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Opening extract from  
**The Animals' Christmas**

Written by  
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The starlight led the men to the place where Mary and Joseph had taken shelter. As they halted, they exchanged puzzled glances.

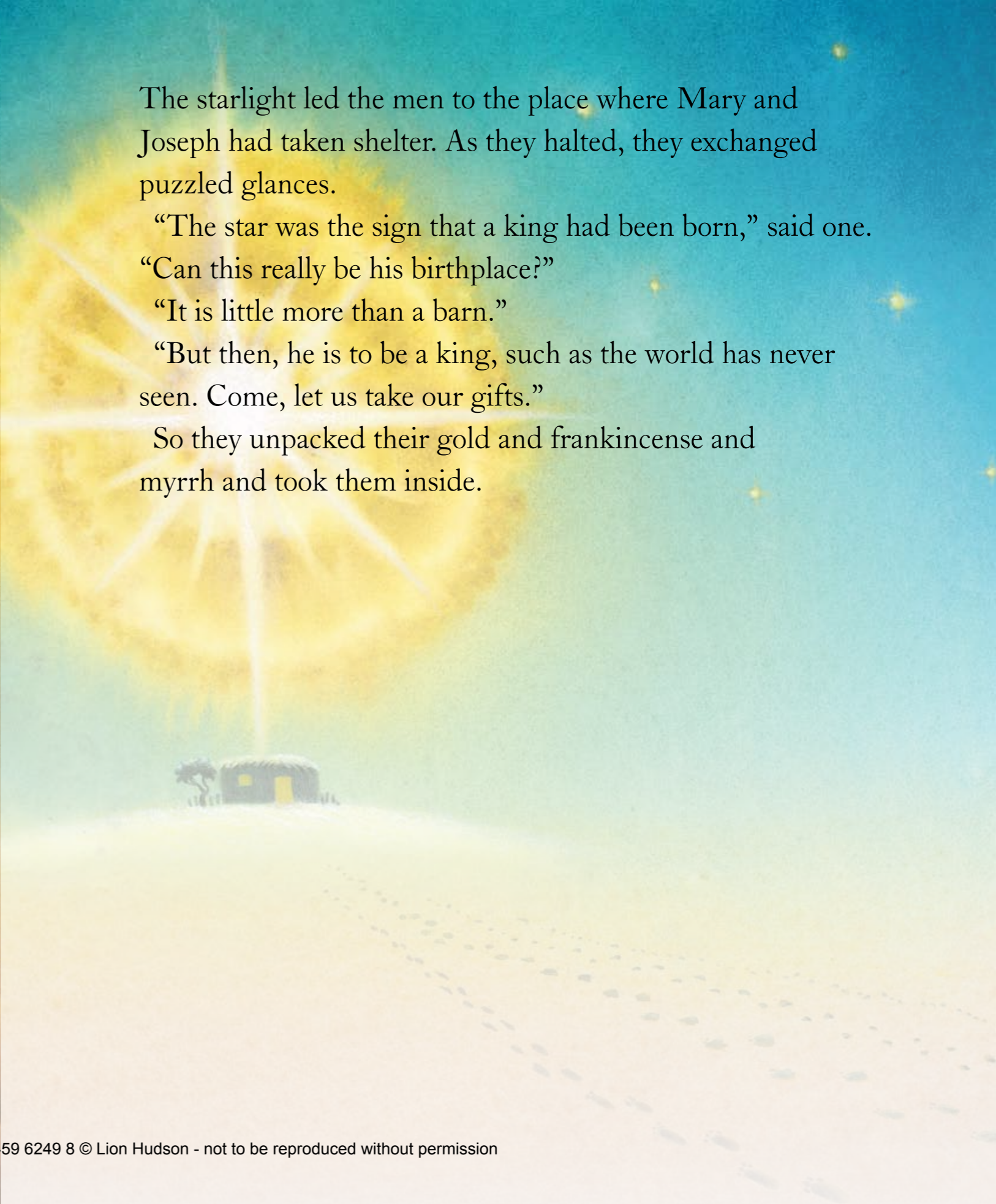
“The star was the sign that a king had been born,” said one.

“Can this really be his birthplace?”

“It is little more than a barn.”

“But then, he is to be a king, such as the world has never seen. Come, let us take our gifts.”

So they unpacked their gold and frankincense and myrrh and took them inside.





Mary and Joseph, shepherds and wise men: they all believed that the baby born in Bethlehem was a king, such as the world had never seen.

He was the one who would establish a peaceable kingdom, where animals both wild and tame would live together.

