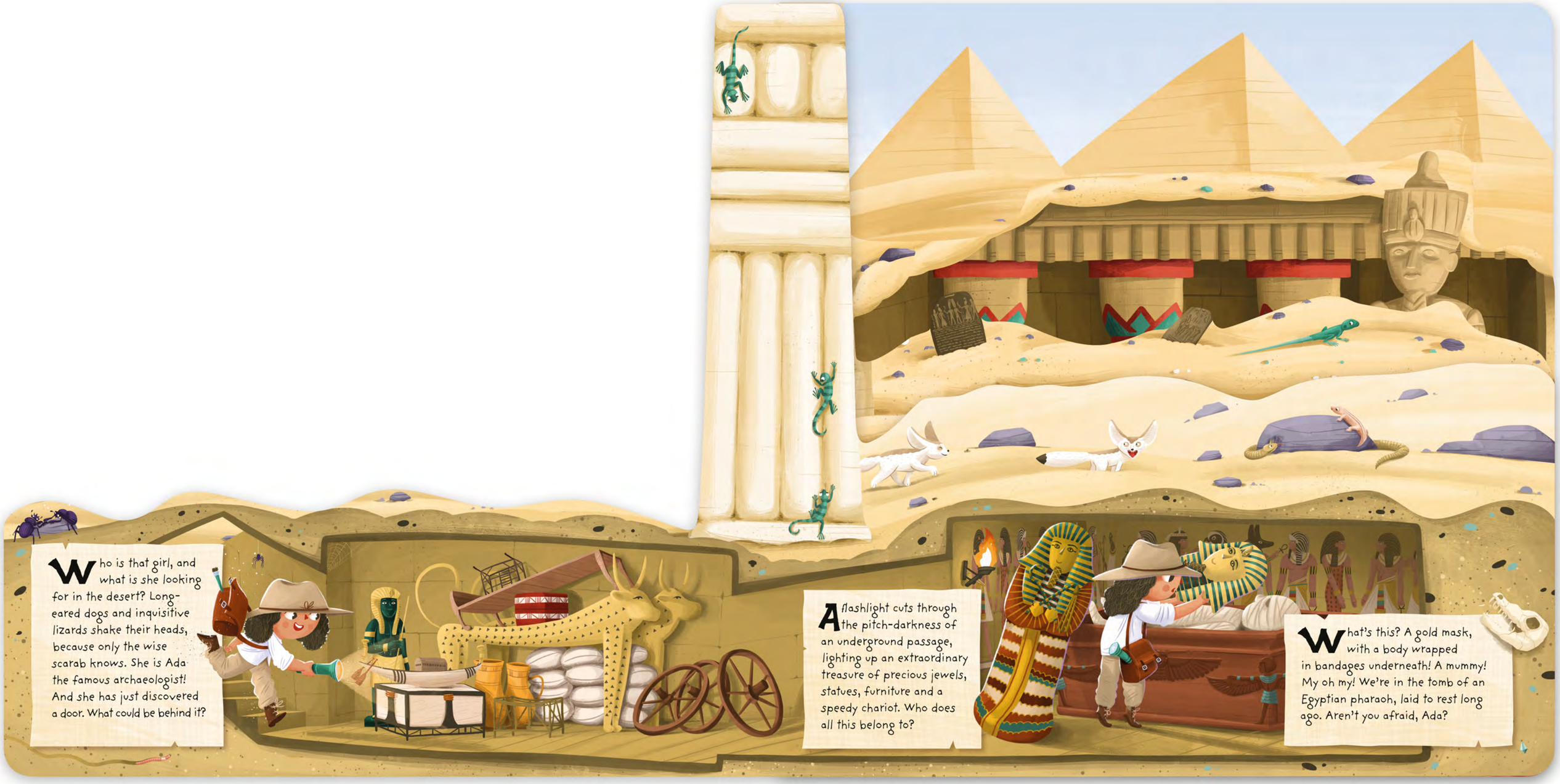
PHARAOHS

Ondřej Navrátil • Jakub Cenkl


Who is that girl, and what is she looking for in the desert? Long-eared dogs and inquisitive lizards shake their heads, because only the wise scarab knows. She is Ada the famous archaeologist! And she has just discovered a door. What could be behind it?
A flashlight cuts through the pitch-darkness of an underground passage, lighting up an extraordinary treasure of precious jewels, statues, furniture and a speedy chariot. Who does all this belong to?
What's this? A gold mask, with a body wrapped in bandages underneath! A mummy! My oh my! We're in the tomb of an Egyptian pharaoh, laid to rest long ago. Aren't you afraid, Ada?

Write this down, Ada. Every morning, the pharaoh makes precious sacrifices to the gods. There are lots of gods: a sun god, a god of the underworld, a goddess of love and one of war, plus a god of wind and a god of wisdom. Your notebook won't contain them all!
Then the pharaoh must put on his heavy crown and rule. He is the king of all Egypt, after all! He makes laws, receives foreign envoys and dictates important decrees to scribes.
I was thinking we might take a break now, Ada. Is that okay with you?

How about a trip on a pharaoh's ship? What fun when the waves of the great River Nile set it rocking! But watch out for grumpy hippos and hungry crocodiles!
'Being on the Nile reminds me of my holiday last year,' Ada laughs. 'What are holidays?' Pepi wonders.
Aaaah! No more lazing around for the pharaoh – there are foreign troops at the pyramids! Pepi must go into battle. A true ruler, he leads by courageous example.
Into them! Onward, brave warriors!' calls Pepi from his chariot. His loyal, heroic soldiers follow his orders. The enemies soon lose their taste for robbery and flee.

After a hard day of ruling and fighting, there is a lavish banquet in the palace's painted hall. Pepi celebrates his birthday. Musicians play, and everyone dances till the bandages fly.
'How old are you?' Ada wants to know. 'A few thousand years, I've forgotten how many,' yawns sleepy Pepi. 'I'm tired of all this pharaohing. I'll go and lie down in my sarcophagus.'
'Good night and sweet dreams,' Ada tells him. 'I wish you many more years of sleep, undisturbed by inquisitive tourists and archaeologists. Thank you for all you have told me. I'm going to write a children's book about it.'

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In the arid Egyptian desert, a mummy has awakened in a dark tomb! But there's no need to be afraid – this is not a scary story. The mummy is friendly, loves to tell stories and will show you around – in the best way a mummy knows how! You will share a day in the life of a powerful Egyptian ruler, called a pharaoh! Join Ada the archaeologist with your notebook and crayons at the ready and keep your eyes and ears open. You'll want to make drawings of the fascinating things you see right away! They include treasures in the pharaoh's tomb, Egyptian gods and some of the pharaoh's children. Which animal inhabitant of the River Nile do you like most? When you finish reading this beautiful book about Egypt, you can dance with your parents – like a family of mummies!

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WARNING:
Choking hazard.
Not suitable for children
under 36 months.

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