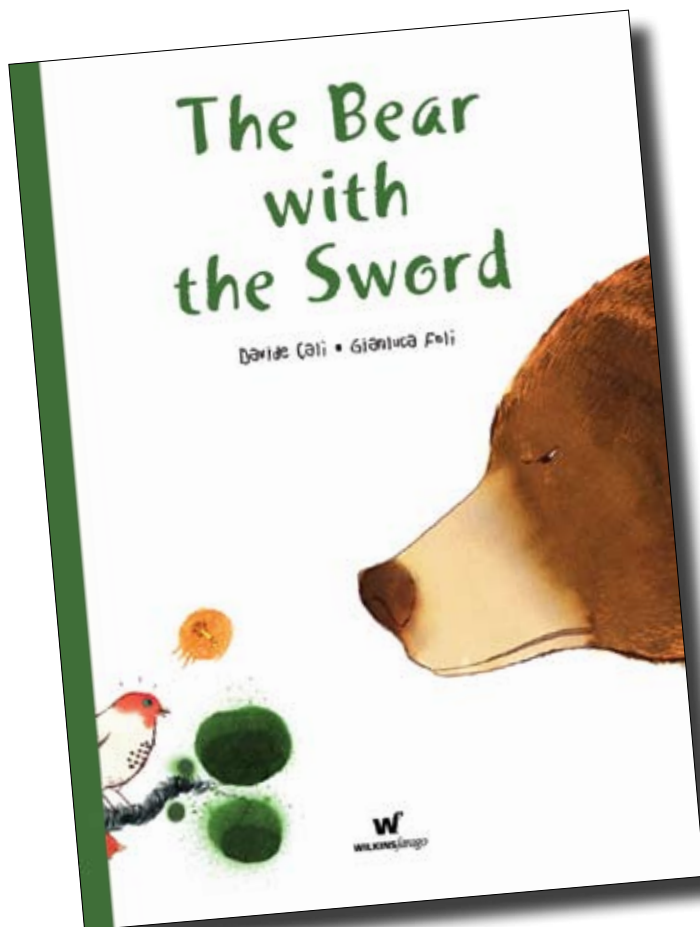








## Daide Cali • Gianluca Foli



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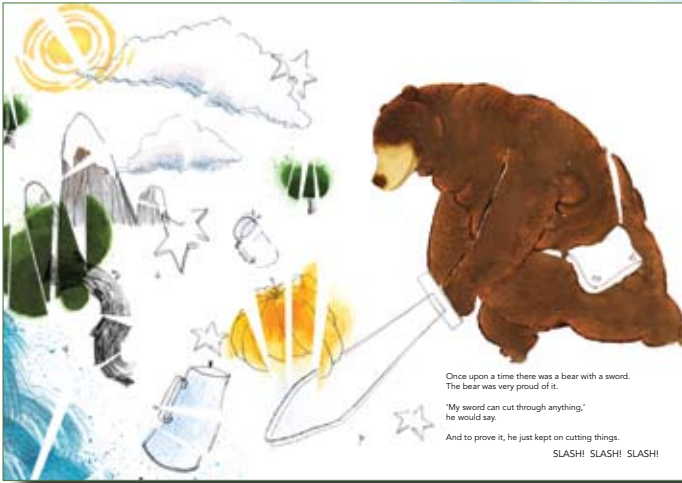
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March 2010 release



Once upon a time there was a bear with a sword.  
The bear was very proud of it.  
"My sword can cut through anything,"  
he would say.  
And to prove it, he just kept on cutting things.  
SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!



One day, to prove how powerful his sword was,  
he cut down an entire forest,  
only stopping when he felt hungry.



Now, the bear lived in a fortress.  
He had built it himself to keep out  
any enemies who might come along.

The fortress might keep out enemies,  
but it couldn't keep out water.  
Suddenly, early one morning, water came gushing in.



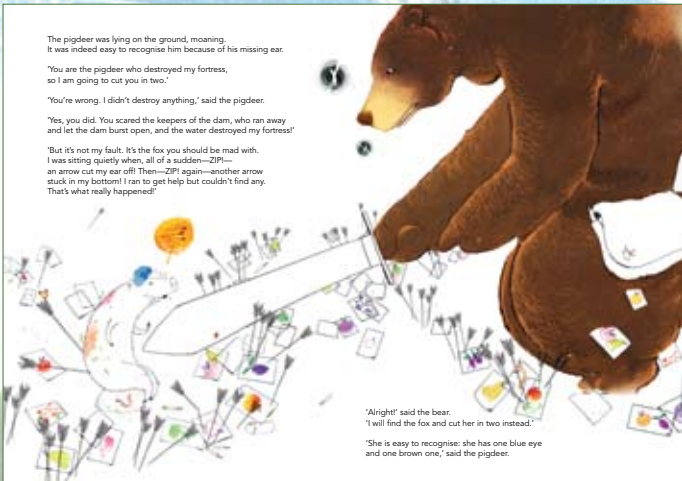
The bear was furious.  
"I'll find out who did this and cut him in two with my sword," he said.  
Then he marched to the dam from where the water was coming.  
"There you are!" he shouted to the keepers of the dam. "You have destroyed my fortress.  
Now I must cut you in two."

"Wait! It wasn't us who destroyed your fortress!"  
"Yes, it was. My fortress was destroyed by water  
and the water came from here."

"But it's not our fault. It's the pigdeer you should  
be mad with. He charged at us. We got scared and  
ran away, the dam burst open and the water  
destroyed your fortress!"

"Alright!" said the bear. "I will find  
the pigdeer and cut him in two instead."

"He is easy to recognise: he only has  
one ear," said the keepers of the dam.



The pigdeer was lying on the ground, moaning.  
It was indeed easy to recognise him because of his missing ear.

"You are the pigdeer who destroyed my fortress,  
so I am going to cut you in two."

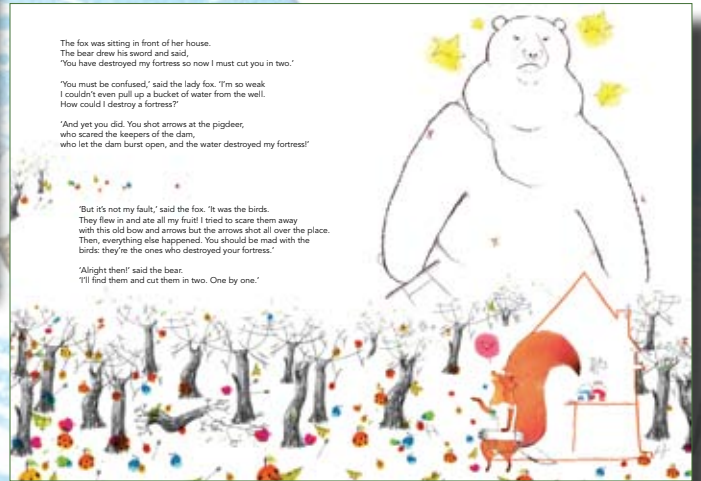
"You're wrong. I didn't destroy anything," said the pigdeer.

"Yes, you did. You scared the keepers of the dam, who ran away  
and let the dam burst open, and the water destroyed my fortress!"

"But it's not my fault. It's the fox you should be mad with.  
I was sitting quietly when, all of a sudden—ZIP!—  
an arrow cut my ear off! Then—ZIP! again—another arrow  
stuck in my bottom! I ran to get help but couldn't find any.  
That's what really happened!"

"Alright!" said the bear.  
"I will find the fox and cut her in two instead."

"She is easy to recognise: she has one blue eye  
and one brown one," said the pigdeer.



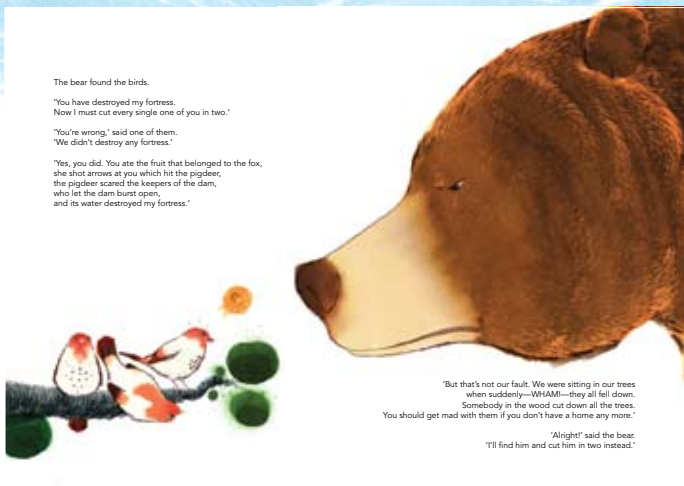
The fox was sitting in front of her house.  
The bear drew his sword and said,  
"You have destroyed my fortress so now I must cut you in two."

"You must be confused," said the lady fox. "I'm so weak  
I couldn't even pull up a bucket of water from the well.  
How could I destroy a fortress?"

"And yet you did. You shot arrows at the pigdeer,  
who scared the keepers of the dam,  
and the water destroyed my fortress!"

"But it's not my fault," said the fox. "It was the birds.  
They flew in and ate all my fruit! I tried to scare them away  
with this old bow and arrows but the arrows shot all over the place.  
Then, everything else happened. You should be mad with the  
birds: they're the ones who destroyed your fortress."

"Alright then!" said the bear.  
"I'll find them and cut them in two. One by one."



### ABOUT THE BOOK

In this timely and ingenious parable, a bear goes out into the forest with a sword to chop down trees. Soon after, his impregnable fort is washed away by a flood and he goes out to find and punish the creature responsible.

After accusing a fascinating array of unusual creatures, including the keepers of the dam, a one-eared pigdeer, a fox who loves archery and some fruit-loving birds, he finally arrives at the truth: the flood was caused by some idiot with a sword who chopped down all the trees.

David Cali's powerful and timely story of the consequences of our actions, and the impact we can have on the world around us is delightfully and imaginatively illustrated by renowned Italian artist, Gianluca Foli, making his picture book debut.

The bear's remorse, and the actions he takes to make good his vandalism, will provide all young readers with food for thought.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Author of *Piano Piano*, *The Enemy*, *I Love Kissing You*, *A Dad Who Measures Up*, *I like Chocolate* and *Santa's Suit*, Davide Cali is one of Europe's most innovative and acclaimed writers of illustrated books for both children and adults. He is the author of over 20 illustrated books, is winner of France's prestigious Baobab Prize for the most innovative book of 2005 and received an Honour Book Award in the American Library Association's Batchelder Award.



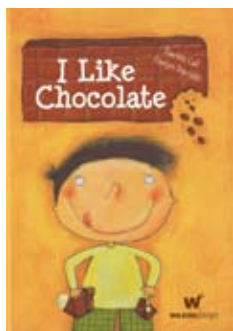
### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Italian Gianluca Foli is a professional illustrator whose works have appear in *Rolling Stone*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe* and the *Los Angeles Times*, among many others. This is his first children's p

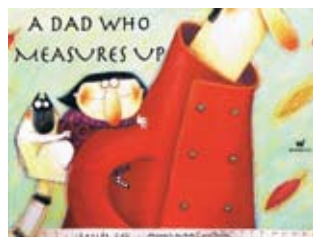


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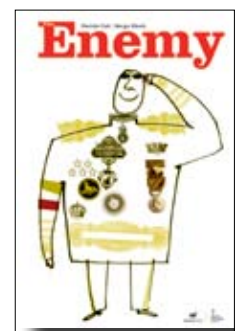
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