

MIMI AND THE DANGER

Mimi was walking along, walking along, when suddenly a danger happened.

Mimi was a small dog. Mimi was a small, fluffy dog and nobody expected her to be brave. Mimi was the kind of dog who had a pink collar and was brushed every day. But, in her heart, she was brave as a lion.

Mimi was the dog-friend of Khwezi and Khwezi loved Mimi.

Mimi didn't just love Khwezi – she *adored* her! Mimi went everywhere Khwezi went – and all the time, she watched out for dangers.

Dangers happened when they were taking a short-cut to Khwezi's grandmother's house. They were not supposed to be taking that path at all. It was NOT allowed.

'You must always walk on the road,' Khwezi's Mom always said. 'You must NEVER take the path through the woods!'

But Khwezi was a girl who knew better. She just **KNEW** there were no dangers in the woods. Mimi was not so sure. She looked out for dangers everywhere, and you never knew when one would come along.

They had only been walking for a little time when Mimi spotted the first danger. It was quite a small danger, but it had very sharp teeth. Khwezi didn't see the small danger with very sharp teeth. She was trying out a new dance step along the path.

Mimi put on her most fierce and dangerous face. She thought very hard about a BIG bark, and one came rushing up from her paws and out of her mouth.

'Ker-woooooooooof-yip!'

'Ker-woooooooooof-yip!'

The small danger with sharp teeth looked surprised that anyone would bark at it.

'Grrrrrr,' it said to Mimi before it turned and strolled back into the forest.

The next danger was worse. It didn't have sharp teeth, but it did have a forked tongue that flicked in and out, in and out. Its eyes were small and shining. It coiled round a branch of a tree and just looked at Mimi.

'Ker-woooooooooof-yip!'

'Ker-woooooooooof-yip!'

The snake uncoiled itself from its branch.

'Sss!' it said.

Then it slipped slowly from its branch and slid away into the forest.

Mimi was getting quite tired. This walking through the forest was a very bad idea. Her feet dragged in the dust. Her head was down.

But she was wide awake when the next danger appeared.

It was about as tall as a tall man standing on another tall man's shoulders. It was as wide as ten fashion models standing still. It was purple and gold and fire came out of its mouth when it saw Mimi.

'Gaaaaaaar-whoooooooooooooooooooooooooosh!' it said.

Mimi's little heart was beating very fast. She was frightened. She looked ahead to see what Khwezi was doing, but Khwezi was humming a little song and not looking for Mimi at all.

Mimi took a deep, deep breath and barked.

'Ker-woooooooooof-yip!'

'Ker-woooooooooof-yip!'

The dragon looked surprised. (People that tall and that wide don't expect to be barked at by little fluffy dogs.)

'Gaaaaaaar-whoooooooooooooooooooooooooosh!' it said again.

Mimi didn't know what to do. But the dragon looked kindly at the little dog (dragons can look kind if they want to) and slinked off into the forest.

Mimi was hardly able to walk, she was not just tired, she was double-tired and still Khwezi danced along the path as if there was nothing in the world to worry about.

Plod, plod, plod, plod, Mimi kept on down the path. She wasn't really surprised when a *huge* hairy ape swung down from a tree. It was the size of three tall men standing on the shoulders of three tall men and it wasn't thin at all, like ten fashion models. It was FAT!

'Hoooooof-a-hooooof-a-hoooooof?' it said (and it seemed to be asking a question.

Mimi thought she had to be brave, just one more time.

'Ker-wooooooof-yip!'

'Ker-wooooooof-yip!'

The giant ape was puzzled.

'Hoooooof-a-hooooof-a-hoooooof?' it said. (And again it seemed to be a question.)

Mimi thought she could be strong enough for one more bark.

'Ker-wooooooof-yip!'

'Ker-wooooooof-yip!'

Maybe that was the right answer? The great ape swung back into his tree. Khwezi was safe! (Khwezi was chasing a butterfly and hadn't even seen the great ape.)

Mimi was done. Mimi was finished. Mimi lay down on the path and put her paws over her eyes.

A small, small dung beetle stopped what it was doing (rolling dung about) and looked at Mimi.

'sppppppp?' It said (very quietly).

'Ker-wooooooof-yip!' Mimi whispered.

There were footsteps! Khwezi was coming back to see where Mimi was.

'Shame,' she said. 'Is little Mimi frightened of the little beetle?' She picked Mimi up and carried on dancing down the sunlit path.

It was then that Mimi saw the biggest danger of all. The other things had been frightening. This was REALLY frightening. This was BAD NEWS! This was not going to end well!

THIS was Khwezi's grandmother stomping down the path and she was NOT pleased.

'KHWEZI!' said Big-Danger-Grandmother. 'WHAT are you doing on this path!'

Mimi put her head down and kept VERY quiet