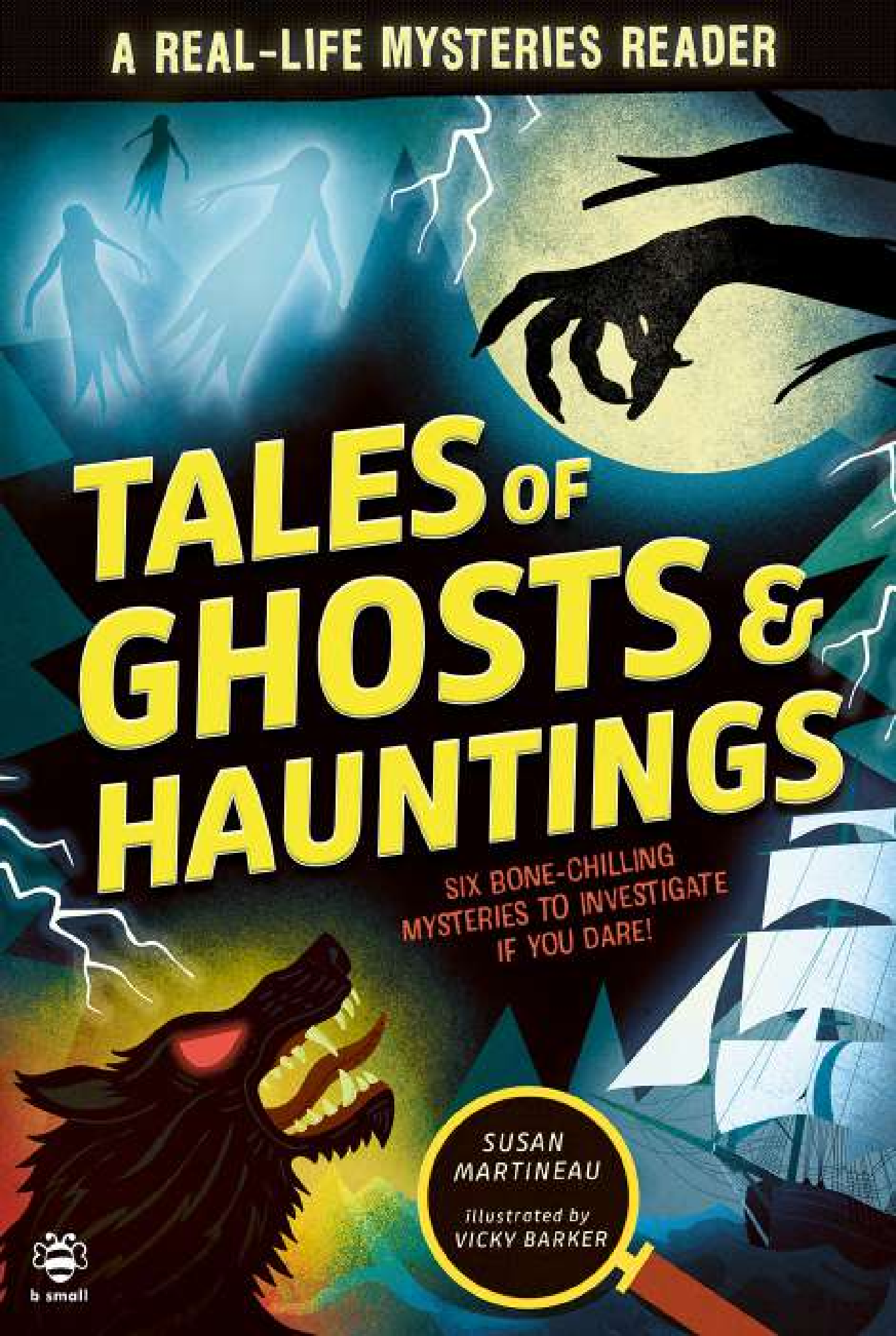
A REAL-LIFE MYSTERIES READER



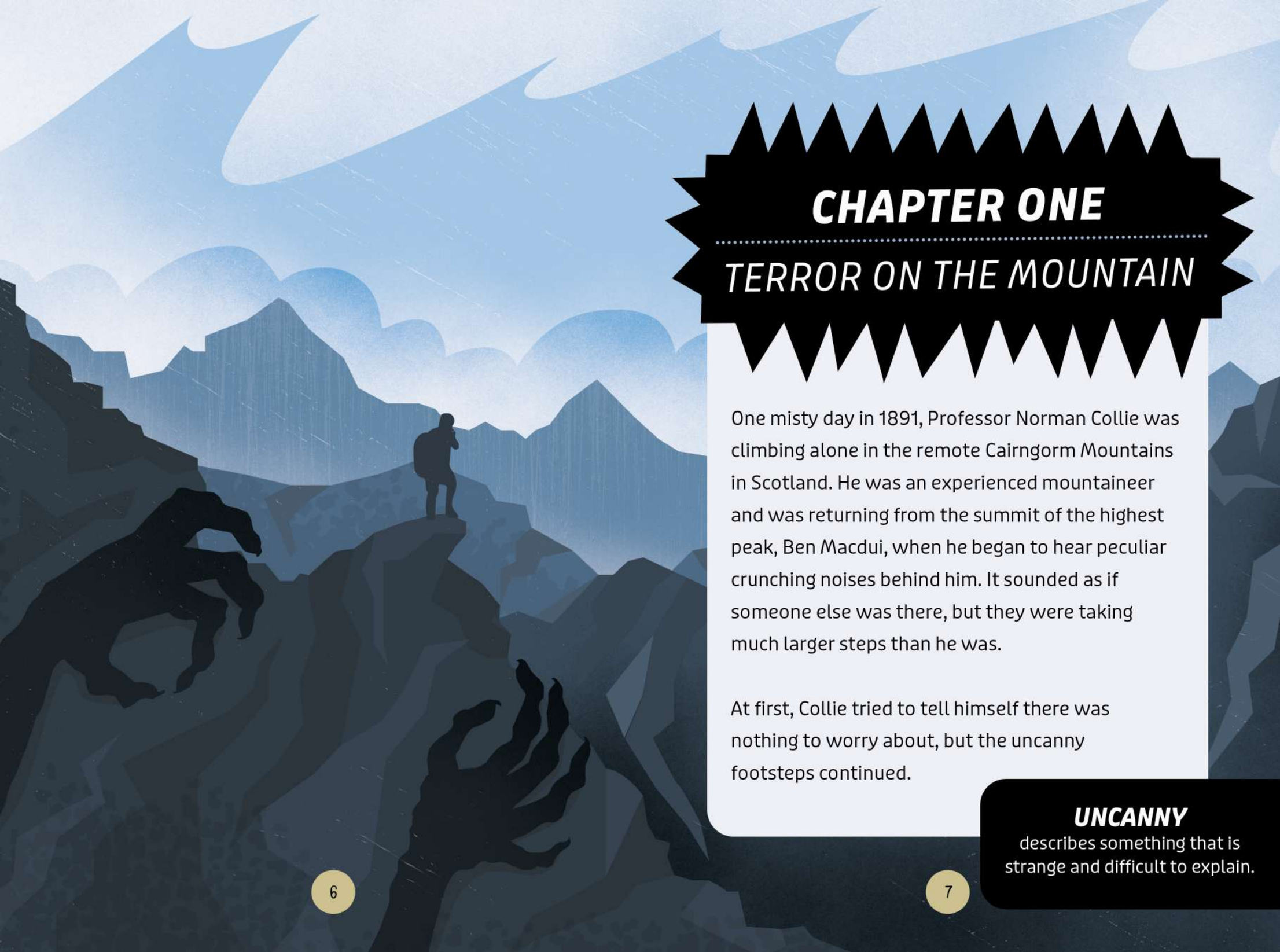
TALES OF GHOSTS & HAUNTINGS

SIX BONE-CHILLING MYSTERIES TO INVESTIGATE IF YOU DARE!

SUSAN MARTINEAU

illustrated by VICKY BARKER

b small



CHAPTER ONE

TERROR ON THE MOUNTAIN

One misty day in 1891, Professor Norman Collie was climbing alone in the remote Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland. He was an experienced mountaineer and was returning from the summit of the highest peak, Ben Macdui, when he began to hear peculiar crunching noises behind him. It sounded as if someone else was there, but they were taking much larger steps than he was.

At first, Collie tried to tell himself there was nothing to worry about, but the uncanny footsteps continued.

UNCANNY
describes something that is strange and difficult to explain.

> "As I walked on and the eerie crunch, crunch sounded behind me I was **seized with terror** and took to my heels, staggering blindly among the boulders for four or five miles ... I will not go back there again by myself I know."

Ben Macdui is the second-highest mountain in Britain. Ben Nevis is the highest.



MONSTER IN THE MIST

Many other climbers have also experienced something mysterious and frightening on Ben Macdui. In May 1945, Peter Densham was at the top of the mountain when the mist closed in. He described what happened next to a journalist. Densham began to feel as if he was not alone and he could sense a cold pressure on his neck. He heard crunching noises nearby and suddenly felt desperate to get off the mountain.

> "I found myself running at an incredible pace, and then realised that I was running in the direction of the Lurcher's Crag. I tried to stop myself and found this was extremely difficult to do. It was as if **somebody was pushing me**."

1948

In 1948, a friend of Densham's called Richard Frere wrote a magazine article about his own odd experience on Ben Macdui. He suddenly felt a feeling of dread and an eerie sense of not being alone. He also thought he could hear intensely high singing.

> "The sound it seemed was coming from the **very soil of the mountain**."

1930

GIGANTIC FOOTSTEPS

In 1930, a writer and artist called Wendy Wood described her own odd experience near Ben Macdui. It was a very snowy day. She had reached a mountain pass called the Lairig Ghru and decided to turn back. Suddenly, she heard a huge, booming voice. It seemed to come from under her feet. She tried to convince herself that it was a deer or perhaps someone who had fallen in the snow. But she could now hear gigantic footsteps behind her, too, and these did not match her own.

> "... what is he, this **spirit that scales the summit** of Ben Macdui at midnight and roams the Lairig Ghru?"