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Opening extract from

Ted Ted, Trouble in Tokyo

Written by

Alexandra Carey

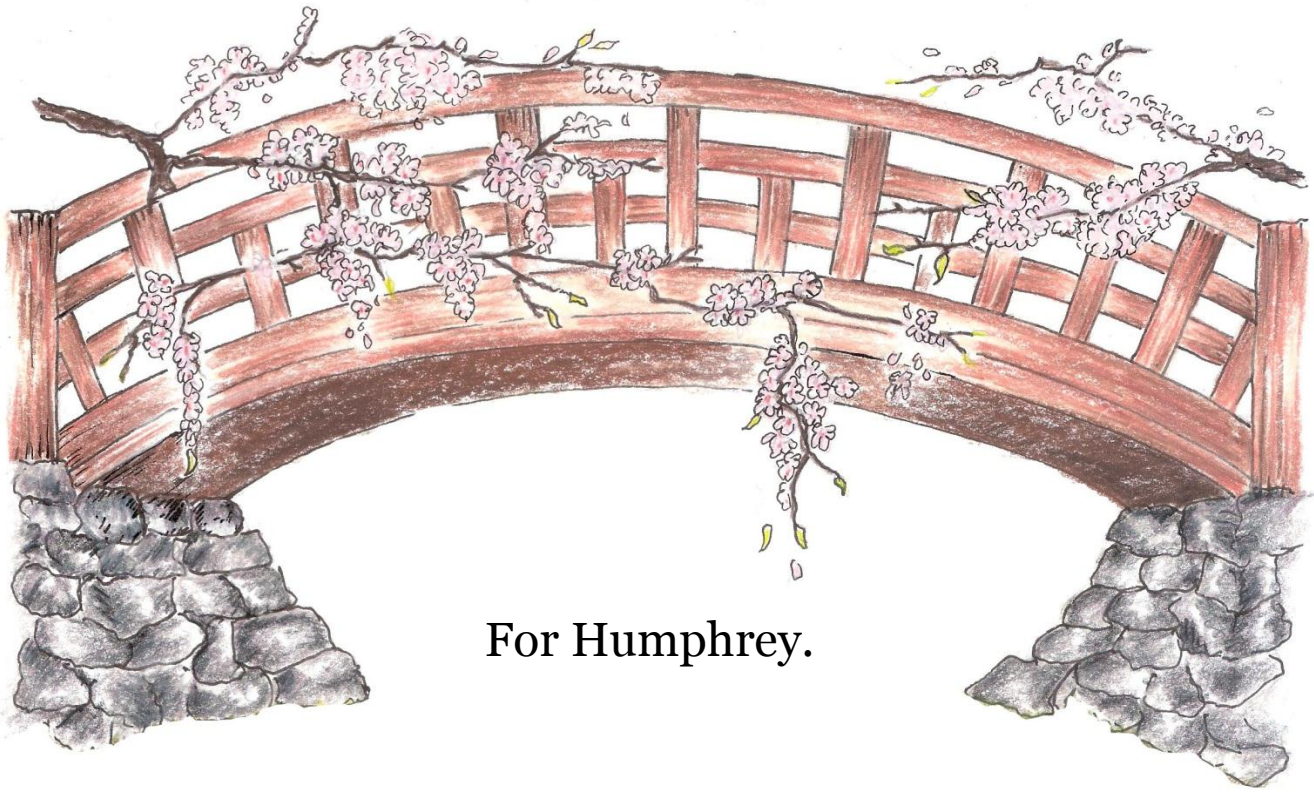
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For Humphrey.

Other books in this series:
Ted Ted and the Dhobi Ghats.

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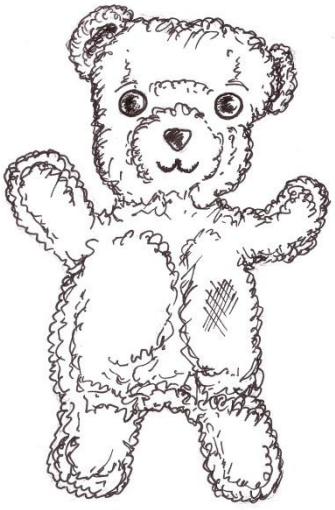
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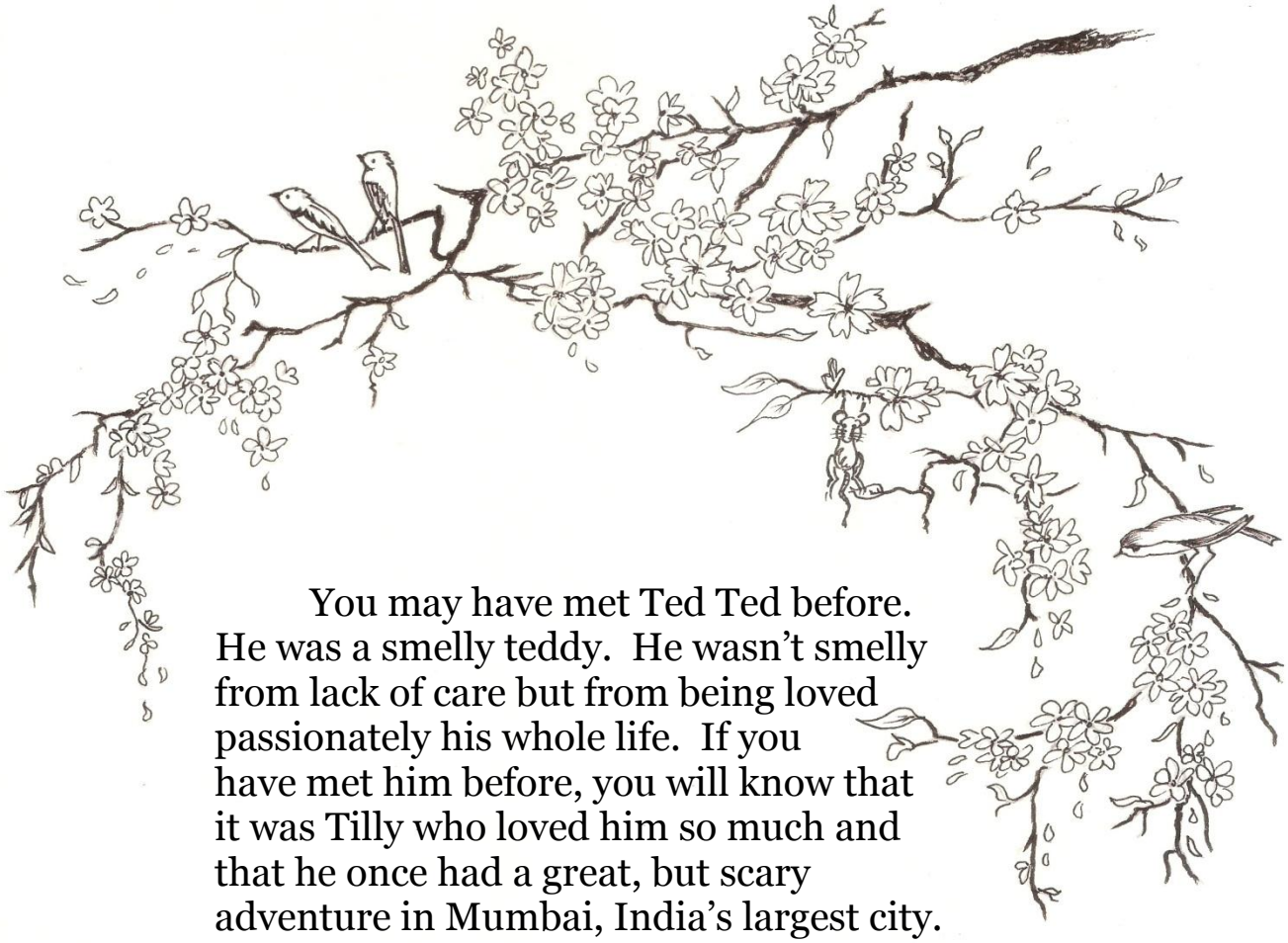
TED TED



TROUBLE IN TOKYO

Illustrated by
Antonia Ghazlan

HB



You may have met Ted Ted before. He was a smelly teddy. He wasn't smelly from lack of care but from being loved passionately his whole life. If you have met him before, you will know that it was Tilly who loved him so much and that he once had a great, but scary adventure in Mumbai, India's largest city.

After that terrible time in Mumbai, when Tilly and Ted Ted were separated and thought they might never see each other again, Tilly promised him he would come with her wherever she went.

And so, for their next Easter holidays, when the family went to visit Tokyo, Japan's capital city, Ted Ted was allowed to join their sightseeing trips.

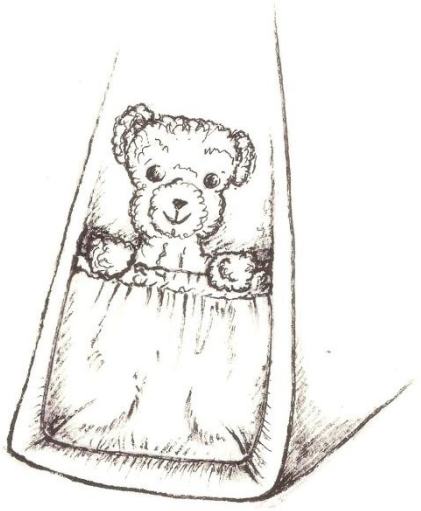
On the first morning the family, (Tilly, her little sister Aggie, and their father and mother) woke up at the crack of dawn. They were going to the famous Tokyo Fish Market which opens very early in the morning.



The girls giggled hopelessly as their father struggled over a Japanese breakfast of some strange looking fish with rice and what appeared to be seaweed. They were relieved when the waitress brought them delicious looking croissants!

Spring had just arrived and the famous cherry blossom was blooming. For the Japanese people this signals the end of an often hard and bitter winter. But, despite the cherry blossom, the weather was cold and brisk. Everyone wrapped up warm.

Carefully, Tilly wedged Ted Ted into the side pocket of her backpack with his head poking out so he could admire the view. Off they set.



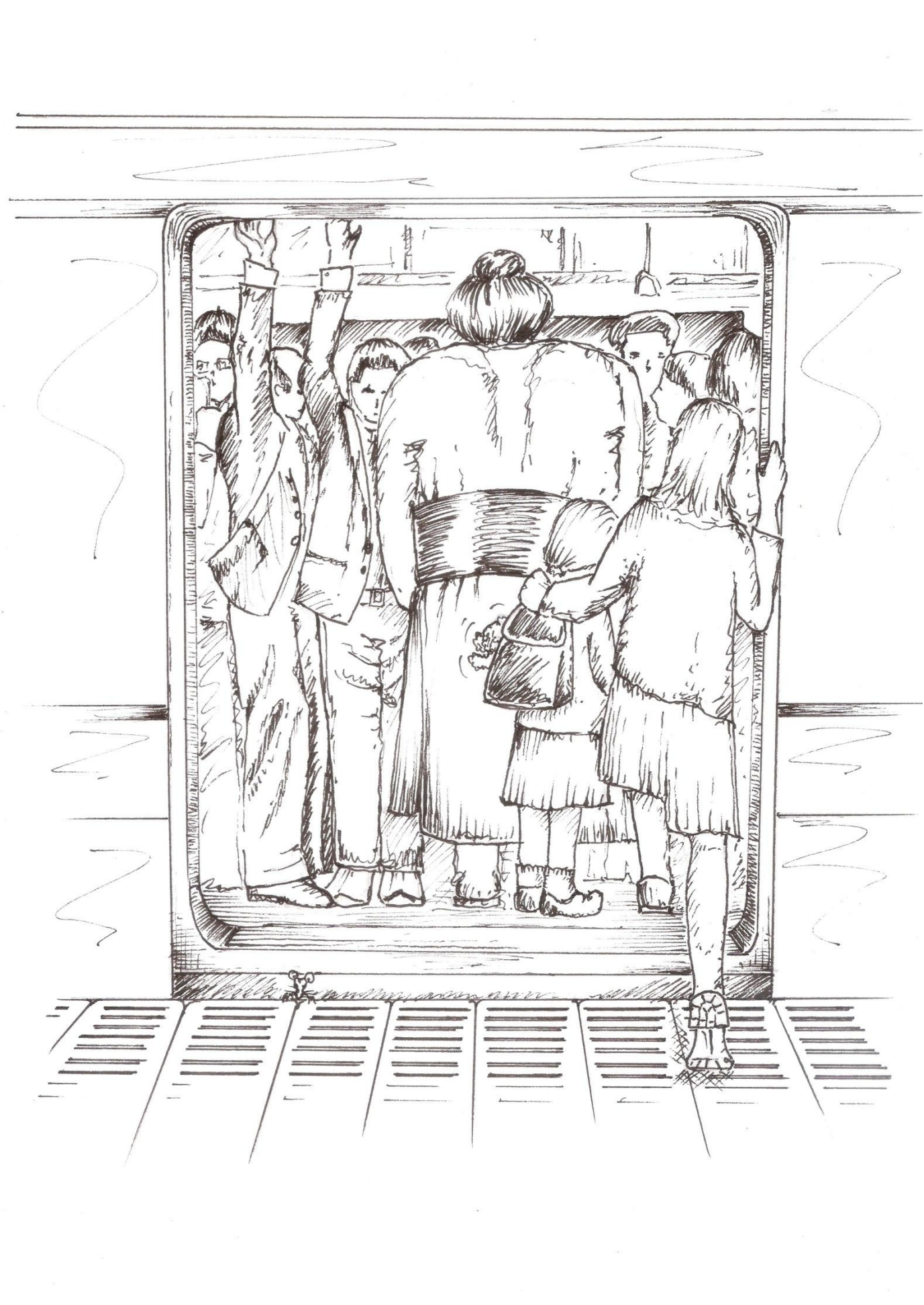
The fish market was on the other side of the city from where the family was staying so they decided to take Tokyo's famously busy subway.

As they arrived at the subway station, they were overwhelmed by a huge crowd - hundreds of people on the platform, squashed together like sardines in a can. It was scary, especially for the children.

Tilly held her mother's hand tightly. A large Japanese man was squashed into her on the other side. He was so big that she decided he must be a sumo wrestler. Sumo is Japanese wrestling where the wrestlers are usually very large and pear shaped. This sumo wrestler was wearing a traditional Japanese black gown with a wide belt.

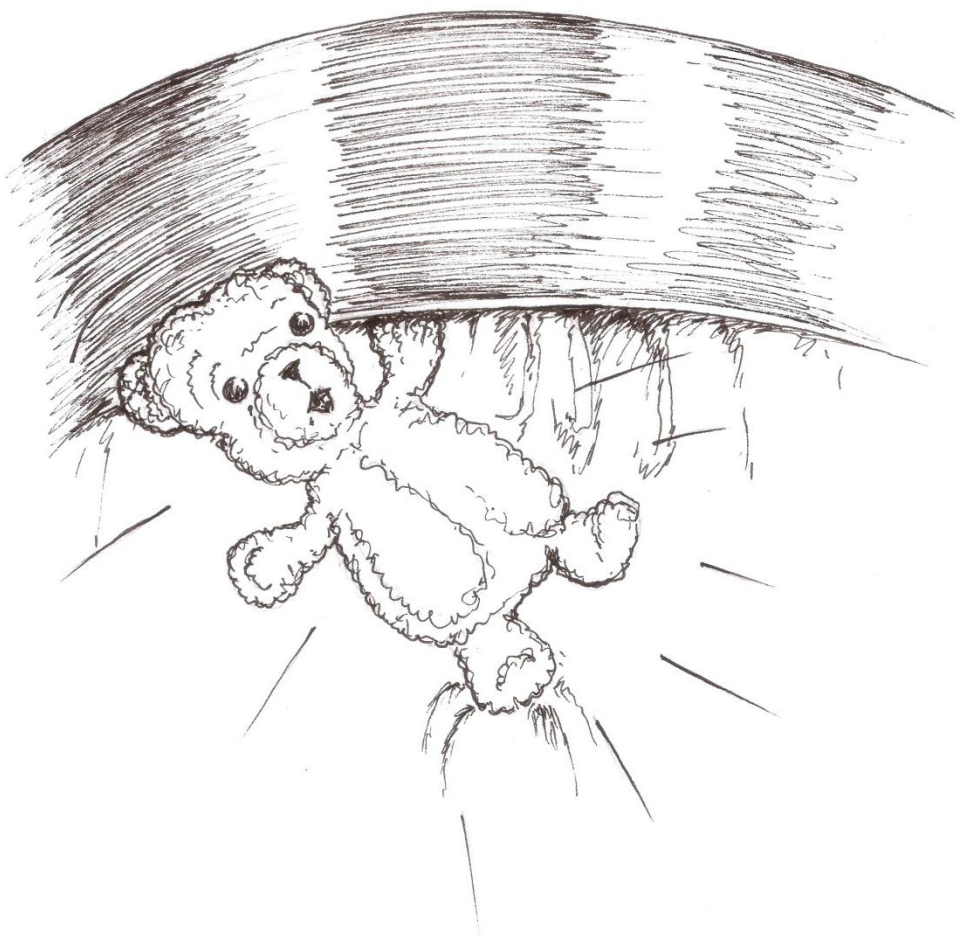
When the train arrived, the squeezing and shoving became crazy and the family was pushed forwards by the tide of people.

Ted Ted was alarmed because he was squashed into the sumo wrestler's fleshy back! As everyone crowded onto the train, it seemed there might be just enough space for the family.



Tilly and her mother wriggled on, but then Mother suddenly realised that Father and Aggie couldn't fit in and might get trapped in the door. So, she stepped back abruptly and pulled Tilly out of the train.

But...Ted Ted's arm had become wedged under the sumo wrestler's wide belt. As Tilly was jerked out, Ted Ted was wrenched from her backpack pocket and fell to the floor of the train just as the doors were closing. The train sped off...





A 17-year old Japanese girl called Yuki saw the whole disastrous scene unfold. She was a typical trendy Tokyo teenager obsessed with fashion. In Tokyo, teenagers like to wear brightly coloured clothes with lots of mad accessories.

Yuki was wearing a dazzling pink mini skirt and a furry white jacket with leopard print spots. On her legs she wore black and white striped knee-high socks and black lace-up boots with huge wedgie heels.

Her outfit was crowned by a hair band with a shiny bright purple bow and furry leopard print ears. What a combination!

Yuki realised that no one, least of all Tilly, had seen what had happened to Ted Ted and she immediately wanted to get the teddy bear back to the little girl.

She tried to pick him up from the train floor but couldn't reach him. She nudged him towards her with the toe of her groovy boot and then guarded him, like a baby penguin, between her feet until the next stop.

There, as soon as a few people got out, she picked him up. Although now 17, Yuki still had all her teddy bears on her bed in her small bedroom in her parents' apartment.

She thought Ted Ted was especially cute and she knew immediately how important he was to that little English girl.

