Opening extract from

Ottoline Goes To School

Written by

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Chapter One

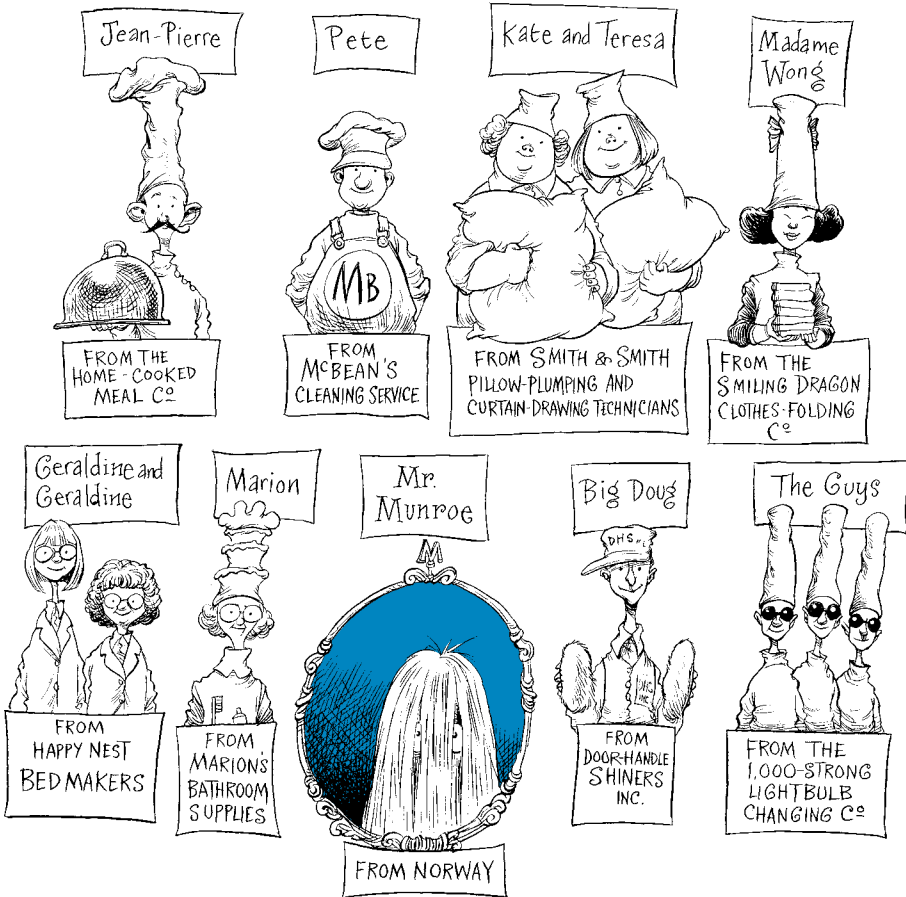*O*ttoline lived in Apartment 243 of the P. W. HUFFLEDINCK TOWER, which everybody called the Pepperpot Building because it looked like one.
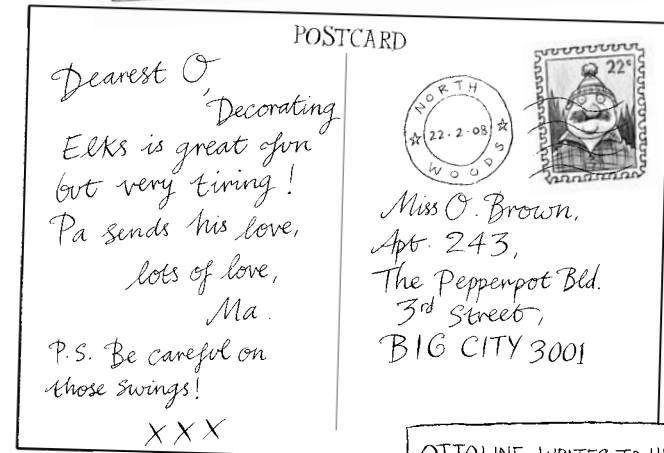
THE PEPPERPOT BUILDING

THE POINTY TOWER

APARTMENT 243
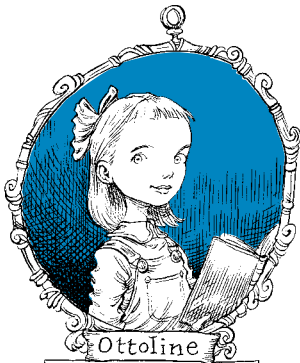
Ottoline

LIKES SOLVING TRICKY PROBLEMS AND WORKING OUT CLEVER PLANS IN HER NOTEBOOK

THE SHOEBOX BUILDING

THE ICE-CREAM CONE BUILDING

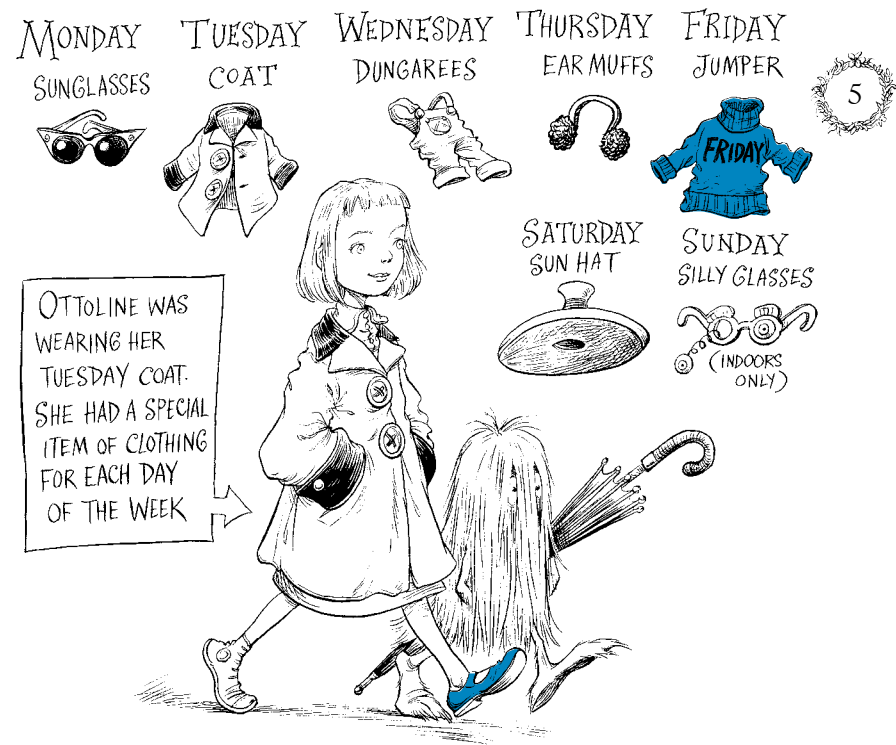PETTIGREW PARK AND ORNAMENTAL GARDENS
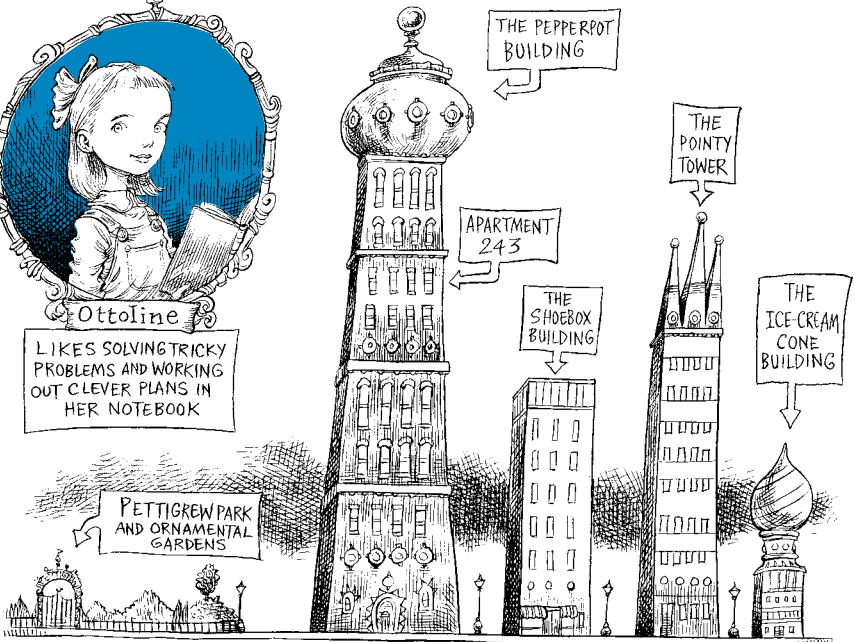
Her parents were Collectors who travelled around the world. They were hardly ever at home, but Ottoline was well looked after and she was never lonely. And besides, she had her best friend, Mr. Munroe, for company.

Jean-Pierre
FROM THE HOME-COOKED MEAL Co

Pete
FROM McBEAN'S CLEANING SERVICE

Kate and Teresa
FROM SMITH & SMITH PILLOW-PLUMPING AND CURTAIN-DRAWING TECHNICIANS

Madame Wong
FROM THE SMILING DRAGON CLOTHES-FOLDING Co

Geraldine and Geraldine
FROM HAPPY NEST BED MAKERS

Marion
FROM MARION'S BATHROOM SUPPLIES

Mr. Munroe
FROM NORWAY

Big Doug
FROM DOOR-HANDLE SHINERS INC.

The Guys
FROM THE 1,000-STRONG LIGHTBULB CHANGING Co

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

Greetings from the NOME ELK-DECORATING FESTIVAL

POSTCARD

Dearest O,
Decorating Elks is great fun but very tiring! Pa sends his love, lots of love, Ma.
P.S. Be careful on those swings!
x x x

NORTH WOODS 22.2.08

22¢

Miss O. Brown,
Apt. 243,
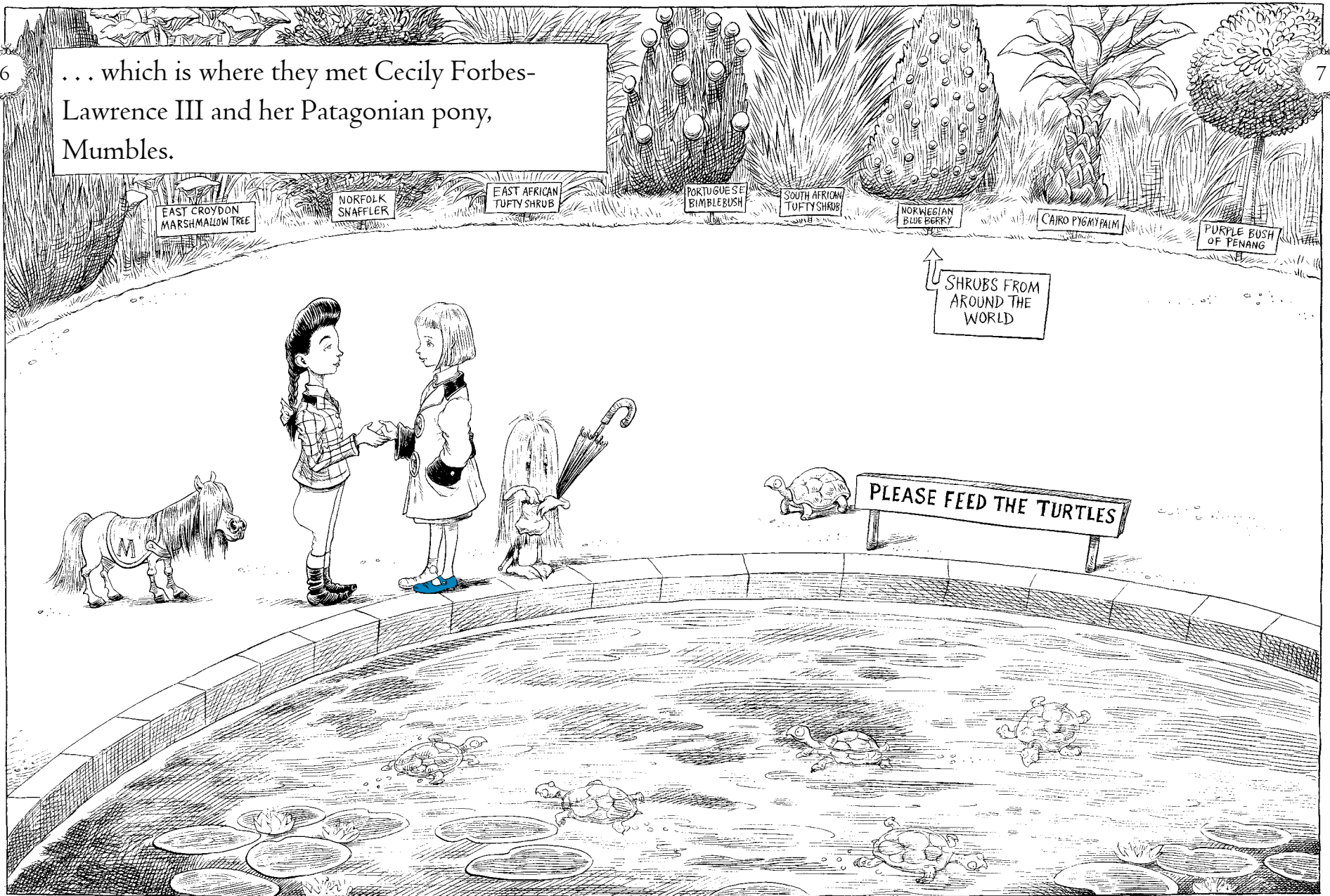The Pepperpot Bld.
3rd Street,
BIG CITY 3001

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.

TREE HOUSE

ORNAMENTAL MAZE

SHORT GRASS

CACTUS GARDEN

ORNAMENTAL BRIDGE

ROUNDABOUTS

SWINGS

LONG GRASS

BONSAI-TREE FOREST

PEBBLE GARDEN

TURTLE POOL

PETTIGREW PARK AND ORNAMENTAL GARDENS

MONDAY
SUNGLASSES

TUESDAY
COAT

WEDNESDAY
DUNGAREES

THURSDAY
EAR MUFFS

FRIDAY
JUMPER

FRIDAY

SATURDAY
SUN HAT

SUNDAY
SILLY GLASSES

(INDOORS ONLY)

OTTOLINE WAS WEARING HER TUESDAY COAT. SHE HAD A SPECIAL ITEM OF CLOTHING FOR EACH DAY OF THE WEEK

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.

EAST CROYDON MARSHMALLOW TREE

NORFOLK SNAFFLER

EAST AFRICAN TUFTY SHRUB

PORTUGUESE BIMBLEBUSH

SOUTH AFRICAN TUFTY SHRUB

NORWEGIAN BLUE BERRY

CAIRO PYGMY PALM

PURPLE BUSH OF PENANG

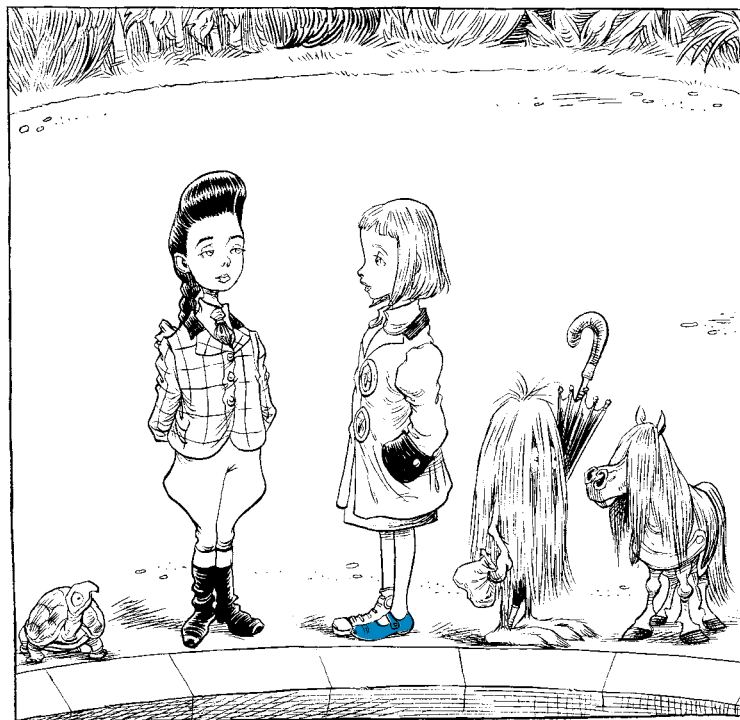SHRUBS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

PLEASE FEED THE TURTLES

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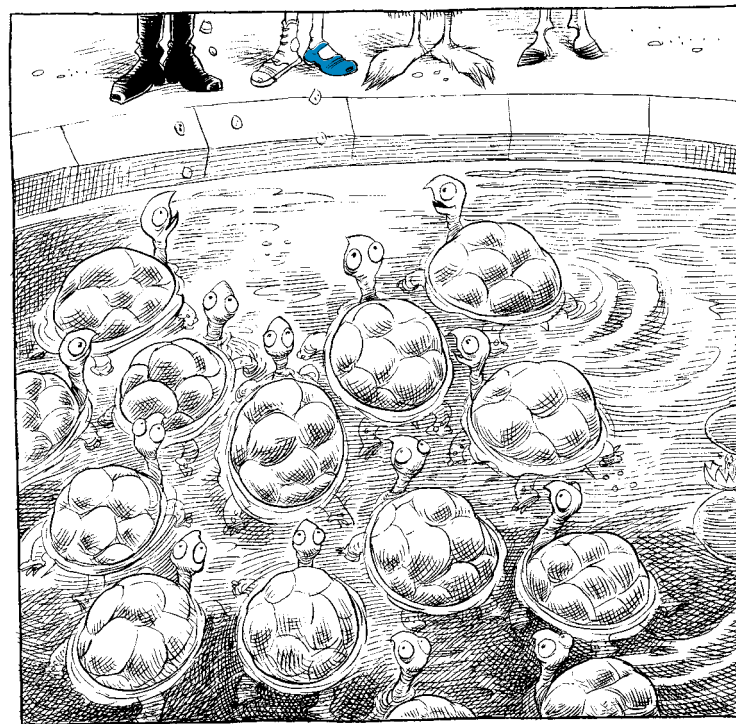
Ottoline and Cecily fed the turtles stale crackers that Mr. Munroe had brought especially, and Cecily told Ottoline a fascinating story about a boy with feet so enormous that he could use them as a sunshade.

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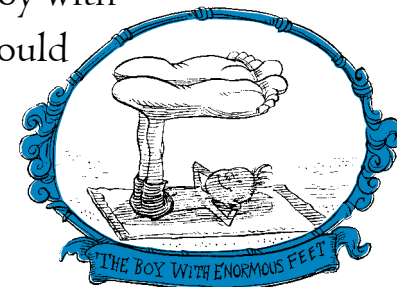
"...and then Rupert became the world junior hopscotch champion, but that's another story," said Cecily. "I must go now. Mumbles's mane needs brushing."

"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.

THE BRISBANE BOBBLE-TREE

CECILY HAD TAKEN NEARLY ALL THE CRACKERS AND HADN'T LEFT ANY FOR MR. MUNROE