

I DEFINITELY DON'T LIKE THE DARK

DISCLAIMER

These pages are for review purposes only and may not be made available in whole or in part to the public in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, storage in an information retrieval system, or used to train any artificial intelligence technologies, or otherwise.

 SCHOLASTIC

FIONA
BARKER

CHRISTINE
PYM

UNCORRECTED PROOF • NOT FOR SALE









To Freya and Martha – F.B.

For Ri xx – C.P.

Scholastic Australia
PO Box 579 Gosford NSW 2250
ABN 11 000 614 577
www.scholastic.com.au

Part of the Scholastic Group
Sydney • Auckland • New York • Toronto • London • Mexico City
New Delhi • Hong Kong • Buenos Aires • Puerto Rico

First published in the UK by Scholastic Ltd in 2025.
This edition published by Scholastic Australia in 2025.

Text © Fiona Barker, 2025.
Illustrations © Christine Pym, 2025.

The moral rights of Fiona Barker and Christine Pym have been asserted.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, storage in an information retrieval system, or used to train any generative artificial intelligence technologies, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher, unless specifically permitted under the Australian Copyright Act 1968 as amended.

ISBN 978-1-76172-711-5

Printed in China by RR Donnelley.

Scholastic Australia's policy, in association with RR Donnelley, is to use papers that are renewable and made efficiently with wood from responsibly managed sources, so as to minimise its environmental footprint.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

25 26 27 28 29 / 2



To Freya and Martha – F.B.

For Ri xx – C.P.



I DEFINITELY DON'T LIKE THE DARK



FIONA
BARKER

CHRISTINE
PYM

 SCHOLASTIC

It's the end of a brilliantly bright day
for best friends Hank and Hoog.

Playing
chase...



fluffing
tails...





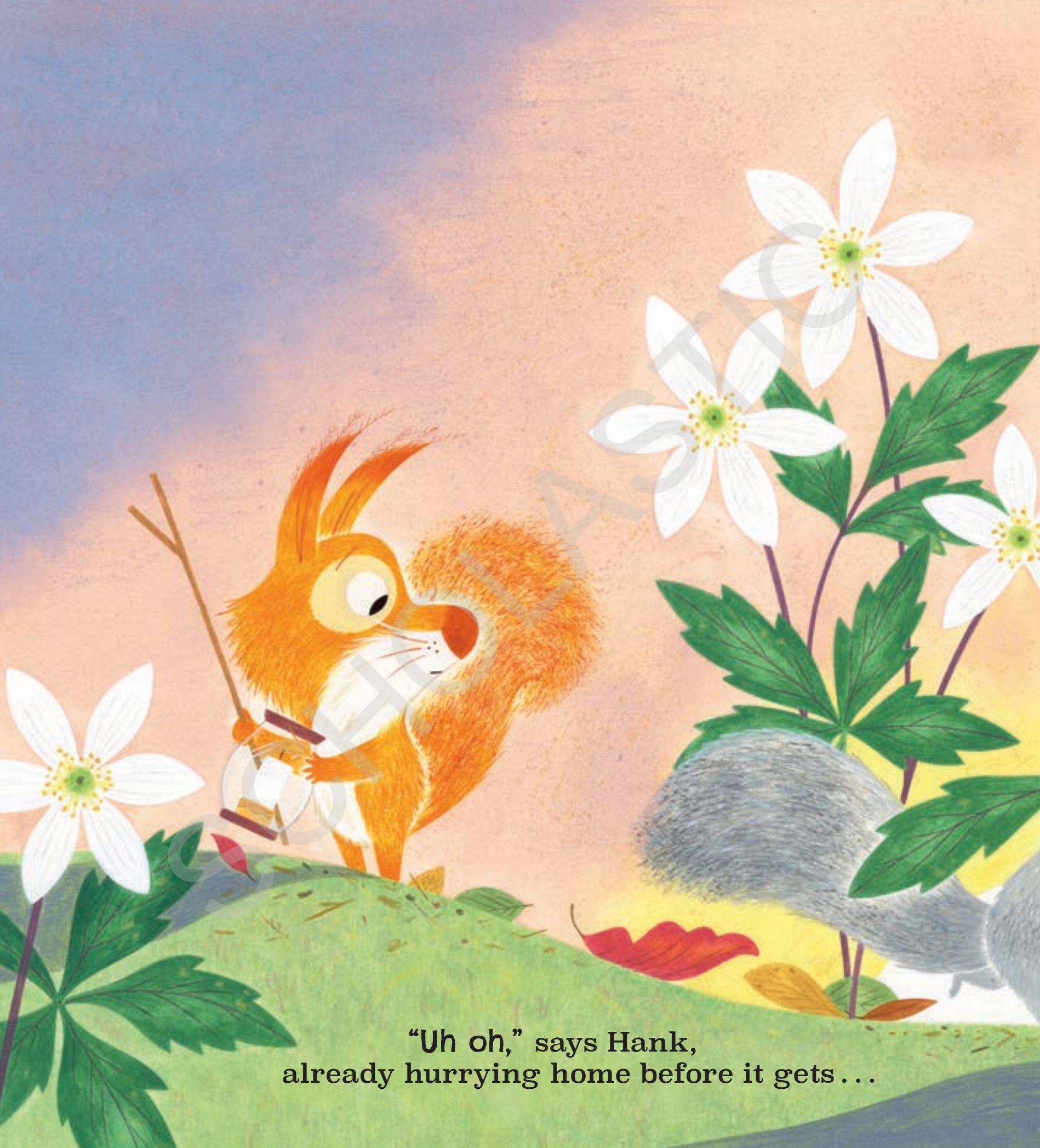
hiding
acorns.

“Look at my
looooooooooonnggg
shadow,” says Hoog.



Hank looks at his own
shadow stretching away
from the setting sun.






“Uh oh,” says Hank,
already hurrying home before it gets . . .

... DARK!



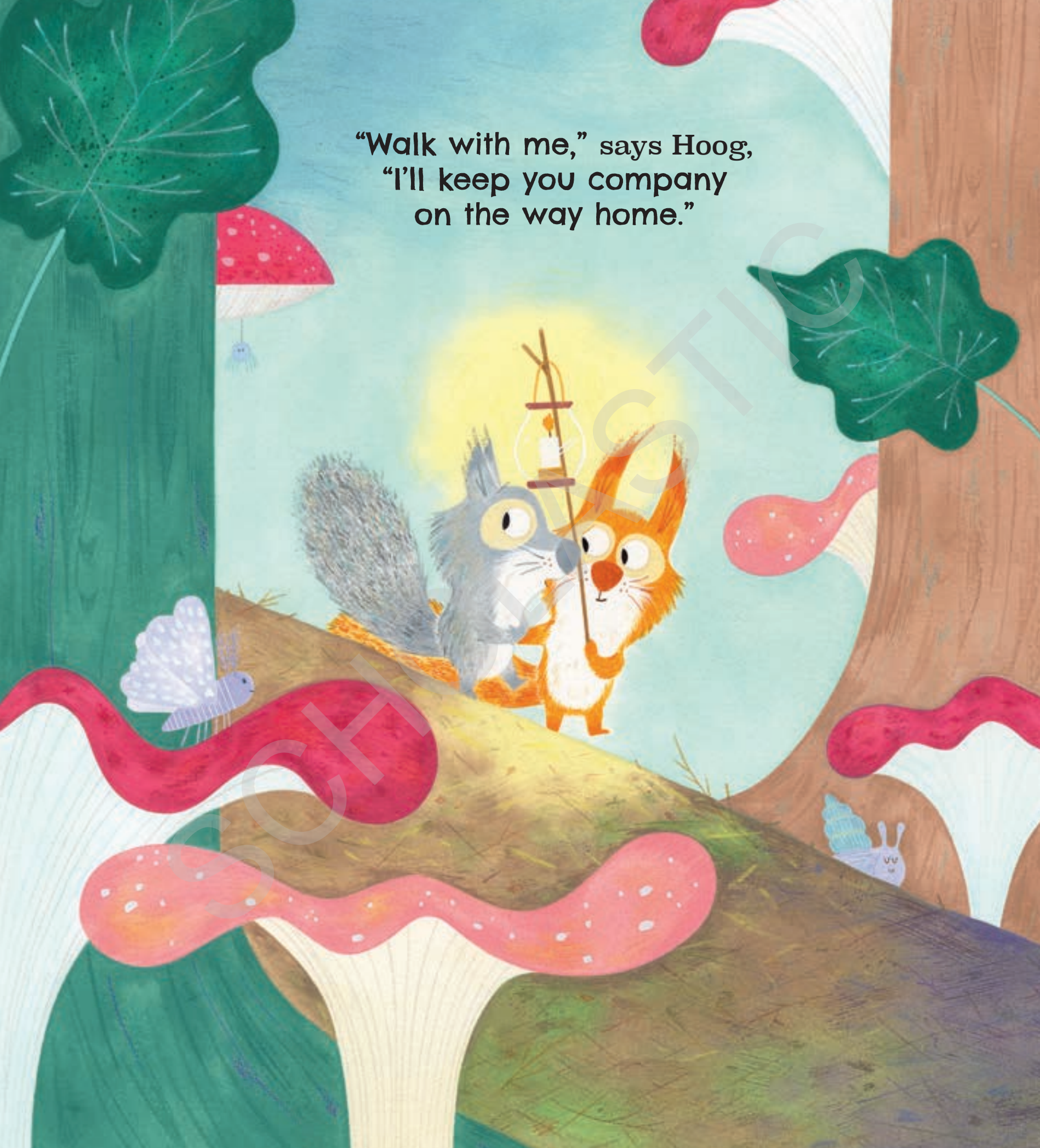


"I d...don't like
the d...dark,"
whispers Hank.

Hoog understands that everyone
feels afraid sometimes.



“Walk with me,” says Hoog,
“I’ll keep you company
on the way home.”



The sun slips below the horizon
and the sky seeps to inky blue.



An illustration of two squirrels, one orange and one grey, standing in a forest. The orange squirrel is on the left, holding a small stick with a white square on it. The grey squirrel is on the right, looking towards the orange one. They are surrounded by large green leaves and hanging seed pods. The background is a soft, hazy blue.

CREEEAAAANKK

CRUUUUNNNNCCCHHH

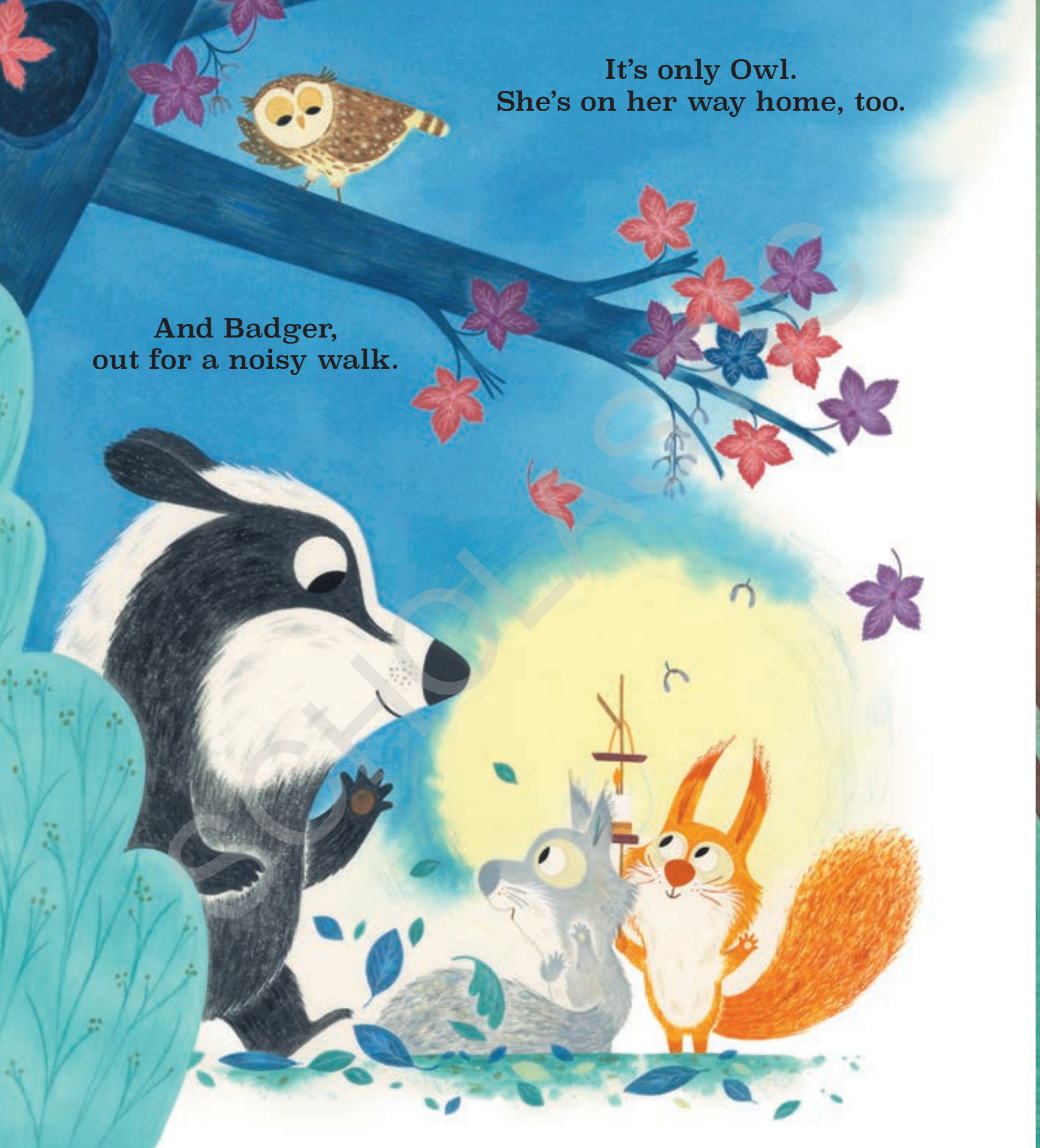
CRUNNNNNCHHHH


OOOOOOOOHHHH

“What’s that n...noise?”
gasps Hank.

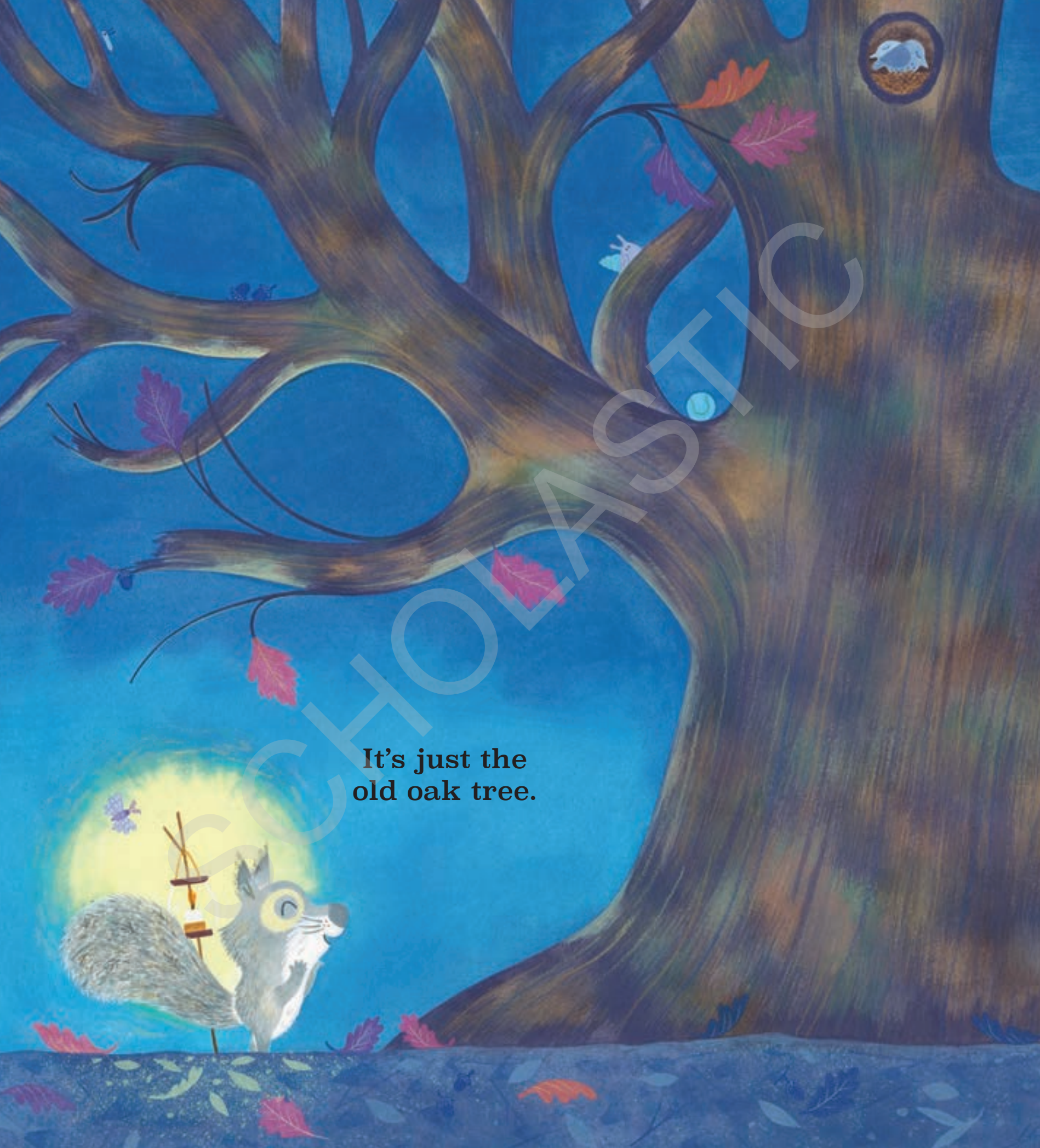
It's only Owl.
She's on her way home, too.

And Badger,
out for a noisy walk.



An illustration of two squirrels in a tree at night. A large, bright yellow full moon is in the background. In the foreground, a red squirrel with a large orange tail stands on its hind legs, looking up with a wide-eyed, startled expression. Behind it, a grey squirrel is also looking up, holding a nut in its paws. The tree's dark brown branches are prominent, and several orange and yellow leaves are scattered around the squirrels. The overall scene is set against a dark green background.

**“EEEEEEEEEEEEK!
What’s THAT?!”**



It's just the
old oak tree.

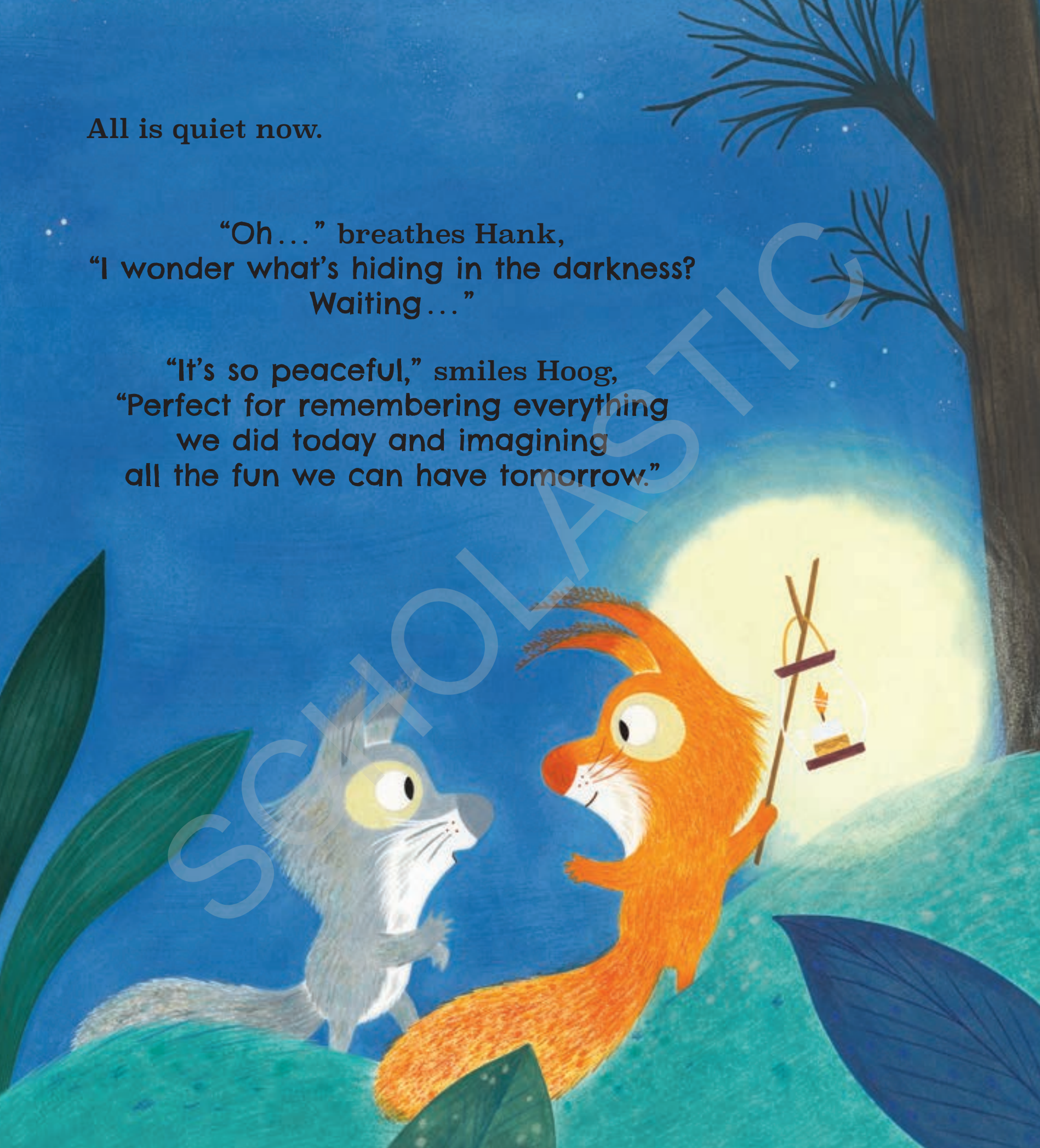


Everything looks different
in the dark.

All is quiet now.

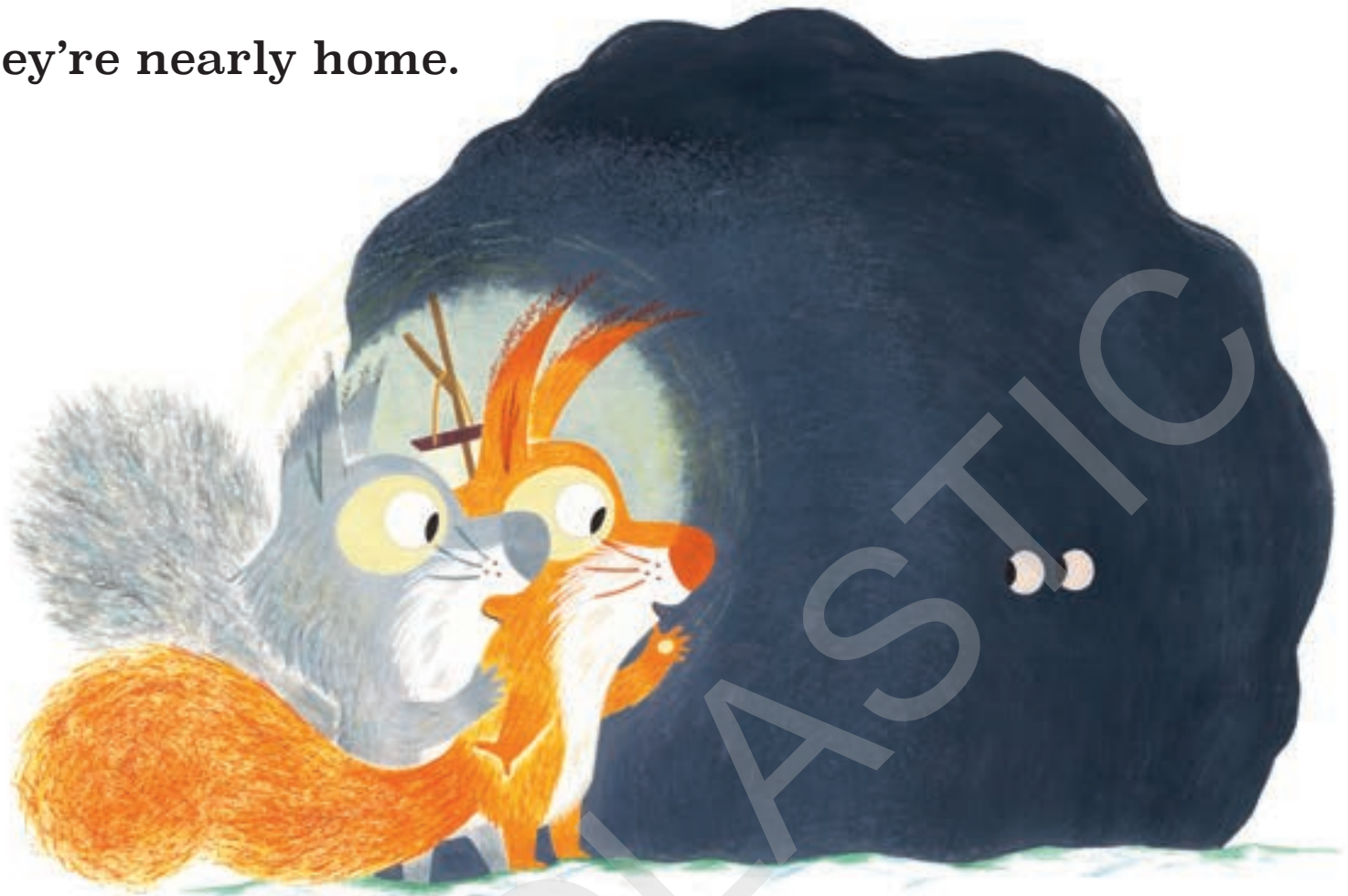
“Oh...” breathes Hank,
“I wonder what’s hiding in the darkness?
Waiting...”

“It’s so peaceful,” smiles Hoog,
“Perfect for remembering everything
we did today and imagining
all the fun we can have tomorrow.”





They're nearly home.



Hank still isn't sure about the darkness.



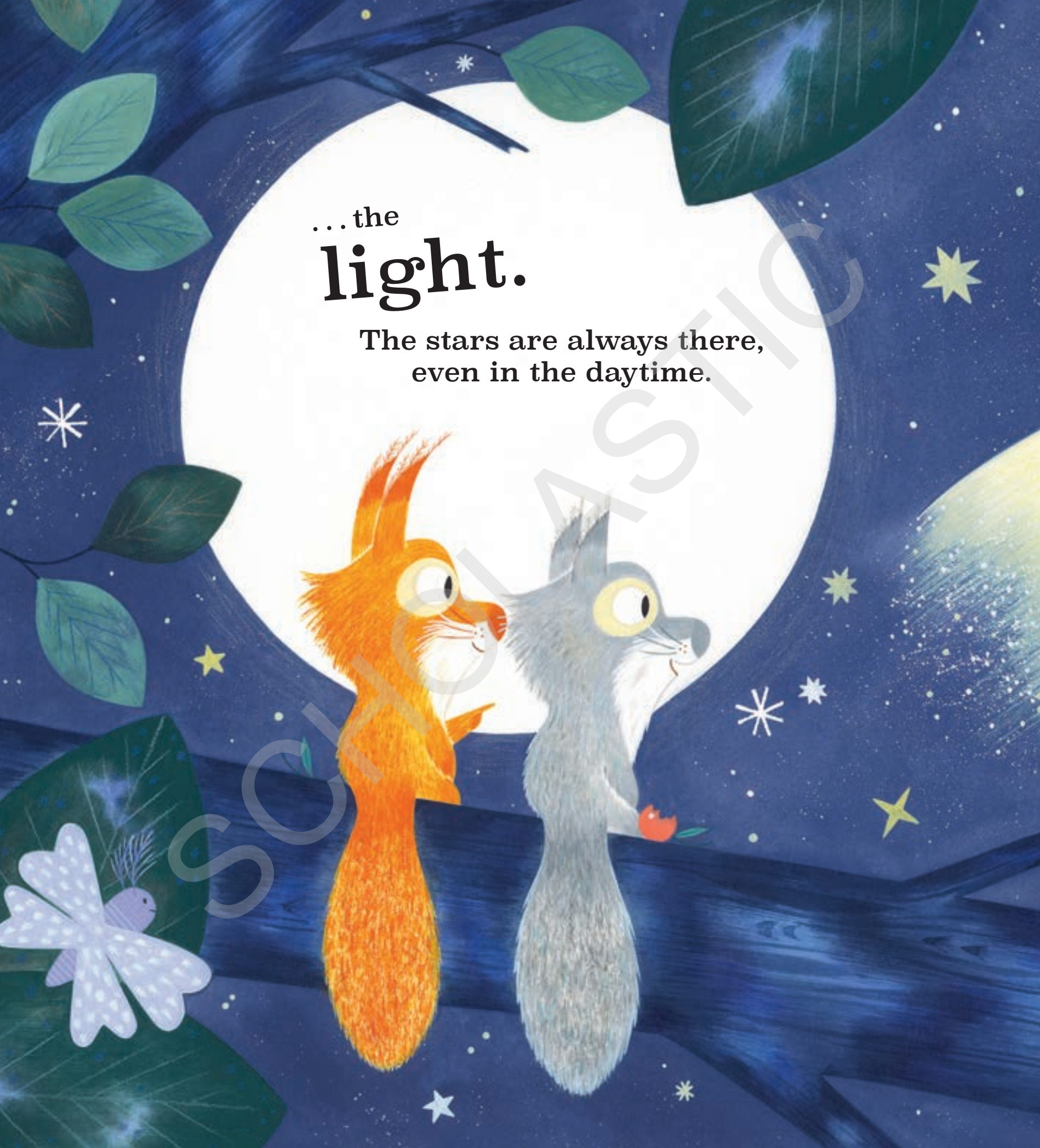
But Hoog has saved
the best until last.


The very best thing
about the dark is...



...the
light.

The stars are always there,
even in the daytime.





But it is only when the sun goes down
that they shine the brightest.
The darker it gets, the more stars you can see.



Everyone feels afraid sometimes.



But with a
good friend...



...there will always be light
in the darkness.









SCHOLASTIC





**Hank and Hoog are best friends –
they do EVERYTHING together.**

But they don't always like the same things.

Hank doesn't like winter ...

and Hoog does.

Hank doesn't like the dark ...

and Hoog does.

Can these two friends learn to put their differences aside and realise
there's nothing more important than being kind to each other?

A heart-warming tale of friendship and courage
from the creators of *I Definitely Don't Like Winter*.

I Definitely Don't Like the Dark

Written by Fiona Barker

Illustrated by Christine Pym

Published November 2025

ISBN 978-1-76172-711-5

Hardback; 275 x 250mm; 32 pages

Ages 3+; RRP \$19.99

Publicity enquiries:

corporatecommunications@scholastic.com.au

Marketing enquiries:

trademarketing@scholastic.com.au

A Scholastic Australia Book

NETSUITE 100147588