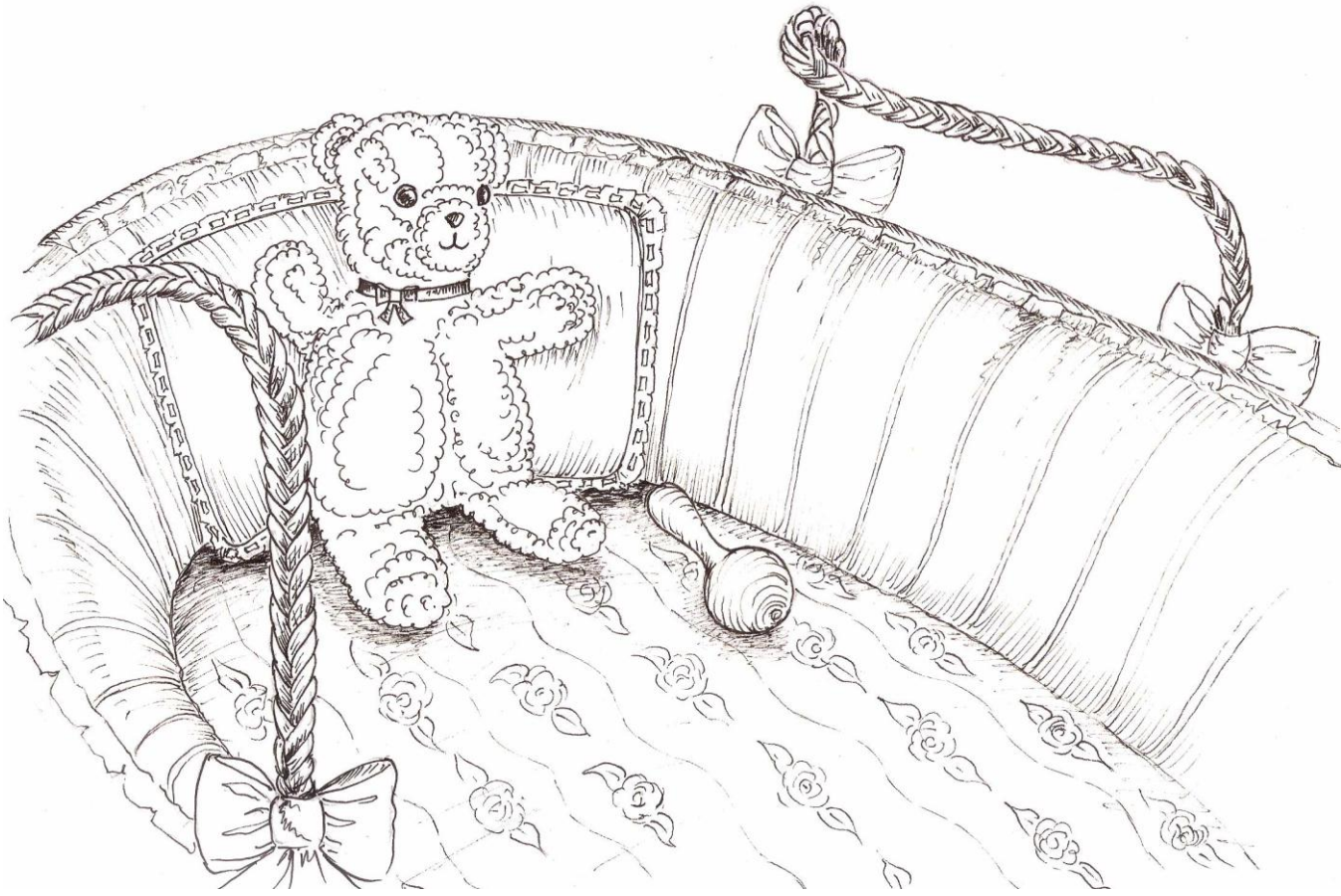
Ted Ted was a smelly teddy. He wasn't smelly from lack of care but from being loved passionately his whole life. Tilly had loved him since the moment she first set eyes on him as a tiny baby. You see, Ted Ted had arrived from America before Tilly was even born and had waited patiently in her cradle.

At first, he just sat and watched Tilly tenderly as she slept, but after a few months she learnt to hold him. From that moment, he was hugged and stroked and cuddled throughout the night, and Tilly refused to sleep without him.

For the first six years of his life, Ted Ted lived the life of a typical English teddy bear. Three years in London and then a move to the country for more space and fresher air. But then, suddenly, the whole family upped sticks and moved to Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia.

Here there were snakes, monkeys, giant lizards and cockroaches the size of your fist and, as if that wasn't enough change to deal with, there were endless trips to other parts of Asia.

It was on one of these holidays that disaster struck...



The location of this calamity was Mumbai in India (which used to be called Bombay). It is one of the largest and most hectic cities in the world with a population of over 19 million people. Mumbai is hot, sticky and extraordinarily dusty – after half an hour of walking in the street you need a shower and your bogies are black from all the dust stuck up your nose!

There are lots of rich people and lots of poor people. To avoid the dust and the squalor in the streets, the rich people stay in their smart cars and smart houses, so you only really notice the poor people. Indeed the crowded streets can be scary at times as people push past and beggars hassle you for food and money.

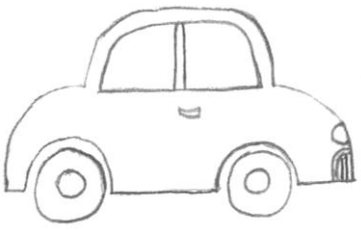
Ted Ted and the family were staying at The Royal Bombay Yacht Club, an old but beautiful colonial establishment which had, to be honest, seen better days. They had a large room at the end of the corridor which had once been elegant but which was now rather faded and dirty. Outside the room hovered an elderly, wrinkled Indian who was the cleaning man, or to be precise, the

Not so good at cleaning man!

He was a kind man but one of his eyeballs was a milky white, for he was blind in that eye, and it made him look frightening.

The room had several large pretty windows with window sills which the children quickly jumped on to get a better view of the street.

Immediately below their room was a queue of hundreds and hundreds of old fashioned black taxis that look exactly like my best drawing of a car. The queue stretched right round the corner and then round the next corner and though it was hard to see, appeared to be going round the corner after that.



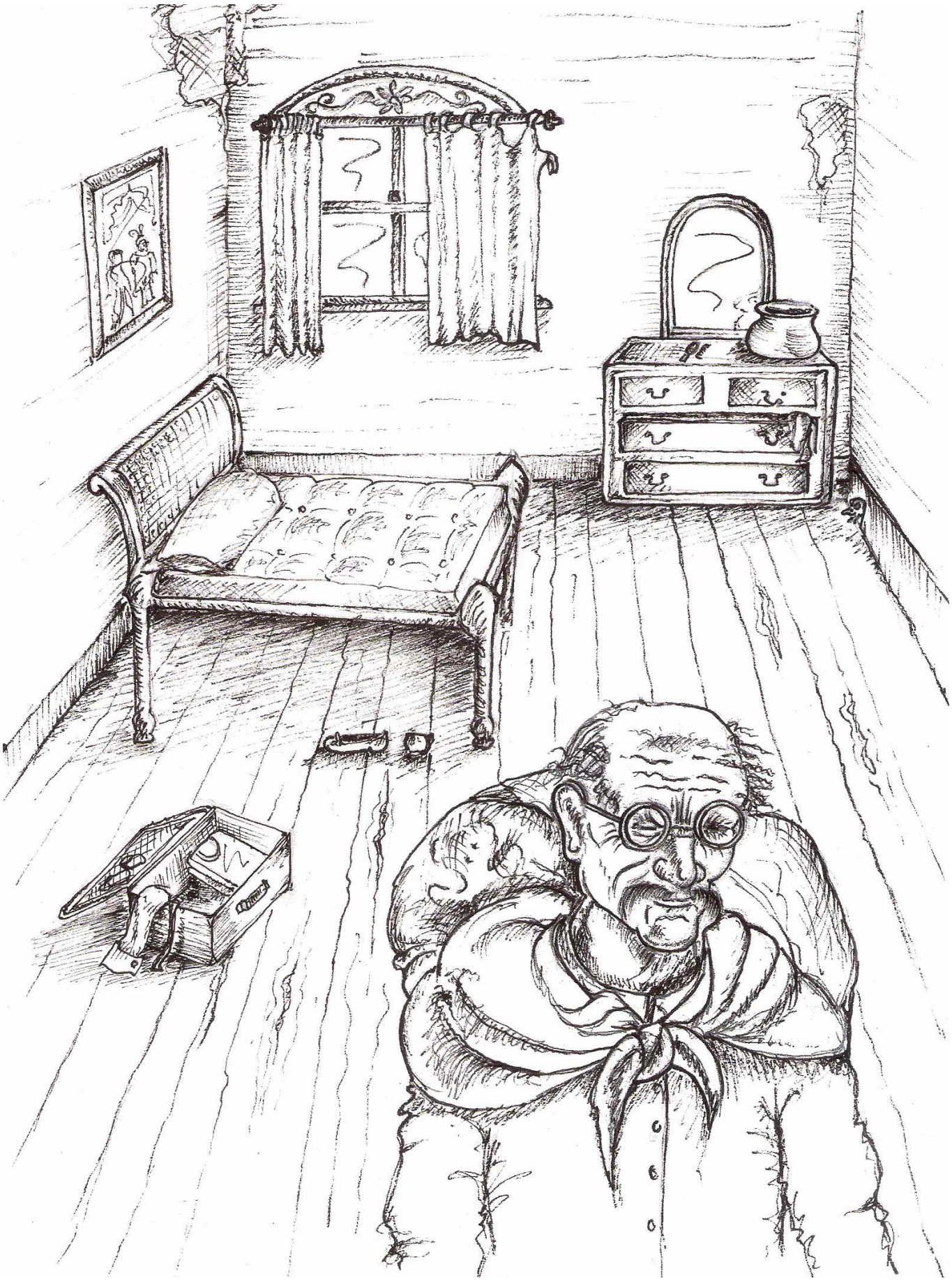
Alexandra's best drawing of a car

The first three days of the trip passed relatively uneventfully for Ted Ted. During the day he was left in the room with his friend Bluely (who belonged to Tilly's little sister, Aggie). Ted Ted and Bluely would sit and listen to the endless honking of horns coming from the streets and in the evening Tilly and Aggie would return and tell them all about the extraordinary things they had seen that day.

But on the morning of the fourth day, Tilly was so tired that she cuddled down in bed with Ted Ted whilst everyone else was getting ready. As a result, when it was time to go, she had to rush and left the small bear half way down the bed.

Ted Ted knew he was in danger because he was white and was hidden by the sheets. A few moments after the family had left, the door opened and someone walked in. Ted Ted realised that it was the one-eyed-not-so-good-at-cleaning-man who had come to take the sheets away and he trembled with fright.

He could hear the man's heavy breathing as he bent down, collected up the sheets and tied them into a neat bundle. Just as he had feared, Ted Ted was trapped in that bundle and immediately felt himself rising into the air and bobbing along to the rhythm of the man's walk.



Ted Ted was terrified. He had no idea where this man was taking him and he realised that very probably he would never see Tilly again. As he lay squashed up in the bundle of laundry, he tried desperately to see through the sheets. But it was no good. All he could see through the white was a few blurred shadows. He suddenly began to shake violently, partly through fear but also because he was now travelling in a very basic vehicle along a road that was full of pot holes.

Where was he going? Ted Ted had no idea.

As you can imagine, Tilly and the family were completely unaware of what was happening to Ted Ted. They were enjoying a happy day's sightseeing in Mumbai.