Christmas in the Kalahari

CODY'S CRAFT CORNER

Wherever you go in the world Christmas looks different, tastes different, and is celebrated in different ways.

Here in the Kalahari we meerkats may not have snow and pine trees, but who needs snow when we have sand, a plentiful supply of insects, and each other!

Try this fabulous family craft activity for even more festive fun. These delightful and delicious decorations can be made using all locally sourced materials.

Millipedes
(Gaak once!)

This huge millipede makes a versatile decoration that can be draped artfully over branches, or coiled into attractive shapes.

Contrary to popular belief a millipede does not have a million legs, but nearer to 256.

Toktokkies
(Pog-basking Beetle)

What these black or dark brown beetles lack in colour they make up for with their pleasant 'tocking' noise. They can be found on top of sand dunes in foggy weather, and are easily recognised by their habit of standing on their heads.

(May be improved with glitter)

Scorpion
(Any kind you can catch)

Scorpions make the most wonderful Christmas decorations. They can be hung individually, but are most effective when strung together in long chains. They are especially magical when lit with a UV torch, which makes them glow bright blue.

(Remove the stingers for young kits)

White Lady Spider
(Tap-dancer)

This beautiful spider can be a tricky one to catch, but is sure to look stunning on top of any tree. A perfect star substitute.

HOW TO

1. Gather as many bugs as you want (Be aware. If you try this activity with the kits, expect them to eat more than they save!)

2. Find an attractive nearby tree or cactus to decorate.

3. Place each bug on the tree (you may need to give each a little food to tempt them to stay put.

4. Feed to the kits as fun-sized snacks when boredom strikes. (usually once grown ups get talking).



KALAHARI CANDY CANES

Home-made Xmas treats - healthier, yet cheaper!

Serves 25

25 assorted snakes (whatever variety you can catch)

1 tin (edible) red paint

1 tin (edible) white paint

2 paint brushes

Begin by catching all 25 snakes and securing them in a basket with a tight-fitting lid.

Holding each snake tightly paint first with white paint. You may need two coats to fully cover.

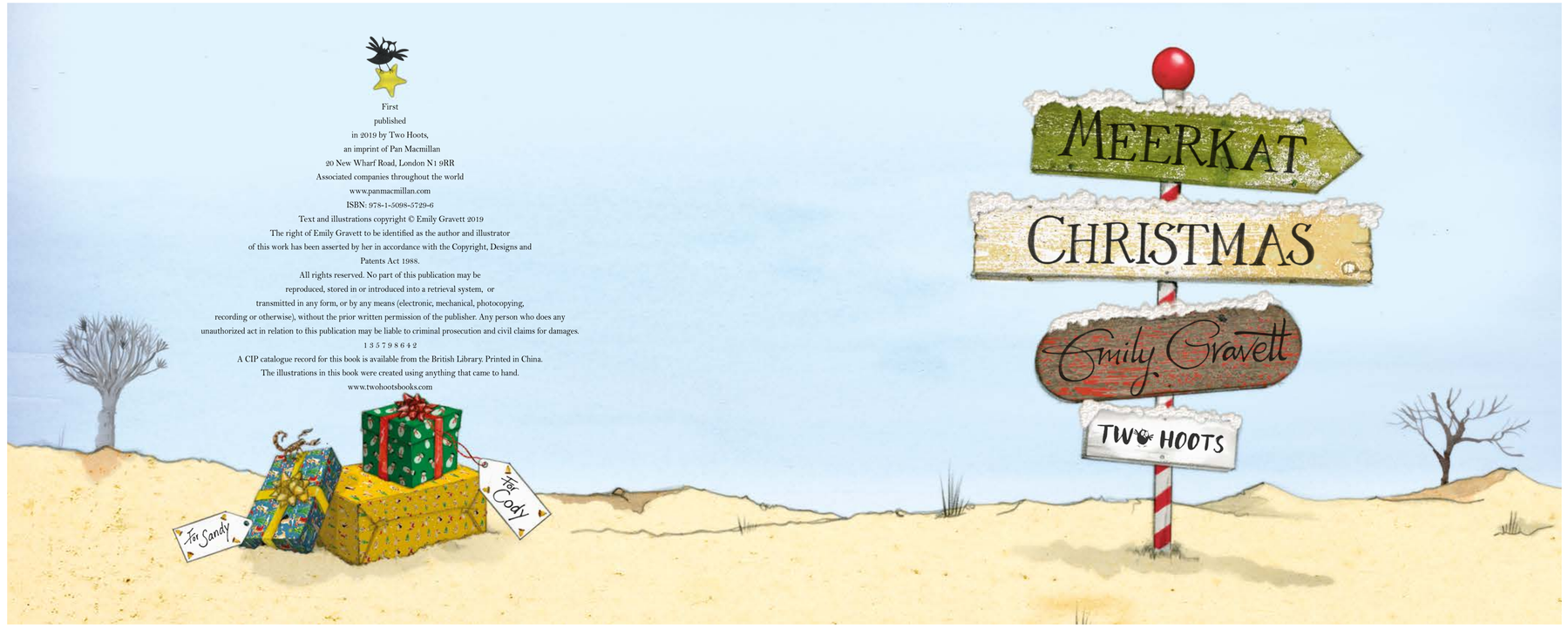
Once dry, paint the white snakes with red diagonal stripes.

Bend each snake into a candy cane shape and hang on tree or cactus. GOOD LUCK!





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It's nearly Christmas in the Kalahari, and all the meerkats are busy.

Sunny's mum and dad are
busy cleaning the burrow,

Sunny's brothers and sisters
are busy putting up the Christmas
decorations, and Sunny's aunts
and uncles are busy cooking.

EVERYONE is very excited.

Everyone except for Sunny.

He has been reading all about how to have the Perfect Christmas,
and this does NOT look perfect.



It's nearly Christmas in the Kalahari, and all the meerkats are busy.

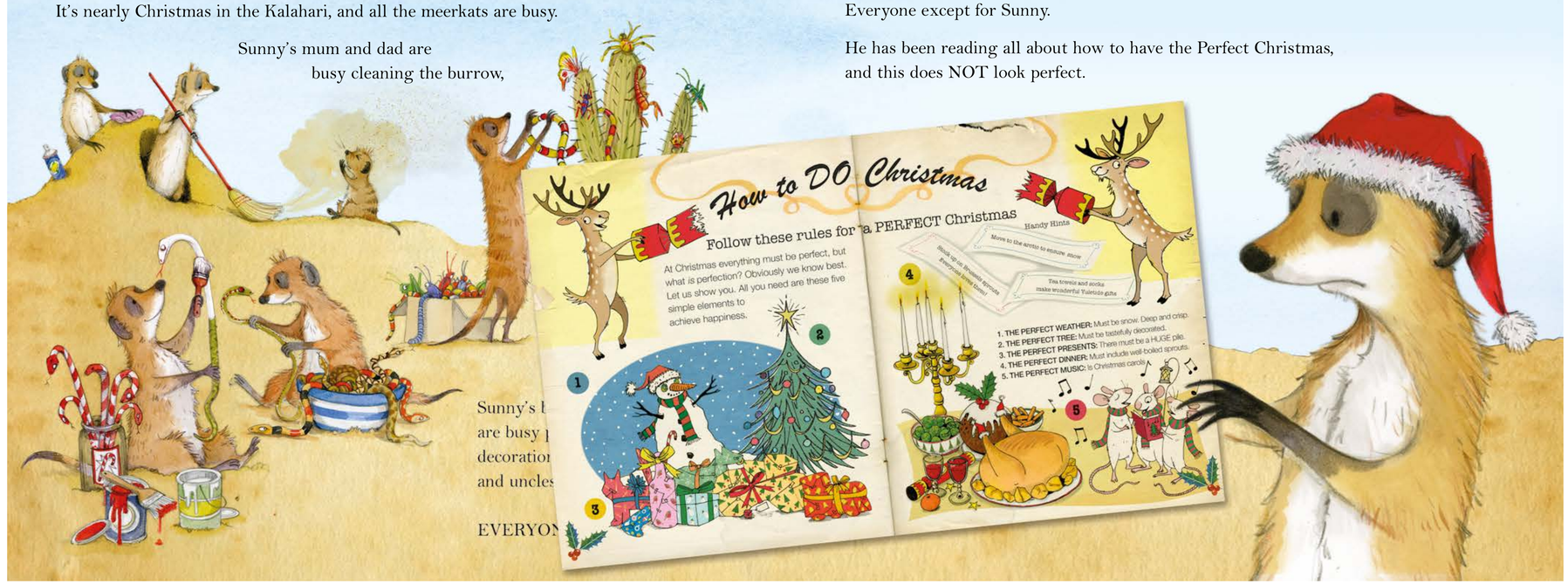
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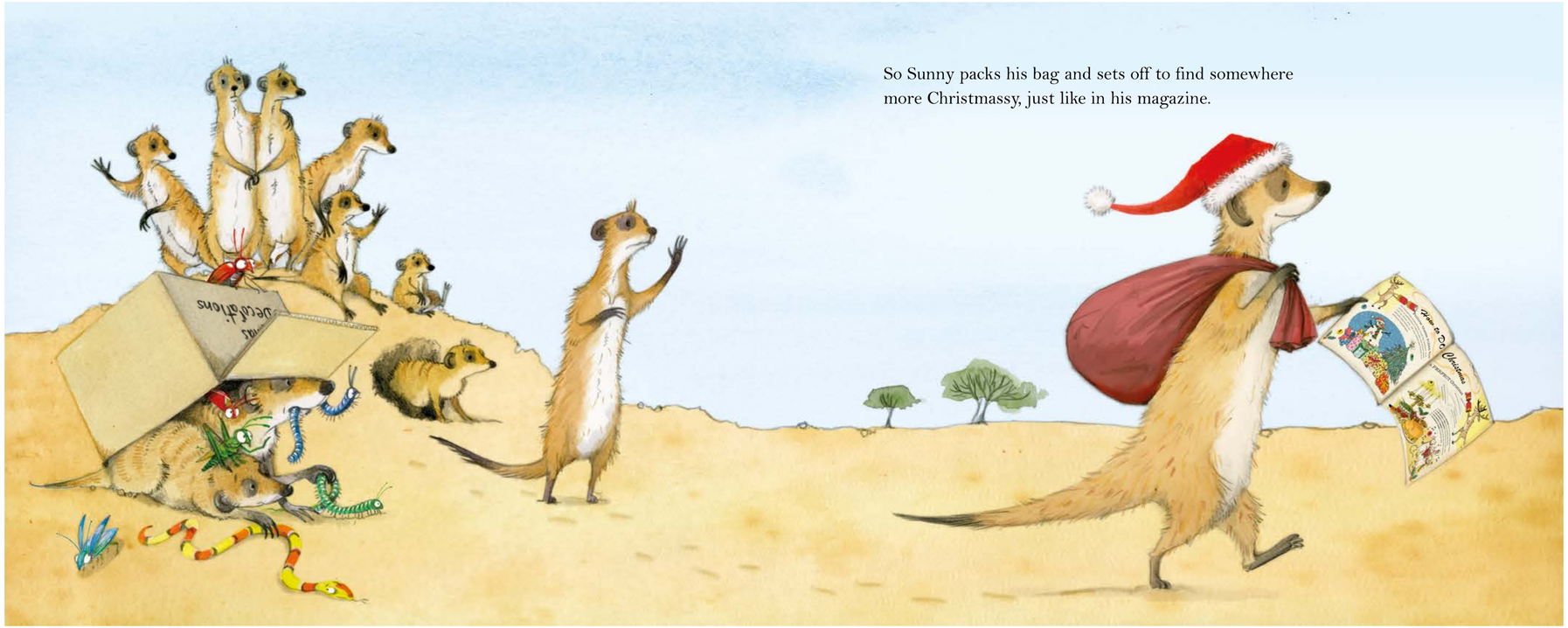
Sunny's [illegible] are busy [illegible] decoration[illegible] and uncles

EVERYON[illegible]

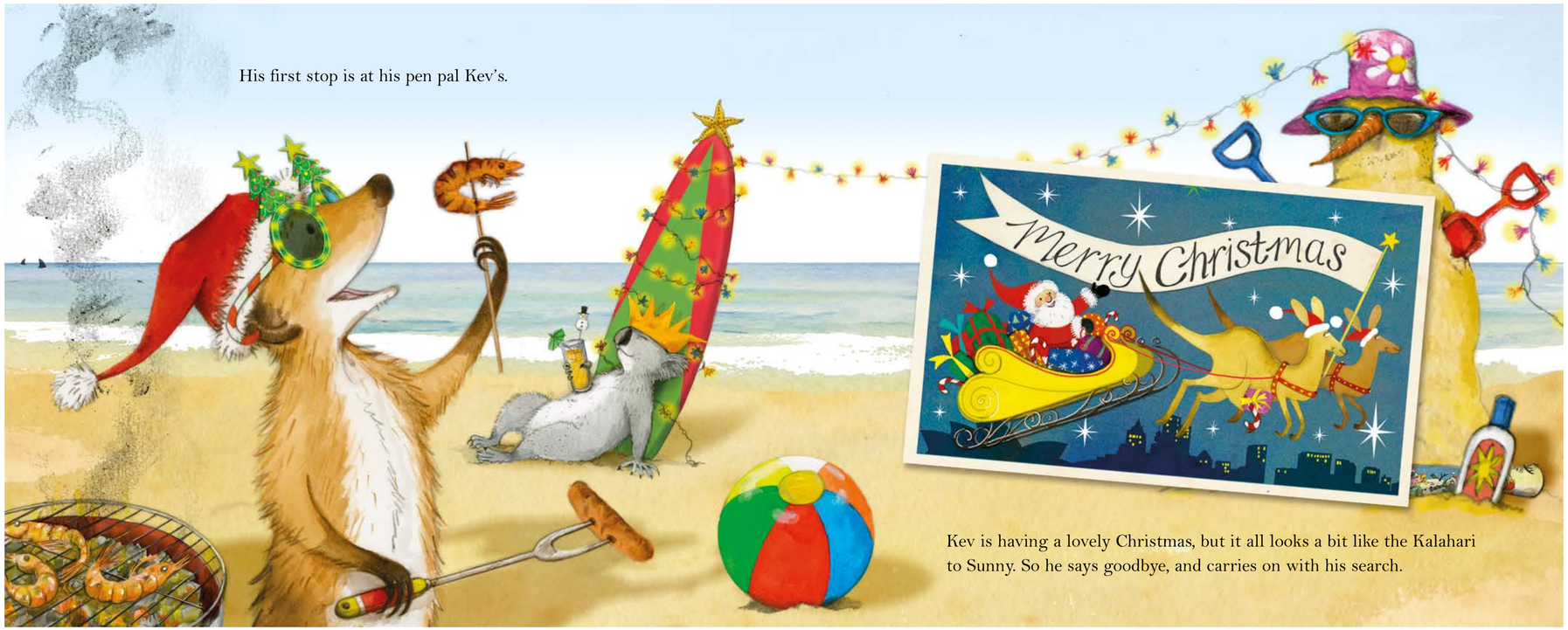
Everyone except for Sunny.

He has been reading all about how to have the Perfect Christmas, and this does NOT look perfect.




So Sunny packs his bag and sets off to find somewhere more Christmassy, just like in his magazine.

His first stop is at his pen pal Kev's.



Kev is having a lovely Christmas, but it all looks a bit like the Kalahari to Sunny. So he says goodbye, and carries on with his search.

His first stop is at his pen pal Kev's.

Dear Mum, Dad,
Grandmas, Grandads, Aunties, Uncles, Brothers,
Sisters, ALL my cousins and anyone else who knows me.
I am eating prawns! (they are a bit like scorpions
but are from the sea) There is a lot of sand here
(just like at home) but also the SEA.
Later Kev is going to teach me to surf
(whatever that is)
I hope it doesn't involve getting wet!
lots of love
Sunny x x
Have a
ppy Holiday

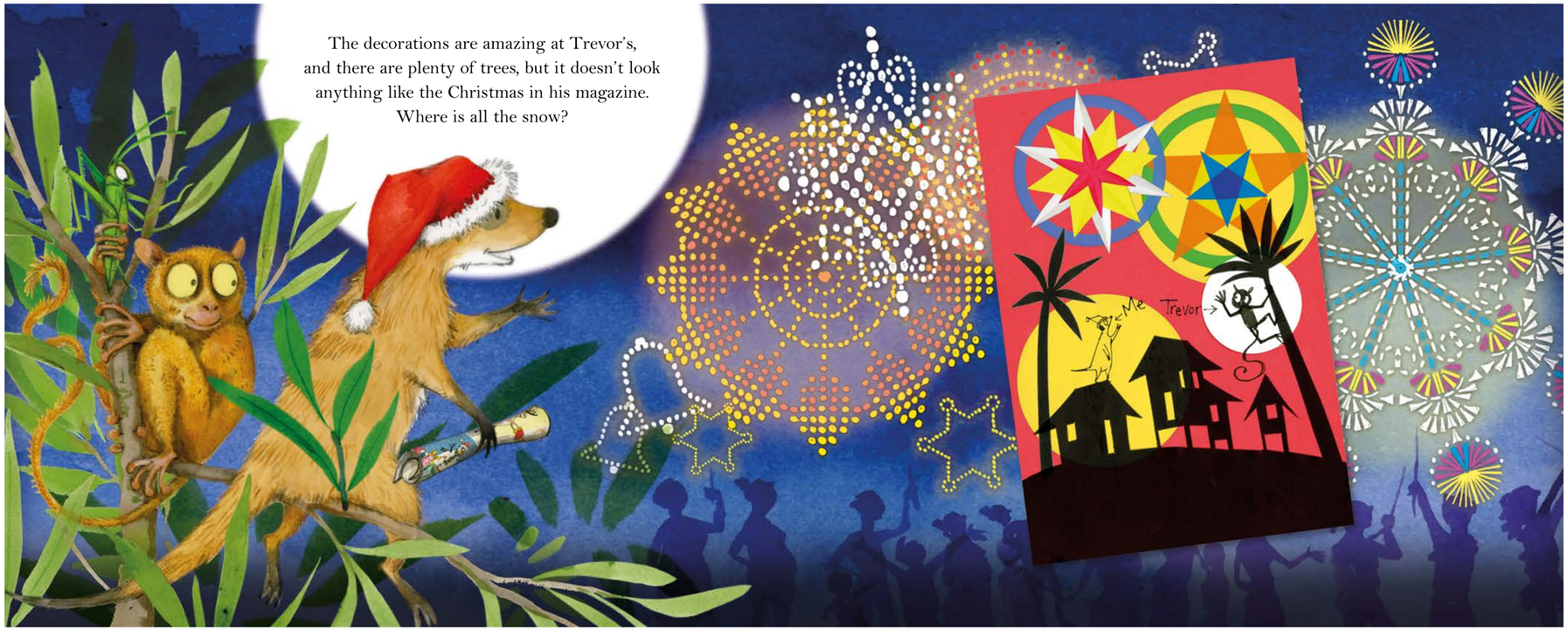
Q: What did the Kangaroo say to Santa?
A: Happy Christmas!

PERFECT CHRISTMAS
- ☒ SNOW
- ☒ DECORATED TREE
- ☒ PRESENTS
- ☒ SINGING
- ☑ DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS
- BUT NO SPROUTS

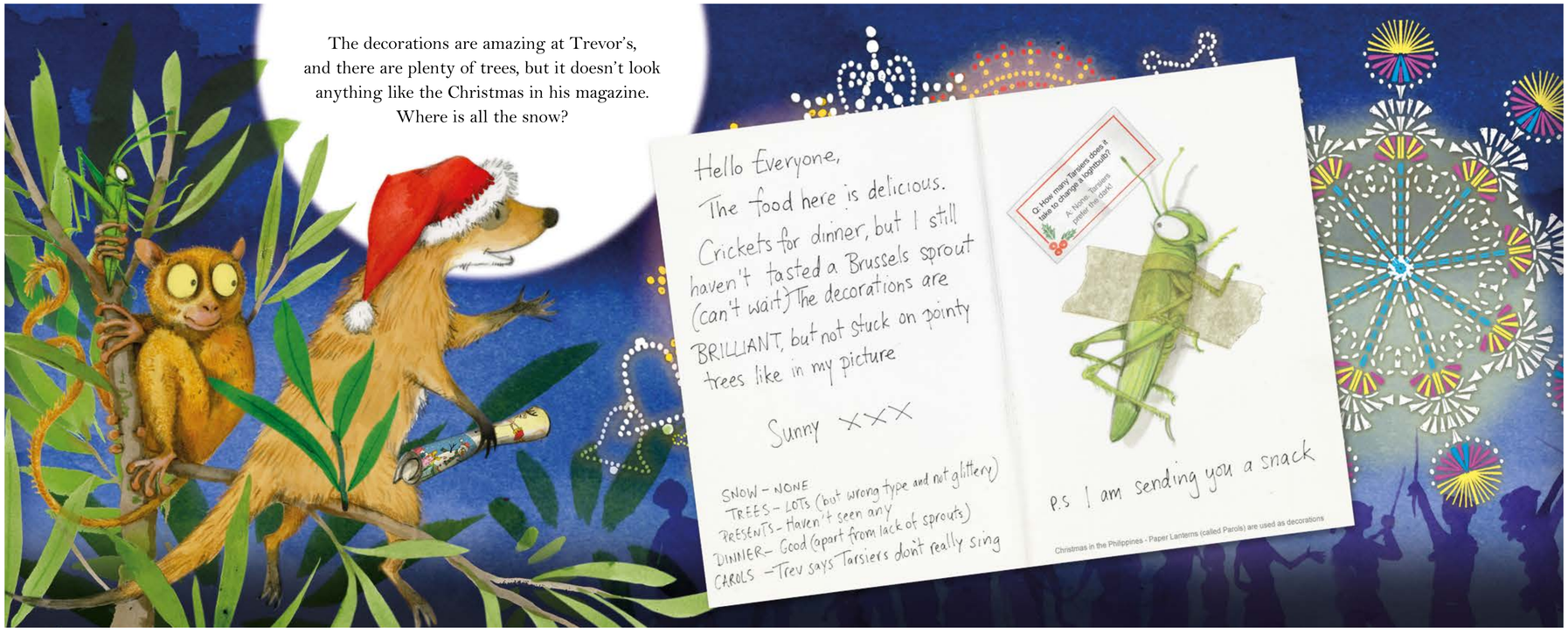
Scorpion

Prawn

Kev is having a lovely Christmas, but it all looks a bit like the Kalahari to Sunny. So he says goodbye, and carries on with his search.


The decorations are amazing at Trevor's, and there are plenty of trees, but it doesn't look anything like the Christmas in his magazine. Where is all the snow?
Me
Trevor

The decorations are amazing at Trevor's, and there are plenty of trees, but it doesn't look anything like the Christmas in his magazine. Where is all the snow?




Sunny hates getting wet.
Christmas Wonderland


MINUS POINTS
No Snow
Trees bald and brown
No presents
PLUS POINTS
SINGING
FOOD
(but only worms
still no sprouts)
'Tis the Season
to
SING!
Dear Everyone
I am visiting Robin and it does
NOT look nice and snowy like
on the front of this card.
I am off to find some REAL snow
Missing you
(not so) Sunny
XX
Q: What do you call a robin who sings at Christmas?
A: Carol!
Sunny hates getting wet.
Christmas Wonderland