



## AUDIO PICTURE BOOK

ISBN 9782898360985

Hardback / Full colour / 48 pp

23 cm x 23 cm

Video online (9 minutes)

Age 5 to 9 years

BIC/Thema Code B1M79 / C1M79

CBMC Code YBCS

Price £11.99

Pub date 1 OCTOBER 2025

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## WATCH THE BOOK TRAILER



# KEEP YOUR EARS WIDE OPEN

Story by Céline Claire

Illustrations by Marie Lafrance

**VISUAL IMPAIRMENT / MODES OF TRANSPORTION / FRIENDSHIP / SHARING**

A touching portrayal of a young visually impaired boy who opens his heart to others.

Knock! Knock! Choo! Choo! Vroom! Vroom! As Russell awaits a visit from his brother, with every sound he wonders: Is Angus here? No, not yet. But with his ears — and his heart — wide open, Russell responds to the calls of a series of strangers who become his friends. Good thing because... Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling! Did you hear that? It sounds like Angus needs to be rescued!

A recording of the narrated story can be accessed with a QR code printed in the book.

**Céline Claire** is the author of many books published for children and young readers. Formerly a schoolteacher, she has collaborated over the past 20 years with several established French publishing houses, including Bayard, Milan and Circonflexe. She resides in a small village in northeastern France with her family.

**Marie Lafrance** studied graphic arts, etching, and worked as a printmaker before going on to illustrate children's books. Over her career she's earned three nominations for the Governor General's Literary Award, and she recently received the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award for "A Hen for Izzy Pippik." She resides in Montreal.



The car sputters down the road, bumps along and finally  
petters out. Is his big brother inside? A big voice grumbles:

- The motor has overheated...

A smaller voice adds:

- It's impossible to go any further...

A tiny little voice sighs:

- I'm starting to get hungry.

Russell thinks of the chocolate cake that awaits his brother.  
Cake is meant to be shared, after all! So, he says:

- Come and have a snack at my place!



Knock! Knock! This morning, Russell is awakened by a  
tapping on the window. It's the postman with big news.

- Your brother writes that he'll be coming to your place  
for a few days. He's arriving tomorrow afternoon.

Russell jumps with joy.

- It's been so long since I've seen him!

Thank you, Mister Postman!

On the bench in front of the house, Russell and his guests listen to  
chicks chirping in a nest. The cool evening air gently descends upon  
them. Russell is worried. His brother should have arrived a long time  
ago. Everyone silently enters the house. To comfort Russell, they all  
pitch in to prepare a tasty soup and start a nice warm fire.



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