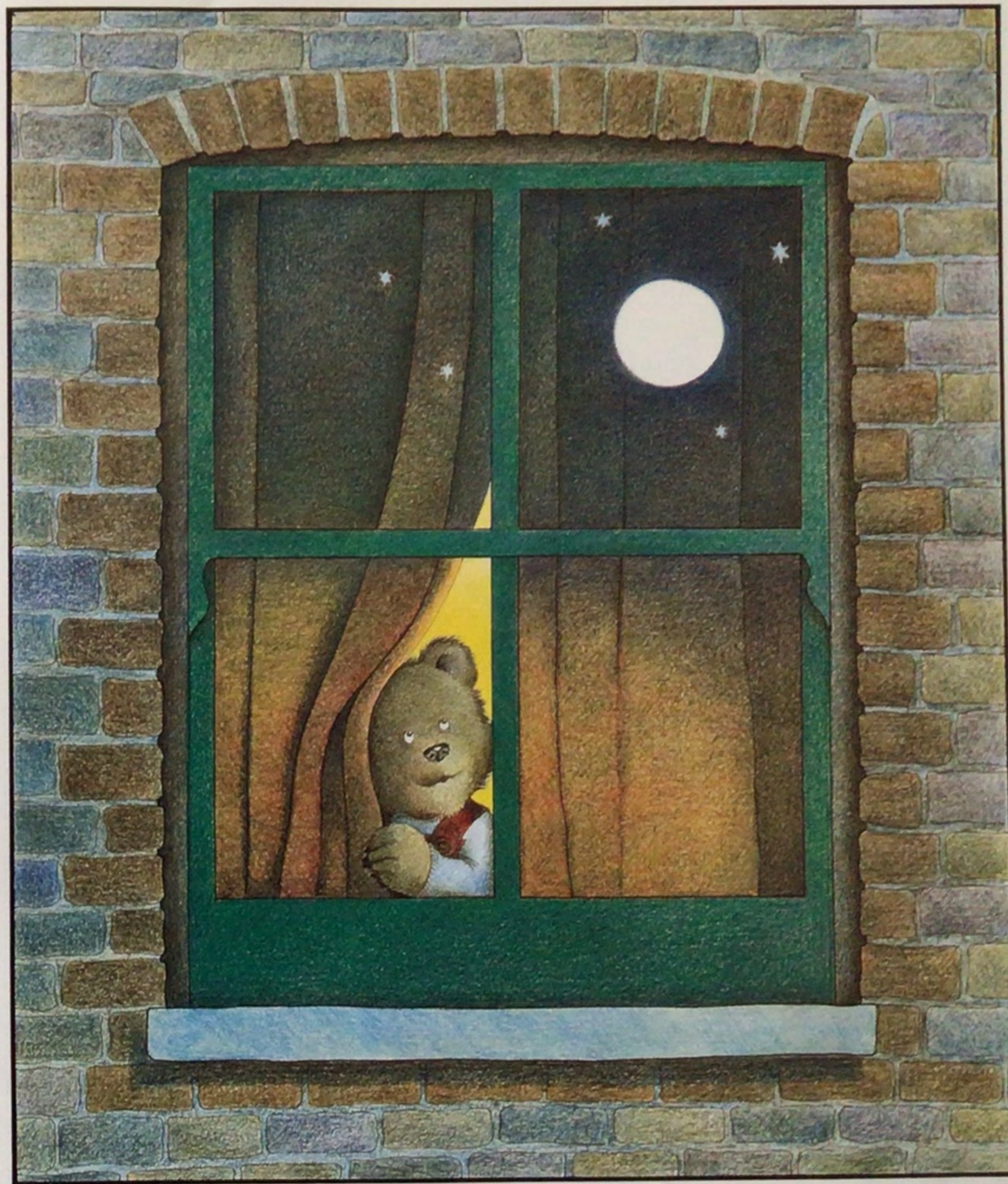


# *Whatever Next!*

JILL MURPHY



'THE BIG BEDTIME READ'  
Ballyclare Nursery School  
Grange Drive  
BALLYCLARE  
BT39 9EY

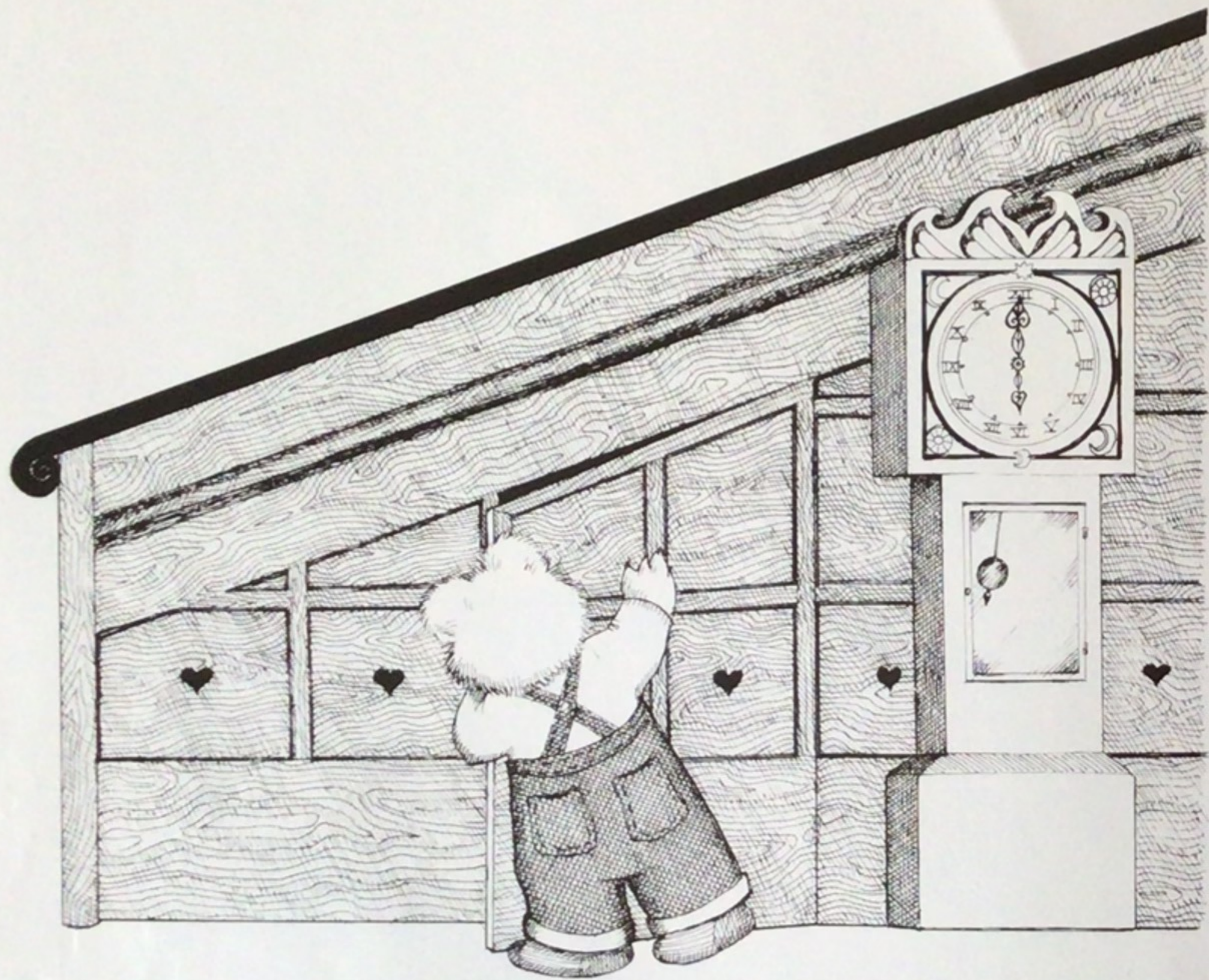


“Can I go to the moon?” asked Baby Bear.

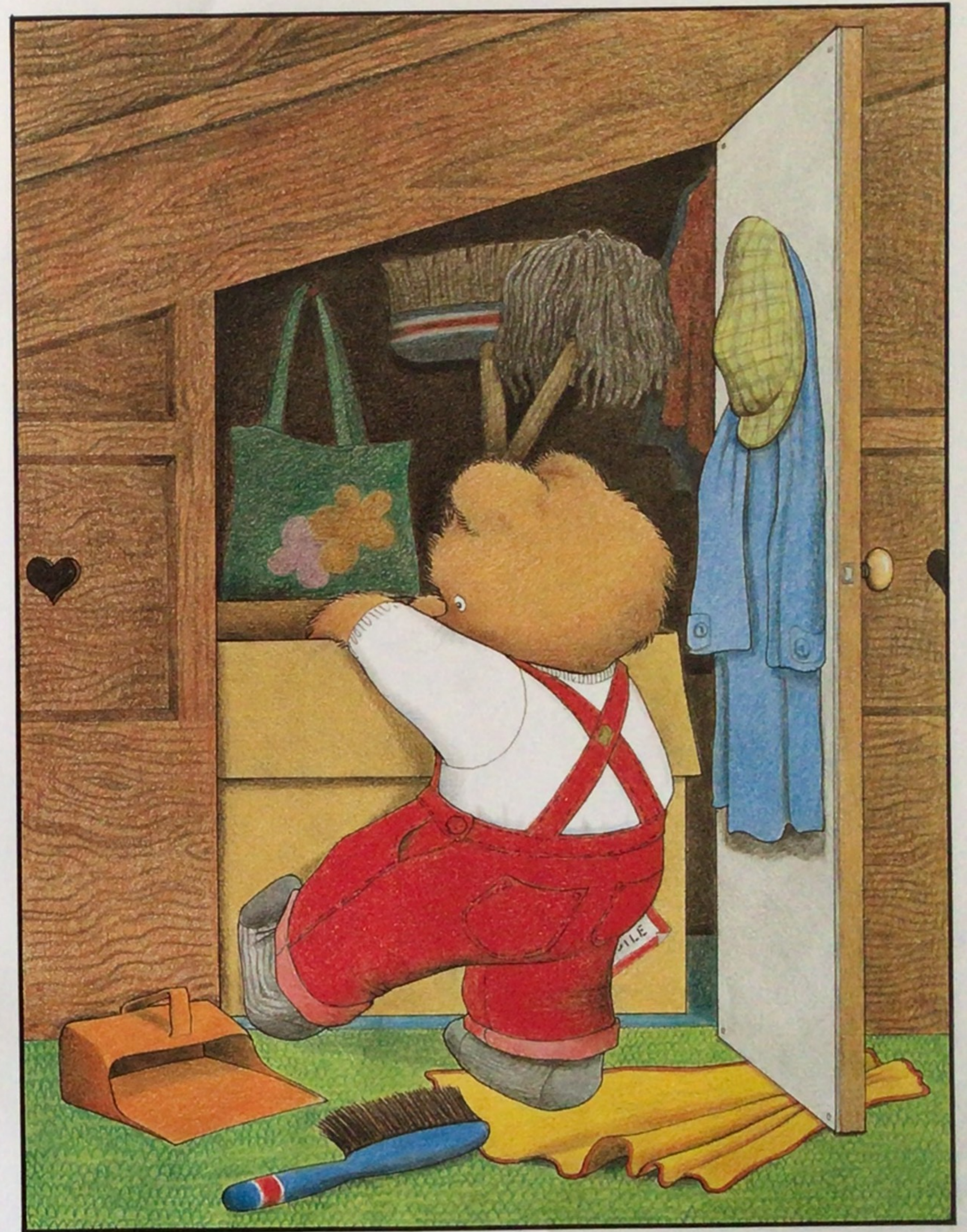


“No, you can’t,” said Mrs Bear.  
“It’s bathtime. Anyway, you’d have  
to find a rocket first.”



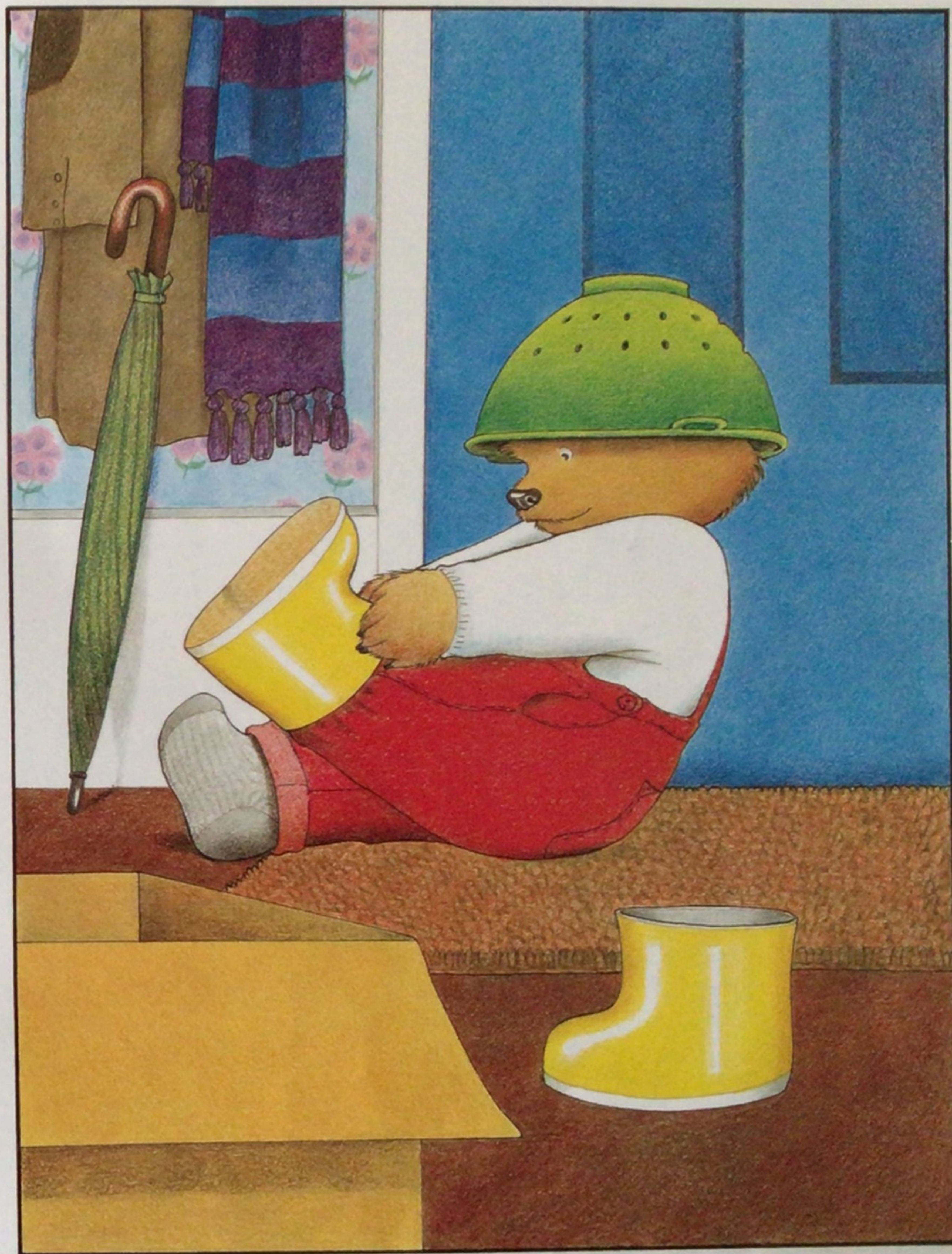


Baby Bear found a rocket  
in the cupboard under the stairs.



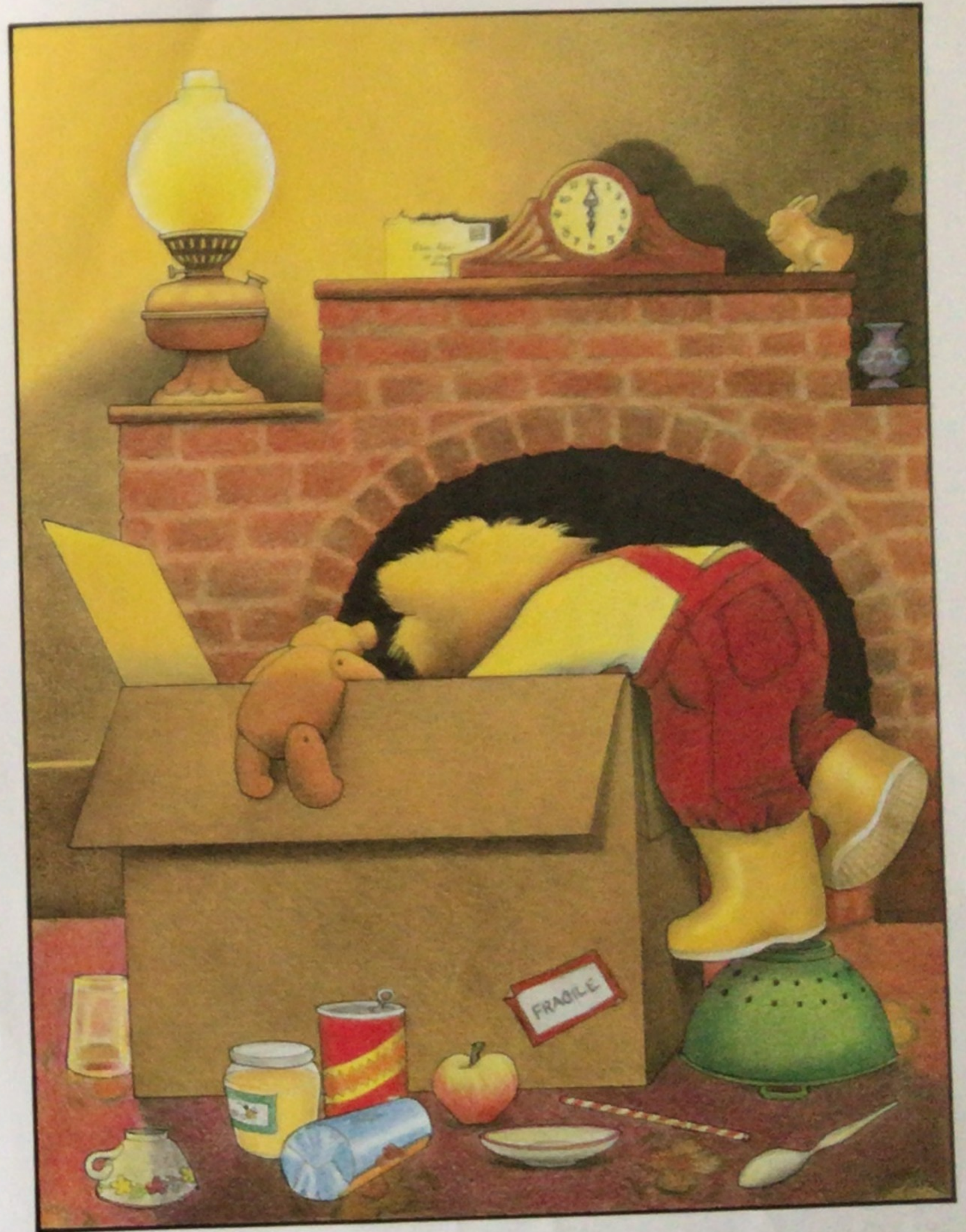


He found a space helmet  
on the draining board in the kitchen,  
and a pair of space boots  
on the mat by the front door.





He packed his teddy  
and some food for the journey  
and took off up the chimney . . .



... WHOOSH! out into the night.





An owl flew past.

"That's a smart rocket," he said.

"Where are you off to?"

"The moon," said Baby Bear.

"Would you like to come too?"

"Yes please," said the owl.





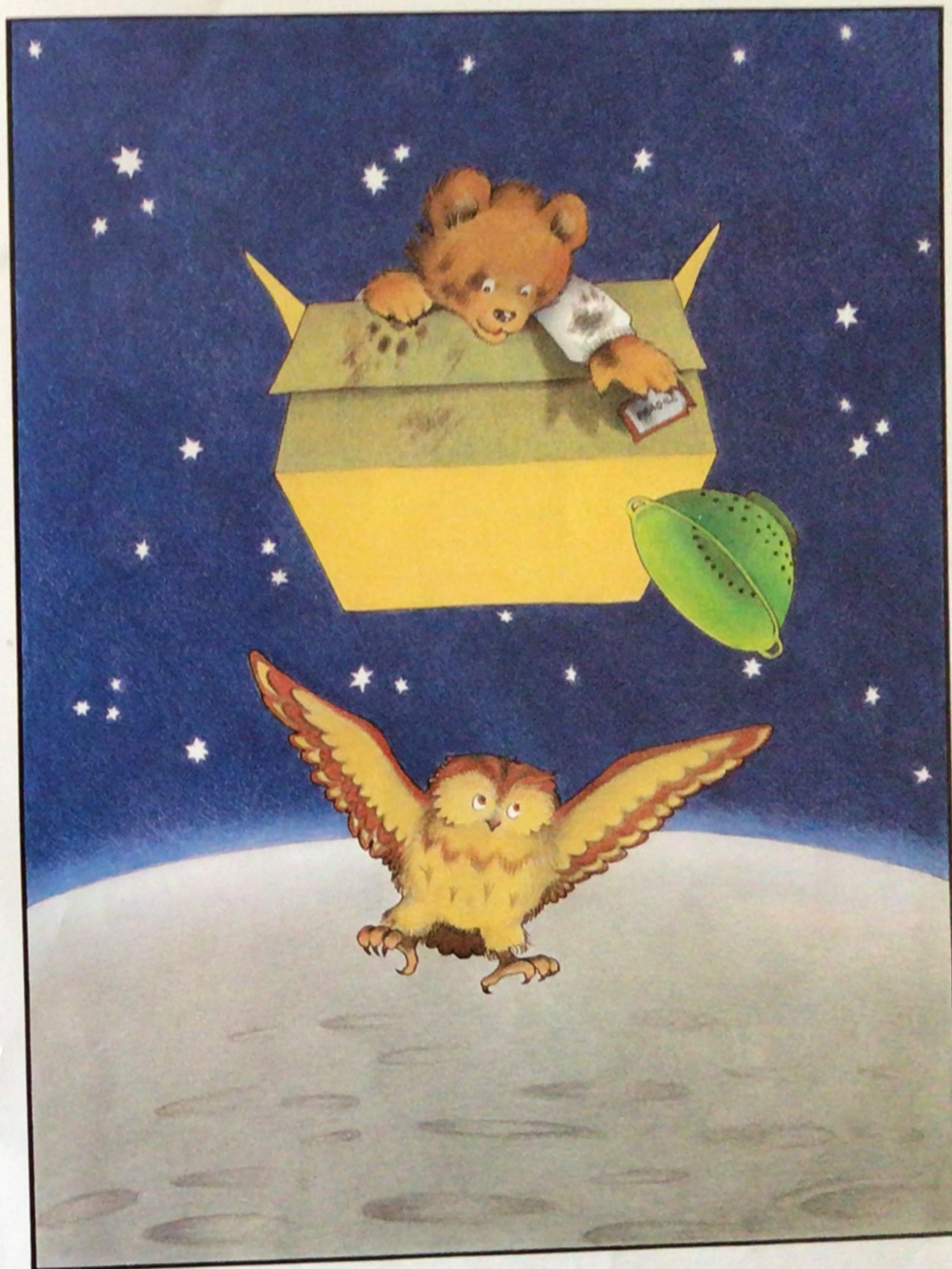


An aeroplane roared out of the clouds.  
Baby Bear waved and some of  
the passengers waved back.





On and on they flew,  
up and up, above the clouds,  
past millions of stars till  
at last they landed on the moon.





"There's nobody here," said Baby Bear.

"There are no trees," said the owl.

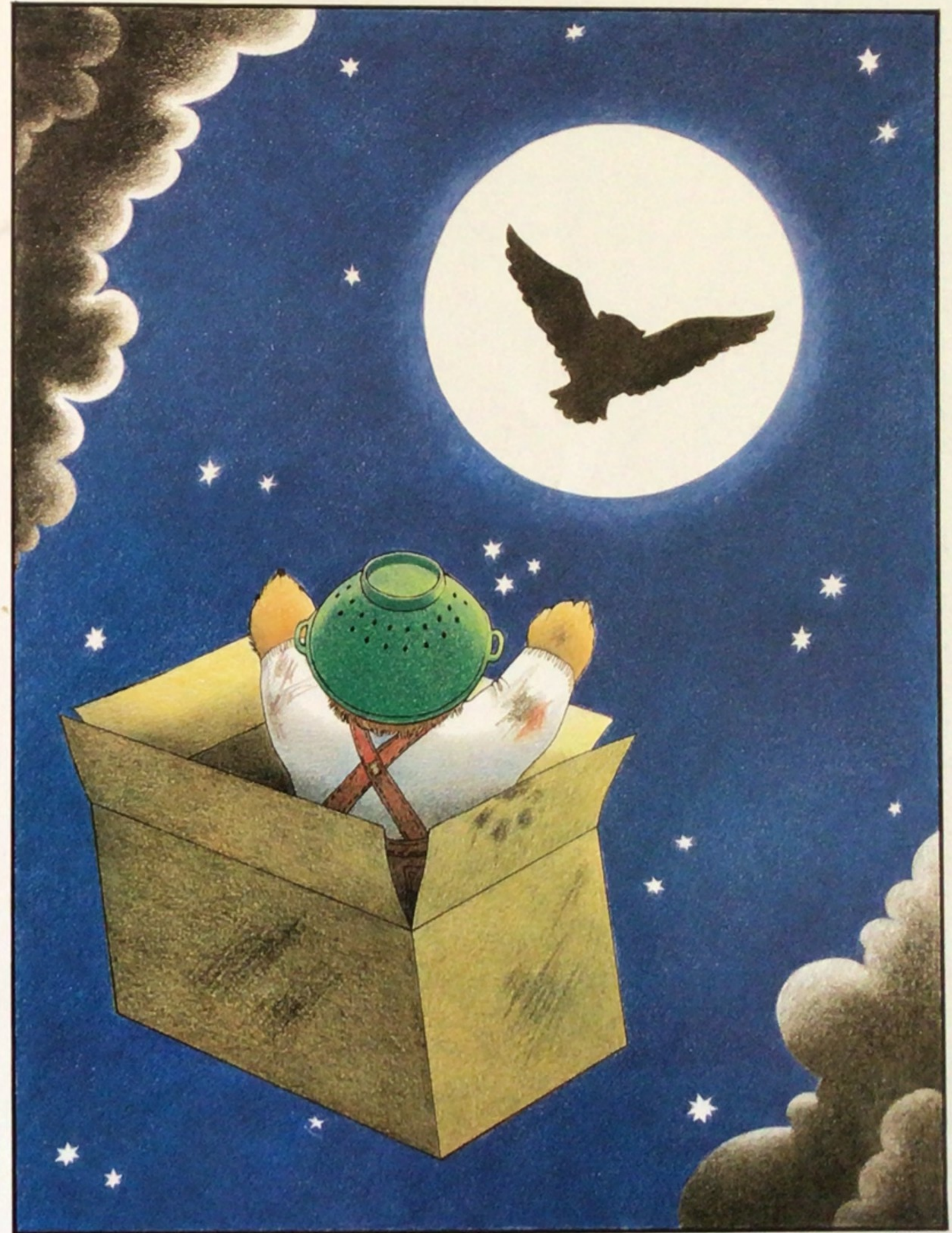
"It's a bit boring," said Baby Bear.

"Shall we have a picnic?"

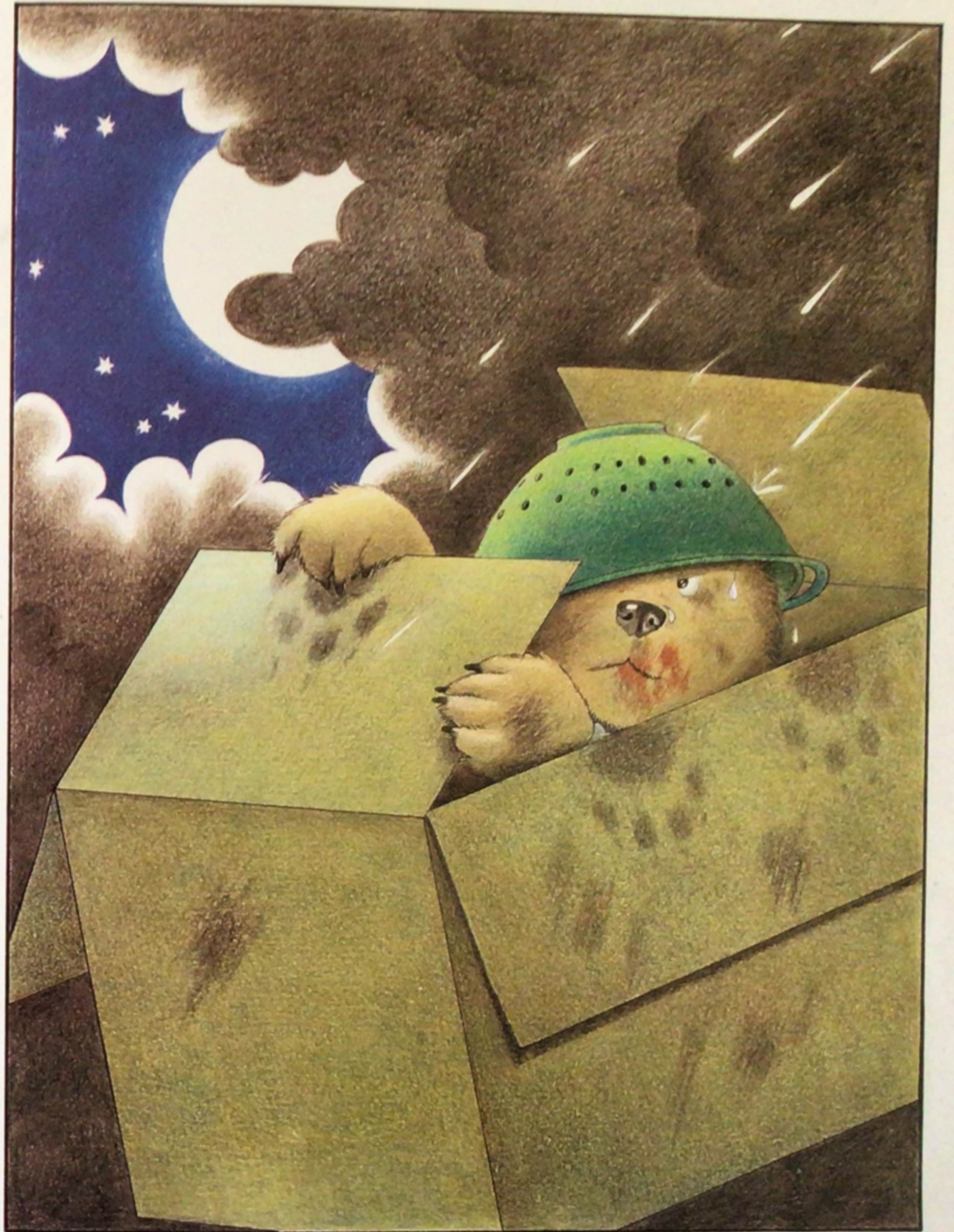
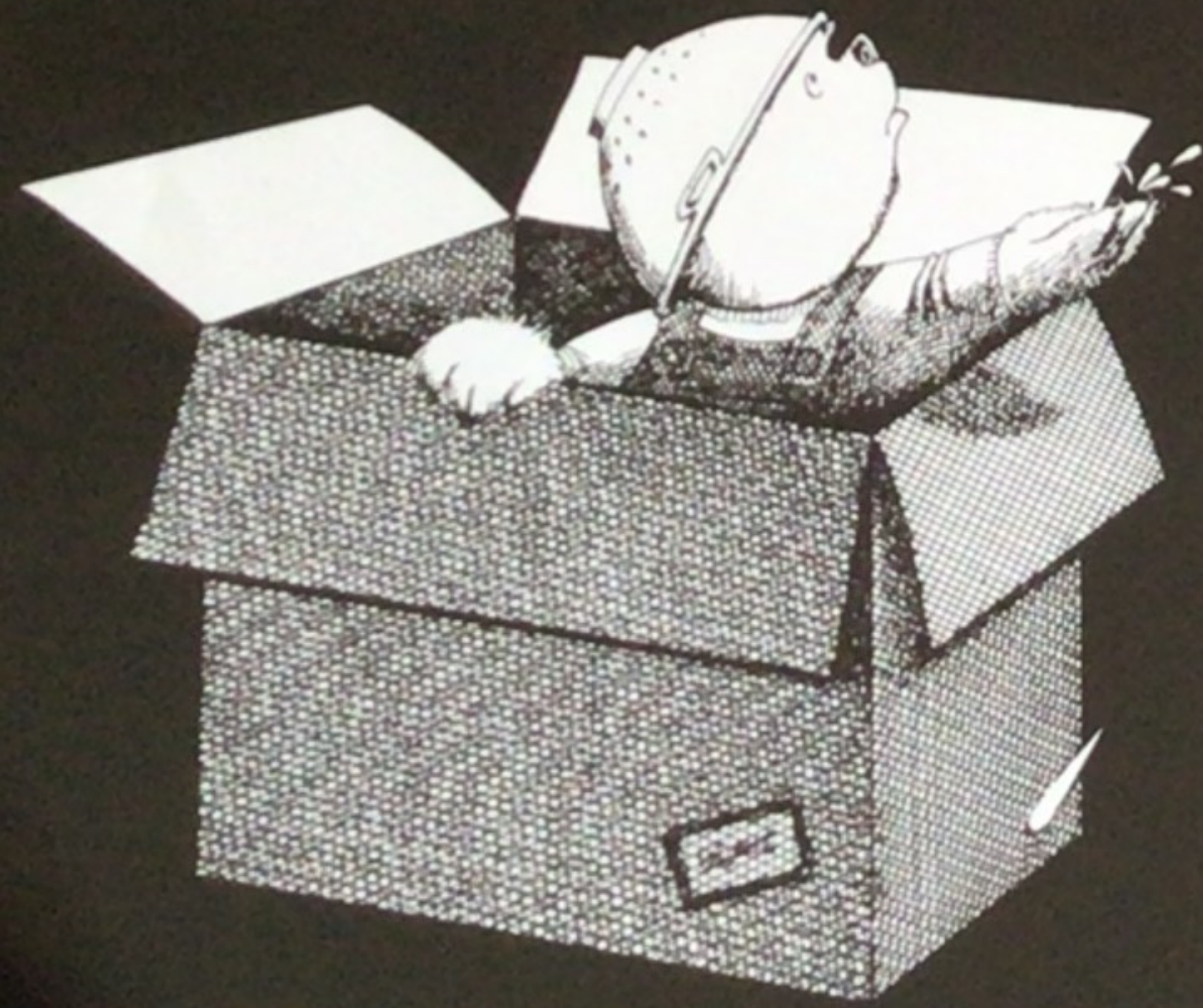
"What a good idea," said the owl.



“We’d better go,” said Baby Bear.  
“My bath must be ready by now.”  
Off they went, down and down.  
The owl got out and flew away.  
“Goodbye,” he said. “It was so nice  
to meet you.”

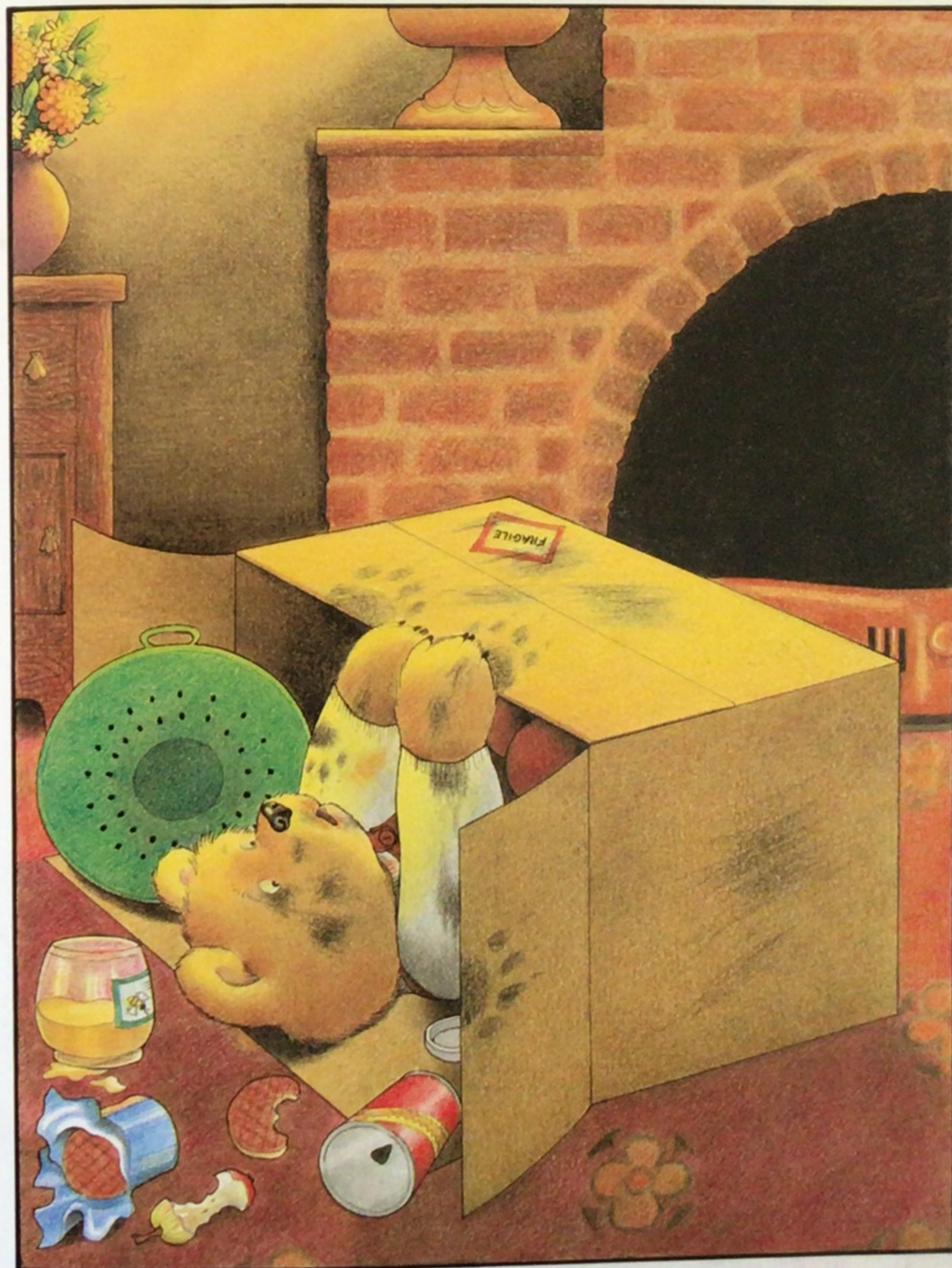


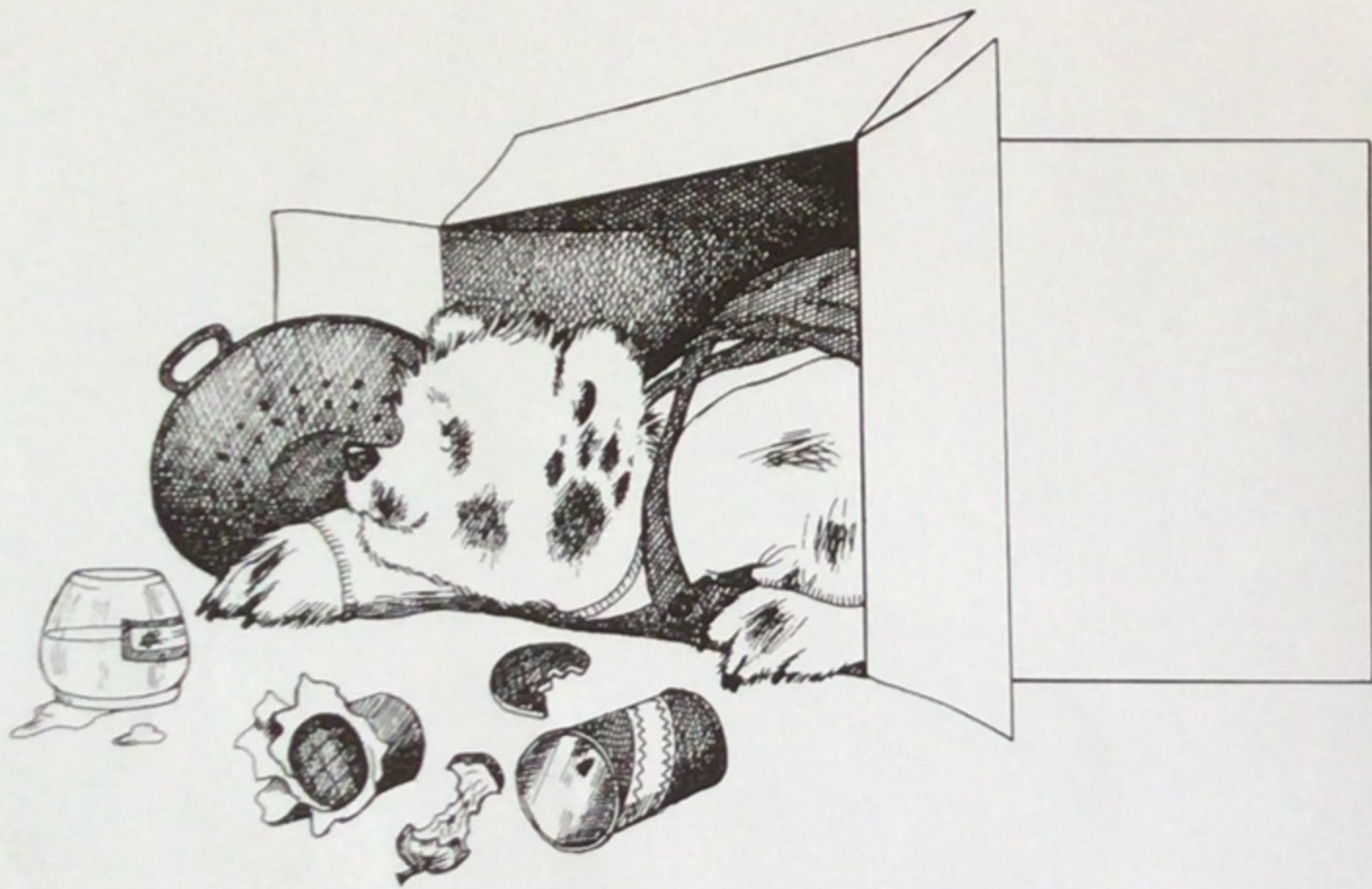
It rained and  
the rain dripped through  
Baby Bear's helmet.



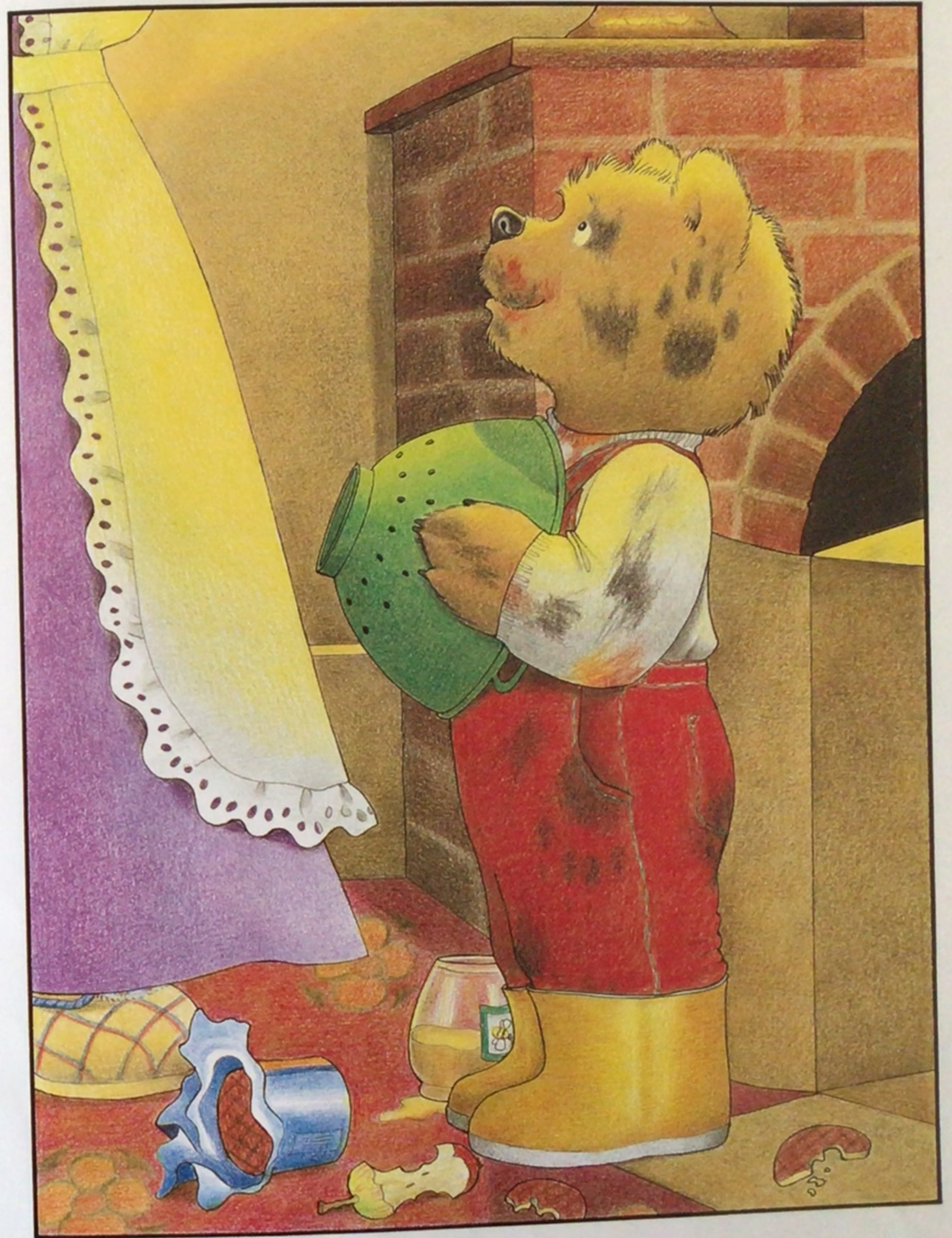


Home went Baby Bear.  
Back down the chimney  
and on to the living room carpet  
with a BUMP!





Mrs Bear came into the room.  
“Look at the *state* of you!” she gasped  
as she led him away to the bathroom.  
“Why, you look as if you’ve been up  
the chimney.”





“As a matter of fact,” said Baby Bear,  
“I *have* been up the chimney.  
I found a rocket and went to  
visit the moon.”  
Mrs Bear laughed.  
“You and your stories,” she said.  
“Whatever next?”





The moon and back before bathtime?  
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