

Author Bio - Jennifer Ussi

Jennifer Ussi is a multi-award-winning filmmaker, author, and educator whose career has spanned continents, disciplines, and generations of learners. After graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts and earning a Master's degree in Film from Griffith Film School in Brisbane, she worked internationally across feature films, television, and commercials in Los Angeles, Europe, China, and Australia. Her creative work has been recognized with more than a dozen international awards and screened at over 100 major film festivals worldwide.

Alongside her professional filmmaking career, Jennifer spent many years in higher education, teaching film, storytelling, and visual communication. She has lectured and supervised hundreds of student productions and served in academic leadership roles, including Head of Film and Television, where she guided emerging creatives through both the artistic and practical foundations of storytelling. This extensive teaching experience deeply informs her approach to writing for children—particularly her sensitivity to age-appropriate language, narrative structure, and the ways young readers learn through story.

In recent years, Jennifer turned her creative focus toward children's literature, inspired by extensive travel through Africa in a decades-old campervan with her husband, documenting wildlife and landscapes while gathering stories along the way. That journey became the foundation for *The Incredible Adventures of Casper the Cat Who Got Lost in Africa*, a chapter-book series that blends playful adventure with meaningful themes of courage, empathy, and environmental responsibility.

Each book introduces children to a different African animal—from pangolins and elephants to giraffes, baboons, and lions—while naturally weaving in wildlife facts and gentle conservation messages. Designed for emerging and independent readers, the series balances humor and heart with an educational framework that supports classroom discussion, read-alouds, and curriculum connections.

Through her independent imprint, Little Boola Books, Jennifer continues to create stories that reflect her lifelong passions: storytelling that entertains, educates, and inspires. Her work is grounded in both creative practice and teaching experience, making her books a natural fit for school libraries, classrooms, and young readers eager to explore the wider world with curiosity and care.

