

Caroline Roque

Grégoire Mabire

The Very Scary Night



Mijade



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For Céleste
G.M.

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Every night when it gets dark,
the Mouse Family prepares to do its grocery shopping.
Papa slips an enormous backpack on his shoulders.
Mama tucks the grocery list in her shopping bag.
Harry and Mia carry the flashlight and the cheese knife.

“Is everyone ready?” asks Papa Mouse, suddenly looking anxious.



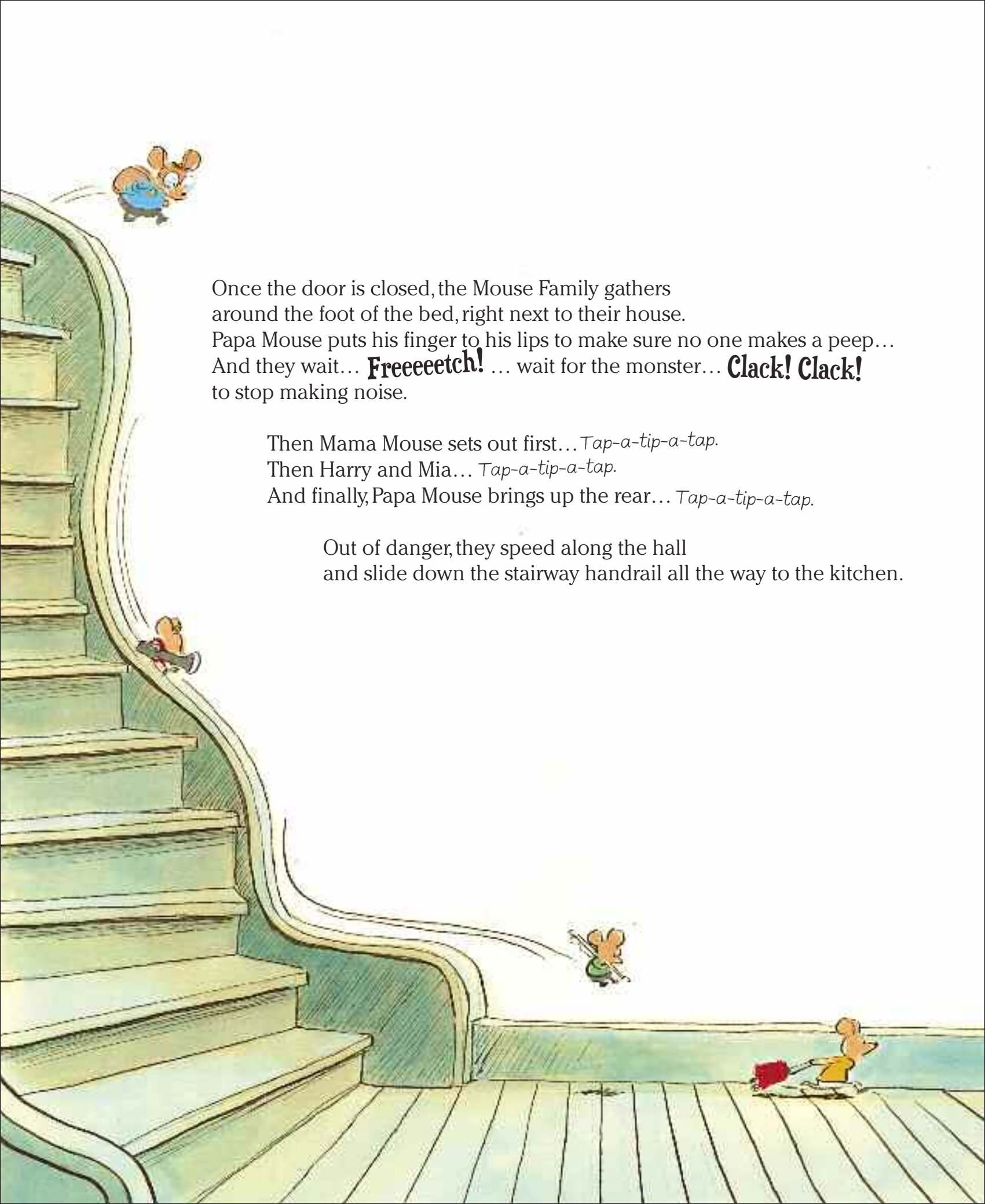
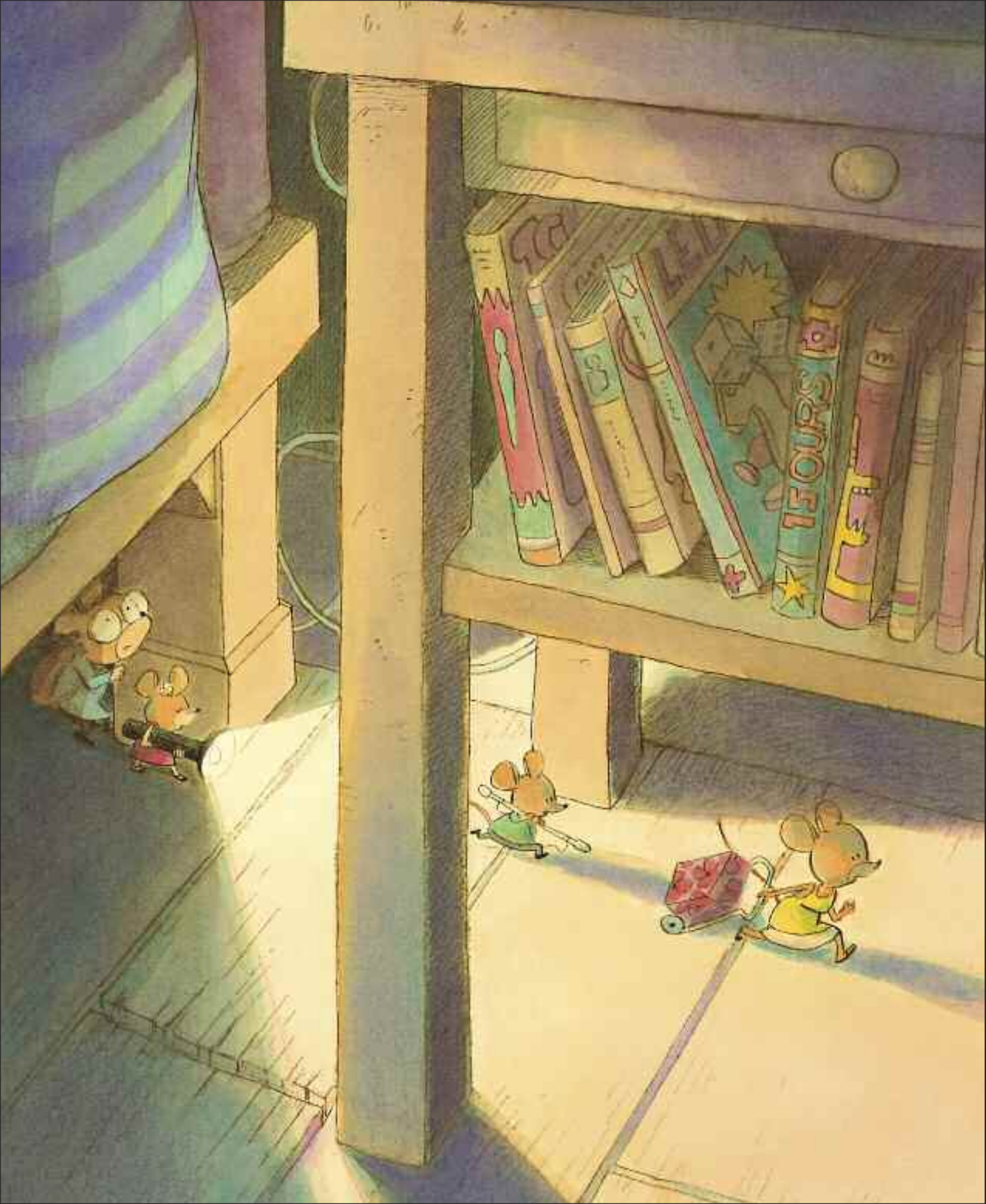
“Yes!” responds Mama Mouse, lining up behind Papa Mouse.
“Yes!” respond Harry and Mia, lining up behind their parents.



Then Papa Mouse opens the door very slowly... Eeeek!
The Mouse Family must be very careful
when they go out.
Their house is under a bed...
and on top of the bed is... **a monster!**

By the way, they call it **The Monster On The Bed!**
Neither Papa nor Mama nor Harry nor Mia
has ever seen the monster,
but they are certain that it is terrifying!
Just hearing the horrible noises it makes
is enough to scare them to death.

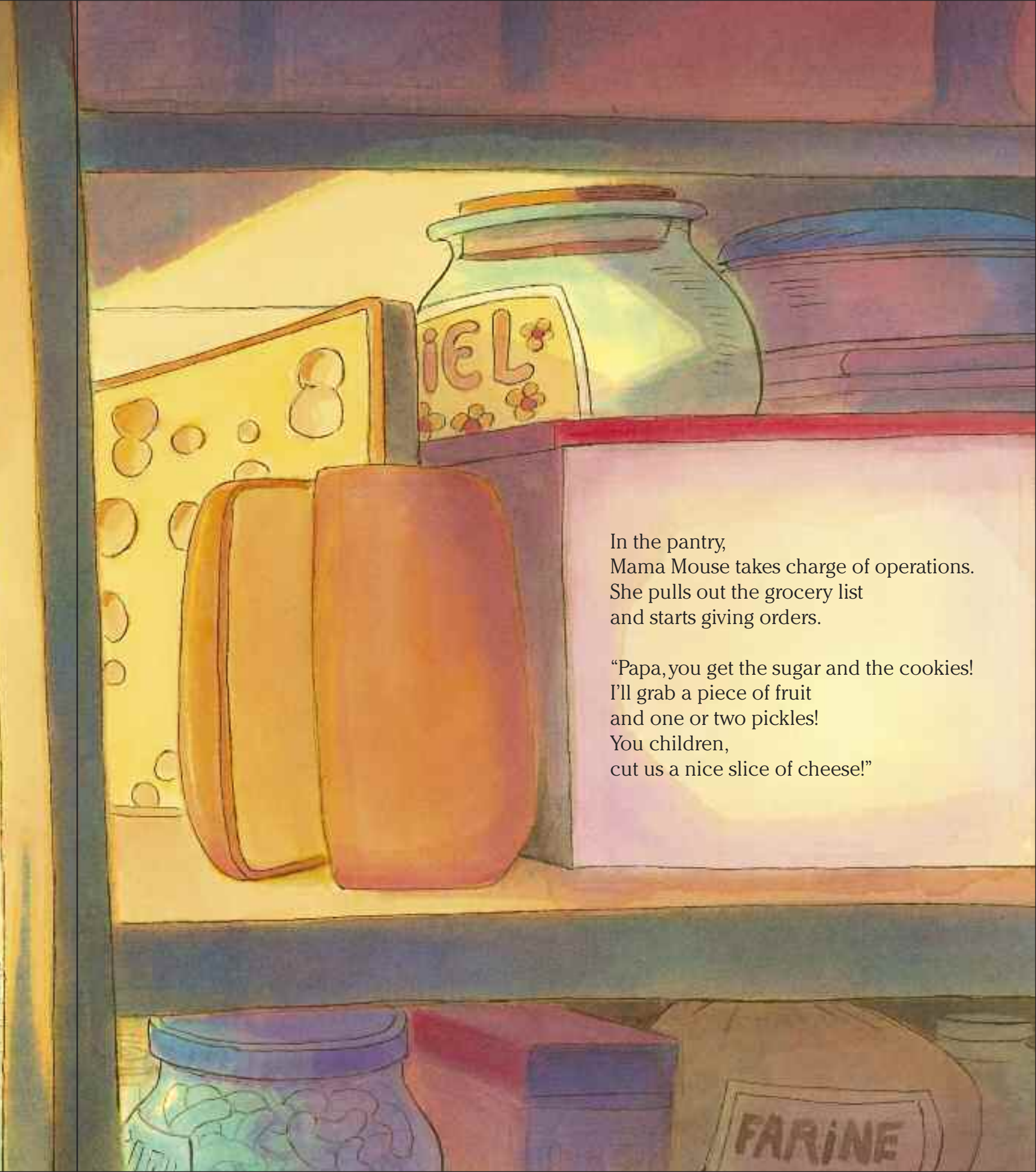
Freeeeetch!
HOUUUU!
Clack! Clack! Clack!



Once the door is closed, the Mouse Family gathers around the foot of the bed, right next to their house. Papa Mouse puts his finger to his lips to make sure no one makes a peep... And they wait... **Freeeeetch!** ... wait for the monster... **Clack! Clack!** to stop making noise.

Then Mama Mouse sets out first... *Tap-a-tip-a-tap.*
Then Harry and Mia... *Tap-a-tip-a-tap.*
And finally, Papa Mouse brings up the rear... *Tap-a-tip-a-tap.*

Out of danger, they speed along the hall and slide down the stairway handrail all the way to the kitchen.



In the pantry,
Mama Mouse takes charge of operations.
She pulls out the grocery list
and starts giving orders.

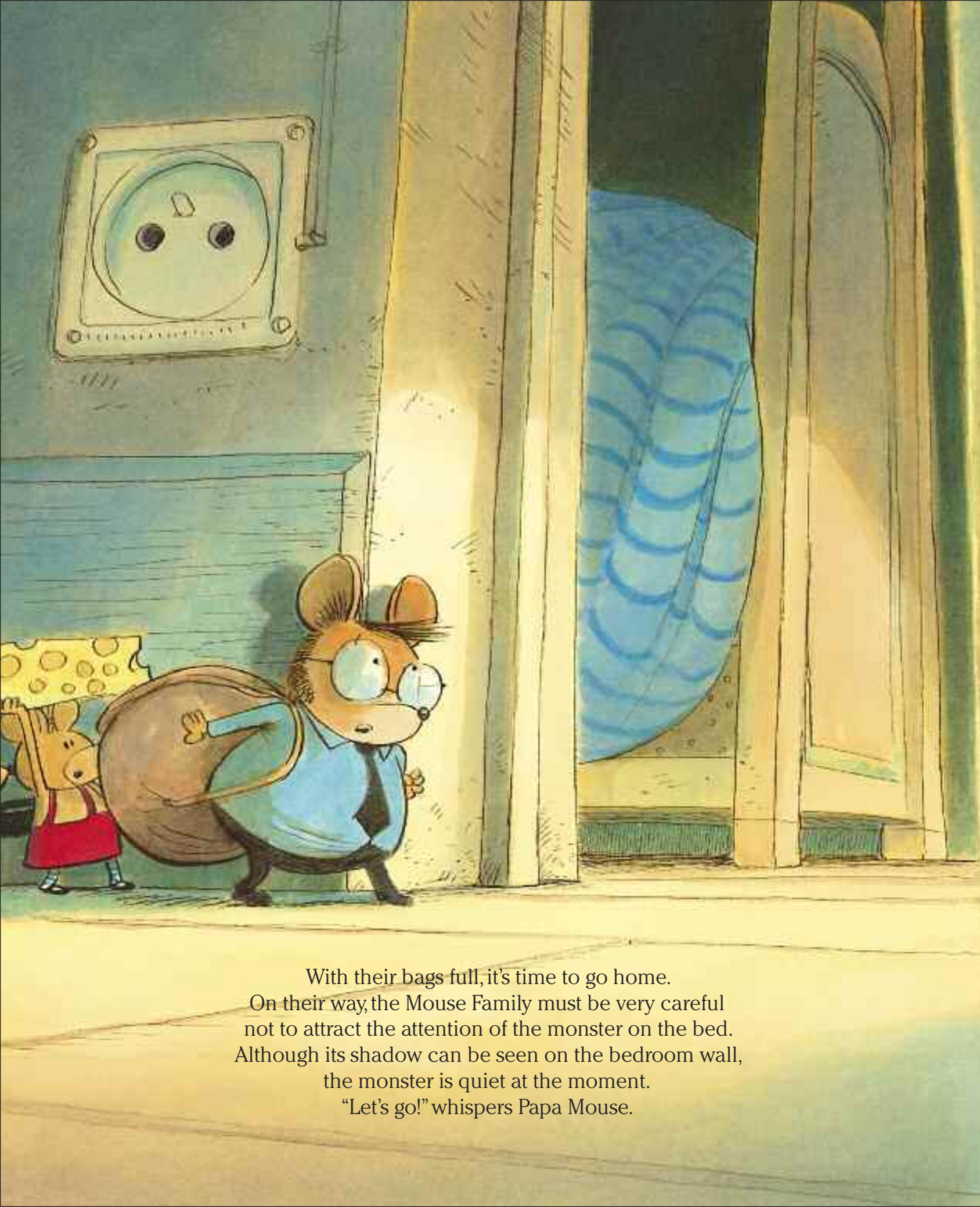
“Papa, you get the sugar and the cookies!
I’ll grab a piece of fruit
and one or two pickles!
You children,
cut us a nice slice of cheese!”



No sooner said than done.
Papa fills his backpack with sugar cubes.
Mama stuffs a peach in her shopping bag.
Harry and Mia tackle the Swiss cheese.

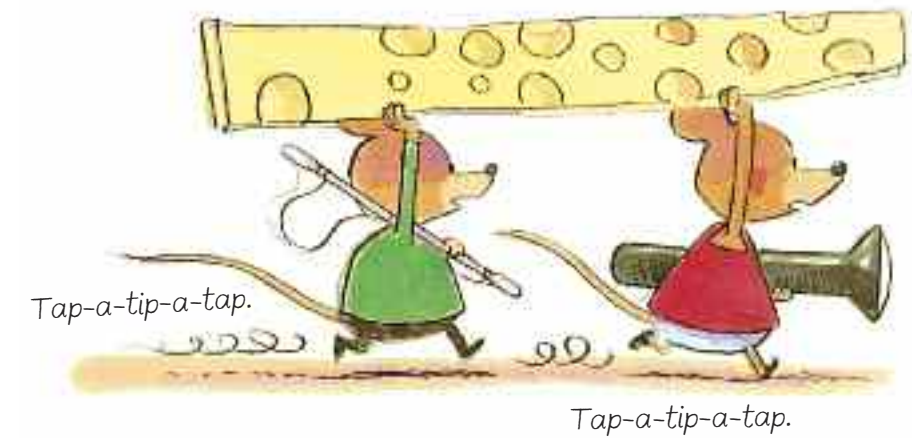
Ho!

Heave!



With their bags full, it's time to go home.
On their way, the Mouse Family must be very careful
not to attract the attention of the monster on the bed.
Although its shadow can be seen on the bedroom wall,
the monster is quiet at the moment.
"Let's go!" whispers Papa Mouse.

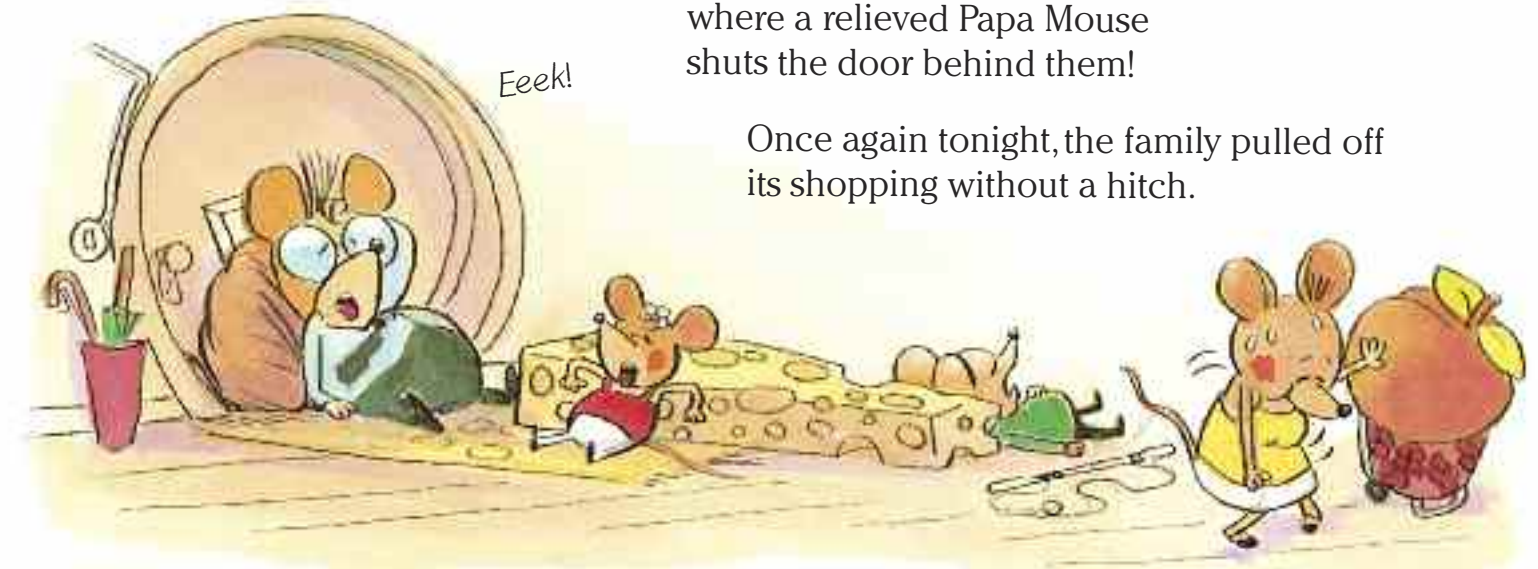
Harry and Mia hurry under the bed
followed by...



... Mama Mouse and Papa Mouse who, as usual,
brings up the rear.



They run straight to their house
where a relieved Papa Mouse
shuts the door behind them!



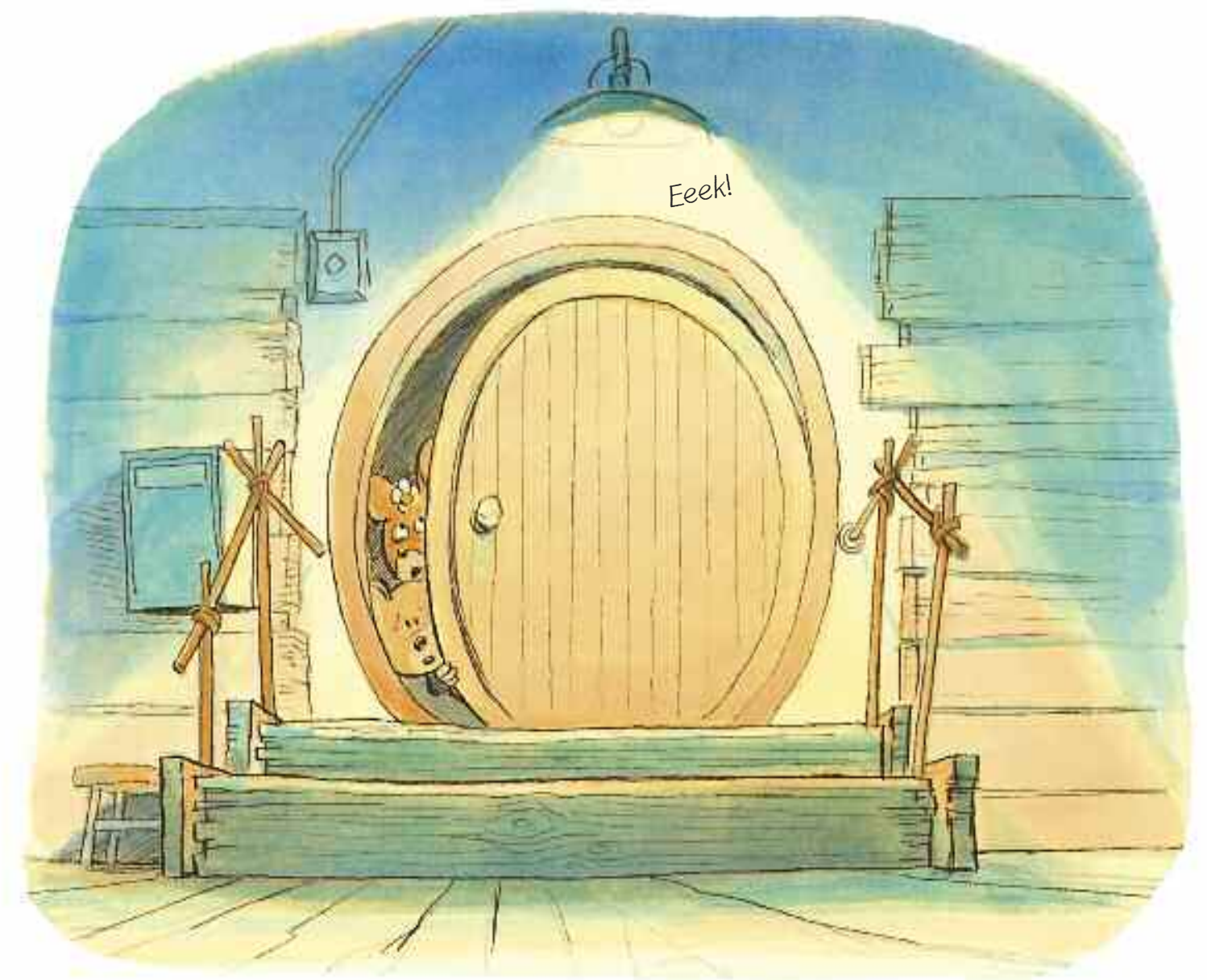
Once again tonight, the family pulled off
its shopping without a hitch.



Even so, Harry and Mia have had enough of living in fear of the unknown monster.
One night, as their snoring parents doze next to the fire
they sneak out of the bedroom.

They are determined to discover what **The Monster On The Bed** looks like.
The two baby mice crack open the house door,
the very one that is under the monster's bed.

Sticking very close, Harry and Mia prick up their ears,
ready for the slightest noise.
And that's when they hear:



Freeeeetch! HOUUUU!



Eeek!

“It’s the monster! It’s really here!”
whispers a terrified Harry
who closes the door right away.
“What do we do?”



Eeek!

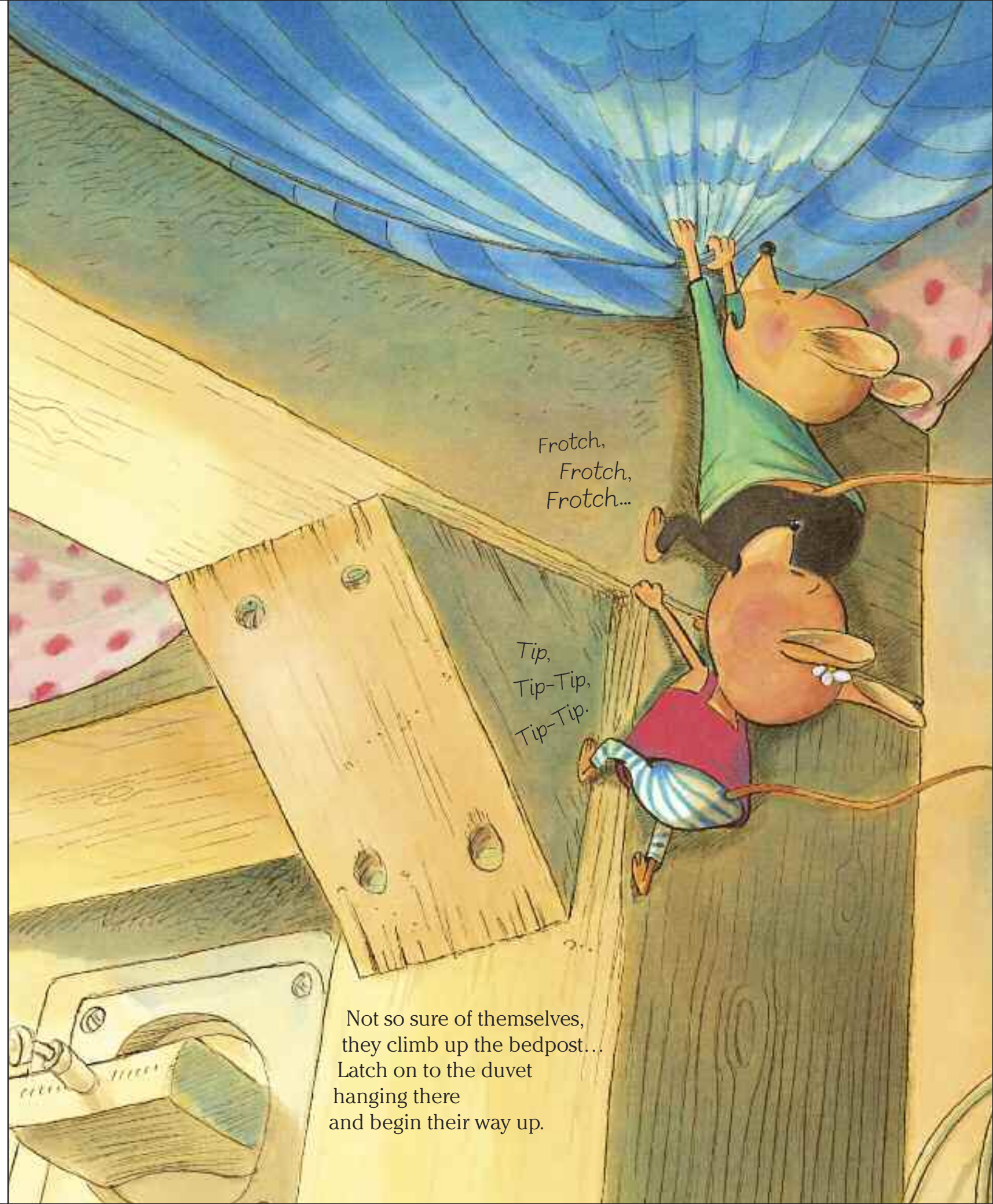
“We might not get another chance,”
says Mia, reasoning with Harry.
She hears the parents snoring
away in the living room.

zzzzzzzz hngGGggh
Ppbhww zzzzzzz

“Let’s go!”
And the two baby mice leave the house.



Tap-a-tip-a-tap!



Frotch,
Frotch,
Frotch...

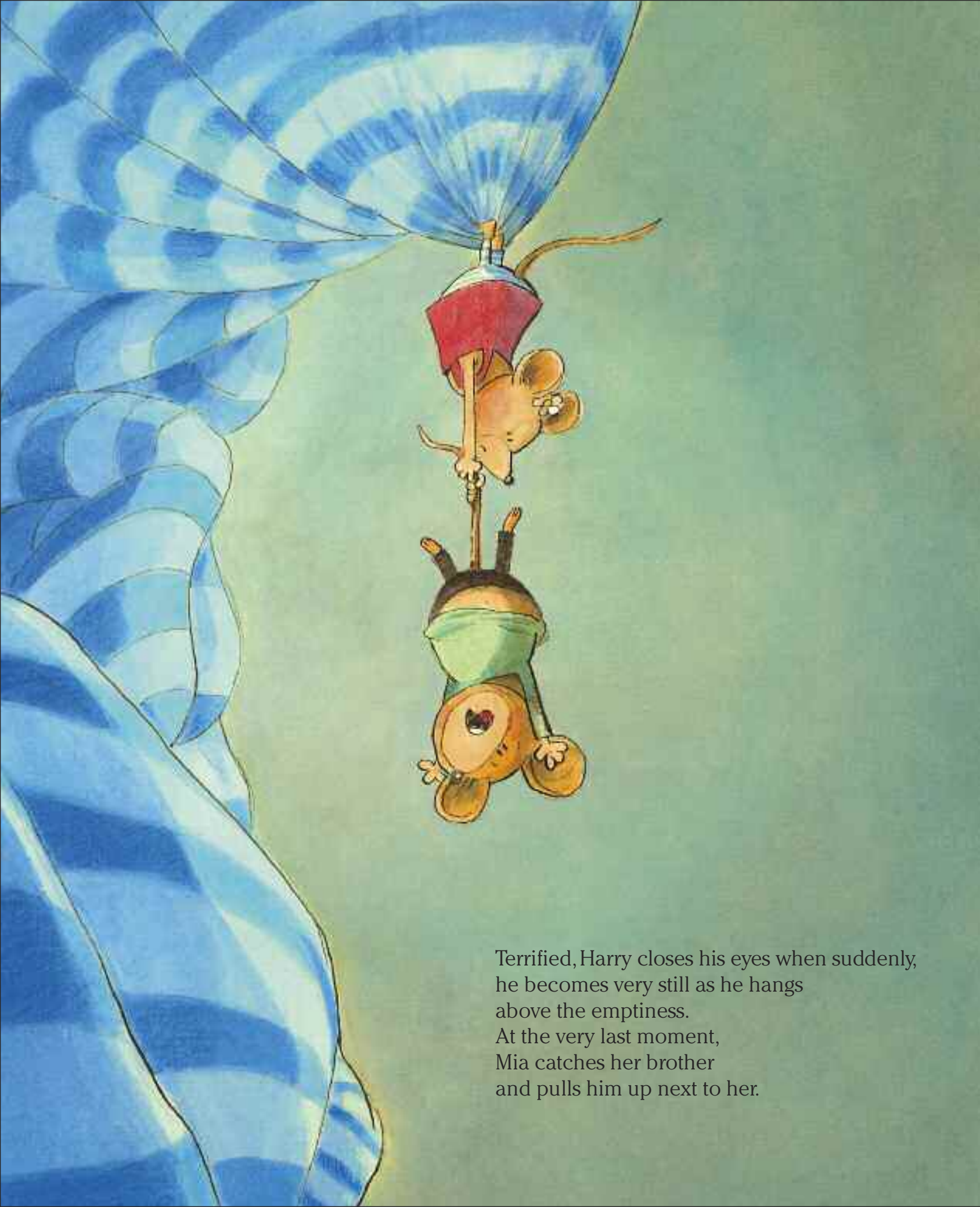
Tip,
Tip-Tip,
Tip-Tip.

Not so sure of themselves,
they climb up the bedpost...
Latch on to the duvet
hanging there
and begin their way up.

And that's when the duvet begins to move and billow up,
rolling around like waves in a stormy sea.
Mia and Harry are tossed about, thrown here and there...
The two baby mice hold on as best they can.
Mia bites the duvet with her teeth
and holds on with all her might, but Harry lets go...

and falls.

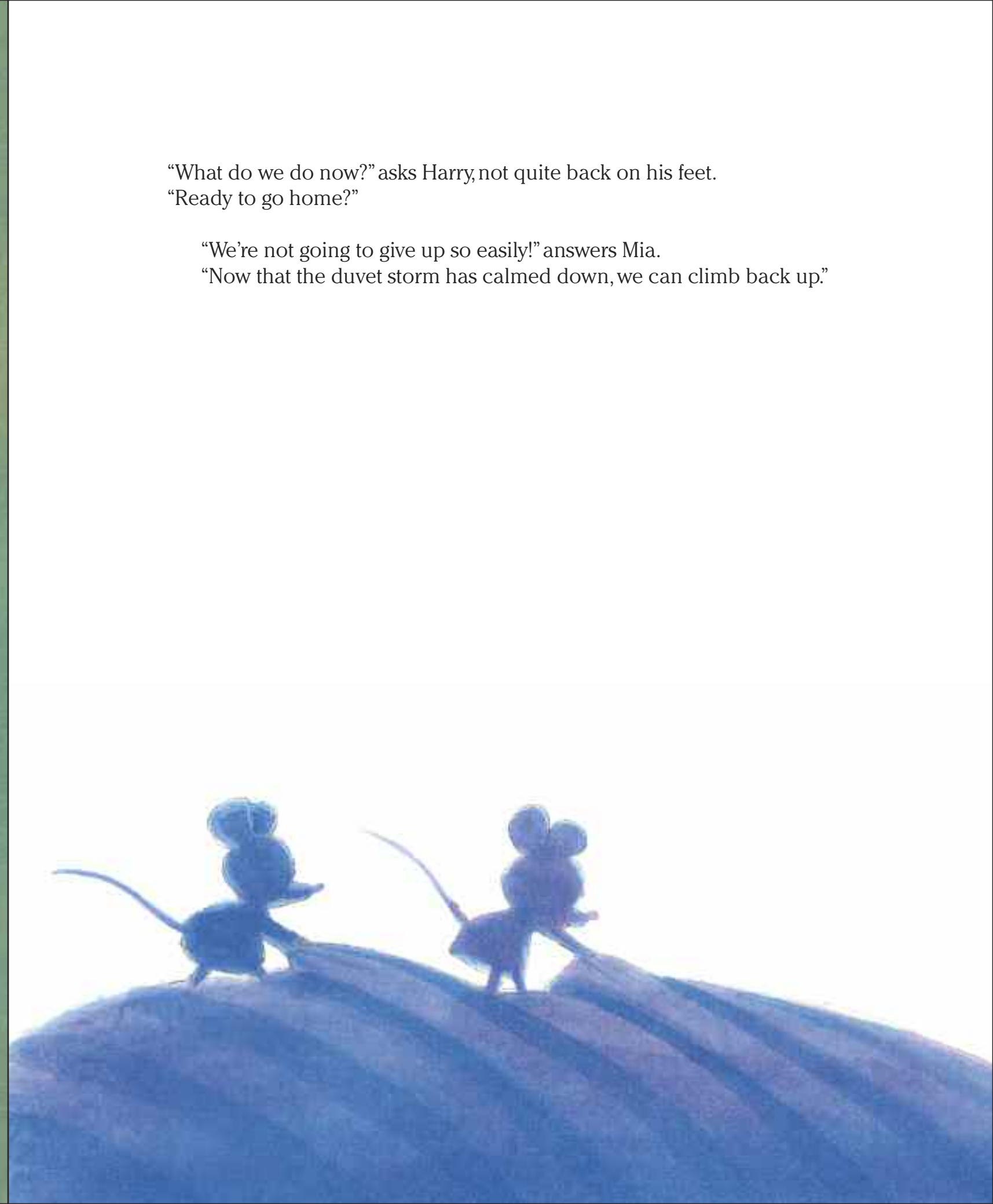




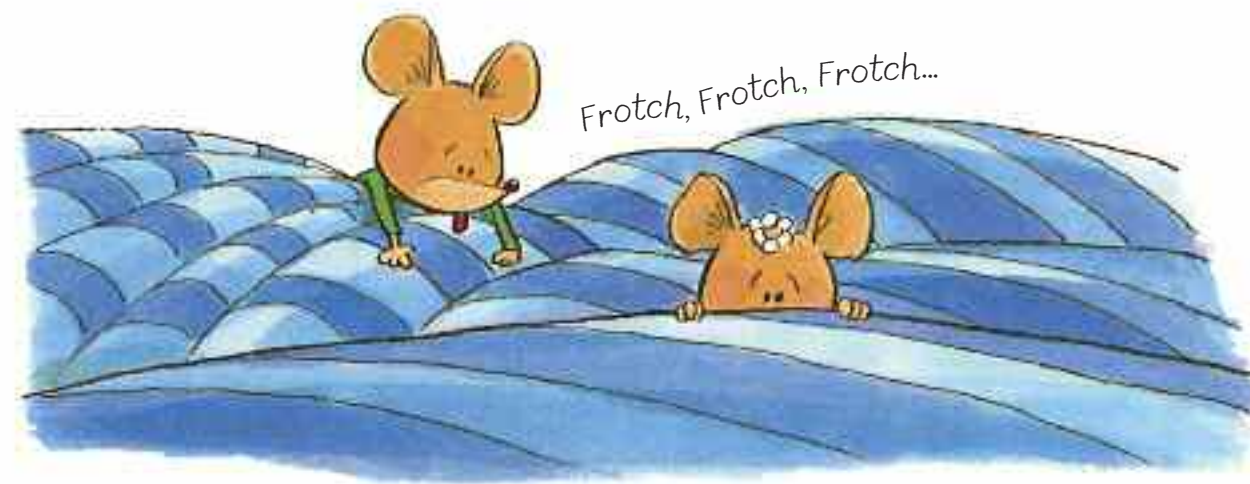
Terrified, Harry closes his eyes when suddenly, he becomes very still as he hangs above the emptiness. At the very last moment, Mia catches her brother and pulls him up next to her.

“What do we do now?” asks Harry, not quite back on his feet.
“Ready to go home?”

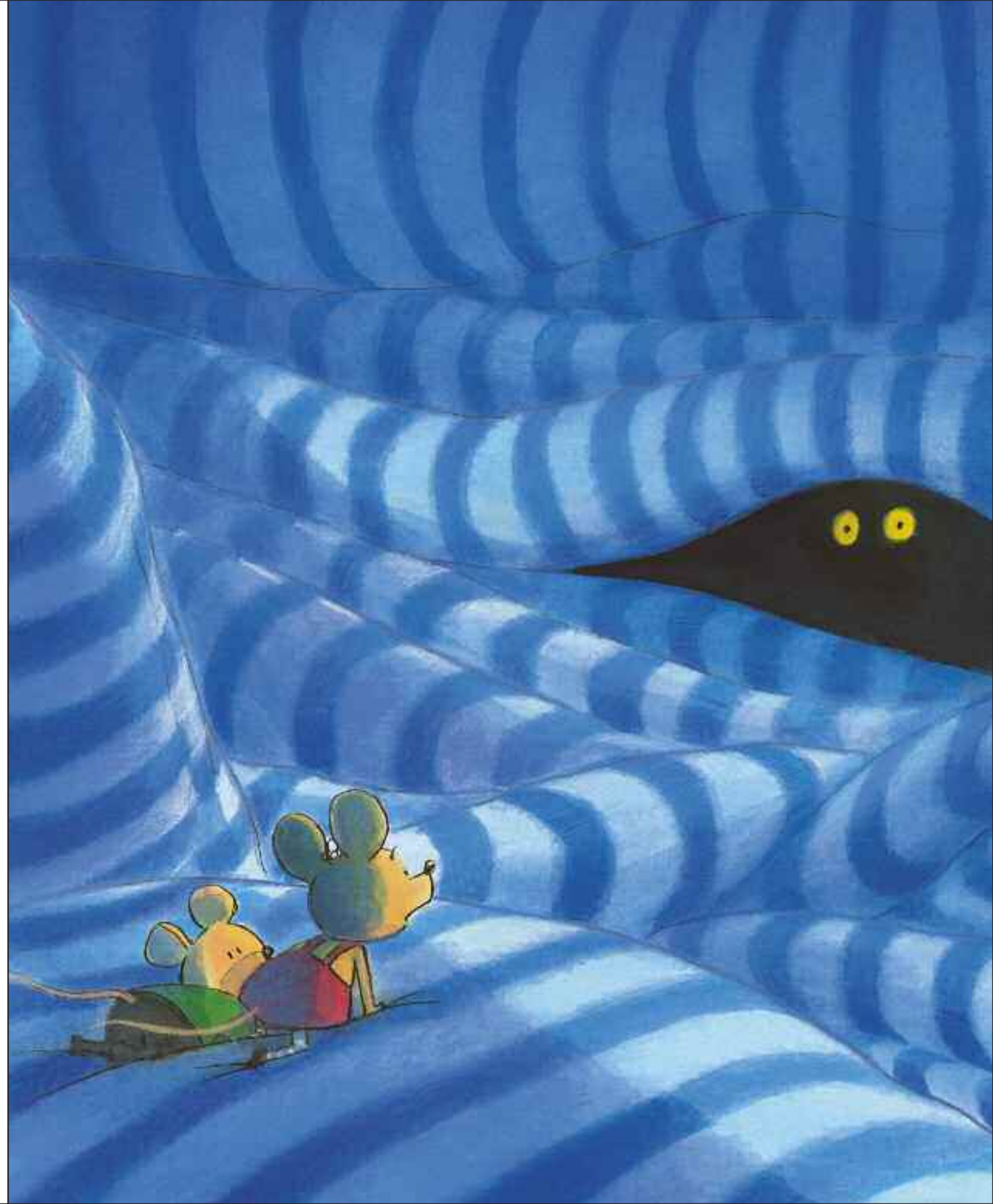
“We’re not going to give up so easily!” answers Mia.
“Now that the duvet storm has calmed down, we can climb back up.”



Without further ado,
our two fearless baby mice finish climbing up the duvet
and soon find themselves on the bed.



“Do you see anything?” whispers Harry as he scrutinizes the shadows.
“Yes. There seems to be an animal there,
halfway hidden under the duvet folds,” answers Mia.



“Hey... it’s a little dog,” exclaims Mia.
“A tiny little dog who looks scared!”



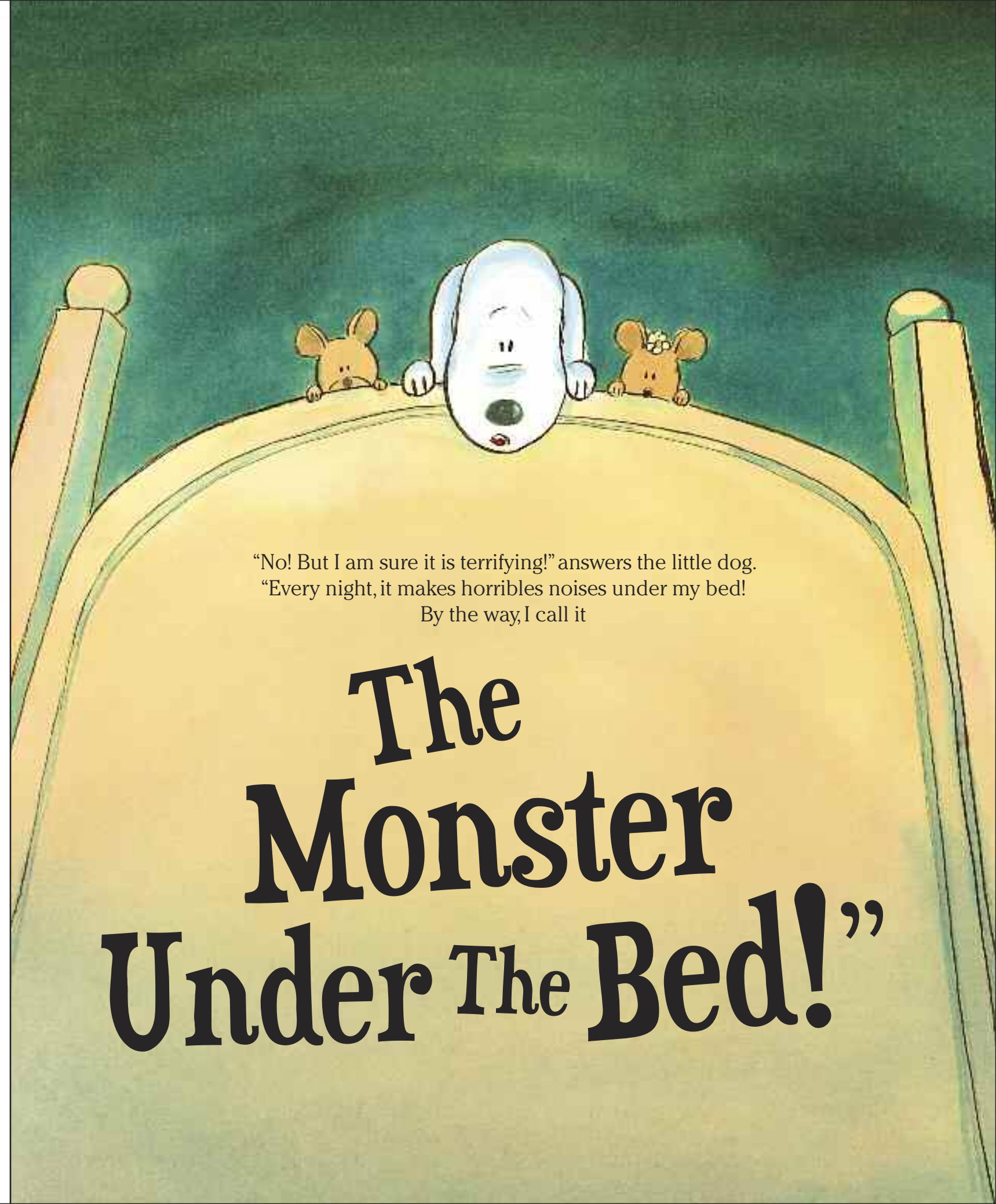
The little dog in turn sees Harry and Mia and hurries over to them.
“Quickly! Come hide with me!”
“The monster just left!”, says the puppy,
its teeth chattering.

Clack! Clack! Clack!



“It’s right there!”

“The monster? You saw it?”
ask the worried baby mice.



“No! But I am sure it is terrifying!” answers the little dog.
“Every night, it makes horribles noises under my bed!
By the way, I call it

**The
Monster
Under The Bed!”**



Just like every night when it gets dark,
the Mouse Family is preparing to go grocery shopping.

Is everyone ready?
Papa Mouse opens the door... *Eeeek!*
Watch out... for their house is under a bed...
and on top of the bed is...
The Monster On The Bed!

C. Roque - G. Mabire

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