

# A Summer Safari

Written and Illustrated by Bethany Swift





Have you ever asked a lizard for help?

Will you ever ask a lizard for help?

The chances of that are very unlikely.

Not here, though. Let's see what happens when six completely different children go on a safari together...

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# Chapter 1:

It was a warm summer morning in a small, busy city. Paige and Mark Tikay were sleeping soundly, only to be woken up by their mother for the biggest surprise ever!

“Come on you two,” called their Mum, “we’re going somewhere really exciting!”

“Nooo. I don’t want to get up.” groaned Mark, his ginger hair all messed up.

“Where are we going?” asked Paige.

“You’ll soon see,” smiled their Mum, “Oh, and you will need to pack your bags. No warm ones or extravagant clothes, though.”

**THUMP!** Mark had just fallen off of his bed. “Owww!”

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About five houses away, Phoebe and Mike Snowfall were already up and doing their morning exercise.

“ Phoebe, Mike, pack your bags. We’re going somewhere!” called their dad from downstairs.

“WHERE?” yelled Phoebe, tying up her hazel-coloured hair.

“ I can’t say. Just get ready!!!”

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Two houses away from them were Rose and Billy Bonkers ( yes, that seriously was their last name.)

“Come on , come on come on!!! We’re going to be late,” said their Mum frantically, “ Just pack your bags and make sure you’re downstairs in the next FIVE minutes!!!”



“ Oki-doki Mommy.” replied the twins in unison, their pink hair flopped in front of their faces.66

“ For the last time, you are NOT American.” called their Dad, who was trying to get a later flight.

## Chapter 2:

After a few three hours and fourteen minutes later, they arrived in ...

“ Africa?!?!”

“ Not just Africa. We’re in Sudan!” cried their Mums and Dads.

The children were shocked. Africa! thought Paige.

“ What if we see a lion?” she asked.

“ We won't, I promise.” replied her Mum.

They followed their parents to a camp. It turned out the twins would be right next to each other. A camp instructor came over and told them they were going on a Safari. They climbed into the Safari truck and were off.



## Chapter 3:

So far, they had seen some Zebras, Antelope and a Lion Cub.

“Everyone out. We’re going to look at the birds.” said the instructor.

A few yards away was a water hole and it had a couple of flamingos in it.

“Right this way please.” said the instructor, yet his voice seemed to be getting quieter and they could hear an engine...

“Wait!!! Come back yelled” Paige, Mark, Phoebe, Mike, Rose and Billy all at once.

But it was no use. The truck was out of sight, they were in the middle of Sudan and hardly had any food or water left. All they could hear was a munching sound.

“NOOO,” cried Mark and Mike, “The food!!!”

Apparently, Rose and Billy were ‘panic-eaters’. (Although everyone knows they just wanted some food.)

“Maybe we can go over to the water hole and fill up our bottles.” suggested Mark.

“No,” replied Paige, “Animals pee in there. I’ll only do it if one of you has a water filter thingy.”

“We can build one!” said Phoebe. So they built one. Everyone went over to the waterhole, only they then got trampled by flamingos.

They stumbled to their feet and went to see what had happened. All that was there was a small, green lizard.

“That’s a Sudan-Plated Lizard,” exclaimed Rose, “ Don’t worry. They’re harmless.”

Cautiously, Paige, Mark, Phoebe and Mike walked over to the lizard. All of a sudden, the little lizard jumped into Paige’s arms.

She screamed, but soon realised it was ok to touch. Rose said that knew it was a girl from her research. The lizard cuddled close to Paige’s chest.

“ I think she likes you, Paige.” said Mark.

“ Thank you, Captain Obvious.” she replied.

“ What are you going to call her?” asked Phoebe, “ ‘cause I’d call her Miss Lizard.”

Soon, everyone was yelling names for the Lizard like Ella or Bella or BobBob (pronounced B-ar-bB-ar-b ( suggested by Rose and Billy)).

Eventually, Paige said it would be called Salsa.

“Enough about names. We need to find a place to sleep.” said Paige.

WHIR! BUZZ! BANG! BANG! BANG! CRASH!

In no time at all, Rose and Billy had built a small but leafy sleeping area.

“We owe it to Salsa,” they explained, “She found all of the sticks and leaves!”

“Thank you so much! You’re the best!” cried Paige to the little lizard.

Luckily, they had brought a few clothes with them to change into at night. ( I say ‘they’ when I really mean Paige and Mark. And I say ‘a few’ when I really mean two suitcases EACH!!!)

They crawled onto their leafy bed, closed their eyes and went to sleep.





## Chapter 4:

The warm, red sun woke them up. It was still a bit dark when they climbed off their “bed” which, overnight, had been reduced to a flattened pile of leaves and sticks.

They dressed and grabbed their belongings. The group headed over to the waterhole to gather water. They then realised that it was a river that led to who-knows where.

There was a growl.

“ What’s that?” asked Billy and Rose.

No one answered.

The growl grew louder.

And louder.

And louder still until they could see the cause of it.

A lion was charging towards them.

“Run,” cried Phoebe, “Before it’s too late!”

They ran away, the lion close behind.

Paige was behind everyone, the lion closing in on her.

**SPLASH!**

Billy had just fallen in the water hole and was being pulled out by Mike. Rose, Mark and Phoebe soon caught up with the other two. Reluctantly, they threw their favourite belongings at the lion to fend it off, while Paige caught up.

“ Goodbye squirty flower. Goodbye whoopee cushion. Goodbye toilet seat.”

They dived into a bush, hidden from the lion.

It started drinking from the waterhole.

“ Salsa!” Paige cried. The lion looked up.

“ Shhh.” said the others frantically.

“ But Salsa is out there! I need to save my little lizard!”

Paige grabbed some dead flies from the ground and put them in a bag.

“ Here Salsa, Salsa, Salsa. I have some... tasty flies?”

Suddenly, Paige saw a flash of green and black.

“ Now, give me a sweat band, Phoebe. I’m not letting that lion anywhere near Salsa.”



## Chapter 5:

Unwillingly, Phoebe handed Paige a neon orange sweatband.

“On the count of three. Three...” began Mark, but was interrupted by a high pitched girl-like scream.

It turns out Salsa had found her way to the bush and up Mark’s shirt, causing him to scream, Paige pinging the band in the wrong way and the others falling over had attracted the lion.

“Stay where you are,” Rose whispered, hardly moving her mouth, “It won’t be able to see us.”

“No, that’s the rule for dinosaur’s.” argued Billy.

“RUUUUUNNNN!!!!” screamed the others.

They all did, except for Paige, whose hair had gotten caught in the tangled branches of the bush.

“ Please, please, please, PLEASE don't eat me!” Paige pleaded, though she knew it would be no use. She held her breath and...



## Chapter 6:

Paige received a huge lick on the face.

“ Ewww!”

It turned out, the lion wanted to help.

They were so scared, no-one had noticed the ground had been shaking the whole time.

In the distance, they could see a small grey dot becoming bigger by the second. Billy pulled out his telescope; so did Rose.

The dot became larger. They soon saw that it was a herd of elephants.

“They’ll flood the waterhole!” cried Mark.

"We're doomed!" yelled Mike.

**Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump!**

Yet again, Rose and Billy had used their building skills to help them by building a raft of suitcases.

"Jump on!"

They did so, the lion and Salsa both helping.

The elephants came thundering over to them, causing a wave of water to sweep them away, leaving the lion behind to protect them from the elephants.





## Chapter 7:

“ I kinda miss the lion.” said Mark.

“ Yeah, he was really kind for not eating us!” exclaimed Mike.

“ His breath was stinky!” laughed Billy.

All three boys burst out laughing, making the raft tip from side to side.

“ Do you want to drown us?” Rose yelled making the boys scream.

They stopped. Even Paige and Phoebe had stopped at Rose’s shout.

They carried on floating downstream for hours.

Hours later, it began to get dark.

After a while, they started to fall asleep. They took it in turns to keep the raft afloat.

The warm, red, morning sun rose once again, waking the children up. They rubbed their eyes , blurring everything. They could make out triangles, but only vaguely. Once they could see properly, they soon realised where they were.

The group were floating down the longest river in the world. The River Nile!

They gazed at the sights for a while. Then, they came to a stop at a small village.

Paige let Salsa out of her bag so that she could run about. Salsa didn't want to get out, though.

“ Maybe she's tired.” suggested Paige.

They wandered about until they came to a short row of houses.

A girl stepped out of one.

“ I recognise her,” said Mark and Paige, “She’s our penpal. We were doing a project at school and were asked to do a presentation on Egypt. We needed help so we were told we should have a penpal to help us. And that’s her!”

The girl seemed to recognise them as well. She came over and started talking, but no-one seemed to understand.

“Wait!”

Paige pulled a phone out of her bag.

“ You have a phone,” yelled Phoebe, “ How come you didn’t tell us?”

“ Mark has a phone too, only he left it with our Mum. I didn't tell you because I didn't want you messing about with it or breaking it.” she explained.

“ Why didn't you use it when we got lost then?” demand Phoebe.

“ 'Cause there's no Wifi in the middle of Africa. Duh!” said Billy and Rose.

“ Rude!” muttered Phoebe.



## Chapter 8:

Paige turned on her phone and went straight to Google Translate. Instead of typing, she changed English to Arabic (as that is what Egyptians speak) and put the translation to English.

It didn't read-

English to Arabic.

It read-

Arabic to English.

Paige gave Avani her phone and asked her to type instead. The girl seemed to understand and started typing.

She clicked speak and, in the annoying google assistant voice, said:

My name is Avani. What are you doing here Mark and Paige.

Paige told her that they had gotten lost in Sudan, adopted a Sudan-Plated lizard, had a run in with a friendly lion, almost been killed by a herd of elephants and floated down the Nile on a hand-made raft of suitcases.

How will you get back?

“ We hadn’t thought about that,” said Phoebe absent-mindedly, “ I guess we thought someone else would be able to help.”

I can help you. Well my parents can. Can I see your pet?

Paige picked up Salsa and let Avani hold her.

She does not look too well. I used to have a pet lizard. Maybe we have some medicine left over.



They followed Avani into her house. Her Mum came into the room. Avani must've told her Mum what was going on because she took the phone and typed:

Hello. We do have some medicine for your lizard. I will book a flight to help you get back to Sudan.

They all thanked Avani's Mum. Paige tried to feed Salsa the medicine but she wouldn't drink it. Mark said to soak them in the dead flies instead. That way Salsa would take the medicine and get a snack.

Paige did so and Salsa ate it.

You need to get your things. Take the medicine for Salsa. Your flight will take off in 2 hours. We wish you luck.



## Chapter 9

After they waved goodbye to Avani and her Mum they boarded the plane and took off.

"I want peanuts!" cried Rose and Billy.

The others ignored them. They were finally going home. If anything, being chased by a lion was much better than Rose and Billy screaming like babies.

After only a few hours, they could see the camp they were staying at and were looking forward to being reunited with their parents.

The plane landed and they all sprinted off it. They knew the camp was only a few miles away.

**ROAR!**

Everyone but Paige froze.

“ I’m trying to call the lion,” she exclaimed, “ this is about where we saw it!”

“ Oh yeah? And what if it’s the wrong one? We could die!” yelled Mark

Suddenly, the lion bounded towards them. It jumped right on top of Mark.

“Ahh! Run! It’s the wrong lion! We’re all going to die!” cried Paige sarcastically.

“ Very funny.” said Mark also rather sarcastically, getting to his feet.

Gently, Paige asked the lion if he could give them a ride to the camp, and stop just behind the trees.

He must have agreed, because he bowed down, allowing Paige to climb on.

“ It’s fine,” she called to the others, “Climb on!”

## Chapter 10:

The lion ran, heading to the camp. He stopped very suddenly, sending the children flying off. They landed in a neat pile, one on another.

They could see their parents, worriedly calling for them.

“Mum!!! Dad!!!” they all cried, not even caring who or what they bumped into or knocked over.

As soon as their parents saw them, they ran over to them, crying.

“Where have you been?” sobbed Paige and Mark’s Mum.

“We’ve missed you so much!” cried Phoebe and Mike’s Dad.

“Never do that again!” said Rose and Billy’s Mum and Dad, holding them tight.

They all explained a bit of what happened, each part leading onto another.

Their parents said that they were going home so that they didn't get lost.

The children agreed. They had had quite an adventure already. They would miss the lion though. And the one flamingo that didn't run over them.

They boarded the plane and went home.





## Chapter 11:

Once they were home, they all went to Paige and Mark's house because it was closer. They had a little party to celebrate the children coming home.

All of the twins were sitting on the sofa, the TV blaring the music of cartoons. ( That was Billy and Rose's idea.)

Paige was sorting her things out. She and Mark had already unpacked their clothes. She was now sorting out the things from her bag, Salsa curled up on her lap.

"Aarrhhh!"

As soon as Paige had opened her bag, four baby lizards crawled out. Hearing her scream the adults came to see what had happened.

Apparently, Salsa had moved her eggs in Paige's bag.

Now they had five lizards to look after.

"No wonder she didn't want to leave your bag Paige. Moving those eggs must have been exhausting!" said Mark, the others (except Paige) fell off the sofa, initiating what Salsa might have been like.

"What an extraordinary couple of days we've had," Paige said to the others, "What is the lesson we've learned?"

"Never to go on a Safari ever again!" replied Rose and Billy.

They all laughed, wondering if anything like this would ever happen again.

Who knows? This is just the start of their adventure after all.



We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, Founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education beyond academic success.

Find out more at: [www.switchedonglobal.com](http://www.switchedonglobal.com) and register for your next exciting course.

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SWITCHED ON!

What happens when a group of friends get left behind on a Safari trip? What animals do they encounter? How do they get back home, and what sneaks into their luggage?

Read on and find out.