

For Review Only

J.H. Low

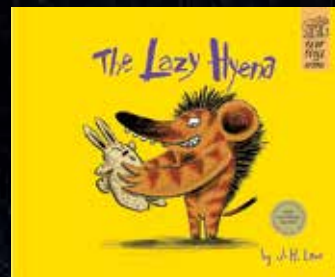
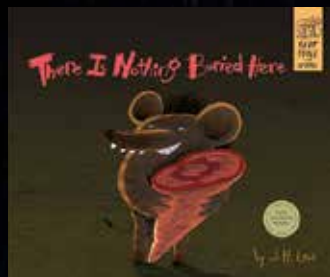
A Thief in the Night

Marshall Cavendish Children

Chip Ear the leopard invites his two best friends over for a sumptuous meal of buffalo meat one day. The friends eat as much as they want, but there are still leftovers. Chip Ear hangs the leftover meat on his tree. In the middle of the night, the meat is stolen! Red Hair the lion suspects that Four Tooth the hyena must have taken it, but did he?

Inspired by the Chinese idiom, 梁上君子 (liang shang jun zi), this endearing story emphasises the importance of being honest and exercising self-discipline, and will delight readers of all ages.

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About this Book

A Thief in the Night is inspired by the Chinese idiom, 梁上君子 (liang shang jun zi), from a story that dates back to the Later Han Dynasty (25–220) about a wise and well-respected man named Chen Shi.

One night, a thief stole into Chen Shi's home. He hid on a beam in the ceiling, waiting to rob the house when the family was asleep. Chen Shi saw the thief but instead of exposing him, called his children to the room and spoke to them. He told them that they must be righteous and exercise self-discipline, and not do any harm to others. If a person allowed himself to do bad things, he would gradually become evil and be dishonoured for his actions. But if a person was willing to discipline himself, he would be respected. After hearing Chen Shi's words, the thief was filled with shame and

quickly came down from the beam. He begged Chen Shi for forgiveness and resolved to stop stealing. Seeing that the man was truly remorseful, Chen Shi gave him money to start a business so he would not need to steal again.

This idiom is typically used to refer to a thief, but it also highlights the importance of being honest and having self-discipline.

In this book, the lesson is taught through three endearing characters – Red Hair the lion, Chip Ear the leopard and Four Tooth the hyena – who also demonstrate trust among friends. This witty, humorous story with lively illustrations will delight readers of all ages.



Chip Ear the leopard was out hunting
for food when he bumped into a buffalo.
What a stroke of luck!



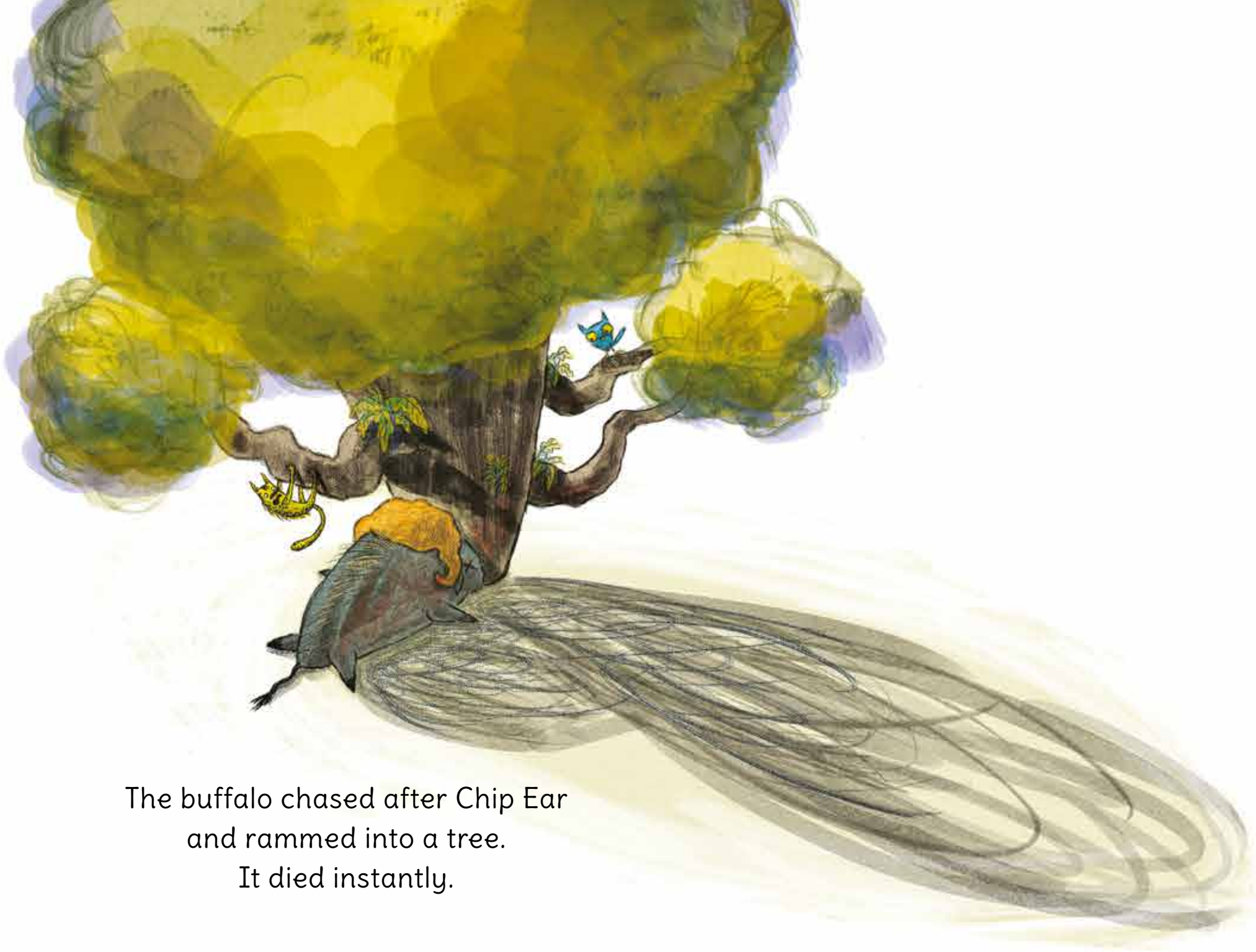


But the buffalo was huge!
It was much, much bigger than Chip Ear.
Perhaps Chip Ear wasn't so lucky after all!

Help!

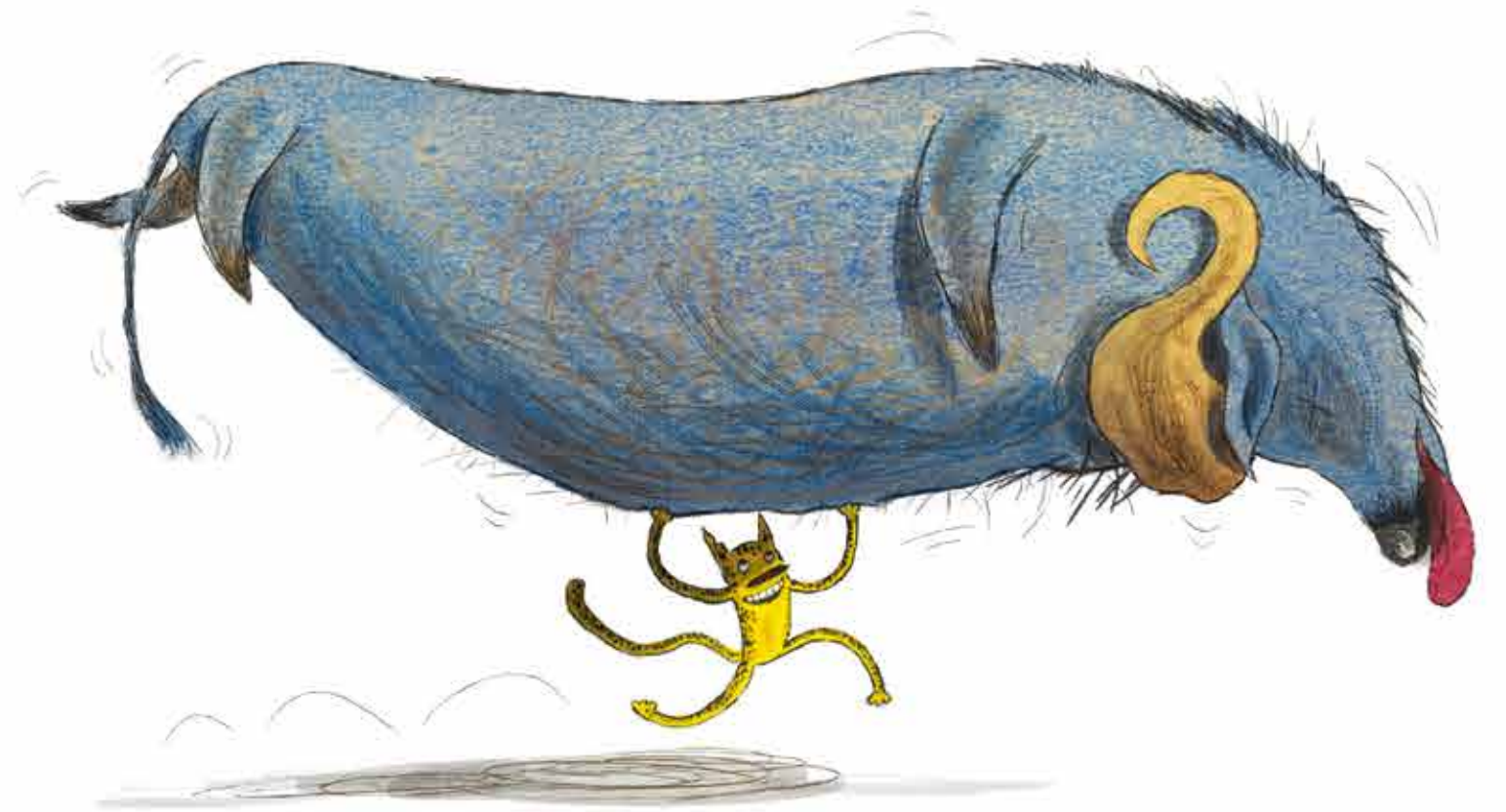
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The buffalo chased after Chip Ear
and rammed into a tree.
It died instantly.

What a stroke of luck!





Chip Ear invited his best friends
Red Hair the lion and Four Tooth the hyena over
to feast on the buffalo.
They had a wonderful meal.



There was even a large piece of meat left over
which Chip Ear hung on the tree.



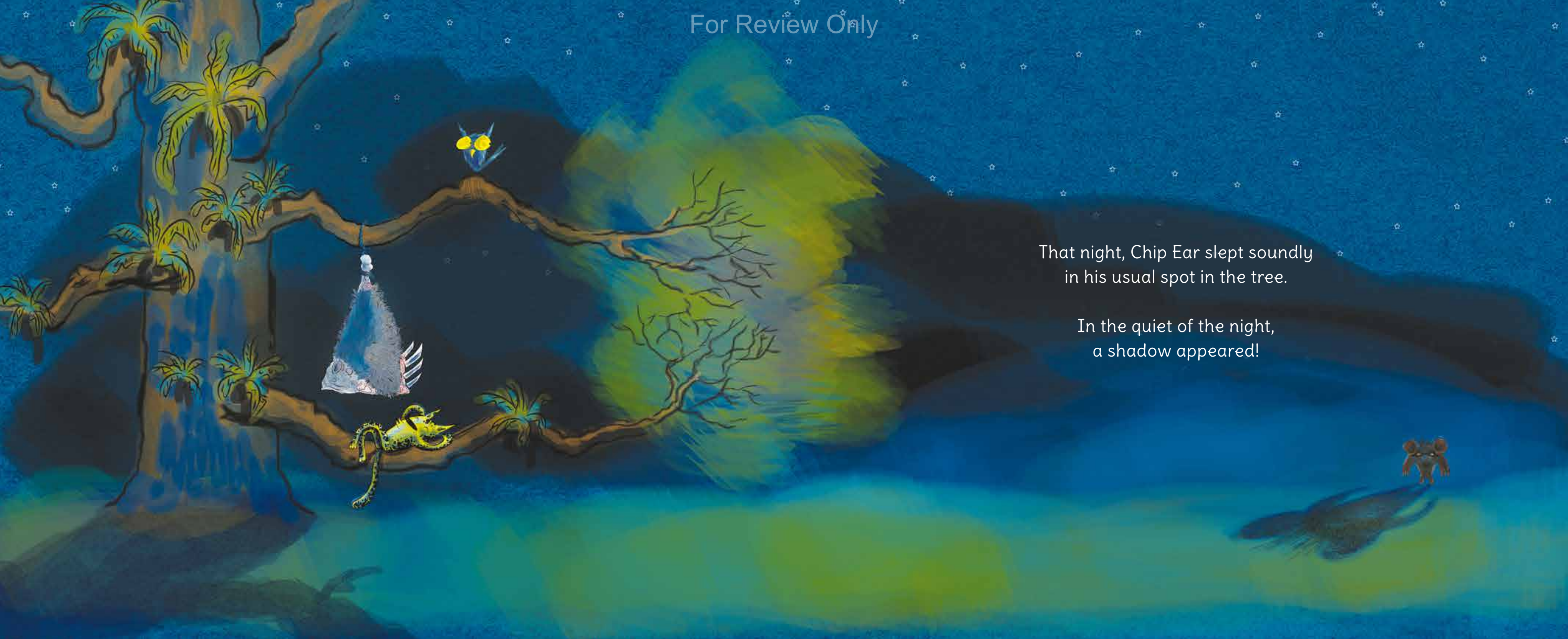


Throughout the meal,
greedy Four Tooth kept wishing
he could have the leftovers all to himself.
But he didn't tell Red Hair or Chip Ear.



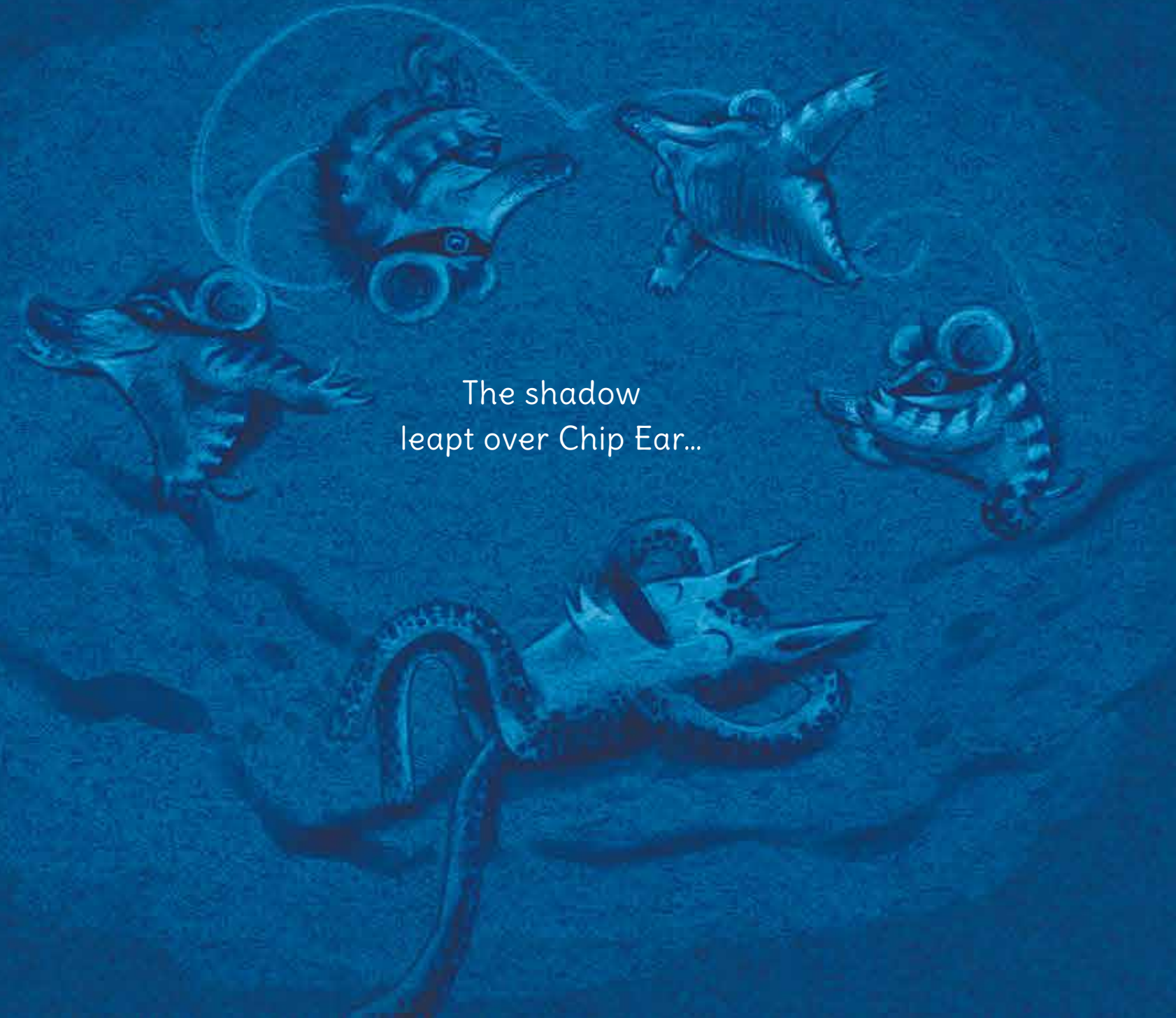
It was getting late.
Red Hair and Four Tooth
thanked Chip Ear for the meal
and went home.

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That night, Chip Ear slept soundly
in his usual spot in the tree.

In the quiet of the night,
a shadow appeared!



The shadow
leapt over Chip Ear...



...and grabbed the piece
of meat off the tree.



Just then, Red Hair appeared.
He woke Chip Ear from his sleep.
The piece of meat was gone!

“Four Tooth must have taken it,”
said Red Hair.
“He had a strange look on
his face throughout the meal.”



Chip Ear disagreed.
“No, Four Tooth is our friend
and a gentleman!
He wouldn’t steal from me.”



Realising how much Chip Ear trusted him,
Four Tooth felt ashamed and guilty.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

"Perhaps our eyes are just playing tricks on us.
Let's close our eyes and count to 10," suggested Chip Ear.



9, 10

Look!
It was just our eyes
playing tricks on us!

Sob!



Oh dear! Did I hang the meat
the wrong way up?



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About the Author and Illustrator

J.H. Low has always been a passionate artist, illustrator and creator of stories. He holds a BA (Honours) in Fine Arts from the University of Leeds, UK, and a MA in Children's Books Illustration from the Anglia Ruskin University, UK. In 2009, he received the prestigious Macmillan Prize for Children's Picture Book Illustration for *There Is Nothing Buried Here*, which was translated into Chinese and became his first published book.

J.H.'s illustrations are spontaneous and masterful, and often imbued with a light touch of humour. He is the illustrator of *Dragon's Egg* (2012) by award-winning author, Carolyn Goodwin. He is also the author and illustrator of the much-loved children's book, *Lost in the Gardens* (2015), the first in a series of books on Singapore's attractions.