

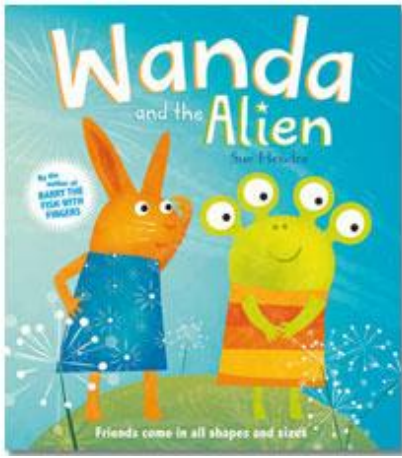
It was a glorious, bright Summer's day when the beautiful Wanda first met a strange, green alien. Later, Wanda remembered glancing around her, seeing flowers everywhere as well as smelling gorgeously fresh cut grass. She thought of the alien very fondly, as he turned out to be the best friend that she had ever had.

Initially, when Wanda first spotted the alien she was shocked and amazed at how green he was, almost like a ripe, shiny apple, ready to chew up! He had a round body and four eyes. "**Four eyes!**" she thought to herself, "that's very strange but also extremely interesting!" As Wanda was staring in fascination at the alien, she decided that she needed to touch him so that she could see whether he was actually real or not. She slowly stepped towards him but the cute, little alien he jumped back in horror. He was quite clearly terrified of Wanda because he did not know if she was friendly or if she might attack him! Wanda could tell that the alien was scared of her so she gently held out her paw and said, "please be friends with me, little green alien. I think you are lovely!" He smiled shyly and shook her paw softly.

Later on that day, the alien took Wanda to see his lovely, orange rocket. It had crash landed in the luscious forest near Wanda's house and needed to be mended before he could travel home. Although Wanda had never repaired a rocket before she desperately wanted to help her new friend so she collected her shiny tool set and worked hard all night to fix it. However, once the rocket was ready for take off again, both Wanda and the alien were very disappointed. Even though they didn't speak the same language, they made each other laugh nearly all of the time. "Please stay with me a little longer so you can meet all of my other friends," Wanda begged. To begin with, the alien was reluctant to stay as he missed all of his other little, green friends back on Planet Zog but eventually Wanda managed to convince him that they could have lots of adventures together in the forest. Wanda was extremely happy - she had found a fabulous new friend!

Almost as soon as Wanda had managed to convince the alien to stay a little longer she decided that he must meet her other friends who lived in the beautiful forest. Firstly, she took the alien to meet her friends at the cool, blue pond but they weren't there. The ducks, frogs and fish had all vanished into thin air! "That's strange," Wanda commented." After that Wanda showed the alien how to splash in the water, she was very excited and they both had a wonderful time. When they finally climbed out of the pool they were dripping wet so they decided to lie in the beaming heat of the sun to dry off.

Next she took the alien up the steep hill because she wanted him to meet the squirrels and rabbits but they had vanished too! Instead, Wanda taught the alien how to roll down the hill. They had so much fun that they were both giggling and dizzy when they stood up again.



Throughout the course of the Summer, Wanda and the alien travelled into the depths of the forest and investigated many exciting things but Wanda was upset. She loved her new friend very much but she missed her old friends terribly. At night, she sat under the stars and cried softly. She did not want to disturb the alien or let him realise that she was unhappy so instead she kept her feelings to herself.

Quickly, Summer began to turn into Autumn and the leaves began to fall off the trees; they were crunchy and golden underfoot. This was yet another adventure that Wanda and the alien could experience, running through the leaves and boldly crunching them underfoot. Soon, they noticed that the branches of the trees were completely empty of leaves but... they weren't bare! To Wanda's complete surprise, she spotted her old friends, all hiding at the top of the trees. They were clinging on with all their might and were squashed together like sardines! As Wanda glanced at them, she noticed that they were shaking. "What are you doing up there? Why are you shaking? More importantly, why have you been hiding from me?" whined Wanda, a desperate tone creeping into her voice.

To begin with, her old friends were silent. So silent in fact that you could have heard a pin drop in the quiet, deserted forest. Eventually, they answered, "we haven't been hiding from you! We're hiding from that horrible, scary alien!" Wanda looked shocked and disgusted. She quickly glanced at the alien who was trembling, looking very sad and miserable. "I'm so shocked that you are being so mean!" she argued, "he's my friend, he's kind, exciting and he makes me laugh. You should all be his friend too!"

Wanda's old friends remained quiet; they did not really want to be friends with an alien. They did not like people who were different because the differences scared them quite a lot. However, after a while, the old, grey owl stated, "just because he's strange and green doesn't mean that we shouldn't be his friend." Slowly, each of the forest animals began to agree with the wise owl. They climbed down gingerly from the tree and all crept up to the alien one by one. They shook his hand and gave Wanda a gigantic hug to apologise.