Christine Sharp – writer, artist, editor and book designer – lives on Tamborine Mountain. She loves tending her kitchen garden, frequenting the local growers’ market and walking her dog, Billie Bear. Her first picture book, Beau, was published by UQP in 2016.

For my grandmother, who had a green thumb. For my family, who mean everything to me.

For Brenda, whose hands are never far from the earth or what it yields. And for the growers, gardeners and lovers of green.

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Sylvia

Christine Sharp
‘GET OUT!’

Sylvia Snail slides away and shrinks into her shell.

But I love you, Simon Green, she sobs.
That night, as she munches upon mushrooms, Sylvia has a marvellous idea.
Dear Simon Green,

I love you. I love your luscious lettuce, choice cucumbers and buttery beans. I desire your dandelion, cabbage and kale.

Oh, Simon Green, how I pine for your parsley leaves and fresh young peas. Your spinach and your strawberries are so scrumptious. Love, Sylvia Snail.
In the dazzling dawn light, Simon Green digs in his garden.
‘Not again!’ he wails when he spies the holey kale.

‘Oh, my!’ he sighs at the nibbled fruit on the tomato vine.

‘Who will buy my fruit and vegetables now?’
Simon Green stomps about, searching for grubs.

He does not see Sylvia Snail’s glittering trail on the garden path.
Sylvia is disheartened, but not defeated.

She chomps on cabbage and cooks up a plan.