# Tell Me Mame

### EXCERPT

It was only after she had tucked into her second chicken wing that Mao looked up at the man and asked, "Uuummm... sir, can I ask who you are? What are you? Again the man laughed, "I could ask you the same thing. Don't meet so many talking cats anymore."

"You can call me Horbo," he continued. "I'm a distant cousin of Naga, and I live not far from here. I could tell you were all right because of the mark on her hand. The mark of one who passed the first test," he said, nodding at Min Rui.

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"What does Horbo mean?" asked Mao.

The man with the horns smiled. "You are a quick one, I see. Horbo is my name, but it is also what I am. I am both a man... and a water buffalo. Horbos are strong and stubborn. We like to live near rivers and lakes. We like to cook and we are sworn to help those in need. Is that enough for you, little cat?"



Title: The Island in the Caldera, pages 57-58

**Author: Lin Xueling** 

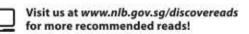
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# LET'S DISCUSS

- What attributes do you look for in a friend?
- Think of one of your good friends. What was your first impression of them?

To learn more about mythical creatures, look up call number J 398.2 in the non-fiction section.





## CHALLENGE 1: SPIN THE WHEEL

Horbo is not the only half-human, half-animal character; there are many such creatures featured in myth and legends. Try guessing what one of these creatures might be by assembling this decoder wheel.

Crack the code by following the steps given below.

Good luck!

#### STEPS:

- 1. Pop out the two wheels.
- Make sure both wheels are facing up.
- 3. Place the small wheel in front of the big wheel.
- Poke through the middle of both wheels using a pencil to fasten them together.
- Use the key to decode the name of this half-human, half-animal hybrid.

Code: HRIVM

Key: Q13



