

WILD LIVES



**SPYING ON
LIONS**

ACTION ○ ADVENTURE ○ FACTS

NICK ARNOLD

WILD LIONS



苏工业学院图书馆
藏书章

SPYING ON LIONS

NICK ARNOLD

ILLUSTRATED BY JANE COPE

 **SCHOLASTIC**

To Chris, my original Lucky brother

Scholastic Children's Books,
Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street,
London WC1A 1NU, UK

A division of Scholastic Ltd
London – New York – Toronto – Sydney – Auckland
Mexico City – New Delhi – Hong Kong

Text copyright © Nick Arnold, 2003
Illustrations copyright © Jane Cope, 2003

All rights reserved

ISBN 0 439 99426 8

Printed and bound in Great Britain
by Cox & Wyman Ltd, Reading, Berkshire
Cover lion image supplied by Powerstock

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

The right of Nick Arnold and Jane Cope to be identified as the
author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with the
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988.

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or
otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's
prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is
published and without a similar condition, including this condition, being imposed
on a subsequent purchaser.

CONTENTS

Calling all teachers!	5
Getting started	8
Lucky the lion cub	24
Lucky meets his pride	46
Heat and hunting	65
Hungry lions and angry elephants	85
The biggest free lunch in the world	98
Fighting fires	110
So long, Lucky!	125





CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

THIS COULD DRIVE YOU WILD!



Are you tired of teaching? Are you wild about lions? If so, Wildwatch is waiting to hear from you!

We're after a teacher who is willing to travel to Africa. Your job will be to watch a lion cub, and keep a diary.

- ☐ *Get to see incredible wildlife – wide choice of animals*
- ☐ *Enjoy stunning scenery*
- ☐ *Action, adventure and drama guaranteed!*
- ☐ *Excellent pay, plus expenses*
- ☐ *Your diary will be published by Wildwatch!*

DON'T DELAY – APPLY TODAY!

This advert changed my life.

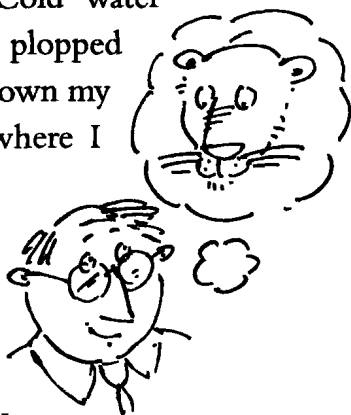
Calling all teachers! Yes, that's me – Leo Dennis.
To be exact, I'm a science teacher.

Are you tired of teaching? You bet!

I walked to school, thinking about the advert every step of the way. My car had broken down and, of course, it was raining. Cold water trickled down my neck and plopped onto my bald patch and ran down my glasses until I couldn't see where I was heading.

But I didn't notice. I was too busy dreaming of wide plains under blue African skies and endless hot days.

I imagined huge honey-coloured lions with amber eyes watching me watching them.



Just then, a mean motorist splashed through a pond-sized puddle and the watery wave washed over

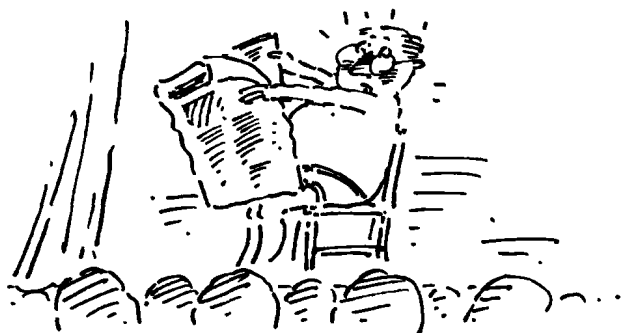
me. The dirty, icy water soaked me from head to toe and everything in between, and I splashed into school, dripping miserably. What's left of my hair stuck up in spikes and my socks made sad squelching sounds.



As luck would have it I wasn't teaching for the first lesson so I sneaked onto the stage of the school hall. It's a warm, snug place, hidden behind the heavy

stage curtains. Soon my clothes were steaming on the radiator and I was sitting happily reading my newspaper in my underpants. I must have dozed off, because the next thing I knew, the curtains were opening. And what do you think I saw?

The head teacher and the whole school were there for a special assembly – they even had the mayor with them! Four hundred mouths dropped open and 400 pairs of eyes stared in horror. Then someone giggled. And soon the whole school was rocking and rolling and crying with laughter ... at me!



Everyone, that is, except for the mayor, the head teacher and myself. I was cowering behind my newspaper making pathetic whimpering noises, the head teacher looked ready to explode, and the mayor had turned an unhealthy shade of purple...

At that very moment I made up my mind to reply to the advert. I would go to Africa and watch lions – and the sooner the better!



GETTING STARTED

December 25

I've just eaten my Christmas dinner. I'm feeling full to bursting – but I don't want to talk about my bulging tum. I'm dreaming of next year...

I just can't believe my luck. Wildwatch have given me the job! Early next year (that's really soon), I'm flying to Africa to watch lions! I'll be keeping a diary of everything I see, and Wildwatch are going to make it into a book. It's a dream come true...

You see, I'm really into lions. I've had a thing about them ever since I was a little kid. I can't remember how it all started, but I think it was bound to happen. My parents called me Leo because I was born in August under the sign of Leo the lion, and Leo actually means "Lion" in Latin.

My interest in lions grew into an interest in the whole of nature, which led me to study biology at college. Now I'm a science teacher at Summerhill School and I like to think I'm quite popular with my pupils. Here's what I look like today...

Well, there's no point in lying – I'm chubby and I wear glasses. Go on, have a laugh. I'm used to it – I *am* a teacher!



The thought of going to Africa is exciting. But I'm a bit scared, too. At my interview they told me the kind of things to expect, and I nearly gave up the idea on the spot. For one thing I won't be staying in a luxury hotel – I'll be living in a tent.



And then there's all those dangers I'll be facing. I went on a Wildwatch training day last month, and I've jotted down a few notes:

DANGERS IN AFRICA

1. Don't get lost at night - you might be attacked by a lion.

2. Remember to wear thick socks so blood-sucking ticks can't bite you.



3. Tip out your boots in the morning because a poisonous scorpion might be hiding in them.

4. Watch out for poisonous snakes hidden amongst rocks or long grass.



5. Never swim in lakes or rivers. You could be attacked by a hippo or eaten by a crocodile.



I also needed jabs against a frighteningly long list of diseases such as typhoid, a gut disease spread by dirty fingers. The injections hurt! The doctor tried to stick the needle in my arm, but he kept missing the vein and I ended up with the jabs stabbing my bottom!

Luckily I didn't need an injection for the most dangerous disease of all - malaria. This is spread by mosquitoes and causes fever and even death. I should be OK though, as long as I take anti-malaria pills each day.

Anyway, despite the dangers and the warnings, I'm still keen to go, and I'm about to start packing. Well, maybe I'll leave it until tomorrow. After all it is Christmas Day, and right now I think I've earned a slice of cake!

December 26

Another big meal and I'm full up – again. I've been pinned to the sofa for the last two hours by Ginger, my pet cat. Ginger likes to snooze on me and if he's disturbed he gets cross and attacks my trousers.

Anyway, Ginger has kindly agreed to move, so I can get up and write this diary. If only he could understand where I'm going. After all, I'll be spending time with his close relatives! I'm leaving him with my neighbour, Mrs Matthews. She's dotty about cats, so I'm sure he'll be well looked-after.



Now to start packing. Wildwatch gave me a list of things to take, and last week I went shopping. Mind you, these are just the basics! I'll need to buy food, tea, coffee, water and other vital supplies in Africa.

LIST FOR AFRICA

Binoculars

Night glasses (to see in dark)

Digital camera with zoom lens and waterproof case



Diary, notebook, pens and pencils

Compass and map

Writing paper and envelopes



Torch

Books about lions

Radio

Spare batteries for torch and radio



Swiss army knife (including tin opener)

Camping stove, paraffin and lighter

Kettle, saucepan, mug, bowl, knife, fork and spoon

50 packets of dried soup mix (vegetable)

Sealed bug-proof food containers

Soap, razor and spare razor blades

Hand mirror, hairbrush, comb and shampoo

Toothbrush and 12 tubes of toothpaste

Plastic bowl

Cloths and washing-up liquid



First-aid kit, including water-sterilization tablets; sunblock; antiseptic; anti-malaria, diarrhoea and constipation pills; painkillers; bandages and scissors
Insect repellent (super-strength) and a fly swat



Tent, sleeping bag, mosquito net
Camp bed and inflatable pillow



Walking boots

Sunglasses



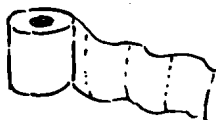
Umbrella



Waterproof coat

Waterproof tent bag

Toilet paper, bucket, trowel
and disinfectant



Rubbish bags

Large water bottle

Money belt for valuables and passport

Sticky tape and string

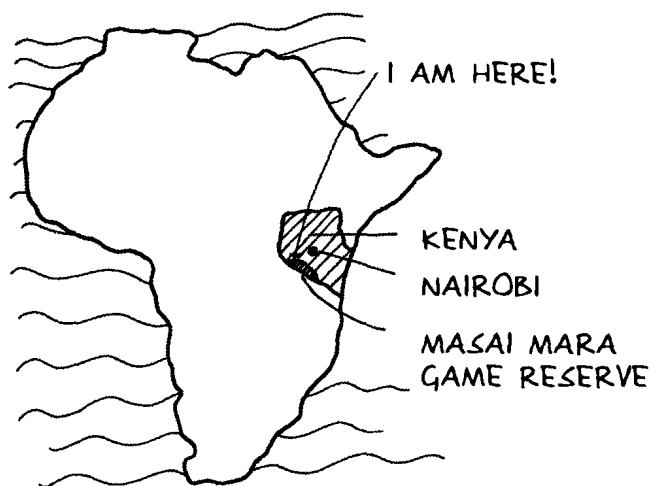
A few hours later

I've packed everything on the list. Now what have I forgotten?

Ah yes, clothes! I think I'll start on them tomorrow...

January 7

I can't believe I'm actually here! I'm sitting in my tent in the middle of Africa, and writing this diary! By the middle of Africa, I mean Lion Lodge Safari Camp. The Safari Camp is in the Masai Mara Game Reserve, 240 km west of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, in East Africa. And if you're still not sure where I am, this map should help.



Right now I'm feeling tired. But I'm excited too, and my brain is buzzing with everything that's happened since I arrived. I flew into Nairobi the day before yesterday. Getting off the plane was a shock to the system. I'd boarded the plane in a winter sleet storm, and left it on a warm damp tropical day in Nairobi. Well, straight away my glasses steamed up

and I bumped into the man in front of me. We tumbled on top of two large ladies from a visiting gospel choir. What a start! I'm glad the security guards saw the funny side of it...

Still, at least I managed to buy a good hat in Nairobi. You really need a hat out here to protect your face from the hot sun. I think it makes me look rather dashing – don't you?



Sleeping in a tent takes some getting used to. It feels odd having nothing above your head, except for a mosquito net and tent fabric, and I've jotted down a few little "tent" grumbles.

DRAWBACKS OF SLEEPING IN A TENT

1. It was chilly last night and I had an annoying mosquito for company. Thank goodness for the mosquito net!

LITTLE
PEST!



2. The animal night-life is noisy. Insects shrill and click, and damp places

are full of croaking frogs. These pesky frogs are so loud you can't hear yourself speak.

ANTI-
SOCIAL
FROG!



3. My bed is hard, and this morning my poor back felt as stiff as a creaky old door.

Yes, you've guessed it, I didn't sleep too well!

I've spent most of today unpacking. You know what it's like arriving in a new place? If not, imagine starting a new school. I spent two hours trying to find everything ... now where did I put that Swiss Army knife?

A few hours later

The Masai Mara Game Reserve is near the border with Tanzania and it's really part of the Serengeti National Park to the south. The Masai Mara is one of the best places in the whole of Africa to see lions. Here's a map to show you the area close up:

