

# HOW CLARA WAS SAVED BY THE ANIMALS



GIMHANI UPEKSHA WADUGE

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

ISBN 978-955-590-097-3



National Science Foundation  
47/5, Maitland Place  
Colombo – 07

Tel: 011-2696771-3

Fax 011-2694754

# HOW CLARA WAS SAVED BY THE ANIMALS

**Gimhani Upeksha Waduge**

Illustrations

Anura Srinath



Published by

National Science Foundation  
47/5, Maitland Place,  
Colombo 07

© National Science Foundation 2008

**ISBN 978-955-590-097-3**

Publication Coordination:  
Nadeera Jayaweera

Type Setting & Page Designing:  
Shyama Vithanage

Printed by

WDC Group (Printers)  
16, Galle Road  
Mount Lavinia

Dear children,

This story is about a landslide, a common natural disaster in the hilly areas of our country.

It is our responsibility to make you aware of the natural disasters that are common to our country. Learning to be prepared, mitigate and manage such disasters will help to minimize the loss of lives and damage to properties.

In this context, the National Science Foundation has decided to publish a series of creative story books for children on natural disasters. The first of this series was a story book called “Sea Darkened”, which was published soon after the Tsunami, won the Best Children’s Story Book Award at the State Literary Festival 2005.

Dear children let us learn more about natural disasters.

The story in this book tells how Clara and the animals were saved from a landslide by acting promptly and wisely. Read this story and learn about landslides. You too could save the lives by acting wisely in such situations. Read this book and share what you learnt with others.

National Science Foundation

47/5,

Maitland Place,

Colombo 07



# Animal Friend

Near the city of  
Frankfurt there  
was a hill.

On the hill there was  
a small cottage.

In it lived a girl called  
Clara, who was eight  
years old.

She knew all about  
hills, trees, flowers  
and animals. She even  
knew the language of  
the animals.



The animals she knew brought her fruits to eat.

When she needed other things she went to the Frankfurt market.

Some times she exchanged fruits and flowers with the sellers to get cheese, butter and milk.

On many days Clara brought gifts for her animal friends.



Very often she sat under  
the fir trees with the  
animals all around her.



Woffles, Linty and Honey  
were rabbits.

Piney was from the  
hedgehog family.

Bushy,  
Touchy and Red  
were squirrels.



Among the animals there was a stubborn, proud but handsome peacock called “Beauty”.

Beauty envied Clara.

### **An unusual day**

It was a dull and gloomy day. Dark clouds were floating every where in the sky.

Most of the animals felt strange. They couldn't describe their feelings.

They came running to Clara's cottage when she was preparing her breakfast.



“Clara! Clara! Come quickly. We have to get away as quickly as possible” shouted the animals impatiently.

“Why? What’s the matter? Did you have a bad dream?” asked Clara coming out.

“We are feeling strange. We have never felt like this before in our lives” said Touchy the squirrel.

“I couldn’t stay in my burrow peacefully since morning” murmured Woffles the rabbit, shivering.



“The elders and wise  
animals were  
running like thunder  
bolts”

“I came with them too,  
but I dont feel any  
different” said Red.

“Where is Beauty?  
Why didn’t he  
come with you? ”



“Didn’t you tell him about the unusual feelings that you experienced?” asked Clara, after looking to see whether everyone had come.

“Beauty refused to come with us” said Piney.

“Clara! Let’s go. Hurry up! Come on animals, hurry up” cried Linty.

“Shall I bring some food” asked Clara.

“No, don’t waste a minute. We have no time to run away” said Piney.

“We will ask Beauty again to come with us” shouted Bushy.



“It is no use”  
replied Red.

But, while running  
away they all  
shouted. “Come  
Beauty, come  
with us”



They all ran as fast  
as possible to the  
valley far away from  
the hill and hid in Milly  
mole’s cosy house.



Milly mole asked “Where is Beauty?”

“He didn’t come with us” said Clara.

Clara and all the animals except the peacock  
lived there for a few days.

Food was scarce but they shared the little  
food that Clara brought among them.



## **Back to the hill top again**

One day while Bushy was talking to Woffles and baby Piney, Red and Touchy came to the garden with Piney.

Linty and Clara were picking buttercups.

“Clara! I think we’d better go back” said Honey.

“Yes, we think so too” cried the animals.

“OK. Where’s Milly?” said Clara.



“There he is”  
shouted Linty  
pointing to the house.

“Milly! Milly!”  
called Clara.

Milly mole came running  
to see what was  
going on.

“We decided to go  
back” explained Clara.



“Where to?” asked Milly.

“Back to the hills, just now” said Linty.

“Bye, Milly” cried everyone.

Milly was so sad to send the friends away.

But they set off to the hills again.



When they went to the hill there was no house. Clara's cottage was covered with mud.

They saw Beauty limping. Clara ran and hugged Beauty.

"There was an earth slip on the day you all left the hills. I was foolish, I didn't listen to you all" said Beauty.

"Oh! Are you hurt?" asked Clara.

"Yes, my leg is fractured" said Beauty.



“Half the hill has slipped. It is not safe to live here anymore” explained Clara.

“We were lucky that we managed to escape before the earth slip.”

“It was because we acted wisely”.



Beauty couldn't  
walk or fly.



So Clara  
carried him  
to the next hill  
with all the animals  
following her.



While going, Clara advised her friends.

“Listen to elders and experts”.

“Some animals are sensitive to pre-environmental changes”.

“Don’t think of other things when danger is near. Get away from the danger as quickly as possible”.

“If some thing unusual turns up, take quick precautions”.

“Thank you Clara” shouted all the animals cheerfully.

