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CHAPTER 1

This is Cudweed.



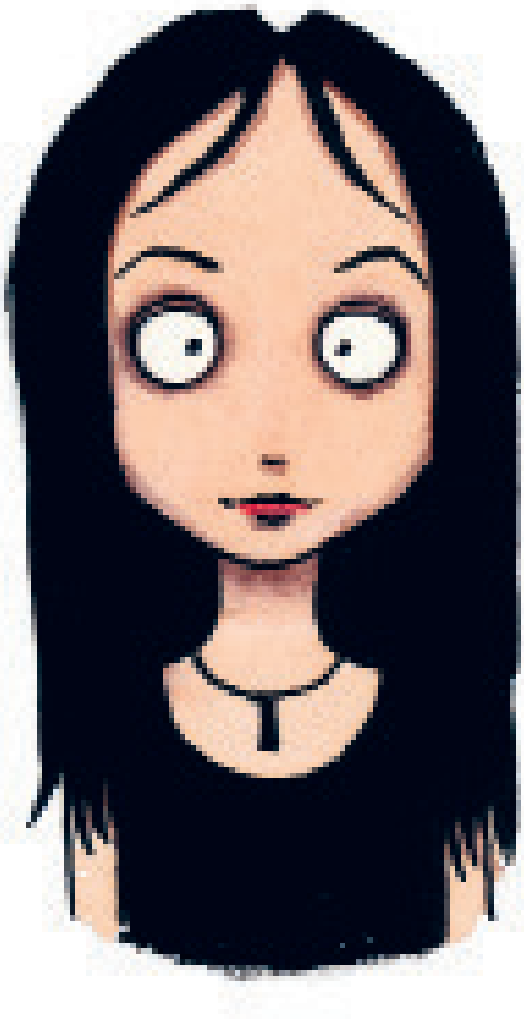
If you think he looks funny, you should see his mum



and his dad.



He has a big sister too, and she looks like this, almost normal.



Almost.

If you think they all look a bit odd, you'd be right, but then, this is where they live.



And you couldn't live in a crazy castle like that and be normal, could you?

It's the sort of place where odd and strange things happen. A lot.
This is the story of what happened one day when Cudweed decided to read a comic…

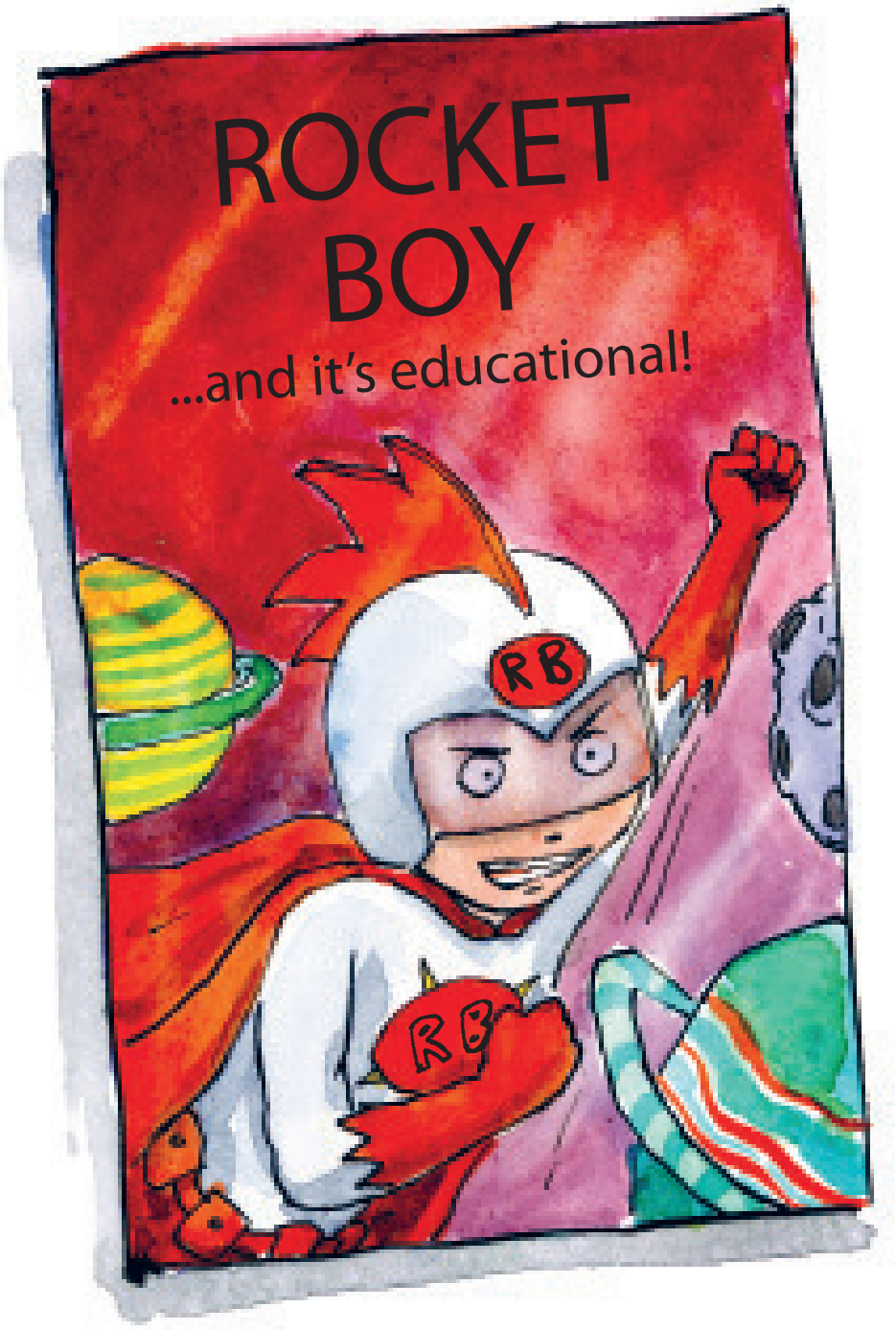


Now, you might think that it would be hard to get into trouble by reading a comic. Yes?



No! Not if your name is Cudweed Yessir Frilly-Frou Derek Goatfeet Otherhand.

Cudweed had found the comic in an old box in the attic. It was called Rocket Boy, and it looked like this:



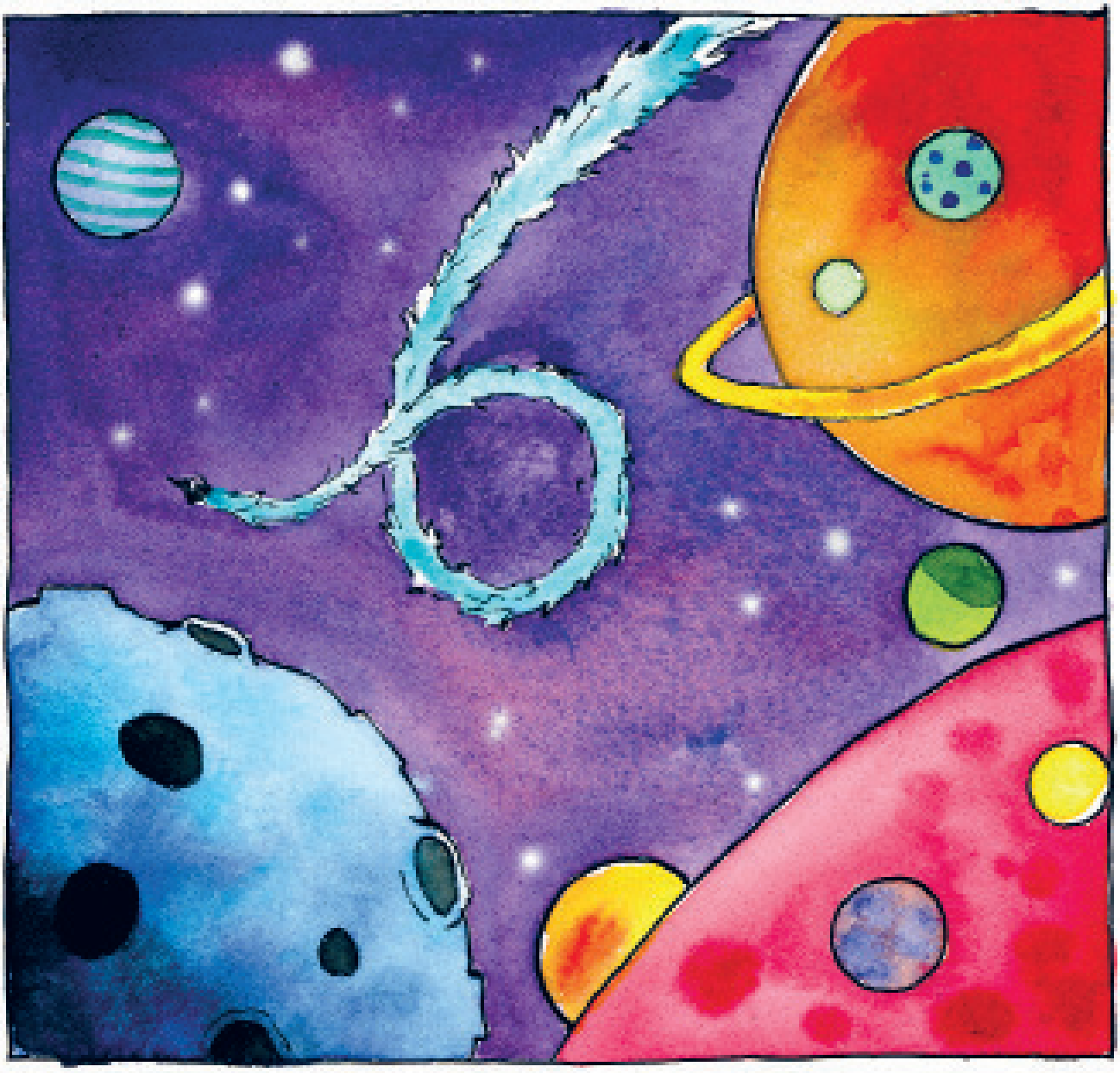
Cudweed read about the AMAZING AND INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF ROCKET BOY. Rocket Boy got up to all sorts of tricks, was ALWAYS in danger, but always escaped by the end of each story.



Cudweed thought Rocket Boy was cool. Soon he started thinking that he was Rocket Boy himself!



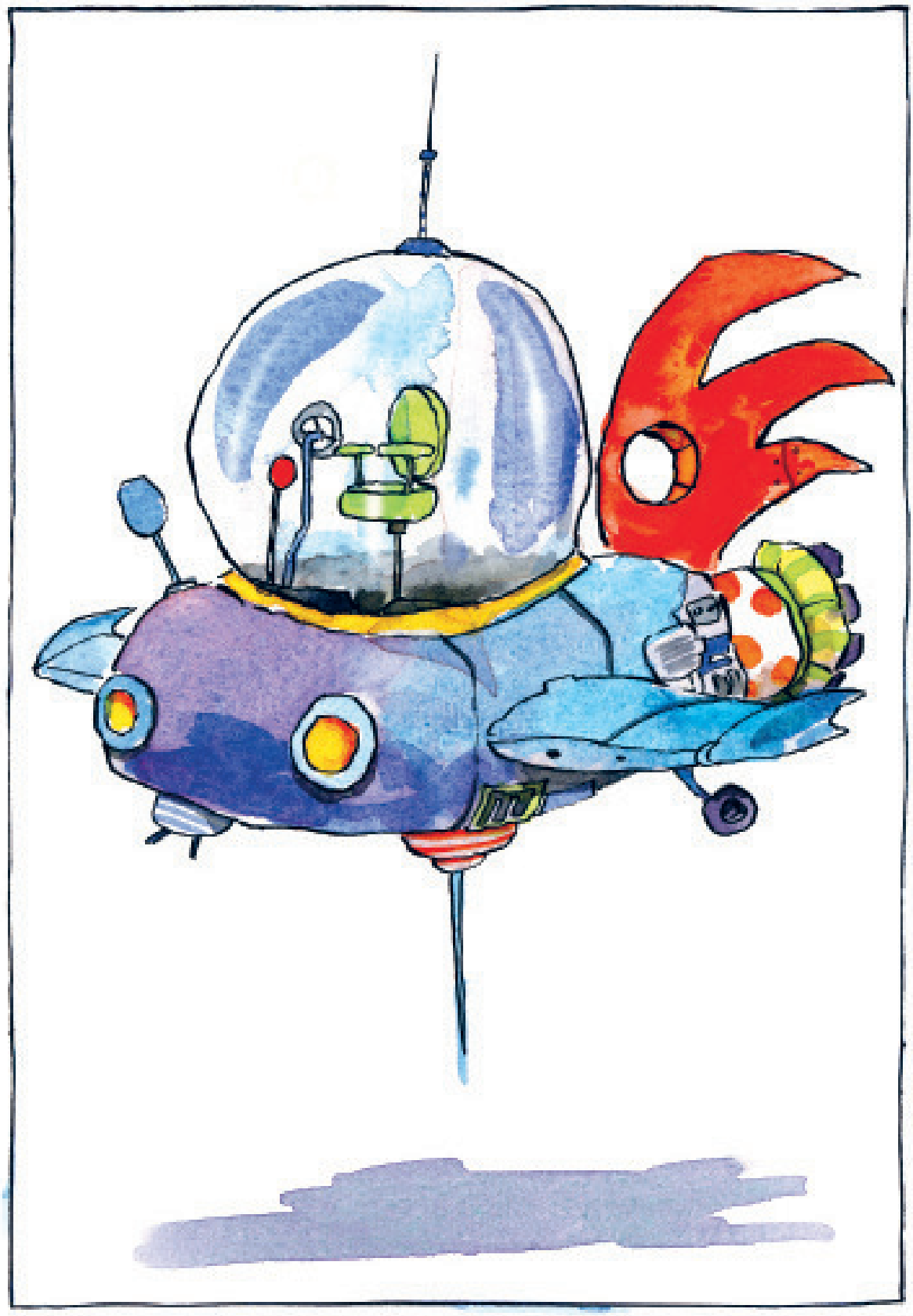
The thing that Cudweed liked best about Rocket Boy was Rocket Boy's spaceship.



It was so cool, Cudweed decided it was as cold as Absolute Zero, which, in a story called Rocket Boy and the Thrillons of Zoy, was the coldest possible temperature ever.



The spaceship looked like this:



But then a bad thing happened! Cudweed finished reading the comic. He didn't know what to do. So he read it again.



Three hours later he had finished it again. And again, and again, until at last, he knew the whole thing from back to front and back again.



Cudweed felt sad and bored and worried, all at the same time.

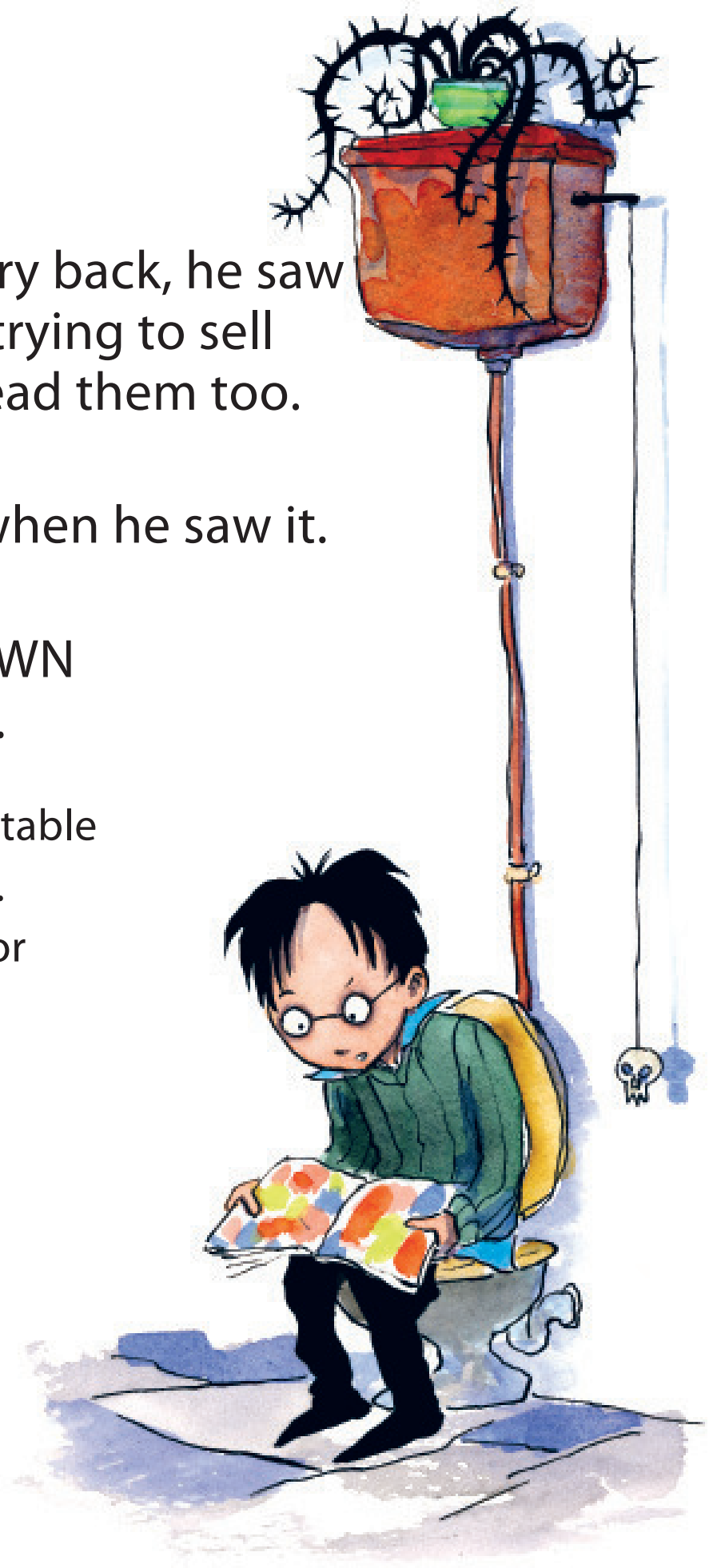


Then, at the very back, he saw some adverts, trying to sell things, so he read them too.

And that was when he saw it.

BUILD YOUR OWN SPACESHIP KIT.

Easy assembly, suitable for 8 years and up. Allow 4-8 weeks for delivery. Price £5.



Cudweed asked his dad if he could have £5 to send away for the spaceship kit.

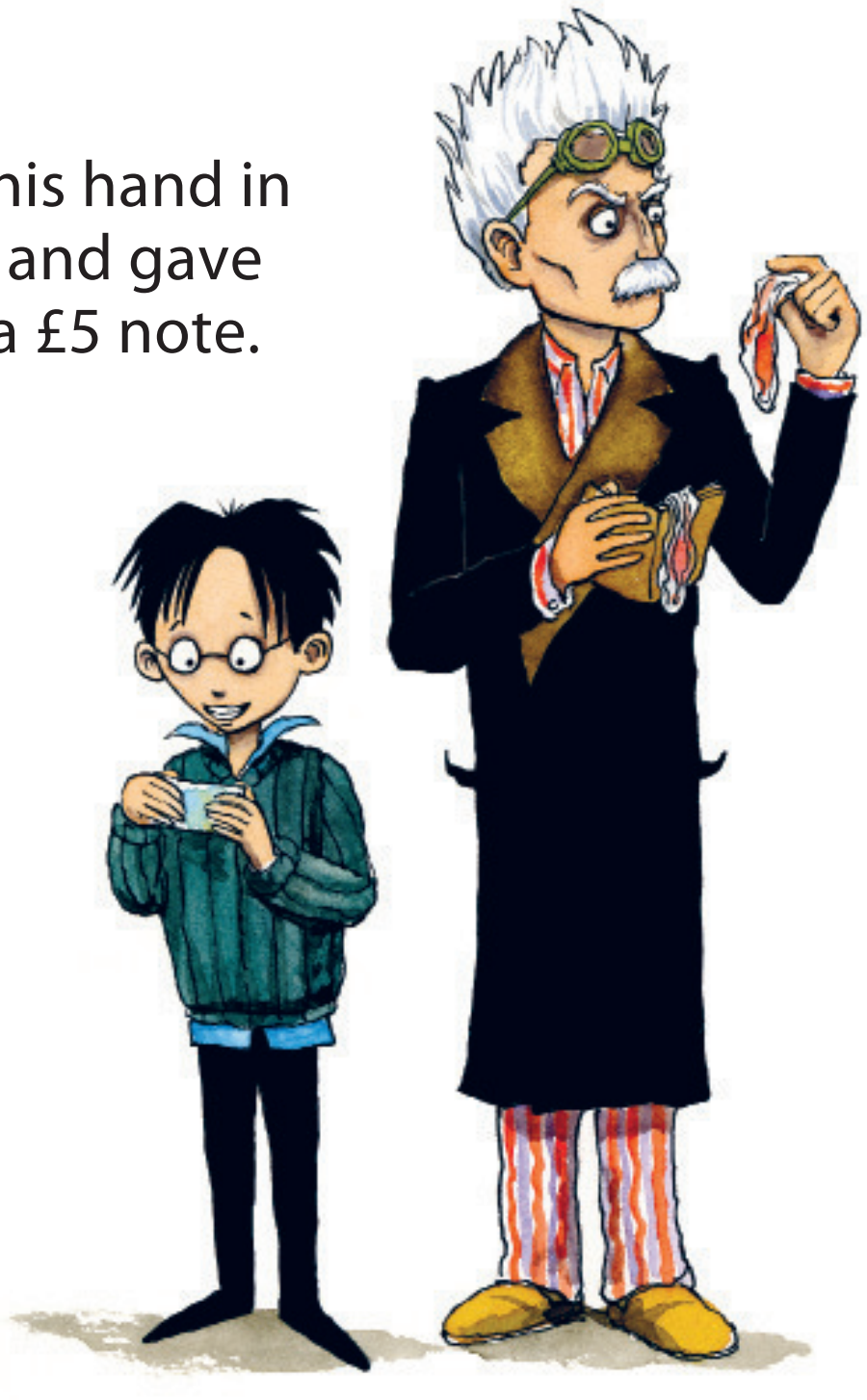
'What's that, my boy?' said his dad. 'Don't pester me, can't you see I'm busytryingtoinventsomethinghere?'



‘But, Dad, I just want to send off for this spaceship kit… It’s just like Rocket Boy’s.’

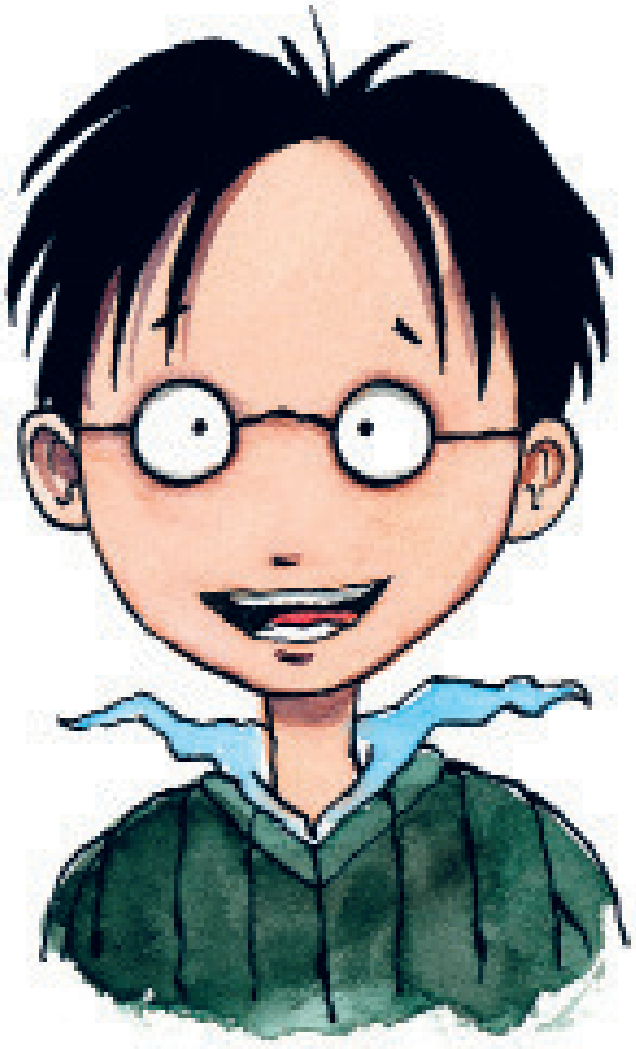
Cudweed’s dad wasn’t listening. Not properly.

So he put his hand in his pocket and gave Cudweed a £5 note.



‘Off you go,’ he said.

Cudweed grinned from ear to ear.



He sent off for the kit.

And four to eight weeks later, a very large box arrived…

