Goodbye Hobbs



Emma Bettridge & Josephine Birch

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This book is for Kate and for Joseph, and
in memory of my beloved Hobbs. E.B.



Thanks

Huge thank you to my brilliant pack of family and friends. Dad, Matty and Emma, Jose for incredible artwork, Maddy Dart, Tanuja Amarasuriya, Anna Wilson, Vic Llewellyn, Emma Williams, Jen Major, Jack Freddie Mora, and to Debbie Watling & Helen Jackman for a childhood full of animals and adventure. Big thanks to Arts Council England, wonderful Lara at Coombe Farm, and to all dogs everywhere (especially darling Red, Nell and Merlin). EB

Big thank you to Emma for trusting me with this beautiful story. To Lara Lloyd for introducing us under the cherry blossom at Coombe. Thanks to Beth Waters, Esther Cooper-Wood and Angela Cogo for their excellent design eyes, help and advice. And to Wyn and my family for continued support always. JB

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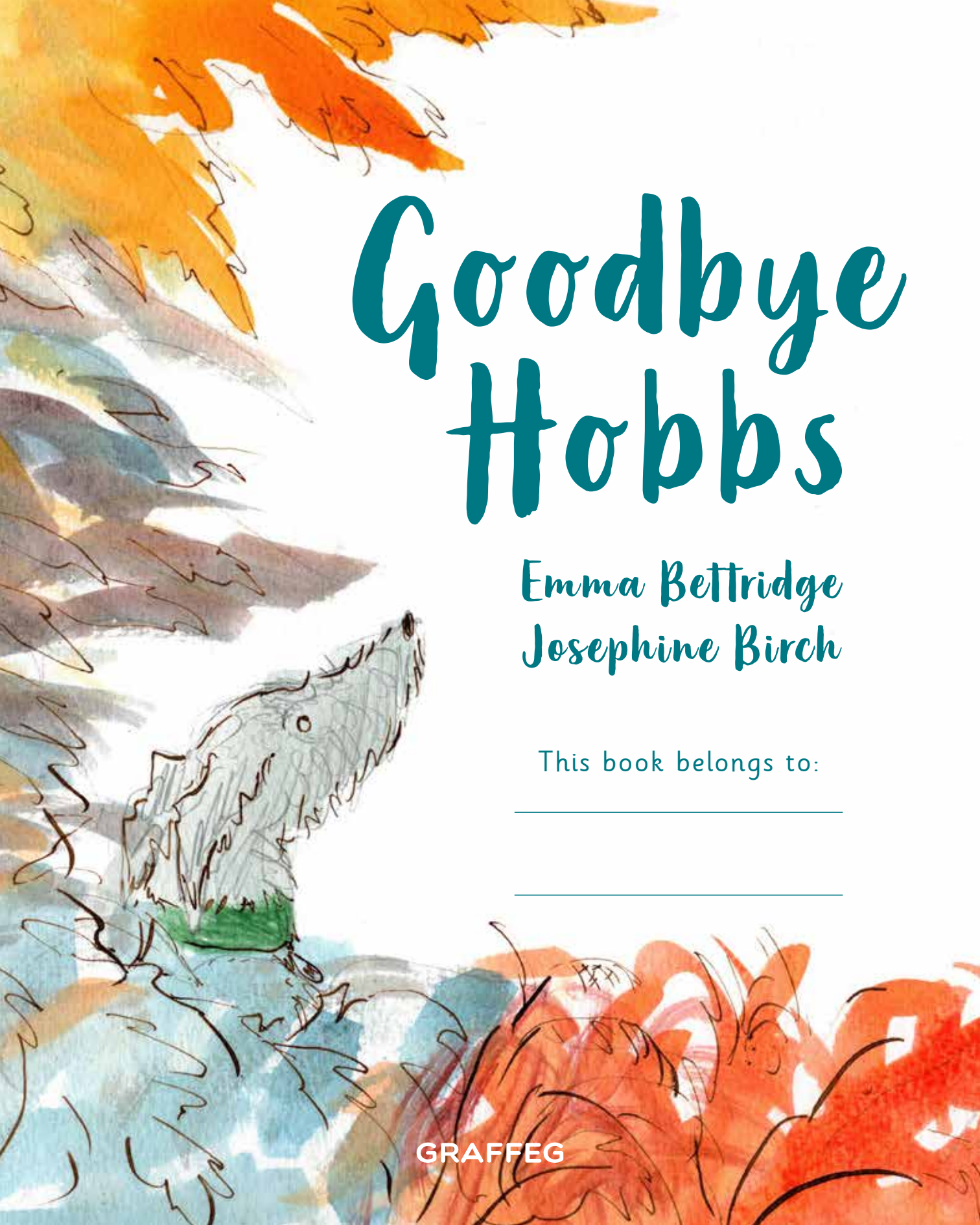
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Goodbye Hobbs

Emma Bettridge
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Let's go Merlin!



Time for a walk
Walky walk

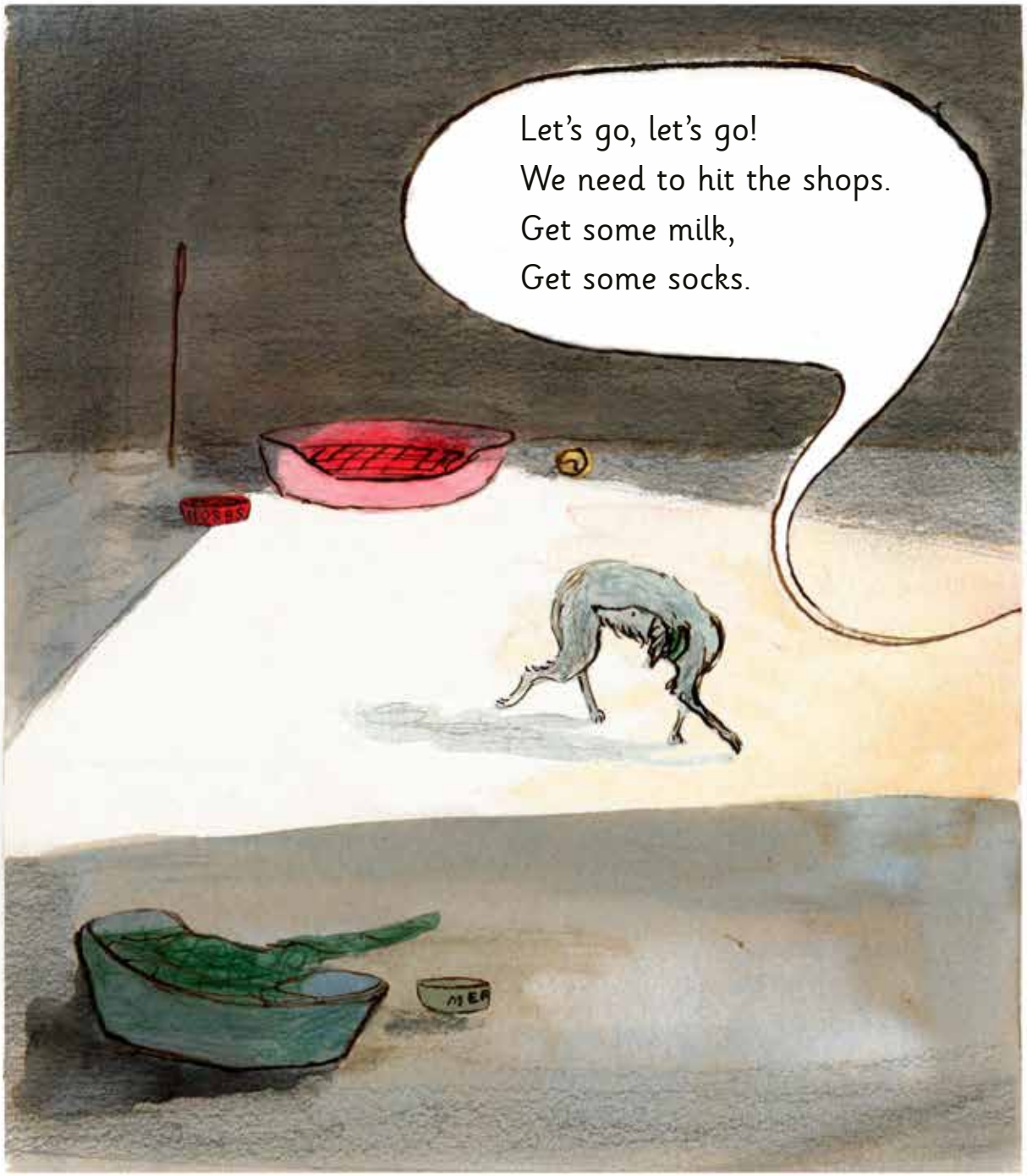


Walky walk walk



One eye squeezed open,
Merlin glances at
the other bed
Not today, he says,
(in his head)

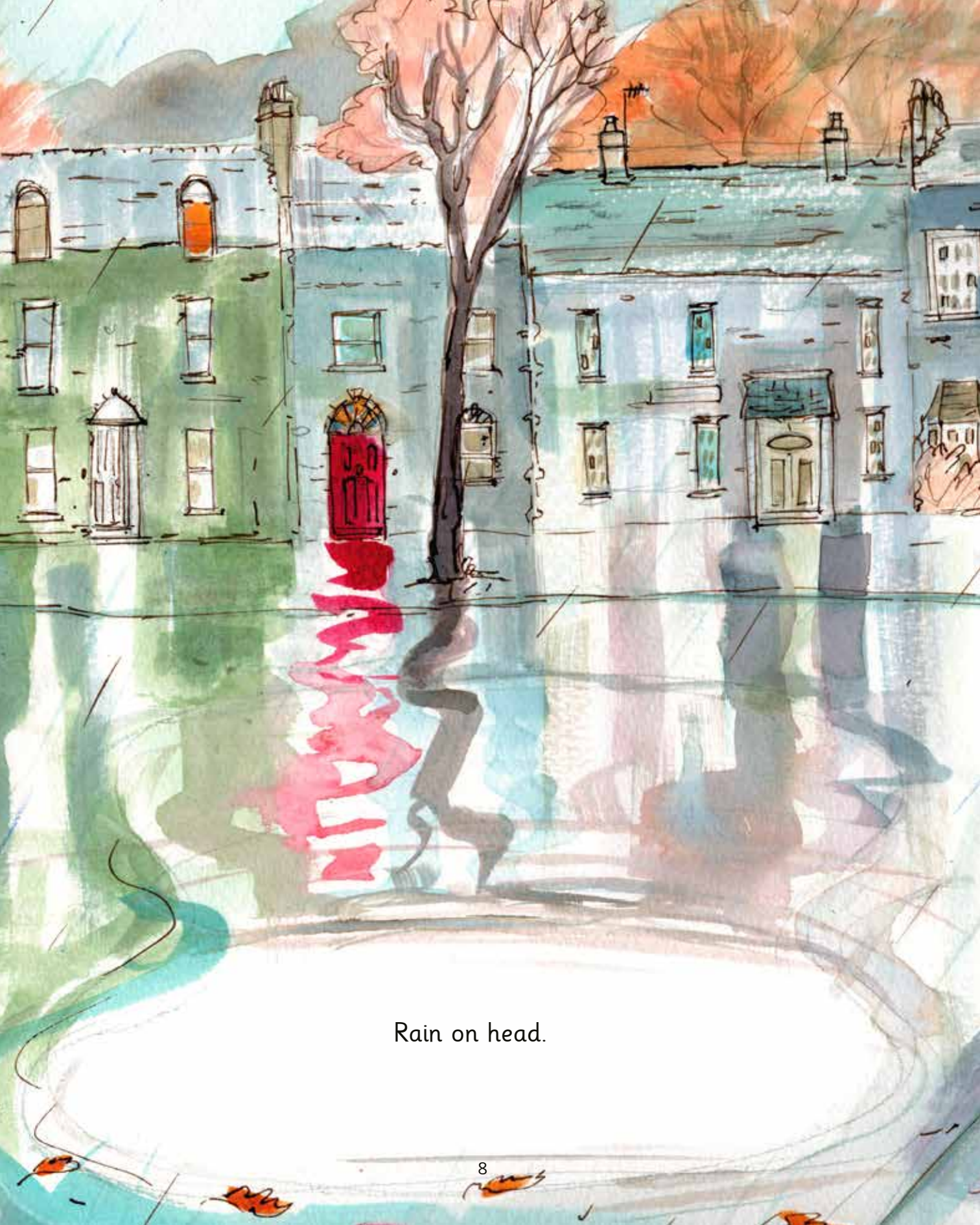




Merlin heaves himself up,
plods over to Hobbs' bed,
sniffs it from side to side.



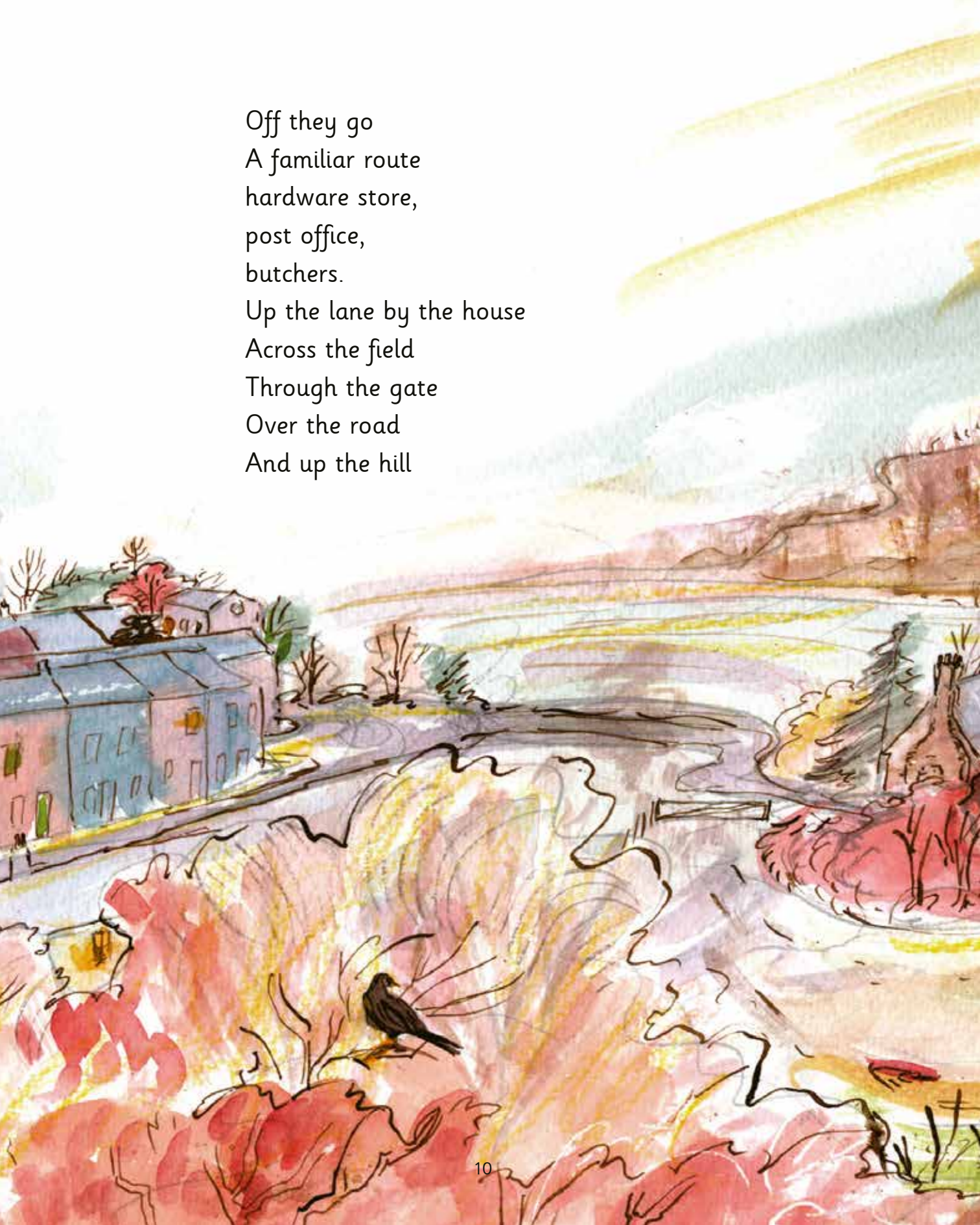
Goes downstairs,
Hangs his head,
Half wags his sad tail...



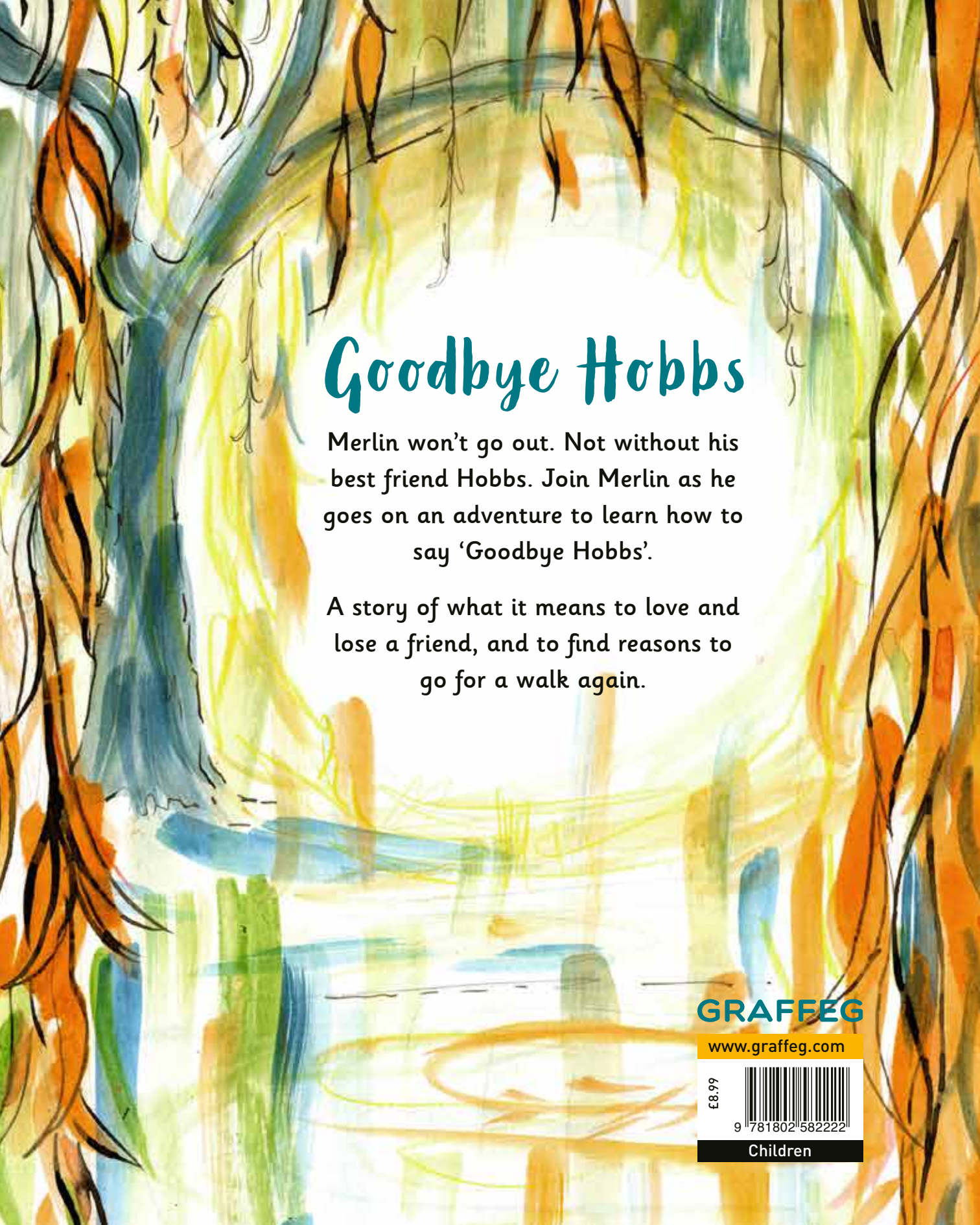
Rain on head.



Off they go
A familiar route
hardware store,
post office,
butchers.
Up the lane by the house
Across the field
Through the gate
Over the road
And up the hill







Goodbye Hobbs

Merlin won't go out. Not without his best friend Hobbs. Join Merlin as he goes on an adventure to learn how to say 'Goodbye Hobbs'.

A story of what it means to love and lose a friend, and to find reasons to go for a walk again.

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