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opening extract from

Up in the Tree

written by

Margaret Attwood

published by

Bloomsbury

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I drew this book in the very early days of children's book publishing in Canada. We could use only two colours, as three would have been too expensive to print; hence the blue, the red, and the odd brown that is a combination of the two. I hand-lettered the entire book for the same reason: to save on costs. I had a background in poster design and printing – in my university days in the late fifties I'd had a little serigraph poster business that I ran on the ping-pong table – so I knew how to do the lettering. The drawings were black and white pen-and-ink – I then indicated to the publisher which of the two colours should go where. The techniques were primitive – there were no computers then – and the results look a little primitive as well, but I remain very fond of this book, for sentimental reasons.

– Margaret Atwood, 2005



UP IN THE TREE

Margaret Atwood



We live in a tree,
Way UP in a tree

For Jess

First published in Great Britain in 2008 by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc,

36 Soho Square, London, W1D 3QY

Originally published in Canada in 1978 by
McClelland and Stewart

Published in Canada by Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press in 2006

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A CIP catalogue record of this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978 07475 9192 4

Printed and bound in China

1 3 5 7 9 1 0 8 6 4 2

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It's fun
in the sun

And a pain in the rain,
But we both have umbrellas
Way up in the tree.



We like our old tree,
Our home in the tree;
We swing in the Spring



And we crawl in the Fall
And we dance on the branches
Way up in the tree.