

# THE SILENT-FOOTED BUTLER



*Life is bottled sunshine and Death the  
silent-footed butler who draws out the cork.*

*The Martyrdom of Man – Winwood Reade*

# THE SILENT-FOOTED BUTLER

CATHY GILES



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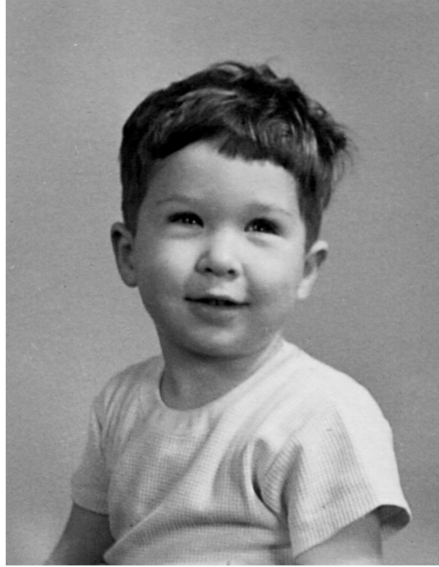
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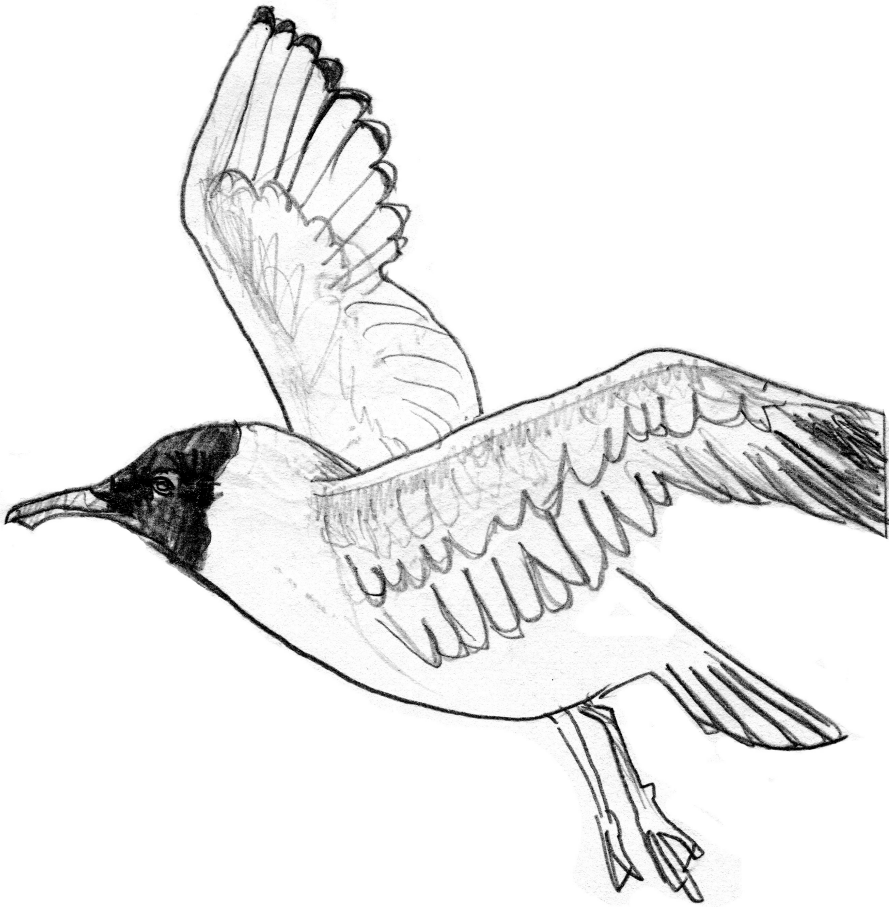
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For my sister, Izzy,  
my children, Toby, George, Emily and Martha  
and my nephew, Rory.

*In memory of Chris*





All the illustrations in this book, apart from those that appear in *Dad's Story*, are by Christopher Giles, most of them produced between the ages of seven and twelve. The cartoons in Part Three were drawn between the ages of fifteen and seventeen. The drawings in *Dad's Story* are by Derek Giles, which he drew whilst still at school.

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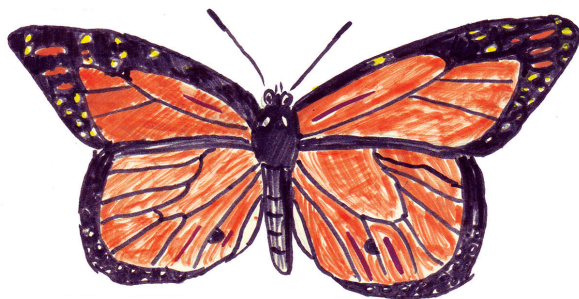
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## A NOTE ABOUT THE TYPE: ITC Berkeley Old Style

In 1937, the distinguished and prolific American typographer, Frederic W. Goudy (1865-1947), was asked to draw a new typeface for the exclusive use of the University of California Press. It was known as University of California Old Style, but remained the property of the university press and saw little use elsewhere. In 1956, nearly ten years after Goudy's death, Lanston Monotype reissued the typeface under the name Californian, and it became a successful and widely used font for book typography. Then, in the early 1980s, ITC decided to revive University of California Old Style. Tony Stan (1917-1988), a world-class typographer, carefully redrew the fonts for ITC using Goudy's original designs as a foundation. The combined artistry of Goudy and Stan created ITC Berkeley Old Style; a beautiful typeface that is light, crisp, elegant and highly legible.



In the pages that follow, I have taken the liberty of reconstructing some of the past through dialogue. I do not claim that the words were actually spoken, but nevertheless, as I was writing they seemed to flow as if from the characters' mouths. Conversations that I have recounted between myself and others are as I remember them: some I believe to be accurate word for word. Diary and journal entries have been edited, and passages from some letters have been cut, but the original words and meanings have not been altered. I have changed the names of the family described in Chapter 24, *Dad's Mates*, to protect their identities.