

# THE MOUSE THAT WAS...



BY PAUL CHOY



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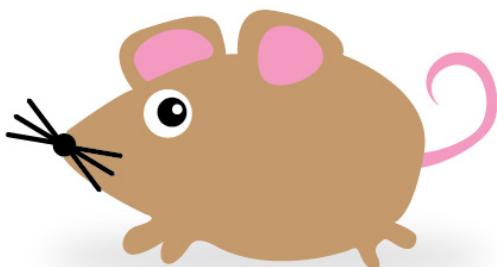
**For my son Kai and all the  
children who read this story.  
Don't ever grow up.**

**Thank you for downloading this short story, part of my  
Modern Fables series.**

Although I wrote the stories in the Modern Fables series for children, they offer a message that has meaning and resonance for all of us, young and old. After all, the simplest wisdom is often seen through the eyes of children.

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## About the Author

For many years of my life, I had one single focus: achievement.

Whether that achievement was in business, running a busy International company; or in sport, winning four World Karate Championships, while coaching thousands of people to fitness success.

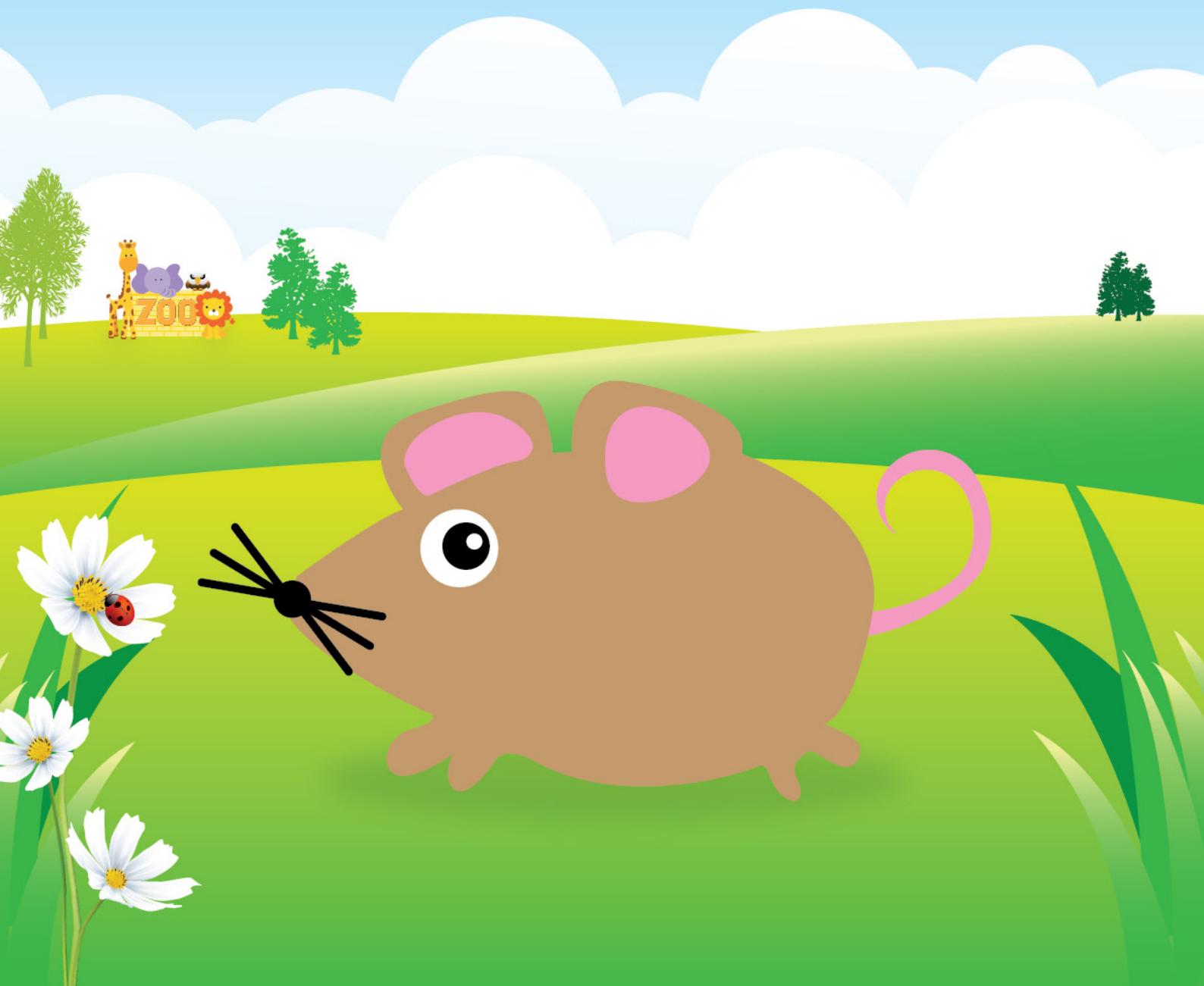
But, in 2010, I decided to simplify my life and focus on the things that really matter. I moved from the UK to the beautiful island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.

Today, I lead a quiet life. I spend time with my family. I walk on the whitest sands and surf and dive in the bluest waters. And I enjoy creative pursuits like writing stories like this.

I actively encourage questions or feedback and would love to hear your thoughts, so feel free to get in touch at [www.paulchoy.com](http://www.paulchoy.com).



**This is the story of a little mouse  
who discovered that all he had to  
do to be happy was be himself.**



There was once a little mouse who lived in a little hole. The little hole was in a little tree, and the little tree was in a little wood.

The little mouse had never met any other mice and, because there were no mirrors in his little hole, he had no idea who or what he was.

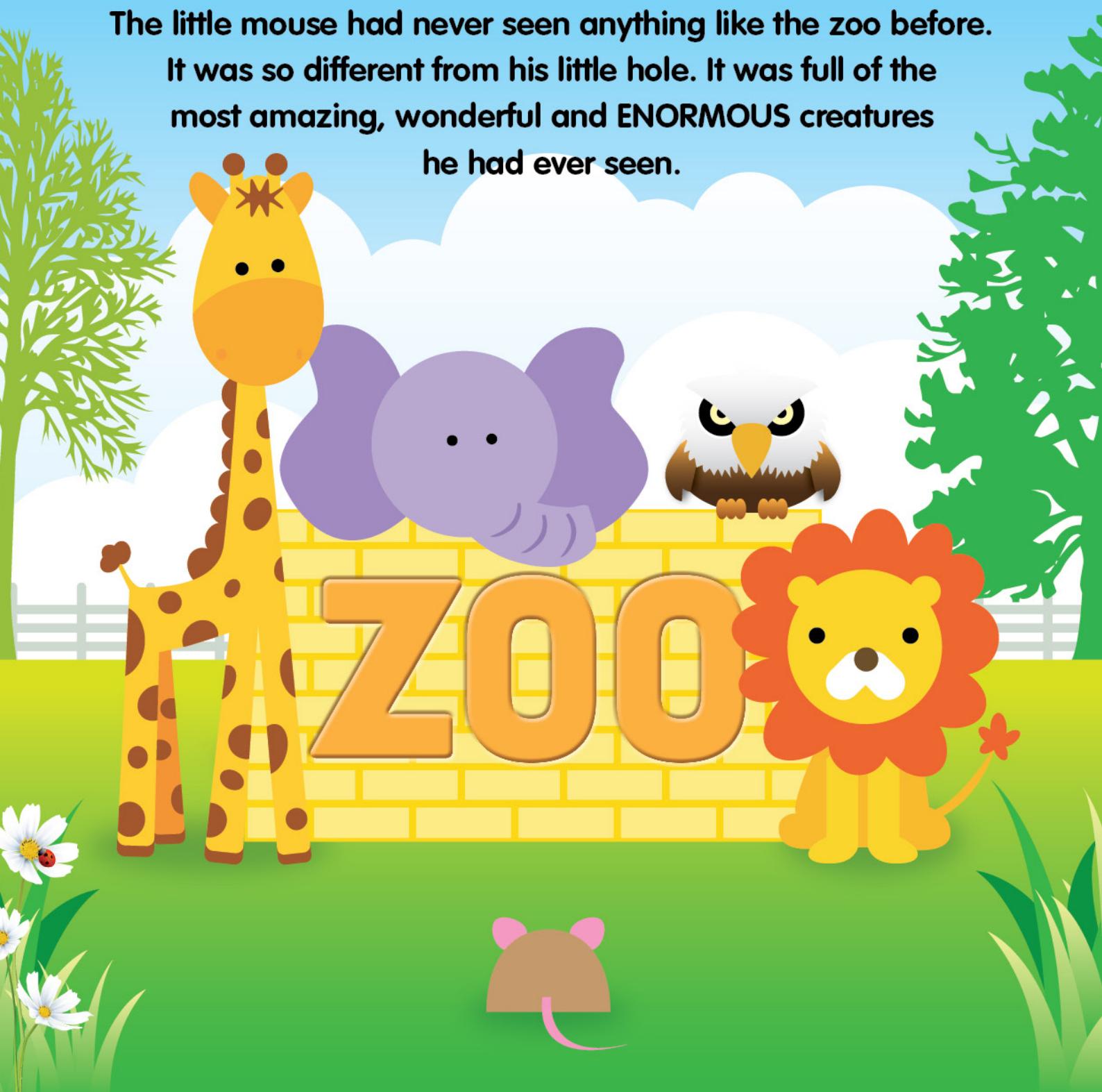
But one thing the little mouse was completely sure of was that he wasn't meant to live in a little hole forever. Because the little mouse knew, deep in his tiny mouse heart, that it was his destiny to be....



So one day the little mouse decided to leave his little hole and discover the world. He packed a little bag full of all his important mousey things, and off he went as fast as his very little legs could carry him.

After many days of travelling he came across a zoo. It wasn't actually very far from his his little wood, but this mouse only had very little legs so everywhere seemed like quite a long way.

The little mouse had never seen anything like the zoo before. It was so different from his little hole. It was full of the most amazing, wonderful and ENORMOUS creatures he had ever seen.



The little mouse saw a great big lion pacing up and down, showing off his great big sharp teeth. He saw a gigantic giraffe stretching out her gigantic neck to eat the leaves from the top of a gigantic tree. And he saw a ginormous eagle stretching out his ginormous wings.

It was obvious to the little mouse that this is where all the BIG creatures lived. And this little mouse knew, deep in his tiny mouse heart, that it was his destiny to be BIG. So he decided, right there and then, that this was where he was going to live.

The only trouble was that, because the little mouse had no idea who or what he was, he didn't know which of the animals he should live with.



I'M GOING TO BE  
**BIG**



"Maybe I am a lion" thought the little mouse. So he ran over to where all the lions lived, in a great big cage surrounded by great big bars to stop the lions escaping.

Being so small, the little mouse scampered straight through the bars to meet the great big lions inside. Taking a great big breath (which isn't actually very big if you're a little mouse), he let out the biggest ROAR he could. But because he was such a little mouse, all that came out was a tiny squeak. All the lions fell about laughing.

"Hmm" thought the little mouse,  
"Maybe I'm not a lion. Maybe I am  
a giraffe". So he ran over to where  
all the gigantic giraffes lived,  
in a gigantic cage surrounded  
by a gigantic fence to stop the  
giraffes escaping.

Being so small, the little mouse  
wriggled straight through the fence  
to meet the gigantic giraffes inside.

Standing as tall as he could, he  
reached for the leaves on top of the  
gigantic trees. But even on tiptoes he  
could only reach the grass growing  
around the trunk of the tree. All the  
giraffes fell about laughing.

HA  
HA  
HA HA  
HA



"In that case", the little mouse thought, "I MUST be an eagle".

So he ran over to where all the ginormous eagles lived,  
in a ginormous cage covered with a ginormous net to stop  
the eagles escaping.

Being so small, the little mouse easily slipped straight through the netting to meet the ginormous eagles inside. Trying to fly, he jumped in the air and flapped his little mouse legs as fast as he could. But try as he might, he just kept falling over on his bottom.  
All the eagles fell about laughing.



Just then the zookeeper came along to close the zoo for the night. First he went to see the great big lions, who were still laughing at the little mouse's feeble roaring. The zookeeper put a great big lock on the great big bars to stop the lions running around and exploring the countryside.

Next he went to see the gigantic giraffes, who were still laughing at the little mouse standing on tiptoes trying to reach the top of the trees. The zookeeper put a gigantic lock on the gigantic fence which stopped the giraffes from reaching the juiciest leaves just outside their cage.

Lastly the zookeeper went to see the ginormous eagles, who were still laughing at the little mouse trying to fly and falling on his bottom. He put a ginormous big lock on the ginormous nets to stop the eagles from flying off and soaring through the sky.



Just then the zookeeper saw the little mouse. "What are you doing, little mouse?" said the zookeeper, "this zoo is not for a little mouse like you. Shoo!".

"Little?" said the little mouse to himself,  
"You mean I'm not BIG?"

Looking around, the little mouse realised that out of ALL of the enormous animals in the zoo, he was the only one small enough to scamper through the bars, wriggle through the fences and slip through the netting.

Suddenly all the other animals stopped laughing. They were all locked in their cages staring at the little mouse, who was free to go wherever he wanted and explore the world.



The little mouse fell around laughing  
at how lucky he was to be so small.  
He realised he didn't need to be big.  
He was a little mouse, and being little  
was all he needed to be happy.

And so the little mouse picked up his  
little bag containing all his important  
mousey things and left the zoo,  
running as fast as his very little legs  
would carry him. He ran all the way  
back to his little hole, in his little tree,  
in his little wood. And he promised  
himself that from that day forward he  
would just enjoy being a little mouse;  
the very best little mouse he could be.

**THE END.**

**HA**

**HA HA**

**HA**



**I HOPE YOU ENJOYED  
THIS SHORT STORY.**

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