

SNOW MONKEY



Some Macaque monkeys are having a day at the seaside.
They groom, paddle and fish for crabs in rock pools.

The smallest monkey is Yuki. She's not part of the fun. A wave knocks her over. As she lies on the sand, a snowflake lands on her nose. She squints at its beautiful fractals. She looks up to find great sheets of snow are falling

All the other monkeys hurry to the warmth of the hot pools.
By the time Yuki gets to the hot pool it is full.
The bigger monkeys bat her away.

Yuki sits alone on a rock, snow piling onto her head.

Curious, she scoops off a handful. In her hand it naturally forms a snowball.

Puzzled she squeezes it into shape and draws a face on it.
She rolls it away from her. It gathers snow, getting bigger and bigger.
Delighted Yuki builds a snow macaque.

She smiles up at it. It seems to smile back.

She's made a friend, literally.

In the pool the biggest monkey looks up and sees the silhouette of Yuki and the snow macaque. Intrigued, she goes to get a closer look. All the monkeys follow this big one.

They're all thrilled with the snow macaque. They crowd around it, as if taking selfies and team photos.
Once again Yuki is excluded.

But she takes her chance and huddles down in the now-empty hot pool.

There's a noise. The others are inviting the snow monkey down to the hot pool.
The snow monkey lands in the pool with a splash and a hiss of steam as - obviously - he melts.
The monkeys are disappointed.

The steam takes the shape of the snow monkey and drifts away.

Yuki chases after him but the steam monkey vanishes into air.

The forlorn Yuki pensively picks up a handful of snow and shapes it but then lets it go. It rolls away and bounces off a rock.

It hits the biggest monkey - who has not returned to the pool - in the face.

A tense moment.

Then big monkey laughs and throws a snowball back.

A huge happy snowball fight ensues.

Yuki has accidentally invented monkey snow ball fighting.

In the course of it, Yuki and Big become best friends.

Big carries Yuki back to the hot pool in triumph.

Soaked and shivery from snowball action, they produce huge clouds of steam as they get into the water.