



# **AVERY** AND **MASA**

**PROTECTORS OF THE ENDANGERED**

# **DINGO DANGER**

WRITTEN BY  
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**MIKE DEENEY**  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
**ERLE TOMPKINS**

This book belongs to an Avery  
All-Star named . . .

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*Our mission is to entertain and  
educate children with movement  
driven content to help protect the  
endangered planet.*

Avery and Masa: Protectors of the Endangered

Dingo Danger ® 2020

Steve Barrett and Mike Deeney

Written, Edited and Produced by Steve Barrett and Mike Deeney.

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*Dingo Danger*

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*Steve Barrett and Mike Deeney*

*Illustrations by*

*Erle Tompkins*

**Avery and Masa:  
Protectors of the Endangered®**

*For our family*

*This book is dedicated to Robert,  
Chuck D, Linda and Annie. To  
Kathleen, Frank, Mikayla and  
Allana. To Cynthia, Steve, Lyndsay,  
Kelsey, Hayden and Camden.*

*With love for Sterling and Betsy.  
To Lily and Dylan, you are never  
alone. We will always be there to  
help you stand up to change the tide.*

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## Prologue

*Ever since Avery and Masa escaped the evil clutches of Nukie Bluff and his band of poachers, they have been on a journey to protect the endangered and find Avery's home. Their adventures have introduced foreign lands, uncovered exotic creatures, and revealed the many dangers and conflicts our world faces today.*

*Avery and Masa invite you to join their adventure. Only with your help can they make a difference.*

*"One person can change the tide, but two friends can change the world."*



## Chapter 1

### *A Secret Meeting*



Something strange has been happening in Australia. Some of the most rare and precious animals have disappeared. This has gone mostly unnoticed by the humans, but whispers of monsters and dark magic have been building within the animal tribes. Their fears have turned to blame and aggression. A secret meeting has been called to discuss the problem.

Meanwhile, deep within the outback, a cloud of red dust surged above a booming vibration in the ground. As the dust settled, a mob of kangaroos appeared, bouncing in unison.

They rushed toward a wide-open mouth at the base of a hollow gum tree.

Inside the sacred tree, the Animal Council assembled. They were chosen leaders from several indigenous animal tribes arranged in a semi-circle. From left to right sat the chief koala, platypus, cassowary and Tasmanian devil. They had refused to meet for many seasons because they rarely agreed on anything. However, this was a problem they could no longer ignore.

The kangaroos entered the tree amid shouts and disorder. They were the peacekeepers of

the outback, known as the *Boomers*. Their leader, Lightfoot, was one who preferred action to the arguing of the council. He glanced at the beautiful art symbols carved above the entrance as he hopped up to the council chamber.

“Another animal disappeared yesterday. There must be a magic spell on us,” the koala shouted. “We have to act now or we may *all* disappear!”

“It’s not magic... it’s them!” the platypus said as he pointed at the Tasmanian devil. “Your tribe is reckless. They behave like little tornadoes.”

“It’s not us. Your tribe gets stuck in those traps and we always rescue you,” the Tasmanian devil growled.

“Could it be one of those tigers from Tasmania?” the koala asked.

“I told you – they are extinct,” the Tasmanian devil replied. “It has to be a bunyip monster. I think I saw a great big one with two huge fangs last year.”

“Those aren’t real. It has to be the strangers that keep trying to come here from other lands. We’ve got to keep them out!” the platypus argued.

“Then we should block any strange creatures who are different from us. No more strangers,” the koala agreed.

“No more strangers!” All of them shouted, except Cassie the cassowary.

Cassie was a fierce rare bird with an imposing frame but a peaceful heart. She couldn't fly but she was able to jump almost as high as the kangaroos.

“We need answers before aggression,” Cassie said in a calm voice.

“We need to act, not think,” the koala said as he turned to the

others. “Send in the *Boomers* to enforce the new law!”

Cassie shook her head in disagreement. “We can not let this anger cause endless fighting with outsiders,” Cassie pleaded.

The *Boomers* had waited patiently to speak. Finally, Lightfoot had heard enough.

“We are protectors – not enforcers,” Lightfoot said. “Besides, we were all strangers once. How can we tell who is a stranger and who is not?”

“Silly question, Lightfoot. They will talk funny and think differently than we do,” the platypus replied. “You will not

“speak at this meeting again. We ask the questions here.”

Pogo angrily hopped past Lightfoot with his boxing paws held high. He was the strongest of all the *Boomers*. As Lightfoot held him back, a kangaroo scout named Kickstand interrupted the meeting with unexpected news.

“I spotted two strange looking animals hiking through the outback with a joey kangaroo. It could be the one who disappeared,” Kickstand said.

“They must be the thieves,” the koala yelled. “Find them before they get away!”



## Chapter 2

### *Desert Duo*



Avery and Masa hiked through a sun-drenched terrain, followed closely by a cute bouncing baby kangaroo, or joey, as they are called. Relentless beams of sunrays shined from above, hitting them like lasers. The sun began to dampen their spirits, although the joey seemed to be happy as could be as he hopped in circles around them.

“Avery, my mouth is so dry I feel like I’m trying to swallow peanut butter,” Masa complained.

“We need water, my friend. I think I see some up ahead,” Avery replied.

The dehydrated duo reached a ravine and dipped their heads into the refreshing water. As they shook the water from their fur, they opened their eyes to see three kangaroos towering over them. It was the *Boomers*.



“Uh-hi,” Masa said. “What’s going on, buddies?”

“Identify yourselves, thieves!” Kickstand ordered. And give back our stolen joey before we thump you.”

“Thieves? Sorry friends, you may have us mixed up with someone else. I’m Avery and this is my pal, Masa. We have traveled a long way to return this young kiddo,” Avery said as the joey bounced closer, licking his face. “We were led to this land by the words on his crate.”

“Crate? Explain,” Lightfoot commanded.

“Well, we were taken from our homes by poachers and trapped in wooden crates out in

the middle of the Indian Ocean,” Masa said. “We thought we were the only animals in trouble but we’ve learned there are so many more. We’re not the bad guys, buddies.”

The *Boomers* turned to each other in disbelief.

“Hang on a tick while we discuss your fate, mate,” Pogo said as they huddled close.

“Do you think these poachers have anything to do with the disappearing animals?” Kickstand whispered.

“I’m not sure, but we’re going to find out,” Lightfoot responded. “Keep a close eye on

them. I have a feeling they will lead us to some answers.”

Pogo turned to sniff Avery and Masa. “Your trip ends here,” he said as he gagged at the smell of Masa’s fur. “We’ll return the joey to his family.”

“Now, be on your way strangers. Your passage has not been approved by the council,” Kickstand advised.

Avery stepped forward and gave the joey a nice pat on top of his head and smiled. “Glad you’re home safe, little dude.”

The joey smiled and hopped away with the *Boomers*. Pogo

bounced right over Masa, kicking red dirt all over him.

“How rude!” Masa said.  
“Those bouncing brutes have no manners.”

“Chill out Masa, they are just protecting their young and their land,” Avery said.

“I guess so, but that was sooo not nectar,” Masa muttered.

## Chapter 3

### *The Lion's Den*

Miles away, a green 1975 Jeep roared across the outback, blaring an old 1980's song by *Men At Work*. It was caked with dust and loaded with nets on each side. A logo of a target with the word *BLUFF* decorated the car door. The man behind the wheel was the world's most infamous poacher – Nukie Bluff.

Sergeant Nukie Bluff was a former soldier discharged for bad behavior. Soon after, he began his hobby of poaching precious



animals and selling them to the highest bidder. As his wealth and power grew, so did his impact around the world. Nukie Bluff is now the official leader of the world's organization of evil poachers, code-named – *BLUFF (Buy Live Unique Foreign Fauna)*.

Nukie sped down the windy road, finally reaching a large rock formation near Ayers Rock. He exited the Jeep and entered a dark cave. His flashlight guided him as he walked deeper into a narrow cavern. At the end of the path was a secret elevator door. The metal doors quickly opened. He stepped inside and pressed

the last button labled – *The Lion's Den.*

As Nukie reached the bottom floor, the doors opened up to a dimly lit room. Shadows moved across the walls as embers burned in the fireplace. A polar bear skin rug decorated the floor. Animal trophies covered one wall and represented the loss of many endangered species. Nukie paced back and forth in his big brown military boots chewing on his favorite snack – red licorice.

On the other wall, several television monitors lit up with faces of poachers from around the world. They waited patiently for their benefactor to speak. In

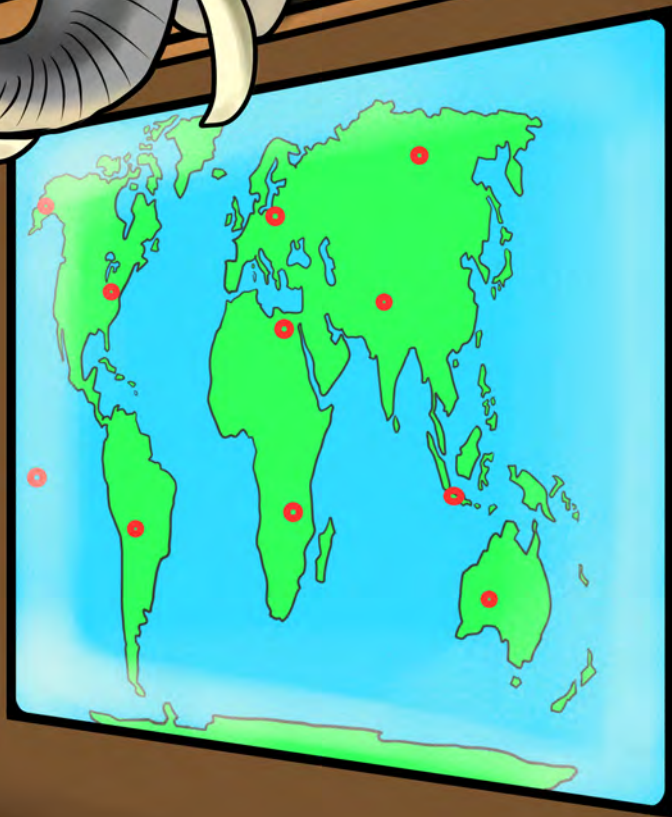
between them was a huge world map marked with flashing red lights spread across the different continents.

Nukie turned to speak, “My fellow poachers, we have a red alert. Two of my prized trophies escaped one of my cargo ships. Be on the lookout for a sneaky red panda and his toxic little friend, a slow loris. I want them back and I will pay double to whoever catches them first.”





*Nycticebus javanicus*  
'SLOW LORIS'



*Ailuurus fulgens*  
'Red Panda'

As Nukie posted photographs of Avery and Masa on the screen, the poachers examined them. They were experienced in numerous methods of poaching and began boasting how they would be the ones to collect the reward.

“We are used to catching much bigger beasts! This shall be easy,” one poacher bragged.

“Well, we have experience with these types of creatures and know what they like to eat. We will be the ones to catch them,” another responded.

“Then get to it bludgers! You’re giving me a headache,”

Nukie scolded. “They were last seen in Java but they could be anywhere. I’ll let you know when Operation Outback is complete.”

Nukie turned off the monitors and walked across the room to a *golden whistle* hanging above the fireplace. He grabbed the whistle and continued toward a large refrigerator and opened the door. Reaching past the stacks of pudding cups, he took out a piece of raw meat and exited toward the elevator.

“Time to release the hounds,” Nukie said as the elevator doors opened.



## Chapter 4

# *Dingo Danger*



Nukie exited the elevator and into another cavern. His young assistant Tiago was busy organizing wood crates for shipment. The thin, blond, bumbling teenager with bushy eyebrows followed Nukie's every command. Wearing his signature white shorts, he stenciled words on a large wooden crate.

"Have they been fed, Tiago?" Nukie asked.

"No sir, just as you instructed," Tiago replied.

"Good," Nukie said as he grabbed the *golden whistle* and blew. There was no sound. He blew the whistle again – silence.

Suddenly, growls emerged from deep inside the cavern. They grew louder and louder. Nukie blew the whistle a third time. Slowly, a pack of vicious dingoes emerged from the shadows, snarling. Drool dripped from their jagged teeth. They gathered right in front of Nukie and sat in attention.

“Listen up dingoes, its hunting time,” Nukie commanded. “If you want to be fed, you’ve got to complete our list of trophies. Here’s a little sample of your reward.”

Nukie took the raw meat and tossed it to the ground as he and Tiago exited the cave. The wild

dogs pounced, fighting each other for a morsel of food. The alpha dog, Darco, snapped at all the challengers.

“All food goes through me,” Darco snarled as he placed his paw on the piece of meat.

“The reward is meat again? Can’t we get some cookies? I’ve got a sweet tooth,” Deebo, the cross-eyed joker whined.

“Watch your tongue and get back in line. You’re hunting with me today, Deebo,” Darco scolded.

Deebo giggled because he knew his crossed eyes made looking at his own tongue very

easy. He stepped in line with the pack and they barked in unison.

"Today, we will work in pairs. If we complete the list, our master promises to keep us fed for months. No more scavenging. No more starving," Darco said as the pack began to howl in approval. "And don't bother coming back without your target. Let's grab victory — so we can feast!" Darco shouted as he led the pack out of the cave, running in all directions.



## Chapter 5

### *Koala Capture*

**30**

Later that day, two cuddly young koala bears slept in a eucalyptus tree, unaware that Darco and Deebo sat below them.

“Those things sleep all day long, mate,” Deebo said. “Like eighteen hours a day.”

The koalas slept side by side as they snored a cute little tune.

“Shake the tree,” Darco ordered.

“But they look so peaceful and cute,” Deebo hesitated. “Why would we want to disturb them?”

“It’s our job ding-a-ling,” Darco scolded.

“Right, sorry,” Deebo complied.

Deebo leaned against the tree and gave it a big shake. The koalas were startled awake from their slumber.

“Well, hello there,” Deebo giggled. “Sorry to wake you from your nap. Your parents told us to come get you.”

“You are strangers. My dad says we are not supposed to talk to anyone we don’t know,” Kora, the oldest said, rubbing her eyes.

“We are not strangers. He told us you’re late for dinner and he’s making eucalyptus sandwiches,” Darco said.

“Ooh gross... uh-I mean they’re delicious aren’t they?” Deebo asked.

“Yes, they are soo good,” Kane, the youngest answered.

“Come on down so you don’t get in trouble,” Deebo pleaded.

“No thanks, we’ll wait here. Our dad will be coming soon. He’s a powerful leader on the Animal Council,” Kora said.

“Oh yes... the council. The wise and caring leaders who forget about the poor little dingoes struggling for scraps,” Darco snarled mockingly. “Yep, that’s who sent us.”



“Come on... your dad trusts us,” Deebo said.

“My dad gave us a password for all strangers,” Kora said. “Tell us what it is if you know him so well.”

“Yeah, what’s the password?” Kane asked.

Darco sighed. *These koalas were smart and their parents had prepared them well*, he thought. He gritted his teeth in frustration. Out of nowhere, a word popped into his head.

“It’s *eucalyptus*,” Darco guessed.

“That’s right! You must be telling the truth,” Kane said as he hurried down the tree before Kora could think.

Darco’s jaw dropped in shock while Deebo’s eyes popped open and uncrossed for a moment.

“Whoa, how did you know that?” Deebo whispered.

“It was either that word or *sleep*,” Darco replied. “That’s all koalas think about he-he.”

Kane had already reached the bottom when Kora called out to her brother.

“Wait, come back, Kane!”  
Kora urged.

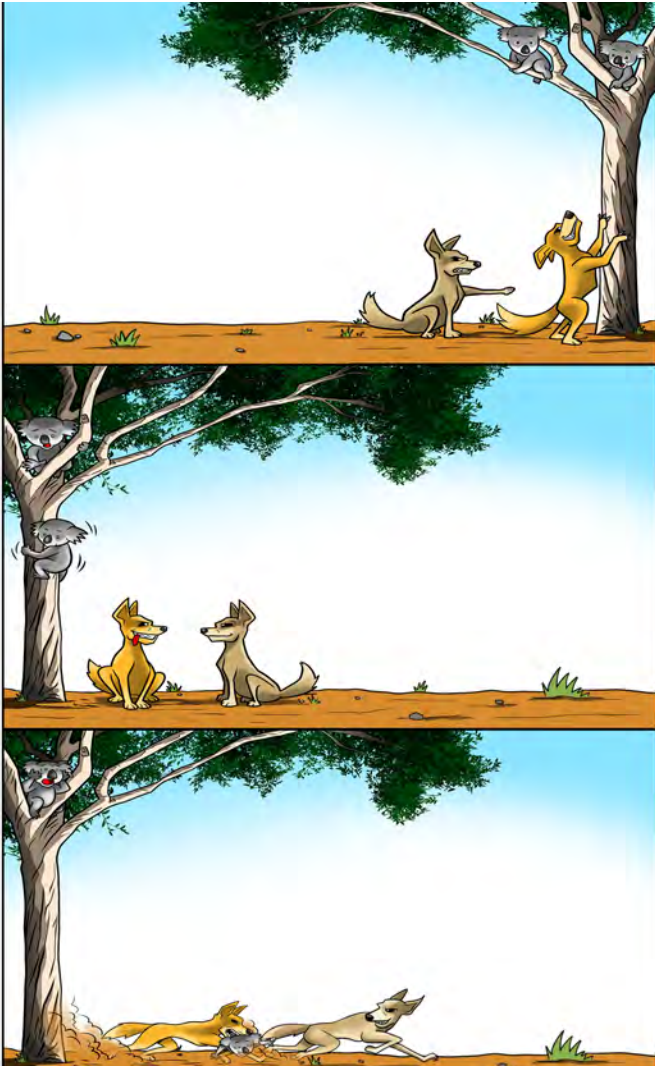
But it was too late. Deebo lunged forward and grabbed him.

“Let’s go... I’ve got him!”  
Deebo shouted.

Kora remembered her dad’s words. *Don’t trust strangers, Kora. Protect your little brother, Kora.* She immediately cried out for help. “Stranger danger! Stranger danger!”

Suddenly, birds began tweeting from above and animal warnings bellowed from below. The dingoes nervously spun around, as the sounds grew louder and louder.

“Let’s get out of here,” Deebo trembled. “Or the *Boomers* will come and thump us.”



Darco raced ahead and away from the eucalyptus grove. Deebo placed Kane in his teeth and followed across the blazing hot desert. Kora watched through the safety of the trees as her little brother was taken away. *Help will come soon*, she hoped.



## Chapter 6

### *True Detective*

Masa rested on Avery's tail as they plowed through the desert, guided only by the direction of the sun. Avery's cinnamon-red fur dripped with sweat as he dug his tired paws into the dry desert dirt.

"How about you carry me for an hour?" Avery asked.

"I totally would but I'm meditating right now. I'm visualizing a peaceful place to rest and drink chocolate milk," Masa replied.

Avery soon spotted a small speck of green in the distance. "Masa, look – trees!"

“Perfect. My meditation worked,” Masa said.

Avery’s ears perked up to flocks of birds chirping loudly as they frantically circled a grove of eucalyptus trees in the distance.

“No Masa, something’s happening over there. We’ve got to investigate.”

“But those kangaroos won’t be happy if we get involved,” Masa said.

“Someone needs our help and that’s more important,” Avery said. “Now, hold on tight!”

Avery burst into a full sprint. Masa struggled to hold onto his tail, especially with the huge



bugs that kept smashing into his face. As they got closer, they could see a group of funny looking grey teddy bears waving their arms wildly.

“What seems to be the problem buddies?” Masa asked as he hopped to the ground from Avery’s tail.

“A stranger took our son,” said the frightened father as Kora huddled closely behind him. “It was those dog-gone dingoes.”

“Sounds like we’ve got a little dingo danger,” Masa said.

“Which way did they go?” Avery asked.

Kora pointed west from behind the safety of her father.

“I’m Avery and this is Masa. We’re going to get your son back. You can trust us,” Avery promised.

Avery grabbed Masa and threw him on his back and boldly raced off into the unknown. The koalas watched on as they held each other tightly.

The search led to a windy narrow path sloping down the side of a cliff. Masa’s big eyes scanned the dirt for tracks. He quickly spotted something.

“Avery, I’ve got a clue. Dingo tracks,” Masa said as he pointed forward.

“Excellent eyes, Masa. Just like a true detective.”

They followed the dingo tracks until they unexpectedly disappeared. Avery paused to sniff the air for a scent but only smelled the unpleasant odor of Masa’s fur. But something else caught Masa’s attention as he peered in every direction.

“What is it, Masa?” Avery asked.

“I think we’re being followed.”

## Chapter 7

### *Saltie Surprise*

The path finally led Avery and Masa to a river that carved through a valley of trees. The water had a wonderful snapping sound as it passed through the stones scattered across the bottom. It was a beautiful contrast to the sun-scorched desert. Avery splashed through the shallow water. It felt refreshing on his tired legs.

Masa hopped off of Avery's tail to dip into the water. As he

wet his spiked hair, he paused and listened closely.

“Do you hear that? Is someone laughing?”

“You must be hearing things again,” Avery said. “Keep moving or we’ll lose those dogs.”

“Okay buddy, but keep your eyes clear, ears open and claws clenched,” Masa warned.

Avery and Masa jumped from stone to stone. Soon, the stone path ended and the water became deeper. As they were about to dive in, a loud piercing laugh echoed from above.

They looked up to see a local bird named Kiki circling around them. The vibrant purple and blue colors from the kookaburra's wings whizzed by as she swooped in between them. She laughed hysterically as she finally landed on a tree branch nearby.

"What's so funny?" Masa said.

"The wrong way... you are going the wrooong wa-a-a-ay ha-ha-ha!" Kiki laughed.

"How would you know? I'm a great explorer," Masa stated.

"Well, I wouldn't jump in there ha-ha," Kiki laughed.

“Oh yeah... why is that?”  
Masa asked.

“Those crocs have been  
staring at you for five minutes  
ha-ha-ha.”

“Crocs? You mean  
crocodiles?” Avery paused.

Just then, three eyes slowly  
emerged from the water,  
followed by two massive green  
bodies with leathery skin and  
sharp ridges that led all the way  
down their long powerful tails.

A crocodile missing one eye  
slowly swam closer. “These are  
the two that Lightfoot said to  
keep a close eye on,” he said in a

deep voice. "Should we eat them, Grumble?"

"Patience, Grumble. Let these strangers explain who they are," he replied.

"Right, we've never seen creatures that look like that before," Grumble added.

"Well, I'm a red panda, also known as a *Firefox*. This is my trusted friend, Masa. He is a slow loris, but he is actually quite fast," Avery said as he tried to lighten the mood.

The Crocs looked at each other and grumbled, unamused.



“We are tracking some devious dingoes,” Avery said.

“Yeah, this funny looking teddy bear got dog-napped and we’re going to rescue him,” Masa said.

“We could really use your help,” Avery said.

Grimble and Grumble looked at each other and grumbled a few words. Then suddenly, they dipped under water. Bubbles began to pop on the surface.

“Ha-ha, you’re in trouble now,” Kiki laughed. “This is how they seize their prey. Oooh,

look – the bubbles stopped! Get ready for a saltie surprise ha-ha.”

Avery and Masa embraced each other as they stared at the ripples in the water. Masa’s paws pinched Avery tightly. Suddenly, Grimble and Grumble popped up from the water.



“Aaaah!” Masa screamed.

“Relax mates, we’re not going to eat you. We think you can solve the mystery of the disappearances. The council blamed us and we want to clear our name. So, we will help you, despite my brother’s hunger. Hop on and we will take you down the river,” Grimble offered.

“Holy termites! You crocs scared me to shivers. I almost fainted,” Masa said, catching his breath.

“Well, we’d be honored to ride with you,” Avery said.  
“Thanks for joining the adventure, friends.”

“Oooh, I love a good adventure,” Kiki chirped. “I’ll sing us a travel song ha-ha.”

The croc brothers wiggled down the river with Avery and Masa on board. Kiki sang and soared through the air, doing dives and circles as she guided from above.

## Chapter 8

### *Waterfall Brawl*

The long ride down the river was peaceful and uplifting as the crocs swam to the base of a spectacular waterfall. Avery and Masa turned to each other in awe at the majestic white water thrashing into the crystal blue pool. The mist of water rained over a fallen log that provided a natural bridge across. As they took in the sight, Masa spotted several figures beginning to cross. It was two dingoes and the young koala!

“There they are, Avery,”  
Masa pointed.



“Stop right there, dingoes!”  
Avery ordered.

The dingoes paused in the middle of the log to stare at two unfamiliar creatures riding crocs toward them.

“Is it me, or are those funny fuzzies riding crocodiles?” Deebo asked.

“This place keeps getting weirder and weirder,” Darco groaned.

“Croc bros, we’ve got to get up there,” Avery said as he motioned up to the log.

Grimble and Grumble looked at each other and nodded.



“No problem, sit back on our tails.”

Avery and Masa reluctantly sat down. They were instantly launched into the air by the mighty crocodile tails.

“Woohoo!” they both screamed in unison as they soared through the air. Avery barely reached the log far enough to dig his claws into the wet wood. He held on for dear life as Masa swung from his tail. Masa began to climb and finally reached the top by stepping on Avery’s head. Avery then clawed his way up, taking a deep breath before turning toward the dingoes. He stood up on his hind

legs and unleashed his claws,  
daring the dingoes to come closer.

Darco nervously withdrew from the bold *Firefox* for a moment but eased up when he saw that help had arrived. On the other side, a pack of dingoes came out from the trees and stepped across the log. Darco grinned from ear to ear.

“G’day fellas,” Darco said.  
“Are you sure you want to tangle with us to save this little one? Why do you care what happens to him anyway?”

“We are protectors of the endangered and will always

stand up for those in need,”  
Avery said.

“Very brave, but some of us  
just need to eat,” Darco scoffed.  
“Now, give up – you are  
surrounded.”

What Darco didn’t know  
was that *Firefoxes* were master  
escape artists and Avery had  
something that none of the  
dingoes had – thumbs.

As Masa backed up, Avery  
got on all fours, waving his fluffy  
ringed tail. More dingoes came  
in behind Darco. Avery’s tail  
continued to wave back and forth  
as Darco reared back, ready to  
attack.





“On the count of three,  
you’re dog food,” Darco warned.  
“1... 2... 3!”

As Darco lunged forward with all his might, Avery dove to his stomach. He released his claws and used his extra thumbs to crawl forward and over the side of the log. As Avery gripped the slippery wood, Darco soared right past him and crashed into the dingoes on the other side. They were knocked over the side like bowling pins. Darco was able to land on his stomach but without any grip, he slowly slid off and into the pounding water.

Deebo was left standing with Kane but Kiki quickly swooped

in and flapped her wings into his eyes.

“My eyes! I can’t see!” Deebo screamed as he released Kane from his mouth.

Kane dropped over the edge only to be caught by Masa with one hand. Masa struggled to maintain his grip on the young koala *and* Avery’s tail.

“I’ve got him!” Masa yelled. “Wait – I’m slipping.”

“Hang on, pal. I’ll pull us up,” Avery said as he clawed back up the log to safety. He grabbed Masa and Kane and they all breathed a sigh of relief.

Deebo ran away whimpering, while Darco and the dingoes dog-paddled to the shore just before the crocs could get to them. Shaking off the water, Darco let out an angry howl.

“You just messed with the wrong pack,” Darco howled. “We’ll be back!”

“Thanks for the help, Kiki,” Avery said as they reached the safety of dry land. “We couldn’t have saved him without you.”

“You’re welcome. But we’d better take this fella back to the Animal Council,” said Kiki. “They will be interested to hear the news.”





## Chapter 9

### *Brave the Cave*

Kiki led Avery and Masa towards the sacred gum tree. As they entered the wide mouth at the base, something seemed odd. There were no animals to greet them. There was no sign of anyone.

“Mother of a Kookaburra! The Animal Council has disappeared,” Kiki stuttered. “Those dingoes couldn’t have taken them all.”

“There must be someone else behind all of this,” Avery said.

Just then, the chief koala rushed in. Kane’s father’s eyes widened with relief at the sight of his young son.

“My boy! You have returned him to me,” he said as he hugged Kane tightly. “How can I ever repay you?”

“It is our duty to help those in need,” Avery responded. “But it seems that our job is not complete.”

“I’m afraid not. While I was searching for my son, everyone else disappeared. Please help me find them, you’re my only hope,” the chief koala said.

“Don’t worry papa bear, we will get to the bottom of this council capture,” Masa said.

“Kiki, we will need you to be our eyes in the sky,” Avery said.

“No problem,” Kiki said.  
“Gossip travels through the sky  
ha-ha. I’ll find out where those  
doggies went. Just try to keep up  
ha-ha.”

Avery and Masa followed  
Kiki as she chirped and sang  
songs with the birds of the land  
to discover the location of the  
dingo den.

The sky chatter led them to a  
large red rock cave. They arrived  
as the sun was setting and the  
cave’s darkness looked very  
scary.

“Are there ghosts in there?”  
Masa asked.

“No, of course not,” Kiki responded. “But legend has it there have been sightings of the bunyip monster inside. So, I’ll wait outside.”

“Oh, great,” Masa sighed.

“Masa, guide me inside,” Avery said. “It will be too dark for me.”

“No worries, my super night vision is on,” Masa whispered as his big yellow eyes scanned the cave. “Ooh, this is scary. Avery, there are several crates back there. Wait, it looks like the ceiling is moving. It’s the ghosts!”

“It’s probably just bats,” Avery said. “Just stay focused.”

Masa approached the crates that were stacked on top of each other. They were similar to the ones that they had escaped from before. He looked for the words that were always written on them. He could make out a few from a distance.

*“Platypus, cassowary, Tasmanian devil,”* Masa read. “There’s so many, Avery. What should we do?”

“We have to try and free them all,” Avery said.

“But there’s a wild pack of dingoes sleeping right next to them,” Masa whispered.

“Masa, you’re small and sneaky. You can get past them easily,” Avery said.

“Are you crazy?” Masa complained. “They’ll eat me!”

“It’s hero time, dude,” Avery said.

“Oh great, what good is a hero that becomes a midnight snack?” Masa asked.

“It’s not midnight yet buddy. You still have time,” Avery responded.

“Okay, whatever, I’ll do it. But if I become puppy chow, you’ll be sorry.”

## Chapter 10

### *Whistle Commander*

Masa quietly tiptoed past the snoring dingoes. He reached a big crate and locked eyes with what appeared to be a large winged beast through the holes in the wood.

“Shhh,” Masa whispered as he placed his finger over his mouth.

Masa climbed up the crate and found a latch with a pin in it. He slowly unhooked the pin. The large beast immediately burst out, knocking Masa to the



ground. It began cackling and stomping around with its razor-sharp claws. All the dingoes were startled awake!

“Uh-oh,” Masa said.

“What’s happening, Masa?” Avery whispered.

“Run! It’s the bunyip monster!”

Masa immediately hopped onto Avery and they ran towards the light of the entrance. But blocking their path was a large shadowy figure making a loud echoing sound. As the figure stepped into the light, it was none other than Nukie Bluff – clapping.



“Well, well, well, if it isn’t the *Firefox* and his little pal. Did you really think you could outsmart me, the greatest

poacher of all time?" Nukie chuckled as five dingoes slowly came in behind him. "This must be my lucky day."

Avery bravely placed himself in front of Masa and raised his claws. Nukie grabbed his *golden whistle* from his pocket and held it up high.

As Nuke placed the whistle to his lips, a large cloud of red dust burst into the cave. Nukie was forced to cover his eyes with his arms and began coughing.

"Come on, this is our chance," Avery whispered. "Get low and follow me."

They crawled past Nukie towards the moonlit sand. As they reached the open air, the beautiful purple sky was not the only welcome sight.

Avery cleared his eyes to see magnificent marsupials bouncing in unison around them. It was the *Boomers*, protectors of the outback. Masa clapped with excitement at the wonderful sight. As Nukie finally emerged from the cave, he looked over the *Boomers* with a surprised stare.

Nukie slowly unhooked a long metal net from off of his belt. It came alive, snapping with electricity. He stepped closer,

waving it as it buzzed with energy.

“Oh, I love a good challenge,” Nukie laughed. “You roos are tough, but you’re still outnumbered.”

Nukie blew hard on the *golden whistle*. Avery and Masa were confused by the silence. But soon, the vicious dingoes exited the cave snarling and growling. Darco approached and bowed to his master.

“It must be some kind of hypnotic trick to make them obey. Our ears can’t pick up that high pitch,” Avery whispered. “We’ve got to get that whistle, Masa.”

“Riiight. I went first last time. It’s your turn now, buddy.”

Lightfoot calmly signaled the *Boomers* to form a circle. They were organized and ready while the dingoes struggled to stay together. But the odds were still stacked against them with three dingoes for every *Boomer*.

Just then, the winged beast slowly emerged from the cave. It was the strong and powerful cassowary, Cassie. She nodded to Lightfoot as she stood beside him. Lightfoot smiled and signaled to the *Boomers* by stomping his tail.

“Together!” Lightfoot yelled.

## Chapter 11

### *Royal Rumble*

The chalky red dirt instantly became an active battle arena. The kangaroos bounced around, kicking and boxing the dingoes in their path. Cassie jumped in an out of the circle, knocking dingoes into the air. As she charged toward Nukie, she launched her feet forward. Her sharp claws came down hard on his right hand. The *golden whistle* flung into the air and right into the middle of the royal rumble.







Avery spotted the whistle on the ground. He ducked and dove through the scuffle to grab it, only to have it knocked out of his hand by Darco.

“You’re mine now, red,” Darco scowled. “You don’t belong here anyway.”

Darco and Avery circled each other, growling and snarling. As they moved closer, they paused to the sound of laughter in the sky. Kiki swooped right in between them and snatched the whistle with her beak. Nukie angrily shouted orders to the dogs as she flapped her wings.

“Get that kooky bird!”

Kiki dodged snapping dogs and jumping kangaroos as she weaved through the scuffle to Masa, who was attentively watching the scuffle from the sidelines. She dropped the whistle in his tiny hands. Two dingoes approached him, placing grinding teeth in his face. As slobber dripped on his head, Masa calmly blew the whistle as hard as he could and the dingoes immediately sat down. The fighting stopped. Even Darco lowered his head to his new masters.

Avery kindly patted Darco's head, "No need to bow my friend. You are now free from the

poacher's control. It's time for you to lead your pack by helping us release the animals that you've captured. They will forgive you in time."

"I am humbled by your acceptance," Darco said. "We will make up for our bad behavior, but first we must drive that poacher out of here... together."

All the animals turned toward Nukie and scowled. Cassie flapped her wings and cackled as she clawed forward. Nukie backed away with his hands in the air.

“Now, settle down beasts,”  
Nukie pleaded.

Suddenly, Tiago sped up in the green Jeep and came to a skidding halt in front of Nukie. Nukie grabbed his electric net and rushed inside. Avery could see several crates stacked in the back. He could barely make out the word *Hawaii* stenciled on the side. As Tiago revved the engine, Nukie pointed his finger at Avery and Masa. His face was bright red with anger.

“This is not over!” Nukie shouted. “I’ll never stop until you’re both trophies on my wall!”

## Chapter 12

### *Medals of Courage*

The next day, the Animal Council held a big ceremony to celebrate the safe return of all the animals. Avery and Masa stood before them as heroes. Kiki and the croc brothers proudly watched along with the huge crowd of animals. Even the dingoes were invited.

“Avery and Masa, we were wrong to treat you as strangers. You have reunited our families and solved the mystery of the

disappearances," the chief koala announced.

"Strangers can become friends if their hearts are open," Avery said.

"You are very right, Avery," Cassie said. "We could not see the answer right in front of us because we were too busy questioning what was strange to us."

"Being strange or different can bring special talents that can unite us against those who wish to do harm," Avery said to the crowd.

"Yeah buddies, being different is so cool," Masa said.

“It’s our differences that make us all nectar.”

“I now declare that Avery and Masa receive the medal of courage!” Cassie said. “All who agree – say aye.”

“Aye!” the crowd cheered as Cassie placed medals over their heads.

Avery and Masa glanced at their medals to see the same art symbols carved above the sacred tree. It was the *creed* or slogan of the Animal Council. They honored the powerful words of the human aborigines, who always respected them.



“Your actions were true representations of our creed, quoted from our aboriginal friends... *‘We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love... and then we return home,’* Cassie said.

“Beautiful words. That sounds a lot like our mission, Avery,” Masa said.

“We must be doing what we’re meant to do, Masa,” Avery smiled.



“The Animal Council has also declared that new safety rules be added to help protect our land and children,” the chief koala said as he addressed the crowd.

The council agreed and approved the following new rules:

***Rule 1:** Kids should always be with a trusted adult like a parent or a teacher.*

***Rule 2:** Kids should never follow any adult they don't know.*

***Rule 3:** Kids should know their address and important numbers in case of an emergency.*

***Rule 4:** Kids should have a unique password that only their parents know.*

***Rule 5:** Kids should always have a buddy... Like Avery and Masa!*

At the end of the ceremony, Avery and Masa wore their medals proudly. They turned to see all the happy families that had been reunited. As they walked past the crowd of cheering animals, Kane ran up and hugged them both. Lightfoot and the *Boomers* greeted them with smiles at the entrance of the gum tree.

“You truly are protectors of the endangered,” Lightfoot said. “Thank you again. We will make sure the news spreads that Avery and Masa have indeed made a difference.”

“Thank you, Lightfoot,” Avery said. “We are proud to call you our new mates.”

“Safe travels, friends,” Pogo said. “The *Boomers* would be honored to guide you to your next adventure.”

“And you may find a special friend waiting for you,” Kickstand said as the newest *Boomer*, Joey, gave Avery a lick across the face.

With a kangaroo escort, Avery and Masa reached the ocean shore and were met by their biggest friend of all, Sudan, the wise blue whale. The sage of the sea’s massive body breached out as he waved hello.

“So how about that vacation, buddy?” Masa asked.

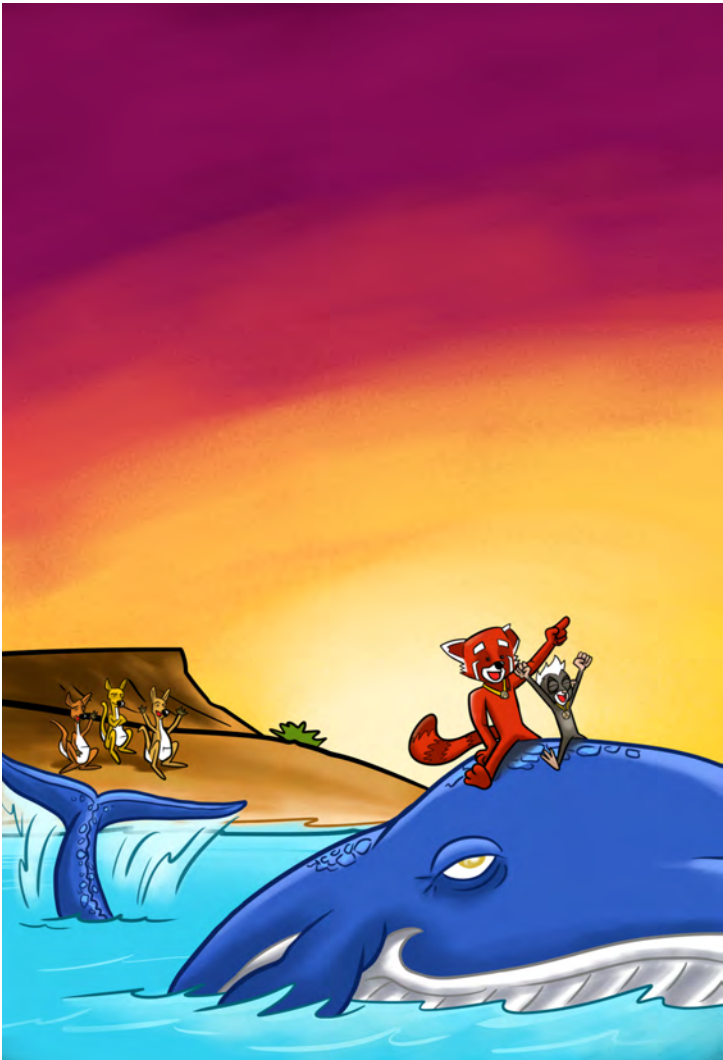
“Yes, Masa, after the java lava and the dingo danger, I think we both could use some relaxation,” Avery agreed.

“Sudan will take us anywhere we want to go. Hawaii comes to mind.”

“Hawaii!” Masa agreed.  
“Nothing could go wrong there.”

“We shall see, Masa. We shall see.”

As they set off into the vast open ocean, Sudan rejoiced as Masa recounted the tale of their amazing adventure.



“The tide is finally changing my friends,” Sudan proudly spouted.

## Epilogue

Meanwhile... Nukie Bluff escaped to the sea to meet Captain Nagata on his massive Japanese ship, the *Ōkina ijime* (*Big Bully*). There were several crates stacked on deck next to Nukie's black helicopter. Nukie stood with Captain Nagata on the bow of the ship with his arms crossed as he looked out to the horizon.

"You'll begin Operation Ocean Storm at once, Captain," Nukie commanded.

Nagata nodded as Nukie spit red licorice into a Styrofoam cup and threw it off the ship and into the ocean.





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***LOOK FOR BOOKS 1 AND 3!***

*Avery and Masa: Java Lava!*

*Avery and Masa: Shark Bullies!*

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Something strange is happening in Australia... many rare and precious animals have disappeared! As strangers to the land, AVERY and MASA must embrace their new role as protectors of the endangered and trek across the blazing hot outback to face suspicious creatures, angry poachers, and vicious DINGOES! Can they solve the mystery before they disappear too?

JOIN THE ADVENTURE - THEY NEED YOUR HELP!

**"ONE PERSON CAN CHANGE THE TIDE,  
BUT TWO FRIENDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD."**

