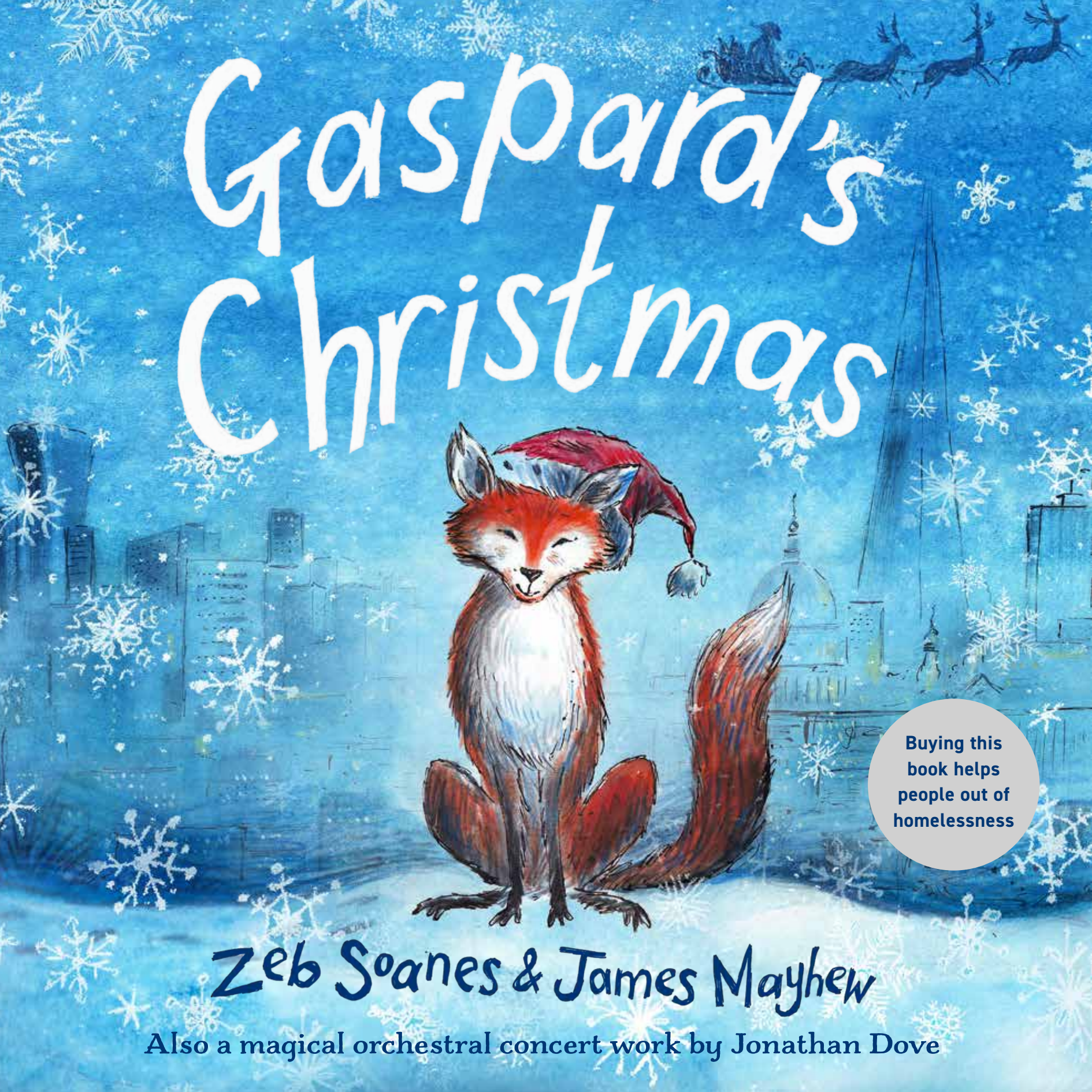
# Gaspard's Christmas



Buying this book helps people out of homelessness

Zeb Soanes & James Mayhew

Also a magical orchestral concert work by Jonathan Dove



Gaspard's Christmas
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# Gaspard's Christmas



Zeb Soanes & James Mayhew

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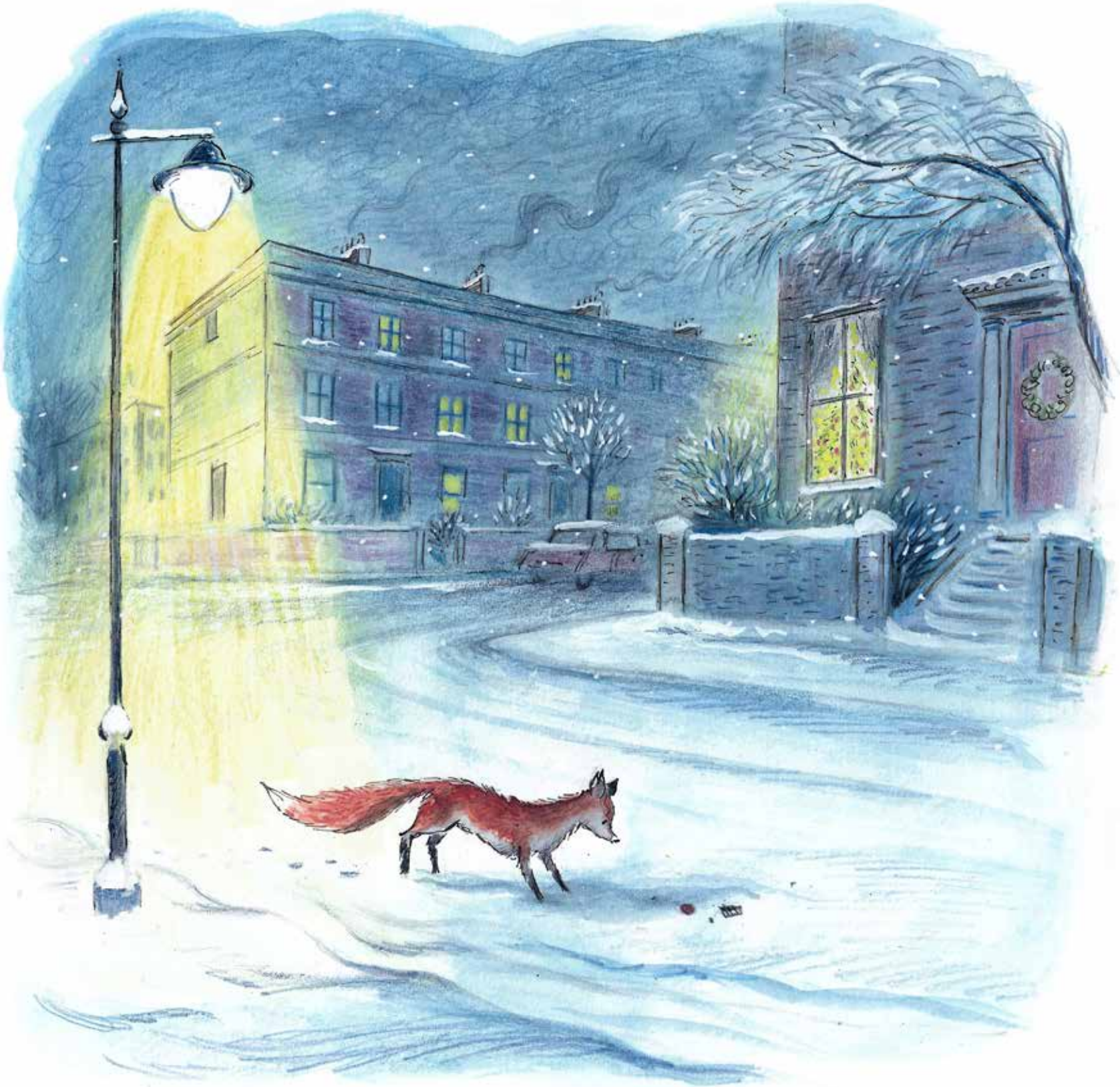
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Snow rarely lingers in London. The warmth and bustle of the city churns it to slush and within a day or two it is gone.

This Christmas there was proper snow; thick, white powder that made the streets shine brilliantly, even after dark.







For a hungry fox it made finding food hard, and Gaspard was padding the frozen streets, snuffling for scraps.

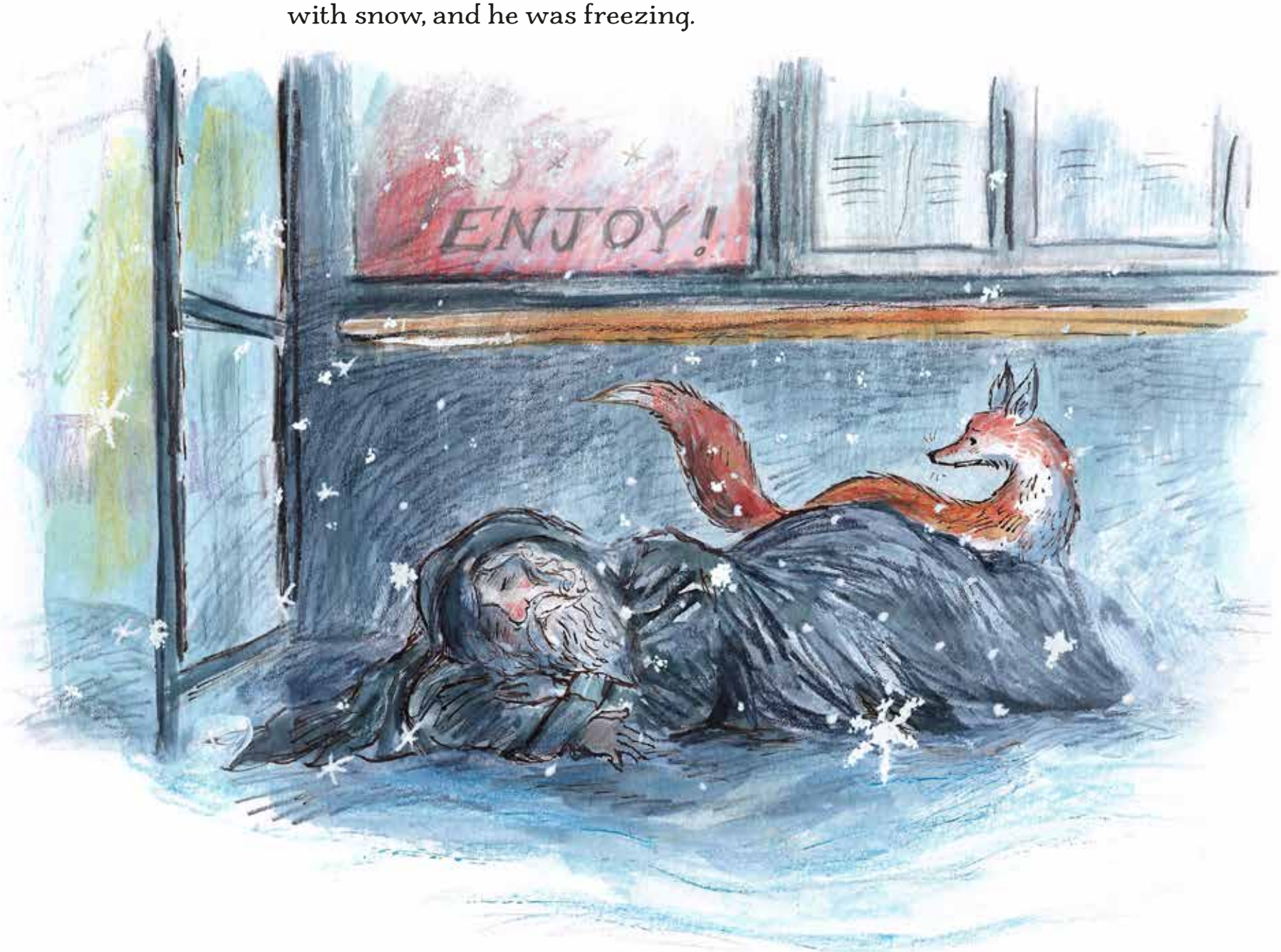


People often left their rubbish tied in plastic bags on the pavement and these were a larder for a city fox, with half-eaten sausage rolls or, if he was very lucky, slices of ham.




Gaspard saw a bulky-looking black bag under a bus shelter and hurried to investigate. He tugged gently at one corner – but this bag didn't move, it *GROANED*.

Gaspard scurried around the other side and saw it wasn't a bag at all. It was a man in a large black overcoat, half-covered with snow, and he was freezing.




Even with Gaspard's thick winter fur, he knew the icy streets were no place to spend the night and if the man didn't get somewhere warm, he would die.

Gaspard darted across the road. He leapt over walls and fences, smashing plant pots and waking neighbours until he was in Finty's garden. He scratched loudly at the back door.



In seconds an angry *YAP, YAP, YAP* came tearing through the house and a little dog shot out of the dog-flap into the garden.

'Oh, it's *only* you!' she said, a little disappointed it wasn't a burglar. 'It's late!'

'Somebody needs help,' said Gaspard urgently. 'Where's Honey?'
Honey was Finty's *person*. 'She's at the church,' replied Finty.



Gaspard couldn't wait.
'Get Peter and meet me at the bus stop,' he said.

Peter was a superior cat who used big words; he was *sure* to know what to do.

# Gaspard's Christmas



**Whilst searching for food in the snow-covered streets, Gaspard makes an astonishing discovery and, with the help of his friends, might just save Christmas.**

**A heart-warming festive adventure for London's handsomest fox.**

'Gaspard already has the feel of a classic. Zeb Soanes and James Mayhew have created something both modern and timeless. A children's story absolutely lifting with charm and atmosphere.'
ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG

'A wonderfully warm-hearted animal adventure.'
*SUNDAY TIMES*

'Gaspard the Fox is quietly groundbreaking.'
IAN EAGLETON, AUTHOR OF
*NEN AND THE LONELY FISHERMAN*

Gaspard's Christmas by Jonathan Dove, for orchestra, narrator and choir.

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