

### **CHAPTER 3**

# Pups Come Out

The pups are now four weeks old. Look how fast they have grown!



Beth and Will and the rest of the pups spent two months in Mom's tummy and one more month in the den.



Their den is safe, but it is time to see outside and look at the world around them.

Will gets up and takes a step out of the warm den. He sees the sun shining on the trees.

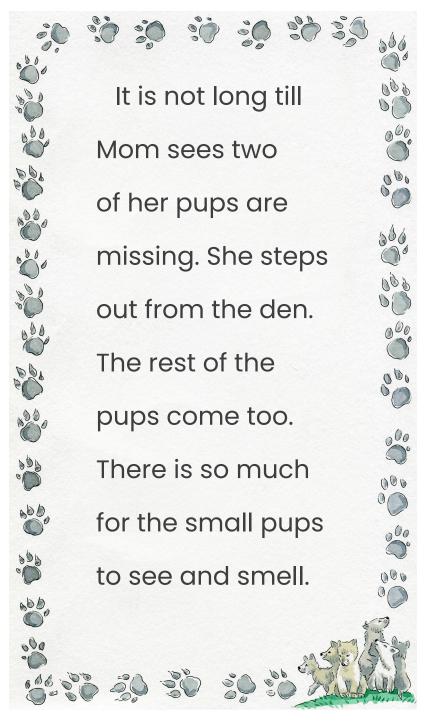


Beth steps out with Will. It is spring, and the land is waking up from the long winter.



The white snow has melted, and the trees are budding. The grass is soft on the pups' paws.





Mom is close. Dad comes close to the pups too. If a bear sees them, the pups are at risk.



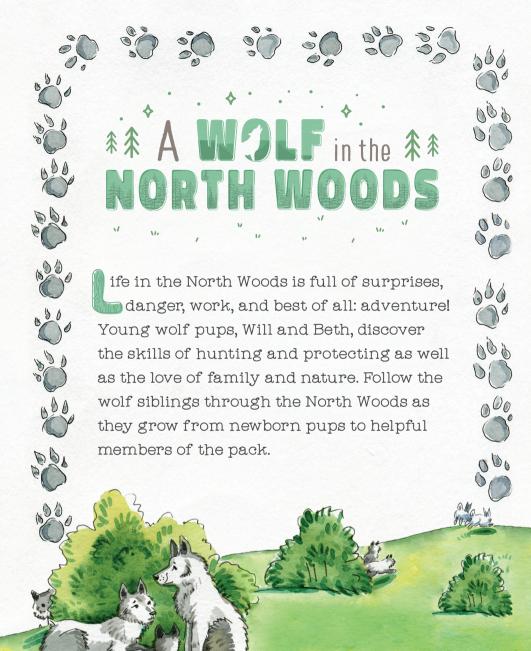


Dad keeps a lookout, and the small pups put each nose to the sky. Their ears perk up, and their noses wiggle. What is that?



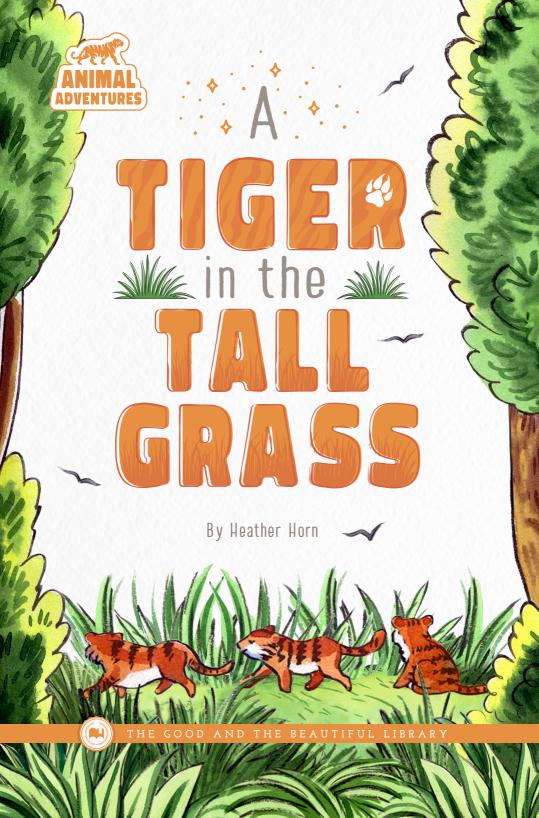


They can smell now! The fresh breeze and green grass smell so sweet!









### **CHAPTER 3**

## The Water Hole

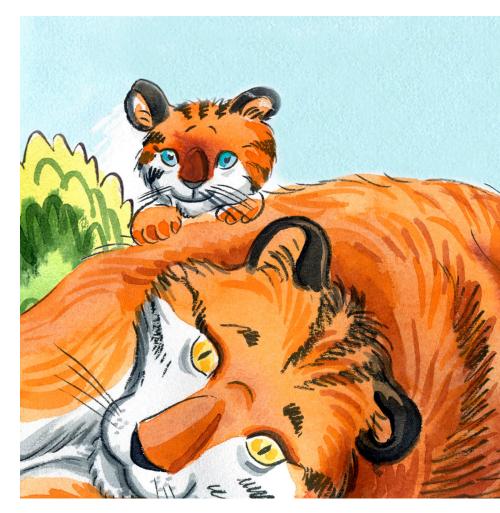


The cub siblings are two weeks old now. Kash opens his sky-blue eyes.

He does not see well yet, and he stumbles over the top of his sisters.



He tumbles over his sisters again when it is time to eat. He is not strong yet, but he will be soon.

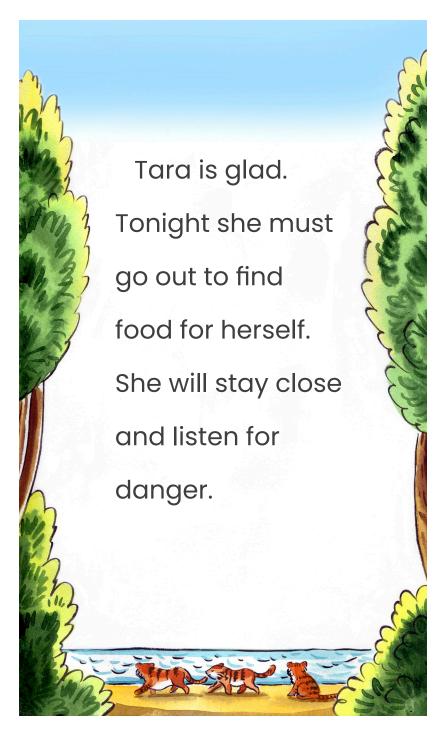


Reva and Lata have blue eyes too. All of their eyes will turn golden like their mother's eyes as the cubs grow.





It is getting late in the day, and the cubs are getting sleepy.



First, she stops to get a drink at the water hole. She laps up water and then lifts her head to look out over the dark land. Shhh, what does she see?





Look closely. Do you see her glowing eyes? The lenses in her eyes let in lots of light so she can see better in the dark.

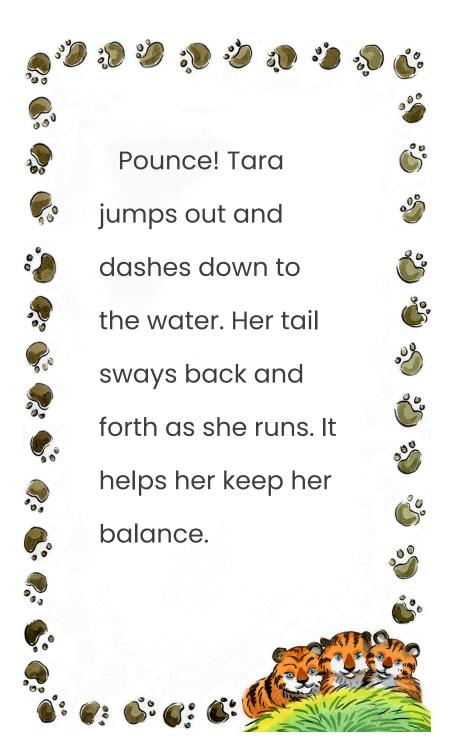
What does she hear?

Footsteps *trip-trap* down the path. What could it be? It is a group of deer getting a drink.



She ducks down and stays out of sight. She creeps low in the brush so the deer do not see her coming.

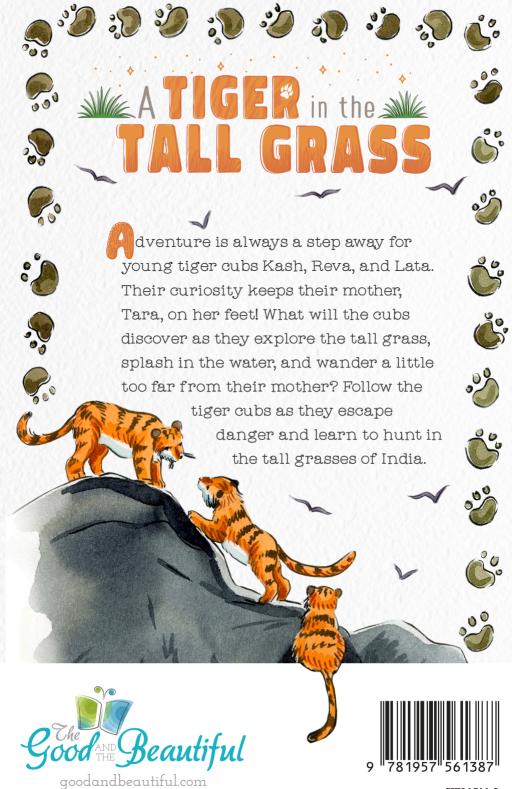




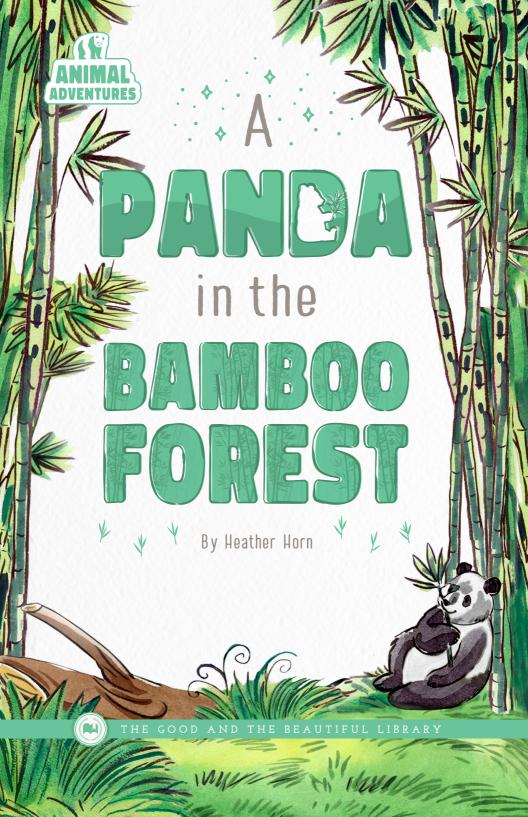
Three deer lift their heads and leap away, but the last deer does not hear Tara coming. She is thankful for the deer.



With her belly full, Tara returns to her cubs.



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#### **CHAPTER 4**

# Playtime

Each day Ming grows stronger and bigger. Over the past three months, he has become more playful too.





There are no other cubs for him to play with, so he plays with his mother.

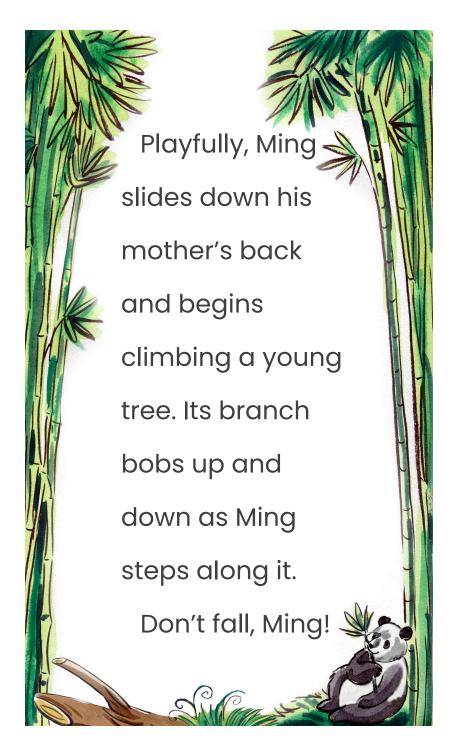
He loves to climb! He climbs up Chun's arm and onto her belly.

Hold on, Ming!

Chun is on the move. Ming clings to his mother as she walks along a thin path in the thick forest. It is time for Ming to eat bamboo too. She takes him to a fresh clump of shoots.

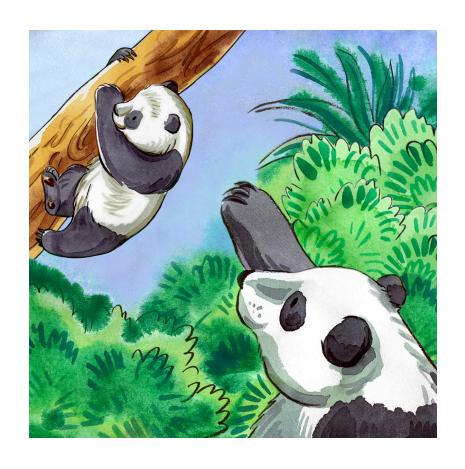






Oh no! His hind foot slips, but he grabs the branch with his front paws.





It is time for Ming to come down. Chun reaches up to help him. Then she plops him into a pile of leaves.

The first thing for Ming to know about eating bamboo is how to bite the long bamboo pole with his front teeth. His mother shows him. She picks up one and bites it.



Her strong teeth and jaw split the bamboo, and Chun pulls it apart down the middle. Then she peels the green outer layer and eats the inside.



She chews and waits as Ming finds a stick and gives it a try.

He shows his playful side and rolls onto his back while biting the stick.



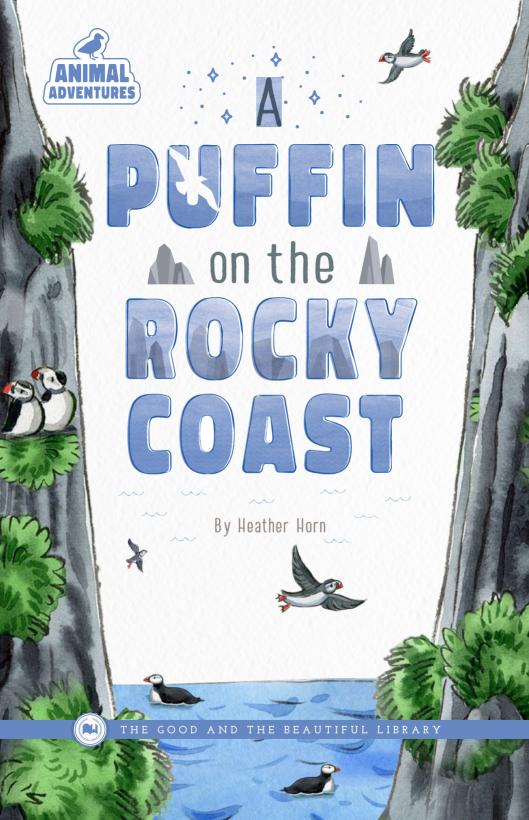


n the bamboo forests of China, there lives a giant panda named Chun and her little cub, Ming. Winter is coming, and Ming and Chun must leave their home high in the mountains for warmer parts of the forest. Come explore the world of Chun and Ming as they migrate down the mountain,





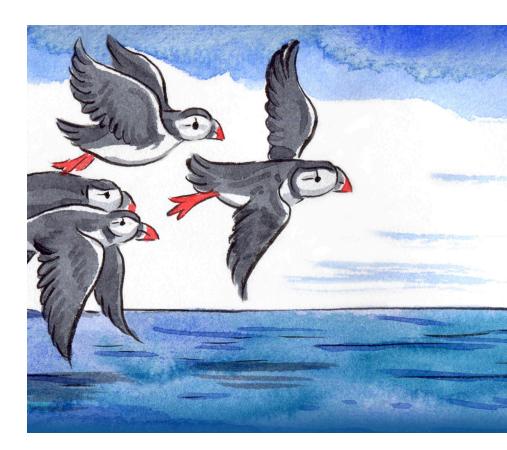




### **CHAPTER 2**

## Coming Home

Poppy is excited to get home to the rocky coast.



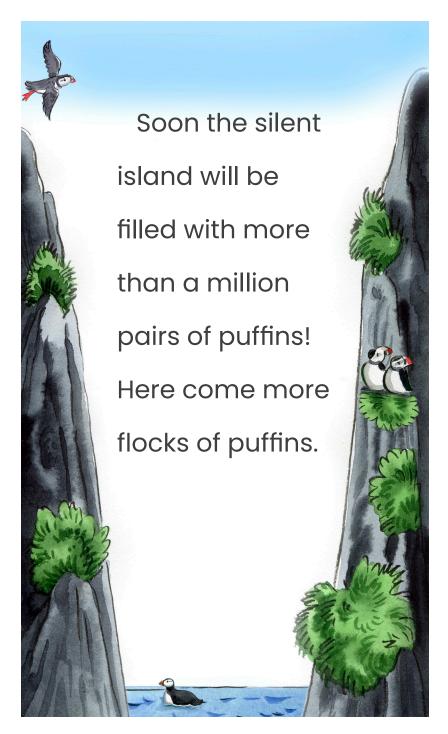
She spots Chip in the flock, and they fly home together.
Chip sees the rocky cliffs ahead. It is the big island called Iceland.



It is April on the rocky coast of Iceland. The snow has melted.
Patches of grass are popping up in the cracks between the rocks.

Poppy and Chip are some of the first puffins to land on the empty coast, but it will not be empty for long!







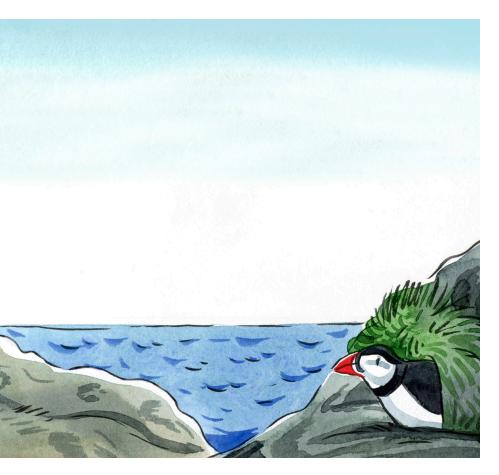
Chip and Poppy are happy
to be home. They rub their bills
together. "Billing" is how puffins
greet each other. They look
around and see the coast filling
up with black-and-white puffins.

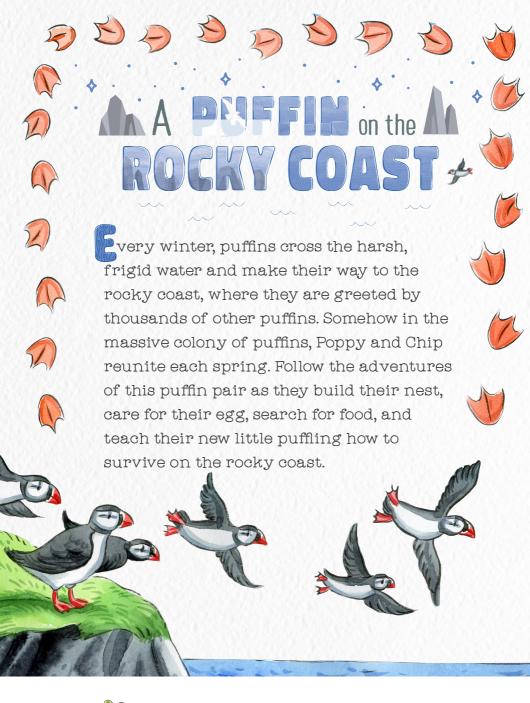
God gave all the puffins an instinct that helps them find the same rocky coast every spring.

They even know which burrow is theirs.



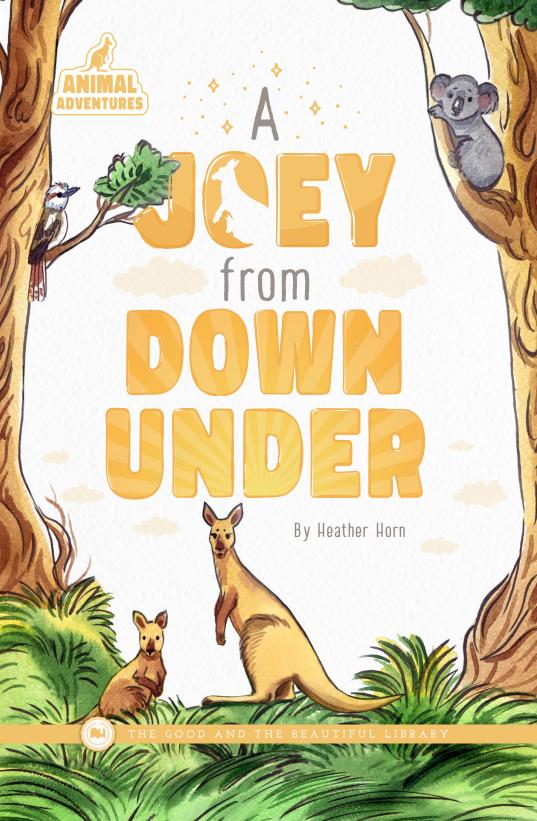
Each puffin pair has a big task ahead of them. They must claim their burrow before another puffin pair does.











#### CHAPTER 1

# Here Comes the Mob

It is dusk as the sun sets over the bush of Australia. Many strange-looking animals live in the land Down Under.



Here comes an odd-looking bunch now. It's a mob of kangaroos jumping in from the west. This mob has about twenty kangaroos, or roos for short. Some mobs can have more than one hundred roos!

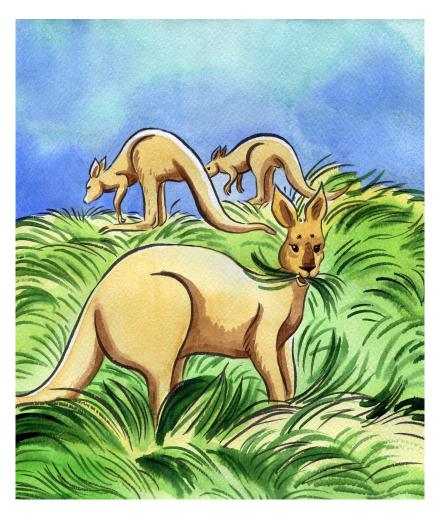


They spread out to graze in the tall grass for the evening.

Near the back of the mob is a female named Ruby. She bends down to take a bite of grass.



There is not much water in the hot, dry land, so kangaroos like Ruby get water from the grass they eat.





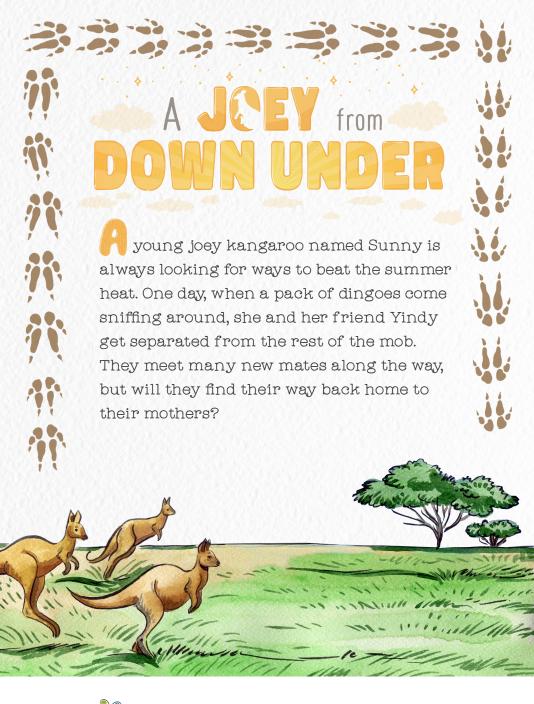
Sweeping her long bottom teeth across the blades of grass, she clamps her front teeth together and pulls up a big clump. She grinds the grass with her back teeth, chewing her food twice like cows do.

Ruby is not alone. A little joey named Sunny pokes her head out from Ruby's pouch.



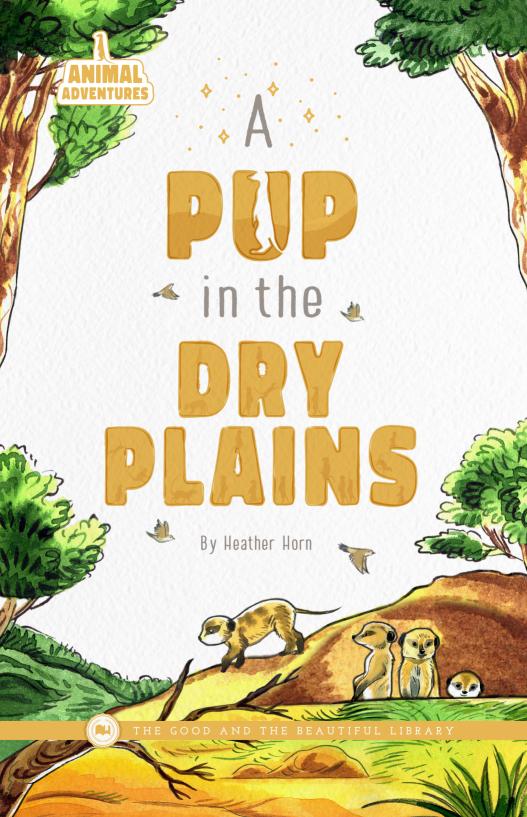
Sunny likes to explore outside her mother's pouch a little bit each day. She hops down and lands on her lanky legs. Other little joeys join Sunny for a bit of roo play in the coolness of the evening.











### **CHAPTER 4**

## Stay Alert

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







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.



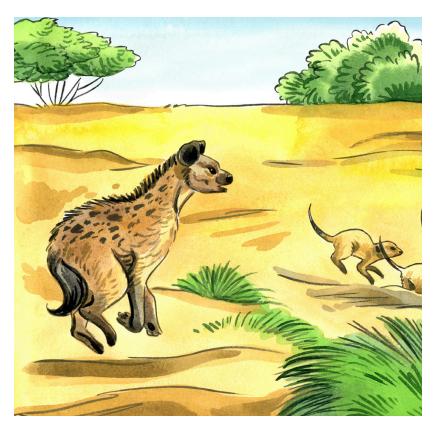
All the meerkats freeze and stand tall on their hind legs.
They look left and right. Then they run for the nearest hole.





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.



ut 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!





