels could be used by the pharaohs (kings and queens) in the afterlife. One tomb carving depicts a dead king, in mummy wrappings, sitting on a funerary boat on his last journey down the Nile into the underworld.

KING TUT'S CURSE

The tomb of boy pharaoh Tutankhamun was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922. Several people connected to the tomb died mysteriously, but Carter didn't believe in the curse - he lived for another 17 years.



The Aswan High Dam helps control the flooding of the Nile. It took 25,000 people ten years to build.

The stone used to build the pyramids was transported on barges from quarries further down the Nile.



An artistic illustration of the Cairo Tower in Egypt, designed to look like a pineapple. The tower is a tall, white lattice structure with a red light on top, situated on a small island with palm trees. A large, ancient stone statue of the river god Hapi is being raised from the Mediterranean Sea by yellow slings. The scene is set against a dark blue night sky with a full moon and stars. The water is dark blue, and the land is a mix of green and yellow. The overall style is painterly and whimsical.

THE TOWERING PINEAPPLE

Completed in 1961, the 187m Cairo Tower is Egypt's tallest building. Its lattice-work design represents the lotus flower, which symbolized creation and rebirth in ancient Egypt. That hasn't stopped some people saying it looks like a big pineapple!

RAISING A RIVER GOD

A huge statue of Hapi, the god of the Nile, once stood guard at the river's mouth. An earthquake sent it crashing into the sea, where it lay forgotten for more than 2,000 years. Archaeologists raised it from the depths in 2001. Now the god stands upright once more.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA