

# Loveable

THE STORY OF A  
LORD HOWE ISLAND  
STICK INSECT





## PROLOGUE

This is the story of a Lord Howe Island Stick Insect. This little insect was thought to be extinct for many, many years until a small family was rediscovered on a rocky outcrop just off the east coast of Australia. Melbourne Zoo now breeds these rare stick insects in the hope that one day we will be able to re-release them back to their home on Lord Howe Island.

The morning is just waking up,  
stretching lazy light  
that turns the sky pink  
and makes the birds sing.

La la la la la la la la la la  
La la la la



At Melbourne Zoo most of the animals are finishing their dreams and starting to stir.



YAWN

Zzzzzzzz

GRRRRR

Zzzzzz

YAWN

SQUAWK

ROAR

PURRRRR

SQUEAK

Zzzzzz

TWEET

Zzzzzz

ZOO

But the Lord Howe Island  
Stick Insect family is a little different.  
They call breakfast dinner,  
play all night long,  
and sleep the day through.  
Snuggled together in a big hug.





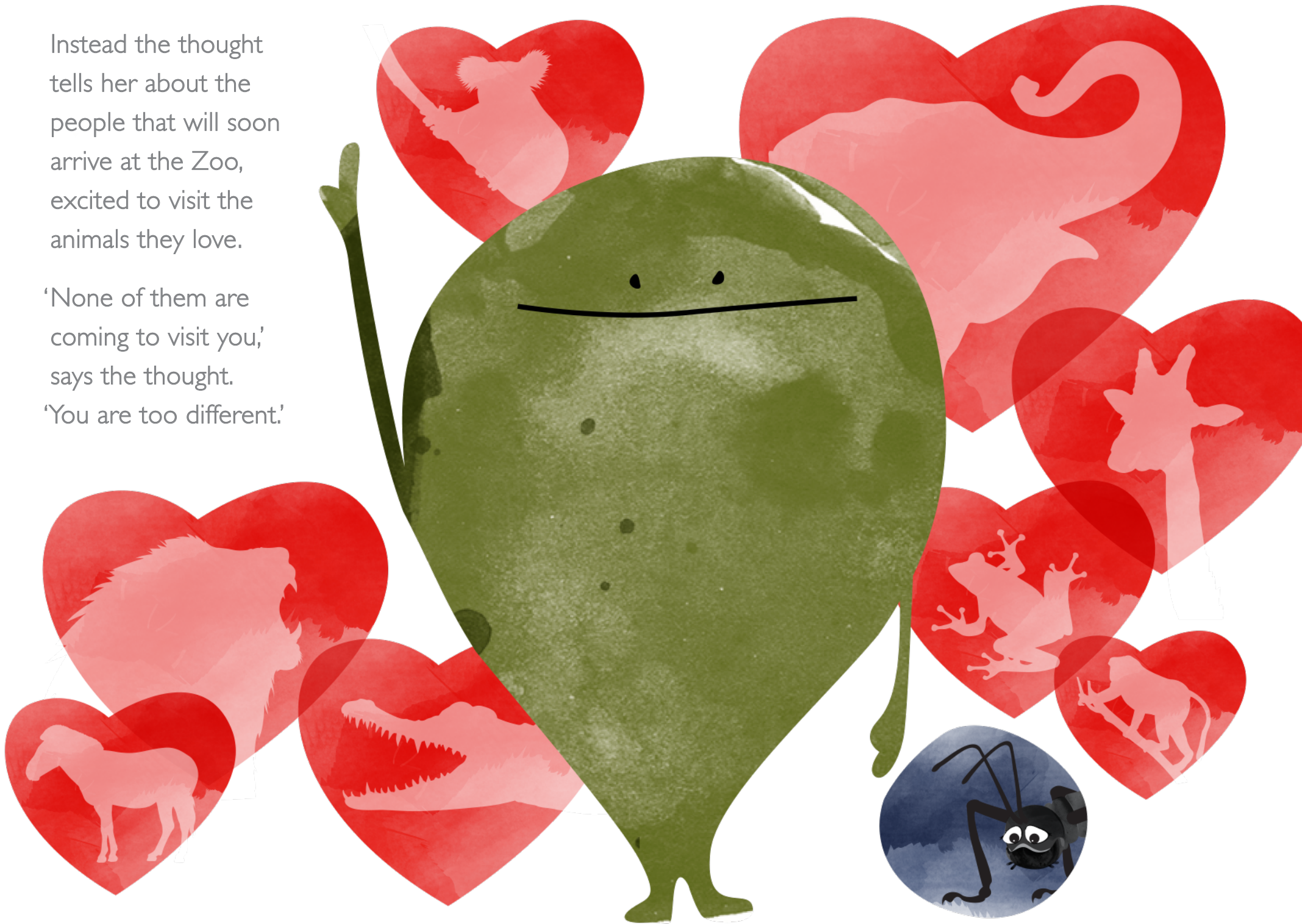
But among the sleeping  
Lord Howe Island Stick Insects,  
there is one that still tosses and turns.



Little Eve has a thought that keeps her awake.  
'I wish you would go away, thought,' says Eve, but it doesn't.

Instead the thought tells her about the people that will soon arrive at the Zoo, excited to visit the animals they love.

'None of them are coming to visit you,' says the thought.  
'You are too different.'







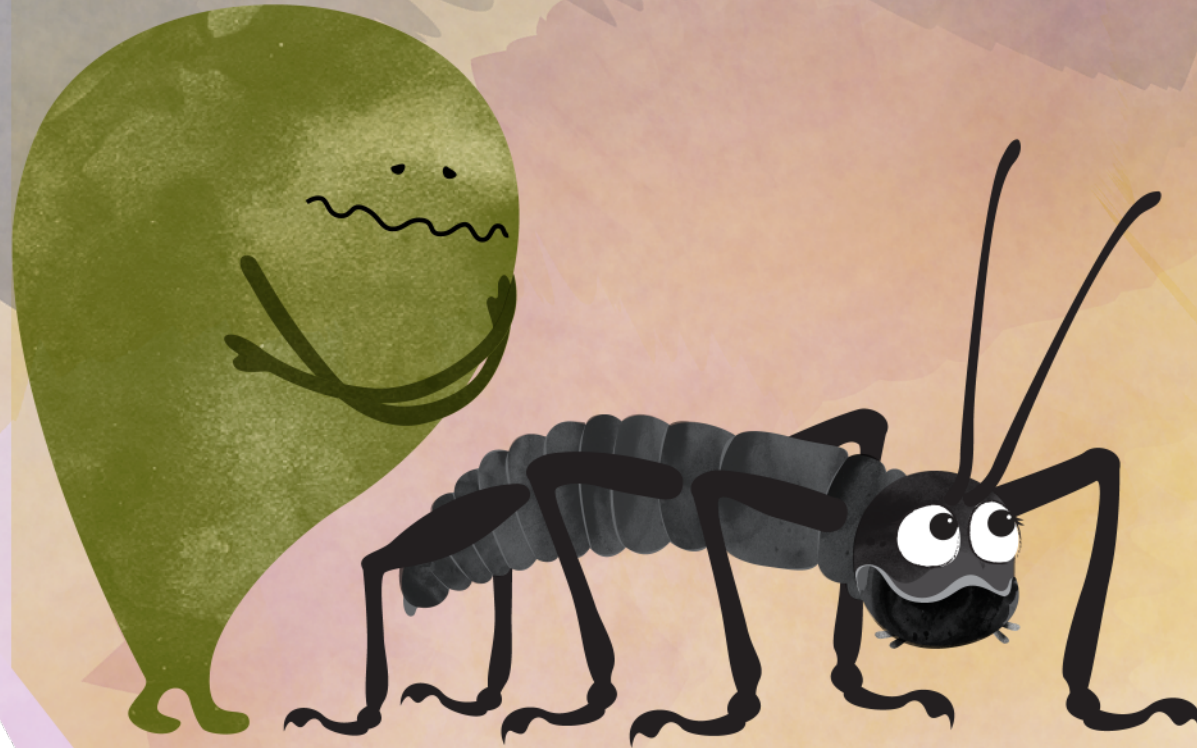
But Eve wants to  
see for herself.

Quietly she leaves the  
glasshouse, and the  
thought goes with her.



The early air makes the thought shiver.  
'It's warmer inside,' it says, 'let's go back.'

But Eve the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect  
keeps moving towards the morning.





She tiptoes past giant elephant dreams.

And crawls through  
orang-utan snores,  
looking for anything  
awake.

Zzzzzzzz



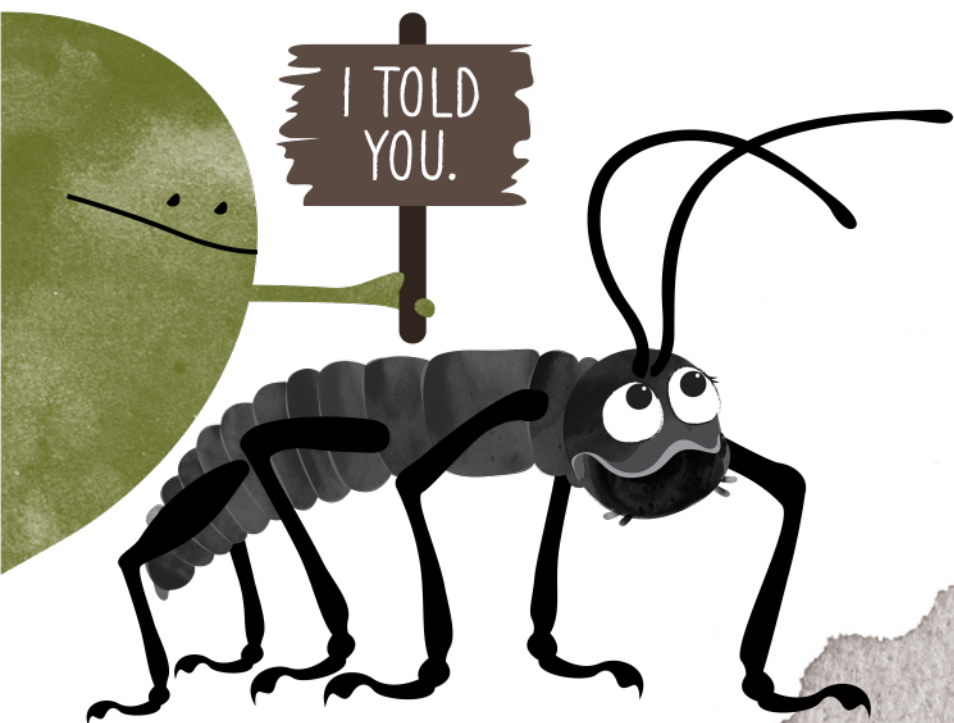
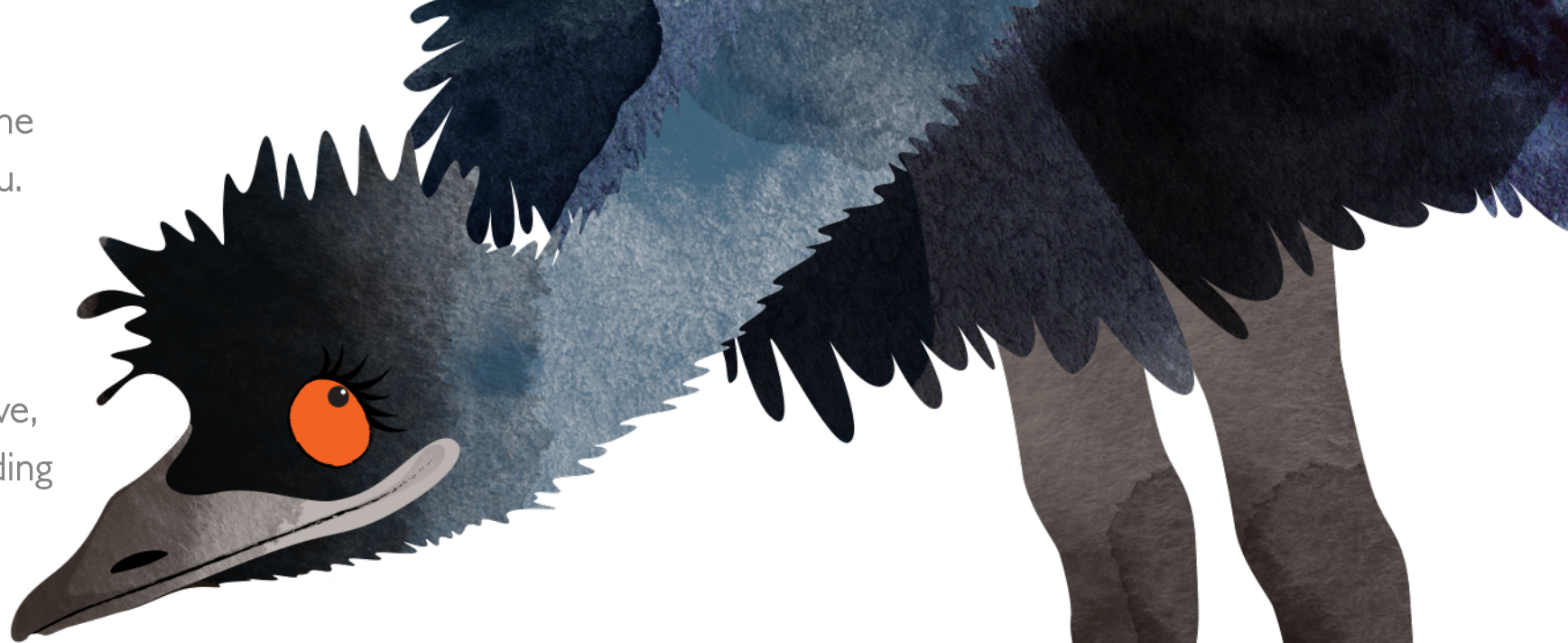
In a clearing, dry and dusty,  
Eve sees a pair of long legs  
and a cloud of feathers  
coloured like the earth.



Emu lowers his slender neck  
and looks at Eve with orange eyes  
that hide behind thick lashes.  
'What are you?' says Emu.  
'Me?' says Eve in a small  
voice, 'I'm a Lord Howe  
Island Stick Insect.'



'Never heard of one of those,' says Emu.  
'You are different, aren't you?'  
'I told you,' the thought says to Eve, but she is pretending she can't hear it.





'The Zoo will open soon and people will come. Will they come to visit you?' Eve asks.

'Of course!' says Emu. 'They love me because on these two legs of mine I am as fast as the wind and finish first every time.'

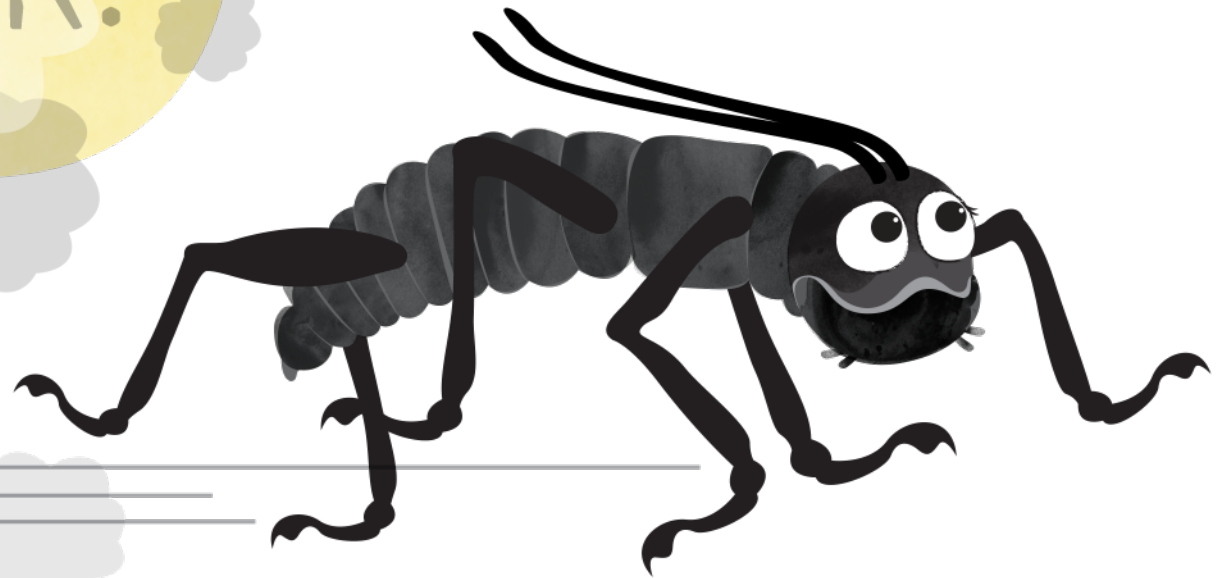






'Two legs are fast,' says Eve,  
'but six are fast too,' and she  
wakes up the dust as she runs.

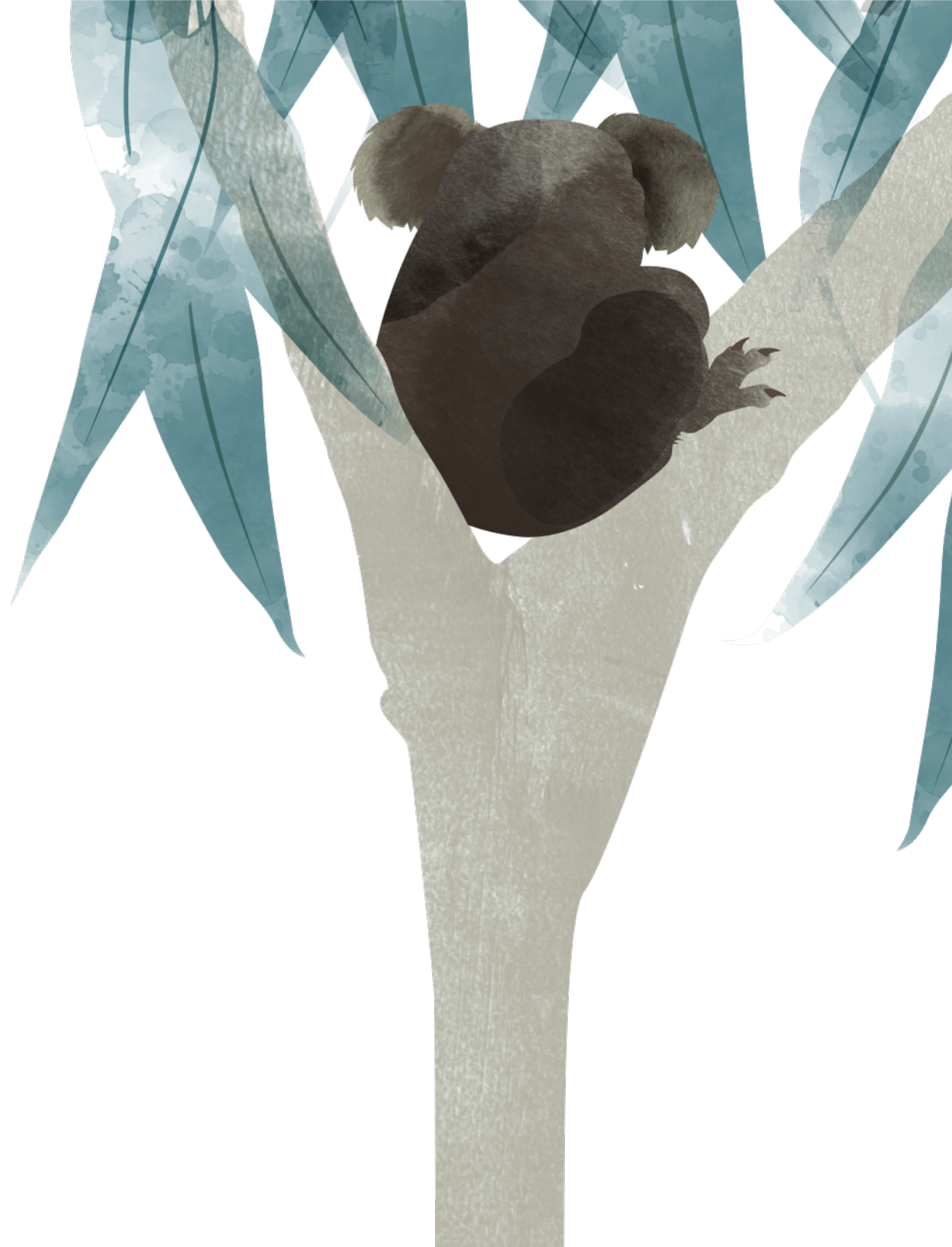
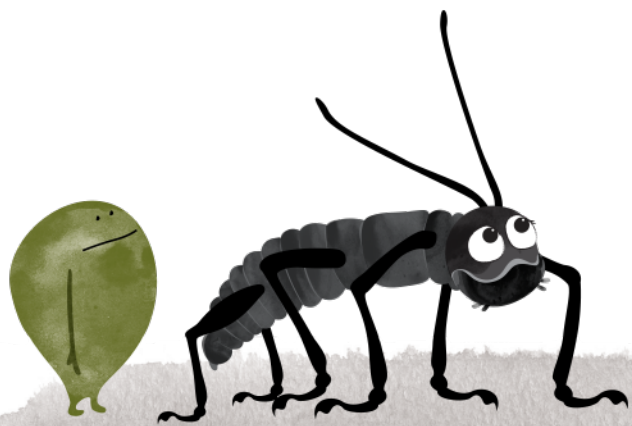
'We are not so different,'  
says Emu coughing.  
'They will love you too.'



Eve runs towards the trees and her thought gets a little smaller.



High above Eve, in the fork  
of a eucalypt tree, a ball  
of grey fur is making slow  
munching noises.



Koala looks down and asks  
with a mouth full of food,  
'You're different, what are you?'

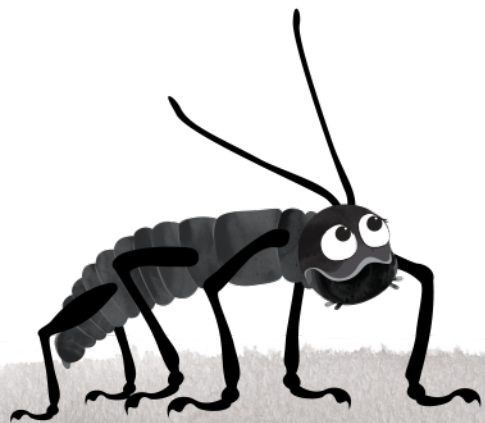
'I'm a Lord Howe Island Stick Insect,'  
answers Eve, 'and I want to know,  
when the people come to the  
Zoo will they come to visit you?'

'Of course!' says Koala.  
'They love me because I climb  
tall eucalypt trees, and sit all  
day chewing eucalypt leaves.'



'Look at that,'  
says the thought.

"SEE HOW  
DIFFERENT  
YOU ARE?"





'Climbing trees and eating leaves is what I do all night long,' answers Eve and she climbs to where Koala sits, leaving the thought waiting below.

'We are not so different,' says Koala. 'They will love you too.'



When Eve looks back down to the bottom of the ground the thought looks even smaller than before.




The thought is running after  
Eve as she is walking away.

'You're different, you are,  
and they won't visit you!'  
but the thought is so small  
all Eve hears is the trees.





An illustration of a giant ape's legs and feet. The ape is brown with a white patch on its chest. Its feet are large and dark brown with sharp claws. The background is a light, dusty ground with faint footprints. The text is positioned on the left side of the image.

Then a loud THUD makes  
the ground quiver as  
two gigantic feet land from  
the sky, and behind them  
Eve sees a trail of footprints  
stamped on the dust.

'Good morning,' Eve says to Kangaroo,  
'I'm Eve, the Lord Howe Island  
Stick Insect.'

'Never heard of one of those,'  
says Kangaroo.

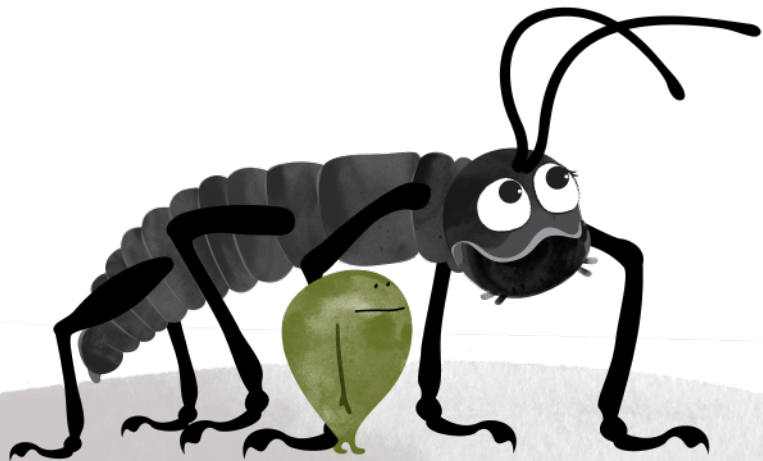
'You are different, aren't you?'

'Maybe a bit,' says Eve and  
she asks her question:

'When the Zoo opens and people  
come. Will they come to visit you?'

'Of course!' says Kangaroo.

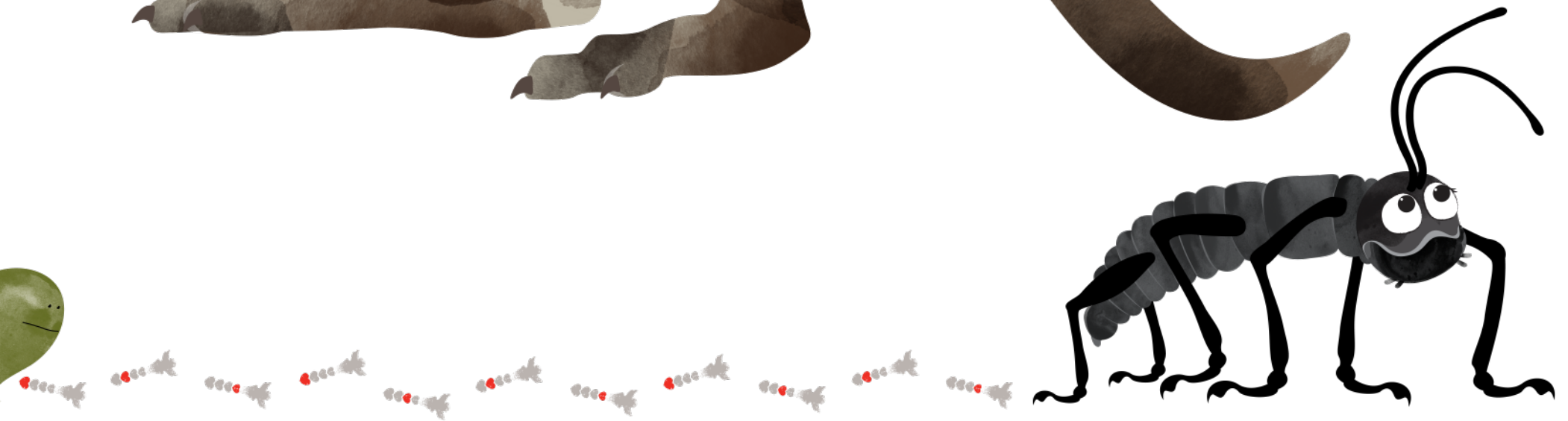
'They love me because I jump  
my way around and leave giant  
footprints on the ground.'





'My feet leave marks on the ground too,' says Eve, and she walks for Kangaroo, leaving small heart-shaped footprints behind her.

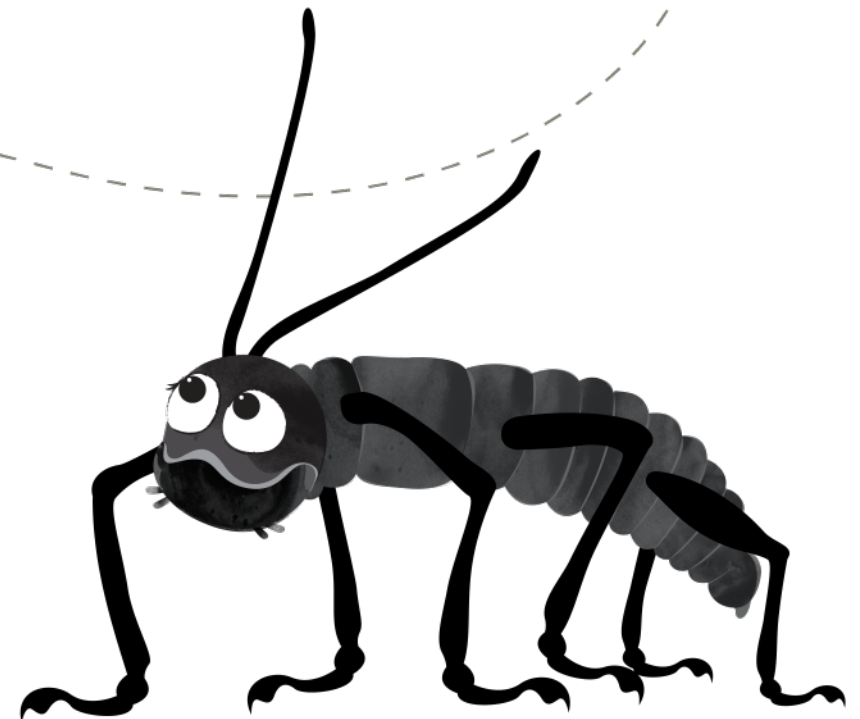
'We are not so different,' says Kangaroo with surprise. 'They will love you too.'



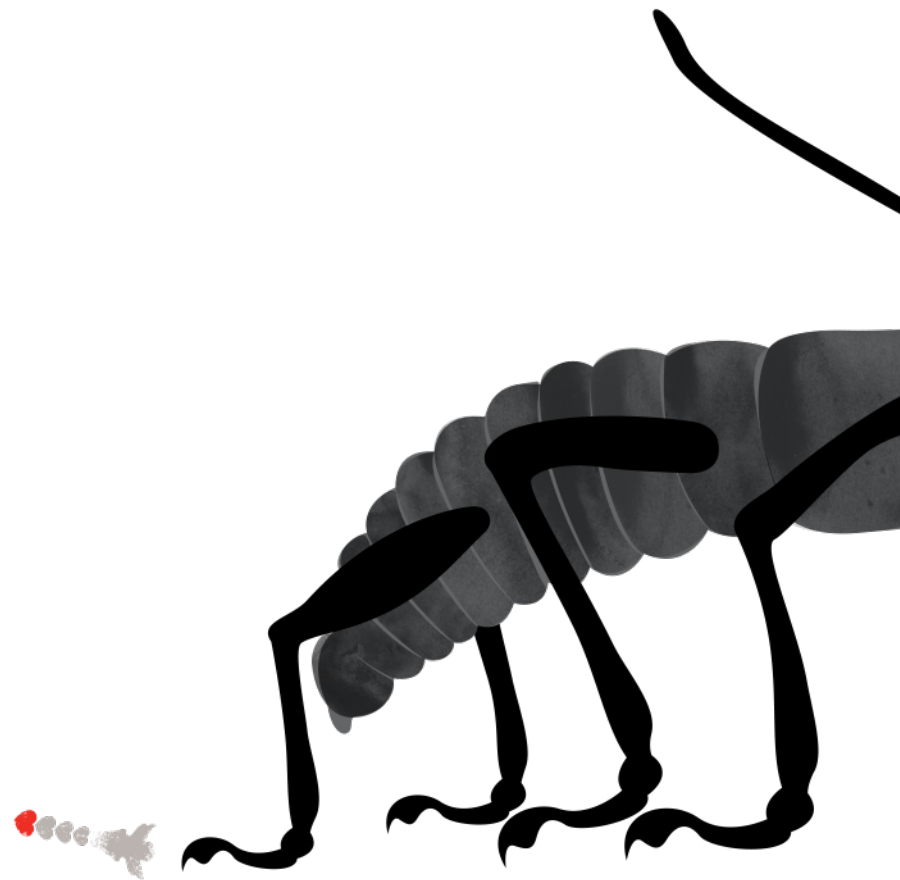


'I know,' smiles Eve, and  
what is left of the thought  
blows away on the wind,  
like a dandelion puff.

Eve's mind is quiet now,  
and tired in the best way.



She is walking back to her  
Lord Howe Island Stick Insect  
family, leaving a trail of hearts  
and knowing that love  
is just around the corner.



THE END



## EPILOGUE

Now that you have met Eve and know all about the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect, you can help Emu, Koala, and Kangaroo to tell others about the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect. Share Eve's story with your friends and family so that they will love her too.



## THANK YOU

We hope you enjoyed reading Eve's story as much as we enjoyed creating it. This lovable invertebrate would have been lost to the world long ago if not for the hard work of those advocating for its survival.

If you want to help fight the extinction of this insect and other critically endangered Australian species, visit Zoos Victoria's Love Your Locals website and share this book.

Thank you from all of us at Zoos Victoria.  
Love Your Locals: [zoo.org.au/loveyourlocals](http://zoo.org.au/loveyourlocals)  
Share the book: [zoo.org.au/lovable](http://zoo.org.au/lovable)

© Zoos Victoria 2016.  
This publication is copyright.  
No part may be reproduced  
by any process except in  
accordance with the provisions  
of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

written by Zoos Victoria  
illustrated by Tania Ennor