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opening extract from

Up in the Tree

written by

Margaret Attwood

published by

Bloomsbury

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I drew this book in the very early days of children's book publishing in Canada. We could use only two colours, as three would have been too expensive to print; hence the blue, the red, and the odd brown that is a combination of the two. I hand-lettered the entire book for the same reason: to save on costs. I had a background in poster design and printing – in my university days in the late fifties I'd had a little serigraph poster business that I ran on the ping-pong table – so I knew how to do the lettering. The drawings were black and white pen-and-ink – I then indicated to the publisher which of the two colours should go where. The techniques were primitive – there were no computers then – and the results look a little primitive as well, but I remain very fond of this book, for sentimental reasons.

– Margaret Atwood, 2005



UP IN THE TREE

Margaret Atwood



For Jess

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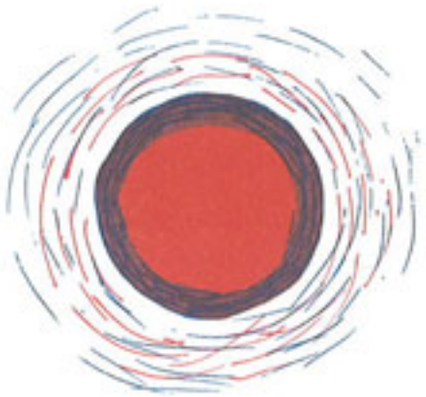
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We live in a tree,
Way UP in a tree







It's fun
in the sun

And a pain in the rain,
But we both have umbrellas
Way up in the tree.



We like our old tree,
Our home in the tree;
We swing in the Spring



And we crawl in the Fall
And we dance on the branches
Way up in the tree.