

TROUBLE WITH TRUFFLES

BY S.E. RICHEY • ILLUSTRATED BY JHON ORTIZ

To my hog quartet: A, E, N, & S.
By the way, where are my truffles?

—S.E. Richey

Trouble With Truffles
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Summary: Hammy loves his building blocks. Mom loves her truffles. Hammy must share, but Mom won't. That is until Hammy takes matters into his own snout and discovers that sharing is hard for little pigs and big pigs.--Publisher.

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There goes Oinkers...

...With my favorite building blocks again.





*“No, Oinkers!
These are special.”*

**OINK!
OINK!
OINK!**

“Play with your own toys.”

“Hammy,” Mom says. “We always share.”

“But I don’t want to.”

“Hammyyy...” Mom says.

I JUMP.



I STOMP.



I DROP TO THE FLOOR.



**I POUND MY
FISTS AND FEET.**

I GO HOG WILD!

“That’s no way to act, little piggie!” Mom snorts.

“I’ll talk to you when you calm down.”

“Hammy, share with your brother.”

“Hammy, there’s plenty of mud for the two of you.”

“Hammy, don’t hog the slop.”



Why do I always have to share? Mom never does!

I've seen her hide delicious truffles from us.



Sometimes here...

...and here...



And these? These are NOT vitamins!

I always know when Mom's chowing down truffles
because she gets quiet... a little too quiet.



And I always get a truffle whiff...

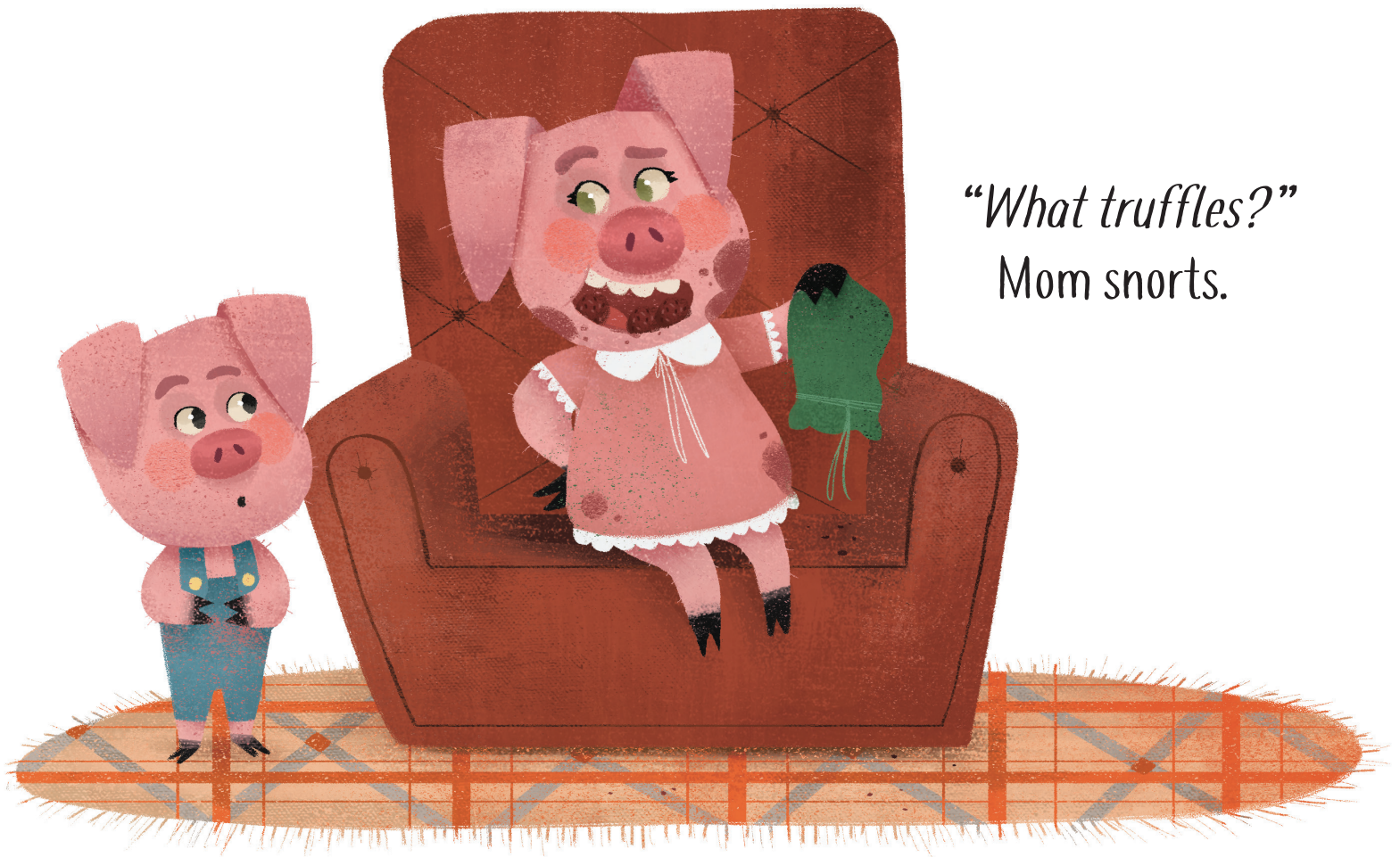
There
she
is!





“Hi,
Mom.”

“Where are the truffles?”



“What truffles?”
Mom snorts.

Hmmm... I think it's time for a truffle hunt.
"Come, Oinkers."

OINK!
OINK!
OINK!





I sniff, and snout around.

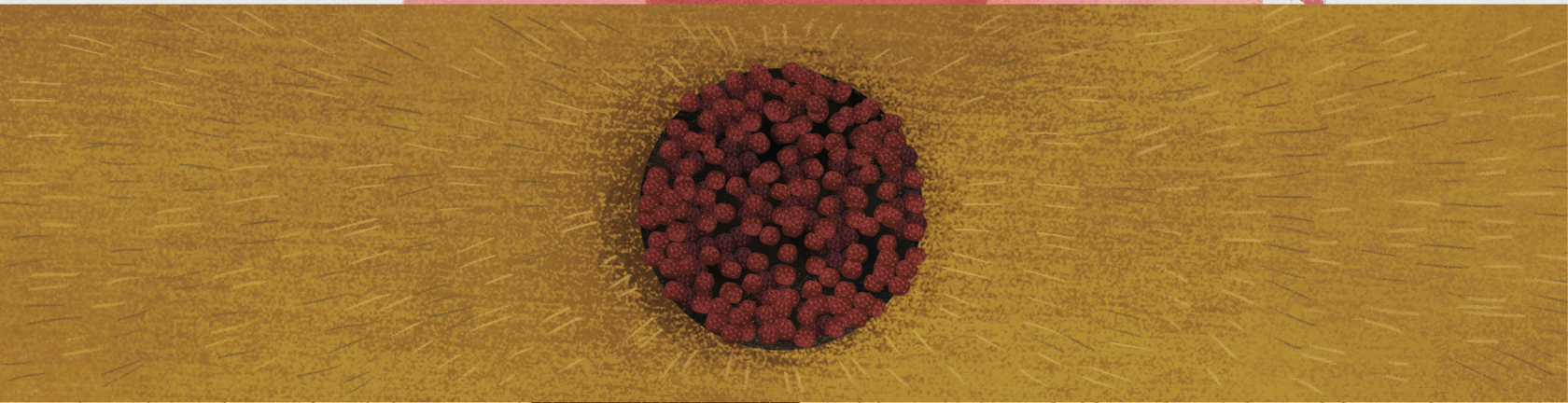
And dig,

and root, and...

TRUFFLES!

A close-up illustration of a pink pig's face. The pig has large, floppy ears, green eyes with heavy, dark eyelids, and a slightly downturned mouth. The pig's skin has a textured, stippled appearance.

HAMMY!

A close-up illustration of the same pink pig's face. The pig's eyes are wide open and looking upwards, with a surprised or questioning expression. A circular patch of brown, plaid fabric is visible on its forehead.

MOM??

I snatch the truffles and run!



HAMMY
WAIT!



Quick! I hide the bag where she will never find it.





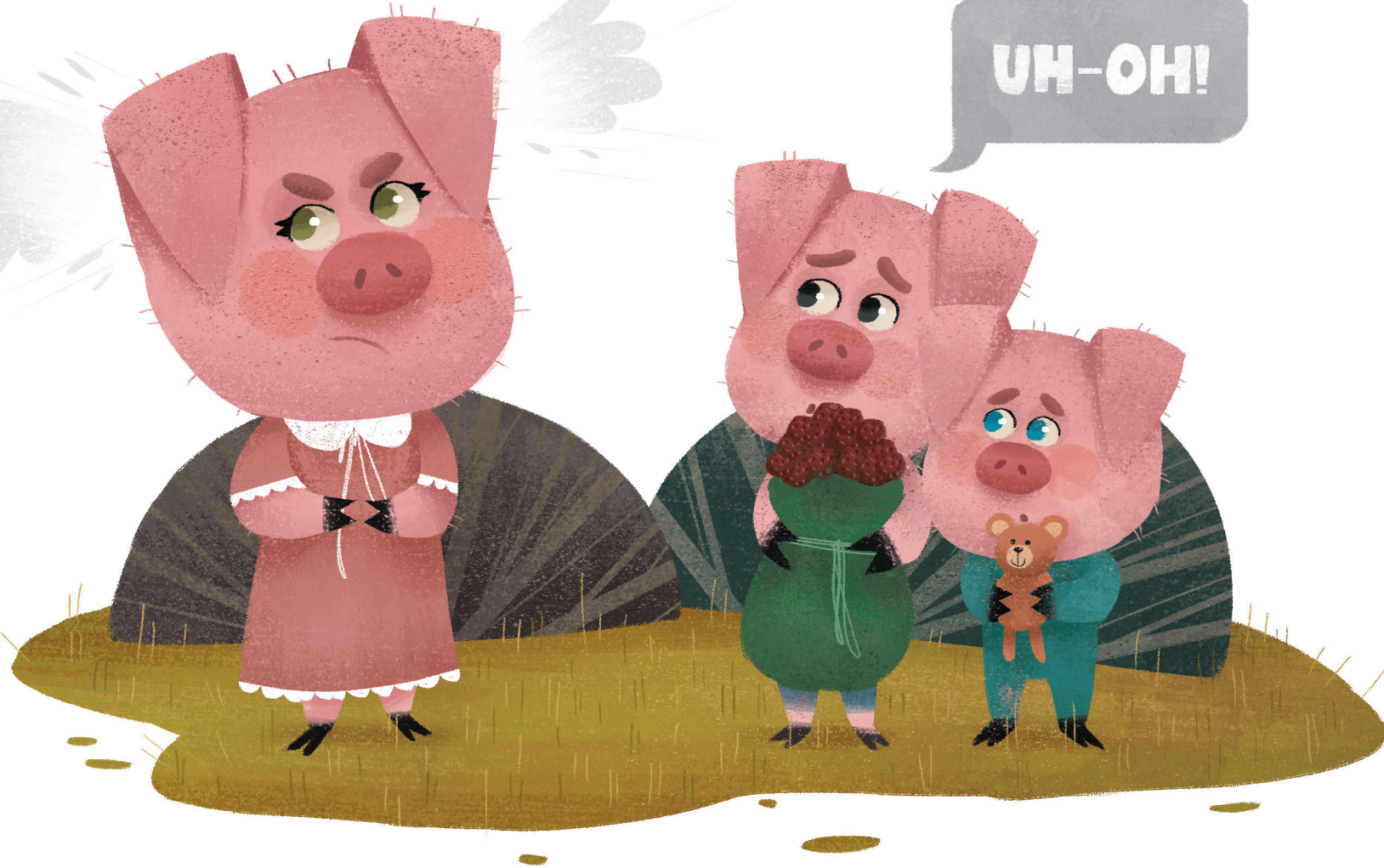
And I wait. 3, 2, 1...



*“HAMLET PORKIN SWINE!
Give me the truffles right now!”*

“You have to share, Mom.”

UH-OH!



**MOM
JUMPS.**



**AND
STOMPS.**



SHE DROPS TO THE FLOOR.



**SHE POUNDS HER
FISTS AND FEET.**



SHE GOES HOG WILD!

SQUEEE

“That’s no way to act!” I say. “I’ll wait for you to calm down.”



E E A L !

“We always share, remember, Mom?”

“But I don’t want to.”



“Come on...”



“Okaaaay. One for you. One for Oinkers. Two for me.”

“MOM!
You have
to be fair.”

“Fiine!”

“I shared, and you shared. That’s good, right?”

“Mmm... yes,” Mom says.

OINK!
OINK!
OINK!



There
she
goes
again.



“Come, Oinkers. It’s time for another truffle hunt.”

OINK!
OINK!
OINK!



Did You Know?

- Truffle pigs are regular female pigs who hunt for truffles. Their instinct for rooting the earth, their great sense of smell, and their ability to find food in the wild make pigs perfect for this job. Some say pigs have been used for hunting truffles since the 1500s!
- The truffles that Hammy's mom is so crazy about are subterranean edible fungi, which means they are a type of mushroom that grows underground and can be eaten. Truffles grow on the roots of certain trees, in specific kinds of soil, and they never see the light of day until they are extracted.
- When a truffle is ripe and ready to harvest, it gives off a powerful and unique aroma that truffle pigs can easily identify.
- On average, it takes anywhere from 5 years to over a decade for a truffle to grow and be ready to harvest. Because of this, and because truffles must grow in very specific conditions, it's not easy to grow them.
- Truffles are safe to eat, but not all fungi are safe. In fact, some mushrooms are poisonous and deadly! Never eat mushrooms you find in the wild. Never!
- Like Hammy's mom, truffle pigs go hog wild for truffles and sometimes eat them. That's a problem for hunters who hope to sell these truffles for a lot of money! Not only that, but truffle hunting is also a bit of a treasure hunt, and hunters don't want others to know what they are doing. Grazing your pigs around the woods and forests is a dead giveaway. Over the years, trained dogs have replaced truffle pigs for extracting these treasures.
- Dogs have a great sense of smell, have more stamina than pigs to hunt for longer periods, and are easier to train than pigs. And most importantly, unlike pigs, dogs won't eat the precious truffles.
- Chefs all around the world go hog wild for truffles, too. Truffle hunters sell these for a lot of money. One of the most popular, the white truffle, sells for thousands of dollars for a single pound!
- Some say that chocolate truffles were invented to look like the truffles found in the wild. I don't know about you, but I think that the truffles Hammy's mom loves so much in the story are really chocolate truffles and not the mushroom kind. What do you think?



This map only shows *some* popular spots in the world where different types of truffles are grown, but there are many other regions not included here. With technology and new farming techniques, more and more regions around the world are cultivating truffles each day!



ARCTIC OCEAN

EUROPE

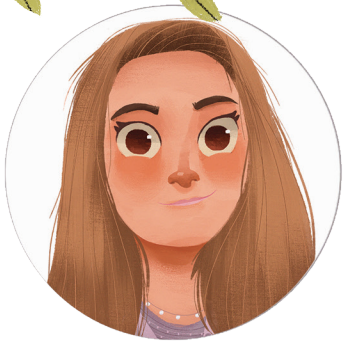
ASIA

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN

AUSTRALIA





About the Author

S. E. Richey is the award-winning author of *Lulu and the Missing Tooth Fairy* and *Trouble With Truffles*, both books illustrated by the talented Jhon Ortiz. Prior to becoming a children's book author, S. E. Richey worked as a Spanish interpreter, a Spanish immersion instructor, and a story time lady at her local library. She loves to sing WAY too loudly in the car. She loves Dulce de Leche ice cream (even if it hurts her tummy). And she loves stories that make her giggle and stories that pull at the heartstrings. Raised in the Caribbean Island of Puerto Rico, S. E. Richey now lives in a hobby farm in a smallish town in Idaho with 1 amazing husband, 3.5 clever children, 5 hungry chickens, 2 squirrel-loving dogs, and 1 fat cat.



About the Illustrator

Jhon Ortiz is a 3D character animator and a children's book illustrator born in Caracas, Venezuela and based in Valencia, Spain. A plant keeper and a coffee lover, Jhon also likes the sound of vinyl records. From an early age, Jhon felt a passion for drawing and storytelling. He has worked as an animator for the films *The Nutcracker and the Four Moomios*, and *Luck*, an Apple Original film created by Skydance Animation. Besides *Trouble With Truffles*, Jhon Ortiz has illustrated several books, including S. E. Richey's debut picture book, *Lulu and the Missing Tooth Fairy*, *The One Great Gnome* by Jeff Dinardo, and *LillyBelle: A Damsel NOT in Distress* by Joana Pastro.

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