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Opening extract from

Batmouse

Written & Illustrated by

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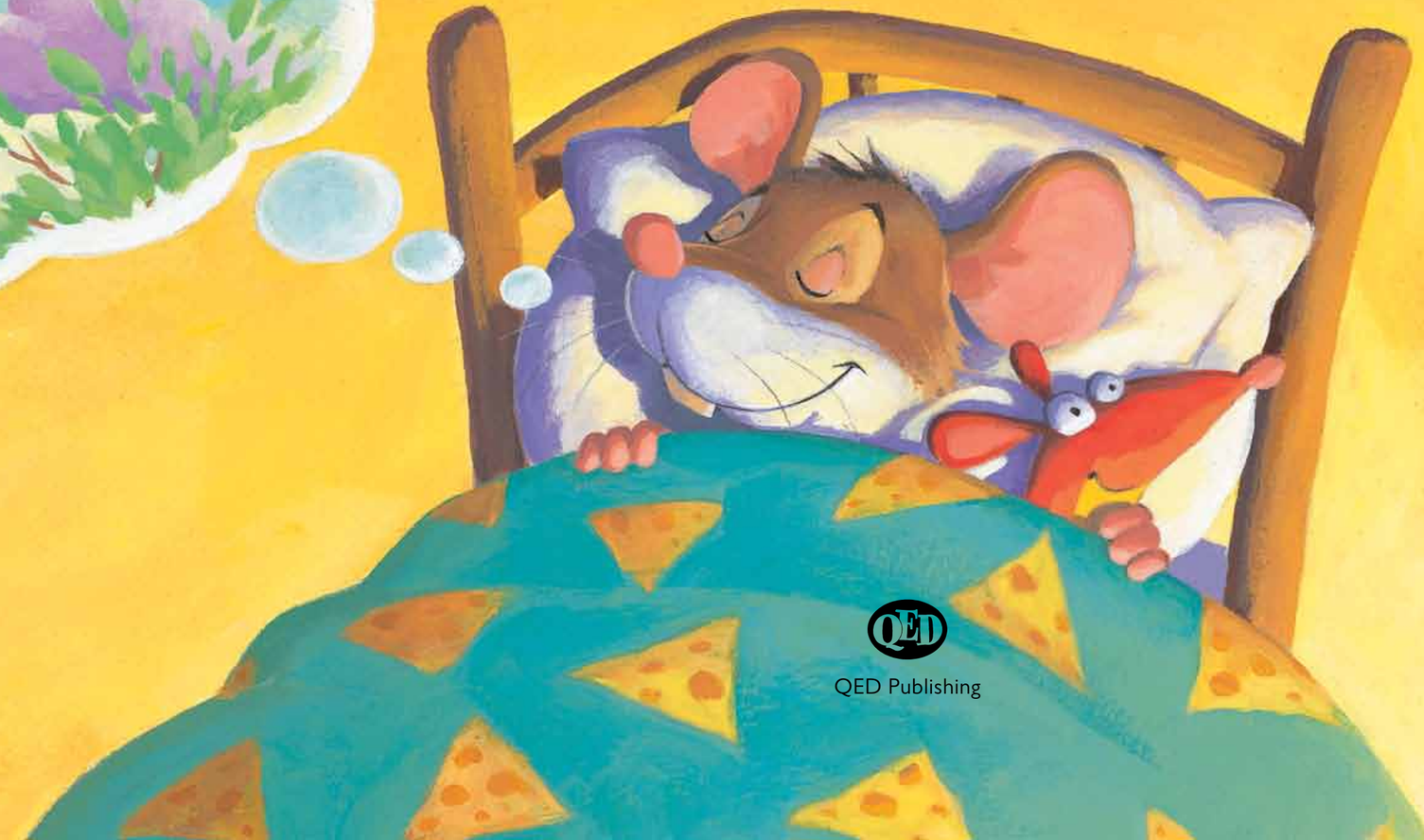
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BATMOUSE

steve Smallman



For my four favourite children
in the whole wide world,
Elliott, Scarlet, Gabby and Annie
- Steve Smallman

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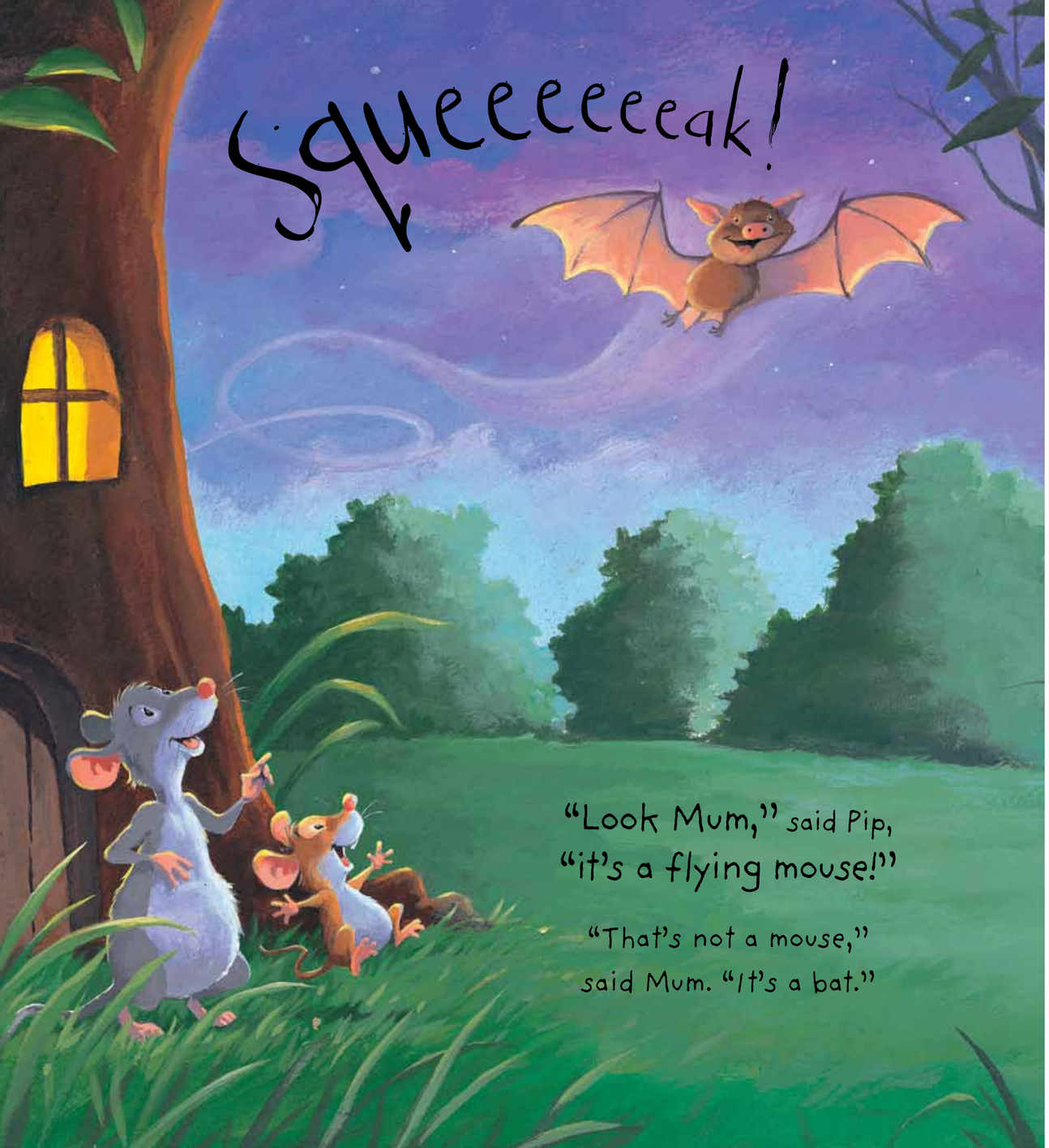
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"Look Mum," said Pip,
"it's a flying mouse!"

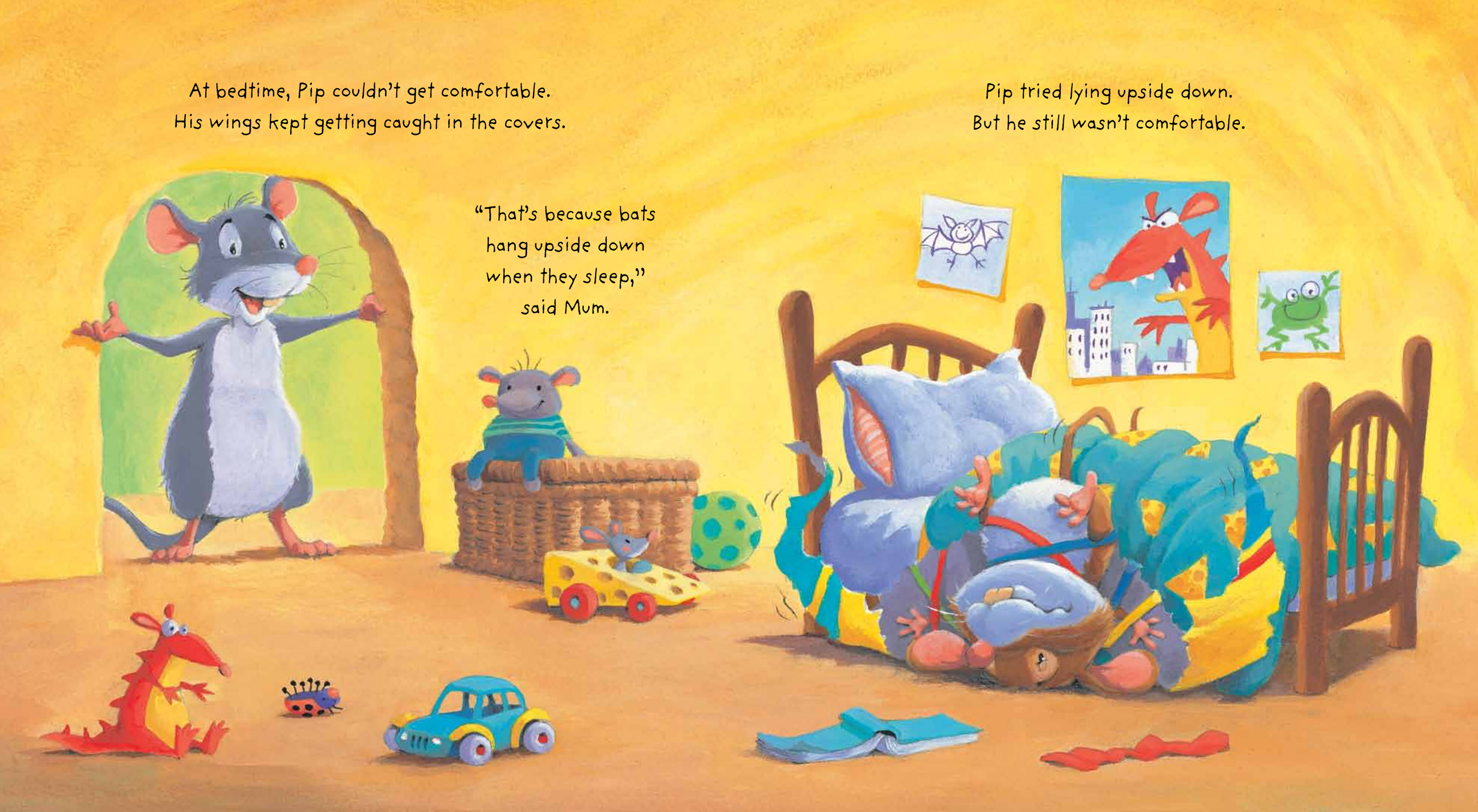
"That's not a mouse,"
said Mum. "It's a bat."

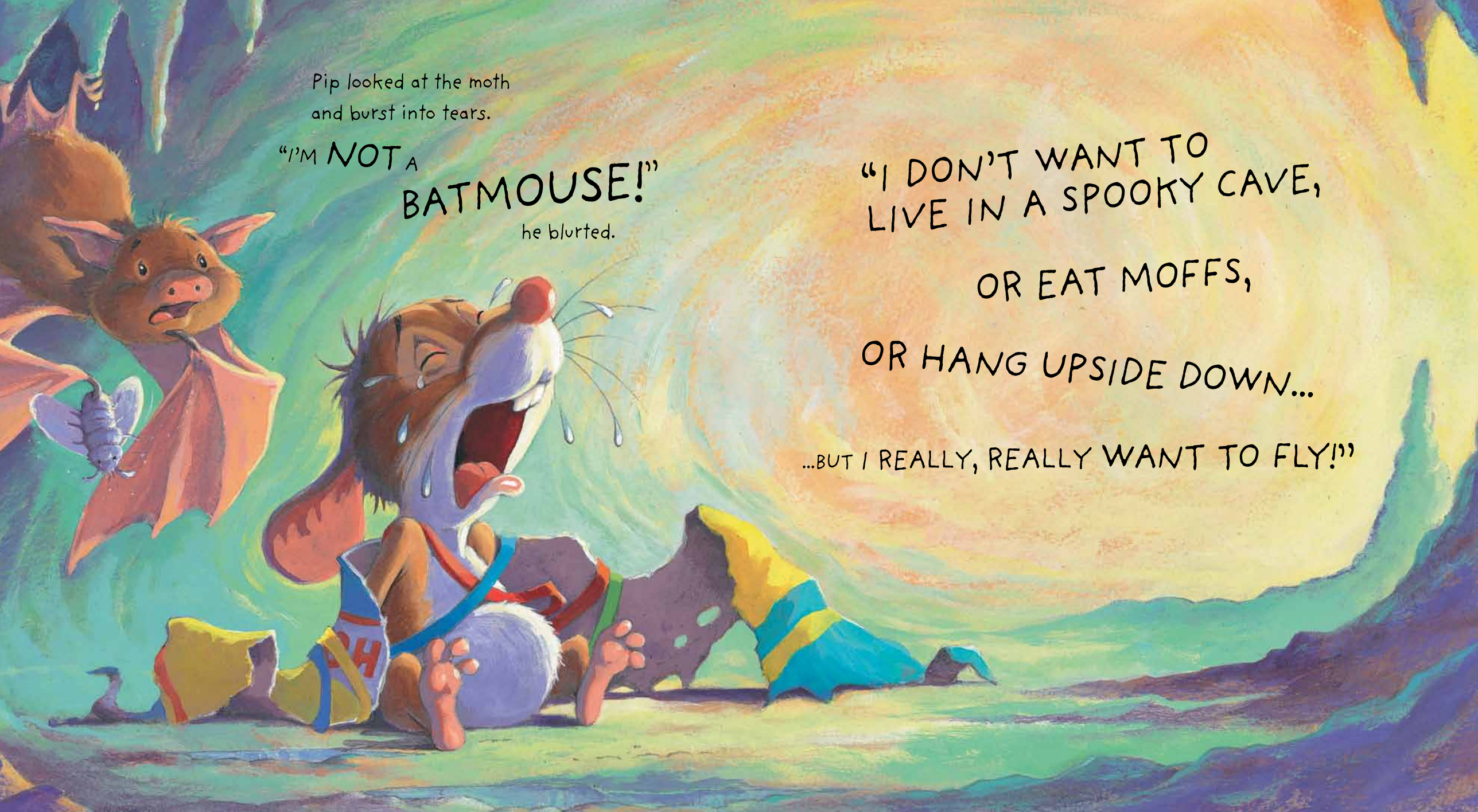
"I wish I could fly," said Pip.
"When I grow up, can I be a bat?"

"You can't be a bat," said Mum.
"Look – you don't have any wings."

So Pip made some wings out of an
old cardboard box. Soon he was
ready for take-off!




At bedtime, Pip couldn't get comfortable.
His wings kept getting caught in the covers.
"That's because bats
hang upside down
when they sleep,"
said Mum.
Pip tried lying upside down.
But he still wasn't comfortable.


Pip looked at the moth
and burst into tears.
"I'M NOT A
BATMOUSE!"
he blurted.
"I DON'T WANT TO
LIVE IN A SPOOKY CAVE,
OR EAT MOFFS,
OR HANG UPSIDE DOWN...
...BUT I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO FLY!"