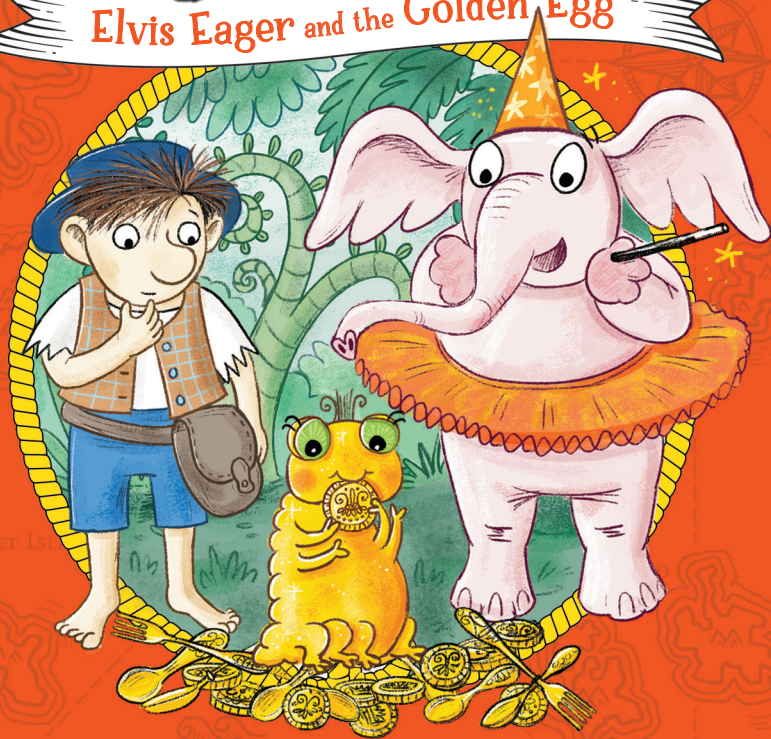


Monty's Island

Elvis Eager and the Golden Egg



Sea of Wonders
Emily Rodda

Illustrated by Lucinda Gifford

SILVER STREAM

First published by Allen & Unwin in 2021

Copyright © Text, Emily Rodda 2021

Copyright © Illustrations, Lucinda Gifford 2021

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher. The Australian *Copyright Act 1968* (the Act) allows a maximum of one chapter or ten per cent of this book, whichever is the greater, to be photocopied by any educational institution for its educational purposes provided that the educational institution (or body that administers it) has given a remuneration notice to the Copyright Agency (Australia) under the Act.

Allen & Unwin
83 Alexander Street
Crows Nest NSW 2065
Australia
Phone: (61 2) 8425 0100
Email: info@allenandunwin.com
Web: www.allenandunwin.com



A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia

ISBN 978 1 76087 699 9

For teaching resources, explore www.allenandunwin.com/resources/for-teachers

Cover & text design by Joanna Hunt
Cover illustrations by Lucinda Gifford
Set in 14pt Berkeley Oldstyle Book by Joanna Hunt

Printed in Australia in November 2020 by McPherson's Printing Group

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

www.emilyrodda.com
www.lucindagifford.com



The paper in this book is FSC® certified. FSC® promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

*Somewhere far away, there's a sea that
ripples with magic. And if you were a bird
flying high over that sea one fine day,
you'd be able to look down at the tiny
green-and-gold dot that's Monty's Island...*



The Islanders

Monty



Tawny



Sir Wise





Bunchy



Clink

Marigold







After the Storm

Monty and Tawny the Fearless Lion are both yawning as they plod along the beach, heading for breakfast at the Island Cafe.

There was a huge storm in the night. **Thunder** crashed. **Rain** pelted down. **Giant waves** pounded the shore, moving the sand around. Now the storm's moved on, but the sun's hidden behind grey clouds, so everything is still very wet.





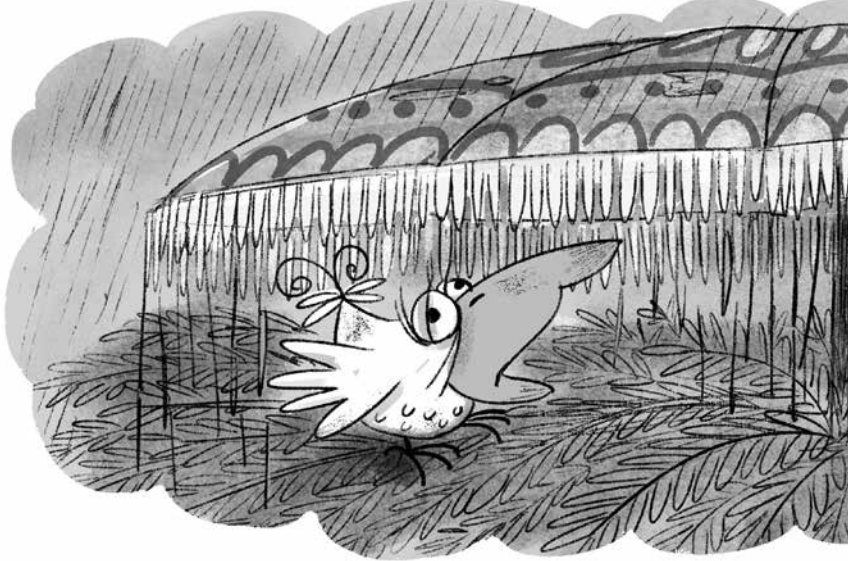
The big waves have left lots of things behind them on the sand, and Monty's Pick-up Sled is piled high. He's found plenty of **driftwood** for the Cafe stove. He's also found a rusty **saw**, a big plastic **cone**, a **canoe paddle**, a useful **wooden box** and a fine broad-brimmed **hat**.

A huge **fishing net** clogged with seaweed is piled on the Sled as well. It'll make a great sun shelter for the Islanders on hot afternoons. Usually, washed-up hats and fishing nets are chewed to pieces by Jinglebees before Monty can get to them, but this morning the Jinglebees are sleeping in.

Monty's pleased with his Finds, but he wishes **he** was still in bed, too. He and Tawny were safe from the storm in their little grass hut, but there was too much noise for sleep.

First, there was the thunder. Then, in the jungle, there were the angry roars of the Island's monster, the **Hairy Horrible**. The Horrible hunts at night, but it hates wet feet even more than it hates sand between its toes.

And as if those things weren't bad enough, the two Argue Birds that live on the roof of the hut had started one of their loud quarrels.



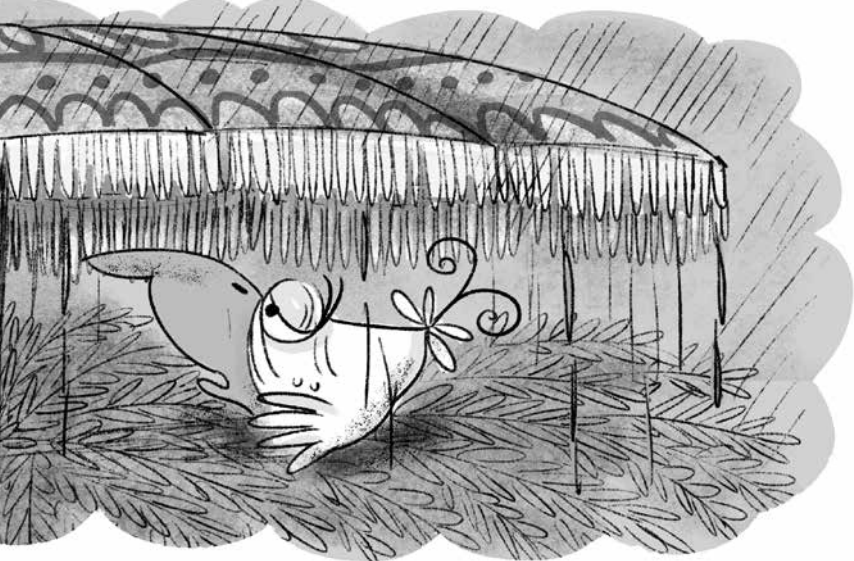
I'M WET, I'M WET, I'M WET! the bossy one kept squawking.

I'm wetter, I'm wetter, I'm wetter, the quiet one would trill back.

I'M WET, I'M WET, I'M WET, I'M WET!

I'm wetter, I'm wetter, I'm wetter, I'm wetter...

The fight went on and on. Thinking about it now, Monty feels tireder than ever. 'The umbrella I put over the Argue Birds didn't help,' he says to Tawny. 'It **does** have a few



holes in it, but it's the only one I have.'

'Puh!' says Tawny. If he had his way, the Argue Birds would have more than a leaky umbrella to worry about.

'Never mind,' says Monty, nodding at the wooden box on the Sled. 'I've got a plan. That box is plenty big enough for two. It's got a lid to keep off the rain, and holes in the sides for fresh air. I'm going to cut a doorway at one end and put the box in a tree. Then maybe the Argue Birds will go and live in it, instead of on our roof.'

Tawny's just about to say 'Puh!' again, because he doesn't think the Argue Birds will do any such thing, when he sees something very surprising floating at the water's edge.

Shining in the middle of a clump of seaweed is a **huge golden egg**.

Tawny stops and stares. Monty turns to find out why, and sees the golden egg. He jams on the Sled brake and runs to the water's edge. In no time he's back, the egg cradled in his hands.

'I've never seen an egg as big as **this!**' he exclaims. 'It must have come from an island far away. Look how it shines, Tawny! Just like real gold!'

Tawny growls. Suddenly he's sorry he stopped. He's got a **bad feeling** about this. Then he hears something, and the bad feeling gets worse. There's a tiny scratching, tapping





noise coming from the egg. Something inside is trying to get **out!**

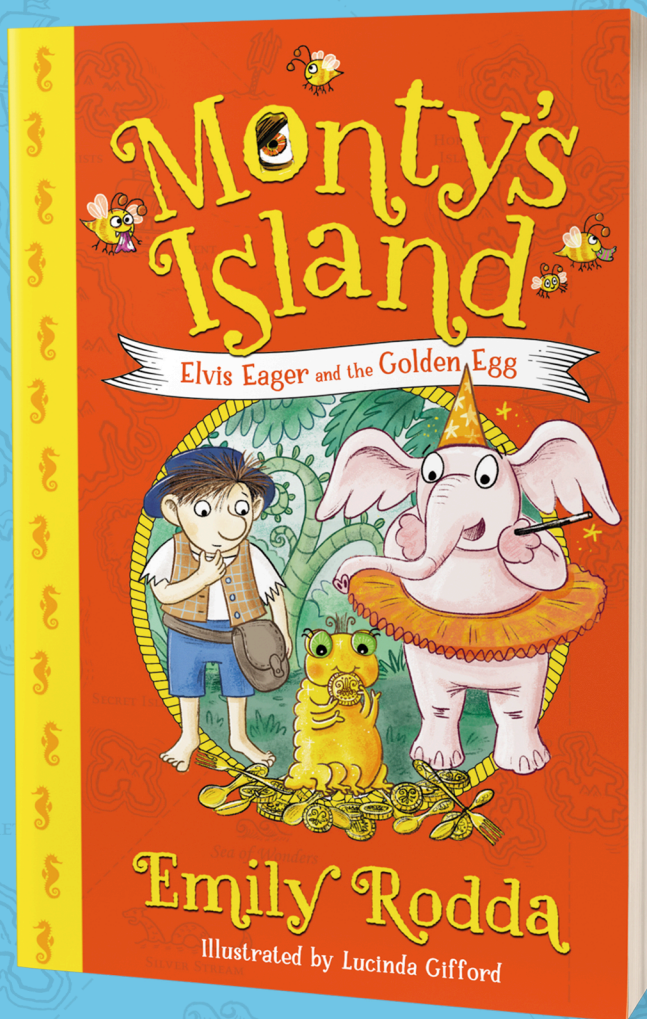
‘The egg’s starting to **hatch!**’ Monty shouts in excitement. ‘We’d better get it up to the Cafe quick smart, Tawny! The baby bird will be warmer and drier inside.’

He slides the egg into his Handy Bag to keep it safe. Then he puts his head down and hurries on up the beach, dragging the Sled behind him.

Out Now

ISLE OF MISTS

HORNET
ISLAND



Sea of Wonders

ALLEN & UNWIN