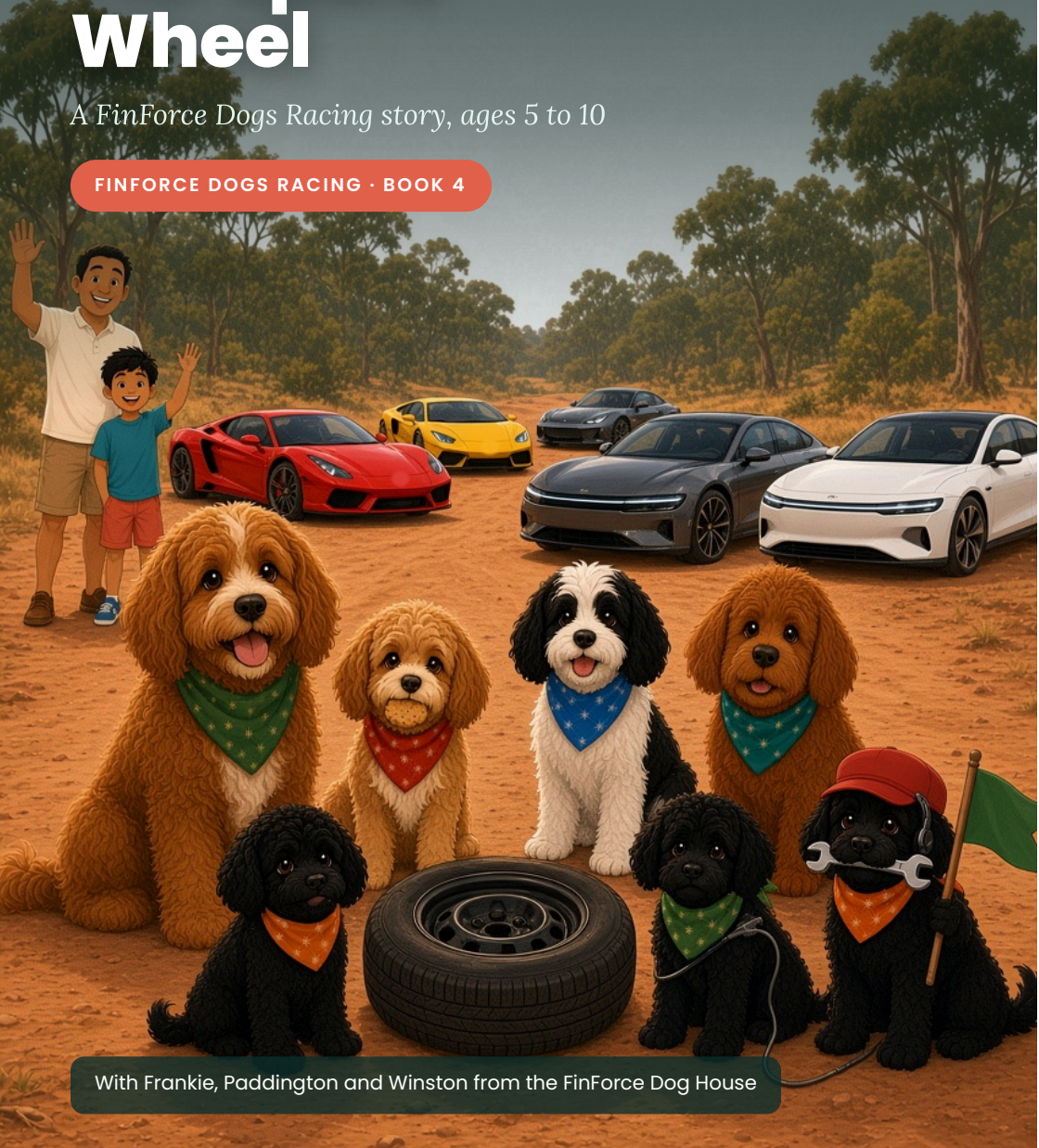
FinForce

FINFORCE BEDTIME STORIES · DOGS RACING

The Spare Wheel

A FinForce Dogs Racing story, ages 5 to 10

FINFORCE DOGS RACING · BOOK 4



With Frankie, Paddington and Winston from the FinForce Dog House

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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

A RACING STORY

for

With love from the FinForce team



Meet the racers

Frankie
The oldest, and he loves food. Fluffy light-brown fur and a white chest. He drives a dark grey Porsche GTS, always says "Righto boys," and never says no to a snack.

Paddington
The youngest, but the biggest dog of the team, and he loves to play. Red-gold curls and a white nose. He drives a red Ferrari 488, and is always ready for a bounce or a trick.

Winston
The middle dog, and the smallest, with a very big heart. Black and curly, kind, and always ready to help. He drives a bright yellow Lamborghini Huracán.

Archie
A black-and-white Cavoodle. He drives a sleek grey electric Audi RS e-tron GT.

Freddie
An orangey-brown Cavoodle. He drives a smooth white electric Porsche Taycan Turbo.

Barney, Bracky and Bossy
Three super-speedy black Cavoodles who run the pit crew, with a toolbox, a charger cable and a flag.

A rough-track race in Brisbane, a spare wheel, and a simple idea about protection — and not putting all your eggs in one car. Shaylan and Aslan cheer from the stands. Do the voices!

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A new poster hung on the pit wall: the Rough Road Rally, over stones, ruts and dusty holes.

Winston's eyes shone. He was the smallest, but his heart was very big. "If we put every coin into my yellow car, I could win it for all of us!"

Archie glanced at the rocky picture, and at the other four cars.

"Righto," said Frankie slowly. "Let's think before we pour."



“If we spend everything on one car,” said Frankie, “and that car has trouble, the whole team is stuck.”
He set one egg on the bench, then pretended to bump it. The dogs winced.
“That’s why we don’t put all our eggs in one basket. We keep all five cars ready, not just one.”
Winston sat on his tail, thinking hard. “So… not all the coins in my car?”
“Not all,” said Frankie, kindly.

Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.



Bossy rolled a spare wheel into the middle of the pit. It was plain, round and rather wonderful.
“This is protection,” said Bossy. “We hope we don’t need it. If we do, we’ll be glad we have it.”
Frankie nodded. “Insurance is like that too. You pay a little, or you keep a spare, so that a big problem doesn’t wipe you out.”
Big Paddington poked the wheel, as if it were a new toy. “We pay a little now, to be safe later?”
“That’s the idea,” said Frankie.



They did not buy the giant upgrade for Winston's car. They bought the spare wheel, and a simple race cover in case a mishap left a big bill.

Barney bolted the spare in place. Bracky checked every tyre. Bossy packed the cover papers in the folder.

Shaylan and Aslan helped roll the old worn wheel out of the way. "Smart," said Aslan.

Winston, the smallest, bumped big Paddington with his nose. "I'll still be quick. Just not the only plan."



Rally morning was dusty and bright. Five cars, five drivers, one spare wheel sitting ready on the pit wall. The AI racers gleamed. One of them had spent everything on a single, spectacular car, and had no spare at all.

Shaylan and Aslan stood on a safe bank, flags ready, well back from the stones.

Bossy lifted the green flag. The lights went green, and the dust flew up.



They bumped down the rough road, careful and brave.
Winston led. Frankie chose the smoother lines.
Then — thump. Paddington's red car wobbled. A sharp stone had bitten a tyre.
"Pit! Pit!" called Archie.
Paddington steered in, heart thumping, the car leaning to one side.



Barney, Bracky and Bossy zipped in, super speedy. Off came the spoiled tyre. On went the spare wheel, tight and true.

“Glad we had it,” puffed Bracky.

“Glad we didn’t spend it on one shiny upgrade,” said Barney.

Paddington was back on four round tyres in a blink.

“Thank you, spare! Thank you, crew!”

A spare is a plan for a bad day.

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Out they went again. Further up the road, the spectacular AI racer sat sadly on the shoulder, a flat tyre and no spare in sight.
Freddie gave a sympathetic toot as they passed. There was nothing else to do.
“That’s an all-the-eggs sort of trouble,” said Archie.
The team still had four other cars, and one very useful spare, already earning its keep.



They ran the last stretch as a team — yellow, red, dark grey, sleek grey and white, through the dust and into the flags.
Shaylan and Aslan jumped and cheered at the finish.
“The spare saved the day!” shouted Aslan.
Paddington rolled in on the plain, beautiful spare wheel, as proud as if it were gold.
The crew bounced on the pit wall, headset, cable, cap and all.

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In the shade they sat with the dusty spare, which did not look plain any more. Frankie unwrapped a sandwich.
“I packed a spare for lunch, too,” he said, because Frankie loved food.
“We didn’t need a faster car,” said Frankie. “We needed a plan if things went wrong. That’s what protection is for.”
“And we didn’t put all our eggs in my basket,” added Winston, rather wisely, for the smallest dog with the biggest heart.
Shaylan ruffled Aslan’s hair. “What a spare,” he said. “What a team.”

A little protection can save a very big day.

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That evening they washed the dust off the cars, and gave the spare wheel a special rinse of its own. "I hoped we wouldn't need it," said Paddington. "That's the funny thing about a spare," said Frankie. "You hope you never use it. And you are very glad when you can."

The End

LITTLE CHATS IN THE MORNING

Why didn't the team put all their coins into one car? · What is a spare wheel for? · How is insurance a bit like a spare wheel?

Series idea by Aslan, age 9

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With love from the FinForce team

A racing story about having a spare, and about not putting everything you have into just one plan. Thank you for being part of our year.

Series idea by Aslan, age 9. For grown-ups: this is a simple story about insurance and protection — paying a little, or keeping a spare, so a mishap does not become a disaster — and about not putting all your eggs in one basket. It is not about any product or plan, and it is not personal advice.

Also in the series: Book 1, *The Tyre Jar*; Book 2, *Lap After Lap*; Book 3, *Fuel First*; Book 5, *Drive-Away Day*; Book 6, *Meet the Team*. And from the Christmas Series: *The Great Christmas Race*.
Printing tip: print at A5, or choose the 'booklet' setting on A4, double-sided. Officeworks and Kmart photo centres do lovely little prints.

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