

# Isabela captura un congo

by Karen Rowan

Book 2 in the Isabela series for true beginners

[www.fluencyfast.com](http://www.fluencyfast.com)

All rights reserved. Copyright 2011

**Purchase of the Teacher's Guide (in Spanish) from  
[www.fluencyfast.com](http://www.fluencyfast.com) for access to illustrations, photos and videos is  
recommended.**

## Chapter One:

### I am Isabela, the Famous

I am Isabela Huffman. I have nine and a half years old. I have blue eyes. My hair is two colors. It is a little blonde and a little brunenette.

I am not a pirate. I am not the President. I am not a ballerina.  
I am an adventurer. I am famous. I am a famous photographer. I'm not very famous, but I'm a little famous.

I have a pet. My pet is a dog. My dog's name is Sam. Sam is perfect. Sam is the most perfect dog in the whole world. Sam is famous, too.

Sam sleeps on my bed. Sam does not sleep on the floor. Sam eats at the table. Sam does not eat on the floor. Sam is special.

I am on another adventure with my mom. I am an adventurer. I am a famous adventurer. I am going to Costa Rica with my mom. Pure life!

My mom is named Elizabeth Huffman. She is twenty-six years old. She has brown hair and brown eyes. My mom travels a lot for work. I go with her. She works and I have adventures. She works and I take pictures. I have a little book of my adventures. I have a little book with photos. In my opinion, it's a very good book.

I like to travel. I really like to travel. But I have a problem! I have a big problem! I have an enormous problem. I have a serious problem.

Sam is not traveling with us.

I am very sad. I am not a little sad. I am very, very sad.

I want to call Sam on the phone. I grab my mom's cell phone. I dial numbers. I want to call my little dog!

My mom says to me, "Isabela. That's ridiculous. Sam is a dog. He cannot talk on the phone.

My mom hugs me. I am not happy.

## **Chapter Two: I Want a Pet**

I visit Costa Rica with my mom. We visit friends in Playa Rica, Costa Rica.

Costa Rica means rich coast in Spanish. Playa Rica means rich beach.

“Are there animals in Costa Rica?” I ask my mom.

“Yes, there are animals in Costa Rica” she tells me.

I smile and I say,

“What kind of animals are there in Costa Rica?”

“There are iguanas.”

I say,

“Gross! I don’t want to sleep with an iguana!

“There are frogs,” my mom tells me.

“Yuck! I don’t want to sleep with a frog!

“There are Howler Monkeys.”

“A Howler Monkey is like a regular monkey?” I ask my mom.

“Yes, a Howler Monkey is a kind of monkey.”

“Perfect. I want a Howler Monkey. I want to sleep with a Howler Monkey. I want a Howler Monkey as a pet. I want a friend for Sam.

My mom tells me,

“Howler Monkeys aren’t pets, Isabela. Monkeys don’t sleep in beds. Monkeys sleep in trees.

That’s terrible!

I don’t like it!

I want a monkey. I am going to Costa Rica. I am looking for a monkey. I am giving monkeys to my monkey. I want a monkey. Charlie is a really nice name for a monkey. I want a little hat for my monkey, too. This is my secret. I am going to Costa Rica. I am going to look for a monkey. I am going to capture a monkey.

The monkey can eat at the table with Sam. The monkey can sleep in my bed with Sam.

I am going to visit my friend Daniel. I am going to look for a monkey with my friend Daniel.

### **Chapter Three: Problems Find Me**

Daniel's mom's name is Jenny. Daniel's dad's name is Mario. Mr. and Mrs. Diaz are my mom's friends. Daniel's brother's name is Tristan. Tristan is thirteen years old. He has brown hair and green eyes. He is very handsome. I take a picture of Tristan.

Daniel's parents have a restaurant on the beach in Playa Rica. Mr. Diaz is from Costa Rica. People from Costa Rica are called "Ticos." Mr. Diaz is a Tico. Mrs. Diaz is from the United States. She is from Montana. They have a very popular restaurant. It is famous for Ceviche.

We go to the restaurant. Mr. Diaz kisses me on the cheek.  
"How are you, Isabela?"  
"Good. How are you, Sir?"  
"Pure life!"

I don't eat ceviche in the restaurant. I don't like ceviche. I like chicken and rice. Chicken and rice are my favorites. I eat chicken and rice every day in Costa Rica.

My mom works with Mr. and Mrs. Diaz. She works and I have adventures. I mom works and I look for monkeys.

I start looking for monkeys. I look for a monkey, but I find an iguana! I look for a monkey, but I find a frog! I look for a monkey, but I find a tarantula!

My mom tells me,  
"Isabela, ¡don't cause problems!"  
But that's ridiculous, because I don't cause problems. I don't look for problems. Problems find me.

Daniel is my friend. He is eleven. He has brown hair and brown eyes. He is short.

Daniel has a dog. The dog's name is Lucy. Lucy is young. She is a puppy, but she is a very big puppy. Lucy wants to play in the ocean. She runs to the ocean. I run, too. I yell,

"Lucy, ¡no!"

Lucy walks very fast. Lucy is strong.  
She runs to the ocean. I pull and pull, but Lucy is too strong.

My feet are in the ocean. My shoes are in the water. Lucy is completely wet. Lucy is completely happy. Daniel laughs at me.

Lucy sees another dog. Lucy runs toward the other dog. I pull and pull. Lucy runs in circles. She runs in circles around me. I yell,  
“Lucy, ¡no! ¡Lucy!”

I fall. I fall in the ocean. Lucy runs and I fall. I fall and I am wet. Lucy runs, I fall and Daniel laughs and laughs. Daniel falls because he is laughing. He laughs and laughs. He can't breathe. He can't breathe because Lucy ran in circles around me and I fell in the ocean.

I fall in the ocean with all of my clothes on. Daniel wants to call Lucy, but he can't. He can't call Lucy because he is laughing a lot.

I walk to the restaurant completely wet. Daniel is still laughing. My mom looks at me. My clothes are completely wet. My mom asks me,  
“Isabela, are you causing more problems?  
I tell her,  
“Mommy, I don't cause problems. Problems find me.”  
“Why are you swimming with all of your clothes on? Why can't you swim like a normal little girl?”

My mom laughs at me, too. She laughs. Daniel laughs. I do not laugh.

But, my mom smiles and hugs me. I want to walk on the beach with Sam. I do not want to walk on the beach with Lucy.

## **Chapter Four:** **I Look for Monkeys**

Daniel has a red bike. I take a picture of the red bike. I take a picture of his red bike. I have a blue bike. Daniel takes a picture of my bike.

I go with Daniel to the beach on my bike. We go to the beach slowly.  
I ask him,  
“Daniel, what does ‘Pure Life’ mean?”

Daniel tells me:  
It’s difficult to explain. Life in Costa Rica is slower. Life is good. We don’t have a lot of stress.

We ride our bikes around a big tree. I see a monkey in the tree.  
“Ah! Daniel! It’s a monkey! In the tree!” I say.  
Daniel looks at the monkey. He says to me,  
“Yes, it’s a monkey. Look, there are a lot of monkeys in the tree. I see eight. It’s normal.”  
Daniel lives in Costa Rica. It’s normal for Daniel. It’s not normal for me.

The family of monkeys eats papaya in the tree. The Howler Monkeys are brown. I take pictures of them.

Daniel, I have a banana. I want a monkey. I want a monkey as a pet.

Daniel looks at the monkeys. Daniel looks at me. Daniel says,  
Good idea!

I put the banana close to the tree.  
One of the monkeys looks at the banana.

Daniel thinks it’s a good idea. I have a dog as a pet. Daniel has a cat as a pet. A monkey as a pet is a good idea!

Daniel cuts the banana.  
I take a picture of the banana.  
Daniel looks at the Howler Monkeys.  
I take a picture of Daniel.  
He puts the banana close to the Howler Monkeys.  
I take a picture of the Howler Monkey’s hand. The hand has five fingers.

I take a picture of the monkey’s tail. The tail is long.

The Howler Monkeys eat papaya in the tree. A monkey looks at the banana. The monkey wants the banana.

The monkey walks toward the banana. He is a little monkey. He's a baby. The baby monkey walks in the tree. The baby walks toward an electric cable.

He touches the electric cable with one hand.  
He puts his tail around another cable. Oh no!

The poor monkey falls to the ground! He falls fast. He doesn't move.

## **Chapter Five: Is the Electrocuted Monkey Dead?**

Daniel yells. I run toward the Howler Monkey, but I don't touch him. I look at him. The Howler Monkeys in the trees howl and howl. The family of monkeys looks at the monkey on the ground. The family looks and howls and looks and howls.

We yell. Daniel yells. I yell. The baby Howler Monkey doesn't yell. The baby monkey doesn't move. Is he dead?

Daniel and I look at the baby Howler Monkey. I am afraid. Daniel is afraid. We are both afraid. The baby monkey doesn't move. Is he sleeping? Is he dead?

I ask,

“Is he dead?”

“I don't know. It's possible. He's not moving”, Daniel tells me.

“What do we do with a dead monkey?”

“No, he's not dead. He's breathing a little,” Daniel says.

“He can sleep in my bed,” I tell Daniel.

“Your mom will never, ever permit it. Never,” says Daniel.

The baby monkey starts to move. He is only moving a little. He moves one foot. The poor monkey howls. It is very sad. I am sad. Daniel is sad. The baby monkey is sad. The family of Howler Monkeys is sad.

Daniel is very serious. Daniel tells me,

“Don't touch the monkey, Isabela.”

I tell Daniel,

“I know. I'm not stupid.”

I'm not stupid. I'm smart. I don't touch the monkey.

Daniel rides his bike fast. He rides the bike to his parent's restaurant.

I sit down and look at the monkey. I wait for an adult. The monkey doesn't move. All of the other monkeys look from the tree. The monkeys howl and howl and howl, but the baby monkey doesn't move.

I think,

“It's my fault. It's all my fault. I'm sorry.”

I sing to the monkey. I sing in English. The congo doesn't speak English. It doesn't matter.

## **Chapter Six: The Baby Monkey Doesn't Move**

Daniel sees Bridget in the restaurant. Bridget is in the restaurant. Bridget is a veterinarian. Bridget is a veterinarian from Canada. She is eating in the restaurant. She is not a vet for monkeys. She is a vet for lions and tigers. She is on vacation in Costa Rica. Bridget is eating ceviche in the restaurant.

“Bridget, excuse me. A Howler Monkey touched an electric cable and fell.

My mom looks at Daniel.

“Daniel, where is Isabela?”

My mom and Daniel's dad and Bridget go to the tree. They go quickly. My mom runs. Daniel's dad runs. Bridget runs.

Daniel's dad looks at the monkey.

Bridget looks at the monkey. She examines the monkey, but she doesn't touch him.

My mom hugs me and says,

“Isabela, what happened? Did you cause more problems?”

Sometimes I talk first and think later. I speak quickly, but I think slowly.

I tell her,

“No, Daniel gave him a banana. It's Daniel's fault! The monkey touched the electric cable. It's the monkey's fault! I don't cause problems. Problems find me!

Daniel looks at me. He doesn't say anything to me. Daniel says to Bridget,

“Is he dead?”

“Daniel, it's serious. It's very serious. He is a baby. The electricity burnt his hand. He needs anti-biotics. He needs anti-inflammatories. He needs to go to a clinic. He needs to go to a veterinary clinic.

Bridget tells us,

“It's important that you all don't touch the monkey. It's very important, too, that you don't feed him. We don't have a lot of time. Let's take him to the clinic quickly.

We need towels and a bog box.

Daniel's dad has towels and a big box in his truck. He grabs the box from the truck. He grabs the monkey with the towels. He puts the monkey in the box. He does not touch the monkey with his hands. The poor monkey doesn't move.

Mr. Diaz touches the monkey with towels from the restaurant.

But, there is a problem. The father monkey yells. He yells and howls. He raises his hands and howls and yells. The father monkey comes down from the tree and looks at

Daniel's dad howls and howls. He raises his hands in the air and runs toward Mr. Diaz. He throws papayas. The father Howler Monkey is not happy.

Daniel is afraid. I am afraid. Daniel and I look at the father monkey. The father monkey wants to protect the baby monkey.  
Mr. Diaz runs to the truck with the baby monkey.

## **Chapter Seven: We Go to the Clinic**

Mr. Diaz drives to the veterinary clinic. I go in the truck. Daniel goes in the truck. My mom and Bridget wait. They wait in the restaurant.

The vet is an expert in cats, dogs and birds. She is also an expert in monkeys. She is an expert in monkeys because a lot of monkeys touch electric cables in Costa Rica. She is not a special veterinarian for monkeys. She is a normal vet. Her name is Victoria. I take her picture.

In the clinic, Victoria examines the monkey.

It's very important that we don't touch the monkey. The baby doesn't need more stress. He is very afraid."

Victoria tells us,

"There are a lot of people who want monkeys for pets, but this is very bad for the monkeys. It's not natural. They eat food that is not natural. They have stomach problems. They don't have normal friends. They are very sad. They are completely crazy monkeys.

Daniel asks,

"Crazy?"

"Yes. Monkeys that live with people in their houses are crazy and sometimes are very violent. They attack humans. But they can't live with other monkeys anymore. Other monkeys don't accept monkeys who are different. It's very sad. They are miserable.

Daniel and I are afraid for the baby monkey.

Victoria gives the baby Howler Monkey an injection of anti-biotics, but the monkey doesn't move. Victoria examines the monkey's hand. When monkeys touch electric cables, sometimes they die.

The baby monkey moves a little bit. The monkey howls. He howls like he is in pain.

Victoria gives him an injection for the pain.

I feel terrible. I say,

"This is my fault. It was my idea to capture a Howler Monkey for a pet. It's not Daniel's fault. It's not the monkey's fault. It's my fault.

Daniel says,

"But it's my fault, too. I gave him the banana.

**Chapter Eight:**  
**Will the family accept the baby monkey?**

Victoria puts medicine on the monkey's hand.

"It's very important that the monkey return to his troop very quickly. A troop is the name for a family of monkeys. Sometimes the troops accept the monkeys when they return. Sometimes they don't accept them. Sometimes they wait for the monkeys to come back. Sometimes they don't wait for them. Sometimes there are problems.

I ask,

"If the troop doesn't accept the monkey, what will happen to him?"

Victoria says,

"He will die. Monkeys can't live alone."

I look at Daniel. Daniel looks at me. Daniel and I are afraid for the baby Howler Monkey. The monkey moves a little bit and howls a little bit.

I think,

"Is the baby howling or is he crying?"

Daniel's dad says,

"Let's go, guys. Let's get to the beach quickly."

The vet puts the baby monkey in the big box. Daniel's dad drives the truck to Playa Rica. The monkey howls in the truck. He cries in the truck. He moves a lot in the truck.

Mr. Diaz drives back to the tree. He drives toward the tree on the beach. We want to free the monkey in exactly the same tree. The monkey will look for his family.

Daniel and I walk to the tree. Mr. Diaz has the box. He has the box with the baby monkey. My mom and Bridget are at the beach. I run toward my mom. I hug my mom. I'm afraid. Mr. Diaz isn't afraid. He is like a super hero. I want to be a super hero like Mr. Diaz.

Mr. Diaz opens the box. In a minute, the baby monkey leaves the box and walks a little bit. He walks a little bit and falls. He walks a little more and he falls. He howls and howls. The baby monkey howls and cries and walks to the tree.

Where is the baby monkey's family?

I look for the troop in the tree. I look for the baby's father. I look for the baby's mother.

The whole troop is in the tree! The Howler Monkey family is in the tree! The troop is waiting for the baby.

My mom says,

The Howler Monkeys howled all day. They never left. Today they sat in the tree all day. They sat and waited for the baby monkey. They howled and howled.

The baby monkey sees his family. He can't walk very well. He walks very badly. He climbs the tree and goes toward his family.

## **Chapter Nine:** **Bridges for the Howler Monkeys**

“I see the problem,” Bridget tells us. “The monkeys need a bridge here.”  
“A bridge?” asks Daniel.

Bridget describes a green bridge made of rope. When the monkeys have green bridges, they don’t walk on the electric cables.

I want to make bridges for the monkeys, but the rope costs a lot and it is difficult to make them.

Daniel invites the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to the restaurant. Daniel explains the problem to the class,

“The Howler Monkeys in Playa Rica have a problem. They touch the electric cables. They touch the electric cables and they fall. They die or they are hurt. It’s very bad for the monkeys.

All of the students talk about the problem.

Daniel doesn’t like to talk to big groups. But he wants to explain to everyone in the restaurant why they need money for bridges for the monkeys.

Daniel says,

“A Howler Monkey almost died here. He almost died because he touched an electric cable. The electric wires are problems. They electrocute monkeys. Three monkeys have died here in Playa Rica in one week. It’s a very serious problem. We need donations for bridges.

Daniel’s dad says,

“The restaurant can donate the money for one bridge.”

“And the students can build the bridges,” says the teacher from the school.

Victoria brings rope for one bridge to the restaurant. She brings rope to teach the students how to build the bridge. She teaches them to build very good bridges. All of the students work on the bridges. The adults help.

Victoria says to everyone,

“Sometimes monkeys don’t use the bridges immediately. Sometimes they don’t use the bridges for many months. Sometimes they don’t use them for a year.

Daniel says,

“Also, there is one more very important thing.”

But Daniel doesn’t speak in a loud voice. He speaks very softly.

Daniels says to everyone,

“Just a minute. Attention, please. It’s also very important that we don’t feed the monkeys. Monkeys eat fruit and flowers from the trees in Playa Rica and Playa Perfecta.”

Everyone listens to Daniel.

For the rest of the day the parents go to the store to buy more rope and the students and their parents build bridges for the monkeys.

## **Chapter Ten: One Week Later**

Every day, Daniel and I ride our bikes. We ride our bikes and we look at the bridges. I take picture of a bridge. We look for the Howler Monkeys.

We wait. We wait and wait.

Every day I walk to the beach with Daniel. Daniel has a surfboard. Daniel surfs. He is an expert. Daniel says to me,  
“Isabela, do you want to surf?”  
I want to surf. I want to surf but it is difficult. I can’t surf. Daniel helps me. Daniel yells, “Stand up!”

I stand up on the board. I stand up on the board for... one second. I fall. I fall quickly. I laugh. I fall from the surfboard. I look at Daniel. Daniel yells at me,  
“No! No! Grab the board!”  
But... it’s too late. The board hits me in the nose. I tell. I yell a lot. I touch my mouth. I have a really big mouth. My mouth hurts. My cheek hurts. My nose hurts. My face hurts. I do not like surfing.

Daniel looks at me. He looks at me like my mom. Daniel says to me,  
“Isabela, why can’t you surf like a normal little girl?”

Daniel uses my mom’s voice. Daniel laughs. My mom always says that I’m not normal. I know. I’m not normal. I’m special. I’m famous. I’m famous, but I’m not famous because I surf.

I see a mango tree. I take a picture of the mango tree. The mangos are small. They are sweet. I eat a mango. I eat two mangos. I wait for the congos with Daniel. I eat more mangos. Daniel eats two mangos, but I eat more. I look at the bridge and eat mangos. I don’t eat the mangos with chile. Yuck!

We see a troop of monkeys. There are three moms with new babies. The babies are very little. The babies are on their mother’s backs. Daniel and I look at the family. We look at the family and I eat another mango.

First, one Howler Monkey grabs the bridge and walks on the bridge. Then, the other monkeys follow her slowly. They don’t walk on the electric cables. They walk on the bridge. I talk a picture of the monkeys on the bridge.

I look at Daniel and say,  
“I don’t have a pet. Not I have a troop of Howler Monkeys.  
Daniel says,  
“I’m very happy.”  
We look at the monkeys. I take pictures of the monkey family on the bridge.

Daniel says to me,  
“Isabela, do you have a boyfriend?”

Sometimes I talk first and think later. I talk fast and I think slowly.  
“Um... yes,” I say. “His name is Sam.”  
“Oh!” says Daniel. “Good. Me, too.”

Daniel doesn’t say anything for a minute. Daniel and I look at the monkeys silently for a minute. Daniel says,  
“My girlfriend’s name is Lucy.”

We laughed like crazy people. My stomach hurts because I laugh so much. We ride our bikes and go to the beach. I don’t have a new pet. I don’t have a Howler Monkey in my house. I have a Howler Monkey troop that lives in the trees in Playa Rica.  
Pure Life!

I have only one problem. My stomach hurts.

I think I eat too many mangos.