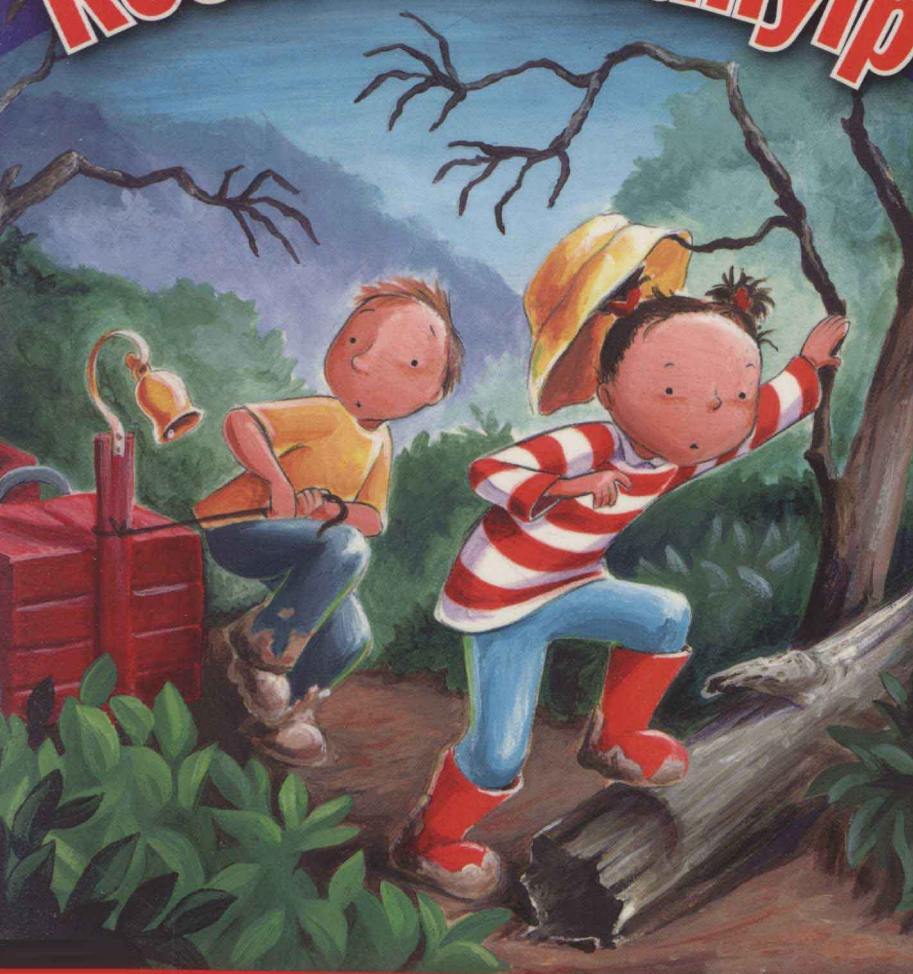




Aussie Nibbles

Rosie and the Bunyip



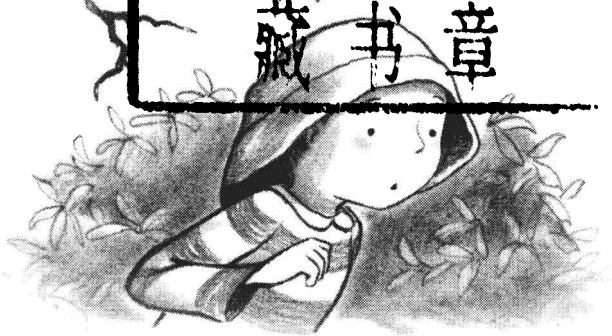
Meredith Costain

Illustrated by Tina Burke

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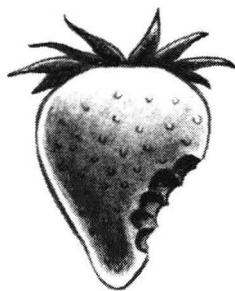
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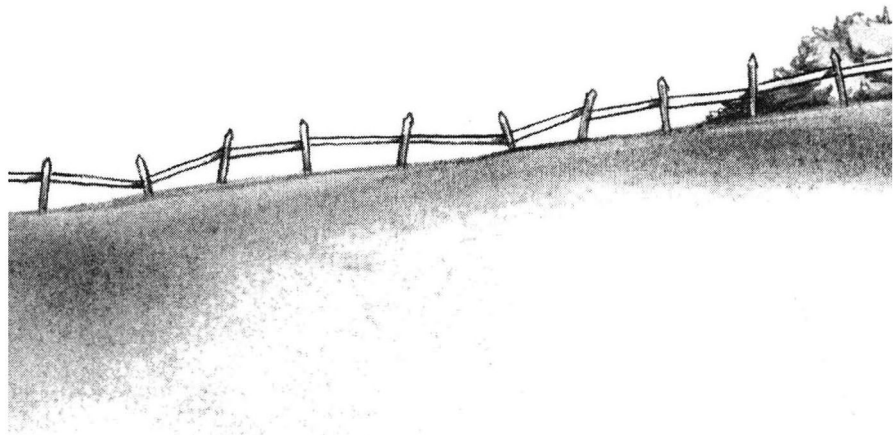


Chapter One

Rosie loved red things.
Strawberries and cherries.
Tomato sauce on hot dogs.
Fire engines! Especially
the shiny red fire engine
that lived next-door in her
friend Hamish MacTavish's

shed. Hamish MacTavish
was the Merrivale Fire
Chief.

Rosie even had her own
old fire engine. She kept it
under her tree house on the
top of Big Hill, next to her
billycart that was painted
to *look* like a fire engine.





When Rosie heard
that a circus was coming
to Merrivale, she was
delighted. There were lots

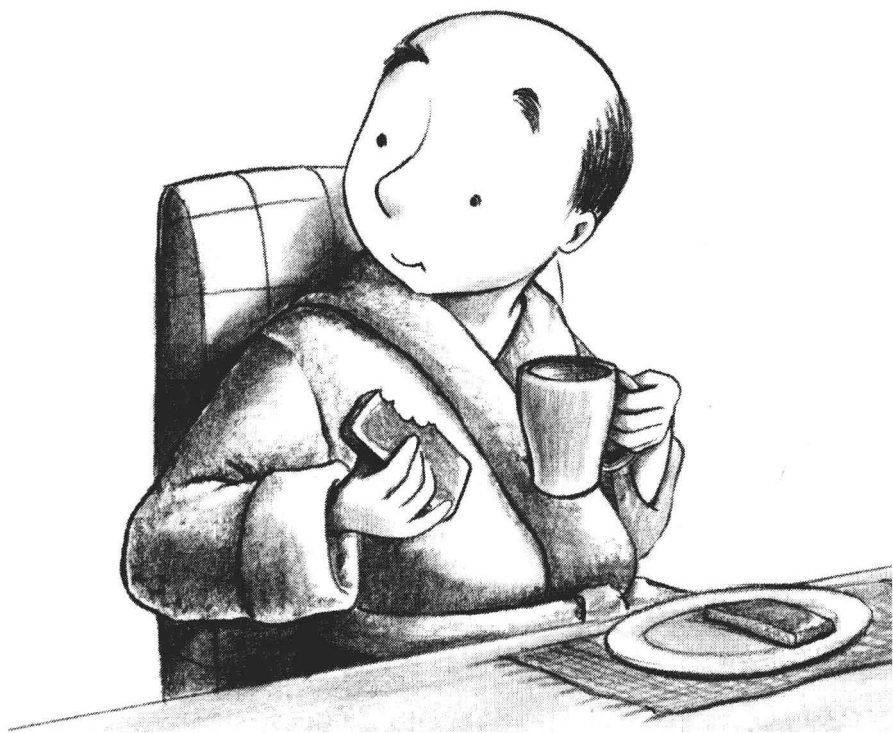



of red things in a circus.

The stripes on the Big Top.

The ringmaster's uniform.

The noses on the clowns.





Mum and Dad had
booked seats in the front
row.


Rosie couldn't wait!



Chapter Two

‘Ladies and gentlemen!
Boys and girls! Welcome
to . . . Circus Maximus!’

Rosie watched Waldo the
Ringmaster strut around
the tent. He had a curling
moustache and a top hat.



Waldo clicked his fingers
twice. Four ponies trotted
into the ring. They stood on
their hind legs and bowed.

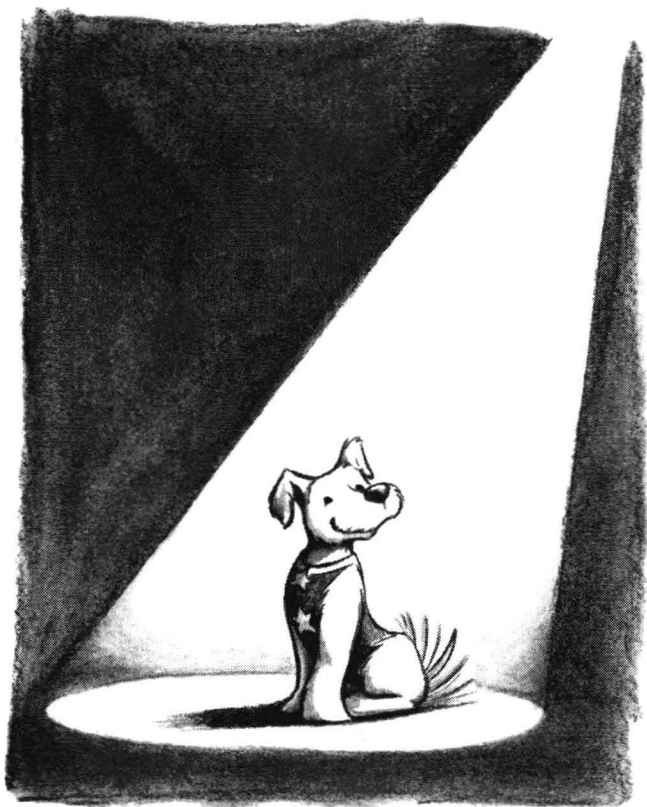
‘Ooh!’ gasped the crowd.

‘Aah!’ sighed Rosie.

There was a spangly
trapeze artist named Zora
who hung upside down.

And a man who could spin
fifty hula hoops around
his body.

And then out came

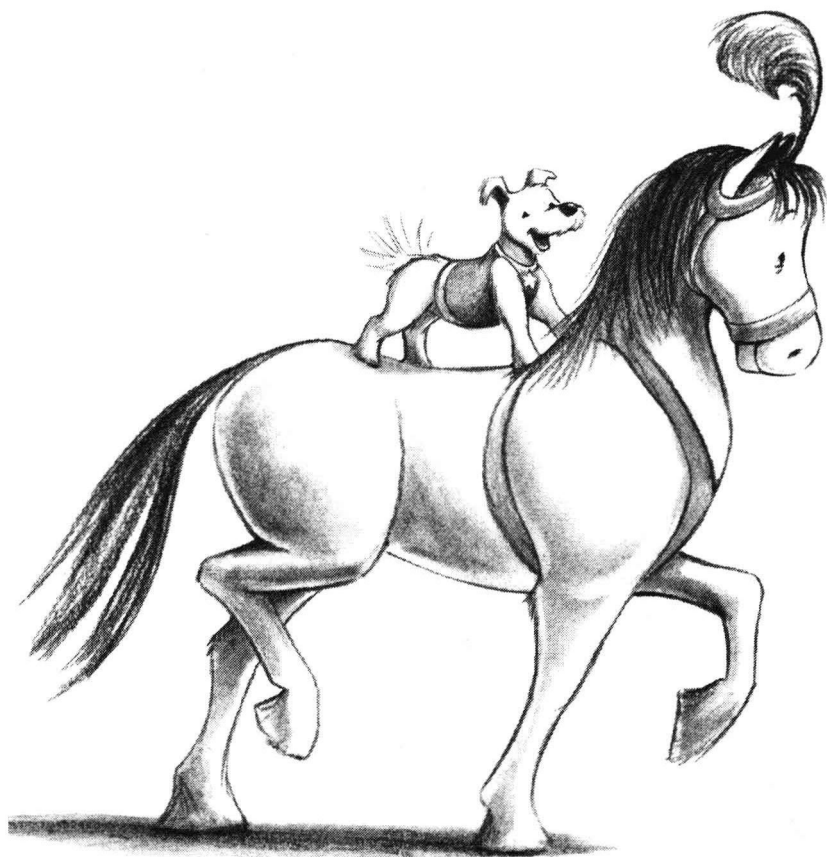


a sweet little white dog in a
bright red jacket.

‘Introducing . . . Bella

the Wonder Dog!’ boomed
Waldo.


Bella jumped onto



the back of a pony and rode around the ring. She barked three times and then did a backflip, right next to Rosie.

After that, to Rosie's amazement, she jumped





off the pony and landed
smack bang in the middle
of her lap!

She gave Rosie's
face a quick lick before
scampering back to join in
the Grand Parade.

The ponies trotted around
the ring, pulling little red
carts behind them. Inside
sat Zora and the hula
hoop man and a troupe of
clowns.



Bella jumped up onto the first cart and waved her paw at the audience.

‘Ooh!’ gasped the crowd.

‘Aah!’ sighed Rosie.

The circus was the best
thing she’d ever seen.

