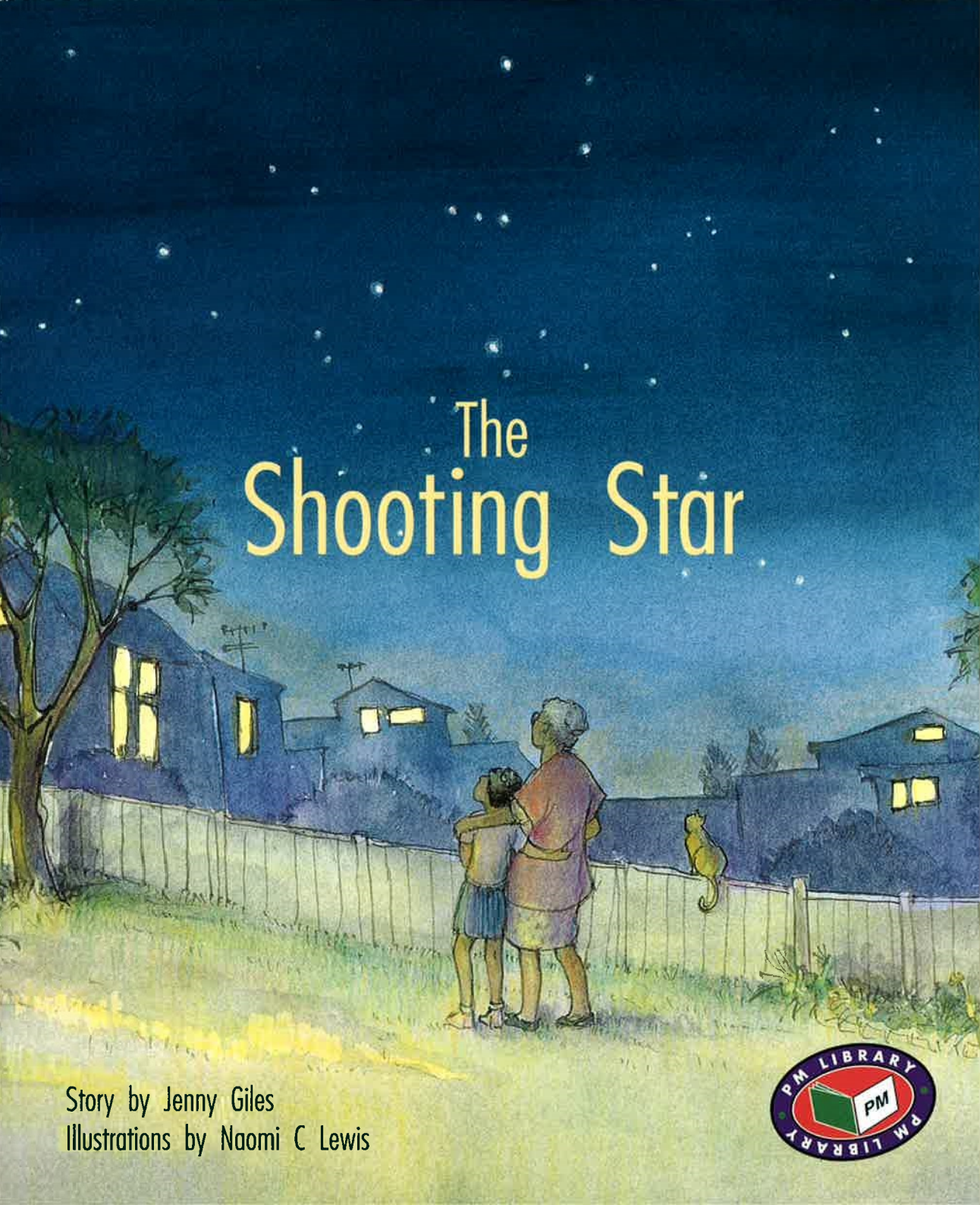

The
Shooting Star
Story by Jenny Giles
Illustrations by Naomi C Lewis
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"It's time for bed, Emily," said Mum.
"You've been playing that game
on the computer for long enough."

"But this is my favourite game, Mum,"
said Emily. "It's the one about the stars
and planets. If I can get the shooting star
to land on this planet, I'll have my top score."

"Well, just five more minutes then," said Mum.

But suddenly the computer screen went blank.
The room was plunged into darkness.

"What's happened?" cried Emily.
"It's not supposed to do that!"

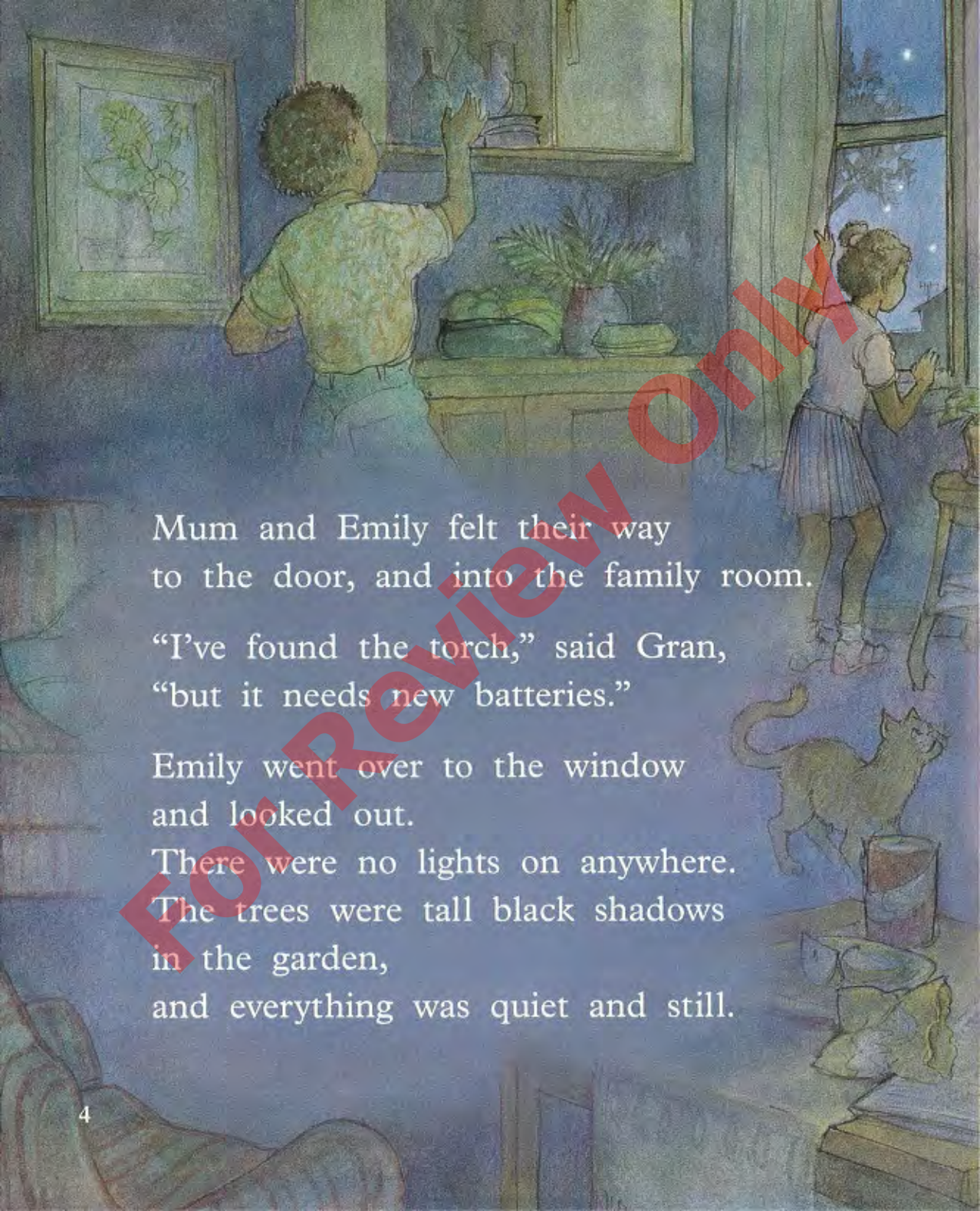
"I think we've had a power cut," said Mum.
"All the lights are out."

They could hear Jake calling.
"Hey! The TV's gone off!
Right in the middle of the football game."

For Review Only



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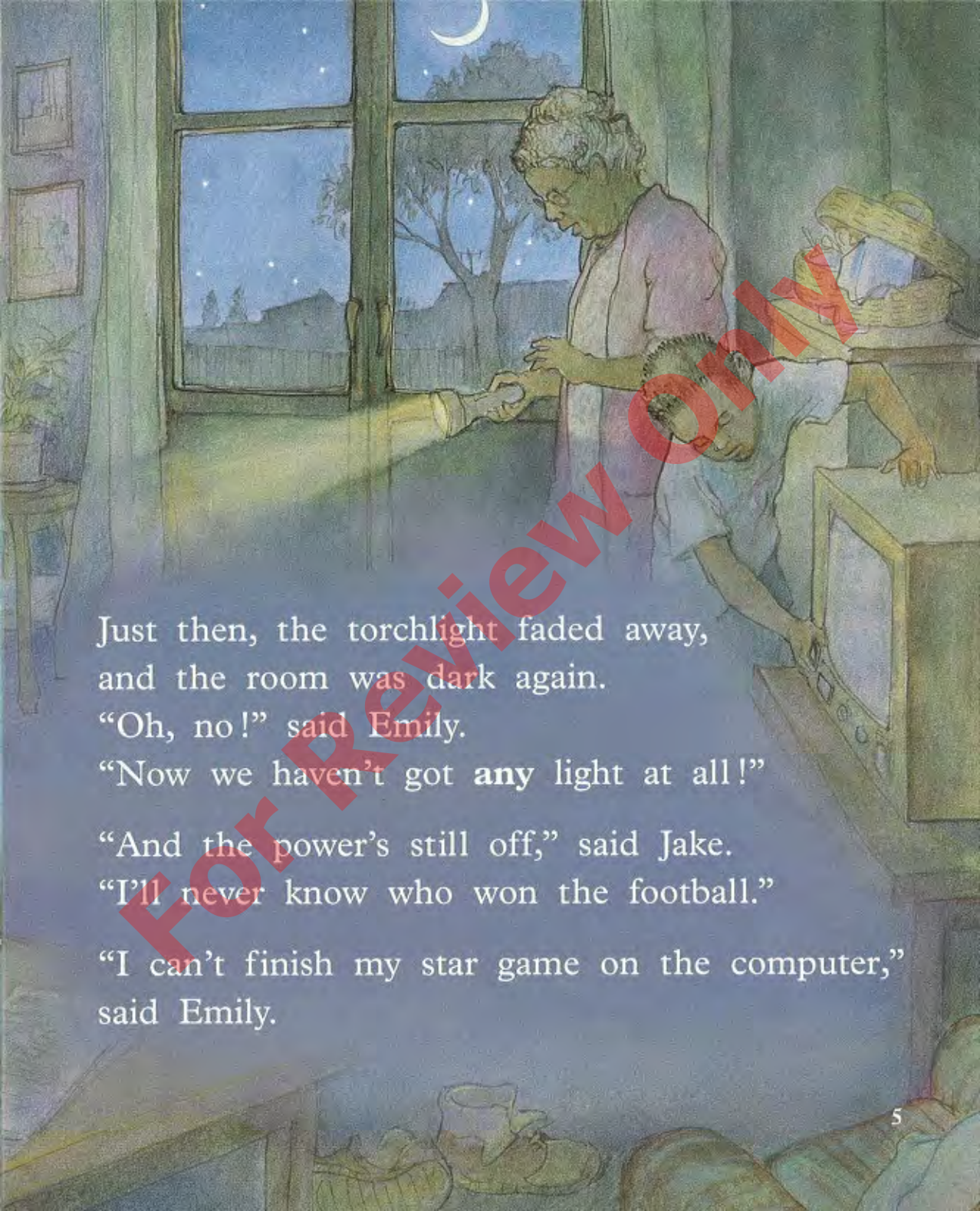


Mum and Emily felt their way
to the door, and into the family room.

"I've found the torch," said Gran,
"but it needs new batteries."

Emily went over to the window
and looked out.
There were no lights on anywhere.
The trees were tall black shadows
in the garden,
and everything was quiet and still.

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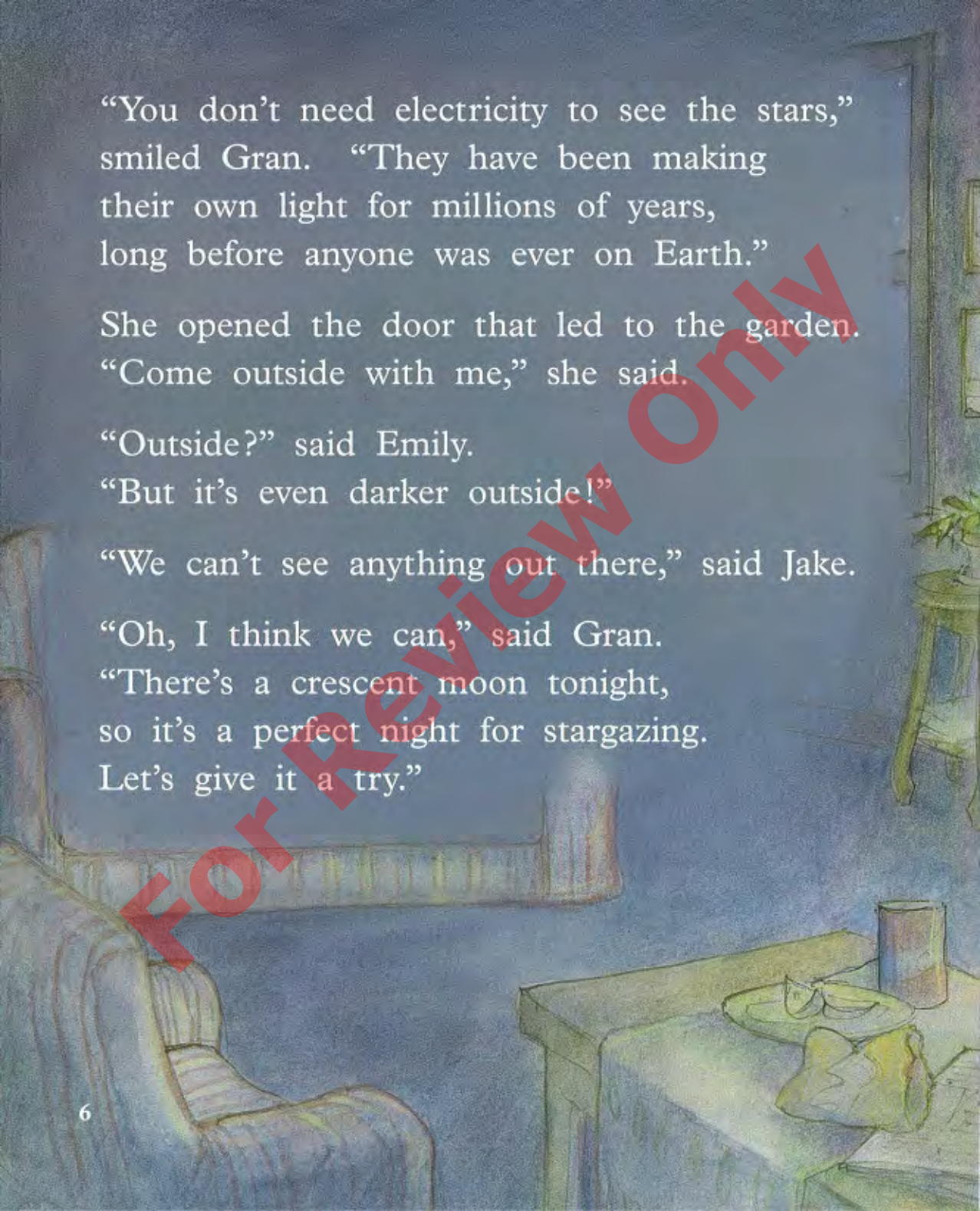


Just then, the torchlight faded away,
and the room was dark again.
"Oh, no!" said Emily.
"Now we haven't got **any** light at all!"

"And the power's still off," said Jake.
"I'll never know who won the football."

"I can't finish my star game on the computer,"
said Emily.

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"You don't need electricity to see the stars," smiled Gran. "They have been making their own light for millions of years, long before anyone was ever on Earth."

She opened the door that led to the garden. "Come outside with me," she said.

"Outside?" said Emily.
"But it's even darker outside!"

"We can't see anything out there," said Jake.

"Oh, I think we can," said Gran.
"There's a crescent moon tonight,
so it's a perfect night for stargazing.
Let's give it a try."

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The children followed Gran down the steps
and they all stood on the back lawn together.
"Now, look up at the sky," said Gran.
"On a clear night like this,
it is such a beautiful sight.
Away up there,
you can see all the **real** stars and planets."

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