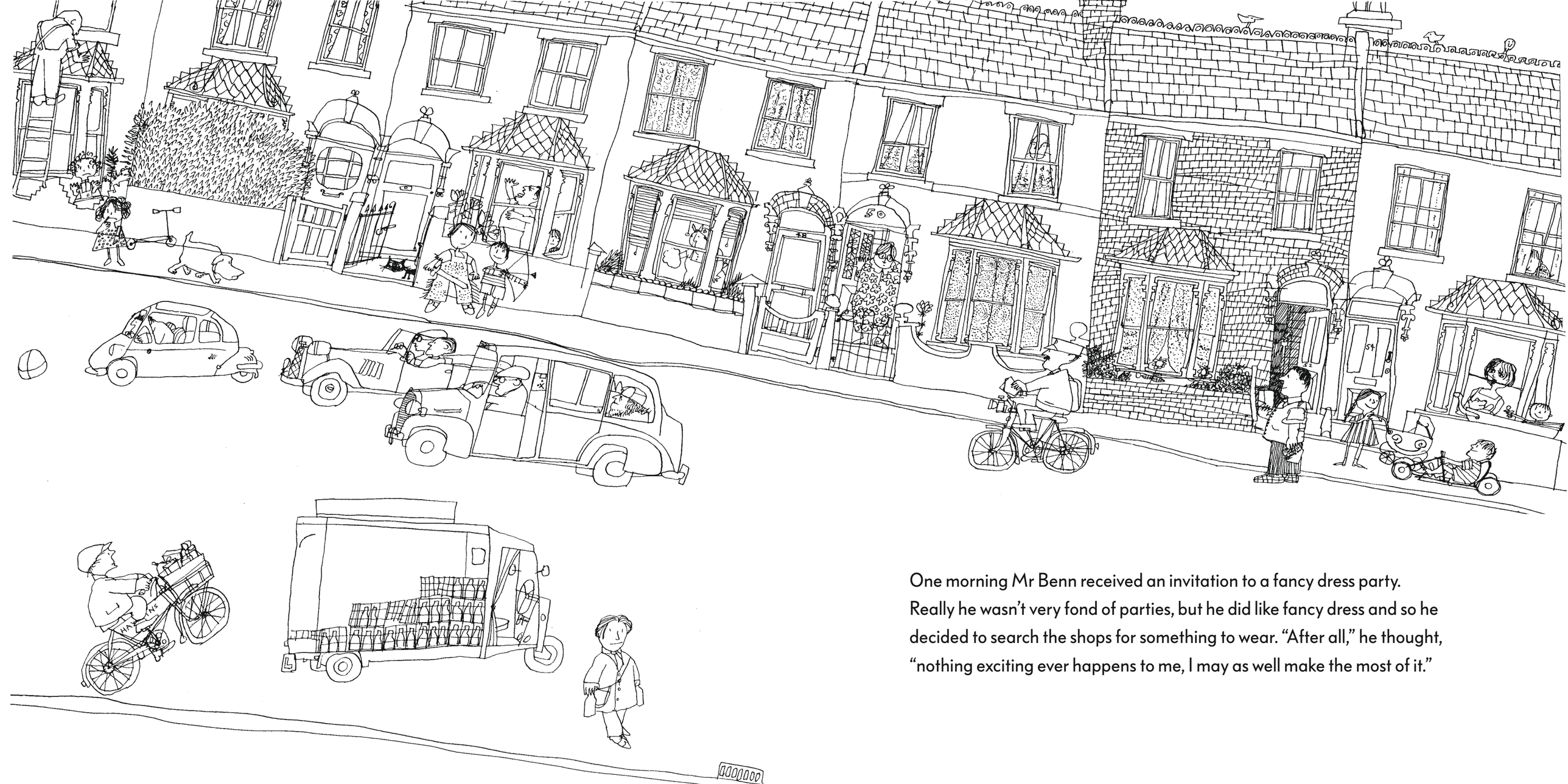


MR BENN RED KNIGHT

DAVID McKEE

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One morning Mr Benn received an invitation to a fancy dress party. Really he wasn't very fond of parties, but he did like fancy dress and so he decided to search the shops for something to wear. "After all," he thought, "nothing exciting ever happens to me, I may as well make the most of it."



Mr Benn searched all day. He tried all the big stores, then the not so big stores, then the shops in the side streets, but all without luck. Nobody seemed interested in fancy dress, only in ordinary suits and things. Still Mr Benn kept trying and at last he was lucky. In a little narrow back lane he found a tiny old shop which was just packed with strange costumes.



In hurried Mr Benn quite excited at finding somewhere so wonderful.
The shop bell tinkled and as if by magic there was suddenly a strange little man, with a moustache and an odd hat, standing in front of Mr Benn.
“Good morning, sir, may I help you?” he asked.

Mr Benn was looking eagerly around the shop. “I wonder if I might borrow that suit of red armour in the window?” he replied. The little man seemed pleased. “Of course,” he said. “Perhaps you would like to see if it fits.” And he pointed to a door, marked Fitting Room in the corner of the shop.

Taking the armour and going through the door Mr Benn found himself in a small room just full of huge mirrors. He climbed into the armour and then laughed because the mirrors seemed to make the room full of red knights. Then he noticed the room had two doors, the one he came through marked SHOP and another marked TRYING ROOM.
"Well," said Mr Benn and without a thought opened the second door and walked through.

