Lovereading4kids.co.uk

Helping you choose books for children

0-5 5-7 7-9 9-12 12+

Opening extract from

The Spiderwick Chronicles: The Movie Storybook

Written by

Tracy West

Published by

Simon and Schuster

All text is copyright of the author and illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Jared Grace gazed out the window of the SUV. The moon lit up the big, old house at the end of the driveway.

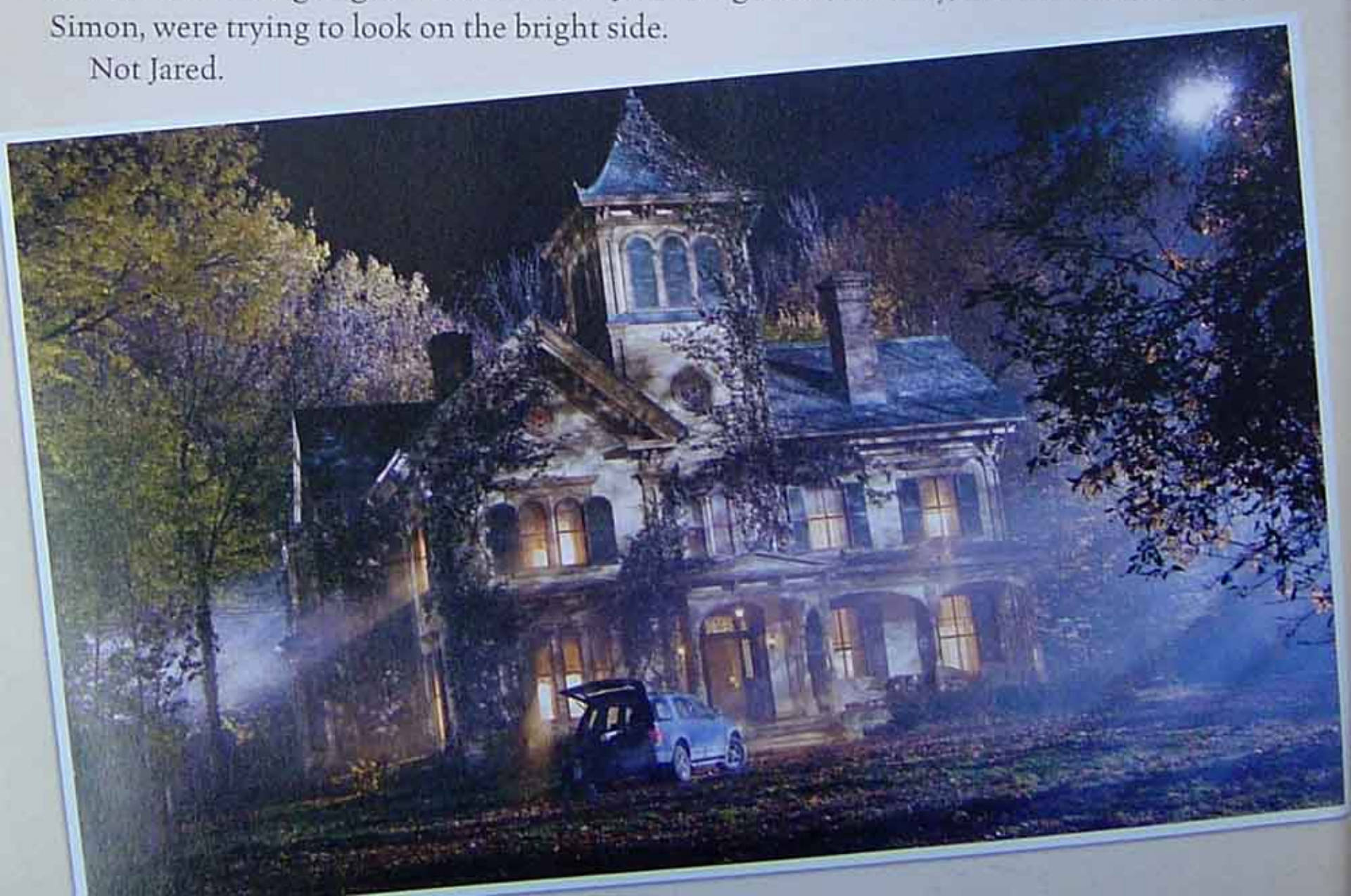
"What do you think, Jared?" his mom, Helen, asked him.

Jared just sat in silence. He wouldn't even look at her.



Helen got out of the car and headed toward the house. She knew the house wasn't perfect, but she was willing to give it a shot. Even Jared's big sister, Mallory, and his twin brother, Simon, were trying to look on the bright side.

Not Jared.





"Get out of the car," Mallory said, pointing her fencing sword at Jared. "I'm not going to let you keep acting like a jerk," she continued, lunging toward him with her sword.

Trying to dodge her attack, Jared leaped out of the car and grabbed a stick off the ground. "I'll do whatever I want," he said.

It was already dark, and Mallory and Simon started walking toward the house. Jared knew he'd eventually have to go inside, so he began dragging his feet up the driveway. A funny feeling came over him, like he was being watched. He turned around. Was there something in the woods?



Simon was unpacking in their new room when Jared came in.

"Is that our nutty aunt?" Jared asked, pointing to the picture of the family on the wall.

"The guy is Arthur Spiderwick. You know, our great-great-uncle?" Simon explained. "The little girl is the nutty one . . . I mean, Lucinda, his daughter. She used to live here, before they sent her away."

Jared had heard the story. Aunt Lucinda told people that her father was abducted by goblins. Goblins! How ridiculous was that?

After they finished unpacking, Helen started to make dinner. They discovered some pretty strange things in the kitchen cupboard. There were boxes and boxes of oatmeal, lots of salt, and jars filled with honey and tomato sauce.

Strange things were happening in the house too. Helen was missing her car keys. Mallory was missing her fencing medal. And Jared was getting blamed for everything.

"I didn't take the stupid medal!" Jared protested.







Later on Jared started hearing a skittering sound inside the walls.

"Probably a red squirrel," Simon said.

Jared started tapping the wall with a broom, trying to follow the creature's movements. After convincing Mallory and Simon that it wasn't a red squirrel, they helped him search. Finally, Jared pulled a huge chunk of plaster off the wall to reveal an old dumbwaiter. It was filled with lots of little things, from coins to dollhouse furniture.

"Hey, there are Mom's keys!" Mallory cried. "And my medal!"

She gave Jared a fierce stare.

"You think I took it and hid it here?" Jared cried.

Jared was going to find out what was really going on. Later he climbed inside the dumbwaiter. He pulled himself up to the top of the house. The dumbwaiter's last stop was a secret room—Arthur Spiderwick's study!