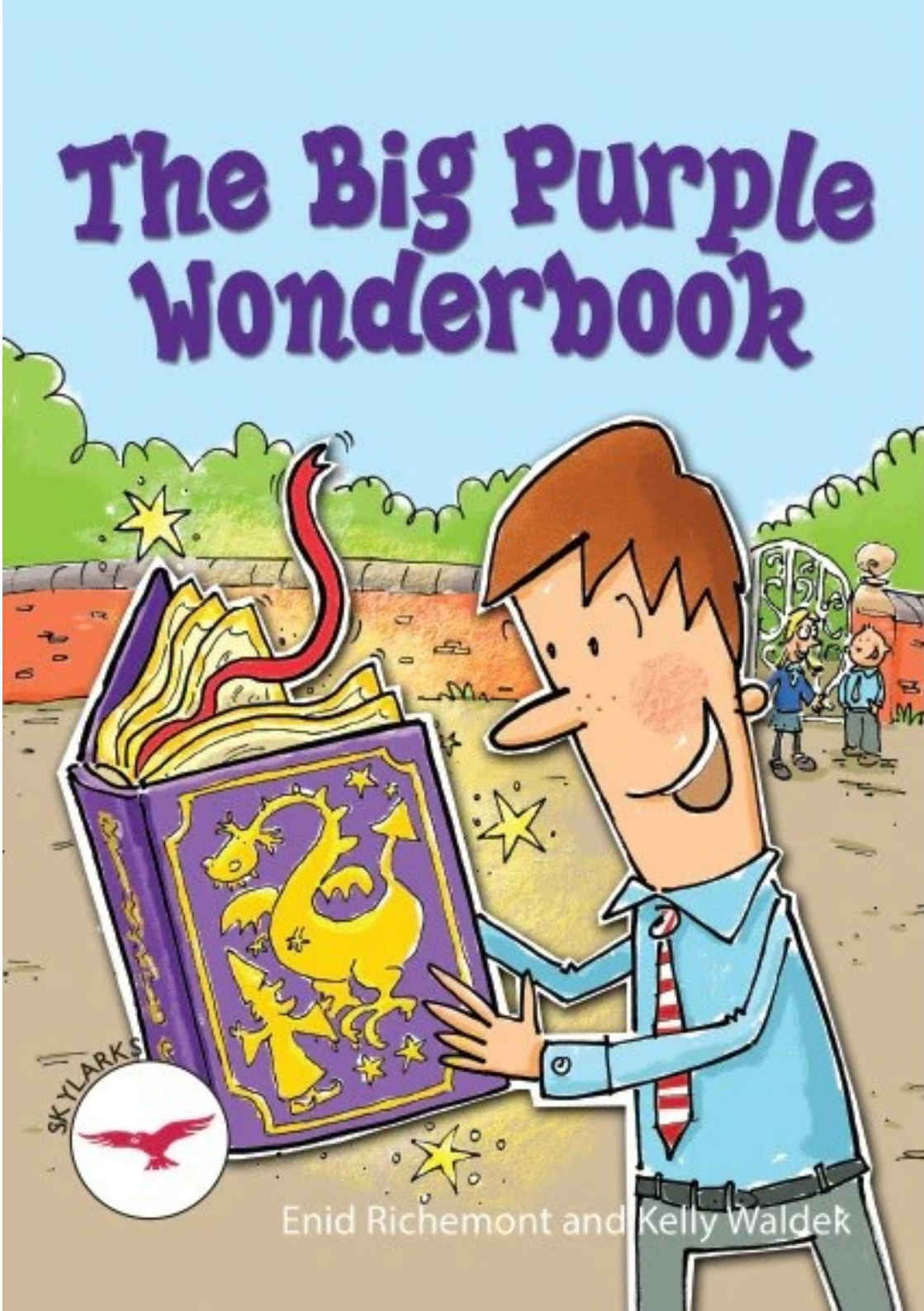
The Big Purple Wonderbook



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Contents

Chapter One 7

Chapter Two 12

Chapter Three 18

Chapter Four 23

Chapter Five 27

Chapter Six 31

Chapter Seven 35

Chapter Eight 39

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Chapter One

Something inside the cardboard box called out to Tom.

"Pick me up!" it said.

Tom looked round for Mum, but she was sorting through some hats.

"Pick me up!" repeated the voice. It sounded really bossy.

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Tom began turning over all the things in the box – scarves, funny handbags, bits of lace and ancient jigsaws.

The charity shop lady smiled. "Nothing much you'd want in there, love," she said.

Then Tom pulled out an old book with a purple cover.

"That took long enough," grumbled the voice.

The book had a dragon stamped on its front. It had gold edges on its pages, a silky red bookmark, and pictures that lay like precious secrets behind thin crackly paper.

"Mum," called Tom. "Can I have this, please?"

"Depends how much," said Mum, trying on a squashy velvet hat.

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The charity shop lady peered over Tom's shoulder.

"The Big Purple Wonderbook," she read. "That sounds like fun." She took it for a moment. Then she gave it back.

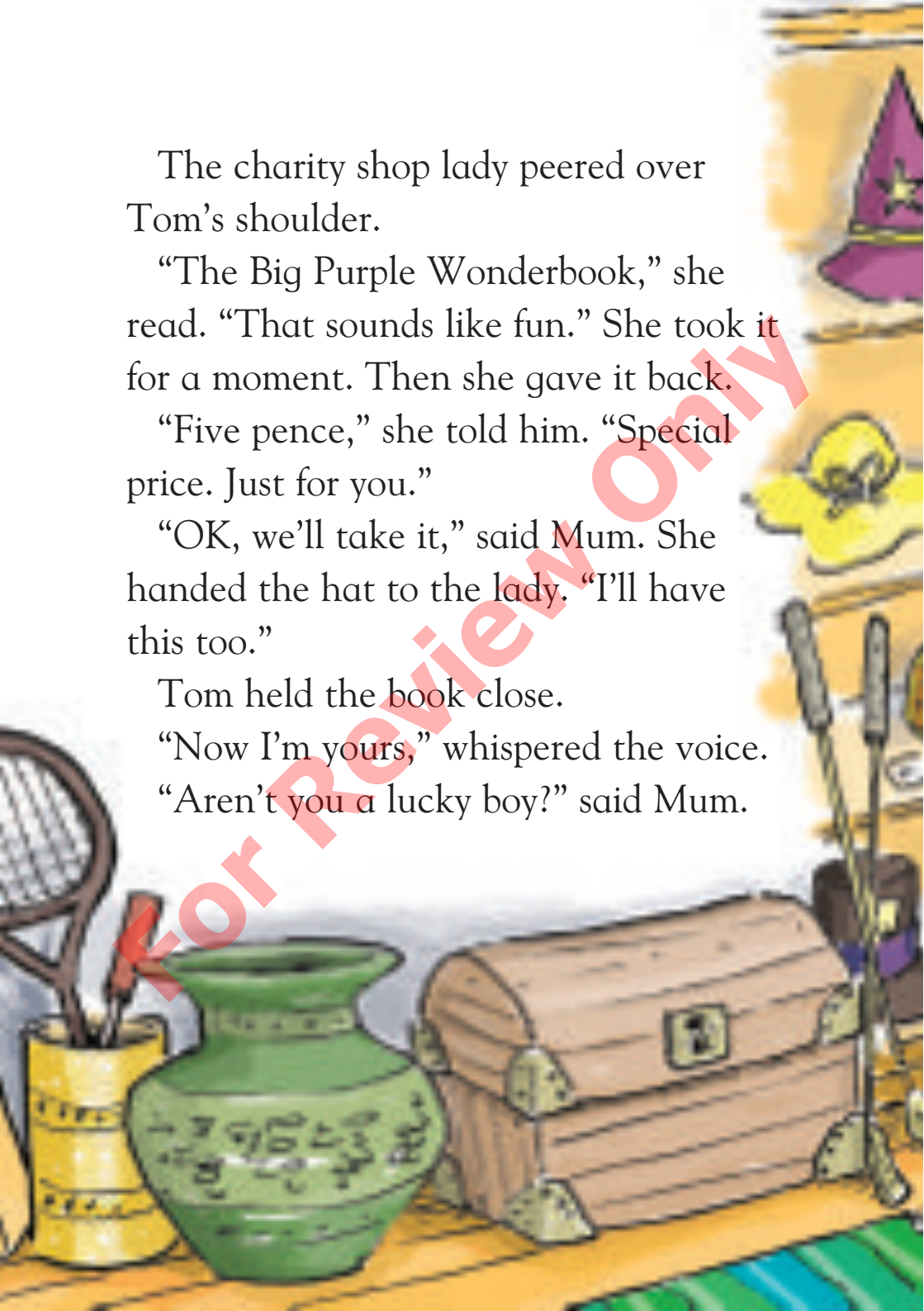
"Five pence," she told him. "Special price. Just for you."

"OK, we'll take it," said Mum. She handed the hat to the lady. "I'll have this too."

Tom held the book close.

"Now I'm yours," whispered the voice.

"Aren't you a lucky boy?" said Mum.



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Chapter Two

On the way home, Tom opened his book and lifted up the tissue on its first coloured picture.

"Hey, look at this!" he cried.

"Watch where you're going," Mum told him. "You'll fall down a hole."

Back at the house, Tom's older

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brother, Edward, was prancing round the living room to music.

Mum sighed. "Turn that thing down!"

Tom showed Edward his book. "It talks," he said. "It says things."



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Edward tapped Tom on the side of his head. “You’re bananas!” he said.

That night, Tom showed it to Mum’s new boyfriend, Mike. Mike flipped



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