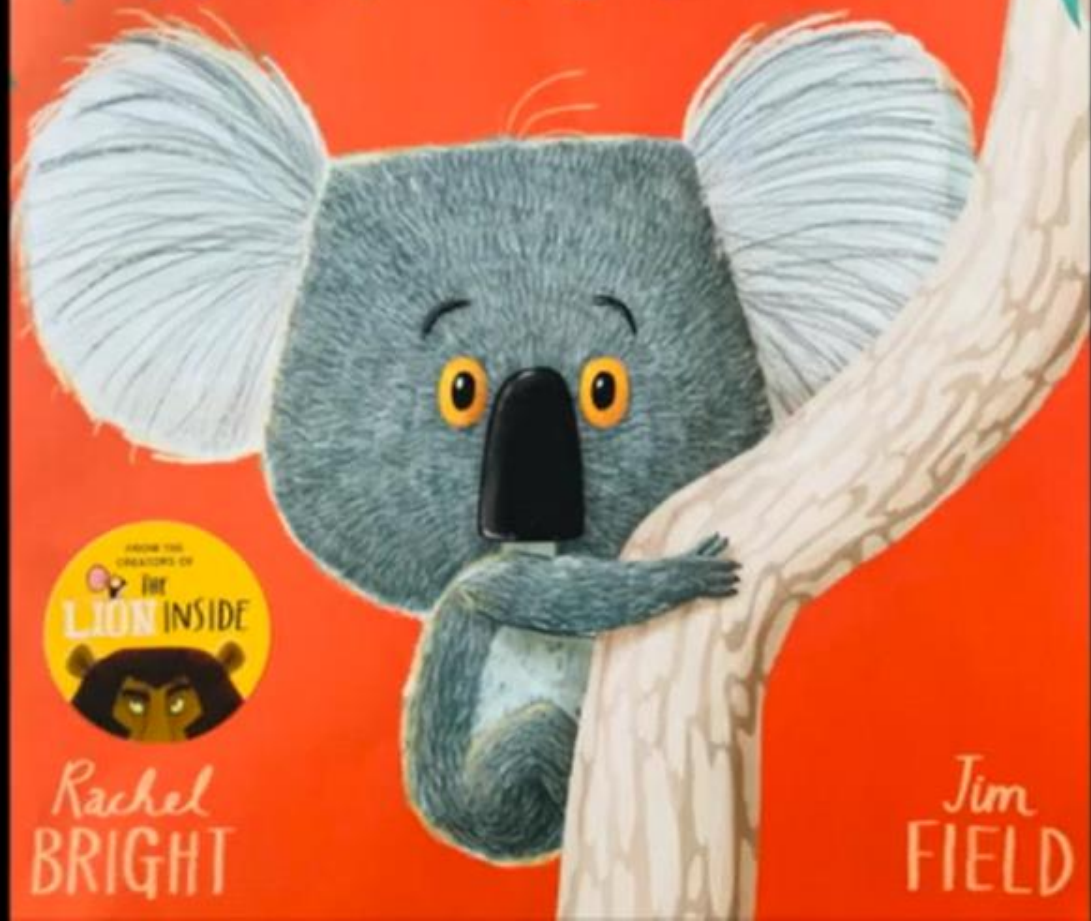



THE
KOALA
WHO COULD



Rachel
BRIGHT

Jim
FIELD



In a wonderful place,
at the breaking of dawn,
Where the breezes were soft
and the sunshine was warm,

A place where the creatures
ran wild and played free . . .

A koala called Kevin
clung to a tree.

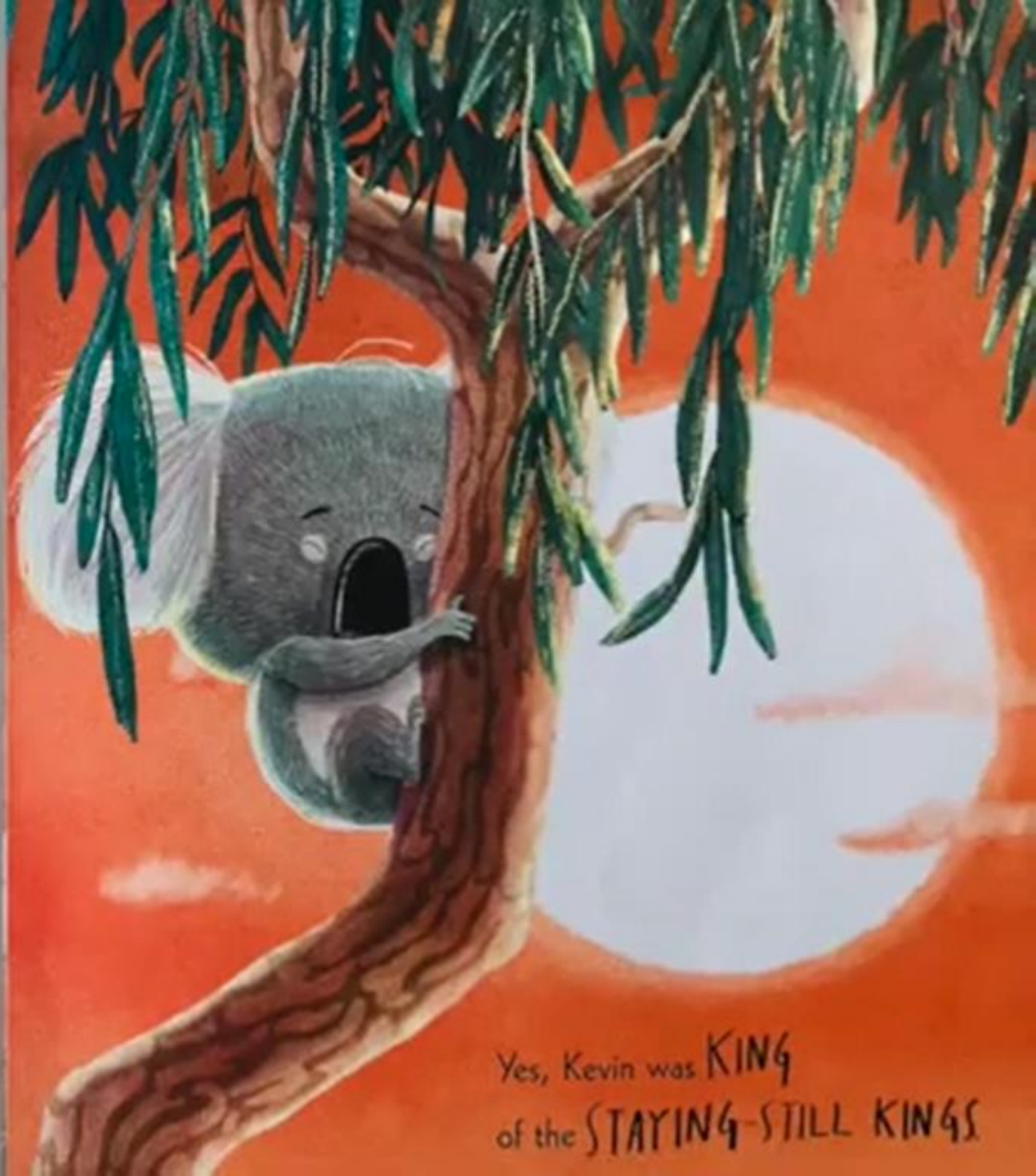


A nicer grey fellow
you never would meet,
As **SOFT** as a **SOFT THING**
from ear-tufts to feet.

His favourite way
to relax in the sun,
Was to cling and to nap
and to munch a leaf-bun.



He was terribly good
at all these three things —



Yes, Kevin was **KING**
of the **STAYING-STILL KINGS**



You see, high up was safe since he liked a slow pace,
While the ground down below seemed a frightening place.

TOO FAST

and TOO LOUD

and TOO BIG

and TOO STRANGE.

Nope. Kevin preferred not to move, nor to change.



So he clung to his tree
as he knew how to do,
And was never too keen
to try anything new.

So when Wombat stopped by,
and shouted one day,
"HEY, KEVIN!" Why don't you
come down here and play?"

"Um . . . I think," he replied,
"I should stay on my plant.
I'm busy right now . . .
No. I'm sorry. I can't."


WHY NOT? cried the roos,
who liked the idea.

"YES. WHY?" called the dingos.

"YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR!"



But Kevin, who wasn't
the 'do-things-quick' sort,
Said, "I've clinging to do.
But thanks for the thought."



As Kevin sat watching
them chatter and share,
A part of him wished
he could join in down there.



But he knew he'd miss home
in the dark and the late.

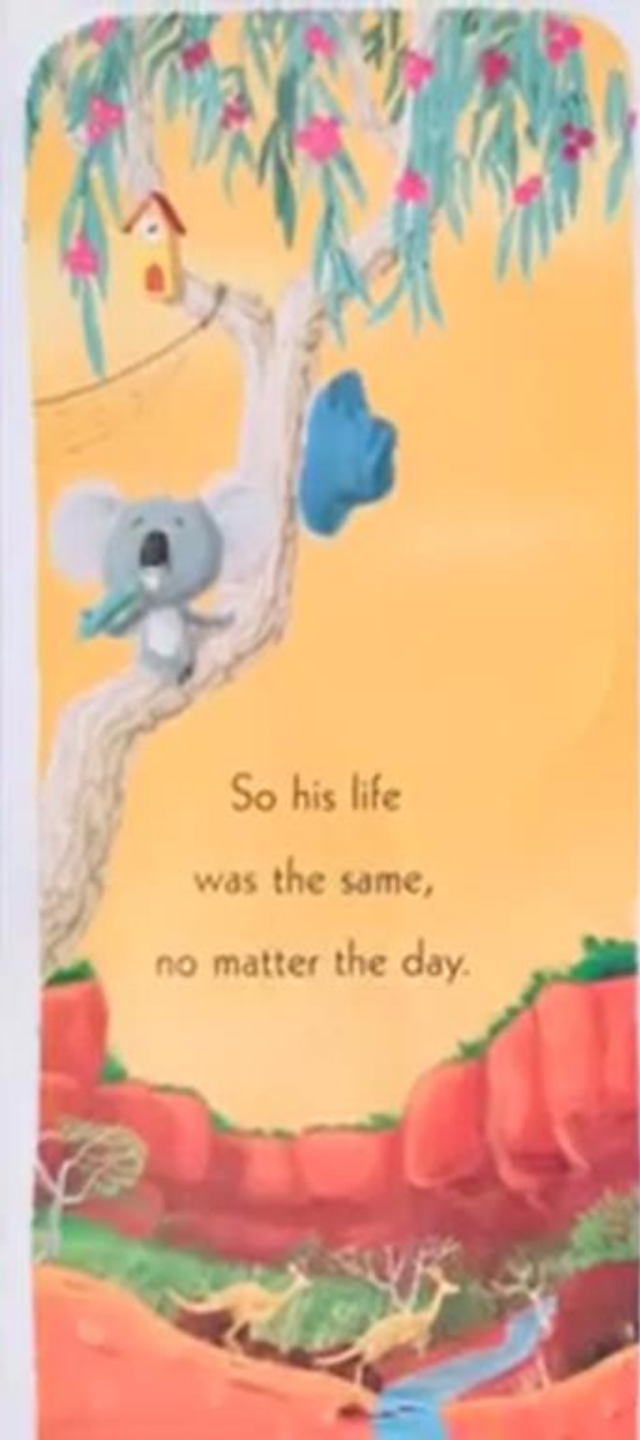
The whole thing was risky,
adventure could wait.

Whatever the invite,
he'd always say **NO**.
Oh dear, it seemed Kevin . . .







. . . just couldn't let go.

A koala is perched on a tree branch. The tree has green leaves and pink flowers. A small yellow birdhouse is on a branch above. A blue hat hangs from the branch. The background is a bright orange sky. Below the tree is a red cliffside with a blue stream and some kangaroos.

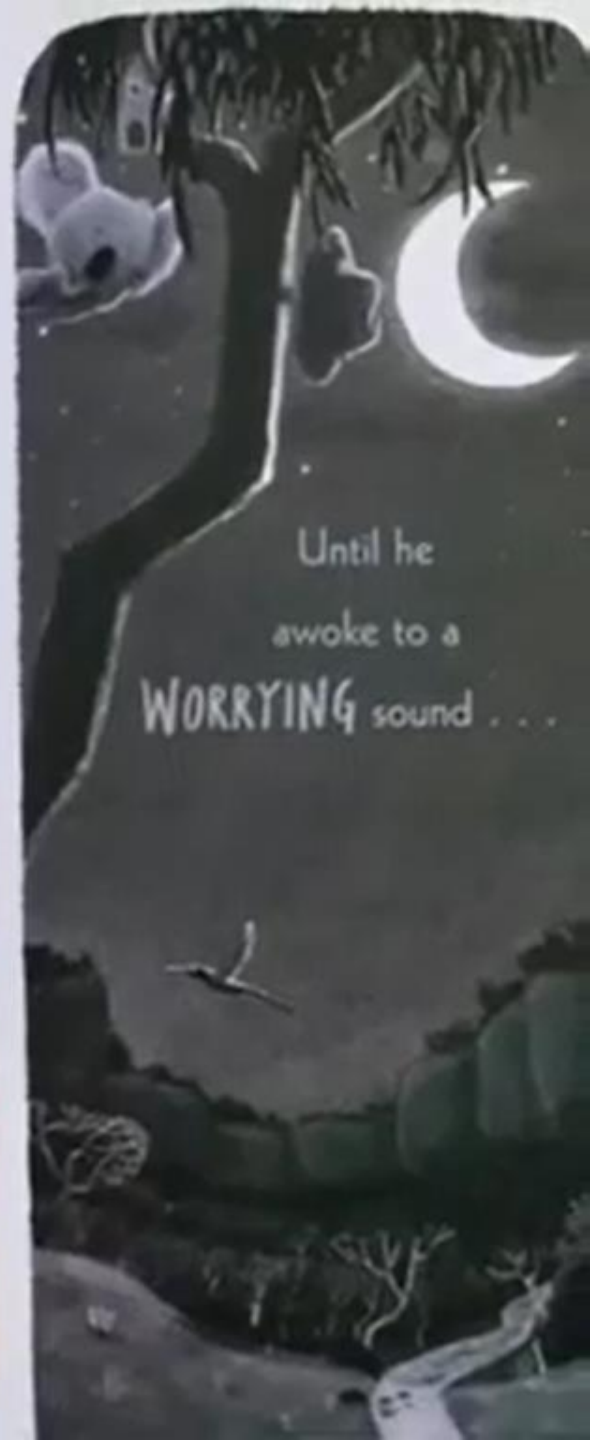
So his life
was the same,
no matter the day.

A koala is on a tree branch. It is raining heavily, with vertical lines representing rain. The scene is dark and grey. The background shows a red cliffside and a stream.

The weeks
came and went, and the
months rolled away.

A koala is on a tree branch wearing a blue hat. A yellow bird is perched on a branch above. The background is a bright yellow sky. Below the tree is a red cliffside with a stream and a kangaroo.

And Kevin stayed still
while the world
moved around,

A koala is on a tree branch. The scene is dark, representing night. A crescent moon is in the sky. A stream flows in the foreground. The background shows a red cliffside and a kangaroo.

Until he
awoke to a
WORRYING sound . . .




TAP TAP

The sound went.
Well... this was a blow!

TAP
TAPPITY
TAP

TAP
TAP
TAP

OH NO!



"UN-CLING!"

the crowd called,
that had gathered below.

"Leap and we'll
catch you!
Just let yourself go!"

But Kevin was scared.

"Let go?
NO, I shan't!"

"I won't!"
dang on Kevin.
"Oh dear, I JUST..."

WHAAAAWWWT!



WHOOOOOOMP!

Down came the tree
with a cracking and pinging.
Crash and a **WALLOP**...
with Kevin still clinging!



Kevin, he carefully opened one eye
and looked up at the love staring down from the sky.
Then one-claw by one-claw, he slowly un-clung . . .
He felt **SPRINGY** and
LIGHT and
HAPPY and
YOUNG!

The worst he could think of had now come to pass
and he was **JUST FINE**.

Why, he felt quite first-class!

So when Wombat held out a most welcoming paw,
Kevin, he didn't hold back any more.

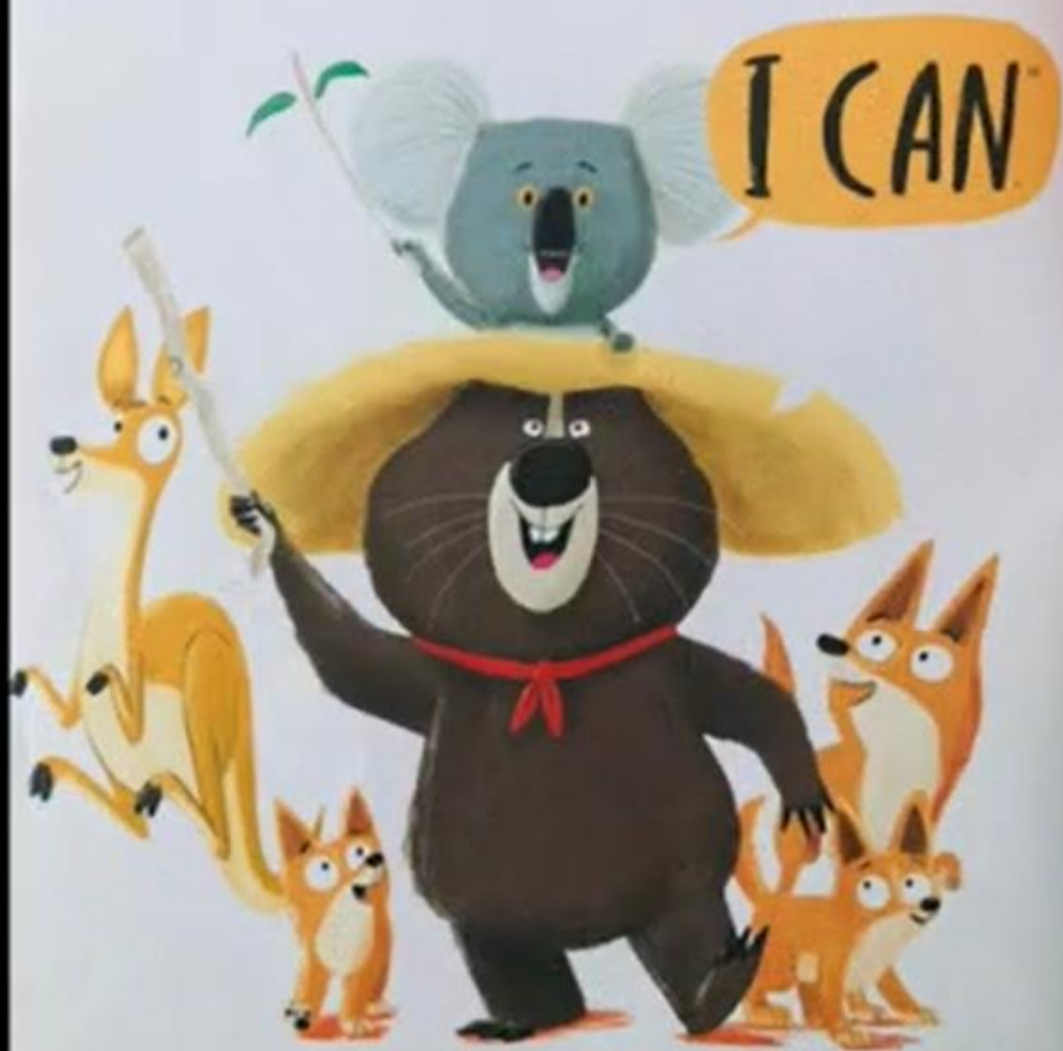


When Dingo asked, "Now will you come out to play?"

The crowd all joined in with a "what-do-you-say?"

And even though this wasn't part of his plan,

Kevin replied, "Yes! I think that . . .





And Kevin, from then on,
was always **CAN DO**...

Because life can be GREAT
when you try something NEW!

