



KNIGHT OWL

CHRISTOPHER DENISE



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Christy Ottaviano Books

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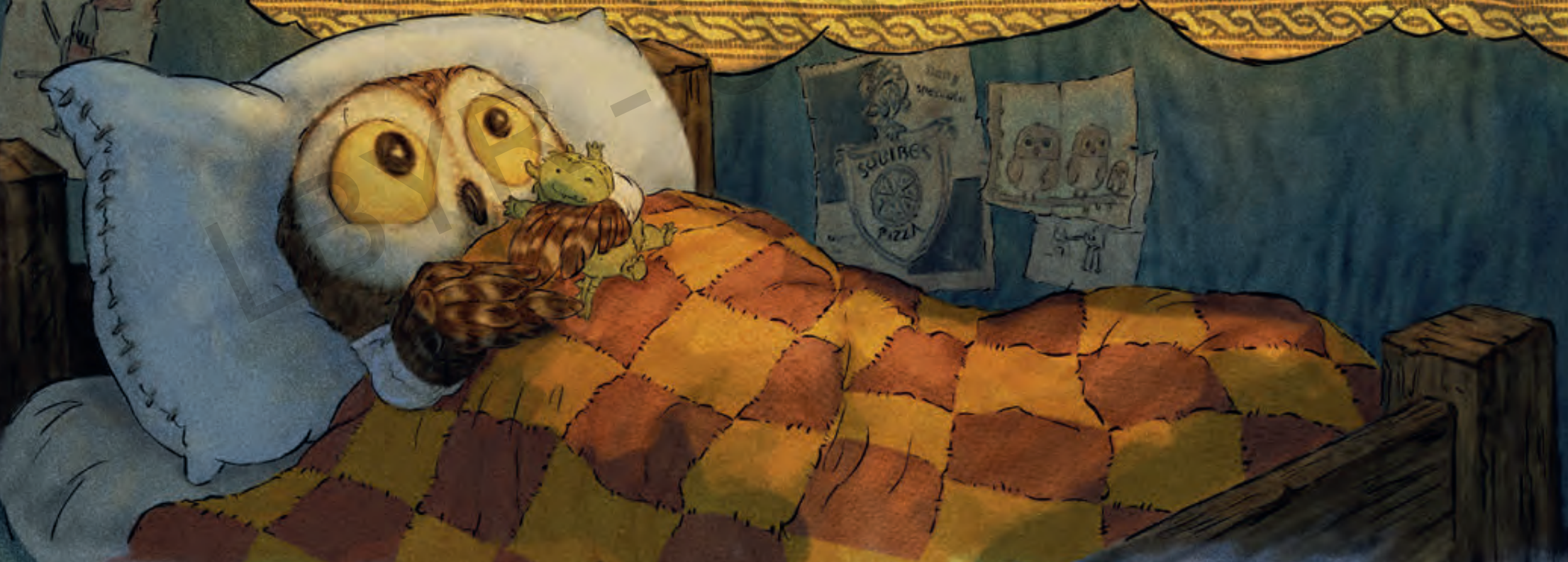


UNRECTED PROOF

Since the day he hatched,
Owl had one wish.



To be a knight.



Every morning before he drifted off to sleep,
he imagined himself as a *real* knight.
He would be brave. He would be clever.
And he would have many friends.
It was just a dream. Until one day...



Knights began disappearing from the castle.



So Owl applied to Knight School.



And to everyone's surprise, he was accepted!



Owl was an excellent student.



But he had a tough time with a sword.

Even the smallest shield was a problem.



And he had a habit of nodding off during the day.



Knight School was hard, but Owl worked and worked.

He graduated with honor, as all knights do.

To his surprise, he was assigned to Knight Night Watch.
Owl was very good at his job.





The other knights usually fell asleep during the long Knight Night Watch, but Owl didn't mind. All alone on the castle wall, he finally felt like a *real* knight.



Until late one evening, it was very dark and very, very quiet, when...

Owl heard a strange sound.

Whoosh!!!

It sounded like a huge bird flapping its wings.

“Whooooo,” Owl called.



He heard the sound again.

Whoosh, whoosh.

Whoosh, whoosh.


“Whoo, whoo,” he called.



A medieval-style illustration of a knight on a stone wall at night. The knight, wearing a blue and silver helmet and armor, is looking towards a large dragon perched on a nearby stone tower. The dragon has a long neck, horns, and wings, and is looking back at the knight. A fire burns in a basket in the foreground. The sky is dark blue with stars and a crescent moon. The scene is lit by the fire and the moon.

WHOOSH!

“Who, who, who,
whoooooooooooo!” Owl called.

A medieval-style courtyard at night. In the sky, a large, dark dragon's head with horns and glowing eyes looms over the scene. Below, a fire burns brightly in a wooden basket on a tripod stand. To the right, a knight in full plate armor, including a helmet with a visor, stands holding a long spear. The courtyard is enclosed by stone walls with several towers. The ground is littered with small white stones or pebbles. The sky is dark blue with scattered stars.

“Whooo, me?” said a deep voice.

“Who you?” asked Owl.



“I am a hungry dragon,” said the dragon.

Owl was very afraid.

But because he was now a *real* knight and knights are brave, he puffed out his feathers and said, “I am Owl, and I am a knight of the Night Watch!”



“You don’t look like a knight,” said the dragon.
“You look like a midnight snack.”

Owl’s feathers trembled.

But because he was a *real* knight
and knights are clever, he said,
“You don’t want me. I am too small,
hardly even a mouthful.”

“A mouthful is enough,” snarled the dragon.

“I am all feathers and fluff,” said Owl.

“A great dragon like you needs something tastier and more filling!”



“How about a pizza instead?”



It turned out that the dragon loved pizza.

They talked about how each of them had hatched from eggs, how much they liked the night, and how flying was hard to explain to someone who had never done it before.

They really had a lot in common.





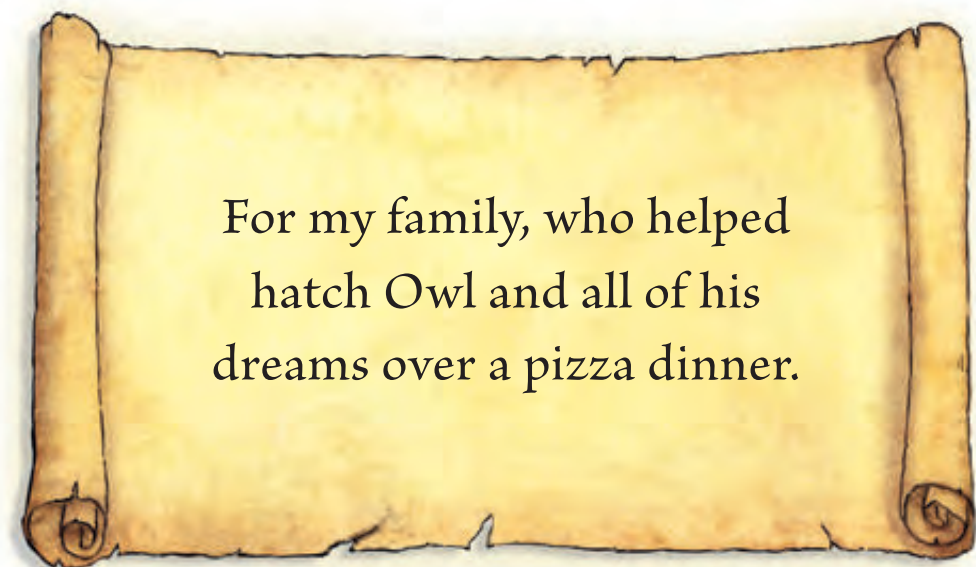
The following week, not a single knight disappeared.
Or the week after that.

And every night, Owl patrolled the walls.

It was very dark and very, very quiet.
But Owl didn't mind, because he was brave,
he was clever...

And he had many friends.





For my family, who helped
hatch Owl and all of his
dreams over a pizza dinner.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

The illustrations for this book were done using Adobe Photoshop, a Wacom tablet, Procreate, and an iPad. This book was edited by Christy Ottaviano and designed by Angelie Yap with art direction by Saho Fujii. The production was supervised by Lillian Sun, and the production editor was Jen Graham. The text was set in Briosio Pro, and the display type is hand lettered.

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