

... forever



uttered the tiniest of barks. Jay's parents were standing by, watching.

"Is he for me?"

"Yes, son. He is all yours," his mum said.

"But you'll have to help in taking care of him," his Papa added.

"Of course!" Jay shouted, and picking him up, rushed out yelling like mad.

Settling in

Soon, the new guest was given a saucer full of milk. He lapped it up, once again his tongue and tail moving in perfect rhythm.

After taking four helpings, he circled the room a couple of times and promptly collapsed at mum's feet falling asleep instantly. Soon the sound of gentle snores filled the room. Everyone roared with laughter.

"What should we call him?"

"Naanu!" Jay replied.

"No, Jay. You can't call a dog Naanu. Naanu was family."

"Papa, our new Naanu is also family. He is my baby brother."

Jay's parents looked at each other. Papa patted him and said, "Okay, we'll call him Naanu Junior."

Naanu Junior became Jay's shadow. Jay took him everywhere, except to school. He fed him, gave him a bath, took him for walks, played with him and even told him stories at night. In most stories, Naanu Junior would be the hero and, whenever his name was mentioned, he would cock his ears and even wag his tail, if the tale was exciting.

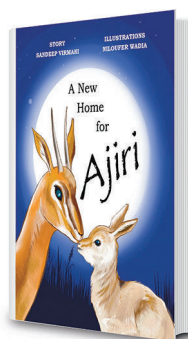
A year has passed. Jay's baby brother is a baby no more. He is tall and sturdy and quite capable of carrying his 'elder brother' on his back, just like Naanu Senior used to.

Bookworm

On a wild ride

Two vibrantly illustrated books on wildlife that also talk about current environmental issues.

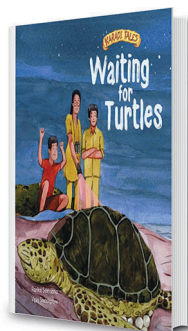
A New Home for Ajiri



Author: **Sandeep Virmani**
Publisher: **Kalpavriksh**
Price: **₹130**

A heart-warming story based in Kachchh. Ajiri, a young chinkara fawn, is separated from its mother when it is attacked and injured by a pack of dogs. Ajiri is nursed back to health by a young boy, Shivam, and his father. The little one is later cared for by a young girl, Mitti. Slowly but surely, Ajiri learns to trust humans as she develops an unusual friendship with Shivam. Will she be reunited with her mother? How does she react when she meets a poacher? The story skilfully gives you a peek into Kachchh, its wildlife, people, their practices, and more, and is brought to life by Niloufer Wadia's illustrations.

Waiting for Turtles



Author: **Pankaj Sekhsaria**
Publisher: **Karadi Tales**
Price: **₹250**

Samrat can barely contain his excitement. Along with his mother Seema, who is a sea turtle researcher, he is headed to Tarmugli Island in the hopes of observing nesting turtles. On a quiet, empty beach, under the stars, they wait. Will the turtles come?

Stunningly illustrated by Vipin Sketchplore, Pankaj Sekhsaria's story is a glimpse in to the lives of some of the world's oldest mammals, and adroitly captures little Samrat's excitement about getting a peek into turtle nesting. The book is also available in Hindi and Telugu.