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Opening extract from

The Hog, the Shrew and the Hullabaloo

Written by

Julia Copus

Illustrated by

Eunyoung Seo

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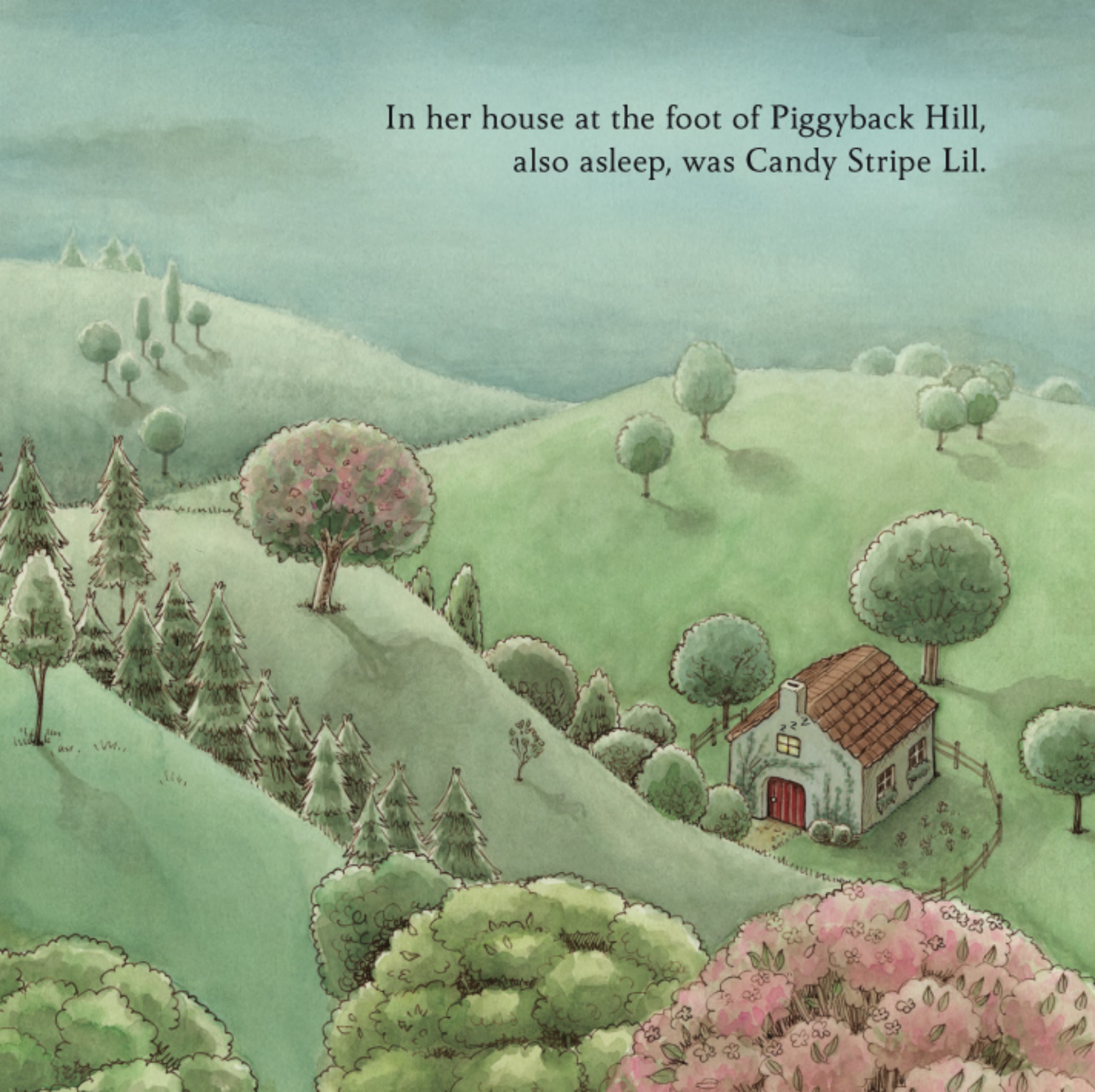
It was night in the village – a still, dark night –
and Harry the Hog was sleeping tight.

In her house at the foot of Piggyback Hill,
also asleep, was Candy Stripe Lil.



Now Harry the Hog was a champion sleeper:
no other hog could sleep longer or deeper.
That night, he'd finished his exercise

(two hog-jumps,

three sit-ups,

four blinks of the eyes)

and at last he was snug in his blankets again,
happily dreaming his hog-dreams when . . .

Scritch-scrump-crunch-skiffle-skreeeek-kazoo!
. . . he heard the most terrible hullabaloo.

"Help!" shouted Harry, at once wide awake.
"That's the noise a MONSTER would make!"
He reached for his phone and – trembling still –
he called up his best friend, Candy Stripe Lil.

When Lil arrived, she took off her jacket:
"We'll soon find out what made such a racket.
But for now," she said, "we must try to rest."
"If I *can*," Harry said. "I'll do my best."

Then "*Shh!*" squeaked Lil. "I heard a scuffle.
What *is* that, making such a kerfuffle?"