

# A Moose in the Bathroom

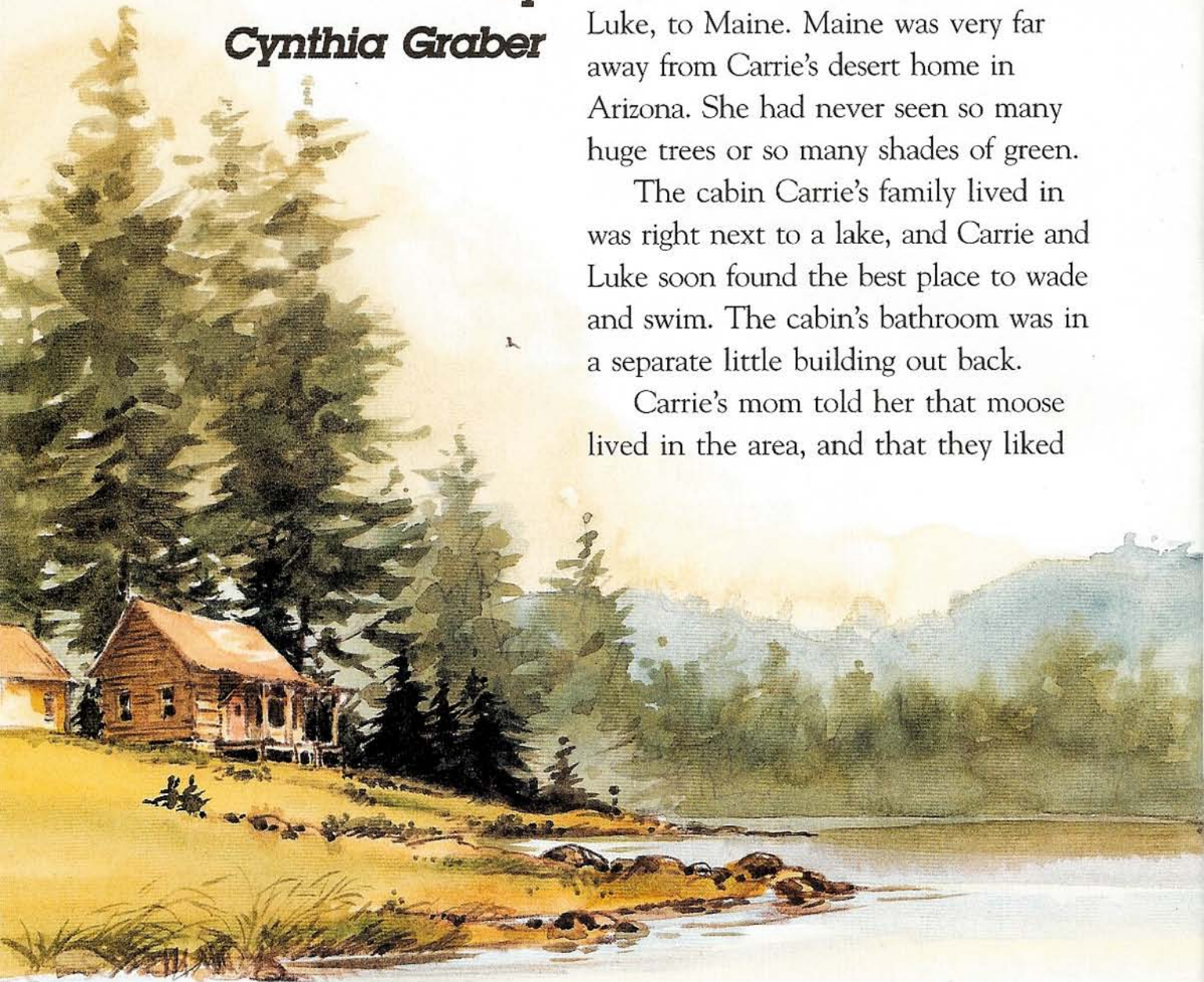
by  
*Cynthia Graber*

**C**ARRIE'S MOTHER and father were park rangers. Together they took care of the land and animals and worked with other rangers to make sure that anyone who camped, hiked, or fished there would be safe.

One summer, Carrie moved with her parents and her twin brother, Luke, to Maine. Maine was very far away from Carrie's desert home in Arizona. She had never seen so many huge trees or so many shades of green.

The cabin Carrie's family lived in was right next to a lake, and Carrie and Luke soon found the best place to wade and swim. The cabin's bathroom was in a separate little building out back.

Carrie's mom told her that moose lived in the area, and that they liked



to come and drink at the lake. Carrie hadn't seen one yet, but she was a little worried. "Mom," she said one day, "what should I do if a moose comes in the bathroom?"

"A moose in the bathroom?" her mom said. "What nonsense!"

Carrie didn't think that was a very good answer. One afternoon, when she was walking with her father in the woods, she decided to ask him the same question. "Dad," she said, "what should I do if a moose comes into the bathroom?"

"Carrie, a moose won't come into the bathroom. But you shouldn't act scared if you do see one. They are usually very gentle, and they won't hurt you if you don't frighten them." Carrie knew her dad was right. She wasn't scared of seeing a moose, but she still wasn't sure what to do if one came in the bathroom.

She didn't ask Luke her question, because she knew he had never seen a moose, either. It looked like nobody was going to give her a straight answer.

Two days later, Carrie woke up very early, before anyone else in her family. She tried to go back to sleep. She tried breathing deeply, and she tried counting sheep, but nothing worked. Finally, she decided to get up and wash her face and brush her teeth.

She walked out to the bathroom in back and turned on the water. While she was busy splashing her face, the door creaked behind her. I forgot to latch the door! she thought. I wonder who that is? She turned around.



A moose had poked its head in and was staring right at her! It looked just like the pictures her mom and dad had shown her. Carrie looked at its big calm brown eyes and its long, velvety antlers and knew it would not hurt her. H'm, what should I say? she thought.

Carrie took a deep breath. "Moose," she said firmly, "you are very beautiful, and I am sure you are also very nice. I just like to be alone when I'm in the bathroom. I will be here all summer and I can talk to you another time. Would you mind leaving me alone right now?"

The moose blinked its long eyelashes at her, then turned around and did just that. ✨

