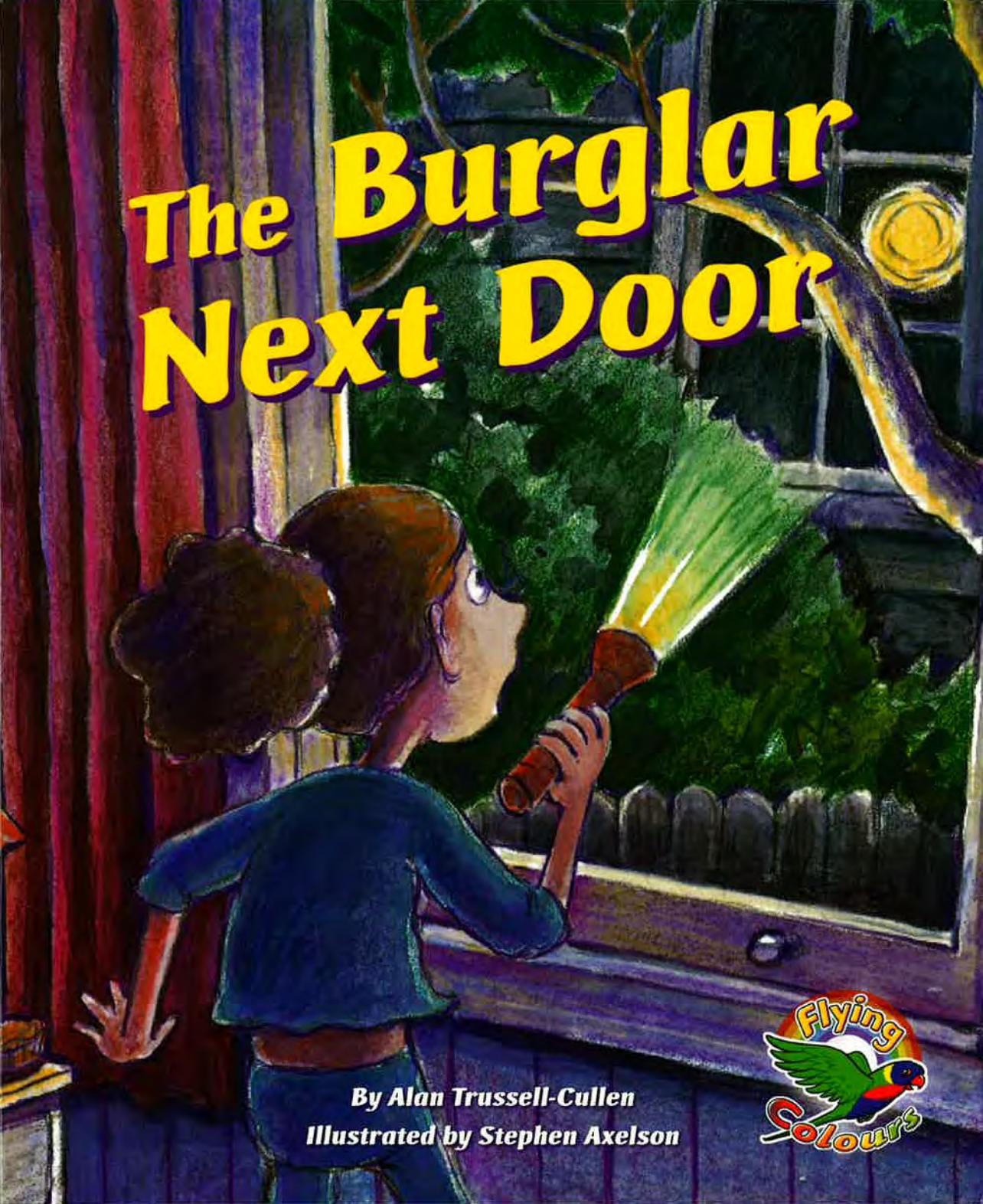

The Burglar Next Door
By Alan Trussell-Cullen
Illustrated by Stephen Axelson
Flying Colours



Title	*The Burglar Next Door*
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Chapter 1

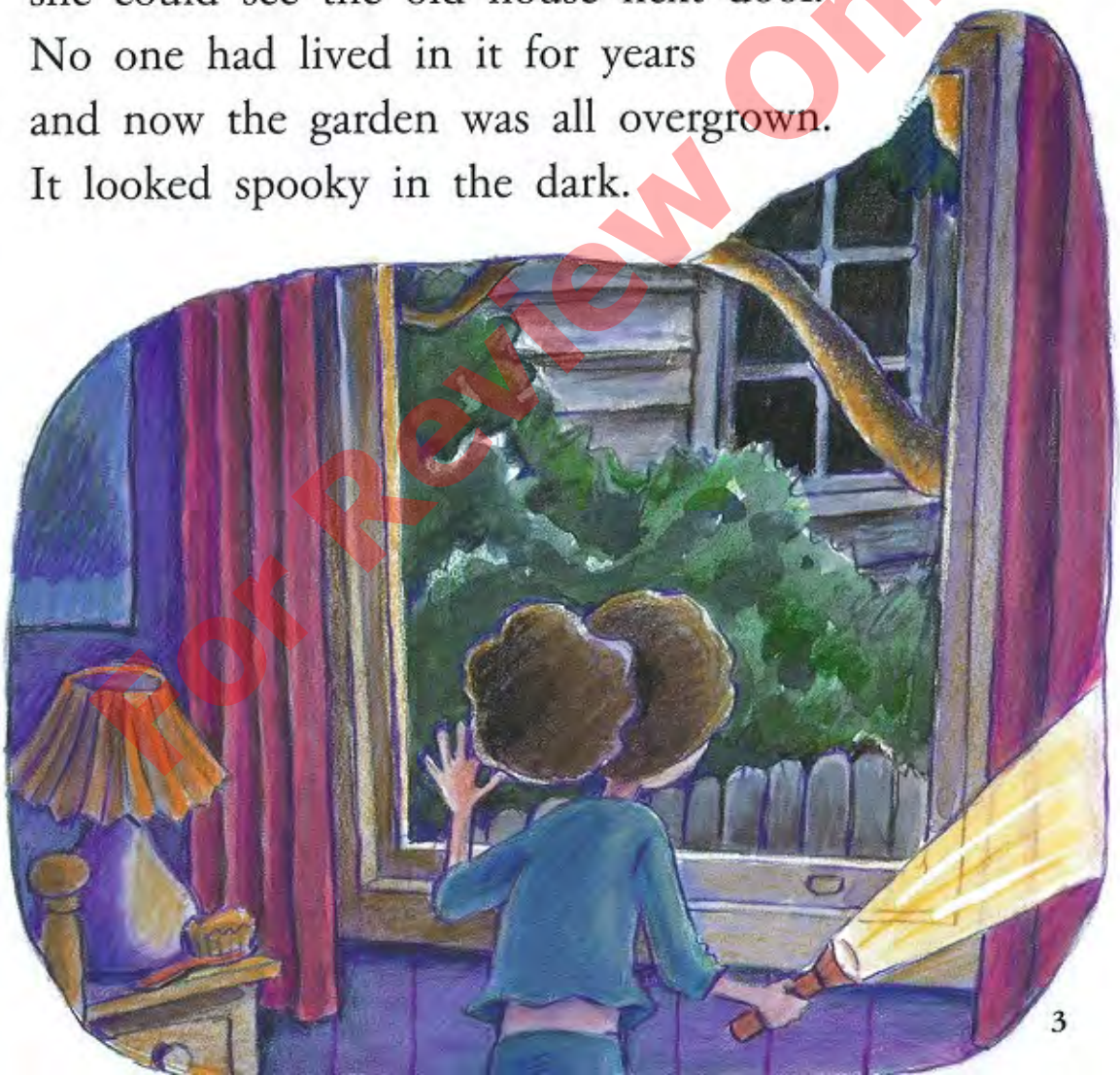
The Flashing Light in the Night

Something woke Jenny in the middle of the night. She sat up in bed and turned on her torch. Perhaps a branch had tapped against her window?



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She climbed out of bed and made her way
across the room to the window
to see if it was shut.
Outside in the dark
she could see the old house next door.
No one had lived in it for years
and now the garden was all overgrown.
It looked spooky in the dark.



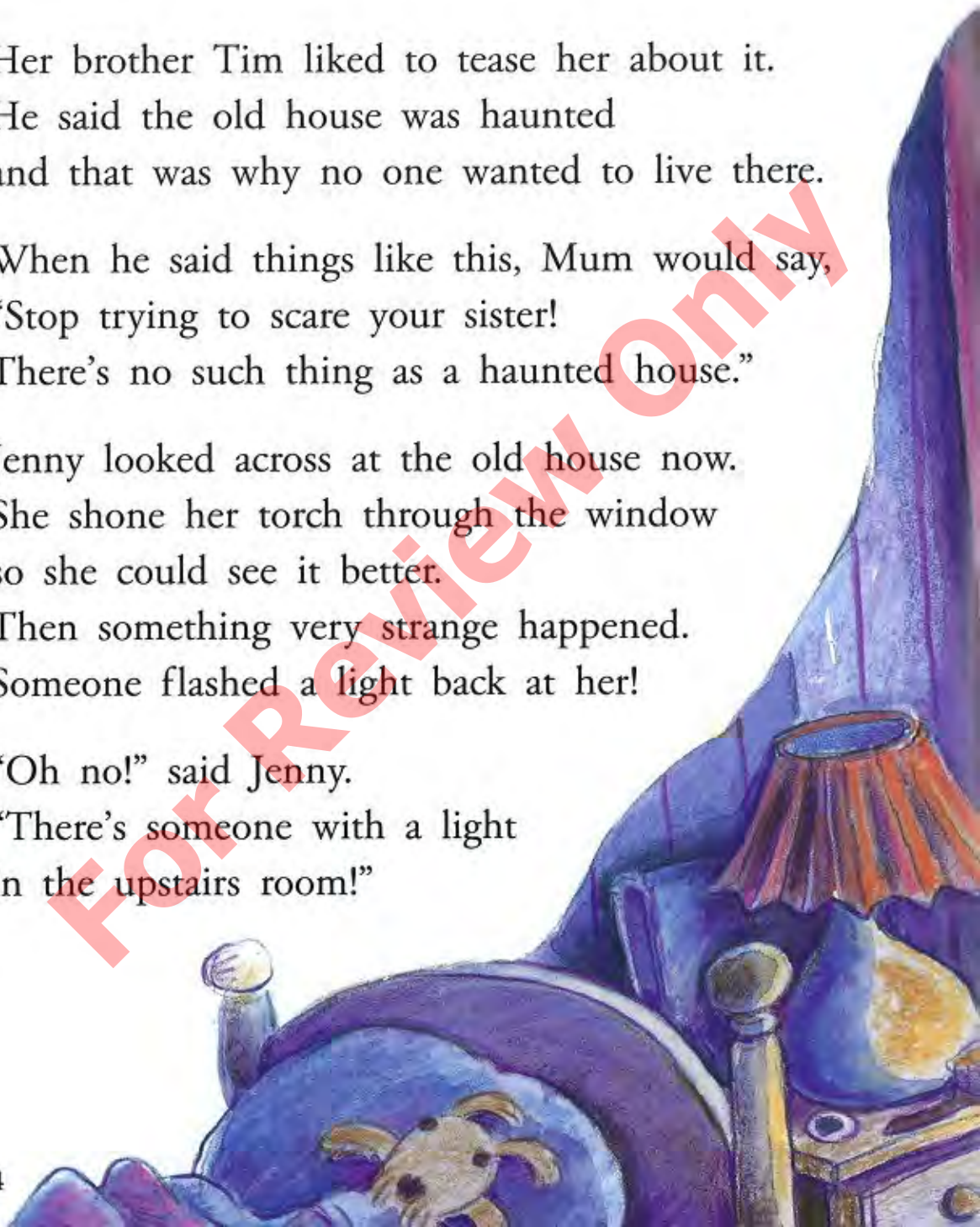
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Her brother Tim liked to tease her about it.
He said the old house was haunted
and that was why no one wanted to live there.

When he said things like this, Mum would say,
"Stop trying to scare your sister!
There's no such thing as a haunted house."

Jenny looked across at the old house now.
She shone her torch through the window
so she could see it better.
Then something very strange happened.
Someone flashed a light back at her!

"Oh no!" said Jenny.
"There's someone with a light
in the upstairs room!"



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Chapter 2

Call the Police!

Jenny ran to her brother's room and shook him.

"Tim," she whispered.
"Wake up!"

Tim sat up in bed and rubbed his eyes.

"What's going on?" he asked.

"There's someone in the old house next door!" said Jenny.

"But no one has lived in that house for years," said Tim.

"Come and see for yourself, then," said Jenny.

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