

## An Adventure with Penguins

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730 words

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One snowy day in Antarctica, a little girl, called Sara, was cruising on a Zodiac with her family and her expedition leader to Danco Island. Gentoo penguins were tobogganing joyfully on their bellies, Wedell seals were resting on ice patches like giant, gentle blobs and Albatross birds were swooping around the sea having fun with the waves. Sara was excited to go onto the amazing ice land!

As soon as the Zodiac slid onto the icy, stony beach, Sara sprung up and jumped out of the inflatable boat, threw off her life jacket and sprinted up the snowy hill to find the penguins. SWOOSH!!! SWOOSH!!! Suddenly, Sara felt the wind slapping her around. Snowflakes were coming down on her as if it was a vanilla ice cream machine. ROAR!!! ROAR!!! At all once, Sara looked towards the shore and saw the Zodiac turning around with her family back to the ship. "Oh no, my family must not have noticed I jumped off! The expedition leader had explained that weather changes quickly and that plans change. I should have stayed and waited patiently," worried Sara thought sadly.

Peck, peck, peck... Sara turned her head not knowing who was pecking at her elbow. Sara was amazed as a cheery Chinstrap penguin tweeted, "Hello Sara! You look a bit chilly! Do you want to come huddle with our colony?" Sara stood still with her eyes and mouth open wide and finally muttered, "Yes please, it's colder than at home." The penguin put his flipper out for Sara to hold and they waddled briskly to the colony. Sara explained to the penguin her story of how she was left alone on the island and how she missed her family, even though she loved penguins.

Suddenly, Sara felt the whole huddle of penguins picking her up and waddling up the hill. "We're going to show you a snowy surprise penguin party to cheer you up!" they chirped excitedly. Sara forgot all about her sadness and started to slide down the snowy hills with her new penguin friends. Once they were down the hill on the beach where she had landed, a penguin picked her up, dove into the Southern Ocean and porpoised in and out of the water with Sara screaming joyfully, "More, faster, more, faster!" All of a sudden, the penguin went super duper fast... the penguins could also understand her when she spoke! They continued swimming faster and faster, further, and further until they met a humpback whale called Turquoise. "Come on up on my blowhole and I will throw you up into the sky!" The penguins and Sara had a great time going up and down in the air. When Turquoise was tired, they all hung onto her fluke, and she brought them back to shore.

The penguins' tummies and Sara's tummy started to rumble. They hadn't realised it was dinner time. "The sun never sets in the summer here! But it's dinner time! We need yummy krill!" a penguin exclaimed hungrily. So Sara decided to help the penguins to fish for krill to thank them for cheering her up. Sarah dipped her hands in the water and got hundreds of slimy krill! Suddenly the penguins were full of joy as their bellies were full of krill.

WHIR! WOOSH! Sara looked up and saw a skua with his eyes looking at the chicks. Sara knew that the skua was looking for his dinner. BANG! Sara leapt, caught the penguin eggs and hid them in her pockets. The penguins looked at Sara with surprise and shouted, "Hooray for Sara! She saved our chicks!" Then a penguin looked up at her baby chick and then at Sara and said to her, "You mother must miss you Sara." Sara responded, "Yes and I love you guys, but I miss her. I have an idea! I have a special magical bookmark that makes secret passageways into wherever the book's setting is. I have a book about Antarctica. I will put my special bookmark there and visit you often. I'll bring you krill!"

ROAR!!! ROAR!!! The Zodiac was back with her mother shouting, "We've been looking for you!" Sara gave her penguin friends a big cuddle and left-over krill in her pockets and skipped to her mom. She hugged her mom and said, "See you soon" to the penguins.