

Animal J. #1

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King Rolnar

To my loving family that helps me through everything I do. And a special thanks to my mom for helping me with spelling, grammar, and punctuation (Ashley, Andrew, Jenna, Mom, and Dad!)

Book #1

Written and Illustrated by: Alexander
Douglas Laird

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Animal I. books

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<u>1.-----</u>	<u>King Rolnar</u>

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Chapter 1

Joey and his parents, Mr. Lairrode, (Lay-rod) whose name was Steve, And Mrs. Lairrode, whose name was Mary, were at the Cedarville zoo, and as Joey knew quite well his parents (like most parents) liked to stay at one pen for ages. When they did this, it gave Joey a chance to get way ahead, and talk to the animals.

Joey went around this corner and that, the next, then the next. Finally, he found a good place with no people, but a few animals, like a huge buzzard, and a giant lion, plus a zebra, and a giraffe.

“Hello you giraffe, and buzzard, and lion, and zebra. How’s the day going? Talked to anyone today yet, or are you just absorbing the sun?” Joey said to the animals. The lion just

looked at Joey with a bored expression. However the buzzard, not exactly obeying the rule, went to the side of his cage. (They were supposed to act casual.)

The lion rolled over and thought to himself,

“No talking unless they say the password.”

“I was talking to your cousin,” Joey said to the lion, “and she said there was a password. Now what was it?” Joey thought for a moment, and then said, “Ah yes. Animals of Iowa, speak to me, yes speak to me.” The lion perked up his ears to hear the rest. “How big of lion, or small of fly, just speak to me, yes speak to me.” The buzzard went wild flying around his cage. He came back to the one side by Joey, and was about to speak, when the lion interrupted,

“Just keep your mouth shut you old buzzard, you’ll just say something

stupid.” At this remark, the ugly, but huge buzzard backed up, and his eyes widened. For it was a well known fact, that the lion is the King of the beasts.

“What is my cousin’s name?” The lion said. Immediately Joey said

“You don’t know . . .”

“I know my cousin’s name. This is all a test.” Joey looked at the lion, and wasn’t a bit nervous.

“Hope.” The lion was content and now turned to the buzzard, who was still big eyed, and waiting for the lion to tell him he could speak.

“You may speak.” The lion told the buzzard. The buzzard just sat there.

“Well say something!” The Lion roared.

The buzzard perked himself up a bit, and stared at the lion’s mouth as he spoke (just incase the lion said to be quiet).

“W. . .why. . .why are. . .y. . .yo. . .you so...sm. . .small,” the buzzard said, slowly and sputtering.

The lion rolled his eyes at this question, but Joey patiently answered,

“I don’t know, but my Dad is quite short, so I probably got it from him.”

The lion came in and said,

“Buzzy (for that was the bird’s name) can’t you think of anything else, and more interesting? Oh, and also, do say it in a normal voice like you would to me.” Then Buzzy said to the lion, (whose name was Theo)

“May I tell him about the thing?”

Theo once again looked Joey over, then looked at Buzzy. There was a long pause, but finally Theo said,

“Why not. Either he’s a cheater and overheard someone saying the password and my cousin’s name, or he’s a totally honest person.” Buzzy perked himself up, and said.

“Would you like to come to our secret world tonight?” Theo ended this sentence with

“It’s called Animal I.”

“Well, I . . . I don’t know.” Joey said.

“No time will pass. It’s a magical world,” said Buzzy.

“I never knew there was more than one world!” replied Joey.

“Yes, but there are! So are you coming?” Finished Theo, who was now starting to pace back and forth.

“I see,” Joey said nodding his head. “Well, I guess if no time passes when we go there, then I’ll come tonight,” Joey said. “But here come my parents,” and then added, in a low voice, “I hope we eat soon.” Theo then stared at Joey, as if to be watching every move he made, like most lions do. Then he plopped down on the grass, and closed his eyes as Joey walked away. Buzzy lost interest in the boy then, and flew to its house, with a very loud, “CCAAWW-CCAAWW.” Buzzy stepped into his house, and

turned then to watch Joey go to the restaurant which was located near him.

Chapter 2

Around 6:21, Joey and his parents headed home.

As night fell, just as Theo and Buzzy said they would, they came to pick him up. All the other beasts came too. Some of the animals didn't look like they were ones that he had seen at the zoo, but he figured that they were from other world too.

It was a long trip off to the other world. A couple times, Joey thought they would never get there, because they kept stopping from place to place, and then taking off again. Joey didn't mind the part when they got water, because he was quite thirsty. But he didn't get any food.

Suddenly... Joey was flying high, and he was flying with a new buzzard,

not Buzzy, who he had seen at the Zoo, a new one. He looked up at the buzzard, and said,

"Where is everyone?" the buzzard looked down, and said,

"They're all off flying on their own, but don't worry, I know the route to Animal I." The buzzard said.

"But I thought only the birds could fly," Joey said, looking puzzled.

"The birds can fly, but after a few minutes, they let all the animals down, and no, the birds aren't the only ones that can fly. All the other animals do too." The buzzard then looked up, and muttered something that sounded like, "I'm not talking anymore, I've got to keep my directions right." It was a very long flight, waiting for them to land again.

Suddenly, Joey heard the bird yell, "Our last land marker!" The buzzard very quickly (without warning Joey) dove down to the land.

It had been a long time since they had last landed, and so everyone was thirsty. It seemed that when the Buzzard yelled, "Our last land mark!" He was even more excited than Joey was.

Night was very quickly closing in like a blanket, so everyone stayed for the night.

Joey, who was not used to laying on grass for a bed, asked Theo kindly if he would let him lay on him. Theo, being the kind and kingly animal he was, graciously said yes. Joey still couldn't get to sleep, and kept hoping his parents wouldn't start looking for him. He had forgotten that they were in a magic land, where the time didn't pass. He thought they were not quite into the magic land yet, but actually, all the landmarks had been in the magic land.

It wasn't long before Joey slipped off into a deep sleep.

The next morning, Joey woke up by a hard pecking on his leg, he rubbed his eyes, and looked down, only to see Buzzy nervously pecking, and looking around at the same time.

"Buzzy, go away. I'm trying to sleep."

"SSSHHH." Buzzy said quickly, and quietly. The cause for Buzzy to say this was that a small dwarf was coming into the tent, and now, come to think of it, there weren't any tents, or dwarfs, with the group.

"Here ya are laddy, drink it, and eat it, it may be the last meal ya eat for a while. We be take'n the tide soon." Said the little dwarf.

The little bit of food and water didn't taste good, but Joey didn't have much better things in the animals camp.

"He's a pirate." Buzzy said, chewing on his bread. "They caught us last night."

“Why did they take you, I mean, I’m glad they took you, your much company, but why did they take you?” Joey asked.

“They said they would like to have me as a parrot-bird, since they didn’t have a parrot.”

“Is everyone else here?” Joey asked,

“Yep, there all over in the tent next to us.” Buzzy said, pointing to the tent to the left, and still chewing soundly on his small piece of wheat bread.

“I was kind of wondering if he was a pirate, but only because of the way he talked.” Joey said,

“Yes, most pirates around this landmark are little dwarfs. We don’t like to land here, but here and now, we need to because we skip a landmark, that’s what we did, we skipped a landmark. Some of the birds and other animals aren’t here, because they did

land at the last landmark back, and got a little behind. There our backup crew, they know that if were not at the landmark landing strip, then we got caught by the pirates. I hope they get us before the pirates take to sea.” Buzzy said in about two breaths.

“Well, why do they want the rest of us?” Joey asked, now getting more puzzled,

“That I don’t know.” Buzzy started to nibble on a silver thing.

“What are you nibbling on Buzzy?” Joey asked,

“They chained me, so I couldn’t fly away.” Buzzy replied,

“I could go out of the tent, and get some help from all the other animals.” Joey said,

“Can’t, they locked a metal door right outside the tent if you want to go see it. They don’t want you to escape.” Buzzy replied,

“Well, what can we do?” Joey asked,

“Just one thing, wait.” Buzzy said, staring at Joey.

Much time passed, and it seemed like the other animals, didn't find out that the pirates caught them. Soon, all the animals were to be taken out to sea, but what they didn't know, was that the other animals had gotten the message, and were waiting for the right time to attack.

Chapter 3

Now to tell you what was going on with the other animals, which were hiding out in the trees and bushes.

“I vote we quietly go up to one of the dwarfs, and rationally speak this out,” Dumby the chicken said, who absolutely hated seeing people fight. He always wanted to speak things out.

“Don't use words if you don't know what they mean, because I know you don't know what rationally means, do you?” Quick Ears the bunny said.

“Well then, what do you...” Dumby was interrupted by Joy, who was a little deer.

“Listen,” Joy said, “are we going to plan out this fight for our animals, or are we going to argue over what to do?”

Everyone thought for a moment, and Dumby said, “Well, I guess we could plan out the fight, but I must say, fighting isn’t very fun. So who started it?! Whoever did, I’ll give them three hard beatings with my wing.” Dumby was not the smart one of the group; he was rather slow, and not smart.

“Dumby, I don’t want to hear another word from that little yap of yours,” Joy said, now starting to get angry.

“Okay,” Chips the squirrel began. “So the plan is what.”

“I told you mine,” Dumby said.

“Well, we have to make it fair, so we must at least vote on Dumby’s plan,” Joy said.

“Well why wouldn’t we?” Dumby said, not catching on very well.

“All in favor of doing Dumby’s idea, raise your right hand.” Joy said. Dumby’s hand immediately flew up; no one else put their hand up. “Well, I’m sorry Dumby, but your out voted. We’re going to do a different one than yours,” Joy told Dumby. (Poor Dumby.)
☹️😊☹️😊

“We are!” Dumby said, starting to jump. “Oh wow, I’ve never had my own idea picked for a plan.” Like I said before, Dumby didn’t listen, or catch on too well. Dumby went pouncing and singing, and, unfortunately to say, they have never seen him since. No one knows what happened to Dumby. They never found him. Maybe a wild animal ate him, maybe he got lost, maybe some bandits caught him, and killed

him, maybe he starved, but no one from that group of animals knows where he is.

“So, is that the plan we vote for?” Joy said. And everyone yelled back, “Yep!” or, “yah definitely!” So it was that very plan (that you haven’t heard yet) that they chose.

I will explain this plan for you. (I found Joy’s paper, and so I can show it to you on the next page!)

- 1.) *Jerry, you go get 15 big buckets of water from the river outside the forest.*
- 2.) *Lilly, you get 12 large buckets of sand.*
- 3.) *Sue, you go check out the campgrounds.*
- 4.) *Rolnar the Cyclops, you go and collect lots of bark, and make it into a little circle thing for the water to go into it.*
- 5.) *Jerry put your water into the little circle tub thing that the Cyclops made.*
- 6.) *Lilly, you put all your sand into the water.*

Plan out:

Okay, when all this is put together, then Rolnar, you carefully pick up the little pool full of water, and carry it over to the trees by the camp, and wait there until we all come over to you. Okay now, Jerry, you need to sneak around the backside of the camp, and tell us the signals, for the coast is clear, etc. Lilly, you need to go and get the clearest view that you can of the tent Buzzy and Joey are in. Snort, you need to go and try to get into the other animals’ tent. Remember that your defense is to bite them as hard as you can.

This part of the paper, is just incase any of you forgot what type of animal you are:

Lilly=bunny

Jerry=dog

Sue=warthog

Snort=brocodile

Rolnar=byclops

Joy=deer

Quick Ears=bunny

(Dumby=Was a chicken)

Grizzle=bear-----I’m Grizzle, and I’m the scribe for anyone who wants to write.

This paper was written by: ME—Grizzle—and was dictated to me from Joy the deer

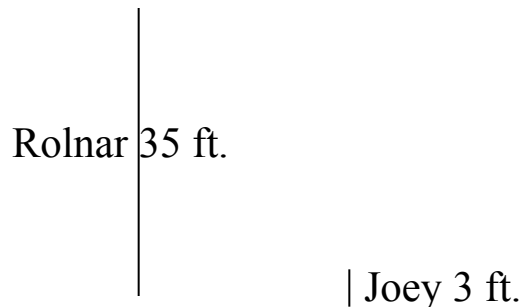
So that's their plan. They're going to dump all that sand and water onto the camp people's tents, and then save their animals.

Chapter 4

The plan was about to take place. All of the animals were hiding. Suddenly, a little dwarf from the camp heard a rustle in the trees, and turned around. Unfortunately, Rolnar the cyclops was too tall to duck behind the trees, and even if he could, he couldn't do it fast enough.

Rolnar was a huge Bulgy giant and really could make you think he was out to kill you just by the look on his face. When he walked, it

was a run, and his arms swung back and forth. He was at least 35 feet tall. When you saw him, if you weren't on his side you screamed, and ran, or just fainted. Here is a little diagram of him, compared with another normal sized person.



The trees by the bad dwarves' camp were around 26 feet tall. Of course, Rolnar stuck out above them. He was spotted, and the little dwarf screamed a horrible shrieking scream (just like at a train station, when you hear the whistle--just think to see a man, that is taller than a 26 foot tall tree!)

All the animals' mouths dropped as they watched in happiness, and astonishment. Little dwarfs were running everywhere, trampling other dwarfs, throwing their swords in the air, and at people. It actually was kind of funny, seeing little dwarfs running, (as much as a dwarf could run) trying to escape!

"They're scared of Rolnar the cyclops!" Joy yelled, "Charge!!!" And hearing Joy's yelling to charge, they all ran after the dwarfs, chasing them far away.

"Well," Chips the chipmunk began, "I guess we didn't need the water after all. Let's get our friends!" And with a great cheer, everyone started singing and running back to the camp.

It wasn't long before they were all off again.

Now that Joey was back in the air, it seemed like a long time until they landed again, and they landed around midnight. Since it was dark, Joey really didn't get to see what the real Animal I. looked like.

Joey woke up the next day at around noon, and everyone was munching soundly. *Come to think of it*, he thought, *yes, I think those are trees*. (It's rather blurry when you first wake up.)

Joey got up, and walked over to Buzzy. Buzzy was the nicest bird Joey ever met, and here is why! When Joey went over to the trees to munch with the others, Buzzy was the only animal in all the group that stopped and looked at Joey, and welcomed him for a couple apples.

Joey munched for what seemed like hours, but at least he had a fun time.

Joey got done munching on apples and pears and any other kind of fruit that grows on a tree, way before the others, and started to look at all of them. Some he remembered from the Zoo, and others he didn't know at all. After getting bored of watching them eat, (before he got hungry again,) he went for a walk into the plains of luscious grass. He had to dodge some cows that were enjoying grass, instead of apples, and pears, etc.

Joey was having a great time exploring the forests and plains, and following the streams. Pretty much anything he came to, he would follow. It also wasn't long before he had a nice person--well, actually an animal with him, to tell him where, and where not to go, what, and what not to do! Buzzy acted as a great guide through the forests that were so unfamiliar to Joey.

Then it finally came out from Joey: the questions that Joey had been wanting to ask for so long.

"How did you find out about this place?"

"Well," Buzzy began, "I must say that we actually were born here!"

"Oh. How did you come to talk?" Joey asked.

"Now that's a tricky question," Buzzy said. "We were all only around three years old, when the Great Lion, who I must say (please do not take this bad Great Lion) is not the great creator of the stars, and sun, and better yet, the universe. No, he is just the ruler the great Lord has sent to protect, and rule over us. Well,

anyway, as I was saying, the great lion, went out to the great mountain Zoombar, and prayed, inside himself of course since he couldn't talk, to the great Lord, the ruler of all rulers. This is what he prayed! 'O great Lord, who rules everything on earth, and much more, who rules the universe, and much more, who rules everything, and more. I am praying to you, in the most meaningful prayer of all my prayers, that you may let my people be able to speak the words of the great kings in our world here. You know them already, so I don't need to list them off. Let my people speak human words, or as human as the great king Jayroth, or Monrath, and the others speak. Please! Amen.' And that was the prayer he prayed to the great God of Israel."

"Who are the kings, and where?" Joey asked, now starting to blurt all his wanted questions out.

"I thought that one was coming soon!" Buzzy said, getting happy that he could be of some use to a person. "Well, I will list all of them off first. There are the great human kings,

Jayroth, Monrath, Gotrum, Hanrod, Suzerfang, and last (but your head will be gone if you say least) the most powerful king of the universe (who you can probably guess) Jesus Christ, or our Great Lord," Buzzy said, as he pecked in the ground for a worm.

"Yes, but where are they?" Joey said, getting kind of impatient.

"Just a second, I got a juicy one in my mouth," Buzzy said with his mouth full of worm. "There," Buzzy got the worm down in a gulp. "Now, ah yes, where are they? Well, that is quite easy to figure out. Just look around," Buzzy said. Joey was puzzled, and looked around.

"All I see are five mountains." Joey said.

"Ah, but those aren't mountains my dear boy," Buzzy said, now talking like he was important. "Those are the kings' palaces!"

Chapter 5

“Now, if you turn directly around,” Buzzy said, “You’ll find another thing in the distance!”

“What?” Joey said, “You actually mean those huge mountain castle things were in the distance, and not up close?!”

“Yes, now turn around,” Buzzy said. Joey turned around to see what Buzzy was pointing out to him, and just said, “It’s another castle, only a little smaller.”

“Well, that’s what it looks like to you, but actually, that is our tallest mountain that we have in Animal I. It is one hundred and twelve million miles high. Now let’s turn and think about those castles that are even taller!” Buzzy said.

“Wow!” Joey was really seeing the real size of this planet now. “Well, let me guess. That is the mountain Zoombar!”

“Yes, now you’re getting good at this!” Buzzy said. “But now, let’s take a tour of our biggest forest. That will take quite a while, but hey, we got all day!”

Joey was led by Buzzy, all over the forest. Since I don’t want to go into complete detail of the whole forest, I will tell you in a short way, what happened!

Buzzy took Joey all over the huge forest, taking him to Mr. Grizzle’s house, Mr. Snort’s house, and Mr. Treezner the tree’s house. He also took him to the talking tree’s little section in the forest, telling him on the way where the bad trees live, and what to do when they attack, or how to let them not hear you!

The day was dropping rapidly, and Buzzy soon told Joey that it was time to get back to camp. Now one thing is, Buzzy is the best mapper. That’s Buzzy job; he’s the mapper for everyone! But, Buzzy was not a flashlight, and could not read his maps in the dark. He tried to

strain his eyes to read the map, but unfortunately, he just couldn't do it.

"Don't worry, I imagine there are no bad people in this world, are there Buzzy?" Joey said.

"I'm afraid there are lots and lots of them, and this forest is much too close to the city of Rambarsing," Buzzy said.

"Well, what's so big about Rambarsing?" Joey asked.

"That's the town where they all live! We animals mostly live in the town of Jarlagome!" Buzzy said, now chewing on his nails. "The best thing we can do is to curl up by one of the good trees. We can't go to anyone's house because they're all asleep!" Buzzy told Joey that he would stomp his feet hard on the ground, so he could hear where he was. They found a tree and snuggled up for the night by it.

Joey woke up the next morning, and had now gotten used to the time difference and was quite awake. Suddenly, his eyes shed many tears as he looked down at the ground. There on the ground was Buzzy, with much blood all

over him. Joey picked up Buzzy, and looked at him. Then two things happened. One was that he felt the ground shaking. He looked up and saw a huge tree running at him with an expression on its face, and Joey knew from what Buzzy had told him that this was not a good tree at all. The second was that the next thing he knew he was running at top speed away from the tree.

Joey ran as fast as he could with Buzzy still in his arms. Then it hit him. Last night, when Buzzy and he found that tree, Buzzy couldn't tell that it was a bad tree because of the darkness. The tree must have done something to Buzzy, and that made him bleed.

Joey ran in a fright looking for an opening in the woods or a house that he recognized. He found neither. When he finally realized that the tree had stopped chasing him long before, he stopped running.

Joey was starting to get worried because he thought he must have been going in circles. All the trees looked the same, and he never caught a glimpse of a house anywhere. He

remembered about the animals that came and got them in the dwarves' camp, but Buzzy had led him into the biggest forest. *"Well anyway, it's no use standing around here thinking, I must get out of here!"* Joey thought to himself. He stood up and looked around for a while. Then he remembered what he had just thought to himself and started to walk and walk and walk. He knew that in every forest there was always a way out. If you keep going straight, you'll always come to it, but... *"Buzzy did say this was the biggest forest around. Maybe it's a lot bigger than I thought. Well, maybe it's big in the east to west way, and small in the north to south way. Well, it all stinks like—well, like a forest that has no end!"* Joey thought to himself, and the most horrifying thought came to him. *"No—this might really be a magical forest! Maybe there's only one way out. I'll be stuck until—until—well—now that I think of it, Buzzy will never wake up if no one helps him, and oh, I don't know what to do to him. I can't find anyone's house. By the name of Gingersnaps, I think I'm lost!"* Yes, I'm

thinking the same thing you are, why didn't he realize he was lost, a long time ago. (Just a hint, Gingersnaps is his doggy back at home.)

Chapter 6

Joey wandered for ages, and it wasn't long before his legs started aching. He sat down on a fallen tree and rested. When he got up, he felt much more refreshed and ready to keep searching. He stood up and was starting to walk away to search more, when he heard a long and most pitiful moan. It didn't make Joey feel very nice hearing a moan that sounded terrible, but most of all, he didn't like hearing a moan when he didn't know where it came from. He looked at Buzzy and then realized it must have been him. He tapped Buzzy, but nothing happened. Then another thing happened. He realized that Buzzy couldn't have been the moaning. Buzzy was in his arms; the moan was not. He looked around and then heard a voice.

“Are, (wheeze, cough, cough,) are you, Mr. (wheeze) Mr. Joey Lairrode?” the voice said, with many coughs, and wheezes in between most words.

Joey froze and then answered, “I am. Who are you?”

“I'm, I'm the, that old log you, you, you sat on (cough, cough).” the voice said.

“Well, what are you doing on the ground,” Joey said, as he came over to the log and put Buzzy close to it.

“Well, you've probably guessed I'm a tree, and I'm a good tree at that—well, was. Now I've been cut down, and have been laying here for at least two years. Then you came along, and, well, you sat on me, and, and...” The tree now began to cry. “You reminded me of the days when the great king would sit on my branches. I used to be an apple tree, but now, I'm nothing. Oh Joey, we've all been waiting for you, yes, for so long. Us trees have been waiting for you to revive us.”

“Yes, I've met them,” Joey said.

“You mean, you've waked more trees than just me from their sleep? Oh wonderful! Now, I see you have Buzzy with you.” The tree looked at Buzzy.

“Yes, can you revive him?” Joey said.

“Indeed I can. Now let me see him. Yes, thank you. Now Buzzy, please, ya gotta come back to us. You’re still with us. Wake up Buzzy, Buzzy.”

Buzzy started to move, and then opened his eyes, only to say, “Hi.” Then he shut them again, and went back to sleep.

“He’s okay, but it’ll take him a while to show you the way out of the forest. It’s a deep one, it is. If I wasn’t so helplessly old, I would greatly with honor show you the way out, but the best I can do is tell you something I once learned from my mother. I’ll write it on a piece of paper for you,” the old tree said. Joey gave the tree a pencil and paper, and the tree began to write.

When you’re in need of help sometime, just go eighteen steps right, and three steps left. The magic will begin, and you’ll soon see a hill. Climb the hill, and say, ‘Oh great lion, you rule us here in this land. Please show me the way, or show me what to do, (Then say what you’re having trouble with, and ask him to help you...) Please, please, please.’ Then go back down the hill, and go

straight two steps from the bottom of the hill. Just walk the way your heart tells you to, and whatever you wanted (unless it’s one million dollars of course) it may be granted.

“There, now follow this from, well, it works anywhere! Thank you, and since you’ve woken me, I’ll see you back with the animals. Don’t forget to sit on any logs you come to because you’re the only one that can save us sleeping trees!”

Joey read the paper and followed it exactly. When he got to the mountain, he asked everything that the tree had told him to ask. He went back down the mountain. It wasn’t long before Joey heard a deep and strong voice.

“No,” the voice said, “You may not leave this forest. First you must find someone very powerful. You *must* find this person, or you will never see the living true daylight again. Unless of course, you use the most evil one’s magic. But, remember this, if you use the evil one’s magic, you will go back to your own world, and you’ll never see this land again.”

“But the old tree said to me, that I would see him back at the animals’ place,” Joey said.

“You will only see him there,” the voice said, “*if* you get out of the forest. All of the trees surrounding this forest have turned bad, but the ones near the middle are the ones that *might* be able to help you. Now be gone. You’ll see me later again.”

“But I haven’t seen you...” Joey then stopped and stared in front of him, for a lion figure had appeared. It said, “Buzzy will awake.” Then it disappeared.

“Buzzy,” Joey said, as he looked down at Buzzy. Buzzy shook his head and then opened his eyes. He tilted his head not knowing where he was and yawned.

“Okay, now where are those maps,” Buzzy said, looking through his wing pouches. Buzzy shuffled through all his papers in his pouches. He finally found them and said, “Yes, yes, here they are.”

Buzzy looked his maps over, trying to find the correct map for the forest.

Joey mumbled under his breath, “The lion said that I wouldn’t get out of the forest until I found some person—a king I think—but if Buzzy has some maps, I’ll get out of here before you know it.

Chapter 7

“No, no.” Buzzy yelled. “The map, it’s gone.” Joey dropped his mouth, and thought,

“Well, I had better tell Buzzy about what the voice said.” He did this, and Buzzy sat on a little stump, and listened in an intent way.

“You’ve seen the lion,” Buzzy said, in awe. “You must be an important person, because he speaks to only the most precious things.”

“I am not a thing!” Joey said.

“Oh, well, I mean, whether it’s an animal, or person, or tree, or the air,” Buzzy said.

“You mean the air talks to you too?!”

“Oh yes, the air talks to anyone. He doesn’t talk to just the most important. He talks to anyone.”

There was a pause, and Joey came in and said, “I want to ask you something.”

“Fire away Sargent,” Buzzy said, saluting to Joey.

“Why is this place called Animal eye?” Joey said.

“Well, first of all, it’s Animal, I. not Animal eye, as in eyeball. But it mostly has animals, and it used to be small, so we called it an island. But then, we all turned lazy. (That

was called the fall.) Our land became big because we were disobeying, but we didn’t change the name. We left it Animal I., which stands for island. But we did make the meaning be an animals e-y-e,” Buzzy said.

“Oh,” Joey said. There was a pause, and Buzzy said that it was Joey trying to think of another question. “But I was thinking to myself.” Joey said later.

“Hey, we’d better get moving to find whatever the lion wants us to find. Question: how can you find something, if you have no idea what it is?” Joey said, as they walked off in the distance. “Hmm, I’ll have to think on that one! As my dad always says, there’s always a way for everything.”

They had been walking for quite some time when they heard a loud, very loud, stomping noise. It turned out that it was Rolnar the cyclops, also known as a giant.

Rolnar bent way down, looked Joey and Buzzy over, stood way up tall, and yelled in a very loud voice, **“I FOUND THEM, COME ON.”**

Suddenly, Buzzy, Joey, and Rolnar all heard heavy footsteps. Buzzy knew it was a search party and told it to Joey.

“Where did you guys go?” Joy the deer asked Buzzy.

“Well, we stayed out too late and then got lost.” Buzzy replied,

“Lost? But the three bears’ cottage is just south of here,” Quick Ears the bunny said.

“Come on,” Rolnar said, “Let’s go see the bears. I’ve got to work on some plan to get my kingdom back!”

They all headed for the bears cottage, and as they did, Joey said, “What does Rolnar mean by getting his kingdom back?”

“Didn’t I ever tell you about him?” Buzzy said. “Well, he used to be *the* great king that ruled everything—well, he ruled all of us, plus the great lion.”

“Oh.” Joey said.

They all were walking quickly to get to the bears’ cottage, and finally, they did. The bears led the animals out of the forest, and gave

Buzzy a new map of it. Then Rolnar and the bears went off and started to make their plans.

“Buzzy,” Joey asked Buzzy as soon as Rolnar was out of sight, “Do you think *I* could help Rolnar get his kingdom back?”

“Well, maybe. Do you really *want* to help him get it back?” Buzzy replied.

“Well—actually, I do. I’ve *always* wanted to do something important! But Mommy always says that I’m too young. I’m ten aren’t I?” Joey said.

“Yes you are!” Buzzy said, making it sound like Joey was the greatest warrior around, “and you should be able to help them. Let’s *go!*” And Buzzy and Joey marched off in the same direction that Rolnar and the bears went in. *But* Joey heard a familiar voice say,

“Can I come too Joey?”

“Mr. Tree!” Joey yelled, and he turned around. There was a huge apple tree.

“Definitely! You can give us apples when we’re hungry, and you can help us in other ways too! By Gingersnaps, you’re taller than I thought!”

“Yep, now let’s get out of here and go find Rolnar The King.

They went on into the woods in front of them looking for Rolnar. They found him not too far from the opening. (It wasn’t too hard!) They raced to him, and *as* they did, Mr. Tree yelled, “***Stop!*** That’s not a good swamp!” Joey skidded to a stop, but Buzzy couldn’t stop soon enough. He slipped into the swamp, and then the tree came forward and yelled into the swamp. “You let my little friend go!”

“Never! You know Mr. Tree, that if anyone enters *myself*, then he is mine to do with as *I* like! For this little one here—Buzzy, right?—well, he’ll be a good stone decoration.” The swamp looked up at Mr. Tree, and continued, “You also know that I can do what I please with his partners. That must be you *and* this little boy here—right?”

Just then, heavy footsteps came stomping on the ground. It was Rolnar! He had heard the swamp talking and looked—to see some of his friends close to the swamp! He ran quickly up to the swamp.

“*I may have told you that you could do this to people, but I never said that I wasn’t allowed to stop you!*” Rolnar said to the swamp. Then Rolnar started grabbing mud out of the swamp. As he did, the swamp let go of Buzzy and screamed quite a lot.

“*Okay, now--I bet you guys wanted to help me get my kingdom back. No! Joey, you need some sleep. I’ll send you back home. But Joey, don’t worry, because you can come back another time, and help me get my kingdom back!*” Rolnar said and waved his hand. Everything became blurry, and soon, Joey was asleep back at his mansion!

Short Ending

Joey woke up the next morning, and stretched, yawned, and pulled out his diary. This is what he wrote:

➤ *June 5, 1998*

➤ *Dear Journal.*

I've had the best night. Well—actually, it's hard to say, because you won't believe me (I don't believe it myself). No time passed, and the animals talked, and they said 'this isn't the same world you came from.'

➤ *Maybe sometime I'll get to go back there again.
MAYBE.*

➤ *Well, it's almost time to go to school, so I'll leave you here and inform you later on what else happened there...Come here Gingersnaps...*

THE
END
OF
ANIMAL
I.
#1

TO BE CONTINUED...(Not in the way you might think though, it's just there's another book after this!)

Q: Why does Joey never use an exclamation mark in his journal, in book #1 or #2?

A: On our computer, *Brush Script* doesn't do good exclamation marks; they look like this: !

Fiction

This book lets you feel excitement. Play with Joey, Buzzy, and All the other animals in this wonderful book. (Hint: Gingersnaps is his dog!)

I'm ten years old, and it's quite fun to write books I think. I live on a farm. Here are *all* the animals we have:

- 1.) 5 cows
- 2.) 5 cats
- 3.) 1 dog
- 4.) 2 hamsters
- 5.) 1 bird
- 6.) 2 horses
- 7.) Many bats that fly around our place at night!