

Goodnight Great Outdoors



by Lucas Alberg
Illustrations by Megan Marie Myers



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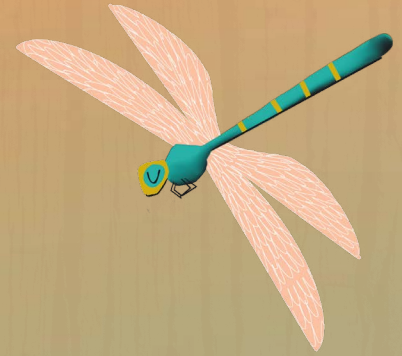
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This book is for my children,
Loren and Birdie, whose zest for fun
and adventure keep me smiling
each and every day.

- L.A.







In the great outdoors
there was a forest floor
and a fading light
and a shadow of



Bear

There are three kinds of bears in North America: Brown Bears, American Black Bears, and in the far north, Polar Bears. Bears are most active during twilight or at night. Black bears are the most common bears in the U.S. Despite their name, black bears can be black, brown, or even white!



Deer

White-tailed deer are some of the most common and widespread animals in North America. They get their name because of their fluffy white tails, which they raise up if there is danger. This helps warn other deer.



Dragonfly

There are many kinds of dragonflies, and they are all fun to watch because they can fly very well. They are also excellent hunters, chowing down on a variety of insects, including mayflies, gnats, and other bugs. Dragonflies are also fast: some can fly about 30 miles per hour.



Fox

The Red Fox is found throughout much of the United States and Canada. While most red foxes are red, some are actually gray, or even silver. Foxes are mostly active at night (nocturnal), but they sometimes can be spotted running around during the day.



Frog

There are many different kinds of frogs in North America, but the bullfrog is one of the most well-known varieties. Native to the southeastern United States, it is now found in much of the country. The bullfrog is famous in part because of its huge size. Some can weigh over a pound!



Owl

Many owls are most active at night. In the forest, owls use their great hearing to hunt for mice, rats, insects, and many other animals. The great horned owl is famous for its “who-who-who” call, which echoes through the forest at night.



Porcupine

Porcupines are covered in thousands of sharp spikes, called quills, which protect them from other animals. Porcupines eat plants, including bark and twigs, and they spend a lot of time in trees. Sometimes, they even fall out of trees, poking themselves! Their quills are covered in a special medicine that makes sure a porcupine doesn't get hurt if poked by its own quills.



Rabbit

Rabbits are most active during twilight, but they can often be spotted during the day. Rabbits eat plants, including flowers, grass, and clover. Many animals eat rabbits, including eagles, coyotes, wolves, and rabbits get away by running very quickly, or by staying still and blending in with their surroundings.



Raccoon

Raccoons are funny-looking animals that are related to bears. Like bears they are omnivores, which means they eat meat and plants (and whatever else they can find). They even will dig through trash cans for leftovers.



Skunk

With their black-and-white fur and the stinky spray they use to defend themselves, skunks are hard to miss. Just like a bee's black-and-yellow colors warn you to stay away, a skunk's colors warn predators to back off. This is called a warning coloration, and for skunks, it works, as not many animals hunt them.



Squirrel

Squirrels are found all over, from big cities to wild forests. Active during the day, they are fun to watch and love to snack at birdfeeders. Squirrels collect acorns and other food and then hide it away for the winter. They remember where most of this food is, but the nuts they forget often grow into trees!



Turtle

Turtles are reptiles that live near water. You might spot turtles during the day swimming in ponds or lakes, or sitting on logs or rocks and warming up in the sun. Turtles are famous for their shells, but don't let cartoons fool you: Turtles don't live "inside" their shells; instead, their shells are part of their body.



About the Author

Lucas Alberg is a native Kansan who ventured out west in pursuit of outdoor adventure in the mountains. Finding his happy place in the Pacific Northwest, he soon combined his creative pursuits with his new home. Lucas currently works for an outdoor products company, plays music, writes, runs, and generally goes about life with a smile on his face. His adventures nearly always involve his wife and two small children and often end with a treat. *Goodnight Great Outdoors* is Lucas' second book, and first children's book.



About the Illustrator

Megan Marie Myers is a painter, illustrator, and native Oregonian. A love for wild places is her constant inspiration; when she is not painting, she is out exploring trails and running in the Oregon outback. Megan's favorite projects are inspired by the outdoors and the connection we have to our natural surroundings and to each other. In addition to illustration work, Megan paints original artwork and designs her own line of greeting cards, museum-quality fine art prints, calendars, and other paper goods as *Megan Marie Myers Art*, based in Bend, Oregon.

A Perfect Bedtime Story, Whether You're Under a Roof or Under the Stars

Gather the children. Cuddle into a warm sleeping bag. It's time to fall asleep. This gentle, calming story celebrates the wonders of the great outdoors by saying goodnight to nature. As the sun sets, the family prepares their campsite for nightfall. "Goodnight hills, and goodnight clean air. Goodnight creatures everywhere." The soft, rhyming text complements dream-like illustrations, creating a picture book that's just right for winding down. So spend your days playing and exploring. With *Goodnight Great Outdoors*, you have bedtime covered.


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