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Opening extract from
The Little White Sprite

Written by
Gillian McClure

Published by
Plaster Press

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Please print off and read at your leisure.



For James

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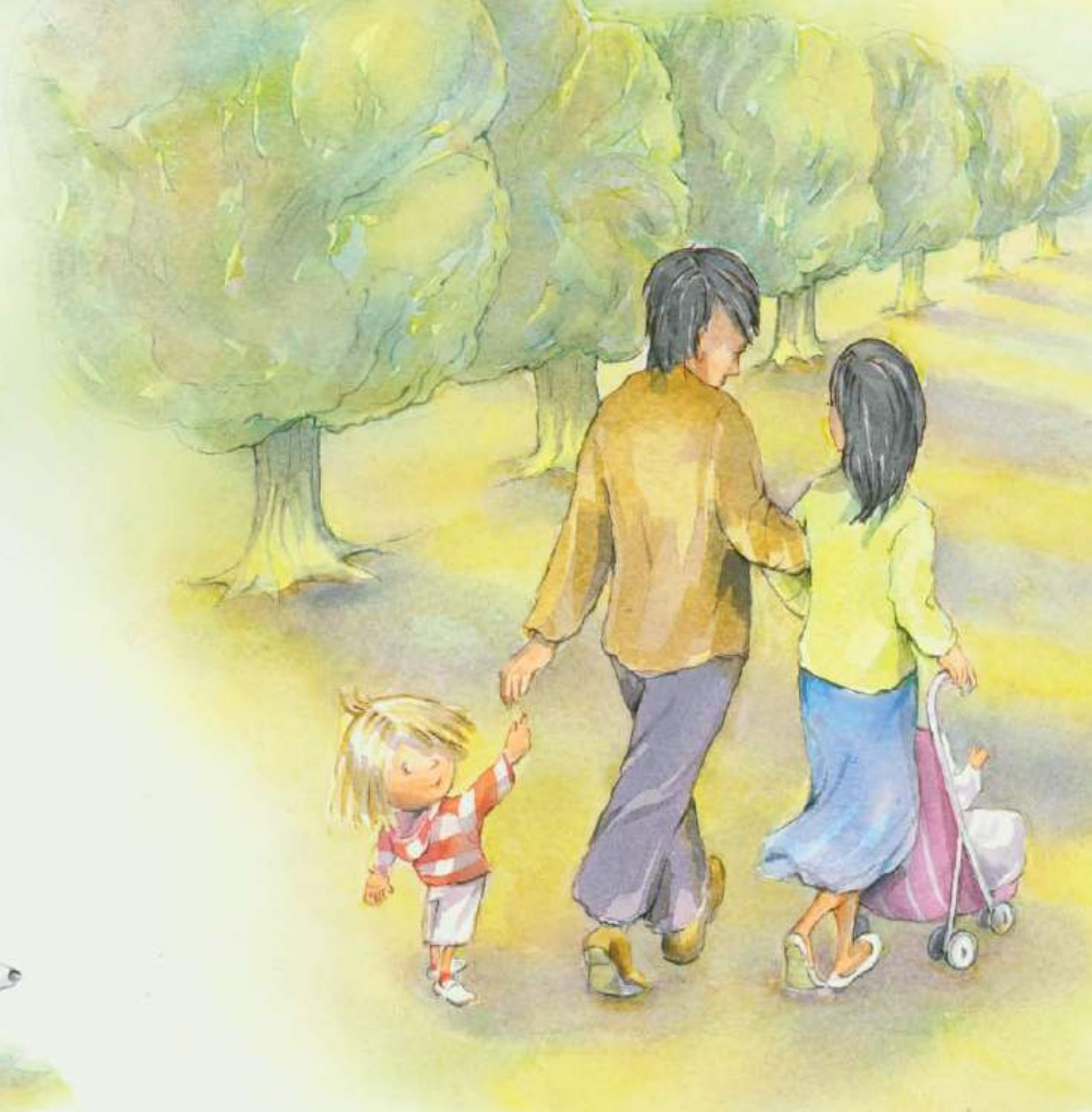
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Something lives deep
inside that tree.

Once, I saw small, bright eyes
looking at me.

I heard a thin voice whisper.

A watercolor illustration of a child climbing a tree trunk. The child is wearing a red and white striped shirt and is climbing a ladder made of branches. A small, white, round sprite with large eyes is climbing ahead of the child. A squirrel is perched on a branch to the right. The tree trunk is brown and textured, and the background is a mix of light and dark colors, suggesting a forest interior. There are several glowing yellow spots scattered throughout the scene.

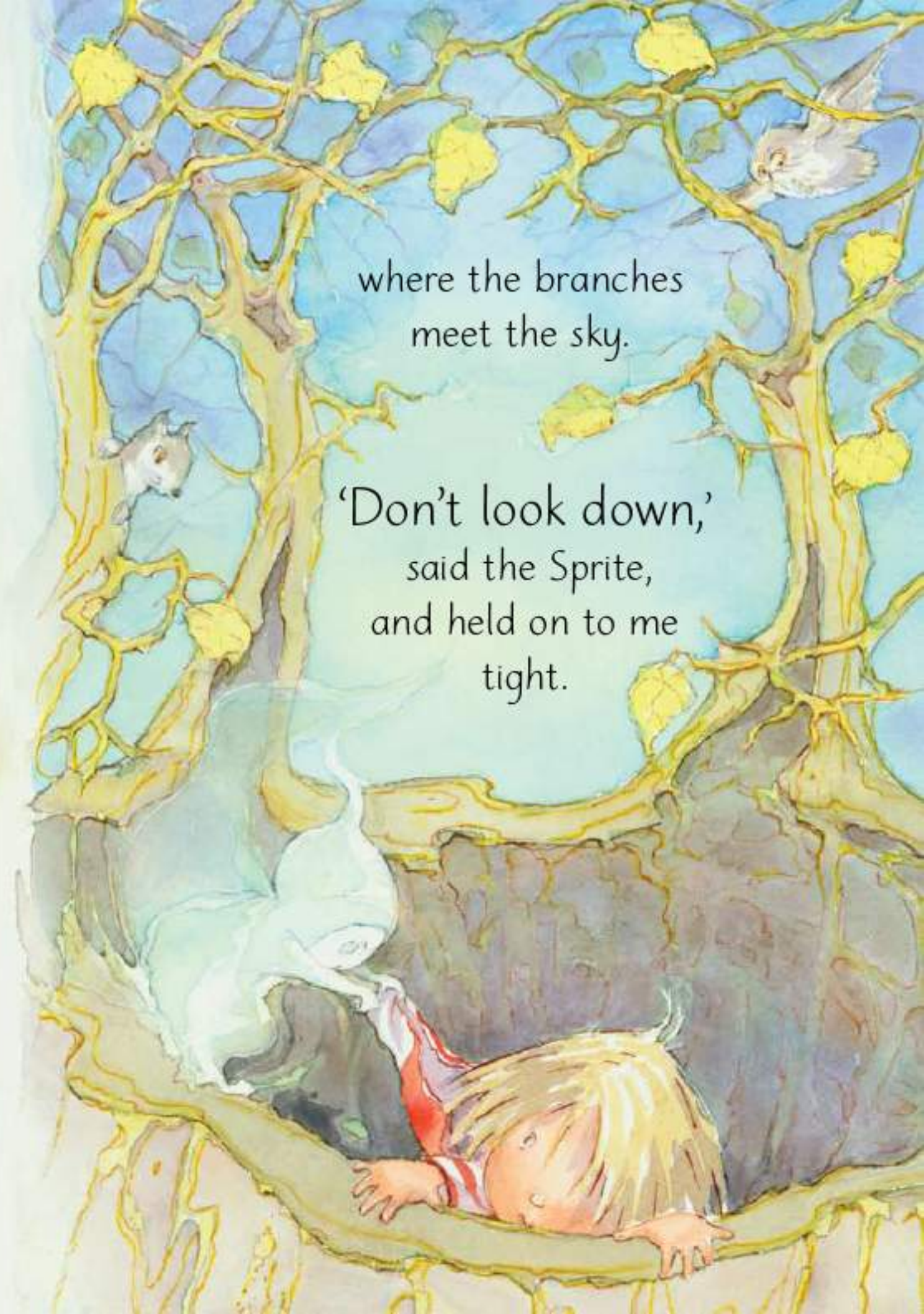
I chose up high.

So we climbed up inside
the Warty Tree.

And the Sprite was
always ahead of me.

A child with blonde hair, wearing a red and white striped shirt and white shorts, is climbing a large, gnarled tree trunk. A small dog is perched on a branch above the child. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with glowing yellow lights.

Up,
up high
we climbed,
and came out
at the top

A child with blonde hair, wearing a red and white striped shirt, is holding onto a thick tree branch. A small dog is perched on a branch above the child. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with glowing yellow lights.

where the branches
meet the sky.

'Don't look down,'
said the Sprite,
and held on to me
tight.