

GUIRII AND THE TREE OF LIFE

GUIRII HAD A REDDISH TINT TO HIS SKIN, BLACK HAIR AND SWIFT LEGS. WITH A HUGE HEART, HE WAS BELOVED BY ALL FOREST-DWELLERS! HE ADDRESSED EVERYONE WITH KINDNESS AND AFFECTION. SO HE HAD NO ENEMIES. I MEAN, NO ENEMIES BUT ONE. THAT ONE EXCEPTION WAS INFAMOUS FOR THEIR VICIOUS TEMPERAMENT. THEY DIDN'T CARE AT ALL FOR GUIRII'S CHEERFULNESS, AND THEY'D GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO HURT HIM. THEN ONE DAY THEY DID! NOW GUIRII MUST RUSH THROUGH THE RAINFOREST TO FIND THE TREE OF LIFE AND SAVE HIS FRIEND A-COTI. HOPEFULLY, EVEN THE COLDEST HEART MIGHT STILL FIND PEACE. A STORY ABOUT FRIENDSHIP, FORGIVENESS, AND THE POWER OF NATURE.



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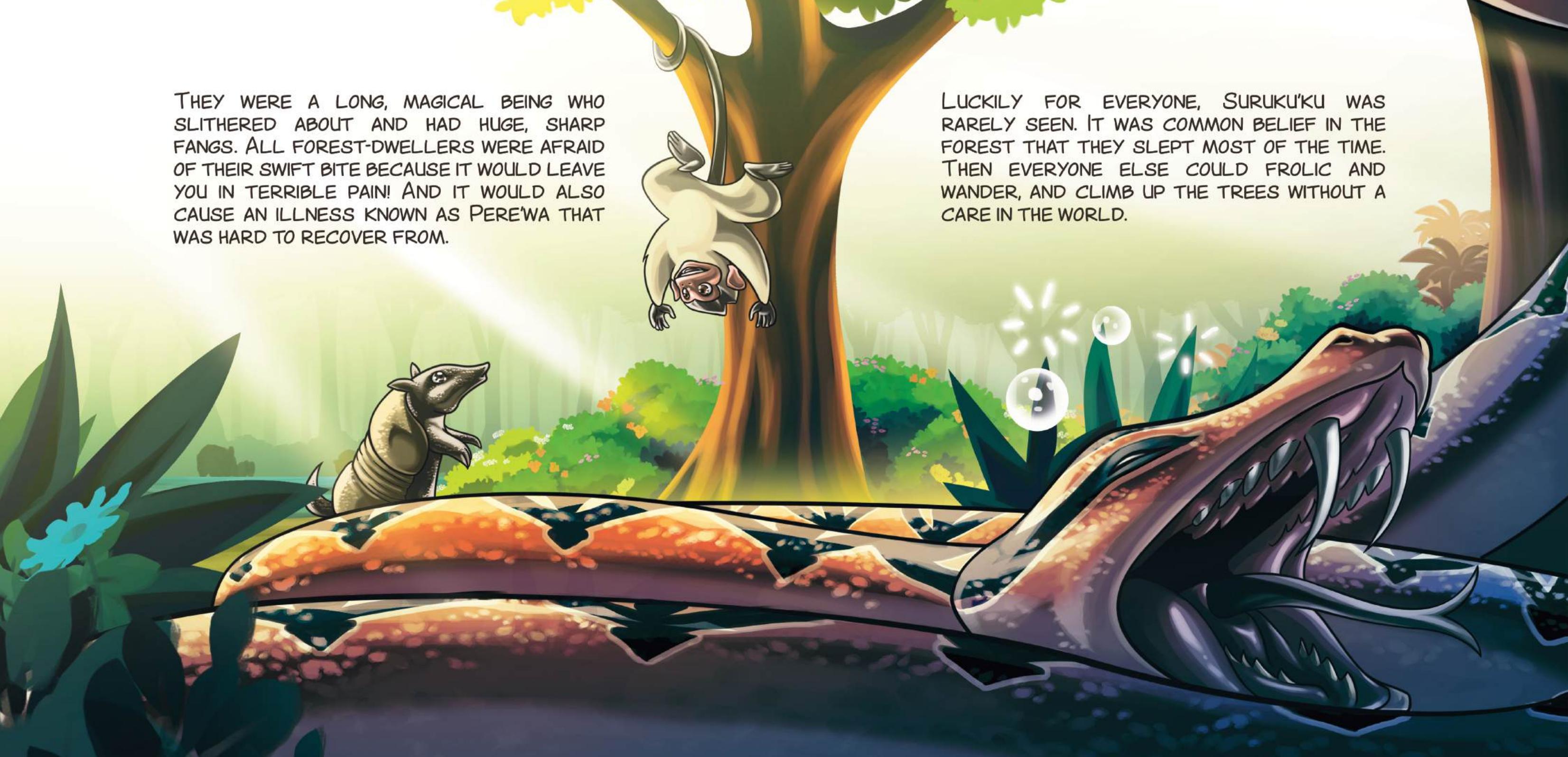


ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS AN ENCHANTED RAINFOREST CALLED JY PARANÁ! A BEAUTIFUL SPOT, WITH PLENTY OF TREES AND FLOWERS, AND A GREAT RIVER THAT SLICED IT IN HALF.

ALL MAGICAL BEINGS LIVED IN HARMONY THERE. I MEAN, ALL BUT ONE. THAT ONE EXCEPTION WAS INFAMOUS FOR THEIR VICIOUS TEMPERAMENT. THEY WERE KNOWN AS SURUKU'KU.

THEY WERE A LONG, MAGICAL BEING WHO SLITHERED ABOUT AND HAD HUGE, SHARP FANGS. ALL FOREST-DWELLERS WERE AFRAID OF THEIR SWIFT BITE BECAUSE IT WOULD LEAVE YOU IN TERRIBLE PAIN! AND IT WOULD ALSO CAUSE AN ILLNESS KNOWN AS PERE'WA THAT WAS HARD TO RECOVER FROM.

LUCKILY FOR EVERYONE, SURUKU'KU WAS RARELY SEEN. IT WAS COMMON BELIEF IN THE FOREST THAT THEY SLEPT MOST OF THE TIME. THEN EVERYONE ELSE COULD FROLIC AND WANDER, AND CLIMB UP THE TREES WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD.



AND GUIRII WAS AN EXPERT TREE-CLIMBER. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHEN IT CAME TO FROLICKING, HE WAS KING OF THE HILL. HE WENT UP AND DOWN, HE DASHED AND SWAM AROUND ALL DAY LONG WITH HIS FRIENDS KAPII'GUARA AND A-COTI. NEITHER OF THEM WAS AS WILD AS GUIRII, BUT THEY ALWAYS TAGGED ALONG!



GUIRII HAD A REDDISH TINT TO HIS SKIN, BLACK HAIR AND SWIFT LEGS. WITH A HUGE HEART, HE WAS BELOVED BY ALL FOREST-DWELLERS! HE ADDRESSED EVERYONE WITH KINDNESS AND AFFECTION. SO HE HAD NO ENEMIES. I MEAN, NO ENEMIES BUT ONE.

AND THAT ONE EXCEPTION WAS INFAMOUS FOR THEIR VICIOUS TEMPERAMENT. THEY DIDN'T CARE AT ALL FOR GUIRII'S CHEERFULNESS. THE FEW TIMES THEY DID SHOW UP, THEY TRIED TO BITE HIM, BUT NEVER CAME THROUGH, BECAUSE GUIRII WAS QUICKER!



EVERY MORNING A-COTI AND KAPII'GUARA WOULD GET TOGETHER FOR THEIR FIRST MEAL OF THE DAY. A-COTI WAS SO GRACEFUL—SHE WOULD SIT DOWN ORDERLY TO EAT HER SEEDS. KAPII'GUARA WAS CLUMSIER, THOUGH, AND HIS FAVORITE FOOD WAS GRASS. GUIRII WOULD COME AFTERWARDS TO PARTAKE OF THE MORNING PICNIC.

HE WAS ALWAYS LATE BECAUSE HE WOULD FIRST GET HIS PICK OF LARGE BABASSU NUTS. HE LOVED THEM! AFTER EACH FEAST, THE THREE FRIENDS WOULD SET OUT ON THEIR ADVENTURES. AND EVERY DAY WAS THE SAME. I MEAN, EVERY DAY BUT ONE. THAT DAY WOULD BE AN EXCEPTION, BECAUSE A BEING INFAMOUS FOR THEIR VICIOUS TEMPERAMENT HAD SET THEIR TRAP.



SURUKU'KU HAD BEEN SPYING FROM A DISTANCE SINCE DAYBREAK, FOLLOWING GUIRII HERE AND THERE TO CATCH HIM FOR GOOD THIS TIME. WHILE HE AND HIS FRIENDS FROlickED ABOUT, SURUKU'KU WAS TAILING HIM, WATCHING HIM UNTIL...

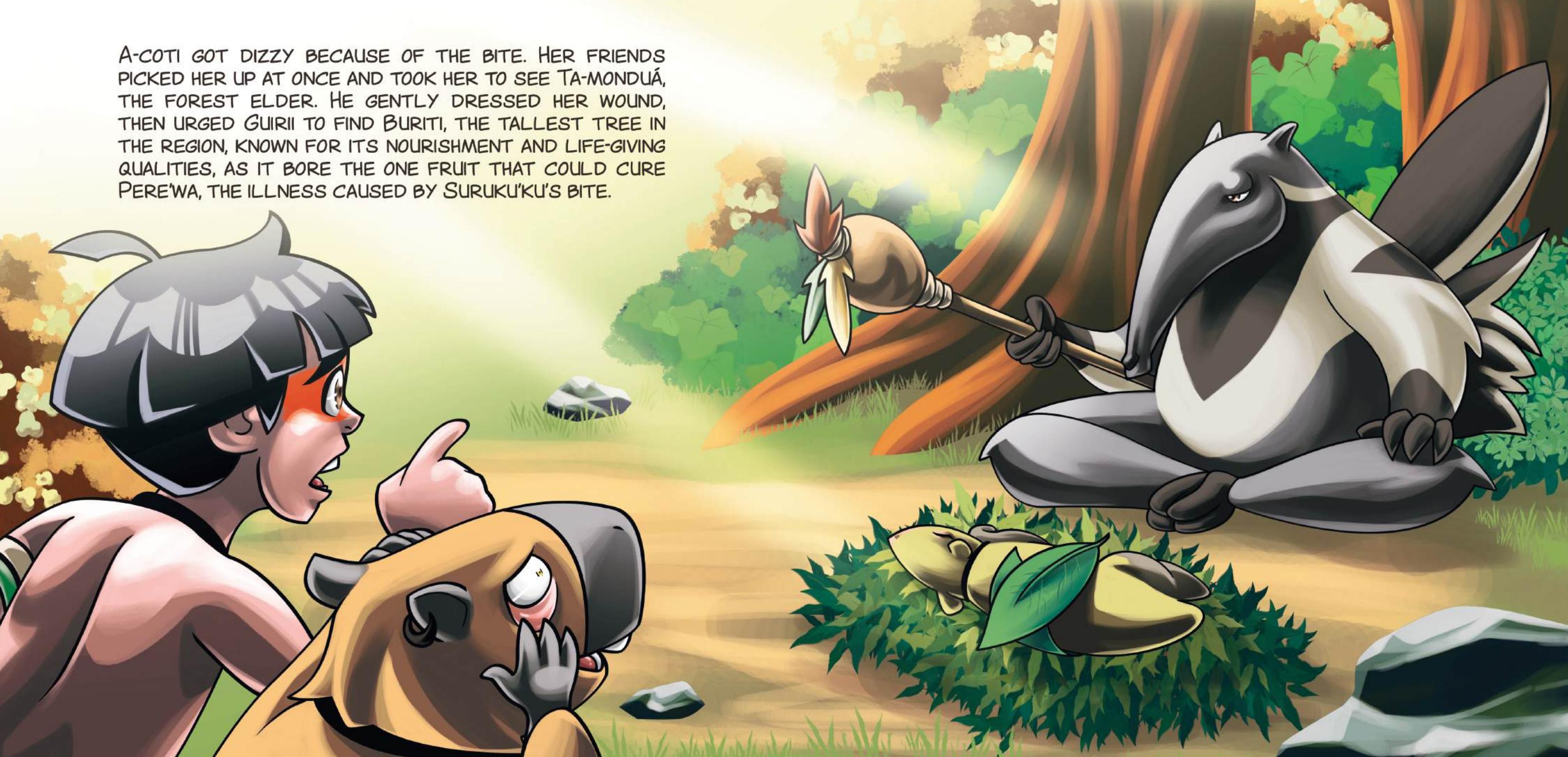




THEY OVERTOOK GUIRII WITH A WICKED BITE ATTACK. TO SURUKU'KU'S SURPRISE, THOUGH, A-COTI HAD JUMPED IN AND SAVED HER FRIEND. UNEASY NOW THEY HAD YET AGAIN MISSED GUIRII, THE SLITHERING ONE HID QUICKLY INTO THE UNDERGROWTH.



A-COTI GOT DIZZY BECAUSE OF THE BITE. HER FRIENDS PICKED HER UP AT ONCE AND TOOK HER TO SEE TA-MONDUÁ, THE FOREST ELDER. HE GENTLY DRESSED HER WOUND, THEN URGED GUIRII TO FIND BURITI, THE TALLEST TREE IN THE REGION, KNOWN FOR ITS NOURISHMENT AND LIFE-GIVING QUALITIES, AS IT BORE THE ONE FRUIT THAT COULD CURE PERE'WA, THE ILLNESS CAUSED BY SURUKU'KU'S BITE.



LUCKILY, BOTH GUIRII AND KAPII'GUARA WERE EXPERT FORESTERS AND RUNNERS; THEY KNEW THE JUNGLE BETTER THAN ANYONE. THEY WERE AWARE BURITI WAS FAR AWAY, AND THEY'D HAVE TO RUSH IF THEY WANTED TO SAVE THEIR FRIEND. THEY BOLTED, DASHED AND RAN UNTIL THEY REACHED THE RIVER THAT CUT THROUGH THE RAINFOREST.



THAT WAS THE HARD PART OF THEIR MISSION: CROSSING THE WATER. THEY GOT LUCKY AGAIN. IT WAS THE DRY SEASON, AND THE RIVER HAD LAID BARE A NUMBER OF LARGE ROCKS. THEY HOPPED FROM STONE TO STONE UNTIL THEY COULDN'T ANY LONGER. THEN THEY SWAM ACROSS TO THE FAR BANK.



THEY BOLTED, DASHED AND RAN A LITTLE FURTHER UNTIL THEY EVENTUALLY FOUND BURITI. HOWEVER, COILED UP BY THE BIG TREE, THERE WAS SURUKU'KU.

- DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU'D OUTFRAN ME, GUIRII? NOT TODAY. I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO BITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS TO GET TO YOU. - SURUKU'KU HAD SO MUCH HATRED IN THEIR HEART.

- SURUKU'KU, FORGIVE ME. I NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO SAY I'M SORRY.

- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? - KAPII'GUARA WAS SO CONFUSED.

- I REMEMBER THE DAY WE HAD A FALLOUT, THEN YOU WEREN'T MY FRIEND ANYMORE.

- GIRL...THEY ARE A SHE? AND SHE USED TO BE YOUR FRIEND?



- SHE WAS. - SIGHED GUIRII.

- NO! WE WERE NEVER FRIENDS. - SURUKU'KU FROWNED GLOOMILY.

- FORGIVE ME, SURUKU'KU. I WAS SO YOUNG THEN. I DIDN'T KNOW THE EGGS WERE YOURS.

- WHAT DID YOU DO, GUIRII? - KAPII'GUARA WAS CONNECTING THE DOTS.

- I WANTED TO PLAY WITH THEM, SO I GRABBED THEM.
BUT I BROKE THEM... I DIDN'T MEAN TO. FORGIVE ME,
SURUKU'KU - PLEADED GUIRII.

- THERE'S NO FORGIVING WHAT YOU DID!



I WAS OUTRAGED, I LASHED OUT AT EVERYONE, AND
THEY CAST ME OUT. WHILE YOU GREW UP AND
BECAME THE RAINFOREST FAVORITE.

- FORGIVE ME... THAT DAY I PROMISED I'D NEVER
HARM ANYONE. AND I'VE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO
TALK TO YOU. AND NOW I'M TO BLAME FOR A-COTI
BEING ILL...

- ARE YOU REALLY SORRY? - SURUKU'KU SENSED GUIRII HAD SPOKEN IN EARNEST.

- I WON'T BE ABLE TO FORGIVE YOU SO EASILY. BUT I WON'T STALK YOU ANYMORE. AND I'LL LET YOU TAKE THE FRUIT TO TA-MONDUÁ. KAPII'GUARA, TELL A-COTI I APOLOGIZE, WILL YOU? I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT HER. GOOD-BYE! - SURUKU'KU WAS GONE IN A SNAP.



GUIRII AND KAPII'GUARA TOOK THE PATH BACK,
HOPING THEY COULD STILL GET THERE IN TIME.
FORTUNATELY, THEY DID!



TA-MONDUÁ BREWED THE ANTIVENOM AND, SOON AFTER DRINKING IT, A-COTI STARTED FEELING BETTER.

SHE RESTED FOR THREE DAYS, THEN SHE WAS UP AND ABOUT!



THE THREE FRIENDS WERE FROLICKING AGAIN, AND DASHING AND SWIMMING TOGETHER AS THEY WOULD EVERYDAY. TRUE TO HIS WORD, GUIRII WOULD DO NO HARM.

FAR AWAY, THE WOUND IN SURUKU'KU'S HEART WAS ALSO HEALING. SHE EVEN REMEMBERED THE GOOD TIMES SHE'D HAD WITH GUIRII, WHEN HE'D RIDE OUT ON HER BACK, MARVELING AT THE RAINFOREST AND GETTING TO KNOW IT BETTER.



SHE RECALLED SHE'D HAD A GREAT FRIEND ONCE AND, ALTHOUGH SHE KEPT IT TO HERSELF, SHE GENUINELY FORGAVE HIM. NOW SHE WANDERS THROUGH MANY RAINFORESTS, STRIVING TO BE THE KIND SURUKU'KU SHE ONCE WAS.



A-COTI: FROM TUPI, MEANING "ONE WHO SITS TO EAT." BOTH "CUTIA" (BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE) AND "AGOUTI" (ENGLISH) STEM FROM IT.

BURITI: COMMON NAME IN BRAZIL FOR THE MORICHE PALM, WHICH REACHES 35 METERS (115 FT) INTO THE SKY AND HAS LARGE, STAR-SHAPED LEAVES. FROM TUPI, "MBUR" (NOURISHMENT) AND "ITI" (TALL TREE) = TALL TREE OF NOURISHMENT OR LIFE. KNOWN AS THE "TREE OF LIFE."

GUIRII: FROM TUPI, MEANING "TENDER, GENTLE." "GURI", A REGIONAL WORD IN BRAZIL FOR BOY OR KID, STEMS FROM IT.

JY PARANÁ: FROM TUPI, MEANING "AX RIVER", JY (AX) AND PARANÁ (RIVER). IT LED TO "JI-PARANA", THE NAME A BRAZILIAN CITY IN THE STATE OF RONDÔNIA.

KAPII' GUARA: FROM TUPI, MEANING "GRASS EATER." IT LED TO "CAPYBARA" (OR "CAPIVARA" IN PORTUGUESE), A WORD FOR A HERBIVOROUS MAMMAL FROM SOUTH AMERICA, ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE LARGEST RODENT IN THE WORLD.

PERE'WA: FROM TUPI, MEANING "SORE." "PEREBA", A BRAZILIAN WORD FOR A NASTY-LOOKING SKIN LESION, STEMS FROM IT.

SURUKU'KU: FROM TUPI, MEANING "ONE WHO BITES HARD." "SURUCUCU", THE BRAZILIAN WORD FOR A VENOMOUS SNAKE ALSO KNOWN AS SOUTH-AMERICAN BUSHMASTER, STEMS FROM IT.

TA-MONDUÁ: FROM TUPI, MEANING "ANTEATER." IT LED TO "TAMANDUA" IN BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE, A WORD FOR A NUMBER OF RELATED ANIMALS WITH LONG, TUBULAR SNOUTS AND A LENGTHY, STICKY TONGUE WHOSE DIET IS BASICALLY ANTS AND TERMITES.

GLOSSARY



DANIELE SILVA DOS SANTOS, FROM JI-PARANÁ, RONDÔNIA, BRAZIL, IS THE MOTHER OF THREE LOVELY CHILDREN, WRITER, ART EDUCATOR, ENTREPRENEUR, ACTOR, STORYTELLER AND PLAYWRIGHT. SHE IS THE FOUNDER OF FADA INAD, A CULTURAL PRODUCTION COMPANY WHOSE MISSION IS "TO TRANSFORM THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN THROUGH ART AND EDUCATION".

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO MY CHILDREN MATHEUS, IRIS AND ISADORA, MY SOURCES OF INSPIRATION IN THIS LIFE; TO MY BELOVED HUSBAND IVAN, FOR HIS GUIDANCE AND FOR ALWAYS BELIEVING IN MY WRITING SKILLS; AND TO MY FAMILY, SPECIALLY MY FATHER ADEMEDISON AND MY MOTHER JOSEFA, WHO HAVE ENCOURAGED ME SINCE CHILDHOOD TO PURSUE MY DREAMS.

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MINISTÉRIO DA
CULTURA



The background is a stylized illustration of a jungle. It features various types of tropical plants, including palm trees with long, thin fronds and broad-leafed plants like philodendrons. The color palette is monochromatic, using shades of olive green, yellow-green, and light beige. The overall style is flat and graphic, with no shading or gradients. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

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