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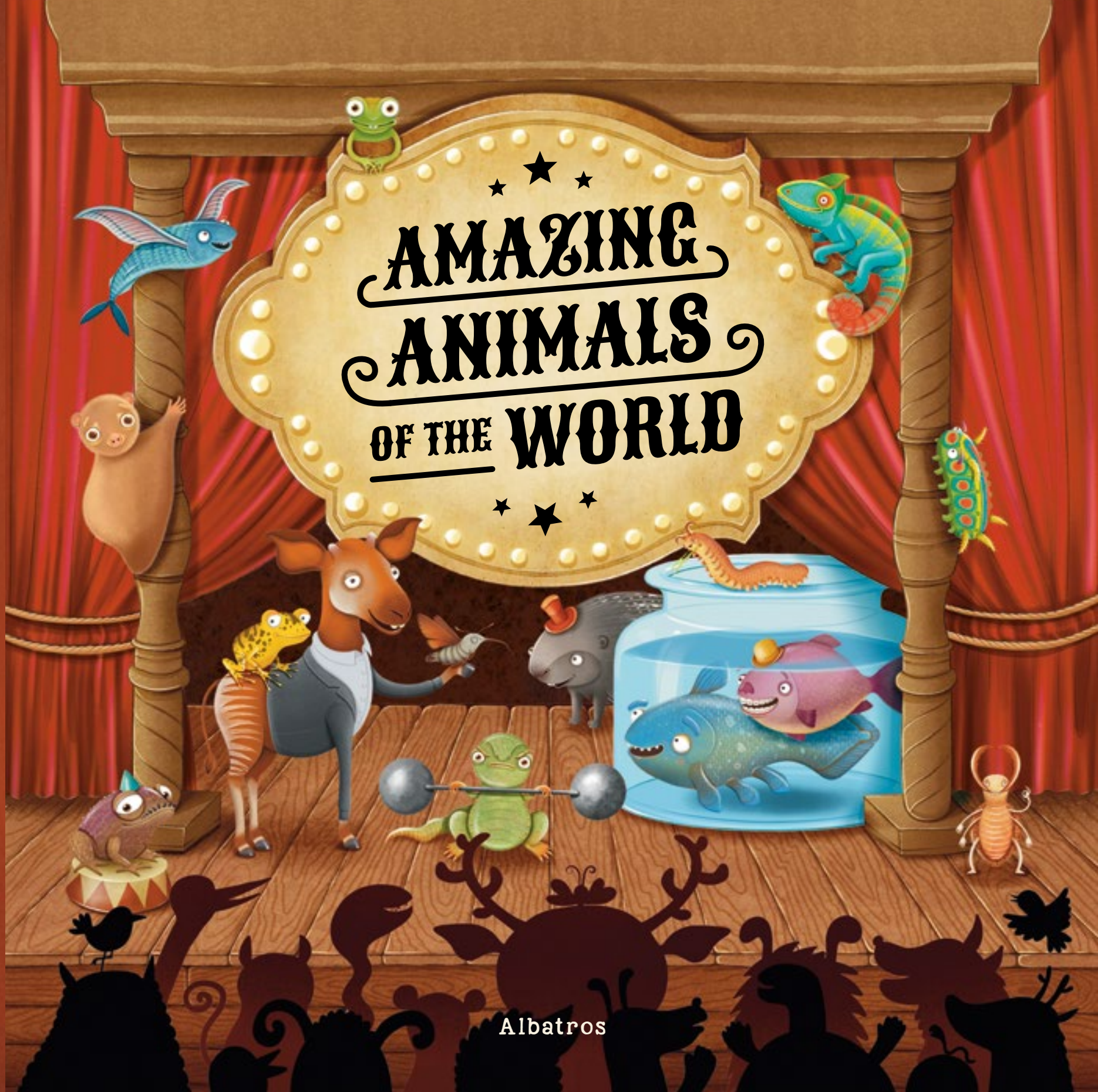
AMAZING ANIMALS OF THE WORLD

Zuzana Dreadka Krutá

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# AMAZING ANIMALS OF THE WORLD



Albatros



# WILSON'S BIRD-OF-PARADISE



**W**ilson's bird-of-paradise would be a worthy entrant in a competition for the title of World's Most Beautiful Bird. Let us seek it out in the tropical rainforests of Indonesia. If we're lucky, from our hiding place, we will see an extraordinary performance. The male bird-of-paradise will carefully clear a piece of ground, which he will use as a stage on which to dance and sing. He will show off the splendid colors of his

: feathers, the bright-blue skin on his head,  
: and his long tail feathers, which are curved  
: in impressive loops. What female could resist  
: such a beautiful artist? Most performers  
: attract several females at a time. As a bird-  
: of-paradise mother must care for her eggs  
: and young alone, she is of plain appearance,  
: grey-brown in color—except for her blue  
: head—to help her escape the attention of  
: hungry beasts.

# MANDARINFISH



**N**o Eastern prince has ever worn a robe more magnificent than that of the mandarinfish. Just look at it, with its clear orange markings on a bright-blue background, its striped tail and fins, its light-green head, and its keen red eyes! Though barely as long as a finger, the mandarinfish proudly carries itself upright in its coral seascape as though

: walking on hind fins. With a slow, dignified  
: gait, it patrols its small undersea kingdom  
: meanwhile feeding on small invertebrates.  
: Many aquarium keepers long to have this  
: beauty in their collection, but few succeed in  
: acquiring it—our proud piscine prince doesn't  
: like to submit to a life in captivity.



# ANGLERFISH



**H**ave you ever seen such a flat fish before? It looks like someone has stepped on the anglerfish. This is because it lives at the bottom of the ocean, up to 3000 feet deep, and its flatness helps it survive the immense pressure of the water. As no light reaches such a depth, the anglerfish makes its own: its "lantern" hangs on the end of one of three filaments that grow from its back. By means of a chemical reaction, this special organ emits blue light. Does it help its owner to see its way? Hardly! In fact, it works as an ingenious bait, encouraging smaller fish to come closer before the anglerfish snatches them up at lightning speed with their mouth filled with pointed teeth.







# FLYING FISH



# HAGFISH



**W**hat a maddening experience it is for a hunter when his prey flies away from right in front of him! And if that prey is a fish, it's even more maddening! Flying fish are masters of this strategy, not least as their pectoral fins are shaped very much like bird wings. They may not be able to flap these "wings", although they do allow the flying fish to glide like an airplane. Although only about

: 8-inches long, it can jump up to 20 feet above  
: the surface of the water at a speed of 44 miles  
: per hour—which is about twice as fast as the  
: human record sprinter. And that's not all  
: that flying fish can do; with great skill, they  
: bounce off the waves, which allows them to  
: land far from the starting point and change  
: direction in midair.  
:

**A**lthough it looks like an eel, it isn't really a fish. It would be truer to say that the hagfish is a distant cousin of the fish, which has barely changed in its hundreds of millions of years of ocean life. And why should it? Quite literally, it slips away from its enemies. The glands on its body secrete a great deal of slime, which expands in water. This makes catching a hagfish about as easy as catching

: a snake coated with a thick layer of custard.  
: And if anyone tries to do so, the hagfish has  
: another trick up its sleeve: it ties a knot in its  
: serpentine body, pushes it from its head to  
: its tail, and shoots all its slime directly at its  
: attacker. Most hungry creatures of the seas  
: have learned their lesson and stay well away  
: from the hagfish.  
:



# SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO

At first sight, the armadillo looks rather like a species of extinct lizard, but in fact, it is a mammal. When it got itself a handsome shell, perhaps it was inspired by turtle fashion. This shell is made of the same material as human nails, and its plates overlap each other so tightly that they leave no gap. You might expect this armour to offer perfect protection, but unfortunately, it has a weak point: as it covers the back only, by turning the armadillo over, the enemy can strike at its belly. But the South American three-banded armadillo stays a step ahead of its foes. As soon as it senses danger, it rolls into a ball—as if about to perform a somersault—packing all the soft parts of its body inside its armor and leaving nothing for the enemy to attack.







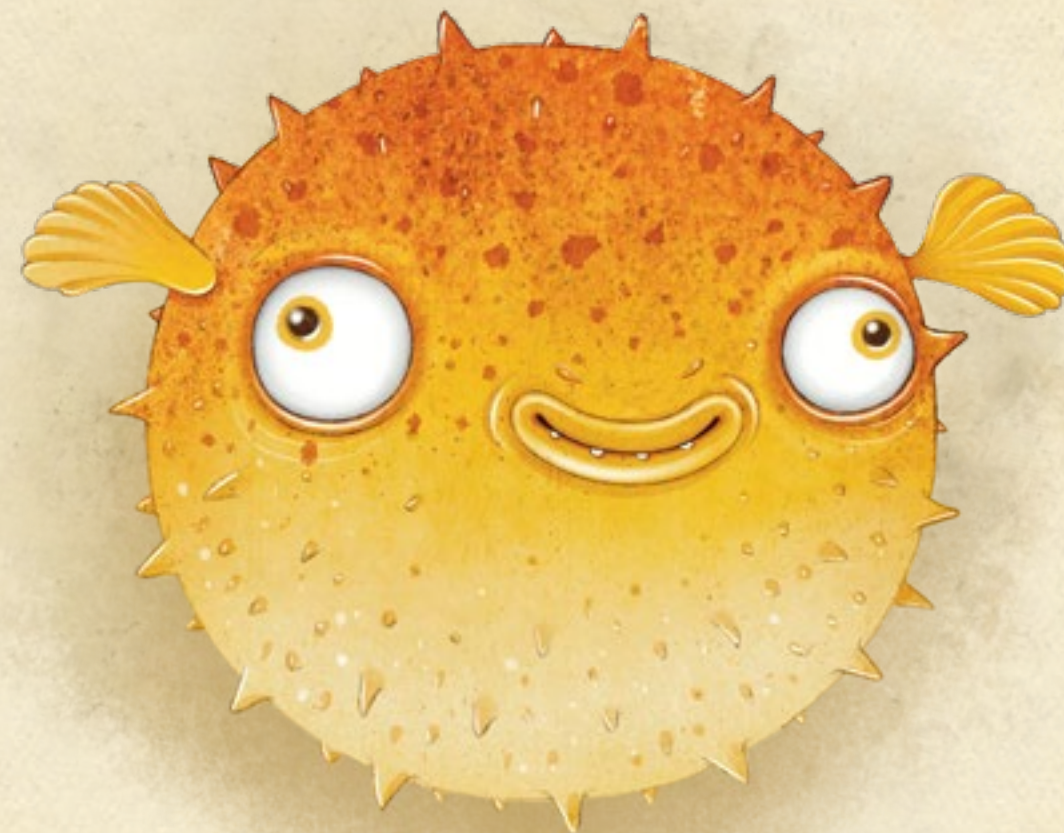
# BOMBARDIER BEETLE



**H**ave you ever heard of insect artillery? The bombardier beetle is a small beetle that runs fast and has shiny, metallic-green wing cases. As it hunts other insects, it must take care not to be hunted and killed itself. In self-defense, it uses a weapon of very high calibre. Its abdomen acts a bit like a cannonball, although it doesn't use gunpowder to fire cannons but releases doses of a certain chemical compound. It produces this substance

continuously, storing it in containers in its abdomen. Not only is the stinking mixture it sprays at its enemy boiling hot, but it also has the force of a shot. The enemy has to hurry to get out of the bombardier's range. Builders of aircraft engines are very interested in the bombardier, as they would love to imitate the beetle's technology.

# LONG-SPINE PORCUPINEFISH



**M**et the long-spine porcupinefish, a charmingly spotted inhabitant of tropical seas and oceans the world over. Looks good, doesn't it? If you get on well with it, you will find it a nice chap with an ordinary fish-like appearance. But you should see it when it gets angry! Which is just what happens when someone tries to eat it. It puffs itself up into a ball—an act that is enough to scare

the enemy away. On top of this, however, it bristles the spines on its porcupine-like body (at rest, these flow backwards). A prickly ball is not an appetizing prospect. What's more, the long-spine porcupinefish is venomous. Any would-be predator is well advised to find something less dangerous for lunch or as an enemy to attack.

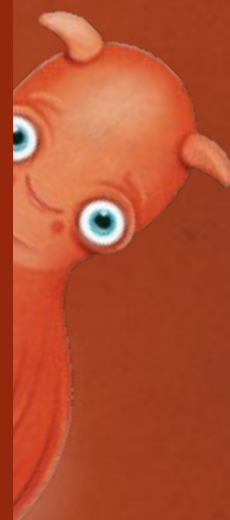




WELCOME!



Boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen,  
Roll up, roll up! You will hear things  
you have never heard before, and you will  
see things you have never before seen,  
like a frog with a handsome moustache,  
a butterfly that looks like a bird, a fish  
with its own light, or a three-eyed lizard.  
Allow our book to present to you all these  
and many more marvelous creatures,  
large and small, from all over the world.  
Take a seat, make yourself comfortable,  
turn the page, draw aside the curtain,  
and let the show begin!



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