



## Important Information

### Plot

After Ruby's mother died in a car crash, she has been scared of the dark and of cars ever since. Her father is in business trouble and he has to leave their Australian home immediately for India, taking Ruby and her Grandma with him. After crossing the Indian Ocean for six days, they head to the mountains of Himachal Pradesh where Ruby's father sets up a new hotel business in the middle of the wilderness and, before long, Ruby finds herself in a dangerous mission to protect the nearby endangered leopards from poachers.

### Themes

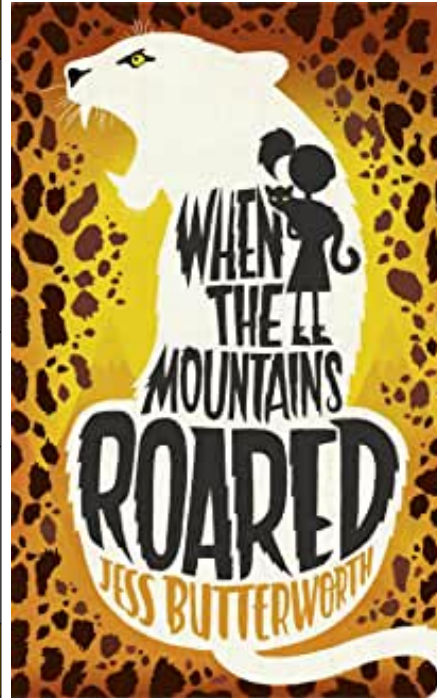
City Vs Nature, Loneliness, Friendship, Conservation, Courage, Trust, Change and Adaptation, Animal Rights, Altruism and Loss of a Relative.

### Setting

Initially set in Australia, Ruby and her family have to hurriedly leave their home and make their way to start a new life in the mountains of India, this time surrounded by bears, leopards and scorpions. They gradually bring a previously abandoned hotel to life in a remote area of the Himalayas called Himachal Pradesh.

## Characters

Ruby	Protagonist - Young girl who unwillingly moves to India.
Dad (Mr Veer)	Having money trouble, he has to flee from Australia.
Grandma	Lives with Ruby and dad and is very close to Ruby.
Polly	Ruby's pet dog
Joey	baby kangaroo who is rescued after a car accident.
Praveen	Ruby's friend who lives nearby her new home.
Goddess Durga	Protective mother of the universe in Hinduism.
Garjan Mankar	Famous musician and dancer who needs to escape to the mountains for a break
Stinger (Mr Bhat)	Antagonist - Helps Ruby's dad set up his new hotel
Toad (Mr Anand)	Antagonist - Helps Ruby's dad set up his new hotel
Amul	Praveen's cousin



### What Can the Book Teach Us?

Change can sometimes be for the better.

Protect nature to prevent extinctions and to conserve our environment.

### Quotes

*"I look up at the jagged peak and feel a shiver of excitement."*

*"Anger at them rages through me too. I feel it from my hardened jaw to my icy fingertips."*

## Key Vocabulary

falters	to lose strength or momentum
crouches	knees bent and upper body brought down
ute	a utility vehicle / car with pickup section at the back
jolt	a sudden movement often giving a shock
bristly	stiff or prickly textured hair
tattered	old, torn and in poor condition
lunge	arm outstretched making a sudden move forward
bindi	decorative mark in the middle of a woman's forehead, often worn by those who follow Hinduism
shawl	fabric worn over someone's shoulders or wrapped around a baby
mildew	a thin whitish layer growing on damp vegetation
cascade	something that falls, often used to describe a waterfall
restoration	returning a building to its former original condition
kaleidoscope	a constantly changing, colourful pattern
muffled	a sound which is obstructed in some way making it quiet
poacher	a person who hunts or catches animals illegally
veranda	a roof stretching out over the front or back of a house

