

The Sacred Monkey

Nyoman wants to be a vet, not a dancer like his brother and sister. He especially loves the monkeys in the Sacred Monkey Forest. What he finds on the side of the road one day might fulfil his dream - or ruin it.



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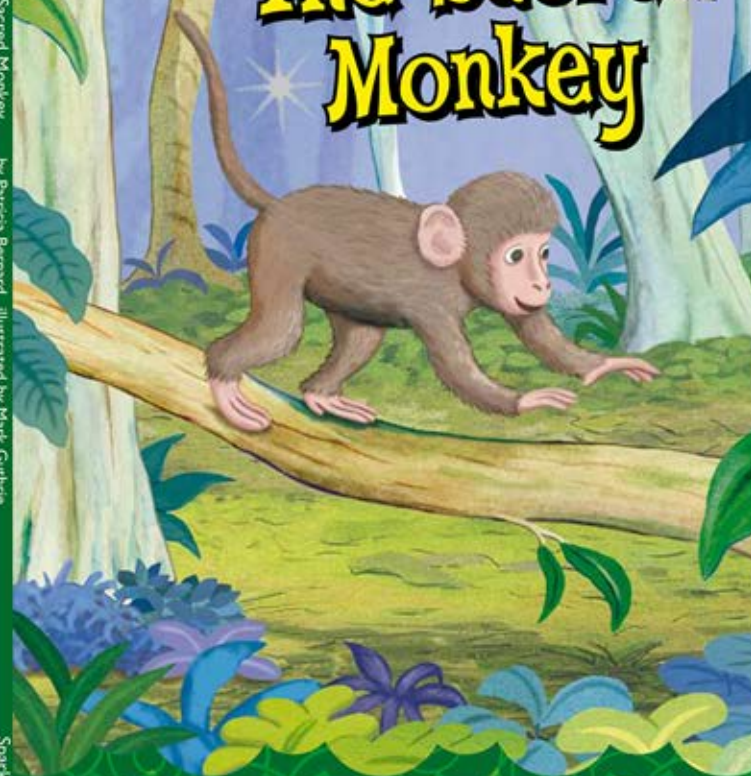


The Sacred Monkey by Patricia Bernard illustrated by Mark Guthrie

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The Sacred Monkey



by Patricia Bernard
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Ketut loved the forest with its huge trees and wide-leafed ferns. He loved feeding the long-tailed macaques that lived there, especially the mothers with their tiny, black-haired babies.

His favourite monkey was a young female who'd adopted an unwanted kitten. The monkey keepers had named her Betty, and her kitten Meow.



"All animals bite." Ketut's mother turned to Mrs Kade in the next stall. "My youngest boy is always fussing over the chickens and the ducks, the dogs and the cats and his grandfather's water buffalo."

"But I need to know about animals if I'm going to be a vet one day," said Ketut.

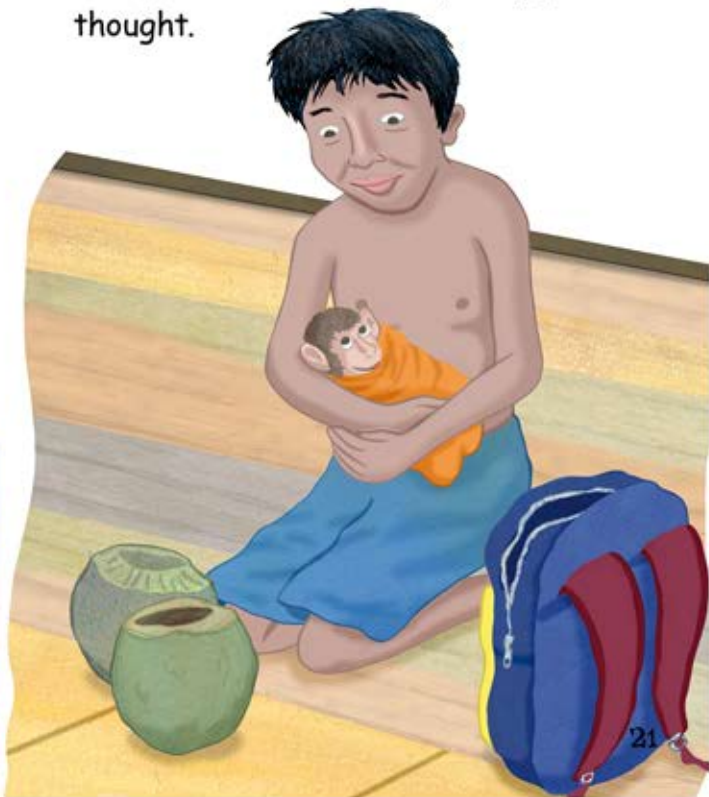


Ketut worked hard at the stall, all the time worrying about the baby monkey in his backpack.

"Are you thirsty, Mother? Should I go home and get some coconuts?" he suggested.



Back at home, Ketut grabbed two coconuts and sliced off their tops. But before returning to the market, he took the baby monkey out of his backpack. It must be very hungry, he thought.



When Ketut finally arrived at the herb stall, his mother was frowning.

"Kadek told me about the monkey at the Water Palace last night. Did you take it to the forest?"

"Yes, Mother. I took it there this morning." Ketut answered honestly - but he didn't say Lucy was still in his backpack.



"I tried to give Lucy to Betty," he explained, "but she only wants Meow. And the other monkeys weren't interested either."

"That's because Lucy thinks you are her mother," explained the keeper. "The other macaques would never take another mother's baby."

"Well, Ketut is not a monkey," said Ketut's father. "And Lucy is getting him in trouble at school."

