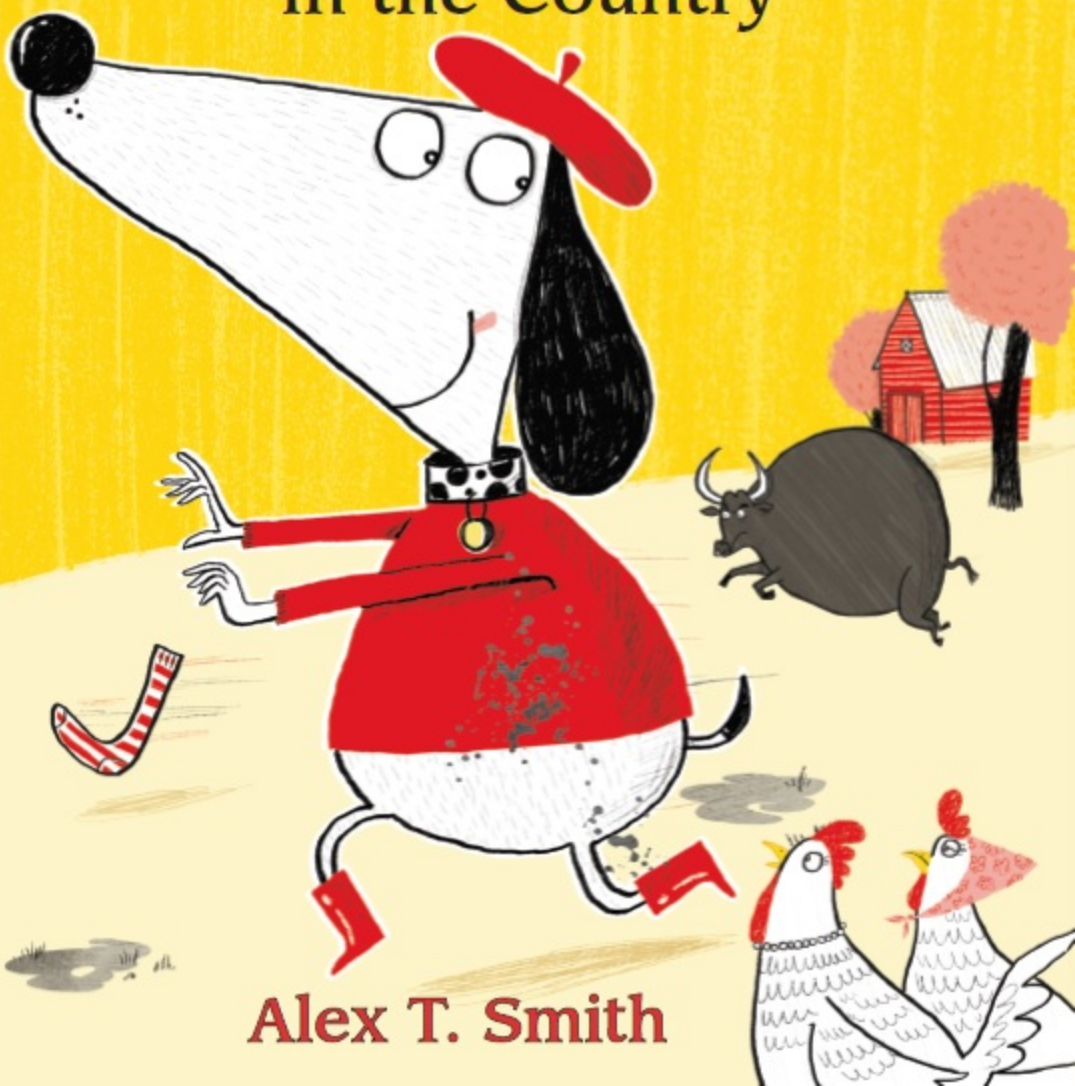


CLAUDE

in the Country



Alex T. Smith



For
Thomas and Euan,
my rootin'-tootin' nephews!



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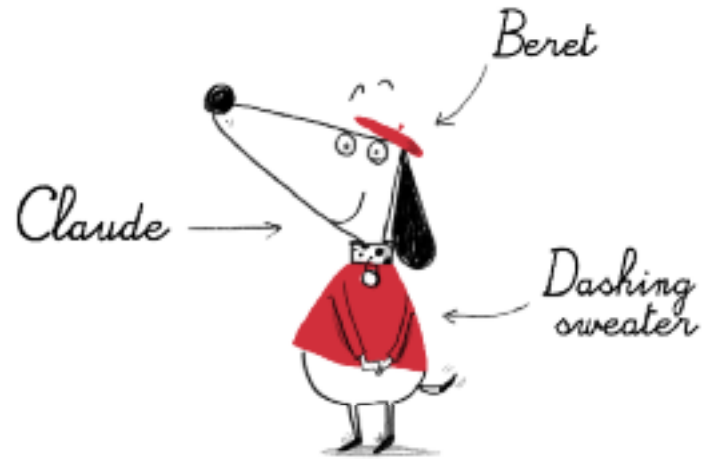


ALEX T. SMITH

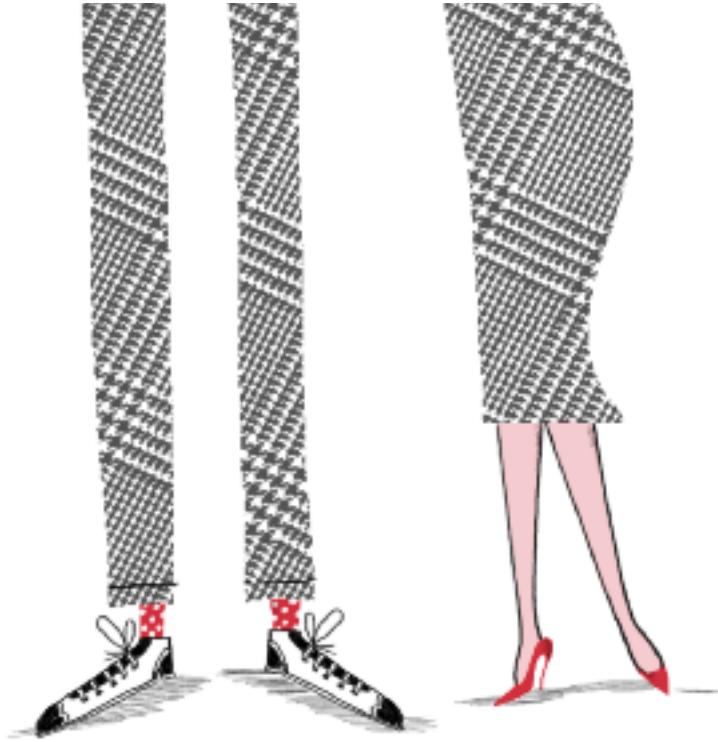

PEACHTREE
ATLANTA

Chapter 1

Have you met Claude?
Here he is now.
Hello, Claude!



Claude is a dog.
Claude is a small dog.
Claude is a small, plump dog who wears
a beret and a very dashing sweater.



He lives in a house with his owners,
Mr. and Mrs. Shinyshoes...

...and his best friend, Sir Bobblysock.

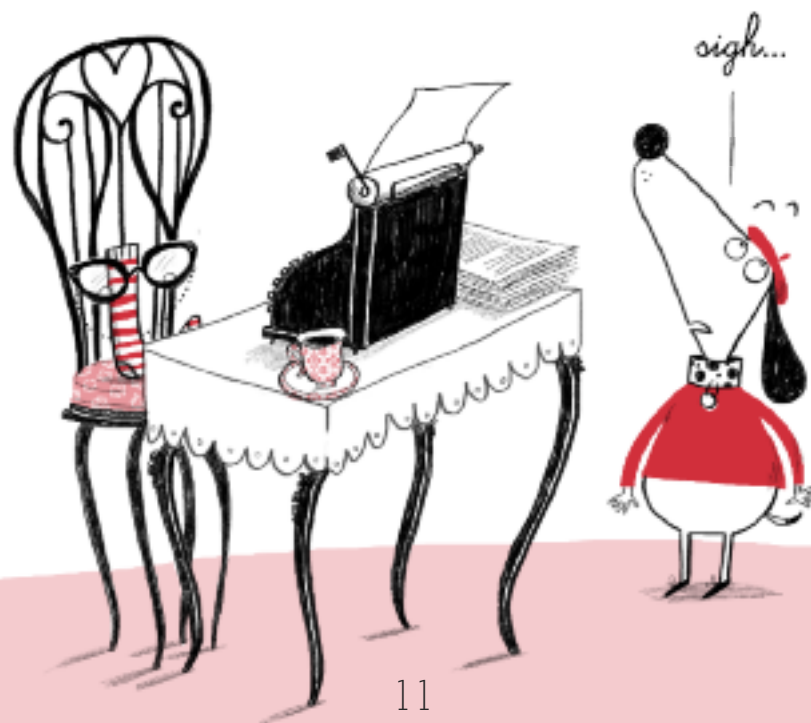


Sir Bobblysock is both a sock
and quite bobbly.

Chapter 2

It was Thursday morning and the day before had been a Wednesday. A wet Wednesday. Because their raincoats were still at the dry cleaners, Claude and Sir Bobblysock hadn't been able to go on an adventure. They'd had to stay indoors.

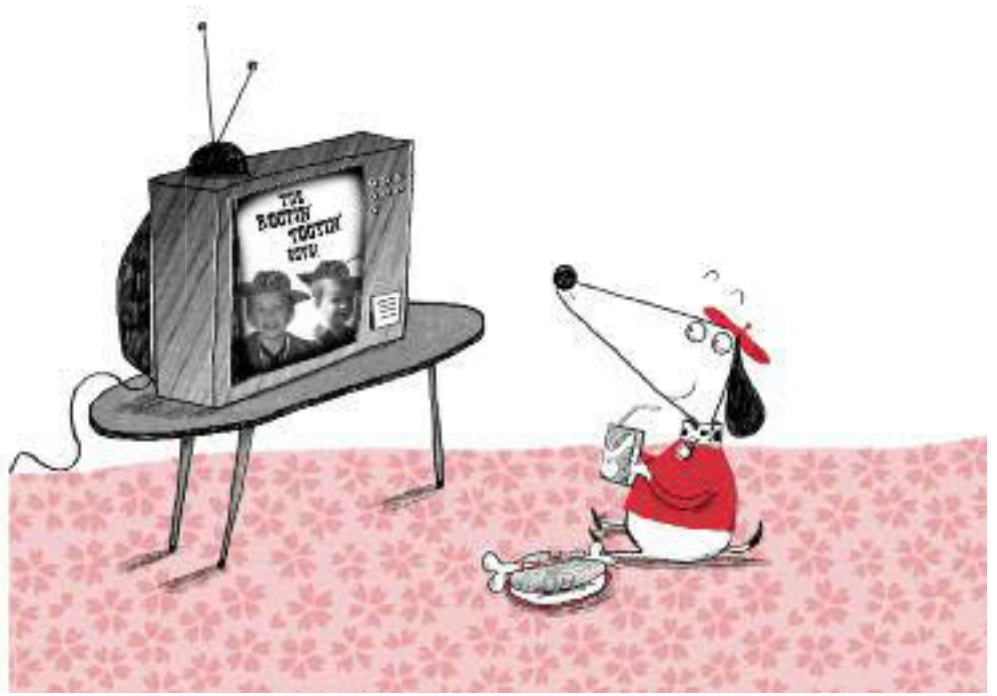
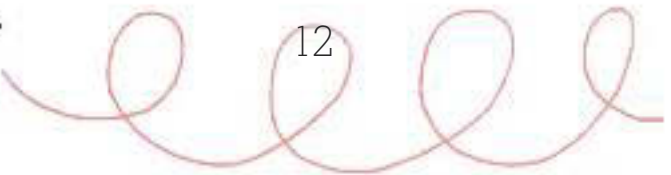
Sir Bobblysock had busied himself writing his life story and Claude had busied himself being bored.

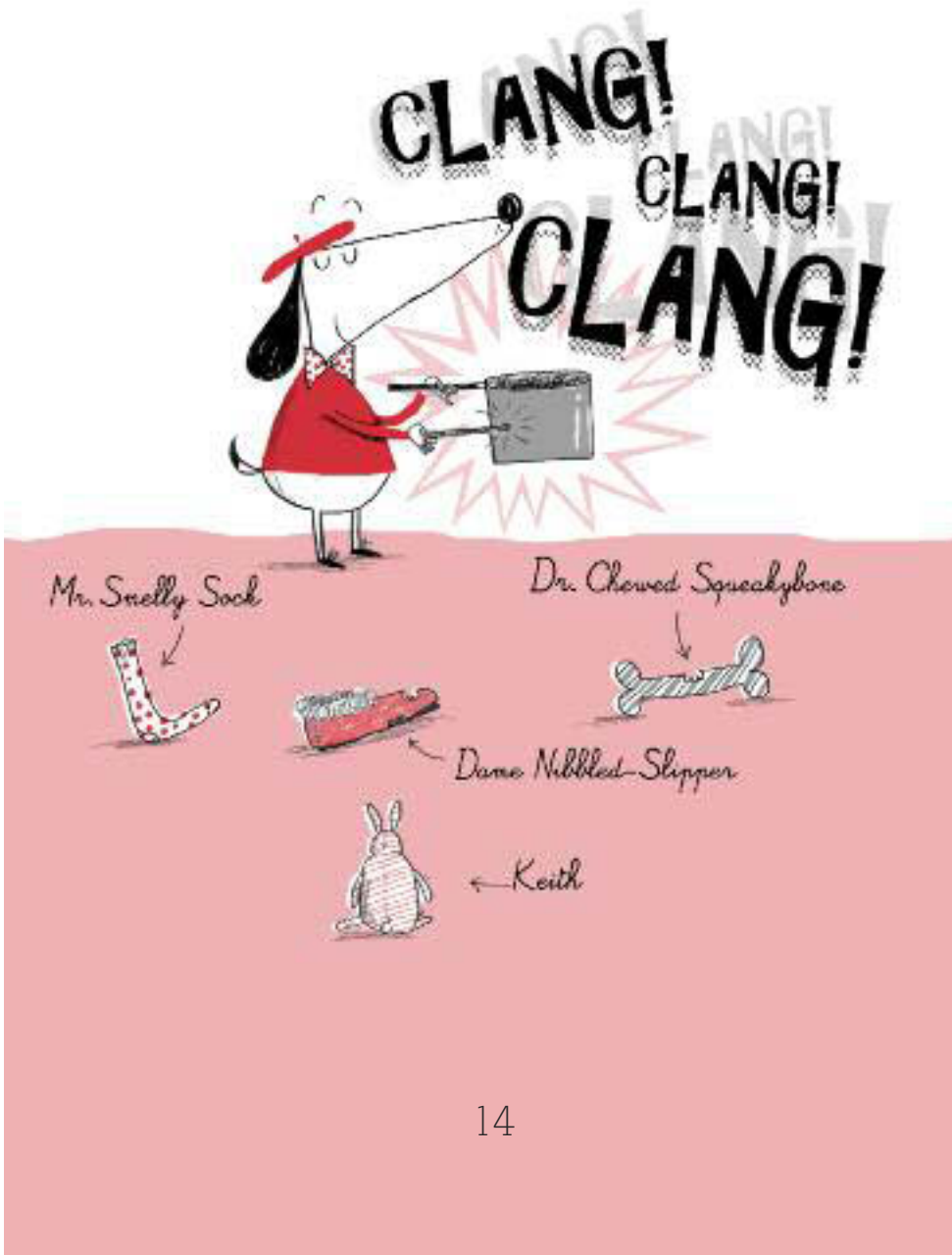




When this didn't work, he did some running around in circles, watched a very interesting movie about cowboys, and gave a concert for all his other friends. It had been a rip-roaring success.

First, Claude had thrown himself down on the carpet and pretended to be sick until Sir Bobblysock looked at him and gave him some attention.





But now it was Thursday and the sun was out. Claude needed some fresh air.

“I think I will go to the countryside,” he said. So that’s what he did.

