

**MUSICAL PICTURE BOOK**

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# A FEAST BENEATH THE MOON

BERTIE AND FRIENDS HIT THE ROAD

Story and Songs Christiane Duchesne and Jérôme Minière Illustrations Marianne Ferrer

Singers Clerel and Geneviève Toupin Narration Mischa Cheeseman



the secret  
mountain





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*A tribute to Lewis Carroll*



We're Bertie's friends, yes we are!  
The greatest friends in the world!  
No bigger than a nut  
Taratata  
Taratata

We're Bertie's friends, yes we are!  
On the road to the Blue Mountain  
That's where we'll be at our best!  
Taratata  
Taratata

There was **Maggie**,  
the tallest of the four.

Then **Minnie**,  
the smallest one.

Then **Bertie**, the  
most inquisitive  
one.

Then **Carl Martin Alexander**,  
the wisest one. We called him  
**Marty**. It was easier to call  
him Marty.

Once upon a time there were four friends who always  
had oodles and oodles of fun together. They were never apart.  
They always played together, they always ate together, they  
always sang together and all four of them lived together  
in a great big house.





One day, Marty, Minnie, Maggie and Bertie left their home in their little corner of the world where it had been raining for one hundred days. One hundred days! Now that was a long time!

While they waited for the rain to stop, they decided to head for the Blue Mountain aboard a wagon-boat. Along the way, they met a parade of animals who came aboard and joined them at the top of the mountain for a fabulous picnic with a spread of bread, jams, and cupcakes.



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### SWEET LITTLE CAKES

I love, I love sweet little cakes  
Vanilla and chocolate  
If I eat too many  
I may get chubby  
Like a vanilla  
A vanilla whale  
Or even a chocolate  
Chocolate elephant



Then they decided to stay on the Blue Mountain where they all felt so marvelously, magnificently and wonderfully at home!

At the top of the Blue Mountain, they discovered a huge forest of pine trees, spruce trees, maple trees and oak trees. They sang as they ventured into the woods, joyful and happy to spend a day in the sunshine without a single drop of rain.

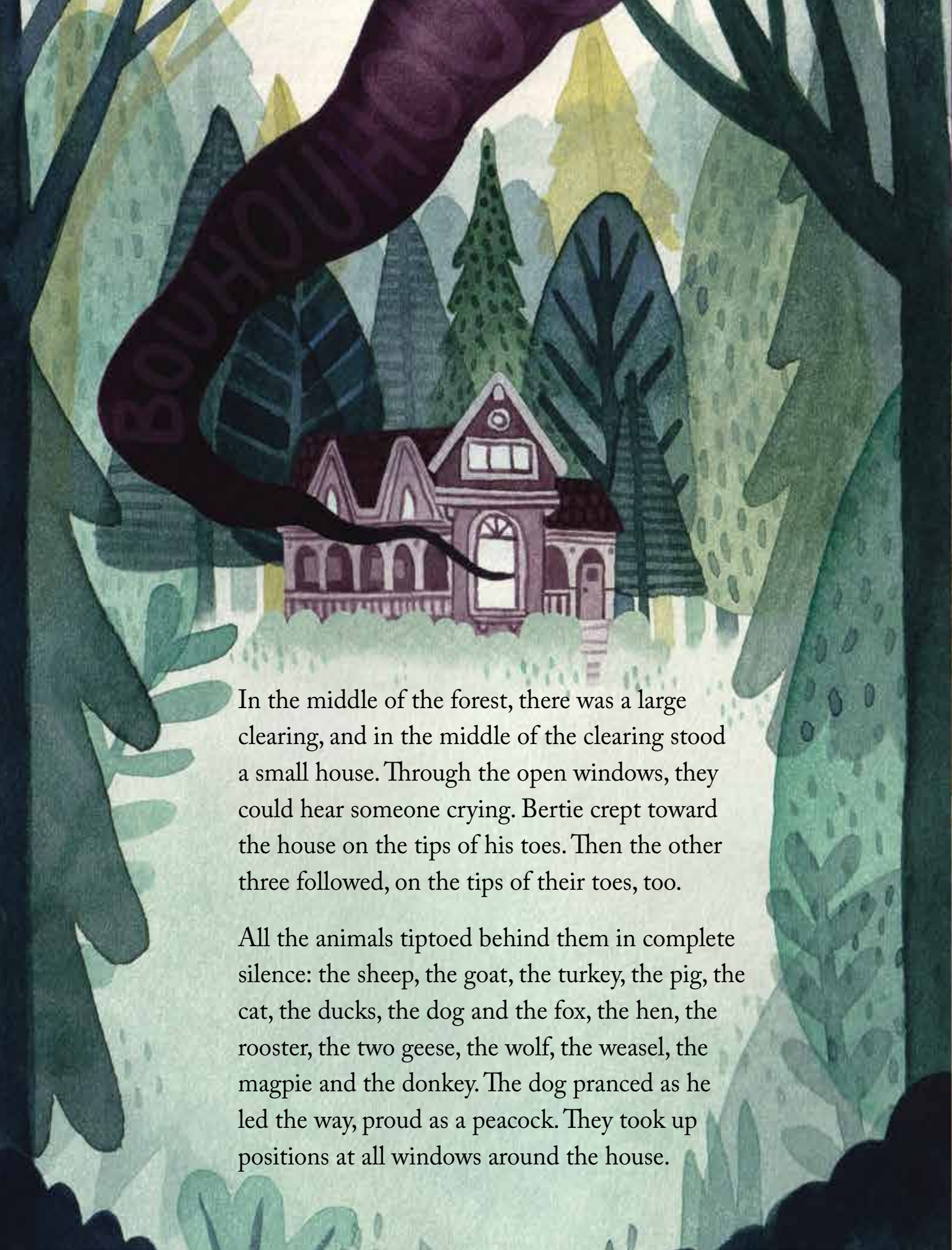
4

#### WISE OLD OWL

A wise old owl  
Lived in an oak  
The more he saw  
The less he spoke  
The less he spoke  
The more he heard  
Why can't we all  
Be like that wise old bird?






A watercolor illustration of a small, two-story house with a red roof and white trim, nestled in a forest clearing. The house has a chimney and a small porch. The surrounding forest is composed of various green trees, some with yellow highlights. A large, dark tree trunk is in the foreground on the left.

In the middle of the forest, there was a large clearing, and in the middle of the clearing stood a small house. Through the open windows, they could hear someone crying. Bertie crept toward the house on the tips of his toes. Then the other three followed, on the tips of their toes, too.

All the animals tiptoed behind them in complete silence: the sheep, the goat, the turkey, the pig, the cat, the ducks, the dog and the fox, the hen, the rooster, the two geese, the wolf, the weasel, the magpie and the donkey. The dog pranced as he led the way, proud as a peacock. They took up positions at all windows around the house.

5

## MY DOG

A watercolor illustration of a group of animals gathered around a house at night. The house has a large arched window with a semi-circular transom. The animals, including a cat, a duck, a fox, and several small children, are looking out the window. A large dog is in the foreground, looking up at the window. The scene is set against a dark purple background.

My dog, my dog is really big  
He's really strong and white as a wig  
He has a tail like a palm tree  
A black nose and big teeth  
With a pretty little tongue

Whether he's running fast or slow  
I always ride on his back  
Bury my face in his neck

When I feel sad enough to cry  
And when it's time to go to sleep  
He lies down in my bed  
And just before he closes his eyes  
He gives me the most beautiful smile



Sitting on a chair in the middle of the kitchen,  
a tall little girl was crying. Minnie gently drew  
near to ask her name and why she was shedding  
so many tears. Outside, the curious animals  
peered through the windows, wondering what  
could be making the tall little girl cry.

The tall little girl was called Alice, and sadly,  
she had lost her scooter!

6

## WHERE ARE YOU, MISTER SCOOTER?

Hey, I lost my scooter  
Its name's Mister Scooter  
But I call it Mister  
Where are you,  
Mister Scooter?

Mister, Mister  
Mister Scooter  
Where are you?

Hey, I found my scooter  
Its name is Mister Scooter  
But I call it Mister!







7

## ALICE IN THE WOODS

One, two, three  
Four, five, six  
Seven, eight, nine  
Ten, eleven, twelve

One, two, three  
I'm going to the woods  
Four, five, six  
To see my friend Alice  
Seven, eight, nine  
I'm getting her an egg  
Ten, eleven, twelve  
A really big black egg!





8

## MY GARDEN

Raspberries  
Violets  
Some tomatoes  
And some ferns  
Parsley  
And lilacs  
A pumpkin patch

And a wee little mouse  
Who has built her house  
Under the leaves  
Of my rosebush

Alice's house was very pleasant. In the kitchen, there was a mountain of apples to make pies, along with tomatoes, parsley and raspberries.

Alice explained that all of it came from her garden. She loved growing fruits, flowers and vegetables. She grew the best strawberries in the world.





Alice was delighted to show them her home. In the little house's big living room, there was a shiny, black piano. Next to the grand piano was a tiny house with an even tinier piano inside.



But who might be living in this tiny little house? A dog?

- “No, no,” said Alice, smiling.
- “A monkey?” asked Marty.
- “No, no,” said Alice, still smiling.
- “Not an elephant, that’s for sure!” said Bertie.
- “Or a lion, or a cat, or a wolf.”
- “Oh, no,” said Alice, bursting into laughter.  
“It’s my baby rat’s house, and the piano belongs to him!”

What was special about Alice was that she could snap her fingers and shrink to the same size as her baby rat, walk into the tiny house and play the piano with him.







Alice could snap her fingers again and become a giant, or normal size, like Marty, Minnie, Maggie and Bertie.

The only danger was when she grew too tall, as she would bump her head on the ceiling.

10

## TALL AND TINY

If I were little  
The size of a pickle  
If I grew tall  
I'd move to Montreal  
Or change galaxies  
I'd climb up a high tree  
If I could see Rome  
With eyes of Styrofoam  
If I were a planet  
I'd wear a helmet  
I'd call myself Jed  
And stand on my head  
Aha, aha, oh, oh

If I were a flea  
They'd call me Bea  
If I were an elephant  
I'd sing with an accent  
Or if I were tiny  
I'd never be lonely  
If I were a giant  
I wouldn't sleep in a tent  
If I were supersonic  
I'd go on a picnic  
Or fly a kite  
And we could dance all night  
Aha, aha, oh, oh



Oh, I eat watermelon and I have for years  
Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day  
I like watermelon but it wets my ears  
Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day

Maybe grass tastes good to a moo cow's mouth  
Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day  
But I like chicken 'cause I'm from the South  
Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day

Fare-thee well  
Fare-thee well  
Mister Gloom be on your way  
If you think you're gonna worry  
You can stop it in a hurry  
Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day


A woodpecker pecks till he gets his fill  
Singing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day  
And a green mouse plays his banjo on the hill  
Singing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day

A polly is a parrot  
We all know well  
But just what a wolly is  
I can't tell  
I wouldn't know a doodle  
If one came along  
But Polly Wolly Doodle  
Makes a darn good song!

The baby rat, who was called Marcus, had a mouse friend who sometimes came to visit him and they would play together for hours. And this mouse was a green mouse. Can you believe it, a green mouse?







Alice wondered whatever could have brought Bertie  
and his friends and all the animals to her house.

Marty, Minnie, Maggie and Bertie told her how  
it had been raining in their little corner of the world  
for one hundred days! One hundred days!  
Now that was a long time!


12

## RAIN, RAIN

Rain, rain, go away  
Come again some other day  
We want to go outside and play  
Come again some other day

It's raining, it's pouring  
The old man was snoring  
He went to bed and bumped his head  
And couldn't get up in the morning





Alice had always lived all alone,  
and she was thrilled to have friends.  
She decided to draw a portrait so she  
would never forget them, even when  
she grew very old.

13

### A PORTRAIT

On my piece of paper, I draw  
Two blue eyes  
Some hair  
A round nose  
A smile  
Who is it?  
It's me

On my piece of paper, I draw  
Two big horns  
Three ears  
A moustache  
Lots of teeth  
Who is it?  
It's you





To celebrate her guests and their arrival, Alice decided to plan a marvelous, magical evening. There would be a grand meal and a stellar show.

Marty, Minnie, Maggie and Bertie wondered what this feast would be like. Who was going to prepare the meal? Alice?

“No, no,” she replied. It would be her great friend Zach who would bring them absolutely wondrous, surprising and delicious things.

14

#### BIG PARTY HAT

Ta-ta-ta-ta  
Big party hat  
It's our great friend Zach  
Who's at last come back  
With a bag full of treats  
Ready to unpack!  
  
It's such a feast  
Lettuce and cherry pies  
And there's bloodsucker soup  
With squeaky cheese and fries  
What a delight  
The bullfrog sits real tight  
The grape juice is fizzy  
The sponge cake tastes fishy



The salad and cherry pies were very good although the bloodsucker soup and the sponge cake were less appealing. But Alice loved it all!

There was enough for everyone. For all the animals who danced around the house, for the little green mouse and the baby rat.

While they ate, an acrobatic fly entertained them with a spectacular show.

Oh, it was a delightful evening!



15


#### FUNKY FLY

On the ceiling  
That's not a stain  
What is it?  
A fly!

Head upside down  
Feet on the ceiling  
It's a fly  
It's a fly  
It's a funky fly

Head upside down  
Feet on the ceiling  
What an acrobat!





Then, when night fell completely dark, the sun fast asleep and the moon yet to rise, everyone went out to the clearing. Alice asked them to stretch out on their backs, so that's what Marty, Minnie, Maggie and Bertie did. All the animals followed suit. Even the horses managed to lie down with their hooves in the air.

In the dark sky, stars appeared.

It was so fine, and so beautiful, that no one wanted to go to bed. All of them wanted to stay up and watch shooting stars throughout the night.

16

#### SILVER SHOOTING STARS

Racing through the sky  
They trace fine lines of light  
Just like chalk on a sidewalk  
Barely enough time  
To see them shining bright  
As they disappear in the night  
Silver shooting stars





17

#### ON A PAPER AIRPLANE

I flew far, far away  
On a paper airplane  
I flew far above the clouds  
I glided all around the moon  
And after, I flew home  
To go to bed

Then came the evening's main event!

Alice ran into the house and returned with a white paper airplane. She snapped her fingers and became tiny, then snapped her fingers again to shrink Marty, then Minnie, Maggie and finally, Bertie!

All five of them climbed aboard the paper airplane, which flew away on a puff of wind into the black night, bound for the moon that had just risen.





The plane flew three times over the clearing beside Alice's house and made a gentle landing right in the middle.

The astonished animals watched as Alice snapped her fingers, and everyone grew to their normal size again.

Then they heard yawning, yawning and more yawning. It was getting very late. As their eyes closed, they could hear the wolf snoring, the fox grinding his teeth, the two geese humming a lullaby and finally a great silence fell over the Blue Mountain.

18

#### RIVER LULLABY

Most of the songs that the river sings  
Tell of adventures bright  
But there's one, soft and clear  
That you may hear  
When the canyon is shadowed by night

The willows by the stream  
All say, "Come on and dream  
We'll sing a river lullaby"  
The clouds may drift on high  
To hide a starry night  
We'll sing a river lullaby

Danger now has passed  
The water's still at last  
It's time, once more  
To linger on the shore

My love is here with me  
And life is ecstasy  
We'll sing a river lullaby



The next morning, just after sunrise, Bertie crossed the clearing and perched on the edge of the cliff to see if it was still raining in their little corner of the world.

He was thrilled to see the clouds had disappeared, the river had returned to its bed, the grass was green again and he could even see their house twinkling in the brilliant sunlight. Bertie quickly ran to find Marty, Minnie and Maggie to tell them the news.

They jumped with joy, laughed and clapped their hands! They were so happy! But Alice’s eyes brimmed with tears.

She cried when they arrived. Would she cry when they left?

Oh no! Oh no!

19 THE COLOURS OF MY HEART

On this day, my heart is grey  
Like a very big cloud  
On this day, my heart is grey  
My heart, all grey

On this day my heart is blue  
Blue like your pretty eyes  
On this day, my heart is blue  
My heart, all blue

All grey, all blue  
These are the colours of my heart

On this day, my heart is white  
Like a seagull in the sky  
On this day, my heart is white  
My heart, all white

On this day my heart is blue  
Blue like your pretty eyes  
On this day, my heart is blue  
My heart, all blue

All blue, all white  
These are the colours of my heart  
All grey, all blue  
These are the colours of my heart





Minnie asked, “Why don’t you leave the Blue Mountain to come and live with us in our pretty, charming little corner of the world?”

Bertie, Maggie, Marty and all the animals looked at the tall little girl.

Alice accepted the invitation, but on one condition: That they would all come back to spend their holidays on the Blue Mountain together, with all the animals, the green mouse, the baby rat and Zach.

Then they all boarded the wagon-boat and hit the road, singing as they sailed down the mountain toward their little corner of the world.







BERTIE AND FRIENDS

We're Bertie's friends, yes we are!  
The greatest friends in the world!  
No bigger than a nut!  
Taratata  
Taratata

We're Bertie's friends, yes we are!  
About to leave the Blue Mountain  
But we'll be back very soon!  
Taratata  
Taratata



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Also available



**A PICNIC IN THE SUN**

BERTIE AND FRIENDS HIT THE ROAD



# A FEAST BENEATH THE MOON

Once upon a time there were four friends who always had oodles and oodles of fun together. After their last adventure full of surprises that ended with a big picnic in the sun, a sudden torrential rainfall forces Bertie and gang to take shelter atop the Blue Mountain. When they emerge, they encounter an extraordinary girl named Alice, who can grow big or small at the snap of her fingers. Together, they spend a magical night singing and dancing under the moon and shooting stars.

A sequel to *A Picnic in the Sun*, this imaginative musical tale is interspersed with four beloved traditional songs and 14 original tracks performed with an abundance of pizzazz and emotion. Whimsical illustrations accompany this joyful and unforgettable celebration.

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