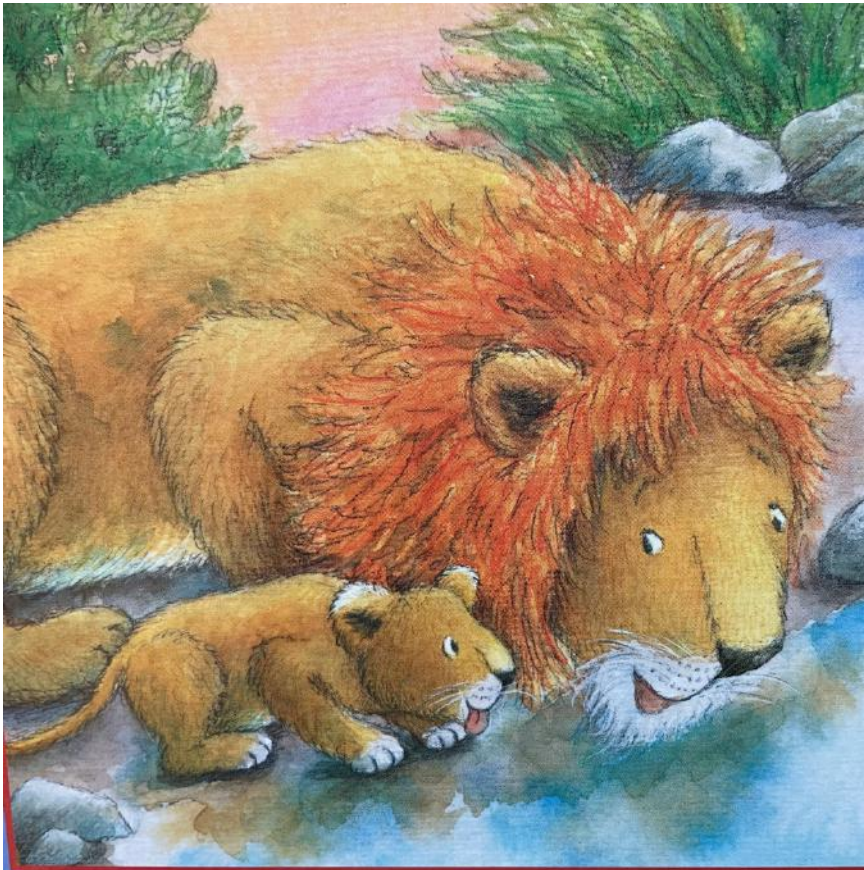
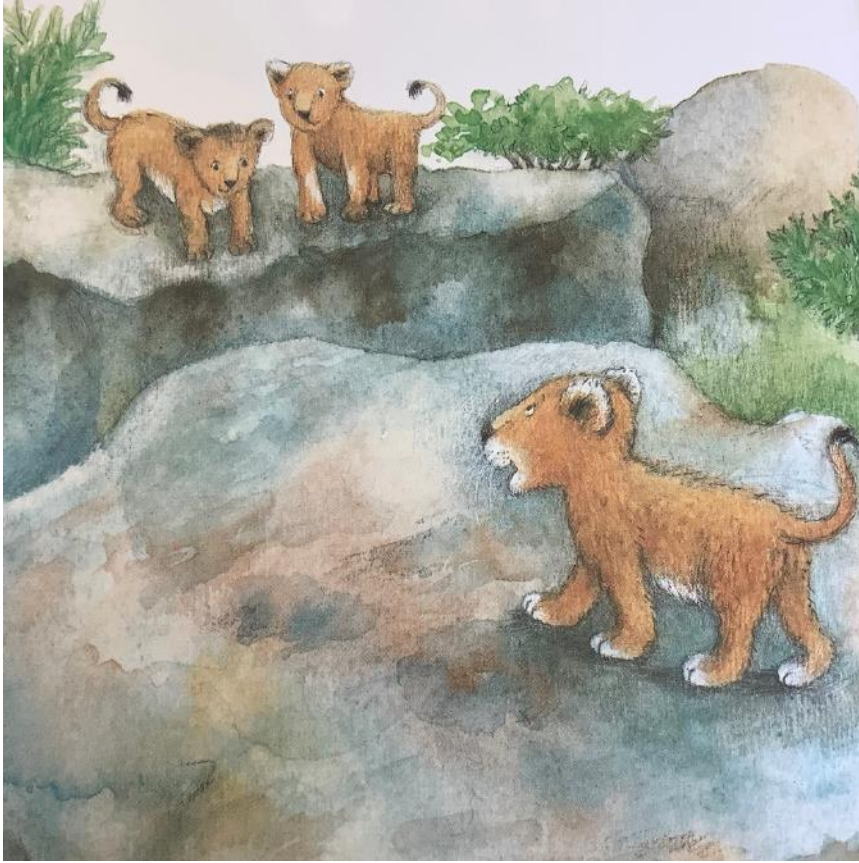


Watch out, Little Lion!



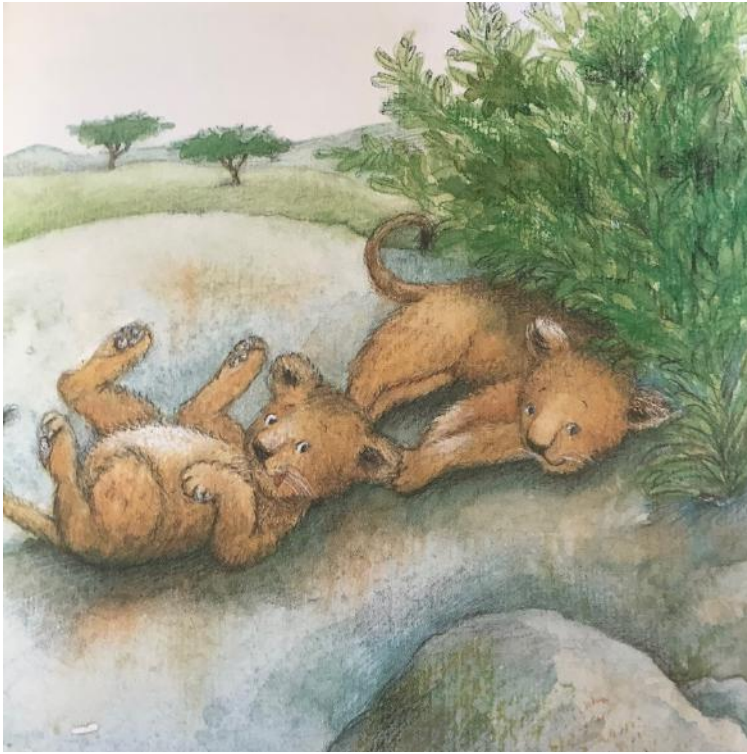
Author:	Ursel Scheffler
Illustrator:	Ruth Scholte van Mast
Translation:	Robby Robot

A story of caution and courage



1

"Hey! Catch me!",
Lea called to her brothers.
She climbed nimbly
onto a rocky outcrop.
Jo and Jap chased after her.
With one bold leap
Lea jumped across the crevice.



2

"What is wrong? Aren't you coming?"

Lea called out.

The two looked at each other.

When it came to jumping, Lea was much better than they were!

"I don't feel like it," said Jo

And rolled on his back.

.

"It's cooler in the shade."

Jap said and yawned.

He lay down next to a sage bush

and closed his eyes.

bush and closed his eyes.



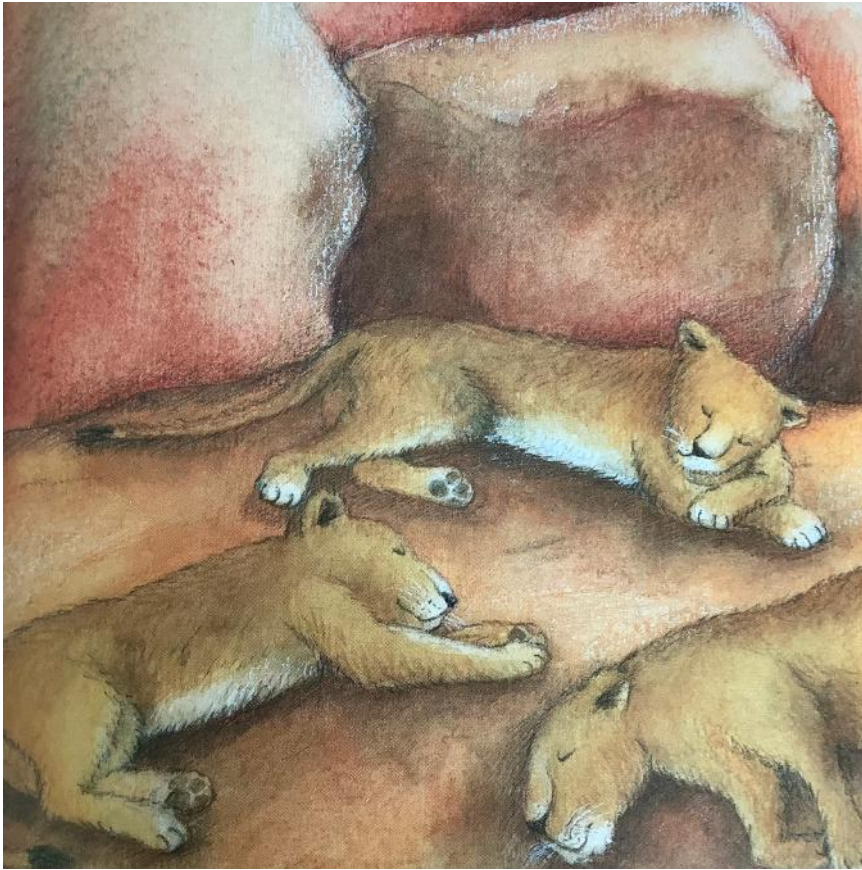
3

Father Lion was lying on the other side of the river
under a large tree.

Lea looked over at him.

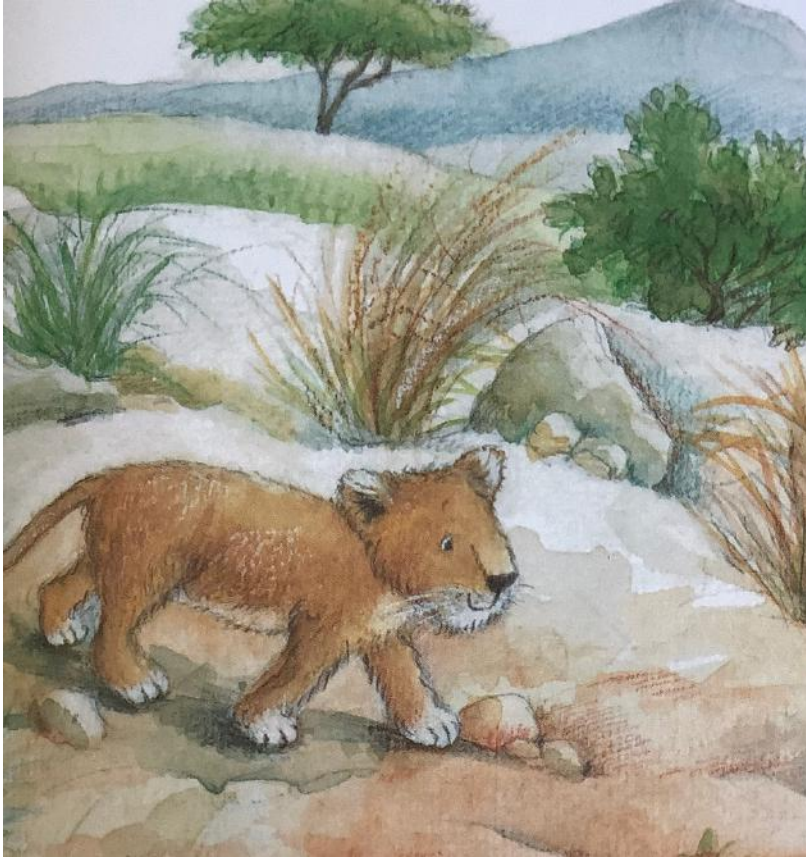
Dad usually slept all day.

Especially when he had eaten well, like last night.



4

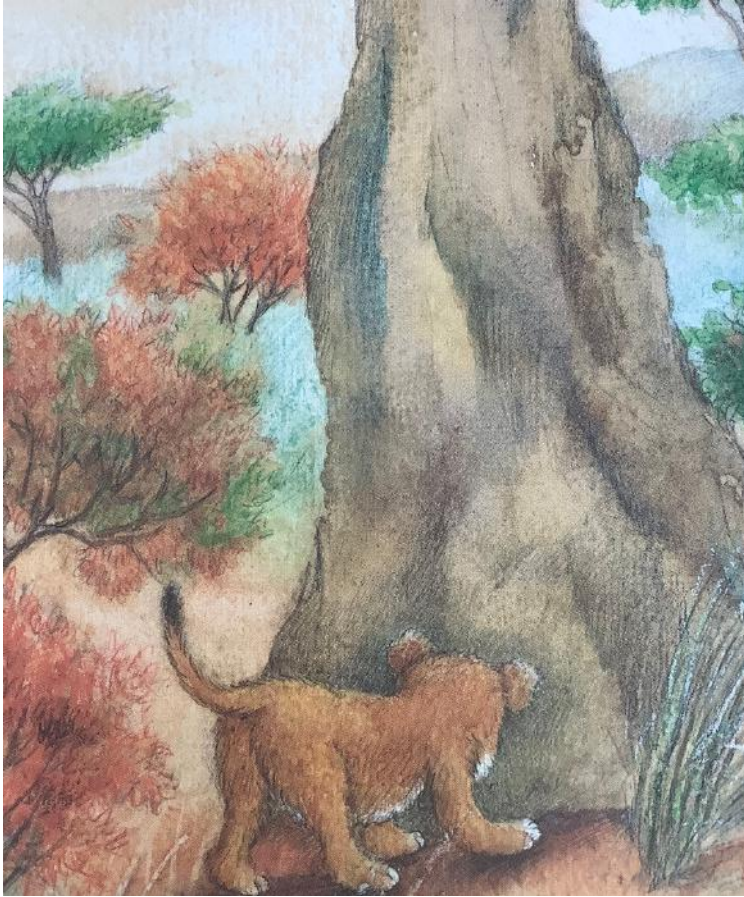
Mother Lion was lying on the round rocks in front of the den with the other lionesses. They were sleeping, too.



5

Lea was not tired at all.
All right, if no one played with her,
then she would have to go off
exploring on her own!

She ran through stones and boulders
down to the river.



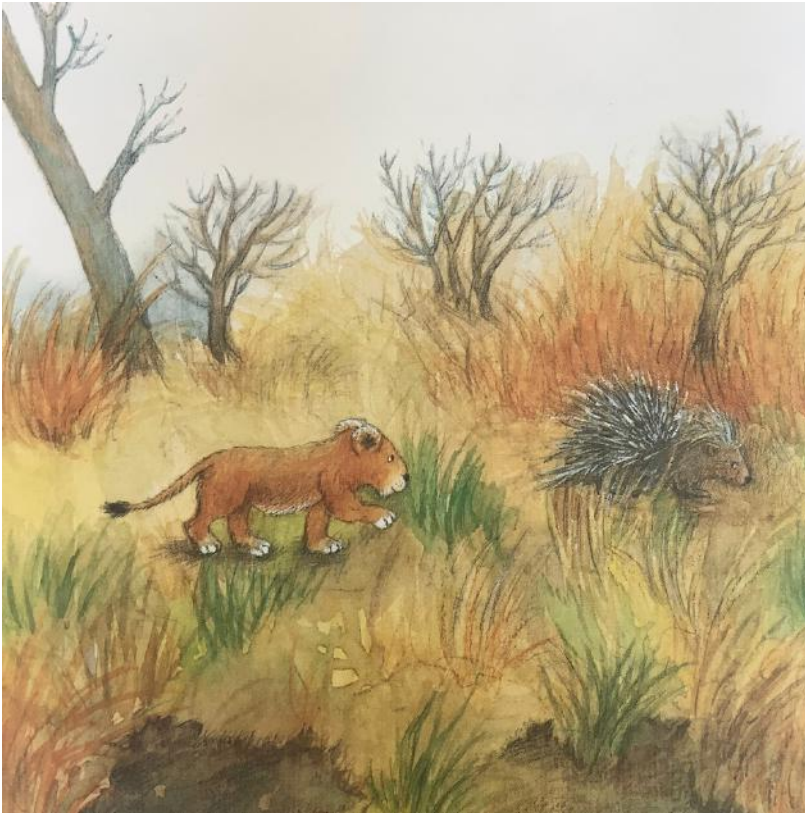
6

What was that strange mound of sand?
Curious, Lea stuck her nose into it.
It didn't smell bad at all!



7

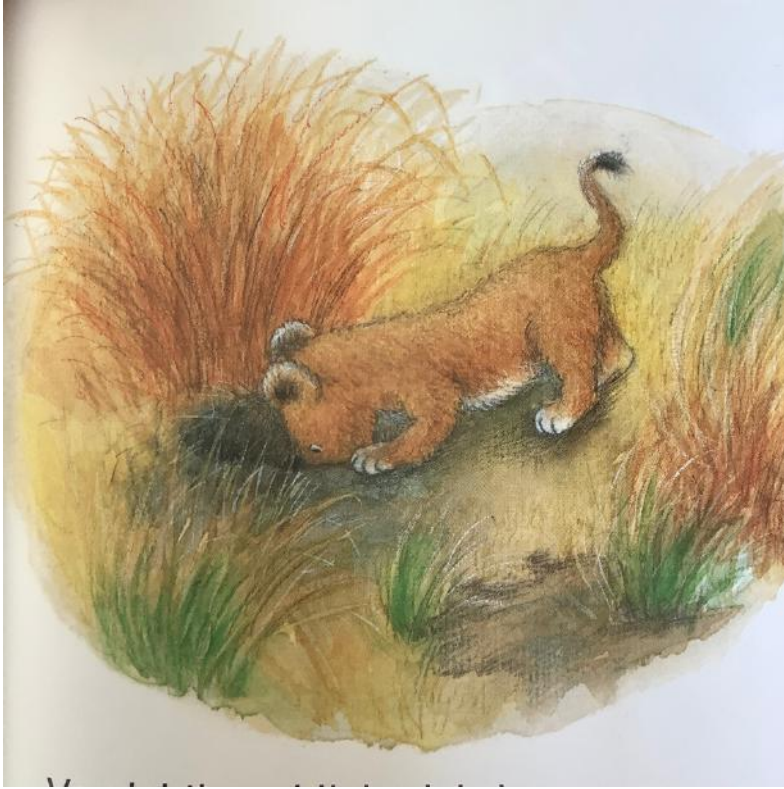
But suddenly her face
Was itching and tickling all over .
Termites! She had come across a termite
hill. Hastily Lea swiped
the annoying tiny creatures
from her face and ran on.



8

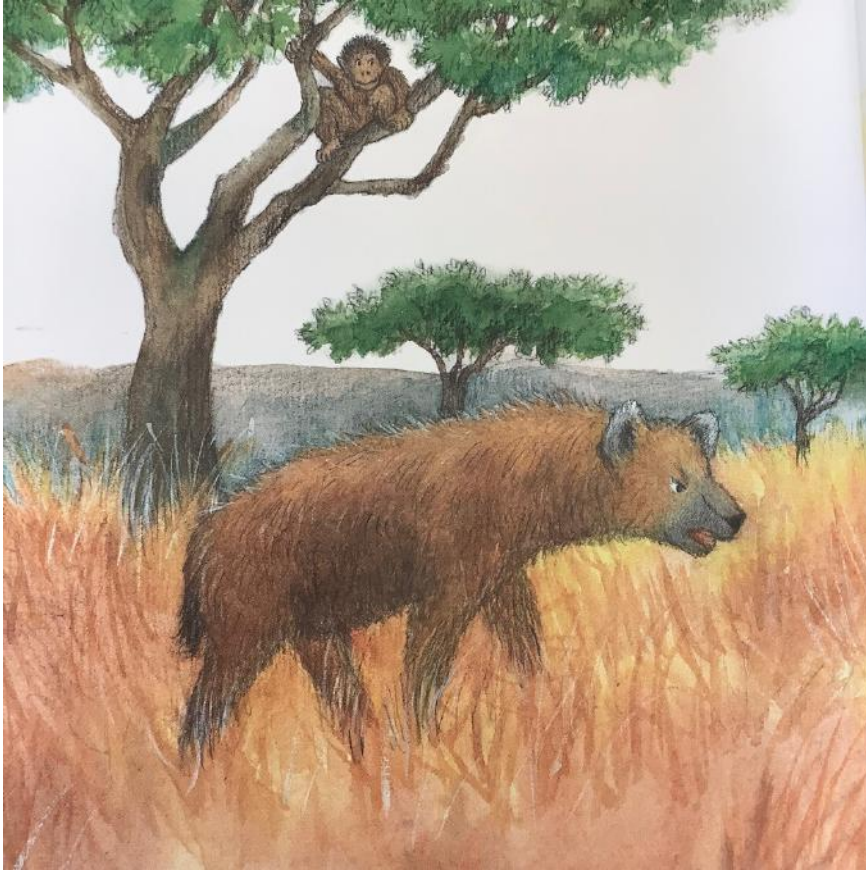
The little lioness roamed
the dry scrubland along the riverbank.
Mmm, it smelled wonderful
of porcupine!
Hey! There was one sitting in the grass.
She wanted to catch it.

Cautiously, Lea crept
behind the porcupine.
Whoush! There it disappeared
in a hole in the ground!

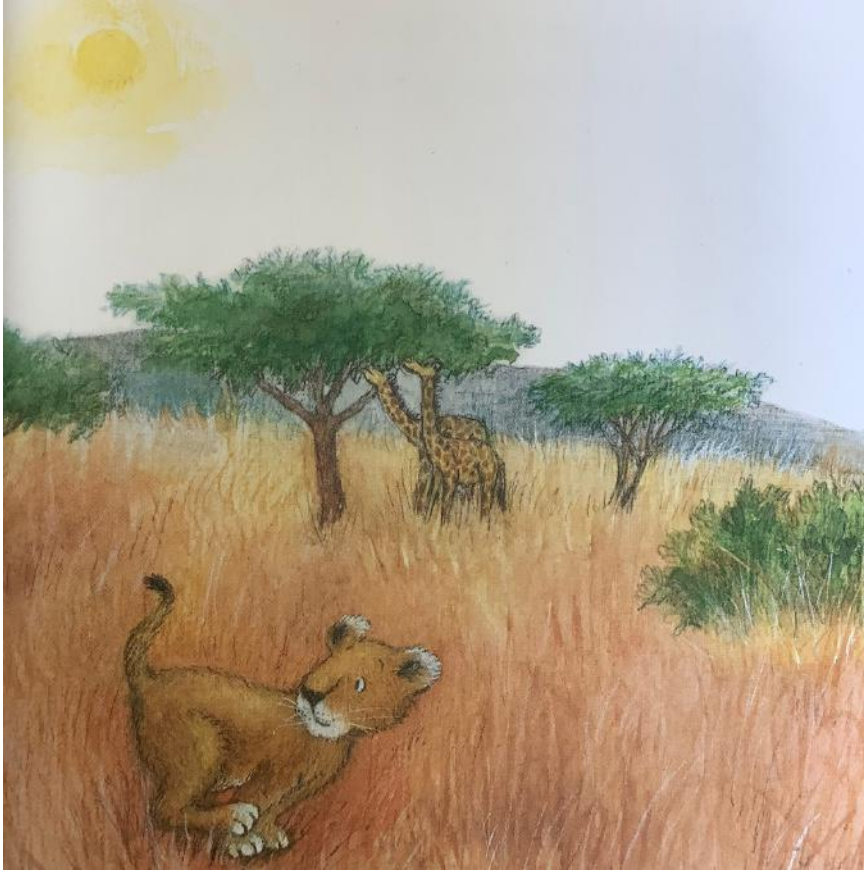


9

Lea stuck her nose into the hole.
She was very careful,
because a porcupine quill in the mouth
would hurt terribly.
She knew that from experience.



10
Suddenly a hyena bounted up
and hissed:
"Go away! Or I'll scratch your eyes out!"



11

Lea was frightened and ran to the river.
At the end of the dry season,
the river was only a tiny stream.



12

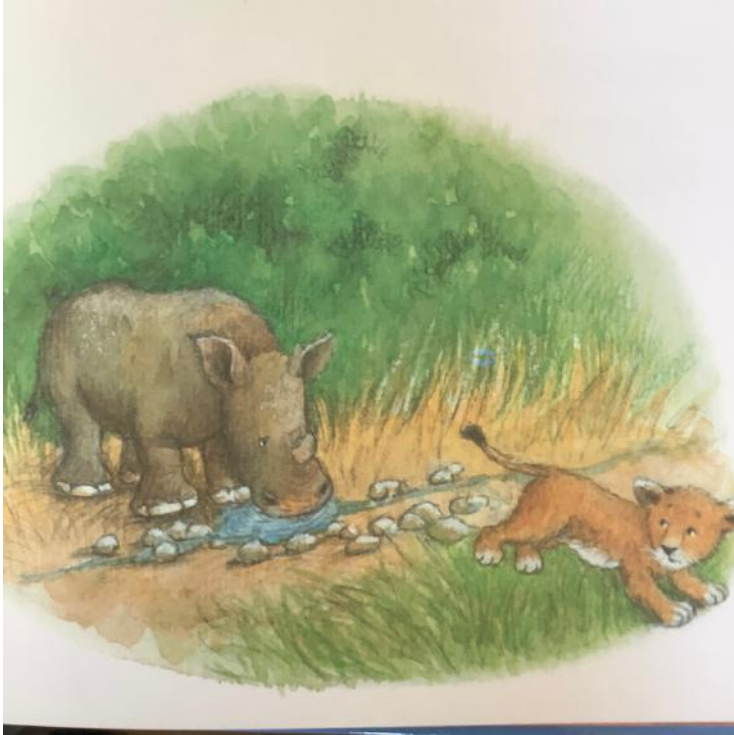
Lea dug a hole,
where water collected.
Just like mummy and daddy
always did.



13

Just as she was about to drink,
she heard loud gasping
behind her.
There was a crackling in the bushes.
A huge rhino
burst through the woods!

Lea had never before
seen a rhino up close!
"Get out of the way!" the rhino snorted.
and stomped towards Lea.
"That's my water hole!" said Lea.
"Get away from there!
Or I'll trample you!"
growled the rhino.



14

Startled, Lea jumped to the side.
The big rhino drank.
Then it made room
for the baby rhino,
who was now coming out of the bushes.
It was only a few weeks old
and already twice as big as Lea.



15

Lea ran up to her father.

"Daddy, daddy!" she panted.

"That stupid rhino, just chased me away from my waterhole."

"Scared, huh?" said Papa Lion. "A lion is not afraid. Not even of rhinos. Running away is cowardly.

A lion is brave and fears no one. Remember that!"

"Are you really not afraid of anyone?" asked Lea.

"Of no one!" claimed the father lion, shaking his mane proudly.

Then he laid his head back
on his front paws
and closed his eyes.

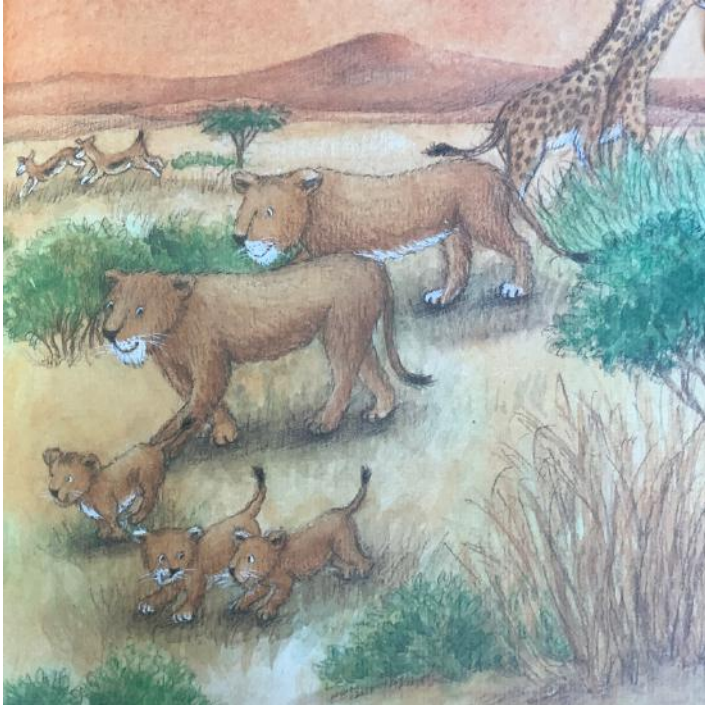


16

Lea ran to the cave where Mother Lion
and the other lionesses were.
She told them about her adventure.

"Run away if someone is stronger
than you!" said Mummy. "That's smarter."
The other lionesses nodded in agreement.

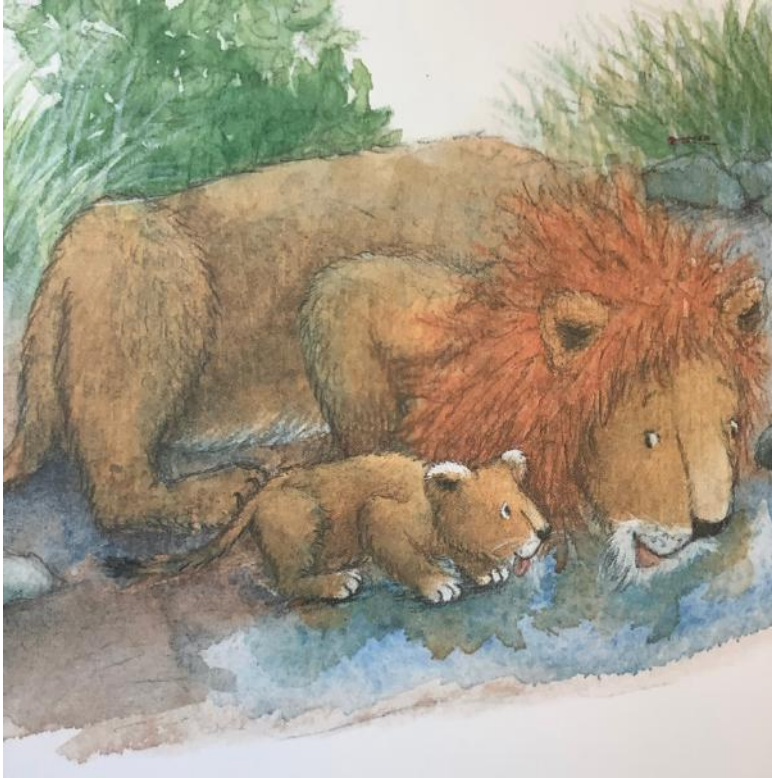
"But Daddy said running away is cowardly,"
said Lea. "A lion must be brave
and not be afraid of anyone."
"That's the way men talk!
What good is a brave little lion
if he's dead?" sighed the Mother lion.



17

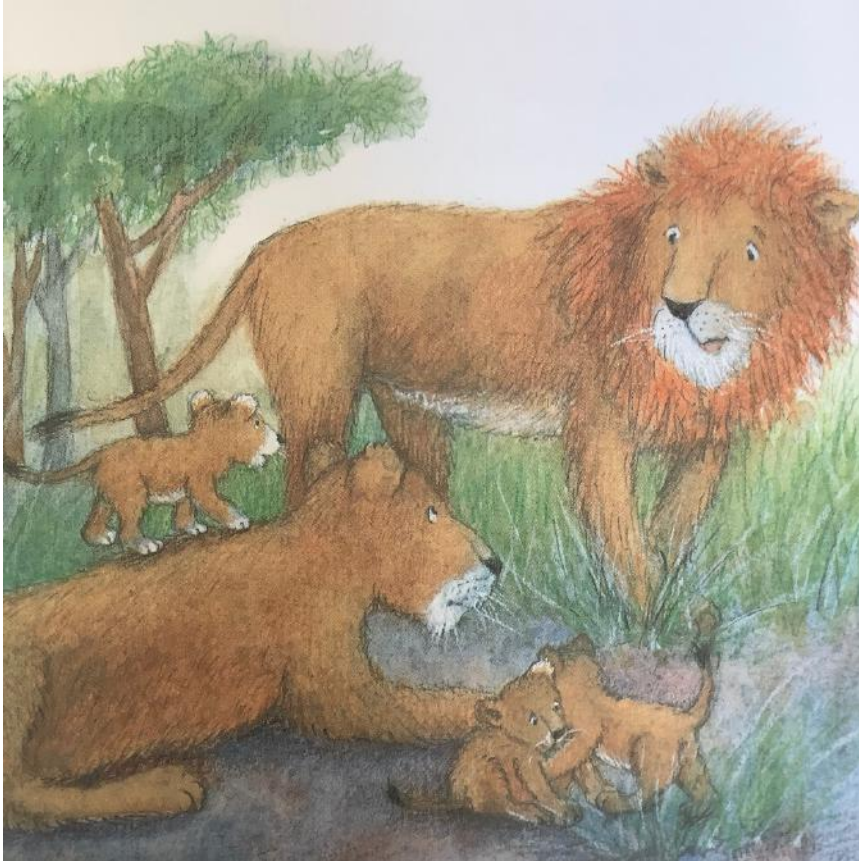
In the late afternoon
the sun was still blazing down.
Not a cloud was in the sky.
"It's time for the rainy season to come!"
said Mother Lion.

As dusk fell, the big lions
the big lions went down to the river.
A pack of gazelles ran away quickly when they saw
the lions.
A pair of giraffes also respectfully made way for
them.
A family of hippos ran away.



18

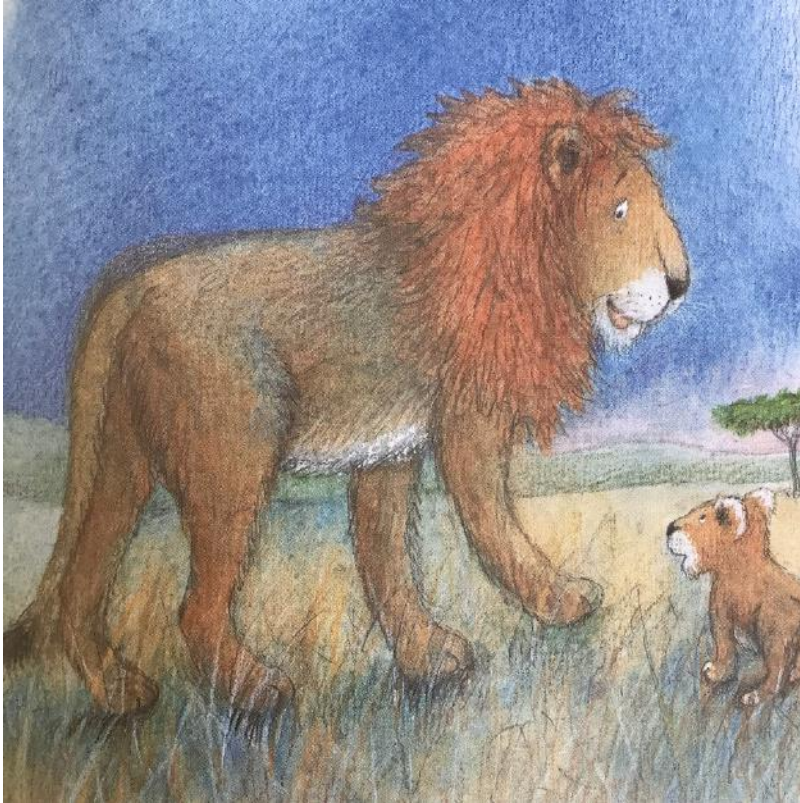
"You see, everyone is afraid of us,"
said Father Lion to Lea.
Suddenly, thunder was heard in the distance.
"Will the rainy season finally come?"
asked Mama Lion, looking up into the
at the cloudless sky.
The father lion put up his ears and listened



19

That thunder meant danger!
He knew it was coming from the deadly guns of the hunters.
"We should sleep in the cave!",
Urged Father Lion "Come!"
For the first time Lea
saw fear in his eyes.

"Rhinos?" asked Lea.
"Much more dangerous," replied the lion.
"These thundersticks bring death."



20

"Why are you running away?"
asked Lea and ran after Papa Lion.

"Are you afraid of thunder?"
Thunder isn't dangerous after all.
Thunder brings rain, Mummy said!"

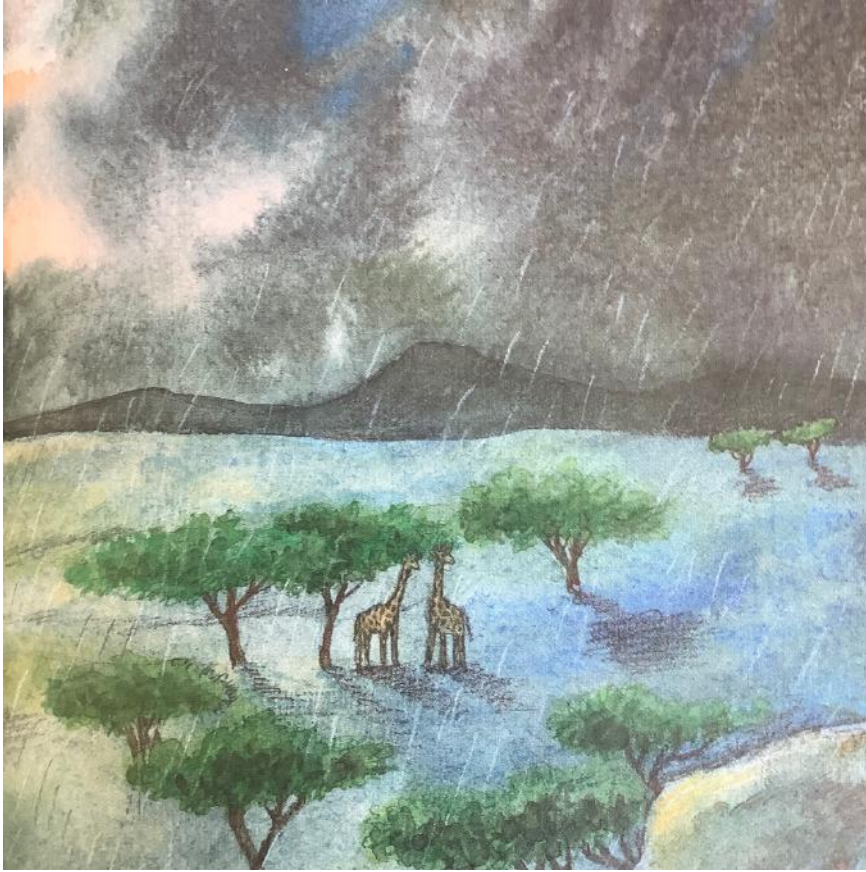
"That's no normal thunder!

Those are guns!"
said the father lion.

"What are guns?"

Lea asked.

"They bring death."
said Papa Lion sternly.



21

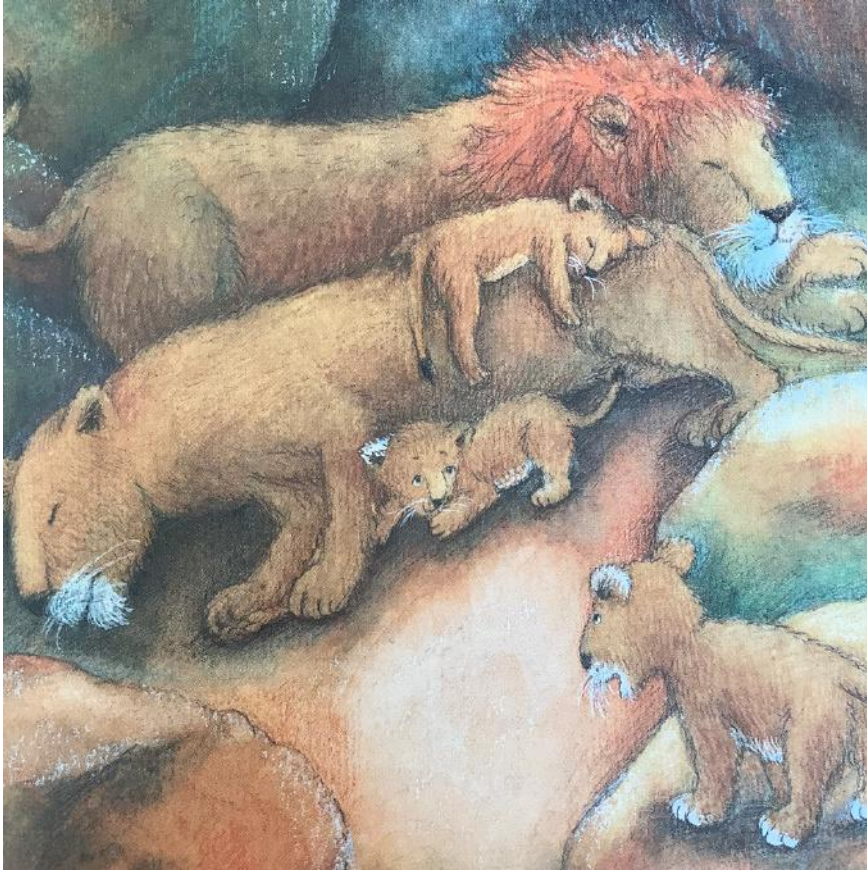
In the night the sky filled with clouds.
Thunder crashed and banged.
Lightenings crackled.
It was a normal thunderstorm.
The clouds burst
and rain poured down on the dry land
For hours and hours!



22

"Thunder *does* bring rain!",
Lea called into the cave.

"Jo and Jap,
come out! Water is falling
from the sky! Lots and lots of it!"
Lea pattered around in the rain.
She sang and danced.



23

Finally Jo and Jap came
came out of the cave.

"Wet is fun!" cried Lea.

And then she jumped into a puddle,
that it was splashing on Jo and Jap.



24

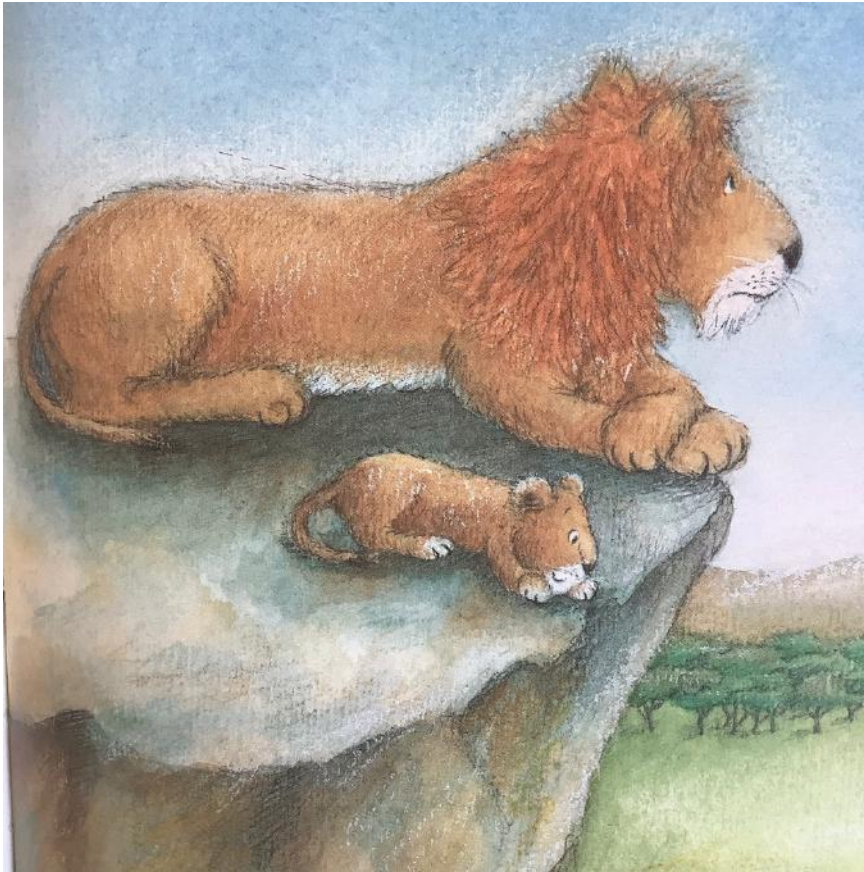
Jo and Jap splashed back.
Soon the three of them were
joyfully rolling around
in the muddy pools
that were forming everywhere.



25

"Now we have plenty of Water
and don't have to walk
all the way to the river to drink!",
said Mother Lion. "Soon the lake
will be filled with water, too."

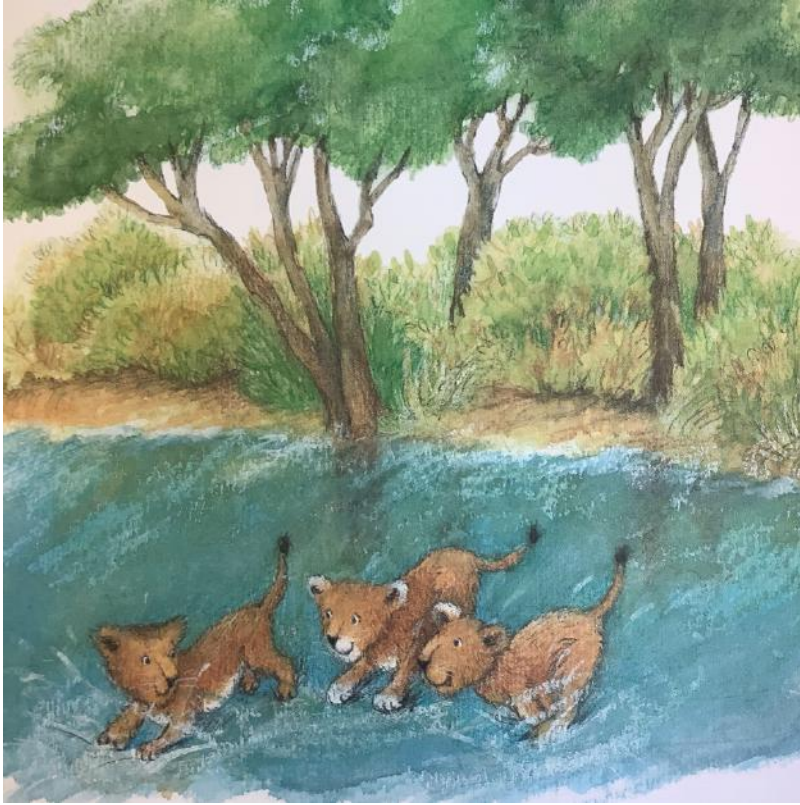
The lionesses prepared
for a big rainy season feast.



26

Father Lion Lion lay
In some some distance
on a rock and watched them.

Suddenly he pricked up his ears.
There it was again:
dangerous thunder in the distance!
He had to find out
where the hunters were,
where they were going.



27

Lea, Jo and Jap played
all day at the lake,
which the rain had filled.



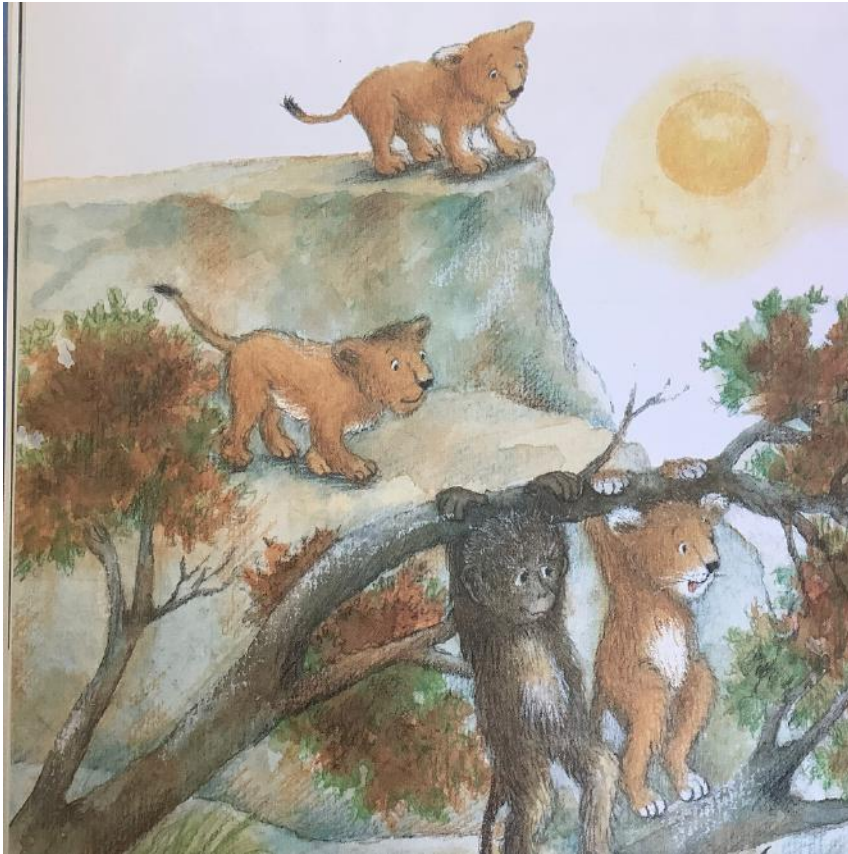
28

"When will Daddy be back?"

Lea asked in the evening.

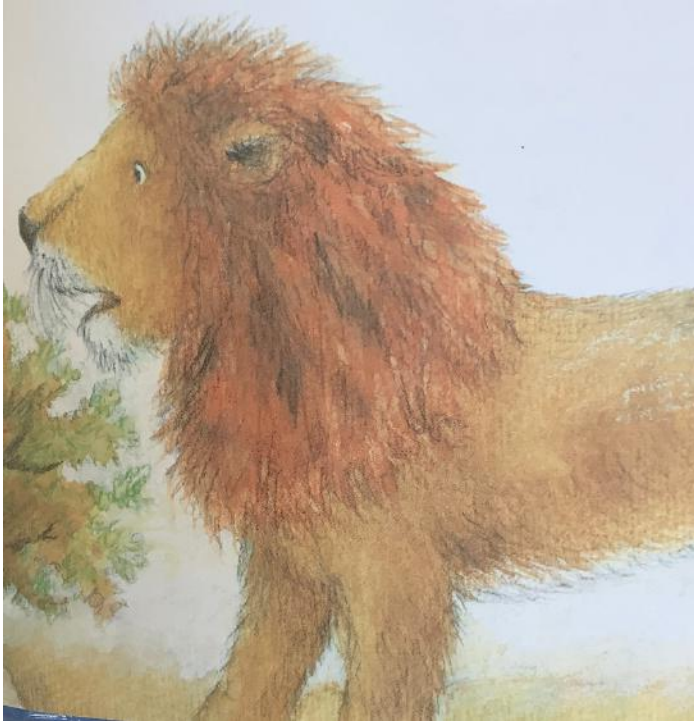
"I hope soon," said Mother Lion

Father Lion did not return
until next morning.



29

He was very serious and said:
"We are moving to the mountains!"
"Why, Papa?" cried Lea,
"It's so beautiful here!"

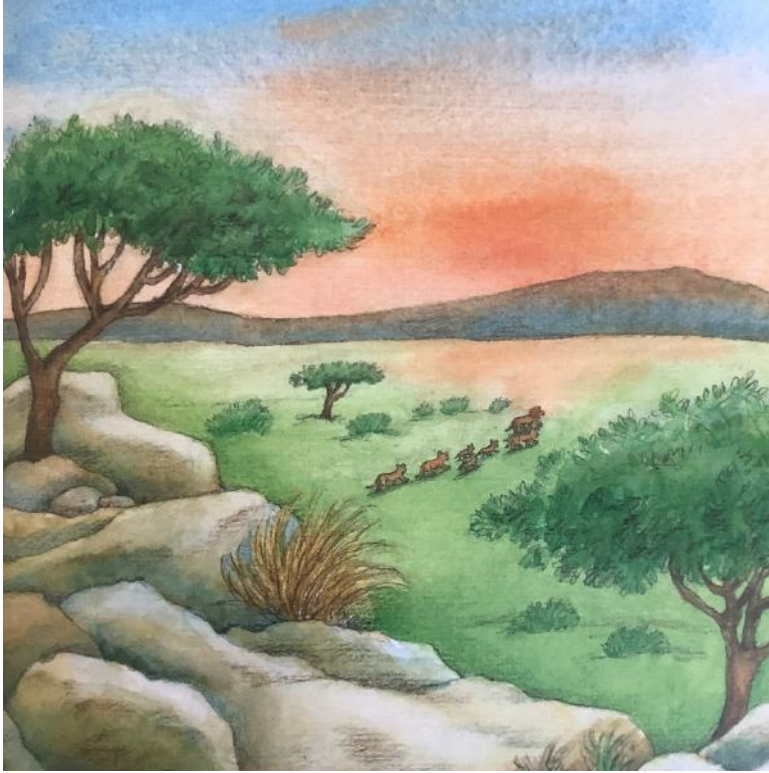


30

Father Lion looked at her
and said gravely:
"I have seen lightning
from the hunters' guns.
It killed a huge elephant."

"Are you afraid?" asked Lea.
Father Lion did not answer.

"Fear makes one cautious.
And being cautious is not cowardice,"
Mother Lion replied.
She was relieved that the lion
had made such a wise decision.
"Papa is right! Come, children!"



31

And so the pride of lions set off
across the plain to the mountains.

On his previous journey
Father Lion had scouted out a cave,
which could only be reached
by a narrow, steep climbing path.
"Here we are safe from the hunters,"
he said contentedly,
as the sun set in the evening
behind the hills and
and coloured the sky red.