

I Believe in Unicorns

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I Believe in Unicorns



Michael Morpurgo

illustrated by
Gary Blythe



WALKER
BOOKS

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*For my grandsons,
Alan and Laurence
M.M.*





My name is Tomas Porec.
I was just eight years old when
I first saw the unicorn, and
that was twenty long years ago.



I grew up and live to this day in a mountain village that we like to think is just about big enough to call itself a small town. Hidden away in a remote valley it might seem to travellers passing through that it is far too sleepy for anything of any significance ever to have happened here. Not so, for something



very significant did happen, something both dreadful and wonderful at the same time.

For me as a child this place was my whole world, a place full of familiar wonders. Being an only child I spent a lot of time wandering about on my own. I knew every cobbled alleyway, every lamppost. I knew all the houses, and I knew everyone who lived

in them, too – and their dogs. And they knew me. From my bedroom window in the farmhouse where we lived on the edge of town, I could look out over the rooftops to the church tower. I loved to watch the swifts screaming around it in swooping squadrons on summer evenings. I loved the deep dong of the church bell that lingered long in the air. But as for going to church, that was a different matter. If ever I could get out of it I most certainly would. I'd far rather go fishing with Father. He didn't like church any more than I did. Mother and Grandma always went, religiously.



