

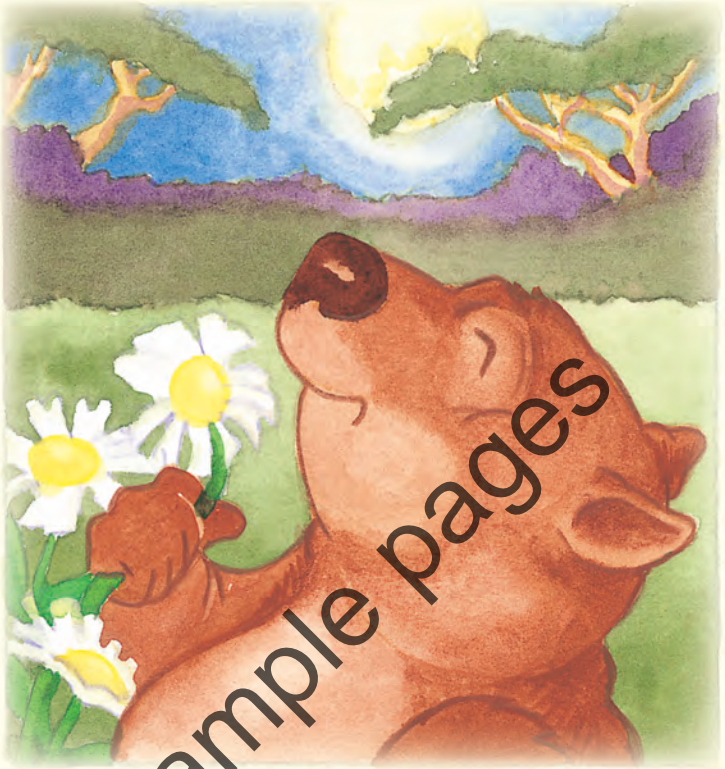
## Chapter 1

# Woody's Problem



WOODY WAS the littlest wombat in the whole of Grey Gums Forest. His brothers and sisters were tall and strong, but Woody was short and wobbly. He couldn't run very fast and he kept falling over. His stumpy legs just weren't strong enough to help him keep up with the others.

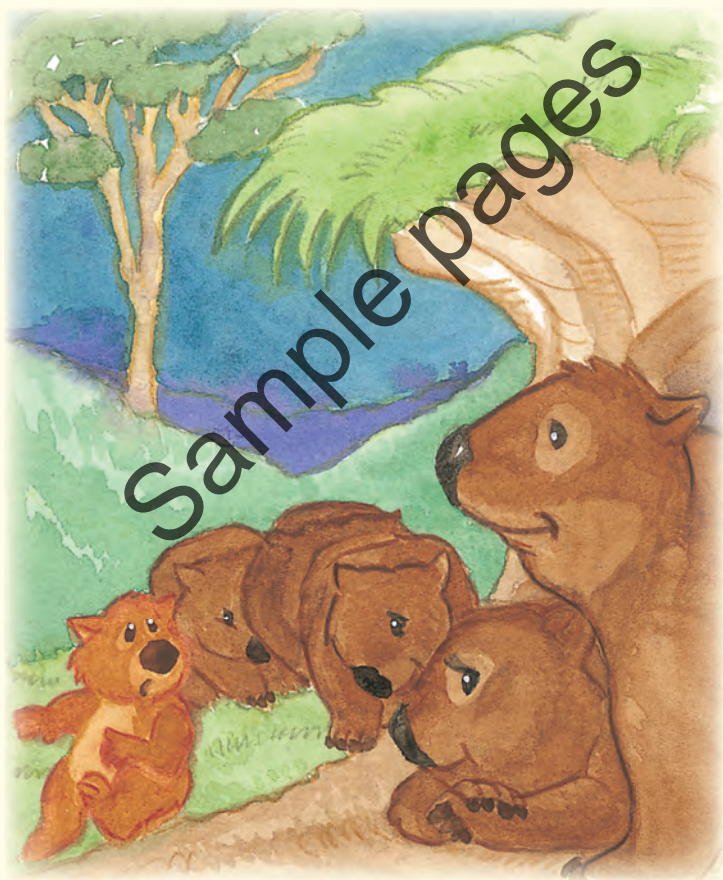
# The Wobbly Wombat



Grey Gums Forest was a lovely place that smelled like fresh rain and eucalyptus leaves. Gum trees stretched their arms to the sky and tucked their roots into the rich soil beneath the undergrowth. The ground was covered with wildflowers.

## Woody's Problem

Woody and his family lived in a long, deep burrow, where it was warm and snug in winter and cool in summer. He had a mum and a dad, three sisters and two brothers.



## The Wobbly Wombat

In the evenings, as the sun was going down, all the wombats would come out to feed and play. But no one played with Woody. His brothers and sisters laughed at him and teased him, saying “Wobbly Woody! Wobbly Woody!” Even the galahs and white cockatoos cackled at the joke.



## Woody's Problem

Sometimes other young wombats who lived in the next burrow would tease him, too. Poor Woody! He didn't know what to say to make it stop. He had no friends at all. His little heart was heavy with sadness.

When the others teased him, Woody would run away and hide under a tea tree bush and cry himself to sleep. Other times he was so angry he kicked the dirt. It was awful! Why were they so mean to him?

Woody would lie under his tea tree at night, listening to the tree frogs calling and talking to the stars.

"Why am I so different?" he would ask through his tears.

"Why doesn't anybody like me?"

But the stars didn't answer. It went on like this for some time.