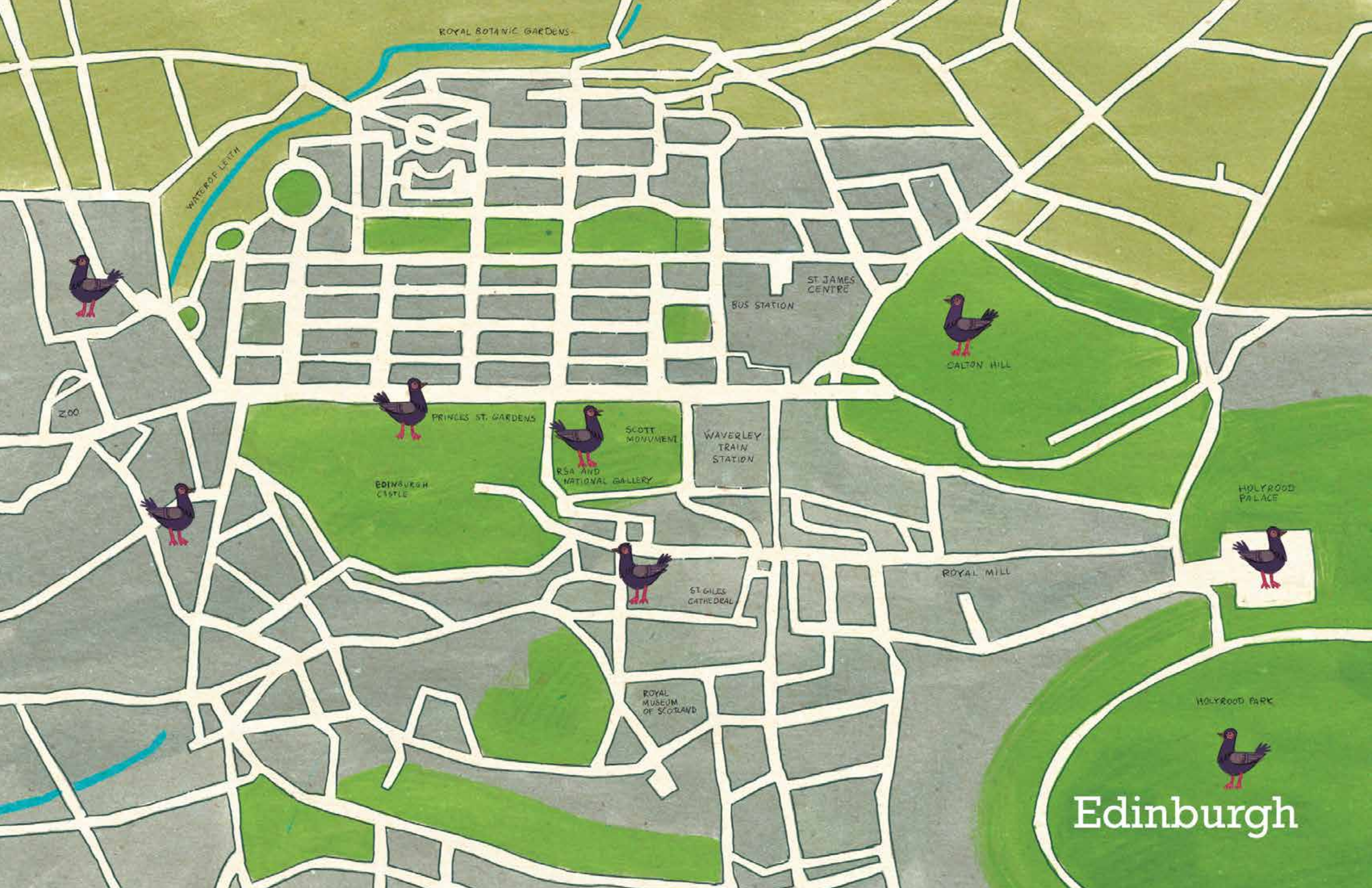


This book belongs to

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ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

WATER OF LEITH

ST JAMES CENTRE

BUS STATION



CALTON HILL

ZOO



PRINCES ST. GARDENS



SCOTT MONUMENT

WAVERLEY TRAIN STATION



RSA AND NATIONAL GALLERY

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ROYAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

ROYAL MILL



HOLYROOD PALACE

HOLYROOD PARK



Edinburgh

For my sons and their father, with all my heart.

PEEP

— THE LITTLE MOUSE
TRAVELER



Natalia Nik

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This story began on a fine day
in Edinburgh – the capital of Scotland,
a beautiful, cheerful, and slightly
fairytale-like city, always crowded
with tourists.



A traveler went to a local
toy store to buy a present
for his son.



The store was small and cozy, and it was home to kind and adorable toys.

Hey! Look, someone is waving to you from the page of the book!

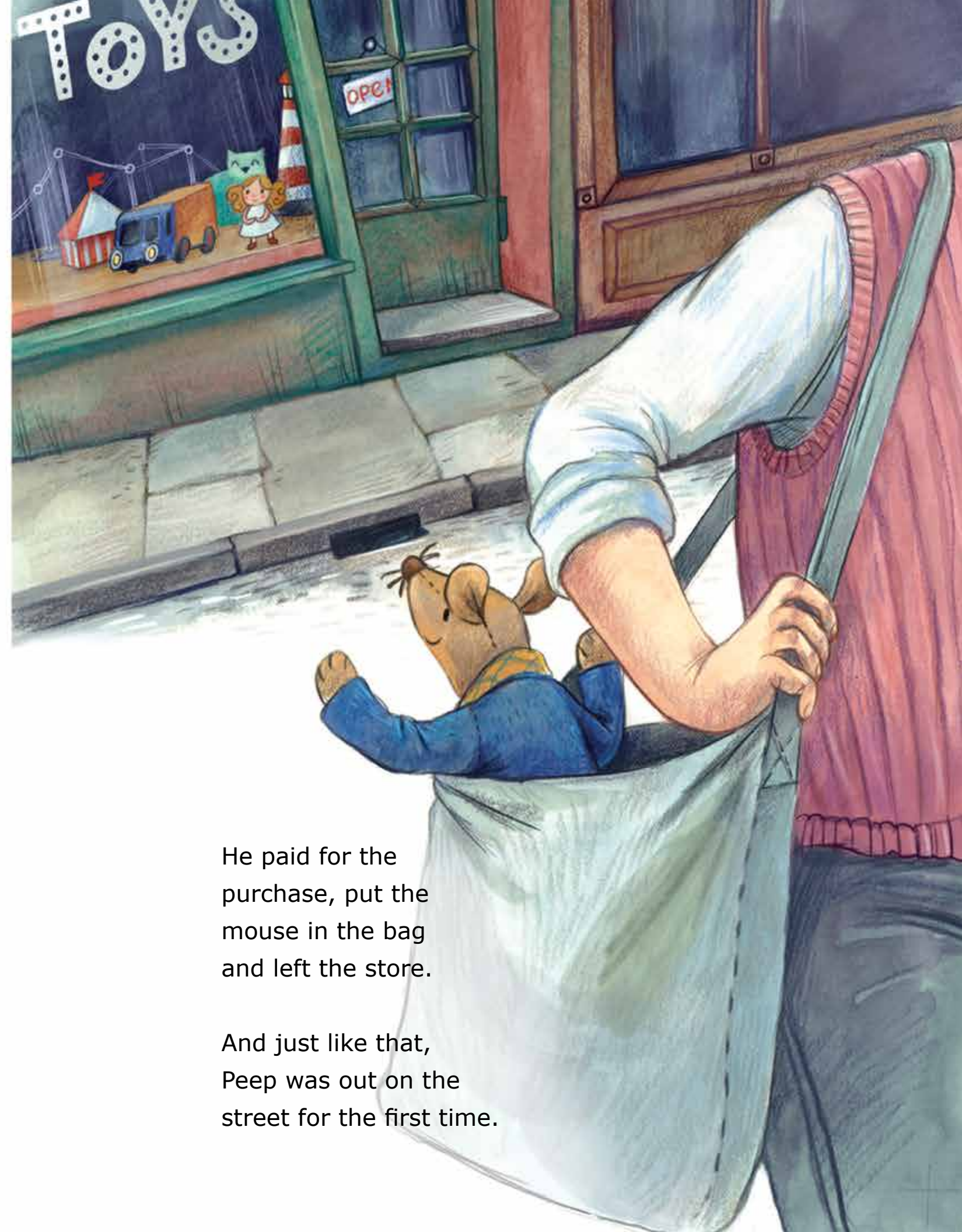
Yes, this is Peep – a toy mouse sewn from fabric. He is a real gentleman!



"Hello! I would like to buy this mouse. I'm sure he will become a good friend for my son, Oleg."

"Great choice!" the saleswoman said supportively.
"Where are you from, mister?"

"From Russia. And I'm returning home tomorrow," the traveler replied.



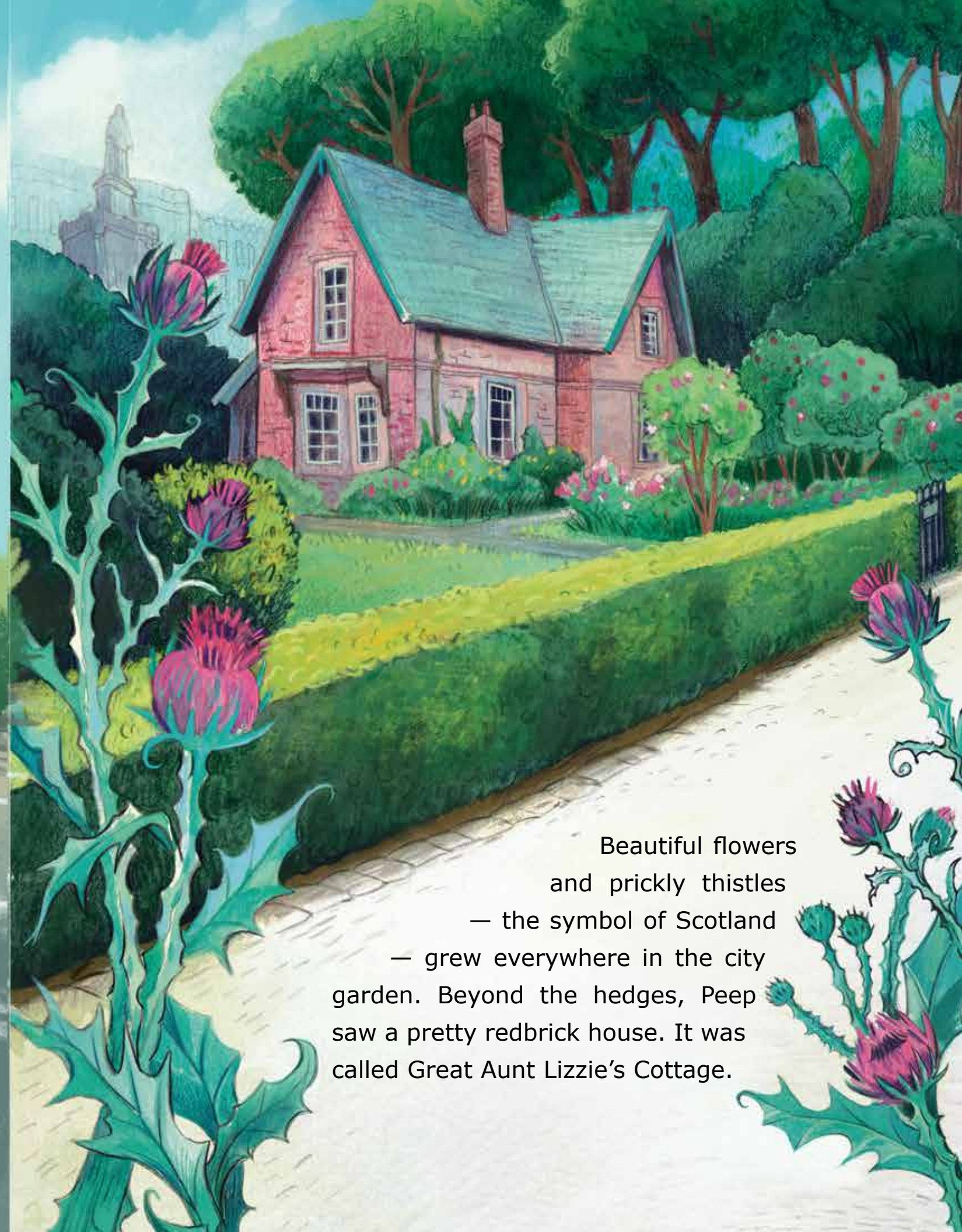
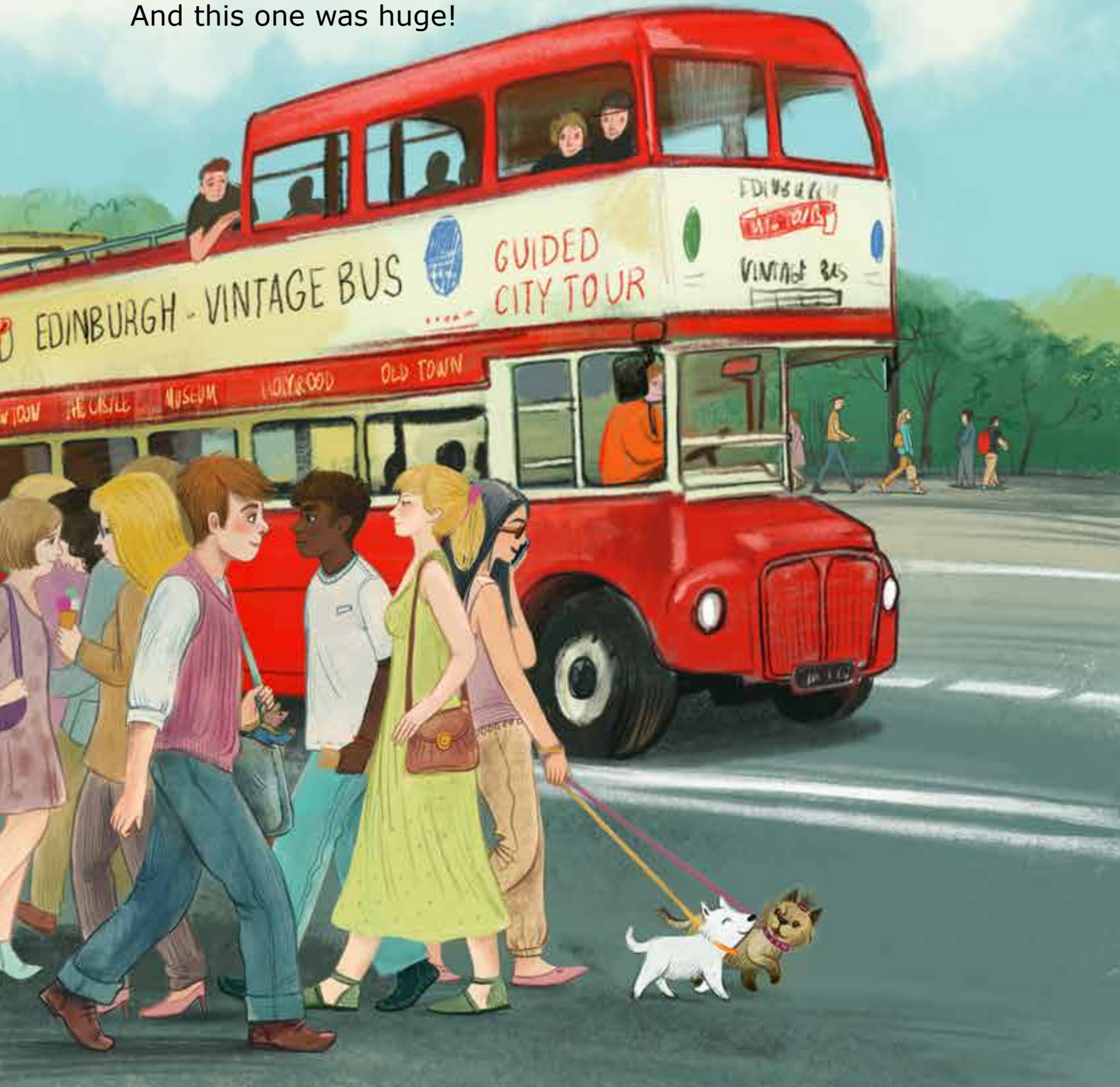
He paid for the purchase, put the mouse in the bag and left the store.

And just like that, Peep was out on the street for the first time.

It was noisy and crowded. Peep stuck his muzzle out of the bag and looked around with interest.

A shiny red double-decker bus drove past. In the shop where Peep lived, there were ones just like it on the shelf — only tiny.

And this one was huge!



Beautiful flowers
and prickly thistles
— the symbol of Scotland
— grew everywhere in the city
garden. Beyond the hedges, Peep
saw a pretty redbrick house. It was
called Great Aunt Lizzie's Cottage.



Peep looked at the old stone walls and the glass windows of shops and pubs. A melody floated in the air through the crowd — a bagpiper in a shaggy black hat, waistcoat, and tartan kilt playing a joyful tune.



What a wonderful walk! The traveler who bought Peep sat at a table in a street cafe to rest and drink a cup of tea while enjoying the view.

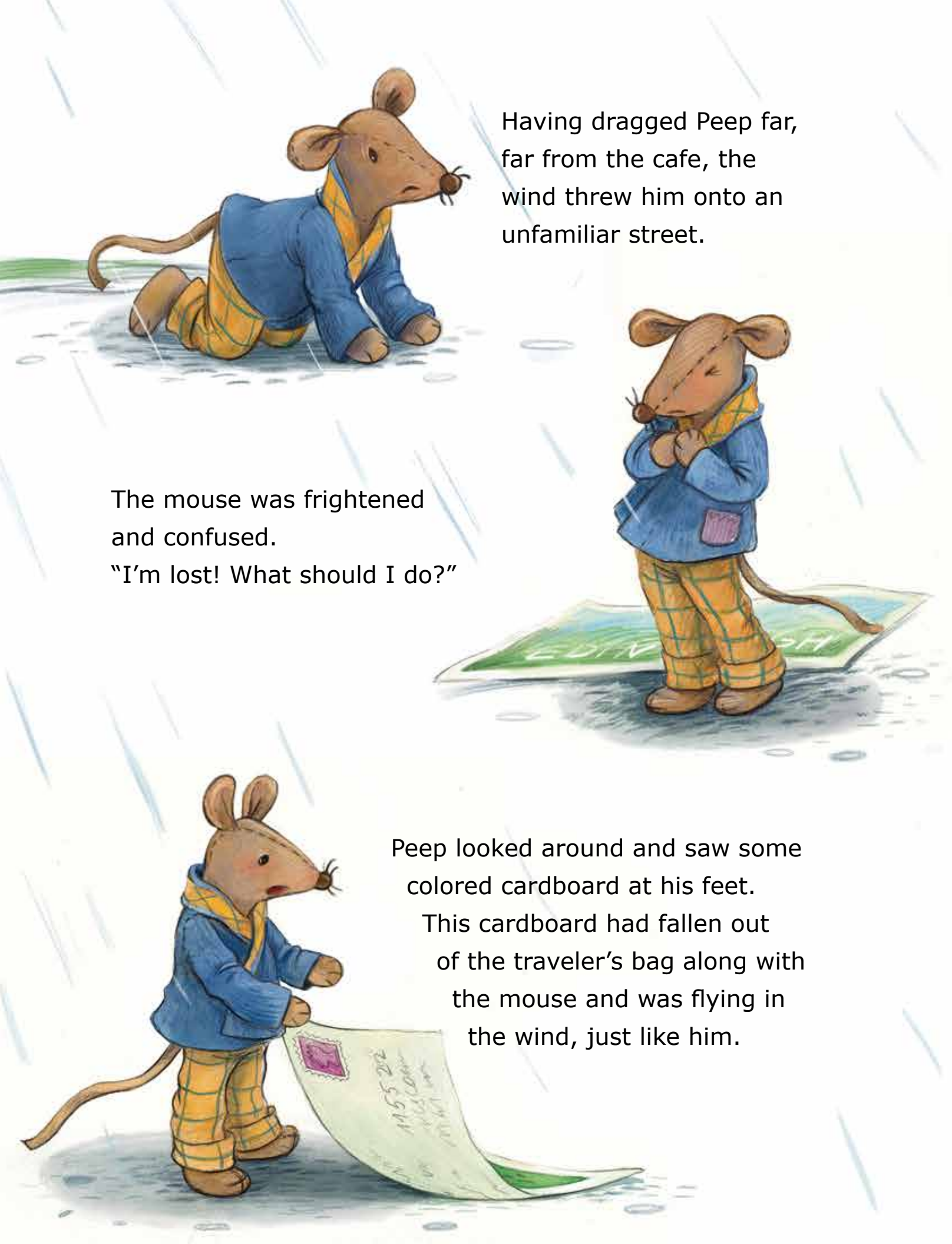
But suddenly, the wind picked up and it started to rain.





With every second, the rain intensified, and now it was persistently pounding on everything it could reach to. A new, sharper gust of wind swept everything off the tables.

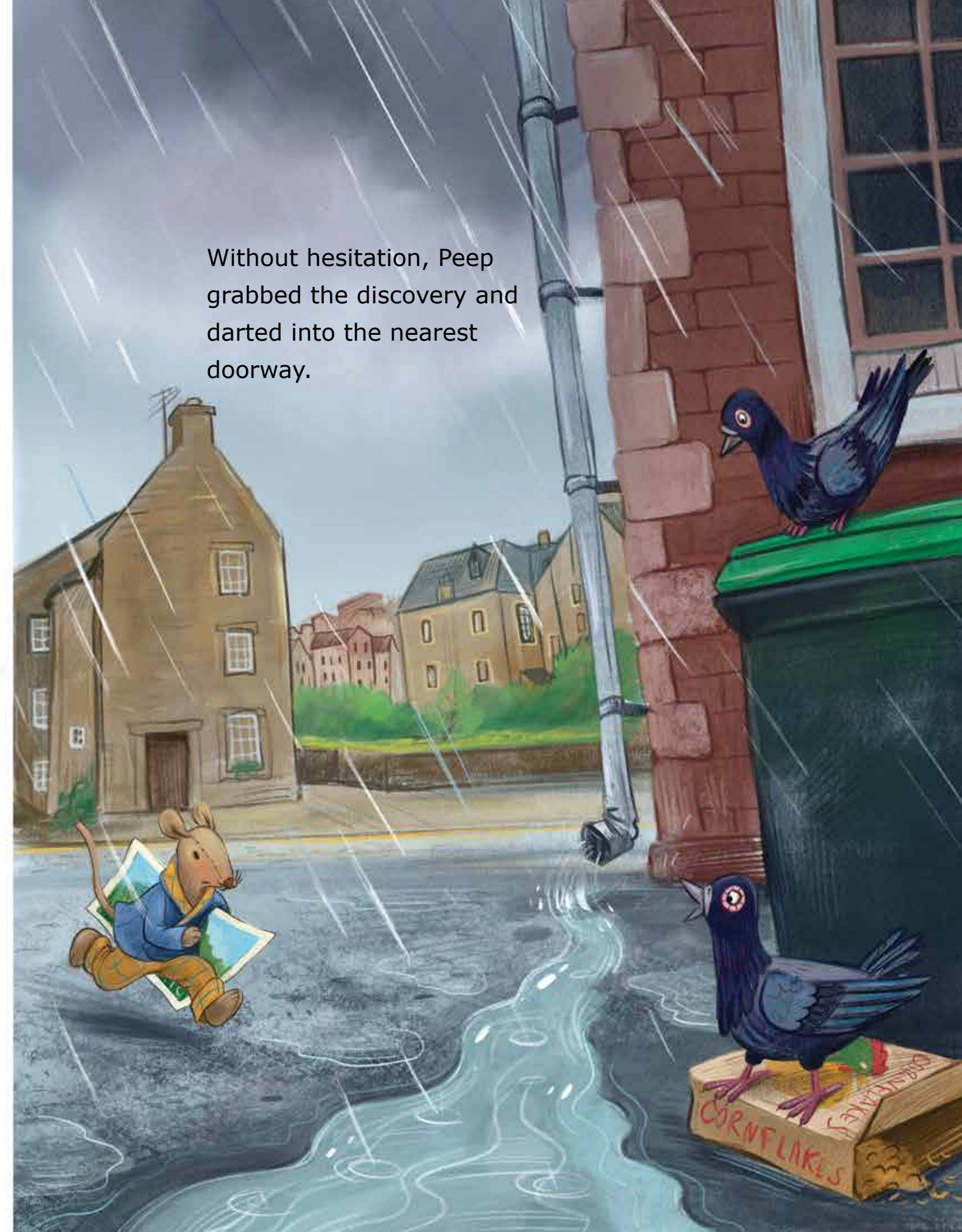
The traveler grabbed his things and ran to seek shelter from the weather. Unfortunately, he did not notice how something had fallen out of his bag.



Having dragged Peep far, far from the cafe, the wind threw him onto an unfamiliar street.

The mouse was frightened and confused.
"I'm lost! What should I do?"

Peep looked around and saw some colored cardboard at his feet. This cardboard had fallen out of the traveler's bag along with the mouse and was flying in the wind, just like him.



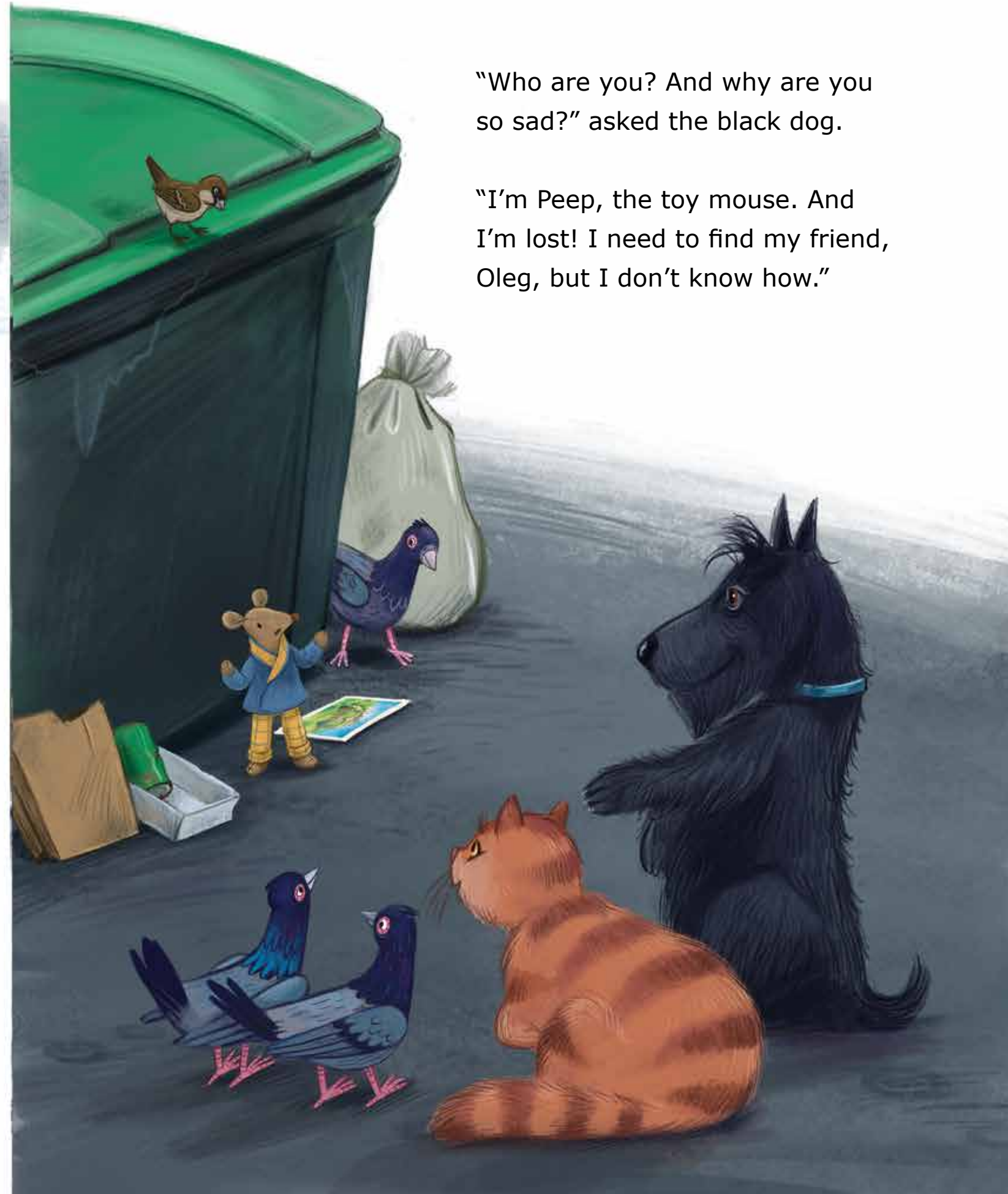
Without hesitation, Peep grabbed the discovery and darted into the nearest doorway.

Although Peep was able to take shelter from the rain, he did not feel safe.



"I'm scared! I'm all alone!"
Peep cried.

But in fact, he was not alone at all. Several pigeons, a sparrow, a red cat, and a black dog came to see who was crying here.



"Who are you? And why are you so sad?" asked the black dog.

"I'm Peep, the toy mouse. And I'm lost! I need to find my friend, Oleg, but I don't know how."






Everyone wanted to help Peep. The inhabitants of the gateway chirped, barked, and meowed, with wings and paws flapping in every direction.



"Friends, look! This is a postcard for Oleg! His address is written on it, but how do I get there?" little Peep exclaimed.





"I know, I know!" one of the pigeons cooed excitedly. "My grandfather was a carrier pigeon – he always delivered messages straight to the address... I think you need to go to the POST OFFICE!"



"Is it far?" the mouse asked.
"I don't want to get lost again," he admitted.

"Woof-woof! I can help you!" the dog barked cheerfully.



"I was just passing by the post office the other day. I'll be happy to take you with me! Now, hop on quickly!"
Peep grabbed the postcard and climbed onto the dog's back.



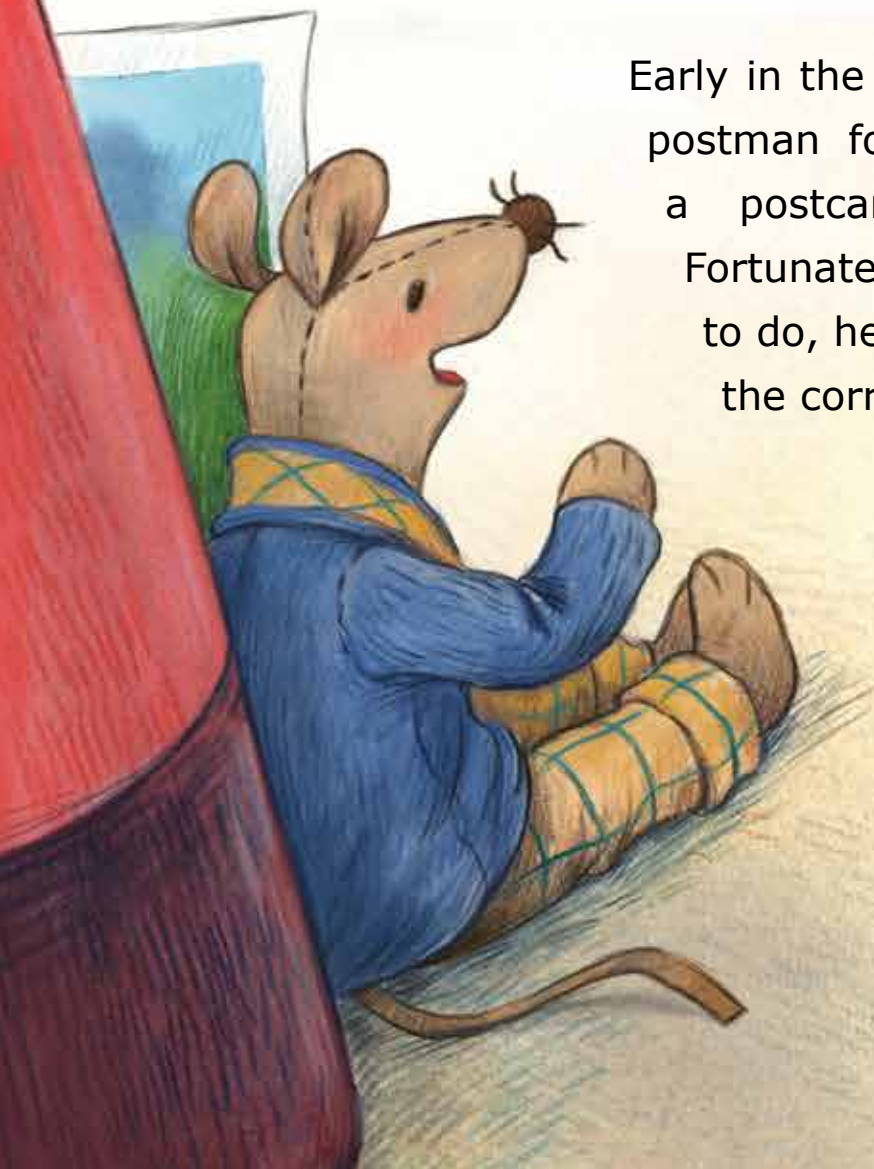
Together they sped through the darkening streets of Edinburgh, faster than the wind.

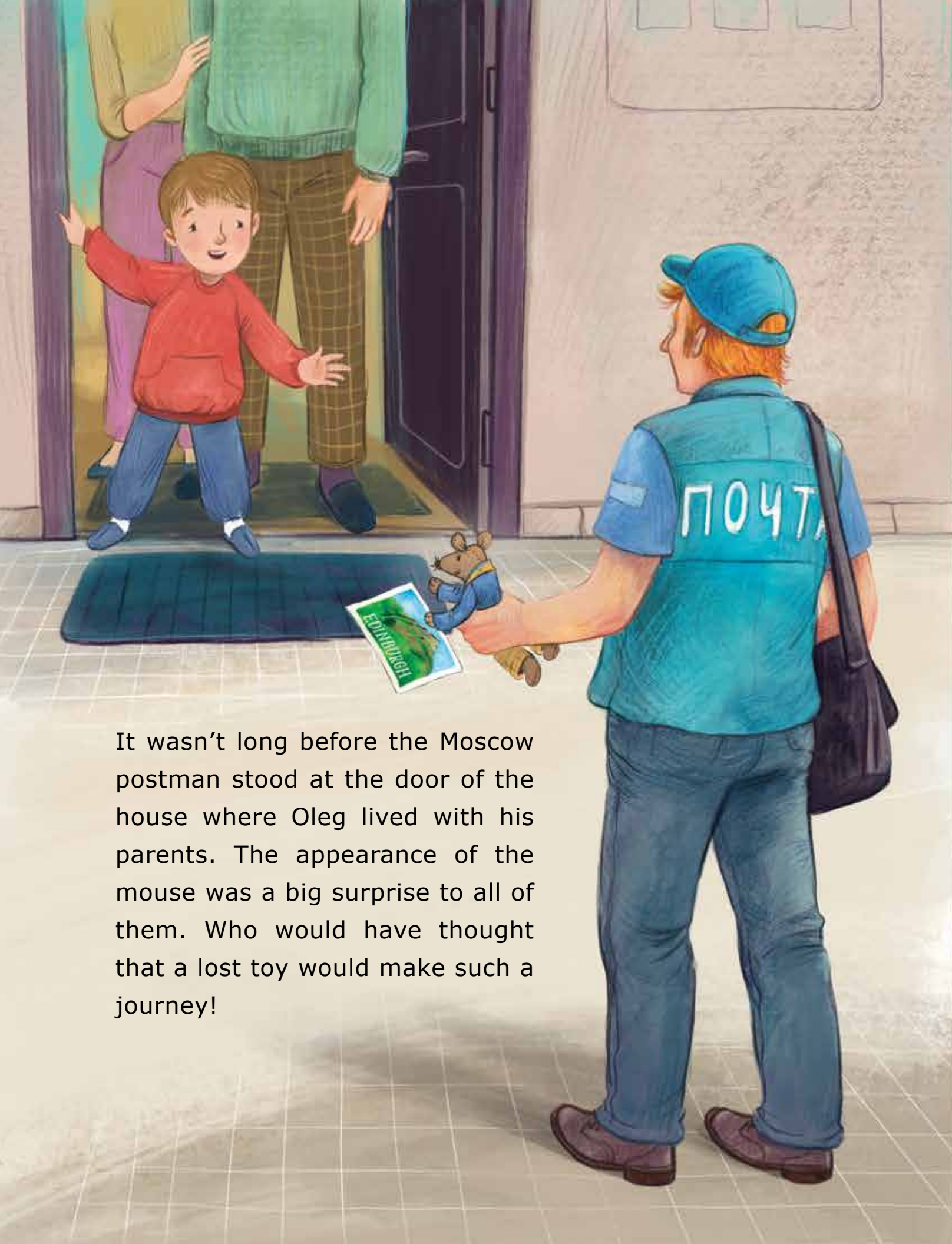


By the time the dog and mouse reached the post office, it had long since closed. Peep said a warm goodbye to the kind dog, then sat down by the door and waited for it to open.

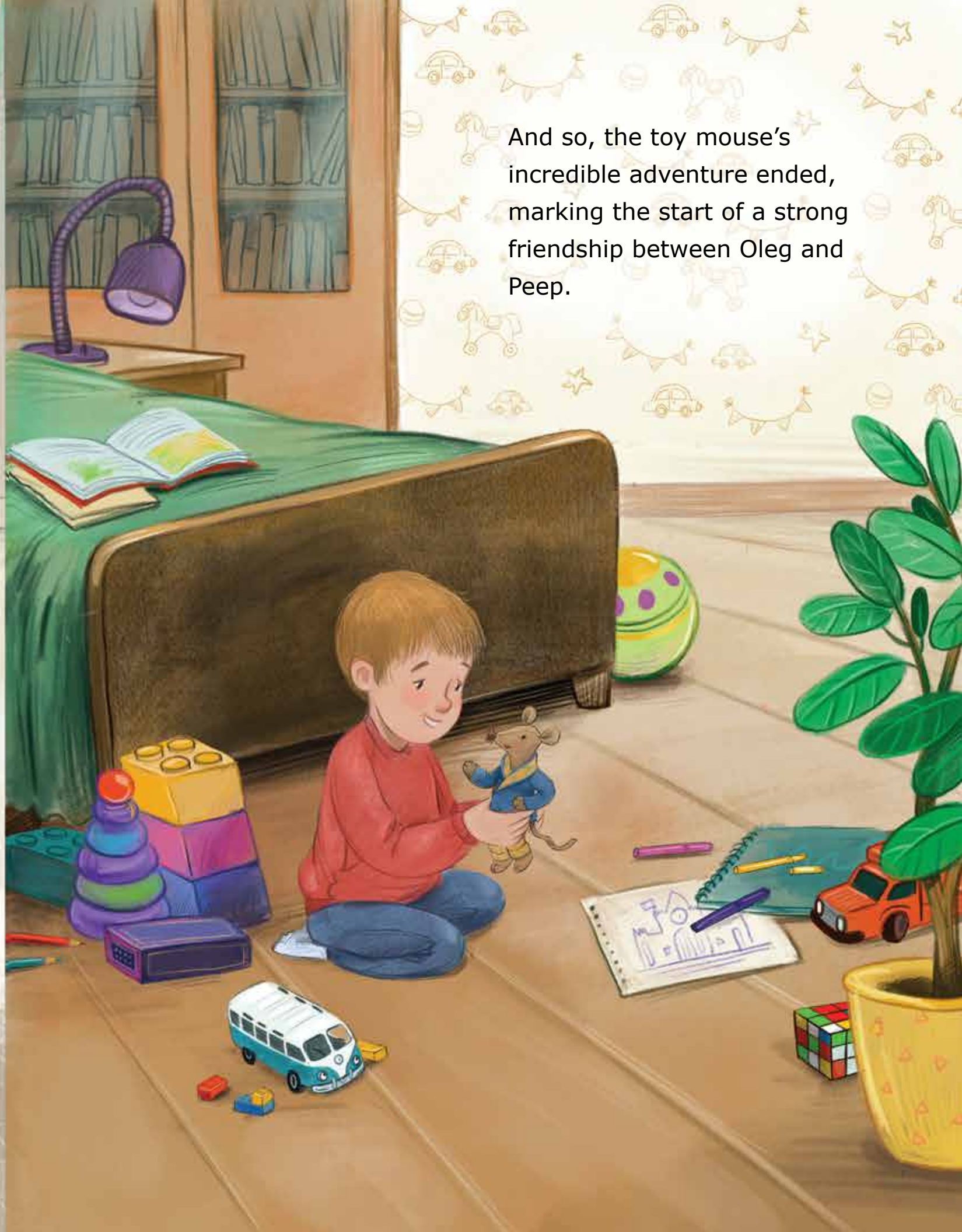


Early in the morning, the Edinburgh postman found a toy mouse and a postcard on the doorstep. Fortunately, knowing exactly what to do, he sent them by airmail to the correct address.





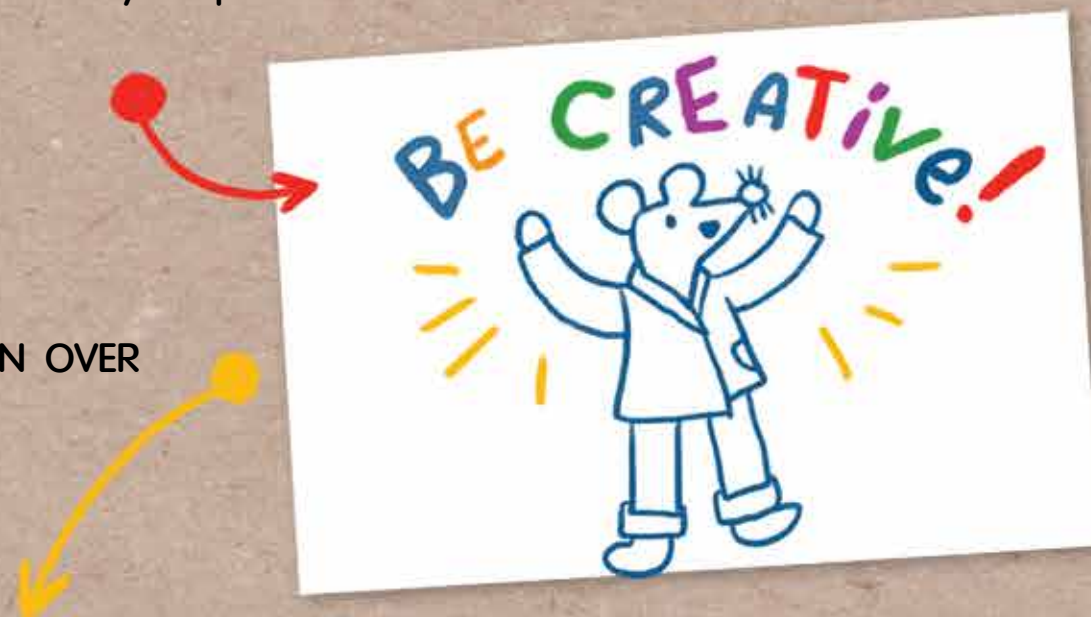
It wasn't long before the Moscow postman stood at the door of the house where Oleg lived with his parents. The appearance of the mouse was a big surprise to all of them. Who would have thought that a lost toy would make such a journey!



And so, the toy mouse's incredible adventure ended, marking the start of a strong friendship between Oleg and Peep.

HOW TO MAKE A POSTCARD.

Draw a picture on a piece of thick paper (for example, 10x15 cm).
This will be your postcard.



TURN OVER

Write a few sentences about your adventures. Don't forget to
add your name and your address if you want a reply.



Put a stamp
on the top right
corner.

Write the address
of the person you
are sending the
postcard to in the
lower right.

THE POSTCARD IS READY TO SEND!



DEAR READER,
Nice to meet you!
I am Peep.
Did you enjoy my story?
I hope you had fun and
learned something new about
the city of Edinburgh, the post
office, and postcards!

I have some interesting activities for you!
How about sending a postcard to a friend
or family member to share your story or emotions?
It's easy to do — just follow my simple instructions!

Draw.

Sign.

Put a stamp on it.

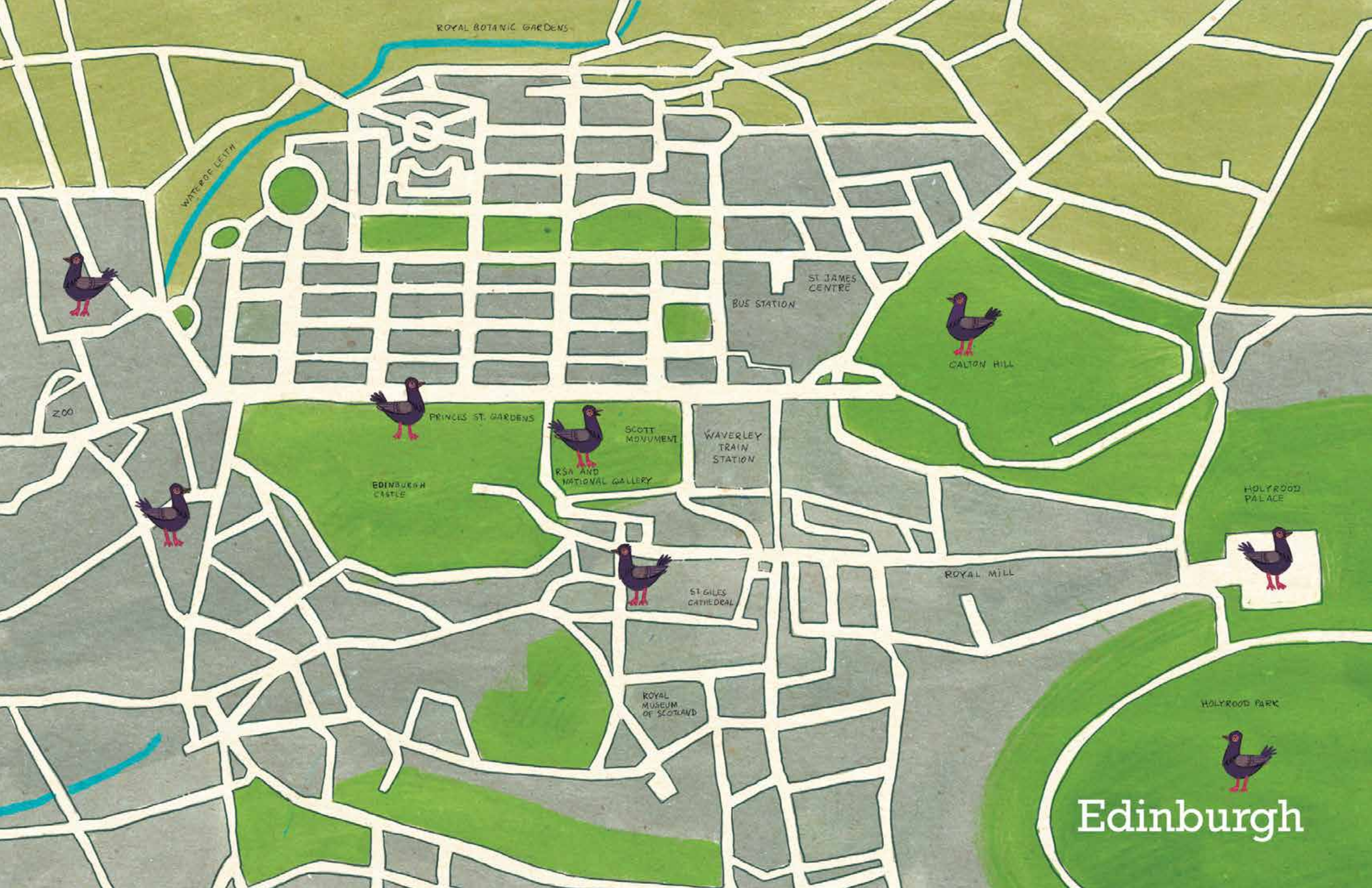
Take it to the post office.

IMPORTANT! Ask an adult for help you.

Good luck!

PEEP





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