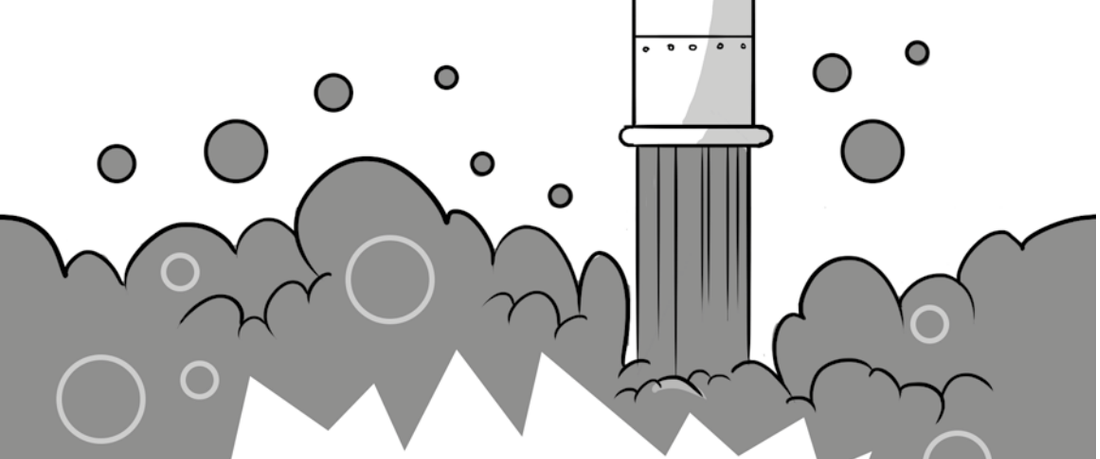


A TRICKY kind of MAGIC

NIGEL BAINES

HODDER



HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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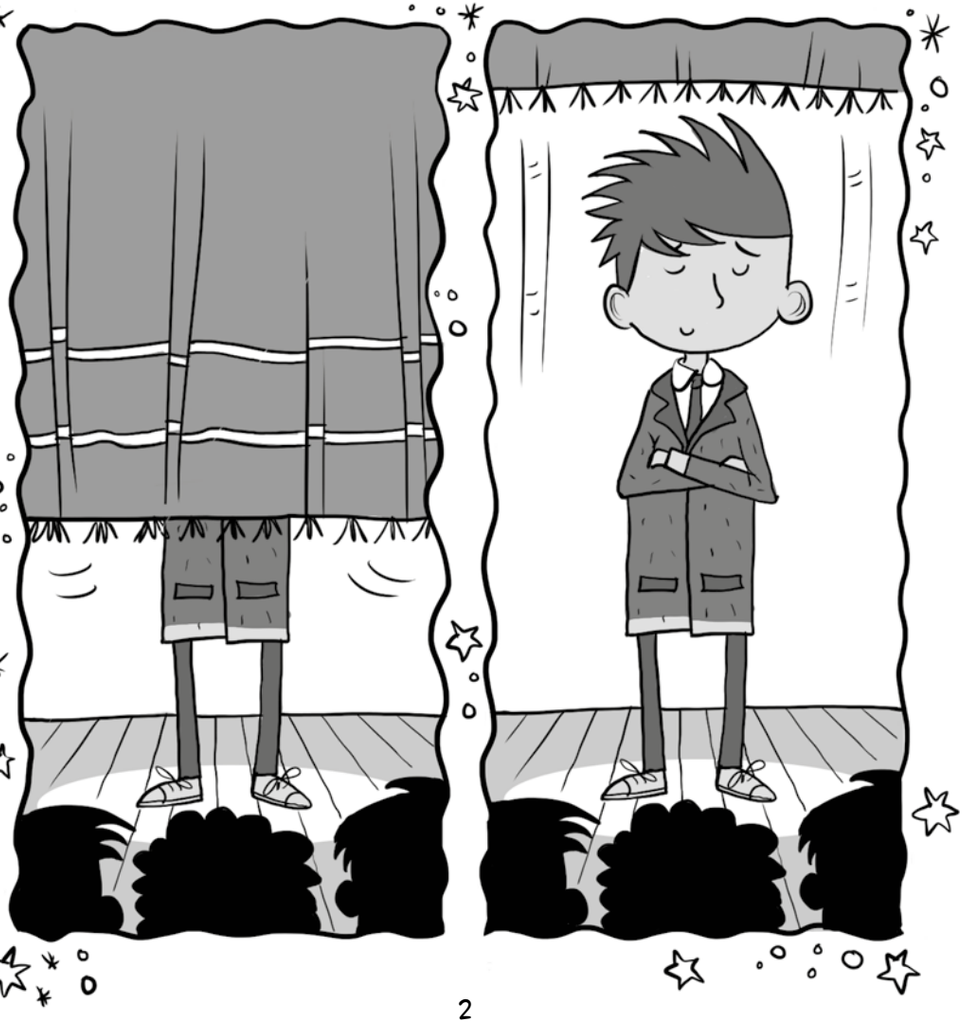
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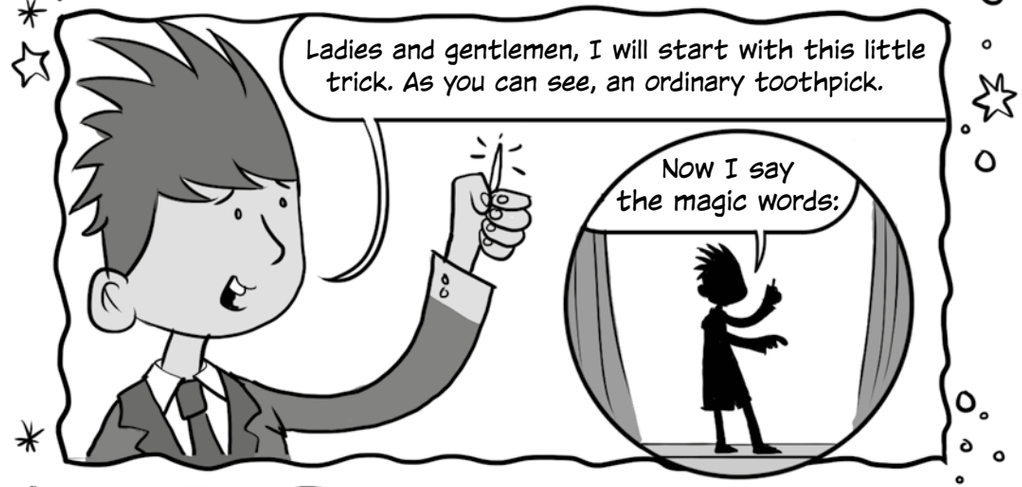
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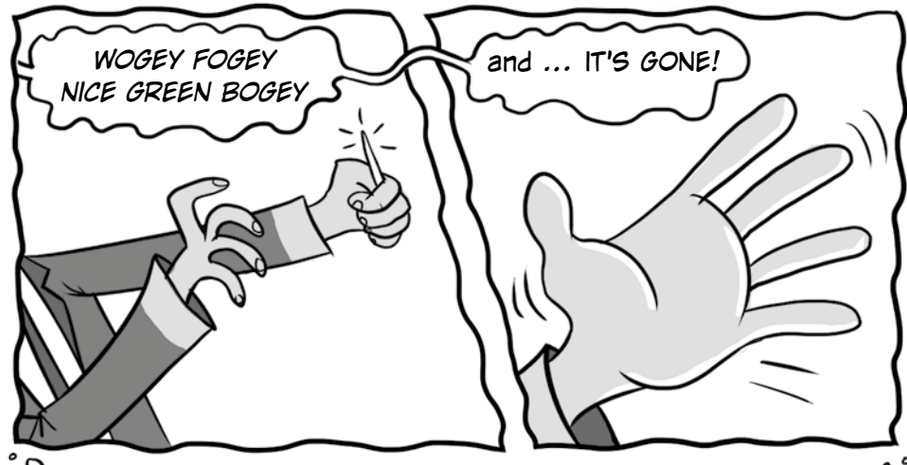
Everyone needs a Rori
and a Rabbit in life.
I've been so lucky.
You know who you are.
N.B.


CHAPTER ONE
Ladies and gentlemen, please give a huge welcome to ...


the Amazing Cooper!!



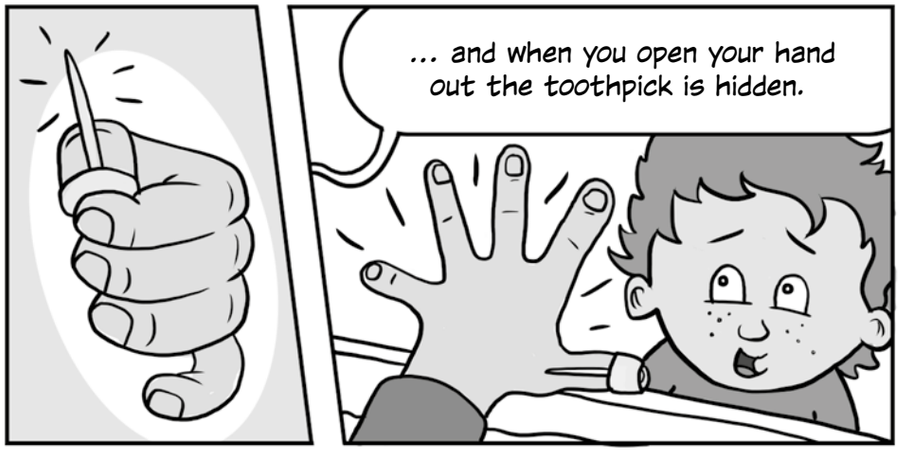

Ladies and gentlemen, I will start with this little trick. As you can see, an ordinary toothpick.
Now I say the magic words:


WOGEY FOGEY NICE GREEN BOGEY
and ... IT'S GONE!


OOOH, WHERE DID IT GO?
YEAH WHOOP!
WHOOOOP!
HOW DOES HE DO IT?
MAGIC!
AMAZING
CLAP
CHEER


WHOOP
MORE
CHEER
WOO HOO
CLAP
Do it again, Cooper ...
Cooper ...
And then a big bubble bursting sound
POP!
and back to the real world.

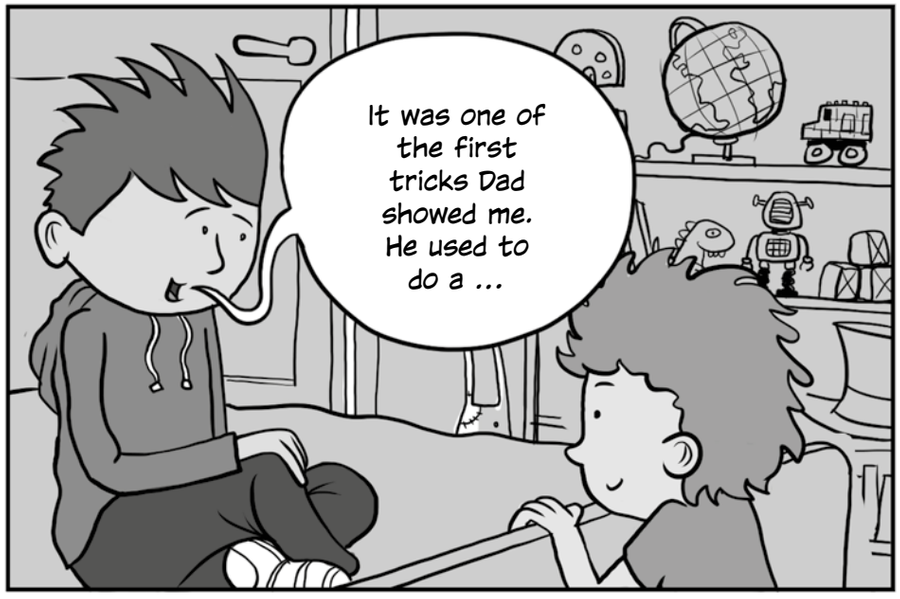

Show me, Cooper, do it again.
You get some invisible tape and tape the toothpick to your thumb like this.
The audience can't see the tape ...


... and when you open your hand out the toothpick is hidden.


There it is.


There it goes.


You're magic, Cooper.
Woohoo!


It was one of the first tricks Dad showed me. He used to do a ...


FIN!!
Mum's home!



CHAPTER TWO



This is me. Cooper Stanley. 'Good at tricks and jokes but lives in another world.' That's what my school report said. Fin, he's my little brother.

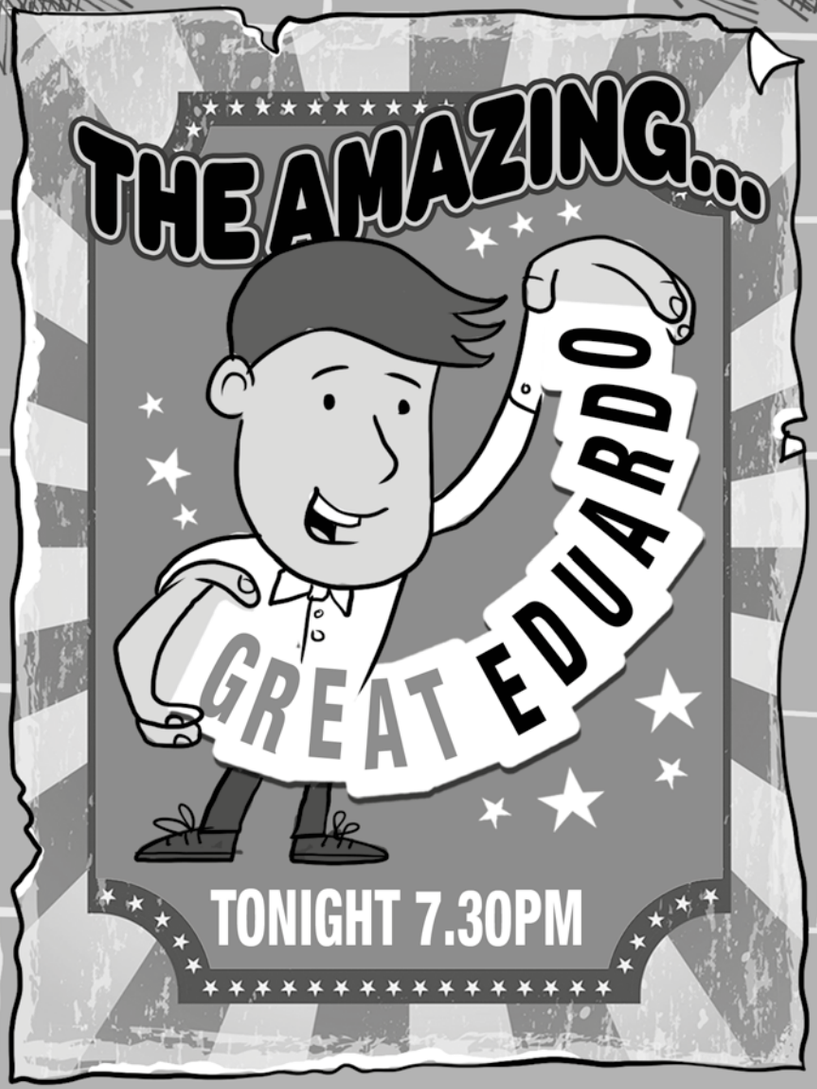
Fin takes up a lot of Mum's time. Imagine watching a television that changes channels every ten seconds. That's Fin. A one-kid earthquake.

FIN!

And then there was Dad. Dad was great ...

... the greatest.

Dad was an electrician but in his spare time he was a magician called the Great Eduardo (his real name was Eddie).

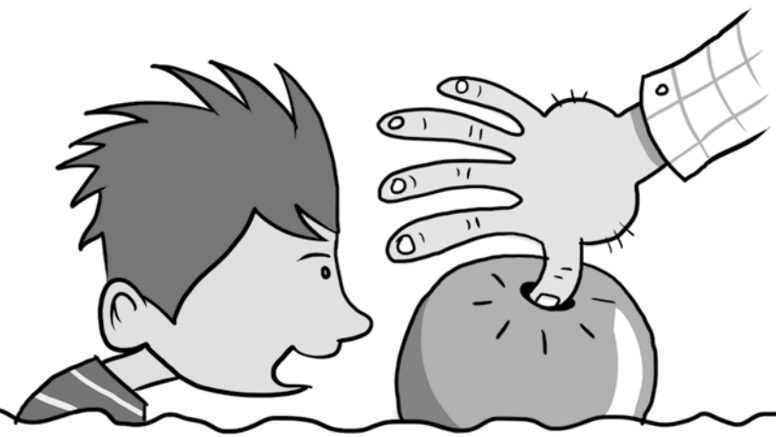


His shows were more electric than his work. He taught me so many things, like how to do some of the old classic tricks.

I remember Dad doing a fantastic trick where he made a ball float in mid air! He told me the ball was able to float as it was from a mystical tribe of people and was filled with special magic.



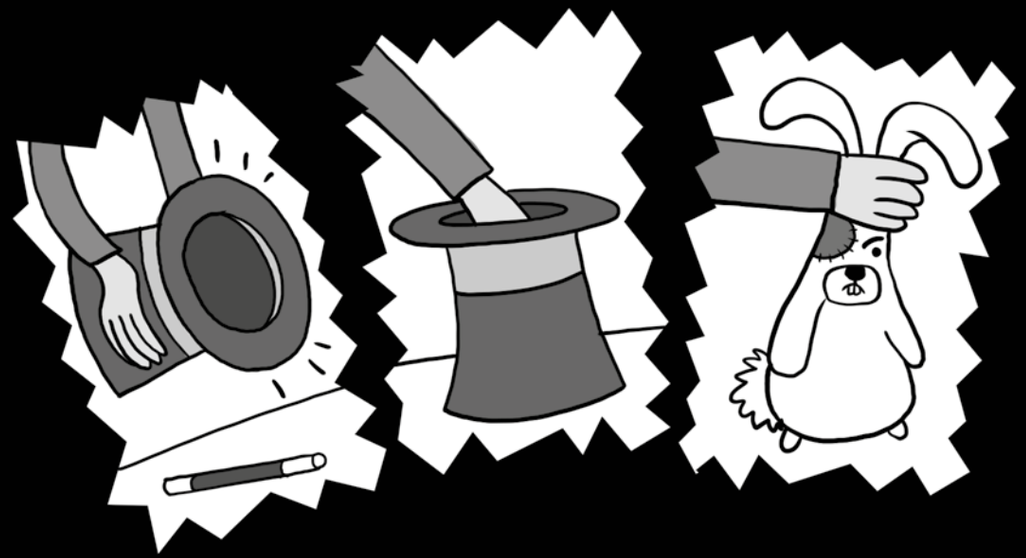
I really believed it!! That's what good magicians do, make you believe things that make no sense. Dad showed me how it worked, the ball had a little hole in the back he stuck his thumb in, but I still thought it was magic.



He called me Cooper after his favourite magician. A guy from a long time ago called Tommy Cooper. He was very famous and very funny.

He told awful dad jokes and messed up tricks on purpose.

Dad also taught me how to pull a rabbit out of a hat.



Years ago magicians used a special rabbit prop called a kicker. It's a toy rabbit with a spring inside. A skilled magician can hold it and make it move and look like a real live rabbit.

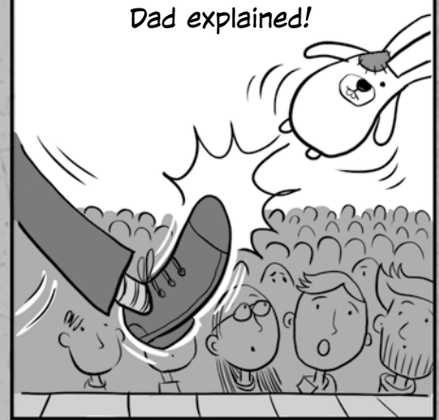




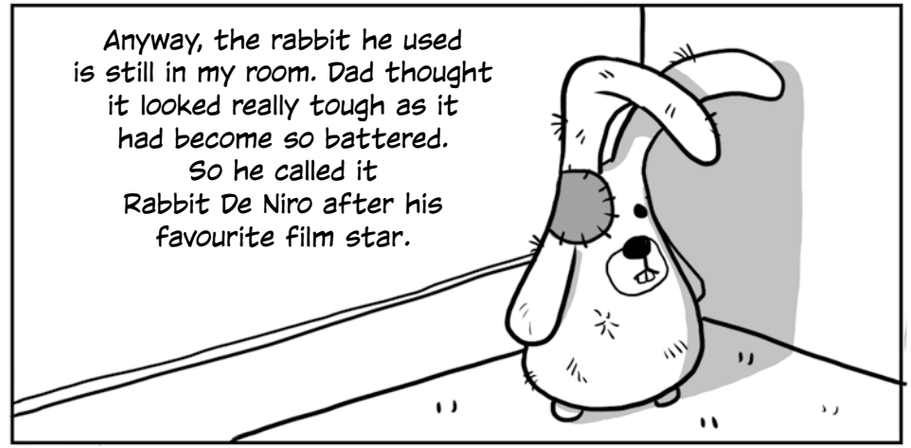
Dad found one in an antique shop and used it in his shows. He would pretend he was being attacked by the rabbit and he'd wrestle it to the floor.



Other times he would stroke it and make it look real. The audience would all go 'aaaah' and then Dad would boot it across the stage. The audience would be shocked until Dad explained!



Anyway, the rabbit he used is still in my room. Dad thought it looked really tough as it had become so battered. So he called it Rabbit De Niro after his favourite film star.





So you might have noticed that when I talk about my dad I always say 'was' and not 'is'. That's because a few weeks ago Dad died suddenly. Yup, that was pretty grim and I still don't understand it. The Great Eduardo did the worst vanishing trick of all.



Just like that.