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created for parents and children to make
choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from **Imaginary Fred**

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Published by
HarperCollins Children's Books

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Please print off and read at your leisure.



For my very own Dramatic Duo: Finn & Seán – E.C.
To Egbert, my imaginary friend. And to Michael, my real one – O. J.

First published in hardback in Great Britain by HarperCollins Children's Books in 2015

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

ISBN: 978-0-00-812614-8

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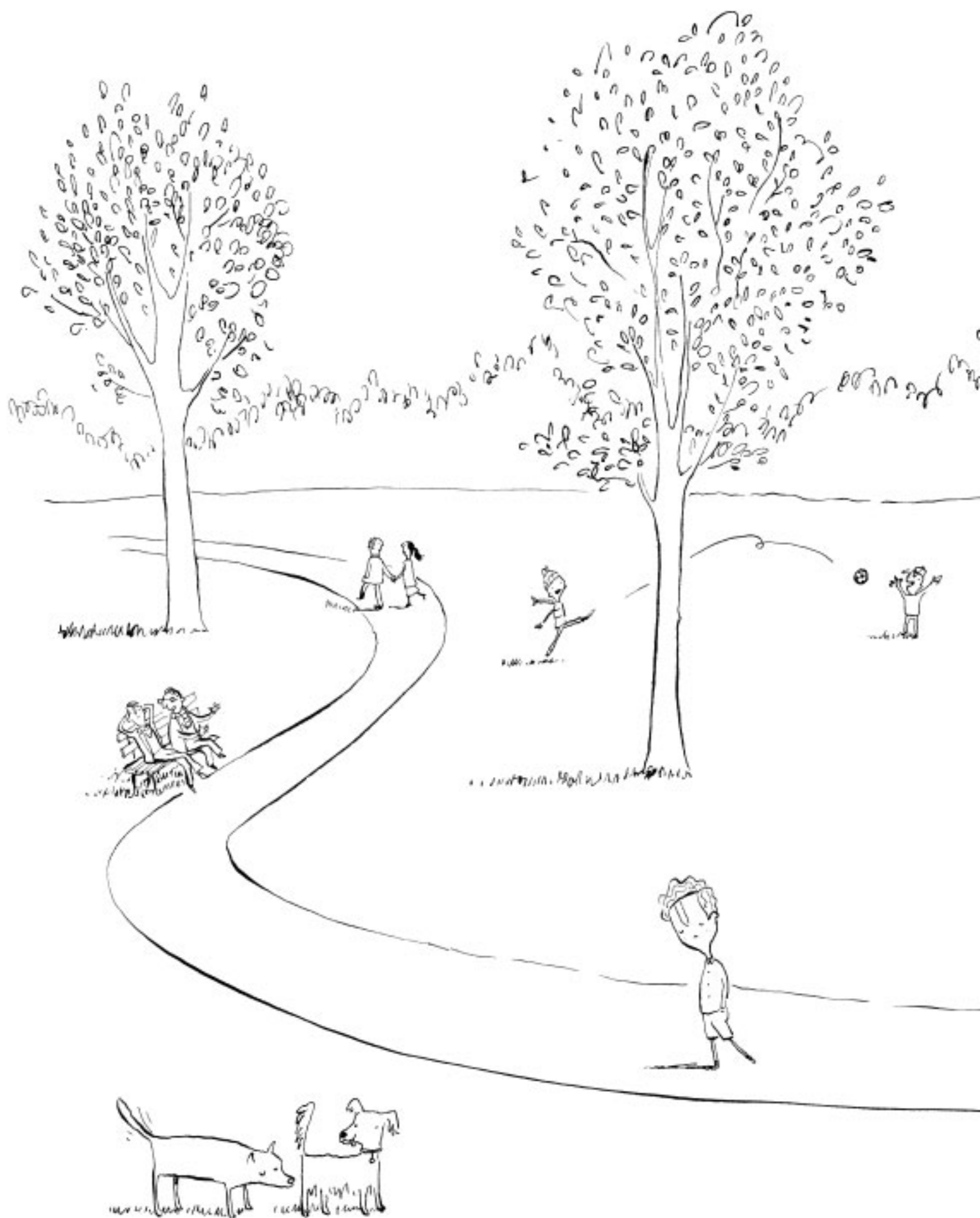
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Wheadaches are a pain. A bee sting hurts even more. But there is one thing that's worse than getting stung on the head by a bee on a rainy day, and that is... loneliness.

Being alone is no fun.

The first five minutes are OK, but it's downhill from there. And if you're alone, you're alone. It's not as if you can wish a friend to life.

Usually this is true. You can wish and wish until your hair stands on end, but no imaginary friend will appear.

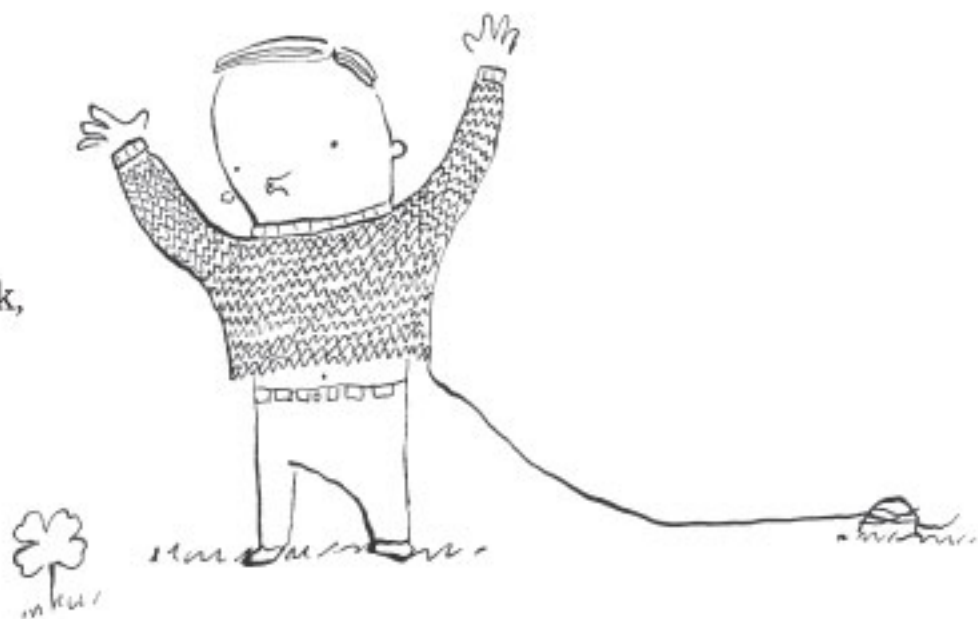
Unless...





...the conditions are just right,
and if you add a little electricity,

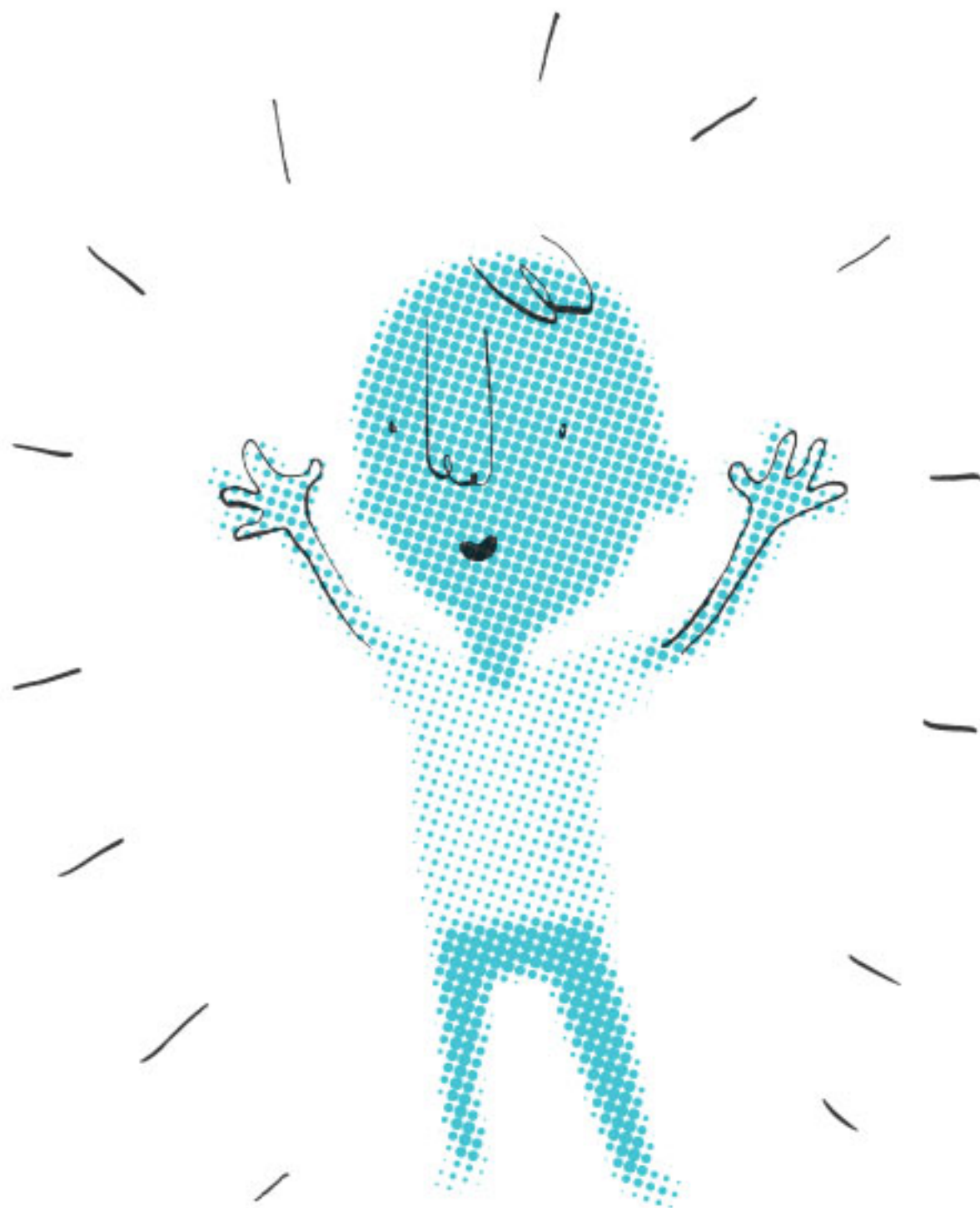
or luck,



or even magic,



then an imaginary friend might appear just when you need one.



An imaginary friend like Fred.