

SAFIYA'S SECRETS 8

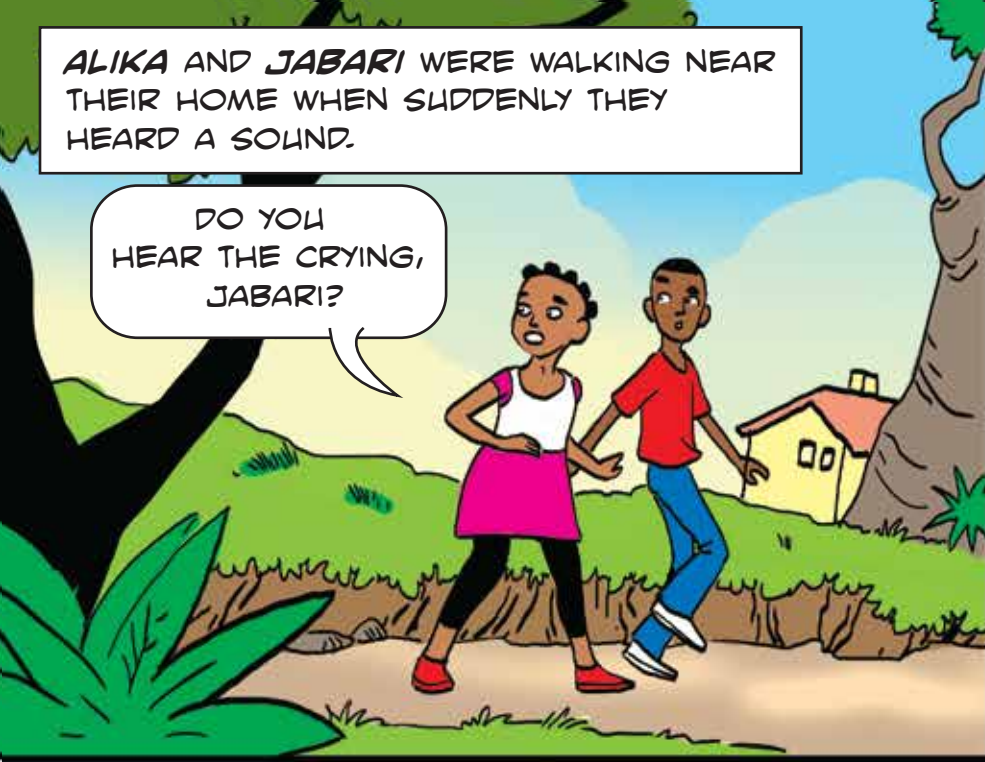


NOT FOR SALE

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

ALIKA AND JABARI WERE WALKING NEAR THEIR HOME WHEN SUDDENLY THEY HEARD A SOUND.

DO YOU HEAR THE CRYING, JABARI?



HELLO?
IS ANYONE
THERE?

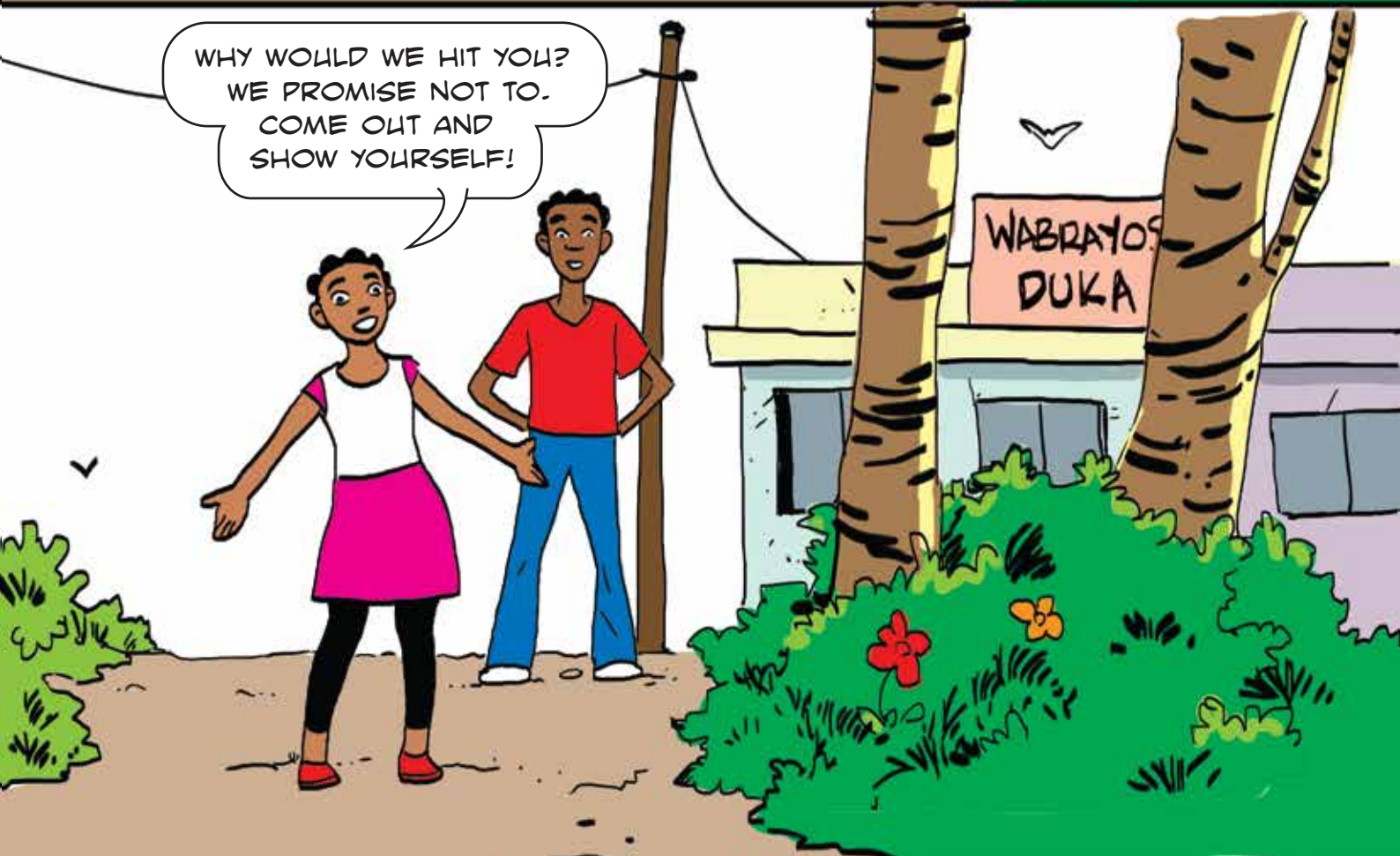


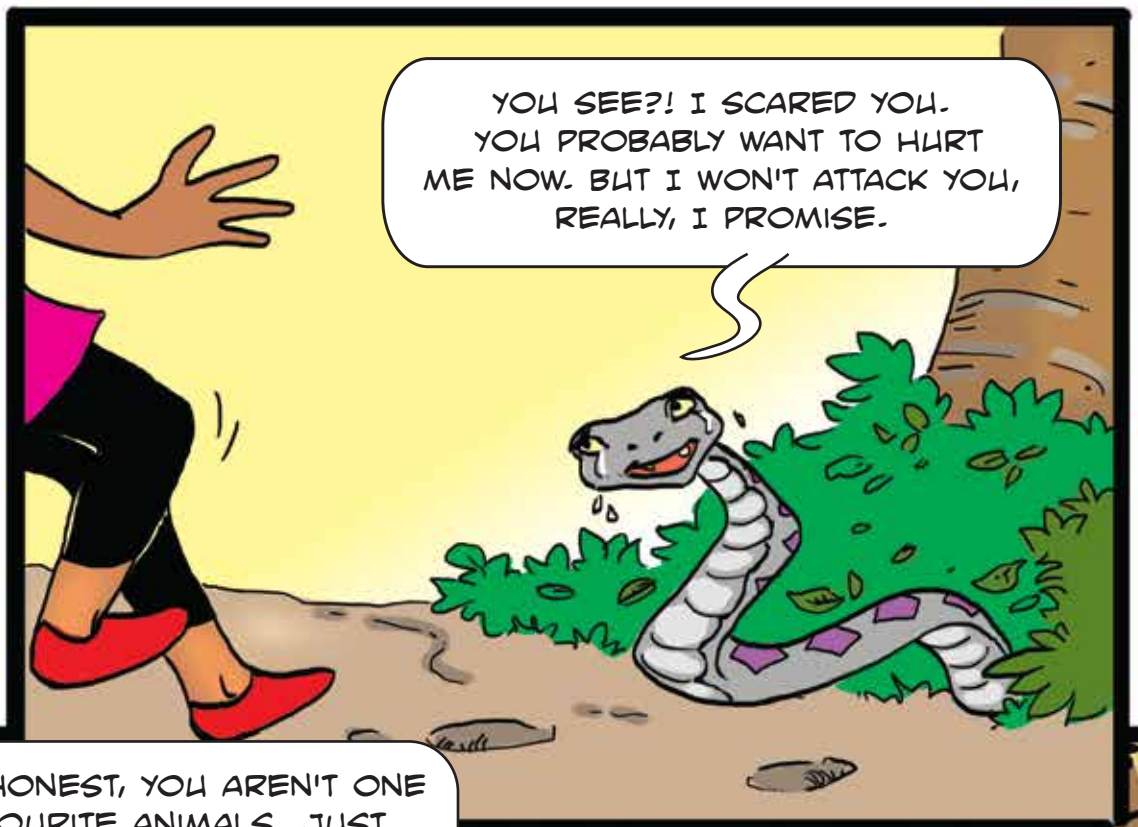
HEY, WE HEAR YOU.
SHOW YOURSELF.
WE KNOW YOU
ARE THERE.
COME OUT!

I DON'T DARE BECAUSE I'M
SURE YOU WON'T LIKE ME.
YOU WILL PROBABLY HIT ME
WHEN YOU SEE ME.



WHY WOULD WE HIT YOU?
WE PROMISE NOT TO.
COME OUT AND
SHOW YOURSELF!





YOU SEE?! I SCARED YOU. YOU PROBABLY WANT TO HURT ME NOW. BUT I WON'T ATTACK YOU, REALLY, I PROMISE.

IF I'M BEING HONEST, YOU AREN'T ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE ANIMALS. JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

YES, I KNOW. WE SNAKES HAVE SUCH A BAD REPUTATION. THAT'S A SHAME BECAUSE WE'RE NOT THAT BAD.



DON'T WORRY I'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP MY DISTANCE TO MAKE YOU FEEL SAFER. IT ALSO MAKES ME FEEL SAFER BECAUSE PEOPLE ALWAYS CHASE ME AWAY OR WANT TO HURT ME.



I'M ALIKA AND
THIS IS MY BROTHER JABARI.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



I AM
SAFIYA.



THE NAME FITS.
YOU SEEM PRETTY CALM
FOR A SNAKE.



WHY ARE YOU CRYING
SO BITTERLY?
WHAT HAPPENED?



OH, I FEEL SO TERRIBLY
ALONE. ALL MY FRIENDS
HAVE RUN AWAY OR
ARE DEAD.



I'M SORRY ABOUT
THAT. WHAT HAPPENED
TO THEM?



WHERE WE USED TO LIVE IS NOW A SETTLEMENT. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FIND HIDING PLACES AWAY FROM PEOPLE.

THEY WERE SO AFRAID OF US. THEY HIT US, THREW STONES, INJURED US, AND KILLED US. NOW, I'M THE ONLY SNAKE THAT LIVES HERE.



OH, DEAR! WE'RE SORRY TO HEAR THAT. BUT YOU SNAKES ARE PRETTY DANGEROUS. I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WAS BITTEN BY A SNAKE AND DIDN'T FEEL WELL AFTERWARDS. WHAT SHOULD WE DO OTHER THAN CHASE YOU AWAY OR KILL YOU?

MMMM. THERE IS A WAY WITHOUT USING VIOLENCE AND CHASING US AWAY...



IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW AND PROMISE TO FOLLOW THEM, I'LL TELL YOU THE **EIGHT SECRETS** OF HOW HUMANS AND SNAKES CAN LIVE SAFELY ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER.



BUT FIRST, YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL FOLLOW THE EIGHT SECRETS AND TELL YOUR PARENTS, SIBLINGS, NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS ABOUT IT.

YES, WE PROMISE YOU.

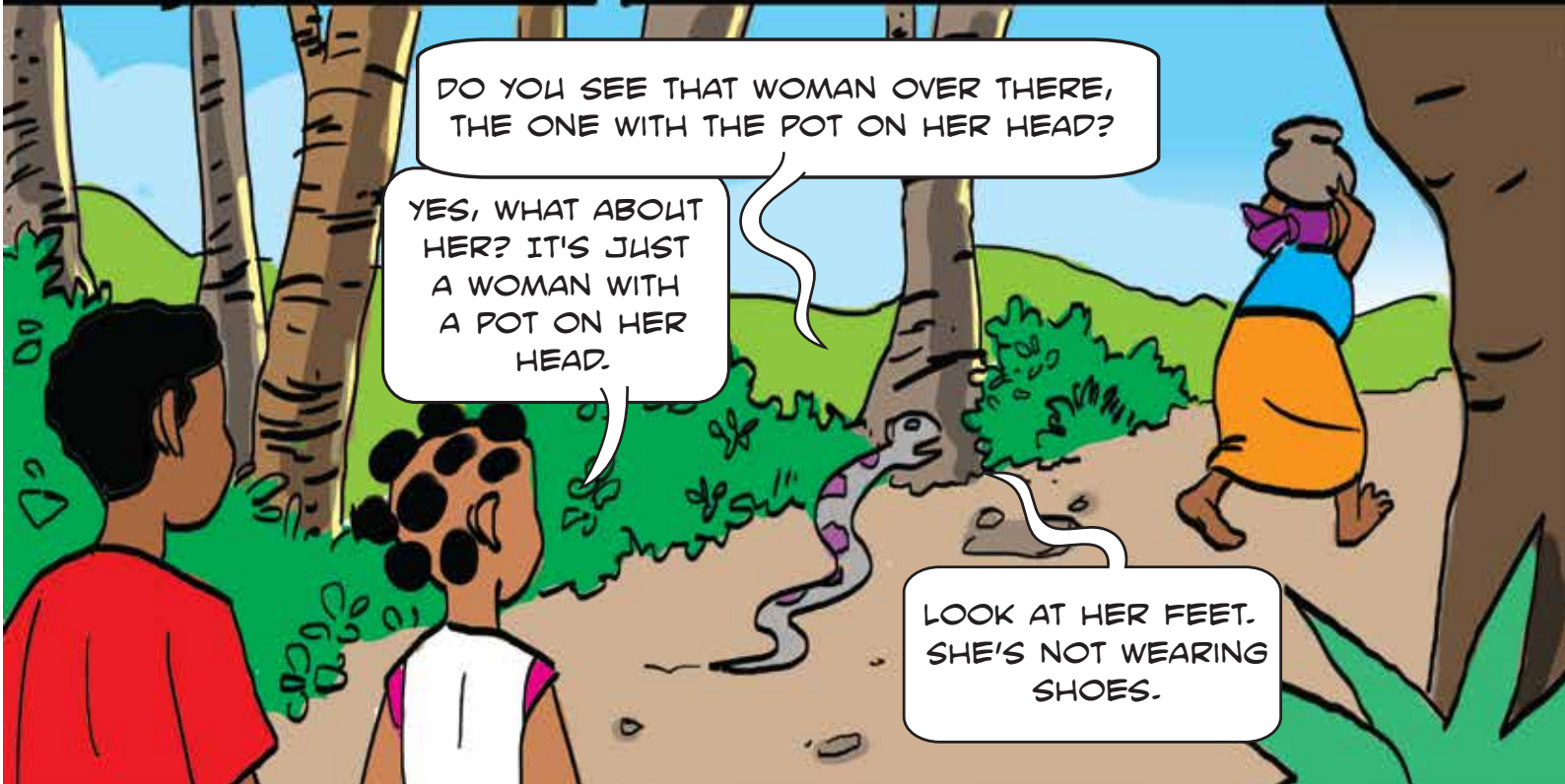


OK, THEN COME WITH ME.



DO YOU SEE THAT WOMAN OVER THERE, THE ONE WITH THE POT ON HER HEAD?

YES, WHAT ABOUT HER? IT'S JUST A WOMAN WITH A POT ON HER HEAD.



LOOK AT HER FEET. SHE'S NOT WEARING SHOES.



SECRET 1: WHEN OUT IN THE BUSH OR FIELD, YOU SHOULD COVER YOUR FEET OR WEAR SHOES. SHOES CAN PROTECT YOU FROM SNAKEBITES!

IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE AND STEP ON A SNAKE, IT WILL FIGHT BACK AND BITE YOU. MOST OF THE TIME IT BITES YOUR FOOT OR YOUR ANKLE.


IF YOU'RE WEARING SHOES, IT'S HARDER FOR THE SNAKE TO BITE YOUR FEET.



AH, THAT MAKES SENSE. WE **PROTECT** OUR FEET FROM SNAKEBITES WITH SHOES.



EXACTLY. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT'S JUST THE FIRST STEP TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SNAKES IN THE BUSH, NOW I WILL TELL YOU THE OTHERS.



SECRET 2: WHEN WALKING IN THE BUSH, CARRY A STICK AND TAP THE GROUND AHEAD OF YOU. SNAKES LIKE ME FEEL THE VIBRATION LONG BEFORE YOUR STEPS REACH US, GIVING US TIME TO FLEE.

BECAUSE--BELIEVE ME--
IT'S NOT EXACTLY
NICE WHEN YOU STEP
ON US...

IF YOU DO NOT BOTHER
US, WE WILL NOT BOTHER
YOU- KEEP AT BAY.

ALIKA, JABARI AND THEIR UNLIKELY
NEW FRIEND PROCEED HOME.

WE SNAKES DON'T LIKE
BEING OUT IN THE OPEN.
WE PREFER TO HIDE IN TALL
GRASS OR IN BUSHES.
WE FEEL MUCH
SAFER THERE.



SECRET 3: DOES THAT MEAN
THAT IF WE CUT DOWN THE GRASS
AND BUSHES, WE'LL TAKE YOUR
HIDING PLACES AWAY?

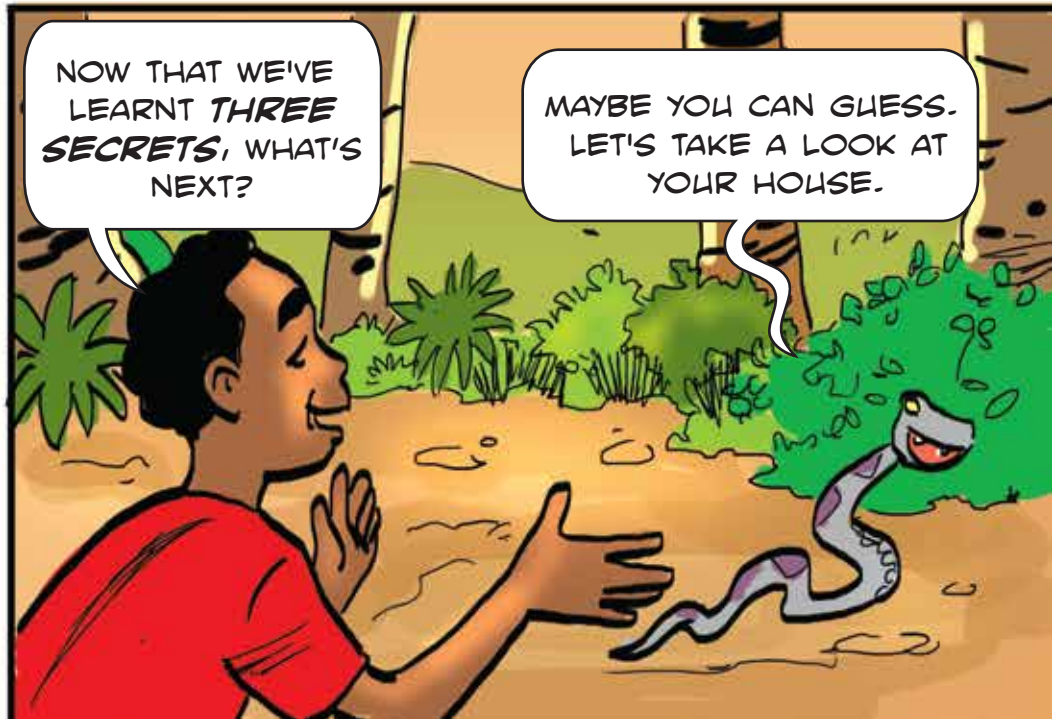
IT IS EXACTLY LIKE THAT. IF THERE IS
NO HIDING PLACE AROUND YOUR HOUSE,
WE WILL LOOK FOR ANOTHER COSY
PLACE FURTHER AWAY.

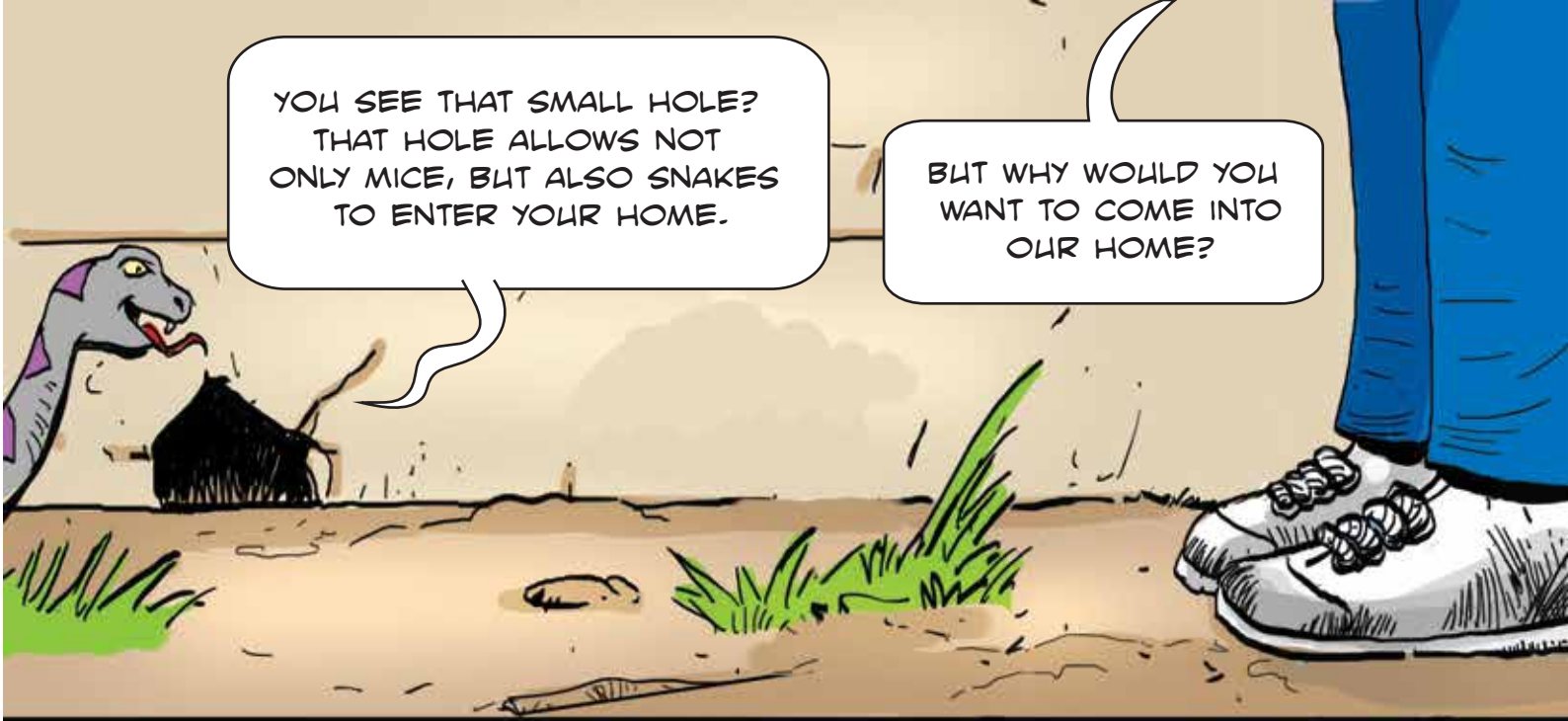


SO, JABARI, WHAT ARE
WE WAITING FOR?
LET'S GET STARTED!

NOW THAT WE'VE
LEARNT **THREE
SECRETS**, WHAT'S
NEXT?

MAYBE YOU CAN GUESS.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT
YOUR HOUSE.






YOU SEE THAT SMALL HOLE?
THAT HOLE ALLOWS NOT
ONLY MICE, BUT ALSO SNAKES
TO ENTER YOUR HOME.

BUT WHY WOULD YOU
WANT TO COME INTO
OUR HOME?



BECAUSE
I'M LOOKING FOR
A HIDING PLACE OR FOOD.
AND MICE AND
OTHER RODENTS ARE MY
FAVOURITE FOOD!



SECRET 4: YOU MEAN IF WE
CLOSE THE HOLES, NO MORE
MICE AND SNAKES WILL COME
INTO OUR HOUSE?



**YOU
GOT IT!**

WELL, LET'S MAKE OUR
HOUSE **SNAKE-PROOF**, THEN!



UH. OH.
I HAVE A **PROBLEM**
NOW...



WHAT IS IT?



FOR THE **FIFTH SECRET**, I WANTED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING IN YOUR HOUSE,
BUT YOU DID SUCH A GOOD JOB AT CLOSING ALL THE HOLES
FOR ME TO ACCESS THAT I CAN'T GET IN ANYMORE.



THE CHILDREN LAUGHED AND
OPENED THE DOOR FOR SAFIYA.



HA HA
HA



SAFIYA NOTICES SOMETHING INSIDE THE HOUSE...



I SEE YOU STORE YOUR POTS OF GRAIN IN THE HOUSE.

AND? WHAT IS SO BAD ABOUT IT? EVERYONE DOES THAT!



IT'S TRUE, A LOT OF PEOPLE DO THAT. BUT WHERE THERE IS **GRAIN**, THERE ARE **RATS**. AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHO HAS RATS ON THEIR MENU?



SNAKES!



EXACTLY. **SECRET 5**: IF YOU STORE YOUR SUPPLIES **OUTSIDE** THE HOUSE, WE HAVE ONE LESS REASON TO COME INTO YOUR HOME.



BUT IF WE STORE THE FOOD OUTSIDE, IT WILL BE EATEN UP IMMEDIATELY.



NOT IF YOU KEEP IT IN CLOSED CONTAINERS. THE SAME ALSO APPLIES TO WATER. WE'RE THIRSTY, TOO- AND THAT'S ANOTHER REASON WE COME INTO HOUSES.



LET'S GET TO WORK, JABARI! LET'S TAKE *EVERYTHING* OUTSIDE.



WAIT! WHILE WE'RE HERE, I CAN TELL YOU *THE SIXTH SECRET*. DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE GRASS AND THE BUSHES? WE REALLY LIKE TO HIDE IN FIREWOOD LIKE THIS ONE, TOO.



SECRET 6: SO, IF WE DON'T WANT A SNAKE MAKING ITSELF COMFORTABLE, THEN DON'T STACK THE WOOD NEAR THE HOUSE?



I'LL TAKE THE WOOD, ALIKA, AND YOU TAKE CARE OF THE SUPPLIES?

*PHEW, IT'S GETTING LATE NOW,
AND I MUST GO BACK TO
MY HIDING PLACE SOON.*

*BUT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD US ABOUT THE LAST
TWO SECRETS YET, SAFIYA!*



*YOU'RE RIGHT, AND I WOULDN'T
HAVE LEFT WITHOUT TELLING YOU FIRST.
LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR
HOUSE AGAIN.*

*THIS WAY,
SAFIYA!*



*CONGRATULATIONS,
YOU DID **EVERYTHING**
RIGHT HERE!*



SECRET 7: DID YOU KNOW THAT **MOSQUITO NETS** NOT ONLY PROTECT AGAINST MOSQUITO BITES? THEY ALSO PROTECT AGAINST SNAKES! IF THE BED IS **RAISED** AND PROTECTED WITH A MOSQUITO NET, WE HAVE NO CHANCE OF SLIPPING INTO BED WITH YOU IN SEARCH OF FOOD, WARMTH OR A HIDING PLACE.



YAAAWWN.
NOW I'M **REALLY** TIRED.
I NEED TO FIND A COSY
HIDING PLACE.



WAIT SAFIYA,
WE'LL **ACCOMPANY** YOU A BIT.
DO YOU HAVE THE STICK,
ALIKA?



NOW I THINK
IT'S TIME TO TELL YOU
THE **EIGHTH SECRET.**



SECRET 8: WHENEVER YOU ARE OUT IN THE DARK, YOU SHOULD TAKE A FLASHLIGHT WITH YOU. THAT WAY YOU CAN SEE IF A SNAKE CROSSES YOUR PATH.

MAYBE ONE LIKE ME WHO'S ON ITS WAY HOME.



ALL RIGHT, LET ME GET A FLASHLIGHT!



AND WITH THAT, THE CHILDREN WALKED WITH SAFIYA BACK TO HER HIDING PLACE AND AWAY FROM THEIR HOME.

NOW IT'S TIME TO SAY **GOODBYE**. IT WAS **NICE** TO MEET YOU, **JABARI** AND **ALIKA**!



LIKewise. THANK YOU FOR SHARING **THE EIGHT SECRETS**.

YOU ARE WELCOME! I HOPE YOU WILL **SPREAD** THE WORD AND HELP BOTH **SNAKES** AND **HUMANS** LIVE **TOGETHER** SAFELY.



GOODBYE, SAFIYA!

GOODBYE, ALIKA AND JABARI!

AND YOU DEAR READER, PLEASE HELP SPREAD **THE 8 SECRETS OF SNAKEBITE PREVENTION**.



TRIVIA

SNAKEBITE TRIVIA

Please tick on the appropriate photo. 

1

Which of the following shows how we should cover our feet while walking to avoid snakebites?



2

Which picture shows how we should walk in the dark so as to see if there is a snake in our path?



3

What should we do to prevent snakes from entering the house?



4

How should food and livestock be kept in the homestead to deter snakes?



5

How should firewood be stored in the homestead?



6

Which photo shows the correct way for the bed settings?



7

Which photo shows the correct grass layout to avoid snake hiding places?



The snakebite project was piloted in Kenya by Health Action International (HAI). This project is implemented in collaboration with the Global Snakebite Initiative (GSI), Access to Medicines Platform/MeTA Kenya, The Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Division of the Ministry of Health Kenya and the NTD Departments across our counties of focus.

Over the last 4 years we have:

- Undertaken 4 different researches on availability, affordability and stock of snakebite commodities, snakebite incidences, healthcare provider perspectives and the socio-economic consequences of snakebites in Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale and Taita Taveta counties.
- Developed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for first aid and prevention and supported community education and sensitization.
- Supported the training of over 49 health care workers in care, management and treatment of snakebites from Kajiado, Kilifi, Taita Taveta, Kwale, West Pokot, Baringo and Kakamega counties.
- Undertaken a photo essay and documentation of snakebite victim stories in Kajiado county culminating into the first ever snakebite experience photo gallery.
- Piloted a school programme that saw the development and printing of this illustrated booklet for school children on snakebite prevention as part of the government school health policy.



HAI HEALTH ACTION INTERNATIONAL
Snakebite Schools Programme



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