



Oxford
Reading
Tree

Chinese Adventure



Roderick Hunt
Alex Brychta

What's this story about?

It is Gran's birthday and Dad and Mum have bought her a Chinese vase. When the key glows it takes the children to China long ago. They discover a plot to kill the Emperor, and warn him of the danger. The Emperor is pleased and lets the children choose a present – a vase just like Gran's!

Talk together

Read the title and talk about the characters in the picture. Ask, "What do you think might happen?" Look at the picture on page 2, and ask, "What do you think is inside the present?" Look at the fireworks on pages 28 and 29. Ask, "Can you remember watching any fireworks?"

Read the story

W = Word recognition **C** = Language comprehension

- Before the child reads, look through the pictures to see what happens.
- W** Find the picture of the Emperor on page 17 and find the word 'Emperor' in the text. Count the syllables: Em-per-or.
- C** Page 4, ask, "What do you think Mum was thinking?"
- W** Page 6, find 'beautiful'. Count the vowels and say the name of each one. This helps the child to spell the word.
- W** Page 12, read 'Forbidden' in three syllables: For-bid-den.
- C** Page 24, ask, "What were the servants planning to do?"
- C** Page 30, ask, "What was Biff's idea?"
- C** Page 32, ask, "Do you think Gran will notice the difference?"



It was Gran's birthday, so she had come to stay. The children gave Gran a present.

"Happy birthday," they said.

"Thank you," said Gran.



Dad and Mum gave Gran a present.

"It's a funny shape!" said Gran. "I can't think what it can be."

The children laughed.

"We can," said Kipper.



Gran was pleased with the present. It was a Chinese vase.

“I hope you like it,” said Mum.

“It’s beautiful,” said Gran. “Thank you.”

“Put it in a safe place,” said Dad.



Gran had a surprise for everyone. She had a box of fireworks. She wanted a firework party.

“But I thought fireworks were dangerous,” said Biff.



“Fireworks *are* dangerous,” said Gran,
“so children mustn’t play with them.”

Mum and Gran got the fireworks ready.
They were very careful. The children
stayed out of the way.



Nadim and Anneena came to the party. Everyone was excited. Gran let off a big firework.

“Oooh!” said everyone.

“What a beautiful firework!” said Chip.



Dogs don't like fireworks, so Floppy stayed inside the house. Suddenly, a firework made a loud bang.

"I don't like this," thought Floppy, so he hid under a little table.



It was time to have tea. Mum had a surprise for Gran. She had a birthday cake with lots of candles.

“Happy birthday, Gran,” said everyone.



Biff went into the front room to get her camera. She saw Gran's vase on the floor. The vase was broken.

"Oh no!" said Biff.



The children went to Biff's room. Biff showed them the broken vase.

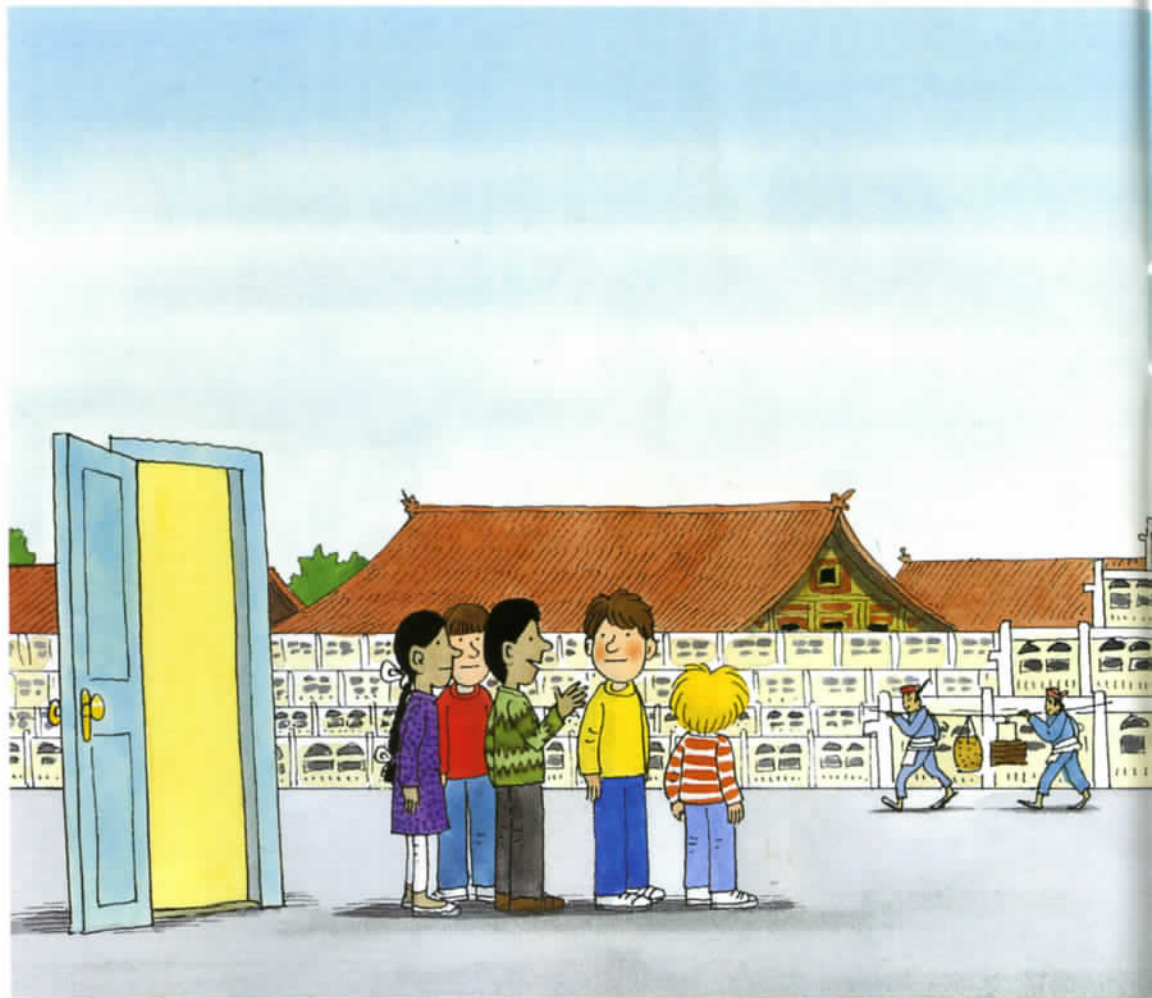
"Gran will be upset," said Chip, "and so will Mum and Dad."

"I hope we can mend it," said Biff.



Suddenly, the key began to glow. The magic took the children into a new adventure.

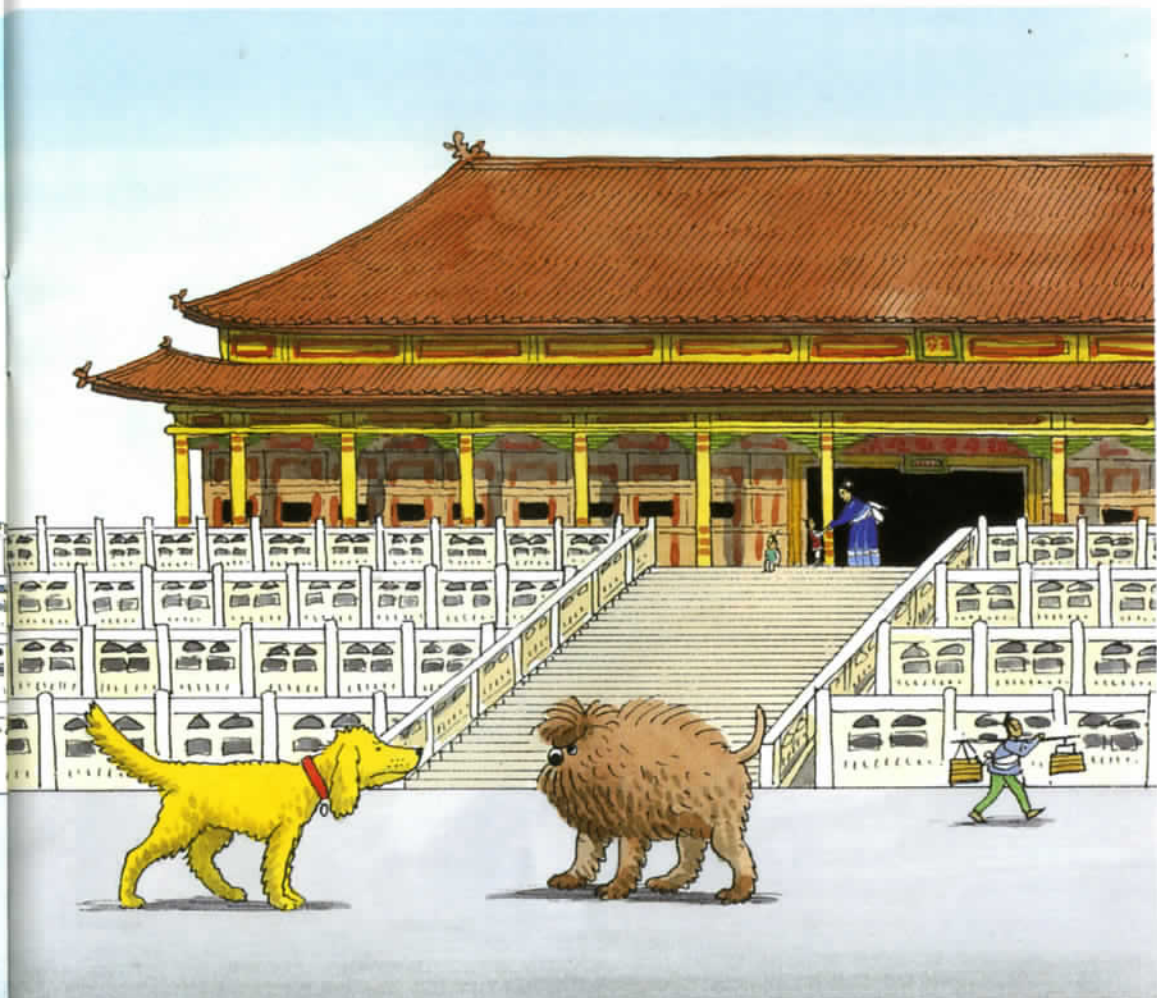
“Oh no!” said Biff. “I wanted to put the vase back downstairs!”



The magic took the children back in time. It took them to China long ago. Nadim knew where they were.

“We are in the Forbidden City,” he said.

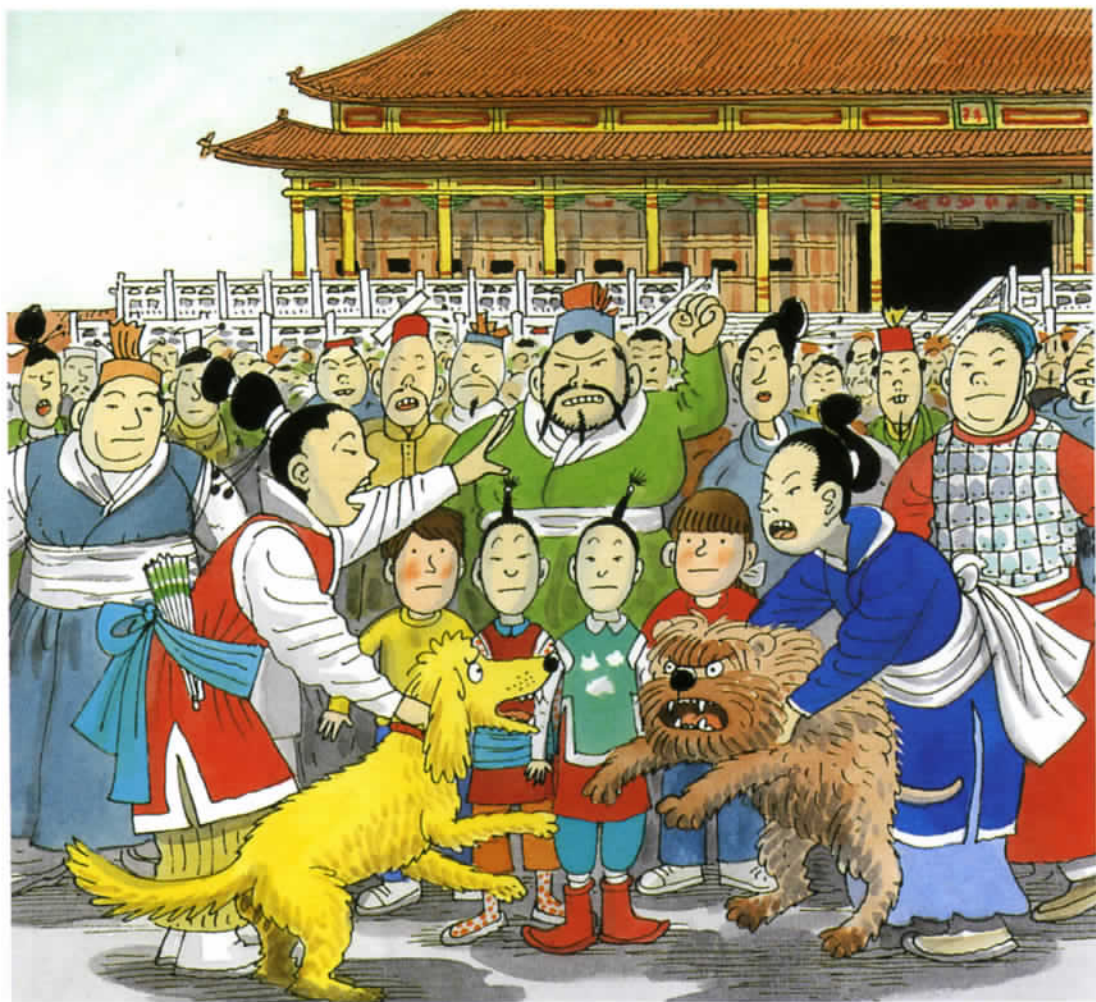
“Why is it called that?” asked Chip.



“The Emperor lives here,” said Nadim.
“He lives here with his family. Other people
are not allowed to come here. That is why
it is called the Forbidden City.”



There was a fierce dog in the Forbidden City. It didn't like Floppy. The fierce dog growled and barked, but Floppy didn't want to fight.

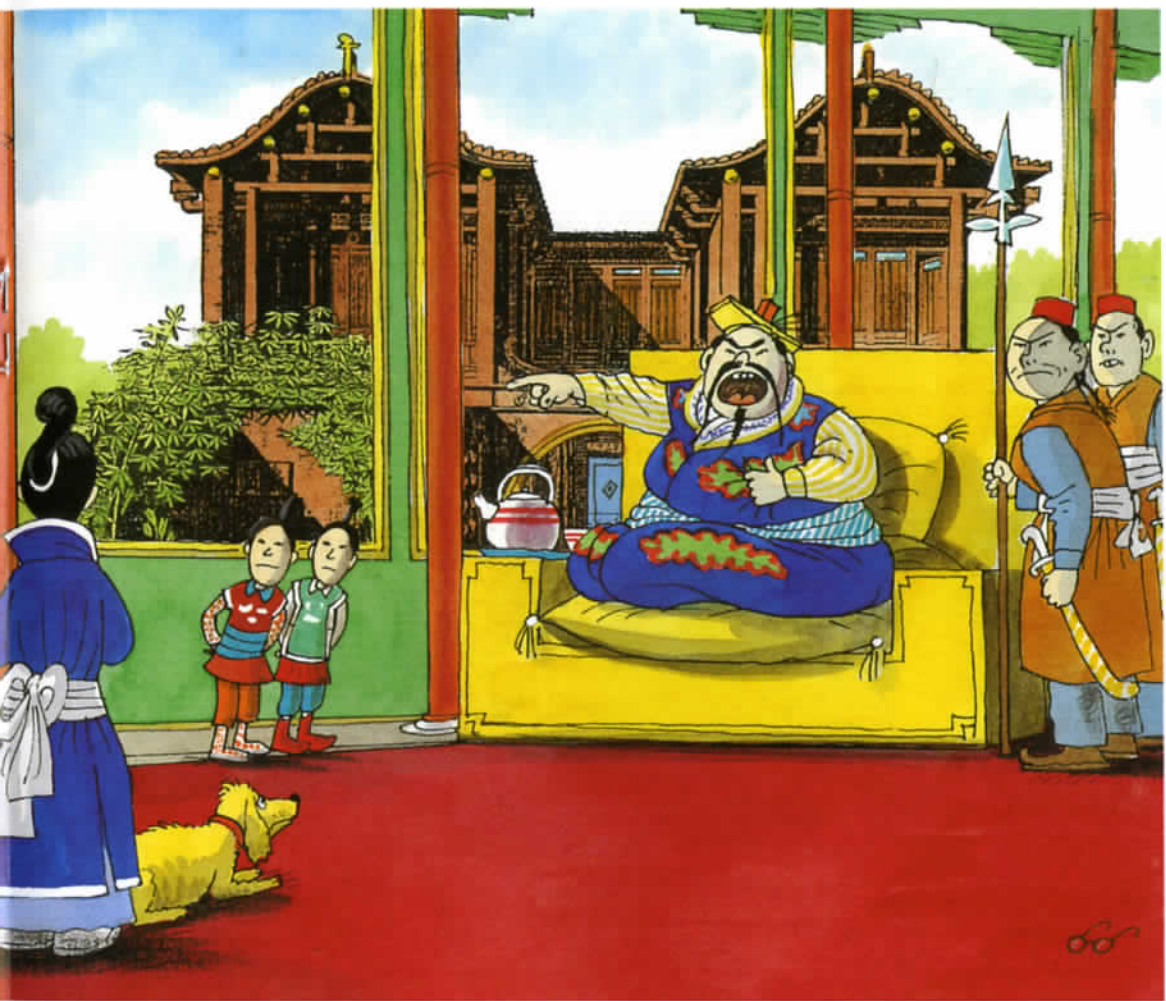


“Stop it!” shouted Chip.
Some women ran up and grabbed the
dogs. The children were worried.
“Oh help!” said Chip.



The women took the children and
Floppy to the Emperor.

“What are you doing in the Forbidden
City?” he shouted. “People are not allowed
in here.”



The Emperor called his soldiers.

“Put them in prison!” he shouted. “That will teach them to come to the Forbidden City.”

“I think we’ve upset him,” said Biff.



The Emperor had two children. They were twins and they looked exactly the same. The twins spoke to the Emperor. One of them pointed to the children.



The twins wanted to play with Kipper.

“I will put you in prison tomorrow,” said the Emperor. “Today you can play with the twins.”

“Hooray,” said the twins.



The twins had never played with other children. They didn't know how to play football. One of the twins kicked Nadim.

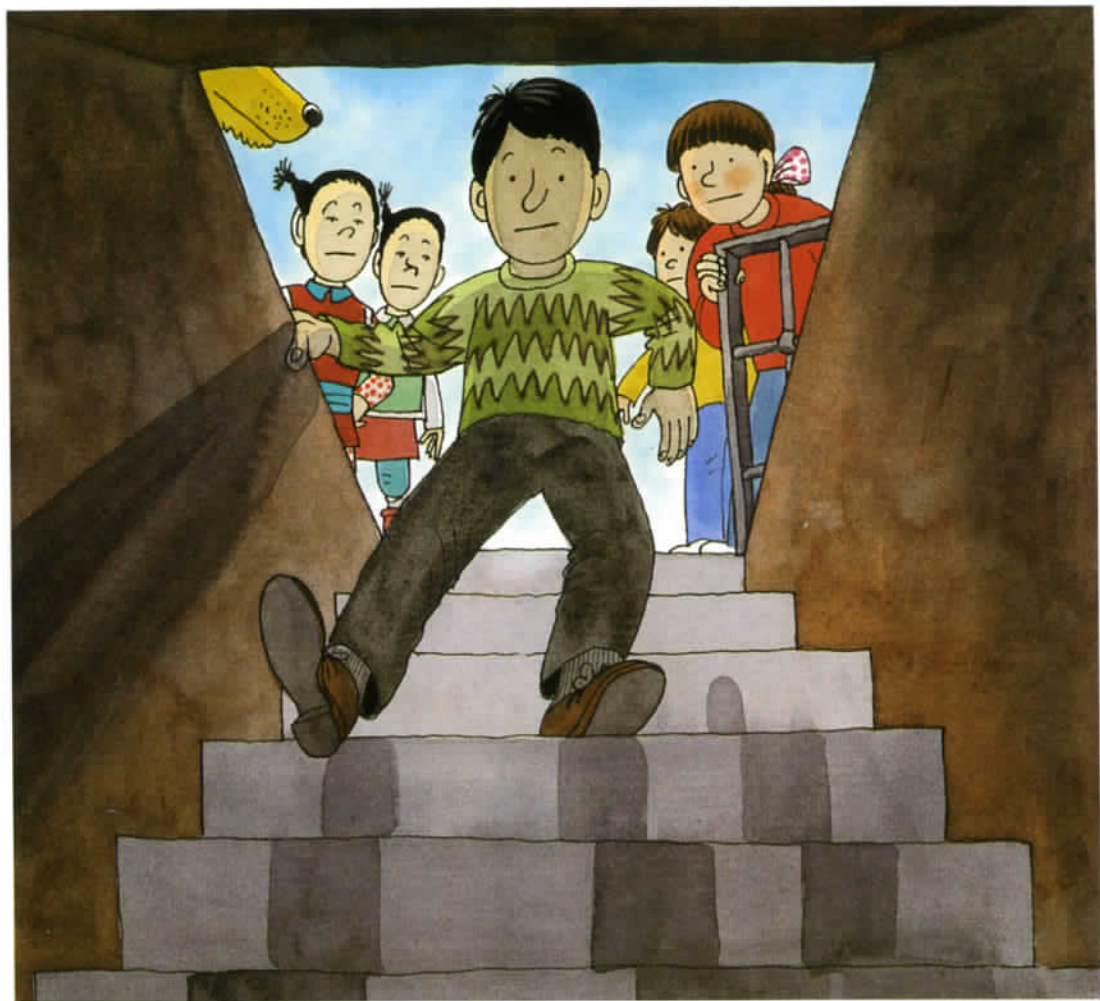
“Ow!” said Nadim. “That was my leg.”



Suddenly, the ball rolled away and fell down a grating.

“Oh no!” said the twins. “Now the ball is lost.”

Both the twins began to cry.



Biff and Chip pulled up the grating. Nadim could see some steps. He began to go down them.

“Hurry up,” said Biff. “We don’t want the Emperor to put us in prison.”



Nadim went into a big cellar. It was full of cobwebs and dust. Nadim called the others.

“Look at these giant vases,” he said.
“They look like Gran’s vase.”



Some people came into the cellar. They were the Emperor's servants. They didn't like the Emperor. They had barrels of gunpowder, because they wanted to blow up the palace.



The children were frightened. They hid inside the vases. The people didn't see them.

"We'll come back and blow up the palace tonight," said a man.



The children ran to the Emperor. They told him about the gunpowder under the palace.

“Some people want to blow up the palace tonight,” they said.



That night, the people came back. The Emperor's soldiers were waiting. The Emperor was pleased with the children.

"I won't put you in prison now," he said.



The Emperor had a big firework party. There were lots and lots of fireworks. They lit up the sky. Everyone gasped when the fireworks went off.



Biff thought of Gran.

“I wish she was here,” she thought.

“Gran would love all these fireworks. She’d love this adventure.”



The Emperor wanted to give the children a present. Biff had a good idea. She asked for one of the big vases. Suddenly, the magic key began to glow.



The magic took the children home. It took the giant vase, too. But now the vase was quite small.

“It looks exactly the same as Gran’s vase,” said Chip.



The children looked at the vases.

“Oh no!” said Biff. “They aren’t quite the same after all. The new vase has Chinese writing on it. Do you think Gran will notice?”

Play a game

Change the ending

To help the child to realise that knowing one word can help you to spell another.

- Find 'kicked' on page 20. Explain how you can change 'kicked' to 'kicking'.
- Find 'laughed' on page 2. Ask the child to spell 'laughing'.
- Take turns to find words with '-ed' and change them to '-ing' words.

Other ideas

You can use these ideas straight away, or on another day.

- Find words that are made up from two shorter words, such as 'birthday', 'firework', 'everyone', 'downstairs', 'gunpowder'. Think of some more that you know.
- Talk about when the next member of the child's family will be having his/her birthday. Ask, "How will you decide what birthday present to get him/her?"

Chinese Adventure

Floppy breaks Gran's Chinese vase. Can the magic help to mend it?



Stage 7 More Stories A

The Motorway	Chinese Adventure
The Bully	Roman Adventure
The Hunt for Gold	The Jigsaw Puzzle

Available in packs

Stage 7 More Stories Pack A (one of each title) ISBN 978-0-19-846586-7

Stage 7 More Stories Class Pack A (six of each title) ISBN 978-0-19-846587-4

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.OxfordPrimary.co.uk

Orders and enquiries to Customer Services:
tel. 01536 741171

For further information, phone the
Oxford Primary Care-line: tel. 01865 353881

text © Roderick Hunt 1994
illustrations © Alex Brychta 1994
First published 1994
This edition published 2008
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

ISBN 978-0-19-846590-4



9 780198 465904

Printed in China by Imago