

# Helping Henry Home

By Gurpreet K. Sihat

Henry had always wanted to go to the zoo. His big brother, Sebastian, had told him stories about the animals there: the lions, giraffes, monkeys, and hippos. But every time he asked to go, he was told he was too young and he would have to wait.

On his fifth birthday Henry's Mummy and Daddy took him and Sebastian out for the day. First, they went to the park. Henry played for hours on the climbing frame, swinging off the bars like a monkey and then running around in circles with the other children. When he had had enough, they went for an early lunch in Pizza Hut where Henry gobbled up as much pizza as he could fit into his big-boy stomach.

"Right, Henry. Now for your surprise," Henry's Daddy boomed with a smile.

"My surprise?" Henry beamed. "I love surprises!"

Henry was the first to jump into the back of Daddy's shiny new car. He pressed his nose against the window, watching the big buildings and trees and cars zoom past as they drove. Soon they came across a ginormous bush in the shape of an elephant. Henry's mouth fell open.

"Are we... are we... are we at the zoo?"

Mummy smiled and held her hand out to him. "Happy Birthday, sweetheart," she said as Henry took it.

Henry never had so much fun in his entire life. He loved singing with the colourful birds flying around in their cages, watching the tiger cubs play fight while their Mummy and Daddy sunbathed, and giggling at the funny little fat penguins as they waddled over to get lunch from the man with the big red bucket. Sebastian was right. The zoo was magical.

"Mummy, look! Look at that!" Henry said as he pointed at the big gorilla picking his nose while eating a banana. "That's a naughty monkey, Mummy! Do you see?"

Why wasn't Henry's Mummy replying? Henry turned around to pull at her sleeve, but she wasn't there. He turned around in a circle looking for his Mummy, or Daddy, or even Sebastian, but no one was there. They were all gone.

Henry plopped down on his bottom and began to cry.