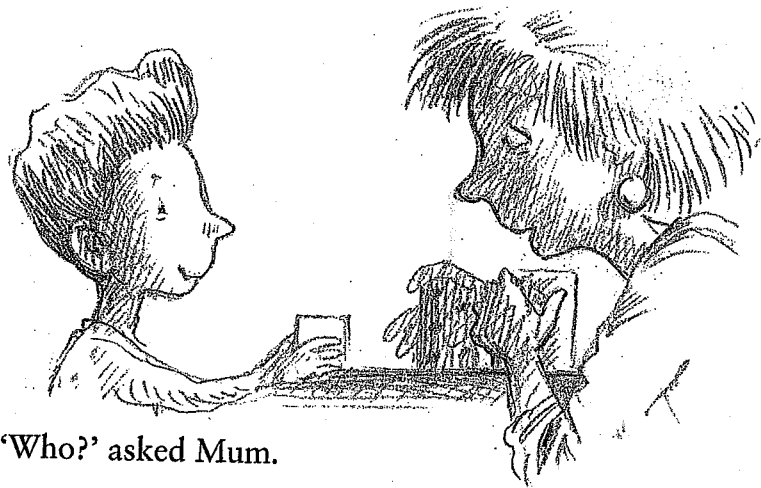
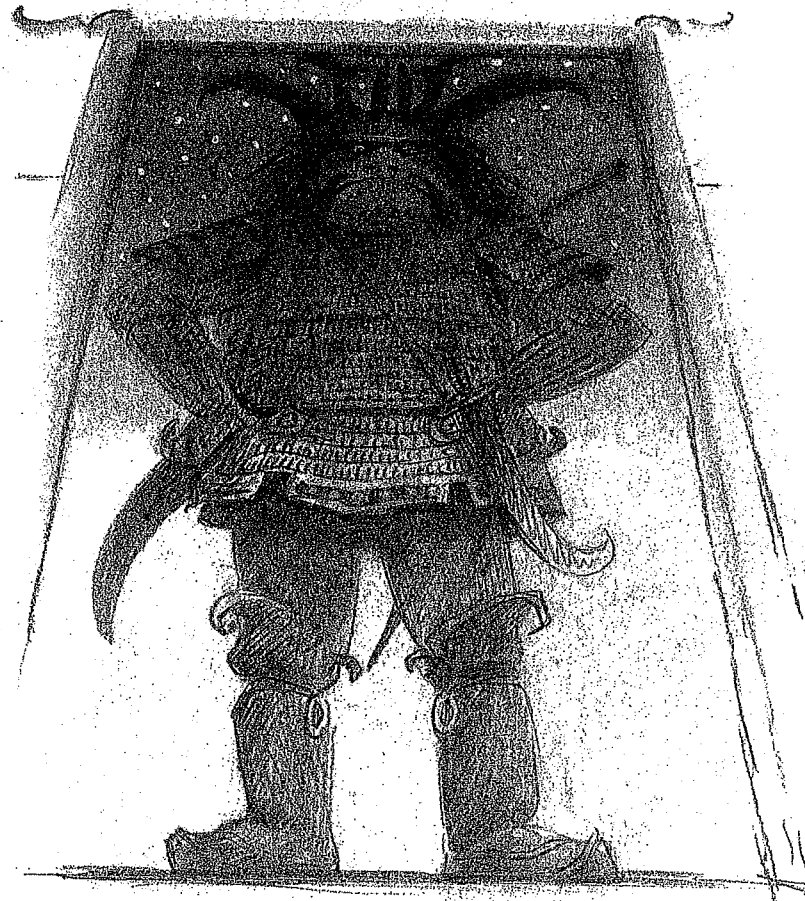


'Listen to what happened to Tashi yesterday,'
Jack said to Mum and Dad at dinner.
'Last night there was a knock at Tashi's door
and when he opened it, guess who was standing
there!'

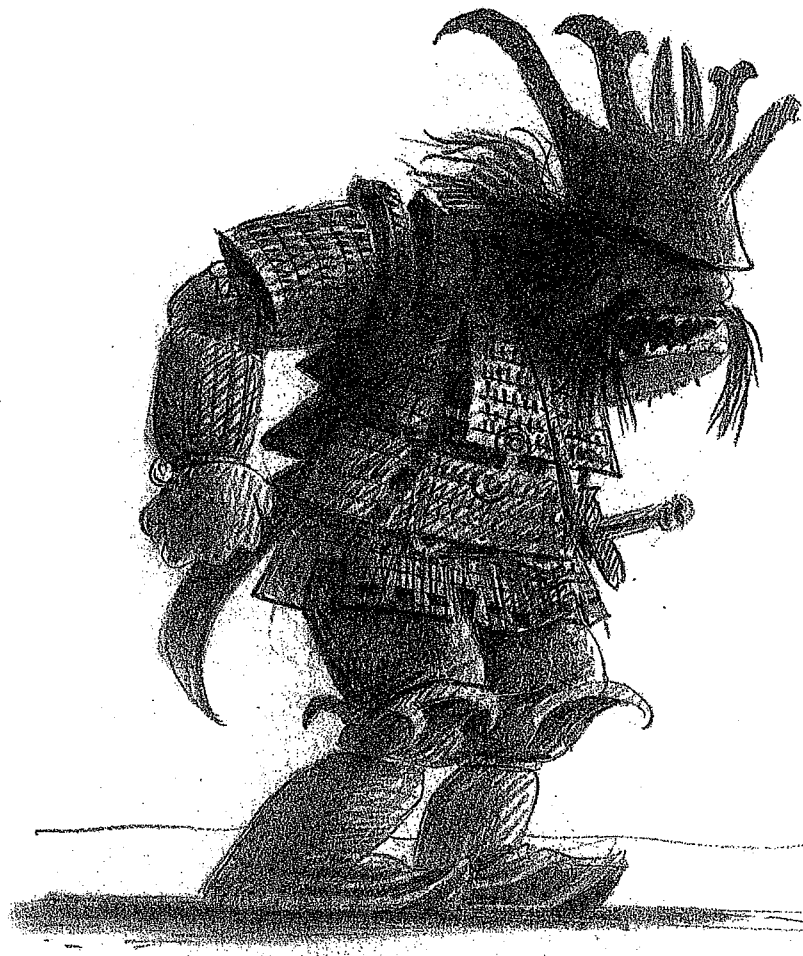


'Who?' asked Mum.

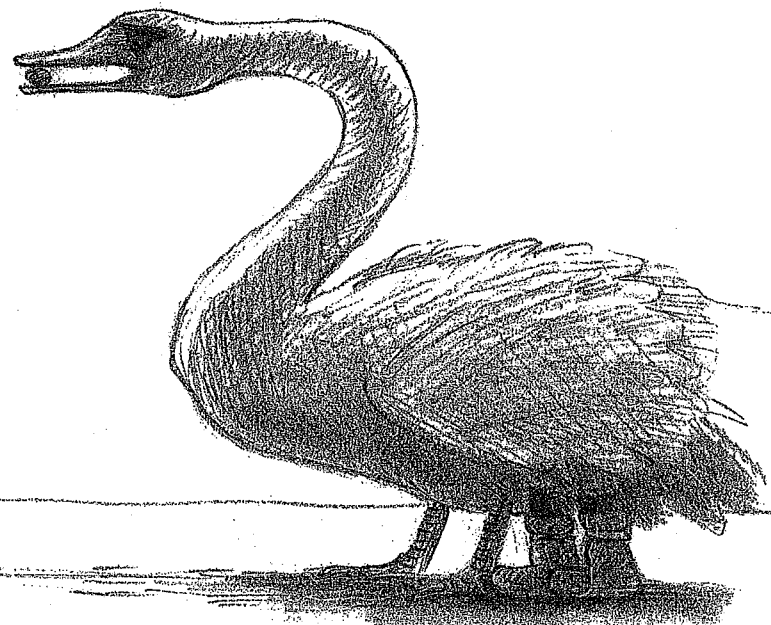
'The war lord, come to take Tashi back! Tashi
turned and ran through the house and out the
back door into the garden. He hid under the
wings of the swan.'



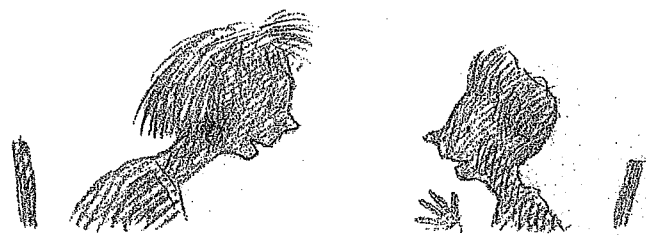
'Go on,' said Mum.



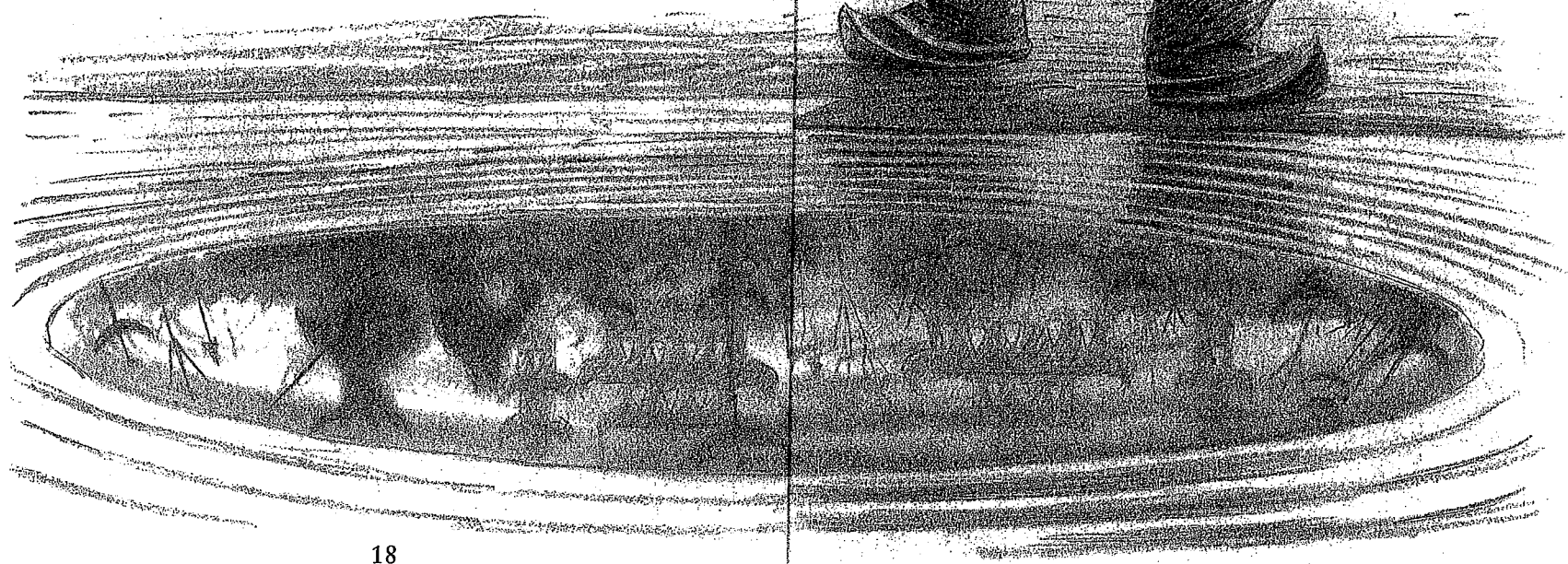
'Well, the angry war lord chased him out into the night and when he found the swan he shouted, "Where did young Tashi go?"



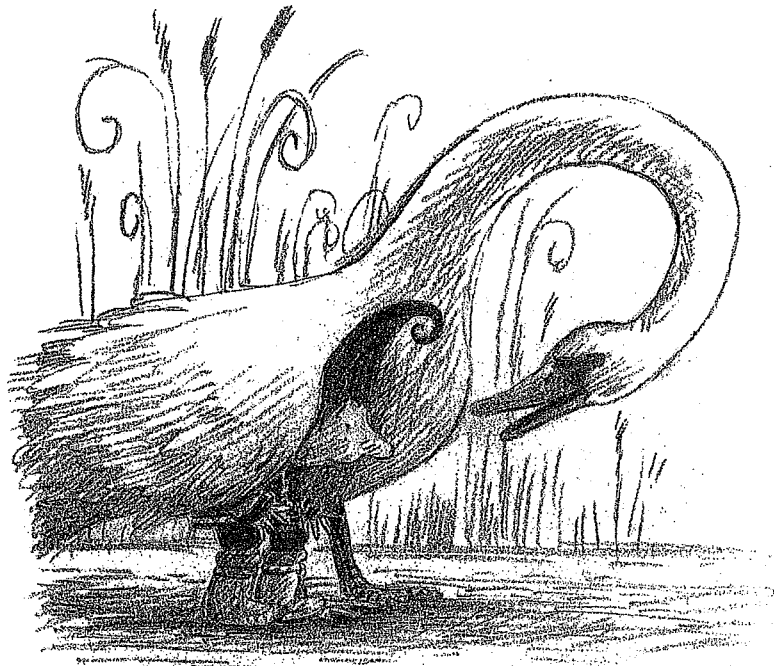
'The swan answered, "If you want to find Tashi, you must go down to the pond. Drop this pebble into the water, and when the ripples are gone you will see where Tashi is hiding."



'Did the war lord find the pond?' asked Mum.
'Well,' said Jack, 'it was like this. The war lord did as the swan told him and dropped the pebble into the pond. But when the water was still again, he didn't see Tashi. Instead he saw his own country, and his own palace, and he saw all his enemies surrounding it, preparing to attack.'



“The war lord was very upset by what he’d seen in the pond and he said to the swan, “I must go home at once!”



“I will take you,” said the swan. “Just climb on my back.” And bending his head under his wing he whispered, “Goodbye Tashi, I am homesick for my country. Just stay in the long grass, and he won’t see you. Goodbye.”

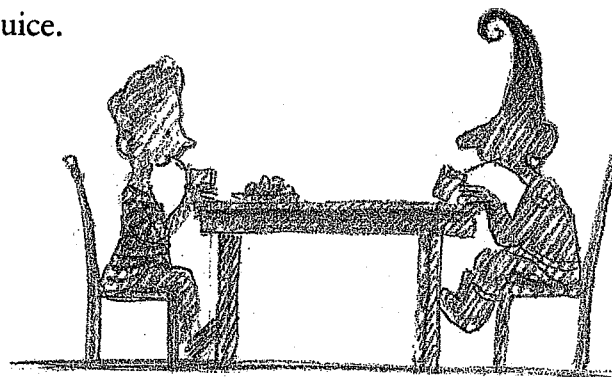


'Can I bring Tashi home tomorrow to play?'
asked Jack.

'Oh, yes,' said Mum and Dad. 'We're dying to
meet Tashi.'



Jack and Tashi sat at the kitchen table, drinking
their juice.



'Would you like to play in the garden now?'
asked Mum.

'Oh, yes!' said Tashi. 'I like gardens.'



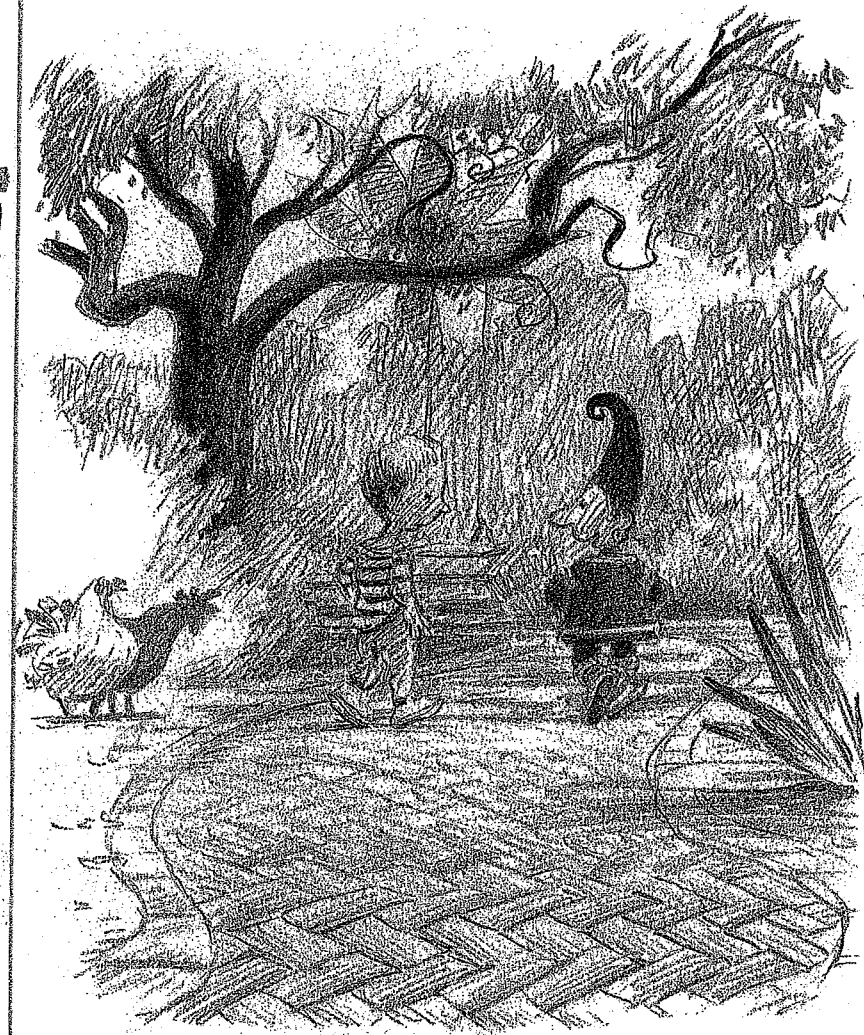
'We could look for a dragon to kill,' Jack said hopefully to Tashi.



'Are there any dragons left in the garden?' asked Dad.

'You *always* say the wrong thing!' said Jack.

'He's right though,' said Tashi as they closed the door behind them. 'There aren't any dragons left in the whole world. Can you guess how I know?'



'How?' asked Jack.

'Well, it was like this. Come and I'll tell you
about the time I tricked the last dragon of all.'

