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Opening extract from

Down in the Jungle

Written by

Vivian French

Published by

Orion Children's Books

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Down in the Jungle

Vivian French

Illustrated by
Selina Young



Orion
Children's Books

For Willow
with love

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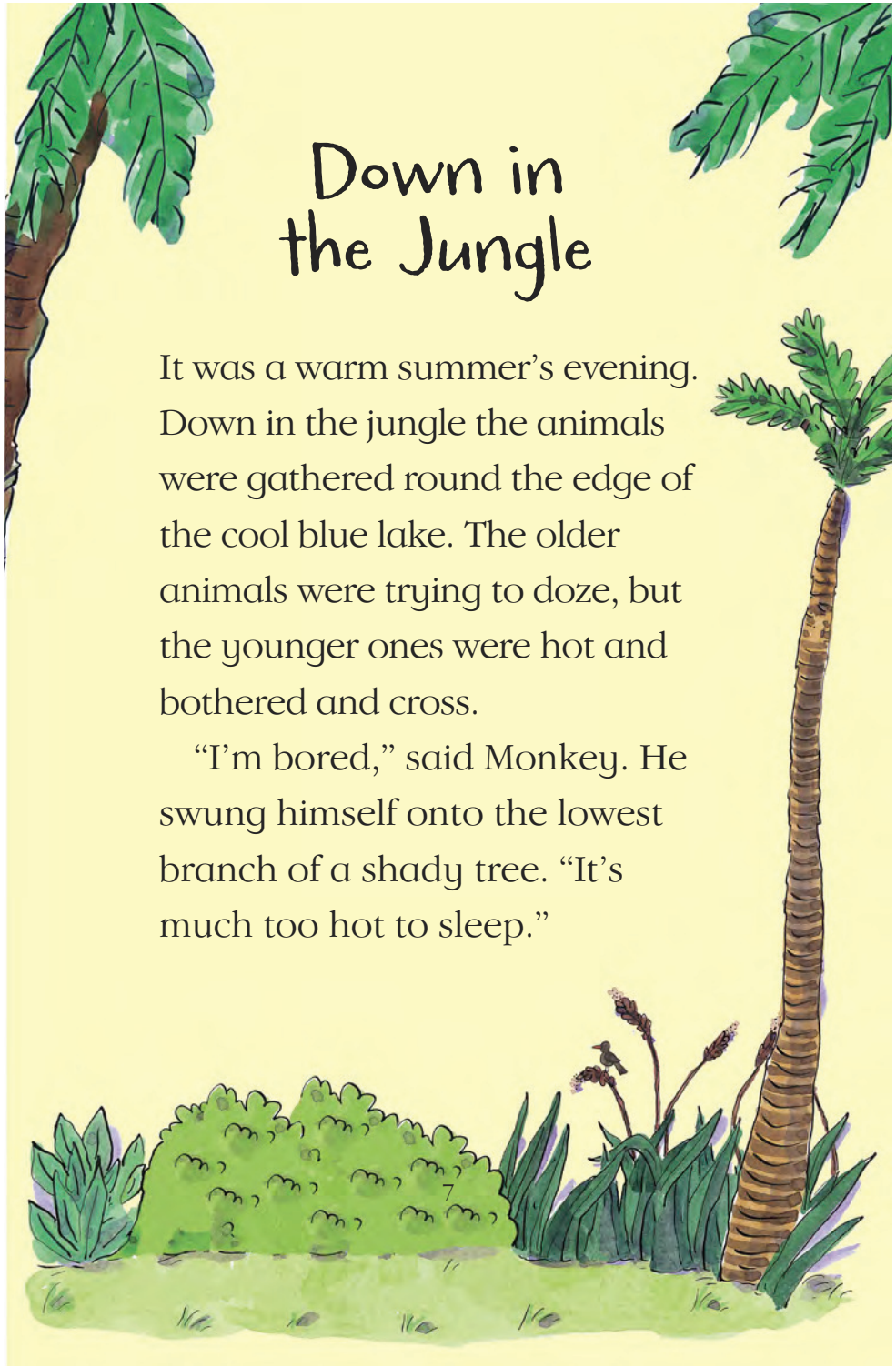
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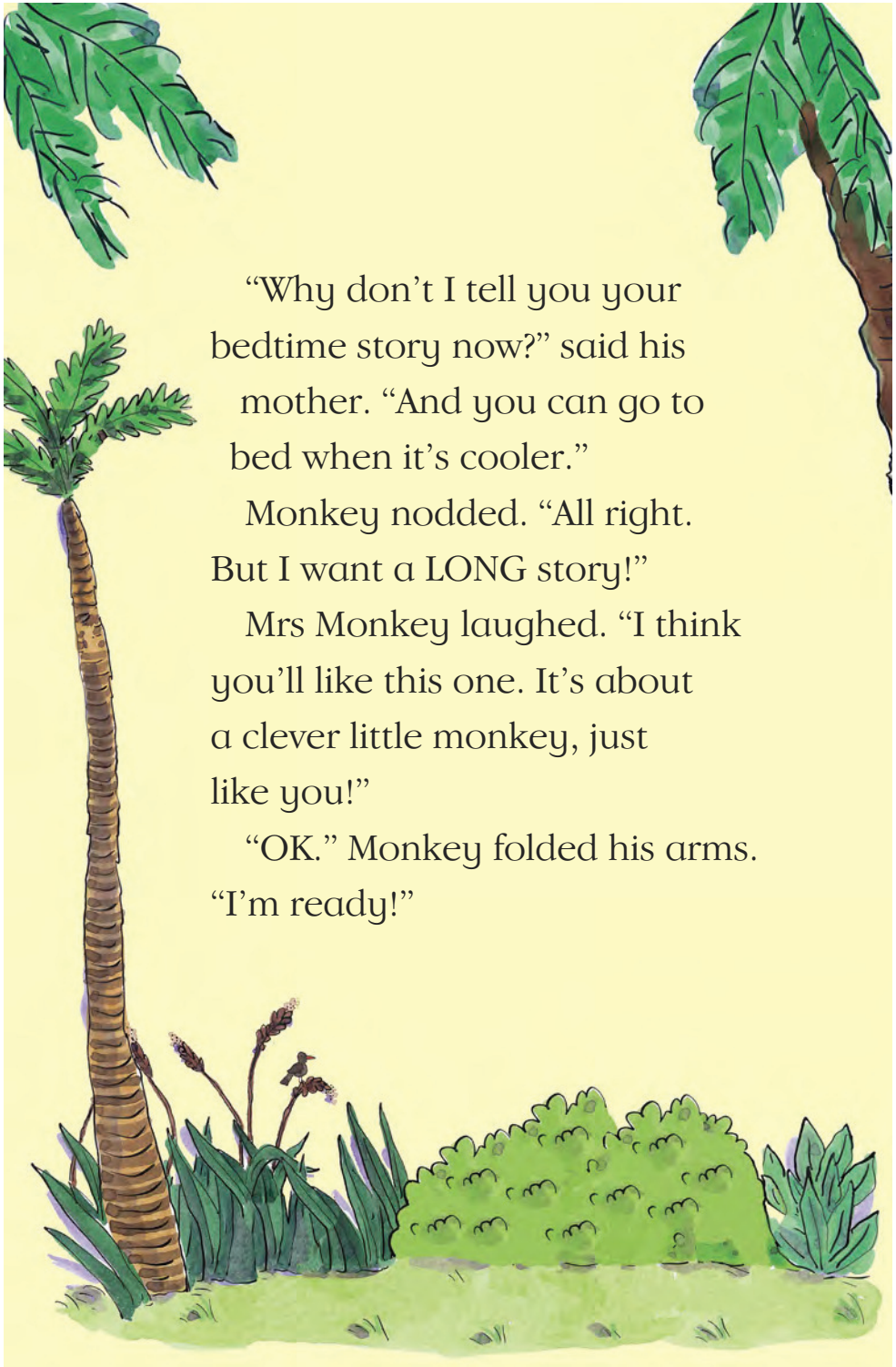
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Down in the Jungle

It was a warm summer's evening. Down in the jungle the animals were gathered round the edge of the cool blue lake. The older animals were trying to doze, but the younger ones were hot and bothered and cross.

"I'm bored," said Monkey. He swung himself onto the lowest branch of a shady tree. "It's much too hot to sleep."



"Why don't I tell you your bedtime story now?" said his mother. "And you can go to bed when it's cooler."

Monkey nodded. "All right. But I want a LONG story!"

Mrs Monkey laughed. "I think you'll like this one. It's about a clever little monkey, just like you!"

"OK." Monkey folded his arms. "I'm ready!"

Snap!



It was early in the morning, but Monkey was awake and swinging through the trees.

"I'm going fishing today!" he sang. "I'm going fishing today!"

Bear Cub was waiting for
Monkey on the river bank.
He had two fishing rods and
a bucket of worms.



"Are you ready, Monkey?"
he asked.

"Yes!" said Monkey.

They fished for five
minutes …
and they caught
nothing at all.

They fished for ten
minutes …
and they caught
nothing at all.

They fished for fifteen
minutes …
and they caught
nothing at all.







"Where have the fish gone?" asked Monkey.

"I don't know," said Bear Cub. "I'll jump in the river and look." He jumped into the water.

"Ooof!" he said. "It's very cold."

"Any fish?" asked Monkey.

"No," said Bear Cub. "Only green weed and a long brown log."

"Maybe," said Monkey, "we'd catch more fish if we stood on the log ?"

"Good idea," said Bear Cub. He swam towards the long brown log.

The long brown log opened a huge toothy mouth ...





Snap!

Bear Cub was caught by his tail.
"Help!" he shouted. "Help!"

"Be quiet," said the crocodile,
and he kept his teeth shut tight.
"I'm going to cook you and eat
you for my tea."

Monkey was watching, and he
shook his head.

"Hey! Crocodile!" Monkey called.

"What do you want?" Crocodile
asked, and he kept his teeth shut
tight on Bear Cub's tail.

"I just wondered if you knew
how to make my granny's bear
cub stew," said Monkey.

"What sort of stew is that?" asked Crocodile, and he kept his teeth shut tight on Bear Cub's tail.

"It's the most delicious stew ever," said Monkey. "But you have to have a pineapple."

"A pineapple?" said Crocodile. "Where would I get a pineapple?"





Monkey swung away into the jungle. Soon he was back with a big yellow pineapple, and he put it down on the river bank.