



Bambi

and the
Prince of the Forest



Retold by Rachel Bladon

Adapted from Bambi, A Life in the Forest by Felix Salten

Illustrated by Briony May Smith



Bambi was born in a quiet place in the forest, under the trees. His brown coat had lovely white spots.

‘What a beautiful little fawn!’ said one of the birds.

All through the forest, birds sang and called. But Bambi heard only his mother.

‘Bambi,’ she said quietly to him.

‘My little Bambi.’

Soon, Bambi began to look around. He smelled the flowers, and watched the birds. He looked up at the big blue sky, and jumped around in the grass.

Then he lay down next to his mother, safe and happy.

One day, Bambi's mother told him, 'You are bigger now, Bambi. I have to go to the meadow and find food. Stay here, and don't move.'

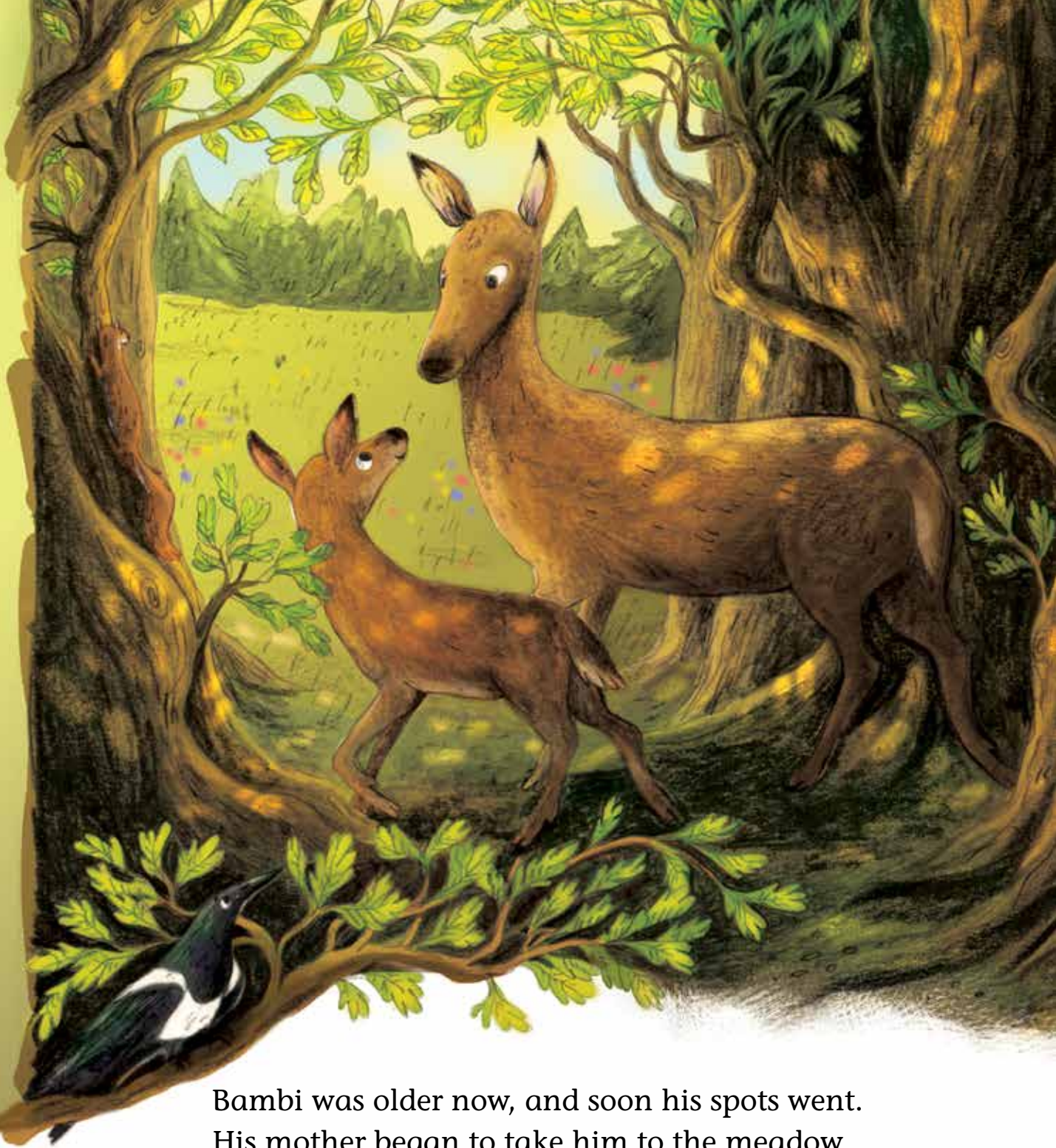
She turned and ran away, and soon the forest was quiet.

Bambi was afraid. He waited and waited, and listened and listened. Then he started to call for his mother.

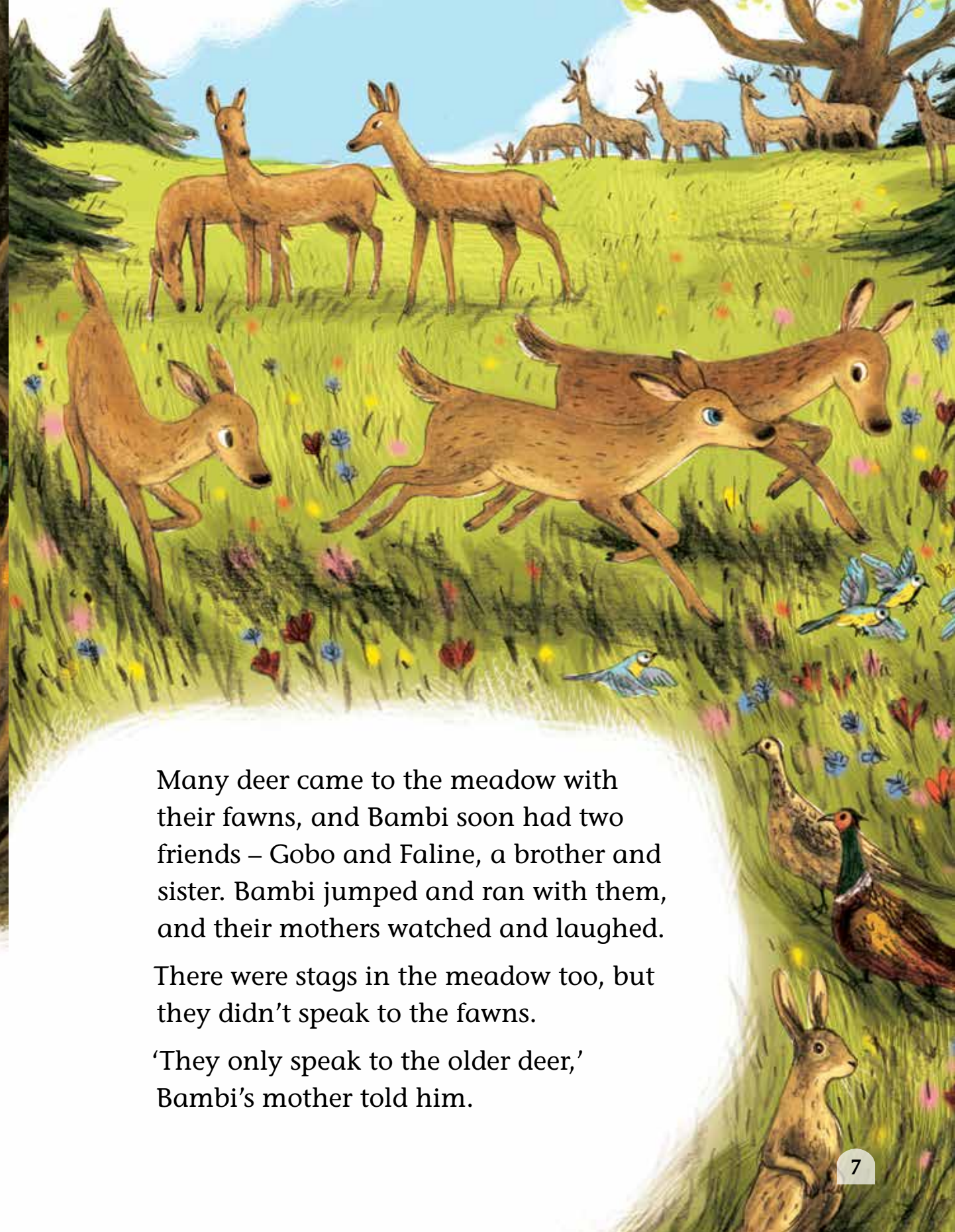
'Why are you crying?' a voice asked, and Bambi looked up. A big stag stood in front of him. He was tall and handsome, and he had a beautiful brown coat and big strong antlers.

'Can't you stay alone?' the stag said. Then he walked away into the forest.

After that, Bambi's mother often went away and left him. But Bambi didn't call for her again. He wanted to be like the tall, handsome stag. He wanted to see him again and say, 'Look at me. I don't call for my mother now.'



Bambi was older now, and soon his spots went. His mother began to take him to the meadow. He loved it there: he saw the big blue sky, felt the hot sun, and was happy.



Many deer came to the meadow with their fawns, and Bambi soon had two friends – Gobo and Faline, a brother and sister. Bambi jumped and ran with them, and their mothers watched and laughed.

There were stags in the meadow too, but they didn't speak to the fawns.

'They only speak to the older deer,' Bambi's mother told him.