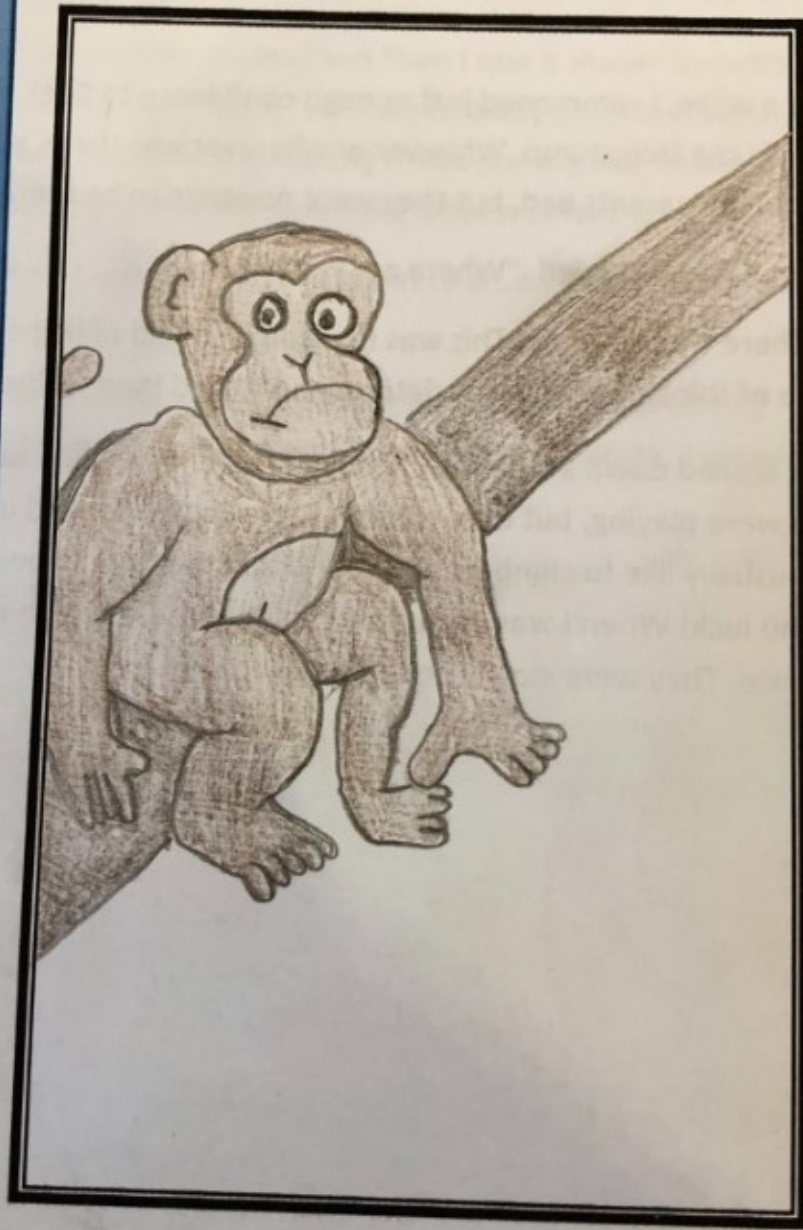


Hayden Miller

The Lonely Monkey



Fascinating Illustrations by Hayden Miller

This is the story about me, Marcel, a young monkey. I was peacefully sleeping, having the most strange dream, but I was awoken by a deafening sound! My heart was pounding, my body was shaking, I was frightened. I dashed under a tree stump. What could it possibly be? What was happening?

After a while, I summoned just enough confidence to peek my head through a gap in the tree stump. Whoever or whatever was there, was gone! I ran over to my parents bed, but they were nowhere to be seen!

"Mama, Papal" I cried. "Where are you?"

But there was no reply! This was my fault, I should of helped them, and because of thinking that, I was determined to find them! Whatever it took!

I first looked down at the river, I stayed there for a while seeking them as if we were playing, but they weren't there. Next, I looked up the trees, they usually like to climb high. I was hoping they would be there, but I had no luck! When I was climbing down the tree, I saw two shadows in the distance. They were slowly heading towards me!



Suddenly I heard, "John look, a monkey, give me a cage!"

That was not a good sign so I sprinted like I had never before until I must of lost them! There I waited and hid away. Sobbing, hoping nobody would see.

All of a sudden, I heard the bush shudder! Then I saw it move! Somebody was there, the shadows, they found me! I wiped away my tears and prepared myself for what was coming. Luckily it was just my frog friend, Fred! Fred saw that I was depressed and asked me what was wrong.

"I lost my parents and now I don't know what to d...d...do!" I mumbled still crying.

Fred comforted me, he was always a good friend. We started walking around together trying to find my parents. As we were looking, I spotted some footprints!



"Fred look!" I said after tapping on his shoulder. I put my foot beside it and was tiny compared to what was next to my foot. It must be a human! Fred and I followed the tracks for a while. They lead us to what looked like a wide, never ending path, but only there were fast things on it. Fred was a genius and told me they were cars and that this was a road. I pounced on a car before it could go past us. The wind flew right through my fur, the cool breeze against my face. Never had I experienced anything quite like it!

Sadly the fun soon stopped! I realised that I hadn't thought about my parents since the rainforest! Maybe because I was having fun. Fred and I jumped off the car.

Above us read, "ZOO perfect home for any animal. Maybe that is where they are keeping Mama and Papa!" I enquired. Fred and I crept in the zoo and saw lots of animals. Although it didn't look like the perfect home! We went over to the hyena.

I said, "Have you seen two adult monkeys?" But the hyena just laughed. Fred asked the crocodile, but he just stared at him and licked his lips! Then I asked the koala.

"In the monkey enclosure, two monkeys were put there," He said as if I were a ghost. That must be Mama and Papa.

"Where is it?" I asked, but before he could reply, a zookeeper saw me and Fred! We raced away but the zookeeper was too fast, he jumped and caught me in his cage missing Fred.

"Run Fred run! Go!" I screamed and he did. I was abandoned in a big place surrounded by a net. On the side, were two steel doors and above them, was a vent. In the centre of the cage thing, were a few branches which I guess were to climb.

"Marcel?" Came a voice, but I knew that voice. "Mama, Papa!" I said before we had a long, warm hug. But now we had to think about how we were going to escape this zoo.

That night, when everyone was asleep except my parents and me, we made our move. I climbed the branches in the centre and climbed to the highest one. I jumped from there to the vent. I slid my way through and fell in a room next to the monkey enclosure. I grabbed a pair of keys then went back and put them in the door, but it didn't budge! I put them back as quiet as I could a got the other pair, did the same and the door creaked open! We all tiptoed out of the zoo. Outside was Fred waiting for me!

"Lets go home" I said. We all jumped on the car. I felt the breeze again and watched the stars above laying on the warm steel top of the car before we bounced off and walked home.