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Someday I'll Be a Queen

A Pawn's Journey Across the Chess Board

Christel Minne

Illustrations: Diriq

PART 1

Pompon Pawn Takes Us on an Adventure

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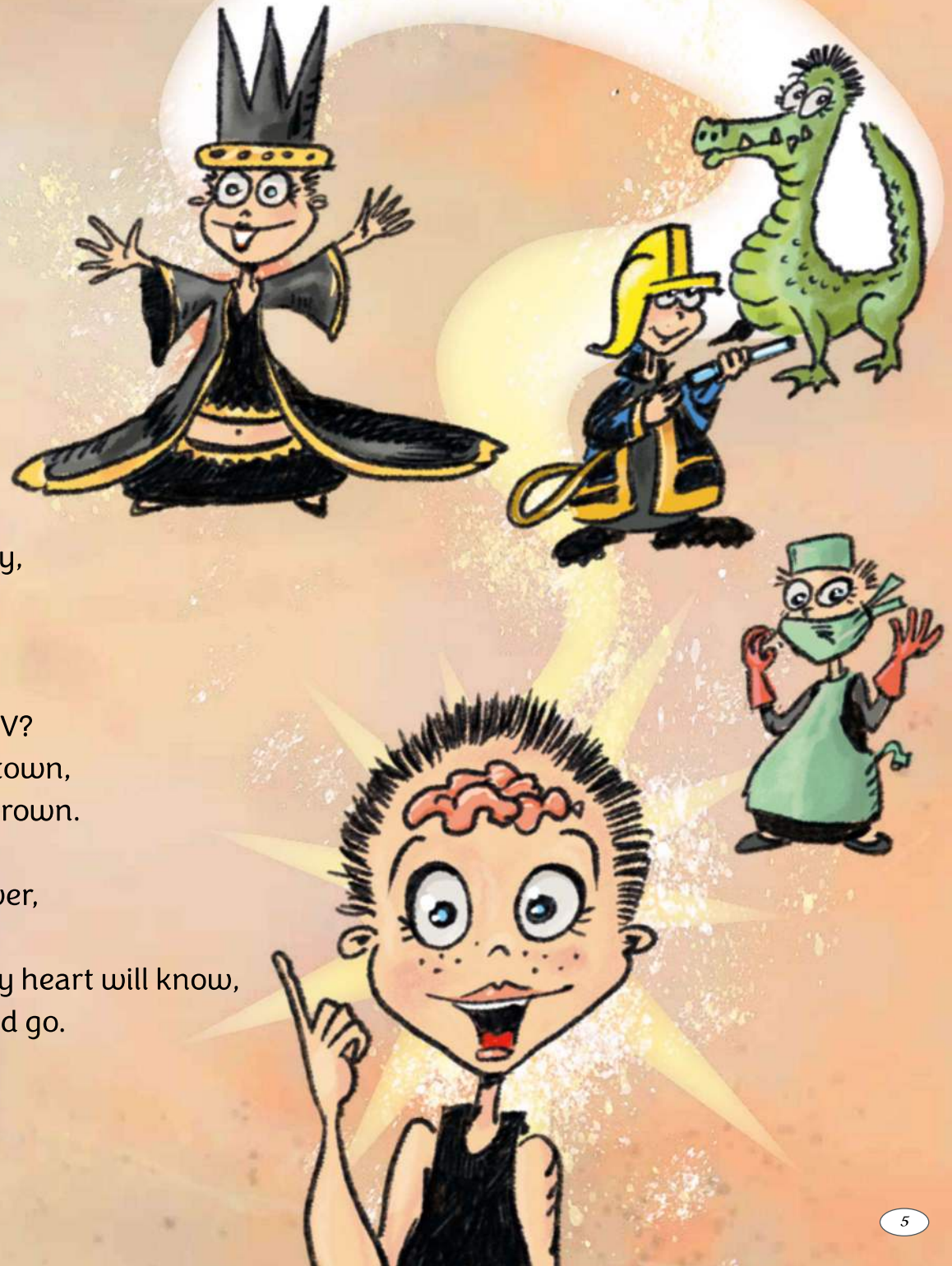
are hidden. Can you find them?

My name is Pompon Pawn,
And I will gladly tell,
Of the strange land I inhabit
And have come to know so well.

I have a full head of spiky hair,
And I'm still just a preschooler,
But this land, one day, if I get my way,
Shall be mine, and I, its ruler.

When you're older, who will you be?
Will you just lay around and watch TV?
I know what I want, I'm leaving this town,
To make it big, and wear a Queen's crown.

Inside my head these dreams of power,
Grow day by day, louder and louder
When it's time to charge forward, my heart will know,
And I'll yell at the top of my lungs and go.



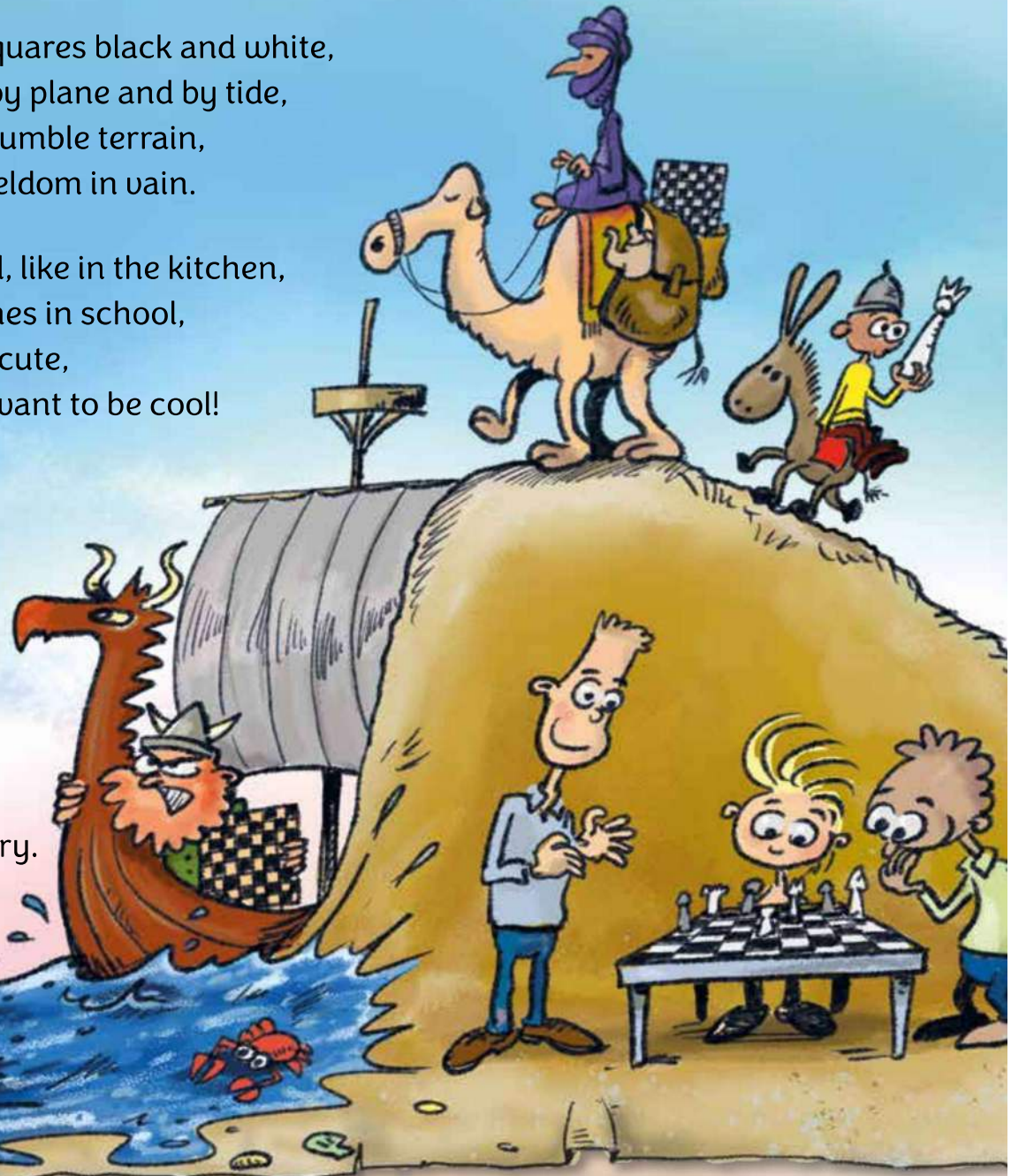
The Chessboard

My land is a board, with squares black and white,
Carried 'round the world by plane and by tide,
Eight squares by eight, a humble terrain,
But battles won on it are seldom in vain.

This isn't a chopping board, like in the kitchen,
Or a whiteboard like the ones in school,
It's a gameboard, tidy and cute,
Learn how to use it if you want to be cool!

The game of chess is a mini-war,
Featuring kings, dragons and more,
A battle which tests your loyalty,
To queens, and knights, and royalty.

When you can play this game,
Everyone will admire your brain,
So let's learn now - but first a story,
Of how a humble pawn can get to glory.

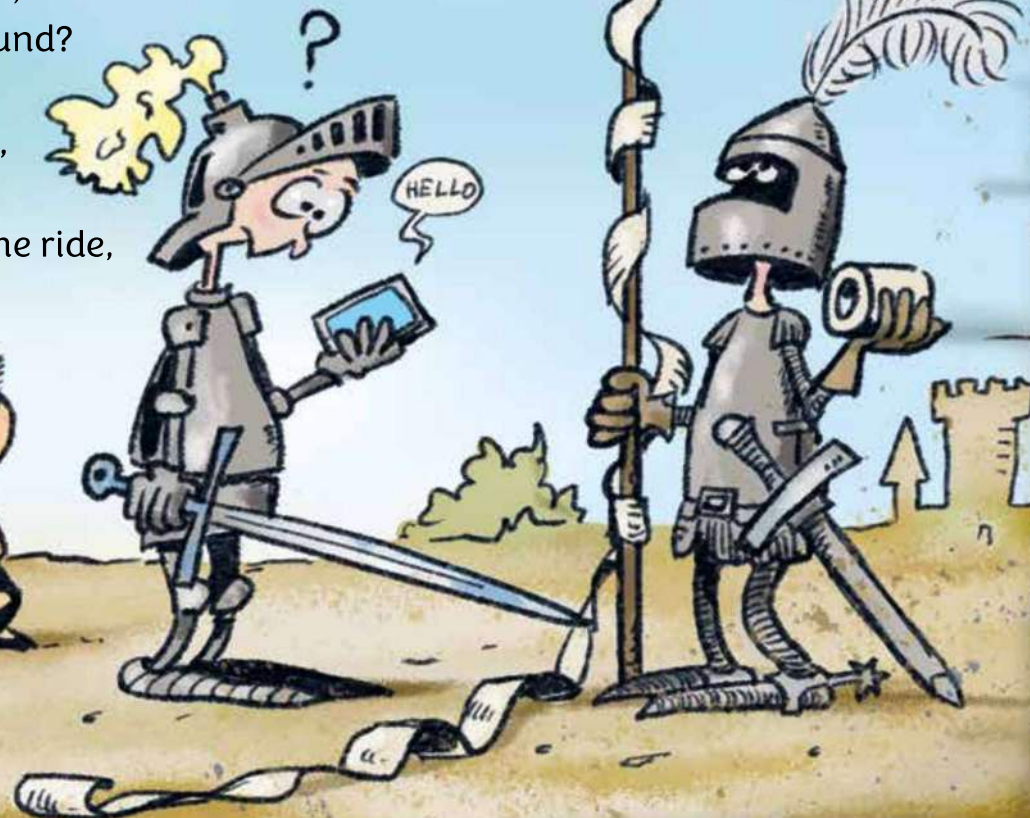


A Very Old Game

This book also tells, if you're curious,
How this game came to pass.
Handed down through centuries,
To be played today by us.

The very first time that chess was played,
Your parents and their parents weren't around,
Nor your house, your dog or your car,
What a strange time! How does it sound?

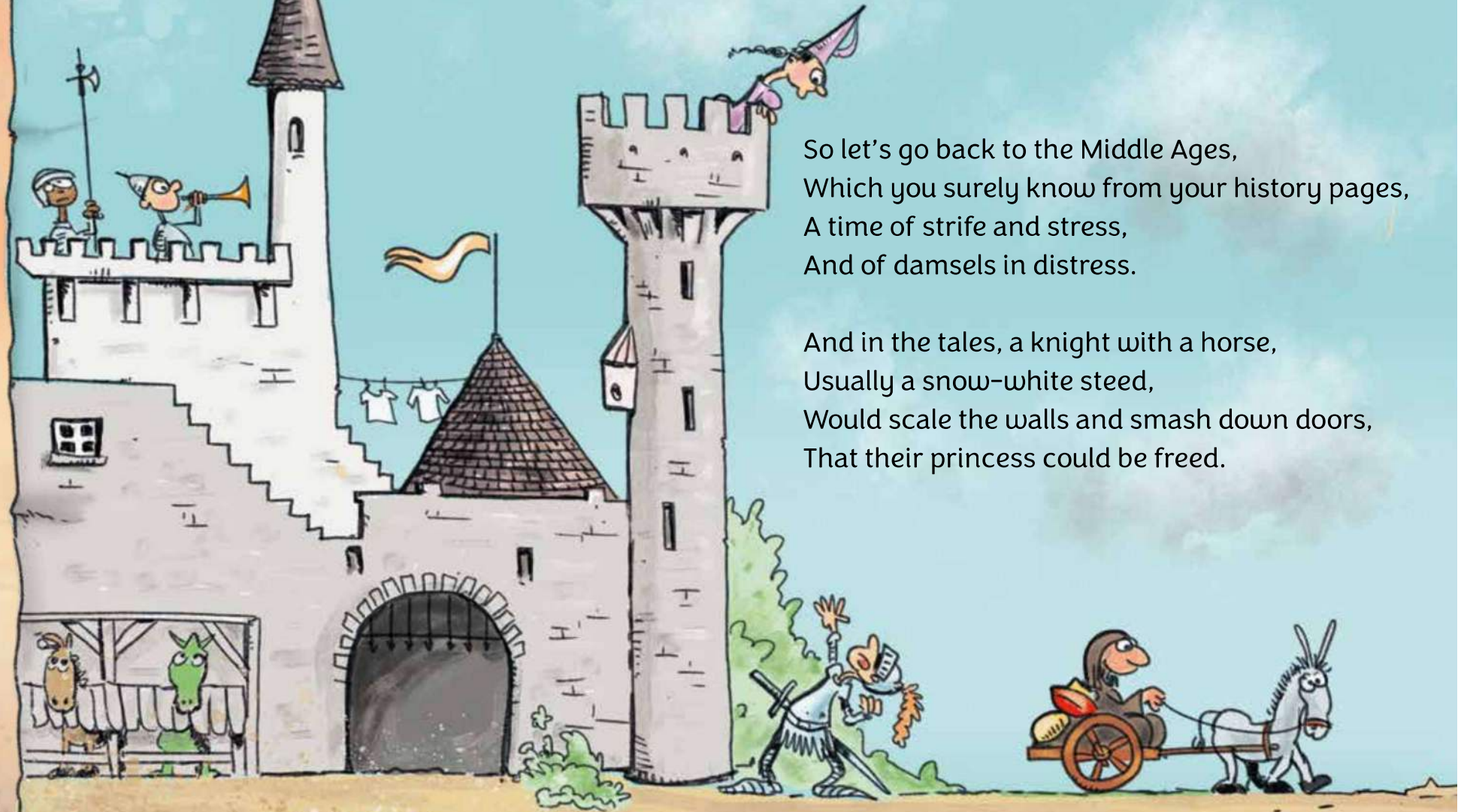
They had no phones, no street lights,
No iPads, toilet paper or cable TV,
I think you'll agree chess had quite the ride,
To be here today with you and me.



The Middle Ages

So let's go back to the Middle Ages,
Which you surely know from your history pages,
A time of strife and stress,
And of damsels in distress.

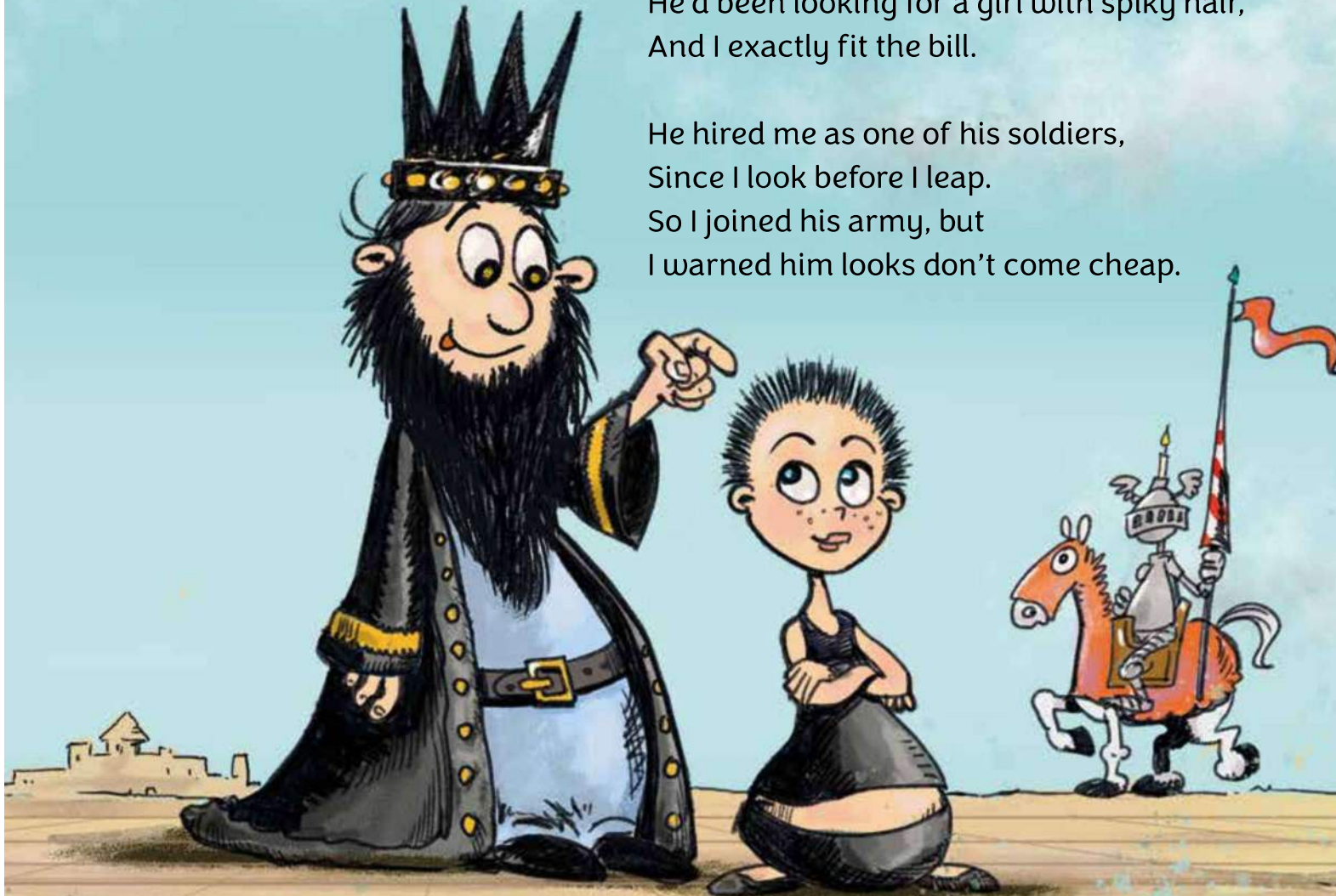
And in the tales, a knight with a horse,
Usually a snow-white steed,
Would scale the walls and smash down doors,
That their princess could be freed.



The Encounter

My encounter with the Black King,
Gave me quite the thrill.
He'd been looking for a girl with spiky hair,
And I exactly fit the bill.

He hired me as one of his soldiers,
Since I look before I leap.
So I joined his army, but
I warned him looks don't come cheap.



India

Now let's travel across to India,
Where tigers and elephants roamed,
Far from England or America,
Was where chess found its home.

Amidst the high mountains and deserts,
They used elephants for work and play,
And when an elephant would charge at you,
It was best not to be in the way.

Into this world our game was born,
For battles of a different kind,
That princes, with the push of a pawn
Could show dominance of the mind.

