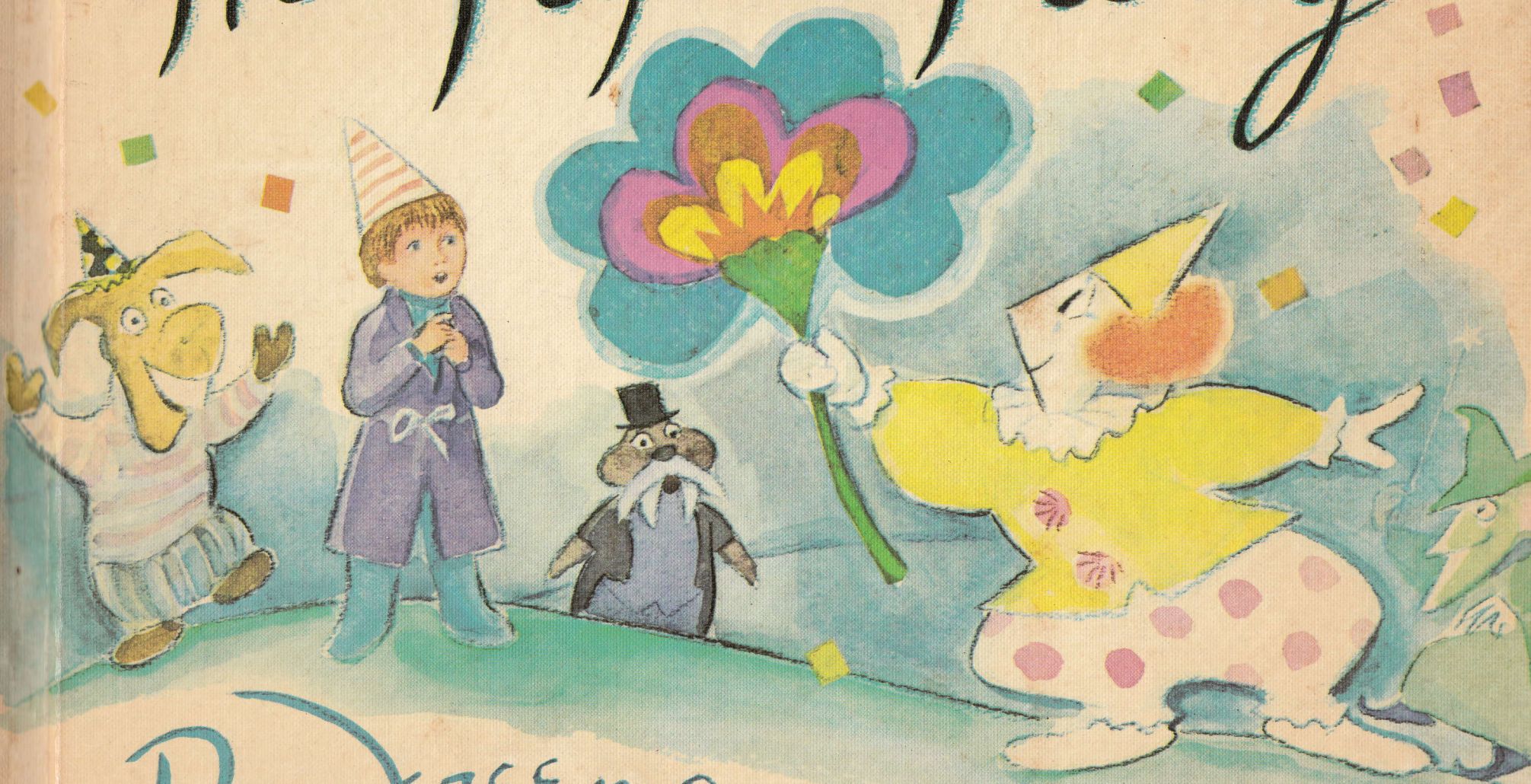


The Paper Party



Don Freeman

THE PAPER PARTY

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Pet of the Met

THE PAPER PARTY



STORY AND PICTURES BY
DON FREEMAN

THE VIKING PRESS NEW YORK

To my dear
ROY and SHERRY

FIRST EDITION

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PRINTED IN U.S.A. 1 2 3 4 5 78 77 76 75 74

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Freeman, Don. The paper party. Summary: A small boy goes through the television screen for a party with the puppets from his favorite program and is asked to stay. [1. Fantasy.] I. Title PZ7.F8747Pap [E] 74-1365

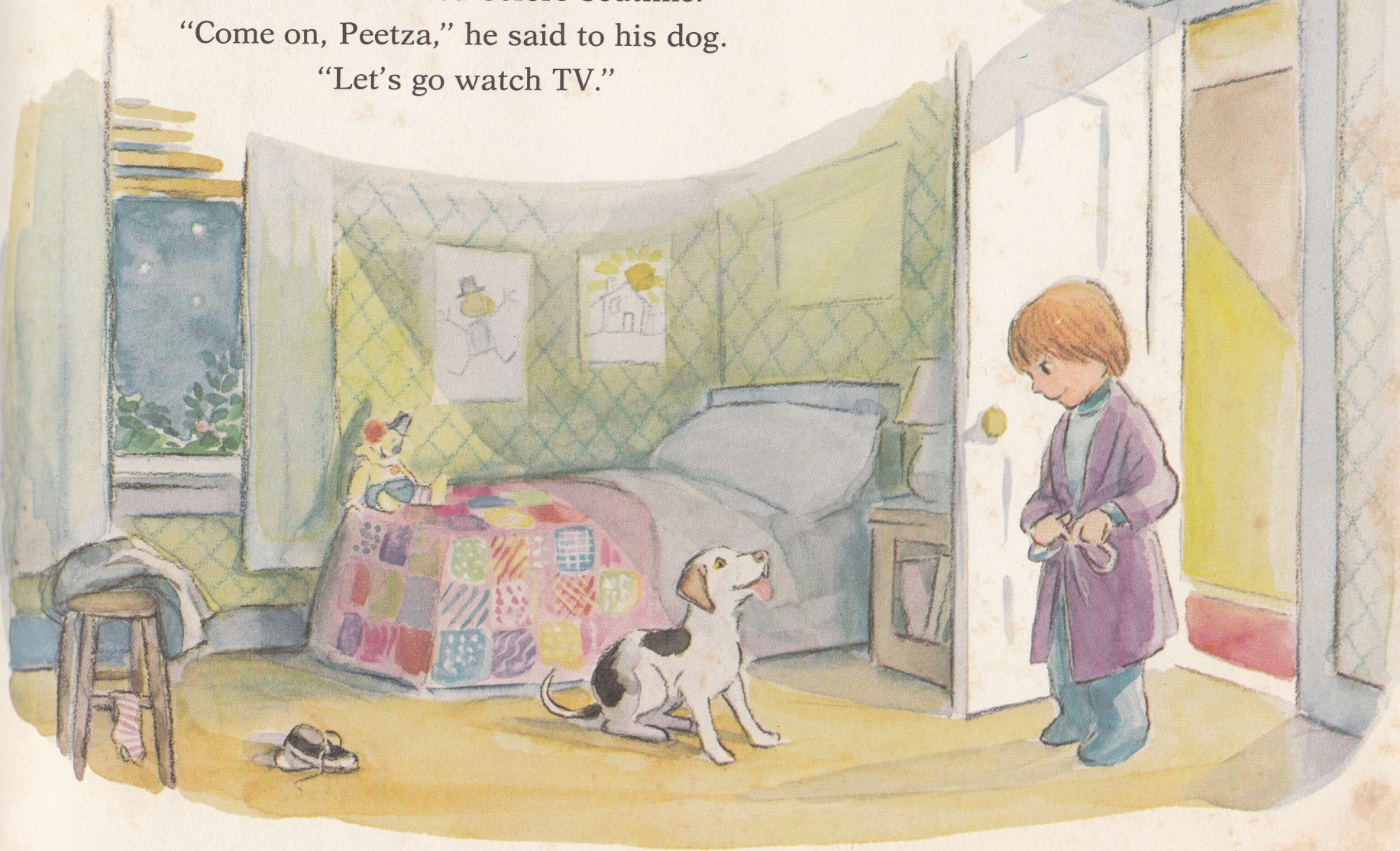
ISBN 0-670-53804-3

ONE NIGHT right after supper Jory put on his pajamas and bathrobe without having to be told.

His parents were entertaining a few guests, and Jory could do as he wanted before bedtime.

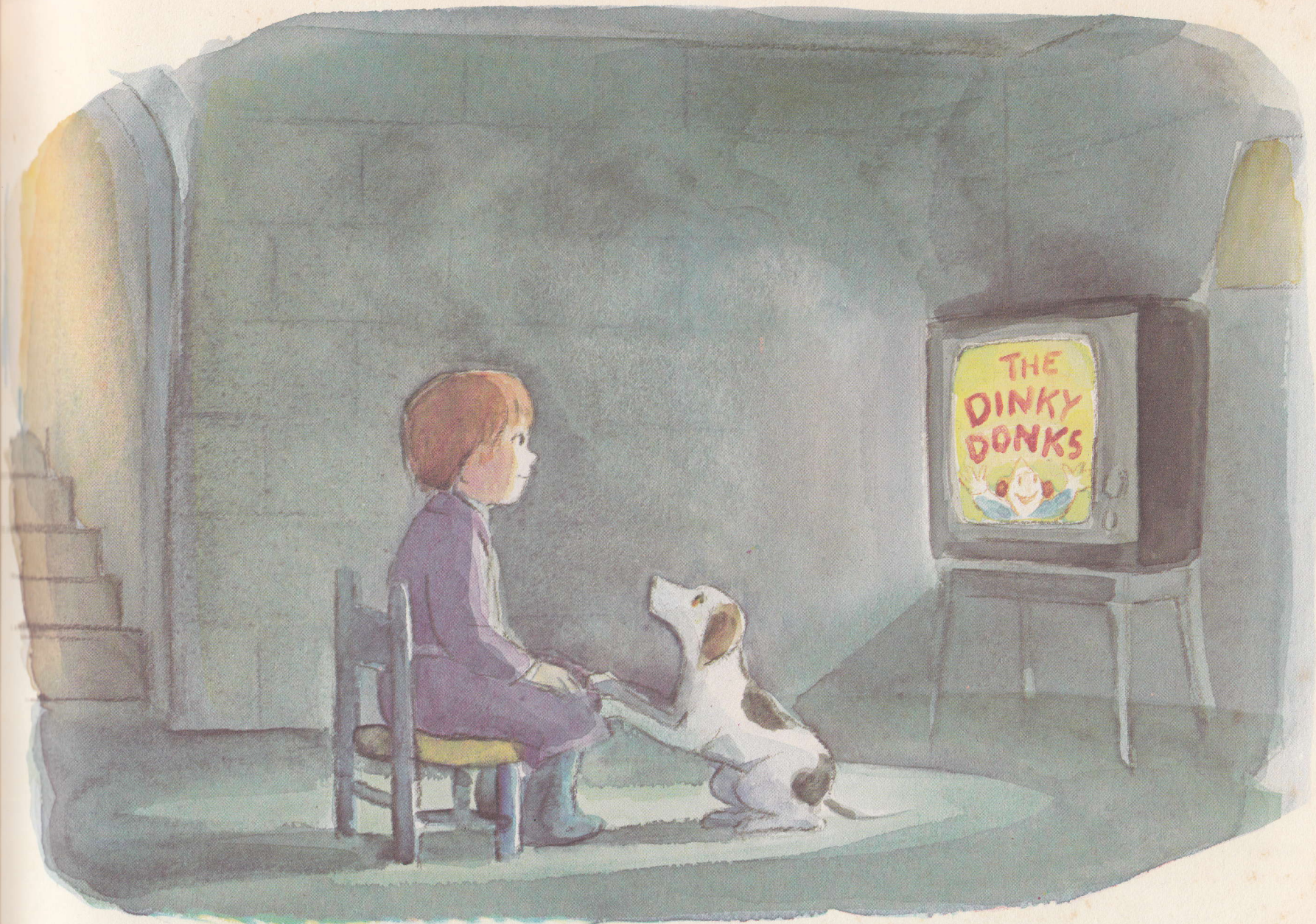
“Come on, Peetza,” he said to his dog.

“Let’s go watch TV.”





They went downstairs to the den. "We don't want to miss the Dinky Donk show," said Jory, as he turned on the set.



Then he sat down in his own chair and waited for his favorite program to begin.

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When Dinky, the funny puppet clown, waved hello, Jory waved back.

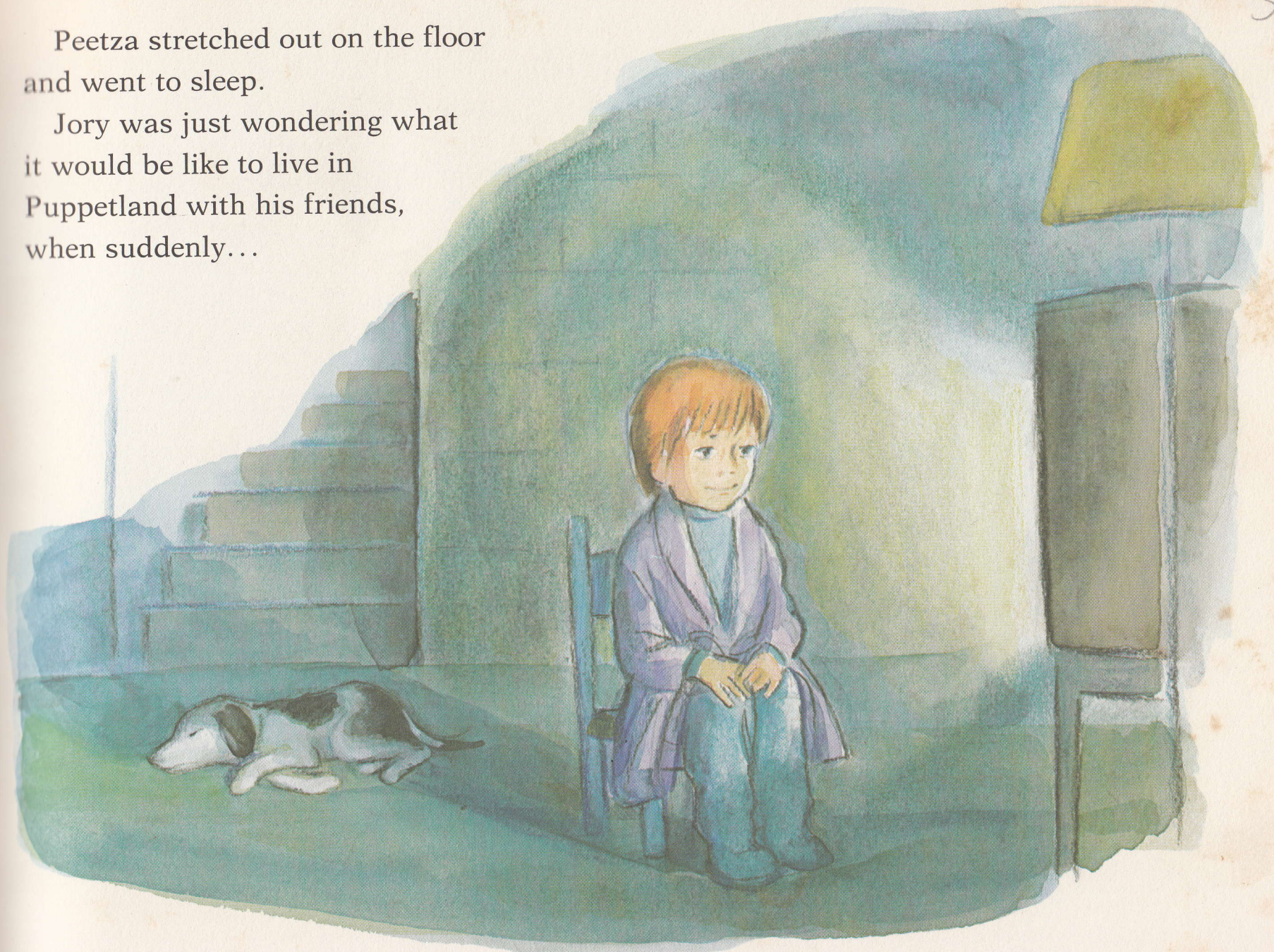
He loved everything the Dinky Donks did. They made him laugh so hard he nearly slid off the chair.



Peetza stretched out on the floor
and went to sleep.

Jory was just wondering what
it would be like to live in
Puppetland with his friends,
when suddenly...

Dinky Donks
hard

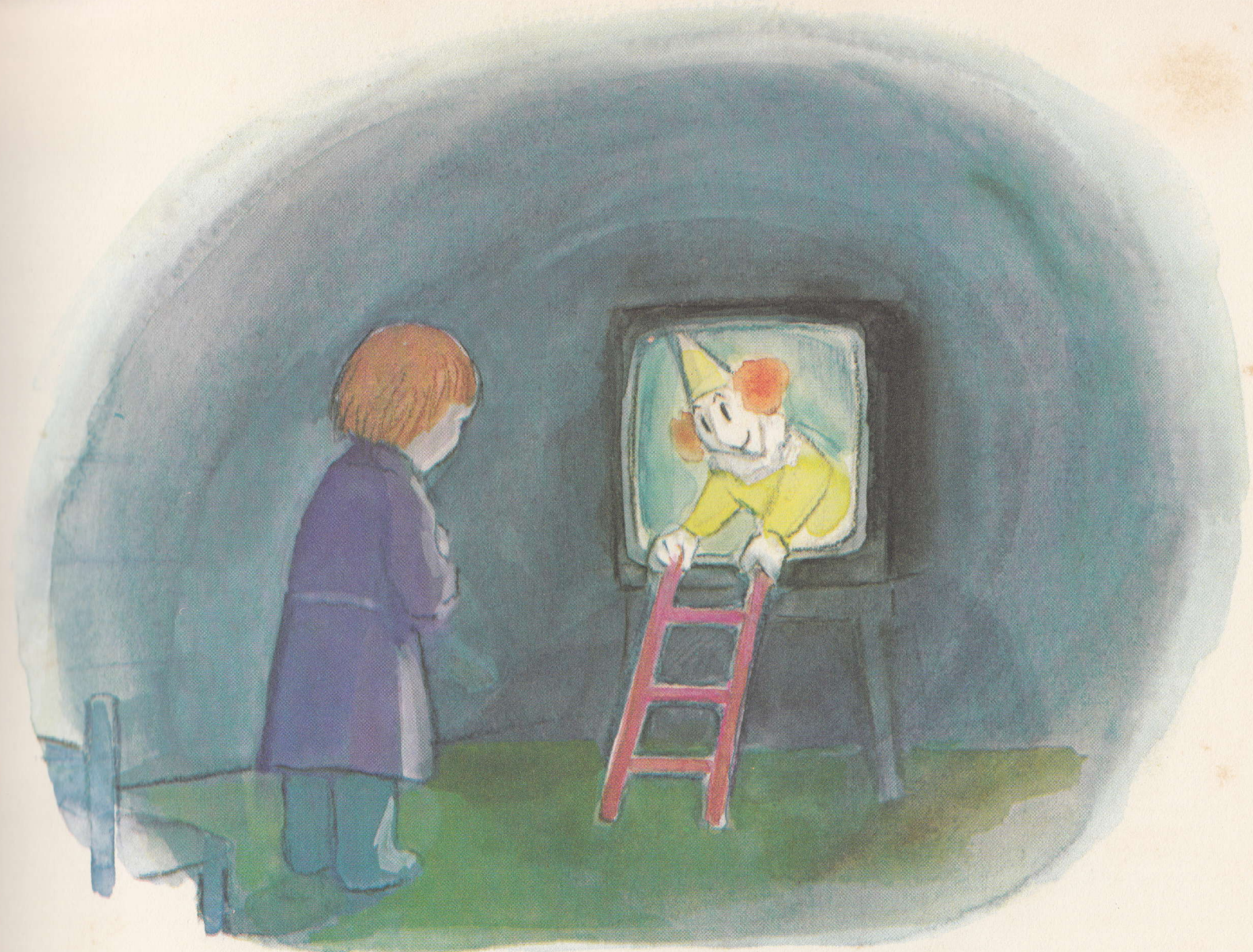


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Dinky leaned out of the screen.



“We are having a party tonight,” he whispered,
“and we want you to be our guest.”



He let down a little red ladder.

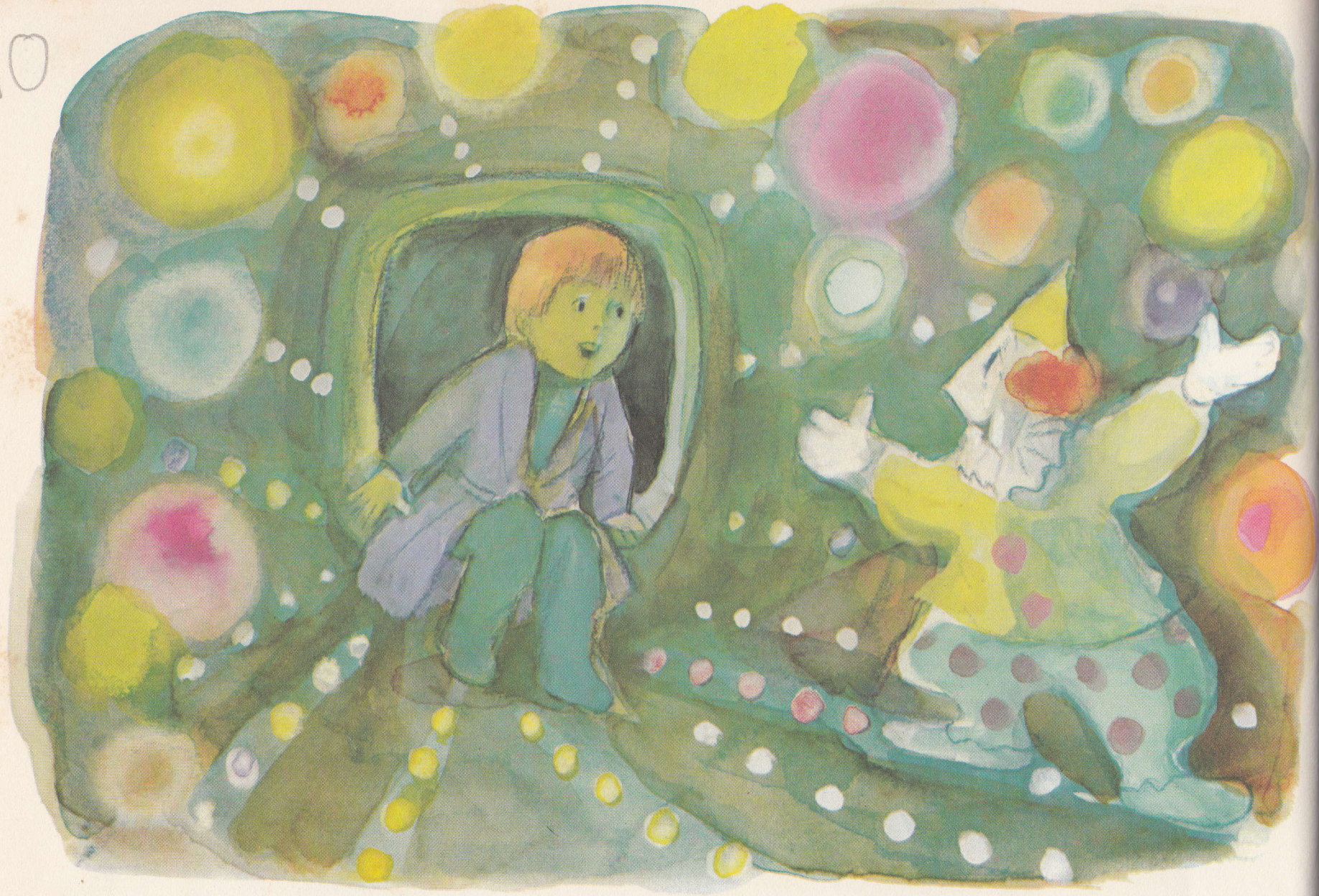
8



Jory climbed up



and crawled through the opening.



“It looks exactly the way I thought it would!” said Jory.





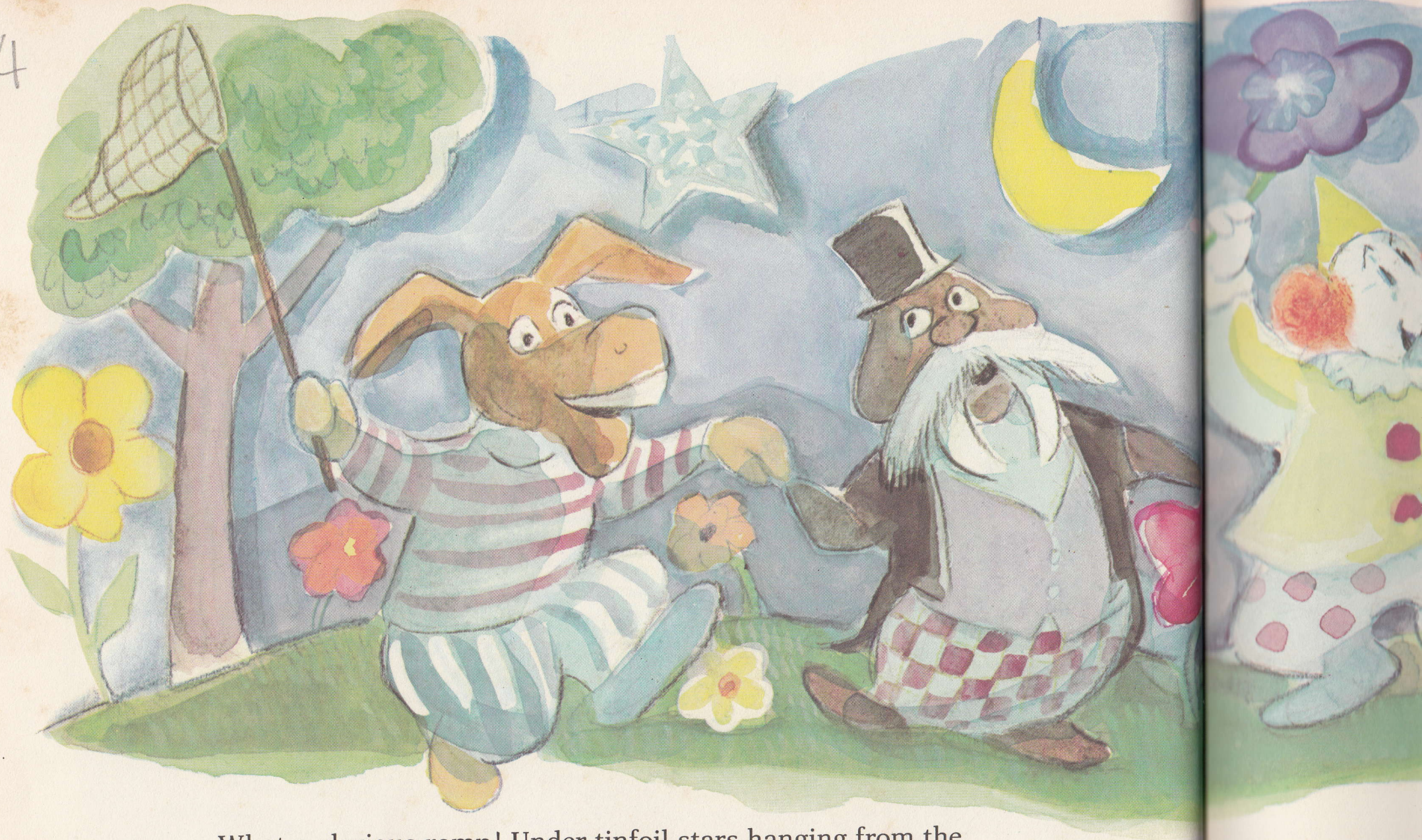
“Follow me!” beckoned Dinky. “We don’t have far to go.”

“See, here we are! All your friends are waiting for you. There’s Donk the donkey, Wonk the walrus, and Wanda Witch.”





“Welcome!” the Dinky Donks shouted. “You’re just in time to dance with us in our flower garden.”



What a glorious romp! Under tinfoil stars hanging from the cardboard sky, everyone joined hands and danced and sang.

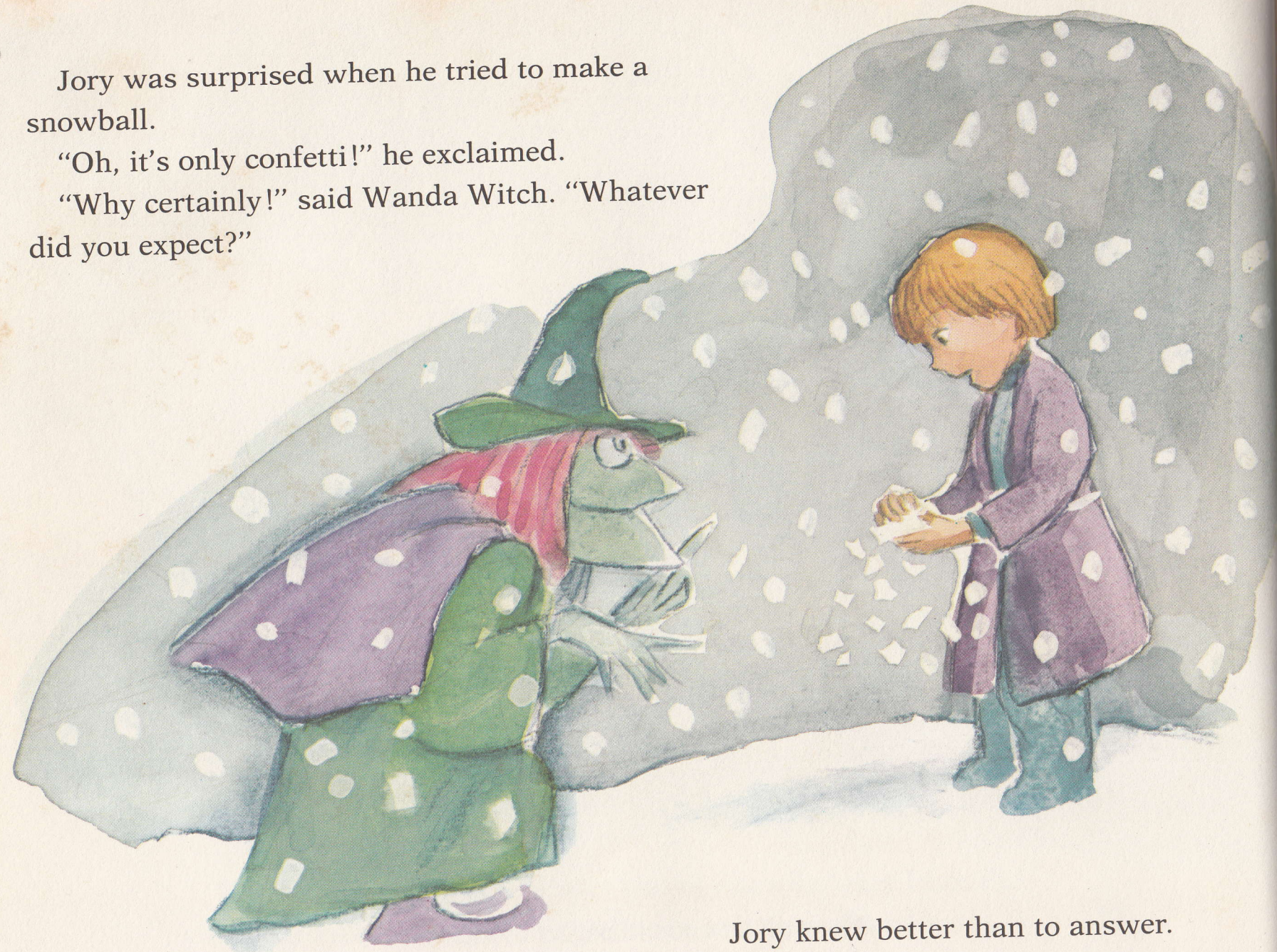


Then all at once it began to snow.

Jory was surprised when he tried to make a snowball.

“Oh, it’s only confetti!” he exclaimed.

“Why certainly!” said Wanda Witch. “Whatever did you expect?”



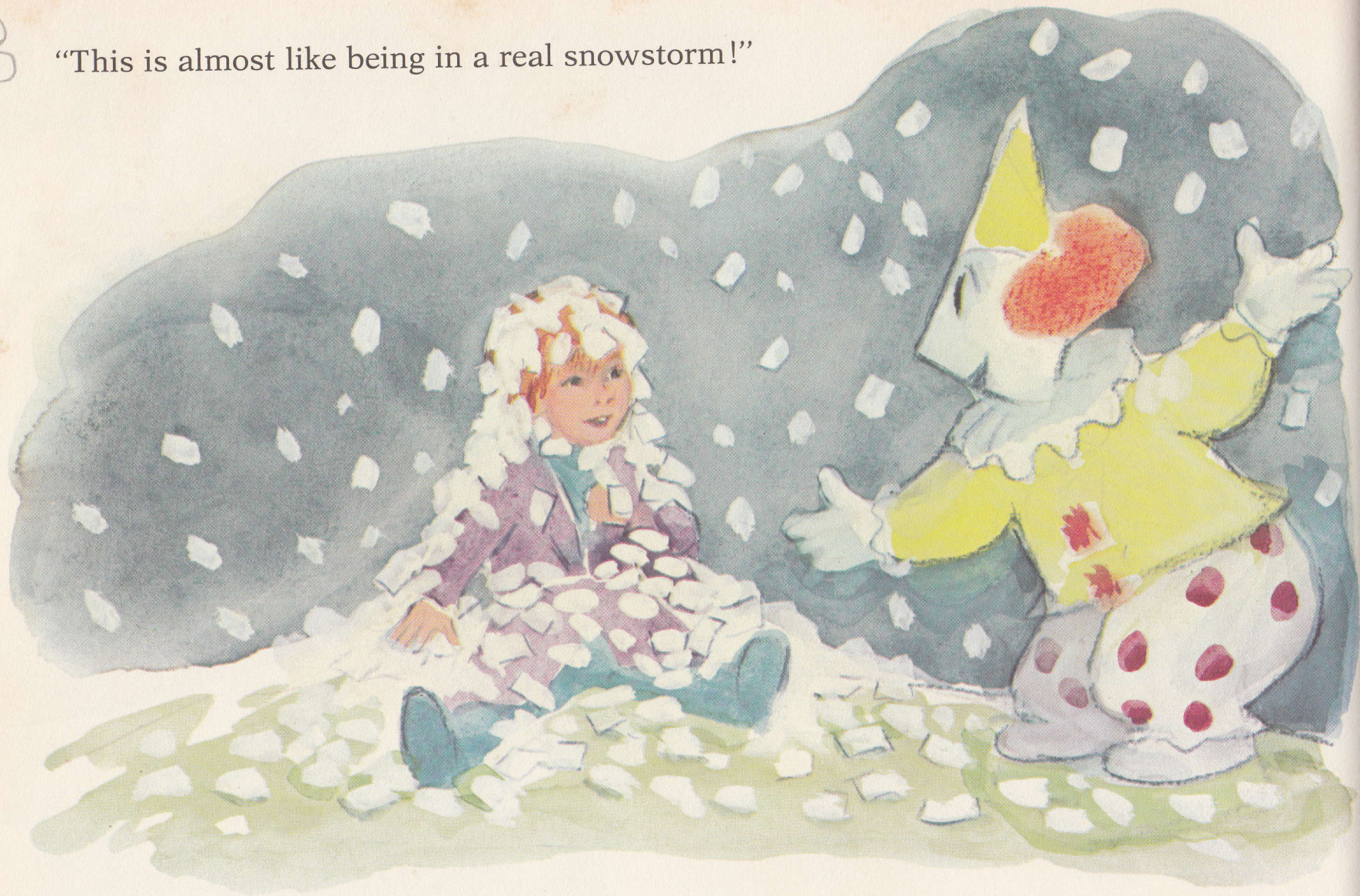
Jory knew better than to answer.



When he saw Donk trying to catch the paper snowflakes in a butterfly net, he laughed so hard he fell down.

swer.

“This is almost like being in a real snowstorm!”



“But this is a real snowstorm!” declared Dinky.
“We have them every day.”



Jory didn't say a word. He just let the confetti cover him over completely.

His friends were worried. "Maybe he won't like us now," sighed Wonk.

But as soon as the flakes stopped falling...



Jory jumped up and winked, just like a Dinky Donk puppet.
Everyone clapped and cheered.



“Now it’s PARTY TIME!” said Dinky. “Come take your places at the table.”



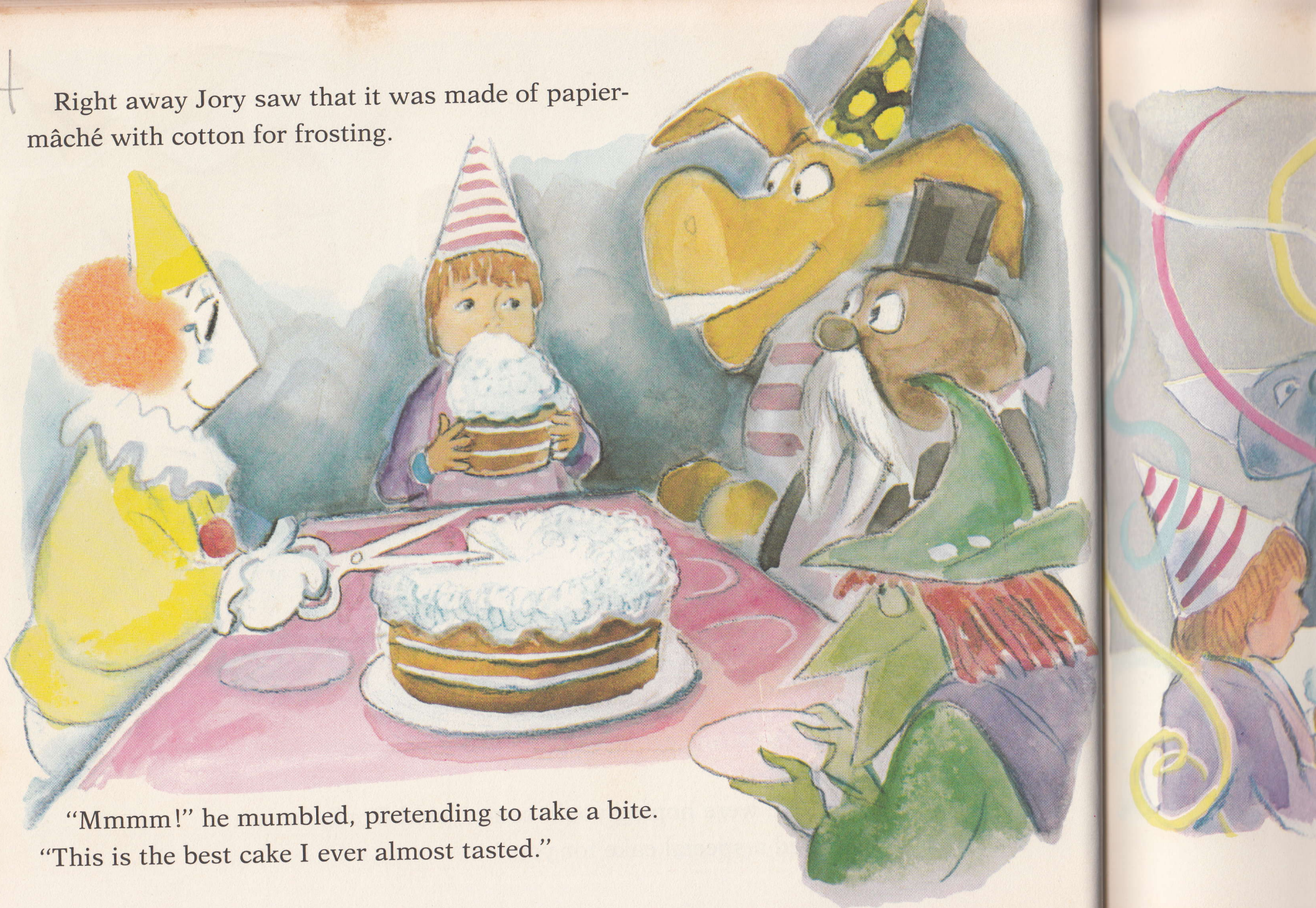
They gave Jory a box chair to sit on and a paper hat to wear.

“Maybe there’ll be something good to eat,” he said to himself, tucking a paper napkin under his chin.

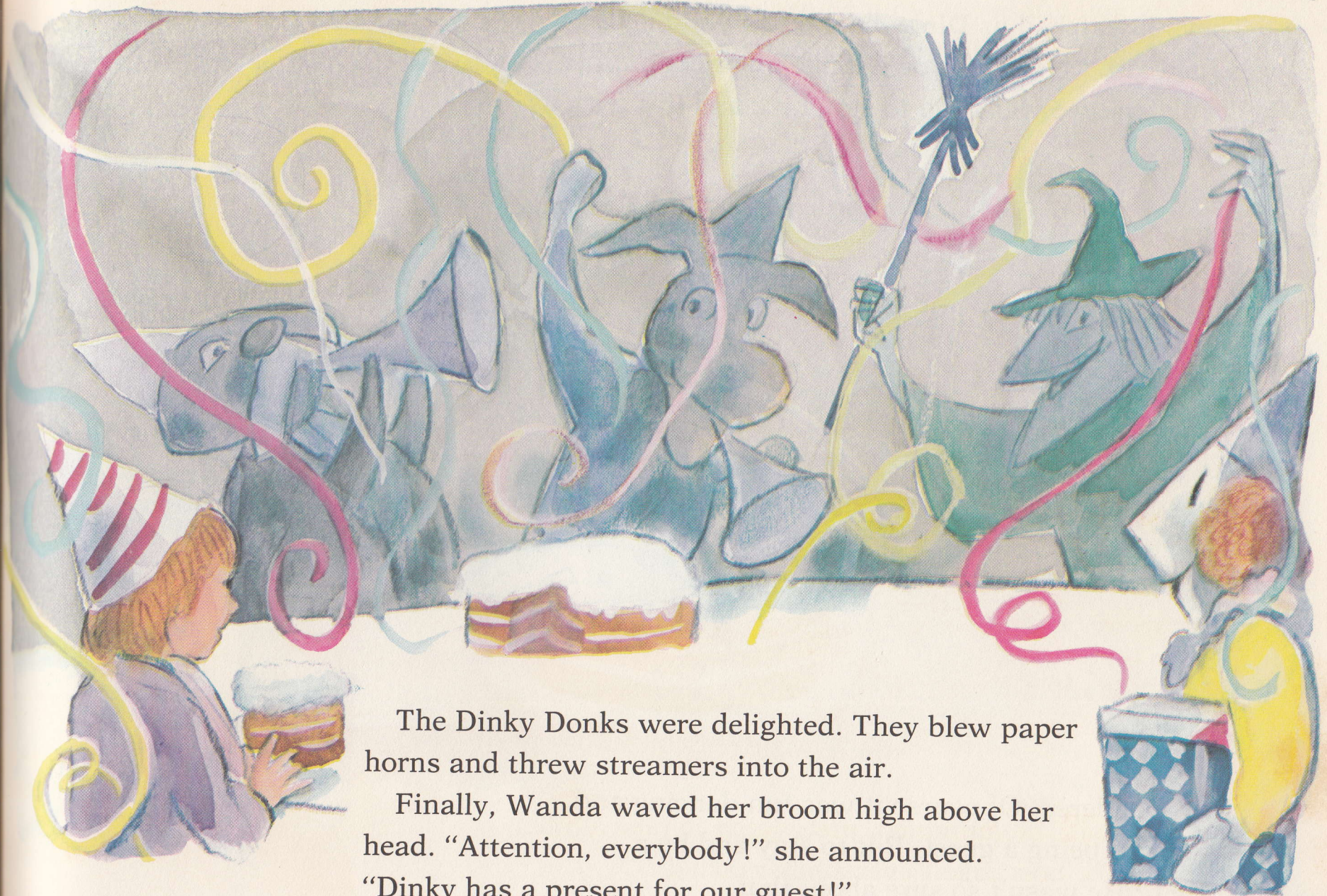


“We were hoping you’d come,” said Donk, “so we baked a special cake for you.”

Right away Jory saw that it was made of papier-mâché with cotton for frosting.



“Mmmm!” he mumbled, pretending to take a bite.
“This is the best cake I ever almost tasted.”



The Dinky Donks were delighted. They blew paper horns and threw streamers into the air.

Finally, Wanda waved her broom high above her head. "Attention, everybody!" she announced. "Dinky has a present for our guest!"

They all watched as Dinky handed Jory a fancily wrapped gift. "We think you'd make a perfect puppet," he said, "and we want you to stay here and live with us."



Jory wondered. Of course it was fun dancing and playing and being a guest. But to stay and be a PUPPET? He wasn't so sure about that.

However, when he unwrapped the box and
saw a dog puppet with paper ears,



Jory suddenly remembered Peetza.

“Thank you very much. I had a wonderful time at your party, but I have to go now,” he said politely. “I promised my father and mother I’d be in bed by seven.”

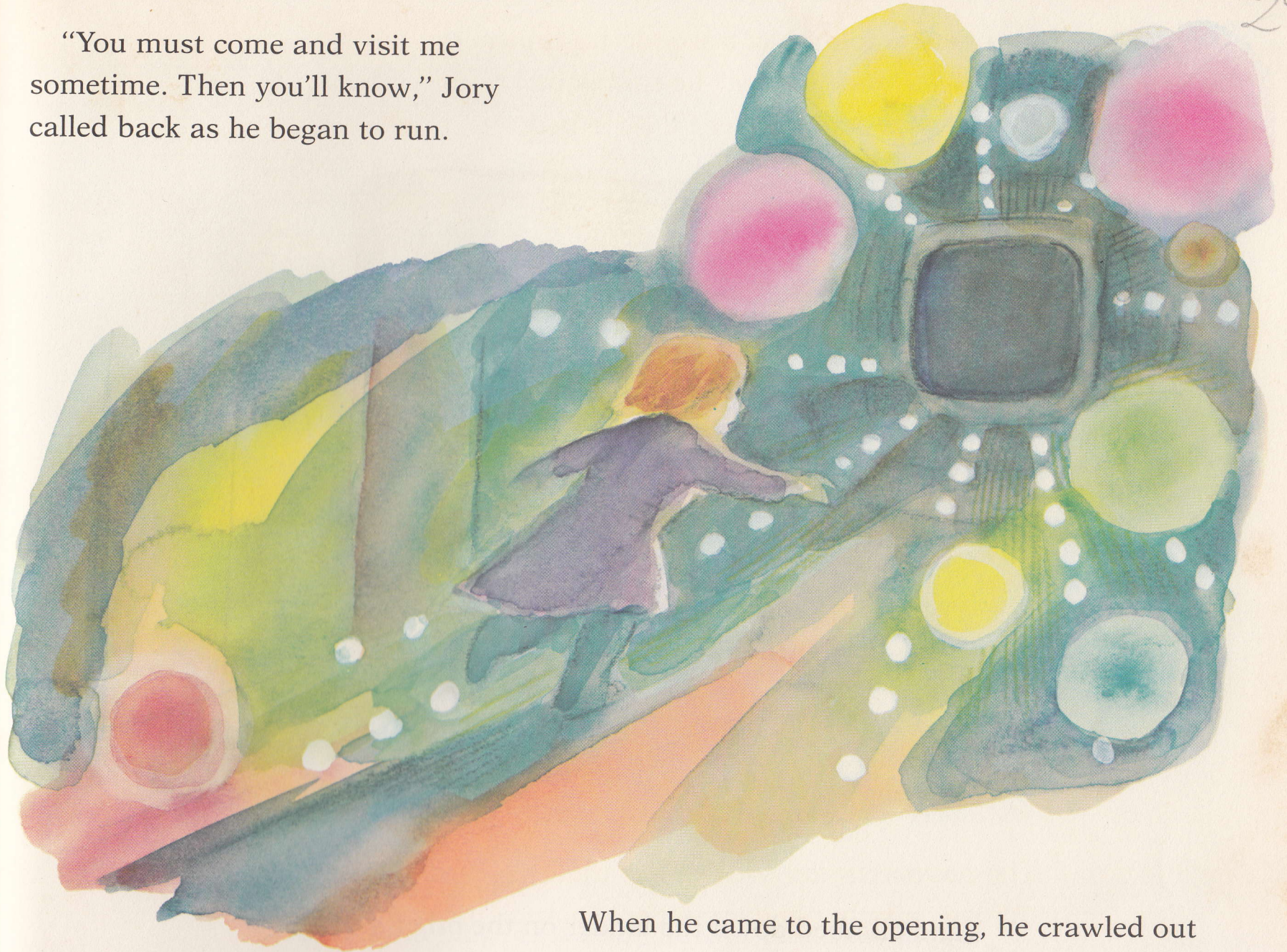


The puppets stood silent. They didn't know what he meant. "What's a father and a mother?" asked Dinky.

“You must come
sometime. Then
called back as he



"You must come and visit me
sometime. Then you'll know," Jory
called back as he began to run.



When he came to the opening, he crawled out



and climbed down the ladder on the other side.



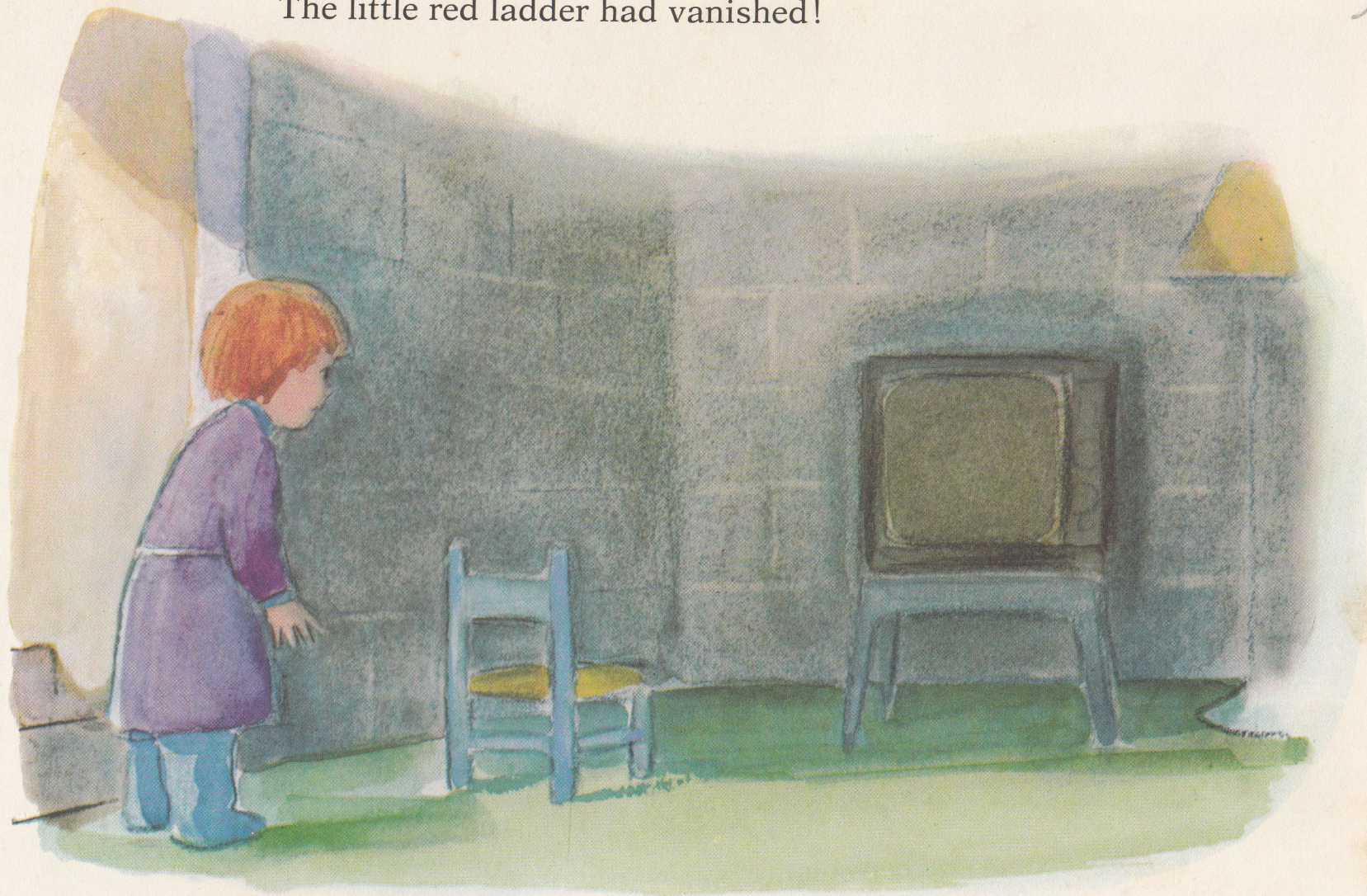
After switching off the set, he started up the stairs.

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He stopped halfway up and turned back....

The little red ladder had vanished!



Jory stood still for a moment.
Then he heard a familiar bark, and he rushed up
the stairs to his room where ...

4



Peetza was anxiously waiting for him.



bi



“I missed you too!” he said, giving his dog a big hug.

Now, there was one thing more Jory wondered about.



He opened the window and looked out to see if the night was still there.

The crickets were chirping, and the flowers smelled sweeter than ever.

And never before had the moon and the stars looked so magically real.

