



THE KLIPSPRINGERS



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OXFORD literature for southern africa

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Earlier that morning *Mma* Gert had informed the boys that they would be going on a game drive with Sindiwe Baloyi, who had just arrived.

“But why?” Tshepo had groaned.

“As you know, Mr Baloyi is the new owner of Boekenhout and she is his daughter. Her parents are overseas and will try to be back by Christmas Day. In the meanwhile, you, Luke and Nicky are going to keep her company.”

“But she’s from Cape Town,” Tshepo had complained.

“What on earth has that got to do with it?” Tshepo’s mother had asked, looking over her glasses at him.

“She’s never been to the bush before. She freaked out when she saw a warthog⁹ in the camp just now.”

But *Mma* Gert had clicked her tongue. “It’s not for long. The day after tomorrow is Christmas Eve¹⁰.”

The boys knew that once *Mma* Gert made up her mind, it stayed made up. They were going on the game drive.

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Characters

Why does Tshepo not want to keep Sindi company?

Characters

Is Neo a nature lover?



Plot

Do the Klipspringers see each other often?

Neo turned the steering wheel slightly to avoid a dung beetle in the road. “Hey, Tshep, how about I drive you Klipspringers to see the rhino?”

“Great!” The two boys gave each other a high five.

“Klipspringers?” said Sindi. “Why do you call them that?”

Neo chuckled. “A klipspringer is a small buck you find in rocky areas. *Mma* Gert called Nicky, Tshep and Luke Klipspringers when they were small because they never sat still. The name stuck. With all our parents working at the reserve, these guys have practically grown up together.”

“Every holiday!” Luke said brightly.

Sindi rolled her eyes. “Very cute,” she said. She opened her backpack and pulled out a pink baseball cap with “I ♥ New York” written in silver letters, and a pair of huge sunglasses, which she put on.

9 **warthog**: a wild pig with short tusks

10 **Christmas Eve**: 24 December, the day before Christmas

“Love your sunglasses,” said Nicky wistfully.

Tshepo groaned.

“Oh, they were a present from Ellie. You know the estate agent who sold my dad Boekenhout? She’s so awesome. She went on holiday to, I don’t know, somewhere like China and brought these back for me.”

Tshepo tried to block out the chatter. He breathed in. He loved the smell of the bush. He also loved the Waterberg Mountains, the long yellow grass rippling in the sun and ...

“Ooh, look at that!” Nicky squealed.

Tshepo peered into the bush to see what Nicky had spotted. But it wasn’t an animal Nicky had seen.

Characters

How do you know that Nicky likes fashion?

Setting

Can you supply the following information: province, region, type of property, name of the property?

Chapter 2

“A BlackBerry! Sindi’s got a BlackBerry!” Nicky cried.

Tshepo couldn’t believe it. “So what? It’s just a cellphone. You’ve got a cellphone,” he said crossly.

“I know but smart phones are super-cool.”

Neo looked over his shoulder. “Er, sorry, Sindi, but we don’t allow cellphones while we’re on a game drive. Okay?”

Sindi looked up from her texting. “Why not?” she asked.

Tshepo and Luke looked at each other. Duh!

Neo explained that cellphones could disturb the animals.

“Whatever,” she said. She finished her SMS and then switched it off.

Soon they stopped at a waterhole where five giraffe were drinking. Some fat dassies¹ watched them inquisitively.²

Characters

Which clues tell us that Sindi is a city girl?

1 **dassies:** rock rabbits

2 **inquisitively:** wanting to find out as much as possible