

Chapter 16

Whoosh!

“Grizzly,” said Mungo when they were eating their porridge the next morning. “I want to go home. Now that I’ve found Baby Brother it’s time I went home. My other three bears are growing up without me. I miss my beloved wife. I belong in Bearloch.

“I’ve had my fill of strange places. Maybe I had to come all this way to realize just how wondersome home is.”

“I must stay,” said Grizzly. “I must stay with my ancestor and all those wee Grizzlies. It’s my destiny. I’ve no choice.”

“Well,” said Mungo, “if you change your mind, I suppose the boat will still be there for you.”

“But you need the boat to get home.”

“I don’t think so. I can’t take Baby Brother on the boat. It’s not how he arrived. But I’ve an idea. As you know, there’s more than one way to fall out of a hammock.”

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Baby Brother was sitting on his mammoth at the very top of the hill, beside the king’s throne.

Father MacBear was talking to him: “We want to go home, son, don’t we? Think of Mother. Think of your toys. Think of those blueberry and honey pancakes Mother makes. Imagine! You can see them, can’t you? We both want to go home now.”

“Woo-woo want go home,” said Baby Brother.

“Aye, we all three of us want to go home,” said Father MacBear.

Baby Brother looked at Woo-woo and Woo-woo winked.

“Woo-woo say whoo-oo-oosh,” said Baby Brother.

“Whoosh it is! Now we’ll get going. Ready, steady ... and ... WHOO-OO-OOSH!”

Father MacBear had only to give Woo-woo a gentle push to set him speeding down the steep slope. Just in time Father MacBear caught hold of Woo-woo’s tail and

ran as fast as he could behind him. Baby Brother shouted, “Woo-woo whoo-oo-oosh!” and the mammoth left the ground, hurtling into thin air, with Father MacBear clinging to his tail.

The whole circle of dancing and singing bishbirds looked up to see a mammoth soaring above them, with a bish baby on its back and a bear hanging onto its tail. For a mere second, in their astonishment, they stopped dancing. In that second Father MacBear was able to break the rule of the island and escape on a vessel he had not arrived on.