Why do wolves howl?

Do snow leopards tell jokes?

What is a tiger's perfect day?

Dare to get up close and personal with **10** fierce and furry beasts as they step up to the mic and share their habits, behaviour, likes and dislikes, favourite foods, and more!

This lineup of clawed creatures is interviewed by the brave, award-winning author, Andy Seed, who risks his life to ask the questions you've always wanted to know. Featuring talks with a tiger, wolf, polar bear, giant armadillo, and more – each animal has its own story to tell.

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Interview with a TIGER

Andy Seed Nick East

WELBECK

Interview with a TIGER

& Other Clawed Beasts Too

Andy Seed

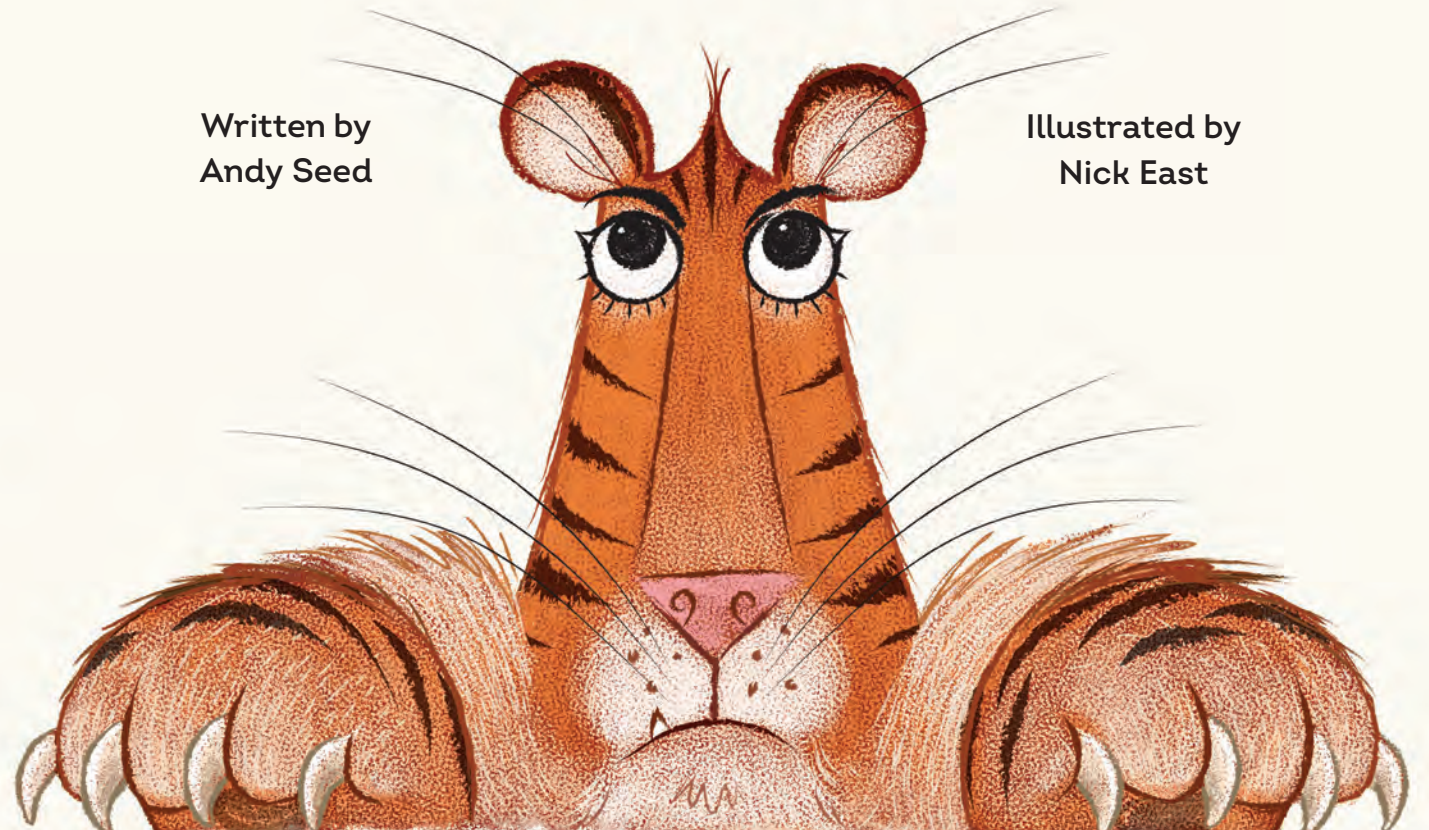
Nick East

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Written by
Andy Seed

Illustrated by
Nick East





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Contents



Introduction	4
Interview with a Bengal Tiger	6
Interview with a Wolf	10
Interview with a Giant Anteater	14
Interview with a Honey Badger	18
Interview with a Jaguar	22
Interview with a Polar Bear	26
Interview with a Lion	30
Interview with a Giant Armadillo	34
Interview with a Snow Leopard	38
Interview with a Three-toed Sloth	42
How you can help	46
Quiz	48



Introduction

What is a tiger's perfect day? What is rubbish about being a wolf? Do lions ever go to the cinema? No, I've never thought about these questions, either! But if you want to know the answers, you have the RIGHT BOOK.

I have been lucky – or unlucky – enough to sit down with ten BIG SCARY BEASTS with CLAWS and ask them questions (the beasts, not the claws). What they told me is amazing, funny and QUITE SCARY.

Ah, I sense you may be asking yourself, "Whaaat? How does Andy Seed talk to animals?" Good question.

Well, a few years ago I was messing around with some coat hangers, a broken waffle maker and half a sock when I accidentally invented a machine to translate animals' sounds into words! Yes, the tranimalator was born. This device allows me to speak to any creature on the planet. Handy!

So, this book contains my interviews with ten remarkable animals. They tell you all the things you want to know, I hope, and perhaps some surprising facts too. And if you're not satisfied with the answers, well, you can argue with the tiger!



Interview with a Bengal Tiger

My first guest needs no introduction. So why am I writing one? She's big, she's stripy, she's scary and she is here, all the way from the jungles and grasslands of India, to answer my questions. I am excited and TERRIFIED to bring you... a BENGAL TIGER!

Q: Welcome. Er, why do you have stripes?
A: I tried spots but they don't suit me, haha. No, it's really so I can hide in the long grass. How else do you think I'm going to sneak up on a deer, dear?

Q: Do you enjoy hunting?
A: Enjoy it? I LOVE it! Well, when I catch something I do. I HATE it when they get away. All that pouncing for nothing...

Q: What's your favourite food?
A: Oooh, good question. Well, deer is yummy but I do like a juicy wild pig. A nice young buffalo is a treat for the cubs, too.

Q: What are your top tiger tips for catching prey?
A: Go slowly and silently. Stay hidden. Choose tall grass if possible. Keep low and approach from behind. Get close, then hit the turbo boost! Finally, grab with your claws and bite the neck. Works for me.

Q: You mentioned cubs. Are you their mother?
A: Well, I'm not their bus driver! Yes, I have three cubs, about four months old now and quite big. They are ALWAYS hungry.

Q: Do you take them hunting with you?
A: I'm starting to. But they just want to play most of the time. With hunting they can talk the talk, but can they stalk the stalk? NO.

Q: Where are they?
A: Back at our secret den among rocks where they're safe. When they're born they are tiny little helpless things.

FAVOURITE FOODS:
- Deer
- Wild pig
- Antelope
- Water buffalo

WORST ENEMIES:
- Leopard
- Wild dog
- Monkey
- Jackal
- Vulture

Q: So, where's the cubs' father?
A: Oh, that lazy lump? He doesn't help bring up the kids! He's probably gone off to fight another tiger and steal its territory. Huh, if he wasn't bigger than me I'd give him a paw on the jaw!

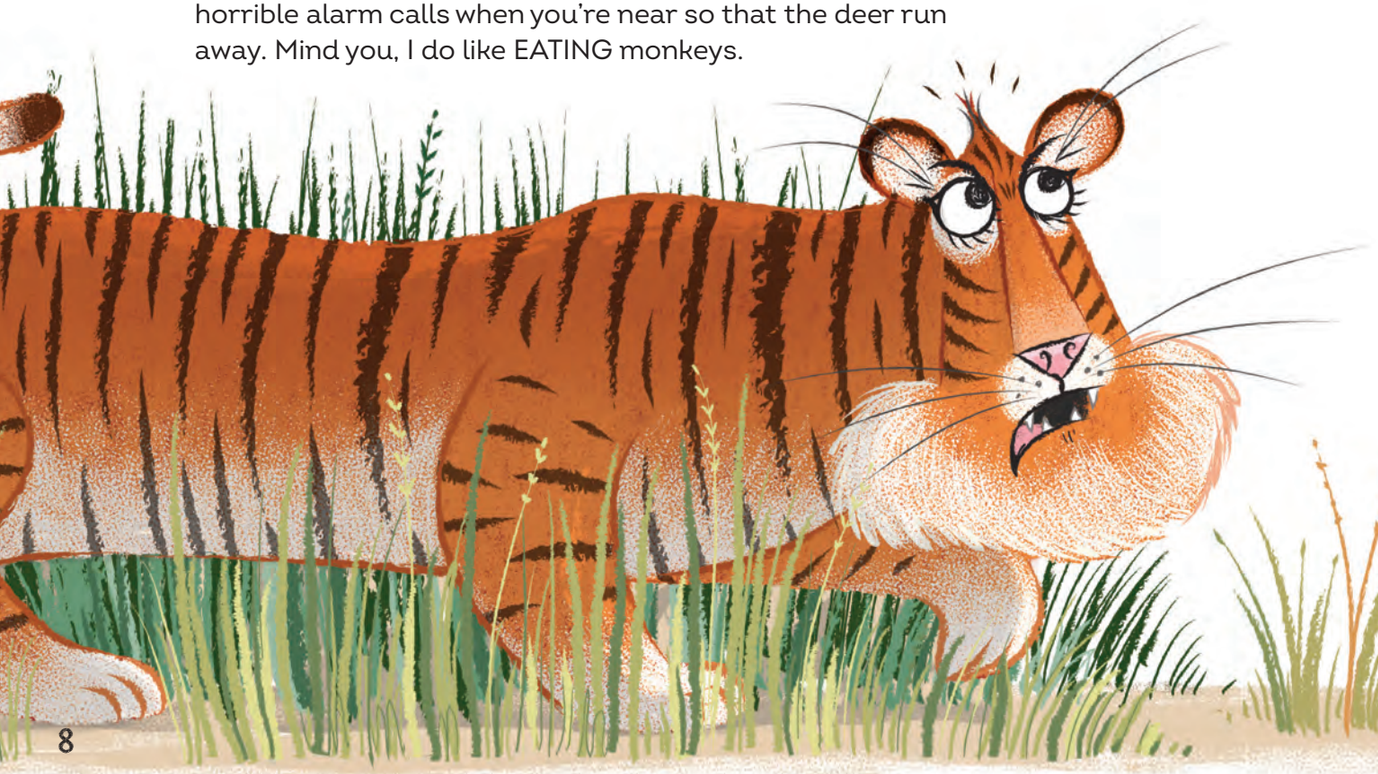


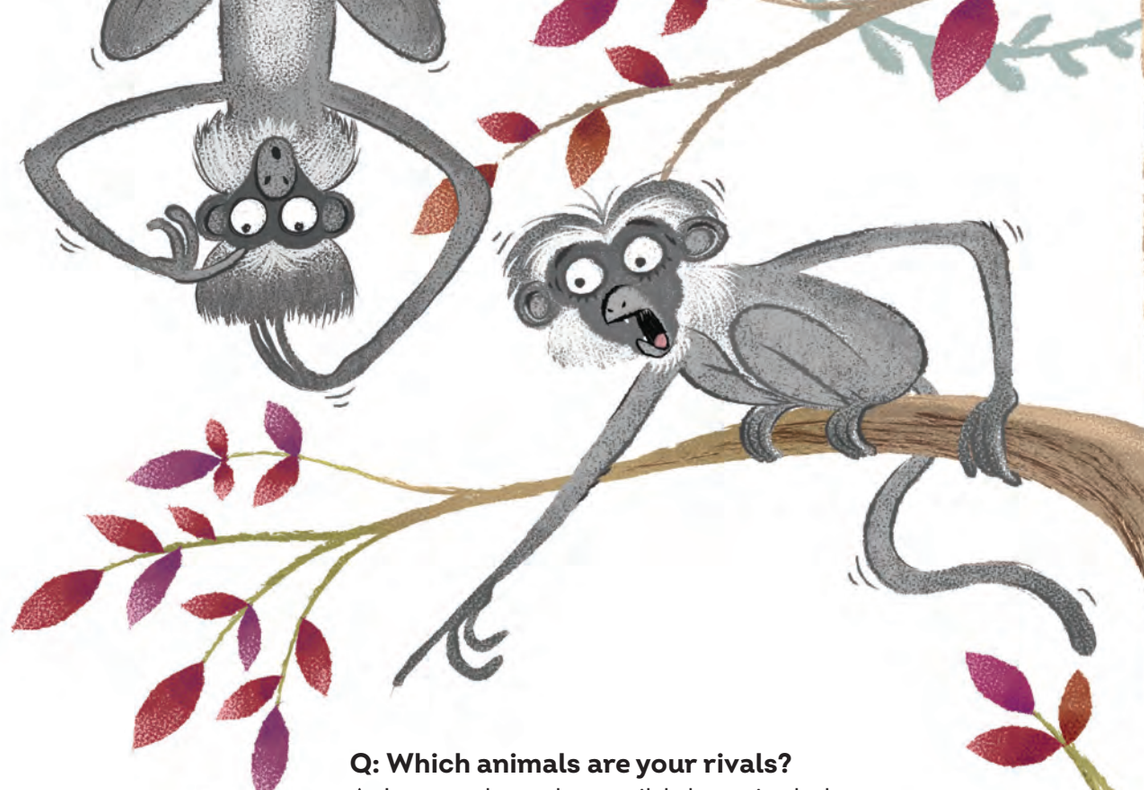
Q: What do you mean by 'stealing territory'?
A: It means take over another tiger's hunting patch. Each of us has a large area of land where we hunt – so there's enough food for each of us. If another tiger comes into my territory I'll chase it off.

Q: What is your ideal day?
A: Ah, a lot of snoozing, maybe a dip in the river when it gets too hot, and then a big pile of raw meat and guts. I can eat 20 kilograms in one go. Mmmmm.

Q: Is there anything annoying about being a tiger?
A: Yes. Monkeys. I CANNOT STAND monkeys!

Q: Ooh, why is that?
A: They watch you from the trees and then screech their horrible alarm calls when you're near so that the deer run away. Mind you, I do like EATING monkeys.





Q: Which animals are your rivals?
A: Leopards, wolves, wild dogs, jackals, crocodiles and vultures, mainly. Pests.

Q: What about humans?
A: Oh yes, you lot... The only animal we're really afraid of, with your guns and poaching and taking away our hunting grounds to build houses on. Grrrrr!

Q: Why do poachers shoot you?
A: Our skins and body parts are worth a lot of money, sadly. Some people think my bones will make good medicines. They don't. It's why there aren't many tigers left. Twits.

Q: What's your favourite band?
A: Def Leppard.

Interview with a Wolf

My next special guest loves to roam the great northern forests of Asia and America. He's got yellow eyes, 42 big teeth and he's, er, quite grumpy by the look of things. I bring you... a WOLF!

Q: First off, do you howl at the moon?
A: No. Don't be ridiculous. Do *you* howl at the moon?

Q: Fair point. But why do you howl?
A: Isn't it obvious? There are times when a yelp or a growl or a whimper won't do. We howl to stay in touch with the pack or maybe frighten off other wolves.

Q: You mentioned a pack. What's that?
A: Sheesh, don't you know anything? It's a kind of extended family group. We work together to hunt and patrol our territory and defend each other.

Q: What sort of animals do wolves hunt?
A: The bigger the better – more to eat. Deer are good, or caribou or elk. Or bison. Or beaver. Or musk ox. Yum.

Q: So, how exactly do you deal with an animal that's bigger than you?
A: Weren't you listening? Pah. We work as a pack. Chase it, tire it out, separate it from others, bite it, injure it, then drag it down. Teamwork.

Q: Do you just eat the meat?
A: No.

Q: Er, can you tell me why?
A: Alright, I suppose so... Well, it would be a waste to only eat the meat, wouldn't it? We chomp nearly everything: skin, guts, lungs, bones. You name it! I can eat 15 kilograms in one go. Wolf it down! You can't waste food as a predator – it might be ages until you catch something again, especially in the hard northern winter. We can't order online like you lot!



Q: Wow, eating everything: that's impressive! How do you eat bones?
A: Easy, we have a VERY powerful bite. We crush them and slurp the juicy marrow inside. You can test my bite if you like – give me your hand.

Q: NO WAY! I believe you. But why is it that humans are so scared of wolves? You're the baddie in LOTS of fairy tales.
A: You're scared of *us*? That's hilarious. We are scared of *you*. And it's no wonder – over the centuries, people have hunted and killed wolves everywhere!

Q: So, why are people scared of you?
A: Do I have to spell it out? Really? Okay, I can see I do... Humans in the past cut down forests in our territories, wiped out our prey and took our land for farming. We went hungry. So we ate some of their sheep and cattle. It was that or starve.

Q: Are there any animals you don't get on with?
A: Humph, thought you might apologise for a minute there. Other animals? Hungry bears sometimes take our cubs or steal our food. So we bite them on the bum.

Q: What are wolves good at?
A: Tennis. No, not really. Running, swimming, keeping warm, raising cubs. We have a great sense of smell and hearing too – way better than yours.

Q: Is there anything rubbish about being a wolf?
A: Sure, we hate interviews. And being the villain in books and films. Okay, I can see you want a serious answer. Yes, we are often hungry and we don't live very long – maybe seven years? Oh, this is depressing...