



A Story By Green Group Simonstown

SMARTY MARTY

Martello: The Wise
King Baboon



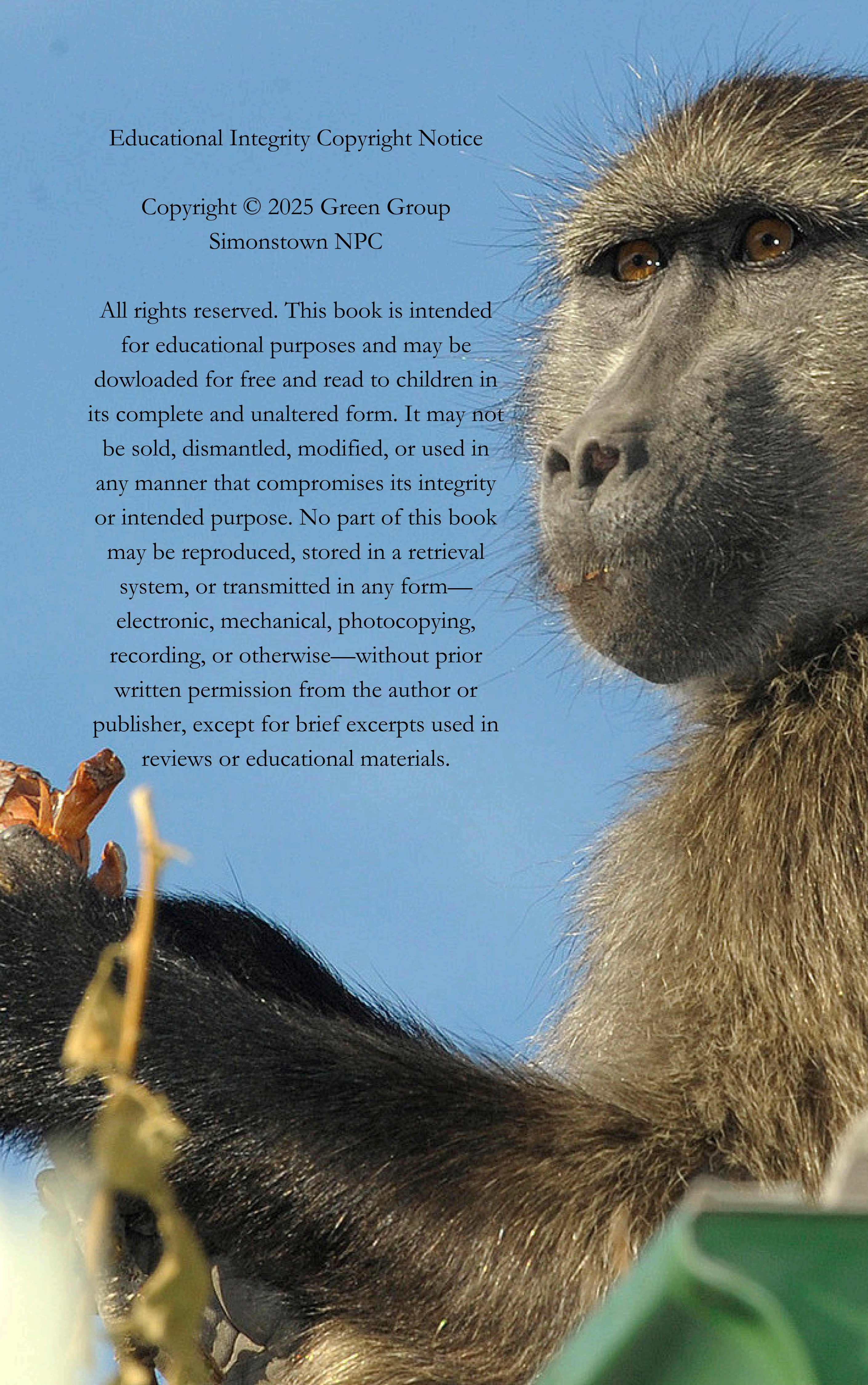


This is the real Martello with his babies, Siya and Noma

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Simonstown NPC

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This book is dedicated to Khanyiso, Noma, Simphiwe, and Vincent—Green Group’s caring and compassionate baboon monitors. With great dedication, they have worked to protect Martello and his family from dangers in the surroundings of Simon’s Town, a special place on the Cape Peninsula of South Africa.

On the tip of Africa, where the majestic Table Mountain National Park meets the vast Ocean, lived Martello, the wise and strong King Baboon. “I want to live!” He often declared, while watching over his family.



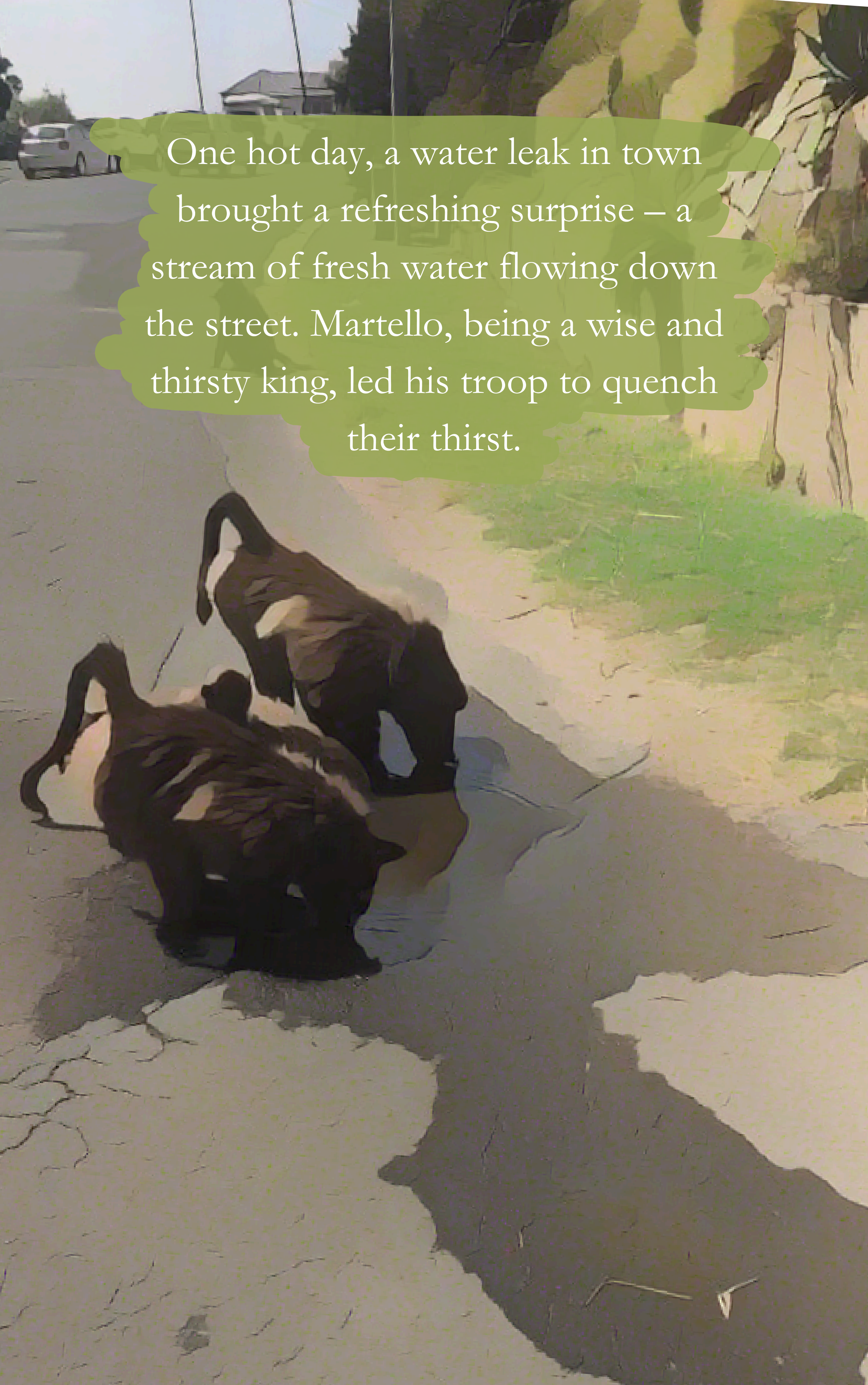
Martello ruled with
kindness and wisdom over
his family and troop on the
beautiful Cape Peninsula
of South Africa.



A stylized illustration of a baboon standing on a light-colored rock. The baboon is facing left, looking at a large, dense green plant with many small, rounded leaves. The background is a clear blue sky. The baboon has a brown body and a lighter brown face with a dark eye.

The baboons spent most of their time on the mountain or at the beach, foraging on delicious limpets, mussels, berries, flowers and roots, disperising seeds, and helping plants mutiply and grow. They play a vital role in keeping ecosyetem balanced, allowing animals to thrive.

One hot day, a water leak in town brought a refreshing surprise – a stream of fresh water flowing down the street. Martello, being a wise and thirsty king, led his troop to quench their thirst.



But, as they drank, a careless human shouted, "Go away! Shoo!" Martello, knowing he wasn't causing harm, stood his ground. After all, baboons need water too! "I want to live!" Martello cried, but the human's anger turned to violence. He hurt Martello. The King's troop gasped in shock. Martello cried out in pain, clutching his wounded foot.

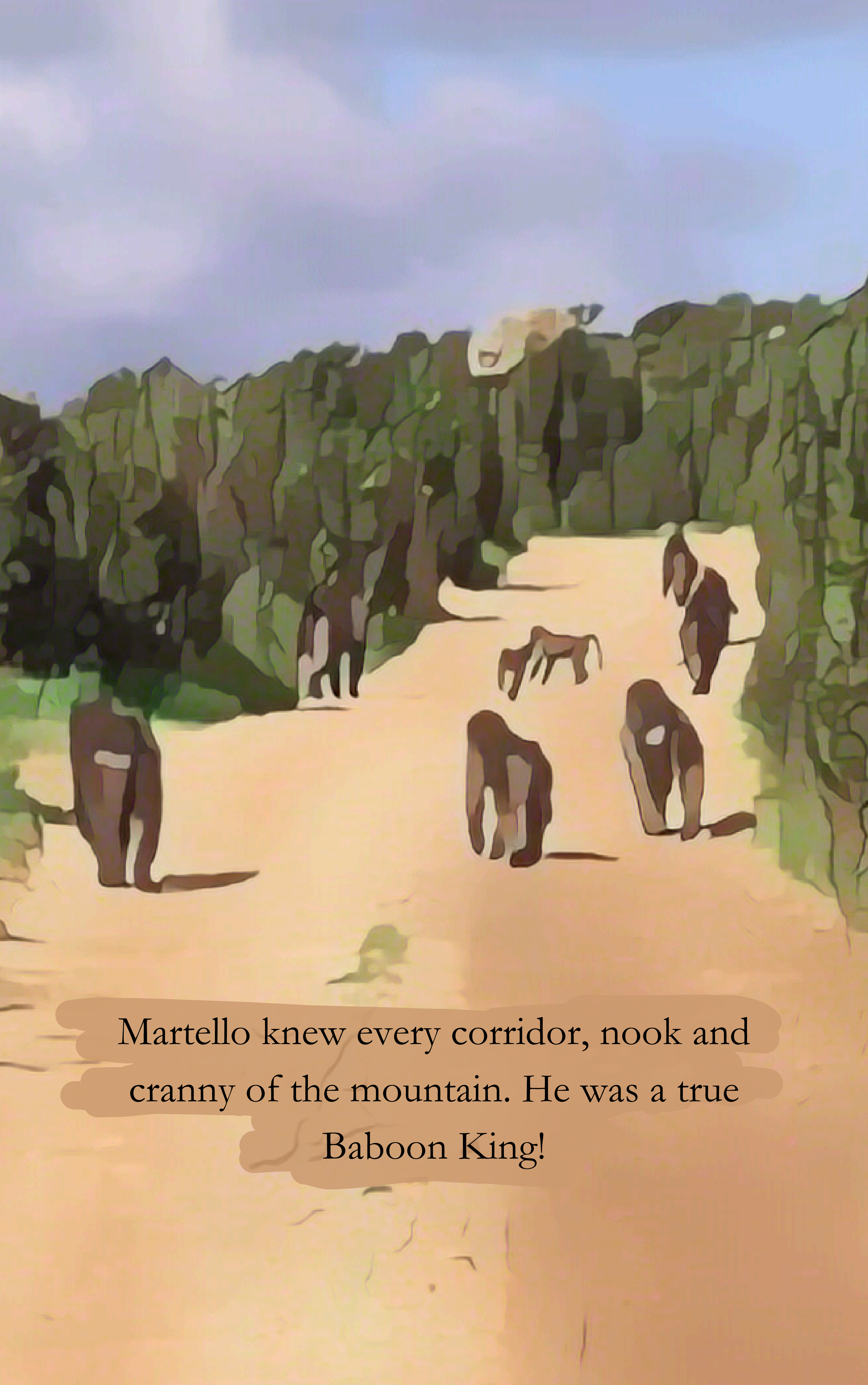


But Martello was not
only a brave king, he
was also a clever
medicinal doctor. He
used some special
leaves to heal his foot.



Then, an abandoned barbeque started a wildfire on the mountain. Oh no! Martello sprang into action, saving his family with his wise and quick thinking.







Martello knew every corridor, nook and
cranny of the mountain. He was a true
Baboon King!

But danger lurked around every corner. One day, Martello's daughter Kabili was caught in a snare. She was hurt and scared. “I want to live!” She cried out.



An illustration of a tiger and a lioness in a savanna setting. The tiger is on the right, looking down at a wire snare trap on the ground. The lioness is on the left, looking towards the tiger. The trap consists of a coiled wire with a trigger mechanism. The background shows a rocky, hilly landscape under a bright sky.


Martello quickly came to her
rescue, carefully freeing
Kabili from the snare.



Martello's family was forever grateful. "You're the best Baboon King in the whole wide world!" they cheered.

But Martello worried about the
safety of his family. The
mountain was becoming a
dangerous place. Maybe it was
time to consider moving to the
nearby beach?



A person in a military uniform, including a helmet and a vest, is holding a brown bag. The bag features a black silhouette of a person running. The background is a dry, rocky landscape with some sparse vegetation.

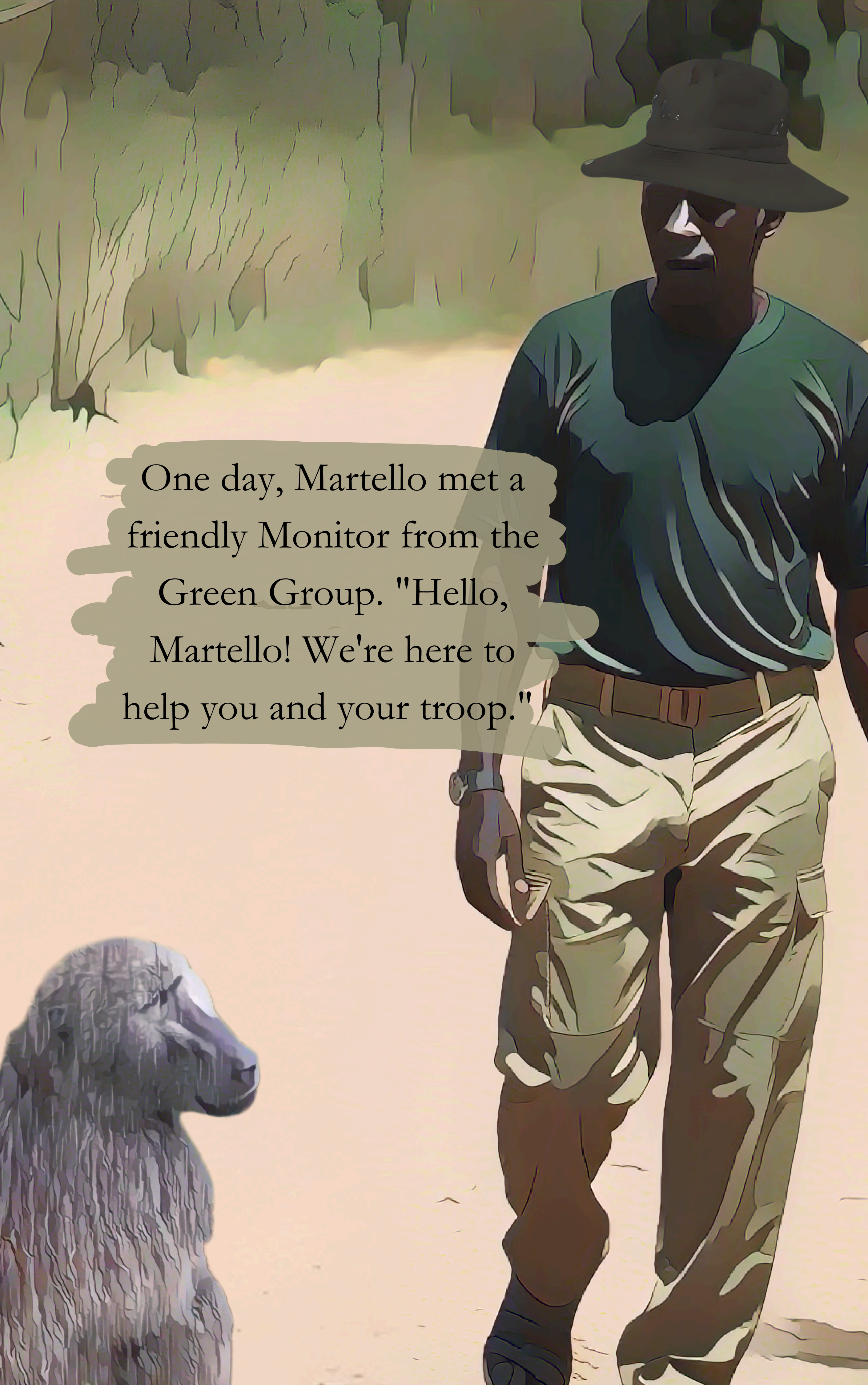
Just then, the Management arrived with paintballs. "Go away, Martello!" They shouted. Martello alerted his family. "Incoming paintballs! Duck and cover!" He barked. "We want to live!" They shouted, as they fled back to the mountain.



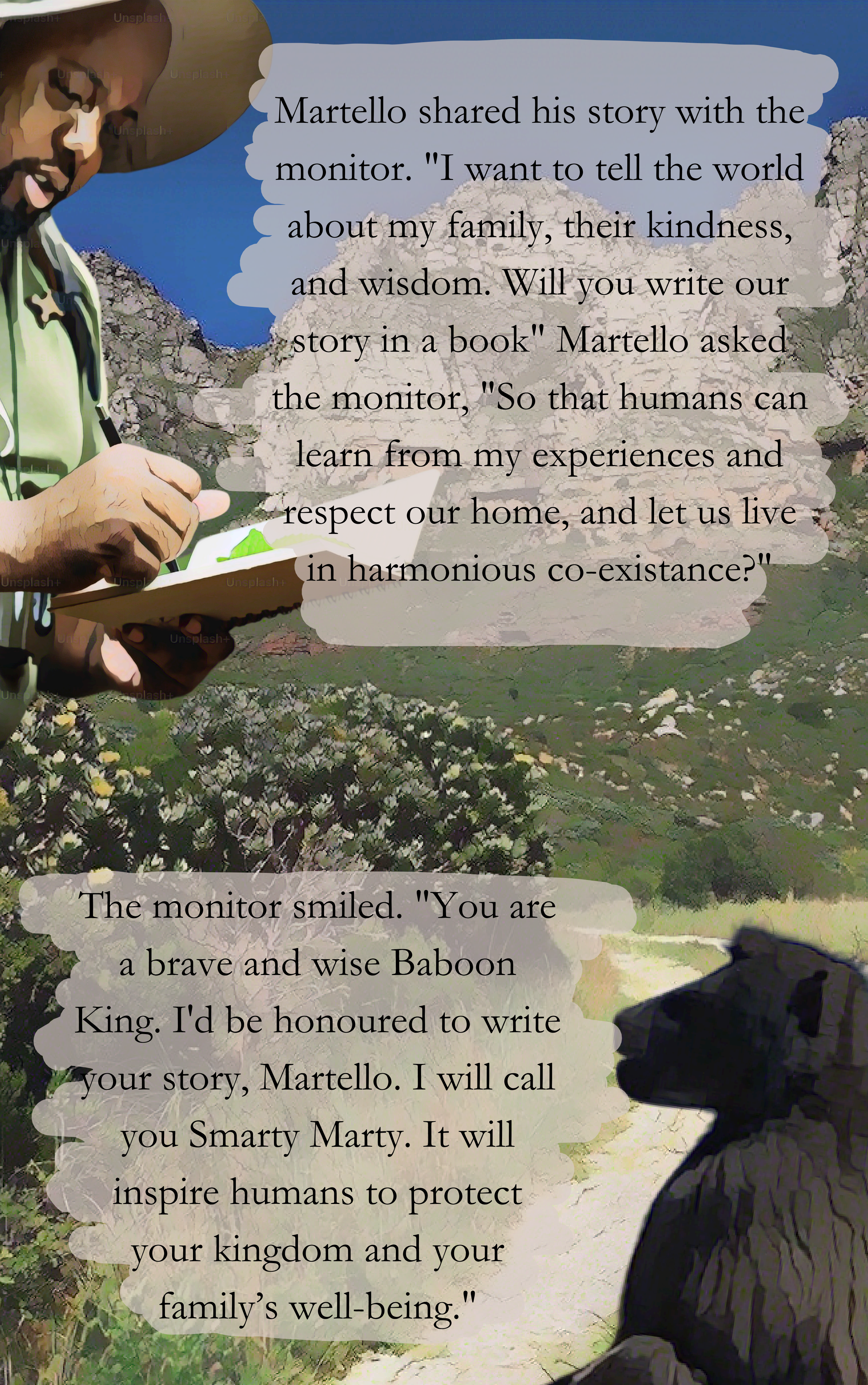


Martello knew that humans were making his reign unsafe. They set snares, started fires, and shot paintballs! It's not fair! "I want to live! I want my family to live!" He declared.

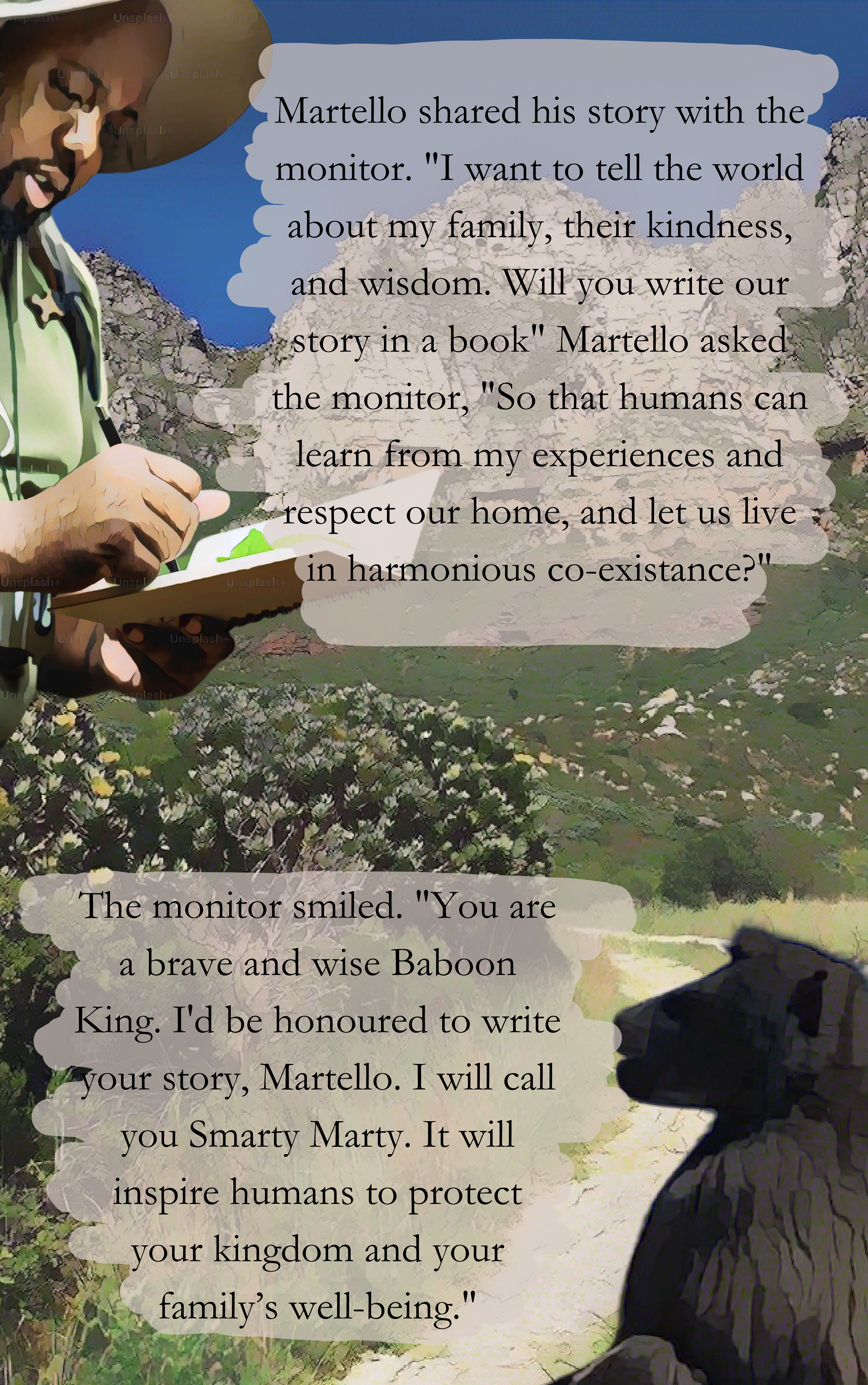


A man wearing a black bucket hat, sunglasses, a green t-shirt, and tan cargo pants is walking in a desert. He is looking down at a small, fluffy, grey llama that is looking up at him. The background shows a large, textured rock formation under a bright sky.

One day, Martello met a friendly Monitor from the Green Group. "Hello, Martello! We're here to help you and your troop."

A baboon wearing a green long-sleeved shirt and a brown hat is shown from the chest up, holding a black pen and writing in a white notebook. The background is a rocky, hilly landscape with green vegetation under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent, cloud-like shape.

Martello shared his story with the monitor. "I want to tell the world about my family, their kindness, and wisdom. Will you write our story in a book" Martello asked the monitor, "So that humans can learn from my experiences and respect our home, and let us live in harmonious co-existence?"

A baboon is shown from the chest up, looking upwards towards a rocky cliff. The background is a rocky, hilly landscape with green vegetation under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent, cloud-like shape.

The monitor smiled. "You are a brave and wise Baboon King. I'd be honoured to write your story, Martello. I will call you Smarty Marty. It will inspire humans to protect your kingdom and your family's well-being."



The book the monitor wrote about Martello's story spread far and wide. It raised awareness about the importance of protecting the Table Mountain's Range and its inhabitants. "I want to live!" Their words echoed in every reader's heart.



Inspired by Martello's story, the people decided to take action. They planted new trees, removed snares, and protected the mountain from harm.



From that moment on, Martello's reign was fully restored, and his well-being, along with that of his family and troop, was finally granted. “We want to Live!” His troop chattered happily. The Seaforth Troop lived on the mountain and natural coastal range happily ever after.

The End.

Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to bringing this story to life. To the dedicated Green Group Simonstown's monitors who have worked tirelessly to protect baboons of the Cape Peninsula of South Africa.

Special gratitude to the community of Simon's Town for sharing their experiences and contributing to the efforts to protect the well-being and the life of Chacma baboons.

Dear Young Explorer/s,

This book is a special story about inspired by real events and a very real and wise King Baboon named Martello.

He is a strong and smart leader who takes care of his baboon family in a true place called Simon's Town, in South Africa.

Baboons are majestic animals! Some people think they are a bit naughty, but they are just intelligent and looking for food and a safe home—just like us! But as towns and cities grow bigger, it becomes harder for baboons to find food and water in the wild.

One big problem is human food. Baboons love yummy smells, just like we do! But if they eat human food, it can be bad for them. That's why we must keep our food and trash safe so baboons don't get into trouble.

Another danger for baboons is fire. Baboons sleep in trees and on rocks, but when fires burn their home in the wild, they have to go into towns to find a new place to live. That can be scary for them!

You can help baboons by telling others to:

- 1) keep food away from them and
- 2) be careful with fire.



Baboons have a great sense of smell and are attracted by any food scents. If you care about them and want to keep them safe, always make sure your rubbish bin is properly closed and locked. That way, they won't be tempted and can keep walking to find delicious flowers that are much healthier for them to eat. After all, you also wouldn't want to eat garbage, would you?





For more information, visit
greengroupsimonstown.org

Photo Credit:
Bonita Franklin, Joyrene Kramer &
our 4 committed baboon monitors

Join Martello on his incredible journey and discover the challenges baboons face in a world shared with humans. As you read his story, remember—you have the power to help protect these intelligent and social animals.

