

Fulbright Alumni Association Ivory Coast



Fatou Keita was born in Soubre, Ivory Coast. She was educated at the University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, the Polytechnic of Central London and the University of Caen in France, and in the United States. Ms Keita is a Doctor of Lettres and teaches English literature in the English department at the University of Cocody in Abidjan. As a Fulbright Scholar, in 1995, at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville (U.Va), she conducted research to create a program within her department back home on Black women writers of the United States and Britain. In addition to independent research, Ms. Keita has audited a course on African-American Women Writers taught by Angela M. Davis, assistant dean of students and associate professor of English. She also worked with the Carter G.Woodson Institute of Afro-American Studies and with mentor Tejumola Olaniyan, assistant professor of English. She chose to study at U.Va. because it came highly recommended by University of Abidjan colleague Jane Toungara, formerly of U.Va. After the remarkable success of her children's book "Le petit garçon bleu" (The Little Blue Boy) in 1995, Ms. Keita graciously shared the credit with others. "I wrote the stories, but the books have been a collaborative effort," she said, explaining that her friend, Ms. Tahiri, also from the Ivory Coast, illustrated the books and another friend, Adrian Murphy of London, is translating them into English. Even her little son had a hand in the projects. "We colored the illustrations with crayons and markers," she said.

Publications

Rebelle. Abidjan / Paris: NEI / Présence Africaine, 1998. (232p.) Novel.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

La voleuse de sourires. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 1996. (32p.). Illustrations by Claire Mobio.

Le petit garçon bleu. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 1996. (24p.). Illustrations by Claire Mobio.

Sinabani, la petite dernière. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 1997. (31p.). Illustrations by Claire Mobio.

Le coq qui ne voulait plus chanter. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 1999. (31p.). Illustrations by Zohore Lassane. (Prix Enfance 1999)

Le retour de la voleuse de sourires. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 1999. (31p.). Illustrations by Claire Mobio.

Kyatou cache ses dents. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 2000. (24p.). Illustrations by Studios Zohoré.

Le boubou du Père Noël. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 2000. (32p.). ISBN 2-84487-075-9. Illustrations by Claire Mobio.

Les billes de Karim. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 2001. (32p.). ISBN 2-84487-122-4. Illustrations by Kristiann Allen.

Le billet de 10.000F. Abidjan: Nouvelles Éditions Ivoiriennes, 2002. (32p.). ISBN 2-84487-172-0. Illustrations by Studios Zohoré.

Osu Library Fund. *Fati et l'arbre à miel*. Accra-Ghana: Osu Library Fund/ Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2002. (28p.). ISBN 9988-550-42-1. Translated by Fatou Keita. Illustrations by Therson Boadu.

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