

Roar Like a Lion
is a
DAVID FICKLING BOOK

First published in Great Britain in 2021 by
David Fickling Books,
31 Beaumont Street,
Oxford, OX1 2NP

www.davidficklingbooks.com

Text © Carlie Sorosiak, 2021
Illustrations © Katie Walker, 2021
Design and art direction by Sarah Darby

978-1-78845-235-9

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

The right of Carlie Sorosiak and Katie Walker to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

Papers used by David Fickling Books are from well-managed forests and other responsible sources.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC™ C130176

DAVID FICKLING BOOKS Reg. No. 8340307

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Printed by Grafostil, Slovenia.

ROAR LIKE A LION

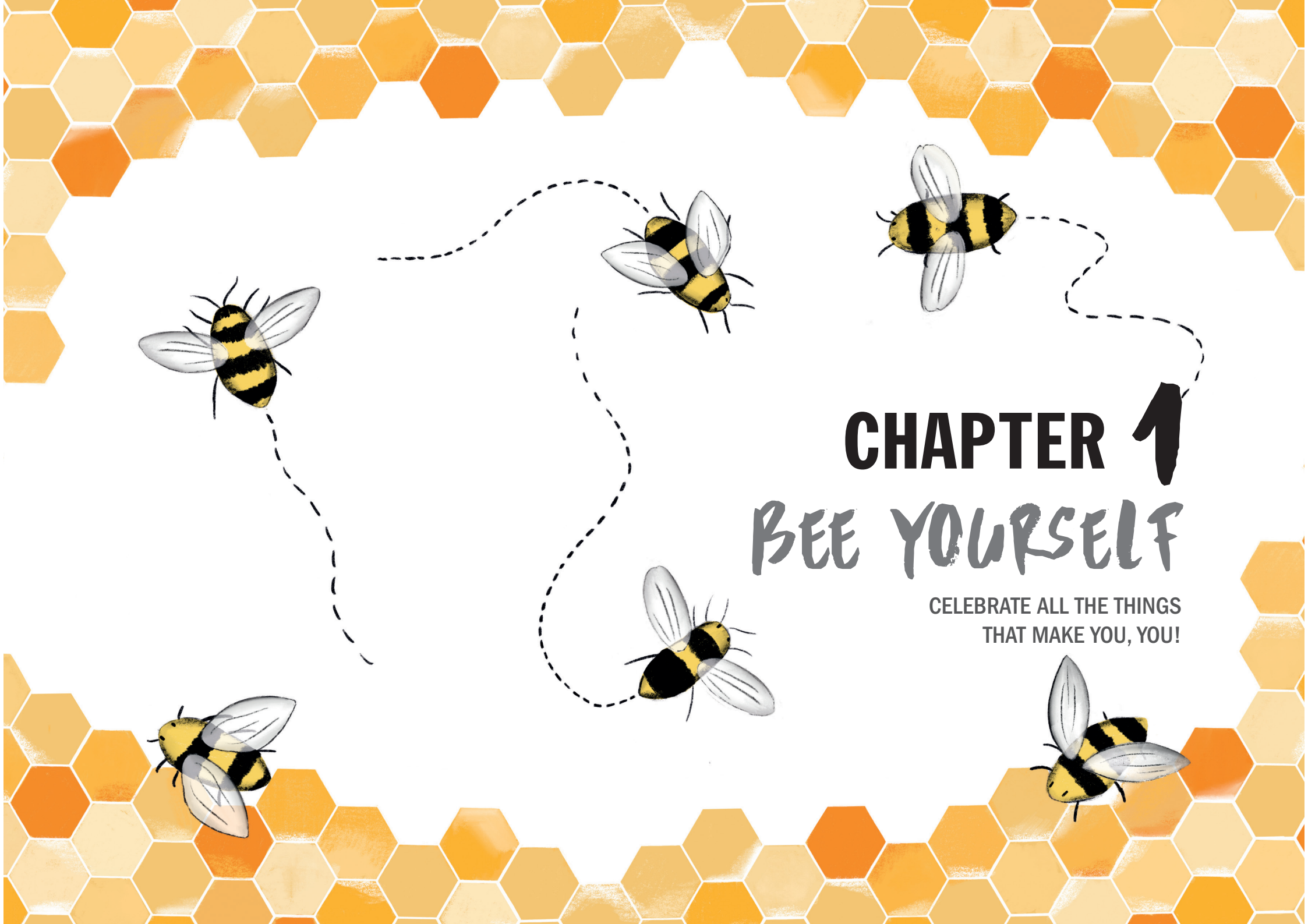
How animals can help **you** be your best self

CARLIE SOROSIAK

ILLUSTRATED BY
Katie Walker

FICKLING dfb David Fickling Books





CHAPTER 1

BEE YOURSELF

CELEBRATE ALL THE THINGS
THAT MAKE YOU, YOU!

You are a MARVELLOUSLY rare creature.

Really. You are.

No one else in the world – in the entire animal kingdom – possesses your mixture of intelligence, creativity and *you-ness*. That's something to celebrate.

YOU'RE UNIQUE!

You're the one and only you!

So . . . why aren't we all shouting that from the rooftops? Why is it so unbelievably challenging to be ourselves?

Well, as humans, we don't always *believe* that we're special. We don't always seek out the things that make us happy. And we often convince ourselves that, to fit in, we have to shy away from our differences – that we must talk a certain way, act a certain way, *think* a certain way.

Kind of rubbish, isn't it?

It's like telling a hawk that it needs to be a pigeon.

Or a cow that it should be a horse.

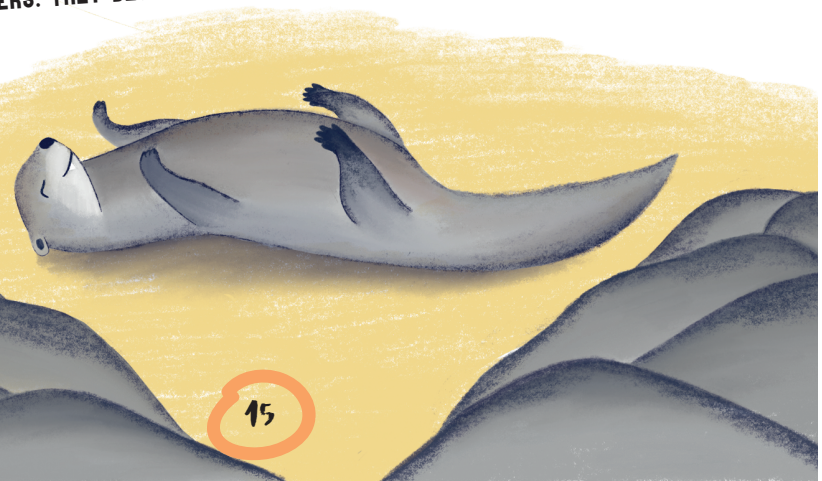
When we start acting more like other people and less like ourselves, it hurts us. Actually hurts us. Research shows that authenticity – being your truest self – is key to happiness.

Animals can help us here.

Animals are *always* their truest selves.

In this chapter, you'll meet a variety of creatures that offer advice on embracing your creativity, your strangeness, your unique way of viewing the world. Perhaps they'll persuade you to start celebrating yourself as an individual.





Just one of the **CROWD**

So, if you're the one and only you, then why does it sometimes feel as if you're blending in? Look at pigeons in the park: a huge, grey sea of them, nearly indistinguishable from each other. Have you ever glanced at them and thought, *I'm quite a lot like that! Not in the feathery way. But I am just one person, in a large flock of humans, and it's impossible to stand out.* You may even think: *There's nothing special about me*.

This is where a pigeon wobbles in to **coo** at you. It's a very loud coo, because he's trying to shout, *Human, you've got it wrong about us!* We may assume that all pigeons are basically the same, but really, **EACH ONE IS AN EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUAL**.

ONE BRAVE BIRD

In World War I, a pigeon named Cher Ami delivered a message that saved two hundred soldiers. The enemy had encircled a French battalion – and everything was looking terribly grim. The humans had only one hope left: a shiny silver bird called Cher Ami. She carried a note strapped to her leg, letting the allied troops know: 'WE'RE HERE AND WE'RE TRAPPED!' Cher Ami suffered multiple injuries during her flight, but still managed – with her extraordinary sense of direction, and unmatched bravery – to accomplish her mission. The Allies read the plea for help, and rushed in to rescue the battalion.



THE ART CRITICS

One Japanese experiment asked individual pigeons: *Is this a Picasso painting? Or a Monet painting?* The pigeons learned to tell the difference! What's more, researchers brought in paintings from a local primary school and asked a different set of birds: *Which are the 'good' paintings?* These smart pigeons were twice as likely to pick a painting that showed attention to texture, composition and detail. Bet you didn't think that an individual pigeon in the park could do that!

DOCTOR PIGEON

In California, several pigeons showed researchers: *We can basically do the work of doctors!* (In one area, at least!) Given a scan of two growths – one cancerous, one benign – these smart birds can say: *That's the bad one. Can I please have my treat?*

You see, other people have so many impressions about us – what we can and cannot do, who we are and who we should be. Quite often, those impressions relate very little to our actual abilities. They say much more about the people who judge us. So, next time you see a flock of pigeons, remember that each bird has a story.

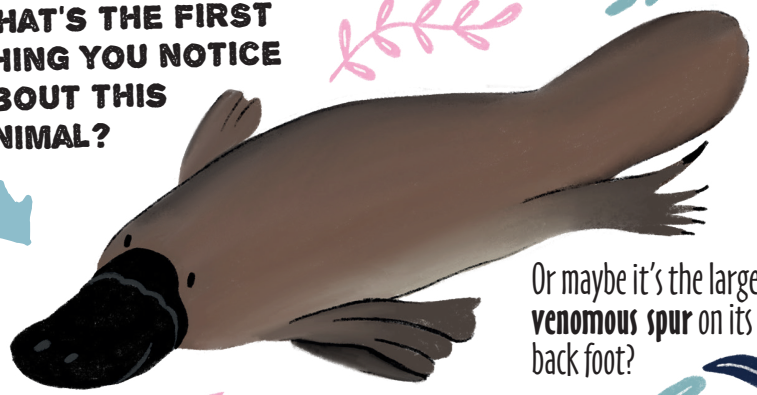
EVERYONE HAS A STORY. YOU'RE MORE THAN JUST PART OF THE FLOCK.



Embrace your **DIFFERENCES**

Sometimes you might feel a little bit out of place in the world. You might feel odd or strange – like you don't *fit*. During those times, take a good look at the **PLATYPUS**.

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU NOTICE ABOUT THIS ANIMAL?



Or maybe it's the large, **venomous spur** on its back foot?

The **duck-like** bill?

The **frog-like** webbing between its toes?

In the eighteenth century, European explorers landed on the island of Tasmania. When they discovered the platypus, waddling along the riverbanks, they declared it 'strange' – so extraordinarily weird-looking, they didn't even believe it was real. 'You can't have a mammal that lays eggs like a bird!' they said.

But the platypus has existed – virtually unchanged – since the time of the dinosaurs. It knows a thing or two about survival. Who's to say that it wasn't examining those humans (with their pointy noses, their stubby tongues), and wondering, 'How do they think they're going to survive with *those*?'

Humans have a terrible habit of labelling things 'weird' when we don't understand them. Maybe your family speaks a variety of languages. Maybe you dress in brightly coloured fabrics. Maybe you practise a religion that's different from many of your friends. Some people might witness any of these and say, 'Oh, that's odd.'

BUT DIFFERENCES CAN BE THE VERY THINGS THAT SHAPE US INTO THE STRONG, BRILLIANT PEOPLE THAT WE ARE.

That's certainly true for the platypus. Its 'strange' webbing, for example? That helps the platypus swish through the chilly rivers of Tasmania. The venomous spur? It loudly tells intruders:

STAY BACK!

And that 'odd' bill can sense electromagnetic waves from prey; this intelligent mammal can literally hunt with its eyes closed.

Sometimes being an individual means looking, thinking and acting differently from your peers. And that's *good*. Platypuses embrace who they are, because who they are has allowed them to thrive for 120 million years. **IF A PLATYPUS CAN CELEBRATE ITS INDIVIDUALITY** – poisonous barbs, frog-feet and all –

THEN YOU CAN, TOO.