

## Author Susannah Cord Takes Wing

Born in Denmark, raised in Africa. Made in the USA. The same could be said of both author Susannah Cord and her newly published illustrated children's book, *Fenella, A Fable of a Fairy Afraid to Fly*, now available online around the globe.

Susannah was born in a place made famous by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the small town of Elsinore on the northeastern tip of the Danish shoreline. Her earliest memories revolve around the fantasy of the ghosts in the exquisite renaissance castle, Kronborg, and the bedtime readings of Hans Christian Andersen fairytales. Once older, her family moved to Kenya where she attended the American run 'International School of Kenya' – and discovered the enchanting C.S Lewis classics, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. "I must have read and reread those books a dozen times before I was 18." says Susannah with a smile. "I always loved to write, and there is no doubt that I have been heavily influenced through the years by these early childhood favorites."

*Fenella*, with fairies, talking animals and the classic elements of facing and overcoming adversity is clearly a product of such influences. Initially, however, this love of imagining and writing led not to children's books but to a regular column at the online magazine [www.HorsesForLife.com](http://www.HorsesForLife.com). "I have been writing for them since their inception in 2005, and since 2008 I have had my own column, *Riding by Torchlight*, where I get to write about anything and everything that stirs my other great passion – my love of horses."

With *Fenella*, Susannah marks her first foray into books. A fairytale about facing and embracing your worst fears, the book is vividly illustrated and designed to be accessible for children 3 and up and to become a lifelong companion book. With the illustrations as a starting point for exploration and discussion with very young children, the rich text easily transitions to the bedtime reading story with enough material for chapter reading over several nights. As children progress to reading themselves, the illustrations serve as a guide to the well rounded vocabulary and even parents will enjoy

the multiple readings. As one reviewer put it: “I love reading those kinds of books as a parent because the writing is rich with vocabulary and images.”

Fenella did not come about overnight. “I made up the story for my niece Zoë when she was little, and it sat in my drawer for years. I tried a few illustrators, but nothing came of it. Finally, I teamed with Dittie K. Gadz, and I knew I had something worthwhile. But now both the story and the illustrations sat in my drawer!”

Ultimately, it was the sudden and untimely death of Susannah’s mother in 2008 that spurred her to action. “I wrote Fenella for Zoë, but I published her for my mother. My mom always supported my desire to do the two things I love most – to write and to ride.” Her mother financed the illustrations, and in the end, along with Susannah’s husband Alex, the book itself. “I thought long and hard about investing my inheritance, and finally, I decided there was too much uncertainty in the markets. I would invest in something my mom had always believed in, and over which I had some measure of control – me. And win or lose, I knew I would have the chance to work hard at making this investment a success myself – it wouldn’t be up to some suit in an office on Wall Street.”

About the book itself, Susannah has no reservations. “I am over the moon with the way it turned out. Between Dittie’s illustrations, my design details and the skillful hand of the interior book designer, Jessica Kinkel at Brown Books, I couldn’t be happier. I know without a doubt that my mother is thrilled.”

Fittingly, readers of Fenella will find the story book-ended by dedications to the two loved ones who inspired and assisted in Fenella’s creation – Susannah’s niece and Susannah’s mother. And reflecting Susannah’s global upbringing, Fenella is already available online all around the world.

Fenella, a Fable of a Fairy Afraid to Fly, is available online at [www.FenellaTheFairy.com](http://www.FenellaTheFairy.com), and booksellers such as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.borders.com](http://www.borders.com) and [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com).