



# NocturnalS

## The Kooky Kinkajou



Tracey Hecht  
Illustrated by Josie Yee

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by

Tracey Hecht

Illustrations by  
Josie Yee

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# Chapter 1

“I’m bored!” Bismark said.

“There’s nothing to do!”

The sugar glider harrumphed  
and plopped down on a stump.



“I have an idea, Bismark,” Tobin said to his friend. “Why don’t we look for animal shapes in the stars?”

The pangolin rolled onto his scaly back.  
The pangolin squinted at the twinkling sky.  
“Look! There’s an elephant!” Tobin said.



“Pah!” Bismark said.

“Elephant shmelephant!

I’m bored looking at stars.

We do that every night!”

“There's nothing new to see,”  
Bismark complained.

“There's nothing new to do!”



“Bismark,” Dawn chimed in.

“There is plenty new to see.

And plenty new to do.

You just need to use your imagination.”



Dawn lay down beside Tobin.

The fox gazed up at the stars.

Dawn pointed. "I see a fish."



"Well," a voice called out. "I see a

SPARKLE SPRITE!

And it's headed your way!"



# Chapter 2

Down the hill somersaulted a  
furry animal with a very long tail.

Over and

over and

over she rolled.

“Oh!” She laughed.

“This makes me feel woozy!”



The animal hopped to her feet.

She twirled.



“Did you see the sparkle sprite?” she asked.

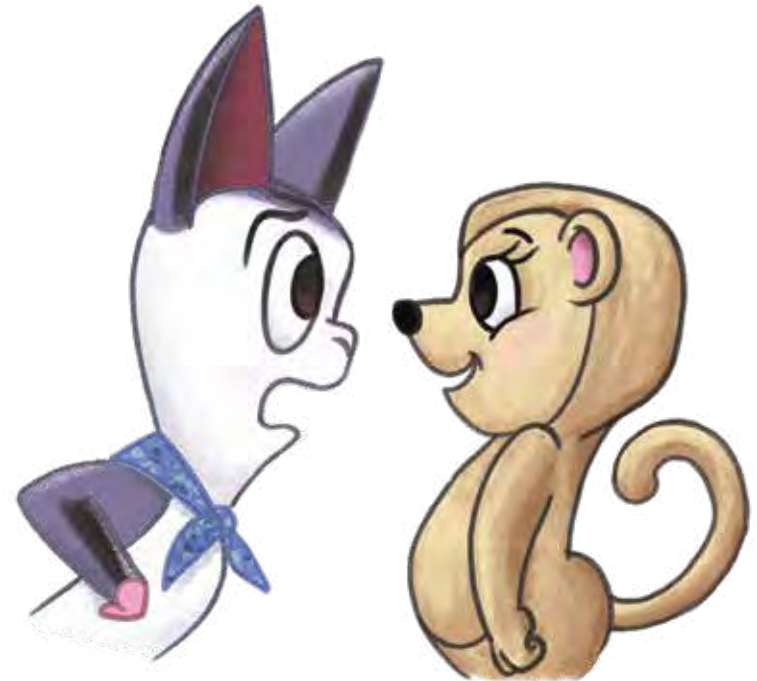
“Which way did it go?”

Bismark put both hands on his hips.

“A sparkle sprite?” he asked.

“What kind of kooky thing is that?”

And what kind of kooky thing are you?”



“Me?” the animal asked.

“I’m Karina, a **kinkajou**.”

“A kinka-who?” Bismark asked.

“A kink-a-choo,” the animal answered.

“Bless you!” Tobin said.



Suddenly, a tiny light flickered past

Karina's nose. 

“There it goes!” Karina cried.

“The sparkle sprite!

It's headed for the sparkle sprite  
spectacular!

Follow me!”  
Karina said.

“Oh goodness!” Tobin said.

“A sparkle sprite spectacular?  
I'd like to see that!”

Tobin trotted after Karina.

Dawn trotted after Tobin.





But Bismark stayed put.

“Sparkle sprites?

And sparkle sprite spectaculars?”

Bismark grumbled.

“That all sounds a bit far-fetched!”

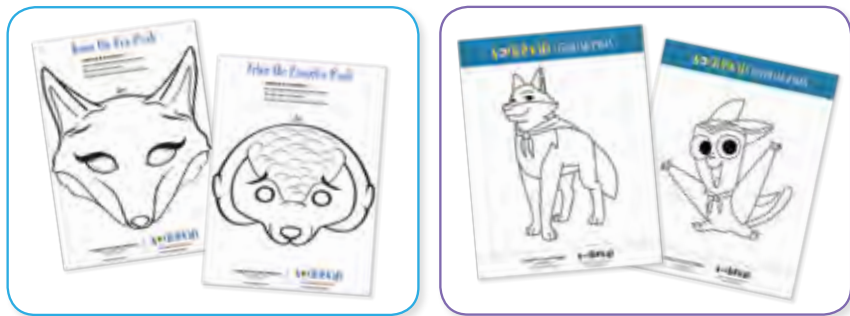
Bismark was suspicious,  
but he decided to follow Karina, too.

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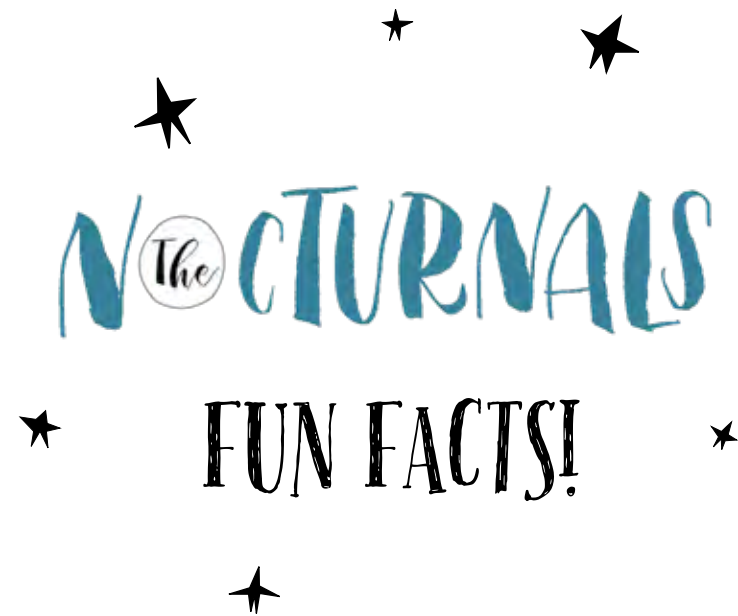


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## What are The Nocturnal Animals?



**Pangolin:** The pangolin is covered with keratin scales on most of its body except its belly and face. A pangolin sprays a stinky odor, much like a skunk, to ward off danger. It then curls into a ball to protect against attack. Pangolins have long, sticky tongues to eat ants and termites. Pangolins do not have teeth.



**Red Fox:** The red fox has reddish fur with a big, bushy tail and a white tip. Red foxes are clever creatures with keen eyesight. They have large, upright ears to hear sounds far away.



**Sugar Glider:** The sugar glider is a small marsupial. It looks like a flying squirrel. It has short gray fur, black rings around its big eyes, and a black stripe that runs from its nose to the end of its tail. Sugar gliders have special skin that stretches from the ankle to the wrist. This special skin allows sugar gliders to glide from tree to tree to find food and escape danger.

**Kinkajou:** The kinkajou is a social animal that lives in treetops. Kinkajous are able to turn their feet backward to run easily in either direction along branches and tree trunks. They have a tail that is longer than their head and body and that acts as another hand. Sometimes they are called honey bears because they raid bees' nests to slurp honey from hives.



## Nighttime Fun Facts!

Nocturnal animals are animals that are awake and active at night. They sleep during the day.



**Firefly:** The firefly is a bug that lights up in a yellow, green, or blue pattern that is unique to its species. The Nocturnal Brigade calls them "sparkle sprites" and uses them to inspire their imaginations.





## Kooky Words

### Ballyhoo

(bal-ee-hoo) *noun*

a talk that gets people excited

### Cuckoo

(koo-koo) *noun*

a silly or crazy person or animal

### Hullabaloo

(huhl-uh-buh-loo) *noun*

a noisy and confusing situation

### Kinkajou

(king-kuh-joo) *noun*

a mammal that lives in the trees and eats fruit

### Switcheroo

(swich-uh-roo) *noun*

a change, especially a surprising or secret one

## About the Author

Tracey Hecht is a writer and entrepreneur who has written, directed and produced for film. She created a Nocturnals Read Aloud Writing Program in partnership with the New York Public Library that has expanded nationwide. Tracey splits her time between Oquossoc, Maine and New York City.

## About the Illustrator

Josie Yee is an award-winning illustrator and graphic artist specializing in children's publishing. She received her BFA from Arizona State University and studied Illustration at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. She lives in New York City with her daughter, Ana, and their cat, Dude.

## About Fabled Films

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