

# BOOKRAPT™

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## **Watch out for the crocodile by Lisa Moroni** illustrated by Eva Eriksson

**Publisher: Gecko Press**

**RRP \$19.99**

A perceptive father and daughter story laced with humour and observations from a child's point-of-view.

At last, Tora's father is on vacation and they are going camping together. She is so excited and hopes to see some wild animals. However, her father is still talking on his cell phone and checking his GPS as they enter the forest. When will he pay attention and look at the wilderness around them?

Tora spots a boa constrictor winding across the path, but her father just thinks it's a tree root. Then she spies a flock of giraffes but Dad doesn't notice them. Even worse, he misses the lion lying in wait on the plains. And, of course, he can't see the trolls playing nearby.

As the pair walk deeper into the forest, Tora saves her father from a range of disasters and he rescues her from the fog. Finally, they set up their tent on the edge of a lake. There's a wonderful conclusion where the father shows Tora that he too is well aware of the wonders surrounding them.

The appealing illustrations, imbued with the colours of nature, are a perfect complement to the story. The eager young girl hurries along, intent on discovery. The astute scenes show how the imaginative child can see what she hopes to see, while the laid-back father is more pragmatic. Yet, as he recalls his childhood, he surprises his daughter by seeing what she has overlooked.

Fathers will enjoy sharing this pleasure-filled story with their daughters. Who knows what journeys it will encourage them to take together?

**Reviewed by children's book author  
Jean Bennett**



