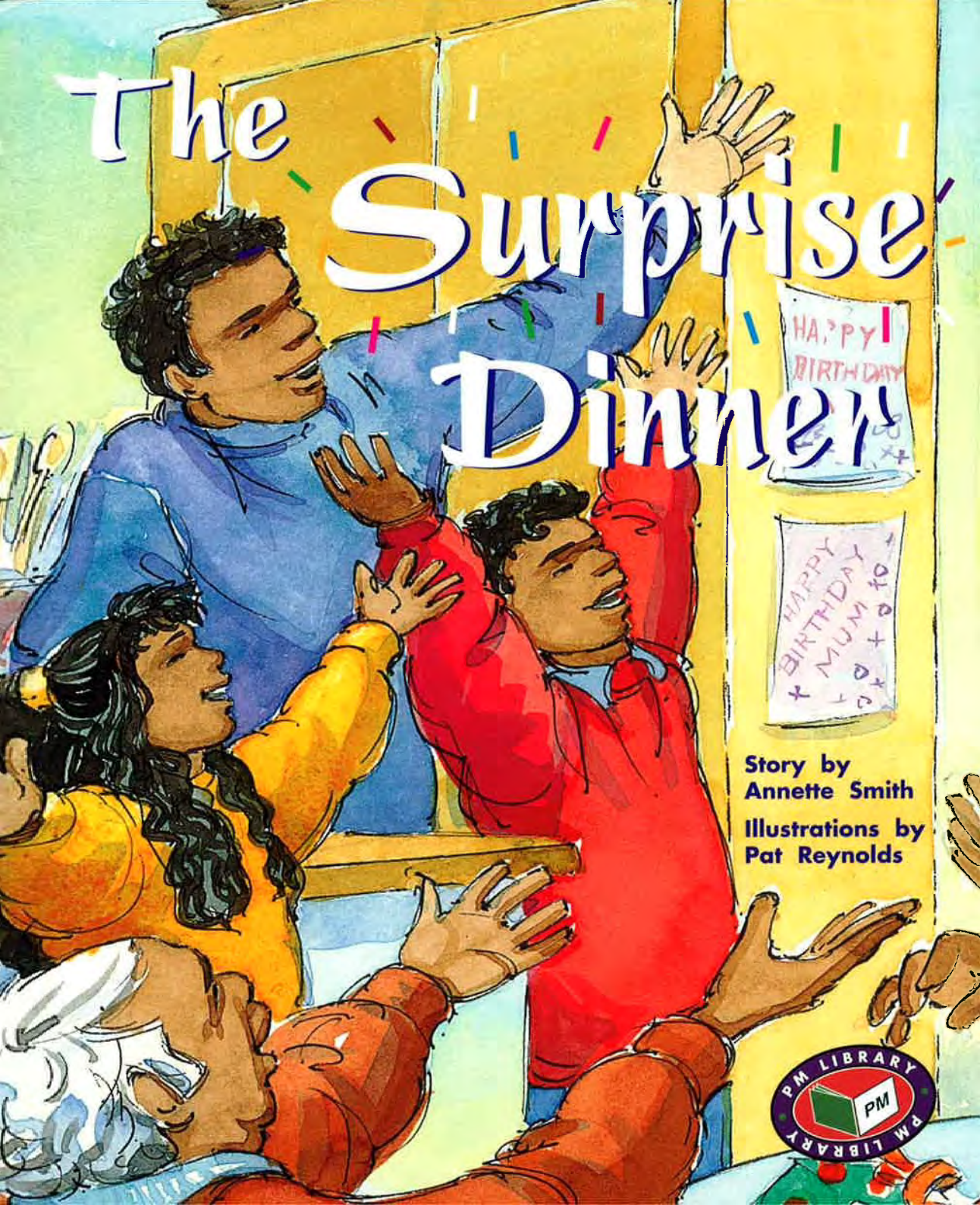

The Surprise Dinner
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MUM
Story by Annette Smith
Illustrations by Pat Reynolds
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Dad turned off his computer
as the twins came in the door after school.

"Have you two remembered
that it is Mum's birthday on Friday?"
he asked.
"Let's do something special for her."

"Why don't we cook her
a really special dinner," said Josh,
"and invite Nanna and Poppa, too."

"They wouldn't mind driving
all the way over here," said Dad.
"I'll phone them."

"That's a good idea," said Jenna.
"Mum always cooks us special things
for our birthdays."

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"She's working late for the rest of the week," said Dad, looking at the calendar.
"So she won't see what we're doing.
I hope you two can keep this a secret."

"Count on us," said Josh.
"We'll keep our mouths zipped up!"



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Each day after school, they got ready for Mum's surprise birthday dinner.

"I hope she'll like her presents," said Jenna, as she taped the last piece of ribbon on a parcel. "I'll make her a card, too."

"Let's make some party hats with the rest of the paper," said Josh. "Look! What do you think about this?"



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Dad came into the kitchen.

"Oh, and you've made party hats, too!
What a good idea!" he said.
"But you had better tidy up quickly.
Mum will be home very soon
and she mustn't see what you've been doing."

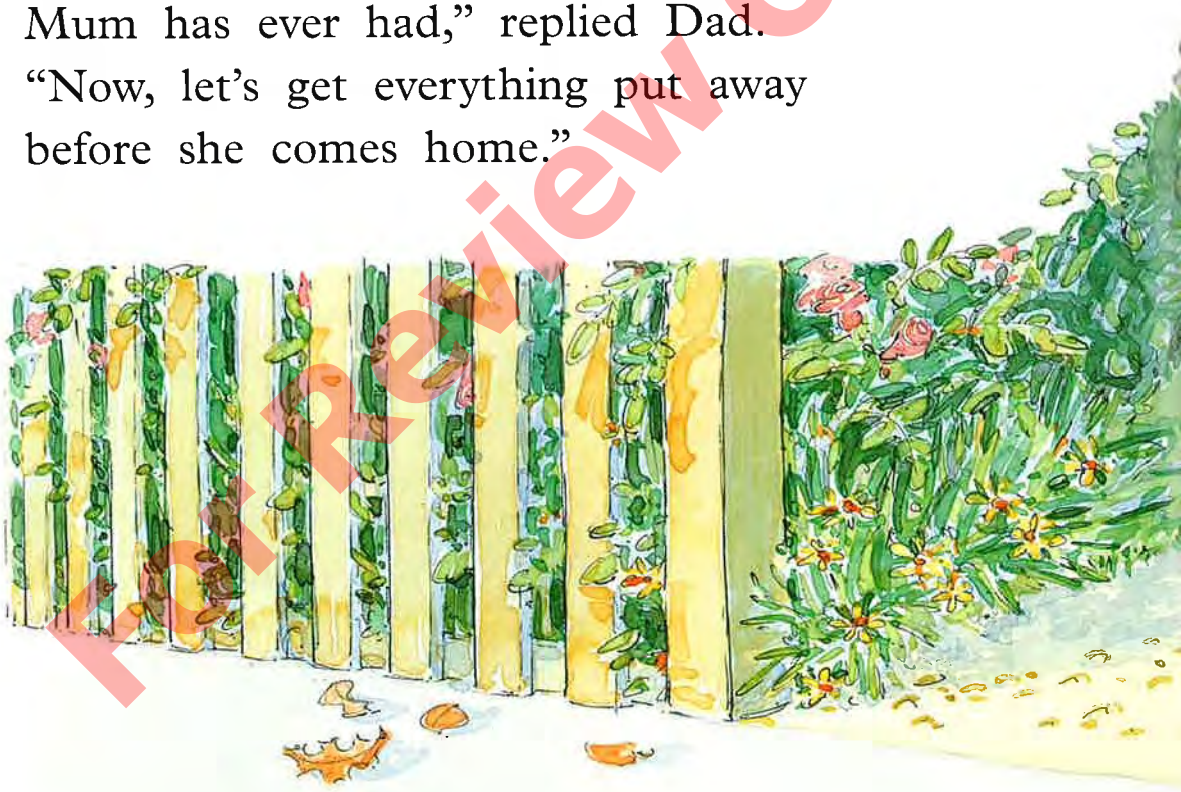


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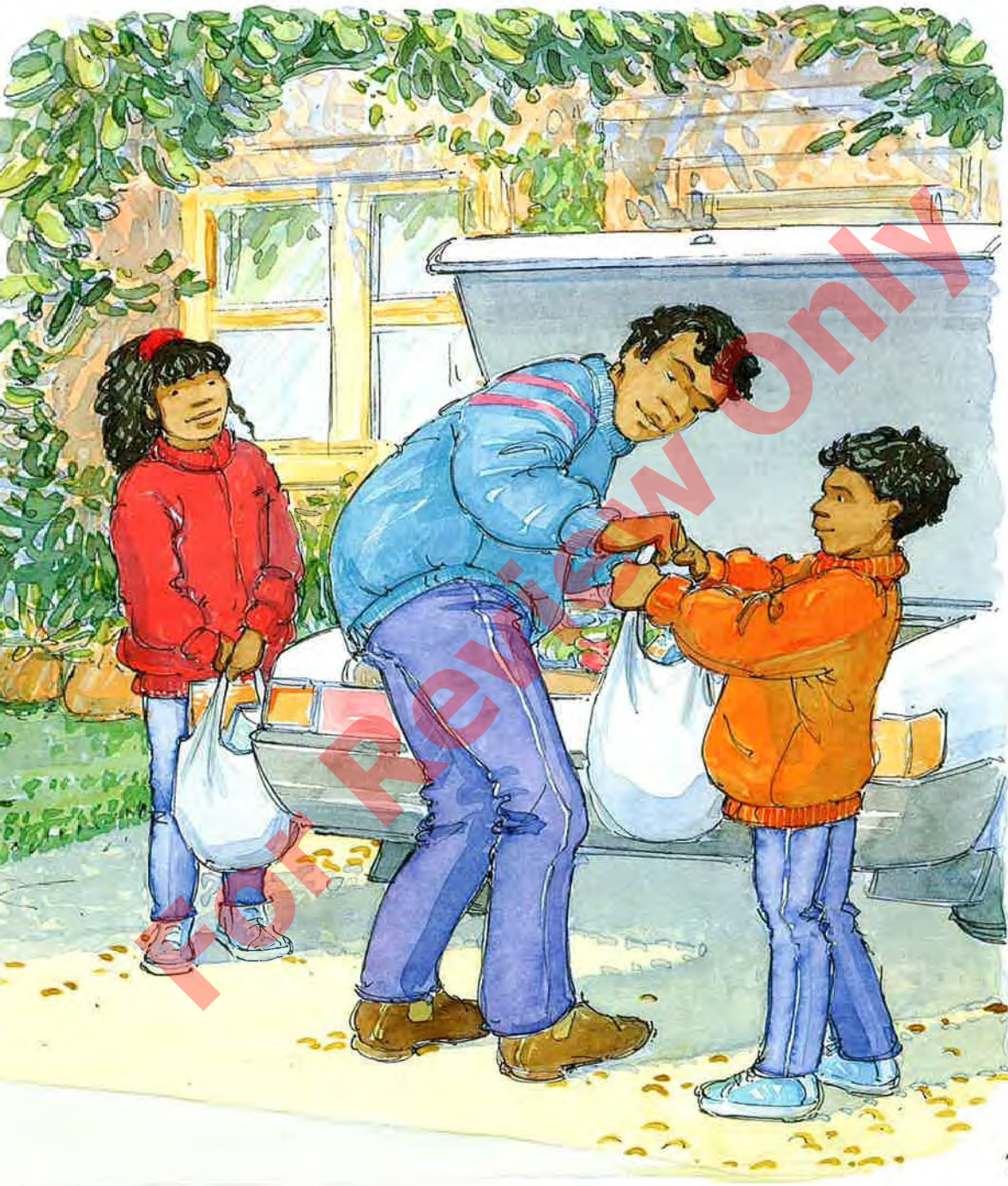
The next day, Dad and the twins went to the supermarket.

"Dad, do we really need all these things for a party?" asked Josh, looking at the bags of groceries in the car.

"It's going to be the best birthday dinner Mum has ever had," replied Dad. "Now, let's get everything put away before she comes home."



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