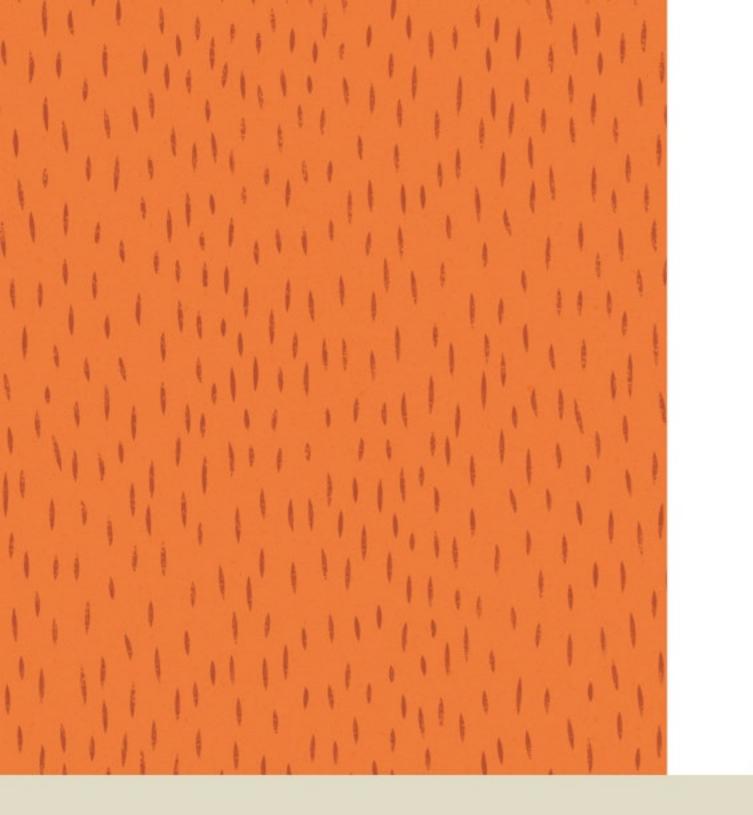
### STARED



# THE BEAR WHO STARED







## THE BEAR WHO STARED



There once was a bear who liked to stare . . .









Every day, Bear emerged from his cave and **stared** at the first thing he saw.

One morning, he **stared** at a family of ladybirds who were having their breakfast on a small leaf.



"What are you **staring** at?" squeaked the daddy ladybird. "We're trying to have our breakfast in peace!"



And with that, they scuttled off to find somewhere else to eat.

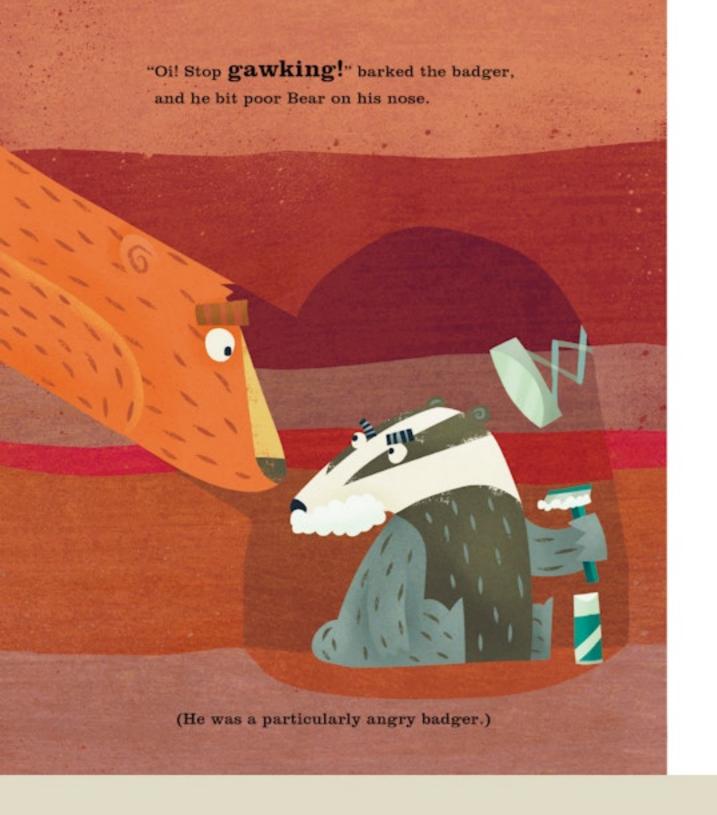


Bear strolled further into the forest and climbed a big tree. He stared at a bird feeding her chicks in their nest.





Bear climbed back down to the forest floor where he spied a badger's sett. He poked his head into the entrance . . . and I'm sure you can guess what happened next.





Bear pulled his head from the badger's sett with a **POP!** 



and skulked off, rubbing his sore nose.





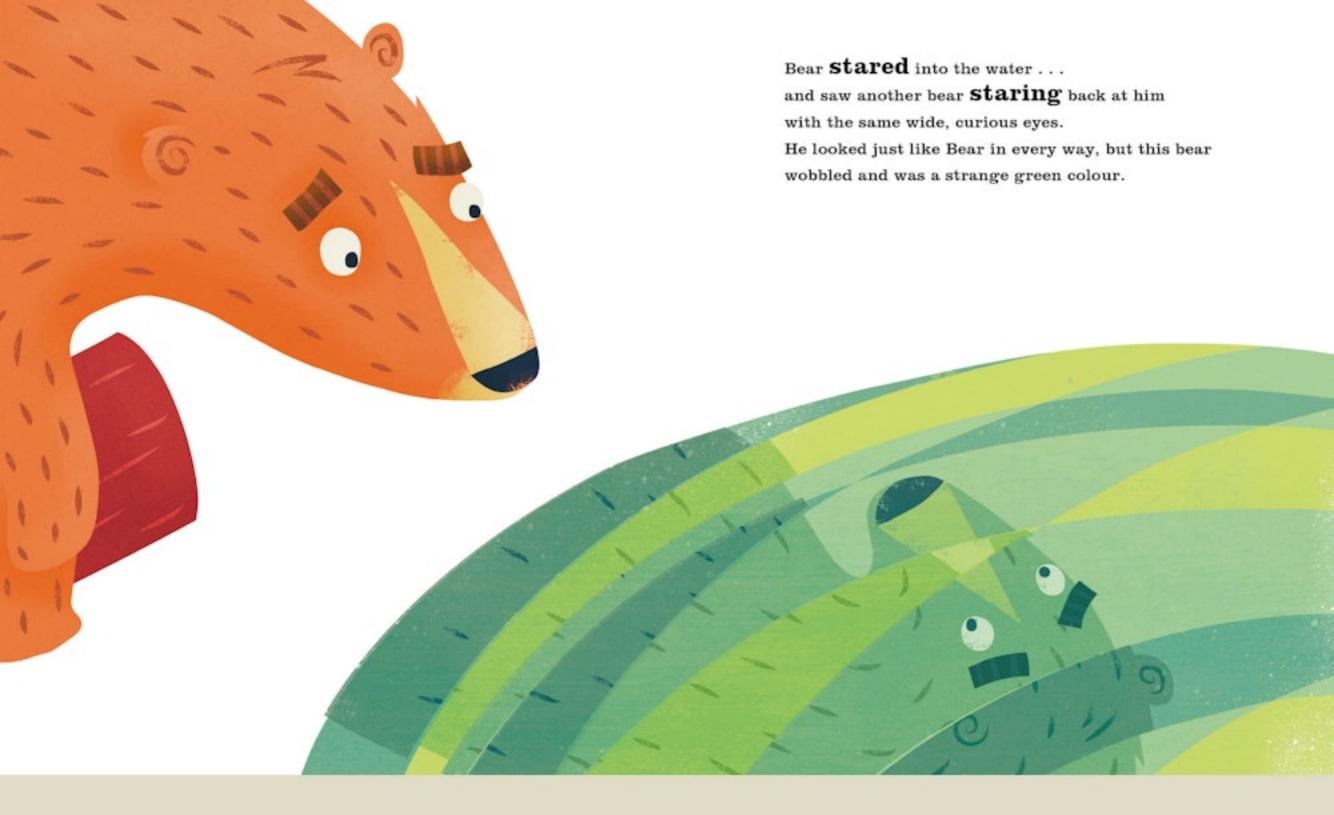
The frog stared back with his big, goggly eyes.



"Not much fun being **stared** at, is it?" continued the frog.

"I suppose not," muttered Bear. "It's just that I don't know what to say to anyone, and before I've had a chance to think, it's too late."







"You see?" said the frog. "Sometimes a **smile** is all you need. I may have big, goggly, **starey** eyes, but I also have the widest smile in the whole forest."

Then the frog showed Bear his biggest, widest, happiest **smile**, before diving off into the water.



As the frog disappeared, so too did the wobbly, green bear.



The next day, Bear trudged out of his cave.

He saw the ladybird family enjoying their breakfast on a small leaf.





The daddy ladybird was just about to gather up their things and leave, when Bear said, "Hello!" with a big **Smile** on his face.



"Oh, hello!" replied the daddy ladybird, and he **smiled** back.





Although . . .

. . . he did have one new friend who didn't mind Bear staring at him . . .



And he was just as good at staring back.

### For Avarin (our bear cub).

### A TEMPLAR BOOK

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