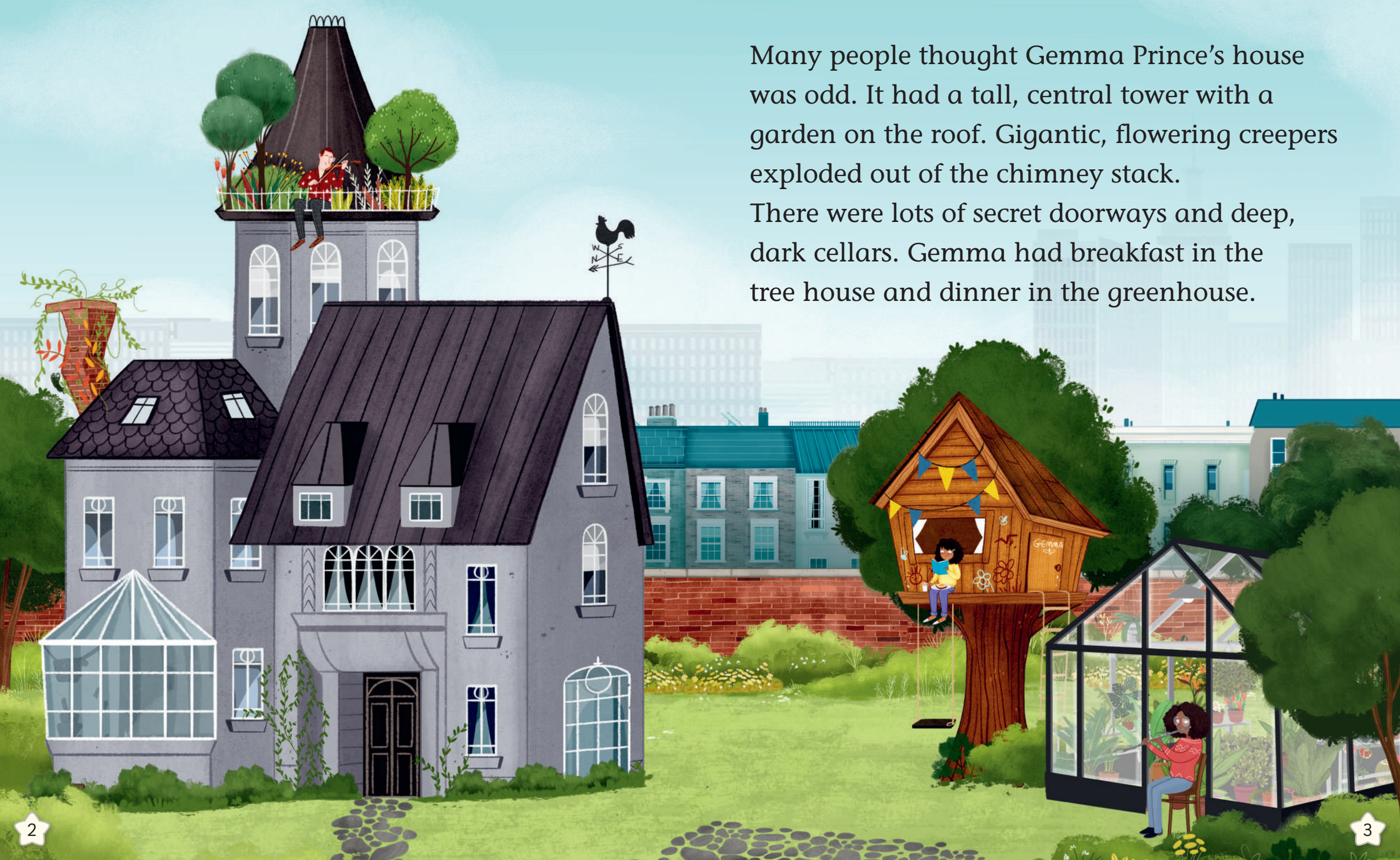
The Dance Palace



Written by Zoë Clarke

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RISING STARS



Many people thought Gemma Prince's house was odd. It had a tall, central tower with a garden on the roof. Gigantic, flowering creepers exploded out of the chimney stack.
There were lots of secret doorways and deep, dark cellars. Gemma had breakfast in the tree house and dinner in the greenhouse.



The one thing Gemma didn't like about her house was how quiet it was. Her parents had very few friends, and she wished they could share it with more people.

Gemma walked through the city every day. There were interesting things to find there if you hunted in the right places. Her dad called them 'hidden gems'.





It was an icy morning when Gemma ran down a cobbled alleyway and found a pleasant courtyard. There was a statue of a dancer in the centre.

In the far corner of the courtyard, something caught Gemma's eye. Something interesting. Gemma realised she had found her own hidden gem.

