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Opening extract from

Good Dog Lion

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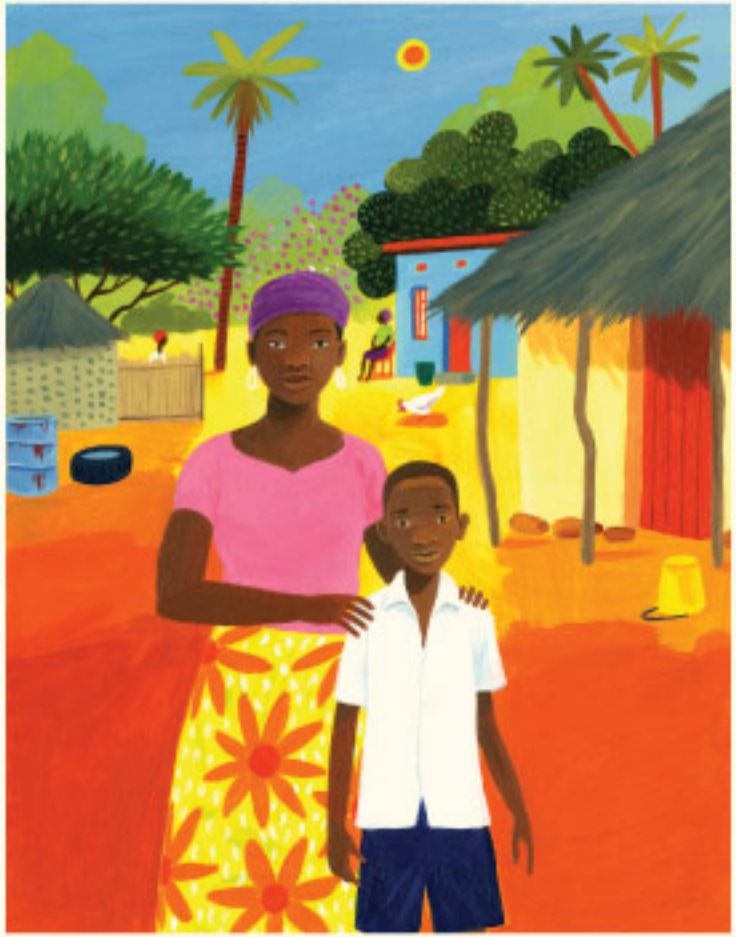
This book has dyslexia friendly features



To Edie, Amaya, Maeva
and James Mountain Copping

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Chapter 1

Sweet Work

This is the story of a boy who lived in Africa. His name was Timo, and he was about 9 years old. I say about 9 years old because nobody, not even his mother, could remember exactly when he was born. That did not matter to Timo or to anybody else – it was good enough for him to be about 9 years old.

Timo lived with his mother. His father had gone off to work somewhere else when Timo was only 4 (or about 4) and he had never come back.

"Perhaps we shall hear from him one day," Timo's mother sighed. "But then, perhaps we shall not."



Timo and his mother lived in a very small house on the edge of a village. Their house had two rooms – a kitchen and a room for sleeping. There was also a sort of bathroom at the back of the house, but it was a bit dark and rather uncomfortable. There was no light in it, so when you went there at night you had to have a torch or candle with you.

The kitchen had a small stove and a shelf for food. There was also a table where Timo's mother did her work. Some of the time she sewed clothes, and some of the time she made jam that she sold at market.

"Sticky work," she said, with a smile.

"Sweet work!" Timo said.

Timo loved his mother's jam, but he was not allowed to put his finger in the pan while she was making it.

But often, when she had finished, she gave him the spoon to lick. Timo loved that – and who wouldn't?



Timo and his mother did not have much money – in fact, they had almost none. But that did not matter too much, because they were happy. Timo had his mother and she had him. They had their little house. They had their jam. They had friends and neighbours. They had the world about them. All of that can be enough for happiness.

