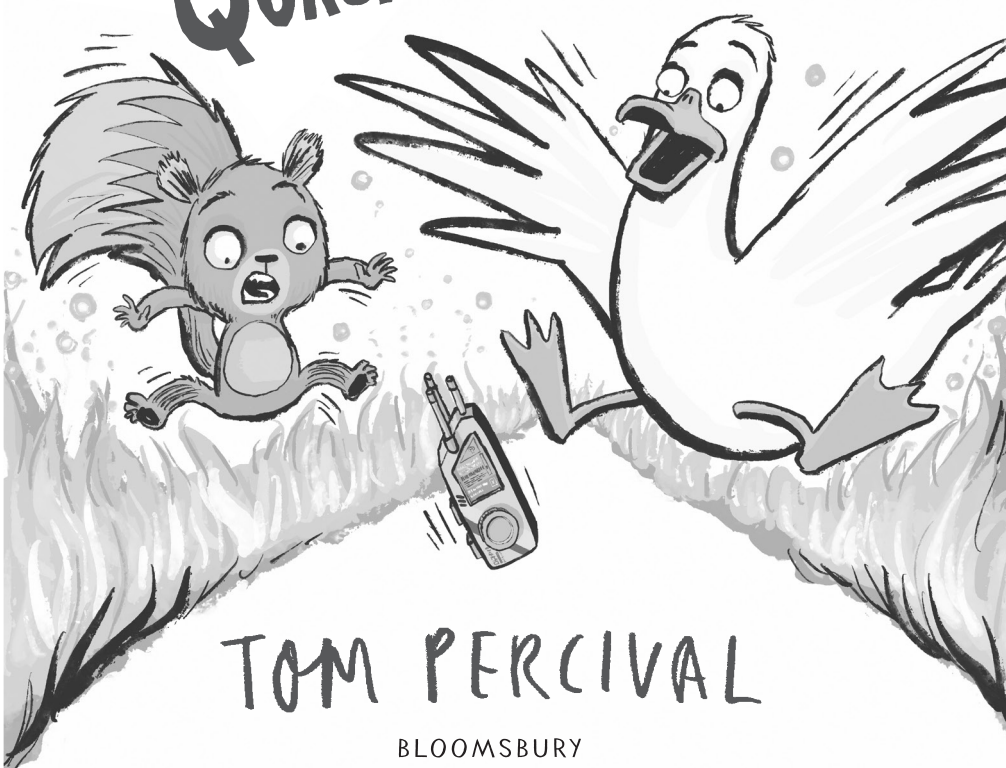
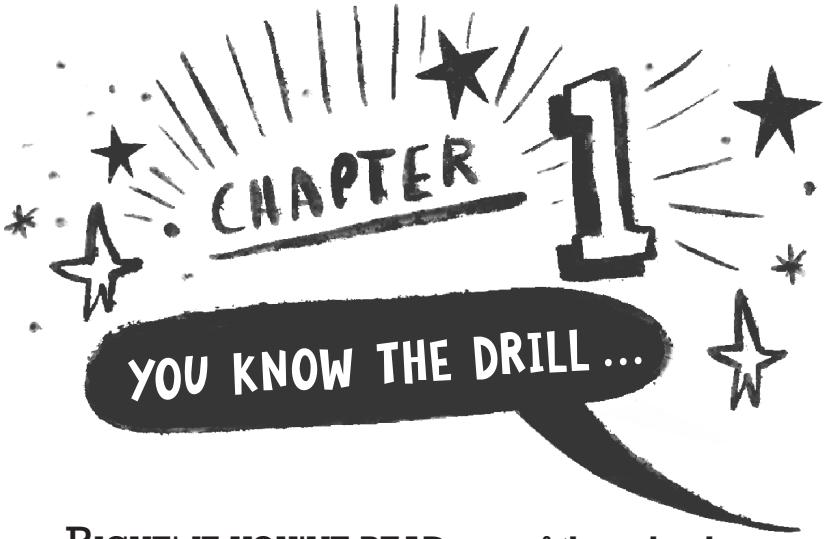
SQUIRREL AND DUCK

QUACK TO THE FUTURE



TOM PERCIVAL

BLOOMSBURY
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY



RIGHT! IF YOU'VE READ any of these books before, you'll know the drill! This is the section where I tell you EVERYTHING you need to know about Squirrel and Duck in a (hopefully) fun, chatty and casual way.

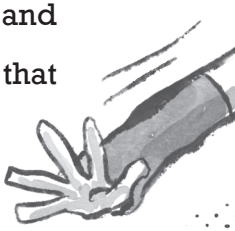
I'll begin by explaining that Squirrel and Duck are animals but … *GASP*! They can both *talk*! There are a few reasons for this biological impossibility. *Firstly*, it's because they are not ordinary animals (which you'll learn ALL about in this book). Secondly, it's because otherwise you'd have NO idea what they were thinking or feeling. Try THIS on for size …

'Quack,' quacked Duck. 'Quack, quack, quack-ity, *QUACK*!'

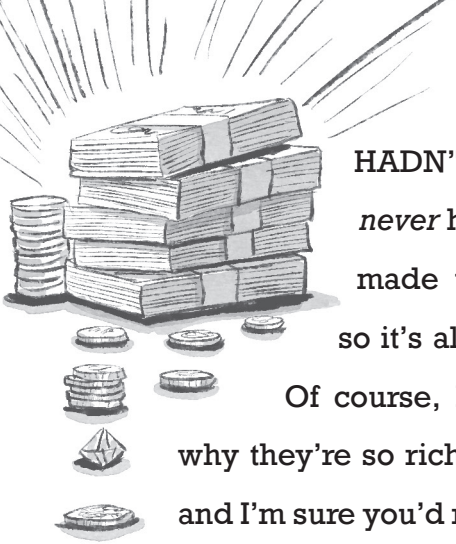
See? It would be AWFUL! I mean, what on earth is Duck trying to communicate here? Why is the last 'quack' in italics? Can ducks even *make* the sound 'quack-ity'?

And finally, *let's be honest*, if I said I wanted to tell you a story about a perfectly ordinary squirrel and a totally regular duck who CAN'T talk, you'd probably say, 'No thank you,' and read something like *Billy the Burpiest Boy in the Burpiverse* instead.

So yes, Squirrel and Duck are animals, *but* they can both talk and think just like you and me. They are also INCREDIBLY rich and live in a luxury fibreglass tree they had installed in their own private woodland. They *used* to live in an old abandoned theme park, but sadly that home got demolished in the first Squirrel and Duck book, *Mission Improbable*. Still … if that

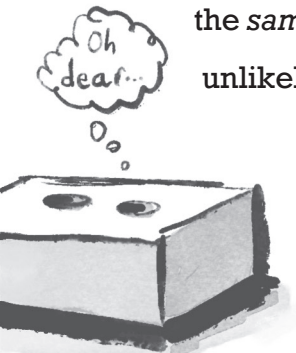



BURRP!
BILLY



HADN'T happened, they would *never* have had the adventure that made them so fantastically rich, so it's all swings and roundabouts! Of course, I *could* tell you right now why they're so rich, but that would take ages and I'm sure you'd rather find out what's going to happen in THIS book.

What else? Well, it's useful to know they have very different attitudes. You see, Duck is kind, sweet-natured and honest to a fault, whereas Squirrel is tetchy, irritable and not always very nice. In some ways, they are unlikely friends. But, if you *really* think about it, their friendship isn't THAT unlikely, is it? After all, they're the world's only talking animals, and they both escaped from the *same* lab on the *same* day. On reflection, it's not *especially* unlikely, is it? It's not like this book series is



called 'Ostrich and Brick', which would be a MUCH more unlikely friendship pairing.

Anyway, it's time to forget all about *Ostrich and Brick*, because we are now about to embark on a BRAND-NEW Squirrel and Duck adventure.

