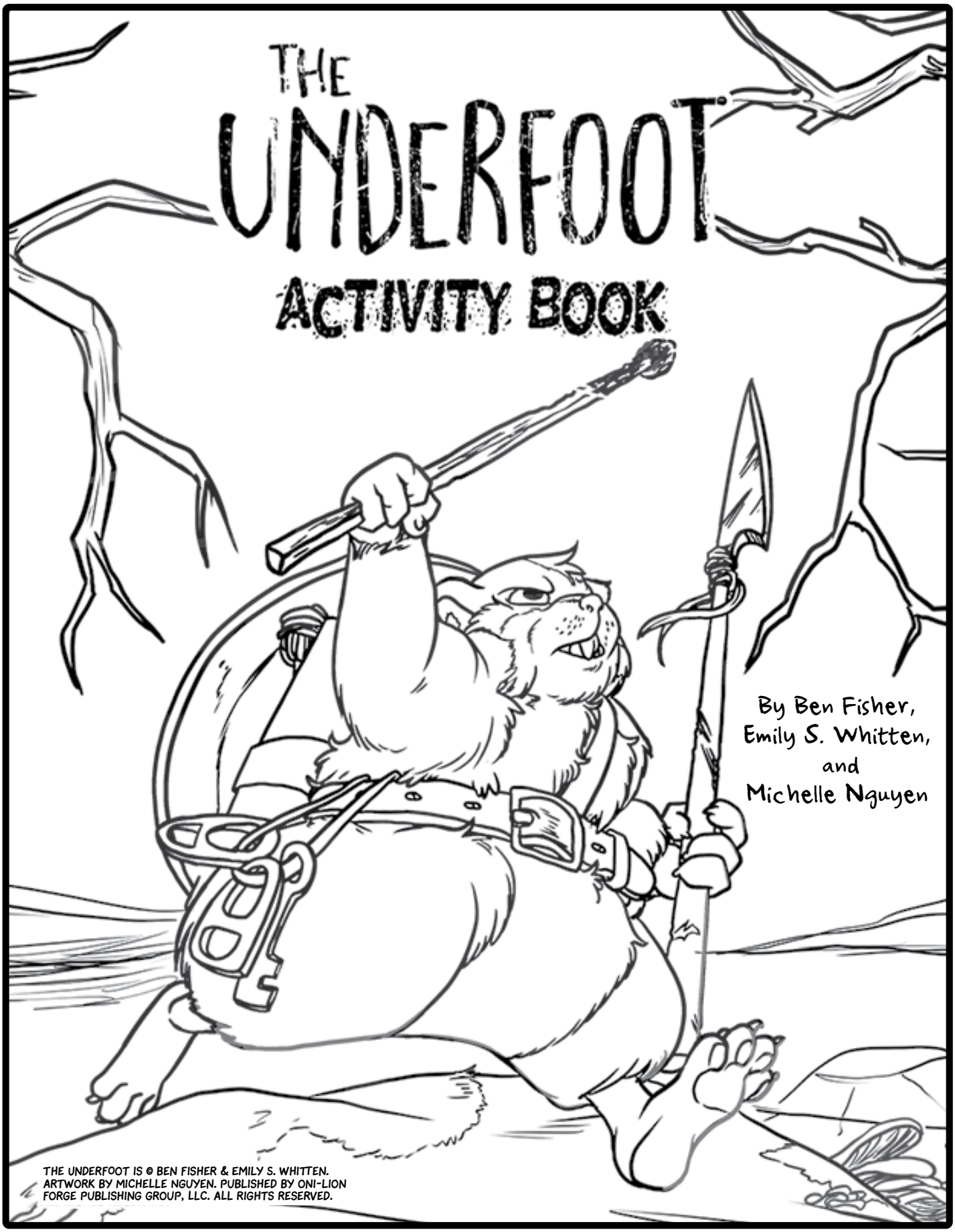
THE UNDERFOOT ACTIVITY BOOK



By Ben Fisher,
Emily S. Whitten,
and
Michelle Nguyen

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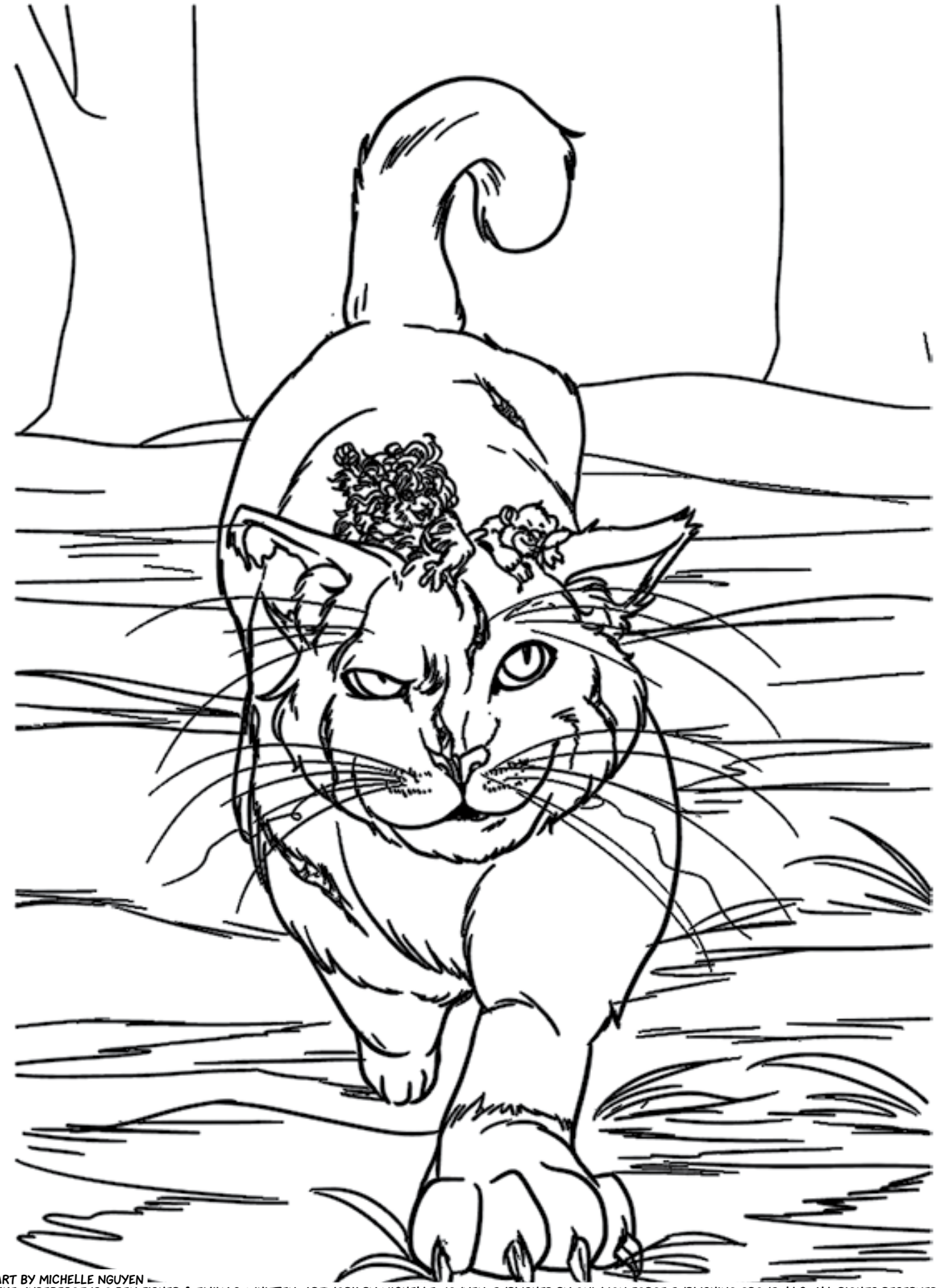
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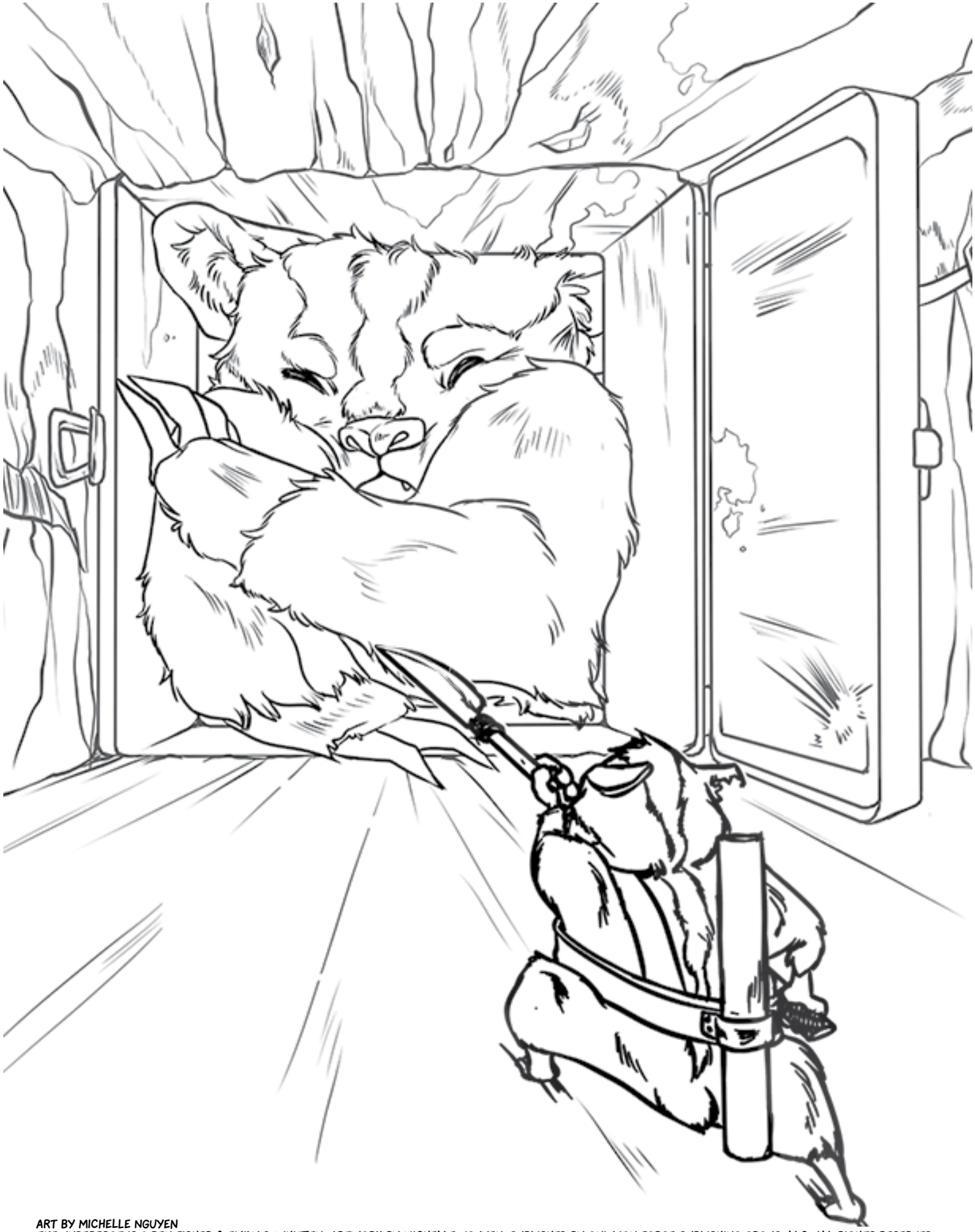
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RUBY



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MAC TORI & ANI



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TALLIS AND BUDDY



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MES AND HAP



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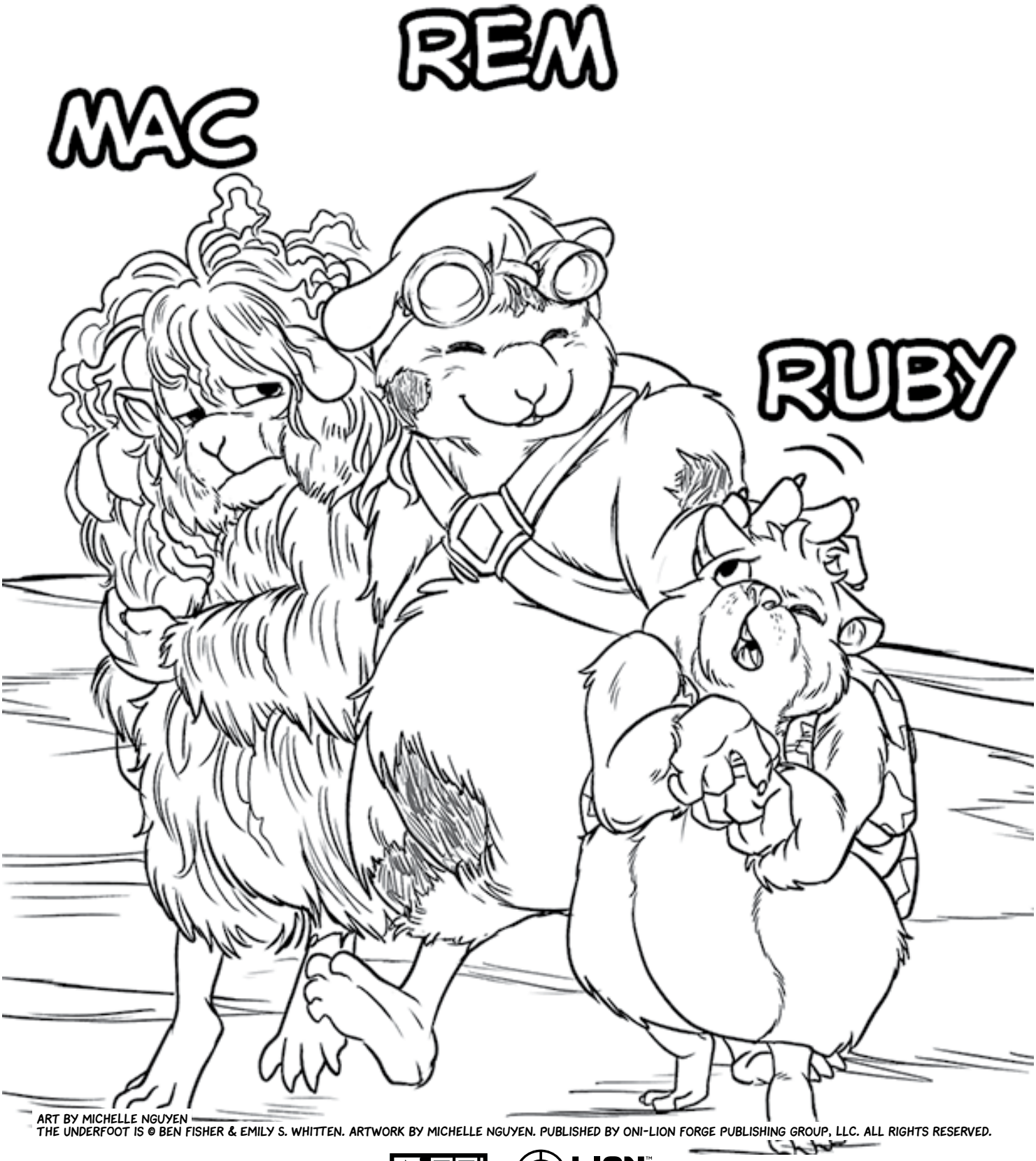
DOLLY

LUCIANA THE MATRIARCH



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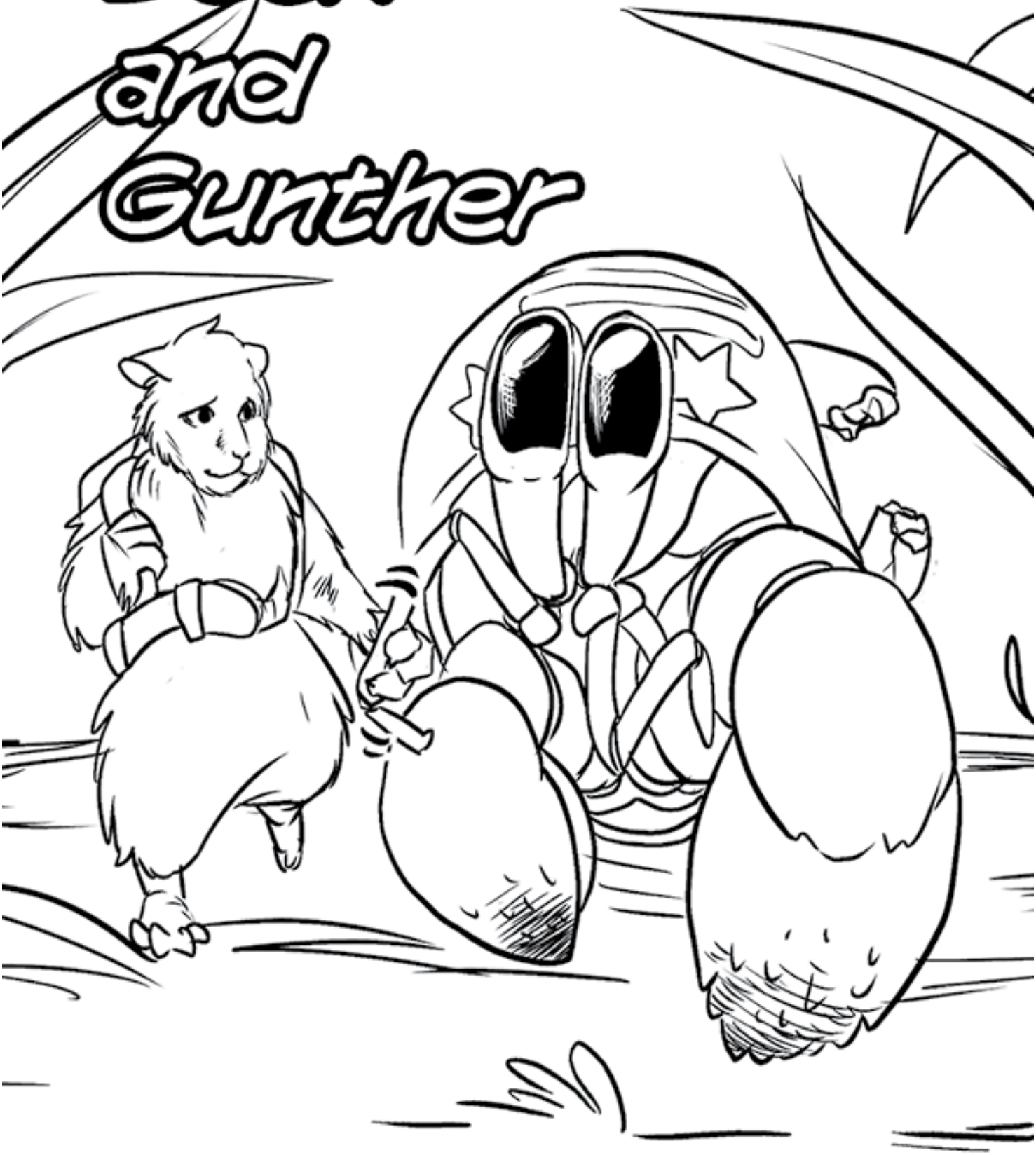
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Beck and Gunther



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BASIE



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FINISH THE COMIC!



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FINISH THE COMIC!

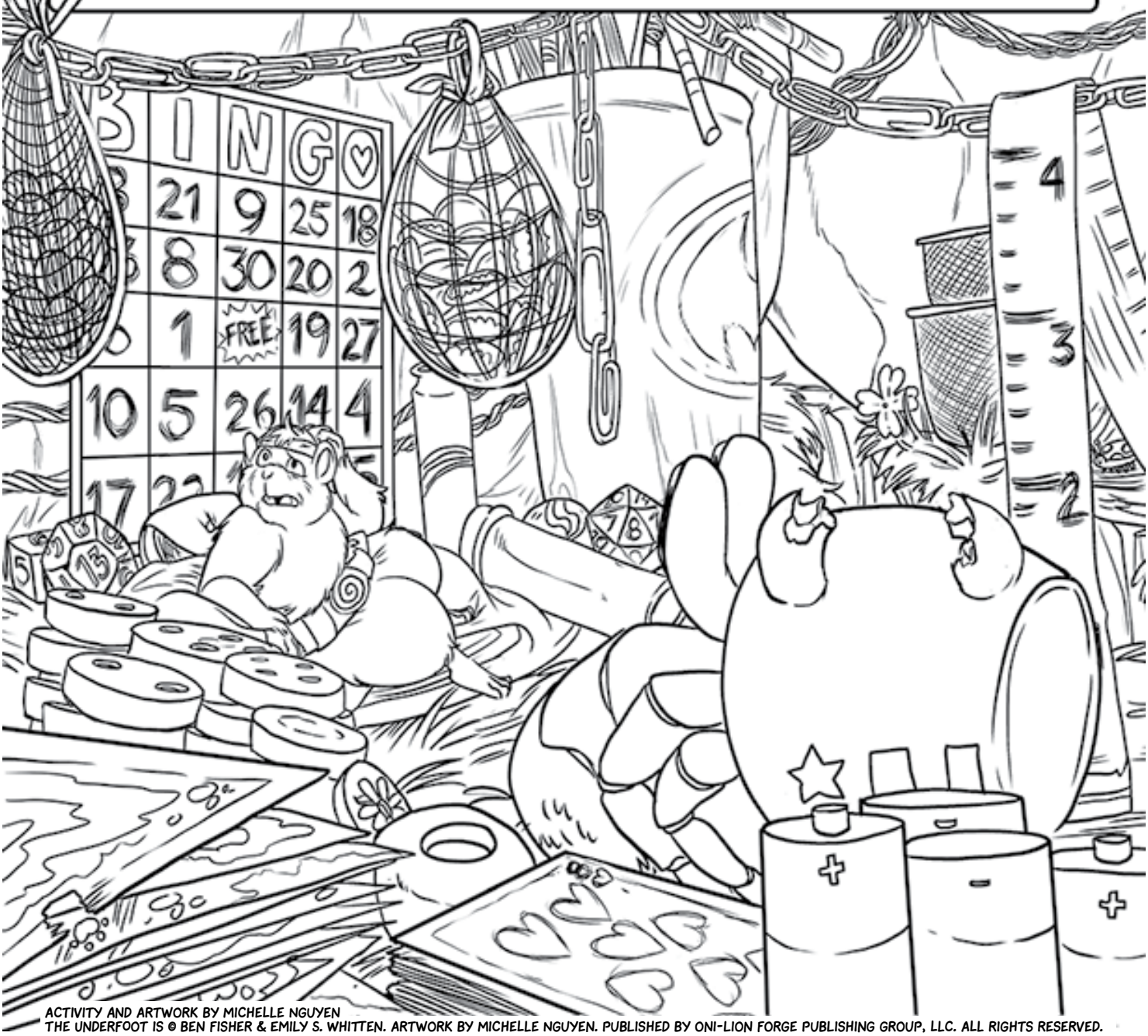


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TREASURE HUNT!

CAN YOU FIND THE...

NUMBER 3	MARBLE	NUMBER 5
BATTERIES	PAW PRINT	4-LEAF CLOVER
FLOWER BUTTON	LADYBUG	SPIRAL
STRAW	STAR	HEART



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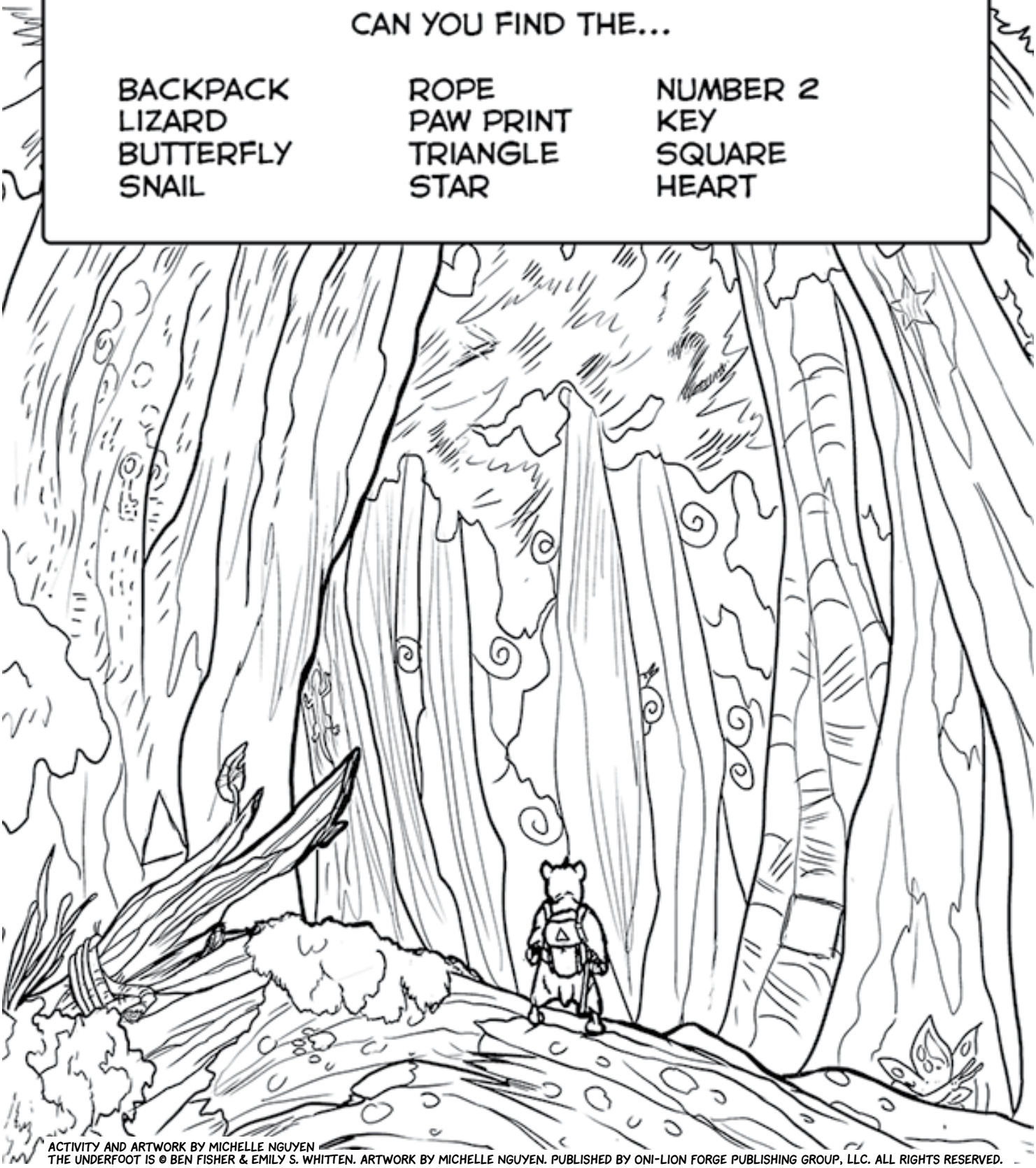
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TREASURE HUNT!

CAN YOU FIND THE...

BACKPACK	ROPE	NUMBER 2
LIZARD	PAW PRINT	KEY
BUTTERFLY	TRIANGLE	SQUARE
SNAIL	STAR	HEART



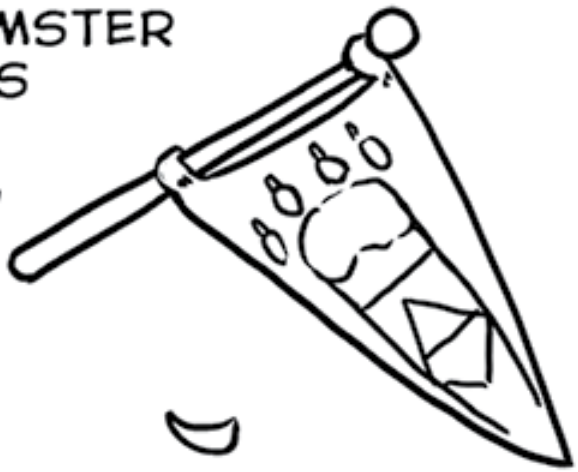
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DESIGN A HAM FLAG!

CAN YOU HELP THE HAMSTER AQUATIC MERCENARIES DESIGN NEW FLAGS? YOU CAN USE SHAPES, COLORS, AND LETTERS!



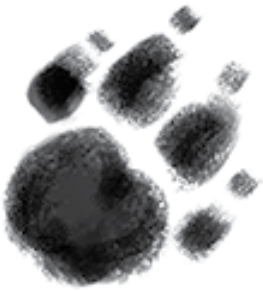


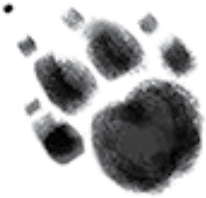
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FILL IN THE BLANK!

H.A.M. STANDS FOR:





Hamster
Aquatic
Mercenaries

BUT WHAT ELSE COULD IT MEAN?
FILL IN THE BLANKS TO CREATE
A NEW MEANING FOR H.A.M!

H _____

A _____

M _____



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CREATE YOUR OWN HAMSTER!

USE THE TEMPLATE BELOW TO DRAW YOUR OWN HAMSTER.
DO THEY HAVE:
...STRIPES? SPOTS? OTHER MARKINGS?
...EQUIPMENT? BAGS? TOYS?

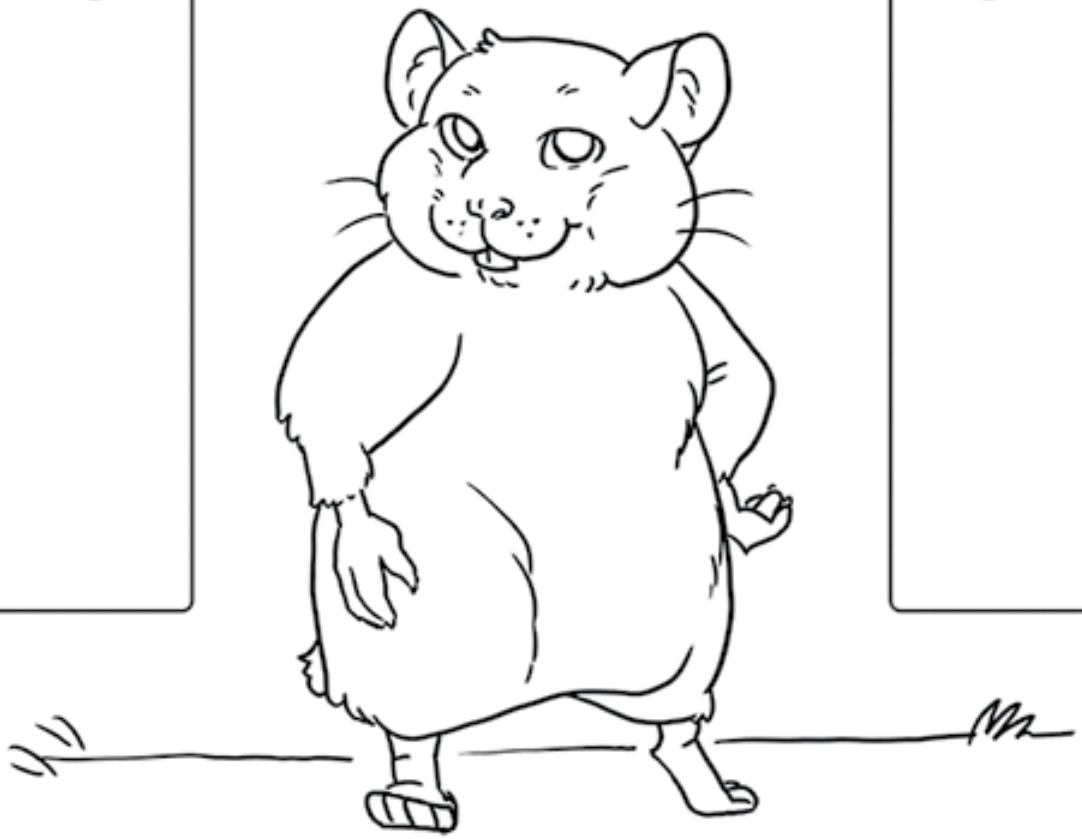
WHAT MAKES YOUR HAMSTER SPECIAL?

HAMSTER NAME:_____

CREATED BY:_____

LIKES:

DISLIKES:



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FINISH THE DRAWING!

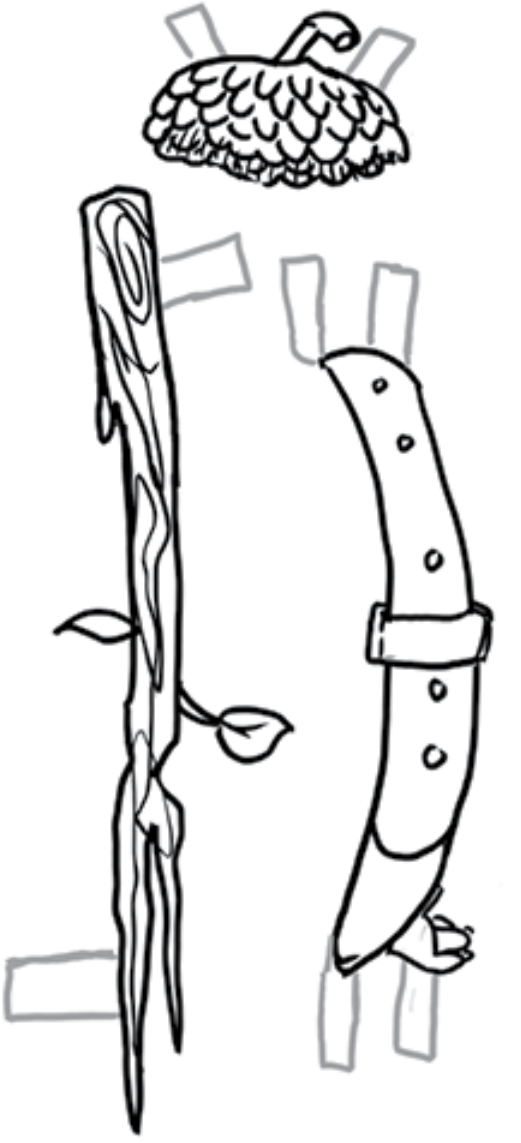
CAN YOU DRAW WHAT IS FALLING OUT OF THE BOX THAT BUDDY IS CARRYING?



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FINISH THE HAMSTER!







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THE UNDERFOOT
the mighty deep

"GETTING YOUR PAWS WET"
A "Write Your Own Adventure" Story
by Ben Fisher... and YOU

No one knows how long it's been since the Long Rains washed away the Giants-That-Were. But afterward, only the fur, feathers, squibs, fins, and scales remained to build their own societies. Each creature has a role in the new world, and the HAMSTER AQUATIC MERCENARIES are no exception.

Fearless in the face of danger and valiant both on the water and deep beneath its surface, H.A.M.'s reputation is known far and wide. Every hamster in your colony wants to join their ranks...including you. Your name is _____, and each morning, you practice swimming, diving, and sailing, hoping to win the attention of your demanding drill instructor, Wynton. But the other young pups are also training hard, and you need to set yourself apart from the other recruits.

"I can bench press a Q-tip with ten buttons on each end!" proclaims Beck, one of your biggest rivals. "And I'm getting stronger every day!"

You don't respond to his boast. Partly because Beck is much larger than you, but mostly because you have a secret: You have a very unique method of improving your skills that you don't want to share with your competitors.

To make yourself the very best hamster who ever got in the water, you:

(Write down the secret technique you're using to become a great swimmer and diver!)



(If you need more space, add your own papers to the file!)

"GETTING YOUR PAWS WET"
Write Your Own Adventure Story
(Continued)

The next morning, Wynton shakes you roughly in your bunk until you awaken.

"Take one thing—and one thing only— from your personal stash or from anywhere else in our underground burrow and meet me outside." The long scars on Wynton's face have turned a deep red, which means the H.A.M. veteran is agitated. "You have five minutes!"

Still rubbing the sleep from your eyes, you decide to grab:

(Write down the object you take outside. Make sure it's small enough for a hamster to carry!)

_____

You take your chosen item and meet Wynton outside the burrow. Without a word, he marches deep into the woods and you follow. You finally stop in a clearing, far from home, as the sun begins to set.

"I will come get you in the morning," your instructor says without inflection. "If you're still here, then you pass the first test."

"What?" you stammer, astounded. "What has this got to do with being an AQUATIC mercenary?"

Wynton allows himself a faint smile. "A H.A.M. must be prepared for any scenario. I hope to see you tomorrow." And with that, he is gone.

You huddle up for a long night, but soon hear an unfamiliar squeak. Alarmed, you turn to see a large bat perched on a nearby rock. It looks hungry. As it swoops forward, you suddenly remember the item you brought. You take a deep breath for courage and then:

(Write down how you use the item you brought to get out of this mess!)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(If you need more space, add your own papers to the file!)

"GETTING YOUR PAWS WET"

Write Your Own Adventure Story (Continued)

Exhausted from your encounter with the bat, you fall into a deep sleep. By the time Wynton wakes you, it is already early afternoon and the sounds of feathers chirping can be heard all around.

"Well done, young pup!" Wynton says, and your chest fills with pride. The old hamster rarely paws out compliments. "But now it's time for your second challenge."

You follow him back to the burrow, but to your surprise, he strides past the training pool and into the office of the Matriarch. This is the first time you've ever set paw inside her chambers. The Matriarch scowls across her desk as you enter, and her entire body appears to inflate with fluffy rage. She has been the leader of your burrow since well before you were born, and her ire is legendary. Even Wynton looks a bit nervous in her presence.

"A H.A.M. must be a diplomat in many social situations, so your next challenge is simple," Wynton whispers to you as he leaves. "All you have to do...is make the Matriarch smile." And with that, he is gone.

Despite your unease and the steady glare of the Matriarch, you refuse to quit now. So, you:

(Write down what you do to make the Matriarch smile.)



(If you need more space, add your own papers to the file!)

"GETTING YOUR PAWS WET"

Write Your Own Adventure Story (Continued)

Wynton is unable to hide his surprise when he returns to find the Matriarch grinning.

"This pup may have what it takes to join the Hamster Aquatic Mercenaries," she tells him and then begins shuffling various documents on her desk. "Now both of you get out of here. I have a great deal of paperwork to do!"

So Wynton leads you from the Matriarch's chambers—finally—towards the swimming pool. "Your last challenge will be the most difficult." He points to the large body of water, built deep underground in your burrow. "You must stay afloat for thirty minutes!"

You laugh confidently and reply, "Is that all? I can float for twice that long!"

The grizzled veteran smiles back. "I wasn't finished. Before your time is up, you must also write a poem about hamsters!"

"What? Why?" You ask petulantly. "Do true mercenaries also have to be good poets?"

"Not at all," Wynton says, heading for the exit. "I'm just in the mood for something artsy."

With no choice but to do as your instructor commands, you jump into the pool. You relax as your fur dampens and—thanks to your vigorous training—your paws tread the water with ease. And so you begin to write:

(Write a poem about hamsters!)

(If you need more space, add your own papers to the file!)

"GETTING YOUR PAWS WET"
Write Your Own Adventure Story (Continued)

You recite your poem for Wynton, and he claps his paws in approval. "Well done, pup, but I'm afraid there is still one last thing for you to do."

"No fair!" you complain. "You said there would only be three challenges!"

Wynton nods, an unexpected twinkle in his eye. "So I did. But I don't think you'll complain once I tell you what I need from you."

He extends a paw towards the burrow's exit. "I want you to take all your friends and celebrate beneath the Great Wide for the rest of the day...because you're now officially a HAMSTER AQUATIC MERCENARY!"

Your heart leaps with joy. And for the rest of the day, you:

(Write down how you celebrate becoming a Hamster Aquatic Mercenary!)



(If you need more space, add your own papers to the file!)

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