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WITH SPECIAL THANKS
TO BRYONY DAVIES

To Wilbur – B.L.

For Sami. Don't be afraid of the darkness,
but look at the wonder it brings. Titi, Aito and
I will always leave a light on for you – P.B.

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The World at Night
BUSTER BOOKS
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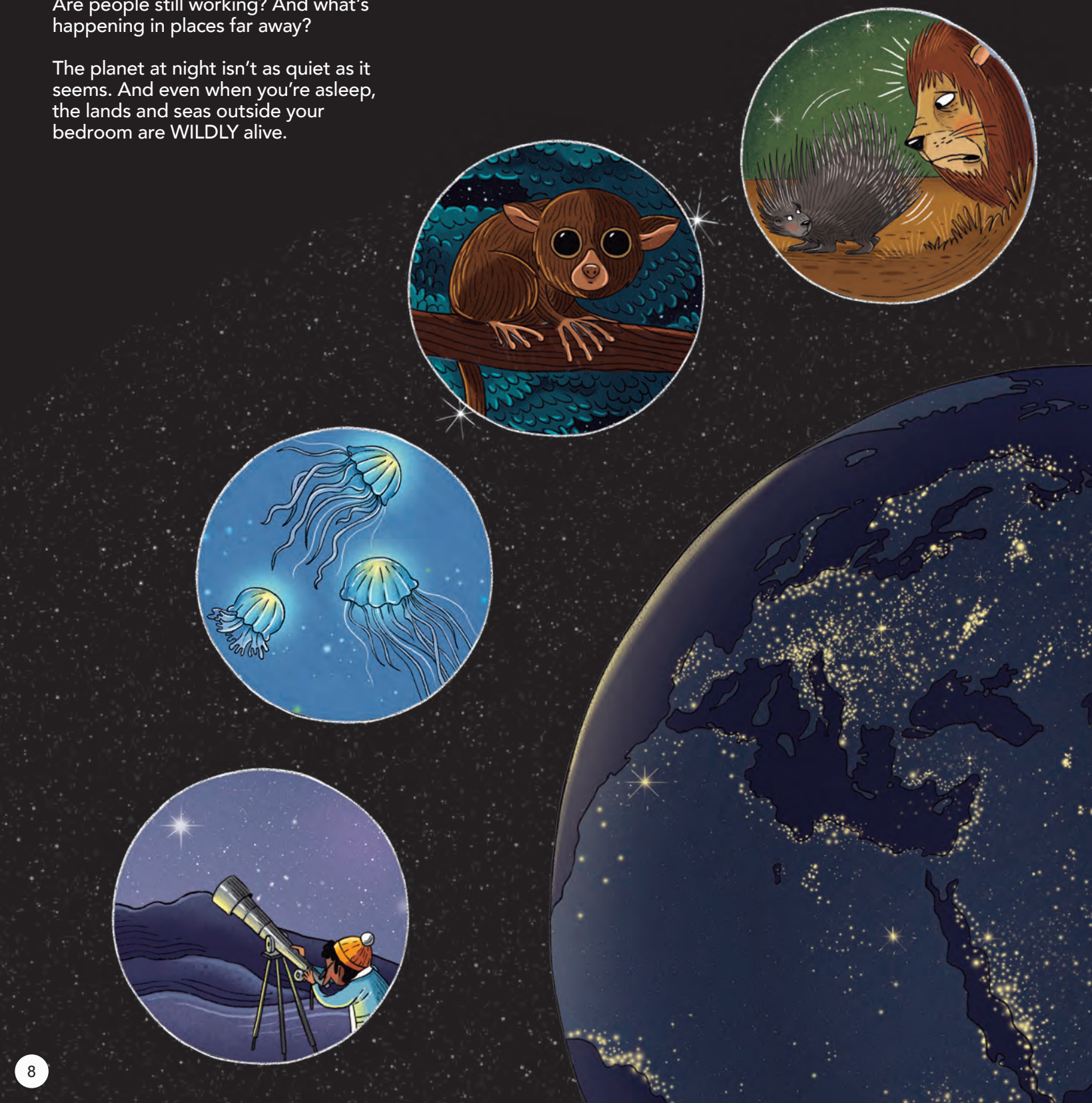
INTRODUCTION

Night is a magical, mysterious time. Daylight has disappeared and the world feels slower and calmer. There's a scattering of stars in the sky and a whisper of wind in the trees. But wait ...

Have you ever wondered what's going on out there in the darkness, while you're tucked up in bed? Are animals still scurrying around? Are people still working? And what's happening in places far away?

The planet at night isn't as quiet as it seems. And even when you're asleep, the lands and seas outside your bedroom are WILDLY alive.

This book is a celebration of life after sunset. It looks at why we have night, why we need sleep and why we dream. It points a telescope at the night sky, follows the Moon through its monthly phases and shows people performing vital jobs right through the night. It looks at life in the dark polar winters, explores the history of electric light and explains why solar eclipses can feel like night.



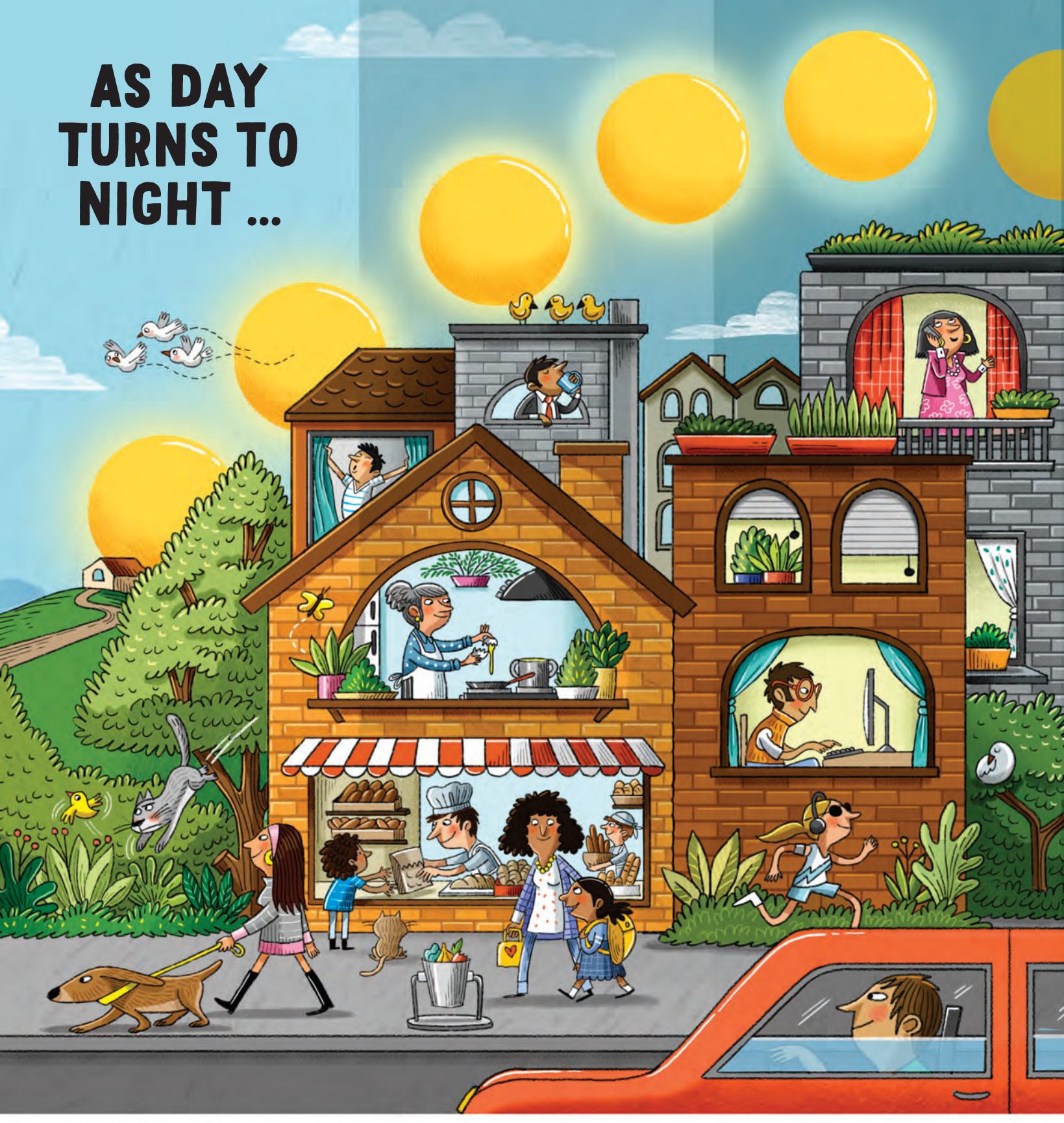
And that's not all. Night might be a time of rest for *most* of us humans, but for countless animal species it's when they're busiest. Ever since the earliest prehistoric mammals shifted their activity away from the daytime to avoid hungry dinosaurs, the hours of darkness have been crawling with wonderful creatures.

Today, two thirds of mammals – and all manner of birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish and insects – are nocturnal, which means they are active at night. This book shines a torch on these fascinating species, travelling from the jungles of South America and the icefields of Antarctica to the dunes of the Arabian Desert and the waters of the Great Barrier Reef. How do these animals see in the gloom? What do they eat? When do they sleep?

The following pages answer all these questions, and many more. So, as the curtain of darkness falls once more over the planet, let's discover THE WORLD AT NIGHT.



AS DAY TURNS TO NIGHT ...



It's dawn. The Sun is rising above the horizon, greeting the start of a new day. Birds are singing, alarms are sounding and curtains are drawn open. The world is slowly waking up – and warming up – for another busy day.

As people leave home to set off for work or school, the streets and roads start to fill. Dog-walkers and joggers appear on the pavements. The smell of freshly baked bread drifts from bakeries. The day is brighter now, and noisier.

Most of us experience every single day of our lives beneath the natural light of the Sun. As morning becomes afternoon and afternoon becomes evening, our routine is synchronized with the Sun's journey across the sky.



As the Sun dips towards the horizon, the temperature drops and the sky loses its glow. This time of day is called dusk. For many of us, this is a chance to wind down, enjoy an evening meal and relax.

The last of the colour fades from the sky. Stars appear overhead and streetlights flicker on along the roads. As you get ready for bed, the world outside feels emptier and quieter than during the day. But is it?

With darkness settling in, new creatures emerge from the shadows. A different cast of human characters appears, too, heading off to begin work. Night has arrived, but the planet is still bursting with life.