

—22— Nana Koala

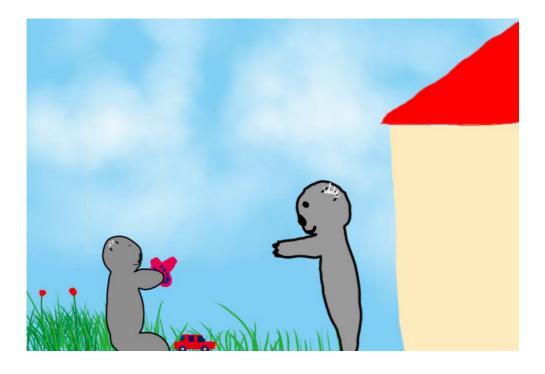


"GUESS WHAT? NANA KOALA IS GOING TO VISIT US THIS AFTERNOON!" SAID QUADGY TO HER SON QUADGE. "OH GOODIE! I ALWAYS LIKE WHEN SHE COMES!" QUADGE SAID, WITH A BIT OF A DANCE AROUND. THEN HE TRIPPED ON A LARGE TOY TRUCK THAT WAS ON THE GROUND, AND HAD A BIT OF A TUMBLE. HE WAS OKAY, AND SOON GOT UP TO CHAT ABOUT THE VISITOR. "DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANYTHING WE SHOULD DO TO MAKE IT NICE FOR NANA KOALA WHEN SHE COMES?" QUADGY ASKED HER SON.



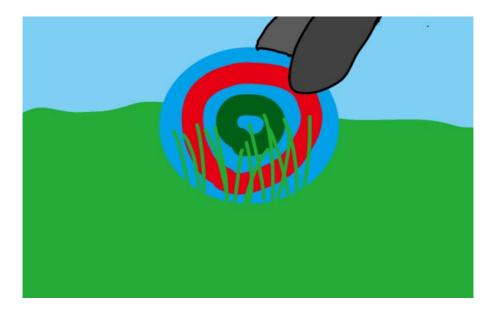
"MAYBE WE COULD MAKE SOME FOOD, AND SOME SNACKS, AND ALSO SOME THINGS TO NIBBLE ON..." QUADGE WOULD HAVE GONE ON WITH A LIST OF FOOD RELATED PREPARATIONS, BUT THERE WERE OTHER THINGS TO PLAN AS WELL.

"YES, THAT MIGHT BE NICE," MOTHER QUADGY SAID. "AND WHAT ABOUT MAKING IT SAFE FOR HER, SO SHE DOESN'T TRIP OVER TOYS? PERHAPS WE COULD CLEAN UP THE BACK YARD AND MAKE IT ALL NICE. THEN WE COULD HAVE A PICNIC THERE WHEN SHE COMES!"



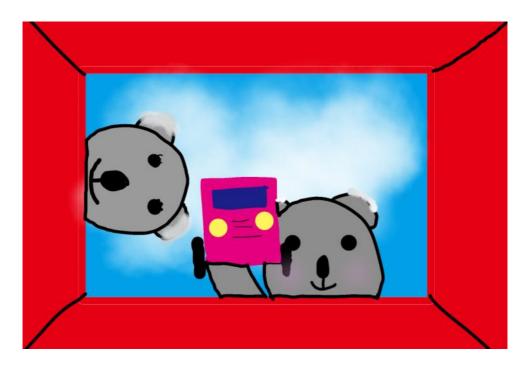
ALTHOUGH QUADGE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THE PICNIC PART OF THE IDEA, THE THOUGHT OF CLEARING AWAY ALL THE TOY'S AND GAMES THAT WERE SCATTERED ON THE GRASSY AREA SEEMED LIKE A BIT TOO MUCH WORK. HE'D RATHER JUST PLAY AND THEN EAT, AND THEN HAVE MORE FUN AFTER THAT.

"WELL, SINCE YOU LIKE TO PLAY," SAID MOTHER QUADGY, "HOW ABOUT WE PLAY A GAME? AND BY THE TIME WE ARE DONE IT, THE YARD WILL BE CLEAN! WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY THAT?" QUADGE AGREED. THAT SOUNDED LIKE A GREAT IDEA.

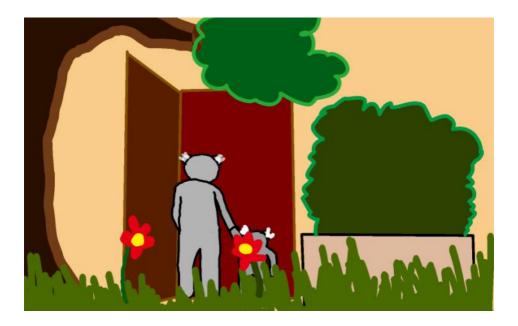


"OKAY," SAID MOTHER QUADGY, "WHO CAN FIND SOMETHING BLUE? IF YOU FIND IT, THEN QUICKLY RUN AND GET IT AND PUT IT INTO THE BIG TOY BOX. ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, GO!"

THE TWO OF THEM RAN AROUND PICKING UP ABOUT HALF A DOZEN OR SO ITEMS THAT WERE BLUE, OR AT LEAST HAD SOME BLUE ON THEM, AND PUTTING THEM AWAY.



"NOW IT'S YOUR TURN," MOTHER QUADGY SAID TO QUADGE. "SOMETHING THAT HAS WHEELS!" HE SAID, AND SO OFF THEY WENT. THERE WERE THINGS WITH BIG WHEELS, AND SOME WITH SMALL WHEELS. SOME WITH ONLY ONE WHEEL—LIKE THE TOY BOAT WITH A STEERING WHEEL. BY THE TIME ALL THE WHEELED ITEMS WERE LINED UP AT THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE, THE YARD WAS NEARLY ALL TIDY. JUST A FEW MORE TOPICS AND TYPES WERE SEARCHED FOR AND PUT AWAY, AND THE YARD WAS ALL NICE.



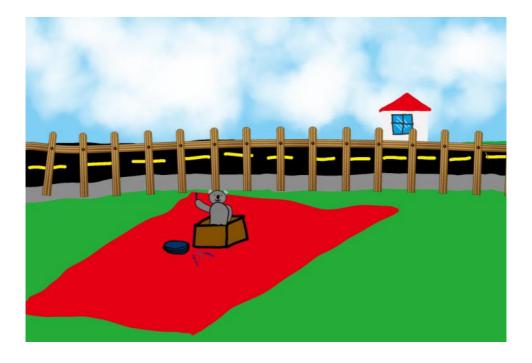
"NOW WE CAN GO AND MAKE THAT FUN SNACK YOU WERE WISHING FOR!" MOTHER QUADGY SAID TO A VERY HAPPY—AND SURPRISED QUADGE.

"I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD TAKE SO FAST, MAMA! IT WAS FUN, AND NOW WE CAN HAVE EVEN MORE FUN!" HE EXCLAIMED.



WHEN NANA KOALA ARRIVED AN HOUR LATER, QUADGE TOOK HER FOR A WALK ALL AROUND THE YARD.

THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE WAY TO TRIP ON, AND SHE COULD EASILY GO AROUND TO SMELL AND SEE ALL THE ROSES AND FLOWER BEDS.



SOON NANA KOALA, QUADGY, AND HER SON QUADGE WERE SEATED ON THE PICNIC BLANKET ENJOYING A FUN TIME TOGETHER. "THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE YARD SO NICE FOR ME," NANA KOALA SAID TO QUADGE AND QUADGY. "I'M HAVING SUCH A PLEASANT VISIT WITH YOU HERE."

To something that needs

to be done, even if pou

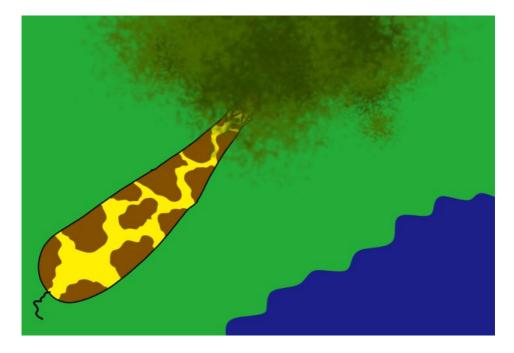
don't feel like doing it.



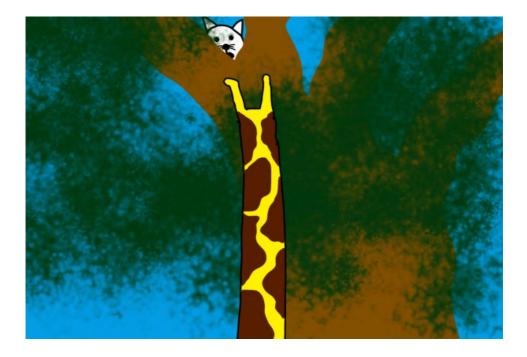
-23-Beauty in the Cherry Tree



BEAUTY LOOKED UP INTO THE TALL AND LOVELY CHERRY TREE. "OH, I WISH I COULD BE AS HIGH AS THOSE DELICIOUS RED AND RIPE CHERRIES!" SHE MEOWED. THEN SHE LOOKED AT HER STRONG CLAWS THAT HELPED HER TO CLIMB. SHE REMEMBERED ONE TIME WHEN SHE CLIMBED INTO A SMALL APPLE TREE. IT SURE WAS FUN. SO UP SHE WENT THIS TIME. ONE QUICK STEP AT A TIME AND SOON SHE WAS HIGH ABOVE THE GRASS.



"OH THIS IS FUN!" SHE THOUGHT. BUT THAT WAS JUST UNTIL SHE REALISED THAT SHE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO GET DOWN AGAIN. IT WAS WAY TOO HIGH FOR HER AND SHE WAS AFRAID OF FALLING. OH DEAR! WHAT COULD SHE DO? A BUTTERFLY FLUTTERED PAST HER NOSE BRIEFLY. "I WISH I HAD WINGS LIKE YOU DO," SHE WISTFULLY THOUGHT. JUST THEN, THERE WAS A "MUNCH, MUNCH" SOUND COMING FROM A CORNER OF THE TREE. BEAUTY LOOKED AND SOON SAW A BLACK TONGUE AND SOME GIRAFFE LIPS HAVING A BITE TO EAT. "MEOW!" SHE CALLED OUT.



GIRAFFE WAS ENJOYING HER SNACK, BUT LOOKED THEN TO SEE WHERE THIS SOUND WAS COMING FROM, AND IN A MOMENT SPOTTED THE TREE VISITOR. JUST THEN JEFFERY WHO WAS NIBBLING LEAVES FROM A LOWER PART OF THE TREE SPOTTED BEAUTY AS WELL, AND SAID, "MAMA, MAMA, LOOK WHO IS IN THE TREE!"

"WELL, LOOK AT THAT!" GIRAFFE SAID WITH A SMILE. "HOW LOVELY TO SEE YOU HERE! BUT YOU DON'T LOOK SO HAPPY. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?"



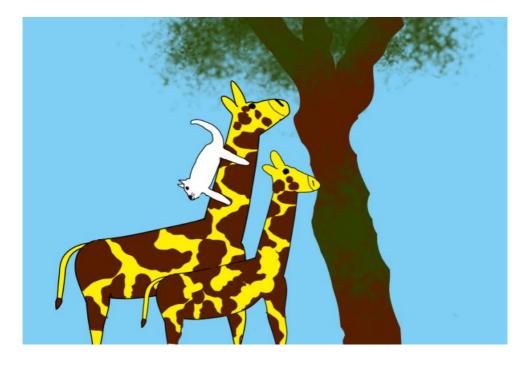
BEAUTY EXPLAINED THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET DOWN AND NEEDED HELP.

"MAMA, I HAVE AN IDEA!" JEFFREY SAID. IT WAS THE PERFECT PLAN.

GIRAFFE WOULD PLACE HER HEAD RIGHT NEARBY BEAUTY, AND HER NECK WOULD FORM A LONG BRIDGE OR RAMP FOR BEAUTY TO WALK DOWN.

BEAUTY WAS VERY GLAD FOR THIS HELP, AND CLIMBED DOWN THEN ON TO GIRAFFE'S BACK.



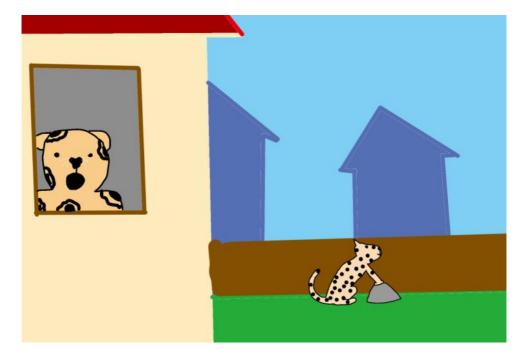


IT WAS EASY FOR HER TO THEN JUMP ON TO JEFFREY'S BACK, AS HE WAS RIGHT NEARBY HIS MOTHER. "THANK YOU SO MUCH!" BEAUTY SAID AS SHE THEN TOOK THE LAST LEAP ON TO THE GROUND. "I THINK I'LL LEAVE TREE CLIMBING TO OTHERS FOR NOW, BUT IT WAS NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS HERE TO HELP ME WHEN I WAS IN NEED." "YOU'RE WELCOME," BOTH JEFFREY AND HIS MOTHER GIRAFFE CHORUSED, AND CONTINUED MUNCHING THEIR TREAT OF LEAVES AND FEW CHERRIES TOO. IT DID FEEL GOOD TO HELP OTHERS.

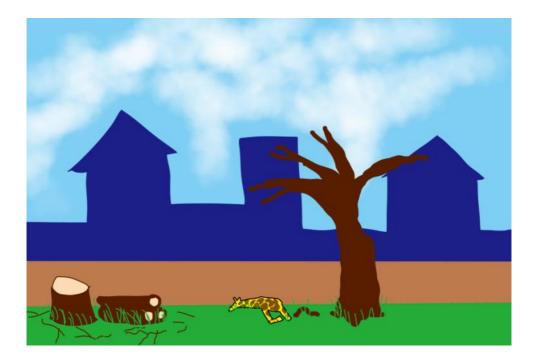
they need you to help them. Acelo someone when



—24— HELP!



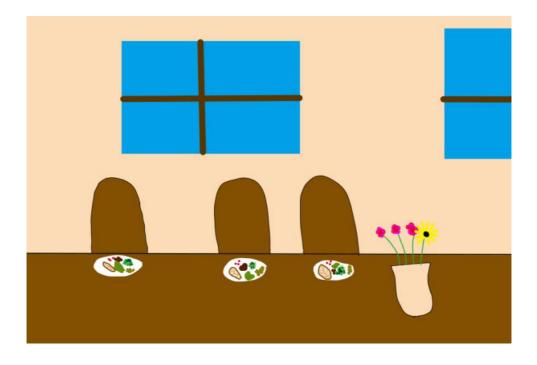
FERGUS AND JEFFREY WERE PLAYING GAMES OUTSIDE. THEY WERE PLAYING BEING RESCUE WORKERS. THE ONE WHO WOULD PLAY THAT THEY NEEDED RESCUING WOULD CALL OUT LOUDLY, "HELP! HELP ME!" FERGUS' MOTHER, CHEETAH WAS IN THE HOUSE PREPARING LUNCH. SUDDENLY SHE HEARD HER SON FERGUS CALLING FOR HELP. SHE QUICKLY STOPPED WHAT SHE WAS DOING TO SEE WHAT WAS WRONG. BUT BY THE TIME SHE GOT THERE, SHE SAW FERGUS AND JEFFREY WERE RUNNING AND PLAYING AND IN NO TROUBLE AT ALL. SHE WAS PUZZLED, AND WENT BACK TO HER WORK.



AFTER THIS HAPPENED A FEW MORE TIMES, AND REALISING THAT IT WAS JUST A GAME, SHE DECIDED THAT SHE WOULDN'T NEED TO COME IF SHE HEARD THEM YELLING "HELP" AGAIN. SO CHEETAH WENT ON WITH HER COOKING. AS EXPECTED, SHE ONCE AGAIN HEARD A LOUD, "HELP!" AT FIRST SHE WAS ALARMED THEN SMILED AND THOUGHT, "IT MUST JUST BE THEM PLAYING." HOWEVER, THIS TIME SHE THEN HEARD JEFFREY CRYING. THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE A GAME, SO SHE WENT TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING.



JEFFREY HAD TRIPPED ON A ROOT HE HADN'T NOTICED, AND FELL AND GOT HURT. HE WAS UNABLE TO GET UP AND NEEDED HELP. FERGUS WONDERED WHY IT TOOK SO LONG FOR HIS MOTHER TO COME WHEN HE HAD CALLED FOR HELP. "OH, AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS GAME, THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T COME RIGHT AWAY. ALL THE OTHER TIMES I CAME YOU WERE ONLY PLAYING AND IN NO NEED OF HELP. COME, LET ME HELP YOU UP, JEFFREY," CHEETAH SAID.



SO FERGUS AND HIS MOTHER CHEETAH HELPED JEFFREY UP, AND THEY ALL SAT ON A BENCH CHATTING FOR A WHILE, UNTIL JEFFREY FELT WELL ENOUGH TO GET UP. WHEN THEY WERE READY TO PLAY AGAIN, MOTHER CHEETAH SUGGESTED: "PERHAPS WHEN YOU ARE PLAYING GAMES, YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY 'HELP' SO LOUD. SAVE IT FOR WHEN YOU REALLY NEED IT, SO I WILL KNOW IT ISN'T A 'FALSE ALARM'." FERGUS AND JEFFREY AGREED, AND SOON WERE OFF PLAYING HAPPILY AGAIN—UNTIL A DELICIOUS LUNCH WAS READY. Don't make a "false alarm

when you aren't in trouble.

Recause when you do

really need help, people might not believe vou.