



1
ANIMAL
ADVENTURES

A
PUP
in the
DRY
PLAINS

By Heather Horn



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY



CHAPTER 4

Stay Alert

While the helper meerkats are busy teaching the young pups, the rest of the mob take turns as lookouts.





It is time for Gus to teach Chase how to hunt. Meerkats like to eat bugs, grubs, scorpions, and snakes!



Some snakes and all scorpions have venom. Most animals that get bitten or stung will get very sick, but not meerkats.





Chase sniffs and digs as a scorpion scoots across the sand. He bats at the scorpion as she wiggles her eight legs. Chase doesn't know how to trap her, so she gets away.

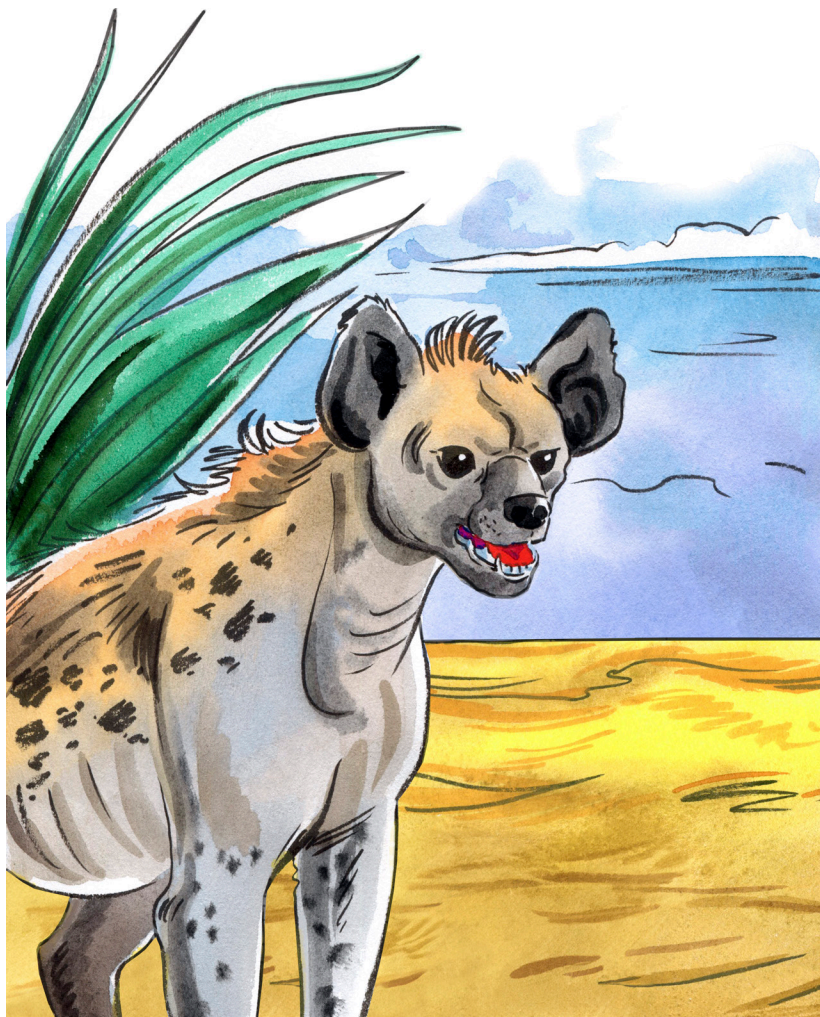
Gus shows Chase how to flip the scorpion and remove the stinger. Chase tries again and traps the scorpion.

Danger! The lookout meerkat sees a hyena coming too close to the burrow, and he barks to alert the others.



All the meerkats freeze and stand tall on their hind legs. They look left and right. Then they run for the nearest hole.





Oh no! Here comes the hyena now. The hair on his back stands on end as he sniffs closer and closer.

The brothers are too far from the burrow. Gus alerts Chase. Chase drops his dinner and dashes for the bolt hole. The hyena goes after them.





They duck into the bolt hole just in time. The hyena sticks his nose inside the hole, but he cannot reach them. He digs with his front paws, but he still can't reach them. The hyena gives up and goes home.



A PUP in the DRY PLAINS

Out in the dry Kalahari Desert lives a large mob of meerkats. As big brother Gus watches over his new siblings and teaches his brother Chase how to hunt, he keeps an eye out for danger lurking nearby. One day Chase wanders too far from the burrow and encounters several hungry predators. Will he remember what Gus taught him and stay safe? Read along to discover just how meerkats survive in their desert home!

