

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

STEVE IRWIN



Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Sonny Ross

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Frances Lincoln
Children's Books

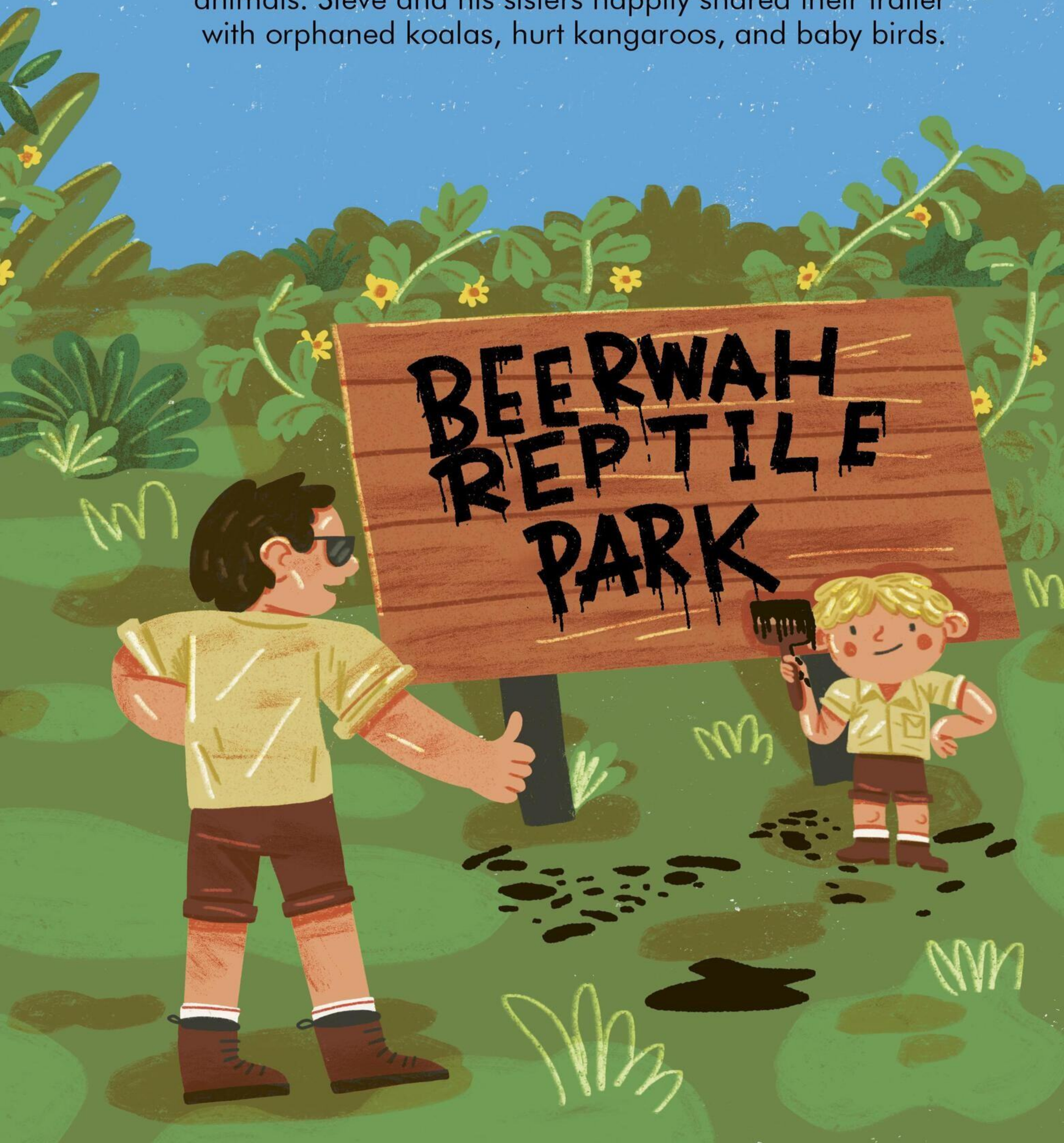
Little Steve was a boy from Melbourne, Australia, who loved animals as much as his parents did. His mother was a nurse who dreamed of raising kangaroos, and his father was a plumber with a passion for reptiles.







When he was eight, the family moved to Queensland where they started a wildlife refuge to protect crocodiles and other animals. Steve and his sisters happily shared their trailer with orphaned koalas, hurt kangaroos, and baby birds.



On their way to school, he and his mother would stop to rescue injured lizards. Once in the refuge, Steve helped feed and nurse them.



And on weekends, he would go on expeditions with his father to save snakes and crocodiles from being hunted.



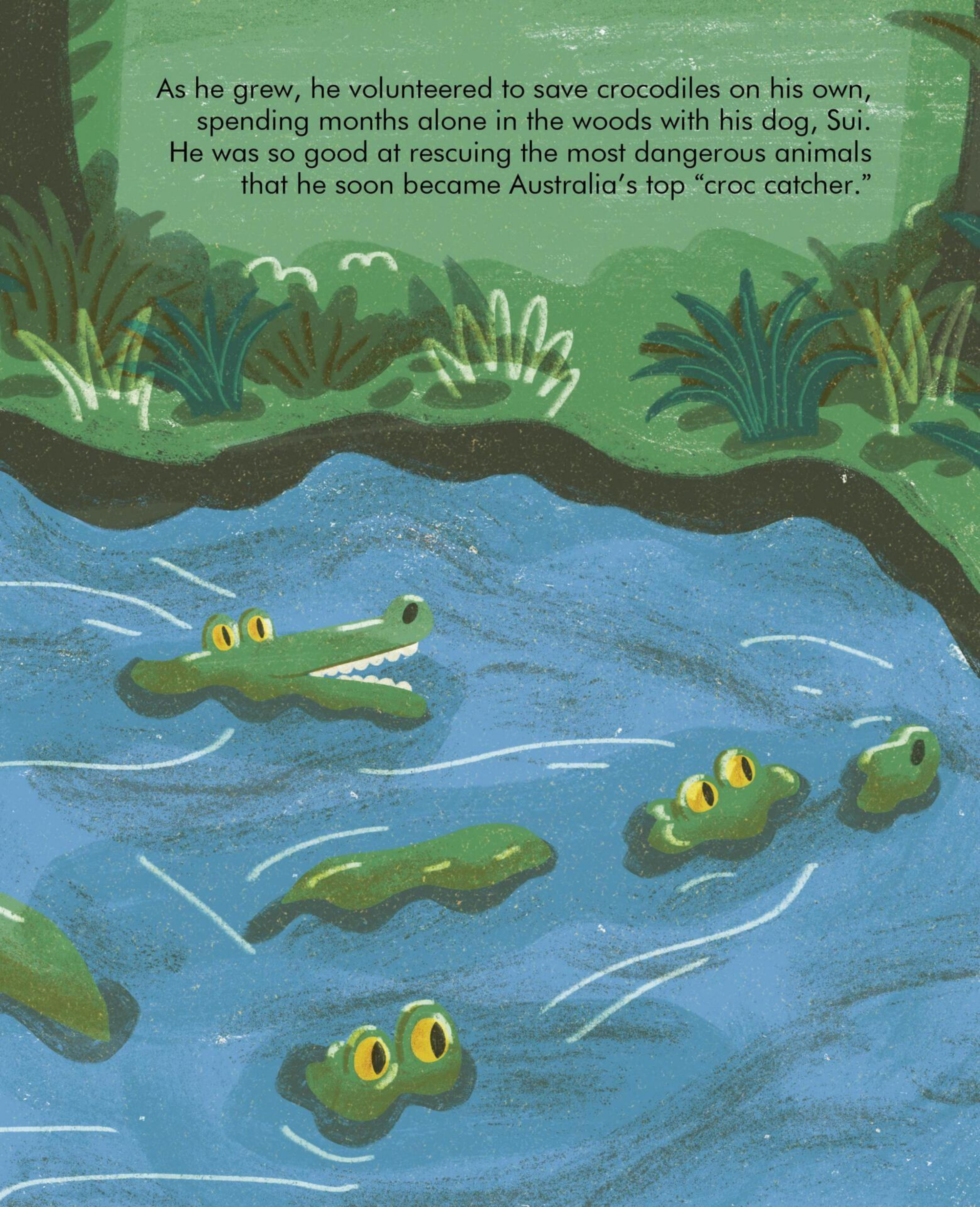


He was nine when he tried to catch a crocodile by jumping on its back for the first time. Once rescued, Steve and his father would take the animals to their new homes: national parks where no one could harm them anymore.





As he grew, he volunteered to save crocodiles on his own, spending months alone in the woods with his dog, Sui. He was so good at rescuing the most dangerous animals that he soon became Australia's top "croc catcher."





Back home, Steve became the park's manager. One day, while teaching visitors about the crocodiles, he noticed someone in the crowd. It was love at first sight! Her name was Terri, and they married the following year.



Their honeymoon was one of a kind! They spent it rescuing and relocating crocodiles and filming a wildlife documentary called “The Crocodile Hunter.” The show was so successful that they decided to turn it into a television series.







When the first episode aired ... crikey!
It became a hit, not just in Australia but all over the world.



Steve showed everyone that crocodiles were not scary monsters but incredible creatures that needed to be protected.

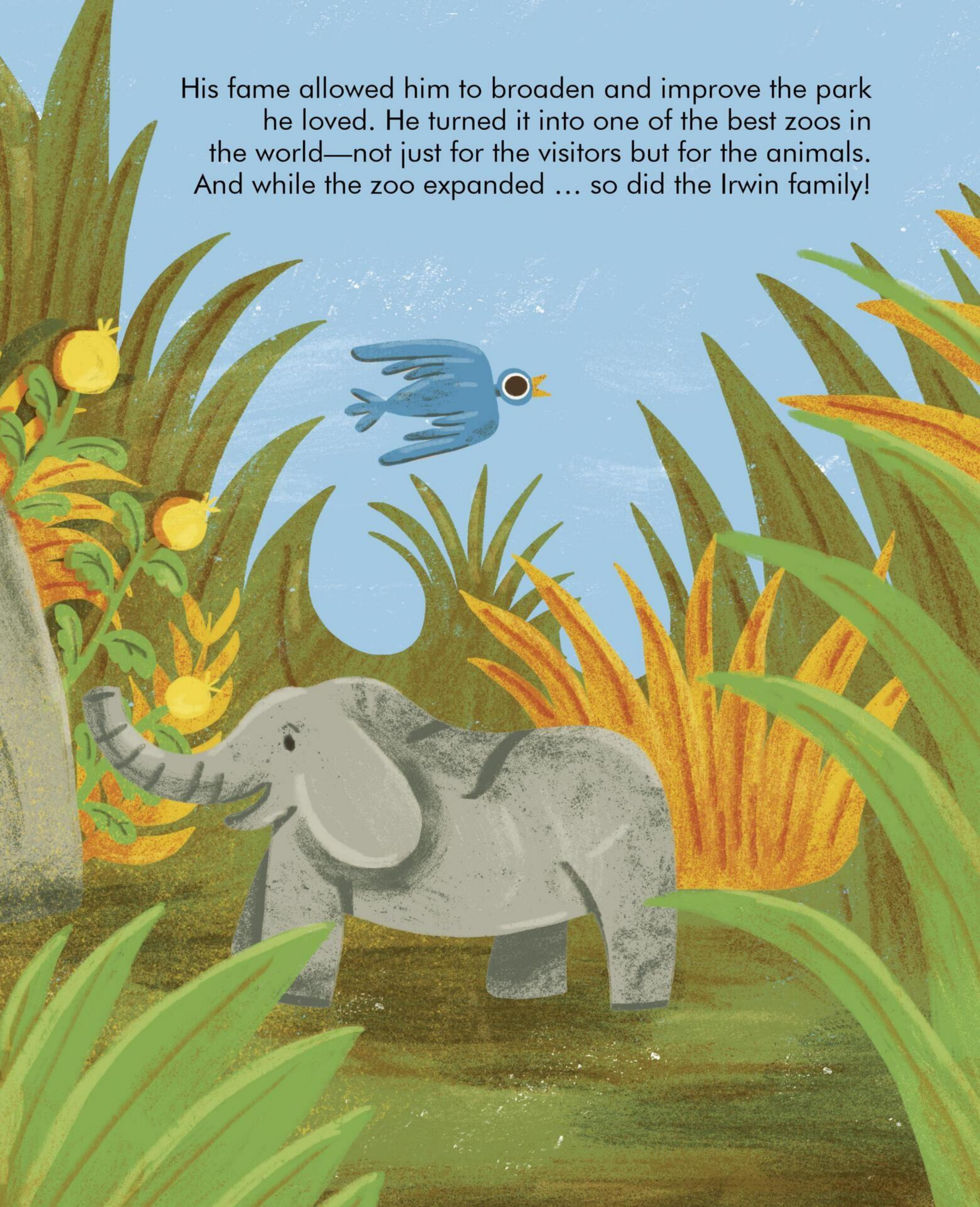
He knew the only way to save wild animals was by getting people to love them. And he did so with his television shows! Equipped with a pair of khaki shorts and his catchy enthusiasm, he taught everyone how exciting and wonderful wildlife is.







His fame allowed him to broaden and improve the park he loved. He turned it into one of the best zoos in the world—not just for the visitors but for the animals. And while the zoo expanded ... so did the Irwin family!



But, all over the world, humans were destroying the wild where many animals lived. Little by little, they were losing their homes. So Steve and Terri put their savings into buying large pieces of land and turning them into wildlife reservations.



WILDLIFE RESERVATION





The Irwins also founded a charity to protect the natural environments of endangered species, like the elephants and tigers living in Sumatra, or the chimps and rhinos from South Africa. They called it Wildlife Warriors.





And today, little Steve's memory keeps encouraging us to love, cherish, and protect wildlife.



Because we don't own this planet, we belong to it,
just like every living being we share it with.

STEVE IRWIN

(Born 1962 – Died 2006)



1996



2002

Stephen Robert Irwin was born in Victoria, Australia, into an animal-loving home. As a child, Steve developed a deep respect for the wildlife around him and had a particular passion for reptiles. When he was eight, the family moved to Queensland's sunshine coast and opened Beerwah Reptile Park, where Steve enjoyed helping out. In his free time he studied snakes, watched birds, and was soon catching small crocodiles in need of care. As Steve grew, so did his love of these magnificent reptiles. With his dog, Sui, Steve spent many months in the wild catching and moving over 100 crocodiles to safety. In doing so, he developed his own humane methods which are now used by crocodile experts around the world. A few years later, Steve began managing the park and met the love of his life, Terri.



2004



2006

They married and decided to film a wildlife documentary that was so successful it became a series: "The Crocodile Hunter!" Millions of viewers loved watching Steve, Terri, and their best friend, Wes, share their passion for protecting nature. Back home, they worked tirelessly on the park, which was renamed Australia Zoo, and soon had two little helpers, their daughter, Bindi, and son, Robert. With the money from their television show, Steve and Terri opened the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, which cares for over 7,000 animals every year. When Steve sadly died in a tragic accident, his daughter bravely told the world, "I don't want Daddy's passion to ever end." Bindi, Robert, and Terri have ensured just that and spend their days inspiring everyone to be a fearless wildlife warrior like Steve was.

Want to learn more?

Have a read of this great book:

Don't Let Them Disappear by Chelsea Clinton and Gianna Marino

If you're in Beerwah, Australia, you can visit Australia Zoo.

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Little People, BIG DREAMS™

STEVE IRWIN

Discover the lives of outstanding people, from designers and artists to scientists. All of them achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream.

Steve spent his childhood helping out on his family's wildlife refuge in Australia. He saved his first crocodile at just nine and as an adult became a leading crocodile expert. With his television shows, Steve captured the hearts of people all over the world and inspired viewers to cherish and respect the planet.

This incredible story of the conservationist's life features a facts and photo section at the back.



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Lincoln**

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