



PILIPINTO



WHEATON COLLEGE
FOR CHRIST
AND HIS KINGDOM

A watercolor illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a dirt path winds through a green field. Two people, a man in a blue shirt and a woman in a red shirt, are walking away from the viewer on the path. The background features rolling green hills and a large tree on the left. The sky is a mix of blue and white, suggesting a bright, slightly overcast day.

PILIPINTO


The Jungle Adventures
of a Missionary's Daughter

Valerie Elliot Shepard

R&R

P U B L I S H I N G

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A watercolor illustration of a landscape. The background is a soft, light blue sky with white clouds. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills. On the left, a large, dark green tree is partially visible. On the right, a smaller, lighter green tree stands on a grassy slope. A small blue butterfly is flying in the air near the bottom right. The overall style is soft and artistic.

I dedicate this book to all of our eleven grandchildren—

Valerie, David, Jim, Jenny, Ellie, James,
Lilia, Evangeline, Jackson, Caleb, and Caroline,
and any who might be born in the next few years!

I pray that you will be part of the company who “follows in his train,” to live joyously for him, and to determine to be his soldiers, living to please your commanding officer—Jesus!

*Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs,
but rather tries to please his commanding officer.*

—2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NIV)

—All my love, your “Grandmama,” “GV,” and “Nan”

I dedicate this book to my wife of nearly 60 years,
Joyce N. Howard, who encouraged me as I produced this art,
and went to heaven shortly after its completion. —Jim Howard

The background of the page is a watercolor illustration of a lush green landscape. On the right side, there is a large, detailed tree with a thick brown trunk and dense green foliage. The ground is a mix of light and dark green, suggesting grass and bushes. The sky is a soft blue with white clouds. The overall style is soft and artistic.

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ECUADOR

COLOMBIA

Pacific Ocean

Quito

Shandia

Andes Mountains

Guayaquil

Waorani Settlement

PERU



Chapter 1

A Home in the Jungle

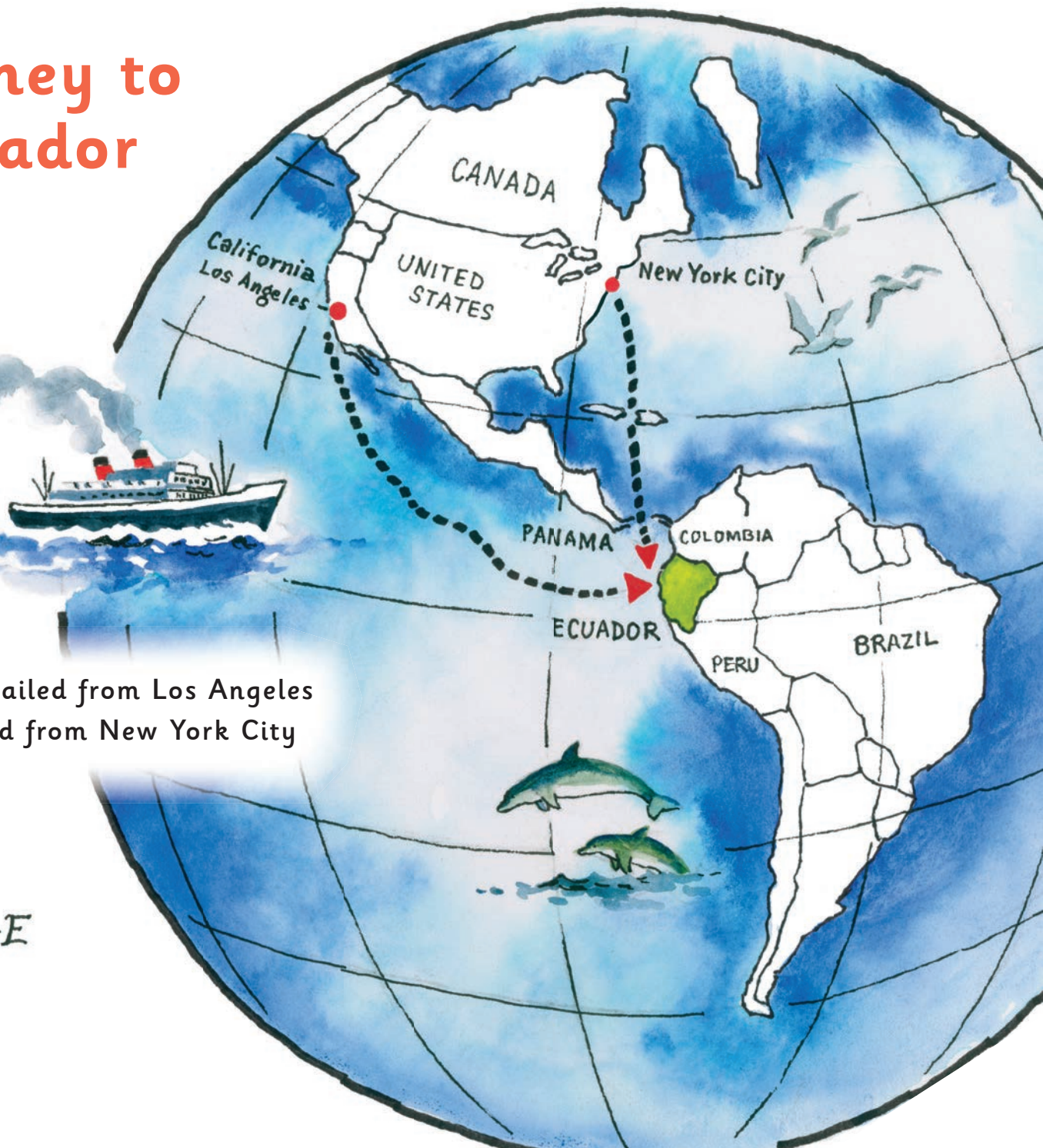
Valerie's eyes widen in wonder as the parasol ants march one by one across the soggy trail. Each carries a piece of a leaf over its head, sheltering it from raindrops. The long line of these tiny creatures seems endless. These clever ants remind her how happy she is to live in the Amazon rainforest of Ecuador.

In the rainforest there are many wild animals that hunt and play. Valerie hears monkeys chattering in the trees. She sees colorful birds flying overhead their bright feathers flashing. She wonders why the parasol ants work so hard, while the sloths are content to sleep all day in the trees.

Many people make their home in the Amazon rainforest. Valerie calls them Indians. The Indians live in groups called tribes. The jungle has been their home for a long time. They work hard with their hands making thatched roofs for their huts, and they hunt in the forest for food. There are no cars, buses, or planes, no grocery stores, or shopping malls.



Journey to Ecuador



In 1952 ~ Jim sailed from Los Angeles
Elisabeth sailed from New York City



Valerie was born in Ecuador, but her parents, Jim Elliot, and Elisabeth Howard, grew up in the United States. When her parents were young students, they went to school at Wheaton College in Illinois. In 1947 they met and became friends. Jim and Elisabeth both loved God. They wanted to serve him by telling people who had never heard about Jesus the gospel story. Do you know what “the gospel” is? It’s the true and wonderful story, the “good news” of how God loved the world. He sent his only Son, Jesus, to live and die for lost sinners so that those who believe in him will be saved from their sins and go to heaven when they die.

One day a Dr. Tidmarsh came to bring Jim some important news: “Hey Jim, I want to tell you about an Indian tribe in Ecuador. They are hard to find because they are not friendly to outsiders. So far, no one has been able to tell them that Jesus loves them!” This news lit a flame in Jim’s heart. He prayed, “O Lord, send me to this tribe!”

It would not be easy to find these Indians. First Jim and Elisabeth traveled by boat to Ecuador. They sailed on freighters for three weeks until they reached the port city of Guayaquil. From there they flew to Quito, the capital city of Ecuador. In Quito they learned Spanish, the main language spoken in Ecuador.

After they left Quito, Elisabeth went west of the Andes mountains toward the coast. Jim went east of the Andes to a little village called Shandia.



Jim invited his friend Pete Fleming to come along. Together they worked with the Quichua Indians who lived there. The Indians were friendly and were glad that Jim and Pete cared about them. Shandia was a perfect place to build a mission station. The Quichuas had already built an airstrip so airplanes could bring in supplies. The Indian men and boys took care of the airstrip by cutting back the jungle overgrowth every day. They even helped Jim and Pete clear more land. Together, they built a chapel and a school for boys.

Soon, Elisabeth moved closer to Shandia. Jim was very happy that he could see her. Still, they had to walk all day to meet each other! They talked about how they wanted to spend their life together, teaching the jungle Indians about Jesus. Jim told Elisabeth, “You must learn to speak Quichua before we get married. Then we can both make friends with the Indians. We will live at Shandia, and I will build a good house for you.”

On October 8, 1953, Jim and Elisabeth got married! Just as Jim promised, he found a beautiful spot for the house. It was near the Atun Yacu River where you could see the Andes mountains. Building the house was hard work! Jim's father came all the way from the United States to help him.

Jim made the house out of concrete so it would be very strong. It had a metal roof and screen windows.

He put a barrel on the roof to catch the rain—now the house had running water! He even installed electricity. It was a most unusual and wonderful house in the middle of the jungle!

Soon Elisabeth and Jim were expecting a baby! Their friend, Nate Saint, was a pilot. He flew them to Shell Mera where Elisabeth was going to have her baby at Nate and Marge Saint's home.




On February 27, 1955, Valerie was born. She was her parents' first and only child. Elisabeth and Jim were happy to have a baby girl! They flew back to Shandia to take her home. Many Quichuas gathered at the airstrip to welcome them.

The Quichuas and the Elliots were good friends. The men eagerly came to Jim's Bible class, and the boys attended school. Because Jim shared the good news of Jesus with them, many in Shandia learned to love Jesus too!

But Jim kept praying for the tribe that Dr. Tidmarsh had told him about—the tribe that did not want to make friends with outsiders. They called themselves Waorani (Wao for short). That means “the people.”



March 6, 1955



One week ago today, Valerie arrived. Dr. Fuller delivered her here in the Saints' house, with Liz, his wife, in attendance. Jim was with me every minute, which meant more to me than he will ever know. . . . What a joy to hear her first cry, and to see our own daughter!

O, Lord—We give her back to Thee, in gratitude, and ask Thy holy wisdom and love in guiding and caring for her.

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Elisabeth Elliot’s diary of Valerie’s childhood moments on pages 12, 16, 26, 31, 36, 43, 50, and 54 courtesy of Valerie Elliot Shepard.

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Graduates of Wheaton College in memoriam: Elisabeth Elliot, 1948; Jim Elliot, 1949; Ed McCully, 1949; and Nate Saint, 1950. Wheaton College graduates who contributed to this book: Valerie Elliot Shepard (author), 1976; Jim Howard (illustrator), 1962; Melissa Urban Craig (editor), 1983; Julia Craig Myer (designer), 2013.

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