

By the author of *The Gruffalo*
Julia Donaldson

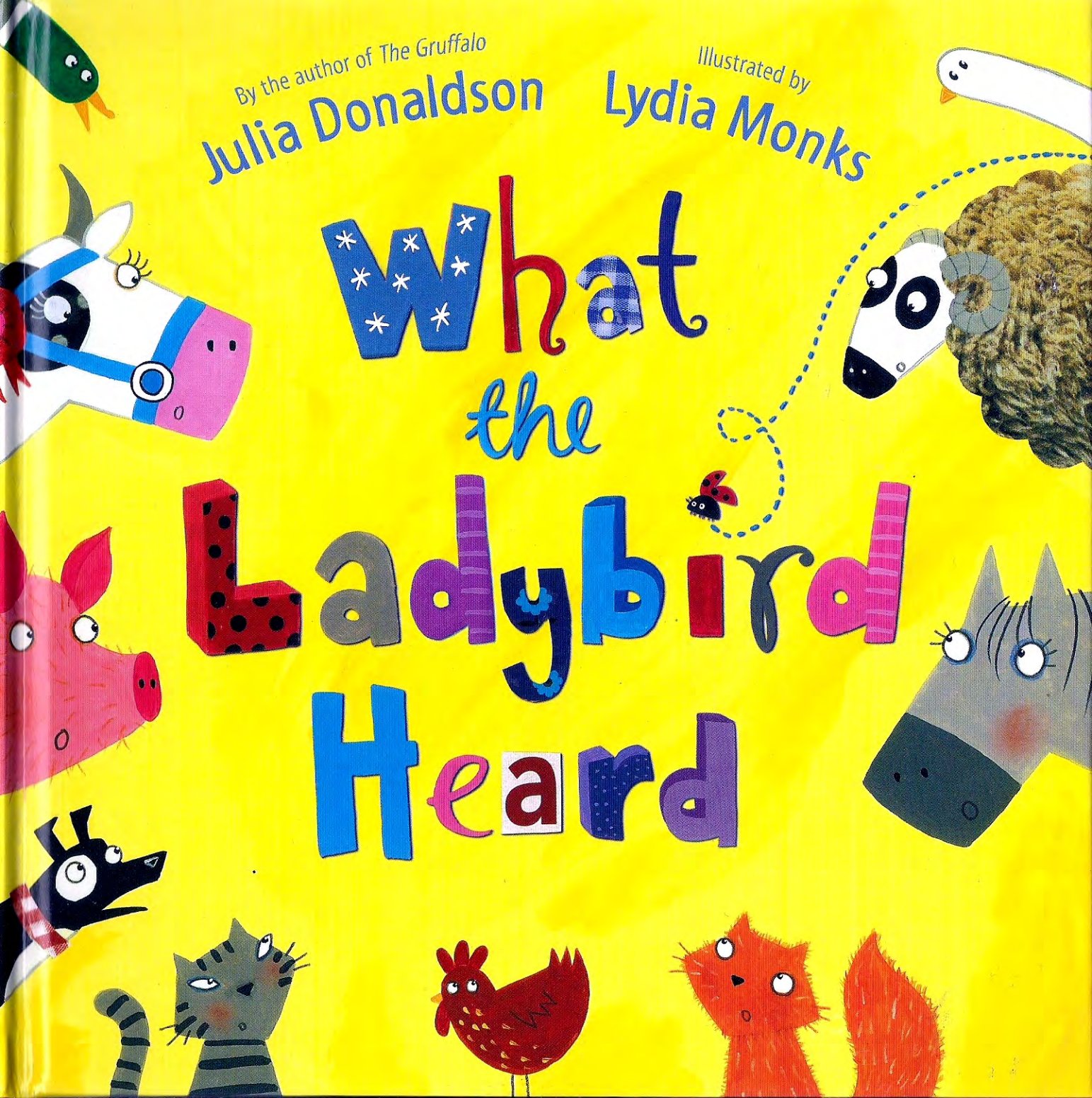
Illustrated by
Lydia Monks

What

the

Ladybird

Heard



Julia Donaldson

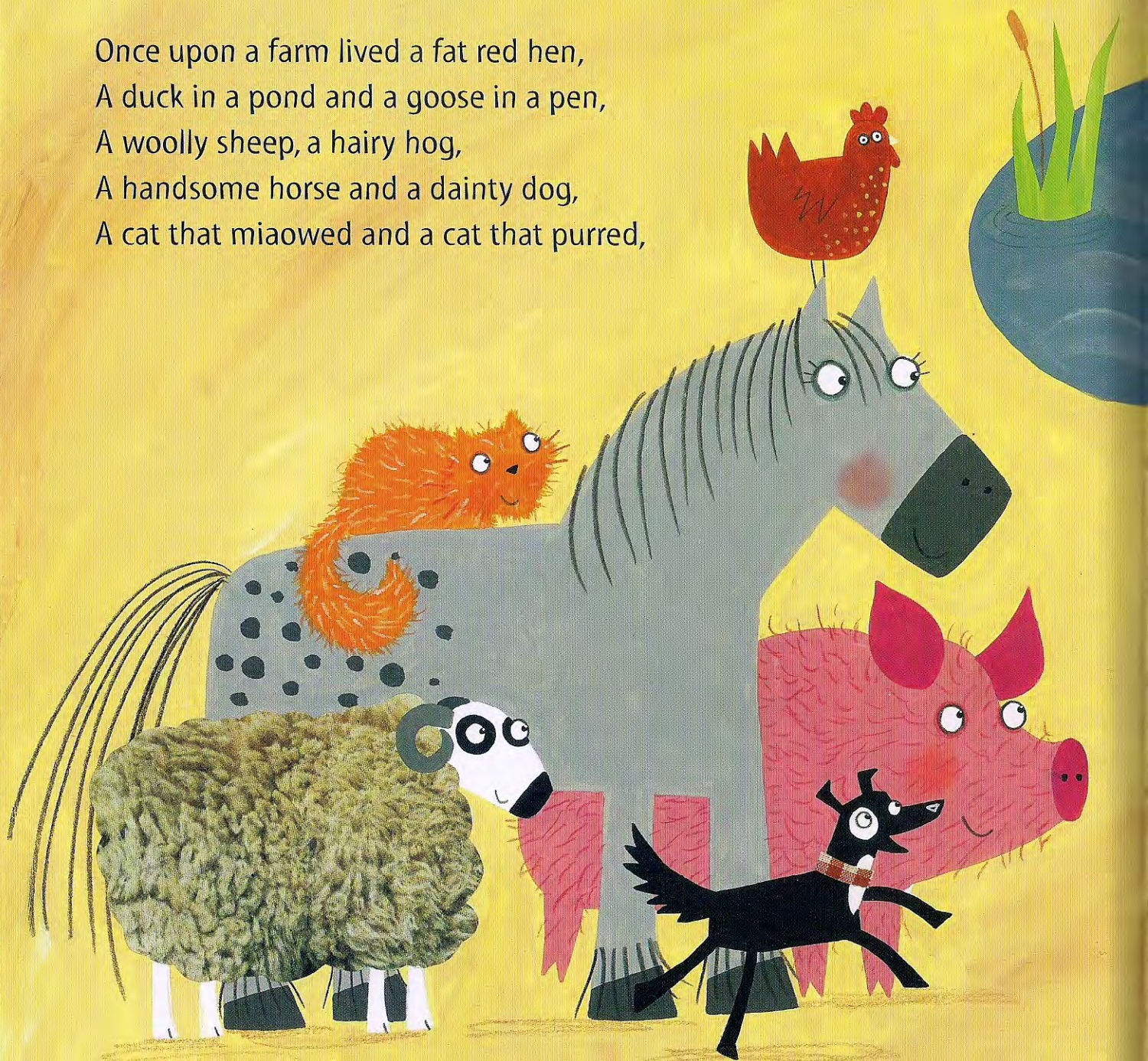
What the Ladybird Heard

Illustrated by
Lydia Monks

Macmillan Children's Books

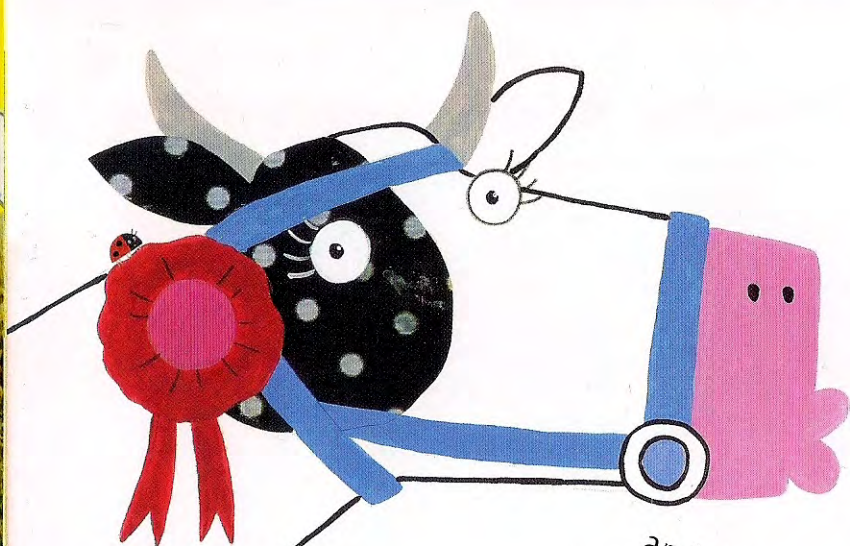


Once upon a farm lived a fat red hen,
A duck in a pond and a goose in a pen,
A woolly sheep, a hairy hog,
A handsome horse and a dainty dog,
A cat that miaowed and a cat that purred,





A fine prize cow . . .
and a ladybird.



And the cow said, "MOO!"

and the hen said, "CLUCK!"



"HISS!" said the goose

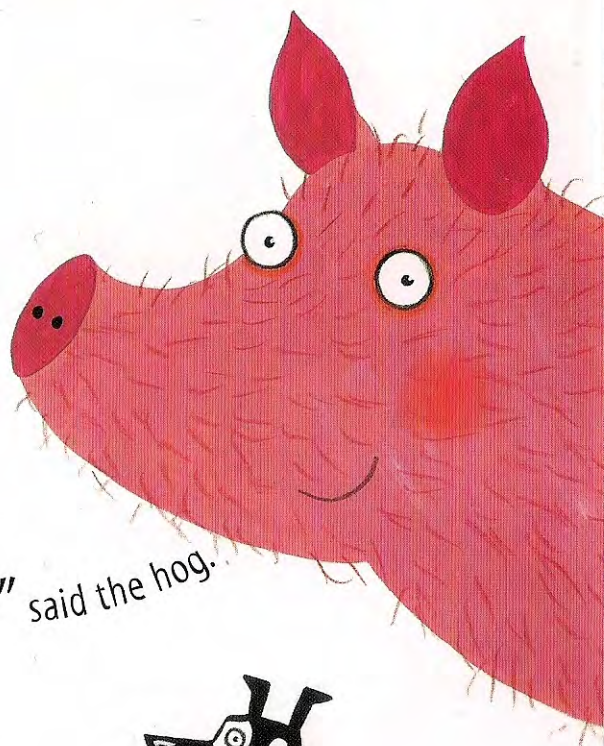


and "QUACK!" said the duck.





"NEIGH!" said the horse.



"OINK!" said the hog.



"BAA!" said the sheep

and "WOOF!" said the dog.



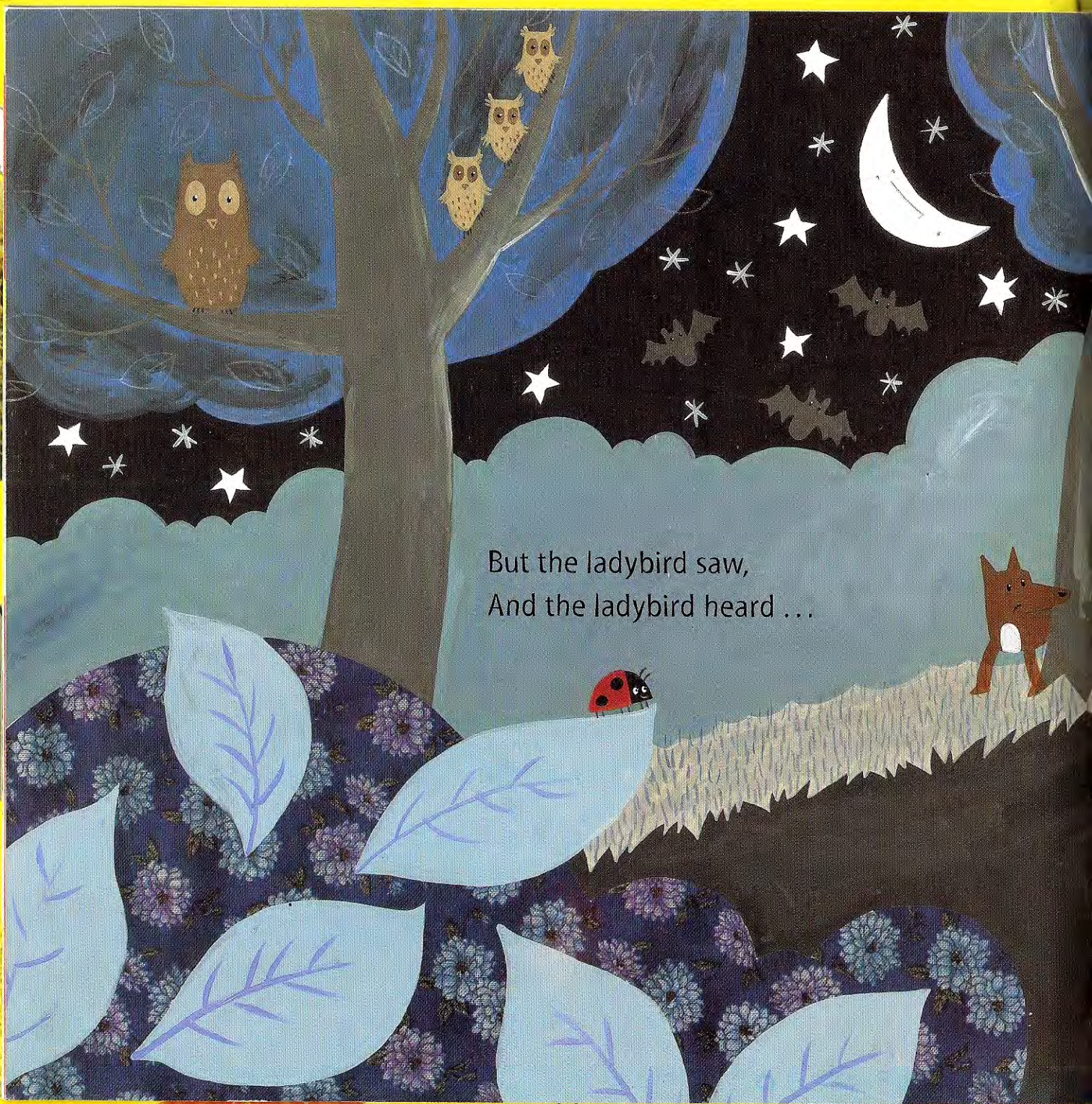
One cat miaowed while the other one purred ...



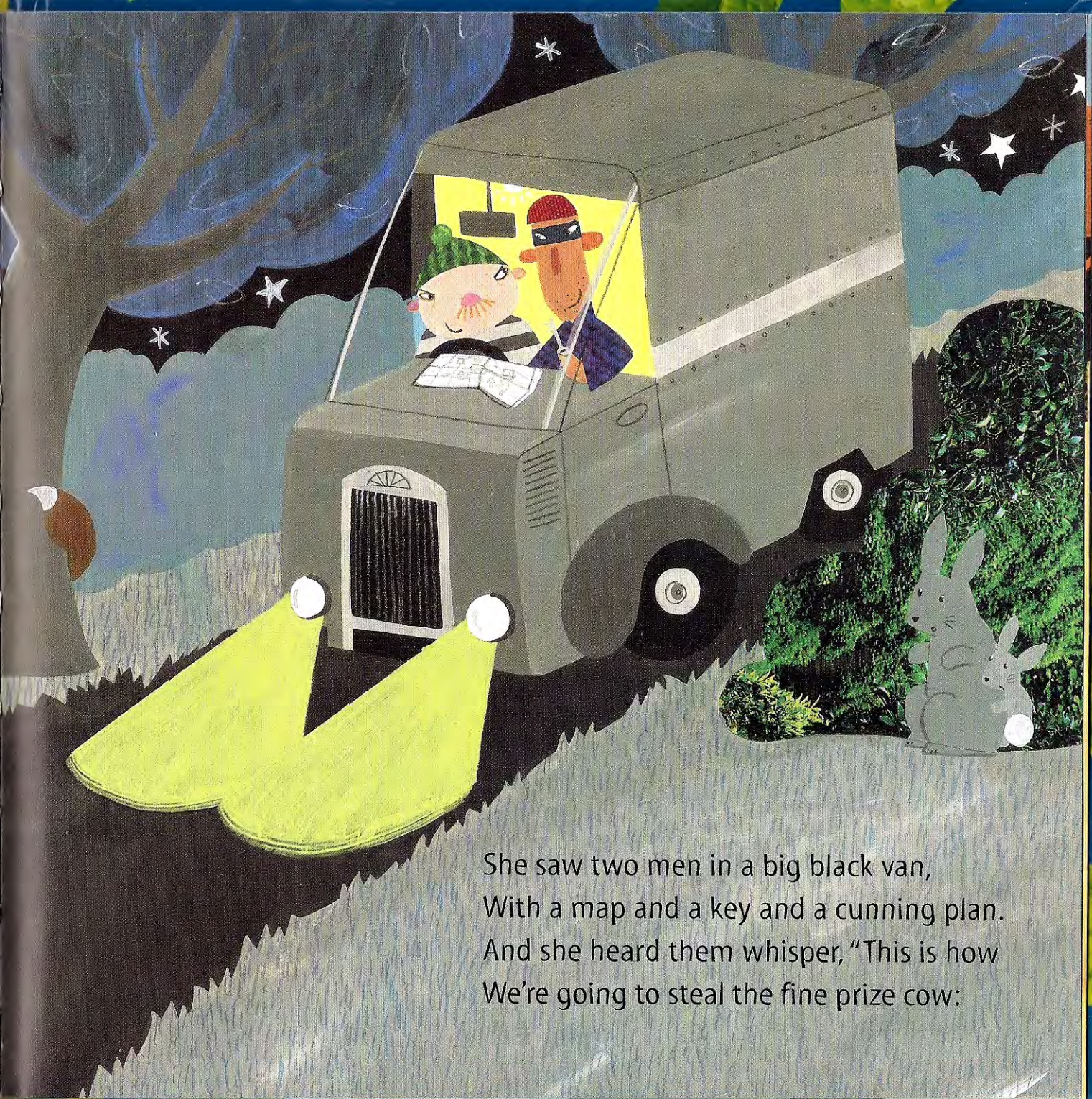


A vibrant yellow background featuring a collage of stylized animal heads. At the top left is a green snake with yellow fangs. To its right is a grey animal head with large, white, wide-open eyes. Below the snake is a black and white panda head with large black eye patches and a small black nose. To the right of the panda is a ram's head with large, curved, grey horns. At the bottom left is an orange, fluffy animal head with a single large eye and a pink paw print. At the bottom right is a black animal head with large white eyes and a red and white checkered collar. A small red ladybug is on a green stem near the orange animal head.


And the ladybird said never a word.



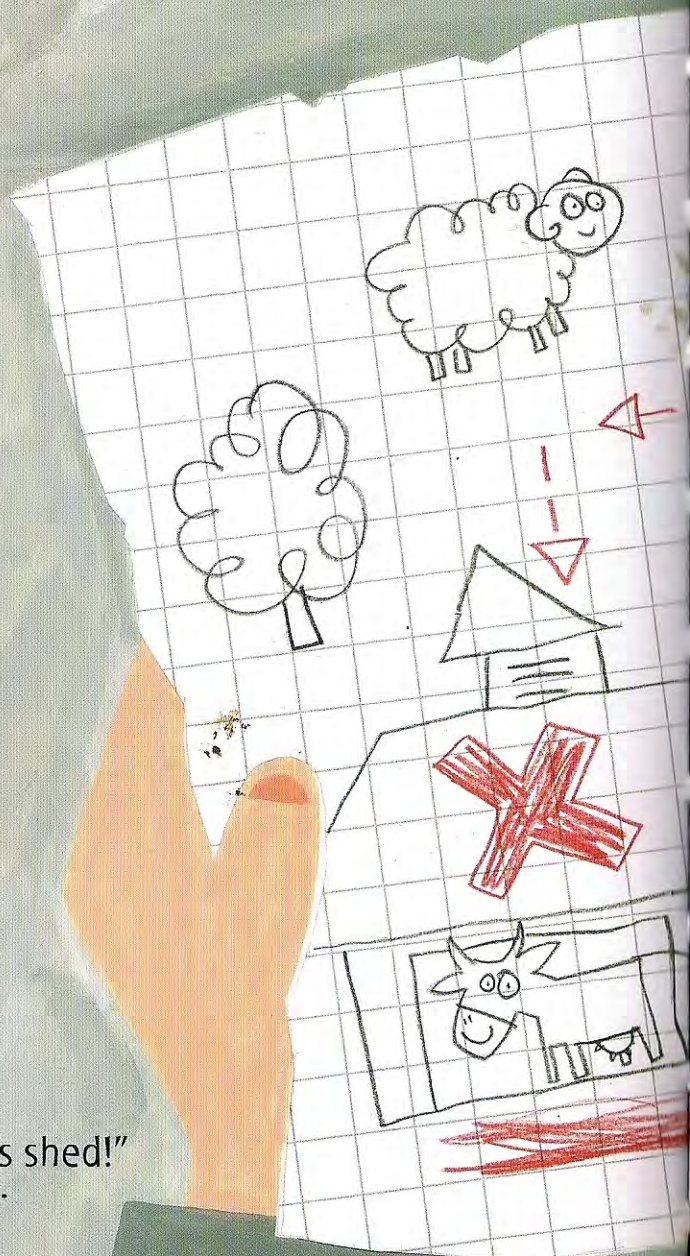
But the ladybird saw,
And the ladybird heard ...



She saw two men in a big black van,
With a map and a key and a cunning plan.
And she heard them whisper, "This is how
We're going to steal the fine prize cow:



"Open the gate at dead of night.
Pass the horse and then turn right.
Round the duck pond, past the hog
(Be careful not to wake the dog).
Left past the sheep, then straight ahead
And in through the door of the prize cow's shed!"





And the little spotty ladybird
(Who never before had said a word)
Told the animals, "This is how
Two thieves are planning to steal the cow:
They'll open the gate at dead of night.
Pass the horse and then turn right.



Round the duck pond, past the hog
(Being careful not to wake the dog).
Left past the sheep, then straight ahead
And in through the door of the prize cow's shed!"



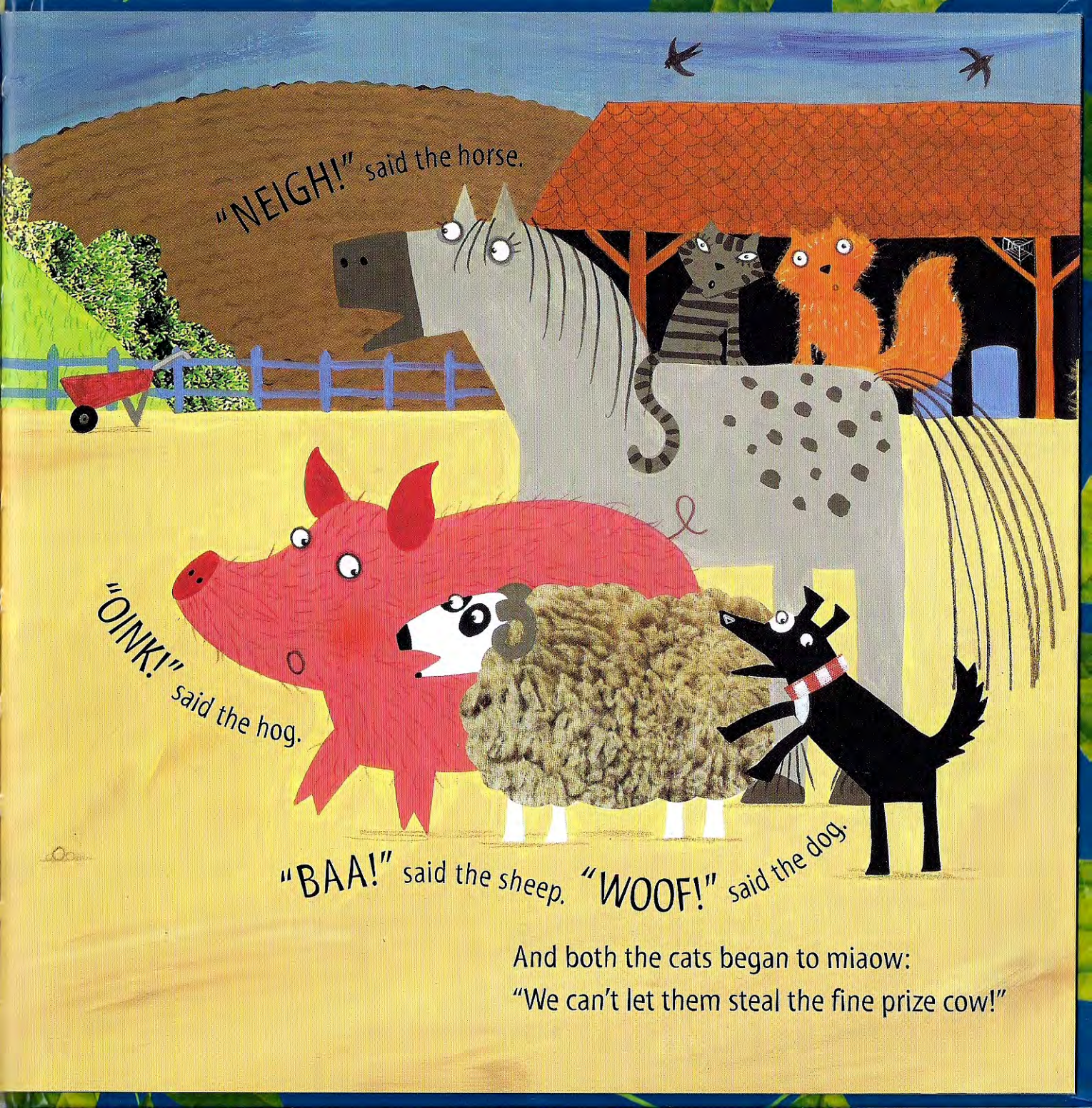


And the cow said, "MOO!"

and the hen said, "CLUCK!"

"HISS!" said the goose

and "QUACK!" said the duck.



"NEIGH!" said the horse.

"OINK!" said the hog.

"BAA!" said the sheep. "WOOF!" said the dog.

And both the cats began to miaow:
"We can't let them steal the fine prize cow!"

But the ladybird had a good idea
And she whispered it into each animal ear.

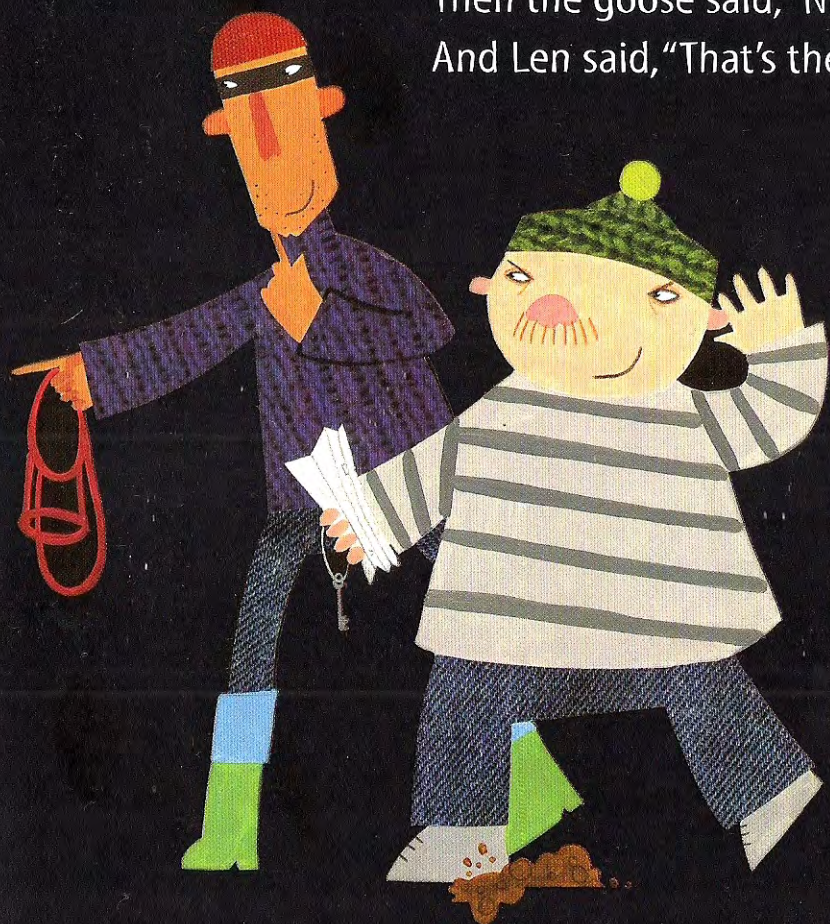




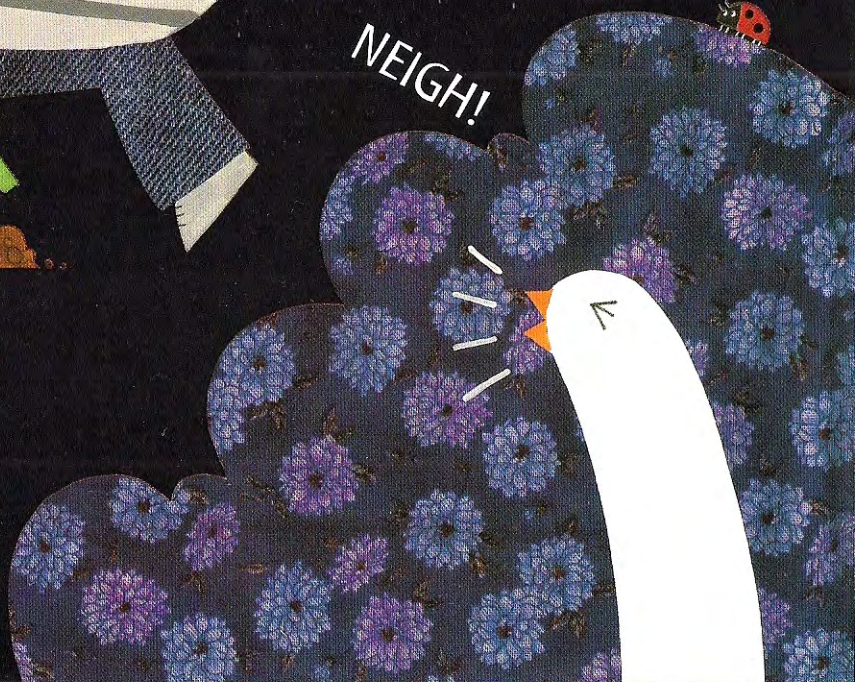
At dead of night the two bad men
(Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len)
Opened the gate while the farmer slept
And tiptoe into the farm they crept.



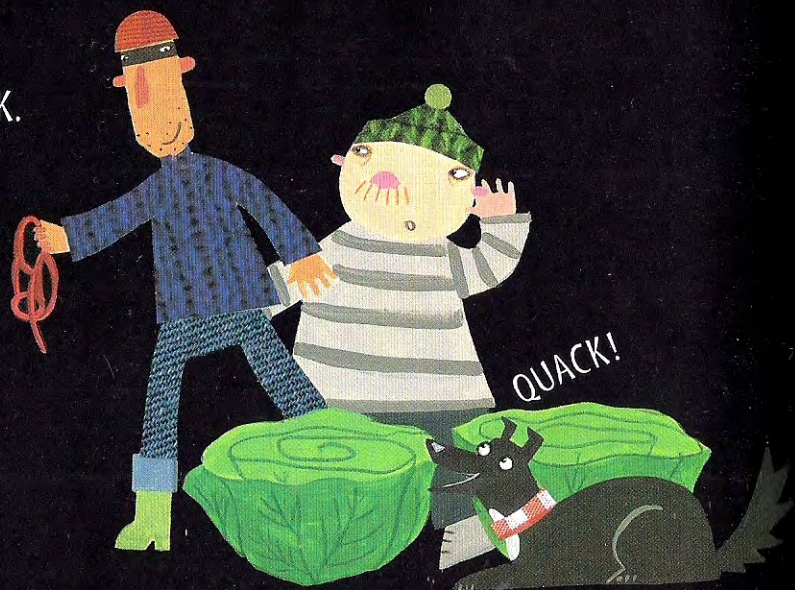
Then the goose said, "NEIGH!" with all her might.
And Len said, "That's the horse — turn right."



NEIGH!



And the dainty dog began to QUACK.
"The duck!" said Hugh.
"We're right on track."



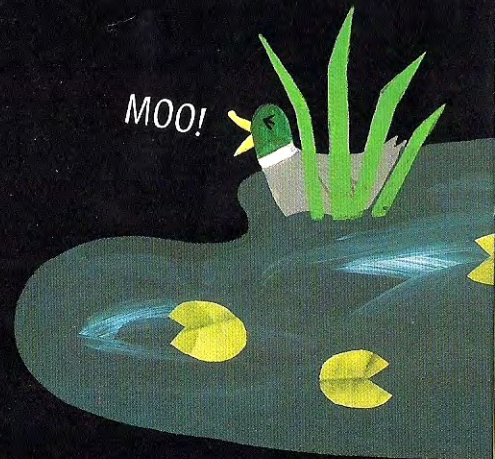
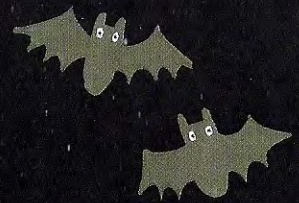
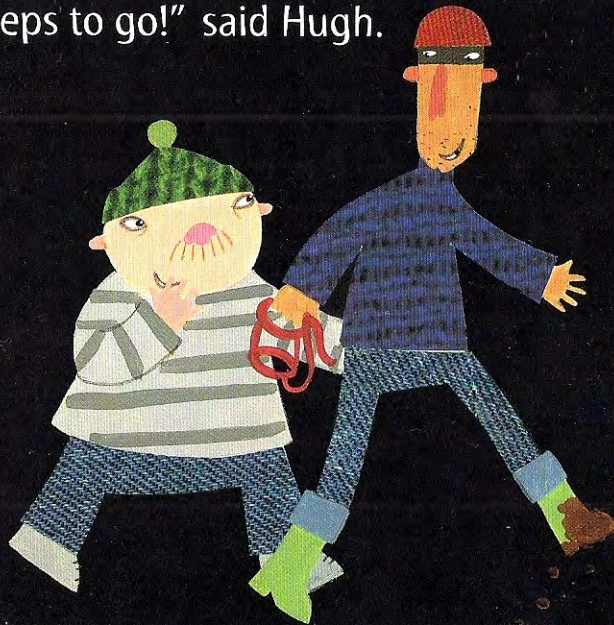
"OINK," said the cats.
"There goes the hog!
Be careful not to wake the dog."

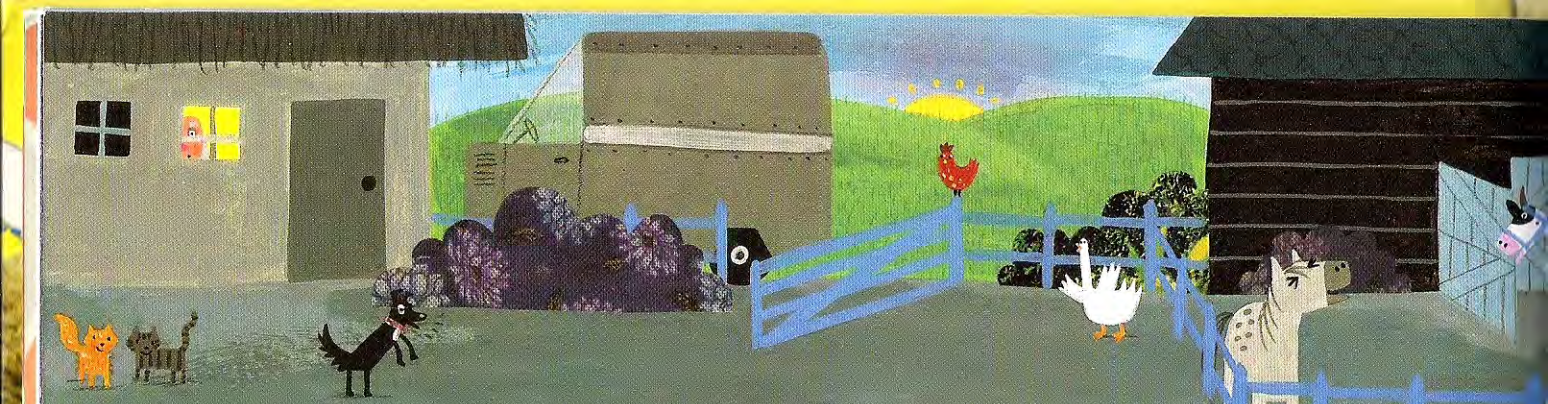


"BAA BAA BAA," said the fat red hen.
"The sheep! We're nearly there," said Len.



Then the duck on the pond said, "MOO MOO MOO!"
"Two more steps to go!" said Hugh.





And they both stepped into the duck pond —

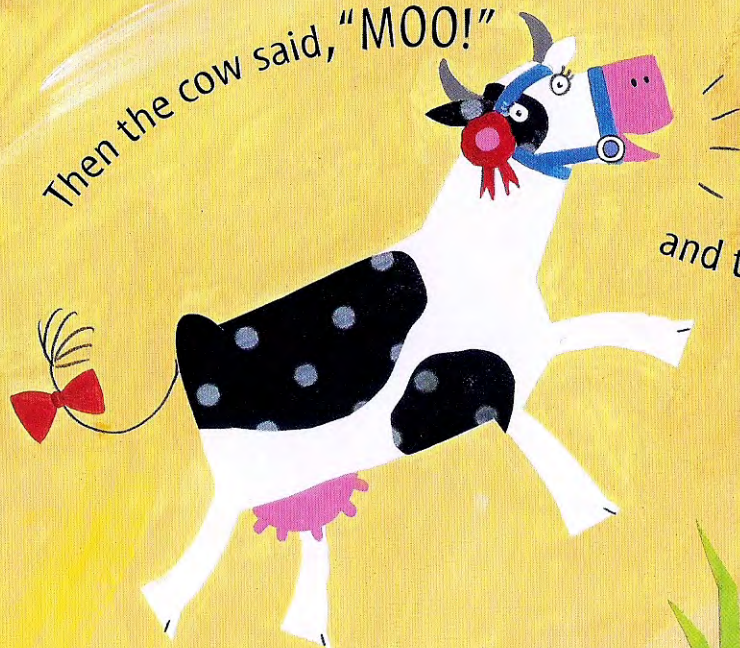
SPLASH!



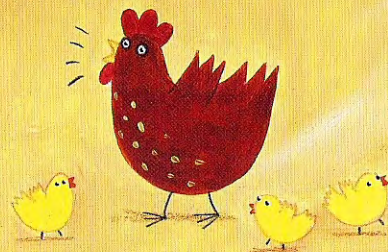
And the farmer woke and said, "Golly gosh!"
And he called the cops, and they came – NEE NAH!
And they threw the thieves in their panda car.



Then the cow said, "MOO!"



and the hen said, "CLUCK!"



"HISS!" said the goose



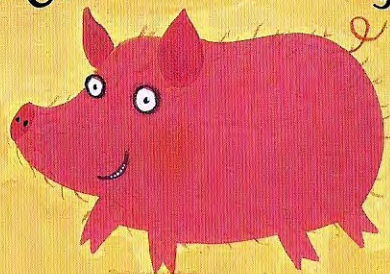
and "QUACK!" said the duck.



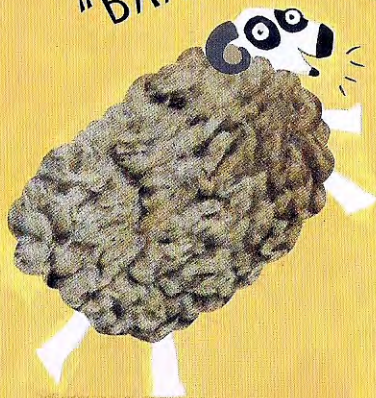


"NEIGH!" said the horse.

"OINK!" said the hog.



"BAA!" said the sheep.



"WOOF!" said the dog.




And the farmer cheered, and both cats purred.



But the ladybird
said never a word.


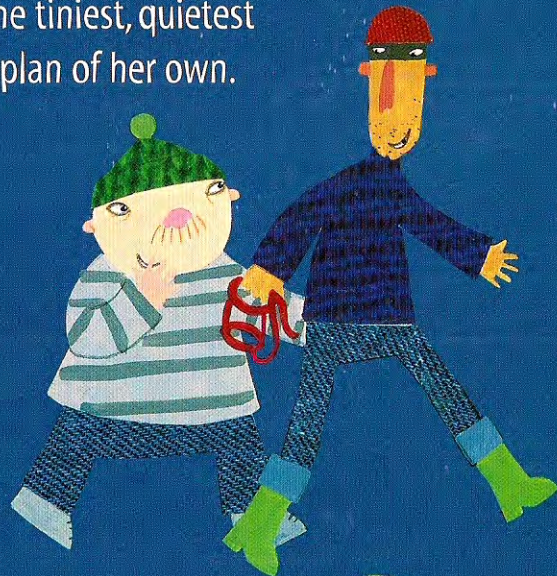




Two crafty robbers, one tiny ladybird,
and a whole farmyard of fun!

Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len have a cunning plan
to steal the farmer's fine prize cow.
But they reckon without the tiniest, quietest
creature of all: she has a plan of her own.

A wonderfully funny rhyming
tale from Julia Donaldson and
Lydia Monks – the bestselling
creators of *Sharing a Shell*, and
The Princess and the Wizard.



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