

## “Asha, Bird of Hope” Rewrite

Seth lived with his family in Puget Sound, where sunshine was beautiful and sparkling every day.

One day, a new neighbor moved in the house next door. Seth hoped there would be a kid at his age, but he and his sister, Beatrice, watched an old lady showed up instead. Curiously, a huge cage with something mysterious inside was pushed into the lady's house.

“I'm going to find out what it is,” Beatrice said.

“How?” Seth asked.

“Let's knock on her door and introduce ourselves to her.”

“Are you sure this will work?”

“Everyone loves Beatrice, she will, too,” Beatrice said confidently and walked toward the old lady's house. Seth was worried. He had no choice but to follow her.

“Tap-tap.” Beatrice knocked on the door. After a while, the door opened slowly with a creak. The old lady they saw earlier was standing there with a kind smile.

“May I help you? Sweeties.”

“Good afternoon. I'm Beatrice. This is Seth. We live next door and want to say hello to our new neighbor.”

“Oh, how nice. “The old lady said, “My name is Mary Kadima.”

“Where are you from?” asked Beatrice.

“Kenya, in Africa. I've moved here with my son.”

“Cool! Do you have any stuff from Kenya that we could see?” (on page 6, Asha, Bird of Hope )

Mrs. Kadima smiled. “Well, I'm still unpacking, but you're welcome to have a look.”

Mrs. Kadima led them into her house. “Seth saw some large baskets and a brightly colored cloth hanging on a wall, but he didn't see the mysterious thing anywhere.” (on page 6, Asha, Bird of Hope ) While they were visiting the house, a big sound came from the kitchen and scared them.

“What's happened?” Beatrice asked.

“It's my son. It's his lunchtime.” Said Mrs. Kadima.” Let me introduce him to you.”

They followed Mrs. Kadima into the kitchen. What they saw was freaking them out. There was a huge cage. In it was a big, black leopard, looking at them fiercely.

“Forgot to tell you, my son's favorite food is meat - fresh, tender meat, like kids'.”

“What?”

In a snap. Mrs. Kadima opened the door of the cage and the leopard rushed toward Beatrice.

“Watch out!” Seth yelled and pushed Beatrice away. The leopard's paw scratched his shoulder and the blood flowed from his wound.

“It's an enjoyment to watch the frightened expression when children are facing death.” Mrs. Kadima mocked.

Not knowing it was because of hearing Mrs. Kadima's laughter or smelling fresh blood, the leopard became more excited and ran to them at a faster speed. Seth and Beatrice ran out of the kitchen and hid under a sofa where the leopard was too big to get in.

“We are going to die!” Beatrice said fearfully, tears running down her cheek. It just struck Seth that he had watched a video in which a cat was chasing after a light spot in it.

“I got an idea.”

Seth leveled his watch to the sun to create a light spot. The leopard became curious and started chasing after it.

“It’s working!”

Seth moved the light spot to Mrs. Kadima and kept shaking it. This exhilarated the leopard and it bumped into Mrs. Kadima.

Mrs. Kadima got knocked down on the floor and screamed, “What are you doing, bad leopard?”

Seth and Beatrice took the opportunity and escaped from Mrs. Kadima’s house.

The next morning, the police showed up and Mrs. Kadima was arrested for transporting animals illegally and intentional homicide. The leopard was sent to the zoo.

Seth hoped no one would move into the house next door anymore and he swore he would never go to Kenya in his entire life.