

The Monkey flower



Prakash Poudel

© 2023 Prakash Poudel/ Greenhood Nepal
Kathmandu, Nepal
Telephone: +977 9841272589, Email: prakash@greenhood.org

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be produced in any forms without the permission of copyright owners.

'This storybook is published through the generous support of the San Diego County Orchid Society. Their dedication to promote interest on orchid conservation in the wild has been instrumental in the creation of this tale.

Design and Layout: Sanjay Paudel and Prakash Poudel



'Kuhu', 'Kuhu'!

A Koel bird was singing melodiously while Bidhya was returning to her home from the school.

Her eyes scanned the branches of some giant trees in search of Koel. To her surprise, she saw something strange growing on a nearby stone.

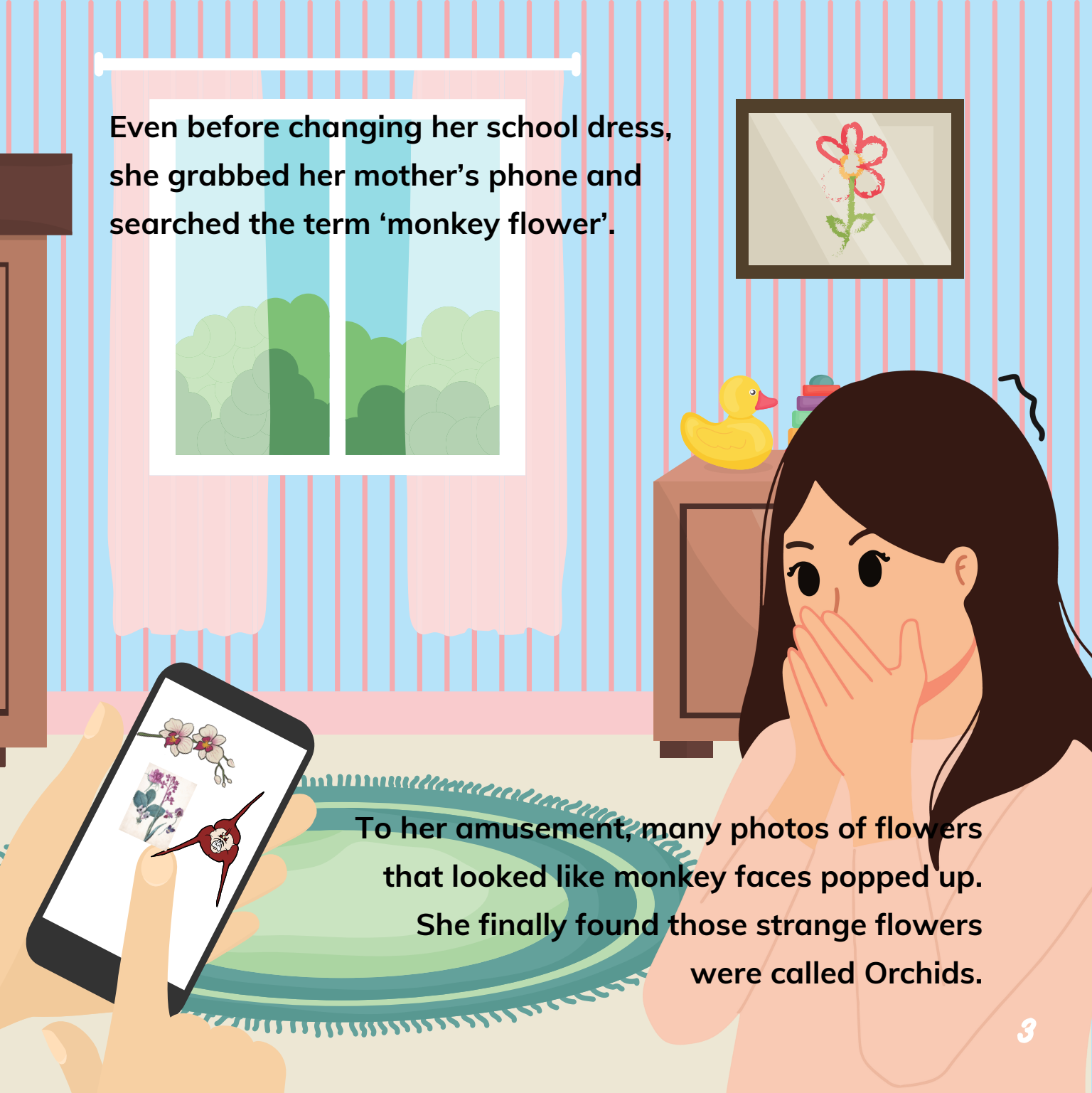
Oh no! Baby monkeys! She screamed.



Bidhya was a bit scared at first, but then she realized that it was a tiny, bright and colorful flower resembling to the monkeyface.



With a lot of curiosity, she ran faster towards her home.

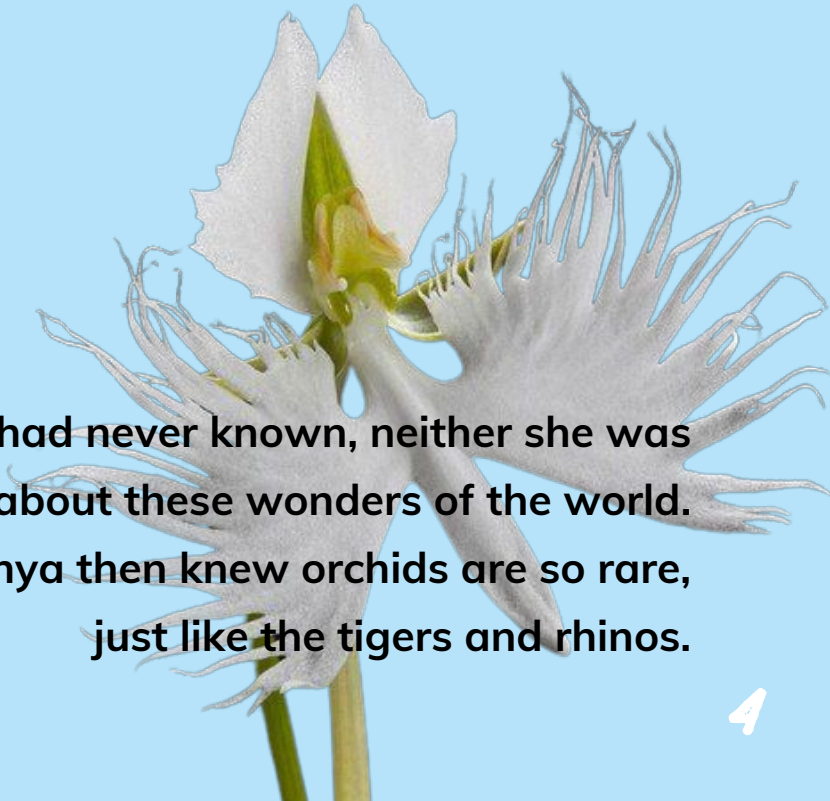
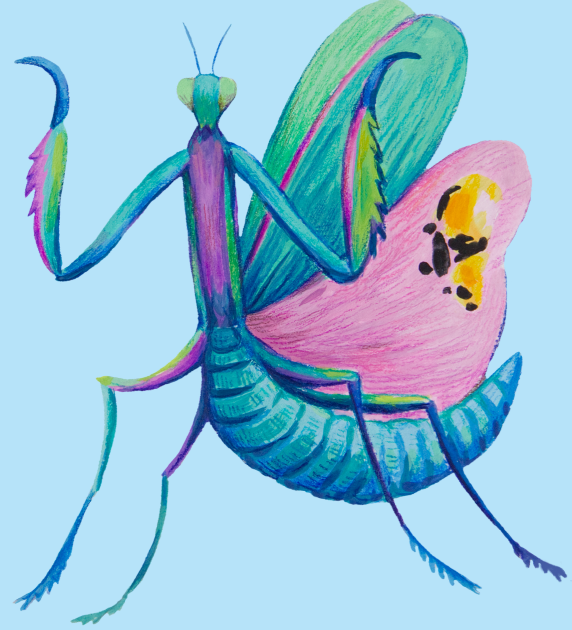


Even before changing her school dress, she grabbed her mother's phone and searched the term 'monkey flower'.

To her amusement, many photos of flowers that looked like monkey faces popped up. She finally found those strange flowers were called Orchids.

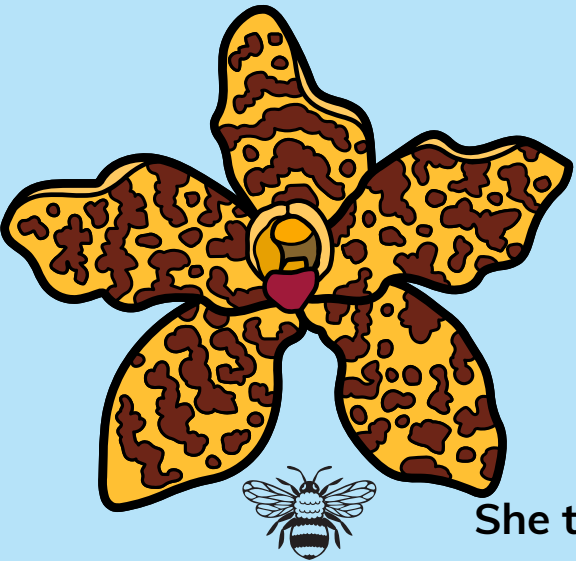


Bidhya loved to explore different orchids, and she randomly looked for some other species resembling to animals.

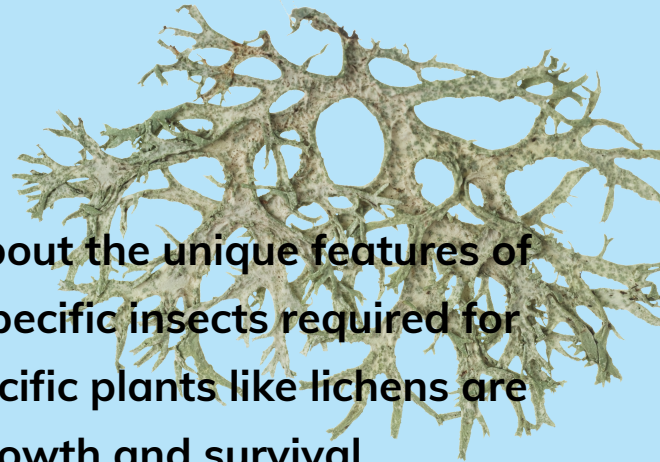


She had never known, neither she was told about these wonders of the world. Bidhya then knew orchids are so rare, just like the tigers and rhinos.

She also knew that orchids were used worldwide as 'garden plants' and many of them are used as medicines to different diseases.



She then learned about the unique features of orchids, including specific insects required for pollination, and specific plants like lichens are required for their growth and survival.

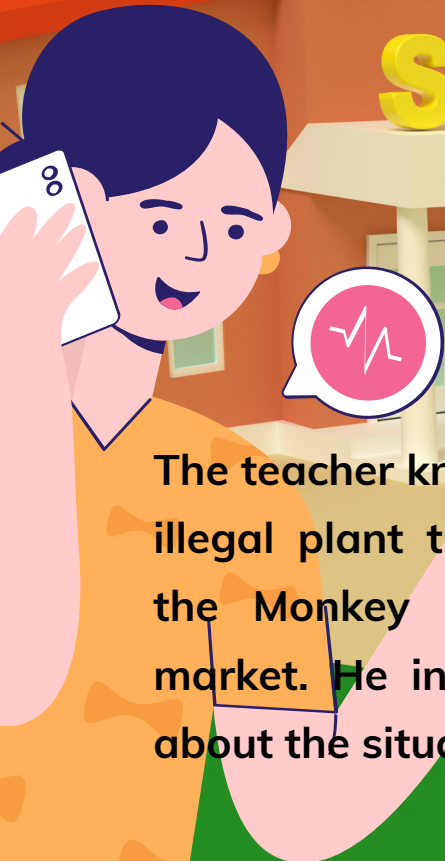


Even if they had so much benefits to people and nature, they were illegally collected and traded for money.

Some days later, Bidhya saw two strangers in the jungle while going to her school. They had big sacks and were collecting plants, including the Monkey Orchids. Bidhya felt something was not right.



Bidhya knew she has to do something. She rushed to her school and told everything to her science teacher.



School



The teacher knew that those people were the illegal plant traders, and they were taking the Monkey orchids to sell in a nearby market. He instantly informed the villagers about the situation.



The villagers decided to stop those strangers and opened the sack. Inside, there were a lot of beautiful flowers and plants.

Bidhya was called and asked to explain what those flowers were. After hearing from her, the strangers felt bad for what they had collected.



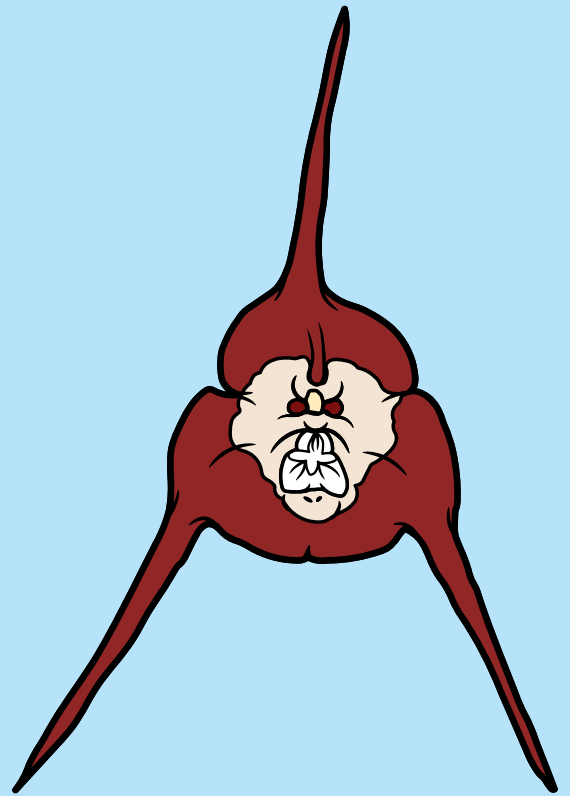
Villagers then went back to the jungle and with everyone's help, some of the orchids were again restored in the branches. Everyone were happy for their brave and intelligent little friend Bidhya.





The Monkey Orchids, now safe and sound, bloomed beautifully. The village named them "Bidhya's Monkey Orchids" to remember their little hero.

Bidhya felt proud, standing among the flowers she saved. The story of Bidhya's Monkey Orchid became a favorite tale in the village.



Greenhood Nepal is a science-driven, non-profit conservation organisation focused on the human dimensions of nature conservation. We bring together government agencies, NGOs, scientists, lawyers, students, local communities, and decision-makers to secure a future for wildlife and people. This storybook was prepared with the support from San Diego County Orchid Society.

