

Do you believe me?

A kid's book about telling the truth



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Josep Maria Cardona

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For a long while, Floky had wanted to find out whether he was capable of crossing the jungle without anybody's help. He knew that the sun could do him a lot of harm because of his fair skin. But even so, that morning, he decided to try his luck.



He got up from his den on tiptoes and headed off towards the great expanses, near Lake Victoria.

After walking for many hours, he reached an enormous savannah and celebrated by beating his chest with his fists. He had done it!

The sun was shining and there were no clouds or trees to rest under. Floky started to feel his skin burning, he was itchy, he felt a little dizzy and he began to see colored spots blending into the vultures that were flying over him... He tried to reach what looked like a cavern. "I feel better here!" He managed to say.



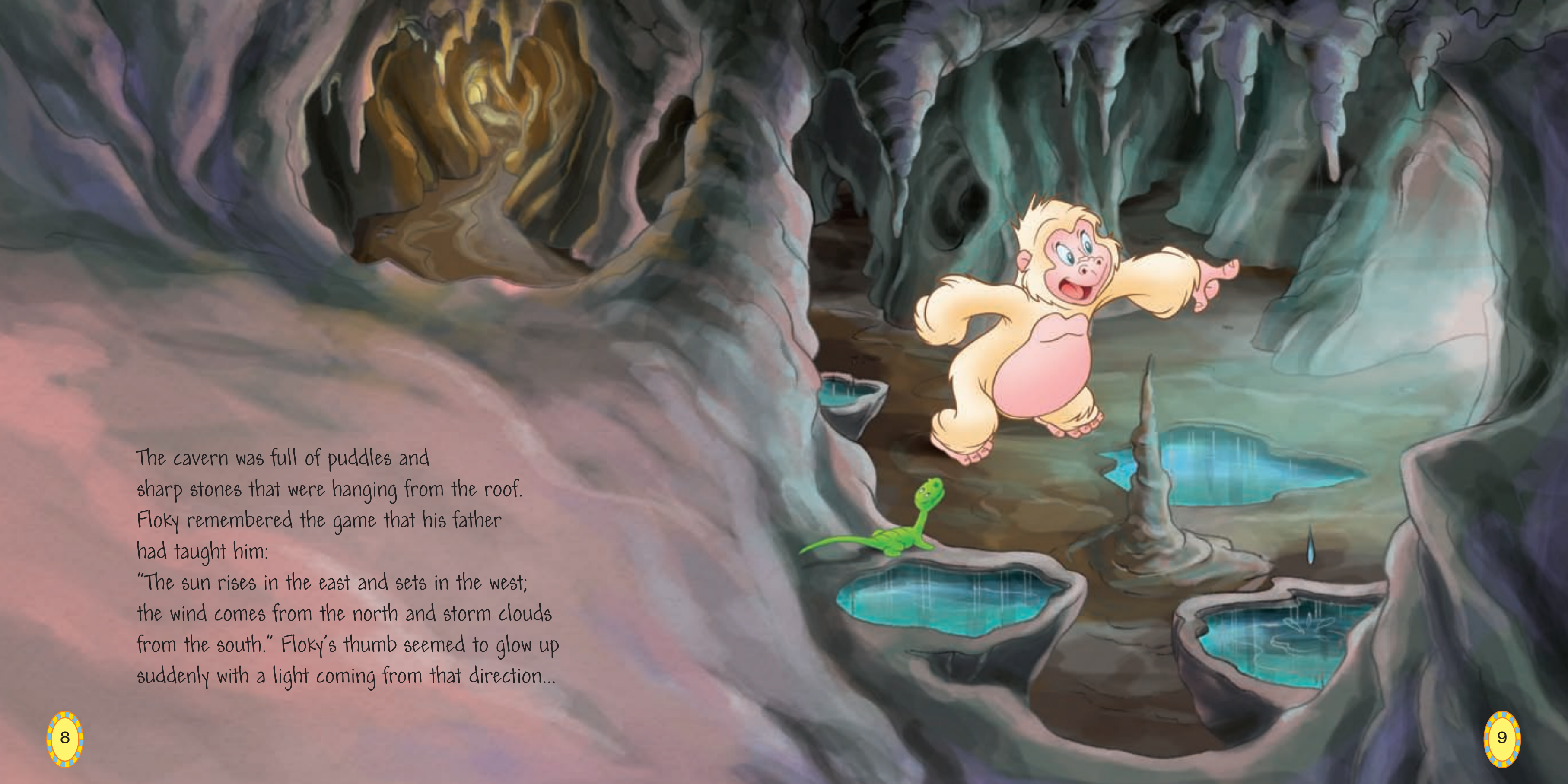
When he awoke, everything was dark and silent. He could only hear the fluttering of wings around him, some cries and tickling very close to his ears.

"Are they bats? He guessed. "I hope they are vegetarians."

It had got very, very late.

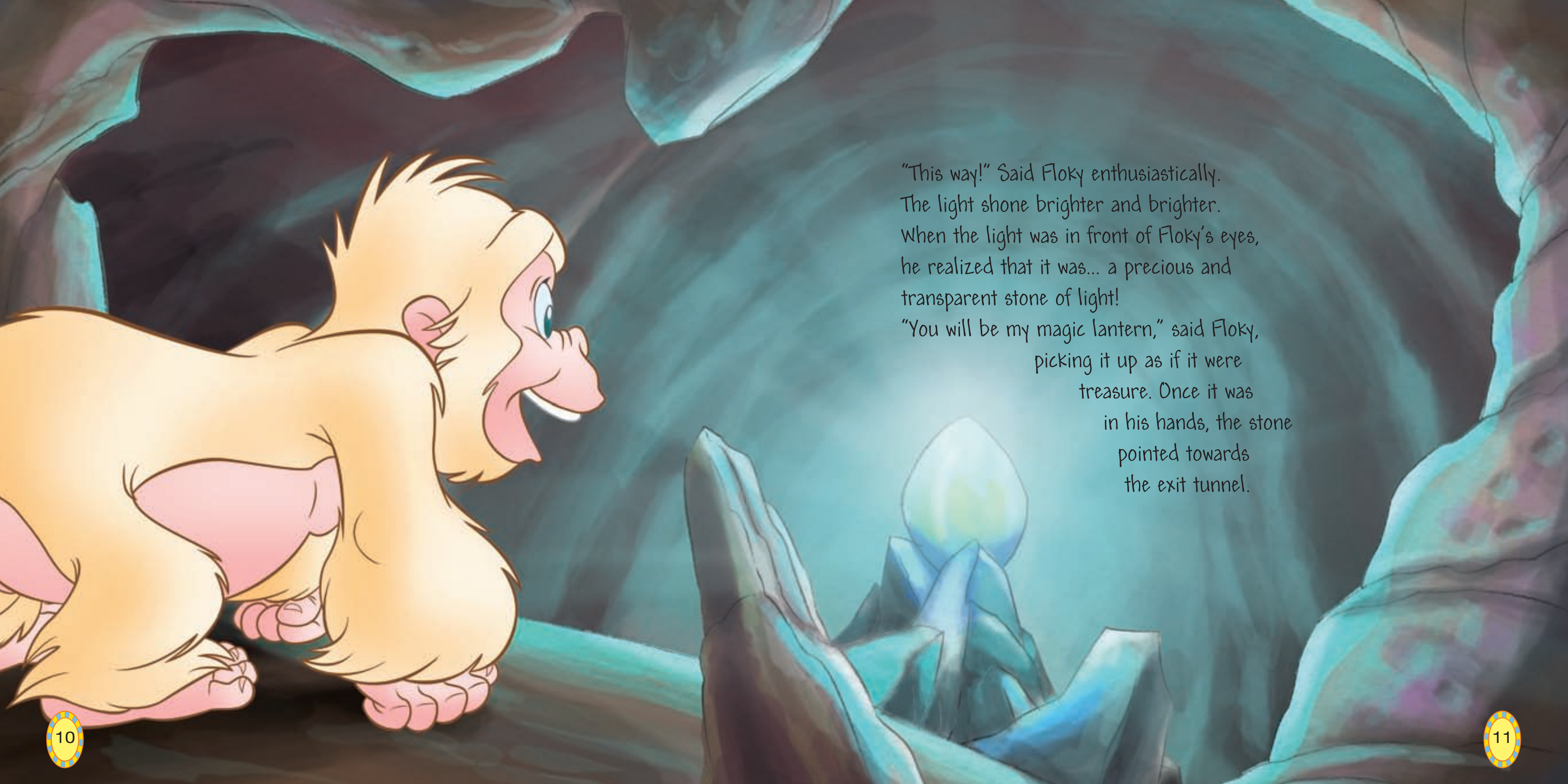
"Grrr! I should look for an exit," he groaned, as he banged his head against a rock.





The cavern was full of puddles and sharp stones that were hanging from the roof. Floky remembered the game that his father had taught him:

"The sun rises in the east and sets in the west; the wind comes from the north and storm clouds from the south." Floky's thumb seemed to glow up suddenly with a light coming from that direction...



"This way!" Said Floky enthusiastically.
The light shone brighter and brighter.
When the light was in front of Floky's eyes,
he realized that it was... a precious and
transparent stone of light!
"You will be my magic lantern," said Floky,
picking it up as if it were
treasure. Once it was
in his hands, the stone
pointed towards
the exit tunnel.

When he reached the forest,
Floky heard a very friendly voice
calling him.

"The panther? How strange,"
he thought, as it appeared before
him with a jump.

"What have you got there,
my friend?" He asked.

"A stone of light," replied Floky.
"Did you know that it's magic?
If you give it to me, I will be your
guardian forever," offered
the panther.



"Oh oh! I can't give it to you. It's my lucky stone
and I'm going home with it."

"But it's just a lump of stone with a light!"

"But I like it!" Replied Floky.

"Well, that's up to you then!" Grumbled the panther
and disappeared with a jump.





Then the hyena crossed his path. "Ha, ha, ha... I'll swap your 'lump of stone' for whatever you ask," he said between laughs. "Nooo! I like my stone. It's mine!"

"Well go away then. We don't like pale monkeys wandering around here."


Floky felt in danger, but the worst was yet to come...

Suddenly, he felt that he was being watched from the trees and being followed. Then he saw a snake in front of him, who asked him:

"Will you give me that ssstone you have in your handsss?"

While he was speaking, the hyenas arrived and surrounded Floky. Some vampire bats were flying threateningly over his head. They all wanted to trick him to take the stone away.





Floky held the stone tightly
and shouted at them: "Nooo!"
The jungle was illuminated with a light that blinded everybody.
"Run, escape! This way!" He heard.
Floky ran and ran until he could run no more.

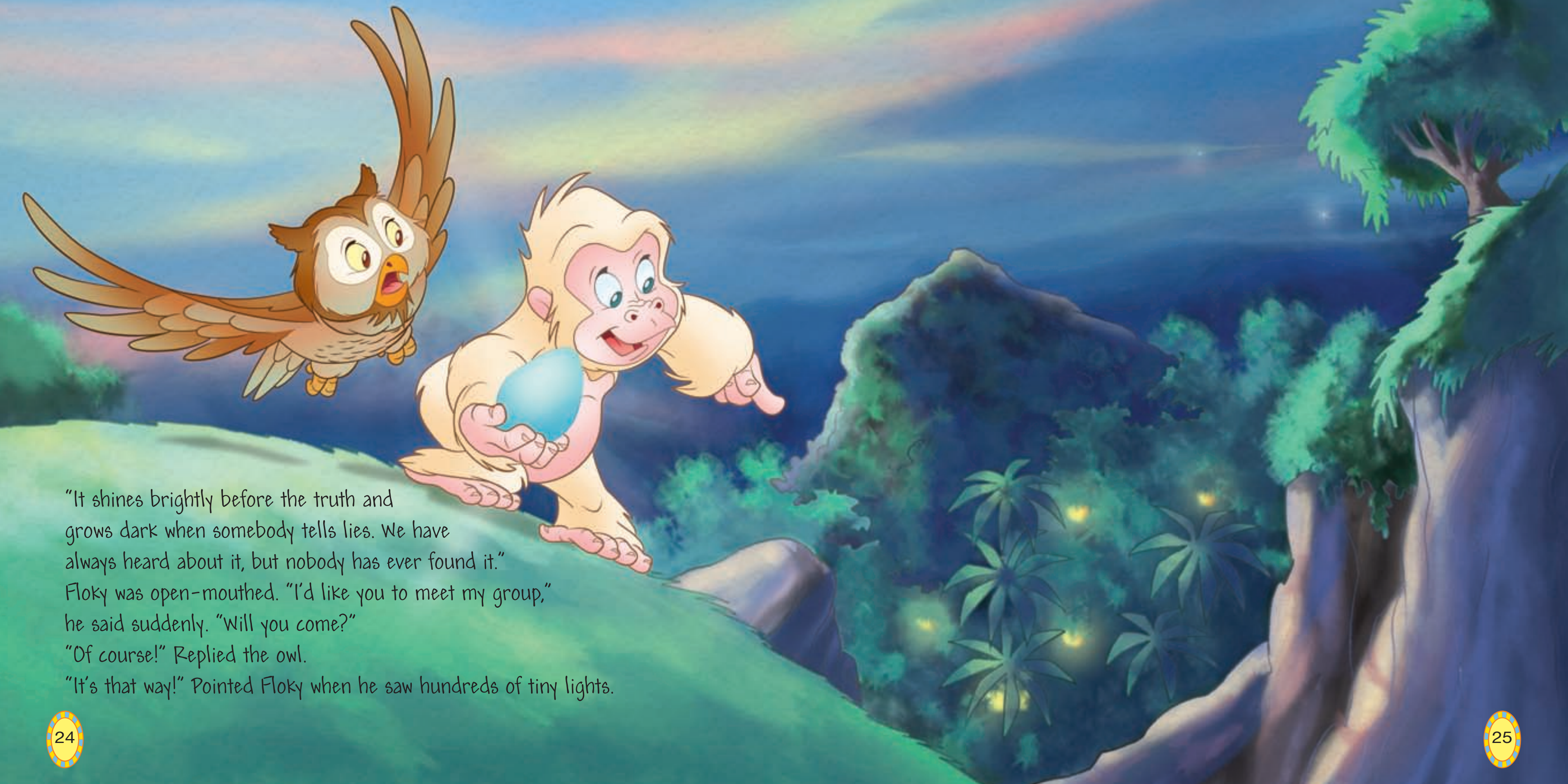
"You saved my life. Thank you!"

"It wasn't me; it was the stone," replied the owl.

"The stone?" Replied the gorilla, dazed.

"It is the stone of fire, kimberlite, a magic stone millions of years old. It can cure illnesses and wounds, ward off nightmares and protect those under its influence from wild beasts."



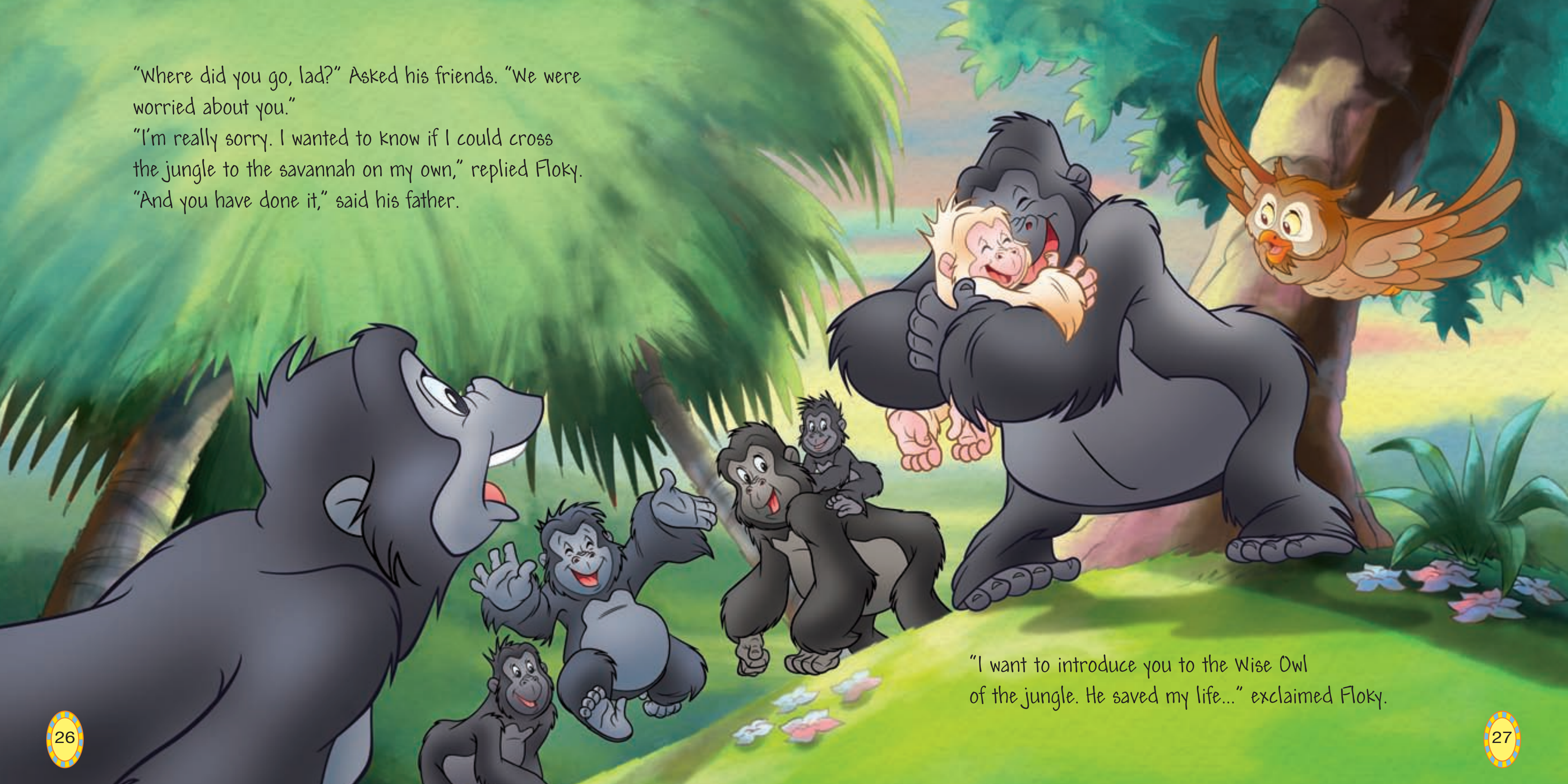


"It shines brightly before the truth and grows dark when somebody tells lies. We have always heard about it, but nobody has ever found it." Floky was open-mouthed. "I'd like you to meet my group," he said suddenly. "Will you come?" "Of course!" Replied the owl. "It's that way!" Pointed Floky when he saw hundreds of tiny lights.

"Where did you go, lad?" Asked his friends. "We were worried about you."

"I'm really sorry. I wanted to know if I could cross the jungle to the savannah on my own," replied Floky.

"And you have done it," said his father.



"I want to introduce you to the Wise Owl of the jungle. He saved my life..." exclaimed Floky.

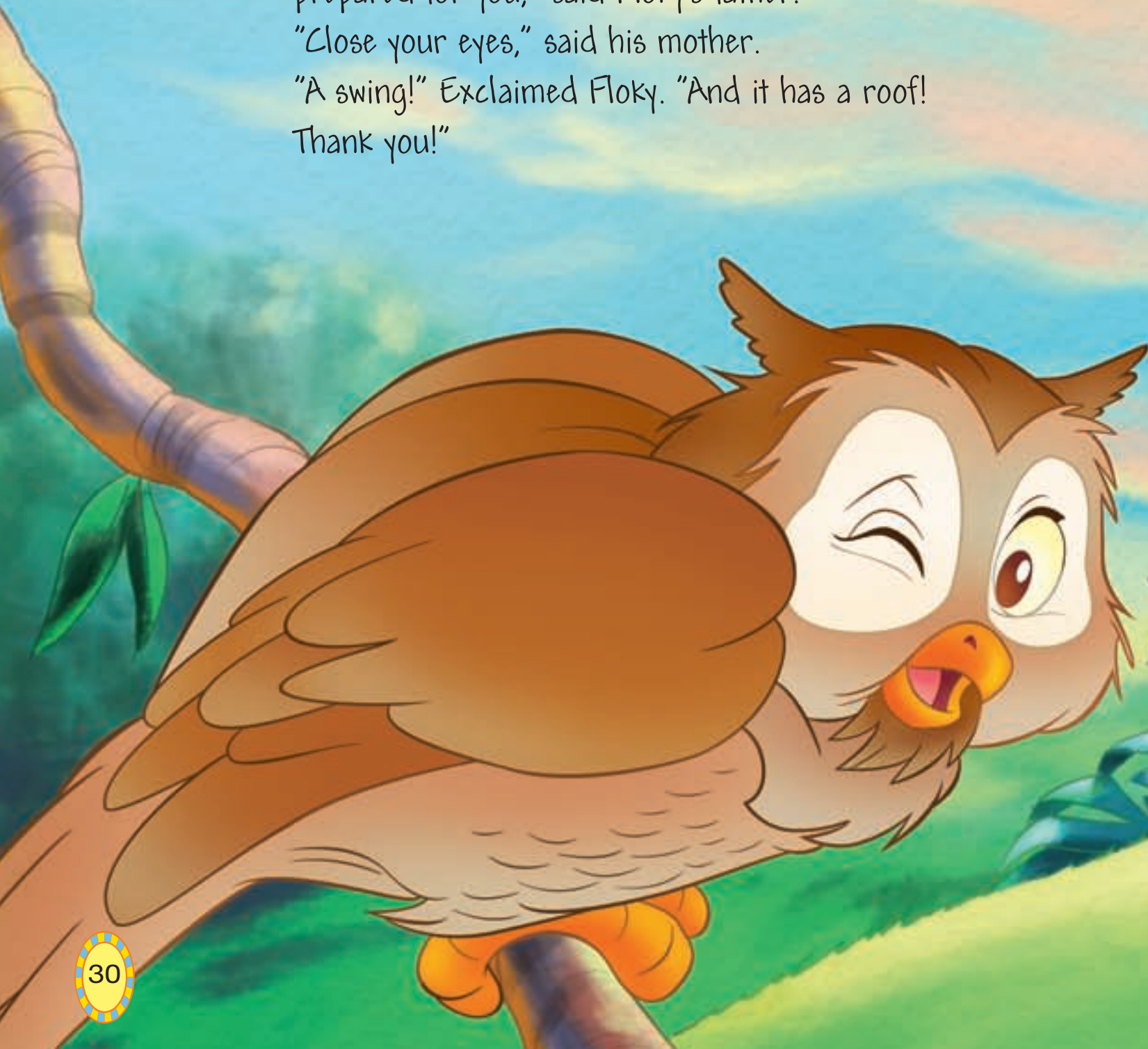


"And we have brought you a present," added Floky. Then he took out the stone, which glowed, filling the whole forest with light.

Everybody listened attentively to the story about the stone and the ambush and they invited the owl to stay and live in their forest and be their advisor.

"It's the best present you could have given our group," said his father proudly.

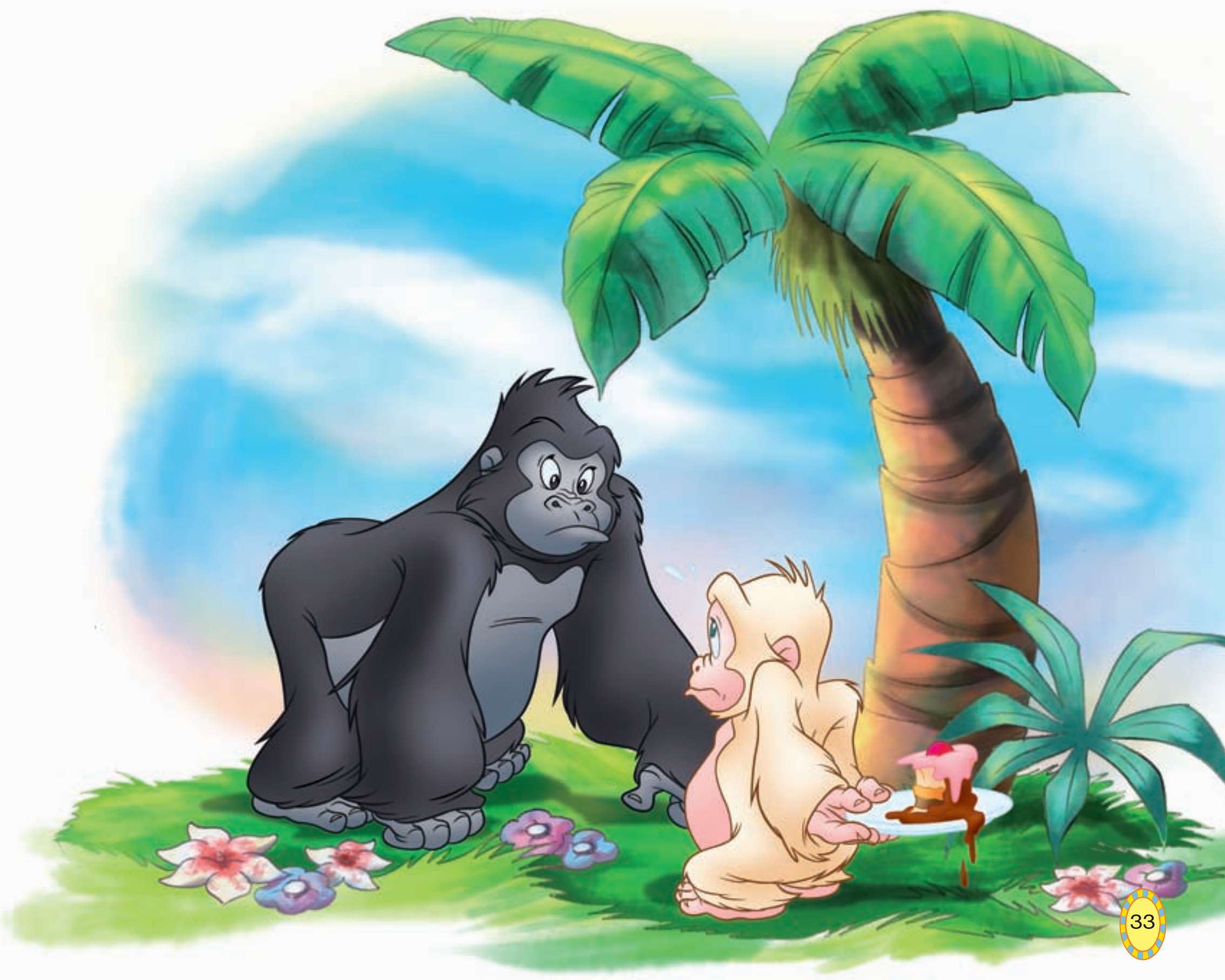
"You nearly missed the surprise that we have prepared for you," said Floky's father.
"Close your eyes," said his mother.
"A swing!" Exclaimed Floky. "And it has a roof! Thank you!"





Why is it best to ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH?

Because this will make you a person that everybody can trust and they will believe what you say. Although sometimes, telling the truth can get us into trouble, like when we should say whether or not we have done something naughty. But lies are not good friends: The first lie forces you to tell a second one and a third and... at some point, you get caught. You need to be very, very brave to admit in front of your parents, grandparents, teachers and friends that you have told one or more lies, but if you manage to do this, you will be able to make a fresh start. It's never too late to regain the confidence of others. In any case... If you don't want to get in a mess, remember that it is best to ALWAYS, ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH.



Manual for the Perfect Adventurer

Choose your backpack well: It should be light and strong with a lot of compartments and inside it, you should always have...

Plan your trip and read a little about the customs, traditions and anything that might be fun and interesting about the place you are traveling to.

Maps and a travel guide:

To find out more about the places you visit and to better plan your routes and trips.

valuables holder:

So that you have your identification and travel documents safe and with you at all times.

Pocket dictionary,

(if you are going to a country where they speak a different language to yours).



Pens, pencils, felt-tipped pens, glue and pins:
The best companions to a notebook or for creating a souvenir album.

Sunscreen:

You don't only need it for the beach, but also in the mountains, the snow and on a daytrip to the city.

Swimsuit:

Always carry one; you never know when you will have the opportunity to take a dip.

waterproof boots:

For forests, marshes, rivers or a rainy day in the city.

Take advantage of the journey to sleep, on the airplane, on the train, on the bus... If you travel at night, you could save a night's board.

"If you want to discover and enjoy during your travels, always keep your eyes and heart open. They will be your best luggage!"



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