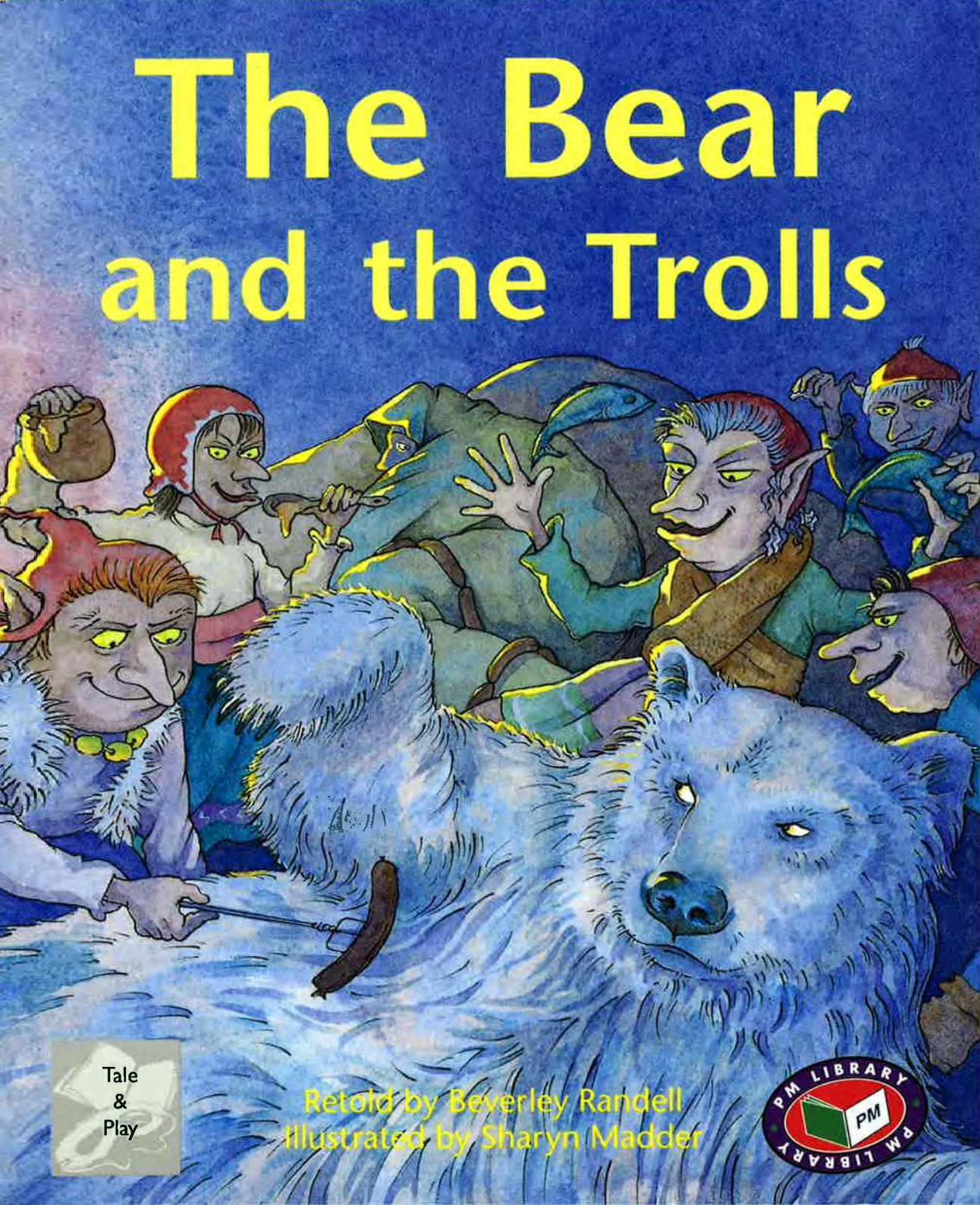
The Bear and the Trolls



Tale & Play

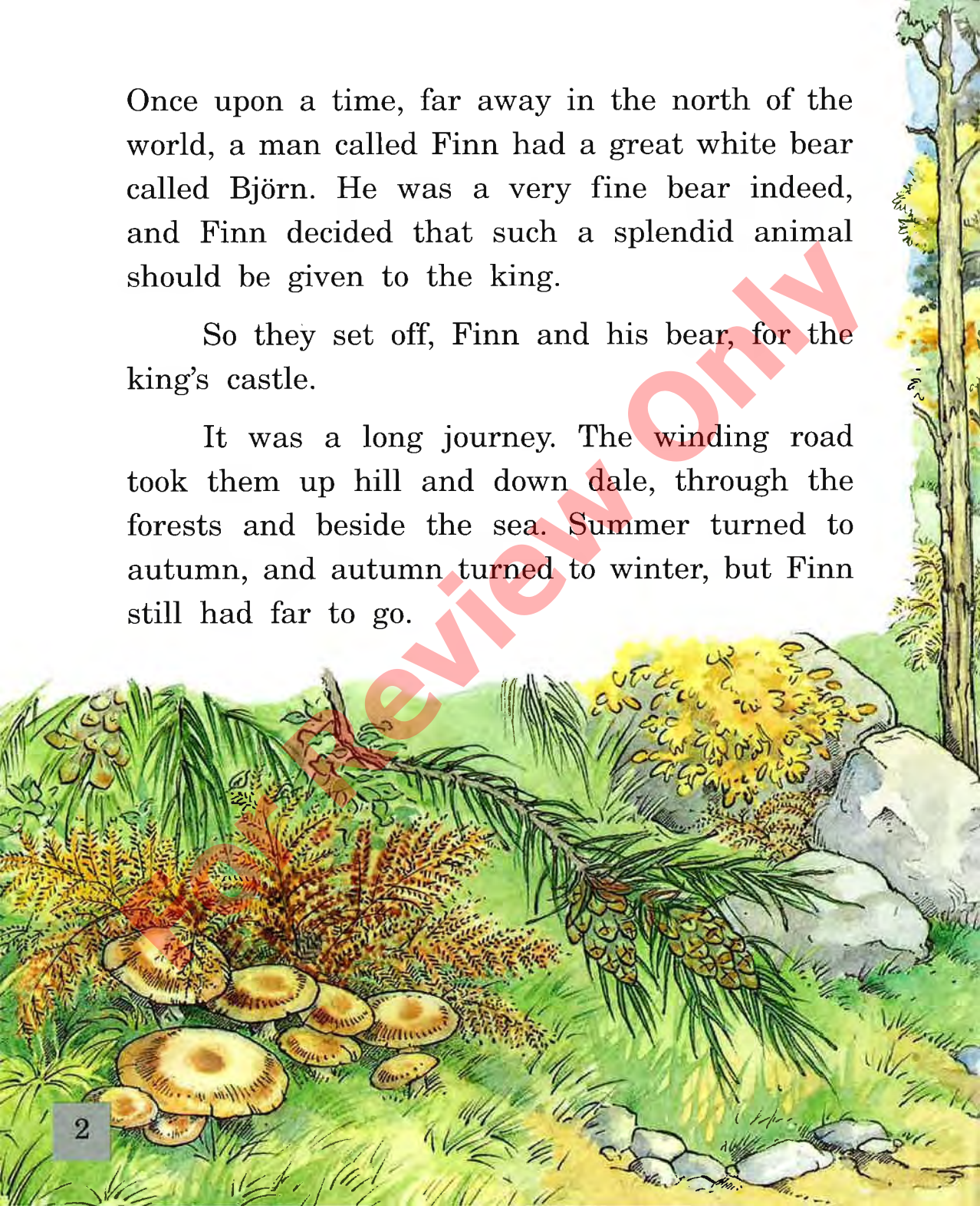
Retold by Beverley Randell
Illustrated by Sharyn Madder

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Once upon a time, far away in the north of the world, a man called Finn had a great white bear called Björn. He was a very fine bear indeed, and Finn decided that such a splendid animal should be given to the king.

So they set off, Finn and his bear, for the king's castle.

It was a long journey. The winding road took them up hill and down dale, through the forests and beside the sea. Summer turned to autumn, and autumn turned to winter, but Finn still had far to go.



Preview Only



Preview Only

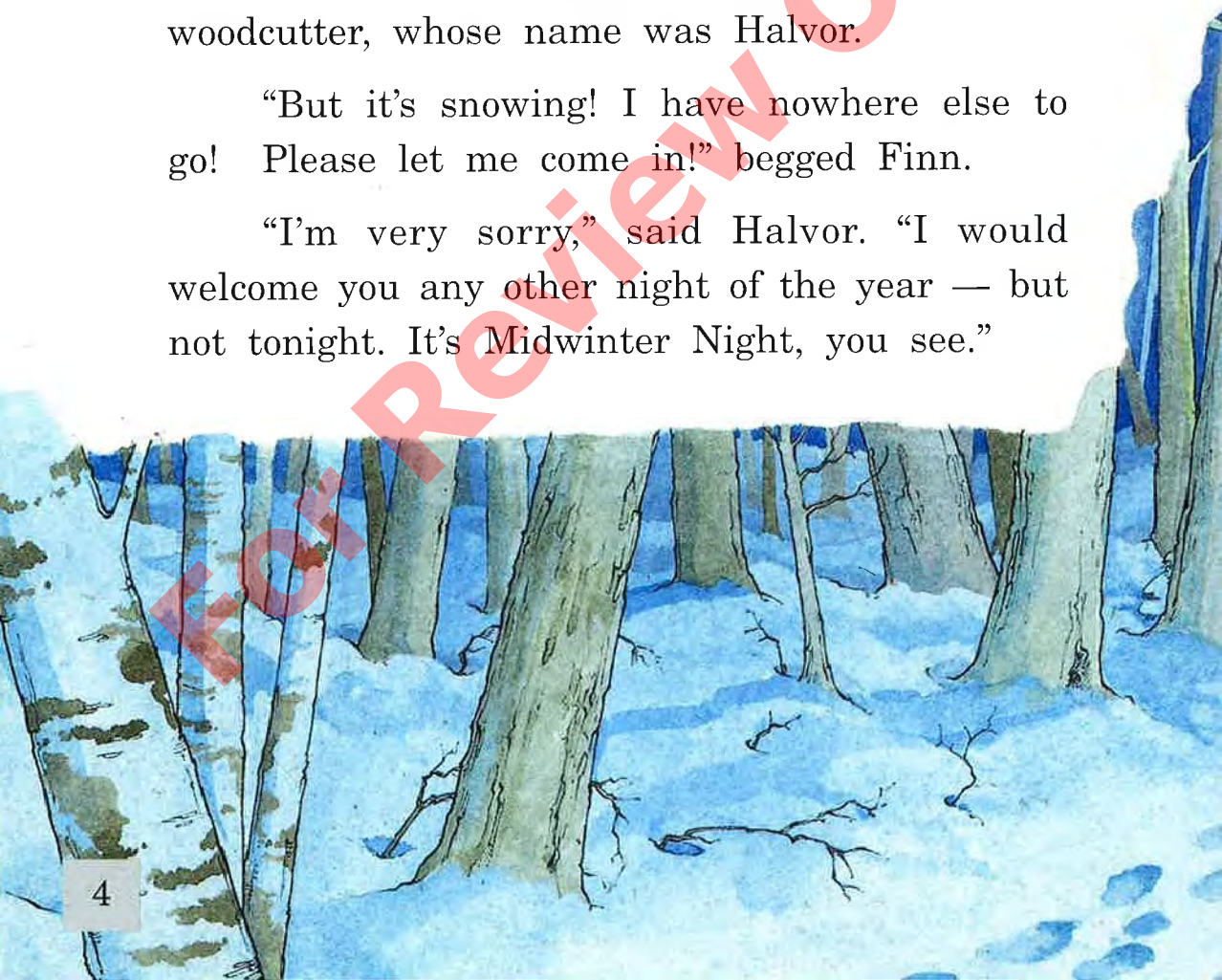
On the shortest day of the year, Finn and his great white bear came to a pine forest in the mountains. Snow was falling when Finn saw a woodcutter's cottage and knocked on the door.

"Can you give me shelter for the night?" he asked the woodcutter.

"No! I'm afraid I can't," said the woodcutter, whose name was Halvor.

"But it's snowing! I have nowhere else to go! Please let me come in!" begged Finn.

"I'm very sorry," said Halvor. "I would welcome you any other night of the year — but not tonight. It's Midwinter Night, you see."

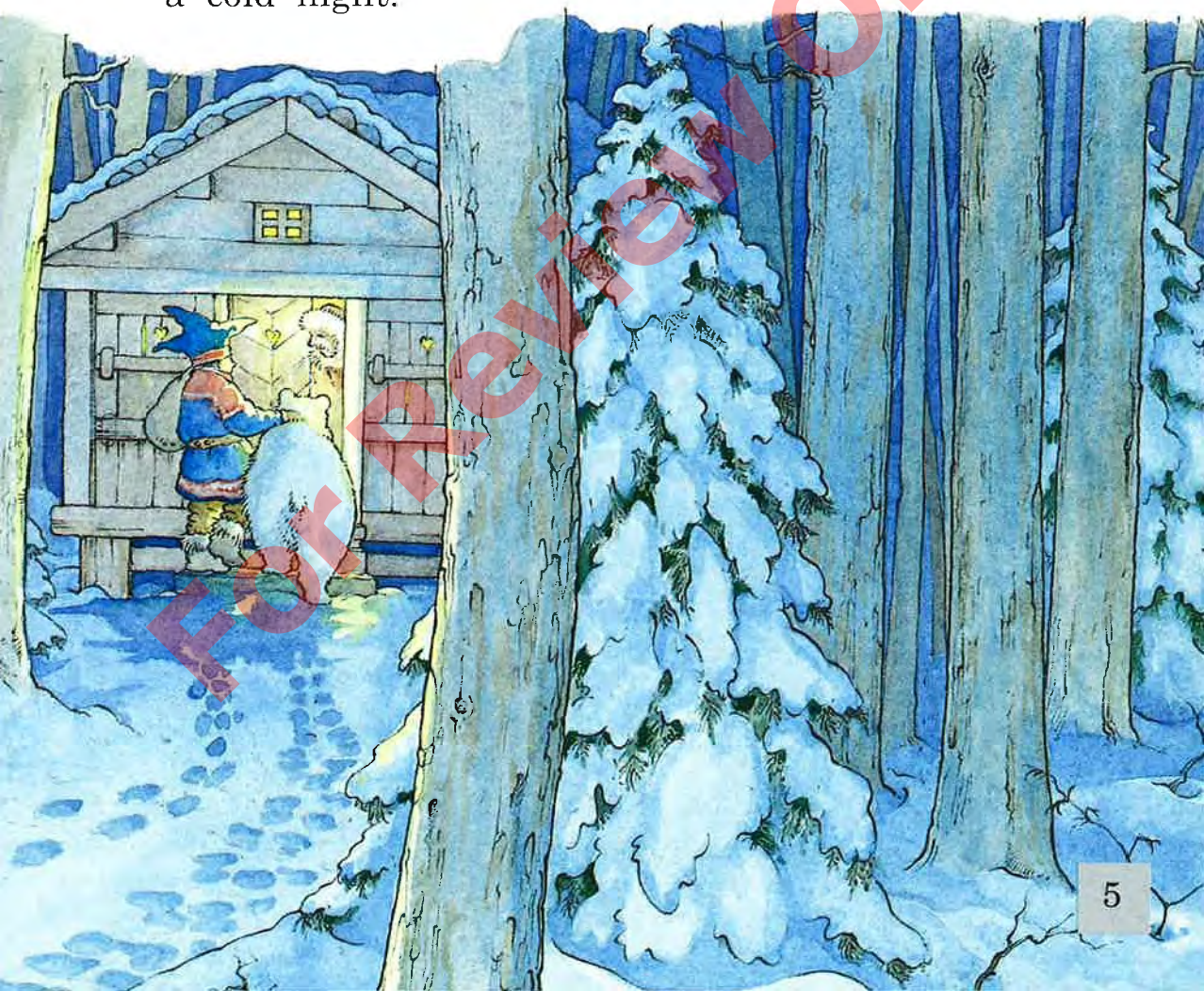


For Review Only

"We can't stay here **ourselves**, tonight," explained Halvor's wife.

"We are going into the woods to hide," said Halvor's children.

Finn looked at them all. Sure enough they were all bundled up in warm clothes, ready for a cold night.



For Review Only

A play

The Bear and the Trolls

People in the play



Reader



Finn



Halvor's wife



Björn
(say B-yarn)



Halvor's son



Halvor
(say Harl-vor)



Halvor's daughter



Many Trolls

For Review Only

Scene One — Outside a woodcutter's cottage

Reader

Once upon a time, far away in the north of the world, a man called Finn had a great white bear called Björn. He was a very fine bear indeed, and Finn decided that such a splendid animal should be given to the king.

Finn

Well, Björn! It's a long, long way to the king's castle. All through the summer and autumn we have been out on the road. We have tramped up hill and down dale. Now it is winter, and the road is taking us away from the sea and into the mountains.

Björn (shivering) *Brrr... Brrr... Brrr!*

Finn

Yes, it's very cold today. No wonder, as this is the shortest day of the year.

Björn (shivering) *Brrr... Brrr... Brrr!*

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Finn

Yes. It's Midwinter Day, and we still have far to go. Here we are, in a pine forest in the mountains, and it's starting to snow. It's getting dark. Where am I going to spend the night? I'm feeling cold.

Björn (shivering) *Brrr... Brrr... Brrr!*

Finn

Oh, thank goodness! There's a woodcutter's cottage. I shall ask if we can come in. **(Knocks)**

Halvor

Yes, what is it?

Finn

Please, can you give me shelter for the night?

Halvor

No. I'm afraid I can't.

For Review Only