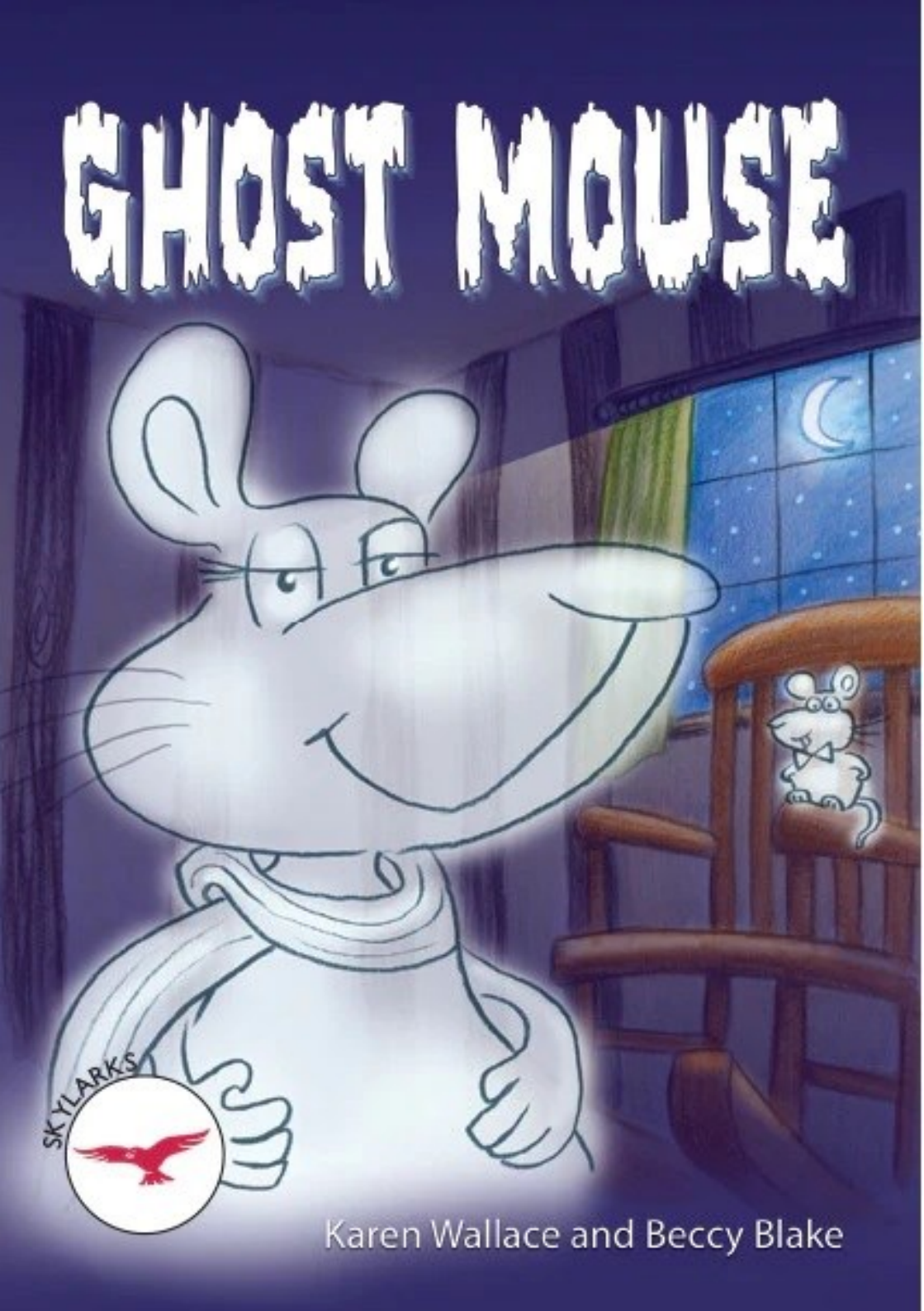
GHOST MOUSE



Karen Wallace and Beccy Blake

Contents

Chapter One 7

Chapter Two 11

Chapter Three 16

Chapter Four 22

Chapter Five 28

Chapter Six 37

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Chapter One



A ghost mouse called Gorgonzola was sleeping in front of a stove. It was a good life for a mouse. Every night Granny Flannagan sat in her rocking chair, read her newspaper and dropped biscuit crumbs for the mice to nibble.

"Gorgonzola!" squeaked a voice.

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"Wake up!"

Gorgonzola opened her eyes. Another ghost mouse called Crackers was staring at her. "Your paw was going in and out of your mouth!"



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"I was dreaming my favourite dream," murmured Gorgonzola. "About when Granny Flannagan was alive. Before…" her voice trailed away.

Across the room a newspaper lay on the floor. The date on it was October 29th 1897.

"I know all about Granny Flannagan," said Crackers. "She went to the Big Cheese Shop in the sky."

Gorgonzola smiled. "So did we," she said. "And now we're back here to look after Honeycomb Cottage."

"Do you think we'll stay forever?" asked Crackers. "What happens if someone finds the big key?"

"They won't," said Gorgonzola. "When Granny Flannagan died, we hid it, remember?"

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At that moment a mouse called Pipsqueak appeared through the wall. "Strangers!" he gasped. "And one of them has got the big key!



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Chapter Two



Melanie Murdock strode into the kitchen and wiped her feet on the precious old newspaper in front of the stove.

"This place is a dump," she said.

Simon Slime of Slime & Slime Estate Agents rubbed his hands together and

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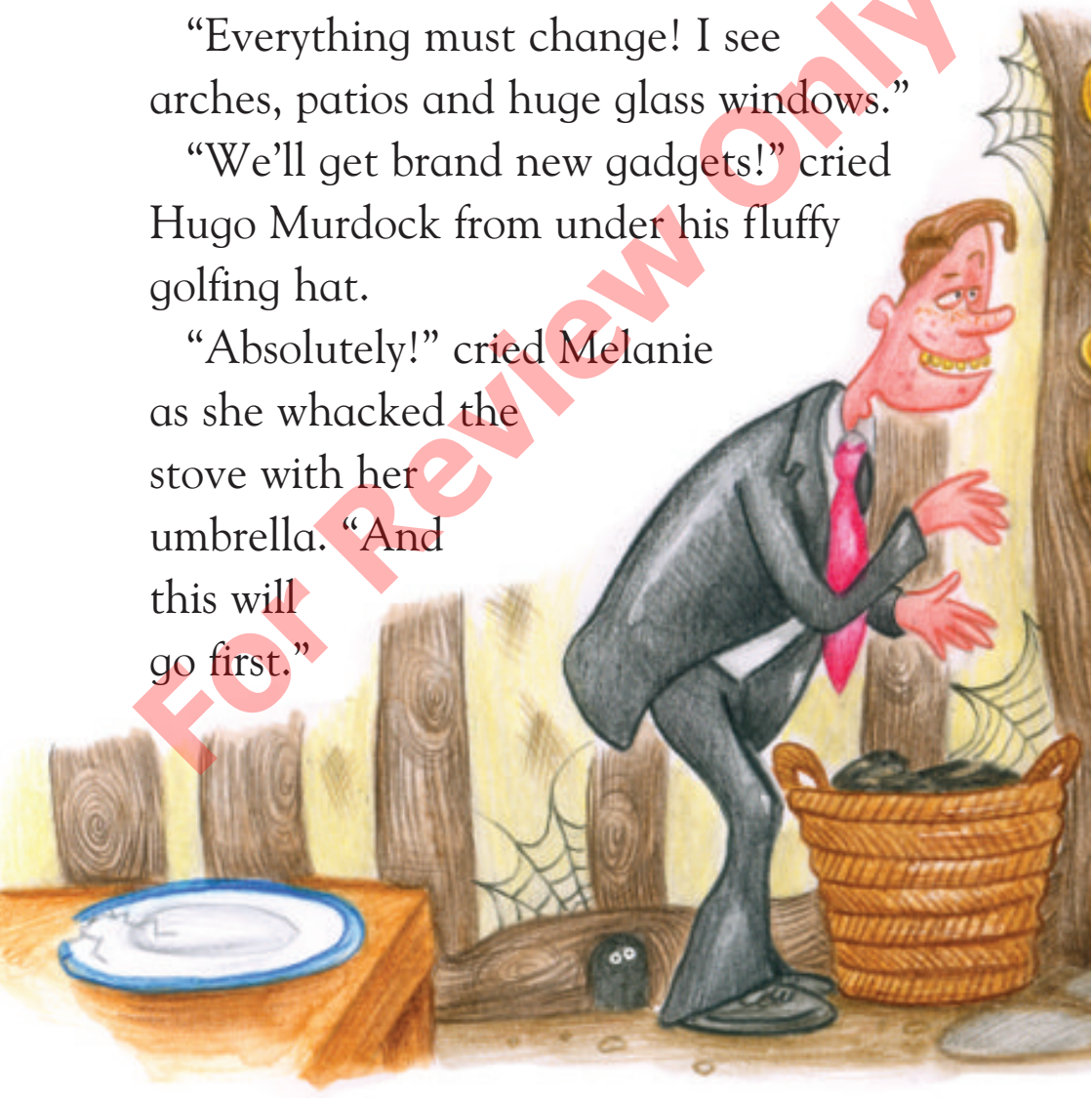
blushed. “We’ve only just found the key,” he explained. “The cottage has been empty for years and years.”

Melanie waved her hands in the air.

“Everything must change! I see arches, patios and huge glass windows.”

“We’ll get brand new gadgets!” cried Hugo Murdock from under his fluffy golfing hat.

“Absolutely!” cried Melanie as she whacked the stove with her umbrella. “And this will go first.”



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