



Somewhere in the Eucalypt Forest a stuffy smoke filled the steaming hot air. Fast flames skipped from one tree to another. Everything in between sizzled and snapped.

Fletch the koala shook some ashes from his ears.
'Has it ever been so bad, Lewie?'

'Every year things are getting worse,' Lewie the kangaroo replied. 'Those fires start because it's too dry. I wish we would get some rain, the dust stings in my eyes.'

Fletch started thinking. 'You can't start a fire without a spark. So that is what we have to look for.'

'It's tricky to look for a spark. A spark is over in an instant, as fast as a sneeze from a stuffy nose. It's what follows the spark that lingers on,' Lewie said wisely.





Tonia was a girl who lived at the brink of the forest. Every day she would bring some water for the animals. Today, Tonia held a scarf in front of her face and left very quickly. The breeze had brought traces of the fire smell that masked the eucalypt scent.