

Rescue Dogs in the Mountains

Zuri and Friends

Made for Tlaloc

With love from the Faust book maker

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Zuri led her friends Teo and Juno. Their blue owl Pip hooted sleepily. Biscuit, a puppy, practiced finding hidden people. This was his first game. They entered a mountain meadow. "Let's help Biscuit find Juno before sunset!" said Zuri.



Juno hid behind a big rock. Pip perched beside her. Biscuit started searching. Zuri said, "But he cannot see Juno there!" The sunshine on the rock grew smaller.



Teo waved to show him Juno. "Can you find Juno?" Biscuit sniffed. Zuri said, "Her scent is her smell. His nose follows it without seeing her."



Teo waved harder. His goggles slipped sideways. Biscuit sniffed. Zuri said, "Waving cannot show him Juno. Sniffs pull air carrying smells into his nose. What happens inside?"

Did you know? Some dogs have 300 million smell-catching parts. People have about six million.



Inside Biscuit's nose, air takes different paths. Some reaches a smelling space near the back. Breath leaves through side slits. It stays away from new smells.



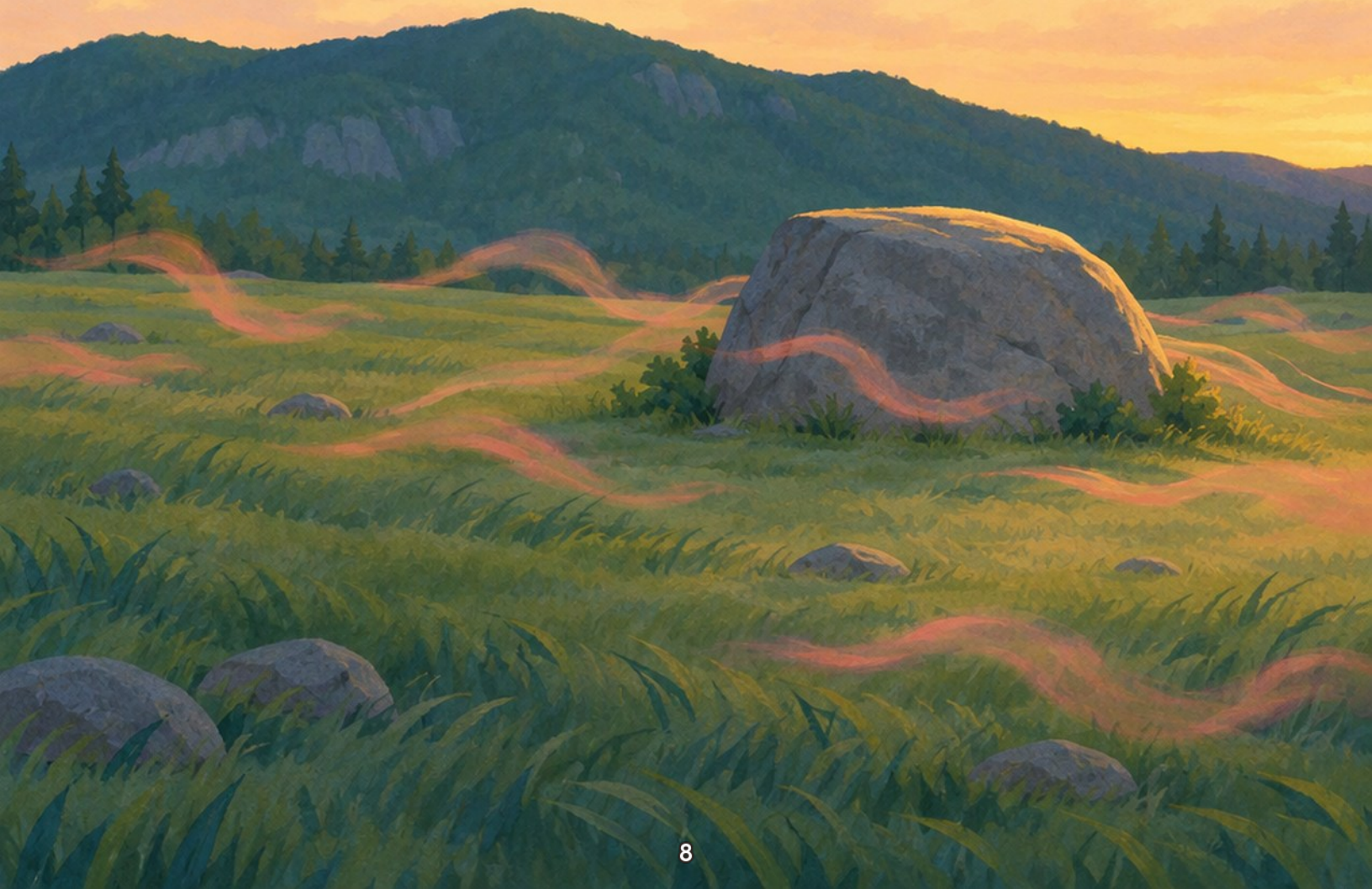
"I've seen dogs wearing barrels!" Teo said. "Does Biscuit need one?" Zuri said, "These straps hold his leash. It pulls on his body. Not his neck."



Zuri and Teo peeked behind the rock. Juno noticed bending grass. Pip pointed. "Okay, let's look closer," said Zuri. "Wind carries your smell to Biscuit's nose." Biscuit's nose lifted.



Wind carries invisible smells to Biscuit. The smells spread in uneven patches. Gaps separate the patches. The smells do not form one neat line. Moving air shifts them.



Zuri led Teo aside. Teo lowered his hands. "Can you find Juno?" he whispered. Biscuit followed Juno's smell toward the rock. Far behind, his trainer followed.

> **Did you know?** Rescue dogs work with trained human partners. Their partners must practice finding people, too.



Biscuit sniffed five times in one second. His nose went sniff, sniff, sniff! Beside the rock, Zuri listened.



At the rock's corner, Biscuit stopped. Juno waited out of sight. Pip held its wings still. One sunlit speck remained. Would he find her?



Before sunset, Biscuit followed Juno's smell. "You found Juno!" Zuri cheered. Juno laughed. Her favorite knotted rope rewarded him. They pulled together. Pip flapped. Teo waved.



For grown-ups

Air-scent rescue dogs search for human smells carried by the wind. Other search dogs follow smells along the ground. Wind spreads invisible smells in shifting patches, shown in the pictures as coral wisps. Some dogs have about 300 million smell-detecting cells, compared with about six million in people. Separate paths inside a dog's nose and openings at its sides help keep outgoing breath away from incoming smells. Rescue dogs do not need barrels. Real rescues require trained human teams.