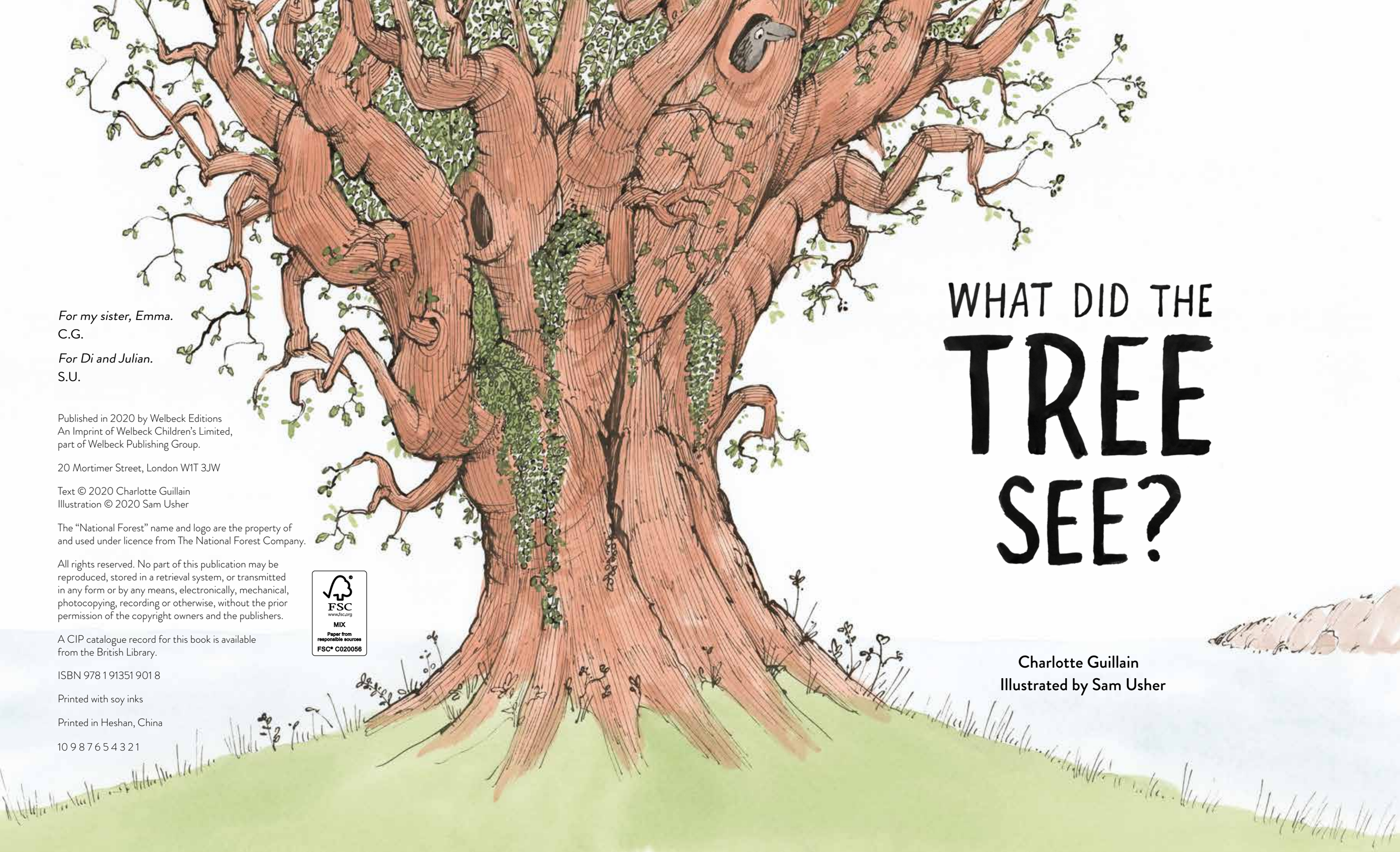

WHAT DID THE TREE SEE?

Charlotte Guillain
Illustrated by Sam Usher

For my sister, Emma.
C.G.

For Di and Julian.
S.U.

Published in 2020 by Welbeck Editions
An Imprint of Welbeck Children's Limited,
part of Welbeck Publishing Group.

20 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JW

Text © 2020 Charlotte Guillain
Illustration © 2020 Sam Usher

The "National Forest" name and logo are the property of and used under licence from The National Forest Company.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronically, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owners and the publishers.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978 1 91351 901 8

Printed with soy inks

Printed in Heshan, China

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FSC
www.fsc.org
MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C020056

I first was an acorn, so tiny and round,
I fell from a branch and sank into the ground.
Then as I grew up, I turned into a tree...
over hundreds of years! So, what did I see?

When I was a sapling, still growing my bark,
trees shot up around me – we filled a huge park.
My tender young leaves would be nibbled by deer,
but they ran away when the hunters came near.

For years, I grew bigger. My roots reached and spread.
My branches got thicker and stretched overhead.
Some trees were cut down and the forest was cleared.
More people arrived and a village appeared.

Time passed, I got older. My trunk grew and grew,
a ring for each year, where my wood was brand new.
The land all around me was ploughed up and sown.
The people worked hard when the crops were all grown.