Echoes in the Wild – The Green Park Tales

A Collection of Short Stories for Children

First Edition

Author

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Preface

Writing a children's book is both a delight and a challenge. Writing a collection of short stories for children is even more demanding. Every story must entertain while gently nurturing curiosity, imagination, and a love for reading. It should spark wonder, broaden knowledge, and leave young readers with something meaningful to think about long after they have turned the last page.

Perhaps the greatest challenge today is encouraging children to discover the joy of books in a world filled with endless distractions. Once their attention is captured, the stories must hold it, inspiring them to read on and eagerly anticipate the next adventure. With this goal in mind, I have included colourful illustrations and interesting fact boxes throughout the book to enrich the reading experience. I have also deliberately allowed each story to unfold at a comfortable pace, encouraging children to immerse themselves in the characters and the world they inhabit rather than rushing from one event to the next.

Aimed at readers aged 3 to 10, **Echoes in the Wild – The Green Park Tales** is set in the fictional Green Park Wildlife Sanctuary, a vibrant world where animals, birds, and humans live side by side.

It is my hope that these stories will do more than entertain and try to encourage children to observe nature with wonder, treat every living creature with kindness, think thoughtfully, act wisely, and discover that even the smallest act of goodness can create echoes that travel far and wide.

Happy reading, and welcome to Green Park.

INSPIRERS

Siddharth
Sriram
Sandhya
Vikram
Vidya
Karan

Author's Note

This book owes its birth to my son, Siddharth. Ever since he was three years old, every night was a storytelling night. He would pester me to tell him a story or two. In the initial years, things went smoothly as I recounted stories that I had heard or read. But as time flew by, my stock of stories was exhausted. I then restarted telling him the stories I had told him before, all over again. But no, he would not listen. He didn't like repeats. Every night thus became a challenge. He did everything but sleep to get a story out of me. He entreated, implored, cajoled, pestered, and at times cried to wring something new out of me. Things turned nightmarish when his cousins, brothers and sisters, joined him during weekends. On such occasions, it was a very long night of storytelling.

With no other option, I began inventing stories on the spot, tales of animals and birds, gods and demons, heroes and villains. I had to be imaginative and vivid, often casting Siddharth himself as the hero: a kind-hearted savior helping creatures and people alike. This book contains thirteen of those stories, selected from the many I created during those nightly adventures.

Siddharth and his cousins heard these stories with wonderment and rapt attention. I am sure a similar experience will follow for the children who read these stories or to whom they are read. Aimed at readers aged 3 to 10, these stories are set in the fictional Green Park Wildlife Sanctuary. Each tale features animals, birds, and Sid the forest ranger, and each carries a meaningful moral, teaching children to look beyond appearances, help others, assess situations wisely, and act swiftly when needed.

The book begins with an introduction to Green Park, followed by thirteen engaging stories. A map of the sanctuary is included to fire children's imagination and deepen their enjoyment of these tales.

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