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Opening extract from

Amazing Esme

Written by

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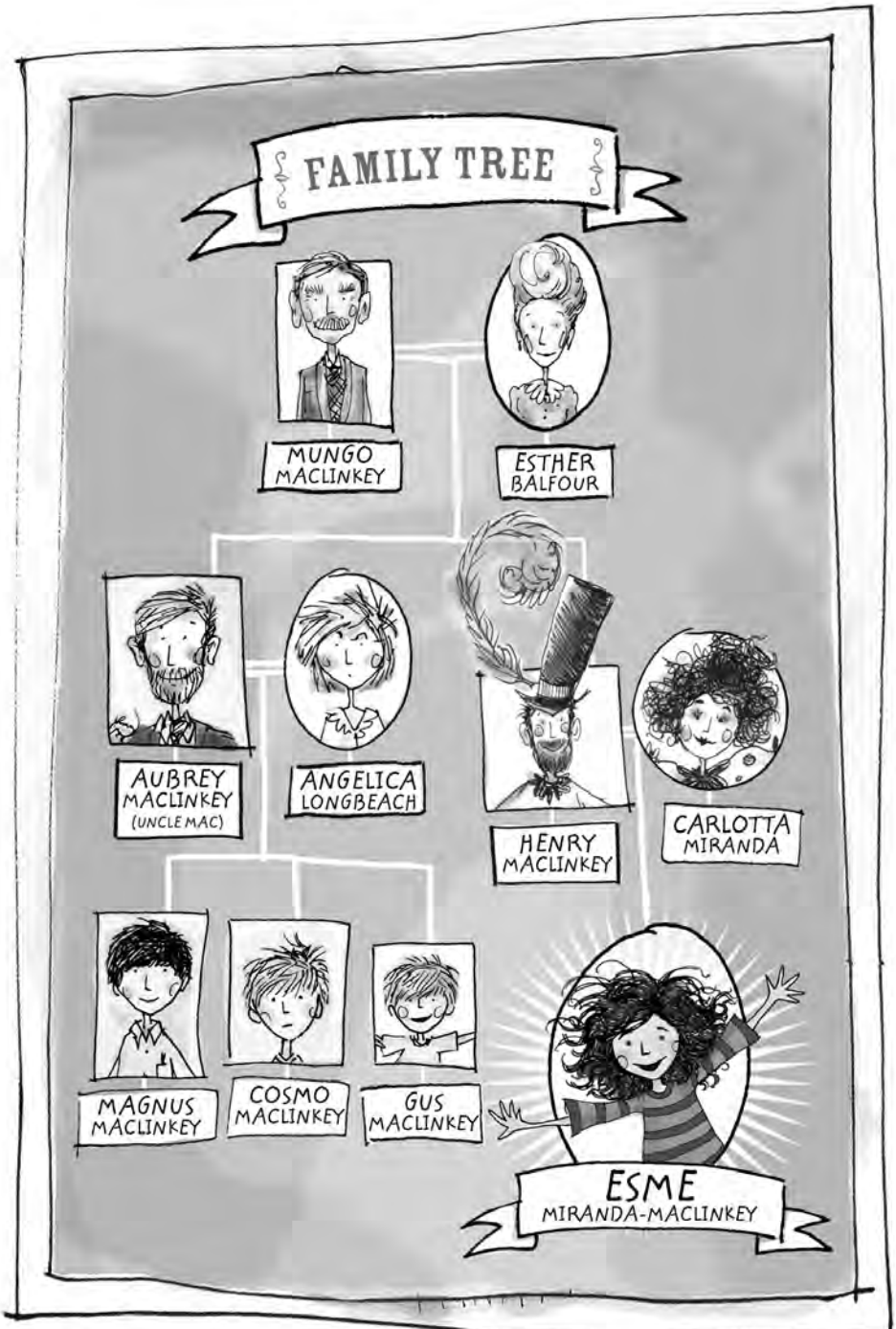
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FAMILY TREE
MUNGO MACLINKEY
ESTHER BALFOUR
AUBREY MACLINKEY (UNCLE MAC)
ANGELICA LONGBEACH
HENRY MACLINKEY
CARLOTTA MIRANDA
MAGNUS MACLINKEY
COSMO MACLINKEY
GUS MACLINKEY
ESME MIRANDA-MACLINKEY



Introduction

★ ★ ★

Maclinkey Castle was so remote that Esme had to be delivered by postal van along with the week's letters and parcels. As she hopped out, grabbed her case and thanked the postman, Esme shook out her brightly-sequinned skirt. She straightened her cowgirl hat on top of her unruly curls and turned her sparkling eyes up to the turrets of the castle.

'Oh my juggling uncles. That is enormous!' she declared, searching the high walls for a way in. She was quite used to climbing, having grown up in the circus,

but she wasn't really sure that somersaulting over the wall was the best way to introduce herself to her cousins.

Esme was about to pick up her suitcase when a drawbridge banged down in front of her and a mass of creatures tumbled out, head over heels. Wide-eyed with astonishment, Esme was almost run over by the most extraordinary collection of wildlife that she had ever seen. Clusters of guinea pigs surfed on crocodile's backs, monkeys steered swans with reins, mice swooped down from the castle walls perched between the wings of seagulls.

As the animals engulfed her in a welcoming embrace of licks, nudges, squawks and squeaks, a cuddly-looking lady appeared



and flung her arms around Esme, sweeping her off her feet.

