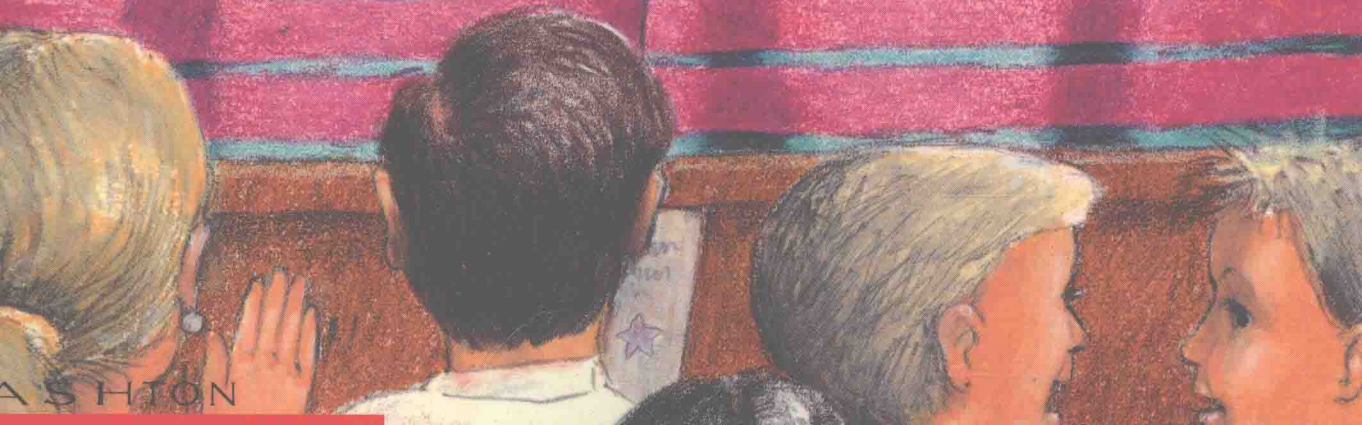


ELLA BELLA BROWN

and the Christmas Play

Judy Fitzpatrick

illustrated by
Robert Roennfeldt



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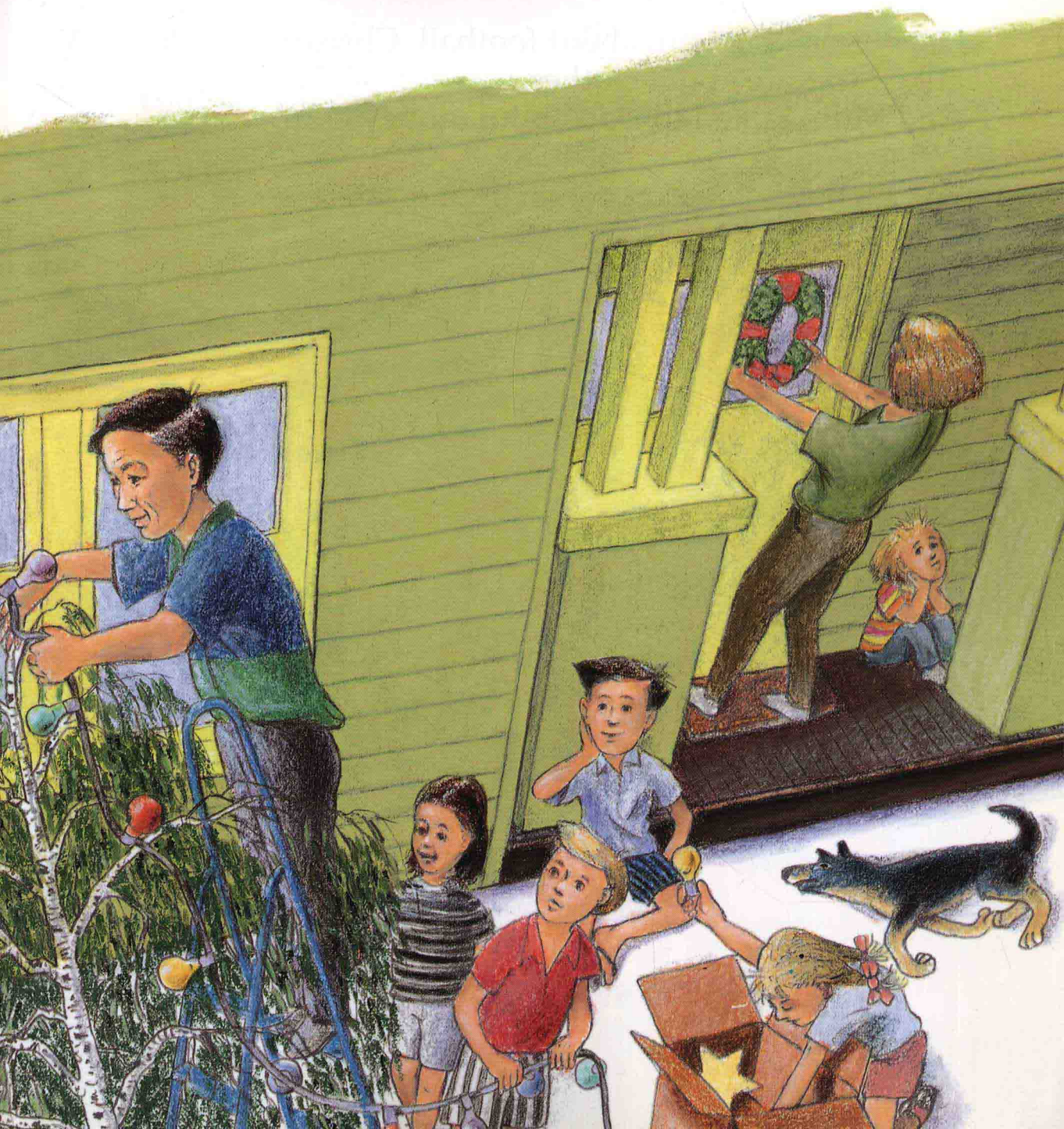
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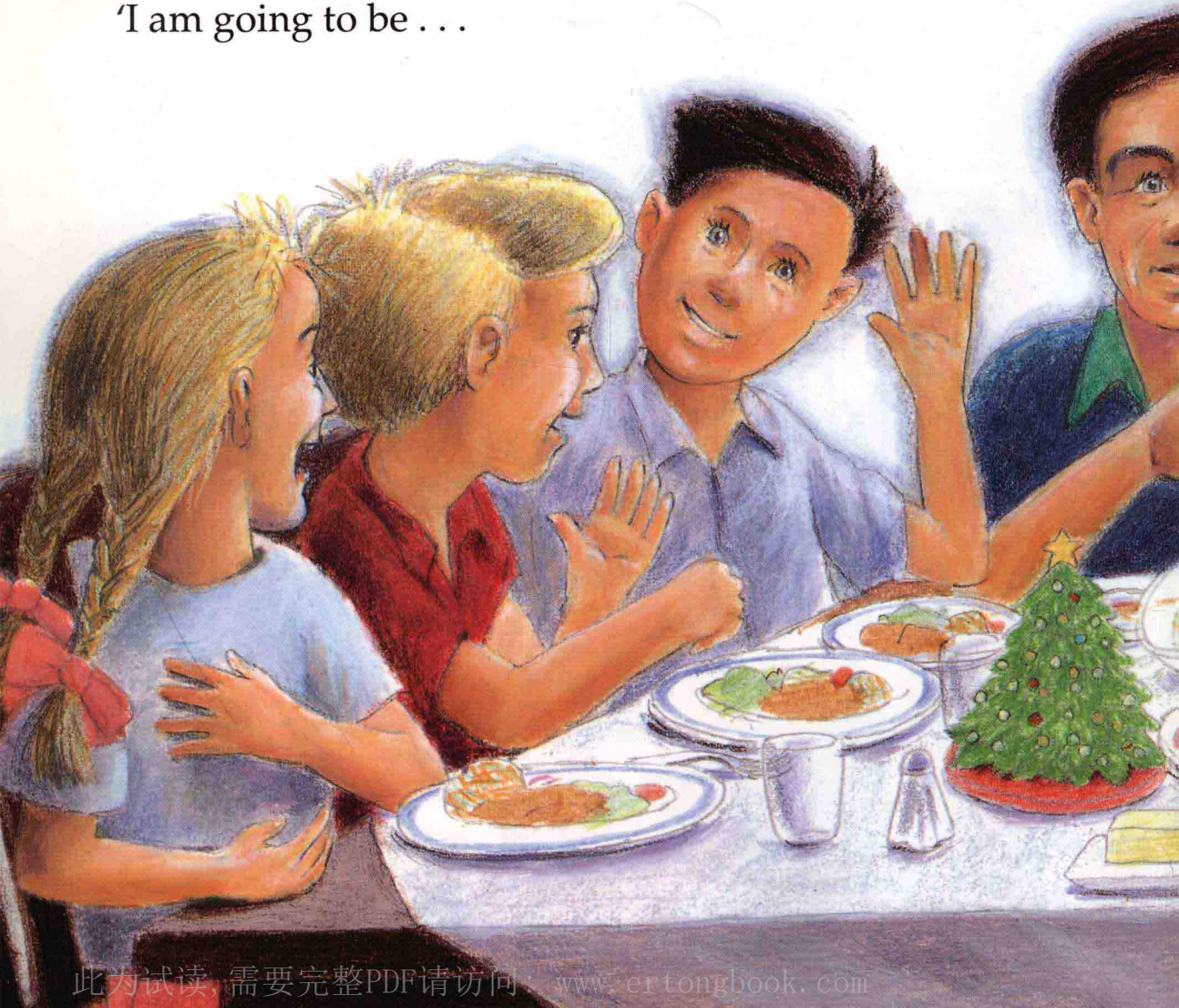
Ella Bella Brown lived with her mum and her dad,
her two tall sisters, Christina and Kate, her two
big brothers, Harry and Sam,
and Bonzer the dog.



One day, Ella Bella came home from school with some important news to tell. She waited until all the family sat down for dinner. Then she waited and waited for them to stop speaking.

Harry talked to Sam about football. Christina talked to Kate about clothes.
And Mum talked to Dad about money.

So Ella Bella stood on her chair and said,
'I am going to be . . .



'He scored five tries,' said Harry.

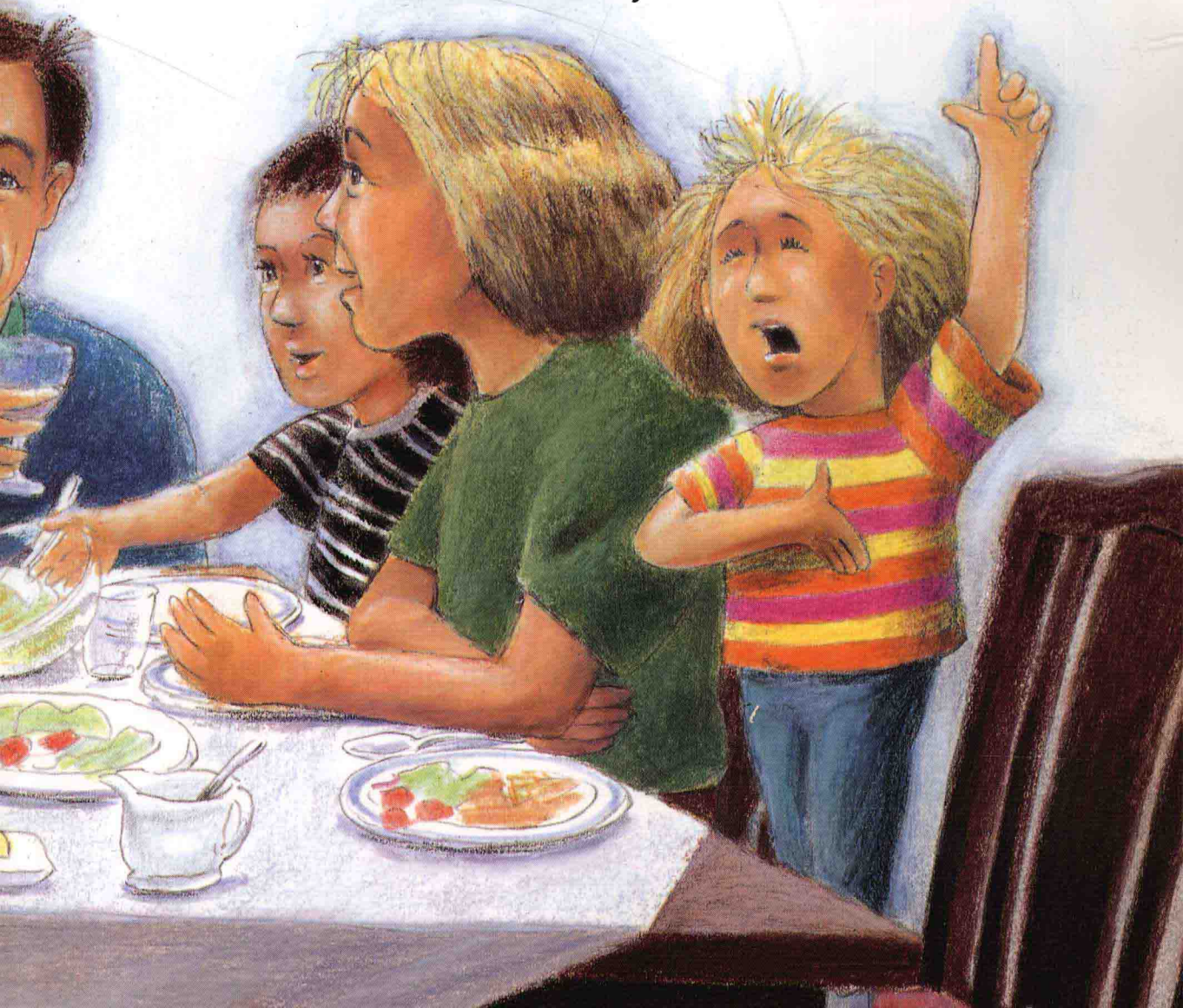
'the first wise man . . .

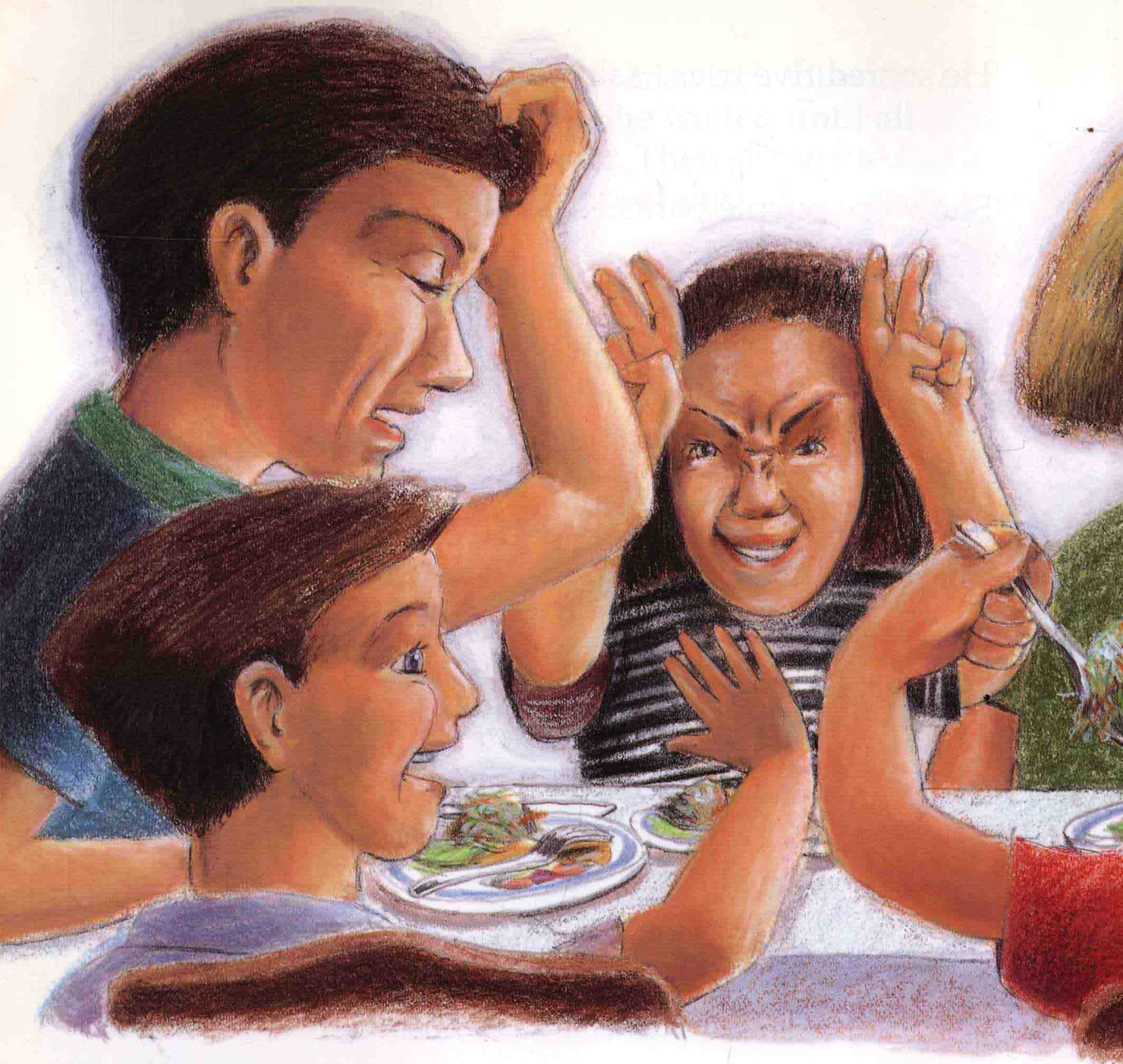
'She wore purple pants,' said Kate.

'in the Christmas play . . .

'The car will cost five hundred dollars to repair,' said Mum.

' . . . and I have to say, *Lo! The star is in the east!*'





There was silence. Then her dad said, 'Good grief!'

'It's not good grief,' said Ella Bella. 'It's *Lo! The star is in the east!*'

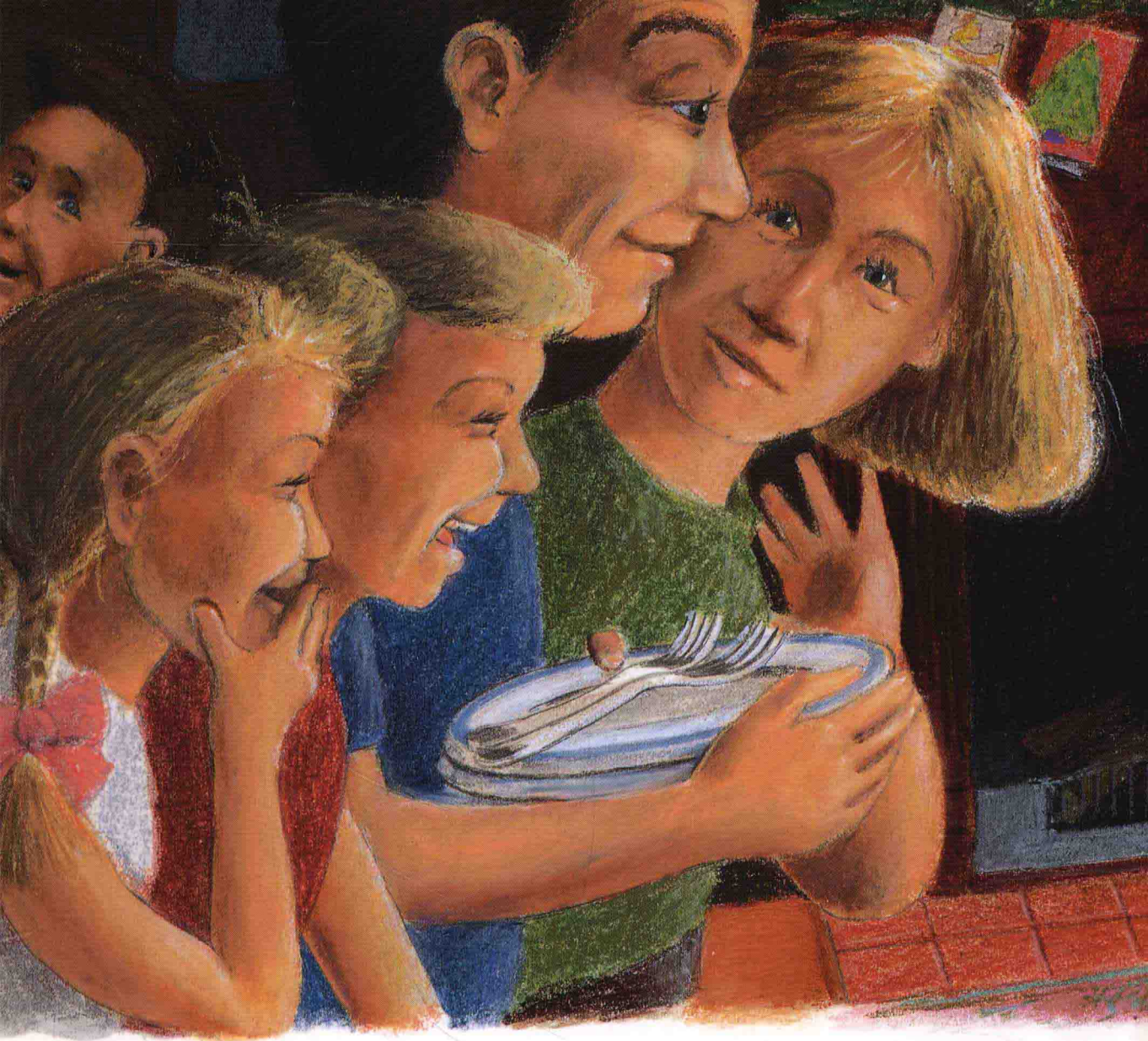
'Sorry, Princess. What did you say?'



'I think she said, "Slow, not fast, here comes the beast"!' laughed Christina.

'No, it was, "Blow the car let's have a feast"!' laughed Sam.

Then they all laughed. They would not stop laughing.



So Ella Bella shouted, 'It's
Lo! The star is in the east!'

'No need to shout, Princess,' said her dad.

Ella Bella shouted again,
'I'm not your princess!'



Her mother said, 'You are nobody's princess when you shout like that. You may leave the table and go to your room.'

Ella Bella shouted even louder, 'First I'm going, then I'm leaving!'.

They all laughed again. They would not stop laughing.

Ella Bella went to her room, packed her favourite things, and left home.







When she reached the front gate she met Bonzer.

'I'm going on a long journey to find a new home and a new family. And I will be their princess. Why don't you come with me?'

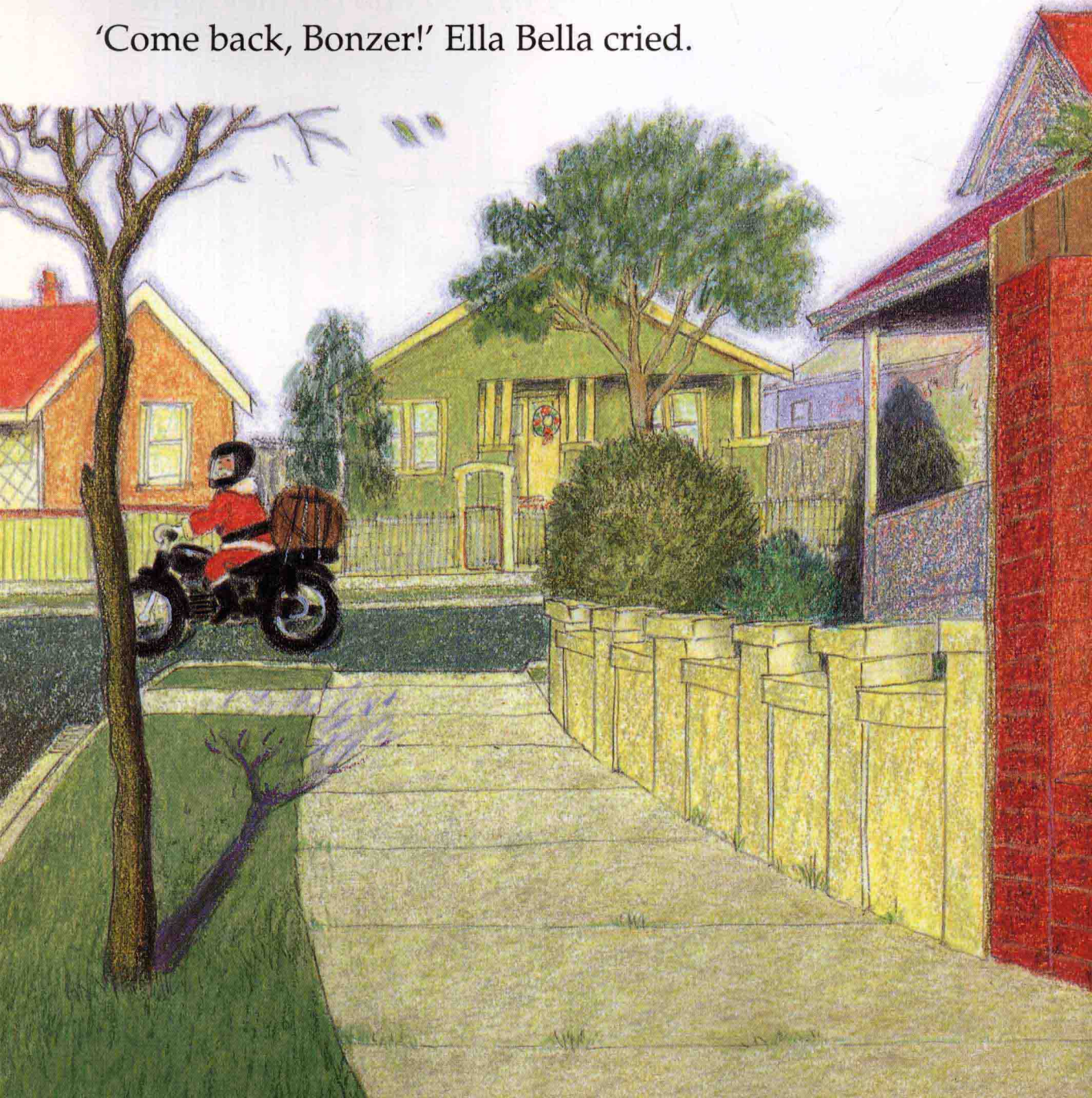
Bonzer barked and off they went.



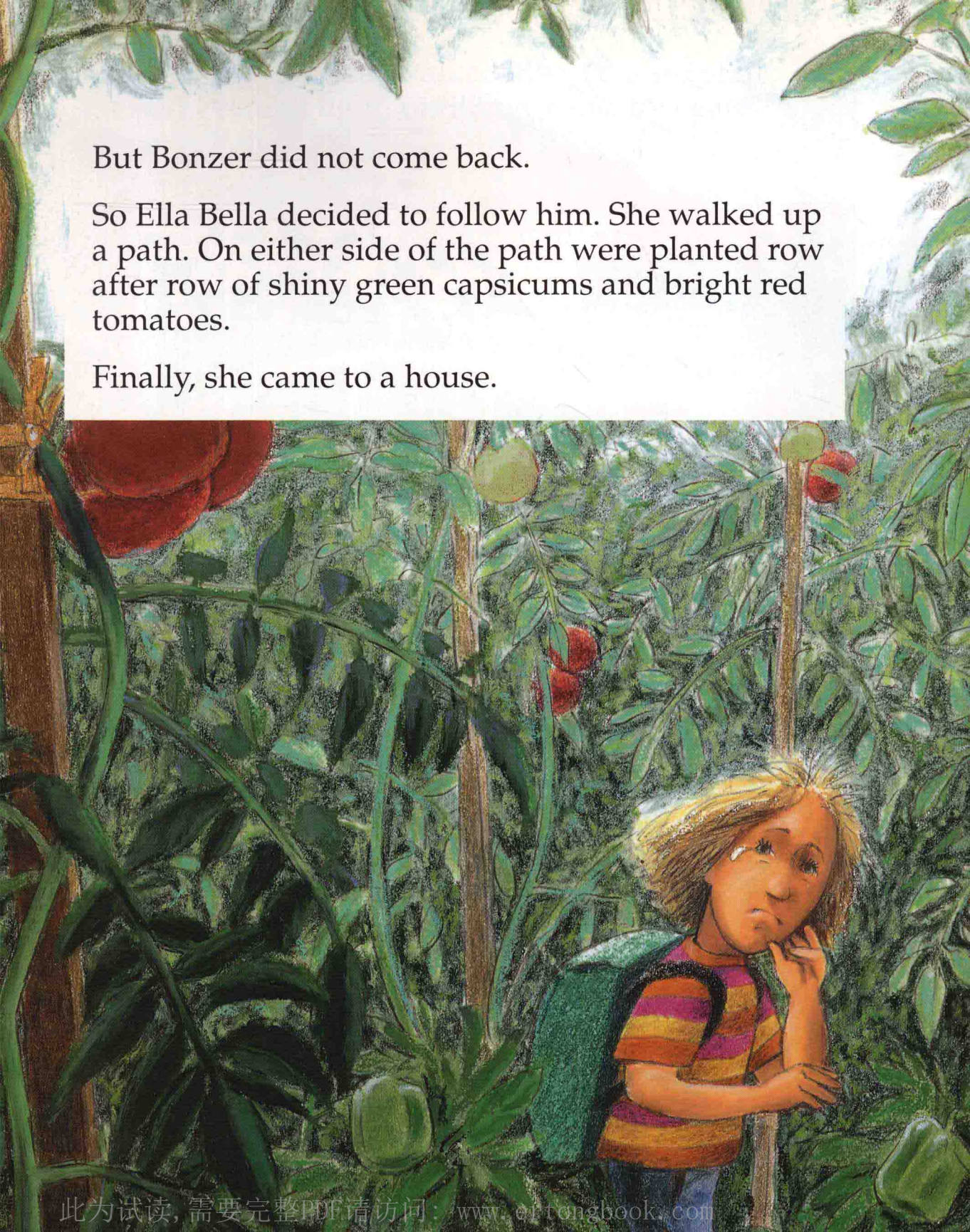
Ella Bella and Bonzer walked along the street in the soft evening light, until they came to a gate that was half open.

Bonzer pushed through the gate, ran barking up the garden path, and disappeared!

'Come back, Bonzer!' Ella Bella cried.







But Bonzer did not come back.

So Ella Bella decided to follow him. She walked up a path. On either side of the path were planted row after row of shiny green capsicums and bright red tomatoes.

Finally, she came to a house.