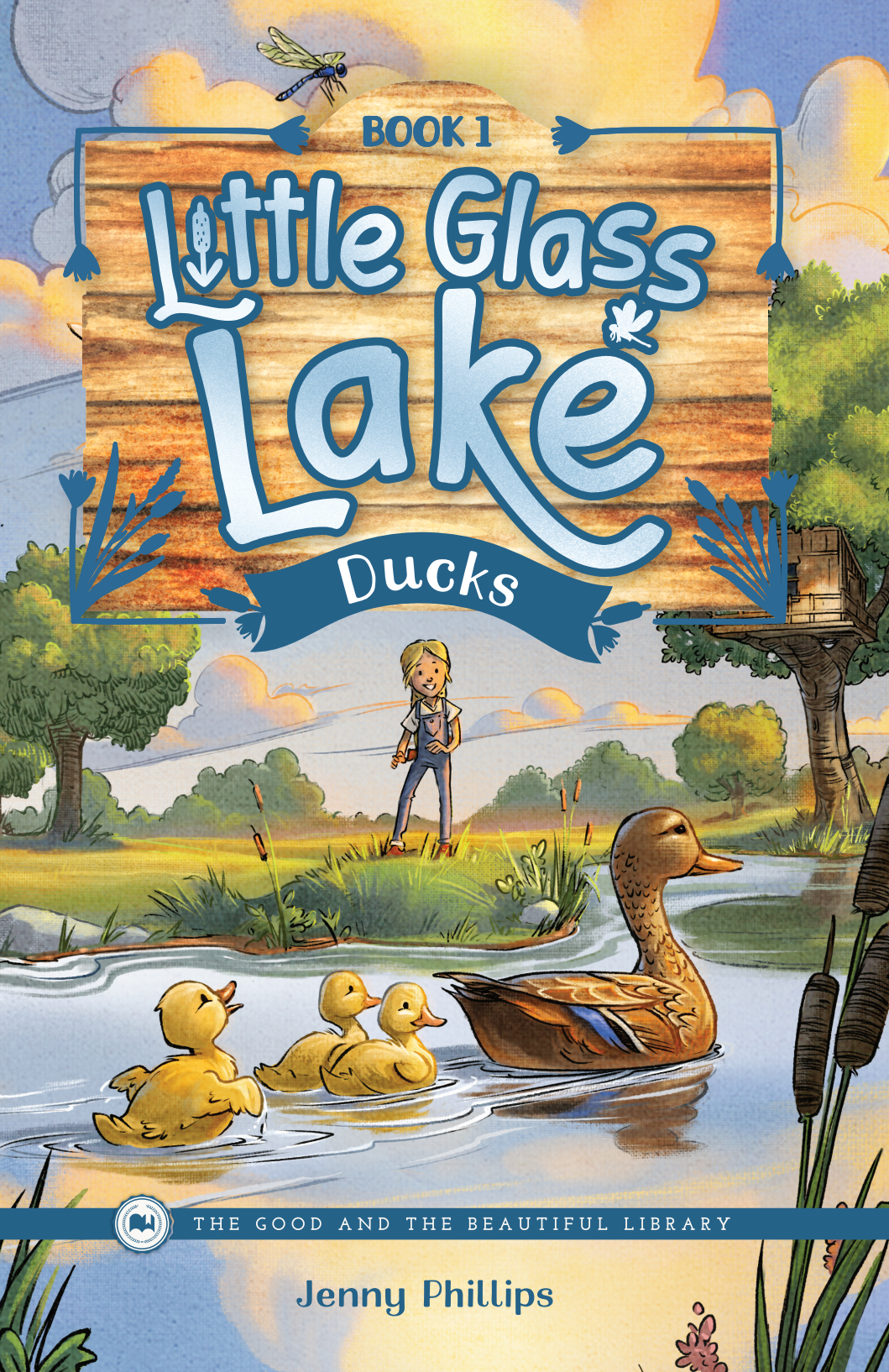

BOOK 1
Little Glass Lake
Ducks
THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY
Jenny Phillips

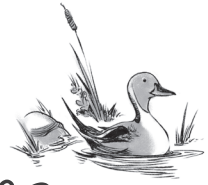


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 1

Chapter 2 34

Chapter 3 64

Chapter 4 82

Chapter 5 95

Chapter 6 106

Chapter 7 122

Chapter 8 132

Chapter 1

Far away from town, through the woods, and over some golden hills sat Little Glass Lake.

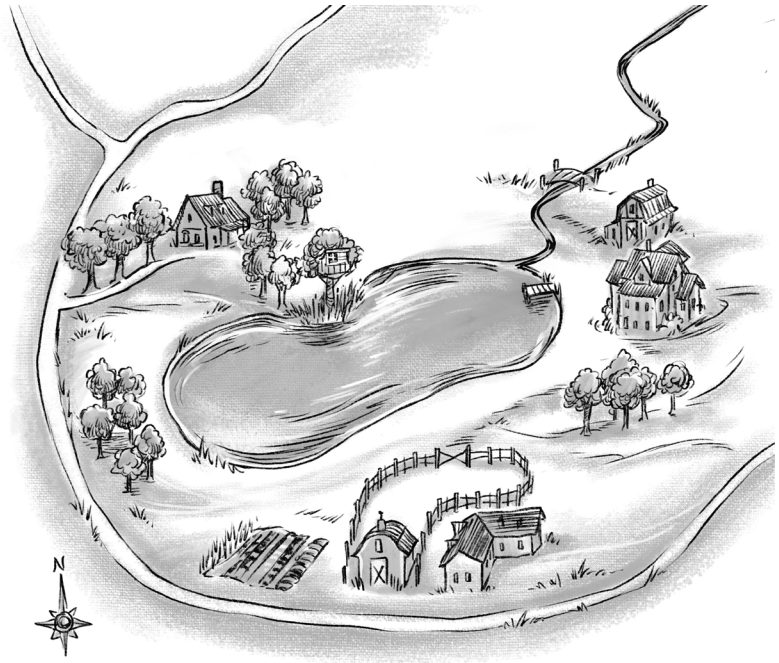
Three children lived around Little Glass Lake, and the lake loved all three of the children. For you see, the children loved the lake. The lake knew the

children well because they spent a lot of time there.

Holly and her brother lived with their mom and dad in a white house on the north side of the lake.

Gabe lived in a big blue house on the east side of the lake.

And only a little mouse lived in the yellow house shaped like an L.



The yellow house had a wide porch, three happy bedrooms, and a cheerful kitchen.

Was the house too big for just one little mouse?

Yes! So why didn't people live there? Well, it had been for sale for a long time, but it wouldn't be empty forever . . .

Now, back to the lake.

Little Glass Lake was a really small lake. And a small lake is quite a great place to live.

Holly loved the way it sparkled. She loved its

soft, grassy banks, and she really, really liked the birds and little animals that made their home on, in, and around the water.

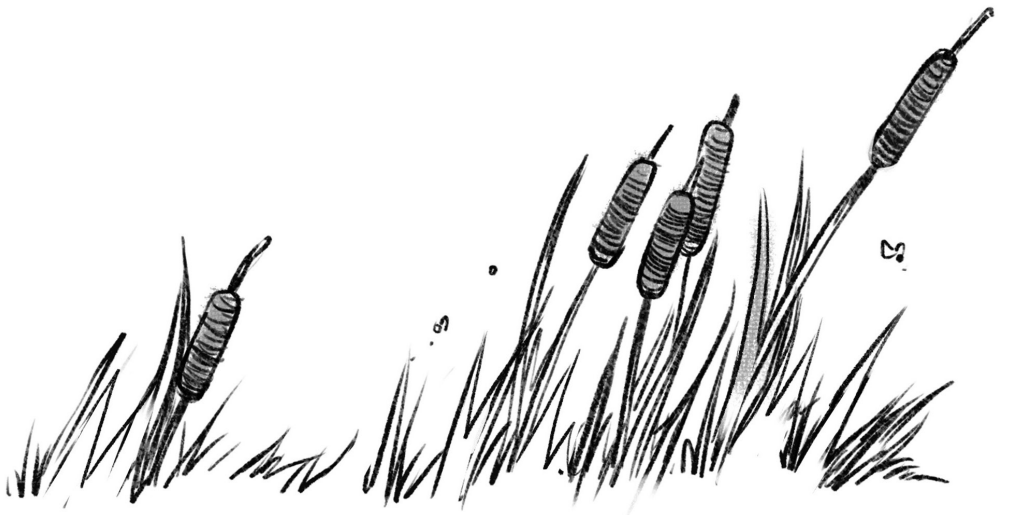
Holly was allowed to go to the very edge of her yard by herself. And the edge of her yard was quite close to the lake. However, she couldn't go past her yard without her mom or

dad or her older brother, Henry.

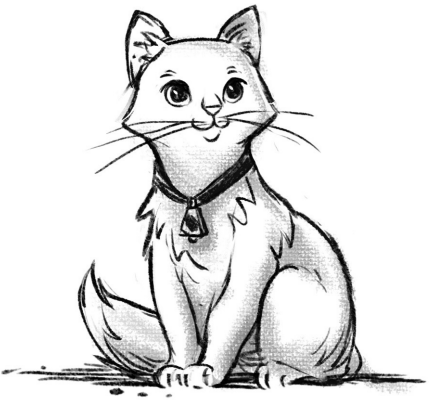
This was because Holly was eight years old and needed to be safe.

Often, Holly sat on the edge of the lawn and looked at the lake, being careful not to lean forward and let her nose go out of bounds. As you can tell, Holly liked to follow rules.

Holly also had a tree house right at the end of her yard. The tree reached over a marshy spot by the lake with grass and cattails. Cattails look like this.

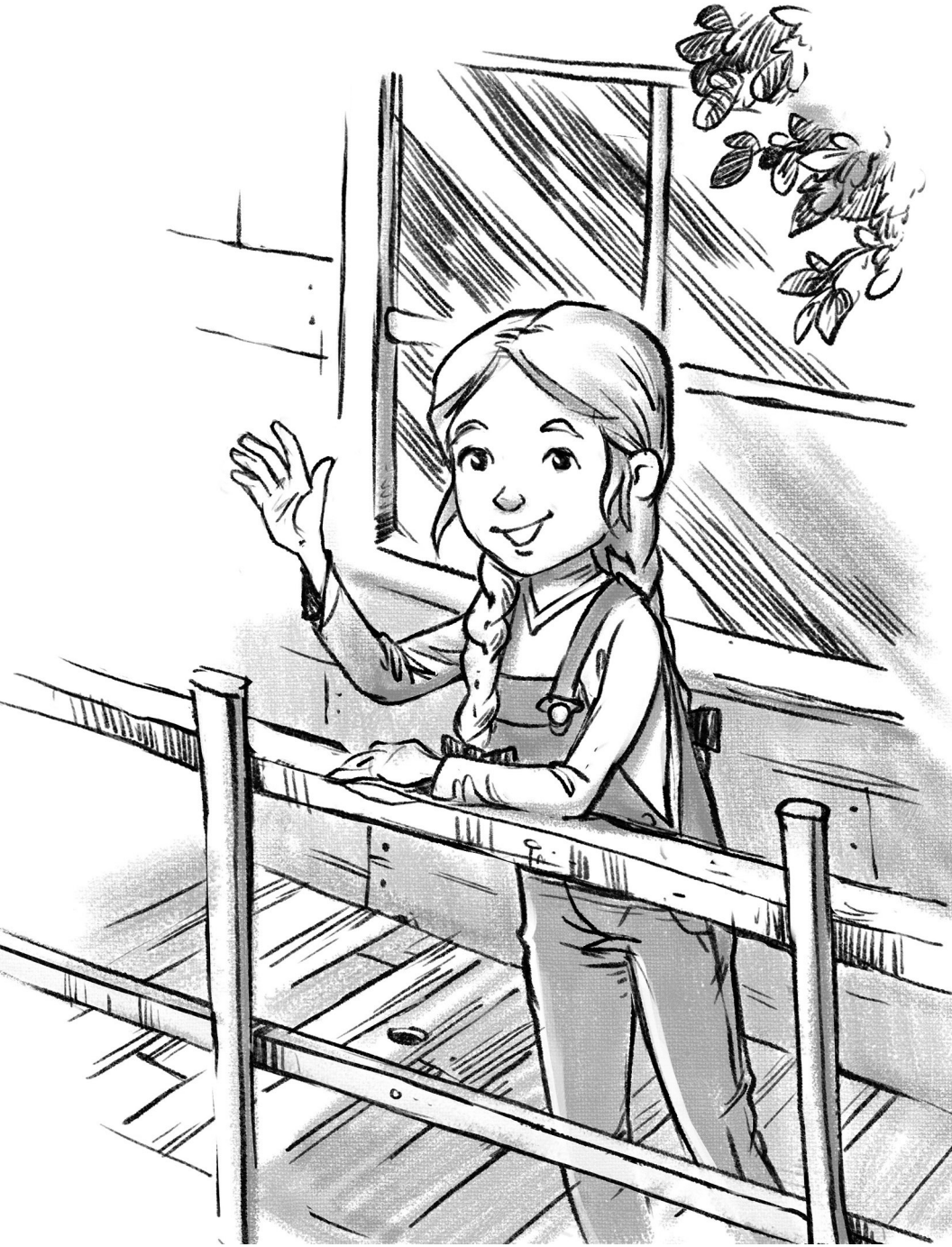


They don't look like the tail of Holly's cat, Daisy. This is what Daisy looked like.



Since this story is all about Holly, you should meet her.

Holly had blonde hair that was almost always braided.



Not only did she wear ribbons *on* her braids but she also wore ribbons *in* her braids. Every morning, she asked her mom to weave blue ribbons into her braids.

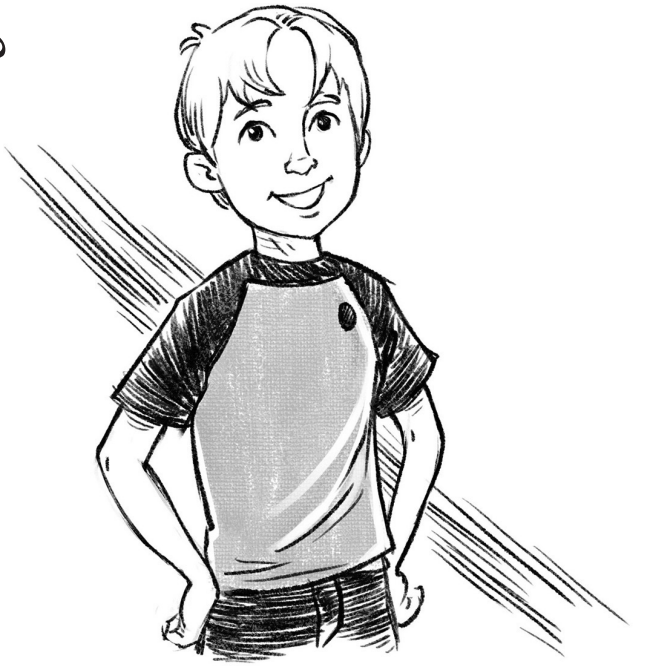
The ribbons couldn't be pink or yellow. No. She always very nicely asked for blue ribbons because blue was her favorite color.

Each day Holly skipped around with her long braids swinging and her brown eyes sparkling. She always felt like an explorer.

Each day she found out new things in books. And Little Glass Lake was always teaching her things too.

Now it's time to meet

Henry, Holly's brother. Can you guess how old he was?



He was fourteen.

It's a good thing Henry loved Little Glass Lake, too, for Holly wanted to

Little Glass Lake

Ducks

Meet Holly, a fun girl with braids that are always bouncing. She lives in one of three cheerful homes that sit around Little Glass Lake. Holly's favorite place is the tree house at the edge of her yard, where she loves to read about and observe nature. When Holly spots an unfamiliar rowboat and a new type of duck on the lake, she can only imagine the wonderful adventures and lessons about honesty and friendship that are about to unfold along the banks of Little Glass Lake.

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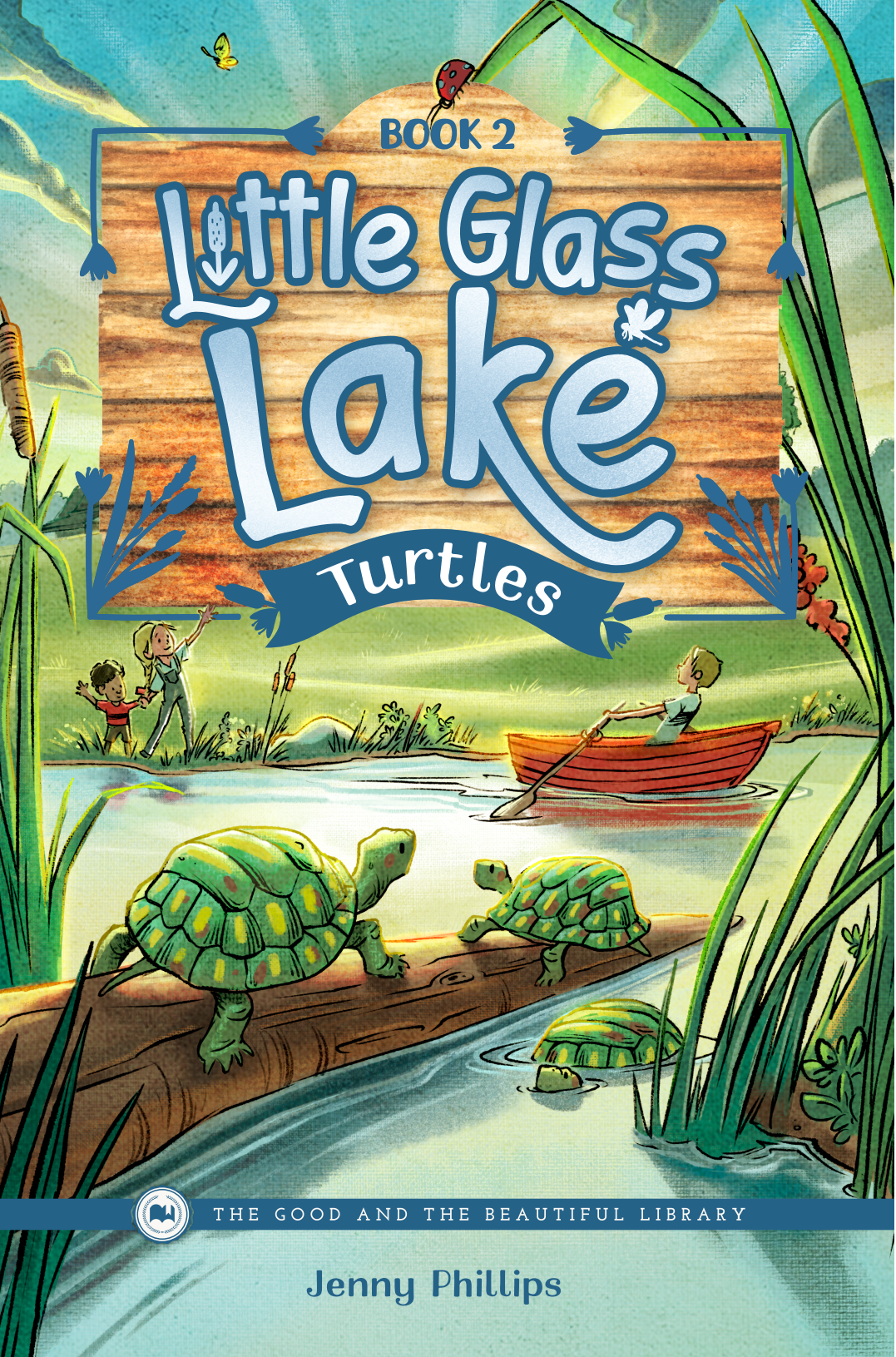

BOOK 2
Little Glass Lake
Turtles
THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY
Jenny Phillips

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 1

Chapter 2 15

Chapter 3 25

Chapter 4 37

Chapter 5 53

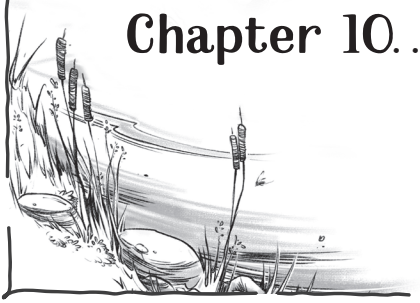
Chapter 6 65

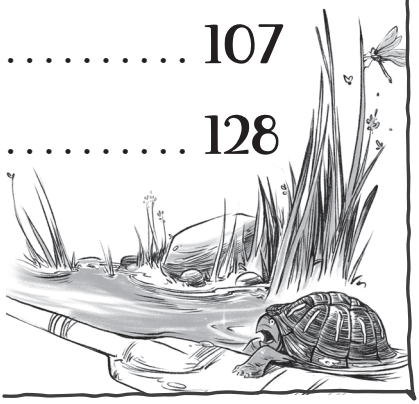
Chapter 7 80

Chapter 8 96

Chapter 9 107

Chapter 10 128





Chapter 1

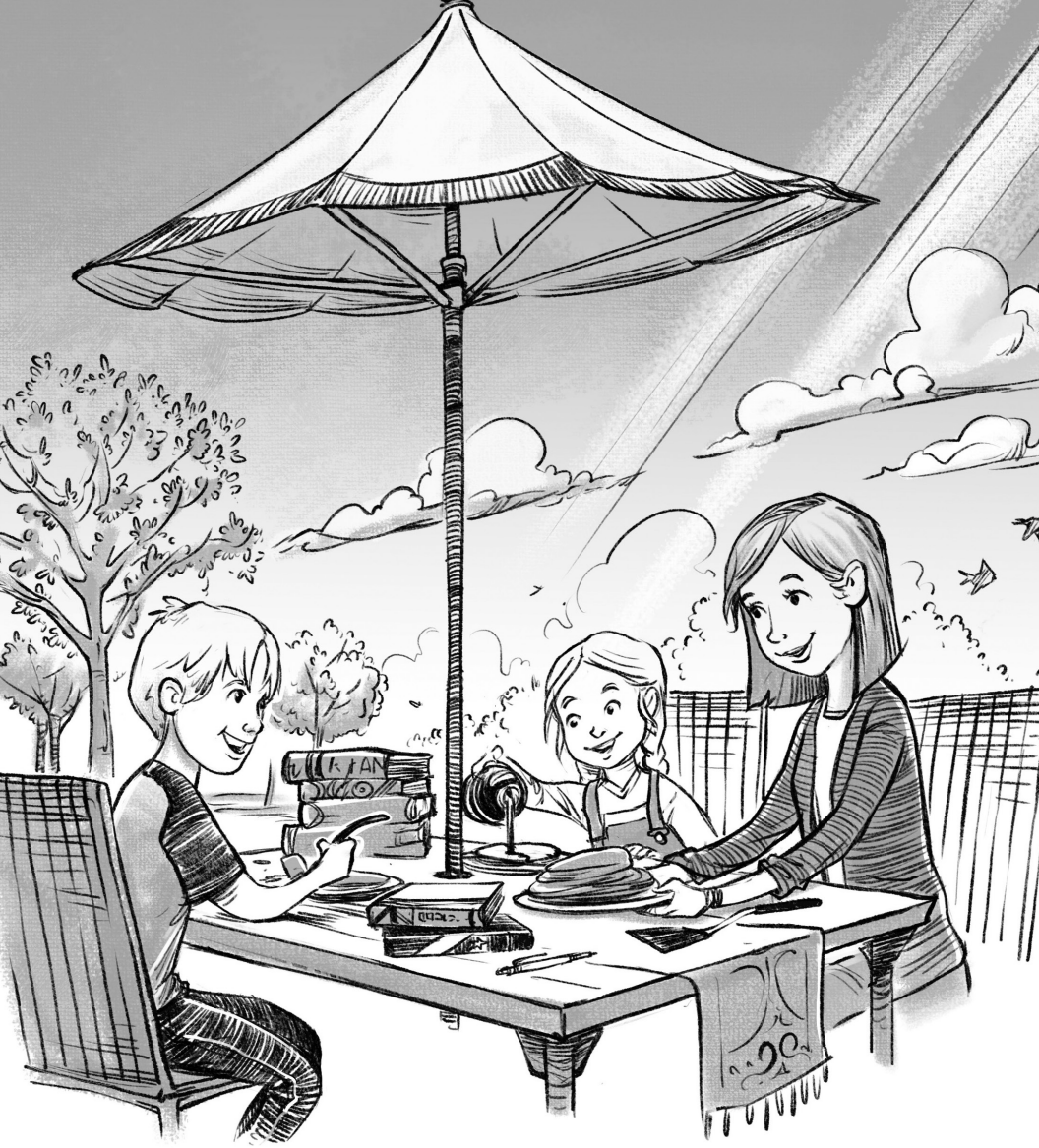
Holly breathed in the smell of freshly mowed grass and marveled at dewdrops sparkling in the sun.

Spring was in full bloom at Little Glass Lake. Orange poppies nodded in the breeze, and the apple trees in Holly's

yard were covered with thousands of tender green leaves.

Holly, her mom, and her brother Henry sat around a big table on the back porch. A stack of pancakes and a stack of books sat on the table.

"I love doing school outside in spring!" Holly bubbled.



"Me too!" Holly's mom smiled.

"Me three!" Henry said.

"Well," said Holly's mom, "now that we have prayed, let's dig into these pancakes."

Breakfast, history, and math whizzed by as the twittering birds filled the air with songs.

After chores and piano practice, the sun had gotten quite hot, so Holly

curled up on the couch with a book to read.

With a playful smile on his face, Henry walked into the room with his hands behind his back.

"Have you finished all of your chores?" he asked.

"Yep!" Holly said as she closed her book.

Henry pulled a beach towel from behind his

back and tossed it to her.

"Well, then! Want to go swimming in the lake? It's finally warm enough. Mom said we can go today."

In five big leaps, Holly bounced across the room and disappeared through the door as she called, "I'll be in my swimsuit in a jiffy!"

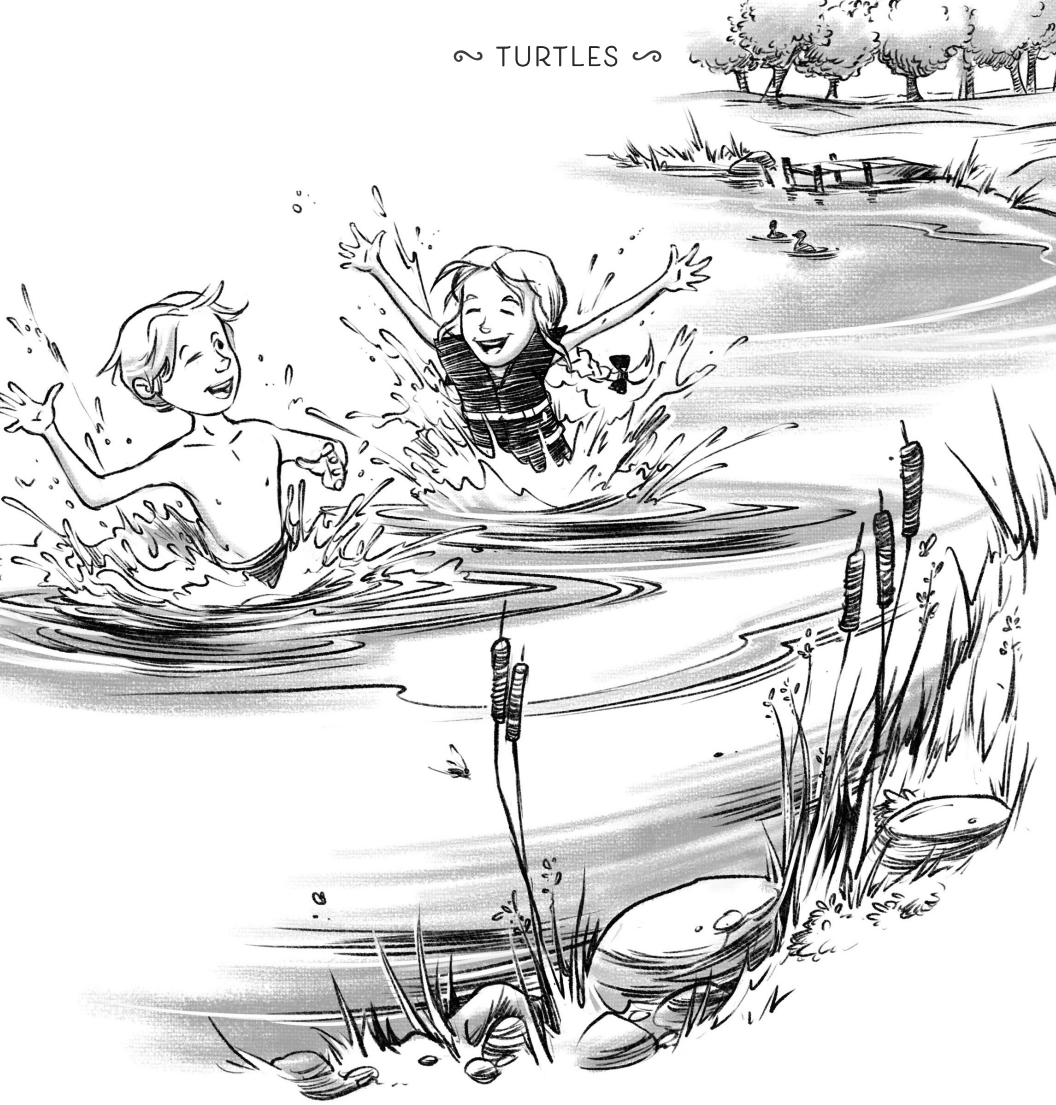
While skipping to the lake next to Henry and her mom, Holly smiled. "I love swimming in Little Glass Lake!"

Mom insisted that Holly wear her life jacket while in the lake until she was a teenager. Because she was eight years old, she had five more years of wearing a life jacket. She

didn't love wearing it, but she understood why the rule was important.

As the deep blue sky smiled above them, Holly and Henry ran down their favorite grassy slope by the lake and jumped into the cool water.

Holly's mom laid out a blanket on the grass and sat down to watch the



kids swim and enjoy the warm spring day.

I feel like a silvery fish,

Holly thought as she swam around in the water.

After a while, Henry and Holly launched their small rowboat into the water and floated around lazily. A little breeze began to ripple the water and dry Holly's wet hair. She closed her eyes and leaned her head back, enjoying both the warmth of the

sun and the freshness of the breeze.

Without warning, Henry splashed Holly with an oar.

"Oh! You'll pay for that!" Holly said with a big grin as she began splashing Henry back with her own oar.

Then the oar slid through her wet hands

and plunked into the water. The light breeze had created a gentle current in the lake, and the oar started floating away.

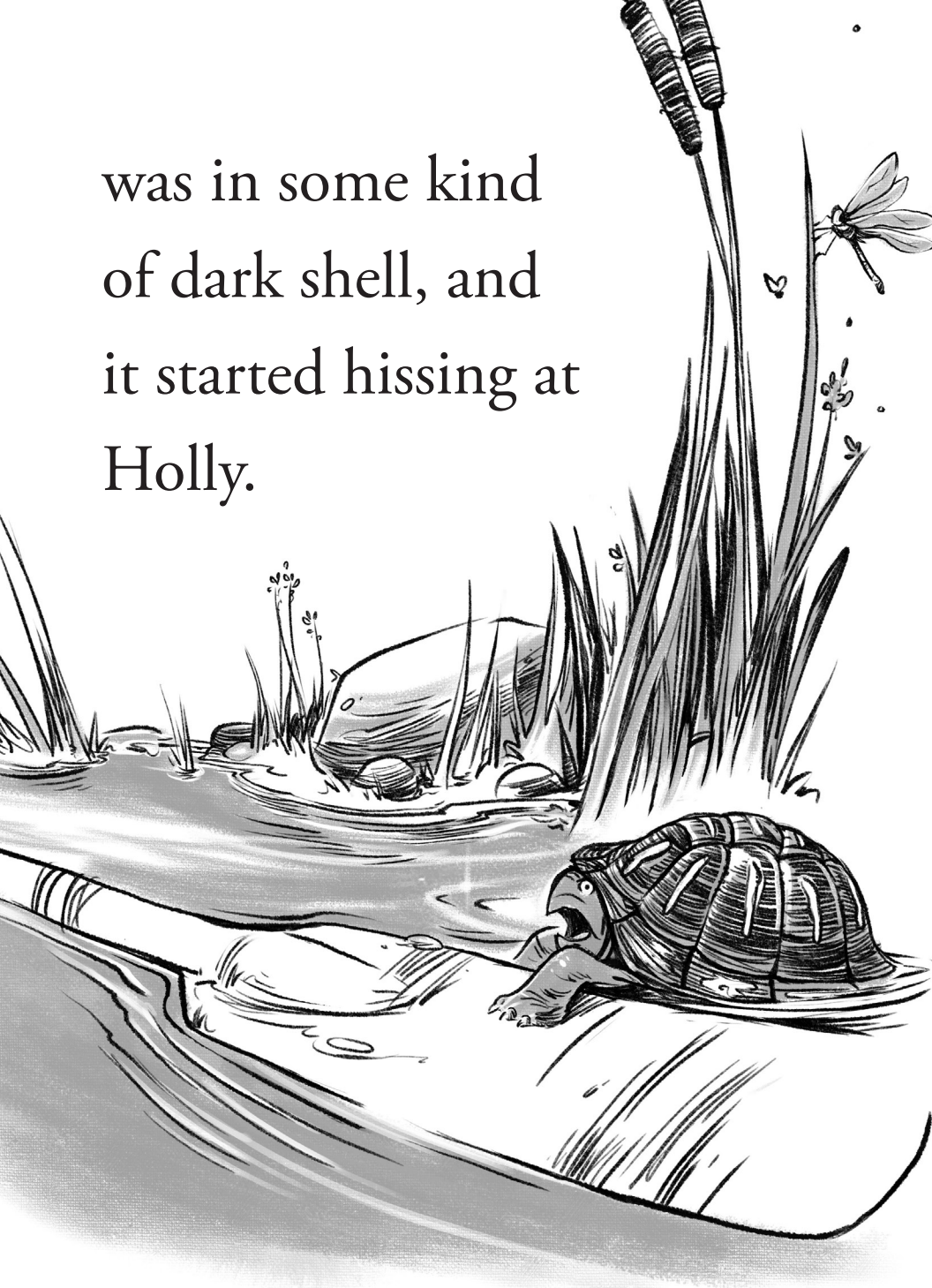
"I'll get it!" Holly called, jumping so quickly from the boat that it rocked wildly and tipped Henry out.

Laughing, the siblings

both swam over to the reeds where the oar had floated. Holly got there first and saw the end of the oar.

She reached for the oar and then jerked her hand back and screamed. There in the reeds she saw a little face with yellow eyes and a slimy brown head staring at her. The head

was in some kind of dark shell, and it started hissing at Holly.



Little Glass Lake

Turtles

The beginning of summer brings warmer days and a new animal resident to Little Glass Lake: a turtle! But Holly thinks turtles are scary. Will she ever be able to go swimming in the lake again? Join Holly and the other Little Glass Lake residents, as well as some special visitors, for another wonderful tale about the bonds of faith, family, and friendship.

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THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

Jenny Phillips

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 1

Chapter 2 13

Chapter 3 26

Chapter 4 40

Chapter 5 53

Chapter 6 64

Chapter 7 85

Chapter 8 97

Chapter 9 104

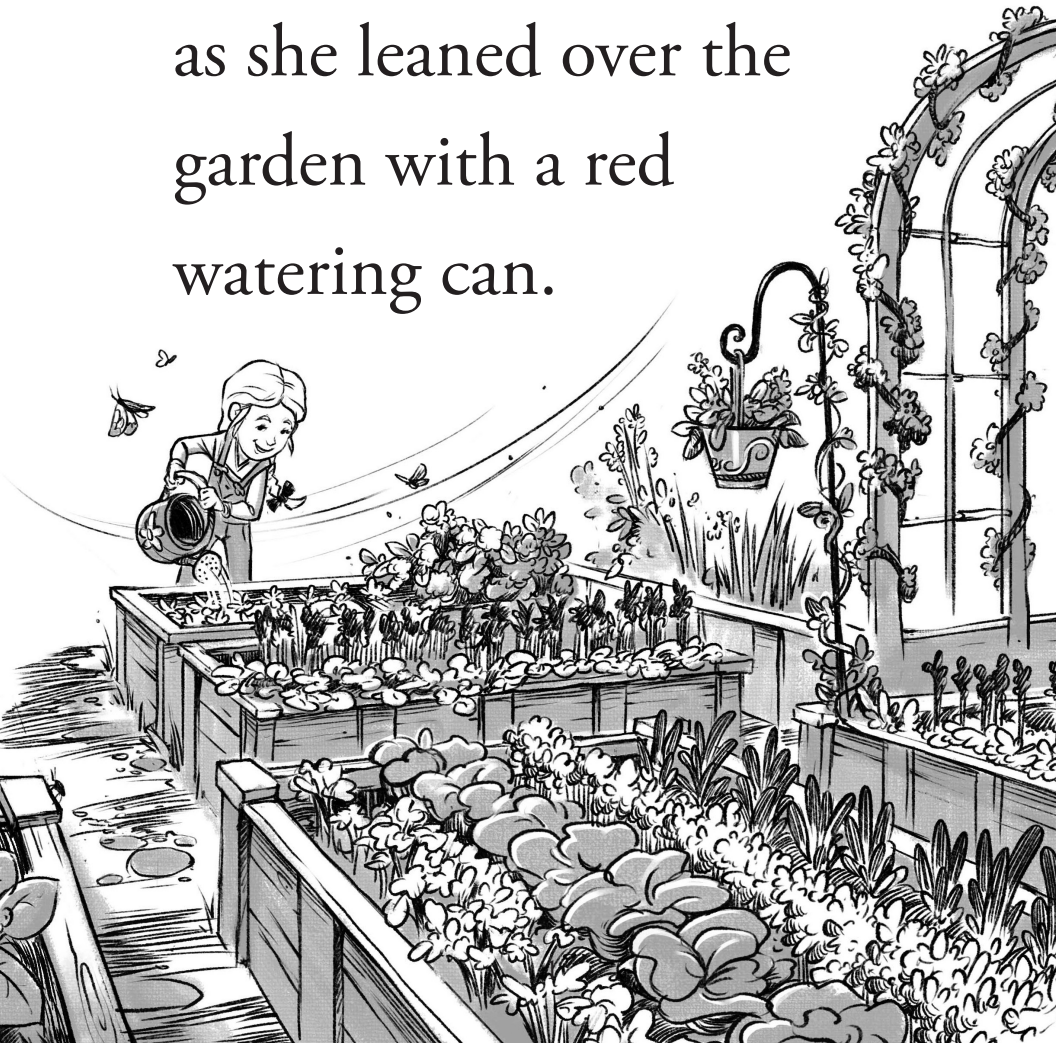
Chapter 10 118

Chapter 11 132

Chapter 12 140

Chapter 1

A blustery June wind swung Holly's braids as she leaned over the garden with a red watering can.



It was ten o'clock in the morning, and Holly could already feel a few beads of sweat on her forehead.

It's going to be a hot day, she thought as she sprinkled water on the thirsty plants.

The driveway to Holly's home was very long. It wound up a gentle hill like a soft ribbon. On

one side stood a huge grove of old oak trees that curved around the side of the house and stretched nearly down to Little Glass Lake. Holly loved to walk on the grassy path through the trees, with the green canopy arching above her.

On the other side of the driveway, a large garden

sprawled up the hill. A tall wood-and-metal fence surrounded it to keep out the deer.

After picking a handful of red strawberries, Holly made her way to the top of the garden and sat on a stone bench in the shade of a fruit tree.

This is the perfect spot to watch for Johnny, Holly

thought as she bit into a juicy strawberry.

It had been two weeks since four-year-old Johnny had stayed with Holly's family during his mom's hospital visit. They missed Johnny and were excited when his mom asked if he could spend a couple of hours with Henry and Holly while she had a

follow-up appointment with her doctor.

From her viewpoint in the garden, Holly could see the flat stretch of the small lane that ran past their house and then disappeared in both directions over some hills.

Down one of those hills came a big green bike towing a small cart. It was

headed directly toward the huge pothole in the lane in front of their house.

I hope he sees it and swerves around it, Holly thought. She watched as the bike came closer, and then she heard the rumble of a large truck from the other direction.

The bike and the truck passed each other on the

lane, causing the bike to hit the pothole with a huge jolt. A large object went flying off the bike's little cart, bouncing twice and landing on the side of the road.

"Hey!" Holly yelled, jumping up from the bench. But the loud noise of the truck drowned out her voice.

Holly kept calling as the bike disappeared over the hill. She opened the garden gate and went

dashing toward the lane, which was now empty and quiet as the truck's rumble faded in the distance.

Holly spotted the object that had fallen off the cart, and she started running toward it. Quickly, she realized that it was a small animal carrier.

Holly suddenly stopped in her tracks. *What kind*

of animal is in there? What if it's hurt from falling off the cart?

Not knowing what to do, Holly looked over her shoulder back to her house. *Should I go get help?*

Sad little whines came from inside the carrier. Holly's heart moved her forward to look into the carrier. The cutest puppy she had ever seen was staring back at her.

Little Glass Lake

Hummingbirds

Summertime brings new adventures and visitors to Little Glass Lake. While the children are enjoying time with Grandma Bee, they discover a furry new friend who is lost and must be delivered to its owner despite Holly growing more attached every second. In the meantime, a scientist arrives at the lake and sends the children on a quest to photograph a brand-new species of hummingbird, offering a large reward that Holly hopes to receive and use for something special.

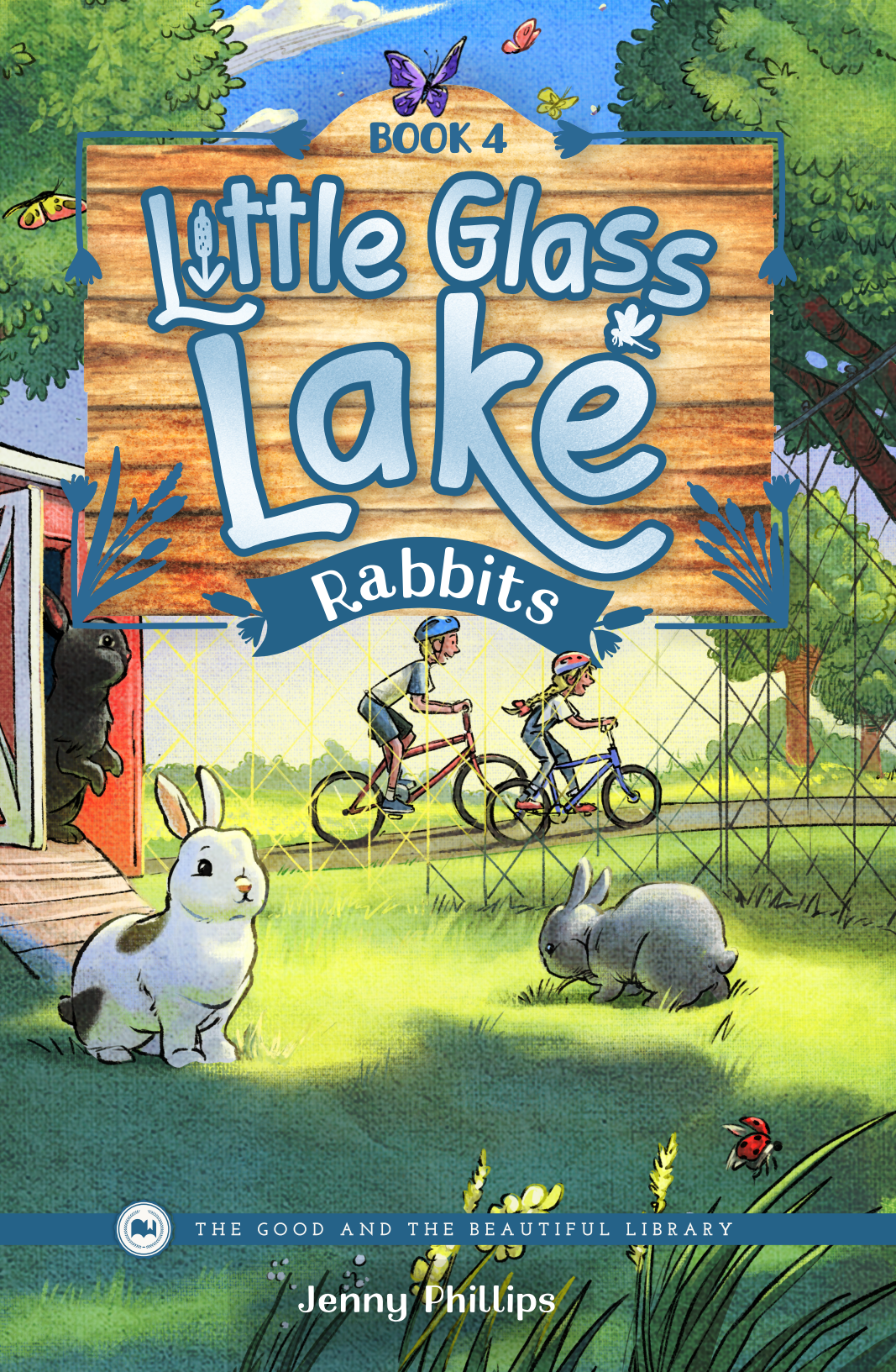

BOOK 4
Little Glass Lake
Rabbits
THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY
Jenny Phillips

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 1

Chapter 2 18

Chapter 3 35

Chapter 4 49

Chapter 5 61

Chapter 6 74

Chapter 7 86

Chapter 8 99

Chapter 9 111

Chapter 10 120

Chapter 11 135

Chapter 12 151

Chapter 1

When Holly woke up one hot, breezy summer morning, she had no idea how exciting the day would be.

She wore her favorite overalls, and, as always, her mom braided blue ribbons into her hair.

Every morning while

Holly's hair was being braided, her mom told her a Bible story.

This morning, Holly's mom recounted a story Jesus once told—a parable. A shepherd had one hundred sheep, and one went missing. The shepherd left the ninety-nine sheep to search hard and long for

that one missing sheep.

Of course, this story made Holly want to go see the sheep farm ten miles

away from her home. Henry, who had just turned fifteen, had taken Holly there once before on their bikes. Nice bike trails ran alongside the road. They could make it to the sheep farm in less than two hours. It was far, so they didn't bike there often.

"After your chores you can go if Henry will take

you," Mom said. "It will take you a lot of the day, but we don't have plans, so it's a great day to go!"

Henry loved the sheep farm too, and he said he would take Holly there.

A lovely blue sky looked down on two very happy siblings as they tightened their helmets, hopped on their bikes,

and headed down the lane.

First, they went through what Holly called the Tree Tunnel, which was a stretch of road to the left of their house that had great, twisting trees lining each side of the road. The high branches arched over the road and formed a shady, leafy green tunnel.

FOR SALE

Holly wiped her brow, noting what a hot day it was. As they rode along, she watched two squirrels chasing each other up a tree and listened to the wind rush through thousands of leaves above her.

Something on the side of the road caught her eye—a sign she had never

seen before. She read it and skidded to a stop.

"Wait, Henry! Come here!" Holly yelled.

Henry turned his bike and rode back to where Holly was standing.

"Look!" Holly gasped. "This sign says 'For Sale.' Is someone selling the Tree Tunnel?"

Henry studied the big

sign. "It has a map on it," he explained. "It looks like there is a large section of property between Gabe's house and our house that is being sold!"

"But I thought Gabe's family owned that land," Holly wondered.

"I think they do," Henry answered. He called their mom on his

new phone watch and asked if they could go talk to Gabe before going to the sheep farm.

Little Glass Lake

Rabbits

One hot summer morning, Holly and Henry decide to ride their bikes to the nearby sheep farm. They have no idea of the events that are about to unfold around a brand-new For Sale sign, a Netherland Dwarf rabbit that seems to be an escape artist, and even a dangerous natural disaster! Join Holly and her family as they experience many new and unexpected changes around Little Glass Lake.

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