



For Immediate Release

# Jala and the Wolves

Empowering Young Girls through Fantasy

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**Title:** Jala and the Wolves

**Author:** Marti Dumas

**Genre:** Middle Grade Fantasy (Ages 5-10)



Marti Dumas' debut book, [Jala and the Wolves](#), recently made the top of Amazon.com's bestseller list for children's fantasy, with more than 3,000 readers across digital, audio, and print platforms.

## [About the Story](#)

Jala is a curious girl who spends most of her time learning new facts about animals-especially wolves. One day, she is only a little surprised to find that a mysterious mirror has appeared in her room. Like Alice's looking glass, the mirror is only the beginning. It transports her to a new land where she must use all her knowledge and strength to save an ailing pack of wolves. On the surface,

Jala's lupine adventure is pure fantasy, very Chronicles of Narnia, but there's a deeper meaning. As Jala learns how the wolves function, she learns about her own family, herself, her internal power and how her dreams differed from her life. In the vein of The Wizard of Oz, our prodigal Dorothy returns home from fantasy with a new appreciation for reality as it is. A lovely and whimsical read for young children and adults alike.

[Jala and the Wolves on Amazon.com](#)

[Jala and the Wolves on Audible.com](#)

[Jala and the Wolves on Goodreads](#)

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# About the Author

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## Long Bio

Marti Dumas is a mother, teacher, and children's book author. Although she is southern girl at heart, Marti has spent a good deal of time navigating the hustle and bustle of Manhattan, gazing at winter snowscapes in quiet New England towns, carrying baguettes through the streets of Paris, and trying to spot dolphins off Florida's First Coast. But she always knew that, along with more than 300 years of Louisiana ancestry, the lure of watching ancient oak trees and thunderstorms from the shelter of her front porch would eventually pull her back to New Orleans. It did. She, her husband, and her two children currently call a cozy creole cottage in the Crescent City home.

## Medium Bio

Marti Dumas is a mother, teacher, and author from New Orleans. She is a contributing writer on education and parenting for Think504.com and other publications. An expert in childhood literacy, Marti has worked with children and teachers across the country for the last 15 years to promote an early love of reading both in and out of the classroom. Upcoming titles include [Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest](#) and [Alexander, Called Xan](#).

## Short Bio

Marti Dumas is a native New Orleanian with a passion for storytelling. When she is not teaching or parenting, she is reading or writing. She prefers to do some combination of the above within view of ancient oak trees or the banks of the river. Or both.

## Lilliputian Bio

Marti Dumas (@MartiAndreDumas) is a mother, teacher, writer from New Orleans, and recent Twitter convert. Her book, [Jala and the Wolves](#), is available in stores and online.

# Sample Interview Questions

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## **Is your writing based on someone you know, or events in your own life?**

Everything that I write is based on some experience I've had or person I've known. I wrote *Jala and the Wolves* for my daughter as a Christmas present when she was in first grade. I printed a copy on Blurb so it would be "fancy" and like any of the other chapter books she was reading, just with the added twist of her being the main character. Since this story was for my Jala, I knew right off the bat that there would be wolves involved. And magic. Like her mama, Jala has always been a sucker for fantasy adventures, so my first joy came in writing it and imagining what her response would be to all the tiny magical elements as I composed them. Then, when it finally came in the mail she was delighted. That was joy number two. But nothing compared to snuggling down under a blanket on the sofa and reading it together. That was the best mother-daughter time ever. It made the process totally worth it.

## **What inspired you to write your first book?**

The first book I wrote was inspired by my 2001-2002 fifth grade class. They were an awesome group of kids—really thoughtful and artsy and literary. They gobbled up every good book I put in front of them. Our classroom book clubs took on a life of their own, and many of them even went so far as to begin the process of converting favorite books into movie scripts. Math was their fatal flaw. At least it was until I realized that if I turned the mathematical concepts we were learning into fantasy stories, they remembered them and applied them better. As a teacher, I usually worked really hard to make math \*real\* so that the children would understand it. Making math fantasy was something new. That year I told them oodles of stories that began with a magical river that fed itself in a loop (the number 0), and the lands that stretched out on opposite sides of the river (negative and positive numbers). The ideas stuck with them, and a few years later I wrote a book called [The River Rien](#) that takes place in that land.

## **Is *The River Rien* for sale?**

No. Not yet anyway. It is one of the many stories I have written that still lives on a flash drive in my pocket. When I finished writing it I printed a copy and mailed it to my best friend, but that was about it. I'm toying around with the idea of pulling that one out again, but I haven't quite made up my mind yet.

## **Is there a message in your novel that you want readers to grasp?**

Message #1- Little girls are problem solvers.

Message #2- Knowledge can literally make you powerful.

Message #3- Family—true family—is everything.

## **What books have most influenced your life most and which writer would you consider a mentor?**

This question is almost cruel. I spent most of my childhood tucked in a corner or monopolizing our single bathroom reading a book. Then as a classroom teacher I read aloud hundreds of books to children, not to mention reading every book before it could be a part of our classroom library. That's a lot of amazing writers, and it doesn't even include books for adults!

My top five (in no particular order) would be: C.S. Lewis, Madeleine L'Engle, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Katherine Paterson, and Mildred Taylor.

### **What are your current projects?**

I'm working on two things. One is a series for young readers called Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest. It's about a little boy with a giant afro and an even bigger brain. Grown-ups keep trying to convince him that, even though he's really smart, he doesn't know EVERYTHING. The problem is that he kind of does.

The other project is a little darker and more fantasy-like. It's about a teenage boy who learns that he can train to be one of the protectors of a weak spot between dimensions. The working title is Alexander, Called Xan, but that definitely might change.

### **Where can readers connect with you?**

Find me at my website: [www.martidumasbooks.com](http://www.martidumasbooks.com)

Connect with me on Goodreads: [www.goodreads.com/author/show/7102345.Marti\\_Dumas](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7102345.Marti_Dumas)

Or Follow me on Twitter: @MartiAndreDumas

# Photos and Cover Images

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Marti Dumas [Publicity Photo 1](#)



Marti Dumas [Publicity Photo 2](#)



[Jala and the Wolves-Cover](#)



[Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest-Cover](#)