

Your purchase of **A Rhino's Diary** directly helps to support the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary near Isiolo, Kenya. Samia, an orphaned rhino, shares this sanctuary with many other rhinos and all of the wild animals that live in this habitat. In 1970, there were approximately 20,000 black rhinos in Kenya. Today, about 400 remain. Help us save the rhinos.

D. Rooney



Ngare Sergoi Support Group is a 501(C)3 non-profit and tax exempt organization.
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A RHINO'S DIARY



A TRUE STORY

based on experiences of Anna Merz,
Author of *Rhino at the Brink of Extinction*

In addition, for every copy of "A Rhino's Diary" that is purchased, a Swahili version will be donated to a Kenyan child.

Rhino mothers are usually excellent mothers and nurse their babies right away, but Samia's mother just wandered away the day she was born.

Anna sadly watched and knew that *she* had to be Samia's mother.

So, she wrapped the little orphaned rhino in a warm rug and held her tight as they rode in the jeep to Anna's house.



Safe in Anna's arms, Samia still squeaked with fear.

Illustrations by Pam Braun

Text adapted by Debby Rooney from Anna Merz's book
RHINO AT THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

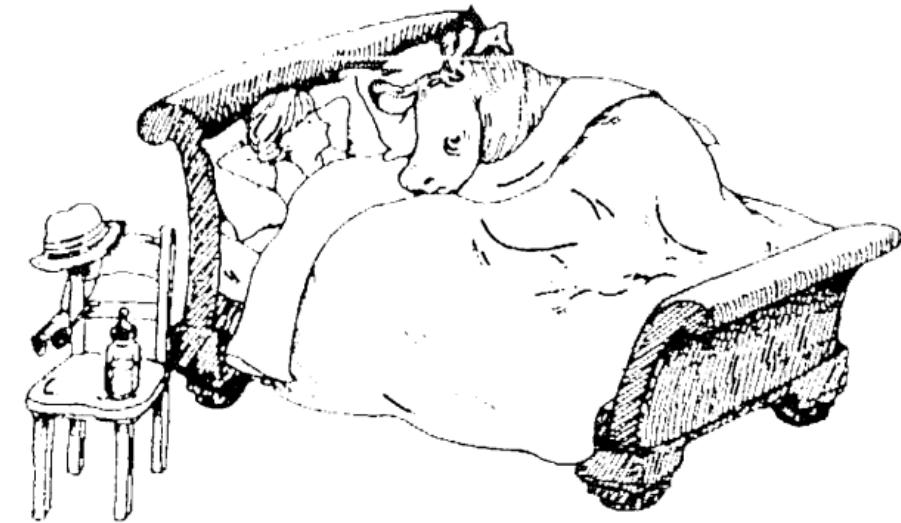
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Samia was very lucky because she was born on a rhino sanctuary in Kenya, Africa, on February 15, 1985. A rhino sanctuary is a place where rhinos are protected from people who hunt them and *kill them just for their horns*.

She was even luckier to be born on Anna's rhino sanctuary because Anna really loved animals and would try hard to be a good rhino mother.

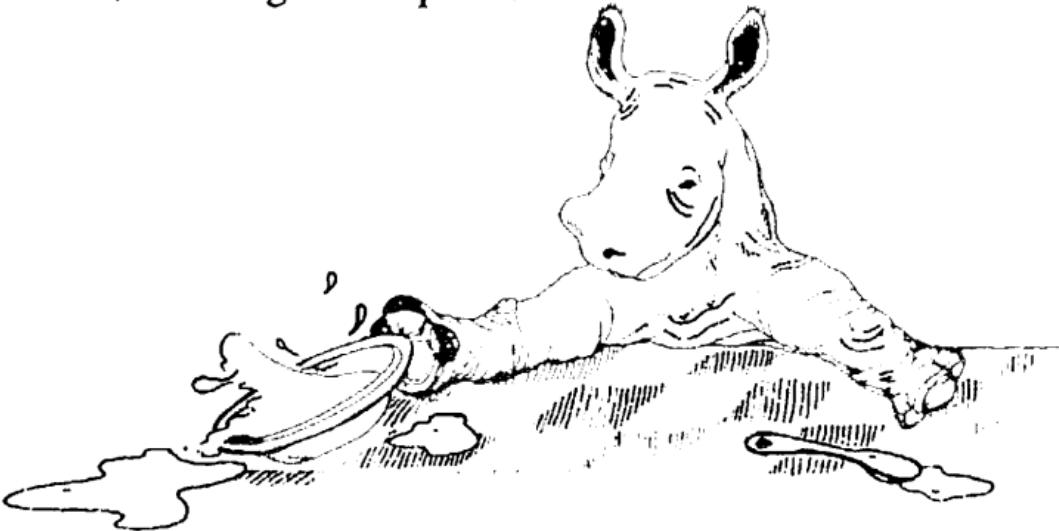
Samia was a very sick baby rhino, and Anna was terribly worried about her. Even with her warm rug on, it was too cold for Samia to sleep in the stable with the other animals, so she slept in Anna's bed, of course! Several times a day, Anna fed her with a bottle.

Anna's very special friend, Sambo, was always very gentle with the sick baby rhino. Sambo was Anna's trusted black dog.



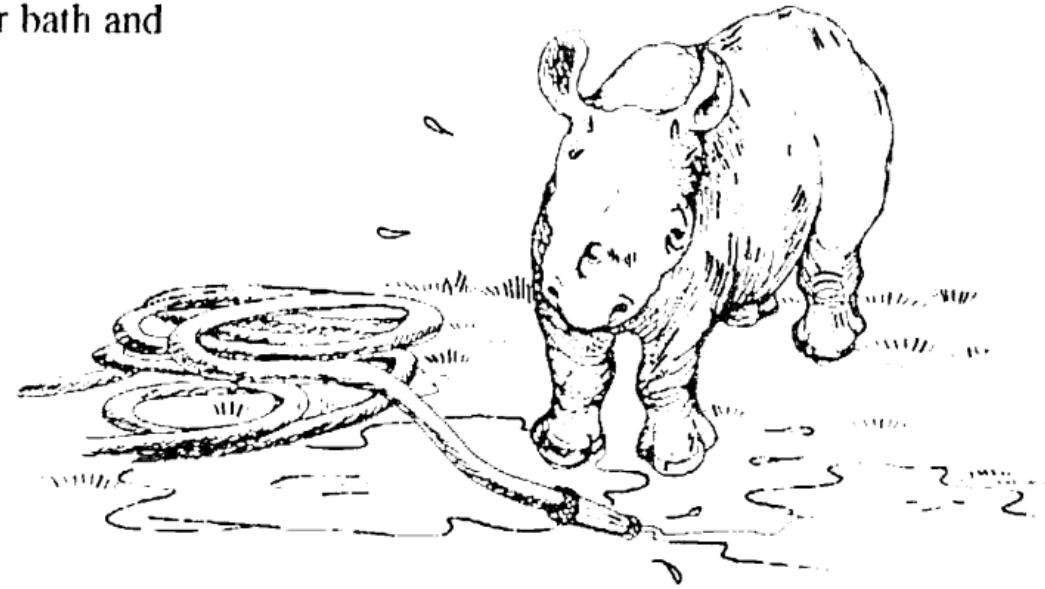
Samia was warm and safe sleeping in Anna's bed. Anna was a good rhino mother.

Slowly, Samia got stronger and stronger. One evening during dinner, she climbed on Anna's lap and *then* . . . onto the dinner table, knocking the soup all over.



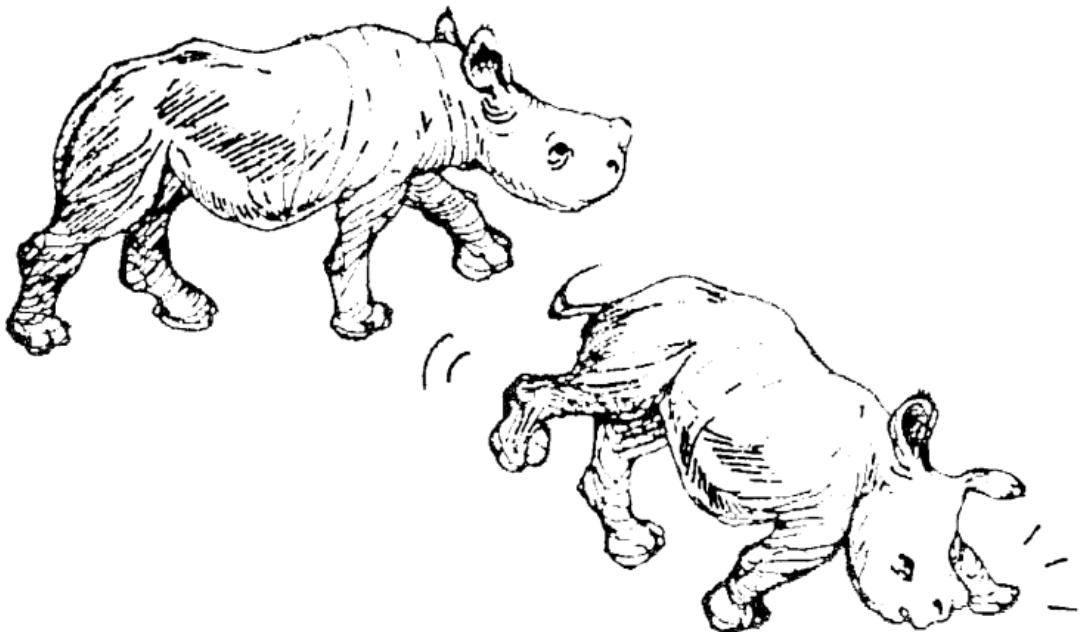
A rhinoceros at the dinner table! How preposterous!

Samia learned to love her bath and

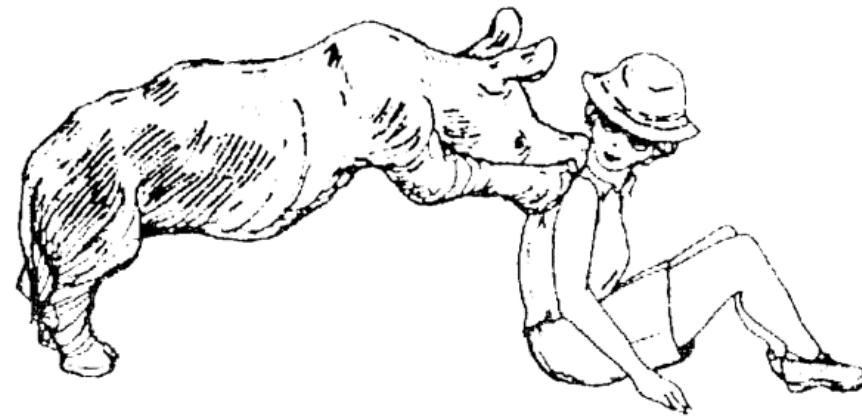


always waited patiently for bath time on those sunny, warm, glorious, African days.

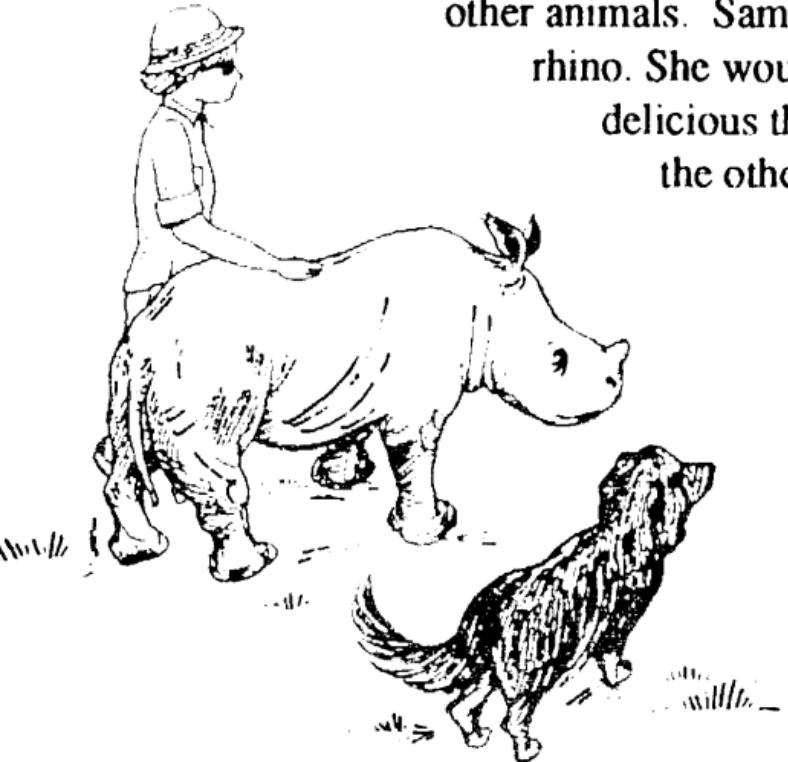
As Samia got larger, she learned to run and buck, just like the big rhinos. But sometimes she toppled head over heels falling on her precious little nose. She didn't have a horn yet!



But whenever she got scared, she would rush back to her mother for comfort and try to get on her lap. She had no idea she was getting a wee bit large to sit on Anna's lap.

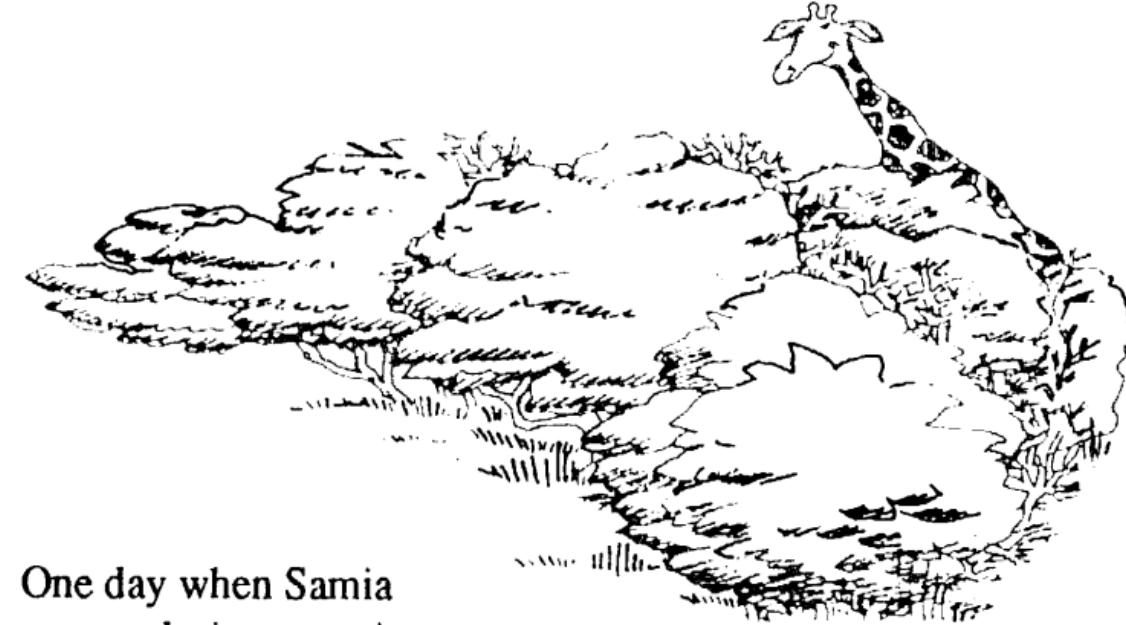


Anna was determined to teach Samia how to be a free rhino and live in the bush with the wild rhinos and all the other animals. Samia would *never* be a pet rhino. She would learn how to eat delicious thornbush and "talk" with the other rhinos.

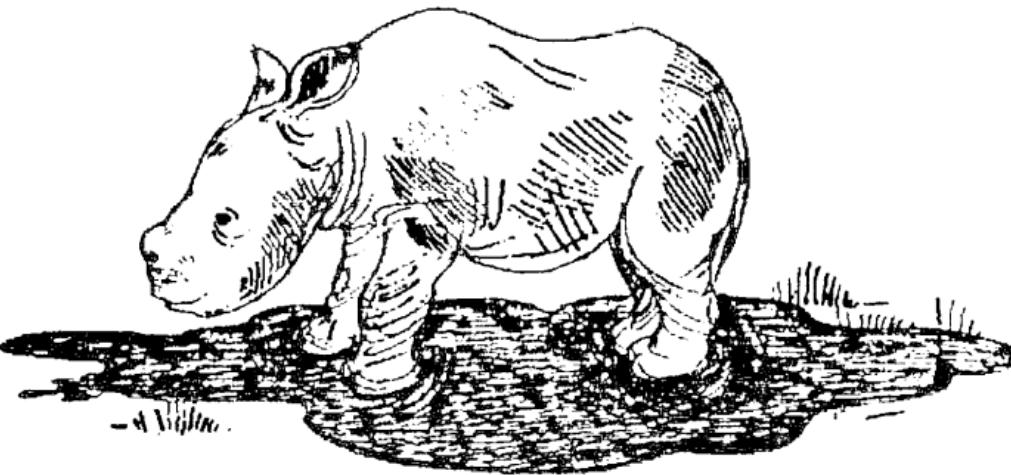


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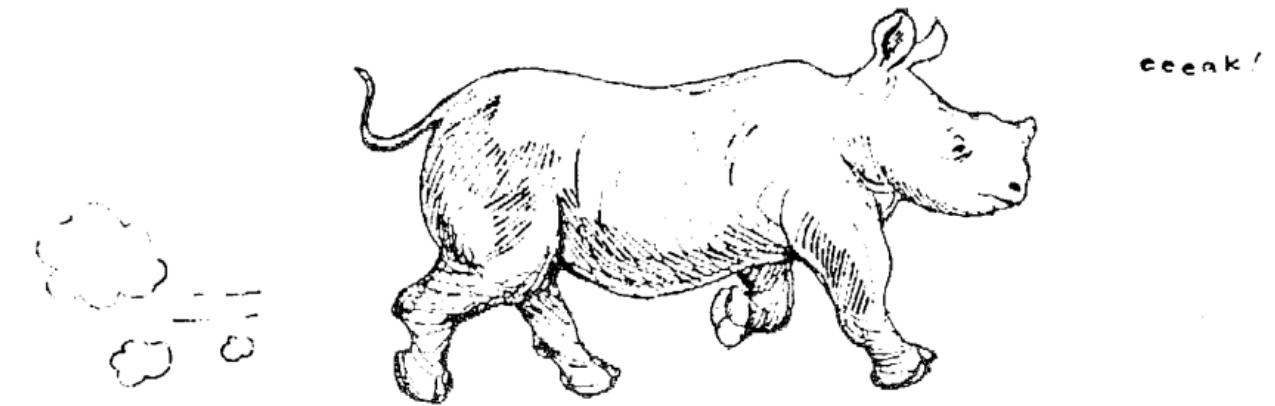
One day when Samia was exploring, a curious giraffe crept around the thornbush and seemed very amazed to see a woman, a dog and a rhino all together. Samia was really scared, because she had *never* seen anything as tall as a giraffe, and came screaming back to Anna and Sambo.



When Samia found a mud puddle, she immediately knew it was meant to be rolled in. All rhinos love a good roll in the mud.



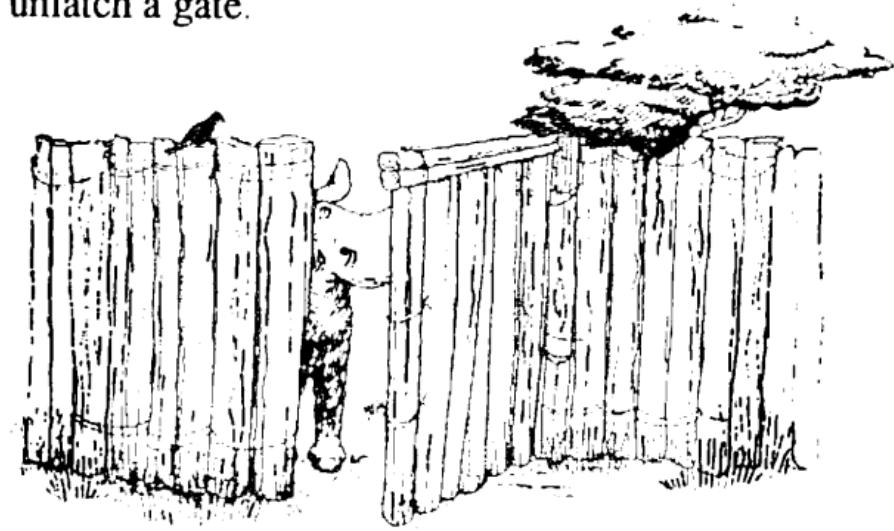
But when she smelled another rhino, she screamed a loud "eeeak!" Anna recognized many of Samia's sounds, and she knew this "eeeak" definitely meant "I'm scared."



Finally, Samia was big and strong enough to move to the stable with the other animals. But, Anna had to sit with her until she drifted off to pleasant rhino dreams.



Although Samia liked her warm bed in the stable, she still wanted to be in the house with Anna and Sambo. When Samia got stuck in the front doorway, Anna built a fence around the house. Samia quickly learned how to open it. She proved that a black rhino's upper lip and little horn work just as well as a finger to unlatch a gate.



It was a happy day when Anna knew that Samia was ready to join the other rhinos. Samia was three years old.



Samia, Sambo and Anna had spent every day for three years together. They learned to love and respect each other and were sensitive to each others' moods. Samia knew there was a time for silly play and a time to just sit quietly with a friend.

Anna had to take a long trip. Samia was not seen near the house the entire time she was gone.

The minute Anna got home she drove her jeep to where Samia was sleeping in the bush. Very quietly, Anna called her name.

Samia gave two tremendous snorts and jumped to her feet. She came at a full gallop with ears pricked forward making the rhino greeting "huff-huff."

Anna gave her best rhino "huff-huff" back. Samia galloped behind the car back to the house and spent the rest of the day calling Anna. In the evening Sambo joined them on their walk, and Samia

stayed
really
close.



Then towards dusk, Samia wandered off on her own again. Samia had learned how to be a free rhino, but she often returned to the house to join Anna and Sambo on their evening walks.

The Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary is a 61,000 acre preserve for black rhinos on the Lewa Downs Ranch near Isiolo, Kenya. The land was donated by David and Delia Craig, the owners of the ranch, and privately funded in 1983 by Englishwoman Anna Merz. The sanctuary was established to provide a refuge from poachers for some of the few remaining rhinos of Kenya.

No rhino has been killed by poachers within its limits. Today the refuge contains sixteen black rhinos. Eleven calves have been born there. It is also a refuge for fourteen white rhinos and other animals that share the habitat.

AS ANNA MERZ says:

"If you think as I do, that it is a sin and a crime to allow the magnificent result of 60 million years of evolution to become extinct, then please help me to help these rhinos."