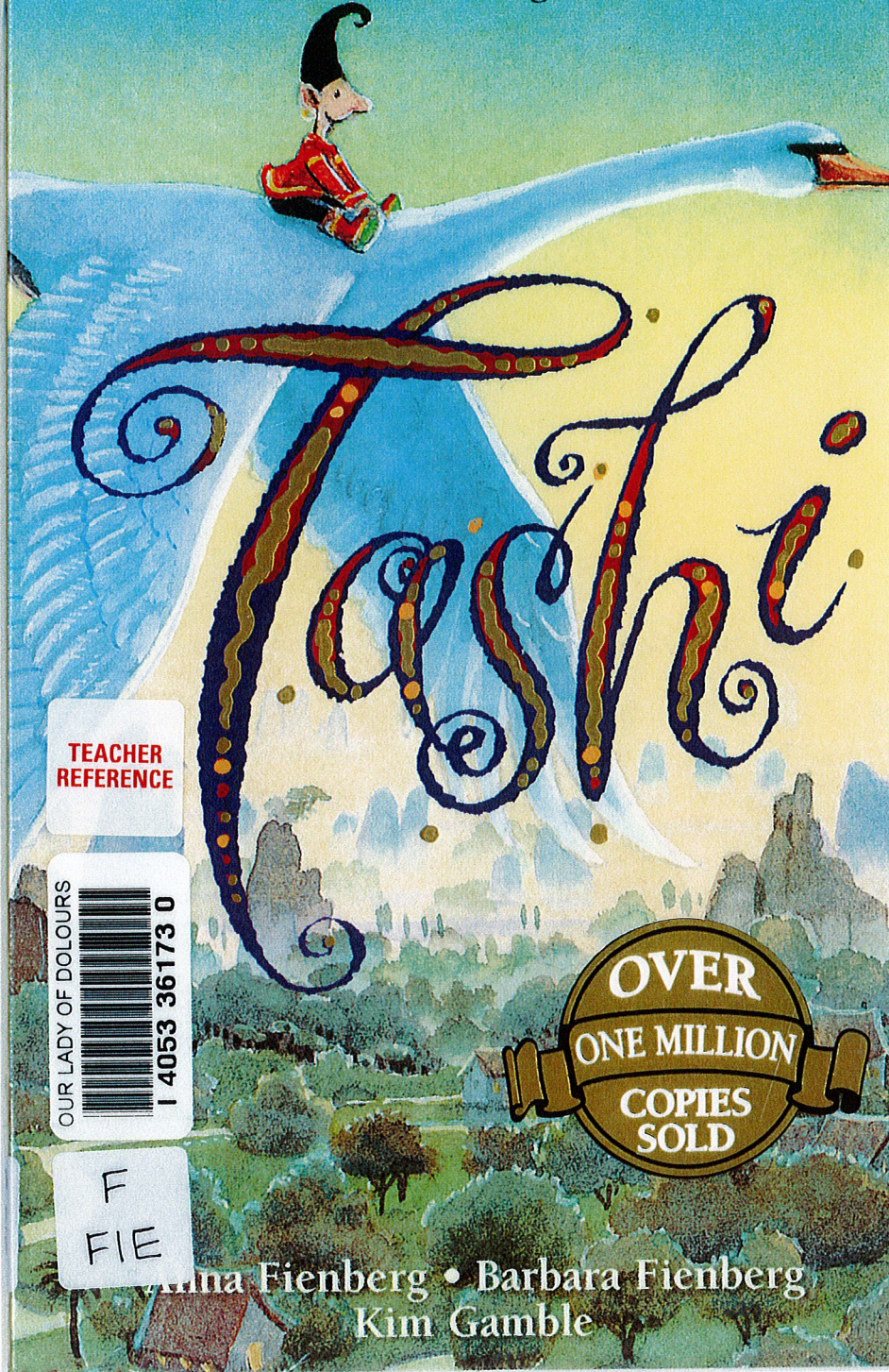


The beloved and bestselling Australian series



My mother, Barbara, always read stories to me when I was little. At bedtime we'd travel to all the secret places in the world, through books.

We both make up our own stories now, and Barbara says she gets her best ideas in the bath. Tashi began in the bath, and we talked him into life – and into this book – together.

ANNA FIENBERG

ANNA and BARBARA FIENBERG write the Tashi stories together, making up all kinds of daredevil adventures and tricky characters for him to face. Lucky he's such a clever Tashi.

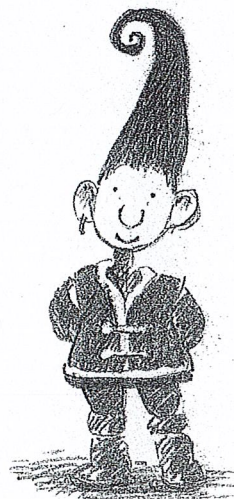
KIM GAMBLE is one of Australia's favourite illustrators for children. Together Kim and Anna have made such wonderful books as *The Magnificent Nose and Other Marvels*, *The Hottest Boy Who Ever Lived*, the *Tashi* series, the *Minton* picture books, *Joseph*, *There once was a boy called Tashi*, and *The Amazing Tashi Activity Book*.

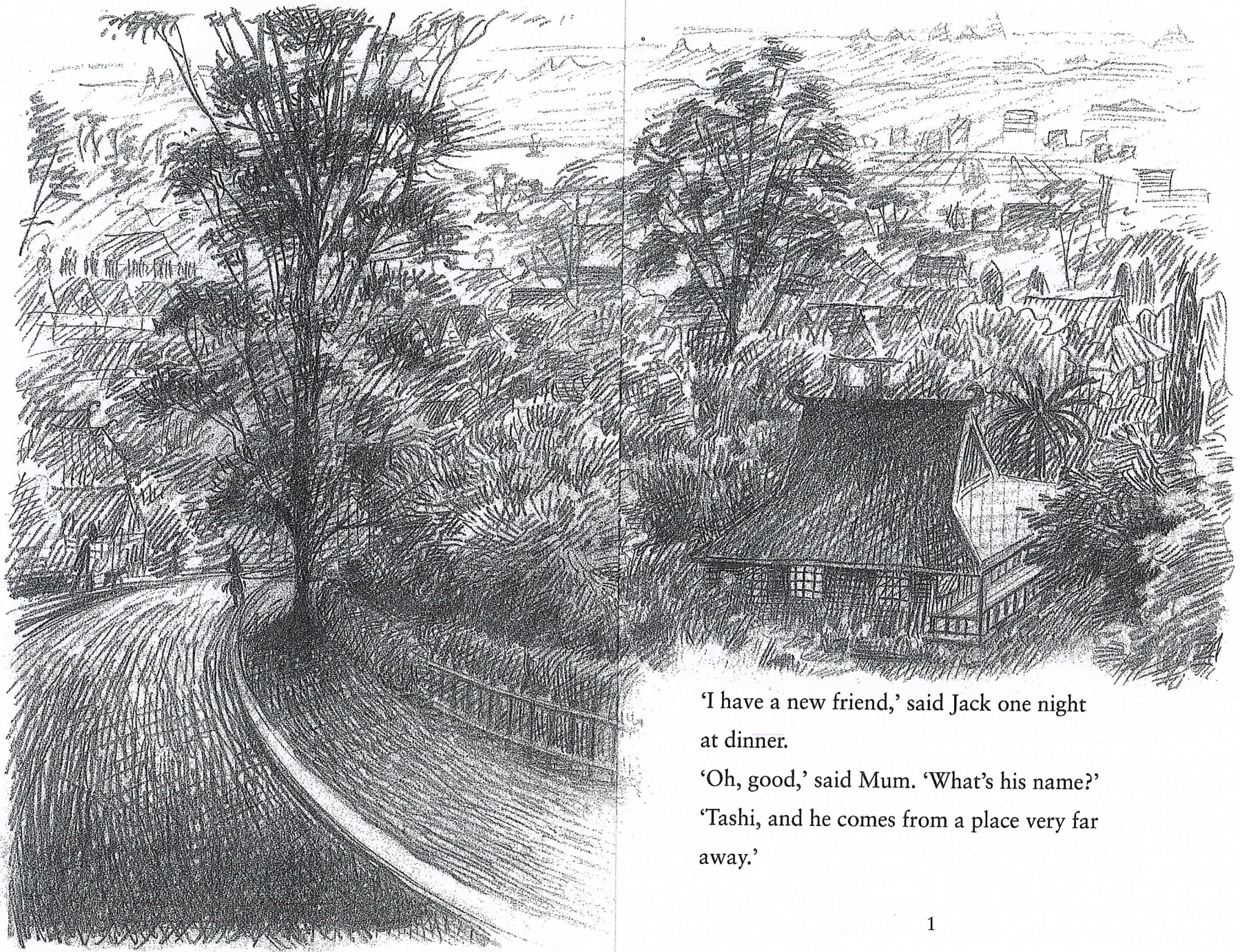
Tashi

written by
Anna Fienberg
and
Barbara Fienberg

illustrated by
Kim Gamble


ALLEN & UNWIN

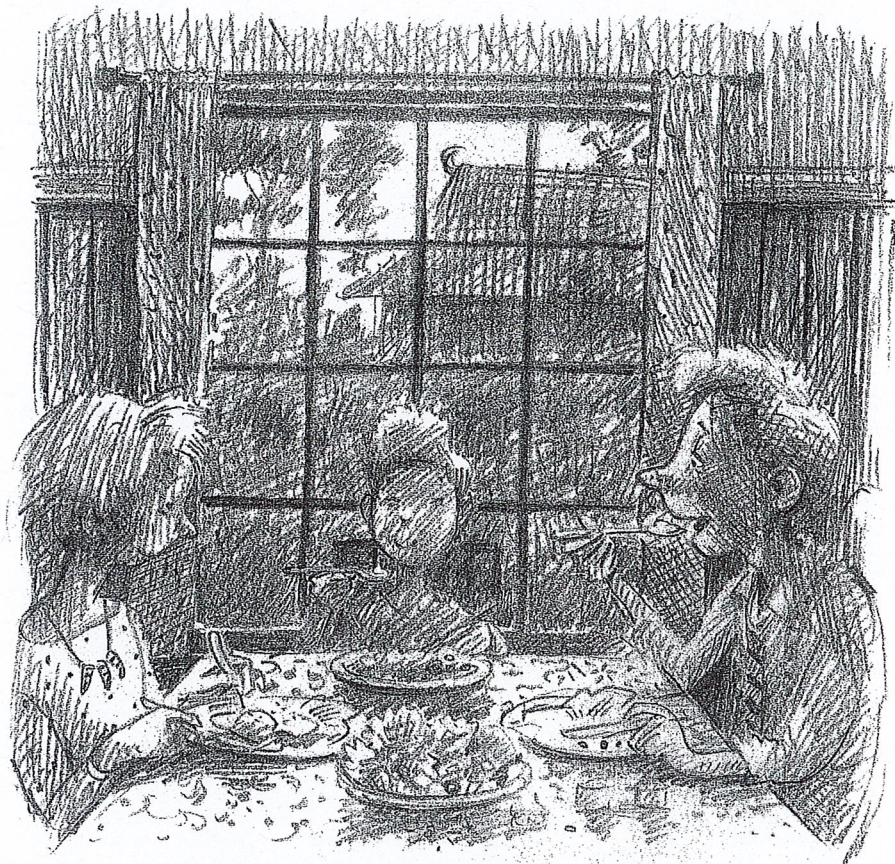




'I have a new friend,' said Jack one night at dinner.

'Oh, good,' said Mum. 'What's his name?'

'Tashi, and he comes from a place very far away.'



'That's interesting,' said Dad.

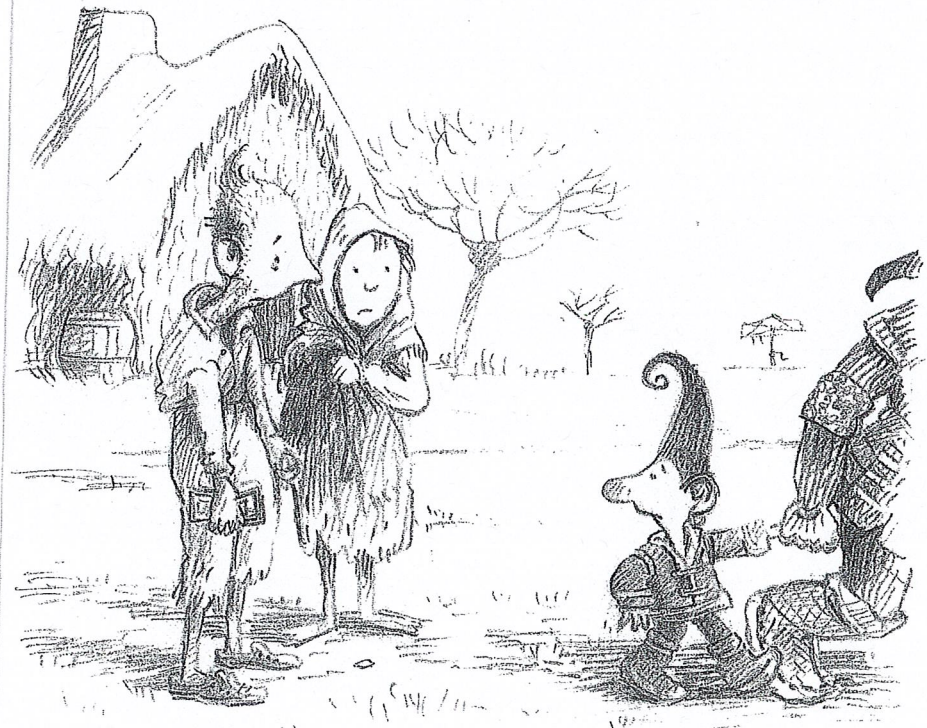
'Yes,' said Jack. 'He came here on a swan.'

'A black or white swan?' asked Dad.

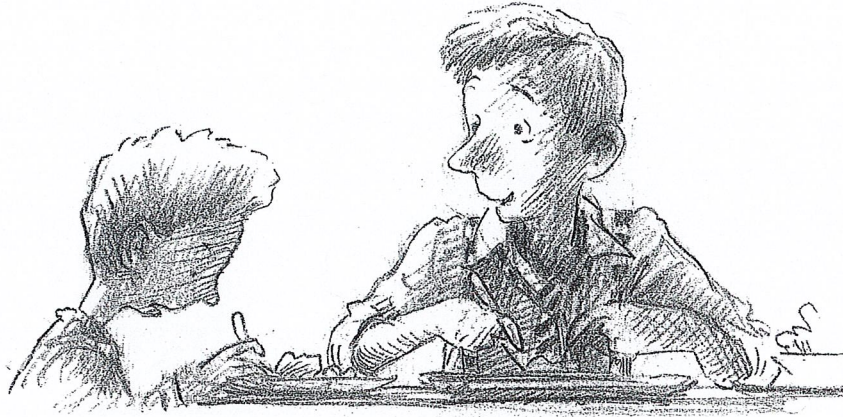
'It doesn't *matter*,' said Jack. 'You always ask the wrong questions!'

'How did Tashi get here on a swan then?' asked Mum.

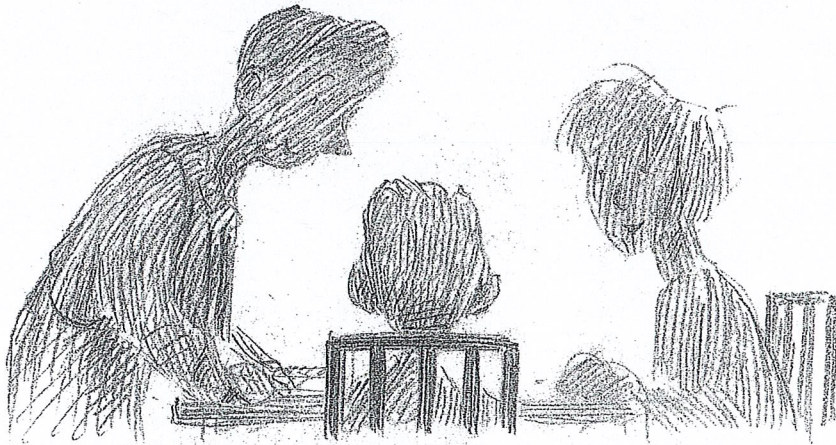
'Well,' said Jack, 'it was like this. Tashi's parents were very poor. They wanted to come to this country, but they didn't have enough money for the air fare. So they had to sell Tashi to a war lord to buy the tickets.'



'How much did the tickets cost?' asked Dad.

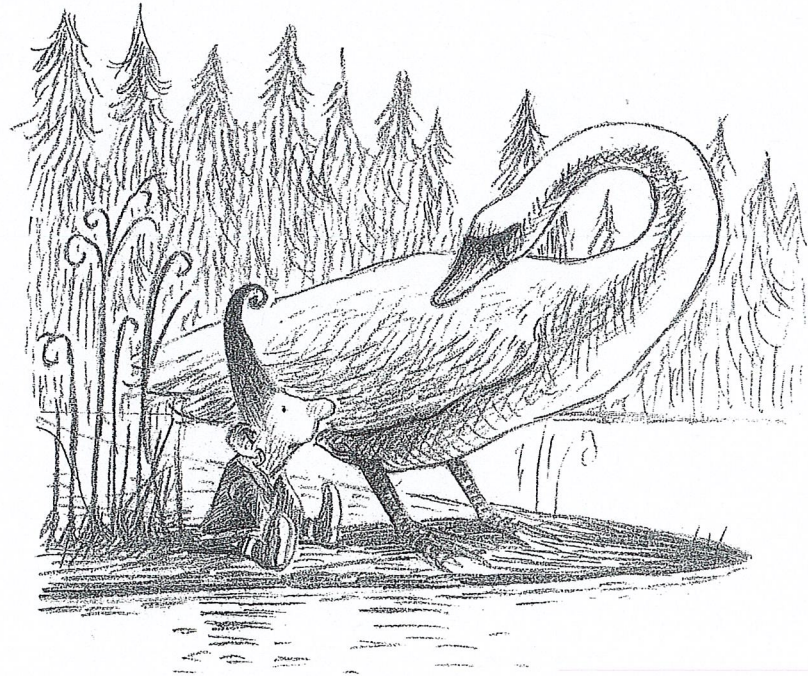


'It doesn't *matter*,' said Jack. 'You always ask the wrong questions!'

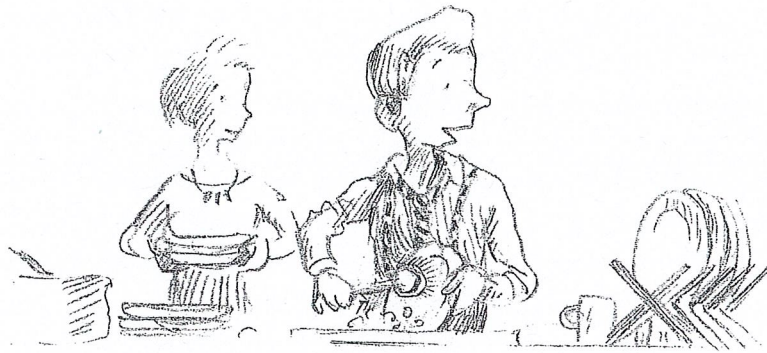


'So why is Tashi here, and not with the war lord?' asked Mum.

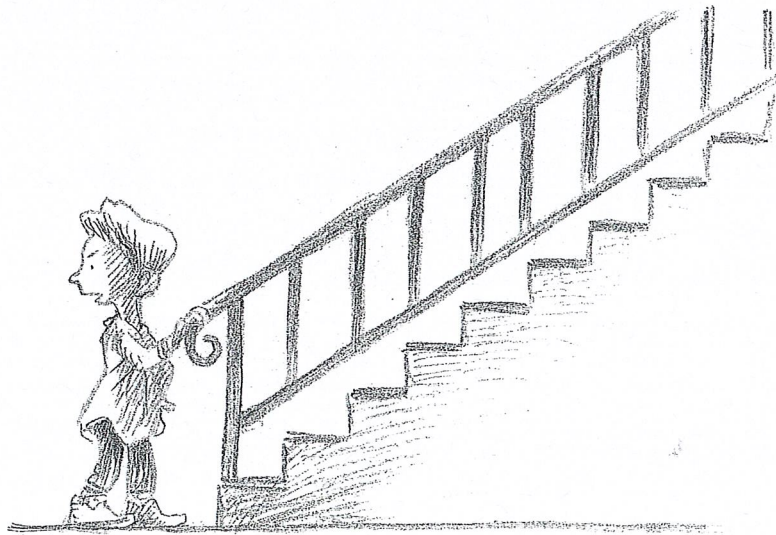
'Well,' said Jack, 'it was like this. Soon after Tashi's mother and father left, he was crying for them down by a lake. A swan heard his cries and told him to jump on his back. The swan flew many days and nights until he arrived here, right at the front door of Tashi's parents' new house.'



'Did he arrive in the morning or the afternoon?' asked Dad.



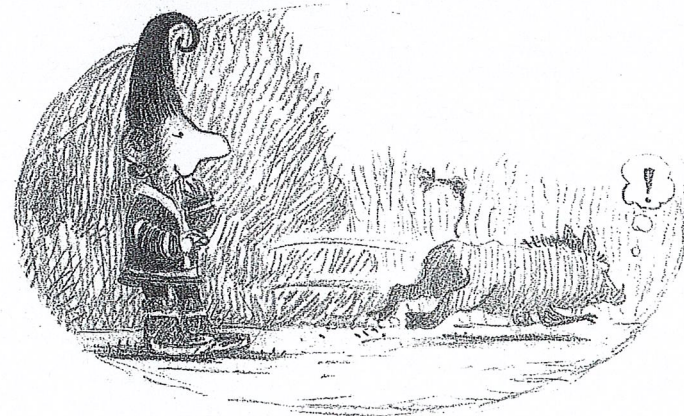
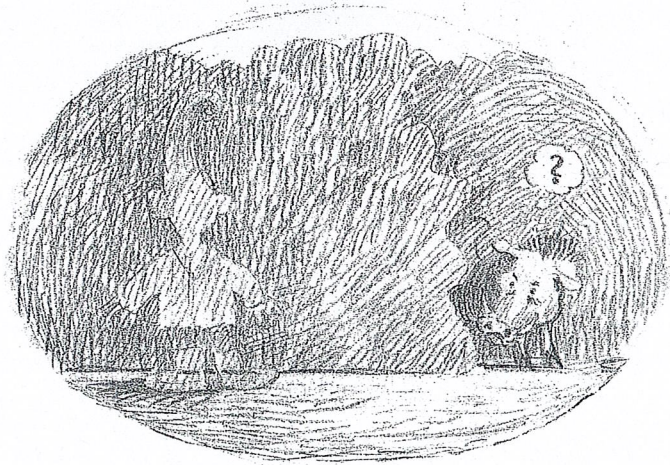
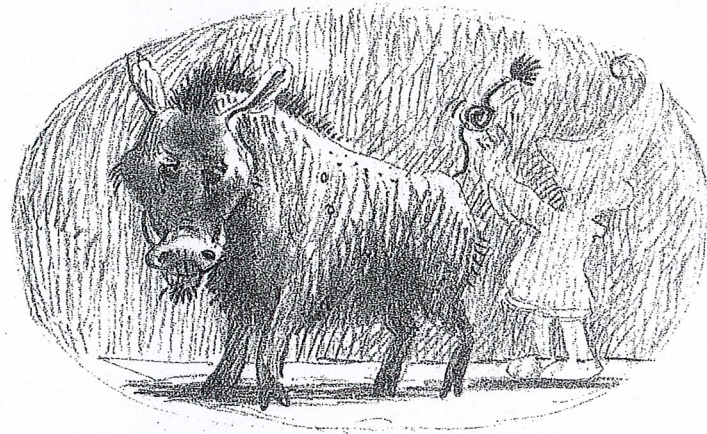
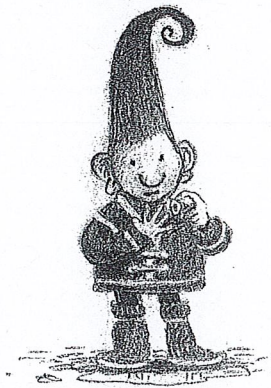
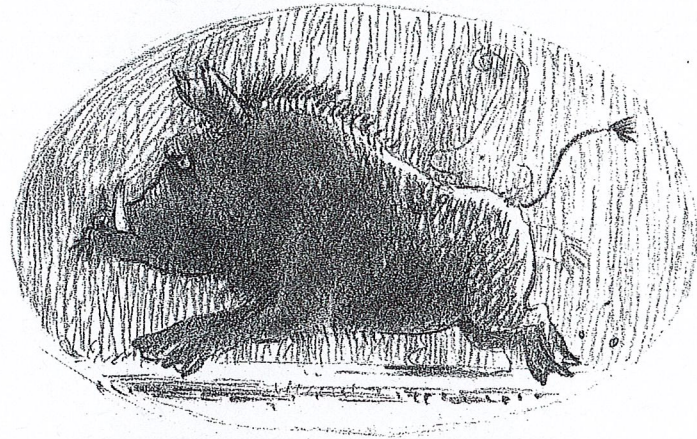
'It doesn't *matter*,' said Jack. 'And I'm not telling you any more because I'm going to bed.'



A week passed and Jack ate lunch with Tashi every day. And every day he heard a marvellous adventure.



He heard about the time Tashi found a ring at the bottom of a pond, and when he put it on his finger he became invisible.



He heard about the time Tashi met a little woman as small as a cricket, and she told him the future.



And he heard about the time Tashi said he wanted a friend just like Jack, and look! the fairy had granted his wish.



But at the end of the week he heard the best adventure of all.