

Tashi

and the
Giants

*'Chintu took one of his giant steps
over to our village...and roared,
"Bring Tashi out to me!"'*

Jack ran all the way to school.
Today Tashi was coming to tell
him more stories...about Chintu,
the giant, who is as big as a mountain,
and the robber bandits, who kidnap
him to be their son.

Only someone as clever as Tashi
could find a way to escape.



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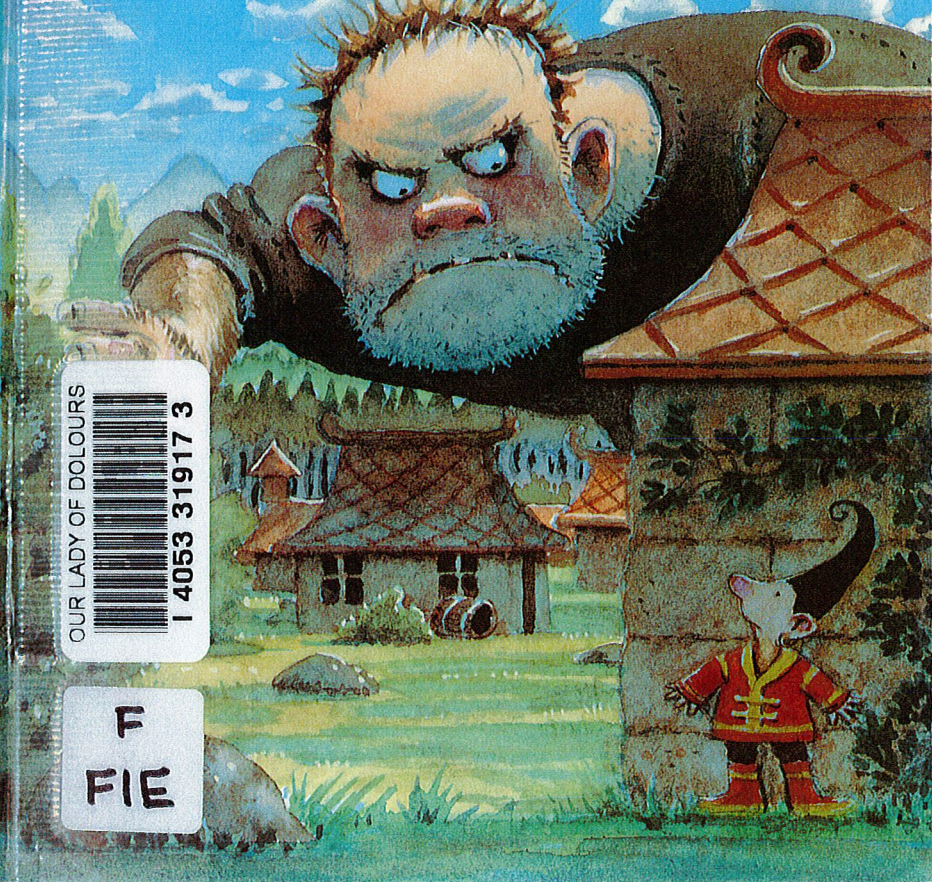
FICTION

TASHI and the GIANTS Anna Fienberg • Barbara Fienberg • Kim Gamble

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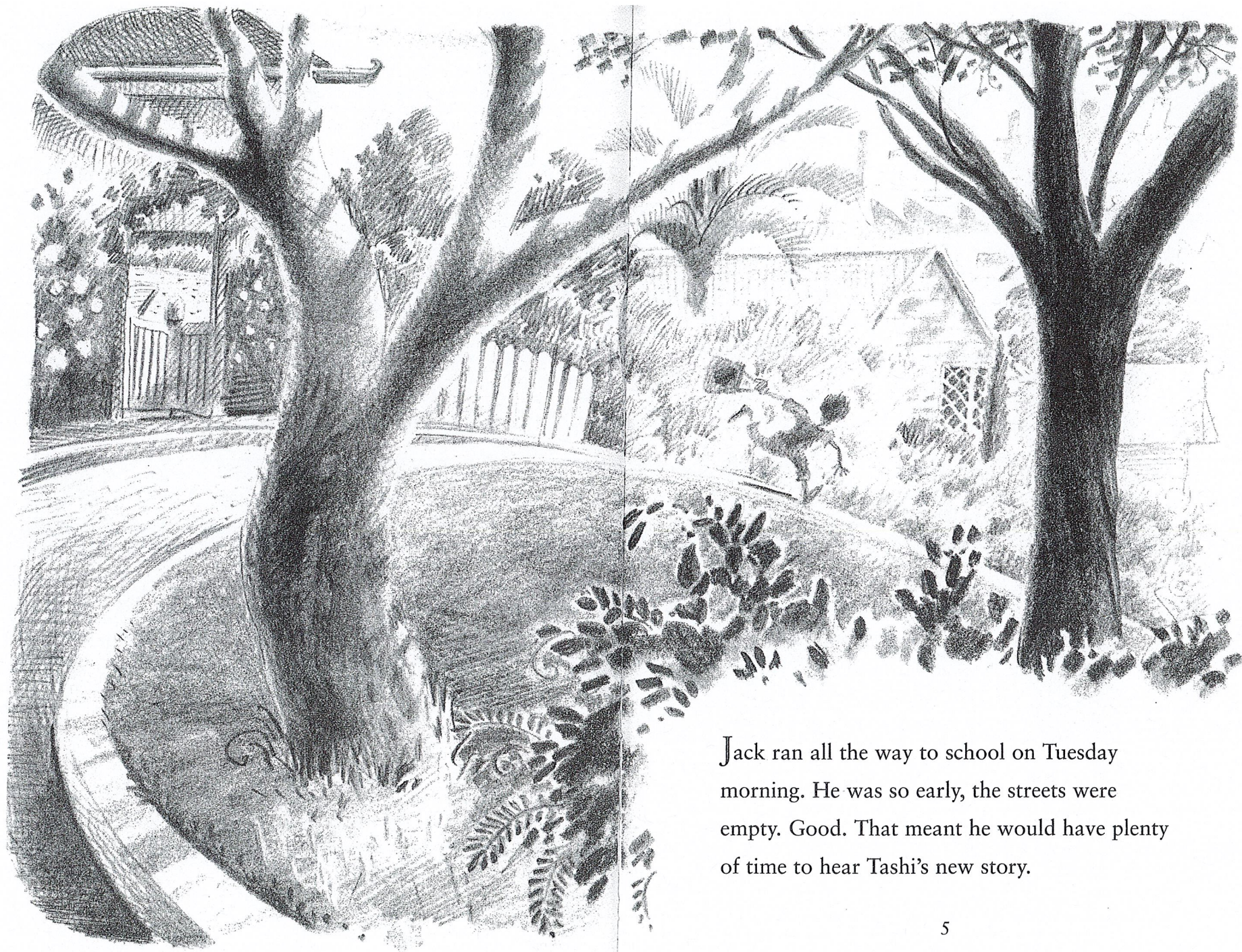
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Tashi



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FIE



Jack ran all the way to school on Tuesday morning. He was so early, the streets were empty. Good. That meant he would have plenty of time to hear Tashi's new story.

Tashi was Jack's new friend. He'd come from a land far away, where he'd met fire-breathing dragons and fearsome warlords. Today, Tashi had promised the story of Chintu, the giant.



Tashi was waiting for Jack on a seat by the cricket pitch.

'So,' said Jack, when he'd stopped puffing and they were sitting comfortably. 'Did you really meet a giant, Tashi?'

'Yes,' said Tashi. 'It was like this. Do you remember how I tricked the dragon, and put out his fire? Well, the dragon was furious, and he flew to the castle where his friend Chintu the giant lived. The dragon told him what I had done and Chintu boomed:

"Fee fie fo fum

I'll catch that boy for you, by gum!"



‘Chintu took one of his giant steps over to our village and hurled down great boulders, just as if they were bowling balls. Third Uncle’s house was squashed flat as a fritter. Then the giant roared, “Bring Tashi out to me.”

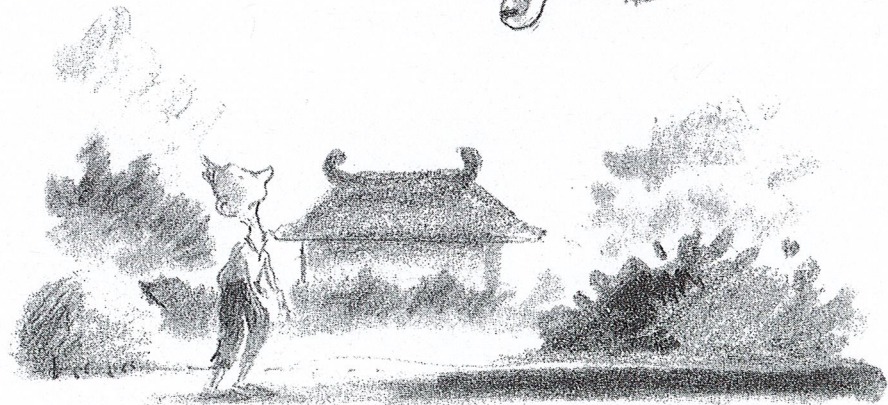


‘The giant looked terrible standing there, so tall he cast a shadow over the whole village. He was as big as a mountain—imagine, a mountain that moved!—and tufts of hair stood up on his head like spiky trees.’

‘So what did you do?’ Jack shuddered.



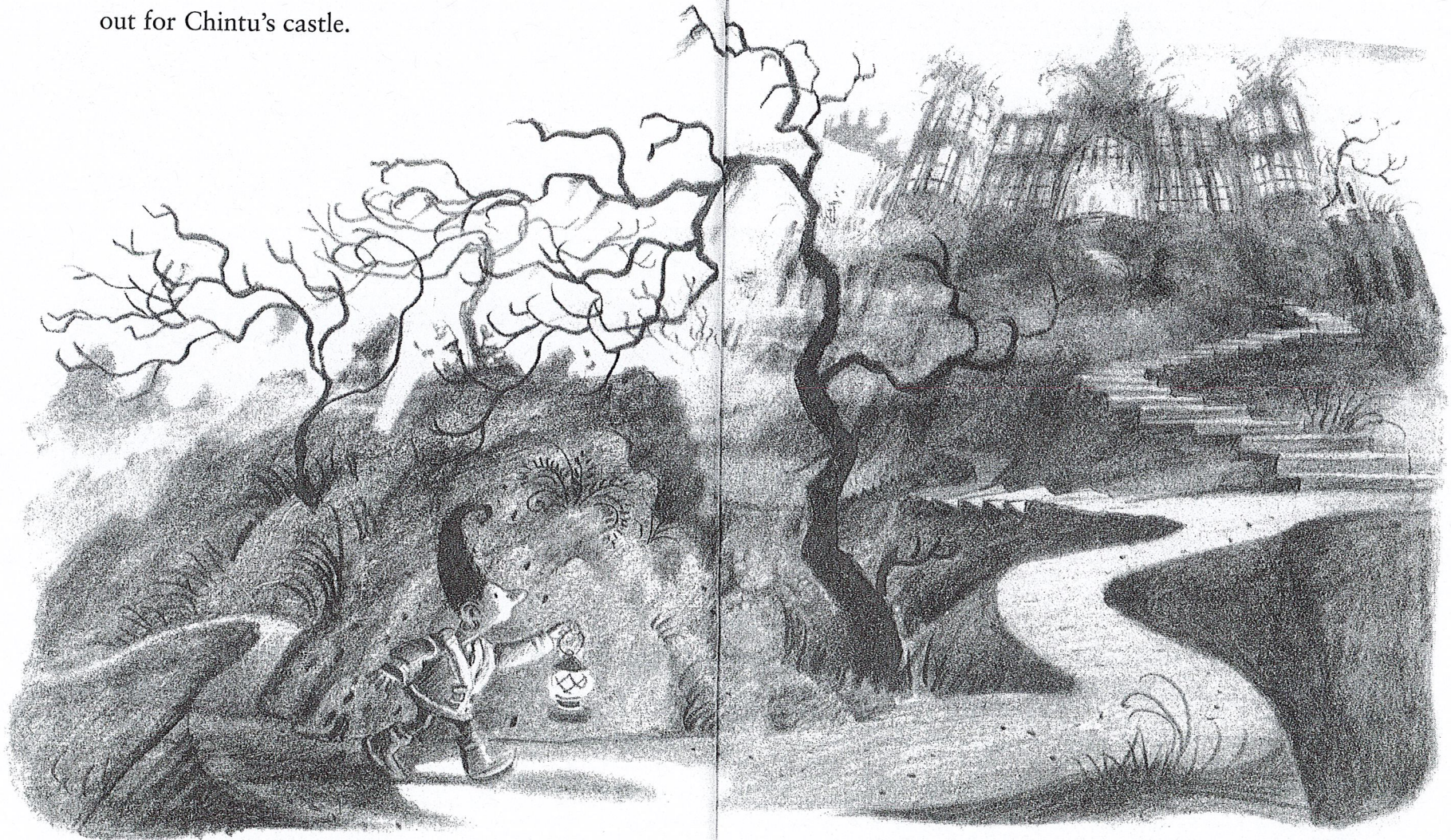
‘Well, it was like this. My father, who is a very brave man, ran out into the street and cried, “Be gone, Chintu, we will never give Tashi up to you!”’



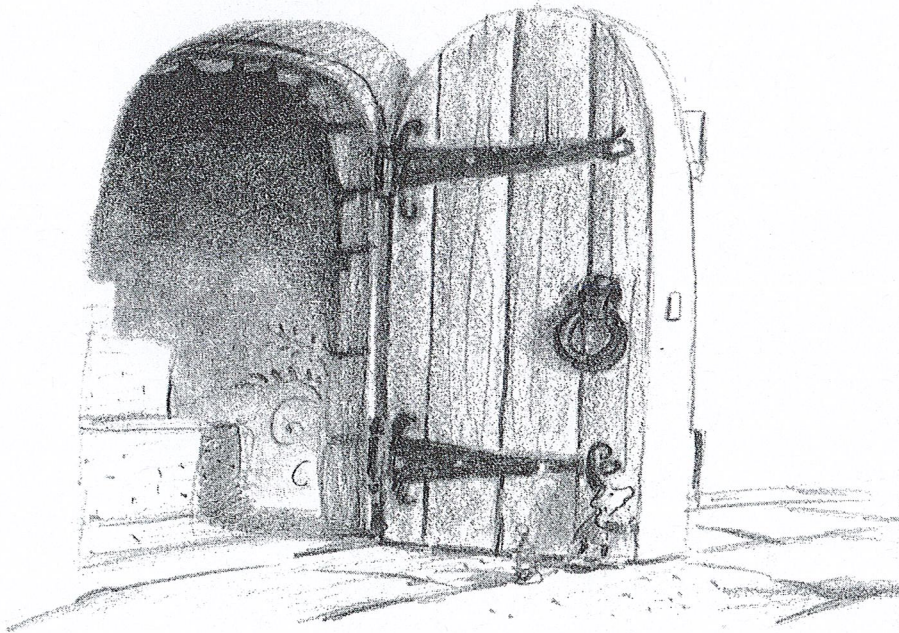
‘The giant was quiet for a moment. Then he answered, “If you don’t bring Tashi to me, I will come back in the morning and crush every house in the village.”’

'The people all gathered in the square to discuss what to do. Some wanted to take me to the giant's house that night. Others were braver and said I should run away. While they were still arguing, I took the lantern and set out for Chintu's castle.

'I walked and walked until finally, there before me was the giant's castle, towering up to the sky. One path led up to a great door and windows filled with light, but another led down some winding stone steps.



'I took the lower path but the steps were so high I had to jump from each one as if they were small cliffs. After a while I spied an arched wooden door. It wasn't locked and I pushed it open. It gave a groaning creak and a voice called out, "Who's there? Is that you, Chintu, you fly-bitten lump of cowardly husband?" 'Now I saw a big stone-floored room and right



in the middle was an enormous cage. Inside the cage was another giant.'

'Ooh!' said Jack. 'Two giants! Didn't you want to run?'

'No,' said Tashi. 'Not me. See, it was like this. The giant in the cage was sitting at a table eating some noodles. She was terrible to look at. She had only four teeth, yellow as sandstone, and the gaps in between were as big as caves.'

