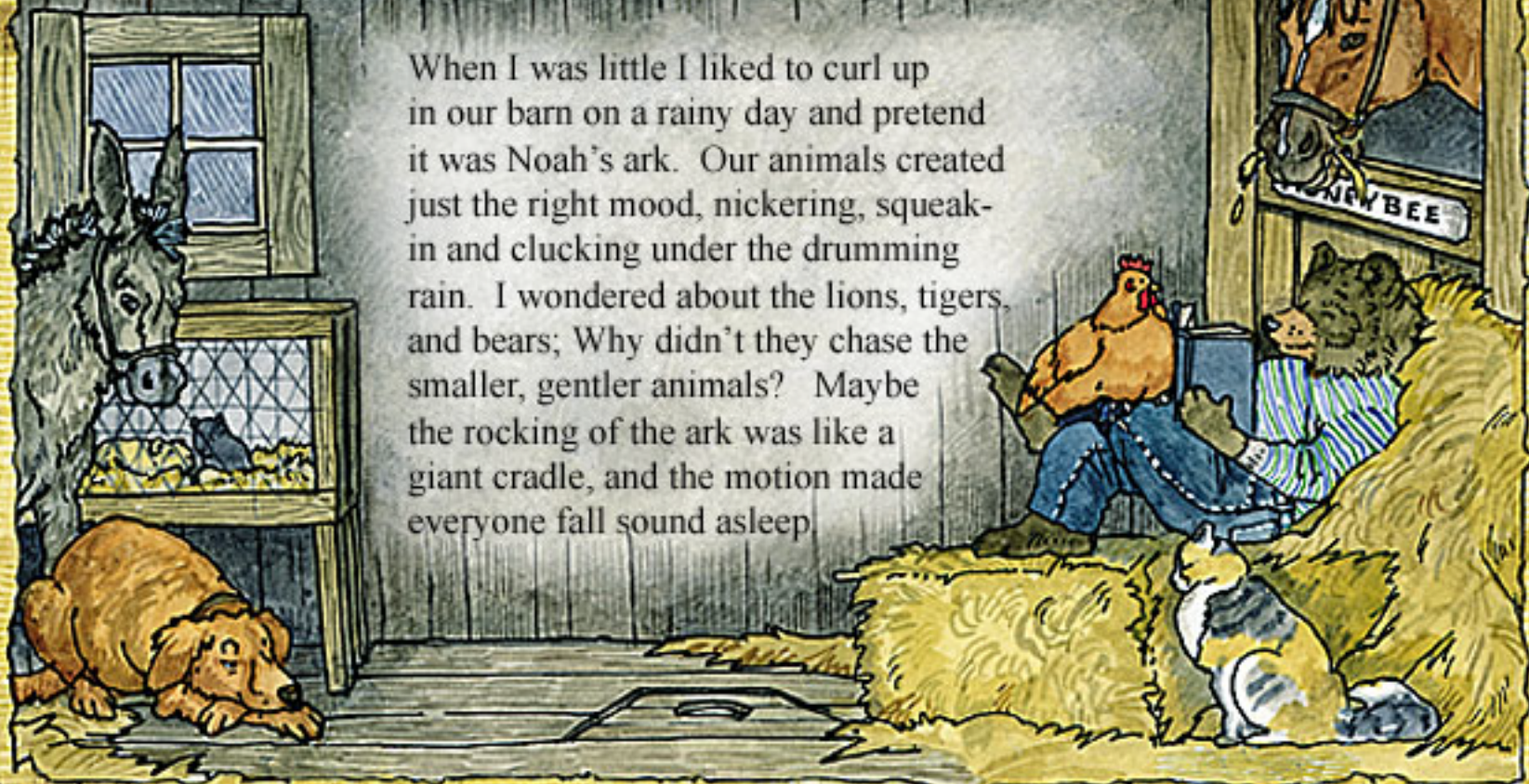


All About

ON NOAH'S ARK

When I was little I liked to curl up in our barn on a rainy day and pretend it was Noah's ark. Our animals created just the right mood, nickering, squeak-in and clucking under the drumming rain. I wondered about the lions, tigers, and bears; Why didn't they chase the smaller, gentler animals? Maybe the rocking of the ark was like a giant cradle, and the motion made everyone fall sound asleep.



HOW COULD I CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATURES?

When I was a student at Boston's Museum School, my baby daughter and I would head to Harvard's Museum of Natural History to see mounted specimens of animals, birds and reptiles. My favorite was the pangolin, an animal so bizarre, I couldn't have imagined it. Lia's favorite was the cheetah. The museum website is: www.peabody.harvard.edu

At the Brookfield Zoo, my friends Dr. Lee Cera and Dr. Tom Meehan introduced me to their giraffes, okapi and polar bears. If you go to the Brookfield Zoo outside Chicago you can see the lemurs in their fabulous habitat. It is an amazing experience.

www.brookfieldzoo.org



My pets appear on Noah's ark too. Buffy the hedgehog, Miss Rose, the silkie hen and Ping and Ming, the mandarin ducks.

Click on the link below to see the animals we saw on safari in Botswana, Africa. You can play a game to name them and receive a special coloring page.

[Botswana Game](#)

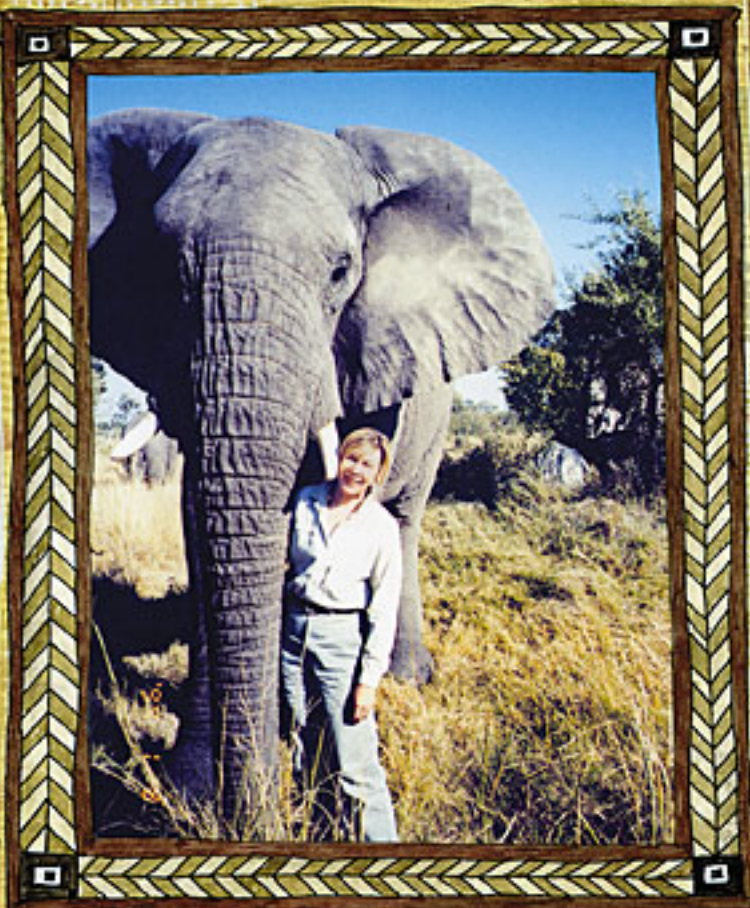
[Click Here for Page 2](#)

Meeting Elephants

In Botswana, we met Doug and Sandi Groves, who invite people to meet their three elephants, Jabu, Morula, and Thembi. They want to educate people about elephants. Doug and Sandi have devoted their lives to these elephants and have created an organization to help people learn about elephants. Visit their website at www.livingwith-elephants.org.

The Groves' elephants are like their family. They live with them far away from any town. In this photo, I'm walking with Jabu, after Doug has taught me how. He said "Never, never squeeze the tip of an elephants trunk. It's very sensitive.

Elephants are unlike any animal I have every met. They are smart, but mischievous too. Sandi and Doug have to think like elephants to keep their relationship with the elephants working.



Papyrus

In Ancient Egypt, tall reeds with fluffy tops were made into paper, called papyrus. Because the story of Noah's Ark is so old, I used golden papyrus paper as a backdrop.



Totem Animals

Do you have a special animal? Sometimes a person feels an attachment to a particular animal, bird, reptile or insect. May you share characteristics with it, or maybe you admire a special quality. Maybe you share characteristics with it, or maybe you admire a special quality. In some cultures, this bond is celebrated and made important. Fill in the blanks to find out what your special animal is.

- ~ I think this animal, _____ looks like me.
- ~ I have had a unique encounter with a _____.
- ~ I have a personality like a _____.
- ~ There is something about a _____ that I find admirable.

The animal I feel connected with is curious, sensitive and protects itself in an unusual way. It's helpful in the garden and is adorable. It's a hedgehog, of course, and it appears in all my books.

