

Eleonora Thistletail

Illustrate your own book



Aaron Zerah

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Once there was a lioness called
Eleonora Thistletail.

She was named Eleonora because, well,
it was just the right fit for her.

She was strong and proud and a very
good friend.

Now the thistle tail part was another thing altogether.

That happened because when she was born the little cub Eleonora already had a little tuft on her tail that reminded everyone of the African thistle plants growing all around them.

This is what Eleonora looked like:

And when she grew up, the thistle on her tail only grew bigger and bigger, and all the other lions – and the other animals, too – could see Eleonora's amazing thistle tail bobbing up and down in the tall grass whenever she ran through it.

This is Eleonora in the long grass:

Now, when Eleonora was going to the watering hole to drink, her thistly tail was not a problem.

When she was thirsty, she just went on her way and no one bothered her. After all, even though she was very young, she was still a mighty lioness!

This is Eleonora at the waterhole:

But on her first hunts with her sisters and her friends, some of the older lionesses began to whisper among themselves.

Eleonora was learning fast, but her thistle tail was giving them all away. How would they ever stay hidden with Eleonora's tail sticking out like that? What animal, no matter how silently they rustled through the grass, would they be able to surprise?

Everyone was sad when they returned home without bringing anything back to eat with them. The lions were particularly miserable. The lionesses counted on them for protection, but they counted on the lionesses for their meals!

This is the sad lions and lionesses:

Eleonora was very upset herself. She wandered over to a tall baobab tree and stared upward at the starry sky above her.

This is Eleonora that night:

And then she heard an owl, screeching and hooting in the distance. It seemed so far away to Eleonora she could hardly believe it when the owl suddenly landed in the branches of the tree! It twisted its head around and around and winked at her.

Then Eleonora had a great idea! If she marched back and forth with her great big thistle tail sticking out of the tall grass for all the animals to see, nobody else would be noticed. Then the other lionesses could easily sneak up on anyone they wished!

So, the next day, Eleonora's plan was
put into action.

This is Eleonora with the hunters:

That afternoon everyone in the pride
was full and happy.

Soon Eleonora was ready for a very
nice nap in the sun.

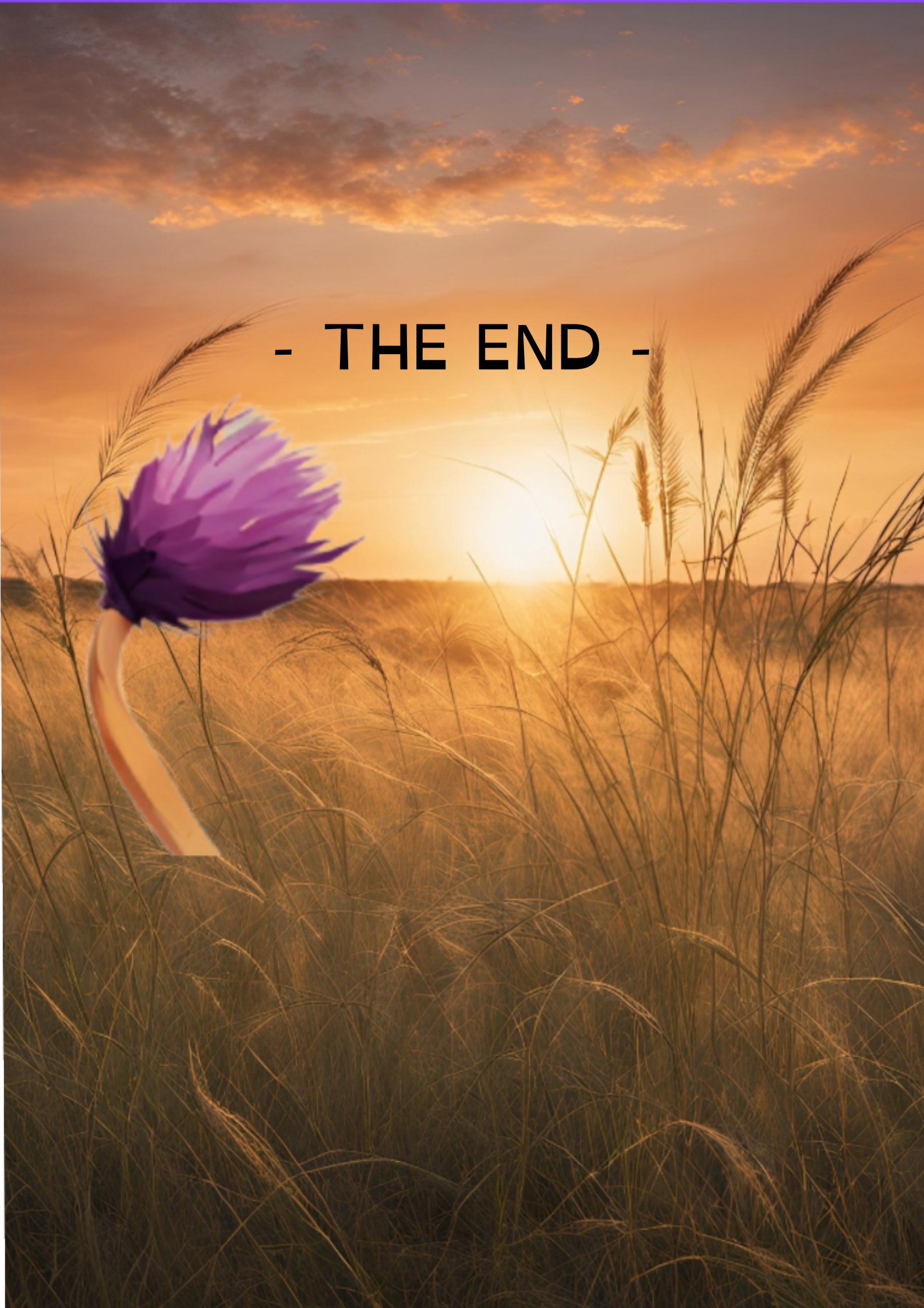
This is Eleonora and the pride napping:

Overhead, a great white stork and a pink flamingo and a brilliant blue crane flew by, all on a great journey.

Eleonora looked up, curled her lovely tail, with all its extraordinary thistles beside her, and contentedly drifted off to sleep and dream of her life ahead.

This is Eleonora's dream:

- THE END -



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