This book was co-written by Giles Clare



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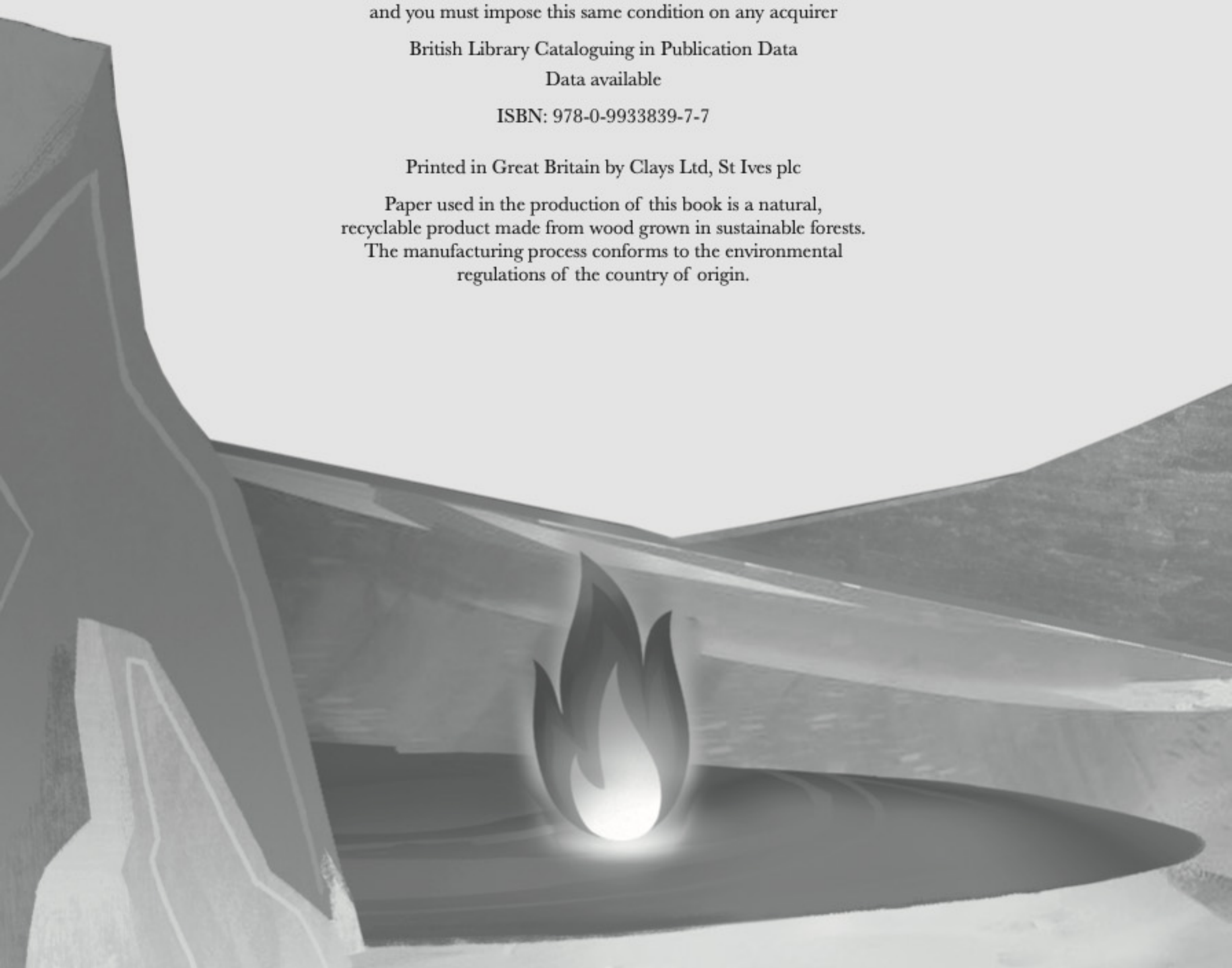
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'Will!' cried Sam suddenly. 'I've found them! They're over here!'

Will, Riya and Florence dashed around a pile of junk and saw them too. There was a row of sturdy cages of different dimensions, each secured with a padlock. Will looked from cage to cage: there was a porcupine, a baboon, a giant tortoise, a hawk and more. Finally, his eyes fell upon the lioness pilot, who was lying with her chin on her paws. Here were Captain Claw and all the other kidnapped animals.

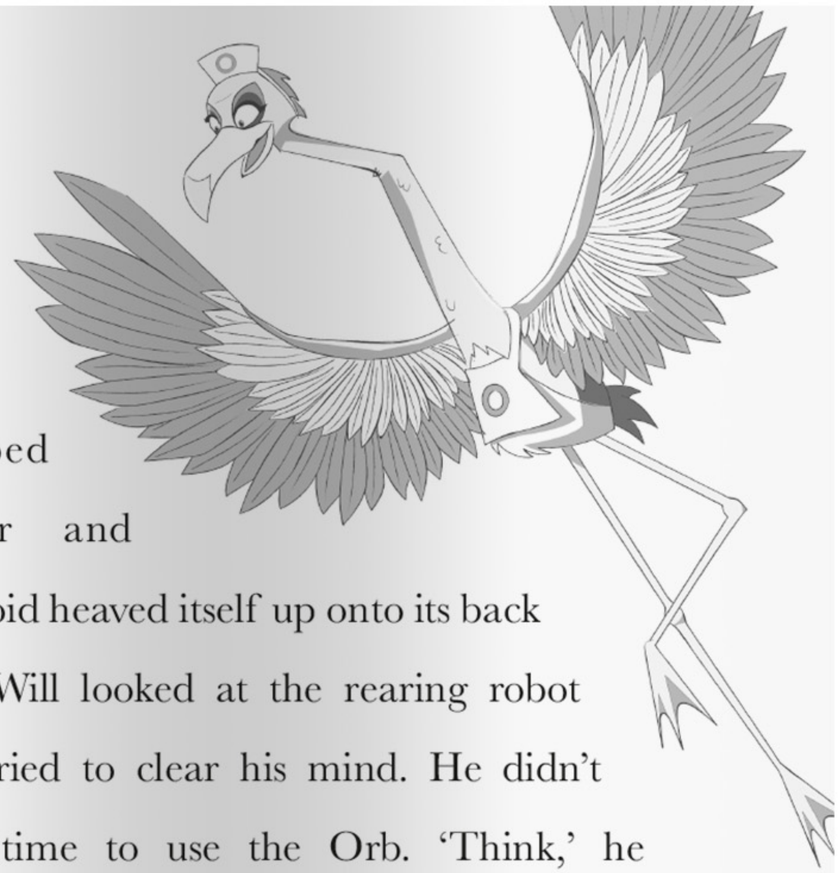
Will rushed forwards and knelt by her cage. 'Captain,' he said. 'I'm so pleased we found you.' Captain Claw glanced round at him.



retreat and get to safety. Then he saw Riya and Sam helping the other animals, who were either still weak or now terrified. He flushed with shame. His friends weren't thinking of themselves. They weren't full of doubts. They were simply helping the most vulnerable. A spasm of pain ran up from Will's leg, but he ignored it. He wasn't going to run away anywhere.

The Void swiped at Florence again, who was now darting left and right to avoid its attacks. She



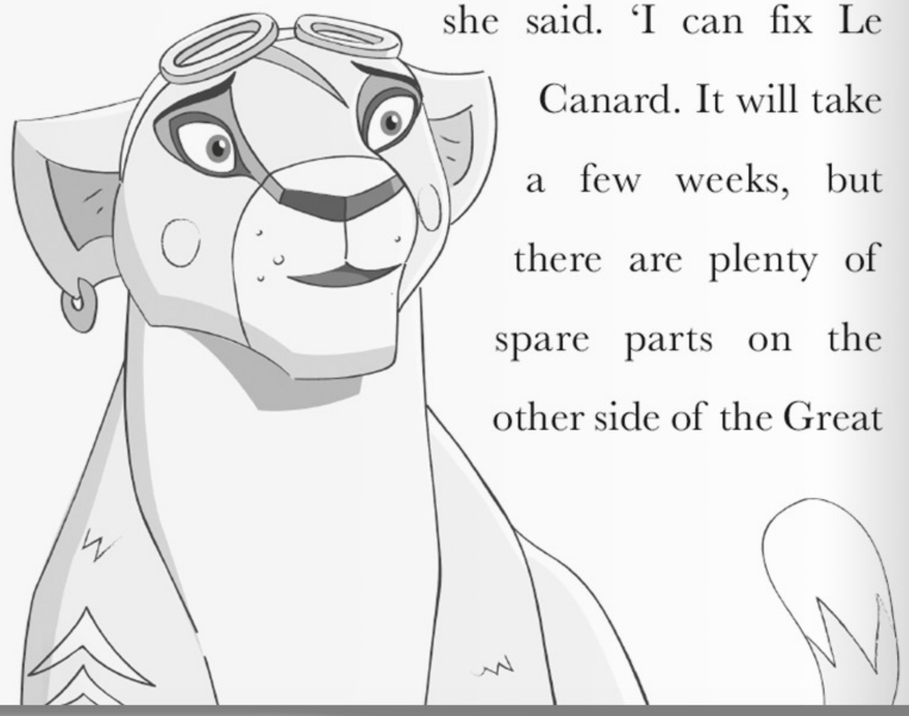


climbed higher and the Void heaved itself up onto its back legs. Will looked at the rearing robot and tried to clear his mind. He didn't have time to use the Orb. 'Think,' he commanded himself through gritted teeth. And that's when he saw it. There was something strange about the Void's underbelly: dark tar was dripping from a gap between its armoured plates. He remembered how a plate of armour had been knocked off by the seaplane's tail. 'It's still damaged!' Will whispered to himself.

Later, as the celebrations were winding down, Will spotted Captain Claw away down the beach by the palm trees. She was inspecting the seaplane's wings. Will left the others and wandered over.

'Sorry for all this damage,' said Will, looking at the battered wings.

Claw smiled. 'There's no need for that,' she said. 'I can fix Le Canard. It will take a few weeks, but there are plenty of spare parts on the other side of the Great



Pink Lake. I was just about to set off over there.' Captain Claw paused and fixed Will with her piercing, amber eyes. 'Listen, I can never thank you enough, Night Zookeeper,' she said. 'You trusted me when I hardly trusted myself. Then you rescued me. But it is the first thing I will remember longest. Well, say goodbye to the others for me, even that clumsy leaf-muncher.'

Will shook the lioness' paw and then she bound into the cockpit of the seaplane. The engine roared into life. Le Canard turned away and accelerated across the water. Will was waving as Doctor Florence