



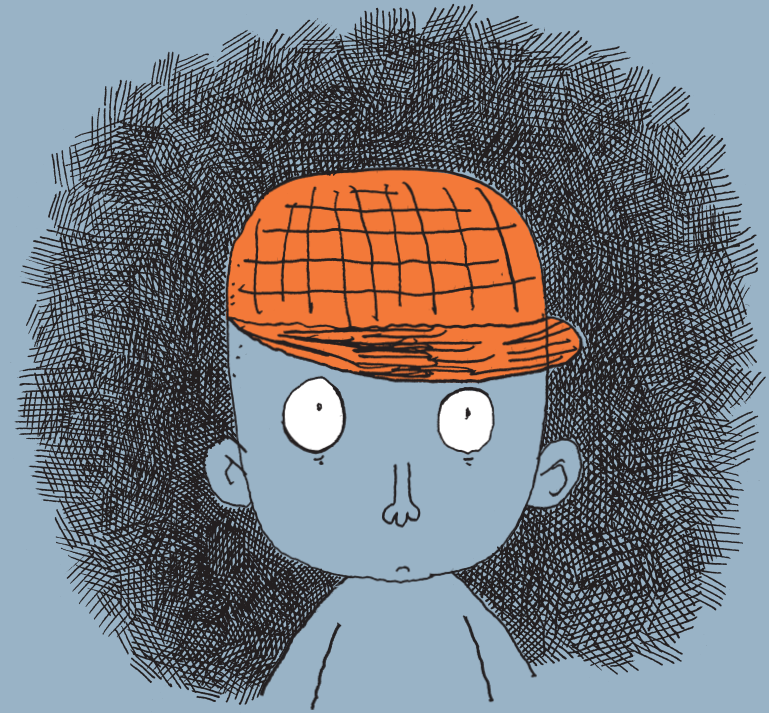


SUDDENLY IT'S PITCH BLACK.

THE BOY SEES NOTHING,  
ALONE THERE IN THE DARK.

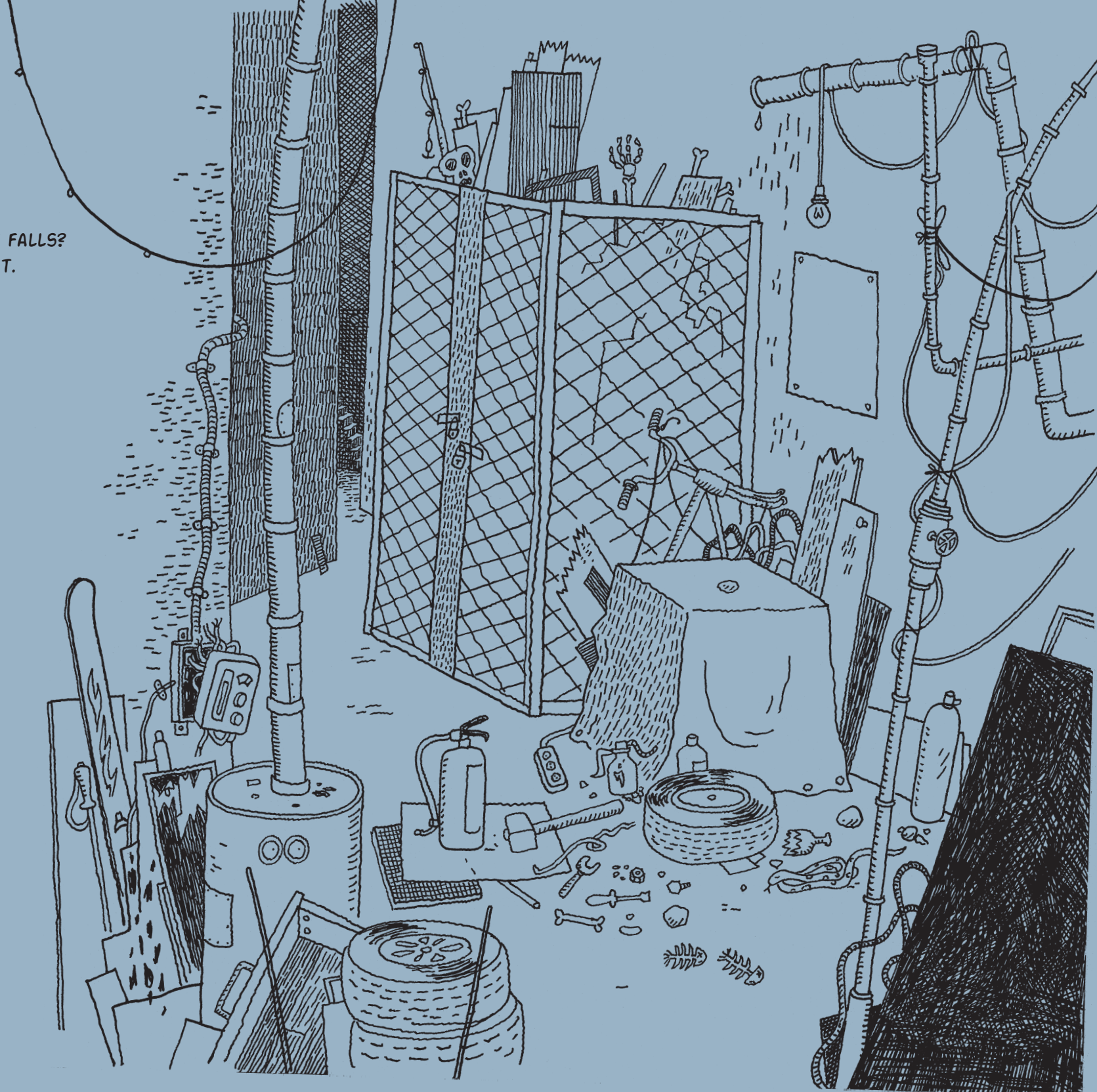
HE PRESSES HIS BACK AGAINST THE WALL.  
SLIDES DOWN TO HIS KNEES.

WAITS.



HOLDS HIS BREATH.

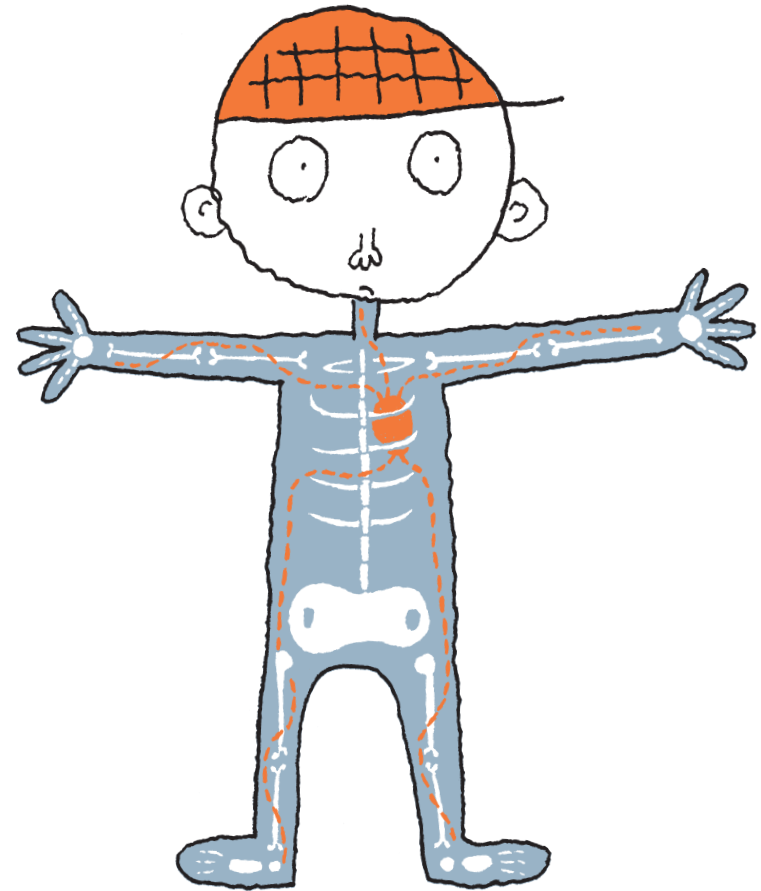
WHAT IF THE LIFT SUDDENLY FALLS?  
ALL THE WAY THE BASEMENT.  
THAT'S A LONG WAY DOWN.



HE SITS THERE IN THE DARK AND  
WAITS.  
SOON, IT WILL ALL BE OVER.

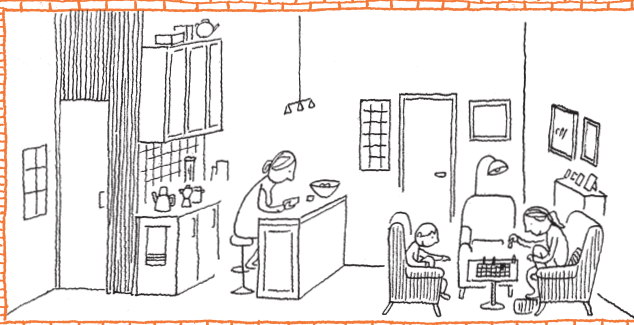


BUT THE LIFT HAS STOPPED.  
IT'S NOT MOVING.

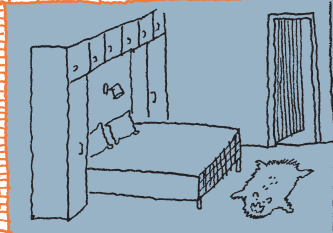
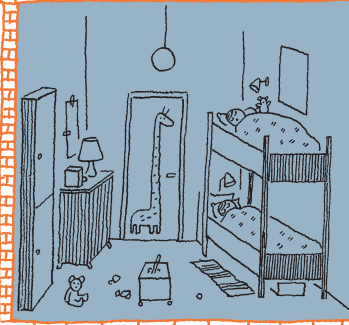


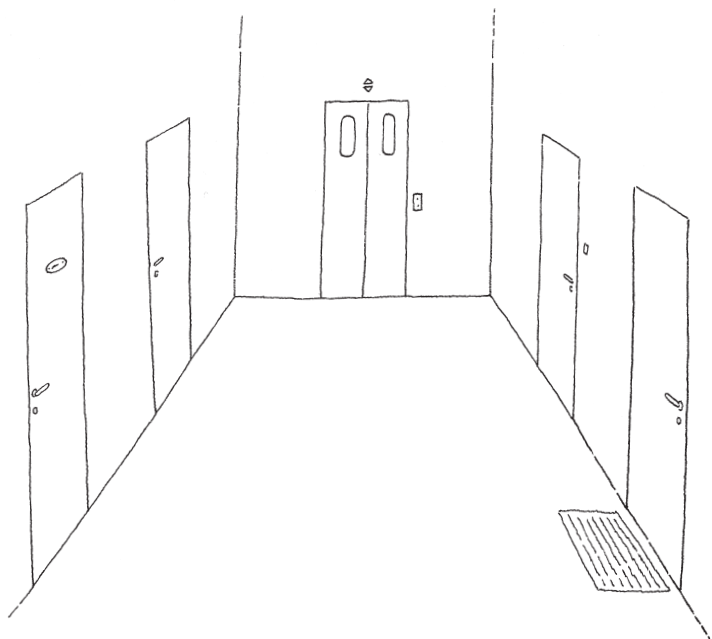
HIS HEART IS THUMPING HARD.  
ALL THROUGH HIS BODY.  
TO THE TIPS OF HIS FINGERS. TO THE TOP OF HIS HEAD.  
ALL OF HIM IS THUMPING.

HE STANDS UP.  
HITS HIS HANDS AGAINST THE WALL.



I  
WANT  
OUT!





BUT NO ONE ANSWERS.



HE THINKS ABOUT HIS MOTHER WHO'S WAITING.



HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HOME BY NOW.  
BEFORE IT GOT DARK.



BUT DUSK FELL SO SUDDENLY.  
AND HE HAD TO HURRY,



SO SHE WOULDN'T GET ANXIOUS.

SÅ HUN IKKE BLE REDD.

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN.  
HE PRESSES ALL TEN.  
BUT NOT THAT ONE.  
NOT THE ONE AT THE BOTTOM.

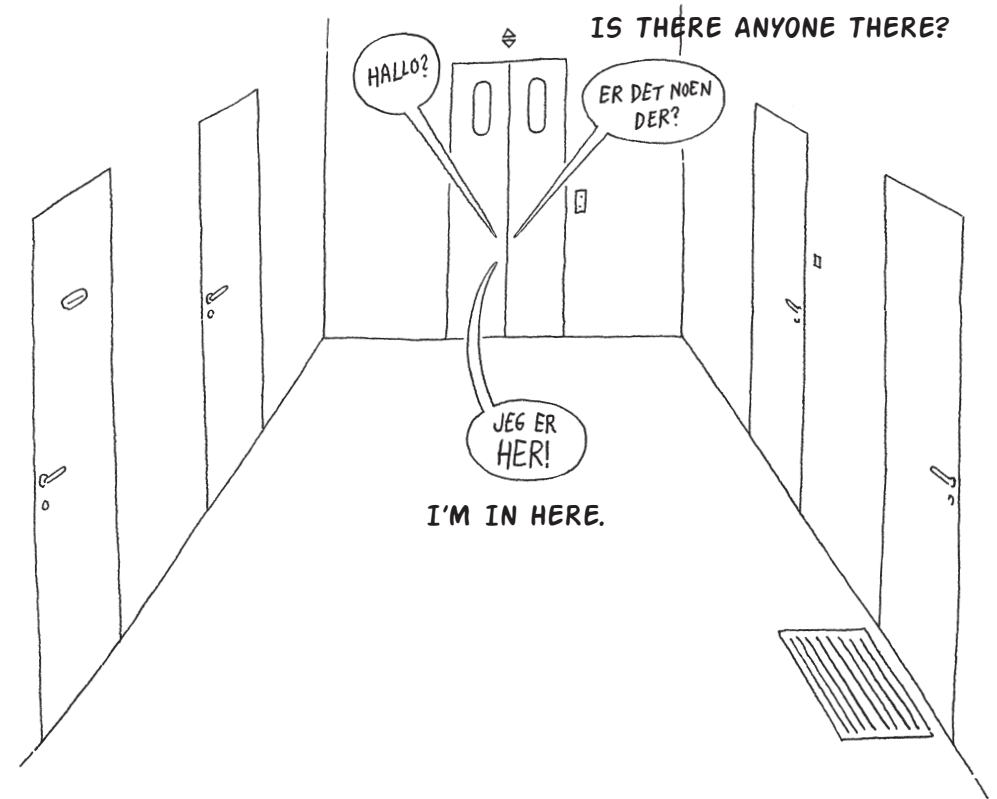


ONLY MUMMY CAN PRESS THAT ONE.  
CHILDREN AREN'T ALLOWED TO.

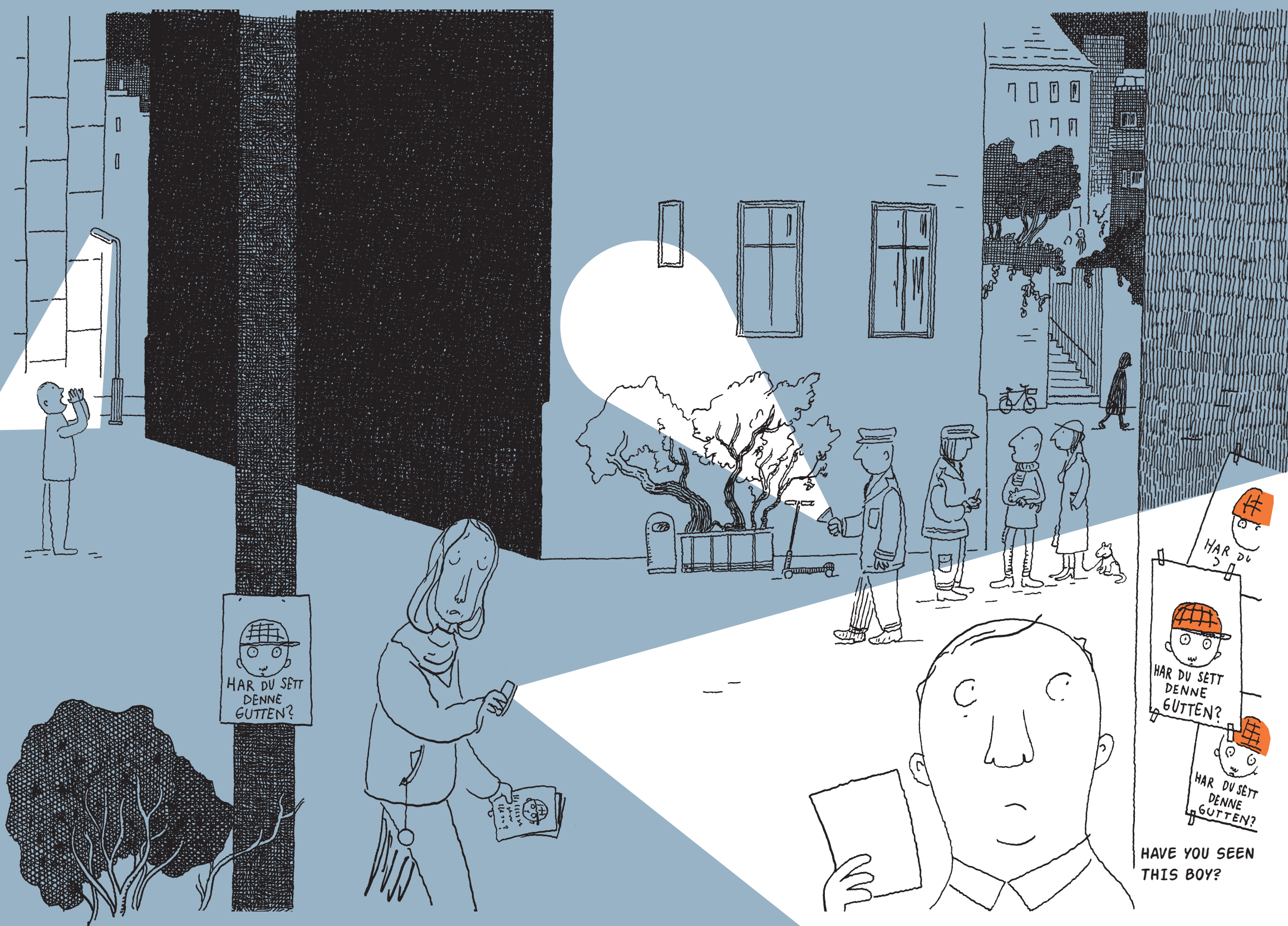
NOR TO TAKE THE LIFT ALONE.  
BUT THIS EVENING HE HAD TO.  
HE HAD TO HURRY,  
SO MUMMY WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY.  
TEN FLOORS IS A LOT OF STAIRS.  
TOO MANY.



NO ONE WOULD KNOW HE'D TAKEN THE LIFT.  
IF IT HADN'T STOPPED.



IT'S SO FRIGHTENING BEING HERE ALL ALONE.  
MUMMY KNOWS HE'S SCARED OF THE DARK.  
MAYBE SHE'LL COME LOOKING FOR HIM.

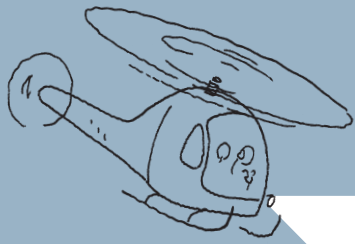


HAR DU SETT  
DENNE  
GUTTEN?

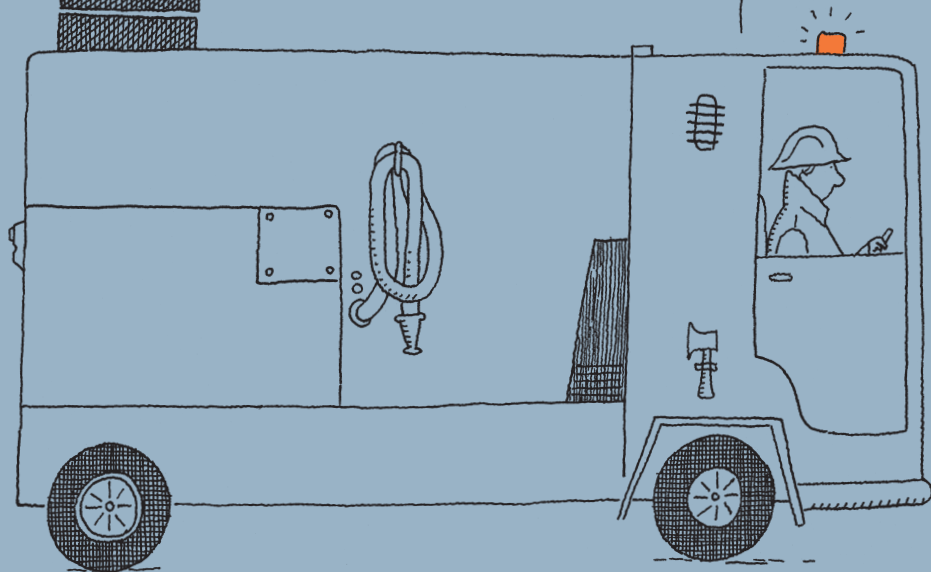
HAR DU  
SETT  
DENNE  
GUTTEN?

HAR DU SETT  
DENNE  
GUTTEN?

HAVE YOU SEEN  
THIS BOY?



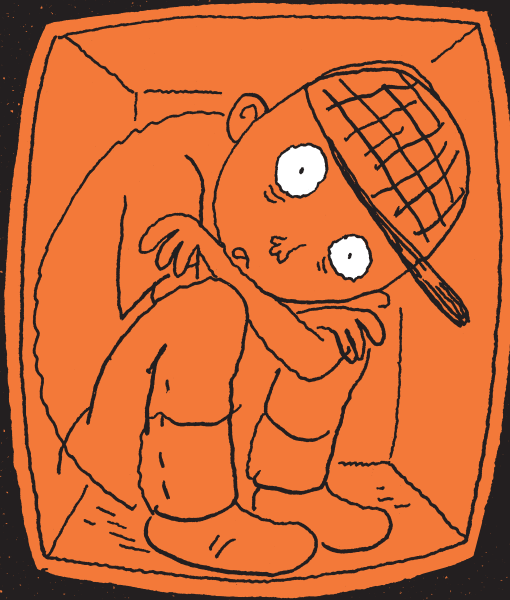
IT'S LIKE A BIG BLACK HOLE  
AND HE CAN'T GET OUT.



THE DARK ENVELOPES HIM.  
TIGHTENS ITS GRIP.  
SQUEEZES HIS HEART.



RUN, A VOICE INSIDE HIM SHOUTS.  
BUT HE CAN'T RUN.



THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM.  
IT'S TOO SMALL.  
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR ANYTHING.  
NOT EVEN TO  
BREATHE

THE BOY HOLDS HIS BREATH AND LISTENS.

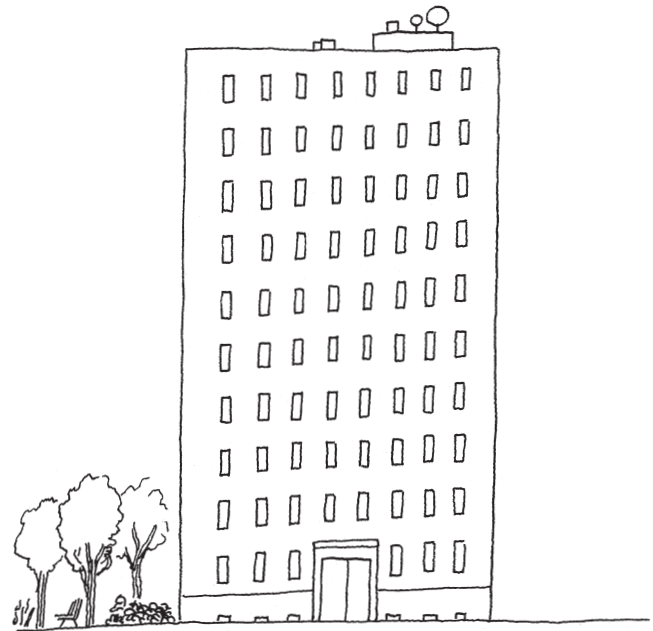


BUT ALL HE HEARS IS SILENCE.



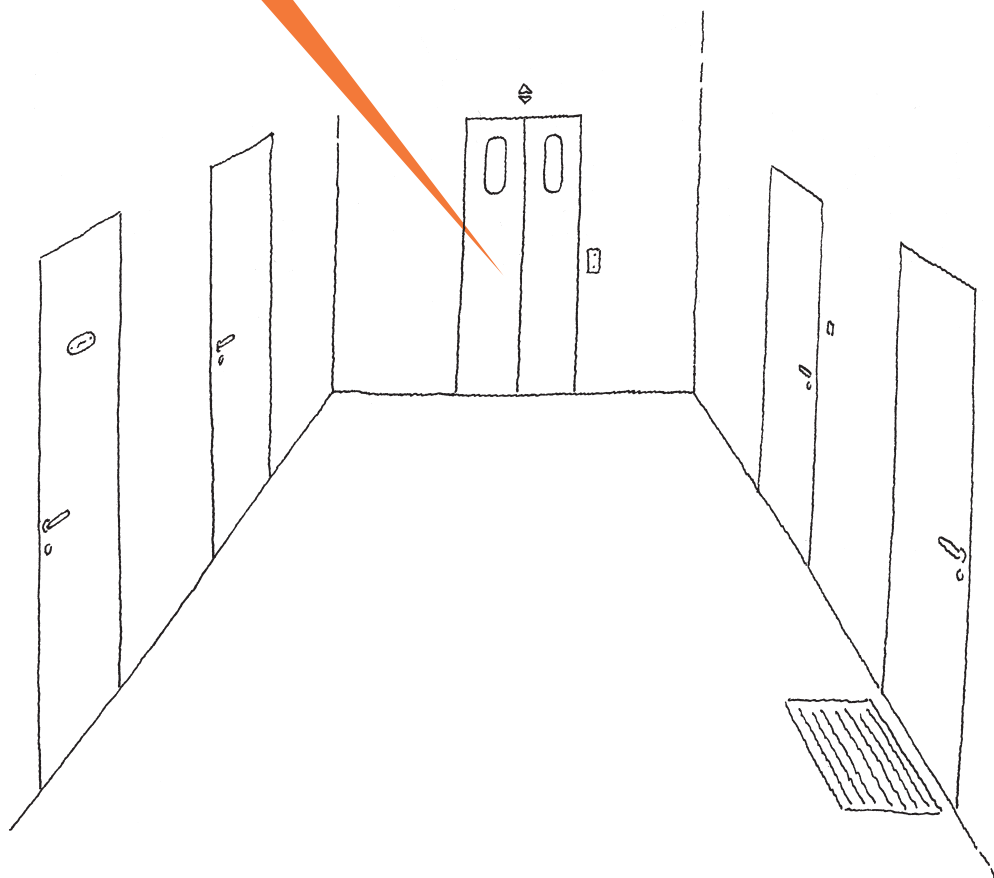
WHAT IF HE NEVER GETS OUT?

HIS TUMMY ACHES.  
HIS SKIN PRICKLES.  
HE STARTS TO CRY.



BEATS THE WALLS WITH HIS HANDS AND SHOUTS:

LET  
ME  
OUT!



THEN HE FEELS IT.

AS IF HE WERE A GREAT RUNNING RIVER.

EVERYTHING IS WET.

SUDDENLY HE STOPS CRYING.

HE FUMBLES AROUND IN THE DARK.  
FEELS THE COLD WALLS WITH HIS PALMS.  
FEELS HIS WAY TO THE BUTTON THAT'S NOT  
FOR KIDS.

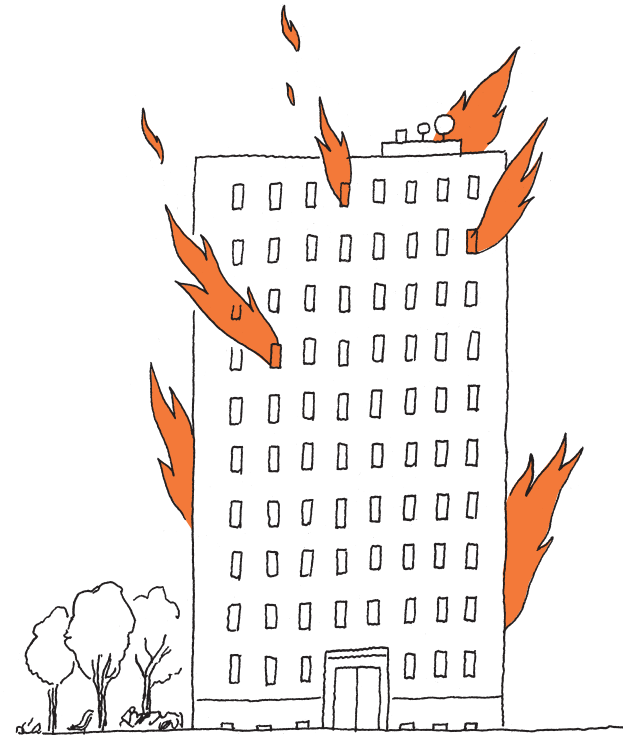
THE ONE HE'S NOT ALLOWED  
TO TOUCH.



BUT HE HAS TO.

WHAT IF THE LIFT STARTS TO FALL?  
OR SOMETHING HAPPENS AND HE DOESN'T KNOW?

SOMETHING DANGEROUS.



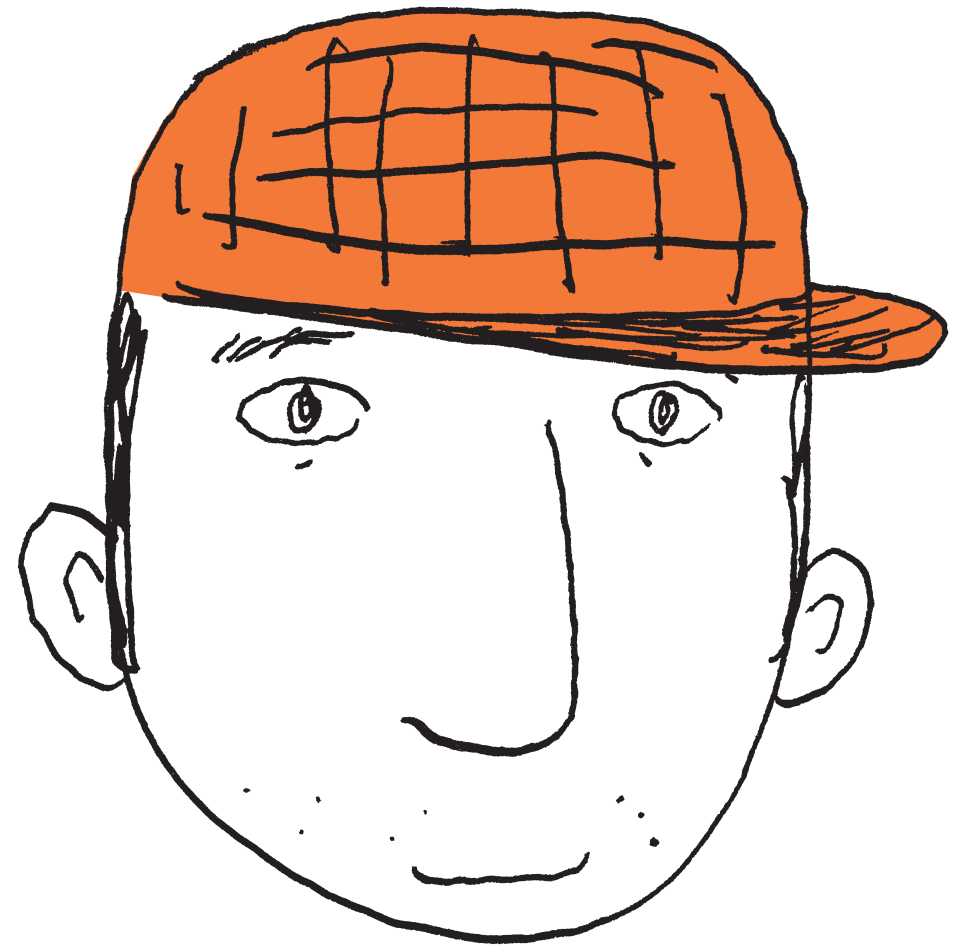
WHAT IF THE BUTTON DOESN'T WORK?  
WHAT THEN?  
HE STANDS STOCK STILL.  
DOESN'T DARE PRESS THE BUTTON.



THEN IT'S AS IF A HAND TAKES HOLD OF HIS.  
SQUEEZES IT THREE TIMES.  
IN THE DARK.

HE HOLDS HIS BREATH.

ONLY ONE PERSON EVER DOES THAT.

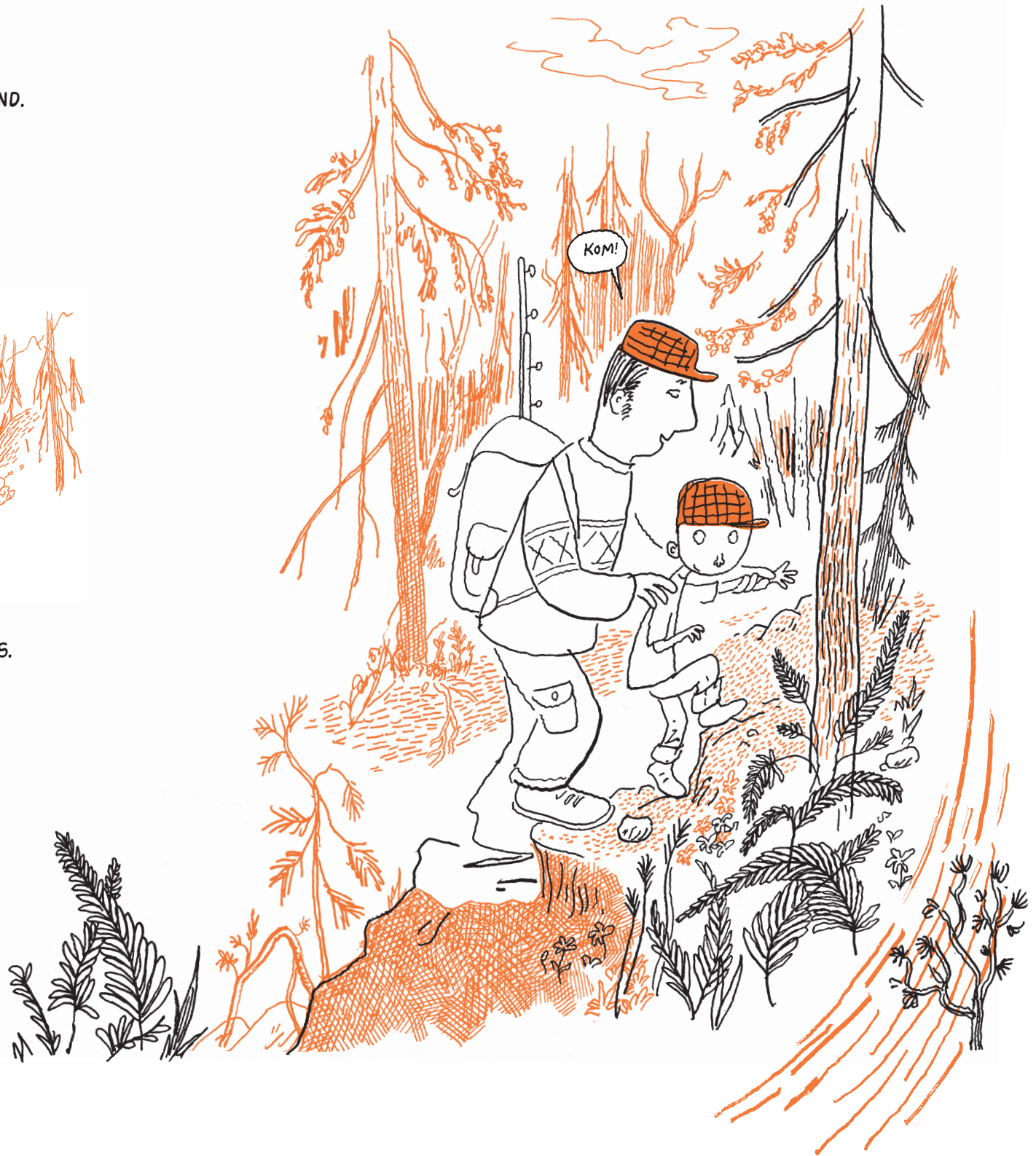


DADDY.

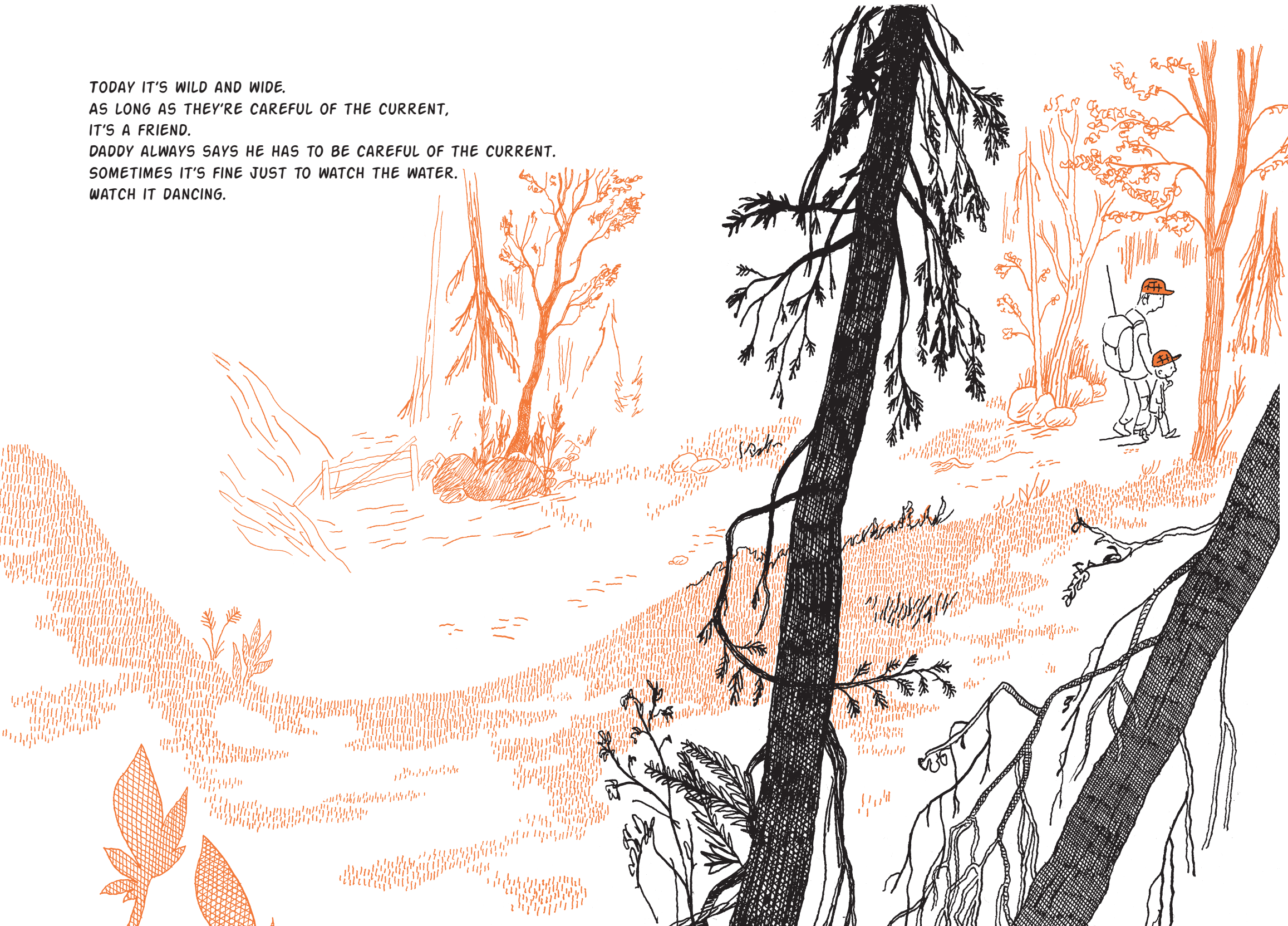
HE FEARS NOTHING WHEN HE HOLDS DADDY'S HAND.  
NOR DOES HE FEEL THE COLD.  
DADDY'S HAND IS BIG AND WARM.



AND NOW HE CAN SEE DADDY'S EYES.  
SHINING LIKE TWO BEACONS IN THE DARK.  
EVERYTHING OK NOW?  
THE BOY NODS. SQUEEZES HIS HAND THREE TIMES.  
CAN'T LET GO.  
DOESN'T WANT TO LET GO.  
EVERYTHING IS FINE.  
ARE YOU READY?  
THOSE KIND EYES WATCH HIM.  
WILL WE SOON BE THERE?  
YES, WE'LL SOON BE THERE.  
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT.  
YOU ALWAYS ASK THAT, TOO.  
THEY LAUGH.  
HE KNOWS WHERE THEY'RE GOING.  
TO THE PLACE THAT IS THEIRS ALONE.  
TO THE RIVER.

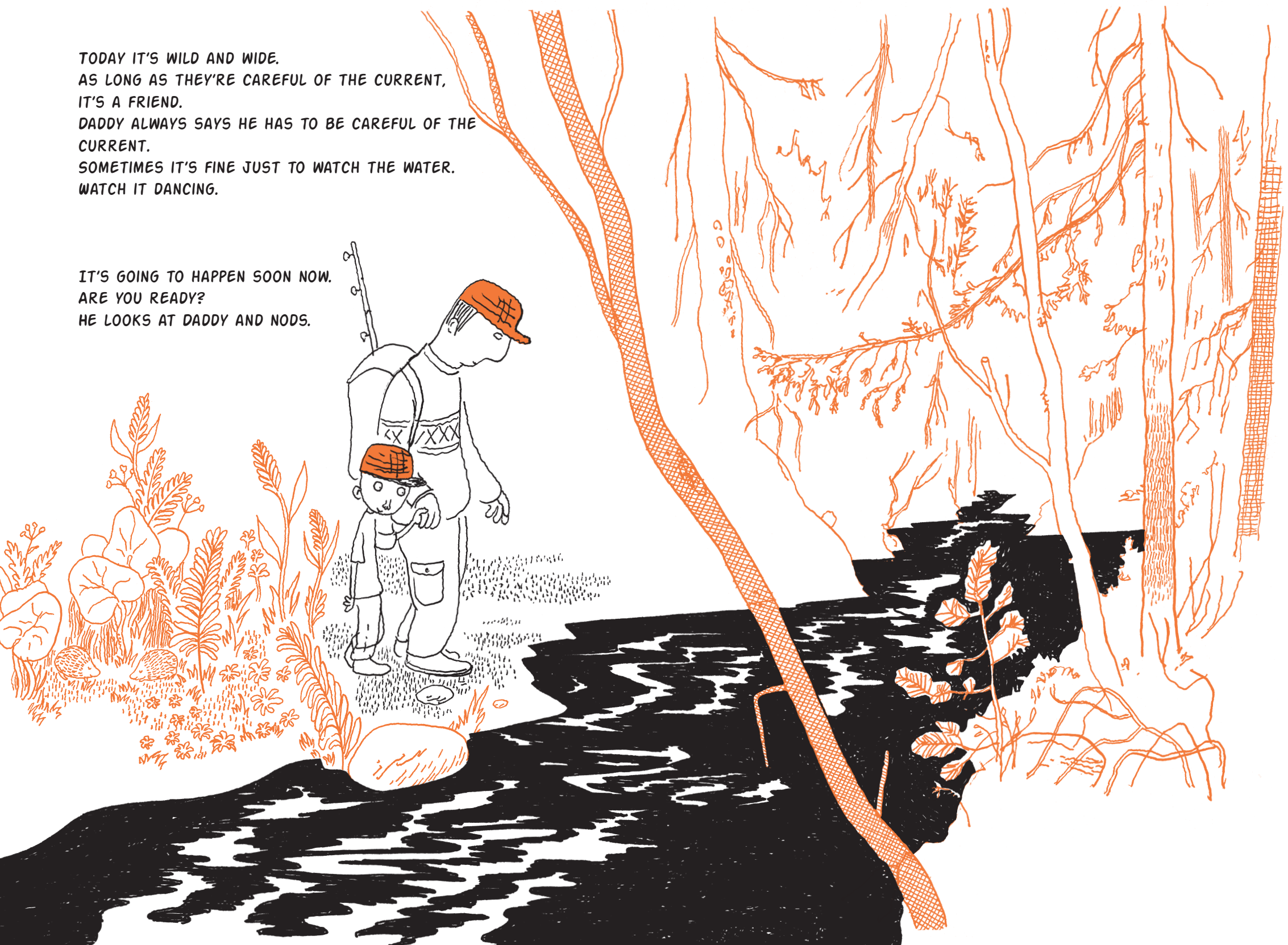


TODAY IT'S WILD AND WIDE.  
AS LONG AS THEY'RE CAREFUL OF THE CURRENT,  
IT'S A FRIEND.  
DADDY ALWAYS SAYS HE HAS TO BE CAREFUL OF THE CURRENT.  
SOMETIMES IT'S FINE JUST TO WATCH THE WATER.  
WATCH IT DANCING.

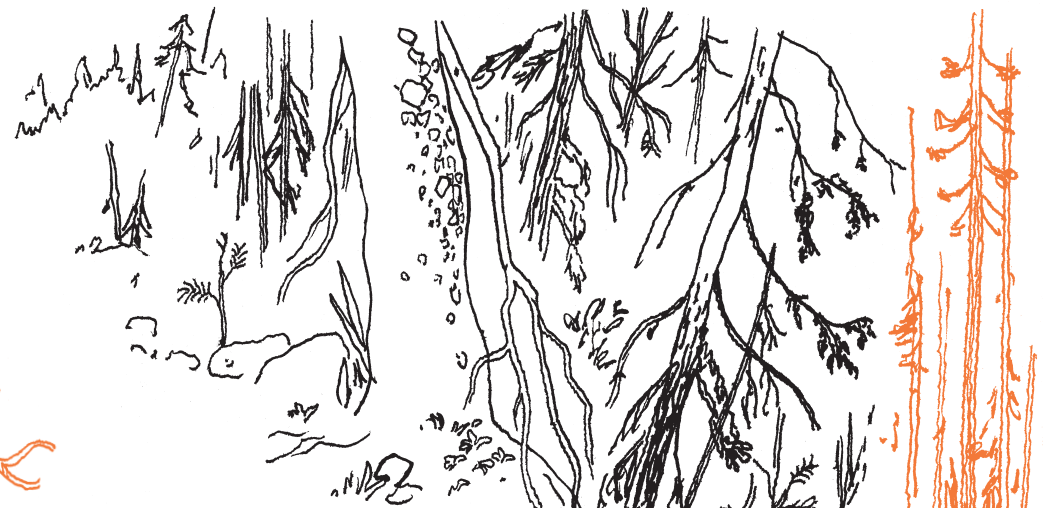
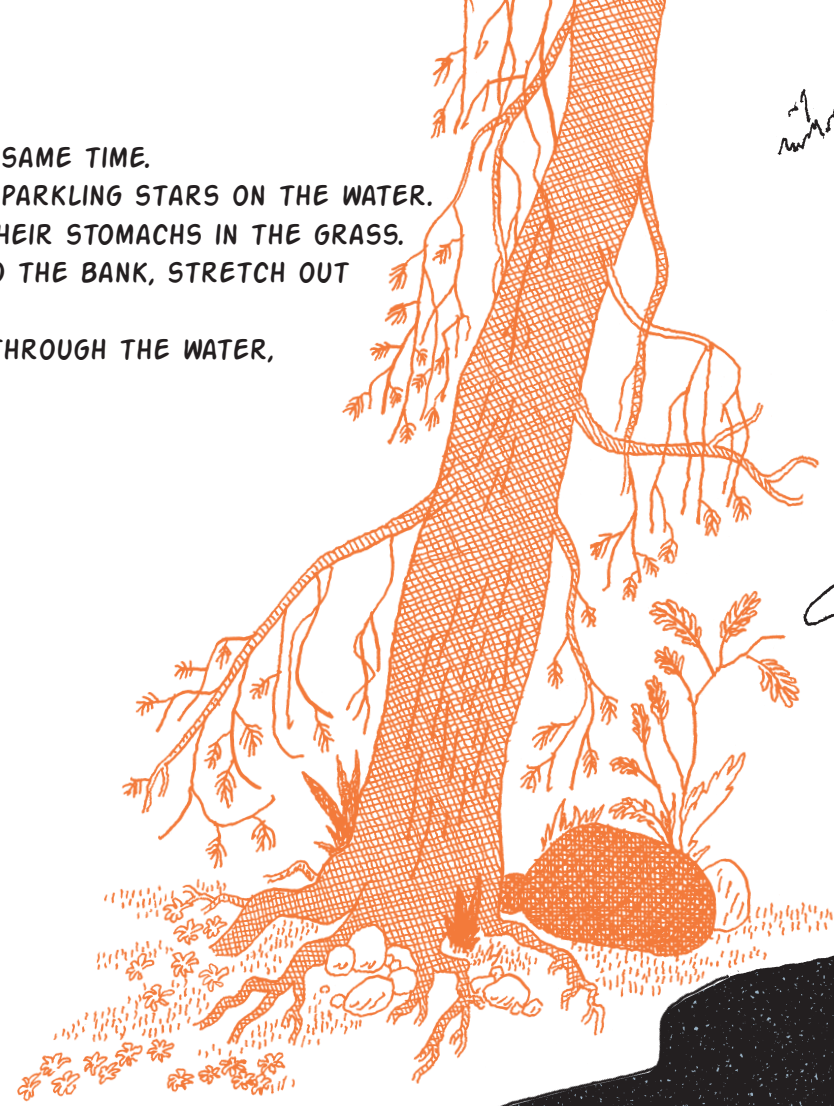


TODAY IT'S WILD AND WIDE,  
AS LONG AS THEY'RE CAREFUL OF THE CURRENT,  
IT'S A FRIEND.  
DADDY ALWAYS SAYS HE HAS TO BE CAREFUL OF THE  
CURRENT.  
SOMETIMES IT'S FINE JUST TO WATCH THE WATER.  
WATCH IT DANCING.

IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN SOON NOW.  
ARE YOU READY?  
HE LOOKS AT DADDY AND NODS.



NOW!  
THEY SEE IT AT THE SAME TIME.  
THE SUNLIGHT LIKE SPARKLING STARS ON THE WATER.  
THEY LIE DOWN ON THEIR STOMACHS IN THE GRASS.  
WRIGGLE FORWARD TO THE BANK, STRETCH OUT  
THEIR ARMS.  
THEIR HANDS GLIDE THROUGH THE WATER,  
THROUGH THE LIGHT.  
BACK AND FORTH.

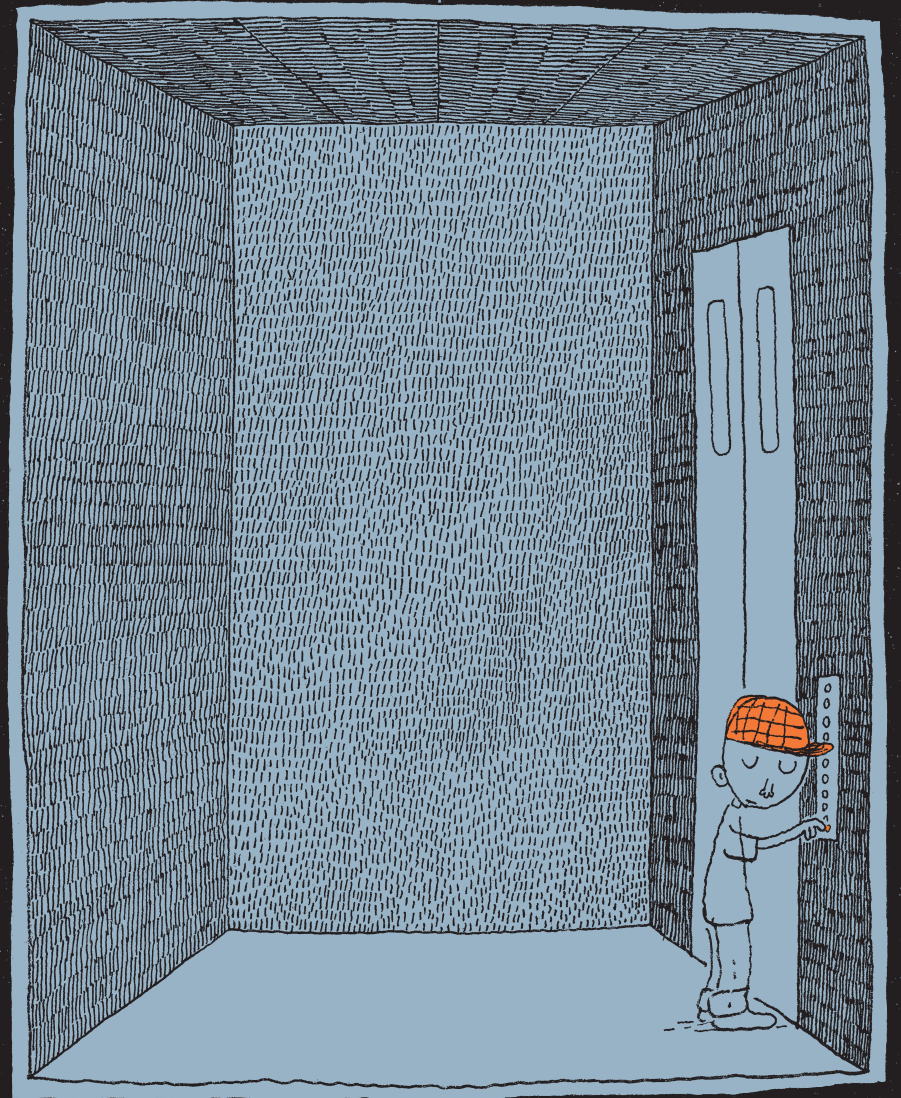


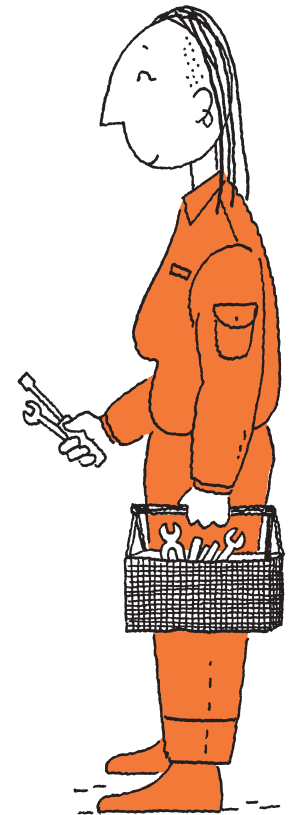
CLOSE YOUR EYES.  
WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW?  
THE BOY CLOSSES HIS EYES.  
THE LIGHT ON THE RIVER.  
HE LOOKS AT HIS FATHER.

NOW HE KNOWS THEY CAN GO BACK.



DADDY'S HAND LETS GO.  
THE BOY STANDS ALONE IN THE DARK.  
BUT HE'S NO LONGER AFRAID.  
HE LIFTS HIS HAND AND FINDS THE BUTTON.  
THEN PRESSES IT.





HOW DARK IT WAS

By Constance Ørbeck-Nilsen and Øyvind Torseter  
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