

Welcome to The GROW & READ Early Reader Program!

The GROW & READ book program was developed under the supervision of reading specialists to develop kids' reading skills while emphasizing the delight of storytelling. The series was created to help children enjoy learning to read and is perfect for shared reading and reading aloud.

These GROW & READ levels will help you choose the best book for every reader.

GROW & READ
Developing Confidence for Success in Reading

1
GROW & READ **Level 1: Starting to Read (Preschool-Grade 1)**
Simple sentences and easy sight words for growing confidence

2
GROW & READ **Level 2: Reading with Help (Grades 1-2)**
Longer text, problem solving and growing vocabulary

3
GROW & READ **Level 3: Reading Independently (Grades 2-3)**
More complex plots, feeding imagination and growing information skills

For more information visit growandread.com.

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Published by Fabled Films LLC, New York

ISBN: 978-1-944020-17-0

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017959438

First Edition: April 2018

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Cover Designed by Jaime Mendola-Hobbie
Jacket Art by Waymond Singleton
Interior Art by Josie Yee
Interior Book Design by Aleks Gulan
Typeset in Helvetica Neue, Mrs. Ant, Pacific Northwest, and
Stemple Garamond
Printed by Everbest in China

FABLED FILMS PRESS

NEW YORK CITY

fabledfilms.com

For information on bulk purchases for promotional use please contact Consortium Book Sales & Distribution Sales department at ingrampublishersvc@ingramcontent.com or 1-866-400-5351.

The Slithery Shakedown

by

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Fabled Films Press
New York

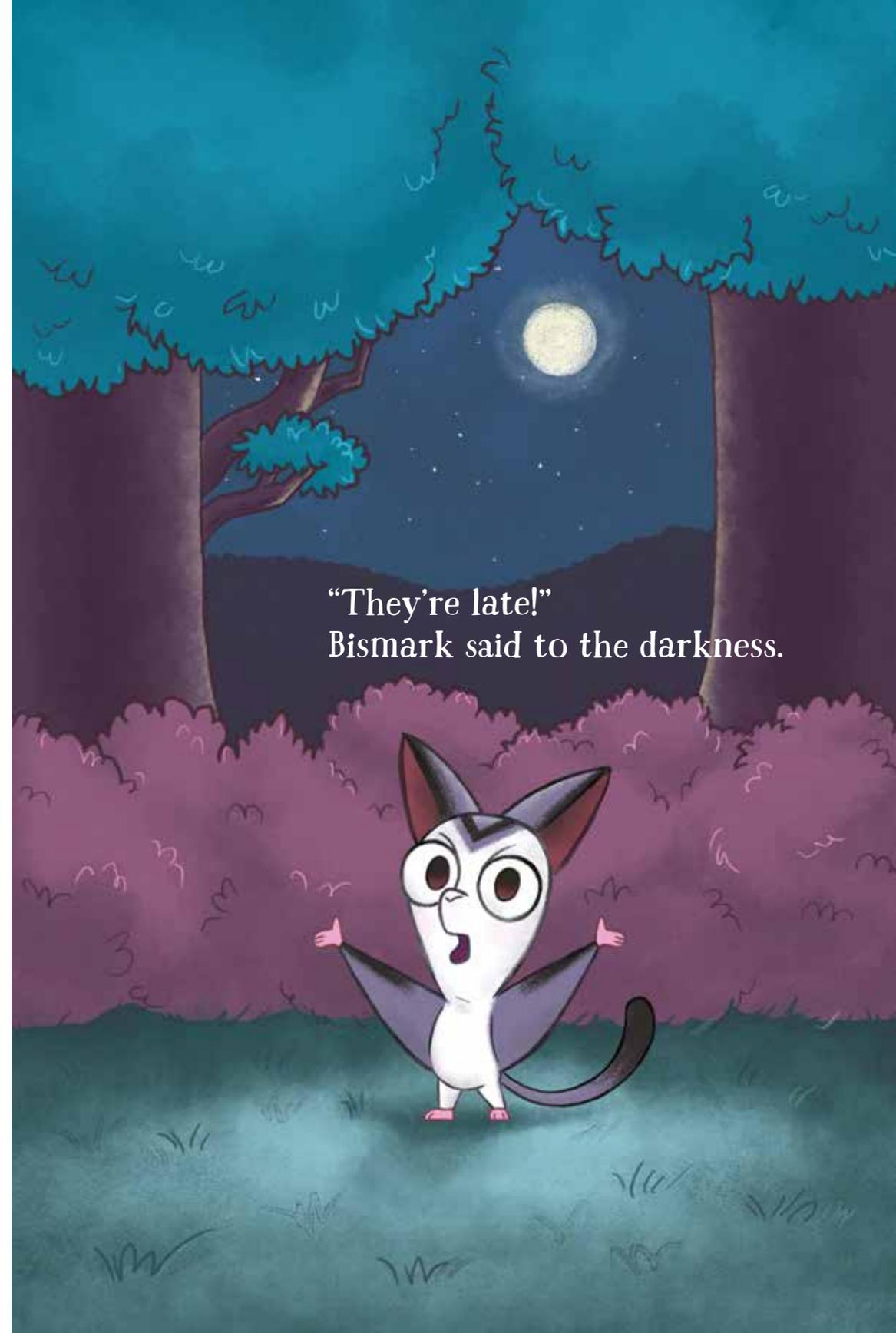
Chapter 1

The moon was high.

The sun had set.

Nighttime had arrived.

But Bismark's friends had not.



“They’re late!”
Bismark said to the darkness.



Bismark tapped his foot.

Bismark put his fists
to his hips.



Bismark scrunched
his tiny pink nose.

This sugar glider was peeved!



Suddenly, the grasses swooshed.

Bismark jumped!

“We sugar gliders are always on time,”
Bismark said.

He smoothed the fur on his chest.

He admired his fluffy tail.

He stretched his stretchy wings.



Chapter 2

A nose popped from the tall reeds.

The nose was long.

The nose was smooth.

The nose belonged to a pangolin.



The pangolin was named Tobin.

Tobin was Bismark's friend.

Bismark relaxed.



Tobin blinked his little black eyes.



Tobin stretched his short neck.



Tobin scratched
his scaly rump.

Tobin had just woken up.
He was nocturnal,
awake by night, asleep by day.

Just then,
the grasses swooshed again.

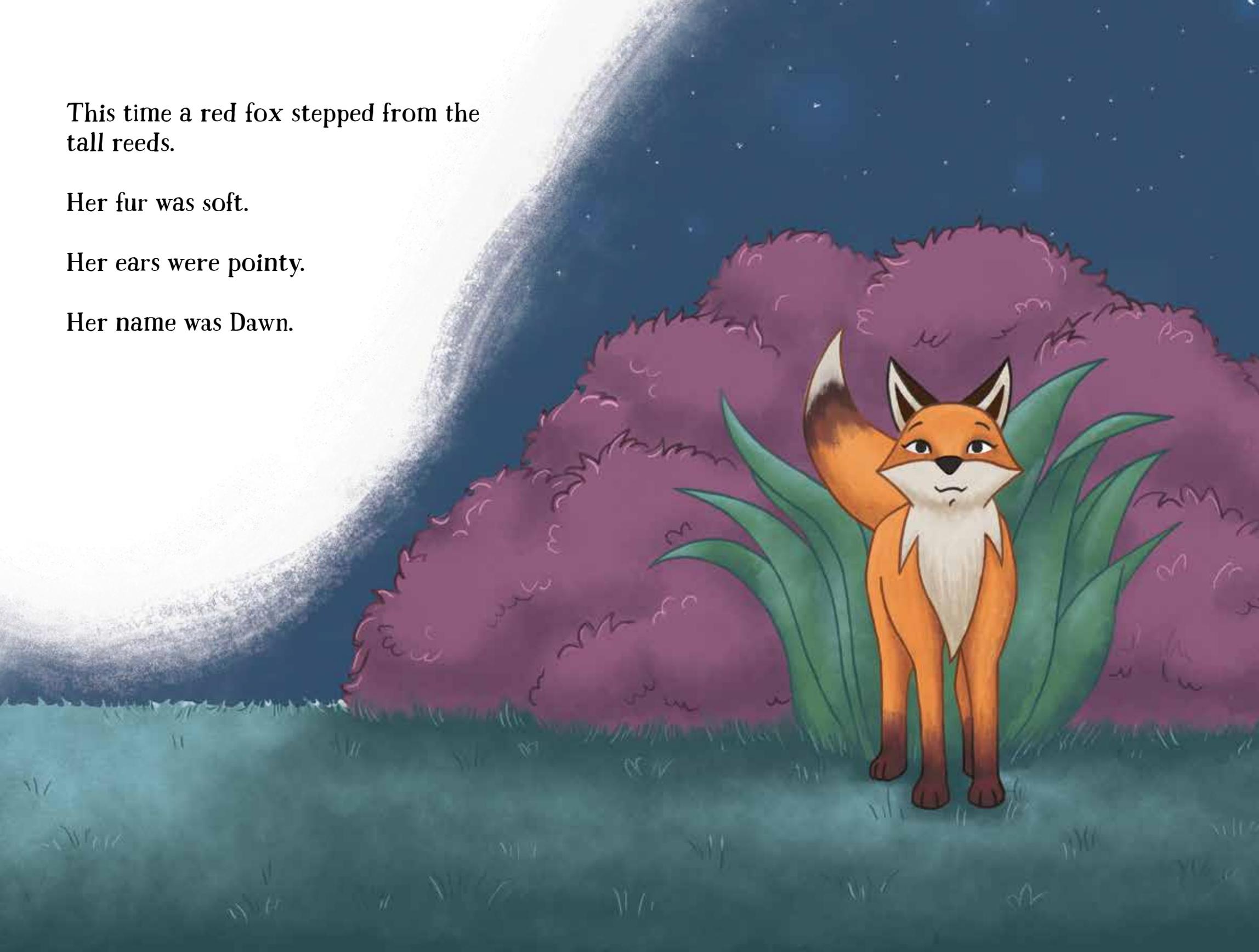


This time a red fox stepped from the tall reeds.

Her fur was soft.

Her ears were pointy.

Her name was Dawn.



“Amigos!” Bismark sang out.

“We are all here! The Nocturnal Brigade.”

Bismark hopped on a rock.

“I shall lead us on an adventure!”
Bismark said to his friends.

“I am Bismark the Brave.”





Bismark stood tall.

Bismark squatted small.



Bismark puffed out his chest.



Tobin giggled.



Dawn's mouth curved in a gentle smile.



They were used to their silly friend.

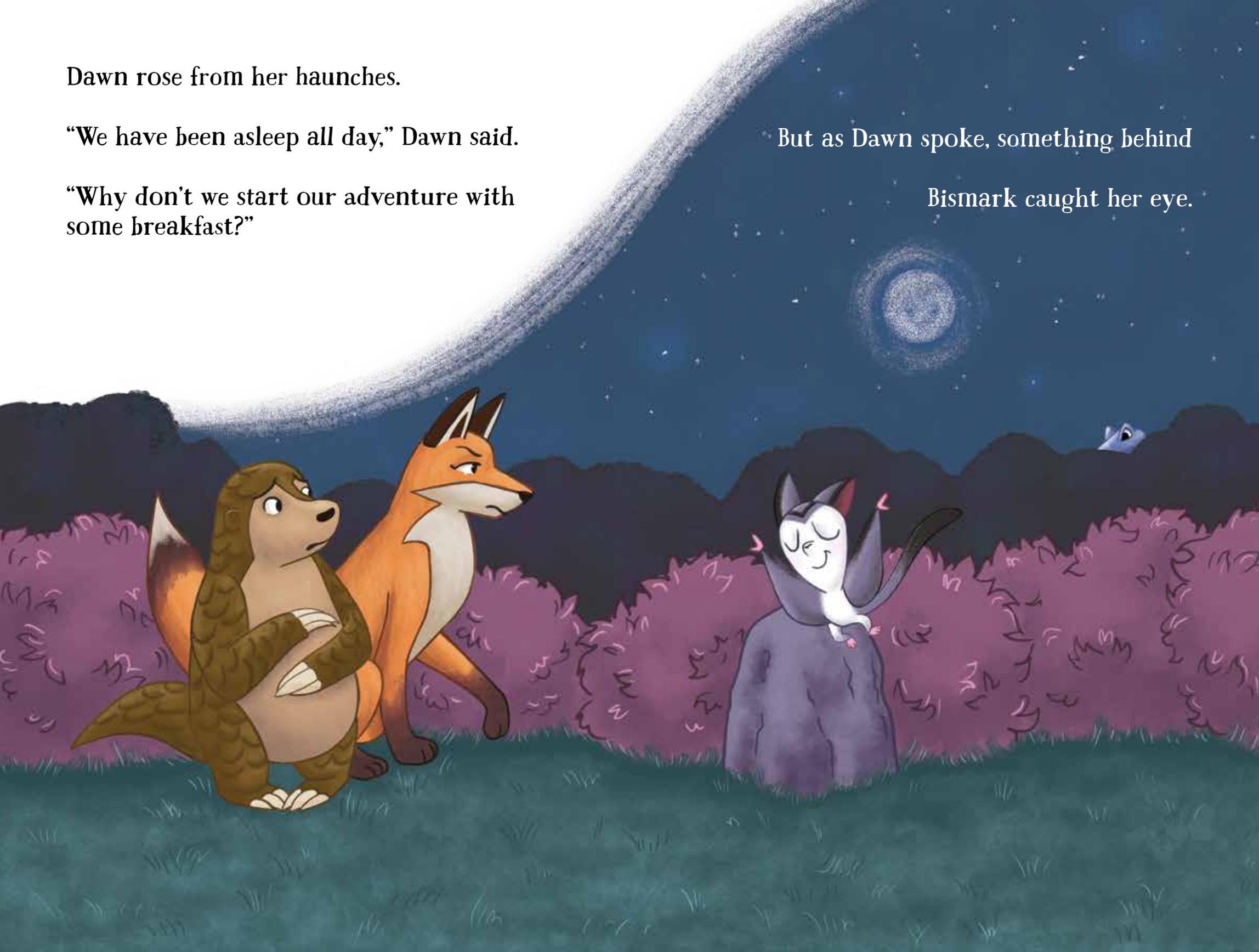
Dawn rose from her haunches.

“We have been asleep all day,” Dawn said.

“Why don’t we start our adventure with some breakfast?”

But as Dawn spoke, something behind

Bismark caught her eye.



It was blue.

It was shimmery.

It made a noise like 'ssssssss'.

It was a snake!

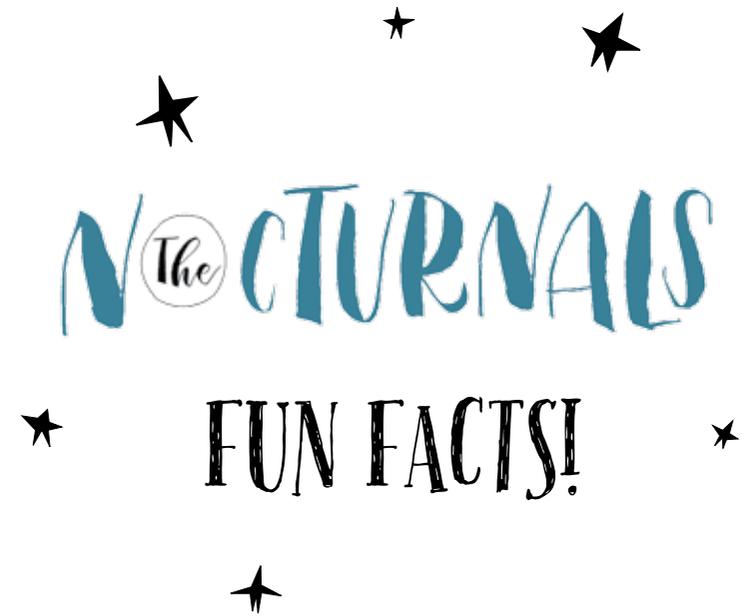


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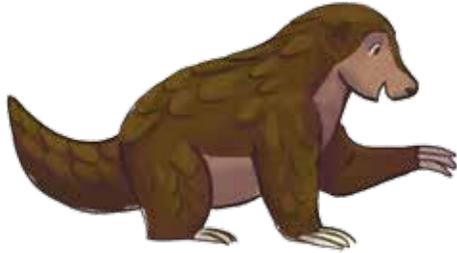
Look for The Next Adventure!



Join The Nocturnal Brigade at nocturnalsworld.com for updates!



What are The Nocturnal Animals?



Pangolin: The pangolin is covered with keratin scales on most of its body except its belly and face. Pangolins spray 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 and black rings around its big eyes. It has 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.

Blue Bellied Snake: Blue bellied snakes are naturally shy and won't bite unless they're threatened. They shed their skin in one piece to allow for further growth. Snakes smell with their tongues and have tiny fibers on their tongues that help them distinguish scents. They don't chew their food, but swallow it whole.



Nighttime Fun Facts!

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



Pomelos are fruits much like grapefruits. They are the Nocturnal Brigade's favorite food to eat. They have yellow or light green peels and pink citrusy flesh. They are the biggest citrus fruits in the world!



Join The Nocturnal Brigade for More Adventures!

“The characters are delightful and the nighttime landscape is captivating.”—R.L. Stine



**Great for Kids
Ages 7-12!**

Visit nocturnalsworld.com to watch animated videos, download fun nighttime activities, listen to author Tracey Hecht read the books aloud, and view a map of the Brigade's adventure at www.nocturnalsworld.com/map/.

Teachers and librarians get Common Core Language Arts and Next Generation Science guides for the book series.

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