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Opening extract from

Ottoline Goes To School

Written by

Chris Riddell

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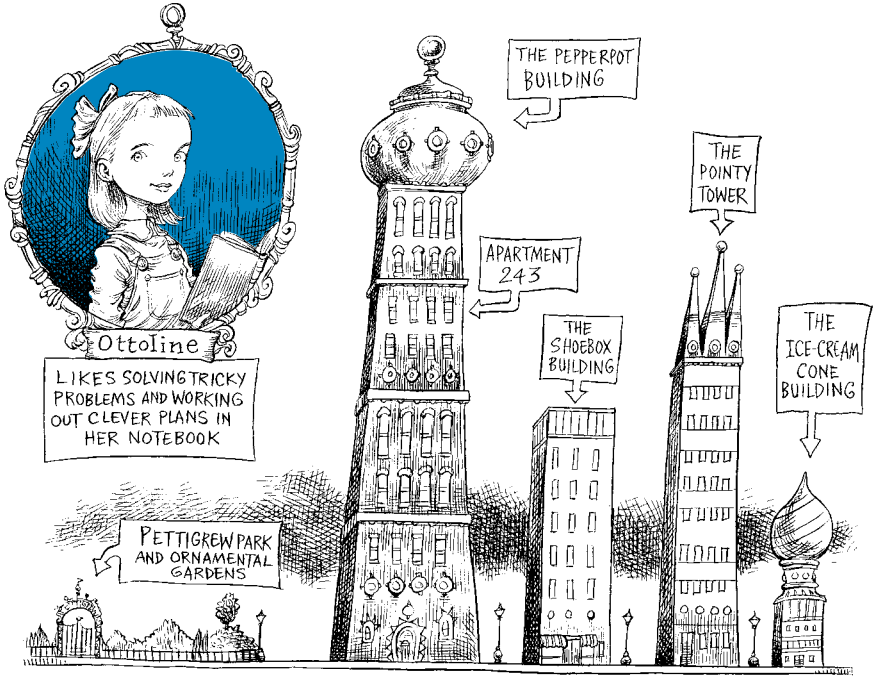
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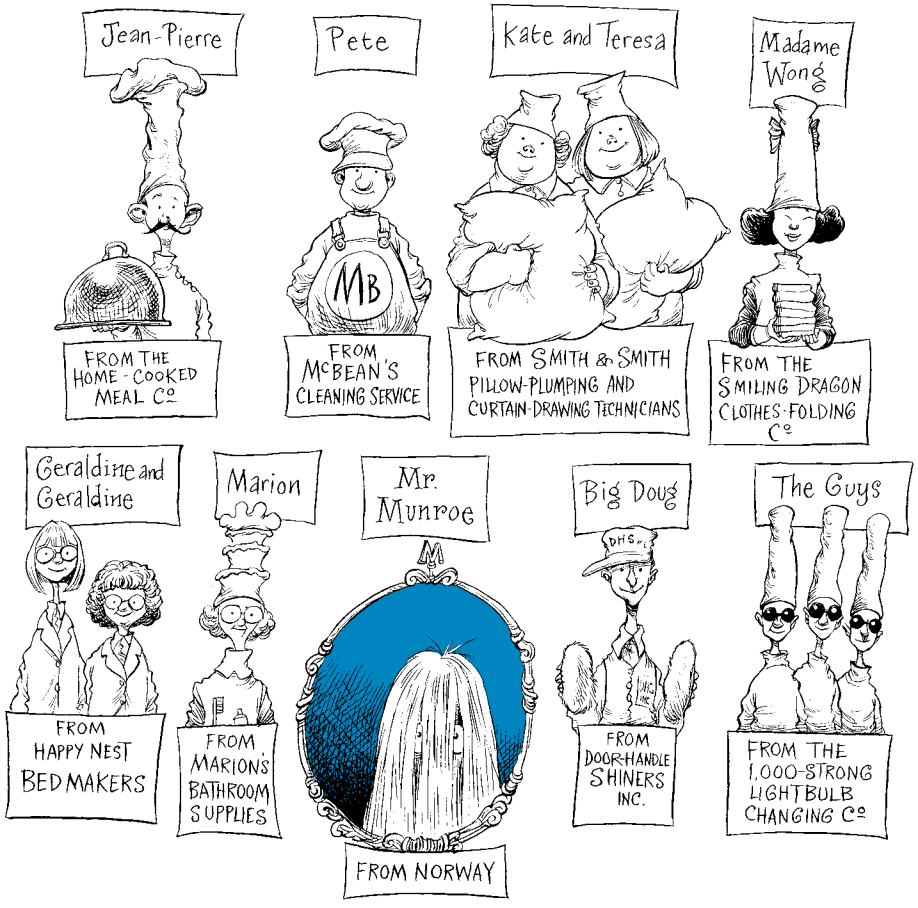
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Chapter One

Ottoline lived in Apartment 243 of the P. W. Huffledinck Tower, which everybody called the Pepperpot Building because it looked like one.



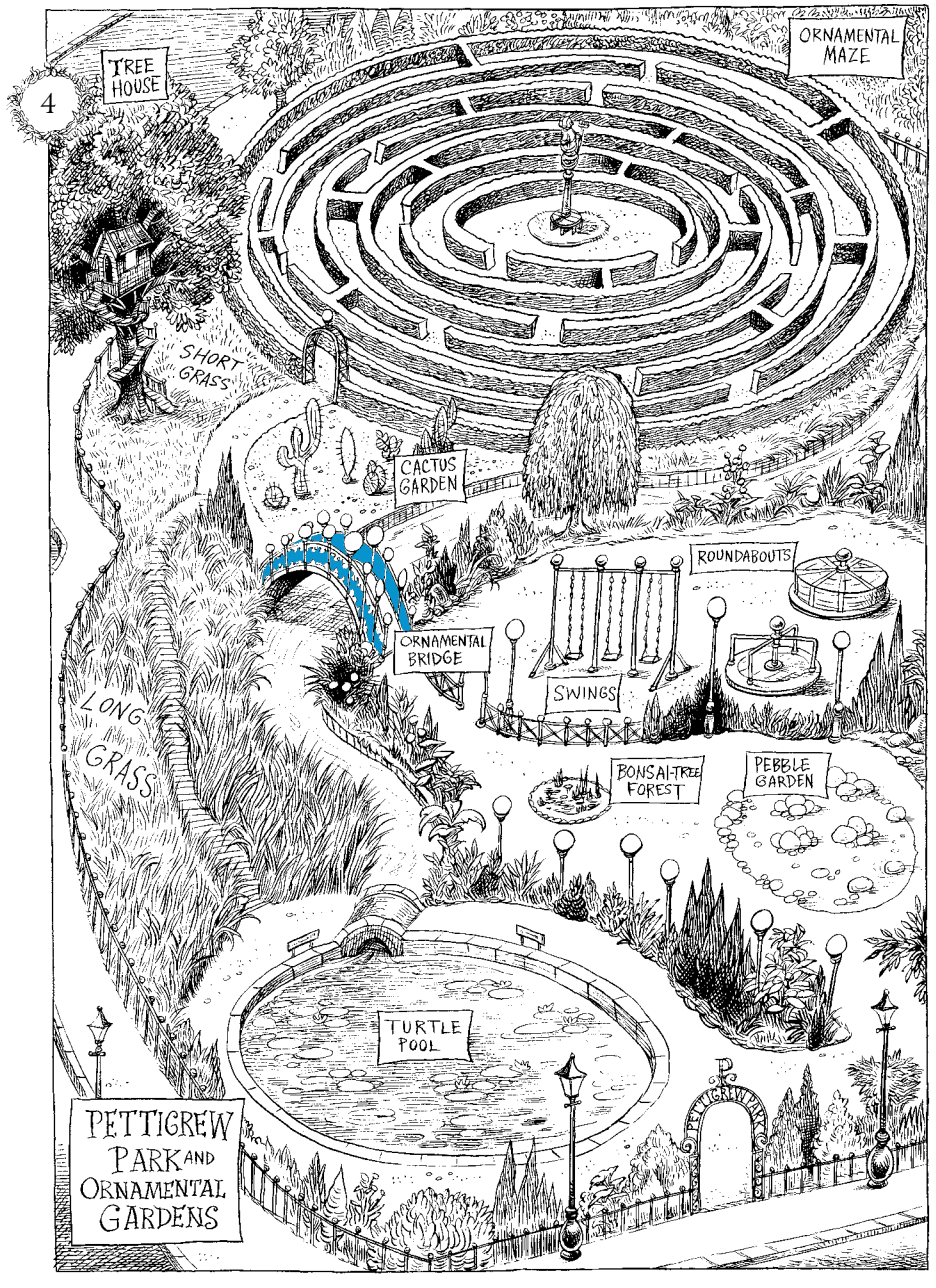
Her parents were Collectors who travelled around the world. They were hardly ever at home, but Ottoline was well looked after and she was never lonely. And besides, she had her best friend, Mr. Munroe, for company.

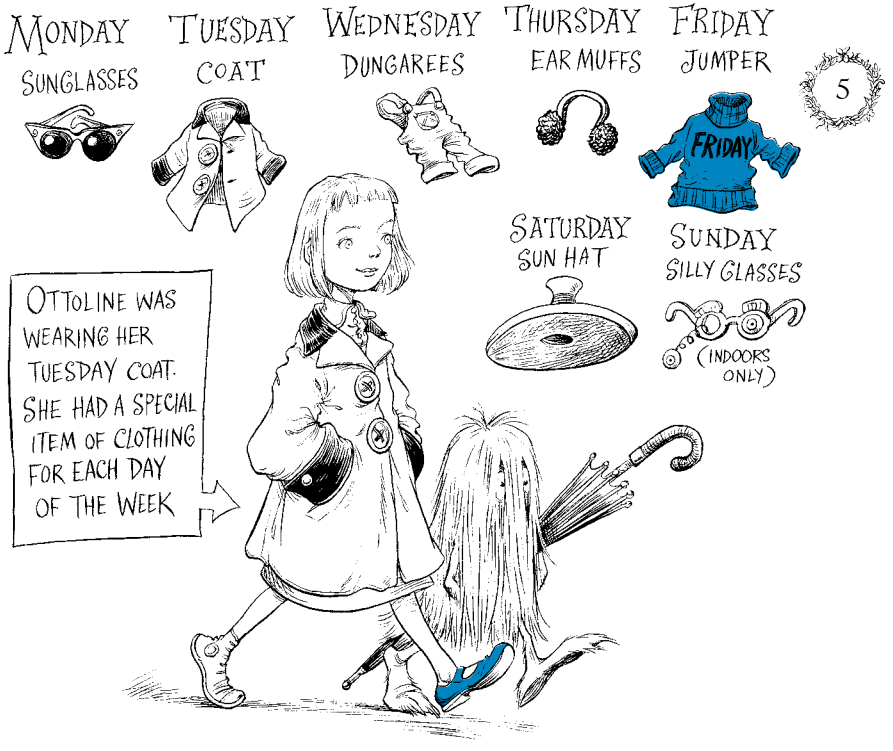


Although Ottoline's parents were away a lot, they always kept in touch with postcards.



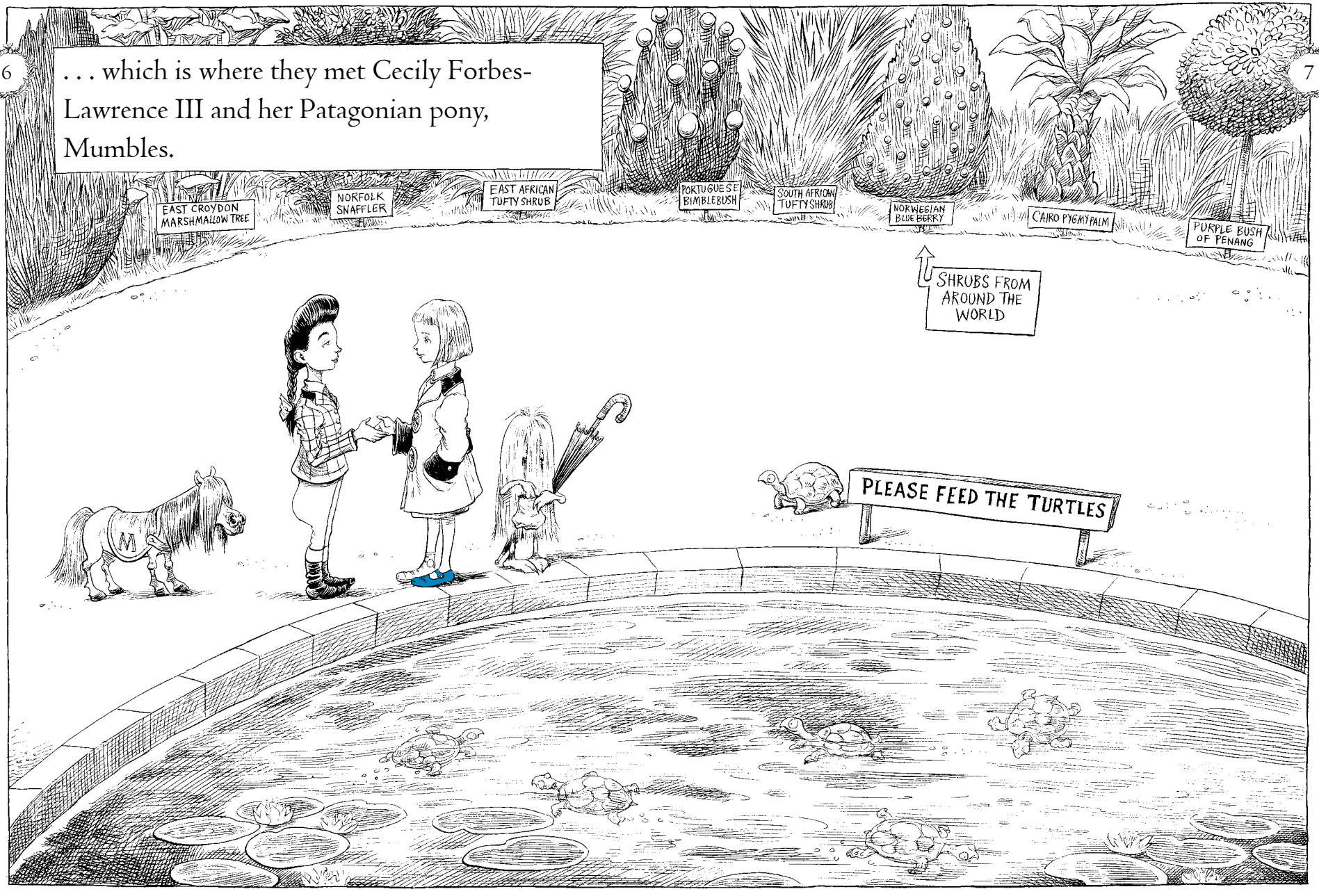
OTTOLINE WRITES TO HER PARENTS BY SENDING LETTERS TO THE ROVING COLLECTORS' SOCIETY. THEY MAKE SURE ROVING COLLECTORS GET THEIR POST NO MATTER WHERE IN THE WORLD THEY HAPPEN TO BE.





One morning Ottoline and Mr. Munroe were taking a walk in Pettigrew Park and Ornamental Gardens. It was a Tuesday, and on Tuesday mornings they liked to visit the turtles in the Turtle Pool . . .

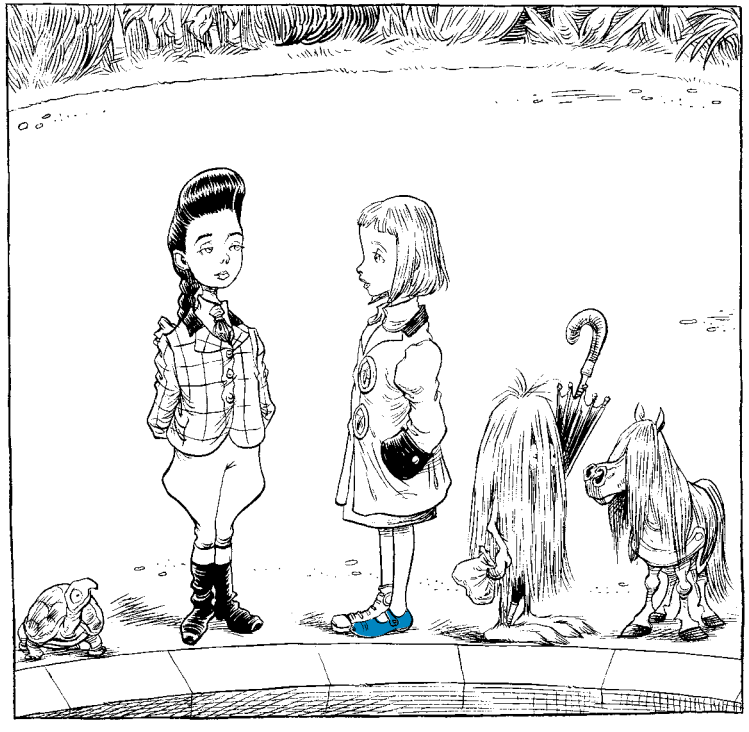
. . . which is where they met Cecily Forbes-Lawrence III and her Patagonian pony, Mumbles.

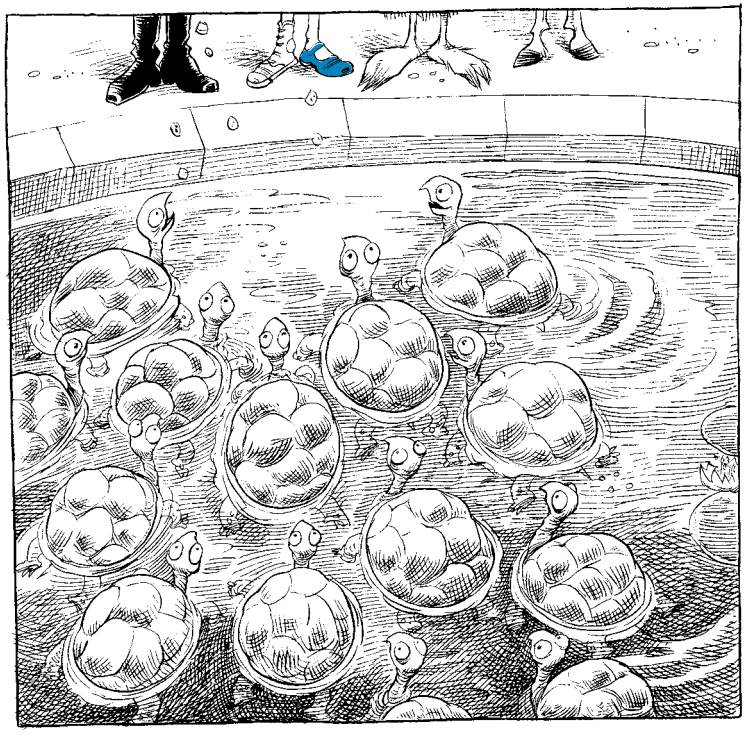


"I like your pony," said Ottoline.

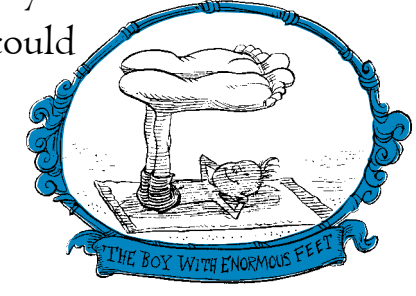
"Thank you," said Cecily. "Mumbles is from Patagonia, you know. I like your dog."

"That's not a dog," laughed Ottoline. "That's Mr. Munroe."





Ottoline and Cecily fed the turtles stale crackers that Mr. Munroe had brought especially, and Cecily told Ottoline a fascinating story about a boy with feet so enormous that he could use them as a sunshade.



"... and then Rupert became the world junior hopscotch champion, but that's another story," said Cecily. "I must go now. Mumbles's mane needs brushing."

"Can I help?" asked Ottoline excitedly. She loved brushing hair. Mr. Munroe didn't.

"Maybe some other time," said Cecily, walking off in the direction of the ornamental maze. "By the way, your dog's coat needs brushing too."

"She seems nice," said Ottoline, after Cecily had gone. Mr. Munroe didn't say anything.

