



The Sound of Water

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Level 4





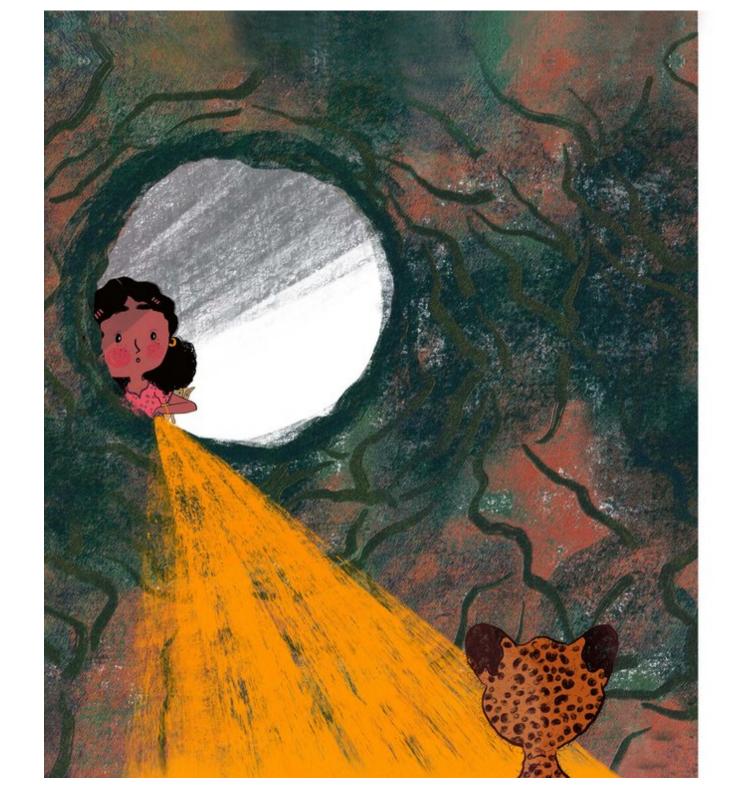












It wasn't a monster. It was a leopard cub, wet and hungry.

"Hello cub!" Varsha said.

"I heard you fall in last night.

You must be starving!"

"MROW!" said the cub.

"Climb up, cub!" Varsha said. The cub stayed on its ledge.





Varsha tried again. "Here, cub cub! Here, cub!"

The cub didn't move.

Varsha ran in and got leftovers from dinner. "Do leopards like fish?" she wondered.



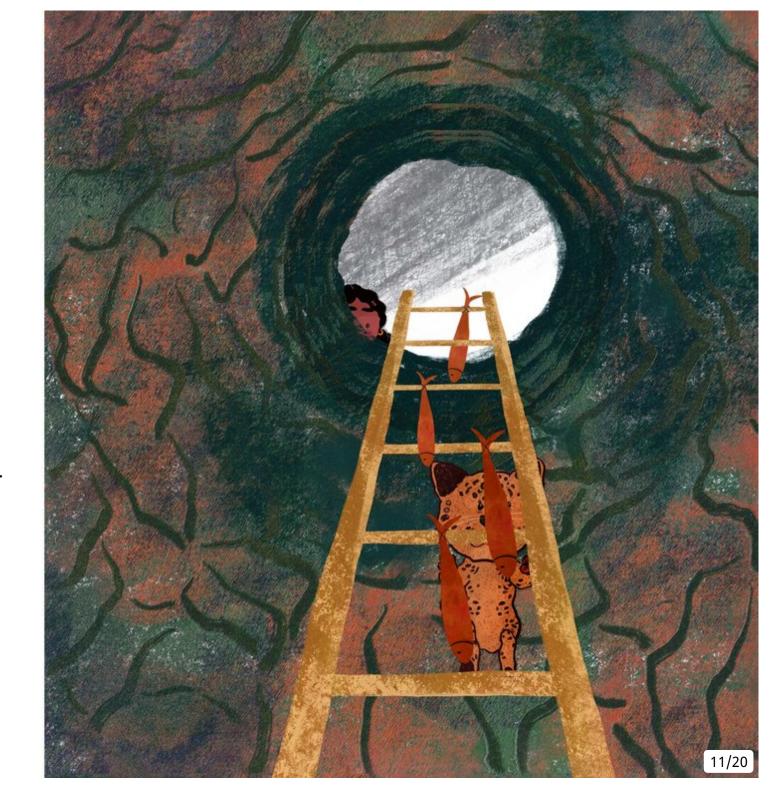
Varsha arranged a trail of fish.

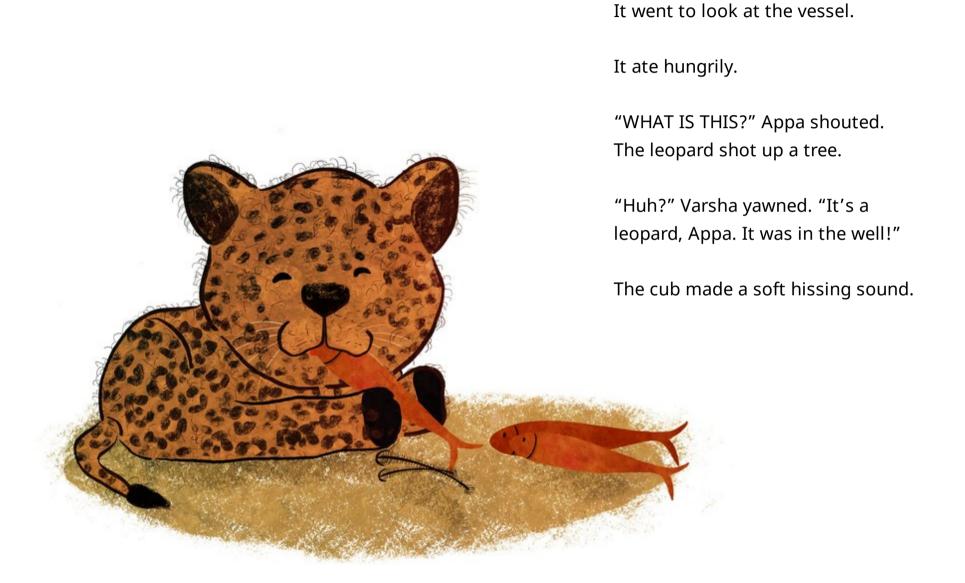
"Mmmm, fish!" Varsha said softly. "Here cub! Dinner!"

The cub climbed up, grabbed the fish and darted back into the well's darkness.

"Don't be scared," Varsha said.

She sat still and waited for the cub. Then she fell asleep.



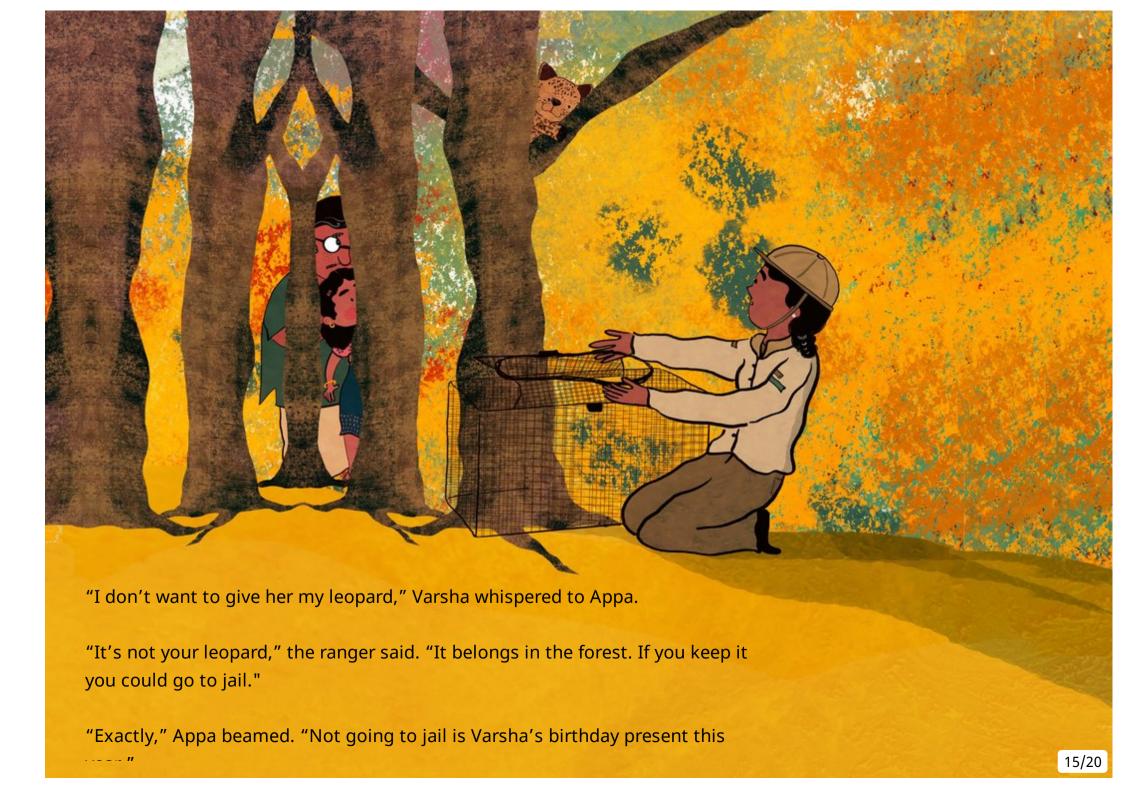


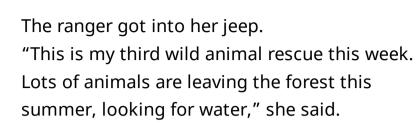
It was morning. The cub climbed out

of the well, eating all the fish.









"Your well has a lot of water! If you make a pond near it, wild animals can drink safely."

"Mrow," the leopard agreed.

"Bye cub!" Varsha shouted. She waved until the jeep was fully gone.



Varsha turned to Appa.

"Can we make a pond, Appa?" she asked.

"Do your homework," Appa replied.

"Pleeeeaaase?" Varsha asked.

"Thirsty animals won't fall in the well any more, and I won't try to kidnap them."

"Fine," Appa said. "But you're doing all the work."





Varsha spent the rest of her holiday digging... and digging... and digging... and digging.

"This ... is ... your ... birthday ... present," Appa panted.

"I thought not going to jail was my birthday present," Varsha said.

Appa was too tired to reply.

The monsoon arrived with dark clouds and thunder.

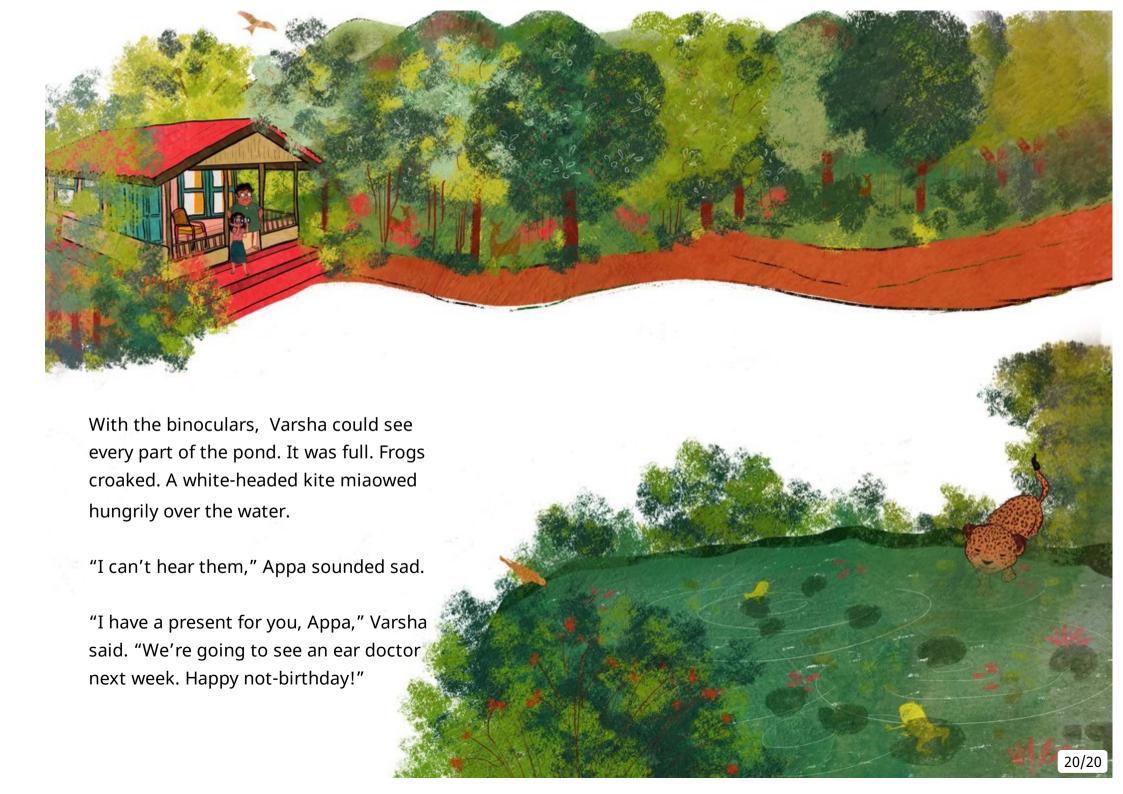
A week later was Varsha's birthday.



"Happy birthday!" Appa said. "Binoculars!"

"I thought the pond was my present," Varsha said.
"Wait, I thought not going to jail was my present."

"Last present," Appa said. "No more."





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The Sound of Water (English)

Varsha and her Appa live near the forest. It has been a hot summer and Varsha is feeling the heat. One day she hears a strange noise and decides to investigate. Only she can hear the sound and wonders what it is. What will Varsha find and will Appa believe her?

This is a Level 4 book for children who can read fluently and with confidence.



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