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Born to Build

What are the best things about having a home?

Our homes are places we share with our families.

Our homes are places where we can feel warm and comfortable; where we can rest and feel safe.

Animals build for the same reasons. Many build nests where they can raise their babies in safety, away from predators.

Others build homes where they can stay warm through the winter, or cool during the hot summer months.

Some creatures build a place where they can store their food. There are even a few who build simply to impress a mate.

While we build homes that last for many years, many animals must build a new home every year. Their survival depends on it.

Each story in this book is true. They are stories of incredible animal architects; animals that, just like us, were born to build.

We are the **Tailorbirds**.

The needle-beaked nesters.

The female is the one who builds, while the male keeps guard. We don't want any other tailorbirds stealing our spot!

To make the nest, we poke holes along the edge of a large leaf.

Next we sew it together to make a cone.
Now, what in a forest would make a good sewing thread...?

We choose spiderweb or plant fibres.



Inside the leaf, we weave a delicate cup of grass, softened with cotton, feathers and fur.

We lay our precious eggs.



We are so careful with our sewing that the leaf stays alive and green - the perfect camouflage to keep our chicks hidden.

We are the **Weaver Birds**.

The clever-beak and nimble-feet birds.

We thread strands of grass
to make our hanging homes;
a high, safe space to raise our
chicks, where it is difficult
for predators to reach.

It is the male birds who build the nests.
Each of us wants to impress the females.

"My nest *is* best!"
"Come and lay your eggs here!"

Like colossal raindrops,
our nests dangle from the
branches of the thorny trees,
turning from green to brown
under the Indian sun.