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Opening extract from
**Sir Charlie Stinky Socks and the
Wizard's Whisper**

Written by
Kristina Stephenson

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For Nathaniel Brunner – an inspirational knight,
in memory of his wonderful mum, Cat Johnson. With love. X
K.S.

*Sir Charlie Stinky Socks would like to donate 10% of the royalties from
the sale of this book to Naomi House Children's Hospice.*

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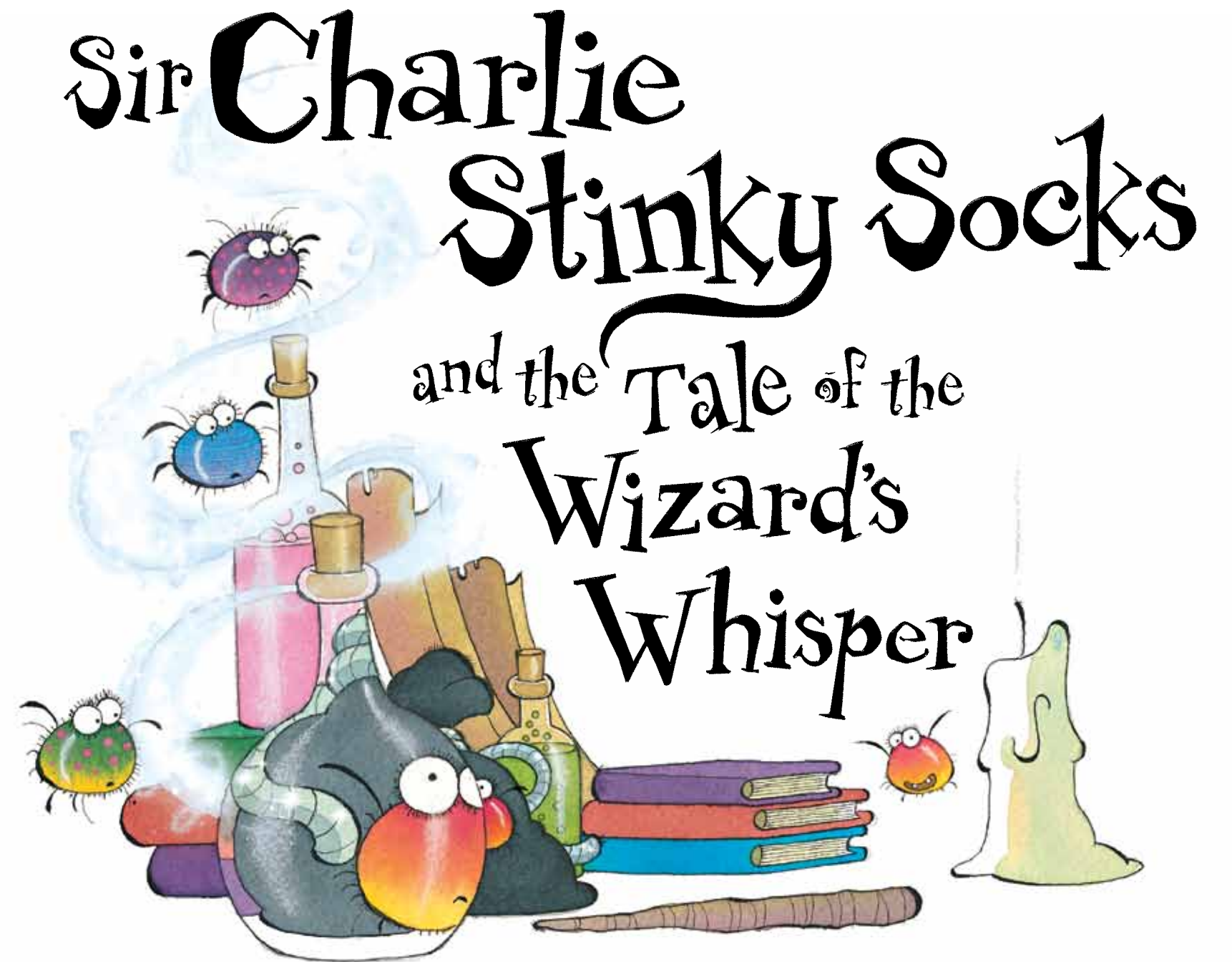
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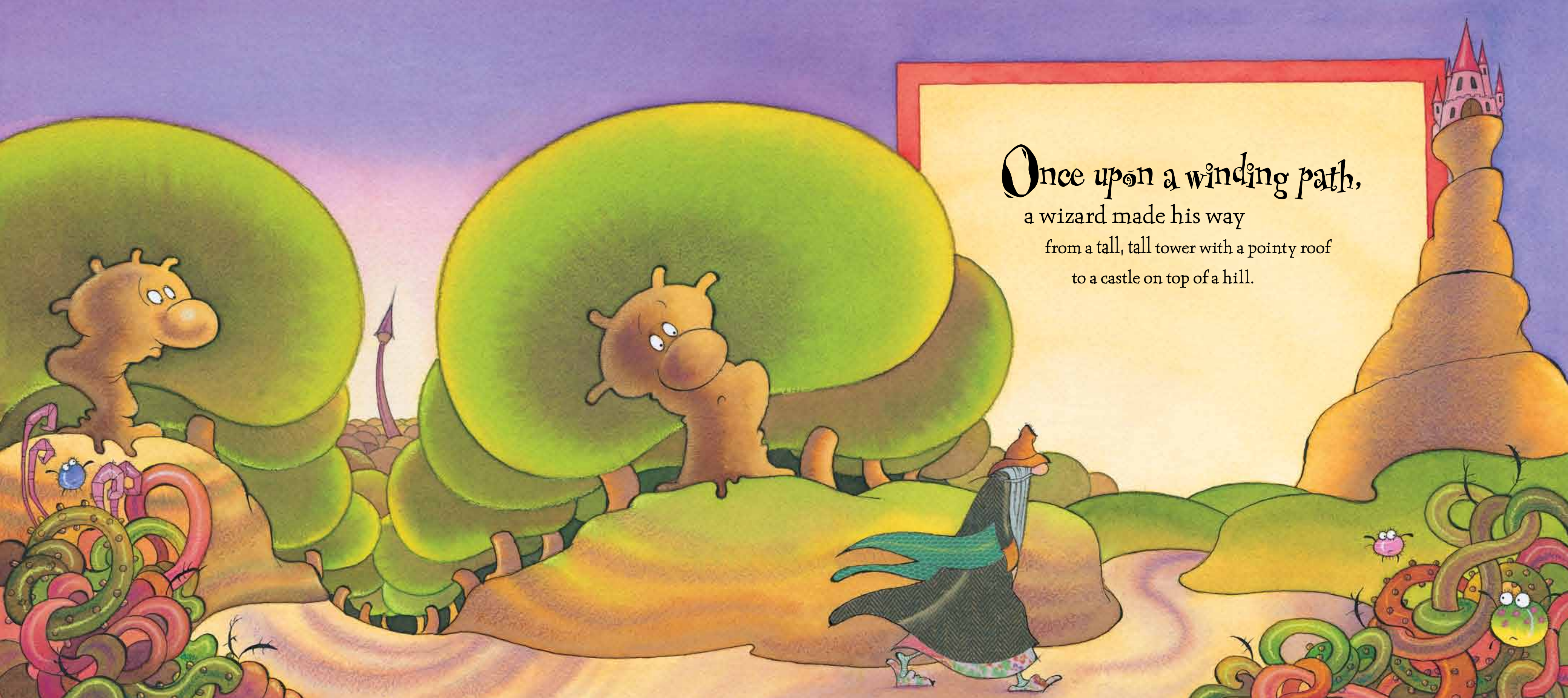
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Kristina Stephenson

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A whimsical illustration of a wizard walking through a landscape. The wizard, wearing a black robe and a pointed hat, is walking towards the right. In the background, there are large, rounded green trees and a tall, winding path leading up to a castle with a pointy roof. The scene is set against a purple sky. The text is written in a stylized font, with the first line being larger and more decorative than the others.

Once upon a winding path,
a wizard made his way
from a tall, tall tower with a pointy roof
to a castle on top of a hill.



"I've heard a rumour," said the wizard to the king, "that a legendary knight is here. A hero of old, who I've been told, has helped dragons, monsters, princesses and . . .

kings.

If the rumour is right then he's the *perfect* knight to do a little something for *me*.

Hee hee."

The king of the castle scuttled off to fetch . . .



... Sir Charlie Stinky Socks who – along with his faithful, fearless cat, Envelope, and his good grey mare – *was* in the castle on that very night ...

looking for a *new* adventure.



"Listen well," said the wizard,
"here's what I need you to do.

Take a treacherous track,
to a **spooky-wooky wood**,
and look for a **deep, dark cave**.

Inside the cave is a little black sack,
tied with a silver string.

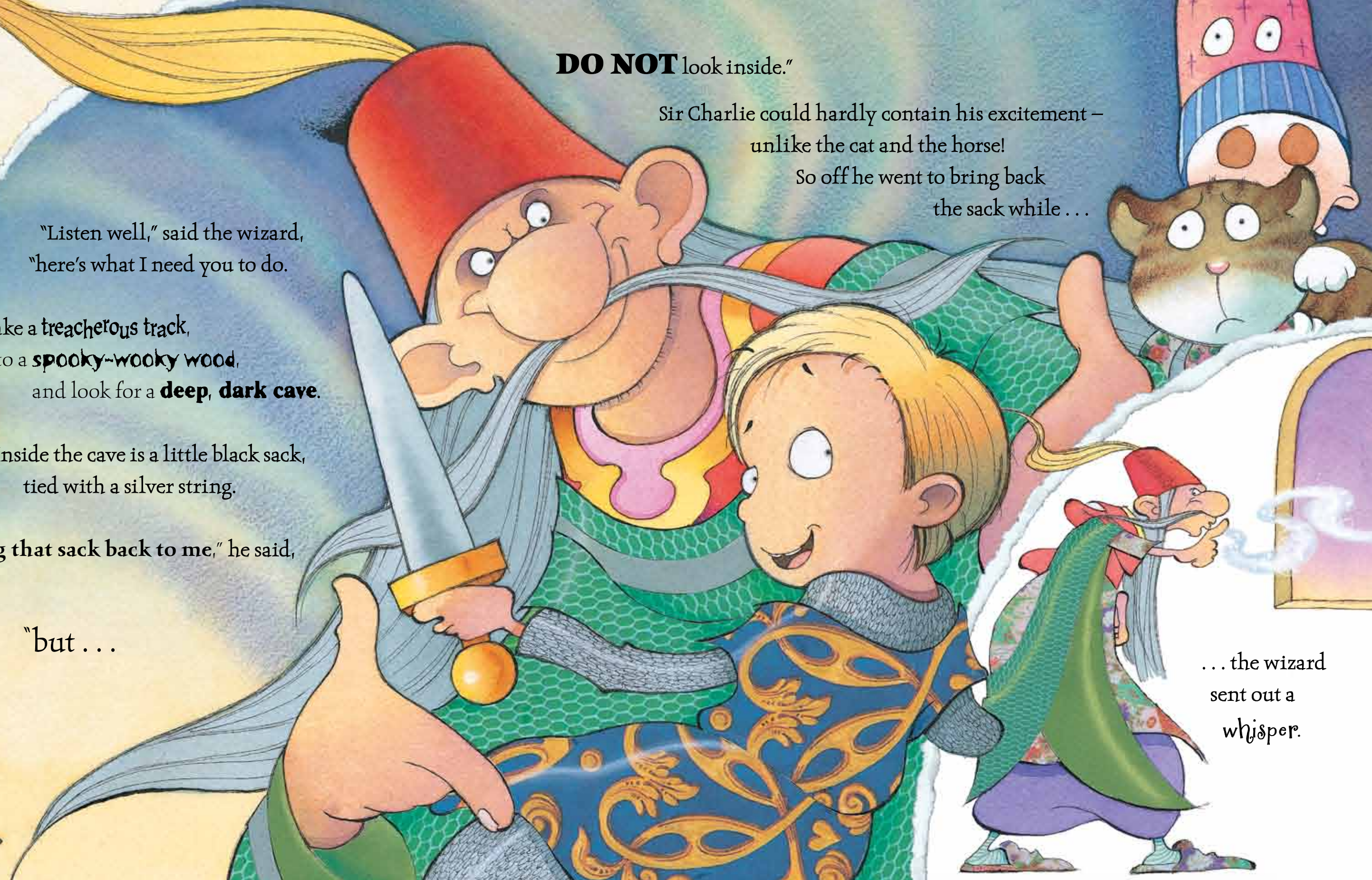
Bring that sack back to me," he said,

"but ...

DO NOT look inside."

Sir Charlie could hardly contain his excitement –
unlike the cat and the horse!

So off he went to bring back
the sack while ...



... the wizard
sent out a
whisper.