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Title: Stories Gogo Told Me

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Description: Stories collected from oral storytellers throughout southern Africa: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa. Author provides storyteller name, language, and location for each story. The stories are short, nicely told, with abundant illustrations.

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1. Why Tortoise's Shell Is Cracked

Lion announced big feast; Tortoise was slow and arrived late. The birds felt sorry for him and decided to hold another party the next day. They each donated a feather so Tortoise could fly to their party. During introductions before the party, each bird announced itself. Tortoise said, "I'm everybody" because he had all the feathers. Then Eagle served food: "for everybody." Tortoise ate everything! Angry birds took away their feathers and Tortoise fell. His shell used to be beautiful; now it is cracked.

Tole in Bemba by Godfrey Chanda outside Lusaka, Zambia



([tortoise photo by Cliff](#))