



When baby giraffe Nzuri (pronounced Na-zuri) arrived early—and unexpectedly—at the Frank Buck Zoo, he was underweight, underdeveloped, and unable to nurse. His “code pink” arrival didn’t deter the Animal Care Team, or the local firefighters, veterinarian staff, and members of a local dairy. All hands jumped in to help this preemie giraffe. This is the story of Nzuri’s first few months of life and all who helped him survive and thrive. Next time you’re in Gainesville, stop by “the best little zoo in Texas” to see Nzuri, who is now a healthy, happy almost-adult giraffe!

	English	SRP \$US
Paperback	9781638173847	\$11.95
eBooks:		
epub3 (read along)	9781638173861	\$11.99
PDF (basic)	9781638173878	\$7.99

Jennifer Keats Curtis is an award-winning author that regularly, and delightedly, works with biologists, environmental specialists, and science experts to research and write her books. Some of her books include Children’s Choice Book Award Winner *Kali’s Story: An Orphaned Polar Bear Rescue*; NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children: *Pooper Snooper* (also 2023 Children’s Book Council’s Favorites), *After A While Crocodile: Alexa’s Diary*, *Moonlight Crab Count*, and *Maggie: Alaska’s Last Elephant*. The realistic fiction, *Creek Critters*, co-authored with scientists at Stroud Water Research Center, was a finalist for the AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Hands-on Science Books. Follow her on Twitter and Facebook.

Susan Kleven is the Director of the Frank Buck Zoo in Texas. In addition to leading the expansion that doubled the size of the zoo, number of habitats, animal collection and staff, she has hosted many symposia and workshops on small mammals, training, hoofstock, and disaster response aid. She also serves as expert advisor for an animal care software company. In 2024, Susan traveled to South Africa to observe and photograph giraffes in the wild. She enjoys hiking, nature photography, and traveling anywhere wild animals can be found. She and her husband Dave live in Gainesville, Texas, where they enjoy the diversity of bird and pollinator species that migrate through the area. This is her debut picture book.



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