



Antje Damm

# FLEDOLIN

upside  
umop



a 300m thinkbook from Katha 



All bats hang with their heads down.  
Except for one.



**Fledolin.**





Fledolin was the world's happiest bat child, as long as he was **upside down.**



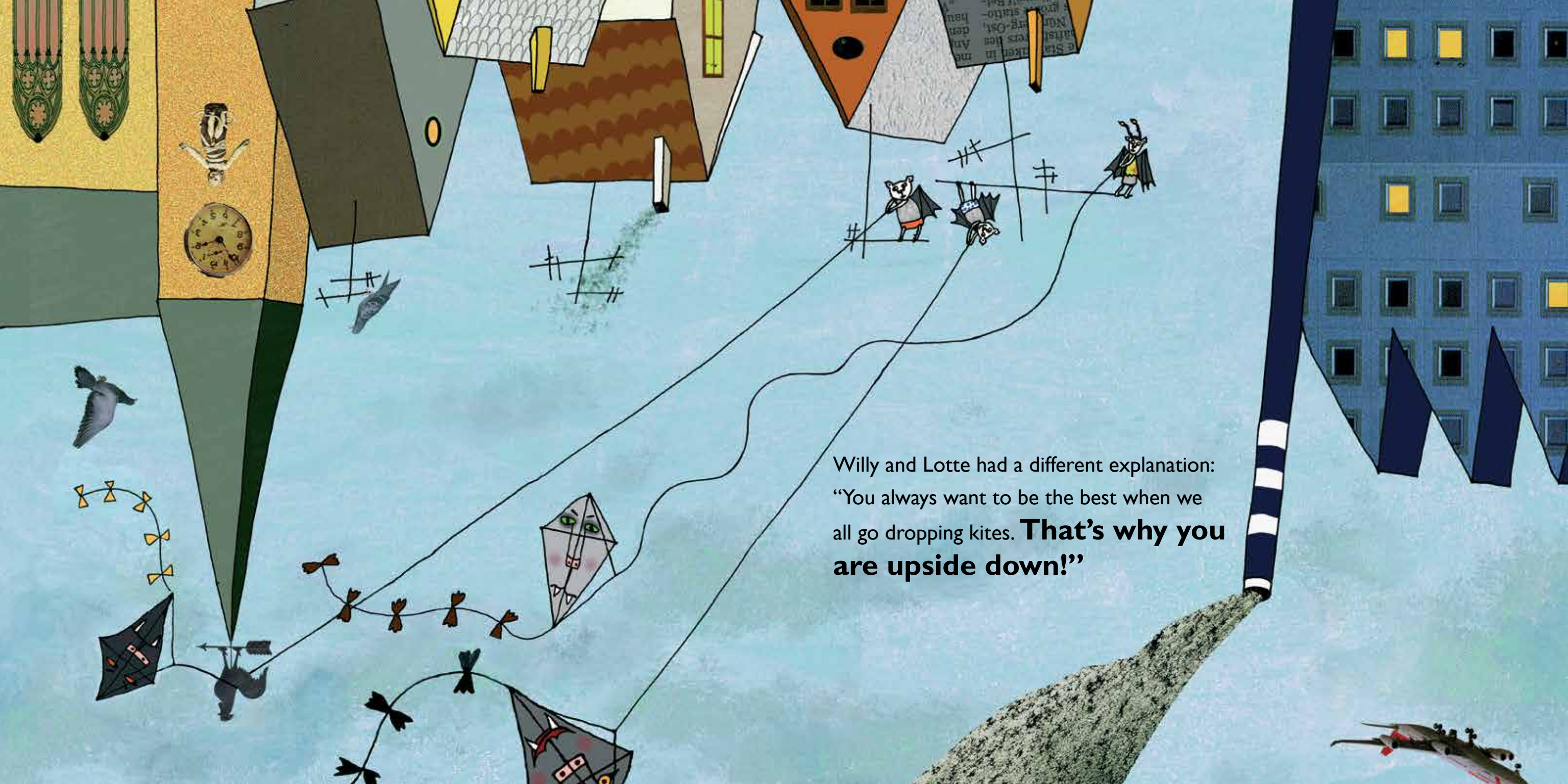
His parents hoped that one day Fledolin would be like all other bat children. But he grew and he grew and remained just the way he was. However, Fledolin was **happy**.

At times he wondered why he was **upside down**.

So he asked around.

Emma had a simple answer.  
She said, "I know why you are  
**upside down** – so you  
can spot the ball when Willy  
has lost it in the meadow sky."





Willy and Lotte had a different explanation:  
“You always want to be the best when we  
all go dropping kites. **That’s why you  
are upside down!**”

Mrs Blackbird found the whole discussion quite absurd. She thought Fledolin was **just right**. That's why he was the Blackbirds' babysitter when the Blackbirds went out in the evenings.

"You are doing a fantastic job!" she praised him.

"No one looks after my little ones as well as you."



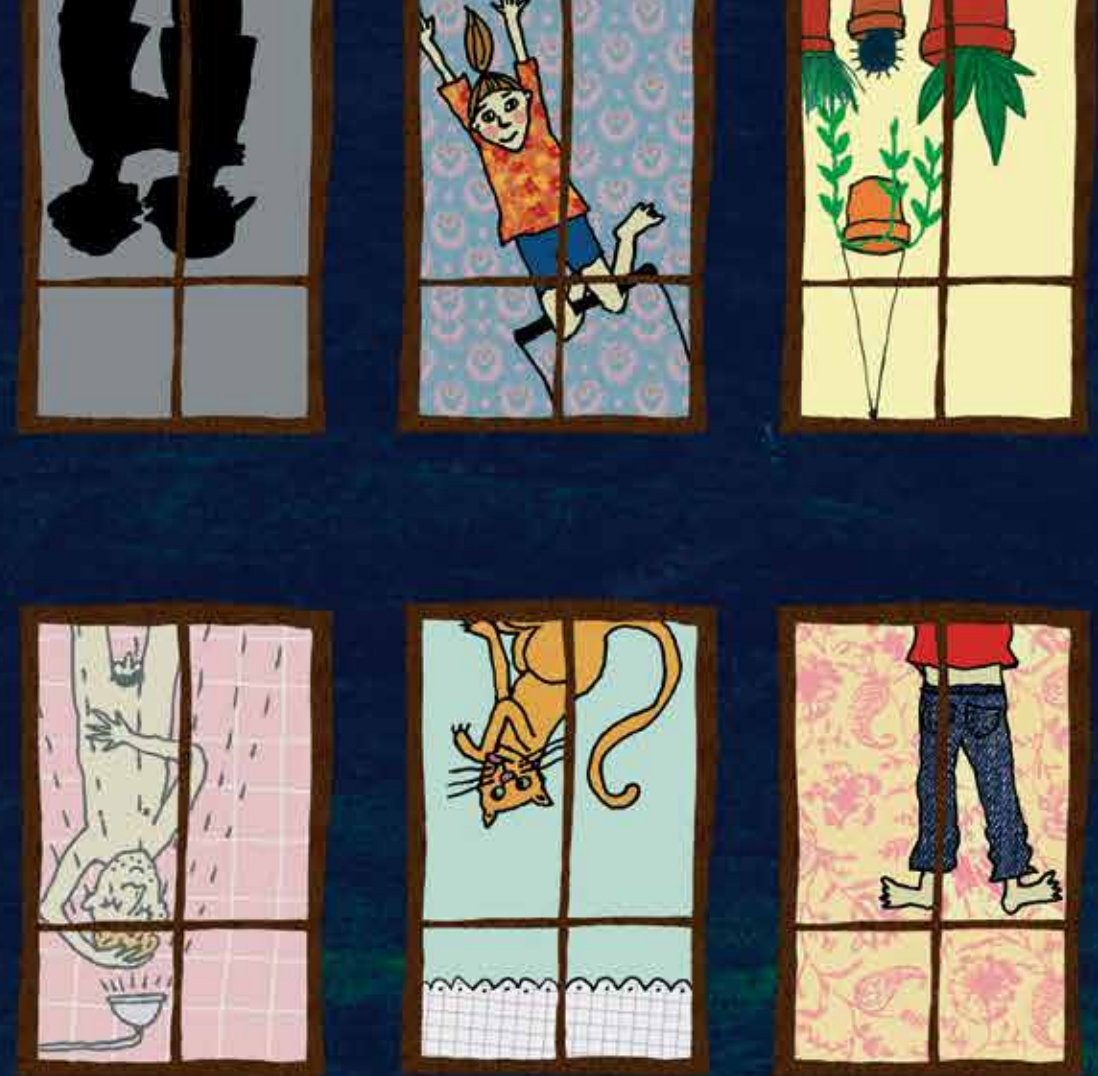
Dozen  
worms



Grandma was sure that one day Fledolin would be a famous yo-yo player. “Fledolin, my child,” she said sadly, “I practised all my life, and look at me: I am a complete failure!”



One day Uncle Waldemar came visiting. He had travelled far and seen the world. He showed Fledolin that there were many more **upside downs**. “You see, Fledolin,” he said, “some are this way, and some the other way round. But be careful. Some **upside downs** are quite dangerous!”





For example, the hungry fox was dangerous. He especially liked to eat rats. And bats too. He would have loved to get them down from the tree where they rested at dawn. But how could he climb up?

Luckily, the fox never found the cave where the bats slept during the day. Because Fledolin would lie cuddled up at the mouth of the cave. “That can hardly be a bat,” thought the fox. “They usually hang **upside down**,” and he trotted away.

The bats whispered to each other, “Do you know why Fledolin is **upside down**?” “Sure. So he can keep an eye on us,” said Willy. “And protect us from the fox,” murmured Lotte sleepily.





As night fell, the bats flew out into the open and hunted for flies and moths.

They forgot what was **up** and what **down**.  
Now all they wanted was food.

**And lots of it!**

At daybreak, everyone was really tired. Fledolin too. It was time for sleep. Fledolin's mother hugged him and gave him a big good-day kiss on his bum.

**"You are special,** my little one," she whispered.

She was happy.

**And so was Fledolin.**



**Antje Damm** was born in 1965 in Wiesbaden. She studied architecture in Darmstadt and Florence, and lives with her family in a small village near Giessen. After the birth of her two daughters, she started writing and drawing picture books. Also published by Gerstenberg is her book *Was ist das?* (What is this?)

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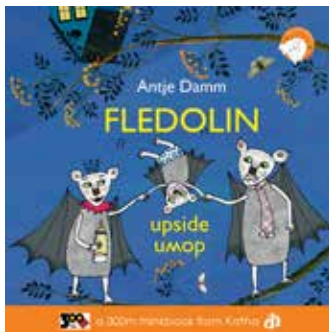
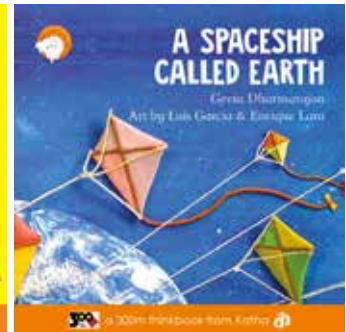
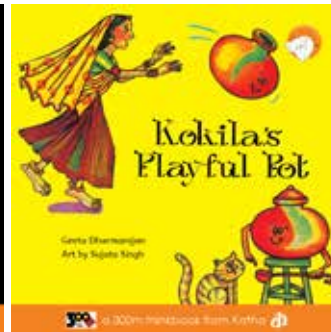
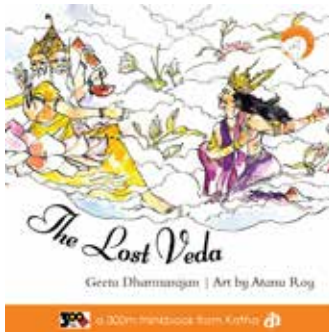
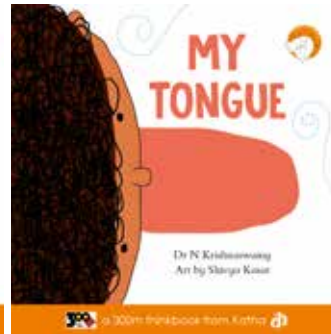
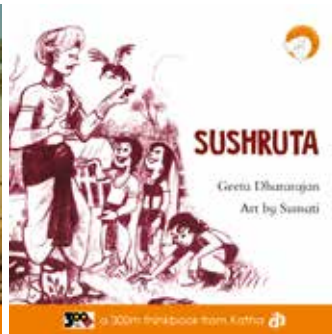
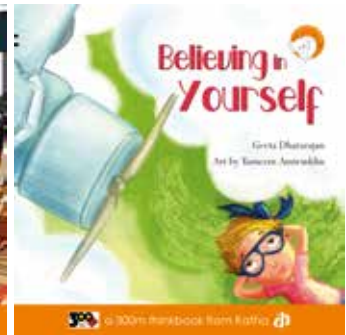
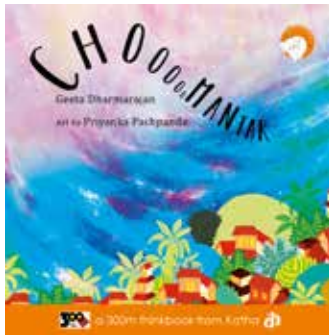
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