Meet the Author

Jane Weber



Jane Weber was born and raised in Wisconsin. Being a native of Wisconsin, a mostly agricultral state, has given Jane a fondness for the land and has inspired her to become a farmer herself. Life in a rural community holds many charms for Jane. She enjoys the four seasons and finds fascination in each one. They also serve as inspiration and backdrop when she's writing.

Jane Weber studied children's literature at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. During this time, she was inspired to explore the world of children's fairy tales. As she grew to love the genre, an idea for a fairy tale-ish story began to grow in her imagination. Jane gave the manuscript much attention and she started to add what she knew about the Renaissance era into the story. The flavor, tone, word choices, and setting are all from Jane's imagination, yet they remain true to the time period too.

Much of the Renaissance knowledge comes from first-hand experience and research since Jane is a re-enactor (C.E.L.T.S.) at the Bristol Renaissance Faire. She demonstrates many of the typical skills that might have been seen during that era such as the stitching and filling of herbal dream pillows.

Not only a farmer, but an organic farmer, Jane belongs to the Wisconsin Women's Sustainable Farming Network. She is passionate about the environment and strives to nurture all of Mother Nature's flora and fauna. Jane's other worthwhile endeavors include membership in The Midwest Renewable Energy Association and The Celtic Education Living Theatre Society.

Good old-fashioned values is one of the themes Jane wanted to share with readers of her children's book *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra*. Jane continues to spread the good word at bookstore readings, elementary schools, and other various events, such as a quilting fair she attended with books in hand.

Contact Jane Weber through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.



The Riches of Rangoberra written by Jane Weber / illustrated by Rialynne Saari
Las riquezas de Rangoberra escrito por Jane Weber / ilustrado por Rialynne Saari
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2002, ISBN 0-9720192-1-9
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

Questions for the Author

Jane Weber



1. Who or what inspires you to write?
A promise Jane made to herself, to keep sharing the magic of an inspiring story, prompts her to write. That promise, her children, and all children move her to keep going.

2. What is your favorite writing environment? Describe your workspace.
Jane is truly at home on her 1848 farm. She is surrounded by 75 acres of fields, woods, ponds and streams, and finds this a warm, cozy place to work.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for writing?
Jane's supplies include a computer, yellow legal pads, gel pens and a dictionary.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
Like many writers, Jane would like to have unlimited, unhurried time in which to write. On the other hand, she finds that a deadline is also necessary for the writing to get done.

5. Who are your favorite authors? What influence have they had on your work?
Jane's favorite authors include Maeve Binchy, Charles Dickens, and Mother Therese. She says they have taught her to keep things simple, short and sweet. She has learned to paint a picture with her words, not a mural.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
We all have the power to make choices, good and bad, and making a good one brings its own reward. Jane has bumped into grade school classmates that reminded her about the kindness they were shown during those early school days. Jane knows that, even as a kid, kindness matters.



Questions for the Author (continued)

Jane Weber



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Adults and kids enjoy making dream pillows in the workshops Jane gives. Jane includes the Renaissance connections of the pillows to that time period and the connections today.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you write it? Where did your ideas come from?
Jane started *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra* in 1995 and completed it for her daughter's graduation gift. The idea was based on historical fact of royal succession. Jane made up the 'what if' scenerio of kings and queens being placed on the throne based on the merit of their heart, not on their birth status.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Drawing upon her own historical re-enactment background, Jane was able to base *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra* on things she had already researched. It was fun for her to be able to use this knowledge as a backdrop for her story.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Jane loves to attend her readings in a full Renaissance servant's costume. It's even better when the children come dressed as Kings, Queens, knights, Princes and Princesses. Jane bows in admiration to these children and they all feel so royal. And they are!



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Meet the Illustrator

Rialynne Saari



Rialynne (rhymes with violin) Saari graduated from MIAD (Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design) with a major in illustration and a minor in drawing. She says she has been drawing 'since always' and was hand-picked by the author, Jane Weber, to do the illustrations in *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra*. She has also illustrated a Llewellyn's Astrological Calendar and *Celtic Cookbook* by Joanne Asala. Rialynne lives and works in a rambling farmhouse just outside Milwaukee, WI with a large, energetic cat named Phoebe as a roommate.

Rialynne Saari's illustrations are painted in oil with skillfully rendered detail on a'scratch board' textured surface, which is her signature style. In *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra* she envisioned the castle Ball Room scenes and outdoor vistas as being brilliant and glowing. Her vision was accomplished with the color choices in the realm of gem stone colors in brilliant sapphire blues, ruby reds, and emerald greens. Much gold coloration is used to give an aged feeling and sense of time and place. Parchment-like page treatments amplify the feeling of going back in time when storytelling was the custom. These 'curling parchment' pages and Saari's artful use of oils add to the Old World charm and match the tone of this fairytale-like story perfectly. Rialynne says she has been influenced by the art of Alphonse Mucha, an illustrator from the Art Nouveau period.

As a fulltime freelance illustrator and muralist, Rialynne relishes living in the art world and is happy to be able to make her living doing something she loves so much. In her spare time, she likes to dabble in jewelry and interior design.

Contact Rialynne Saari through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.



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Questions for the Illustrator

Rijalynne Saari



1. Who or what inspires you to illustrate?
Her rural Wisconsin environment and the ever-changing colors of the four seasons inspire Rialynne. She is also influenced by the work of her peers and is always playing around with new art techniques.

2. What is your favorite illustrating environment? Describe your workspace.
Rialynne works in her home which is a rambling farmhouse. Her workspace is filled with many objects d'art and a curious cat that has free roaming privileges.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for illustrating?
Rialynne's signature style employs the use of scratch board so there is always plenty of that on hand. She also has a wide variety of scratching implements, some of her own invention, with which she creates the various textures in her work.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
It could be the latest hip-hop or a classical quartet playing in the background. Rialynne's preference changes depending on the piece she is currently working on. Snacking on sponge cake and taking coffee breaks is not necessary, but it sometimes helps.

5. Who are your favorite illustrators? What influence have they had on your work?
Alphonse Mucha, an illustrator from the Art Nouveau period, captured Rialynne's imagination years ago and hasn't let go yet. As a student at MIAD (Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design), she also encountered various student illustrators and instructors that helped refine and define her own work.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
Rialynne used her parents as models for the King and Queen in *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra*. The influence of kindness within one's own family (the King and Queen regard the serving girl in the story as they would a daughter) is a message that can be taken from this book. Rialynne sees this type of kindness in the day-to-day support she gets from her parents.



Questions for the Illustrator (continued)

Rijalynne
Saari



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Whether a home interior, jewelry, a children's book, or a mural, Rialynne is always designing something.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you illustrate it? Where did your ideas come from?
It took approximately one year to complete all of the illustrations for *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra*. After it was accepted for publication, it took several months to design the cover, borders, and iconic art that was used to separate the English text from the Spanish.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Author Jane Weber provided details of the costuming and settings that would coordinate with the time period of the story. Rialynne chose the vivid, jewel-toned colors of royalty that brought the illustrations to life.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Book events that have incorporated the artwork from this book are always exciting for Rialynne. She especially enjoyed seeing her parents' enthusiasm and pride when the book was released.



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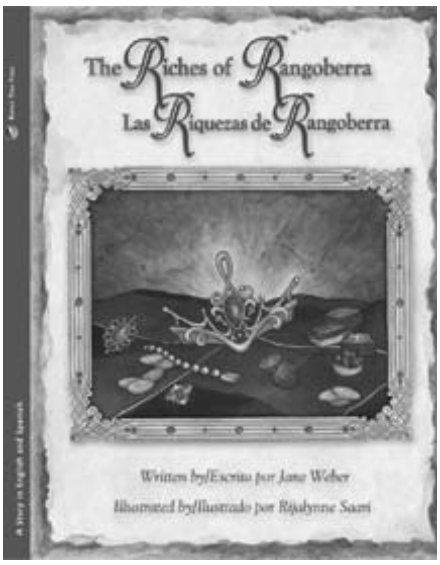
About the Book

The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra



The kingdom of Rangoberra, complete with a kindly King and beautiful Queen, is offering up the throne to whoever can present the true treasure of Rangoberra to the current royal couple. Many versions of treasure, such as jewels and pearls, a chest of coins, and other worldly treasures are presented at the Royal Ball. However, it is not until a lowly serving girl presents a quilt made from royal clothing remnants (which have been used in the past to clothe the peasants and their children) do the King and Queen realize that true treasure comes in the form of goodness and kindness of heart. Jane Weber tells the tale in classic fairy tale fashion, happy ending and all.

Rialynne Saari's illustrations are painted in oils with skillfully rendered detail on a 'scratch board' textured surface, which is her signature style. In *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra* the joyous festivities and elegant scenes are delightfully depicted by Rialynne's skillful artwork. Brilliant, gem-tone colors and fine textural quality brings immediacy and warmth to the story. The courtly castle and elegant robes have detail and carry the reader back to days of old. You can imagine kings and queens, knights and ladies swirling in fancy ballroom apparel. Old-time activities are shown with attention to Renaissance style and accuracy. Parchment-like pages amplify the feeling of going back in time when storytelling was the custom. These 'curling parchment' pages and Saari's artful use of acrylics add to the Old World charm of this fairytale-like story. Her illustrations also trigger the reader into discussions of this time period in history.

This story is presented as a full text translation. In a full text translation the story text is included fully in both English and in Spanish. In general, both texts are supplied on the page with an icon separating the two. Different ink colors for each text further distinguish the English from the Spanish. The book ends with a keyword vocabulary page for learning both languages.

Pick up your copy of *The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra* today.



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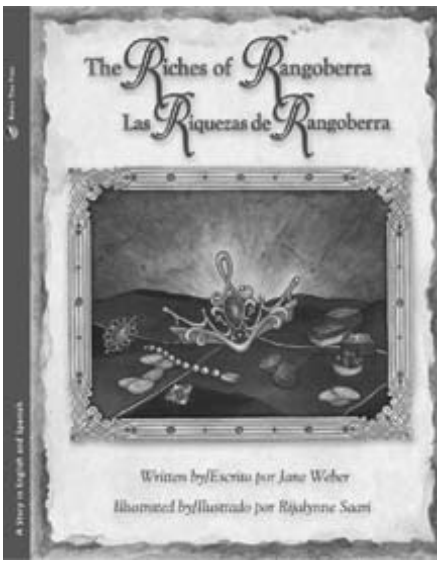
Rave Reviews

The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra



"...The acrylic paintings enhanced with texturing are arresting, and the use of a parchmentlike background and small medallion inserts for separating English and Spanish text makes for an attractive page layout." **—School Library Journal**

"...This book (The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra), written in both Spanish and English, offers children a fantasy tale in which kindness and justice are beautifully illustrated, not only by the words of the tale, but also in the accompanying drawings. This would make a wonderful selection for a classroom or library story time." **—Children's Literature**

"...[Weber] knows the magic and importance of the genre...talent shows in the skillfully painted pictures...Saari captures details in simple but beautiful ways...a simple fairy-tale story that would be a welcome addition in any English or Spanish children's literature collection." **—ForeWord Magazine**

"A magical fairytale in which love and duty from a simple servant overcomes the powerful and evil sea captain to gain the throne. A story of servitude where a handmaiden shares her love for the king and queen in everything she makes from the scrapes of cloth she saves after sewing for the royal family. A story done in English and Spanish that will help the child reading enhance their knowledge of a second language." **—Heartland Review**

"... an imaginative, bilingual fairy tale picture book...with the enduring message that inner goodness is far stronger and more important than worldly riches. Gorgeously illustrated...a delight to read..." **—Midwest Book Review**

"It's always nice when you can choose a book for entertainment purposes and teach about values at the same time. *The Riches of Rangoberra* is that kind of book." **—Joan G. Taylor, Waupaca Learning Center, 3rd grade teacher**



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Tip Sheet for

The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra

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Written by Jane Weber Illustrated by Rialynne Saari
32 pg. / Hardcover / Jacketed / 1st Edition / Trade Cloth
Children's Bilingual (English/Spanish full text translations in both languages)
ISBN 0-9720192-1-9 Reading Level—4.2
Publication Date– 2002 9 x 11
Retail Price $16.95 USD Ages 4-8 Accelerated Reader® Quiz # 68628

Description: A dutiful handmaiden makes a quilt that becomes the treasure of the kingdom. This fairy tale illustrates the power of compassion and celebrates kindness. Enter a regal world where inner goodness outweighs worldly riches.

Selling Points:
- Fairy tale type stories always popular
- Lesson of the story applicable today
- Gorgeous oil paintings bring Renaissance era to life

Selling Sentence: A handmaiden and a quilt become real treasures of the kingdom.

Author Bio: In addition to being a storyteller, Jane Weber is a re-enactor (C.E.L.T.S.) at the Bristol Renaissance Faire and belongs to the Wisconsin Women's Sustainable Farming Network, The Midwest Renewable Energy Association and The Celtic Education Living Theatre Society.

Illustrator Bio: Rijalynne (rhymes with violin) Saari received her degree in illustration and drawing from Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. Her artwork is featured in Llewellyn's 2001 Astrological Calendar and in Celtic Cookbook by Joanne Asala.

Advertising & Promotion Plans:
- Direct marketing to booksellers, schools and libraries
- Electronic advertising to e-lists
- Introduction at local, national and international trade shows including BEA and ALA
- Catalog and galley mailings to all major book reviewers

Pre-Publication Comments and Special Sales:
- Presented at Quilter's conventions and Renaissance Faires



Subrights: All subrights currently available

Market Niche: Quilting shows, conventions and clubs, Renaissance fairs and exhibits

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