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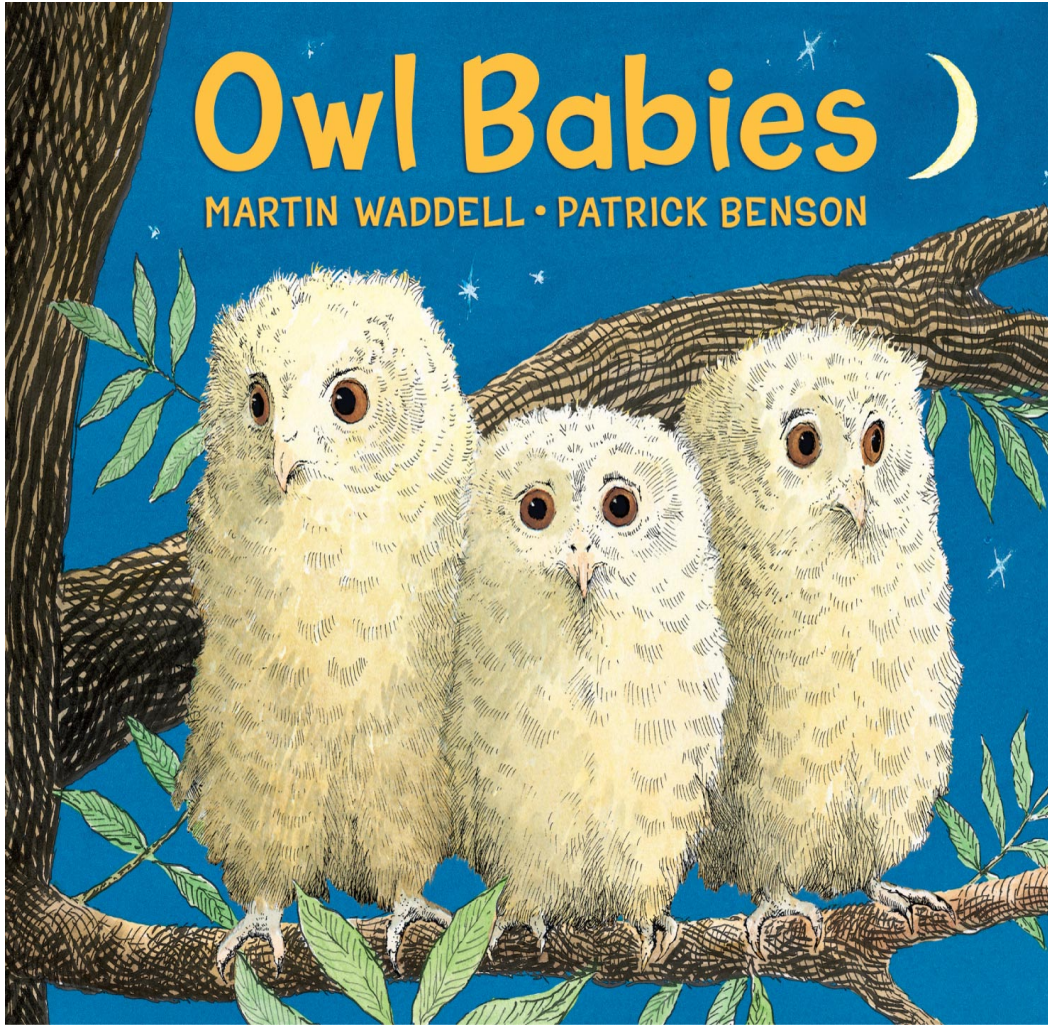
Owl Babies)

MARTIN WADDELL • PATRICK BENSON



Owl Babies

MARTIN WADDELL • PATRICK BENSON





For Hannah,

all-by-herself

M.W.

For Georgie,

and Eddie Huntley

P.B.

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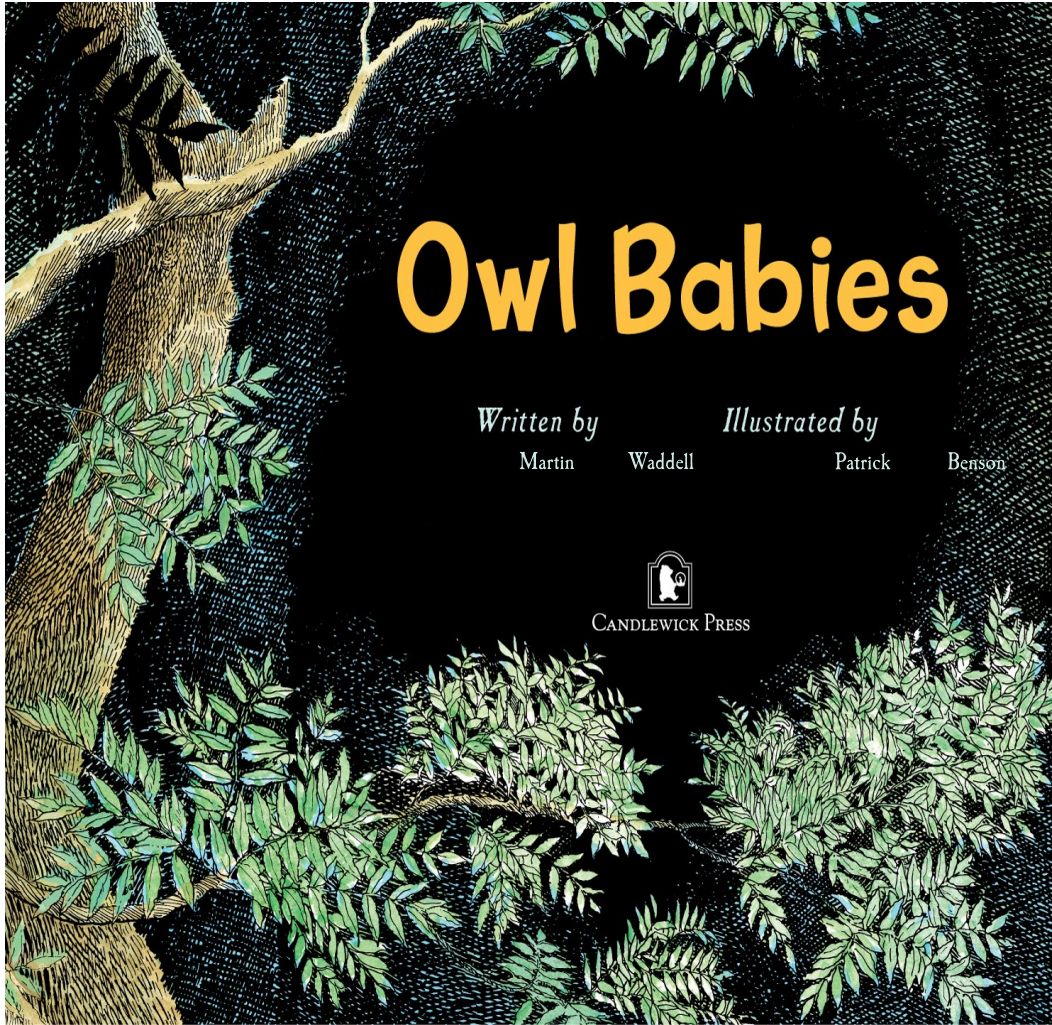
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Owl Babies

Written by

Martin Waddell

Illustrated by

Patrick Benson



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O nce there were three baby owls:

Sarah and Percy and Bill

They lived in a hole

in the trunk of a tree

with their Owl Mother

The hole had twigs and

leaves and owl feathers in it .

It was their house





One night they woke up and

their Owl Mother was GONE.

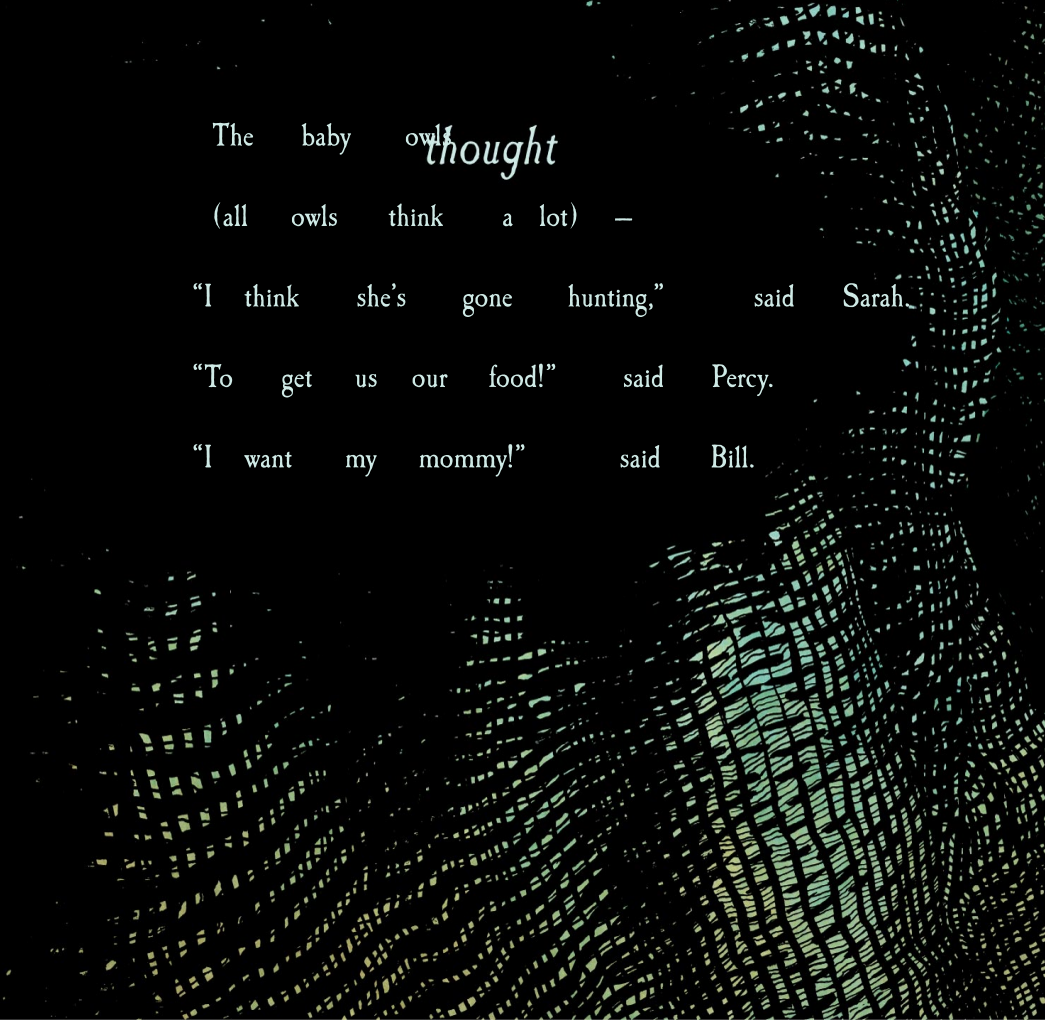
"Where's Mommy?" asked Sarah.

"Oh my goodness!" said Percy.

"I want my mommy!" said Bill.







The baby owl *thought*

(all owls think a lot) —

“I think she’s gone hunting,” said Sarah.

“To get us our food!” said Percy.

“I want my mommy!” said Bill.



But their Owl Mother didn't come.


The baby owls came out of

their house, and they sat

on the tree and waited.








A big branch for Sarah,
a small branch for Percy,
and an old piece of ivy for Bill.
"She'll be back," said Sarah.
"Back *soon* !" said Percy.
"I want my mommy!" said Bill.





It was dark in the woods and
they had to be brave, for things
moved all around them.

"She'll bring us mice and
things that are nice," said Sarah.

"I suppose so!" said Percy.

"I want my mommy!" said Bill.





They sat and they thought

(all owls think a lot) —

“I think we should *all*

sit *on my* branch,” said Sarah.

And they did,

all three together.

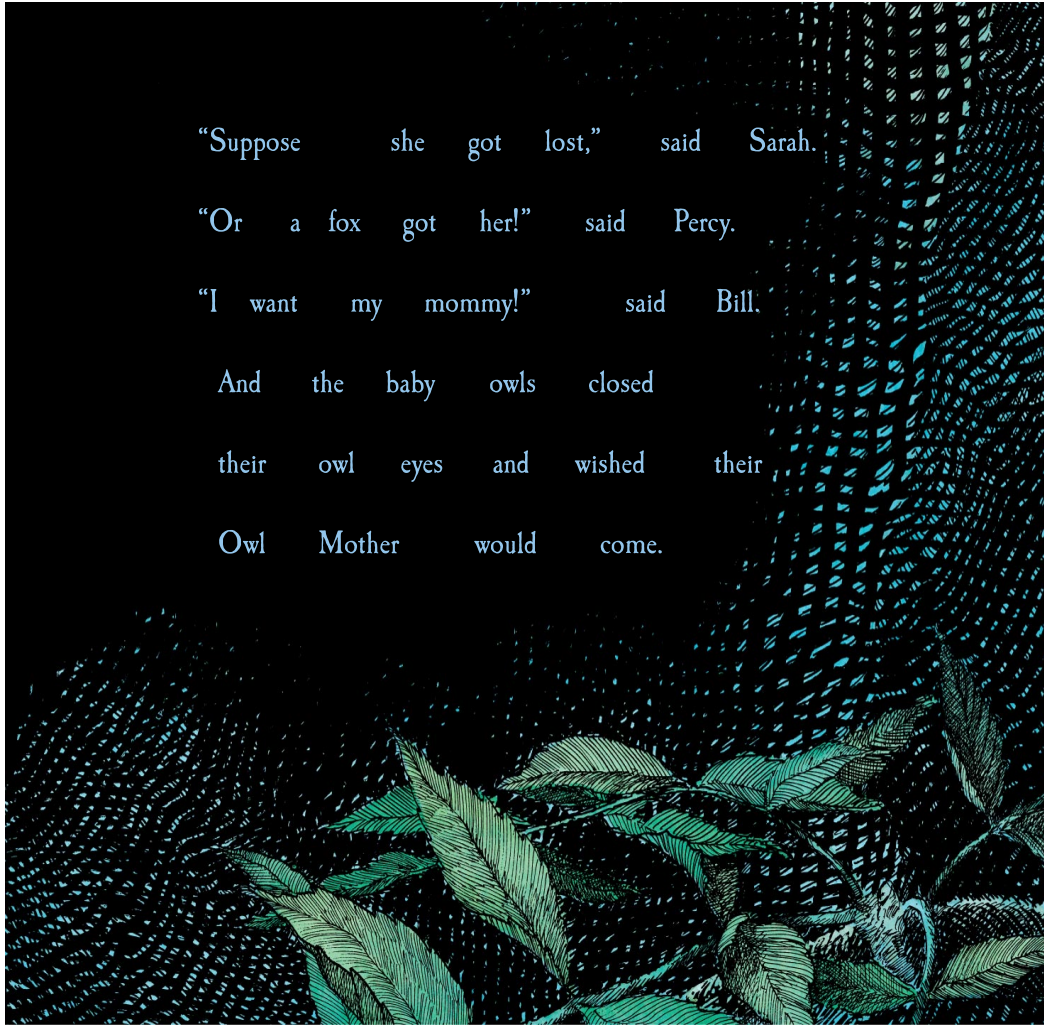


"Suppose she got lost," said Sarah.

"Or a fox got her!" said Percy.

"I want my mommy!" said Bill.

And the baby owls closed
their owl eyes and wished their
Owl Mother would come.





AND SHE CAME.





Soft and silent, she swooped
through the trees
to Sarah and Percy
and Bill.





“Mommy!” they cried,
and they flapped and they danced,
and they bounced up and down
on their branch.







“WHAT’S ALL THE FUSS?”

their Owl Mother asked.

“You knew I’d come back.”

The baby owls thought

(all owls think a lot) —

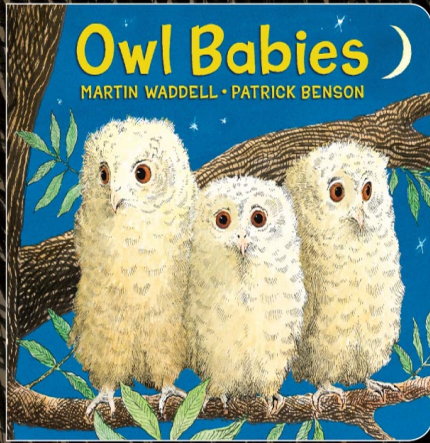
“I knew it,” said Sarah.

“And I knew it!” said Percy.

“I love my mommy!” said Bill.



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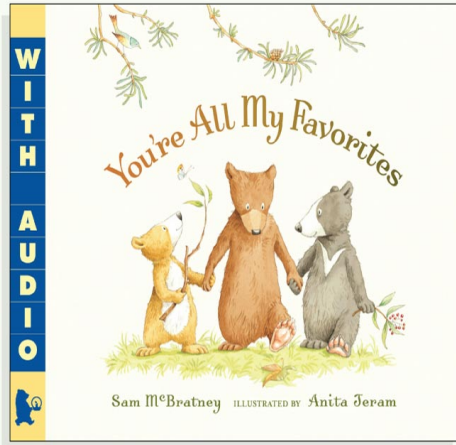


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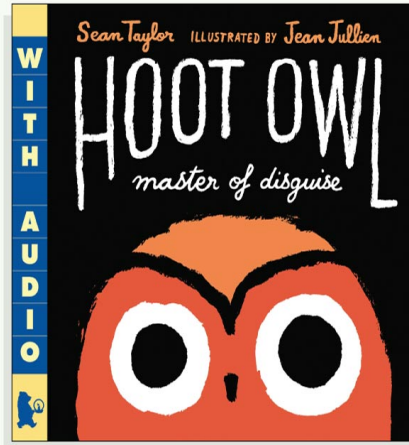


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