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Extracts from

A Great and Complicated Adventure

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Published by

Boxer Books Limited

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It was a hot, sunny day when no one had anything to do.



Most of the animals in the woods were lying in the grass, leaning sleepily out of their windows



or resting on the riverbank. The squirrel walked from door to door, asking if anyone felt like having an adventure.









"An adventure?" said the aardvark, as he yawned and closed his eyes.

"Feel like what?" said the pelican, folding his wings and resting his head between his shoulders.







"I'll think about it," said the pike, as he sank down to the very bottom of the river. Everyone felt exhausted at the very thought of an adventure.

"Ant!" called the squirrel.

"Yes?" replied the ant.

"We're going to have to shout to each other a lot today."

"We are."

Then it was quiet.

"Squirrel?" called the ant.

"Yes?"

"Do you have anything else to say?"

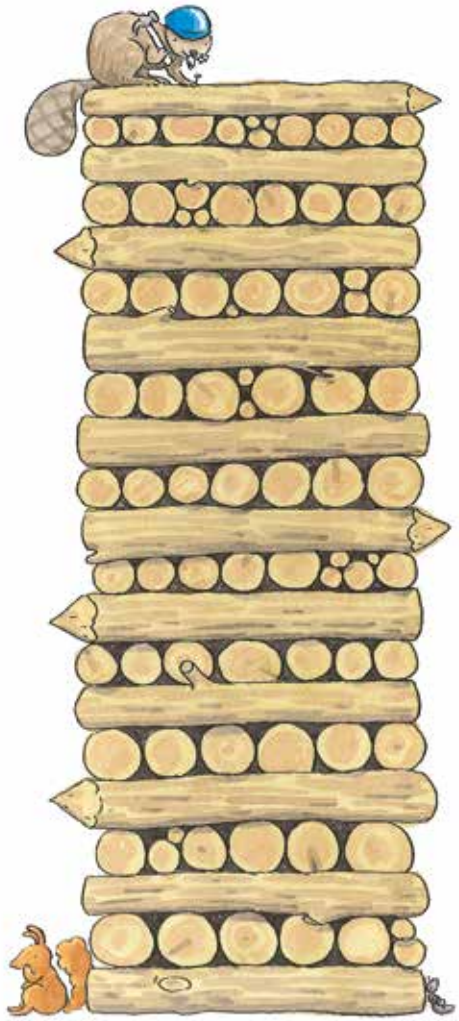
"I don't know!"

Again, it was quiet for a long time.

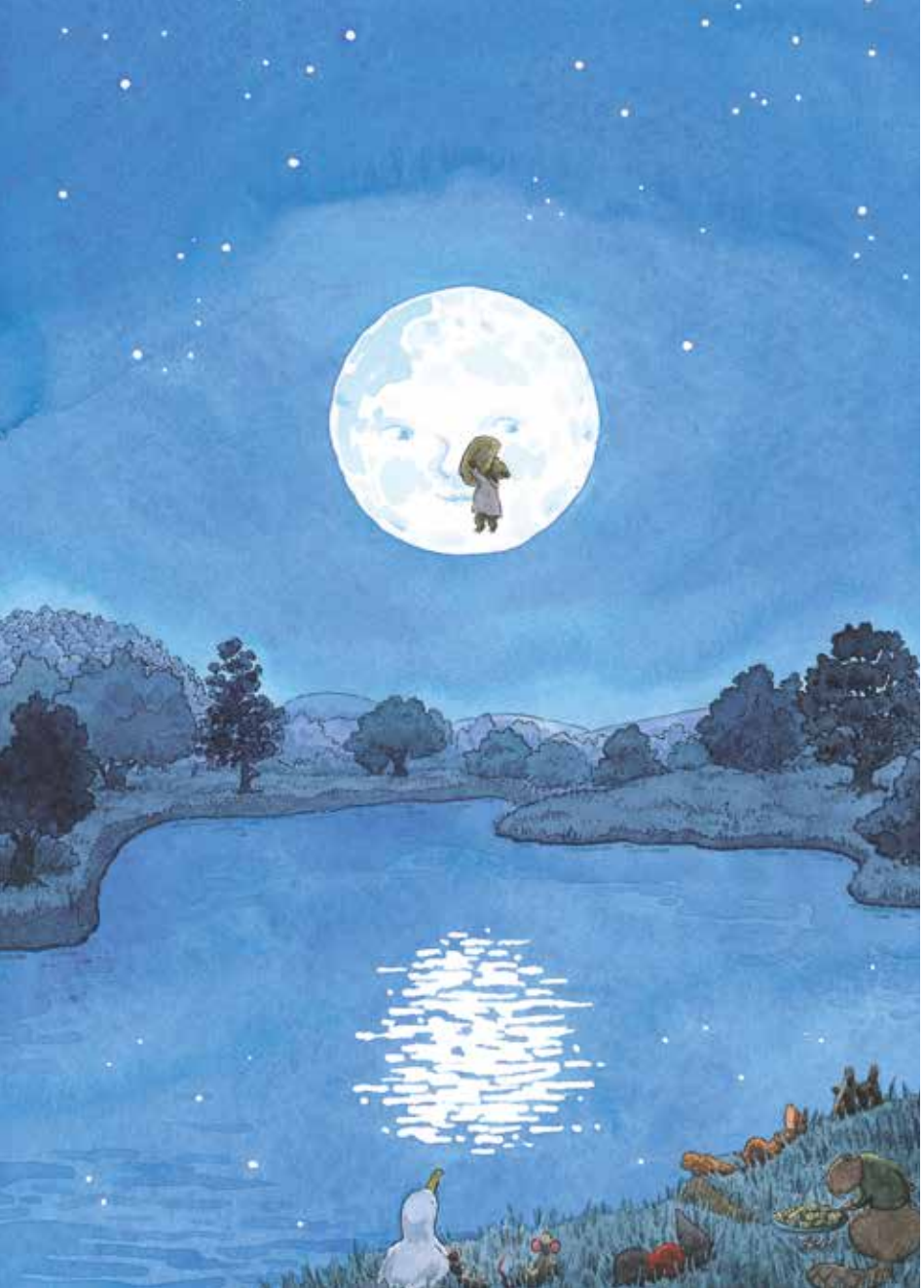
"Hello, Ant!" cried the squirrel.

"Hello, Squirrel!" the ant called back.

All day they sat there, one on each side of the wall, as it got higher and higher. Every now and then they called to each other.



By evening, the wall was finished. The beaver stood back and admired his work. "I've never made one like this before," he said. The wall was so high that the ant and the squirrel could no longer call over it. But they could still write letters to each other. They could always write letters.



There was no wind that night. The animals lay in the grass and gazed up in amazement at the cake, the bear and the moon, while the butterfly handed out pollen biscuits.

The next morning, when the sun came up, the cake melted and fell into the pond – along with the bear. He swam silently to the bank, then ran home as quickly as he could.

