

“Swoosh!” a tall tree sways in the wind. In an airplane, my parents, my brother Wade and I fly in an airplane.

“Are we there yet?” I impatiently asked.

“Dad, if we’re hovering over a rainforest right now, how far away is the beach? I’m so bored. Mom said we’re almost there, but it feels like it’s taking a lifetime.”

“I don’t know, Ro, but I would really appreciate it if you would stop asking questions. You need to be patient with us, ok?,” my mom said. She sounded annoyed.

“Ok, we’re going to land,” said Dad. I looked out the window. There was a GIGANTIC body of water and a lot of sand space.

“Wow, that’s what we are going to be swimming in?!” I practically yelled.

“Yup,” Mom answered. “You’re getting this opportunity so don’t waste it. Got it?”

I nodded, looking in the mirror so she could see my gesture. We lowered down to the beach slowly.

“Something’s going wrong,” my Dad said. “The buttons are malfunctioning!”

I panicked. The plane spun in circles uncontrollably! Mom, Dad, my brother and I all started screaming! Then, everything went silent. All was still. But not for long...

BOOM!!!

“Ouch!” we all yelled in unison.

“What happened?!” my mom furiously asked my dad.

“I’m not sure. One second, we were about to land and everything was going smoothly. The next, the plane was spinning around because the buttons weren’t working!” my dad tried to explain.

“If you didn’t know how to fly an airplane, why are you the one driving?”

“Because in airplane school, they didn’t teach me what to do when the buttons aren’t working! I wanted to be the savior of the family!”

Wade picked up the Nintendo Switch and started playing Minecraft. We just crashed in an airplane, don’t know where we are and he’s playing video games. If he isn’t the laziest kid on earth, I don’t know who is.

“Wade, where’s our food?” I asked him. He didn’t say anything or look up.

“Wade??” I repeated. Nope. He was in his own world now.

“Mom??” I tried to interrupt. She kept on talking and yelling at Dad. “Dad??” neither of them even noticed me.

I opened the door and hopped out of the plane.

“MEOW!” A kitten emerged from a cave not too far away. It was reddish-orange with black stripes on it.

I gasped. I saw a baby tiger! A tiger cub!

I got on my hands and knees on the ground of the forest. I, very slowly, moved silently towards the kitten. He moved closer to me. I held my hand out and he gladly sniffed it.

I sat down on my bottom. He crawled into my lap. He had a part of his paw cut off.

“Aww, I’m so sorry, Buddy. Can I call you Buddy?” I asked him. He licked my hand. “I’ll take that as a yes.”

“ROWYN ELISE KOSLOSKI WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?!” my mom practically shook the forest down with her loud voice. My mom, dad and Wade ran over.

“I’m in the most beautiful place in the world,” I answered.

My mom squealed with excitement. “Is that a baby tiger???”

“Yep,” I answered. “I’m going to get some food for him. I named him Buddy.”

I got some food; raw fish and kitty kibble for him. I fed it to him. He licked everything up off of my fingers. “Ok, well, I have no signal on my phone,” said mom. “Me neither,” dad agreed. “How about you guys try to yell for help while I go and find Buddy’s mom tiger?” My parents nodded and Wade had already started yelling. I looked around. I saw a cave and saw something orange in it.

“Oh my gosh!” I said. “What, sweetie?” my mom asked. “Don’t freak out. But... There’s a gigantic tiger in that cave.” I said it super quickly so that maybe she couldn’t react as fast. She smiled. I smiled back.

“You guys try to get a signal or get help. I’ll try to bring Buddy back to his mama. Bye, wish me good luck.” “Good luck,” mom, dad and Wade all said in unison.

I walked closer to the cave, holding Buddy in my arms like he’s my most prized possession. “ROAAAARRRRRR!” I’m pretty sure that was Buddy’s mom. Buddy mewled weakly like he was the saddest he could ever be. “I’m sorry, Bud. I will get you to your mama.”

I slowly walked to the cave. With every step I took, more and more of the tiger came into view. I took a deep breath and got down on my knees.

The tiger was lying down on its side. I got so close to her that I could feel her breathing in my hand. I held out the top of my hand to her mouth and she licked it. “Wow. Tigers have big tongues,” I said, laughing. I let go of Buddy and set him right next to his mom.

I pet the big tiger’s fur, and thought about how lucky I was. If I hadn’t come back with Buddy, his mom would’ve ripped me apart. I’m glad I had Buddy. I thought about it for a while. I saved Buddy and Buddy saved me. “Thanks, dude,” I said to him.

A tear ran down my cheek. I had to let him go. “Rowyn!” my mom called. “In the cave!” I yelled back to her. Pretty soon, mom, dad and Wade all came into the cave with me. “I found Buddy’s mom.”

“Good job, Ro. I’m proud of you. Now you just gotta let him go. Can you do that?” my mom asked me with wonder. Mom, Dad and Wade all looked at me, just waiting for an answer. Another tear fell from my eyes.

“I don’t have a choice, do I?” I asked. “It’s not my decision, is it?” Mom shook her head at me. “That’s what I was afraid of.”

I picked Buddy up from her mom’s belly. I hugged him super tight, trying to savor every moment. I put him down and pet his mom. I started to walk away. He got up and ran in front of me. He tugged at my pants and mewled softly up at me.

“I’m sorry, Buddy. I have to go. You have your mom now. She’ll take care of you.”

I ran all the way back to the plane. I didn’t want anyone to see how hard I was sobbing. “Rowyn!” my mom called. I kept running. I ran until I saw a village. I stopped. I looked around. “Where am I?” I curled up around my knees. “I’m going to need a miracle.”

I wandered into the village. There was a bakery, a library, and some houses. There were people everywhere. “AAAH!” I yelled. Someone had sneaked up behind me.

“Oh, it’s you,” I said, realizing it was mom, dad and Wade. “Where are we?” Wade asked. “I’m not sure. I just kept running and I ran into it. I think it’s a village,” I answered.

Dad walked up to a young couple. “Excuse me,” he said, trying to get their attention. They stopped talking and looked at us. “Hi, I’m Chip. This is my wife, Courtney. My son, Wade, and my daughter, Rowyn. We were wondering if you know if there’s a method of transportation in this village?”

“Hello, you must be new here. I’m Bob, and this is Helen. There’s an airport down that alley. Once you pass through there, take two rights,” the man spoke.

“Alright, thanks,” said my dad.

“No problem,” the man continued. They walked away.

“Let’s go get our luggage,” said my mom, already walking away. We followed behind her. I tried to remember which way our plane crashed. I ran in the lead of everyone and got there first. I grabbed as much as I could and carried it back to the village on a bench.

Once we had everything, we took a break and sat down on the ground. I sighed loudly. “I’m so tired,” I said. “Same,” said mom, dad and Wade in unison.

About ten minutes later, we had our energy charged. We picked up our luggage and followed Bob’s directions from earlier. We went through the alley, took two rights, then we were directly in front of the airport. We walked in through the door. The fresh air hit me. It felt as good as running through the sprinklers on a hot, summer day.

We sat down. This time, there was an actual pilot. Thank goodness. I don’t want to crash again.

We closed the doors, buckled our seatbelts and I stuffed my hand into a fruit bowl. I was starving.

“ROARRRRR!”

All of a sudden, I heard an animal roar. Then, I heard a little roar.

“Buddy and his mom!” I exclaimed. “I have to save them. They’re in danger.”

“Rowyn, no,” my mom said. “This isn’t our battle to fight. If you leave this plane, you are grounded.”

“Knowing that Buddy dies is far worse than any other punishment. I have to go.”

I unlocked and opened the doors, ran as fast as I could and what I saw blew my mind. A male lion was trying to get to Buddy but his mom was trying to protect him. I was so scared, my body and brain froze.

His mom was in front of Buddy, trying to protect him. I slowly walked around the male lion and behind Buddy’s mom. I grabbed Buddy and held him in my arms. I carried him back into the cave and held onto him still.

Buddy and I watched his mom and the male lion go at each other. They scratched each other, bit each other and tackled each other to the ground. It looked like when my brother and cousin pretended to tackle each other, except bloodier and gutsier.

I was so scared, I could hear my own hollow breathing. Buddy kept on quietly mewling and tried to escape from my arms, but I didn’t let him. He wanted to help his mom fight the male lion. I sat down and tightened my grasp on him.

Buddy's mom had the male lion pinned to the ground. She was winning the battle. She had confidence and pride. She was just about to assert her dominance (meaning roaring in his face,) when...

The male lion clawed her face and ran away as fast as he could. Once he had left the area, I let Buddy go to congratulate his mom. He ran to her and rubbed up in her chest as if to give her a big hug. I walked to them. Buddy's mom came up to me, as if to say 'thank you'. I pet her head and bent down to pet Buddy.

My mom, dad and Wade came running over to me. "Rowyn Elise Kosloski," mom said. I gasped. She only uses my full name when she's super duper mad. "Uh-huh," I said. "I know, I know. I accept my fate. Bring on the two weeks of grounding."

"Oh, no way," she replied with a smirk on her face.

"You said you accept your fate, right? Well, then that means accepting three months of being grounded. Your words, not mine." I sighed and nodded.

"What had even happened that was worse than disrespecting your parents?" dad asked me, as if that was a punishment. "Buddy's mom was fighting a male lion and Buddy could have gotten killed. I saved him. I could've gone back home without a care in the world, without a punishment, or I could save two tigers. Do you know me?" I said sarcastically.

Wade said, "I don't have a punishment though, right?" I shook my head and so did my parents. I smiled and gave him a hug. He hugged me back. I picked up Buddy and hugged him. He licked my hand. I pet his mom then put Buddy down. I started walking back to the village where the airport is so we could finally go home.

We walked back to the village, went through the alley, and took two rights, then we were right in front of the plane. "Take two, let's go," Wade said. We walked into the plane and closed all the doors. "Let's go home," I said. "This was enough excitement for me." Mom, dad and Wade nodded in agreement. I fell asleep on the ride home.

"Rowyn, get up," said mom. I was at home in bed. I looked at my clock. It was 3:00 in the afternoon. "Oh my gosh," I said. "I was so knocked out after that vacation." "What vacation? We didn't go on a vacation," she said. "Spring break but no vacation." She walked out of my room and closed the door.

It was all a dream...

About the author

The author's name is Rowyn E. Kosloski. She was born on May 6th, 2014. She was almost ten when she made this book in 4th grade. Her favorite foods are mac 'n' cheese and tombstone pizza. She has a female American Shorthair cat named Rooney. Her brother has a male bearded dragon lizard named Pepper. She enjoys writing books and songs, going to school, watching volleyball games at the Breslin Center, swimming at the pool/ beach and hanging out with her friends and family. Her favorite colors are purple and dark blue, her favorite animals are sea otters and Fennec foxes and her favorite subjects in school are math and writing. This is her first actual typed book and she is very proud of it.