



BONFIRE

TRUDE TJENSVOLD



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The summer holidays are here.
At last.
Bella loves the summer.

She loves to bathe.
In the pond.
In the river.
In the fjord.

Bella loves the flowers in the field.
The leaves on the trees.
She loves midsummer's eve.
The bonfire!
She can hardly wait.

But,
then there's the guests from town.
Same thing happens every summer.
As soon as the nights begin to brighten,
they come by the masses.
To frolic in the woods.



One morning he arrives,
scrubbed pink and squeaky clean.
Just like last year:
Hamilton.

"Hello there, Bella," shouts Hamilton.
Bella pretends not to see him.
Typical town animal,
such a snob!

"Did you get hold of lots of twigs this winter, Bella?" Hamilton carries on.
"I think you need a bath," he squeals.

"JUMP IN THE WATER!" screams Bella.
"I only swim in pools," says Hamilton. "With chlorine."

"Pools are for wimps," says Bella.

Hamilton gets underway.

"What are you up to?" asks Bella.

"Putting the tent up," replies Hamilton.

"Great colours!" Marigold applauds.

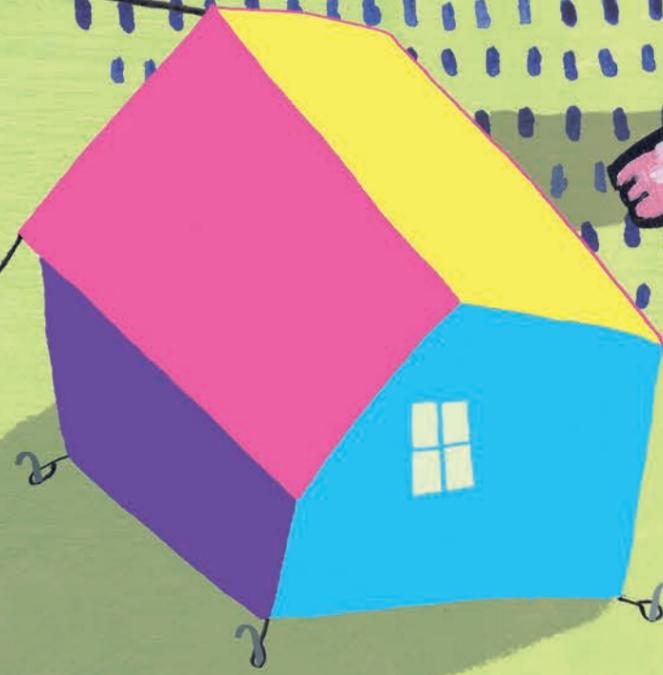
"It's real nylon," grunts Hamilton.

"Looks practical," says Taco.

"Keeps the mosquitoes out," replies Hamilton.

"Can you get one for a fox den?" asks Taco.

"Far too pretentious," says Bella.

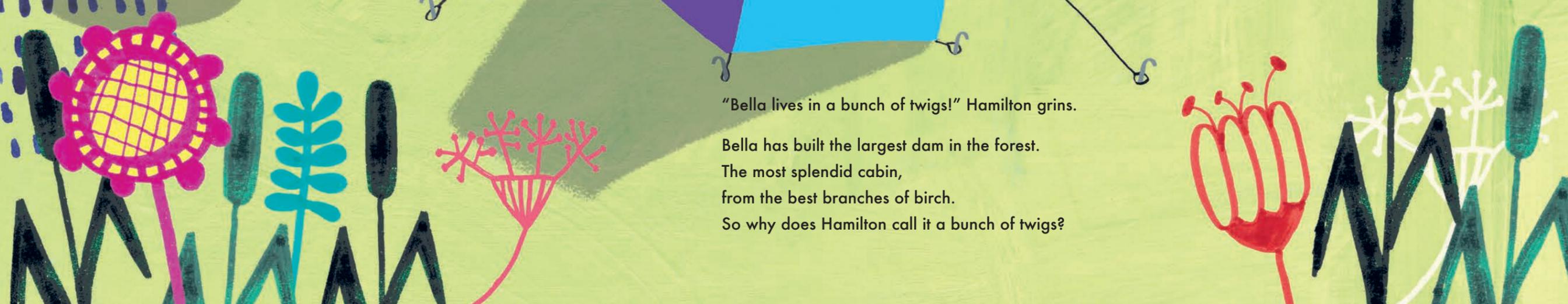


"Bella lives in a bunch of twigs!" Hamilton grins.

Bella has built the largest dam in the forest.

The most splendid cabin,
from the best branches of birch.

So why does Hamilton call it a bunch of twigs?



It's time for midsummer's eve.
They do the same thing every year.
Tomorrow's the night, so they need to get the bonfire ready
right away!

Everyone helps out, everyone except from one.

"Worried you might catch a splinter in the finger,
Hamilton?" asks Bella.

"Bonfire's for bumpkins," reflects
Hamilton.

Bella has fetched many branches.
Pine, spruce and birch.
An old dresser.
Two wooden chairs.
Half a church bench.
Two orange boxes.
A cuckoo clock with no cuckoo
and on the top,
a rather new rolling pin.

"WAY TOO WONKY!"
squeals Hamilton.

"It is **NOT!**" screams Bella.

