

## ITAMAR WALKS ON WALLS

by David Grossman

translation by Gabe Salgado

In Itamar's room, there are three beautiful, colorful pictures hanging on the wall. The first picture is of a long train, with a green steam engine, with people and animals poking their faces out.

The second picture is of a girl flying a big red kite in the sky. Itamar and his father always say that the girl's name is Rutzki-Putzki. That's what they decided to name her.

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The third picture is of a forest. In the forest live two big lions, Daddy-Lion and Mommy-Lioness, but there is no Baby-Lion, and maybe that's why the lions look a little sad...

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At night, after Itamar has his hot chocolate and listens to his story, asks to go potty one more time, asks for his night light, asks for his teddy bear and his monkey, and after his parents start to get mad at him for pestering, Itamar quiets down and lays like this:

(PICTURE)

Then, slowly, and without making a sound, he starts- walking on the wall.

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No one in the world knows that Itamar knows how to walk on walls. Only the teddy bear and the monkey know:

Itamar walks slowly on the wall until he arrives at the picture of the forest. He climbs over the frame, and into the picture.

(PICTURE)

When you go inside a picture, you see and hear things that can't be seen or heard from the outside!

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Itamar spots a creek between the trees, and in the creek there are two small elephants taking a shower. He sees monkeys jumping between the tree branches. He hears birds singing. On a rock, Itamar sees three faeries learning how to do magic. Itamar likes going into this picture!

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Once, while Itamar was walking around the forest inside the picture, he heard a crying sound. He started walking quickly, until he found the middle of the forest, and there, underneath a date tree, he saw the two big lions sitting and crying.

“What’s wrong with you,” asked Itamar, and the lions stopped crying and looked at him.

“Hey,” said the Lion, “It’s the Boy from the Bed Down Below.”

“That’s right,” said the Lioness, the Lion’s wife, “How did you get here? There’s never been a boy here!”

“I climbed,” said Itamar, “I always come to visit this picture, but we’ve never met. Is something making you sad?”

“Yes,” the Lioness began to cry once again, “Our boy, our adorable, sweet cub, has disappeared!”

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“We are very worried about him, and we don’t know where he is,” said Daddy-Lion, sobbing

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“How did he disappear?” asked Itamar, and he too became sad.

“Three days ago, a train passed through this forest,” said Mommy, “and there were lots of people and animals sitting on the train, and it was a beautiful, colorful train, and our boy started running after it, and he suddenly jumped onto it!”

“And it chugged away with him,” said Daddy-Lion as he wiped his eyes with a huge handkerchief.

“And now we don’t know where he is,” said Mommy-Lioness with a sigh..

“Wait a minute!” said Itamar, “was it a long train with a green steam engine?”

“Exactly,” said Daddy-Lion, “Have you seen it?”

“Yes,” said Itamar. “It’s in the picture on the wall across from us! You can see it over there, by the bookcase.”

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The two lions got up right away and looked. “That’s right!” yelled the Lion, “I see it!”

“Yes, yes!” said Mommy, “He’s over there! In the train, in the window!” And they started waving to their cub with their big paws.

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“Come back to us!” yelled Daddy and Mommy Lion, “Come home!”

The little lion in the train heard them and started waving with his paws and yelling to them that he wanted to come home, that he was hungry, and that he was sick of riding on the train. He too looked sad; He didn’t know how to get himself off of the speeding train.

“Why don’t you go and get him?” Itamar offered them, but the Lions explained to him that they couldn’t leave the picture frame. Only very very small ones, like a cub or a boy, could go into and out of the frame.

Itamar thought and thought, and suddenly jumped up and said, “I have an idea! Wait here! I’ll bring your cub back to you!”

And Itamar left the forest picture, ran along the wall, climbed onto the frame of the second picture, and went up to the girl flying the kite.

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“Hello,” he said, “My name is Itamar, and I would like you to help me.”

“Ah, it’s you, the Boy from the Bed Down Below,” said the girl. “I’m mad at you. You and your dad call me Rutzki-Putzki, and my name is Shulamit.”

“I’m sorry,” said Itamar, “We didn’t know. From now on, we’ll call you Shulamit. Can you give me your beautiful kite for just a moment?”

“What do you need my beautiful kite for?” asked Rutzki... sorry: asked Shulamit.

“You’ll see,” said Itamar.

Shulamit gave him the long string, and Itamar started flying the kite way up high, until the kite glided right out of the picture and started flying around the room. All the toys in the room, and all the faces in the pictures, were watching the wonderful kite.

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“Help me!” Itamar asked his toys, “everyone go FOOOOOOOOOOO, so it will fly!”

All of the toys made a mighty FOOOOOOOOO, and the red kite flew right by the bookcase and came closer and closer to the picture of the speeding train.

Itamar yelled as loud as he could to the cub, “When the kite gets to the train, jump onto it!”

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In fact, when the kite got to the window of the train, the little lion jumped from the moving train, climbed onto the kite, and sat on it.

Then, Itamar flew the kite with the little lion towards the picture of the forest. A moment later the kite arrived at the painted date tree and landed, and the little lion got off and hugged and kissed his Daddy and Mommy!

(PICTURE)

“Why did you go on the train?” Mommy asked the little lion.

“Because it had a green steam engine,” explained the little lion.

“Never leave home without permission,” said Daddy-Lion.

“I’m actually tired of riding the train,” said the little lion.

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Itamar returned the kite to Shulamit, and thanked her.

“You’re nice,” said Shulamit. “You can come over whenever you’d like, and we’ll fly the kite together.”

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“Good,” said Itamar. He left the picture of Shulamit and the kite, and kept walking back on the wall until he came down to his bed. He lay down, very tired.

But before he fell asleep, he opened his eyes for a moment and saw Daddy-Lion and Mommy-Lioness tucking in their cub, and the three of them were very very happy.