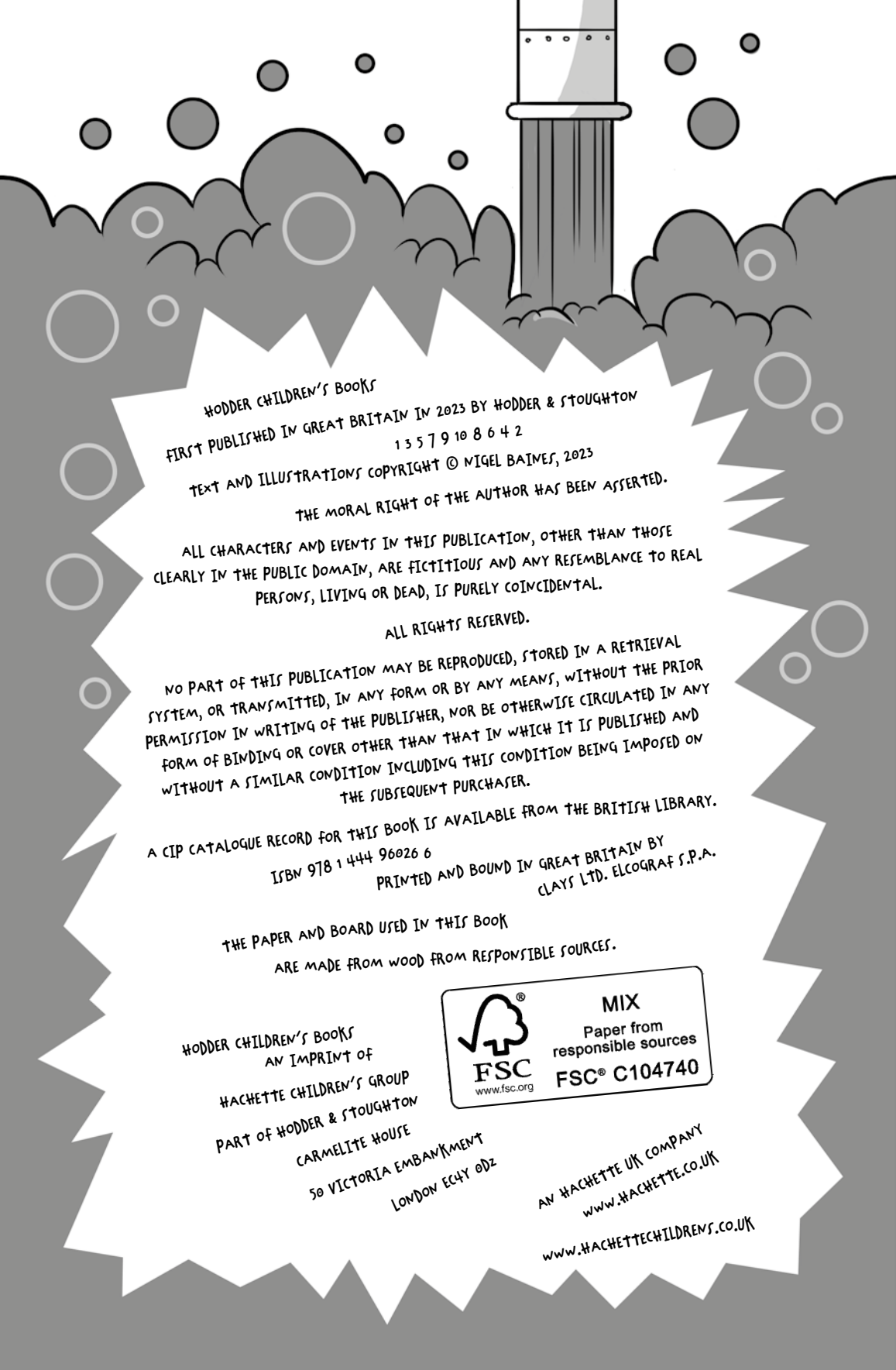


A black and white illustration on the left side of the page. It depicts a boy in a jacket and trousers standing on a grassy cliff edge, looking down at a small white rabbit. To the left of the boy is a small stage with a curtain. In the background, a large mushroom is visible. A long, winding staircase with wooden railings leads down from the cliff edge into a deep chasm. The title 'TRICKY kind of MAGIC' is written in a large, stylized, outlined font on the right side of the page. A small, mischievous-looking card with the letter 'A' on it is perched on the top of the word 'TRICKY'.

TRICKY kind of MAGIC

NIGEL BAINES



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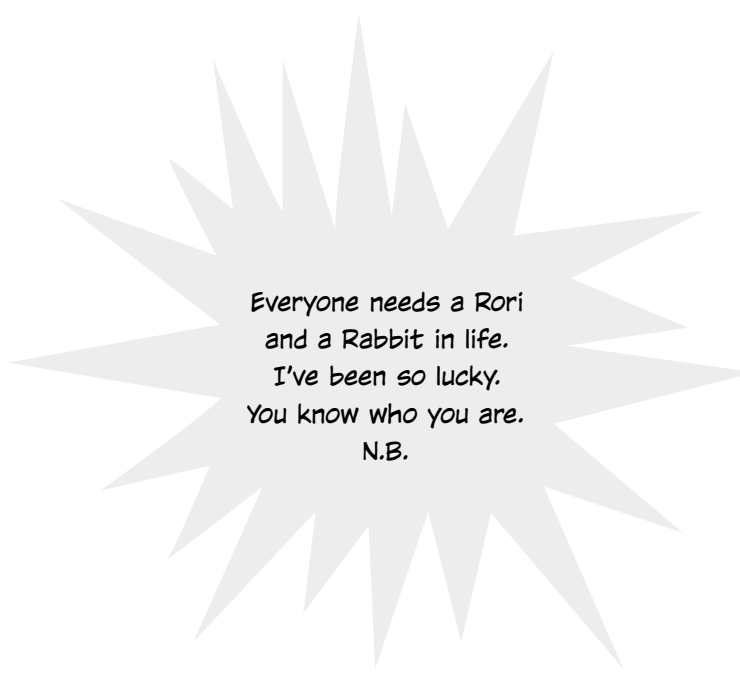
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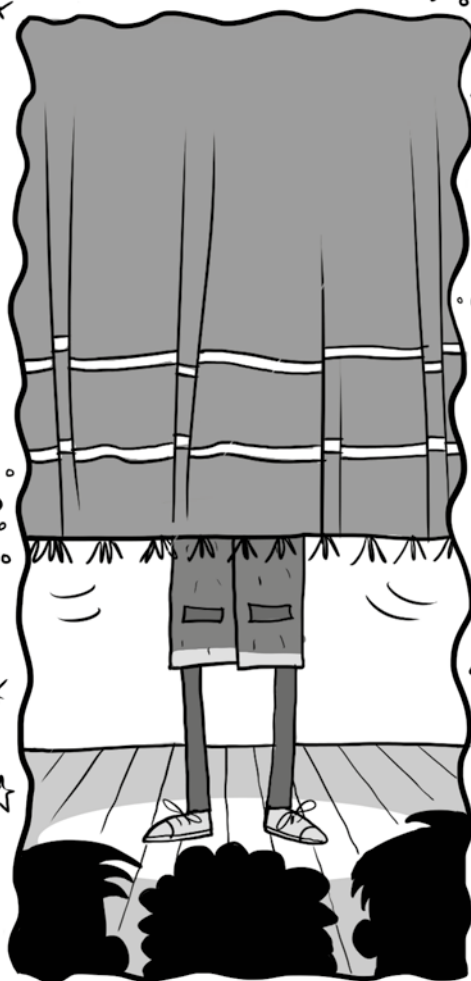
Everyone needs a Rori
and a Rabbit in life.
I've been so lucky.
You know who you are.
N.B.

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.



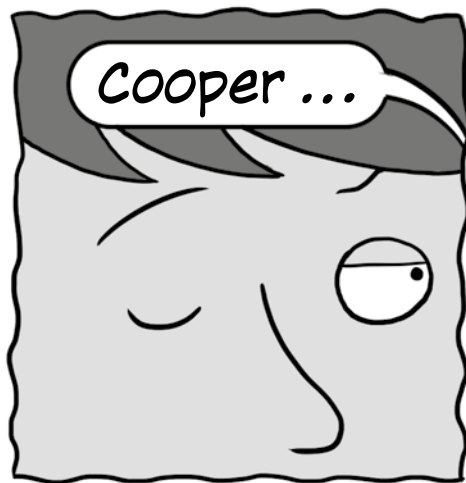
Now I say the magic words:

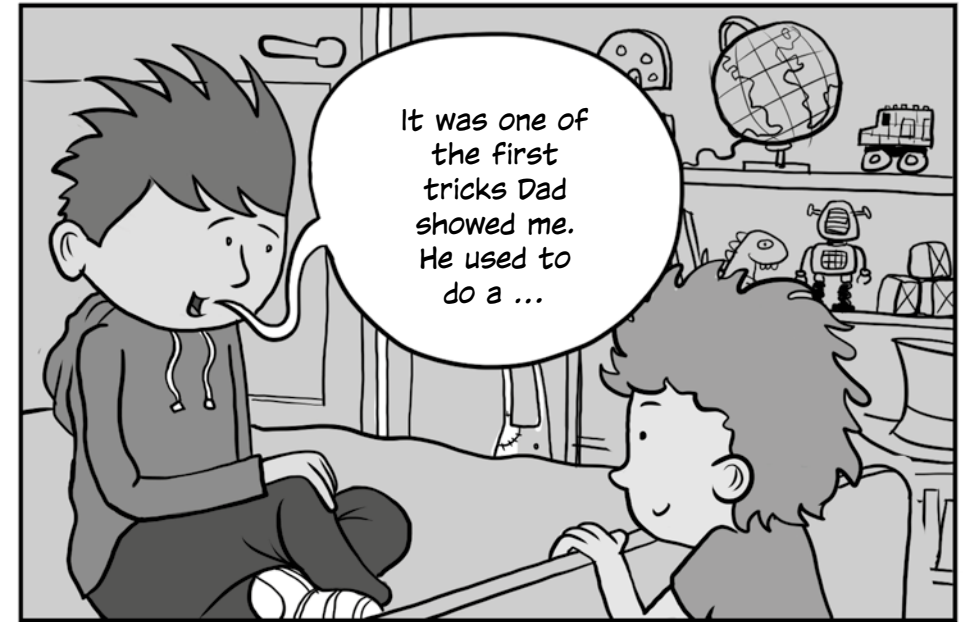


WOGGY FOGGY
NICE GREEN BOGEY

and ... IT'S GONE!









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.



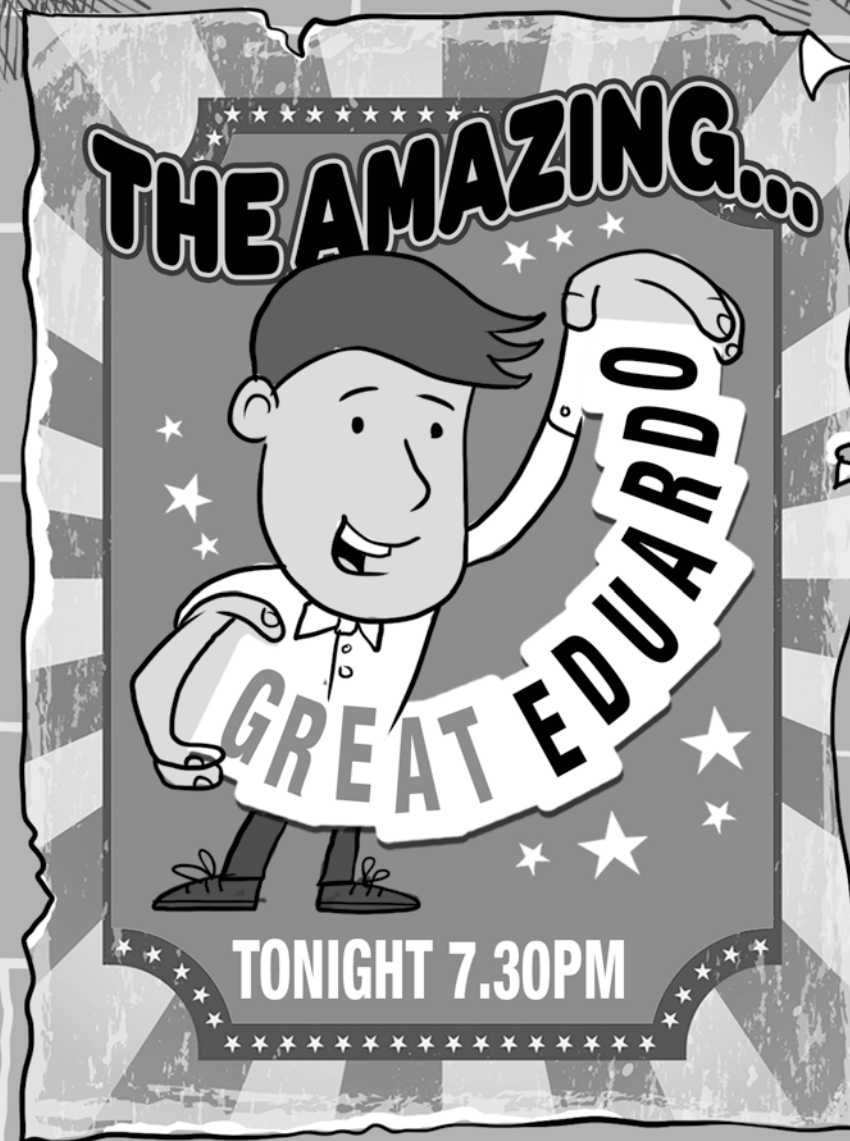
And then there was Dad.
Dad was great ...



... the greatest.



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

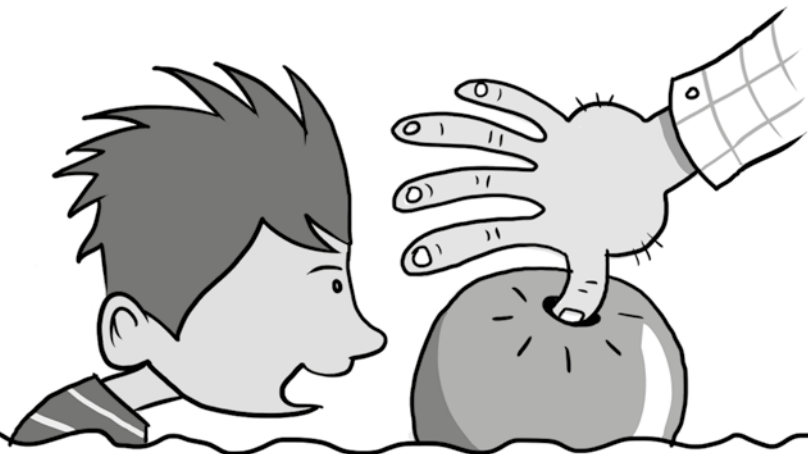


His shows were more electric than his work.
He taught me so many things, like how
to do some of the old classic tricks.

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.



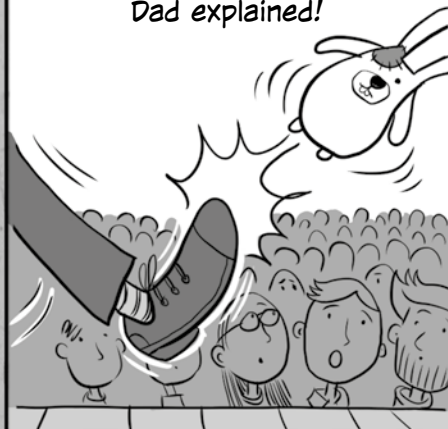
Years ago magicians used a special rabbit prop called a kicker. It's a toy rabbit with a spring inside. A skilled magician can hold it and make it move and look like a real live rabbit.



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.

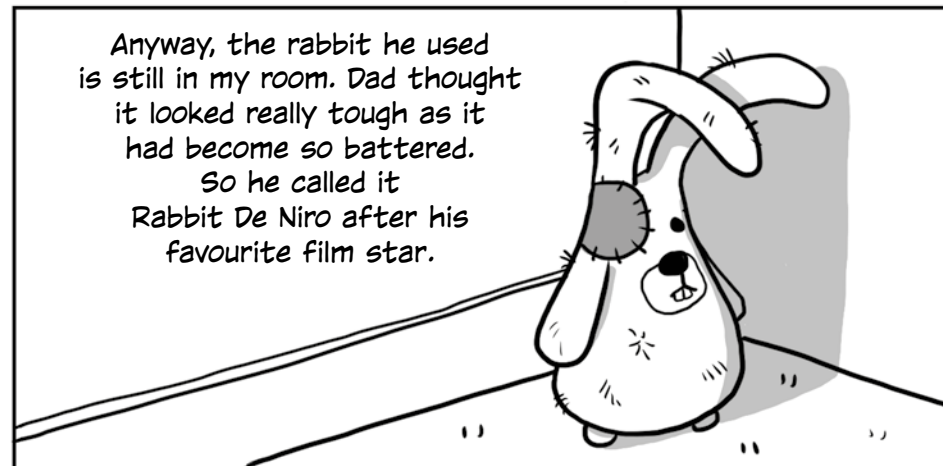


Other times he would stroke it and make it look real. The audience would all go 'aaaah' and then Dad would boot it across the stage. The audience would be shocked until Dad explained!



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.