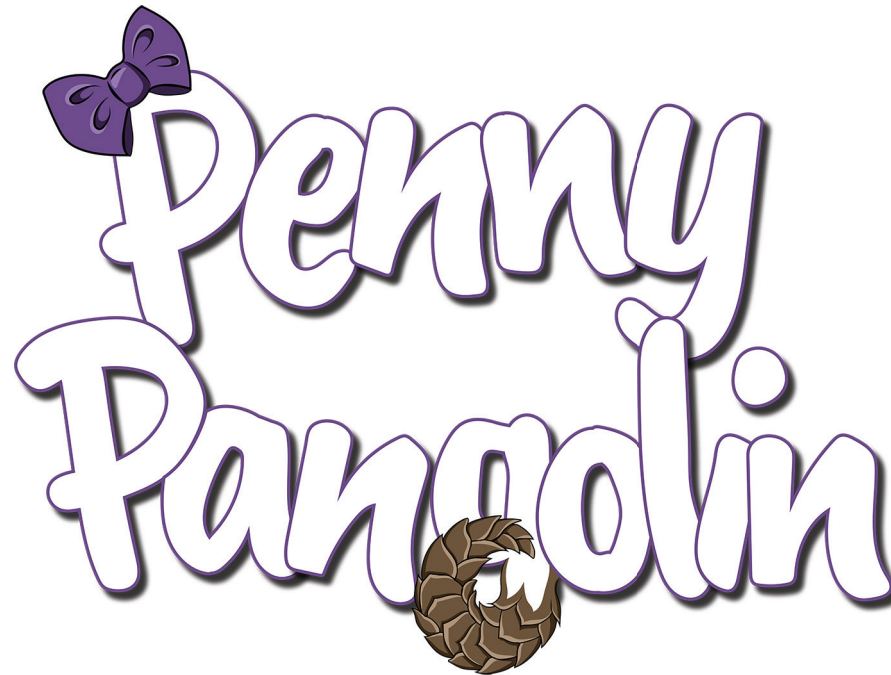




Wants a Pet

Written by Wayne D. Kramer

Illustrated by Jade Zivanovic



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For Dawn, Brooke, Holly, Ivy, and Jade



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On her most recent birthday,
Penny Pangolin
asked her parents if she
could have a pet.



They got her a **plant** instead.



It's a good little plant,
thought Penny.

She fell in love with it.
She wanted to make
sure it stayed
healthy
and strong.



She made sure it got
enough fresh, clean
water.



She kept it nice and cosy beside her at bedtime.
“Good night,” she whispered.



She made sure it got lots of **sunshine** from outside.
Whenever it was hungry, she was always ready with a **new fly**.

She took her plant to the **shop**.

She took her plant with her
to **friends' houses**.

Sometimes her parents made the
plant **stay home**.

"But it'll be lonely!"
Penny protested.





One day, Penny walked with her plant through the neighbourhood.
She heard a loud noise from Mr Weasely's house.
Seconds later, a **rust-coloured streak** dashed out of the garden.
Mr Weasely followed, shouting and swinging a broom.

“What was that?” Penny asked.



Mr Weasely gave a tip of his flat cap.
“Good day, Ms Pangolin. Some kind o’ wild bearcat’s been eatin’
me prize-winning bamboo right out o’ me garden! **Now it’s ruined!**”



“Maybe it’s just hungry,” Penny said.

“It’s a **menace**!” Mr Weasely replied. “I’m gonna catch that pesky critter, and then it’s far away from here I’ll be takin’ it!”

Penny thought Mr Weasely might be overreacting.
Sometimes he was quick to have a bad temper.



Later, Penny arranged
a tea party with her
plant. It was a very
quiet guest.

When she played with her
toys, the plant could only
sit in **silence**.



Penny's friend, Edith was able to
cuddle her rabbit, Hopski.
Penny couldn't **cuddle** her
plant like that.



The truth was, as much as she
loved her plant, **it just didn't
make a very good pet.**



“Can we please get a pet?” Penny finally asked her parents.

She waited while her parents talked about it.



“You’ve done a very good job caring
for your plant,” said her mother.

“We think you’re responsible enough to help
take care of a pet,” said her father.

Penny bounced on her tail in excitement.
“Yay!” she cheered.

“But what pet
should we get?”
they all said together.



“A **monkey?**”
asked her father.

“They climb too much,”
said her mother.



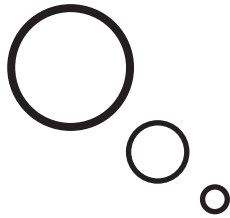
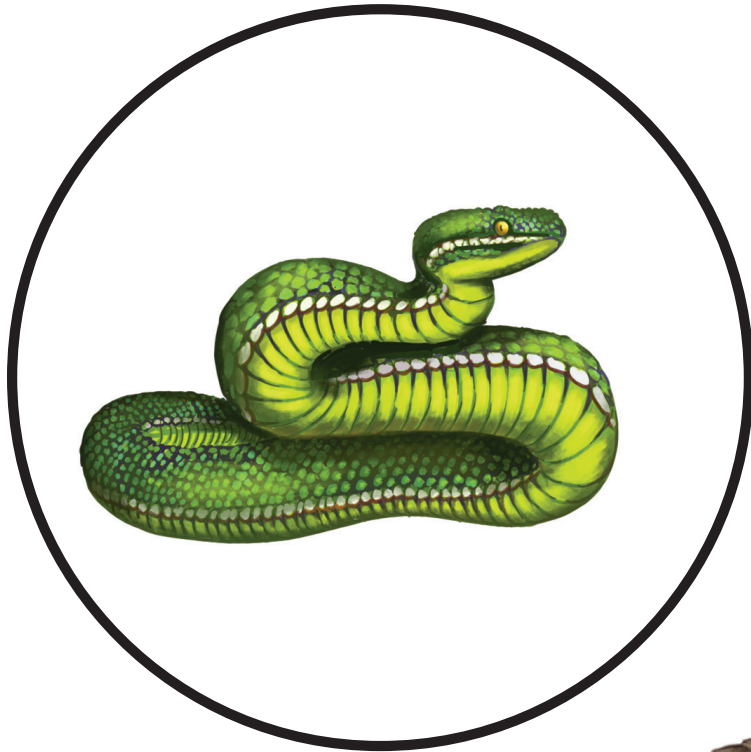
“A **macaw?**”
asked her mother.

“Too much squawking,”
said her father.

“A **snake**?” asked Penny.

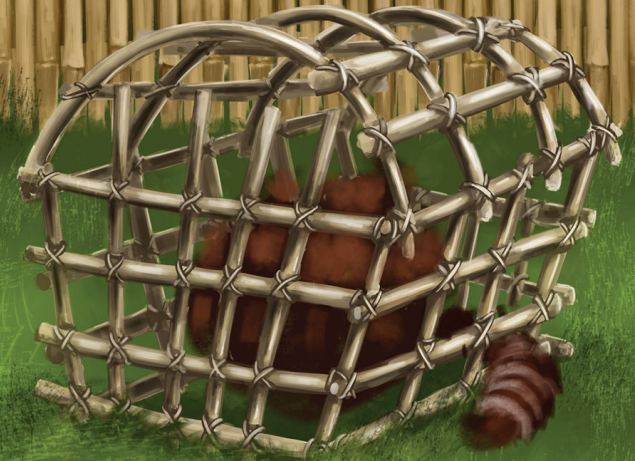
“No,” both her parents said quickly.

They just couldn't decide.



While walking with her plant and thinking about pets, Penny saw something at the edge of Mr Weasely's garden.

It was the **rust-coloured creature** that Mr Weasely had chased off! He thrashed about in a trap, trying to free himself.



The creature stopped moving and looked at her. On his fuzzy face was a desperate, pleading look. Penny felt sorry for him. She didn't think he looked like a menace.

Mr Weasely had called the little guy a "bearcat."
"Well, you're kind of a bearcats," Penny said in a soothing voice.
"You're a **red panda cub**! Here, let me help you ...but you have to promise not to be any more trouble for Mr Weasely."



Penny smiled, and the red panda remained still
while she opened the trap.

“There!” Penny said. The red panda cub sniffed at her scales.

“Now you can go home!”



But the red panda cub followed
Penny home instead.

“He can stay for now,” said her father,
“but he will have to leave if we find he has
another home someplace.”

“Okay!” Penny replied. “I think I’ll call you ...
Mooky!” she said to the red panda.

The cub twittered happily.



Penny loved having Mooky at home. He was no longer any trouble for Mr Weasely. He stayed **nice and cosy** beside her bed at night.



Whenever Penny took care of her plant and did
her chores, he was right by her side.

At teatime he was not very quiet ...but he was a lot of fun!

And Penny got lots of cuddles!



Penny and Mooky were snacking on termite biscuits when her dad came into the room. “I found a red panda **den** just outside the village,” he said.

“I think it might be where Mooky **belongs**.”

Penny tried to feel happy that Mooky would get to go home, but inside she felt like crying. “Good night, Mooky,” she whispered that night.

Feeling sad, she sniffled until falling asleep.





The next day, they took Mooky to the den Penny's father had found.

No matter how much they tried, Mooky **refused to stay** anywhere near the den. He only wanted to follow Penny back home.



One day Penny's dad
answered a knock on the door.
It was their usual postman,
dropping off a parcel.

"I recognise that red panda," he said.

"He's been all over the village."

"Does he have a home?" asked Penny's father.

"He's an orphan," replied the postman.

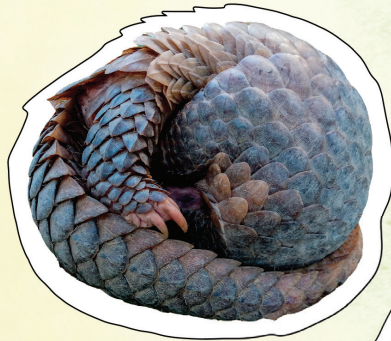
Penny's mum and dad looked at each other, then at Penny, and smiled.

Penny wrapped her arms around Mooky and gave him a big hug.

“He’s not an orphan anymore,” she said.
“**He’s our pet!**”



What is a Pangolin?



Pangolins are unique, gentle mammals with stubby legs, sharp digging claws, and hard scales that protect them from predators. If threatened, a pangolin can curl up into a ball or lash out with its scaled tail. There are eight species of pangolins, four each in Asia and Africa, all of them endangered. They are nocturnal, meaning they're most active at night, and they love eating lots and lots of termites and ants!

Pangolins are threatened with extinction. Many of them are illegally captured for their scales and meat. But there's good news! Some people, such as the Wildlife Conservation Network, are working to help pangolins and other endangered animals.

Check out [SavePangolins.org](https://www.savepangolins.org) to learn more!



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



Jeweled Flower
Mantis



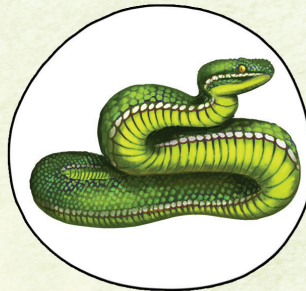
Vietnamese
Pheasant



Red-Shanked
Douc



Vietnamese
Greenfinch



White-Lipped
Viper



Flame Tree



Red Panda



Venus Flytrap



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 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.