



BUBBLE TROUBLE

& Other Poems
and Stories

*written and
illustrated by*

**Margaret
Mahy**

BUBBLE TROUBLE

& Other Poems
and Stories

Margaret Mahy

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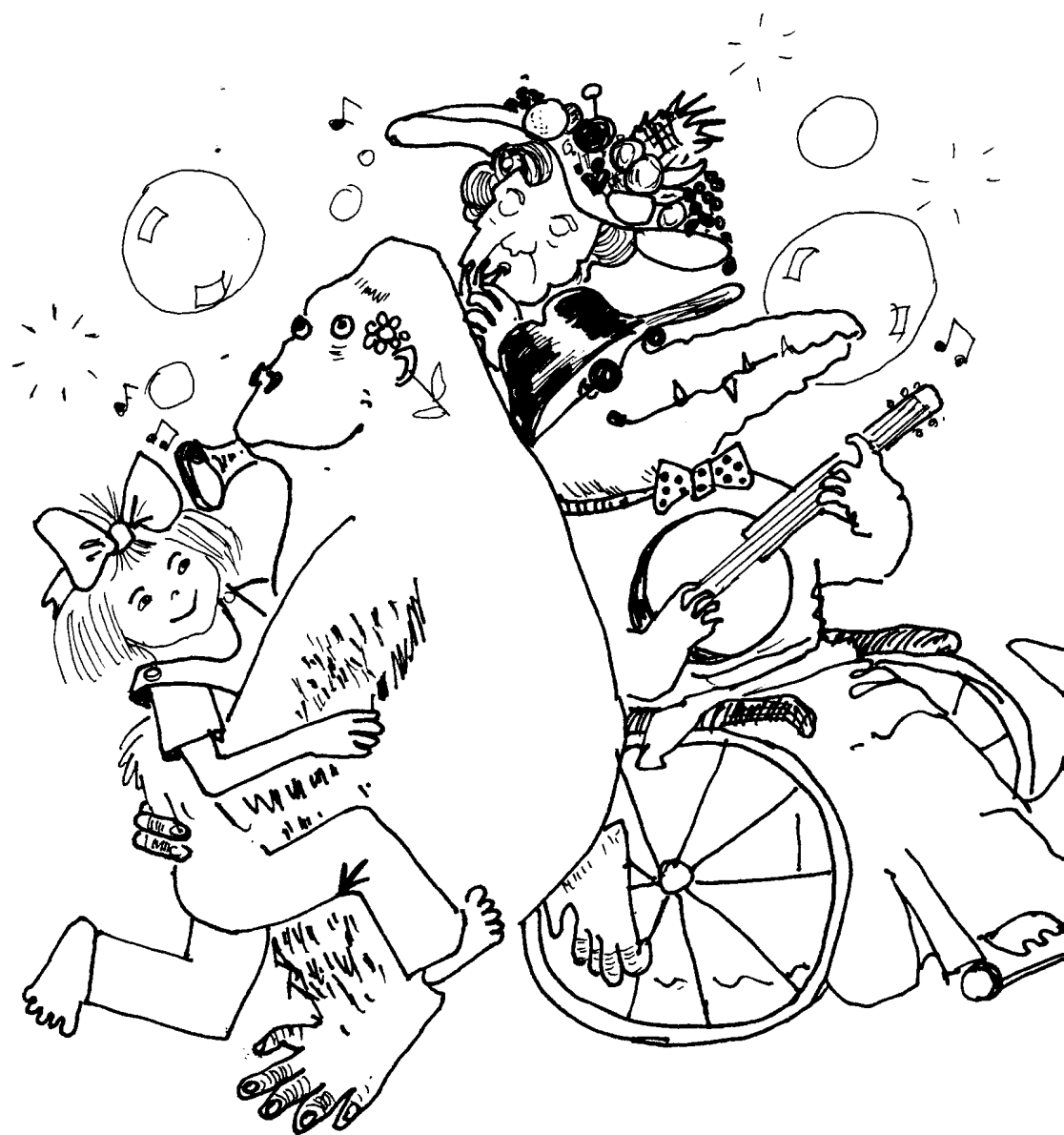
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To all the cousins—
Luke and Jack,
and Arthur and Giles





Margaret Mahy

grew up in Whakatane, New Zealand, and received a B.A. from the University of New Zealand and a diploma of librarianship from the New Zealand Library Association. After working as a children's librarian for a number of years, she now writes full time and has created a wide range of books, including picture books, collections of verse and short stories, and young adult novels. She has twice won the prestigious Carnegie Medal in England, in 1982 and 1984, for *The Haunting* and *The Changeover*, both published by McElderry Books. Other Mahy titles for young readers include *Nonstop Nonsense*; *The Blood-and-Thunder Adventure on Hurricane Peak*; *Keeping House*; *Making Friends*; and *A Tall Story and Other Tales*, all McElderry Books. Ms. Mahy lives in New Zealand, in a house overlooking Governor's Bay. She has two daughters.



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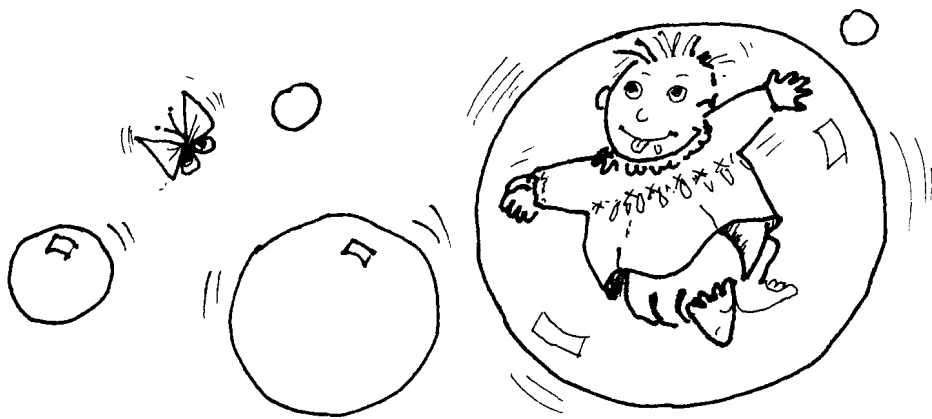
Little Mabel blew a bubble and it caused a lot of trouble—
Such a lot of bubble trouble in a bibble-bobble way.
For it broke away from Mabel as it bobbed across the table,
Where it bobbed over Baby, and it wafted him away.

The baby didn't quibble. He began to smile and dribble,
For he liked the wibble-wobble of the bubble in the air.

But Mabel ran for cover as the bubble bobbed above
her,
And she shouted out for Mother, who was putting up
her hair.

At the sudden cry of trouble, Mother took off at the
double,
For the squealing left her reeling... made her terrified
and tense,
Saw the bubble for a minute, with the baby bobbing in
it,
As it bibbled by the letterbox and
bobbed across the fence.



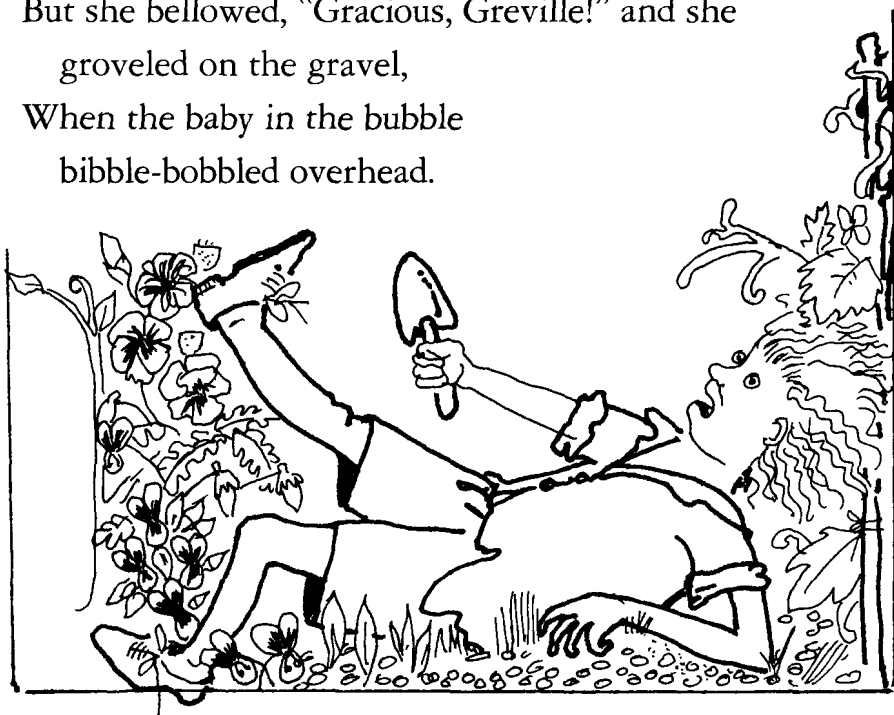


In her garden, Chrysta Gribble had begun to cry and
cavil

At her lazy brother, Greville, reading novels in his
bed.

But she bellowed, "Gracious, Greville!" and she
groveled on the gravel,

When the baby in the bubble
bibble-bobbled overhead.



In a garden folly, Tybal, and his jolly mother, Sybil,
Sat and played a game of Scrabble, shouting shrilly as
they scored.

But they both began to babble and to scrobble with the
Scrabble

As the baby in the bubble bibble-bobbled by the board.

Then crippled Mr. Copple and his wife (a crabby
couple),

Set out arm in arm to hobble and to squabble down
the lane.

But the baby in the bubble turned their hobble to a
joggle

As they raced away
like rockets...
and they've never
limped again.

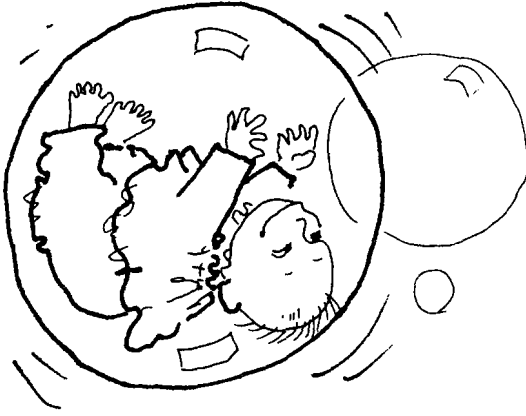


Even feeble Mrs. Threble
in a muddle with her
needle
(Matching pink and purple
patches for a pretty
patchwork quilt),



When her older sister told her, tossed the quilt across
her shoulder,
As she set off at a totter in her tattered tartan kilt.





At the shops a busy rabble, met to gossip and to
gabble,
Started gibbering and goggling as the bubble bobbled
by.
Mother, hand in hand with Mabel, flew as fast as she
was able,
Full of trouble lest the bubble burst or vanish in the
sky.

After them came Greville Gribble in his nightshirt,
with his novel
(All about a haunted hovel) held on high above his
head,
Followed by his sister, Chrysta (though her boots had
made a blister),

Then came Tybal, pulling Sybil, with the Scrabble for a sled.

After them the Cottle couple came cavorting at the double,

Then a jogger (quite a slogger) joined the crowd who called and coughed.

Up above the puzzle people—and toward the chapel steeple—

Rose the bubble (with the baby) slowly lifting up aloft.

There was such a flum-a-diddle (Mabel huddled in the middle),

Canon Dapple left the chapel, followed by the chapel choir.

