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Opening extract from
**This Book Belongs to
Aye-Aye**

Written by
Richard Byrne

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Please print off and read at your leisure.

For my parents
Bob and Betty, my
brothers Ian and Colin,
and helpful people
everywhere.



Here are ten things you probably
didn't know about aye-eyes*:
*pronounced 'eye-eyes'

1. They live in forests on the island of Madagascar.
2. They are a kind of lemur.
3. They sleep in nests.
4. They are nocturnal.
5. Their big eyes are good at seeing in the dark.
6. When looking for food they tap on trees to find hollow sections where grubs might be living.
7. Their big ears are very good at picking up the smallest sound.
8. They use their long middle fingers, which are thinner than the others, to dig grubs out of holes.
9. As well as grubs, they like to eat fruit and honey.
10. In captivity aye-eyes can live for over 20 years.

This book belongs to
Aye-Aye

Richard
Byrne

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Aye-Aye loved **PICTURE BOOKS**. He loved the pictures. He loved the stories. He loved them so much that the thing he wanted most in the whole wide world was to be in a **PICTURE BOOK**.

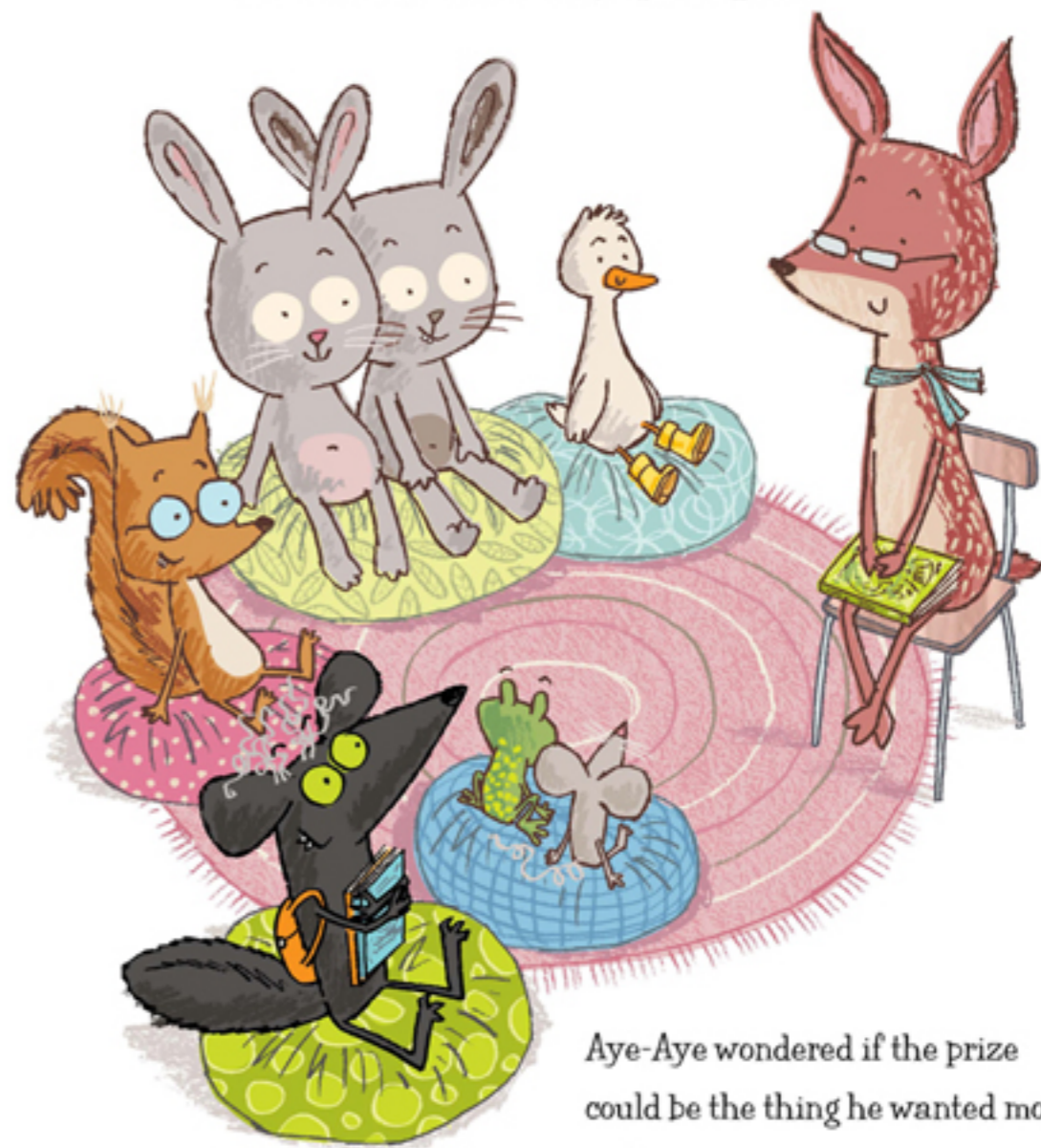


But two rabbits in Aye-Aye's new class at Miss Deer's **ACADEMY FOR ASPIRING PICTURE-BOOK ANIMALS** thought he was far too funny-looking for that.

The Rabbit Twins pointed and sniggered.
'Whoever heard of an aye-aye being in a picture book?'
they said. 'You're just not cute or fluffy enough.'



When Miss Deer told the class about a new competition,
everyone gasped. 'The most helpful animal this week,'
she said, 'will win a very special prize.'



Aye-Aye wondered if the prize
could be the thing he wanted most
in the whole wide world . . .