



# Dr. Ow-It-Hurts, by Kornei Chukovsky

TRANSLATED FROM YIDDISH BY MYRA MNIEWSKI

## PART 1

### 1. THE DOCTOR AND HIS PETS

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Once upon a time there was a doctor, a very kind-hearted soul. This doctor's name was Ow-It-Hurts and he had a mean spirited sister whose name was Barbara.

There was nothing in the world this doctor loved more than his animals. He had a rabbit living in his bathroom. His closet was home to a squirrel. On his couch lived a porcupine with quills. He had a box full of white mice. And there was actually an old horse bunking right there in his room stood and right next to him, a cow.

But of all his animals Dr. Ow-It-Hurts didn't love anyone as much as he loved his duck, Ki-Ki, his dog, Ava, his little piglet, Gub-Gub, his parrot, Carrudo and his owl Boom-Ba.

His unkind sister Barbara was often very angry at the doctor because he kept so many animals at home.

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'Get them out of here this minute!' she would yell. 'All they do is foul up all the rooms. I don't want to live with these disgusting mice and pigs!'

'No Barbara, they are not disgusting,' the doctor would say, 'I'm very happy to have them here with me.'

Dr. Ow-It-Hurts' patients who came to him for treatment were afraid of his pets. One time a woman came to see him and not noticing the porcupine sleeping on the couch she sat right down on it and oh ho ho! She sprang up practically to the ceiling. That's how sharp the porcupine's quills were.

'I will never get well at such a hideous doctor's!' she cried, 'let him heal his despicable beasts!'

'Creatures are not loathsome,' the doctor retorted. And if people don't want to come see me they don't have to. I'll devote myself to healing animals. Let sick giraffes, sick bears, sick elephants, come to me—I'll gladly treat all of them.

And animals began going to Dr. Ow-It-Hurts for treatment, resulting in the doctor learning their language—Animalese.

A horse came to him once and said, 'Lama, Vonoy, Fifi, Kuku!'

The doctor immediately understood that in horse language it meant: 'My eyes hurt, could you please give me some glasses.'

The doctor responded to the horse with, "Kapuki! Kanuki!"

In Horsish that meant, 'Please sit down!'

The horse sat down and the doctor put some glasses on him. His eyes stopped hurting immediately and he was able to see very clearly.

'Tshaka!' the horse exclaimed, swished his tail and ran outside.

'Tshaka,' means 'Thank-you' in Horsish.

Quite soon, everyone in the animal kingdom who had trouble seeing received glasses from Dr. Ow-It-Hurts. Horses, as well as cows, started wearing glasses. Cats and dogs also began wearing glasses. Even old crows didn't take flight from their nests without their glasses.

Everyday more and more wildlife came to the doctor for treatment. Goats and foxes came as well as storks and bats. Dr. Ow-It-Hurts cured them all. But he didn't charge any of them because what kind of money did a dog or crow have? Or a bat for that matter?

Very shortly the following posters appeared in the forests:

ATTENTION BIRDS! ATTENTION ALL WILDLIFE!  
OVER THERE IN THAT GREEN HOUSE,  
A NEW HOSPITAL HAS OPENED—  
HURRY ON OVER AND BE CURED.

## 2. CHEE-CHEE the MONKEY

One night, when all the creatures were asleep, someone came knocking at the doctor's door.

'Who is it?' the doctor wanted to know.

'It's me,' a low voice replied.

The doctor opened the door to an emaciated monkey covered in mud.

Dr. Ow-It-Hurts sat her down on the couch and asked,

'What hurts?'

"My throat!" she said and started crying.

At that point the doctor noticed a rope around her neck.

'I escaped from a mean organ grinder,' the monkey explained. 'The organ grinder beat me. He tormented me, yanking me around by this rope.'

The doctor took a scissor, cut the rope and rubbed her neck with some very excellent ointment,

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immediately soothing her throbbing neck. He then gave the monkey a bath, served her some food, and said:

'Stay here with me Monkey, I don't want you to suffer anymore abuse.'

The monkey was overjoyed but as she was sitting at the table busy cracking some hefty nuts, her hateful boss, the organ grinder, busted in.

'Give me back my monkey!' he shouted boorishly at Dr. Ow-It-Hurts.

'I will not surrender her!' the doctor said, 'I will not have you tormenting her.'

The organ grinder furiously grabbed Dr. Ow-It-Hurts by the throat ready to deliver a blow. But the doctor shouted:

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'Get out of here at once! And if you continue this swearing and brutality I'm going to call my dog, Ava, and you'll get a real bite.'

Ava ran into the room very angry: 'Rrrr, grrrr,' which in dog language means, 'Get out right now or I'll bite you.'

The organ grinder, scared out of his mind, hightailed it and the monkey stayed at the doctor's. The other animals very quickly grew to love her and named her Chee-Chee; In animal-speak Chee-Chee means a *moledyet*.

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### 3. The CROCODILE

There was a crocodile at the circus in town.

When the crocodile's teeth began hurting he went to Dr. Ow-It-Hurts for treatment. The doctor gave him a remedy and the crocodile's teeth stopped hurting.

'It's so nice here!' the crocodile remarked smacking his lips and looking around. 'You have so many rabbits, birds and mice! And all of them are so plump and tasty looking! Let me stay here with you too. I don't want to go back to the circus where I'm beaten and abused.'

‘Stay then!’ the doctor said, ‘but remember: if you eat as much as one rabbit or sparrow you will immediately be shown the door.’

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‘You got it!’ the crocodile said, ‘I promise you doctor, that I will not eat even one rabbit, bird or mouse.’ And so the crocodile moved in with the doctor.

He was a quiet sort not intruding on anyone, making himself comfortable under the bed, thinking about his little crocodile babies who lived far far away in steamy Africa.

The doctor grew to love the crocodile and would converse with him often. But mean Barbara could not tolerate the crocodile and demanded the doctor get rid of him.

‘I don’t want him here,’ she moaned, ‘he’s so disgusting, like a big frog. He makes a mess of whatever he touches, yesterday he ate up my green dress that was hanging here on my window.’

‘He was right to do that,’ the doctor retorted, ‘dresses should be kept in the closet, not covering up a window.’

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‘Because of this here revolting crocodile,’ Barbara lamented further, ‘people are afraid to come here. A lot of ailing people used to come here and each one of them paid you but now no one comes and we don’t have any money for groceries.’

‘I don’t need any money,’ Ow-It-Hurts replied, ‘I’m fine without money. I’ll take care of animals and they will be my means of support.’

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## 4. ANIMALS at WORK

Barbara’s words were true—the doctor was broke. He didn’t have money for food. He was hungry for three days.

All the creatures who lived in the house saw that the doctor didn’t have anything to eat so they began feeding him. Boom-Ba the owl and the piglet Gub-Gub planted a garden: the piglet tilled the soil in the garden bed with his snout and Boom-Ba planted potatoes. The cow honored the doctor with her milk every morning and evening. And the hen laid eggs for him.

Red roses grew in the doctor’s orchard so Chee-Chee the monkey made them into bouquets and brought them to the market to sell. With the money she’d buy bread for the doctor.

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And everyone else began helping as well.

Ava the dog swept the house. The cat did the laundry.

It was a riot to watch the dog sweep the house: with a broom tied her tail, she wagged her tail in all directions.

The doctor praised them: 'My home has never been this clean in all my life. Thank-you for all your hard work critters.'

All of them answered in unison, 'Karabuki, Marabuki, Bu!'

In Animalese that means: 'There's no question about us helping you—you are our best friend!'

And Ava the dog licked his cheek and said, 'Abuzo, mabuzo, bakh!'

In Doggish that means: 'We will never let you down, we will always be devoted to you.'

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## 5. The SWALLOW

One night Boom-Ba the owl heard something scraping at the door? 'Who's out there, a mouse?'

Everyone perked up their ears to try to hear what she was talking about, but they couldn't hear anything.

'There's no one there!' the doctor said, 'You're imagining it.'

'I am not imaging it,' the owl was firm, 'my hearing is excellent I am positive I hear someone scritchng—it's either a mouse or a bird. You can count on me, we owls have better hearing than you people.'

Boom-Ba was not mistaken.

The monkey opened the door and saw a swallow on the doorsill.

A swallow—in winter! That is a wonder since swallows cannot tolerate frost. As soon as the sense winter approaching they fly south—to tropical Africa! The poor

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swallow—she must be so cold! She's shivering there in the snow.

'My little swallow!' the doctor cried out, 'come inside and get warm by the stove!'

The little swallow had been afraid to enter. She saw the crocodile in the room and thought he would eat her up. But Chee-Chee the monkey assured her that this particular crocodile was very kind. So the swallow flew into the house perched herself on the back of a chair, looked around to scope out the room and asked, 'Tshiruto kirapa—mak?'

In animal speak that means: 'Please tell me, is this where the famous doctor, Dr. Ow-It-Hurts, who cures animals, lives?'

'Yes,' the doctor replied, 'I am Ow-It-Hurts.'

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'I have a big favor to ask you!' the swallow blurted out, 'you must not delay and immediately pack up for Africa. I have just arrived from there expressly to summon you. There are many monkeys who live there in Africa and they are currently very ill.'

'What hurts them?' the doctor inquired.

'They're hurting inside,' the swallow replied. 'They're laying on the ground crying. There is only one person who can save them—and that is you. Bring medicine with you and let us immediately depart for Africa! If you do not come to Africa all the monkeys will die.'

'Akh,' the doctor cried out, 'I would gladly travel to Africa. I love monkeys and my heart aches at the thought of them being sick. But I unfortunately do not have a ship! I would need a boat to get there.'

'Those poor monkeys!' the crocodile commiserated. 'If the doctor does not go to Africa they will all die. He is the only who can cure them.'

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The crocodile wept. Such huge tears fell from his eyes that a river began to flow on the floor.

Suddenly Dr. Ow-It-Hurts cried out: 'That said, I will go to Africa and make those monkeys well! I just remembered my friend the fisherman, Robinson, has an excellent, seaworthy ship. He grabbed his hat and rushed off to Robinson the fisherman.

'Good evening to you, Fisherman Robinson,' the doctor addressed him, 'Please be so kind as to lend me your boat. I want to go to Africa, to the land of the monkeys.'

'Okay,' Fisherman Robinson replied, 'I'll lend you my ship, but remember, you must return it to me— it is the only boat I have.'

'I will absolutely bring it back,' the doctor assured him, 'Don't worry, I only need to go down to Africa.'

'Take it then,' Robinson replied, 'but remember not to wreck it.'

'Okay, I won't wreck it,' the doctor said. He thanked the fisherman and rushed home.

'Beasts, get packing!' he yelled, 'We are leaving for Africa tomorrow! We're going to the land of the monkeys!'

All the animals jumped for joy, they clapped their paws and danced around the house. Carrudo the parrot clacked his tongue and broke out in song:

I'm going home to Africa  
and trilling with a song!

O Africa, O Africa  
I've missed you for so long!

'I can't be taking everyone to Africa,' Dr. Ow-It-Hurts, exclaimed, 'The bats and rabbits have to stay and take care of the garden and orchard.'

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'The old horse will also stay home then. Only the crocodile and Chee-Chee the monkey and the parrot Carrudo are coming because they're from Africa: that's where their parents and brothers and sisters live. I'll also take Ava, Ki-Ki, Boom-Ba and the piglet Gub-Gub.'

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## 6. TO AFRICA!

The pets quickly packed up their things and were ready to go. Only the rabbits, bats and the old nag stayed home.

When they got to the seashore, the animals were greeted with the most wonderful ship. Fisherman Robinson was there too. He helped them load the luggage and medicine.

When they were all aboard and ready to sail the doctor suddenly cried out very loudly, 'Wait, wait, please wait!'

'What's wrong?' the crocodile asked.

'Wait, wait a minute!' the doctor screamed, 'I have no idea where Africa is! We need to get directions.'

The crocodile cracked up.

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'Don't worry! Calm down! The swallow will guide us. She'll show us the way. It's not the first time she's going to Africa, swallows fly there every winter.'

'Of course!' the swallow called out, 'I'd be delighted to show you the way!'

And the swallow flew up to the front of the ship ready to guide Dr. Ow-It-Hurts.

She flew toward Africa and Dr. Ow-It-Hurts steered the boat right alongside her. Wherefore the swallow went, the ship followed. At night it was too dark to see the swallow so she lit a lantern and grasped it with her bill proceeding on her way to Africa with the lantern in her beak. That made it possible for the doctor to see her and continue on his way through the night.

On and on they sailed and then out of nowhere they spotted a stork flying toward them.

'Please, be so kind, is it possible that the famous Dr. Ow-It-Hurts, is here on this ship?'

'Yes,' the crocodile responded, 'the famous doctor, Ow-It-Hurts, is right here with us on this ship.'

'Beseech the doctor to hurry up,' the stork implored. 'The monkeys' condition is worsening rapidly. Their eyes are popping out of their heads waiting for him.'

'Not to worry!' said the crocodile, 'All sails are at full speed. The monkeys don't have much longer to wait.'

The stork delighted in that report and flew off to tell the monkeys the good news that the good doctor, Ow-It-Hurts, would be there soon.

The ship raced along the waves while the crocodile sunned himself on the deck. Suddenly he noticed beautiful fish swimming alongside the ship—dolphins.

'Could you kindly tell us,' the dolphins wanted to know, 'is the famous Dr. Ow-It-Hurts perhaps traveling on this ship?'

'Yes,' the crocodile replied, 'the famous Dr. Ow-It-Hurts is indeed traveling on this ship.'

'Please be so kind as to tell the doctor to hurry. The monkeys are getting sicker and sicker by the minute.'

'Not to worry!' the crocodile replied, 'We're at full speed ahead. The monkeys don't have much longer to wait.'

In the morning the doctor inquired of the crocodile:

'What is that right there in front of us? It looks like a big land mass? It looks like Africa.'

'Yes, it's Africa!' the crocodile screamed in glee, 'Africa! Africa! We will soon be in Africa! I see ostriches! I see rhinoceri! I see camels! I see elephants!'

## 7. THE STORM

But a storm suddenly kicked up. Rain! And wind! Lightening! Thunder! The waves were gargantuan, terrifying to look at.

And suddenly without warning, 'Trakh-tar-rarakh!'—a bone chilling crash and the ship lay on its side.

'What's going on? What's happening?' the doctor implored.

'The ship's going down!' the parrot screeched, 'we've hit a rock and suffered a break. We're drowning. Whoever can must save himself!'

'I don't know how to swim!' Tchi Tchi cried.

And everyone started sobbing. Luckily the crocodile was able to seat them all on his broad back and swim through the waves directly to shore.



'Hoorah!' Everyone was saved! Everyone arrived in Africa! But their poor ship perished.

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A forbidding, immense wave crashed into her and smashed her to smithereens.

How will they ever get home? They had no other ship!

Night began to fall. The doctor and all his pets just wanted to sleep. They were soaking wet and exhausted. But the doctor could not even think of resting.

'Faster, faster! We have to hurry, we are in the land of the monkeys and they are very sick—they're waiting for me to cure them!'

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## 8. A MISFORTUNE BEFALLS THE DOCTOR

Boom-Ba suddenly flew over to the doctor in distress and intoned fearfully:

'Quiet, keep quiet! Someone's coming! I hear footsteps.'

Everyone froze in their tracks and listened.

Out of the woods emerged an irate and disheveled old man. He had a long grey beard and yelled:

'What are you doing here? And who the hell are you? And why did you come here?'

'I am Dr. Ow-It-Hurts,' the doctor declared, 'I've come to Africa to heal the sick monkeys.'

'Ha-ha-ha!' the disheveled old man laughed, 'Heal the sick monkeys! Do you even know where it is you've landed?'

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'Where?' the doctor asked.

'You're at bloodthirsty, man-eating Barmalay's!'

'I'm at Barmalay's!' the doctor screamed. 'Oh poor us, how unfortunate we are! Barmalay is the worst person in the whole world, we will never come out alive at his hands!'

'You got that right!' the scruffy old man said and burst out laughing. 'You will never be released once in his hands! He eats every single thing that winds up in his clutches.'

'Let's get out of here,' the crocodile exclaimed, 'we can still make it.'

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But at that instant Barmalay himself emerged, waving his sword and shouting:

'Hey you, my loyal men! Take this here foolish doctor and all his stupid pets and lock them up in the dungeon. Lock them up behind bars! I will roast him tomorrow and eat him up.'

Barmalay's men rushed forward, grabbed the doctor, grabbed the crocodile, grabbed all the animals and herded them into the dungeon. The pets bit and gouged struggling to break free but the enemy was powerful. There were many strong and very fit men who dragged the unfortunates into the dungeon and locked them up.

They brought the key to Barmalay and Barmalay hid the key under his pillow.

The doctor was very upset, his heart felt bitter; he would no longer be able to heal the monkeys! The piglet began snorting and the dog started howling.

'How unfortunate we are, how unfortunate!' Chee-Chee wailed.

'We will never be released from this dungeon. The walls are formidable, the doors—ironclad. We will never see the sun again, nor blossoms, nor trees. How wretched we are.'

The crocodile wept—his tears so huge they formed a big puddle beneath him.

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## 9. THE PARROT CARRUDO'S HEROISM

Night fell and it got dark. Suddenly a sound was heard:

'Do not cry my darling friends! I will save you from this horrific dungeon!'

Everyone shuddered.

'Who's speaking?' the doctor asked.

'It's me, the parrot!'

The doctor smiled sadly:

'No my dear Carrudo! It is impossible to save us. We are beyond hope. The door to our prison is made of powerful iron. Can you then break through this mighty gate? Stop blathering, tomorrow morning Barmalay will come and kill us all—including you, and me too.'

But the parrot stubbornly repeated:

'I'm telling you that I will free you from this prison.'

When the doctor and all his pets fell asleep the parrot ran over to the gate, slid between the iron bars and flew outside over to Barmalay.

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Barmalay was sleeping soundly in his bed. Under his pillow lay a tremendously huge key—actually the key

he had locked the iron gate of the dungeon with. Very, very quietly, the parrot tiptoed over to Barmalay and pulled the key out from under his pillow. If the murderer had woken up he most certainly would have killed the daring bird on the spot.

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But the killer was ensconced in a very deep sleep permitting the parrot to grab the key and speedily fly back to the dungeon. Akh, how heavy that key was! It would only take a hair's breadth for it fall out of the bird's beak as it flew on its way. But nevertheless Carrudo made it to the prison and got to Dr. Ow-It-Hurts through the window. Oh boy did the doctor ever rejoice when he saw the parrot with the key to the dungeon in its beak!

'Hoorah! We are saved!' he yelled, 'We have to hurry and get out of here before Barmalay wakes up.'

The doctor grabbed the key, unlocked the door, and ran outside with all his beloved pets in tow. Free! Free! Free! Hoorah!

'Thank-you so much my bold audacious Carrudo!' said the doctor, 'you saved our lives. If not for you we would have perished and those sick, unfortunate monkeys would have perished along with us!'

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## 10. OVER A BRIDGE OF MONKEYS

When Barmalay found out that Dr. Ow-It-Hurts got away he was furious, stomping his feet and rolling his eyes.

'Oh you my devoted men!' he screamed. 'Go after him now! Find him and bring him back to me!'

His men rushed out through the forest and began searching for Dr. Ow-It-Hurts. At the same time the doctor and his menagerie were making their way to the land of the monkeys, rushing forward at incredible speed. The little piglet Gub-Gub whose feet were tiny and weak was having trouble keeping up so the doctor picked him up and carried him. The pig was heavy and the doctor quickly became very tired.

'Akh, how I could use a little rest at the moment!' he panted, 'Oh if only we could get to the land of the monkeys already!'

Chee-Chee climbed up a tall tree and called loudly down:

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'I can see the Land of the Monkeys! The land of the monkeys is very close indeed. Very very soon we'll be there!'

The doctor burst out laughing for great joy and rushed onward.

The sick monkeys saw the doctor from a distance and happily began clapping their hands.

'Hoorah! Dr. Ow-It-Hurts is coming to cure us! Tomorrow we will be well!'

But suddenly, out of the thick woods,

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Barmalay's men emerged chasing down the doctor.

'Get him! Get Hiiiimmmmm! Get Himmmmm,' they yelled.

The doctor took off with all his might. Suddenly he came upon a river. Oh no, now they couldn't go any further. The river was too wide to swim across. Barmalay's men would be there to catch them any minute. Akh, if only there were a bridge that crossed the river, they could just run across it and be in the Land of the Monkeys in a minute.

'How unlucky we are!' Gub-Gub the piglet bemoaned, 'how are we going to get to the other side? Those barbarians are going to be here any minute and imprison us in their dungeon yet again.'

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At that moment one of the monkeys screeched:

'A bridge! A bridge! Let's make a bridge—hurry! There is not a minute to lose! Make a bridge! A bridge!'

The doctor looked all around him. The monkeys had no iron, no stone what could they possibly make a bridge with? How are they possibly going to make a bridge?'

But the monkeys did make a bridge—not from iron and not from stone—but from living live monkeys. There were tall trees on both banks of the river. One monkey grabbed on to a tree while another grabbed his tail. Continuing on in that way the monkeys formed a huge chain that spanned the river between two tall trees on either side of it.

'Here's a bridge for you!' they yelled—'Run!!'

The doctor grabbed Boom-Ba the owl and ran onto the monkeys heads and backs, his animals following suit.

'Faster!' the monkeys screeched, 'Faster! Faster!'

It was very difficult to cross the living monkey bridge. The doctor was afraid that any minute he would slip and crash right into the water. But no, the bridge was strong. The monkeys held on to each other very tightly, and the doctor, along with all his pets, got to the other side. Barmalay's men also ran out onto the monkey bridge in pursuit. But as they got to the middle of the river one of the monkeys loosened his grip and the bridge fell apart with Barmalay's men thrust into the river.

'Hoorah!' the monkeys screamed, 'Hoorah! Dr. Ow-It-Hurts has been saved! There is no one for him to be afraid of now! Hoorah! Barmalay did not catch him! Hoorah!'

## 11. FOOLISH BEASTS

The doctor, Ow-It-Hurts, quickly rushed to tend to the sick monkeys. They were lying on the ground moaning. They were very sick.

The doctor began treating the monkeys. Every monkey needed to be dosed with medicine. Every monkey needed a cold compress. There were a lot of sick monkeys and the doctor was only one. He would not be able to manage to do everything himself.

Ki-Ku, the crocodile, Carrudo and Chee-Chee helped him, to the best of their ability, but they got tired very quickly and the doctor needed to recruit more help.

So he went into the wilderness—out there into the wild where the lion lived.

‘Please be so kind,’ he called out to the lion, ‘Help me heal the monkeys, I beg you.’

The lion, who lorded over his realm, looked irately over at Dr. Ow-It-Hurts.

‘Don’t you know who I am? I am a lion, I am the king of the beasts! And you dare to beg me to heal those repulsive monkeys!’

So the doctor sought out the rhinoceroses.

‘Rhinoceroses, rhinoceroses,’ he begged, ‘help me heal the monkeys. There are very many and I am only one. I cannot manage on my own.’

The rhinos had a good laugh:

‘Yes we’ll be right over there to help you! And you can thank us that we haven’t already torn you to pieces!’

The doctor was infuriated with the mean rhinos and ran off to another forest—to the striped tigers.

‘Tigers! Tigers! Help me tend to the monkeys!’

‘Rrrr!’ they responded, ‘you’d better get the hell out of here while you’re still in one piece. Rrrr!’

With a broken heart, the doctor left them.

But very quickly the mean animals were chastised with a horrible punishment.

When the lion got home his lioness cried out to him:

‘Our little son has fallen very ill.’

'He's been whimpering and groaning all day. It's too bad that there is no famous doctor Ow-It-Hurts here in Africa. He would be able to cure our little son.'

'Dr. Ow-It-Hurts IS here!" the lion responded, 'I was just talking to him.'

'What good fortune!' the lioness was gleeful, 'Go get him to attend to our son.'

'No,' the lion said, 'I can't go to him. He won't tend to our son because I was mean to him.'

'You were mean to Dr. Ow-It-Hurts! Now what are we going to do? You surely know that Dr. Ow-It-Hurts is the best, the biggest doctor in the world? He is the only person in the whole world who can speak Animalese. He is the only man of all his kind that heals tigers, crocodiles, rabbits, monkeys and frogs. Yes, yes he even heals frogs, because he is such a kind soul. And that's the man you've affronted and insulted, just now, at this time when your own child is so sick! Now what are we going to do?'

The lion was completely dejected. He didn't know what to say.

'Go to him, go to that doctor,' the lioness yelled, 'and beg for forgiveness.'

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'Tell him you'll help him to the best of your ability. And do everything he tells you to do, and then beseech him to heal our poor son.'

What else was there to do? The lion went off to Dr. Ow-It-Hurts.

'Good morning to you!' he said, 'I've come to help. I would like to help give the monkeys their medicine and put cold compresses on them.'

And so the lion began helping the doctor, Ow-It-Hurts. For three days and three nights he tended to the sick monkeys. Then he went over to the doctor and trembling said to him:

'I have a tiny son who is very sick. I love him so much... I beg you, please, come and heal my sick little cub.'

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'Ok, ok, will do,' the doctor replied, 'in fact, I will go today to cure your son for you.'

And off he went to the little cub and gave him such a remedy that it didn't take more than an hour for the lion cub to get well.

The lion was overjoyed and ashamed that he had insulted a doctor who was so kind.

Then the tigers' children got sick as did the rhinoceros' kids. Ow-It-Hurts quickly took care of them too. The rhinoceroses and the tigers said:

'It wasn't very nice of us to have been so rude to you.'

'It's ok, it's all right,' the doctor replied, 'Next time you'll do better, but now come with me to help me heal the monkeys!'

## 12. THE GIFT

The wild animals were so good at helping the doctor that the monkeys quickly regained their health.

They were overjoyed and said, 'In gratitude to the doctor who healed us of a terrible disease we must present him with an extraordinary gift. Let's give him an animal that has never before been seen by man, that does not exist in any circus, in any zoo, that does not exist in any menagerie.'

'Let's give him a camel!' one of the monkeys called out.

'No,' Chee-Chee responded, 'he doesn't need a camel. He's seen camels, everyone knows what a camel is.'

'Nu, then an ostrich!' another monkey yelled out. 'We'll give him an ostrich, an ostrich!'

'No,' Chee-Chee said, 'he's familiar with ostriches.'

'Well then, has he ever seen a Push-Me-Pull-You?' a third monkey inquired.

'No, he has never seen a Push-Me-Pull-You,' Chee-Chee replied, 'there isn't a person alive who has ever seen one.'

'Great!' the monkey said, 'now we know what to present the doctor with. We'll give him a Push-Me-Pull-You.'

## 13. THE PUSH-ME-PULL-YOU

People have never seen a Push-Me-Pull-You because Push-Me-Pull-Yous are afraid of people: when they see a person they immediately retreat!

Other animals are possible to catch because when they fall asleep and their eyes close you can sneak up on them from behind and grab their tail. But it is impossible to approach a Push-Me-Pull-You from behind. Because a Push-Me-Pull-You has the same head behind him as he does in front.

Yes, he has two heads: one in front and one in back. If he wants to sleep, first one head sleeps and then the other head takes its turn to sleep. Both heads never sleep at the same time. While one head's asleep, the other keeps watch making sure no hunter sneaks up on him. And that's why not a single hunter has ever been able to capture a Push-Me-Pull-You. And that is exactly why they do not exist in zoos, in circuses or in zoological gardens. That's why no such animal has ever been seen.

The monkeys decided to capture a Push-Me-Pull-You to present to the doctor. They went to a very dense, faraway forest and found a Push-Me-Pull-You's nest.

When Push-Me-Pull-You noticed the monkeys he took off, but they surrounded him, grabbed him by the horns and said:

‘Dear Push-Me-Pull-You! Do you have any interest in accompanying the doctor, Ow-It-Hurts, to the land of the people! You’ll have it good there.’

The Push-Me-Pull-You shook both his heads and replied through both his mouths:

‘No.’

‘The doctor is very kind,’ the monkeys assured him, ‘he’ll feed you honey cupcakes, and if you ever get sick, he will heal you of any disease.’

‘No matter!’ the Push-Me-Pull-You decreed, ‘I want to stay here.’

The monkeys tried to convince him for three days and finally the Push-Me-Pull-You said:

‘Please show me this kind doctor. I want to have a look at him.’

The monkeys took Push-Me-Pull-You to where Ow-It-Hurts was residing and knocked on the door.

‘Come in,’ Ki-Ku said and Chee-Chee proudly brought the two-headed beast into the room.

‘Oh my lord, what is this?’ the astonished doctor exclaimed. He had never seen such an incredible creature.

‘This is Push-Me-Pull-You,’ Chee-Chee informed him, ‘he wants to meet you. The Push-Me-Pull-You is the rarest specimen amongst our African wildlife. He is the only animal that possesses two heads. Take him with you to the land of the humans.’

‘And what if he doesn’t want to come?’

‘It would be my greatest pleasure to go with you!’ Push-Me-Pull-You eagerly responded. ‘It is clear that you are a lover of animals.’

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‘But you must promise me, if I get lonesome you’ll allow me to return to my home, Africa.’

‘Naturally, I will release you,’ the doctor said, ‘but you will be so happy with me that you will most likely not want to leave.’

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## 14. THE MONKEYS BID THE DOCTOR FAREWELL

Just at that moment the monkeys entered bidding the doctor to lunch. They had prepared an amazing meal in farewell. Honey, bananas, dates, apricots, oranges, pineapples and nuts.

‘Long live Dr. Ow-It-Hurts!’ they all screeched with glee, ‘he’s the best fellow in the world!’



A big monkey, a gorilla, with very strong hands ran off into the woods and dragged back a big heavy stone.

'The stone,' she said would be mounted in the place where Dr. Ow-It-Hurts healed the monkey folk. It would be the good doctor's commemorative stone.

The doctor took off his hat, got down on his knees in front of the monkeys to address them:

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'Stay well my dear friends. Thank-you for your kindness. I will be back. Until then I'll leave you my crocodile, the parrot Carrudo and my monkey Chee-Chee. They were born here in Africa so it's fitting for me to leave them here. Their brothers and sisters live here. Be well!'

Having said those words the doctor strode off on the dirt road. The monkeys went along to accompany him.

Every one of them wanted to absolutely squeeze Dr. Ow-It-Hurts' hand and as there were very many monkeys he was shaking hands until night fell, to the point where the doctor's hand began hurting.

That night a catastrophe occurred.

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## 15. A NEW TROUBLE

As soon as the doctor crossed the river, he was again in the land of that despicable man-eater Barmalay. He was terrified to go through that fearsome forest.

'Sh,' Boom-Ba whispered, 'speak softly, I beg you, we may again be caught and imprisoned.'

Before she even managed to get those words out of her mouth, Barmalay's men ran out from behind the trees and attacked the unfortunate doctor. They had been waiting there for him a long time.

'Aha!' they screamed, 'We finally got you! This time you will not get away from us!'

The doctor began trembling in terror. What could he do? How was he going to get away from these unpitying enemies?

But in that instant Push-Me-Pull-You ran over to him and commanded:

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'Get on my back and ride me! But hold on tight!'

The doctor climbed onto his back and Push-Me-Pull-You took off like lightning—Barmalay's men after them. But as Push-Me-Pull-You had two heads he sunk his teeth into each and everyone who tried to attack him from front and back. The two-headed beast frightened all the enemies and they ran off. And Push-Me-Pull-You brought the doctor to the sea coast where Barmalay's ship was docked. He galloped so fast that the other animals could barely keep up.

The doctor was overjoyed to see the ship. There was nobody on it. The doctor and all his pets quickly hopped on the boat, put up the sails and made ready to sail away into the open sea. But as soon as the ship unmoored Barmalay himself appeared on shore.

‘Stop!’ he yelled, ‘Where do you think you’re going with my boat? Get back here this instant!’

‘No!’ the doctor yelled back at the bandit, ‘I will not return—you are so mean and angry, you tortured my animals, you threw me into a dungeon, you were about to eat me alive me. So that’s why I’m taking away your boat. Next time be a little smarter.’

Barmalay was raving mad, running back and forth along the shore, cursing and throwing big rocks at the doctor.

But Dr. Ow-It-Hurts was already far away. He sailed off on Barmalay’s ship right toward his homeland and in a few days was already at his own shore.

Everyone—Boom-Ba, Ki-Ku and Gub-Gub, were overjoyed that they had returned home. They spotted the fisherman, Robinson, on shore. He had been looking out for them for a long time.

‘Good morning to you Fisherman Robinson,’ the doctor yelled out to him.

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‘Where is my ship?’ Robinson asked.

‘Akh,’ the doctor rejoined, ‘Your ship perished. She broke up on the rocks at Africa’s very shore. But I’ve brought you a new ship, a better one than yours.’

‘Oh well, so be it!’ Robinson said, ‘I’m not mad at you. This is an excellent ship. Tomorrow morning I will sail away on her. I’ll go to my deserted island.’

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The doctor said goodbye to Robinson, mounted Push-Me-Pull-You and proceeded through the streets of the town right to his house.

On every street squirrels, cats, dogs, piglets, cows, horses and everyone else all yelled in glee, ‘Malakutchal! Malakutchal!’

In Animalese that means: ‘Long live Dr. Ow-It-Hurts!’

All the birds from the entire town flocked together and flew over the doctor’s head singing joyous songs.

The doctor was very happy to be home.

At the doctor’s, the old horse, the cows, the bats and the rabbits were still there. At first they were scared when they saw Push-Me-Pull-You but they soon got used to him and came to love him.

Little by little Push-Me-Pull-You got used to people and stopped being afraid of them. When he'd go for a walk outside little boys and girls would come running over to him asking for a ride. He wouldn't deny anyone. He would get down on his knees to allow boys and girls to climb up onto his back and then march them around through town, all the way to the edge of the sea, happily shaking both his heads.

When mean Barbara witnessed this she also wanted to be paraded about. She scraped her way up his back and began beating him with her umbrella.

'Faster! Faster! Go faster you two-headed donkey!'

Push-Me-Pull-You got mad—he raced up a high mount and threw Barbara into the ocean.

'Save me! Save me!' Barbara screamed. But no one wanted to save her. She started drowning.

'Ava, Ava, my dear Ava! Help me onto shore!' she implored.

But Ava growled, 'Grrrr.'

In Animalese that meant: I don't want to save you, you are mean and creepy!'

Just then the old fisherman, Robinson, sailed by on his boat. He threw Barbara a rope and dragged her out of the water. And just at that moment Dr. Ow-It-Hurts was going by with his pets. He called out to old Fisherman Robinson:

'Take her somewhere far away. I don't want her living with me and hurting my pets.'

The old fisherman took her away very far, to an empty, uninhabited island where there was no one for her to abuse.

And Dr. Ow-It-Hurts began living a happy life in his little house, treating birds and beasts who came to him from all corners of the earth.

# PART 2 or THE SECOND STORY

## Penta and the Ocean Pirates

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### 1. THE CAVE

Dr. Ow-It-Hurts loved to hike. Every evening after work he would take his umbrella and go off with his pets to trek through woods or fields. Shtup-Shlep would walk alongside him and Ki-Ki the duck ran ahead of them. Bringing up the rear were the dog, Ava, and the piglet, Kriu-Kriu. Boom-Ba, the old owl, perched on the doctor's shoulder. They would wander very far and if Dr. Ow-It-Hurts grew tired he would climb up and ride on Shtup-Shlep's back.

Once, while rambling, they spotted a cave at the edge of the sea. They wanted to enter it but the cave was barred with a lock on its door.

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'I'd be eager to know what is hidden in this cave?' Ava said. 'Maybe sugar cookies,' Shtup-Shlep speculated. There was nothing in the world he loved more than sugar cookies.

'No,' Ki-Ki said, 'I'm sure it's rock candy and nuts.'

'No,' Kriu-Kriu asserted, 'It's apples, knishes and chocolate.'

'We have to find the key,' the doctor declared, 'Go and find the key.'

The animals ran off in search of the key. They rooted around under every stone and bush, but didn't find the key anywhere.

So they reconvened near the locked door and began peeking through cracks. But the cave was dark inside and they couldn't see anything. Suddenly Boom-Ba the owl called out:

'Sha! Sha! I think there's a living thing in there—it's either a person or an animal.'

Everyone strained to listen but couldn't hear a thing. Dr. Ow-It-Hurts addressed the owl:

'I think you are mistaken, I don't hear anything.'

'What a surprise,' responded the owl, 'of course you can't hear, your ears aren't as good as mine. 'Tsm! Tsm! You hear that? You hear that?'

'No,' the animals responded, 'we don't hear anything.'

'But I do,' the owl insisted.

'What is it you hear?' Dr. Ow-It-Hurts asked her, 'I had no idea you had such precious hearing. Listen again and tell us what it is you're hearing.'

'I hear a tear rolling down a person's cheek.'

'A tear!' the doctor shouted, 'A tear! Does that mean someone's crying behind that door? We must help him. I hate it when someone cries. Get me an ax—I'll break that door down.'

## 2. PENTA

Shtup-Shlep raced home and brought the doctor back a sharp ax. The doctor took measure and with all his might heaved into the locked door. Hack! Hack! The door splintered into kindling and the doctor went in. It was dark in the cave. The doctor lit a match. Oh what filth and how cold it was in there. No table, no chair, not even a stool. On the ground a pile of straw and on the straw a little boy sat and cried bitter tears.

The sight of the doctor and all his animals frightened the boy and he cried even more. But when he noticed the doctor's kind face he stopped crying and said:

'You don't look like a pirate.'

'No, no, I'm not a pirate!' the doctor pronounced and burst out laughing. 'I am Dr. Ow-It-Hurts, not a pirate. Do I look like a pirate?'

'No, you don't,' the little boy replied, 'but you do have an ax. Nonetheless I'm not afraid of you. Good-evening, my name is Penta, maybe you know where my father is?'

'I don't,' the doctor replied. 'Where could your father have disappeared to?'

'My father is a fisherman,' Penta informed them, 'Yesterday we set out to sea to catch fish—he and I, the two of us, on a fishing boat. Suddenly our boat was attacked by pirates and they took us prisoner. They wanted my father to join them, to become a pirate and rob and sink ships with them. But my father did not want to be a pirate. 'I'm a respectable fisherman and I don't wish to be a criminal!' he'd maintained. So the pirates got very mad. They tied him up and took him away—I don't know where. And they locked me up here in this cave. I haven't seen my father since. Where is he? What did they do with him? They probably threw him into the ocean.'

With that the little boy burst out crying.

'Don't cry!' the doctor beseeched him. 'There's no need to cry. What good will crying do? Let's better think this over, let's think about how to find your father. Tell me, what does he look like?'

'He has red hair and a red beard—a very long one.'

Dr. Ow-It-Hurts called over the duck, Ki-Ki, and quietly whispered in her ear:

'Tsheri Beri Tshava-Tsham!'

"Tshuka-tshuk!,' Ki-Ki replied.

Hearing that strange talk, the little boy wanted to know:

'Why are you talking so upside down? I didn't understand a word you said.'

'I speak to my animals in their tongue, in Animalish,' Dr. Ow-It-Hurts informed him.

'What is it you said to your duck?'

'I told her to summon the dolphins.'

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### 3. THE DOLPHINS

The duck rushed over to the edge of the sea and called out into the ocean.

'Dolphins, dolphins, come on over here! Dr. Ow-It-Hurts, sent me to summon you.'

The dolphins immediately swam over to shore and said:

'Good evening Doctor, what's up?'

'An awful thing happened,' the doctor replied, 'Yesterday morning pirates attacked a certain fisherman and we think they might have thrown him into the ocean. I'm worried that he might have drowned. Please be so kind and search through the entire sea, maybe you'll find the fisherman at the bottom?'

'What does he look like?' the dolphins wanted to know.

'He's a redhead,' the doctor replied, 'He has red hair and a long red beard. I beg you, please find him, I am in dire need of him.'

'Okay!' the dolphins agreed, 'we are ready to serve a renowned doctor such as you. We will troll through the entire ocean. We'll ask all the fishes and crabs if the redheaded fisherman drowned. We'll find him and let you know tomorrow.'

The dolphins swam back into the sea in search of the fisherman.

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They trolled through the entire sea, its length and breadth, and didn't leave a single stone unturned. They interrogated every single fish and crab, but nowhere did they find the drowned man.

In the morning they returned to the shoreline and told Dr. Ow-It-Hurts:

'We didn't find your fisherman anywhere. We searched all through the night. He is nowhere to be found in the depths of the sea.'

The little boy was overjoyed to hear the news the dolphins delivered.

‘That means my father’s alive! He’s alive! He’s alive!’ the boy jumped up and down, clapping his hands for joy.

‘We will without a doubt find your father,’ the doctor assured him.

He lifted the little boy onto Shtup-Shlep’s back and Shtup-Shlep rode him around on the sandy edge of the sea for a long time.

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## 4. THE EAGLES

Penta was happy on Shtup-Shlep’s back but after his ride he sighed and sadly asked: ‘How will you find my father?’

The doctor replied:

‘I’ll summon the eagles. Eagles have very sharp eyes. They can see very far. When they fly below the clouds they can see every little insect crawling on the ground. I will ask them to search the entire earth, every forest, field and mountain, every town and village—they will search everywhere for your father.

‘Great!’ Penta said, ‘Hurry up and call those eagles!’

The doctor yelled out to the eagles and all the eagles came flying.

‘Fly off to all corners of the earth,’ the doctor instructed them, ‘and find that redheaded fisherman with the long red beard.’

‘Will do!’ the eagles saluted, ‘We will do everything possible to serve a renowned doctor such as you. We’ll fly off to the furthest reaches and search the entire globe from above—all the forests and fields,

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every mountain, town and village. We’ll do our best to find your fisherman.’

And they flew off, way up high, over forests and fields, over mountains and towns. And each and every eagle made sure to carefully scan every square foot in search of the redheaded fisherman with the long red beard.

The next day, the eagles returned and informed the doctor:

‘We searched the entire earth but didn’t find your fisherman. And since we haven’t seen him it’s a sign he is nowhere to be found on this good earth.’

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## 5. DOG AVA’S SEARCH FOR THE FISHERMAN

'What's to be done?' Ki-Ki exclaimed, 'We must find the fisherman. Be it thunder and lightning, Penta is aching for his daddy.'

'How are we ever going to find him?' Shtup-Shlep implored, 'If the eagles couldn't find him than no one will.'

'There's no reason to feel that way,' Ava retorted angrily, 'Eagles most certainly have very keen vision, but only a dog can find a person. If you need to find someone, ask a dog—no doubt about it.'

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'Why are you insulting the eagles?' Kriu-Kriu admonished Ava, 'do you think it was easy for them to canvass the entire earth in one day, searching every mountain, field and forest? You just lounged around while they worked as hard as they could searching the planet.'

'So you're calling me a *leydig-geyer*, a do-nothing!' Ava flung back. You have no idea what I'm capable of—I'll find that fisherman in one day!'

'Oh yeah, in one day,' Kriu-Kriu retorted and burst out laughing, 'Boast all you want, you'll never find him!'

'So now according to you I'm a show-off,' Ava was angry, 'Okay then, we'll see who delivers,' and up she sprang toward the doctor.

'Doctor!' she pronounced, 'ask Penta for something of his father's, something he touched.'

The doctor went off to ask Penta:

'Do you have anything of your father's?'

'I do,' the boy professed and pulled a big handkerchief out of his pocket, a red one.

The dog ran over to it and began sniffing it vigorously.

'It smells of herring and tobacco,' she said, 'his father smoked a pipe and ate excellent herring from Holland. No more will be required, Doctor, tell the boy that it won't even take me three days' to find his father. I'm going up there to that high mountain to sniff out where the wind is currently coming from.

'But it's already dark out!' the doctor opined, 'how can you search in the dark?'

'It doesn't matter,' the dog claimed, 'as long as I'm familiar with his smell I don't need anything else. I can detect scents in the dark too.'

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Ava ran off to climb the high mountain.

'Today the wind is blowing from the north,' she claimed, 'let me probe into its scent. Snow; wet fur; another type of wet fur; wolves; little wolf cubs; the scent of a woodpile—birch.'



'That can't be,' the doctor was amazed, 'your nose can actually differentiate all those smells in one little breeze?'

'*Nu*, naturally,' Ava replied, 'Dogs have an exceptional sense of smell, the tiniest puppy can detect a spectrum of scents that a human would never notice.'

Ava resumed sniffing, picking up smells a person would never detect. She did this for a long time without saying a word and finally declared:

'Goats; a calf; a metal roof; little mushrooms in the forest; a road; dust; dust... and...and...and...'

'Cookies?' Shtup-Shlep wanted to know.

'No, no, not cookies,' Ava responded.

'Nuts?' Ki-Ki asked.

'No, not nuts,' Ava replied.

'Apples?' Kriu-Kriu queried.

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'No, not apples,' Ava said, 'not nuts, not cookies, and not apples. Only pinecones from a spruce tree, meaning, the fisherman is not north of here. We'll wait until a southerly wind comes along.'

'I don't believe you,' Kriu-Kriu asserted, 'you're making all that up in your head. You don't actually smell anything, you're just babbling.'

'Out of my sight!' Ava convulsed, 'before I bite your tail off!'

'Sha, sha,' Dr. Ow-It-Hurts, interceded, 'Stop bickering. I see now my dear Ava, that you in fact have an incredible shnoz. Let's wait till the wind changes. And now—home. Hurry up! Penta is whimpering and shivering. He's cold and very hungry. We have to feed him and put him to bed under a warm quilt. *Nu* Shtup-Shlep, make your back accessible. Penta, get up there and hold on to his horns. Ava and Ki-Ki come on, we're going home!'

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## 6. AVA RESUMES HER SEARCH FOR THE FISHER

At dawn the next day Ava rushed up the high mount to resume sniffing the air. The wind was blowing from the south. She sniffed for a long time and announced:

'It smells of parrots. But I don't smell any fishermen.'

'So then keep on sniffing,' Boom-Ba suggested.

'I smell giraffes, turtles, ostriches, hot sand, pyramids, but not fishermen.'

'You'll never find the fisherman!' Kriu-Kriu burst out laughing, 'You bragged for nothing!'

Ava did not respond. But the following day she again rushed up the mountain at dawn. She stayed there till nightfall sniffing away. Late that night she ran over to the doctor who was sleeping soundly with Penta curled up next to him.

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'Wake up, get up!' Ava cried, 'Get up! I've found the fisherman! Get up already! Enough sleeping, can't you hear me—I've found the fisherman. I can smell him. Yes! Yes! The wind smells of tobacco and herring!'

The doctor woke up and rushed after the dog.

'An easterly wind is coming in off the ocean,' the dog yelled, 'and I'm picking up the fisherman's scent.' He's on the other side of the ocean—on the opposite shore. Quick, hurry let's get over there!'

Ava howled so loudly that all the animals hurried up to the top of the mountain, and Penta along with them.

'Quick go get Fisherman Robinson,' Ava implored the doctor, 'ask him to lend you his boat. Hurry before it's too late!'

The doctor immediately rushed over to where Robinson's ship was docked.

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'Good morning to you, Fisherman Robinson!' the doctor yelled out, 'Please lend me your boat! I have to again take off into the ocean on a very important mission.'

'It's all yours!' Robinson replied, 'But be careful, make sure the pirates don't capture you. They are horrific murderers. They'll take you prisoner and either sink my boat or burn it down.'

But the doctor did not hear him—he boarded the ship, situated Penta and all his pets and set sail into the open sea.

Ava ran up onto the deck and yelled to the doctor:

'Zaksaro! Zaksaro! Ksu!'

In dog language that means:

'Follow my nose! Keep your eyes on my nose! Steer the boat to wherever my nose is pointing.'

The doctor unfurled all the sails and the boat took off even faster.

'Faster, faster!' The dog yelped.

The ship quickly sailed through the waves.

The animals stood on the deck, looking into the distance, hoping to spot the fisherman.

Only Penta was skeptical about finding his father. He sat with his head down and wept.

When night had fallen and it was dark, the doctor addressed the dog:

‘No Ava, you will not find the fisherman. I feel so bad for Penta, *nebekh*, but what can we do? We have to get back home.’

As the doctor readied the ship to turn back, Boom-Ba, the owl, who was perched on the masthead in order to lookout into the distance, screamed out:

‘I see a big cliff over yonder, very far off!’

‘Quick let’s go!’ the dog cried, ‘the fisherman is over there!’

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I can smell him over there, he’s there!’

In a short while, everyone was able to see a cliff protruding out of the sea. The doctor pointed the ship toward the cliff.

But the fisherman wasn’t visible anywhere.

‘I knew Ava wouldn’t find the fisherman!’ Kriu-Kriu chuckled, ‘I can’t believe the doctor trusts such a liar!’

The doctor ran up the cliff calling the fisherman:

‘Hip-hip!’ the doctor yelled, ‘Hip-hip!’

Hip-hip in animal-speak means. “Let yourself be known!”

But nobody called back.

Only the wind roared over the water and the waves crashed against the rocks.

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## 7. FOUND

The fisherman was not on the cliff. Ava sprang from the ship onto the cliff and began running back and forth, sniffing every crevice. Suddenly she started howling loudly:

‘Kinelele! Nap!,’ she yelped, ‘Kinelele! Kinelele! Nap!’

In dog language that means: ‘Here, over here!, Doctor, follow me, over here!’

The doctor raced after the dog to a small island beyond the cliff.

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Ava paced the island trotting back and forth until she suddenly hopped down into a ditch. It was dark down there. The doctor went in after her and lit his flashlight. So what turned out? There was a reddish looking person, very skinny and pale, laying there in the ditch on the bare earth. It was Penta's father.

The doctor tugged his sleeve and said:

'Get up, we need you.'

At first the man thought the doctor was a pirate, and began cursing, but after a while he noticed what a kind face the doctor had and said:

'Give me something to eat, I beg you, I haven't eaten for days.'

The doctor gave him some bread and cheese. When the man finished eating he got to his feet.

'What are doing here?' the doctor wanted to know?

'Pirates flung me in here. They didn't give me any food or anything to drink. They took my son away from me and took him somewhere, I don't know where. Maybe you know where my son is?'

'What's your son's name?' the doctor asked.

'His name is Penta,' the fisherman replied.

'Come with me,' the doctor said and helped the fisherman out of the ditch.

Ava the dog ran ahead.

When Penta saw his father he sprang from the ship to greet him.

'You've been found! You're found! Hurrah!'

Everyone started jumping up and down for joy. Boom-Ba and Ki-Ki began singing:

Of all brave animals among us  
Ava is number one!

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Kriu-Kriu was the only one who didn't participate in the celebration. He kept to himself and sighed miserably.

'Please forgive me Ava,' Kriu-Kriu said, 'I made fun of you, called you a liar, said you were arrogant.'

'Forget about it,' Ava replied, 'I forgive you. But if you ever insult me again I will bite your tail off.'

The doctor sailed the red-headed fisherman and his son home—to the seaside hamlet where they lived.

As the ship approached shore, the doctor spotted a woman standing at the shoreline. It was Penta's mother, the fisherman's wife.

She had been standing there for twenty days and twenty nights looking out to sea. Maybe her son was coming home? Maybe her husband was on his way home?

When she saw Penta she jumped for joy and rushed over to him, kissing him.

She kissed Penta. She kissed the redheaded fisherman. She kissed the doctor. She was so grateful to Ava she wanted to kiss her too.

But Ava ran into the bushes and growled.

'What foolishness! I don't like when people kiss. If she needs to kiss so much let her kiss that little piglet Kriu-Kriu.'

Ava only pretended to be mad. Truth be told she was just as happy as everyone else.

That night the doctor said:

'Nu, I must bid you goodnight! We've got to get home!'

'No, no!' the fisherman's wife exclaimed, 'You must stay and be our guests for a little while. We'll catch some fish, make some knishes and bake Shtup-Shlep some sugar cookies.'

'I would gladly stay another day,' Shtup-Shlep smiled with both his faces.

'And me too!' Boom-Ba rejoiced.

'And me too!' Ki-Ki cried.

'Couldn't get a better offer than that,' the doctor smiled, 'If that's the case, I too would like to stay for a bit as your guest.'

And off he went with all his pets to be hosted by the fisherman and his wife.

## 8. AVA GETS A PRESENT

The doctor rode into the village on Shtup-Shlep's back. As they made their way down the main street, everyone bowed to him and cheered:

'Long live the good doctor!'

In the market square all the village children came to greet him with a costly flower bouquet.

Then a dwarf, sporting a floor length beard, came forward. He kneeled down and said:

'I would very much like to meet Ava.'

The dwarf's name was Bambuko. He was a very prominent man in that village. Everyone loved him and was afraid of him.

Ava ran over to him and wagged her tail.

Bambuko pulled a silver dog collar out of his pocket.

'Dog Ava,' he pronounced enthusiastically, 'The inhabitants of our village bestow upon you this precious dog collar which we give you because you found our fisherman who was kidnapped by pirates.'

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Ava continued wagging her tail and said:

'Tshaka!' meaning 'thank-you' in Animalish.

Everyone began scrutinizing the dog collar. Inscribed on the collar in large letters:

'Ava—the smartest and bravest dog.'

The doctor stayed as a guest of Penta's parents for three days. The time was spent very joyously. Shtup-Shlep spent the whole time, from morning till night, chewing on the sweetest sugar cookies. Penta played his fiddle and Kriu-Kriu and Boom-Ba danced.

But the time came for them to head home.

'Be well!' the doctor said to the fisherman and his wife.

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He then got on Shtup-Shlep's back and rode away to his ship.

The entire village accompanied him.

'You'd be happier staying here with us,' the dwarf Bambuko cried out to him, 'There are pirates prowling out there—they'll ambush you and take you prisoner along with all your pets.'

'Who's afraid of pirates!' the doctor yelled back, 'My ship is very speedy. When I unfurl my sails, the pirates will never catch up with me.'

With those words the doctor pushed off from shore. Everyone waved their handkerchiefs in farewell and cheered, 'Hoorah'.

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## 9. THE PIRATES

The ship soared through the waves. On the third day the travelers spotted a deserted island in the distance.

There were no trees on the island, nor were there any animals or people. Just shrub and giant rocks. But behind those rocks, fierce pirates were hiding out. If a ship passed in proximity to their island they ambushed it. They'd rob and kill the people and then sink their ship. On top of that, they were very angry at the doctor for having taken the redheaded fisherman and Penta away from them. They had been lying in wait for him for quite a while.

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Since their huge ship was hidden behind a tall cliff, the doctor did not see the pirates nor their ship. He strolled his ship's deck along with all his animals. The weather was gorgeous—the sun shone brightly and the doctor was happy.

Suddenly the piglet Kriu-Kriu called out:

'Look, over there, there's a boat!'

The doctor took a look and saw a black ship with black sails emerging from behind the island towards them.

'There's something about those black sails I don't like!' the piglet worried, 'Why are they black and not white? Only pirates have ships with black sails.'

Kriu-Kriu was right.

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Steering the black sails were murderous pirates after Dr.

Ow-It-Hurts, to avenge what he'd stolen from them—the fisherman and Penta.

'Faster! Faster!' the doctor yelled, 'full speed ahead—they mustn't catch us!'

The pirates were quickly getting closer.

'They're catching up to us!' Ava yelped, 'They're almost here I can see their faces. What horrible whiskers they have! What are we going to do? How are we going to get away? They're about to attack us—they'll tie us up and throw us in the ocean.'

The doctor looked up and saw a swallow flying overhead.

He called up to it in a mournful voice:

'Dear swallow! My dearest swallow! Pirates are coming for us. They're about to tie us up and throw us into the sea.'

'Tie a rope to the bow of your ship,' she called back, 'and I'll go get the storks!'

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In a minute a flock of storks arrived.

‘Don’t worry Dr. Ow-It-Hurts,’ they called, ‘we’re going to rescue you!’

The storks took hold of the rope the doctor had secured to the bow and began pulling the ship forward.

There were very many storks; they were flying very fast and pulled the ship behind them. The ship flew like an arrow; the doctor had to grab on to his hat to keep it from flying off his head.

The animals watched the pirate ship with the black sails recede into the distance, far behind them.

‘Thank-you, storks,’ the doctor called out to them, ‘You rescued us from the pirates. If not for you we would all be at the bottom of the ocean.’

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## 10. WHY THE RATS WERE JUMPING SHIP

It wasn’t easy for the storks to pull such a heavy boat. In a few hours they were so tired they were about to fall into the water. So they pulled the ship up onto a shore to bid the doctor farewell and fly off to their homes in the swamps.

The doctor stood waving to them with his handkerchief for a long time.

All of a sudden he noticed rats running out of every crevice of his ship, one after another, jumping off the ship onto the shore.

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When the dog Ava saw the rats she promptly started chasing them.

But the doctor yelled out:

‘Ava, Ava, get back here! Do not even dare!’

Ava was very eager to chase those fat rats. But what could she do? She had to obey. She wagged her tail and growled angrily but left them be.

At that moment one of the older rats ran up to the doctor and addressed him:

‘I want to thank you Dr. Ow-It-Hurts for saving us from that bloodthirsty dog. And in gratitude to you I will let you in on an important secret: your ship is about to sink. Yes! In less than three hours she will be laying at the bottom of the sea.’

The doctor grabbed his head.

‘How do you know?’ he asked the rat.

‘Because we live down in the ship’s hold and if the slightest crack begins leaking we’re the first to notice it. Last night, on my way to bed I noticed that water was lapping up against my lair.’



*Nu*, I thought to myself, we've got to disembark! The ship's going down. You too must debark before it's too late.'

'Yes! Yes!' the doctor yelled, 'We must abandon ship this minute, if we don't we'll go down right along with her and drown! Pets, follow me! Faster! Faster!'

He got his things and quickly jumped ship onto shore. The animals did the same after him.

For a long time they walked along the sandy coastline until they got very very tired.

'Let's sit down, let's rest!' the doctor said, 'and think about what to do.'

'So does this mean we'll be spending the rest of our lives here?' Shtup-Shlep began sobbing.

All the other animals started crying right along with him because all of them were yearning to be back home.

Out of the blue the swallow came flying:

'Doctor! Doctor! She screeched, 'a terrible thing has happened. Pirates have boarded your ship.'

The doctor sprang to his feet.

'What are they doing on my boat?' he wanted to know.

'They aim to plunder her,' the swallow replied, 'Quick go and drive them away— send them packing.'

'No,' the doctor said smiling happily, 'There's no need to drive them away. Let them float away on my ship. But let's quickly go and get their ship. Come on let's go and purloin their ship!'

And the doctor rushed to the edge of the sea, Shtup-Shlep and all his pets behind him.

And there was the pirate ship with not a soul on it. All the pirates were on the doctor's boat.

'*Sha, sha*, quiet down,' the doctor told his pets, 'Let us stealthily sneak aboard without anyone seeing us.'

## 11. ONE PREDICAMENT AFTER ANOTHER

The animals stealthily climbed aboard the ship, noiselessly raised the sails and inaudibly sailed off over the waves without the pirates even noticing.

But suddenly a great catastrophe occurred.

What happened was the piglet Kriu-Kriu had a cold. His nose was running and just at that moment when the doctor was trying to silently steer the ship past the pirates, Kriu-Kriu blasted out a sneeze. Not once but twice, then three times.

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When the pirates heard the sneezing they ran out onto the deck and saw the doctor getting away with their ship.

‘Halt! Halt!’ they screamed and took chase.

The doctor unfurled his sails just as the pirates were about to catch up to him. But the ship zoomed further and further and bit by bit gained distance over the pirates.

‘Hoorah! We’re free!’ the doctor exclaimed.

But just then one of the older pirates grabbed his pistol and shot at them. The bullet caught Shtup-Shlep right in his heart. Shtup-Shlep, *nebekh*, keeled over and fell into the water.

‘Doctor, doctor! Save me, I’m drowning!’

‘I would certainly save you,’ the doctor yelled back, ‘but if I stop the ship now the pirates will quickly nab us.’

‘But I’m drowning, I’m drowning, in a minute I’ll be gone!’ Shtup-Shlep yelled from the water.

What could they do? The doctor took down the sails, stopped the boat and threw Shtup-Shlep a rope. Shtup-Shlep grabbed the rope with his teeth. The doctor pulled him right out onto the deck, dressed his wound, and took off on his way.

But it was already too late! The pirates were zooming full speed ahead.

‘Now they’re going to get us for sure!’ everyone screamed.

‘You and all your pets and that precious little duck on the masthead, are you ready for the grill. Ha-ha! What a delicious treat that will be! And we’ll also roast that little pig. It’s been a long time since we’ve had some pork! So it’ll be pork burgers tonight: Ha-ha-ha! And you dear doctor, will be bound

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with rope and thrown into the sea—to the sharp teeth of the sharks.’

When Kriu-Kriu heard those biting words he burst out crying:

‘Woe is me, how horrible I feel,’ the piglet wailed, ‘I don’t want the pirates to roast and eat me.’

Ava also burst out crying: she felt for the doctor. She couldn’t bear the thought of sharks swallowing him.

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## 12. THE DOCTOR'S RESCUE

The only one who wasn't frightened of the pirates was Boom-Ba the owl. She calmly addressed Ava and Kriu-Kriu:

'Oy you blockheads! What are you afraid of? Don't you know that the ship the pirates are on is about to sink? Don't you remember what the rat said? The rat said that the ship was definitely going down today. She has an enormous rupture and is filling up with water. And the pirates along with the ship will drown! So what is there to be afraid of? The pirates are going to drown, and we'll get home healthy and strong.'

But Kriu-Kriu couldn't stop crying.

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'Before the pirates drown they will roast me and Ki-Ki alive,' he groaned.

In the meantime the pirates were getting closer and closer. The eldest pirate, whose name was Benalis, was at the bow of the ship waving his sword and screaming:

'Hey you, monkey doctor, you won't be treating those monkeys for much longer! You'll be fishbait before you know it. And watch out for the sharks!'

The doctor responded with:

'You'd better watch out for the sharks yourself Benalis! There's a huge split in the boat—she's about to sink.'

'You're lying!' Benalis shouted, 'If my ship was about to sink the rats would have jumped ship!'

'The rats are already long gone and before you know it you'll be at the bottom of the ocean with all your pirates.'

It was only then that the pirates noticed their ship was slowly sinking. They began running around the deck screaming and crying:

'Save us!'

But no one wanted to save them.

The ship was sinking further and further into the water. In a flash the pirates were already in the water, struggling against the waves and screaming endlessly:

'Save us, save us, we're drowning!'

Benalis swam toward the doctor's ship, got hold of a rope and began inching up to the deck but Ava bared her teeth and angrily growled: 'Rrrr!'

Benalis screamed in fear and landed head first in the ocean.

'Rescue me!' he implored, 'Rescue me! Pull me out of the water!'

### 13. SHARKS

All of a sudden sharks began sticking their heads out of the water—huge, frightening fish with sharp teeth, their jaws stretched wide open.

When the pirates saw the sharks they froze in fear.

But the sharks passed them by. The biggest of them swam right up to the doctor, stuck its nose out of the water and said to him:

‘Excuse me, please, are you not the famous doctor, Dr. Ow-It-Hurts, who heals animals and birds?’

‘Yes,’ the doctor replied, ‘My name is Ow-It-Hurts.’

‘Pleased to meet you,’ the shark rejoiced, ‘So happy to be making your acquaintance. We’ve heard so many great things about you. And who may I ask are these people swimming around your ship?’

‘They’re pirates,’ the doctor said, ‘They were planning to sink our ship and eat up my friends here.’

‘Oh,’ the shark said, ‘Would you like us to swallow up these treacherous murderers? Just say the word and we’ll put an end to them.’

‘No, let them live!’ the doctor said, ‘But we do have to punish them. Please be so kind as to bring me their headman, the pirate, Benalis.’

‘Okay!’ the shark agreed and swam over to Benalis, grabbed him by the foot and dragged him over to the ship.

‘So Benalis,’ the doctor addressed the pirate, ‘You are a very evil person. You rob and sink ships. You kill people. All I have to do is give them the word and the sharks will swallow you whole. Maybe it’s not the worst thing that could happen but I find myself pitying you.’

Give me your word that you’ll become another person and I’ll tell the sharks to leave you alone.’

‘What do you want me to do?’ Benalis begged, his eyes not leaving the shark whose jaws were already open, ready to swallow him.

‘Stop robbing and stealing!’ the doctor ordered, ‘Stop sinking ships. Stop killing people. And get yourself a decent job.’

‘What sort of job?’ Benalis asked, ‘I’ve never done or trained for anything. I know nothing aside from stealing.’

‘Swim over to shore,’ the doctor instructed him, ‘I want you to plant a nice orchard—apples, pears, bananas, coconuts and dates, cantaloupes, grapes and watermelons. I want anyone who lands here to have a fully satisfying meal and a good rest so they can relax and listen to the birdsong.’

Benalis turned pale and grew mad.

‘Are you saying you want me to become a gardener?’

‘Yes,’ the doctor replied, ‘It’s a lot better to be a gardener than a pirate and a thief. Nu, answer quickly, do you want to do some honest work?’

‘No I want nothing to do with dates.’ But the shark’s razor sharp teeth were breathing down his neck and he quickly said:

‘Okay, okay, I concede.’

‘But remember,’ the doctor warned him, ‘If you rob or kill even one soul, I will find out immediately because the canaries will inform me of your ugly ways.’

The doctor then turned to the sharks:

‘Thank-you, my dear friends, for your faithful service, but please do not trouble the pirates. Let them swim ashore and become respectable human beings.’

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The pirates swam off to shore and immediately began working. The doctor hoisted his sails and sailed off into the open sea.

Everyone on the ship was happy to be rid of those dreadful pirates.

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## 14. GOOD OLD FRIENDS

They sailed for a long time. Several days in they heard someone screaming:

‘Behon! Behon! Baraven! Baven!

In Animalese that means: Doctor, Doctor, stop your ship!’

The doctor brought in the sails. As the boat came to a stop everyone watched the parrot Carrudo, flying overhead.

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‘Carrudo?! Is that you?’ the doctor exclaimed, ‘I’m so happy to see you! Fly on over here, come here!’

Carrudo flew over to the ship, perched himself on top of the mast and said:

'Look who's sailing behind me!'

The doctor looked behind him into the sea and saw the crocodile, far, far in the distance. On his back sat the monkey, Chi-Chi, waving a palm frond and laughing.

The doctor immediately turned the ship around and set sail toward the crocodile and Chi-Chi. He threw them a rope which they used to scramble up to the deck of the ship.

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They jumped onto the doctor hugging and kissing him everywhere—his lips, his cheeks, his beard and his eyes.

'What are you doing in the middle of the ocean?' the doctor wanted to know. He was overjoyed to see his old friends.

'Akh, Doctor!' the crocodile sighed, 'We were so lonesome in our Africa without you! We missed Ki-Ki, we missed Ava, we missed Boom-Ba, and our dear Kriu-Kriu! We so wanted to be home with you and the squirrels in the closet and the porcupine on the couch and the mama rabbit and her bunnies in the dresser. We decided to leave Africa and cross the seven seas, if we had to, in order to get to you and live with you forever.'

'Hoorah!' the doctor exclaimed in glee.

'Hoorah!' Boom-Ba cried out.

'Hoorah!' all the animals exclaimed in unison.

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And then they all joined hands and started dancing around the topmast.

Scattered smallfry, pack of kids  
Scattered smallfry, our special gang  
Gang of three  
We'll forever be  
with the  
Doctor, Ow-It-Hurts!

Only Chi-Chi the monkey sat alone and sadly sighed.

'What's the matter with you!' Shtup-Shlep asked him.

'Akh, I was just thinking of that horrible Varvara—she'll torment us and never leave us alone.'

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'Don't worry!' Shtup-Shlep exclaimed, 'Varvara no longer resides at our house. I threw her into the ocean and she is now located on a desert isle.'

‘On a desert isle?’

‘Yes!’

Everyone jumped for joy—Chi-Chi and the crocodile, Carrudo, joined in chanting:

‘Varvara is on a desert isle!’

‘Long live Shtup-Shlep!’ they yelled and resumed their dance.

PUTI-BRUSHKA, PUTI-BRUSHKA,

PUTI-BRINKEL, PUTI-BRINKEL!

Rather than torment us

Let her better reside there!

Shtup-Shlep merrily rocked both his heads and smiled with both his mouths.

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## AFTERWORD

A few years ago a very strange thing happened. Two writers on opposite sides of the world thought up one and the same story about one and the same person. One lived on the other side of the ocean in America and the other one lived here in the Soviet Union, in Leningrad. One was Hugh Lofting and the other was Korney Tshukovski. They had never known or even heard of each other. One wrote in Russian and the other in English; one in rhyme and the other in prose. But their stories turned out to be very similar because both stories had one and the same hero: a good doctor who healed animals. Tshukovski named his hero Ow-It-Hurts and Hugh Lofting named his, Doolittle. But naturally Ow-it-Hurts and Doolittle were in substance one and the same person.

Tshukovski’s stories about Dr. Ow-It-Hurts (*Barmalay* and *Limpopo*) are very familiar to Soviet children. And Hugh Lofting’s story about Dr. Doolittle has until now been unknown. So Tshukovski decided to translate it for our Soviet children. But he wrote it in his own style: He renamed Dr. Doolittle, Ow-It-Hurts and added his own several episodes which do not exist in Hugh Lofting’s book. And he even included his *Barmalay* in his translation.