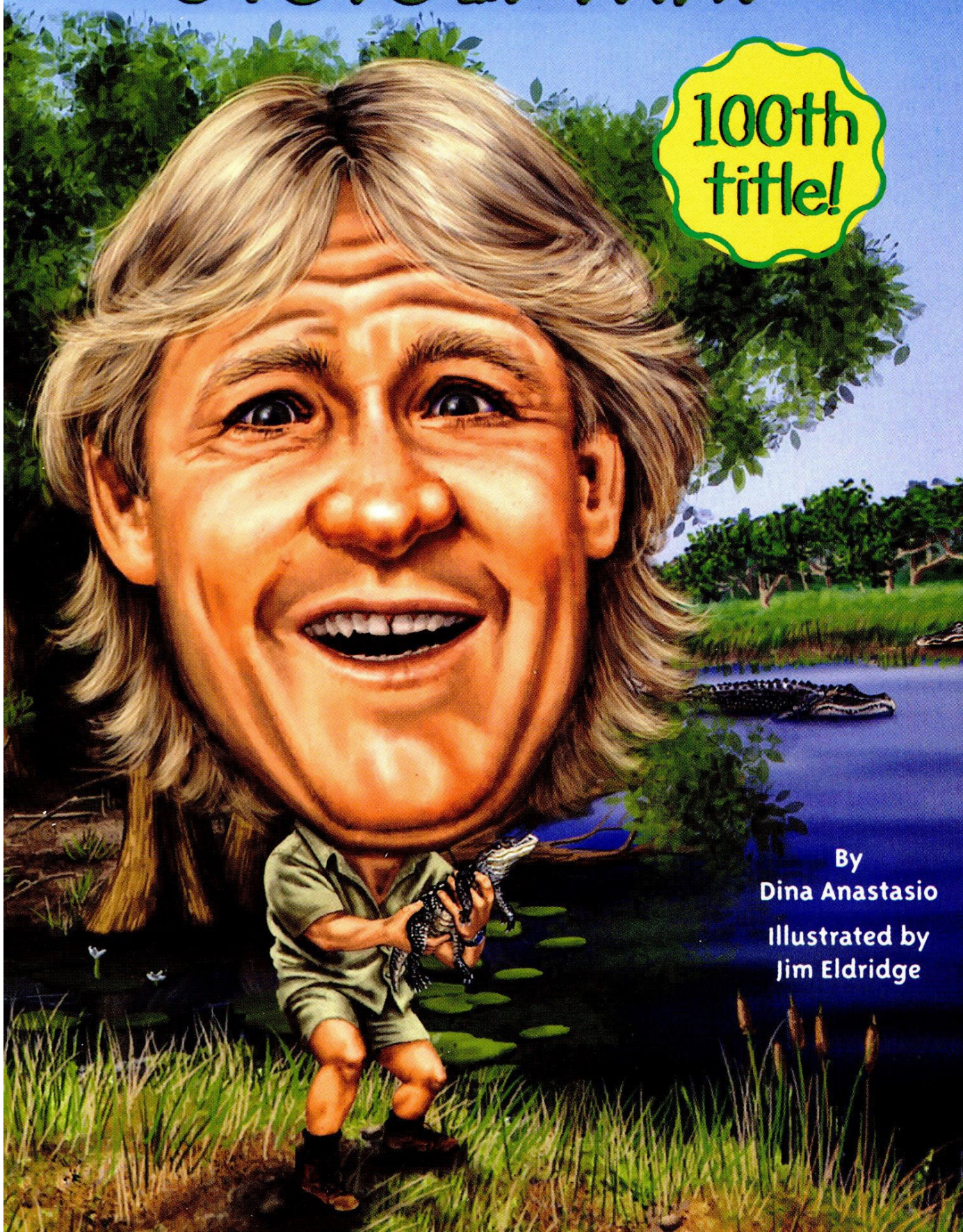


Who Was Steve Irwin?

100th
title!



By
Dina Anastasio
Illustrated by
Jim Eldridge

Who Was Steve Irwin?



Who Was Steve Irwin?

By Dina Anastasio
Illustrated by Jim Eldridge

Grosset & Dunlap
An Imprint of Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Contents

Who Was Steve Irwin?.....	1
Snakes and Joeys.....	6
Growing Up in a Zoo.....	19
Catching Crocs.....	36
Surfing with Salties.....	48
Wildlife Warrior.....	56
The Crocodile Hunter.....	66
Fame and Fortune.....	73
Diary of a Zoo.....	81
A Terrible Accident.....	89
Remembering Steve.....	98
Timelines.....	102
Bibliography.....	104

Who Was Steve Irwin?

When Steve Irwin was a boy, he followed his father everywhere. He had so many questions, his dad thought Steve's mind might explode. Why is that snake hissing? How come that gecko's tail is missing? Do crocodiles cry crocodile tears?

Steve's father, Bob, was a reptile expert. He knew more about snakes and lizards and crocodiles than most other people in Australia. He had no trouble answering Steve's questions.

Snakes hiss to scare away predators, he'd say. Geckos shed their tails so they won't get caught. Crocodiles make tears to clean their eyes; they don't really cry.

When Steve was nine, his father took him to

the wilderness to catch his first crocodile. Steve's questions changed.



Steve: Why do you capture crocodiles?

Bob: To move them to safe places where people won't kill them.

Steve: Why do people kill them?

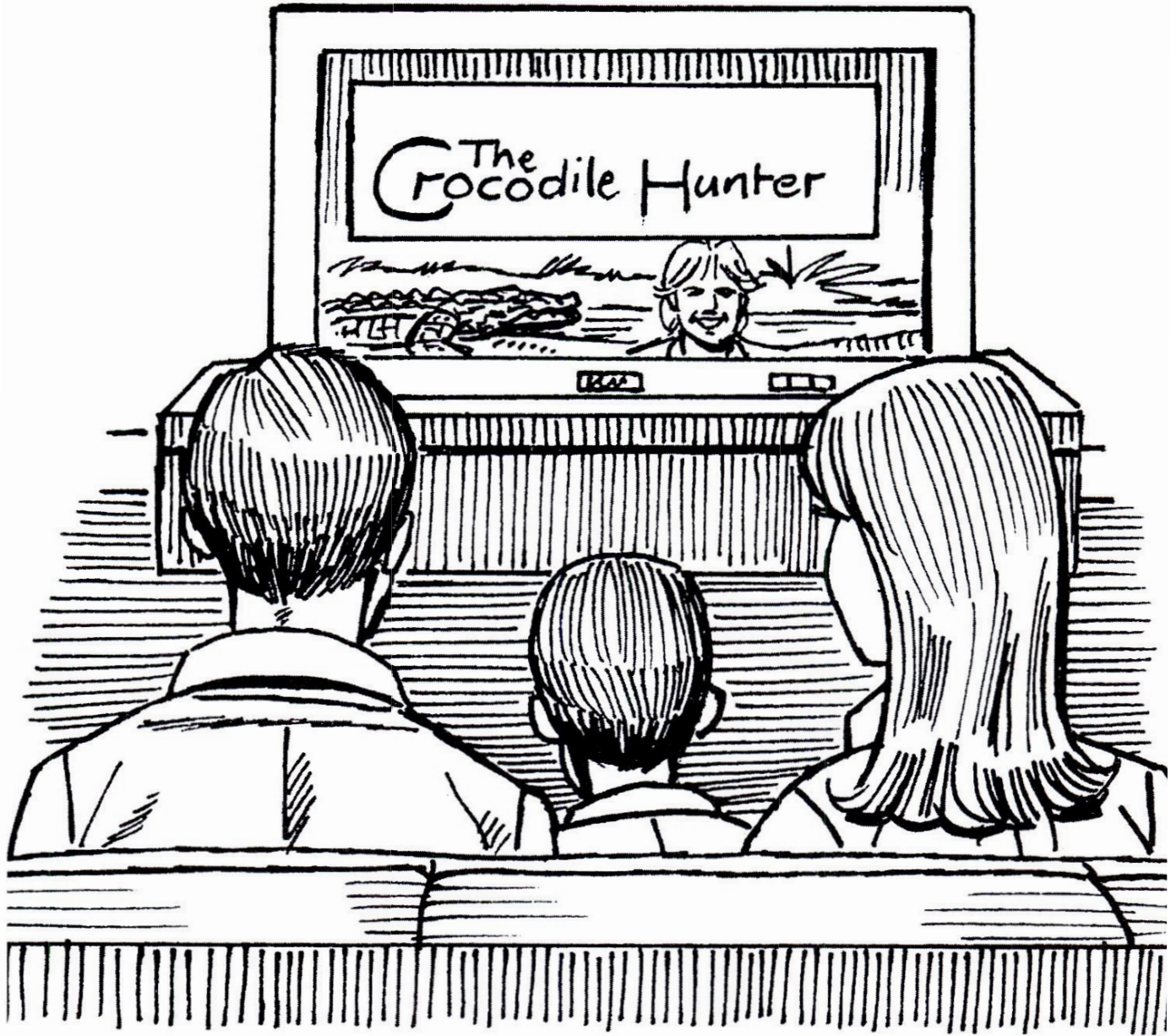
Bob: Because they're afraid.

Steve: Why are they afraid?

Bob: Because they don't understand them.

Steve Irwin never stopped asking questions. When he grew up, he searched for answers by himself. He found them everywhere. On the branches of a mango tree. Inside a kangaroo's pouch. Beside a riverbank.

Before long, Steve knew so much that a TV station asked him to share what he had learned. His show was called *The Crocodile Hunter*. Steve's audience grew, first in Australia, then all over the world. He took viewers along as he explored the wildlife he loved. He noticed everything. Every little snake was gorgeous. Every crocodile was



a little beauty. People started looking at wildlife differently. They were curious now. They weren't as afraid anymore.

Steve Irwin spent his life trying to protect wildlife. Like his father, he continued to teach others.

Steve never lost that excitement he felt when he was a child. “Crikey,” he would whisper to the camera when he spotted another “gorgeous” creature. But he also never forgot what Bob had told him. “Careful, mate!” he would add. “Danger! Danger! Danger!”



Chapter 1

Snakes and Joeys



February 22, 1962, was a big day for Lyn Irwin. It was her twentieth birthday. It was also the day that her second child, and first son, was born. Stephen Robert Irwin was born in a small town called Upper Ferntree Gully, near Melbourne.