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Opening extract from
The Lying Carpet

Written by
David Lucas

Published by
Andersen Press Ltd

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Please print off and read at your leisure.



this book is dedicated to Janice Thomson



Other books by David Lucas:

Cake Girl

Halibut Jackson

Nutmeg

Whale

The Robot and the Bluebird

The Lying Carpet

David Lucas

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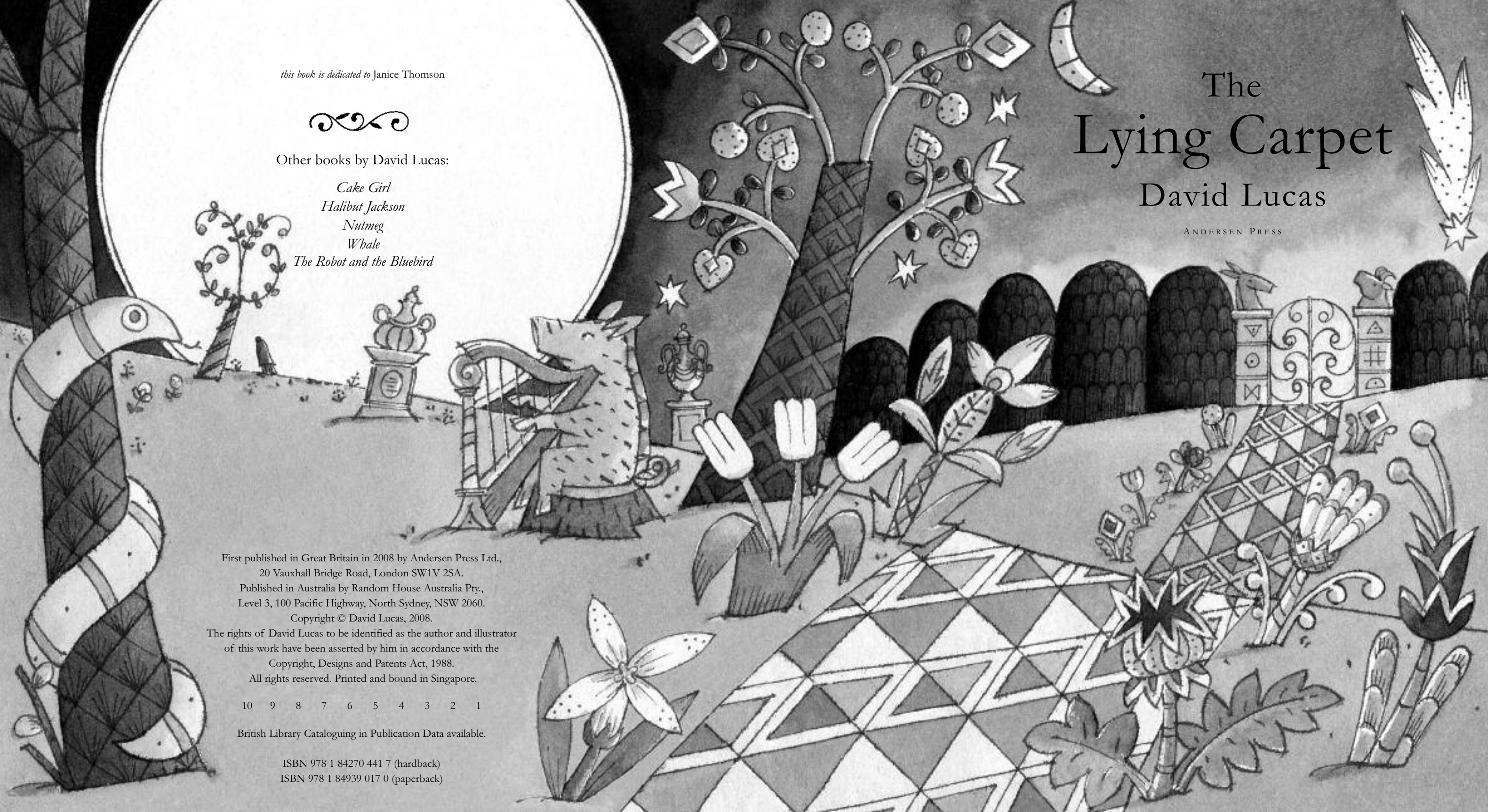
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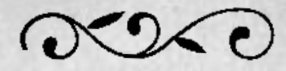
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*A Honeybee, fat with nectar,
knocked on the Window and said:
“The Truth is Bitter and Lies are Sweet,
but the Truth is better for you.”*

*“That’s all very well,” said a Fly, trapped inside,
“but on this side of the glass, Truth and Lies are one.”*

Part One

Faith had sat there for centuries, looking out of the Window, looking up at the sky and the tall trees, and she had never said a word.

But that afternoon, as the light of the Sun moved across her face, there was a glimmer of thinking in her eyes – a tiny spark, a little thought that led to bigger thoughts.

She began to wonder where she was.

And how long she'd been sitting there.

“*Dear me,*” she said, “I feel as if I’ve been asleep for ever.”

“But you *have,*” said a voice, a low voice, rich as fur and just close by.

She wanted to turn around.

But she couldn’t move.

“I don’t know what’s the matter with me today,” she said in a whisper. She felt as if she were made of stone.

“It is a happy day!” said the voice. “You have spoken *at last.*”

“Who’s there?” said Faith. “Who are you?”

“I am a *carpet,*” said the voice. “Down here, not far away. You might be able to see me out of the corner of your eye? Some of me, at least?”

Faith could see, on the very edge of her vision, a broad, striped shape on the floor.

“A *carpet?*” she said.



figure 1: Faith