

Catch On



Gloria van Donge

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Gloria van Donge's delightful story about Chevron the cheetah cub and his group of friends provides a way for children to identify with others' strengths, interests, and talents. Within the context of the cheetah cub's experiences, there are many opportunities to discuss with children the implications of being different and finding creative ways to relate to others. Expanding upon Stephanie Tolan's iconic story of the caged cheetah as a metaphor for the unchallenged gifted child, Chevron and the other cubs enjoy challenges, develop talents, and successfully negotiate relationships. Insightful prompts are available to help adults guide children to explore their interests, think about ideas, and discuss concepts such as identity and authenticity within stories that hold great appeal for both children and adults. By reading about Chevron and his adventures, children are encouraged to find themselves and learn how to develop friendships. This engaging series of books provides a fantasy world in which children can safely examine real-world issues. What a wonderful way for caring adults to support gifted children!

– Michele Juratowitch
Director, Clearing Skies

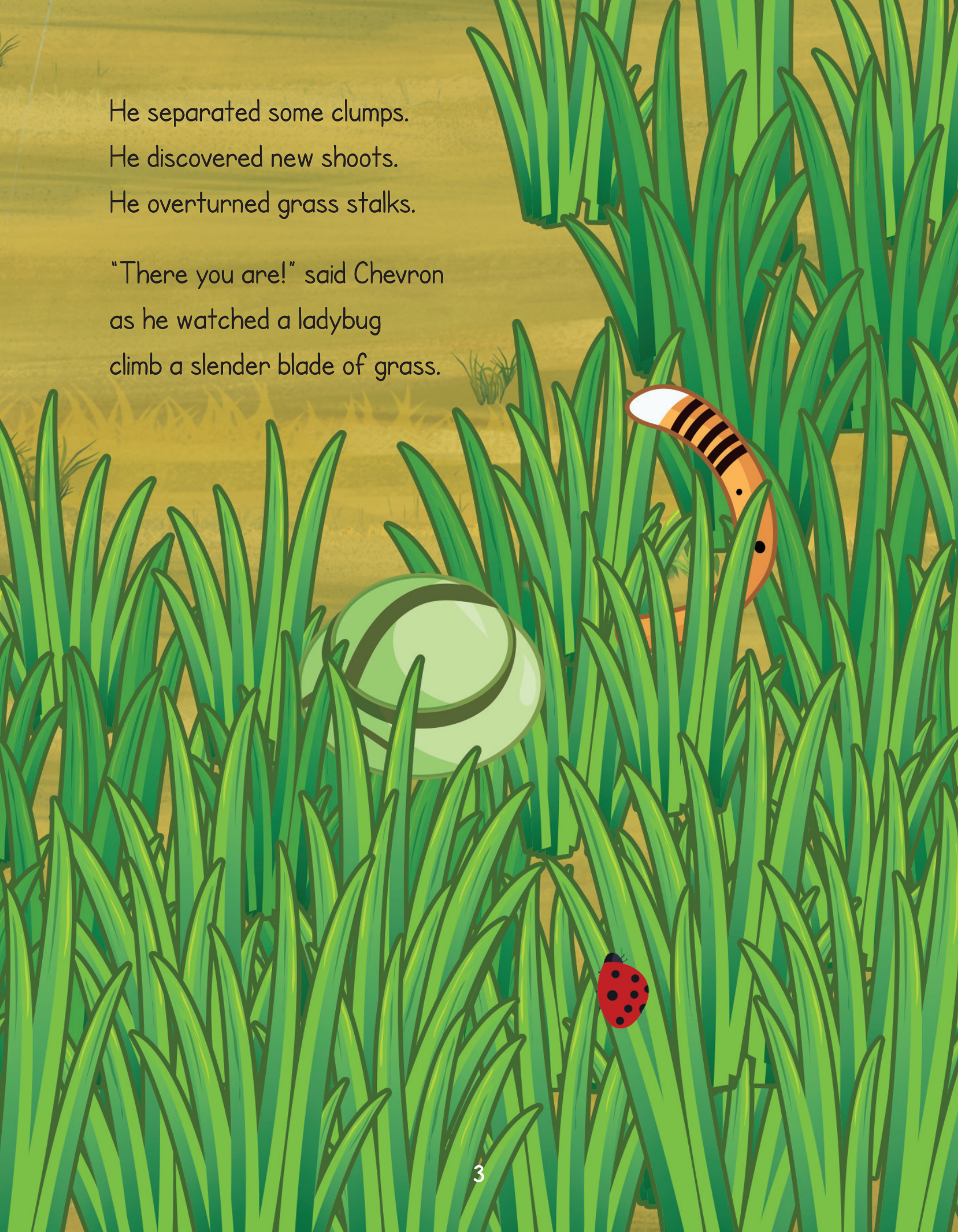
Chevron slung his binoculars around his neck,
perched his safari hat on his head,
and weaved through the tall grass.

A speck of red caught his eye.
“What was that?” he wondered.
“Where did it go?”



He separated some clumps.
He discovered new shoots.
He overturned grass stalks.

“There you are!” said Chevron
as he watched a ladybug
climb a slender blade of grass.



"She's so pretty," he thought.

"I want to draw her."

He pulled out his notebook
and started to draw her shape on the page.



"Hi, Chevron," interrupted Tiger.

"Are you ready to play now?"

"Come and see!" replied Chevron.

"I just found a ladybug.

See her black spots?

She is working really hard.

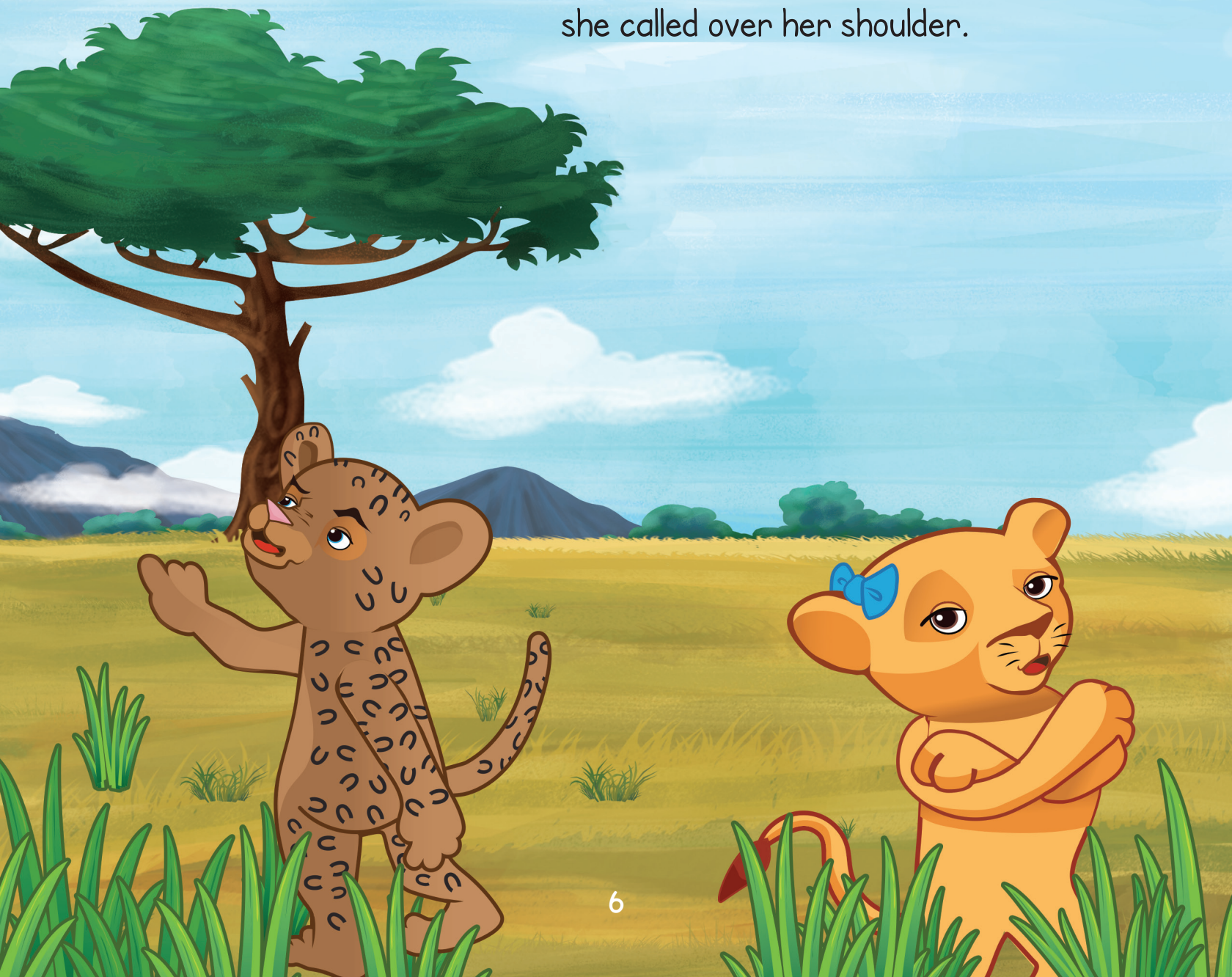
It's like she's climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro!"



"Mt. Kilimanjaro! Really?" Leopard sniffed.
He didn't even look at the ladybug.

Lion swished her tail,
did a sharp turn,
and stalked off.

"Come on, Chevron!
We want to play,"
she called over her shoulder.



"But she's so pretty," Chevron protested,
"and I've only just drawn her outline on my paper."

His shoulders slumped.

His safari hat slipped.

He put his binoculars away.

*Why aren't my
friends interested?*

