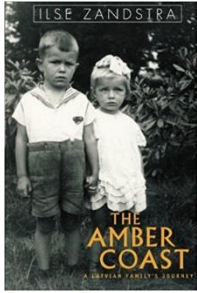


[The Amber Coast](#) Ilse Zandstra



“A compelling family saga that resonates with tales of peace and war, loss and displacement, immigration, language acquisition and culture shock unfolds against the background of true historical events. The Amber Coast tells the story of one family's flight from war-torn Latvia, struggle to survive, to gain strength and begin all over again in a new country. Though many immigrants never see their old country again, Ilse enjoyed a fortuitous return to Latvia in the summer of 1990, just as the small Baltic country teetered on the brink of freedom from the Soviet Union. Optimism abounds. Change is in the air. Long-separated relatives meet, many for the first time, and the past becomes vividly present. Steeped in nostalgia for the homeland and the longing to return, it is a story that any immigrant can relate to. This historical non-fiction is steeped in memories from Latvia, Germany, Sweden and Canada. In Canada, Ilse grew up in a Latvian family, belonging to the Montreal Latvian community, while being drawn to the Canadian world of school and neighborhood around her. Ilse Zandstra is a published author of two children's books about Ukuku, a Peruvian spectacled bear, as well as several scientific works. She was born in Latvia but is a well-travelled Canadian, having lived in Europe, Canada, USA, Colombia, the Philippines, and Peru. She now lives with her husband in Ottawa.”

[Hubert and the Great Pigeon Race](#), Ilse Zandstra



Ilse writes "Hubert and his Pigeons" is the charming story of a thirteen-year-old boy living in Holland in the early 1950's. He dreams of flying, is fascinated by the birds all around and when he meets a pigeon racer who offers him two young juvenile birds, he decides that is what he wants to do. What starts as a hobby soon becomes an obsession. He spends most of his free time caring for and training his pigeons until he decides they are ready and enters an important race. Along the way, Hubert learns many lessons, about himself and his birds.

It is a chapter book (or read-along book), for children from 5-9, but can be enjoyed by all ages. It is illustrated by Colombian artist, Mauricio Trejos Hernandez.

The book is available from [Baico Publishing](#).