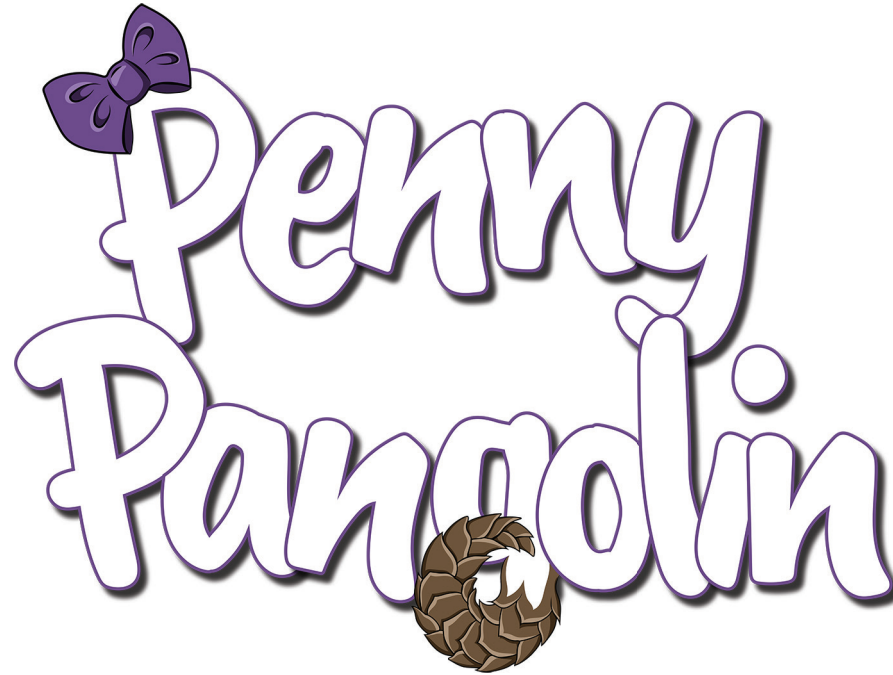




and the Missing Ant Cake

Written by Wayne D. Kramer

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HEROES of TIME PRODUCTIONS

PENNY PANGOLIN

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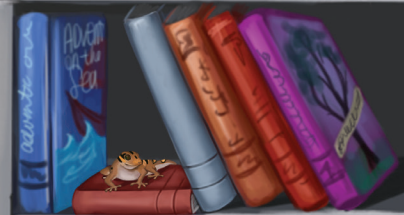
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For Dawn, Brooke, Holly, Ivy, and Jade



Penny Pangolin woke up bright and early. She got dressed and ready, excited for the day. Her friend, Vin lived **far away** and was coming to visit. She wanted to do something special to welcome him.



She thought and she thought.

She slurped up an ant from
the floor, and suddenly she
had the **perfect idea**.



“Mum! Can we make your famous
lemon-ant cake for Vin?”

“Great idea!” said Mum.

She opened the pantry.

“Let’s see. We’ll need
salt, sugar, spices,
baking powder ...”



“...and eggs!” squealed Penny. She ran outside to the pheasant coop. Penny’s family kept the **best pheasants** in the village, with the friendliest birds and the biggest eggs. Very carefully, she gathered a few eggs and carried them back into the kitchen.





“Hmm,” said Mum. “We’re still missing one ingredient.”

“I know!” Penny answered. “Ants!”

Back outside, Penny imagined she was a jungle cat on the **prowl**. She knew to stay out of the real jungle because of the dangerous animals there, but it was always fun to pretend.

Slinking around the lawn-jungle, Penny sniffed out an ant colony. She jabbed her powerful claws into the dirt, stirred up the ants, and captured them in a trap.



Just then, Penny heard a **voice**. “Why do you need all those ants?” It was Edith Aardvark, her neighbour. “You always take all the ants and leave none for us!”

“We’re making Mum’s famous lemon-ant cake for my friend, Vin,” replied Penny.



“There’ll be nothing left for me to snack on,” Edith grumped.

Penny felt a bit upset. She thought Edith just didn’t want to look for her own ants. “There are plenty of ants for everyone,” said Penny.
“Just dig around.”



Penny took the ants inside. She helped her mum mix all the **ingredients** and bake the cake. Its sweet, citrusy smell filled the room.

It was quite possibly the best ant cake they had ever made.



“Something smells terrific!” Vin
said when he arrived.

Penny **clapped**. “We made you
our special lemon-ant cake!”



They went into the kitchen with **eager stomachs**.

Vin looked around. "Where's the cake?"



Penny **gasped**.
“It’s gone!”

“Look!” cried Vin.
“Someone must have
taken it.”



The friends followed the trail of crumbs along the village road.

Another one of Penny's neighbours, Tammy Tapir, noticed what they were doing. "Earlier I saw Edith running towards the **jungle** with a cake," she told them.



The crumbs led into the jungle, but there was no sign of Edith.

“Doesn’t Edith know that the jungle is **dangerous**?” asked Vin.





“Maybe we should tell someone,” said Vin.

Penny couldn't stop thinking about the cake that Edith had stolen. It had been such a **perfect cake**, and now it was gone.

“She got herself in there,” Penny huffed.
“She can get herself back out!”



Then they heard a **rustle** of leaves from just inside the jungle.
A black panther leapt from the bushes with a hungry lick of his
lips. "I've never had pangolin before!"

Penny and Vin knew just what to do. They rolled themselves tightly into balls.

Curious, the panther batted at their **hard and spiky scales**.



The panther tried to bite Penny.
“This is like eating a **pinecone!**”
he yelled. “I’ll go find something
else to eat.” He bounded off
into the jungle.



“We’d better go in after Edith,” Penny said.

“I thought you didn’t want to help her because she stole your cake,” Vin said.

“I don’t,” Penny said. “But she’s still my neighbour, and she doesn’t have **protective** scales like we do.”



They found Edith sitting on a log, about to enjoy the lemon-ant cake. Before they could **warn her**, the black panther appeared with a hungry grin.



Edith was so startled that she **threw** the cake
right into the panther's face.



As the panther wiped the cake from his eyes, Penny and Vin wrapped themselves around Edith to protect her.



“Not aardvarks, too!” the panther spat. With a **frustrated hiss**, he ran away through the brush.

“Thanks for protecting me,” said Edith.

“That’s what neighbours do,” replied Penny. “We look out for each other.”

“I’m so **sorry** I took your cake,” said Edith. “Now it’s ruined.”



“You shouldn’t have taken it ... but I have an idea.
We can make another one. And, this time, we can all **share** it!”



Penny, Vin, and Edith gathered up the ingredients together.
They even used ants from Edith's lawn.

And, this time, it really was the **best** lemon-ant cake ever!



What is a Pangolin?

Pangolins are the only mammals that have scales on their body. These scales are made of keratin, the same substance in your hair and nails, and they help to protect pangolins from predators.

Termites and ants are their favourite food. With their long sticky tongues, pangolins can eat up to 200,000 of these bugs in a single night!



Pangolins are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night.

A baby pangolin is known as a pangopup.

The name pangolin comes from the Malay word “pengguling,” which means “rolling up.”

How Can You Help?



Pangolins are threatened with extinction, which means they could disappear from Earth. In some parts of the world, such as Asia, their meat is considered a luxury food, even though capturing pangolins is illegal.

In some traditional medicines, pangolin scales are believed to provide health benefits, although there is no scientific evidence to support this claim.



But there's good news! Some people are working to help pangolins. Organisations such as the Wildlife Conservation Network are dedicated to helping endangered animals, including pangolins.



[SavePangolins.org](https://www.savepangolins.org) provides details about conservation, training for rangers, rescue centres, and ways to support efforts to help the pangolin population.

Look for more wildlife in Penny's story...



Chlorogomphus
Miyashitai
Dragonfly



Vietnamese
Mossy Frog



Vietnamese
Gecko



Grass Moth



Common
Pheasant



Vietnamese
Mouse Deer



CRITTER COMPENDIUM

Scan the QR Code
below to learn
all about Penny's
favourite critters.



About the Author



Wayne D. Kramer lives in the southern Indiana countryside with his wife and kids.

The idea for Penny Pangolin came to Wayne one day while discussing an interest in creating a series of children's picture books with his family. Pangolins, in particular, had always fascinated the kids. Wayne enjoys brainstorming new Penny ideas with his kids over smoothies at the coffee shop.

He graduated from the University of Louisville in 2005 with a Bachelor of Business Science. He has visited nearly 40 countries and 25 states in the US. He especially loved visiting Hobbiton in New Zealand.

Wayne is also the author of the "Heroes of Time" adventure fantasy novel series. All of his works, including signed copies, are available from **shop.heroesoftime.com**.

About the Illustrator



Jade Zivanovic lives in rural Victoria, Australia with her husband and pets.

Jade has always enjoyed creating pictures that help to tell a story and has studied under prominent artists, also gaining a diploma in concept art and visual storytelling.

Her works hang in private collections across Australia, the US and Europe. She has also placed in art shows, her favourite distinction being a People's Choice Award, as she has always considered herself an artist for the people.