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Opening extract from

The Tear Thief

Written by

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Illustrated by

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Published by

Barefoot Books

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the tear thief



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Barefoot Books
Celebrating Art and Story

Late one evening, the Tear Thief crept into a town. The Tear Thief was invisible and carried a silvery waterproof sack on her back. Only if you happened to look into a puddle as she was passing could you see what the Tear Thief looked like because a puddle was the one thing that showed her reflection. The Tear Thief had short spiky white hair and big grey eyes. She wore a handkerchief dress and silk slippers that made no sound as she walked.

The Tear Thief came to a quiet road with a neat row of houses and flew into a tall tree there for a good look and a listen. It was the hour between supper and bedtime. All the curtained windows were flushed with light, and enticing smells of soup and stew and pasta and onions (the Tear Thief's favourite) and rhubarb crumble were drifting up and away into the deepening dusk.

The Tear Thief listened hard with sharp ears.

'Boo-hoo-hoo!'

A child was crying.