



# FREE

Sam Usher



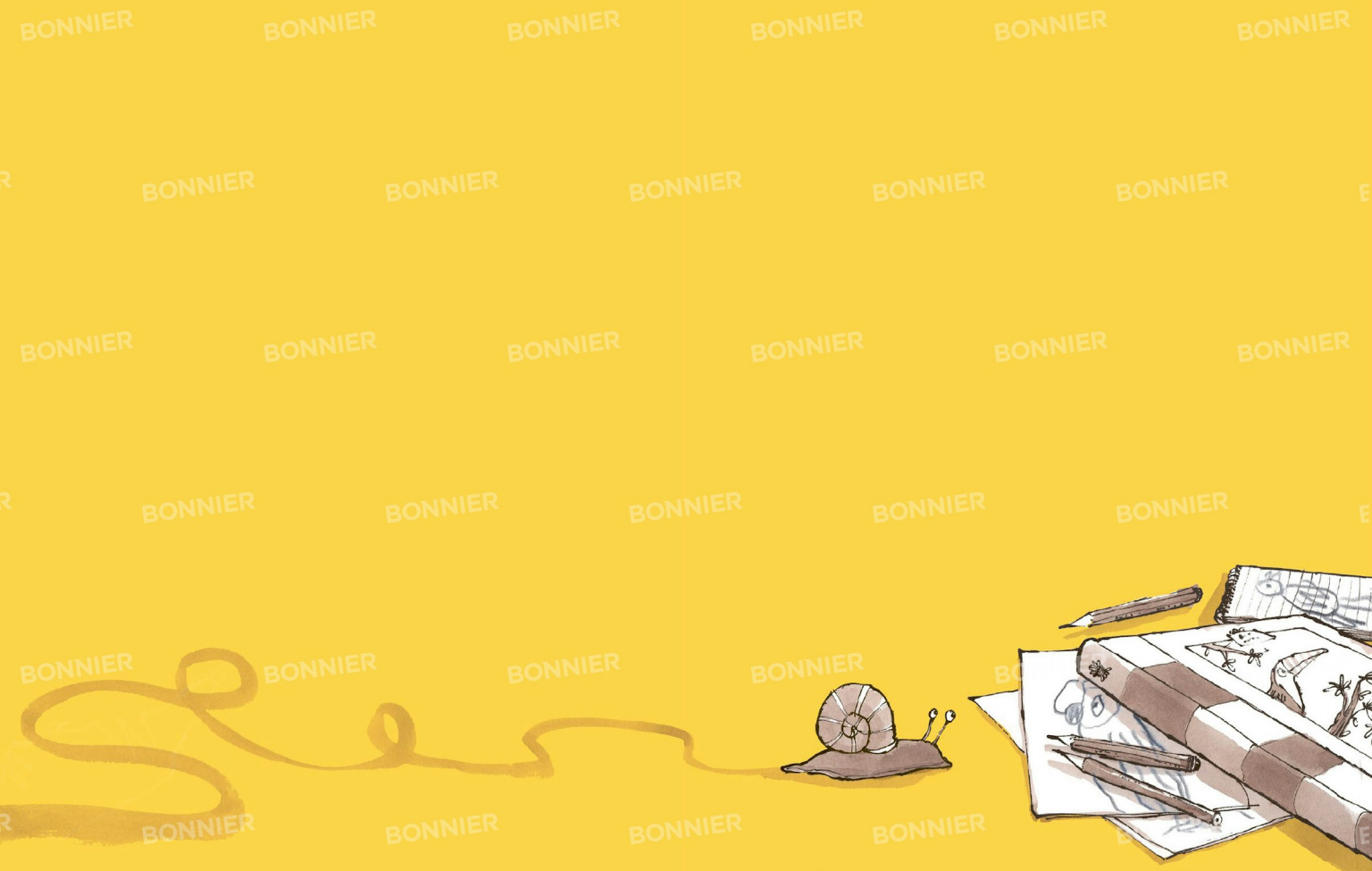


This book belongs to:

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For M and M

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When I woke up  
this morning,  
one of the birds  
was poorly.

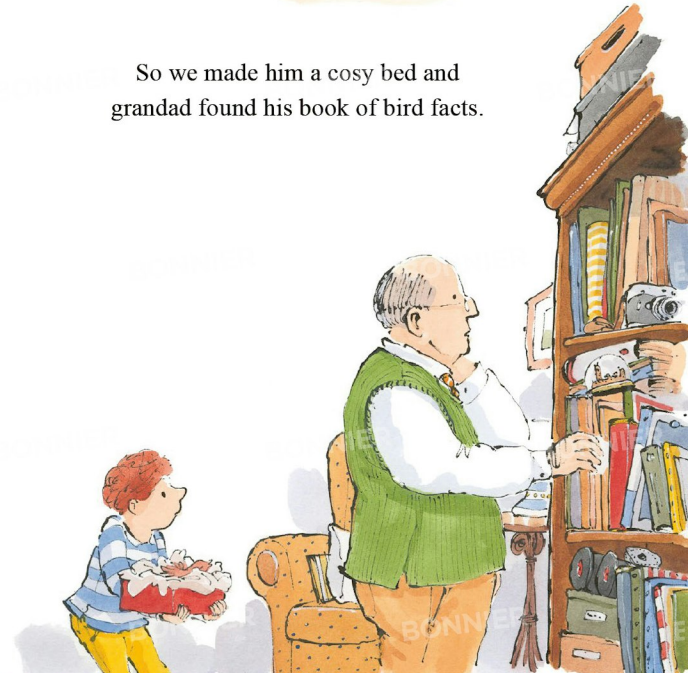




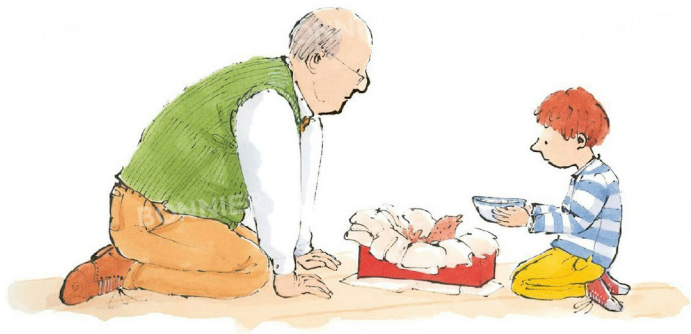
I said, "Grandad,  
we have to do something!"



So we made him a cosy bed and  
grandad found his book of bird facts.





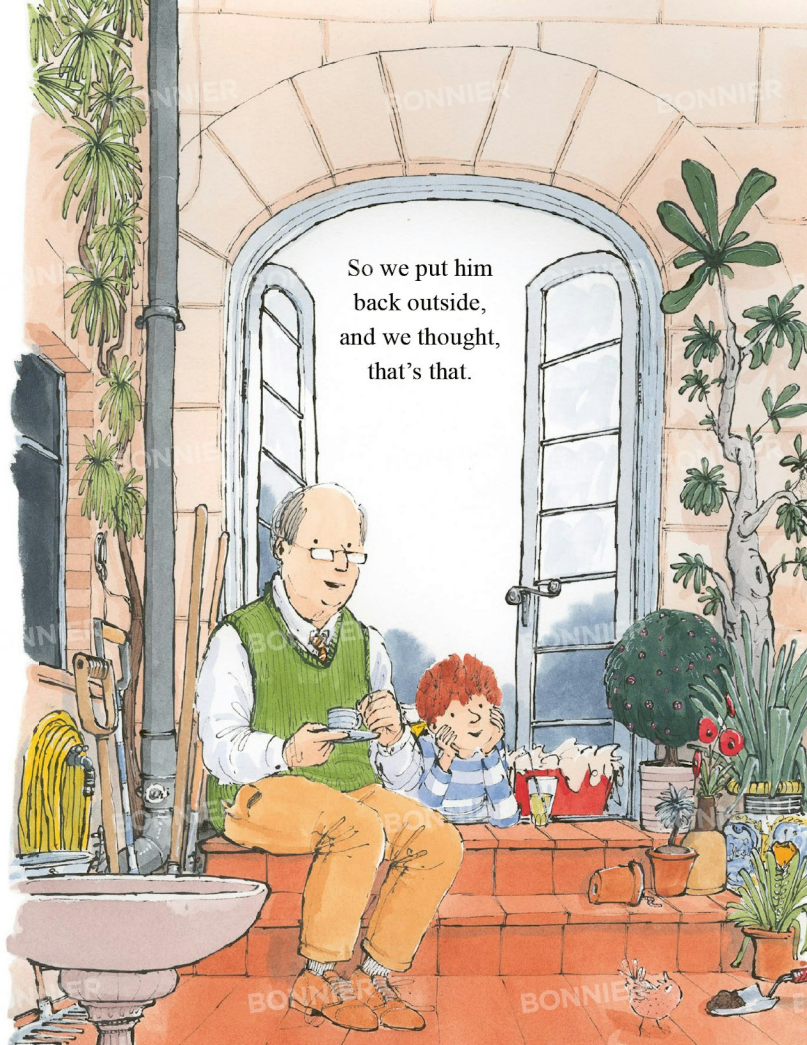


We gave him a drink of water and Grandad said,  
“Look! He’s getting better already.  
Let’s put him back in the garden.”

I said, “Oh, do we have to?”



And Grandad said,  
“Yes I think so.  
He won’t want to be  
cooped up in here.”



So we put him  
back outside,  
and we thought,  
that’s that.





It was time for breakfast so we weighed the flour,



poured the milk, cracked the eggs, whisked it up . . .



. . . and flipped the pancakes.

And I said, "Grandad!  
Look who it is!"

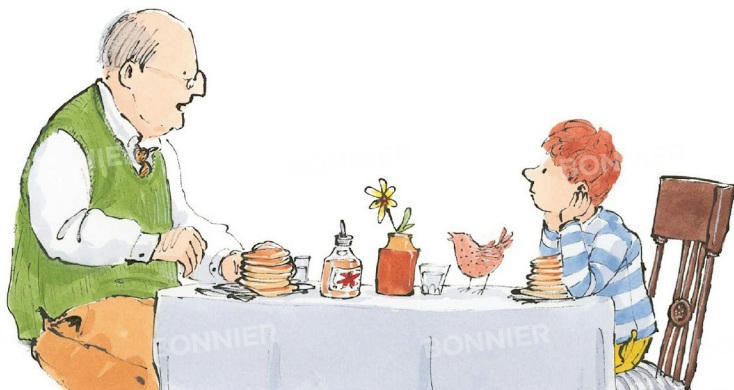




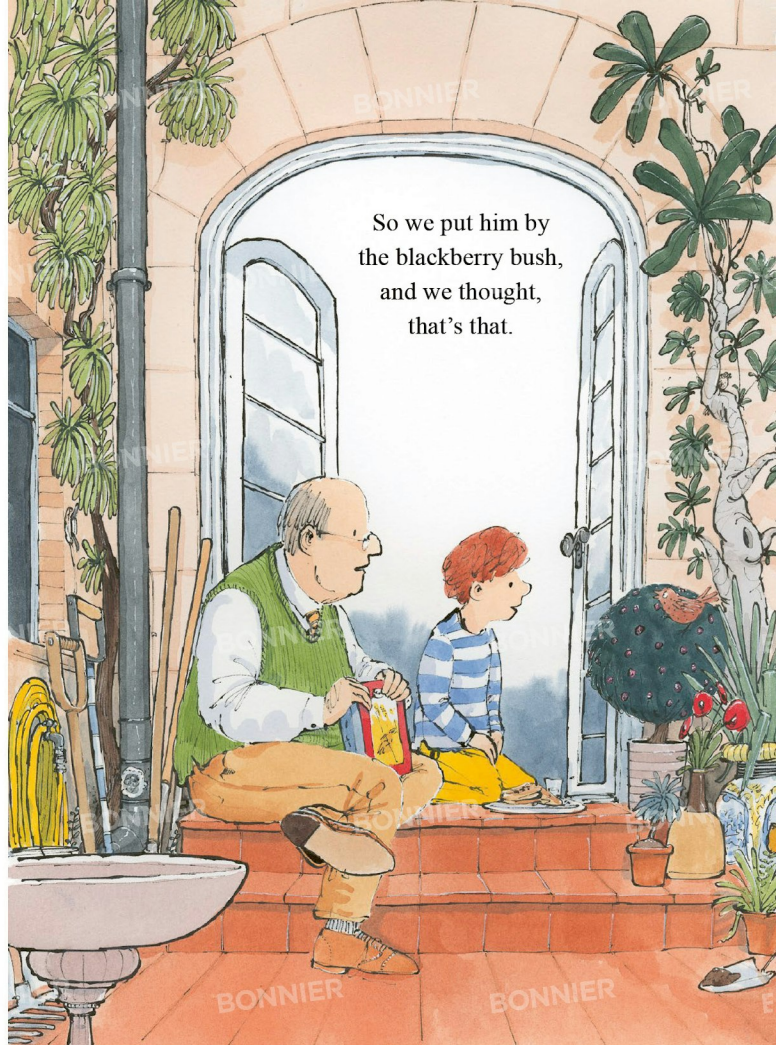
“Maybe he’s hungry.  
Can we give him some of our pancakes?”



And Grandad said, “Let’s see if he likes  
berries instead.”



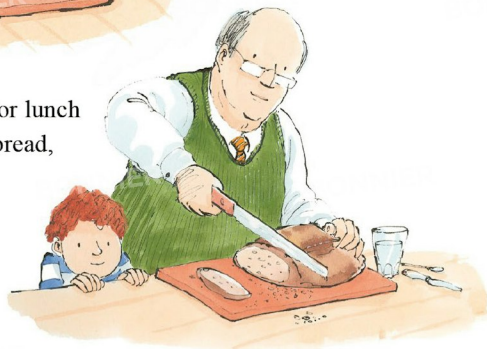
So we put him by  
the blackberry bush,  
and we thought,  
that’s that.







When it was time for lunch  
we sliced some bread,



found the fillings . . .



. . . and made triple-deckers.



And I said, "Grandad! Look who it is!"





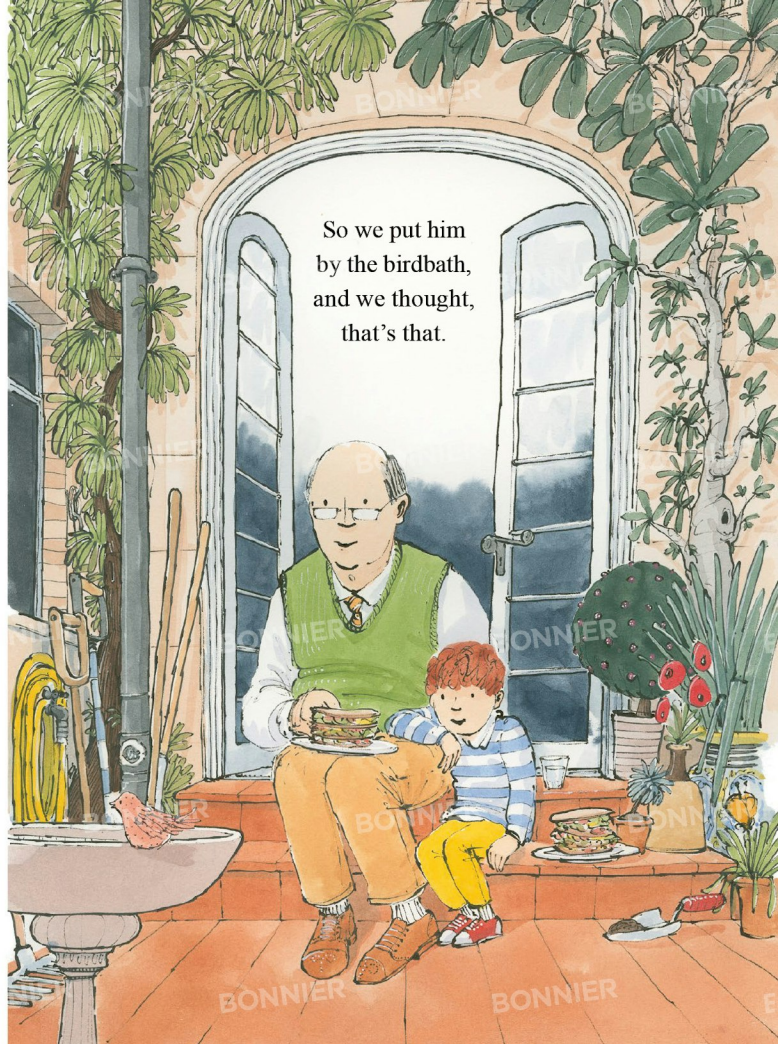
“Do you think he might be lonely?”



And Grandad said, “He might be. Let’s take him outside in case any of his friends show up.”



So we put him  
by the birdbath,  
and we thought,  
that’s that.





At teatime, we chose  
our favourite cups,



boiled the kettle,



filled the teapot



and found the biscuits.

And I said, "Grandad!  
Look who it is!  
I think he likes us,  
he keeps coming back."





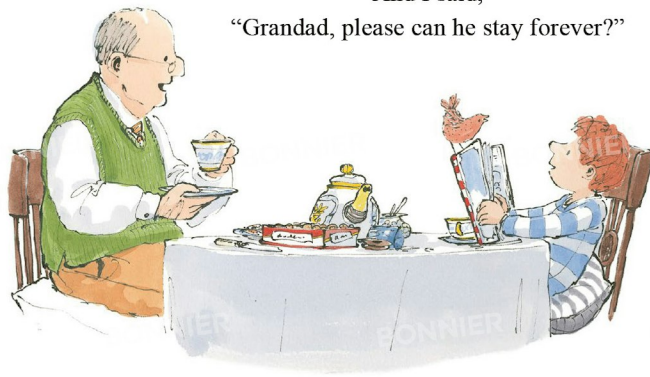


But Grandad said,  
“I think he’ll be happier if he’s free.  
Look, we need to find a tree like this and  
help him find his way home.”

We spent the rest of the afternoon together.



And I said,  
“Grandad, please can he stay forever?”



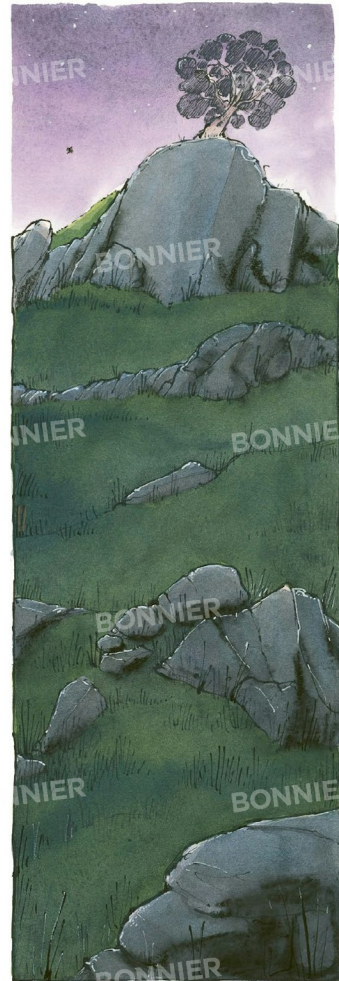
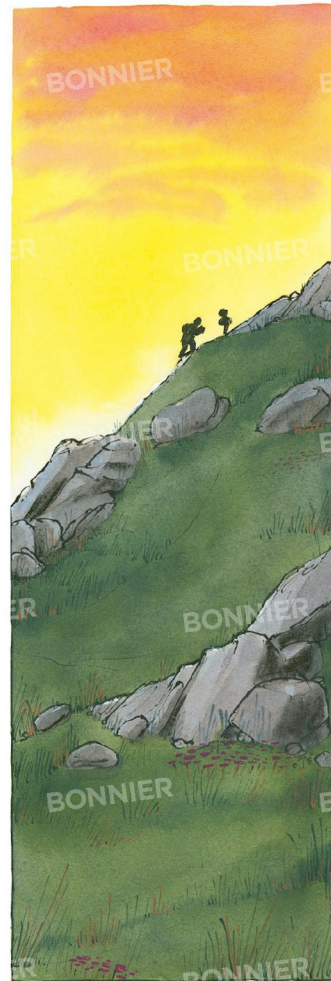
So we gathered our expedition equipment . . .



. . . and I said “Look, Grandad, there’s the tree,  
right at the top of that mountain!”











... but we made it!



We found  
Bird's friends.

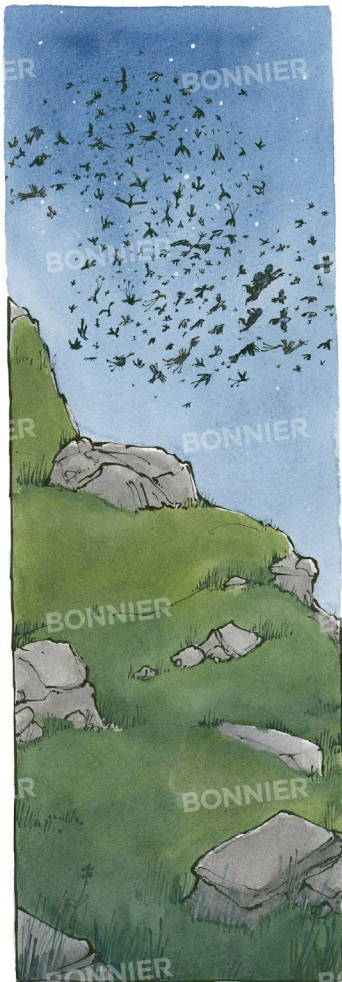
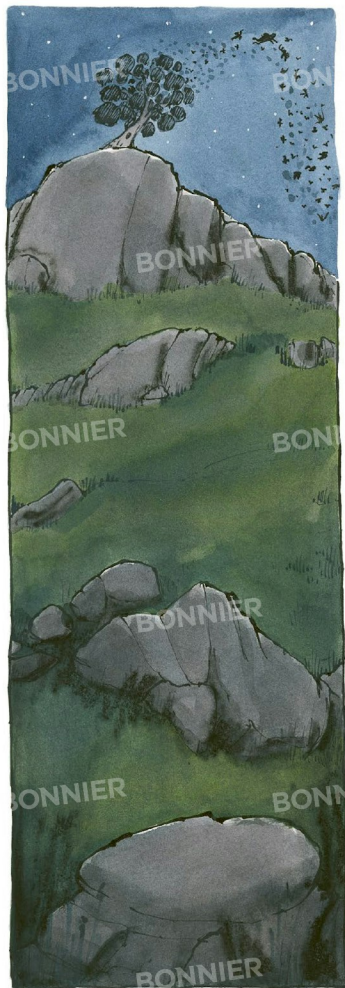
They sang us a song.



And shared their midnight feast.







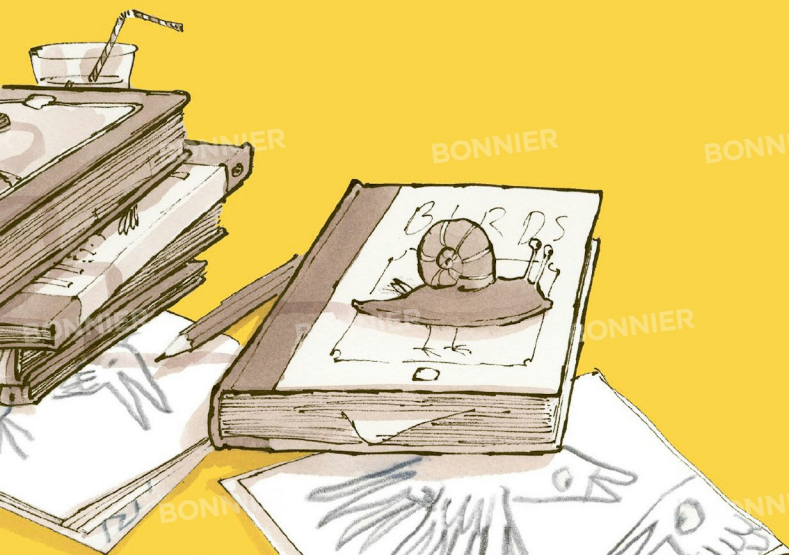


And we were back  
in time for breakfast.

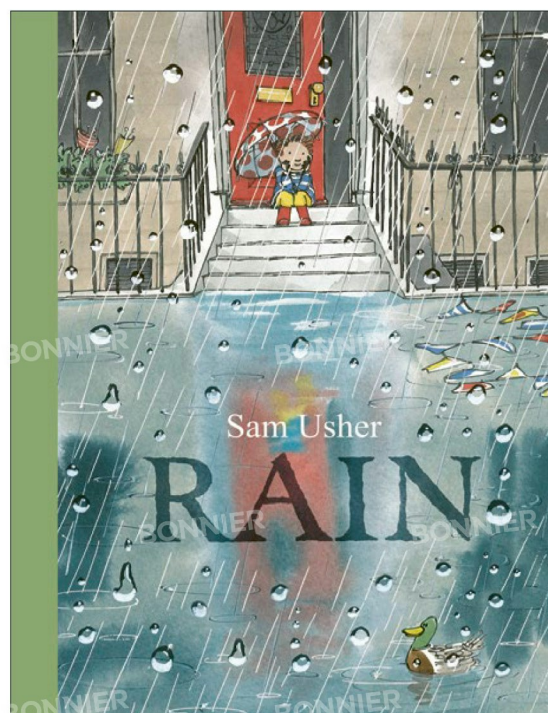
Grandad said,  
“Our little bird  
will be happy now  
he’s flying free with  
all his friends.”  
And I agreed.

But I hope he visits  
again tomorrow.

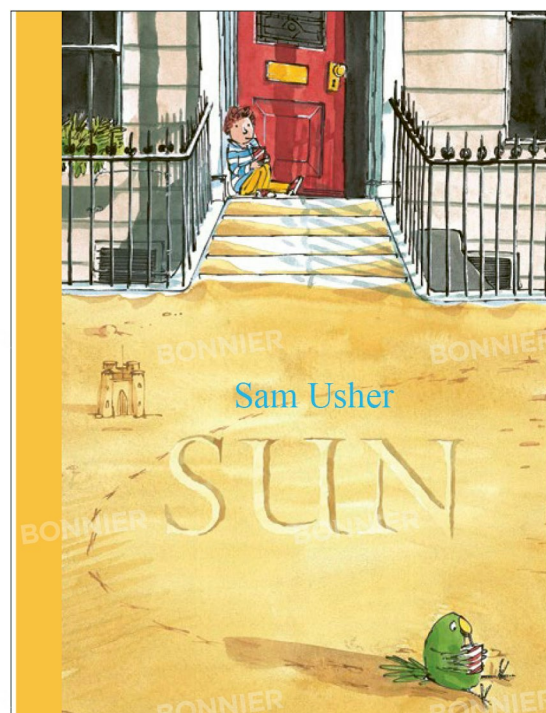




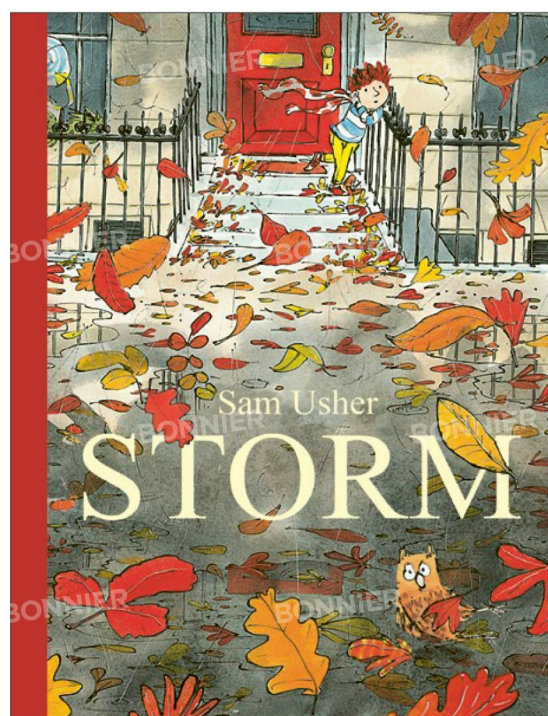
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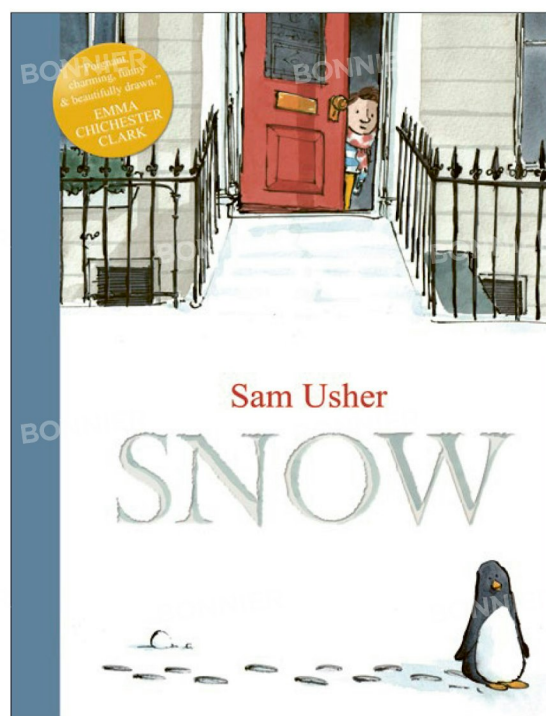
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