

# **Saved by Nature**

## **By: Anish Rangarajan**

"DRINGGGGGG! DRINGGGGGG!" The annoying alarm repeatedly rang. Mason woke up reluctantly and immediately checked the family calendar. He looked at today's date and saw a big red circle that said Safari Family Trip. How could he forget, today is the big family Safari trip that we've planned for months! I quickly rushed out of bed and got ready as soon as possible. Mason's eager self stood at the doorstep hurrying his family up as promptly as possible. After the exhausting car ride, they finally arrived at the humid savannah. They met the empathetic tour guide who was anxious to start the tour. The tour guide gave him a compass, a water bottle, and a rock bracelet. After waiting in line, they finally got into the Safari Minibus and began a long journey.

Once they started heading north Mason realized the true beauty of a Savannah. Animal after animal, it was fascinating to see their behavior in the wild. After some time, the tour guide decided to take a break at a rest stop. As he waited in line to use the restroom, there was a loud growl. Once Mason finished using the restroom and exited the facility the minibus was nowhere to be found. His family members and tour guide also mysteriously vanished. After resting at the stop for any family member to come back no one was to be found. There was no one at the stop and no tour guides near. Mason remembered talking with the tour guide and that the trip was to head north.

He looked at the compass and slowly started walking north. On the way, growls were growing louder and louder. In the distance, mountain lions were grouping up and playing with each other. Mason moved carefully trying not to make a single noise and stepped on a small stick. The mountain lions paused what they were doing and immediately disappeared. Hiding behind the moss-covered bark of the tree there was steady breathing beside Mason's ear. He slowly turns and sees a bold, grimacing face staring into his soul. Mason froze, arm hairs slowly growing and a body slowly getting goosebumps. Mason slowly backed away from the brazen mountain lion until he started hearing repeatedly loud thumps. The sand immediately scattered everywhere getting stuck in his eye. As soon as Mason cleared his eye from the dust particles, He saw a gigantic elephant that speared the mountain lion with its massive tusks. As soon as he saw the lifeless mountain lion, drops of sweat flew down his face.

As Mason ran, he found the minibus and ran into his mom's arms. He told her his haunting experience about the elephant saving him from the mountain lion and she told him something he would never forget. Then, Mason's mom said, "Regardless of the evil and unpleasant things in this world, there is always beauty and tranquility that brings balance to the world."