

The RIVER



TOM PERCIVAL

SIMON & SCHUSTER
London New York Sydney Toronto New Delhi



For Sage August Taylor – TP

Rowan sat beneath his favourite tree, looking out at the hills which encircled his home like a hug.

Rowan loved everything about this place, but most of all, he loved . . .

SIMON & SCHUSTER
First published in Great Britain in 2022 by Simon & Schuster UK Ltd
1st Floor, 222 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB • Text and illustrations
copyright © 2022 Tom Percival • The right of Tom Percival to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988 • All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form • A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library upon request • ISBN: 978-1-4711-9133-6 (HB)
ISBN: 978-1-4711-9132-9 (PB) • ISBN: 978-1-4711-9134-3 (eBook)
Printed in Italy • 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C020471


. . . the river.

Sometimes, the river could be quiet and calm.

Just like Rowan.

Sometimes, the river could be light and playful.



Just like Rowan.



And sometimes, just sometimes,
the river roared past, wild and angry.

Just like Rowan.

But neither of them stayed angry for long.

One year there was a very cruel winter.





Rowan felt as cold and alone as the moon.



Wind whipped past. Snow fell in flurries, and ever so slowly . . .