

The Courage of Sarah Noble

ALICE DALGLIESH



Night in the Forest



SARAH lay on a quilt under a tree. The darkness was all around her, but through the branches she could see one bright star. It was comfortable to look at.

The spring night was cold, and Sarah drew her warm cloak close. That was comfortable, too. She thought of how her mother had put it around her the day she and her father started out on this long, hard journey.

“Keep up your courage,” her mother had said, fastening the cloak under Sarah’s chin. “Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble!”

And, indeed, Sarah needed to keep up her courage, for she and her father were going all the way into the wilderness of Connecticut to build a house.

This was the first night they had spent in the forest — the other nights they had come to a settlement. Thomas, the brown horse, was tied nearby. He was asleep on his feet. Against a tree Sarah’s father sat, his musket across his knees. Sometimes he nodded, but Sarah knew that if she called to him he would wake. Suddenly she had a great need to hear his voice, even though she could not see his face.

“Wooo—oooh!” Such a strange sound from a nearby tree.

“Father?”

“An owl, Sarah. He is telling you goodnight.”

Another longer, louder sound, a stranger sound, as if someone were in pain.

“Father?”

“A fox, Sarah. He is no bigger than a dog. He is calling to his mate.”

Sarah closed her eyes and tried to sleep. Then came a sound that made her open her eyes and sit right up.

“FATHER!”

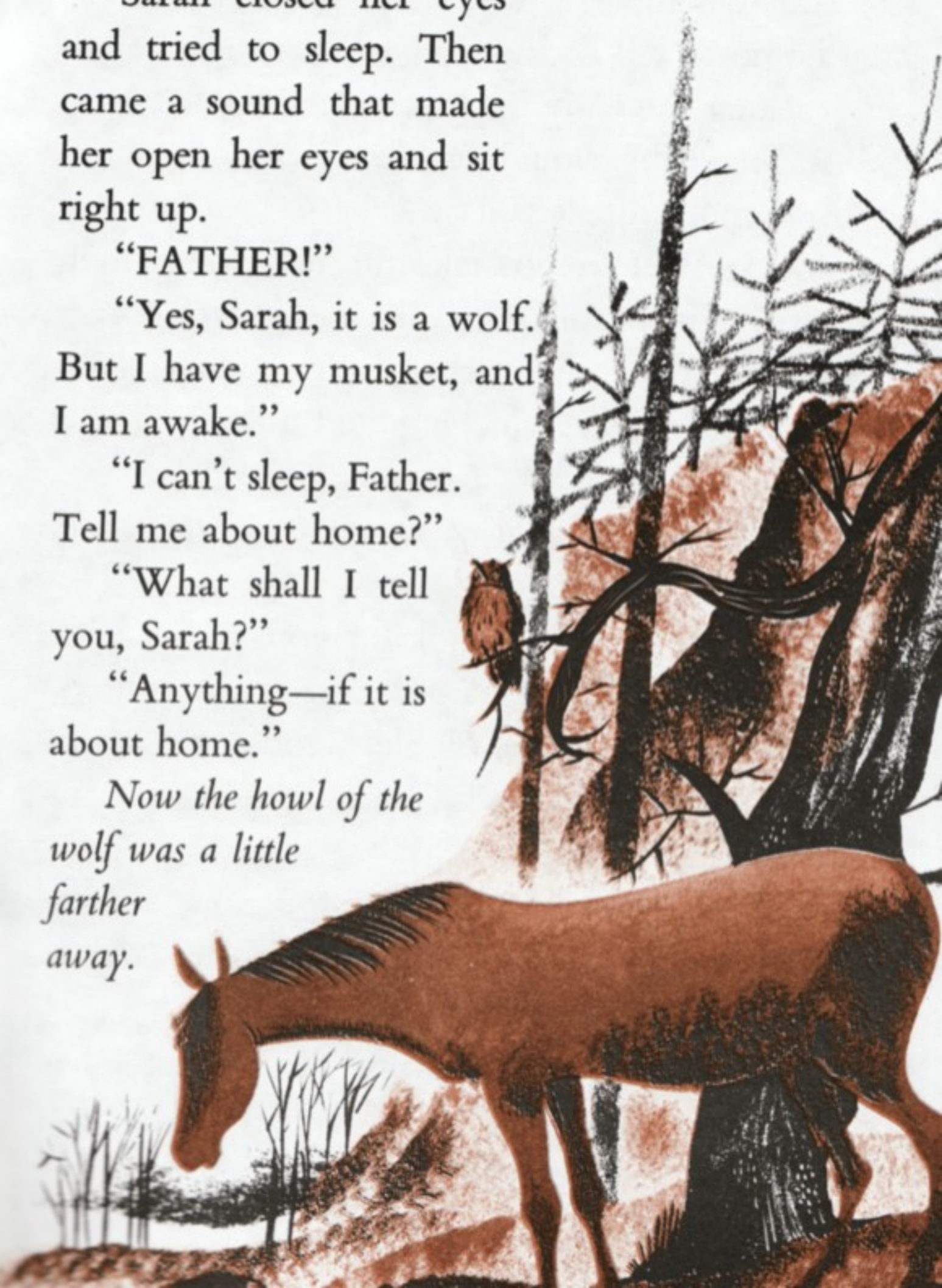
“Yes, Sarah, it is a wolf. But I have my musket, and I am awake.”

“I can’t sleep, Father. Tell me about home?”

“What shall I tell you, Sarah?”

“Anything—if it is about home.”

Now the howl of the wolf was a little farther away.




In 1707, young Sarah Noble and her father traveled through the wilderness to build a new home for their family. “Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble,” her mother had said, but Sarah found that it was not always easy to feel brave inside. The dark woods were full of animals and Indians, too, and Sarah was only eight!

The true story of Sarah’s journey is inspiring. And as she cares for her father and befriends her Indian neighbors, she learns that to be afraid and to be brave is the greatest courage of all.



“This one is to be long remembered for its beautifully written simplicity and dignity.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

 **ALADDIN PAPERBACKS**
A Ready-for-Chapters Book
Simon & Schuster, New York
Cover illustration copyright © 2000
by Michael Garland
Cover designed by Steve Scott
Ages 7–10
www.SimonSaysKids.com
0500

US \$4.99 / \$6.99 CAN

ISBN-13: 978-0-689-71540-2

ISBN-10: 0-689-71540-4

EAN



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