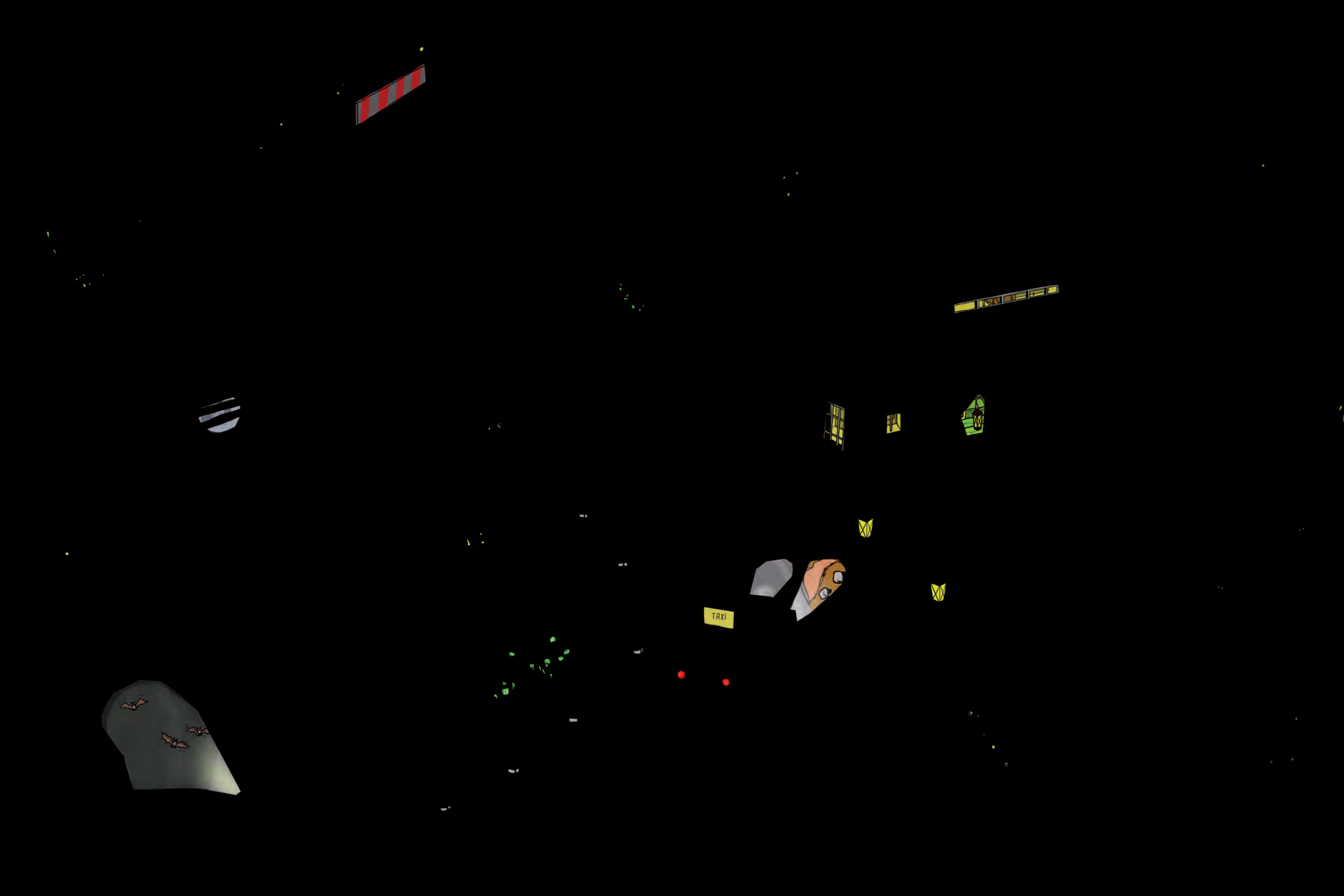




WRITTEN BY HELENA HARAŠTOVÁ **A BIG BOOK OF THE DARK** ILLUSTRATED BY JIŘÍ FRANTA

**A**  
**BIG BOOK**  
**OF THE**  
**DARK**











# NATURE AND DARKNESS

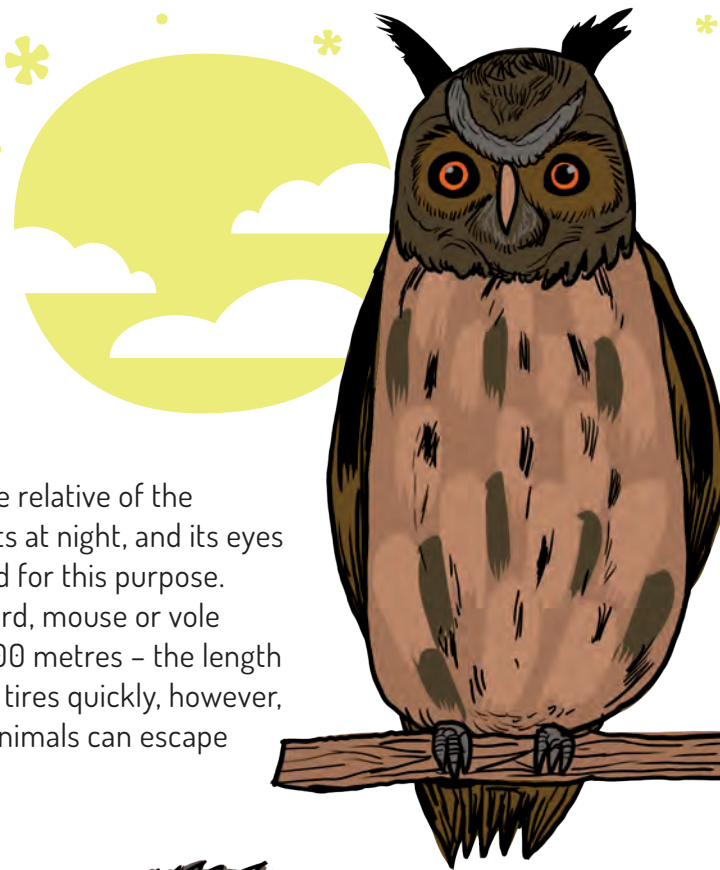


## WILDCAT

The wildcat is a close relative of the domestic cat. It hunts at night, and its eyes and ears are adapted for this purpose. It can spot a small bird, mouse or vole from a distance of 100 metres – the length of a football pitch! It tires quickly, however, so more tenacious animals can escape it with relative ease.

## EUROPEAN HEDGEHOG

When spending the night outdoors, have you ever been scared by loud stomping and snorting? There is nothing to fear: you have probably encountered a hedgehog. At night this small mammal hunts insects and earthworms, which it tracks from far away thanks to its excellent sense of smell. When in danger, it rolls itself into a prickly ball.



## EURASIAN EAGLE OWL

The Eurasian eagle owl is an outstanding hunter. Its enormous eyes see at night as well as by day. It has excellent hearing, as the soft feathers of its wings make very little sound in flight. It feeds most commonly on hedgehogs, which are made to pay for their night-time stomping and snorting, although it is also capable of bringing down a young roe deer.



## EVENING PRIMROSE

Some exotic plants bloom at night; these include orchid species and certain field and forest herbs. Evening primrose can grow to be 2 metres tall. Its flowers do not begin to show themselves until around six in the evening. They are **pollinated by moths** at dawn and wither and fall off during the day.

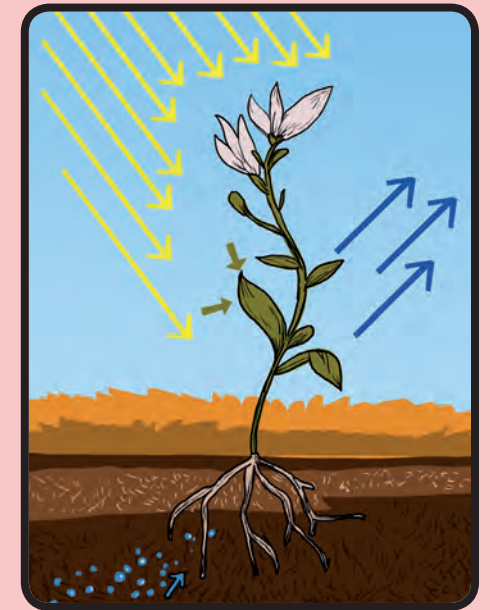
## COMMON GLOW-WORM

Glow-worms are among the most remarkable inhabitants of the night-time landscape. They **emit a bright green light** that switches on and off depending on the occasion. Females light up while waiting in the grass, males when in flight, making it easy for them to find each other.



## BITTER OYSTER

During the day the bitter oyster is unlikely to attract attention – it looks just like an ordinary mushroom. It grows in groups on the trunks of living and dead deciduous trees. At night, however, it miraculously lights up, emitting a green light thanks to a special compound in its body.



## HOW DO PLANTS BREATHE?

If the pattern of **alternating day and night** were to end, most of the world's plants would die, resulting in the extinction of practically all life on Earth. During the day plants receive sunlight and release oxygen into the atmosphere; this oxygen is breathed by animals and humans. This process is known as photosynthesis. **At night** plants breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Many people forget that it is thanks to photosynthesis that we have enough oxygen on Earth.

## HOW PLANTS GROW

During the day plants concentrate so hard on the processes of photosynthesis and flowering that they barely grow. But **at night** they grow amazing quickly – just take a look at the plants you grow at home.





# A BIG BOOK OF THE DARK

HELENA HARAŠTOVÁ & JIŘÍ FRANTA

Do you think that the streets of your town and the countryside around it are completely silent and deserted at night? **This book will open your eyes!** You will find out that there are nocturnal animals that are active while you sleep, plants that glow in the dark, and even people who work at night and go to sleep when you get up! You will have the opportunity to see what happens in the night in a forest, in a town, in a village, at an airport and also which creatures live in eternal darkness in oceans and underground.

**Darkness is full of life, and it is great fun to discover!**




See what  
is **happening**  
while you  
**SLEEP**

5 large full-page  
illustrations  
full of life



Folding sides packed with  
interesting facts

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⚠ WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD –  
Small parts. Not suitable for children  
under 36 months.

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