

# PERFECTLY NORMAN



TOM PERCIVAL

BLOOMSBURY









DEDICATED to E.J.P.  
(for being perfectly Ethan)

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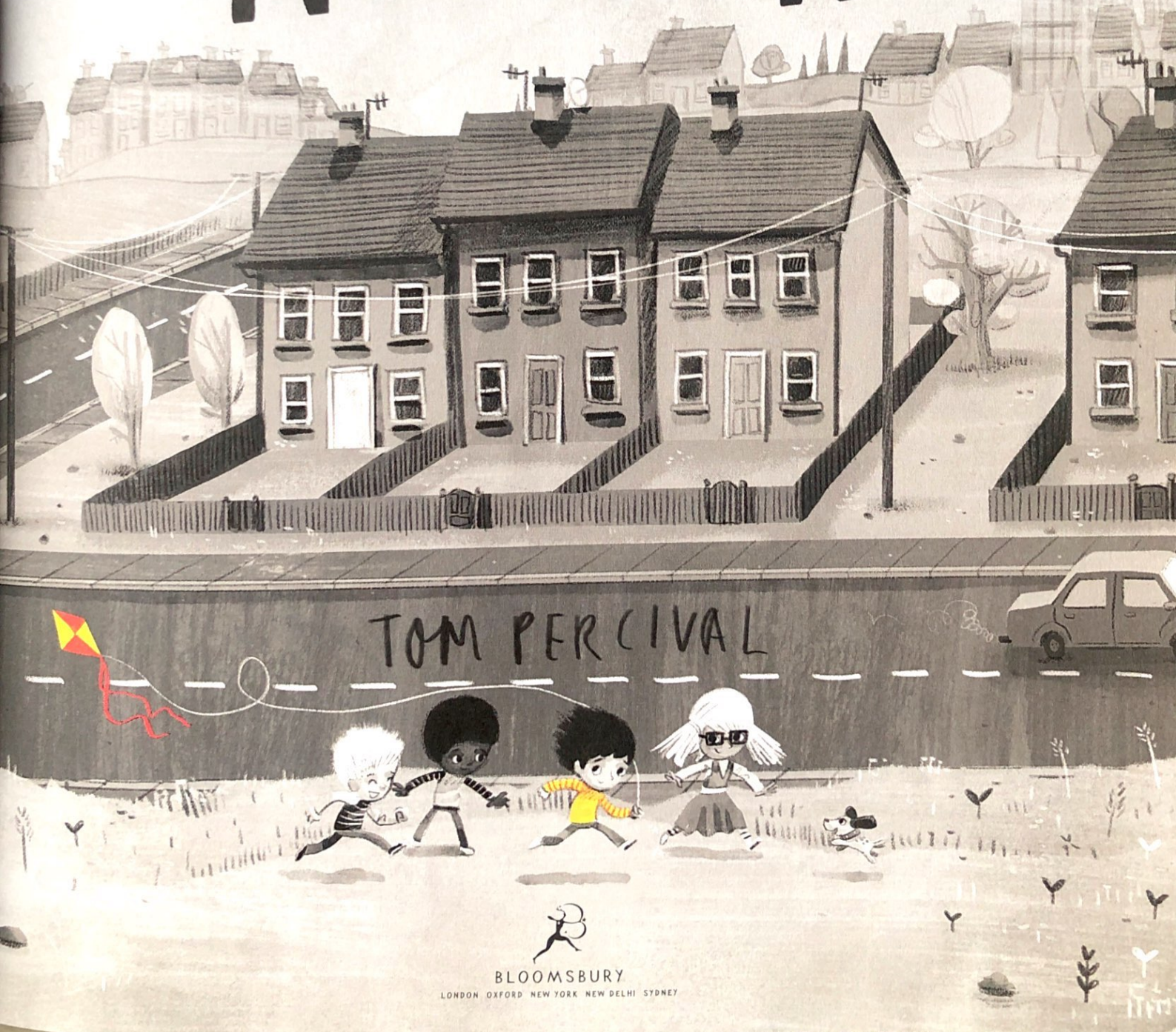
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# PERFECTLY NORMAN









Norman had always been normal  
– *perfectly* normal.



Until one day . . .









Norman had imagined  
growing taller . . .



or growing a beard,  
like his dad . . .

But he had  
*never* imagined  
growing a pair of wings!







Still, they were here now, so he  
decided to test them out right away.



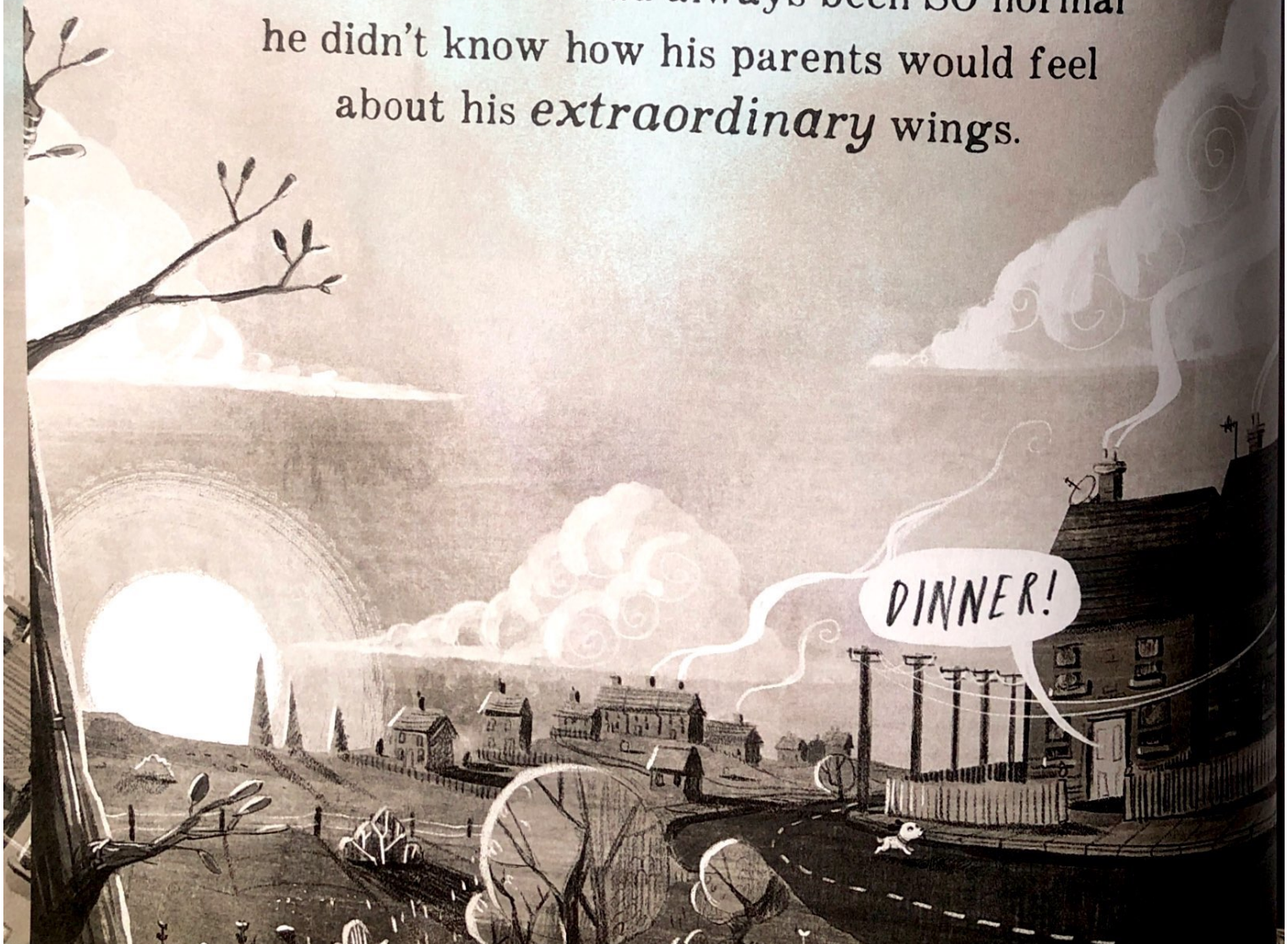






... he had to go in for dinner.

You see, Norman had always been SO normal  
he didn't know how his parents would feel  
about his *extraordinary* wings.





As he went in, Norman covered himself  
up in a great big coat.





His parents didn't notice the wings . . .

But they *did* think it was odd to be  
wearing a coat indoors!

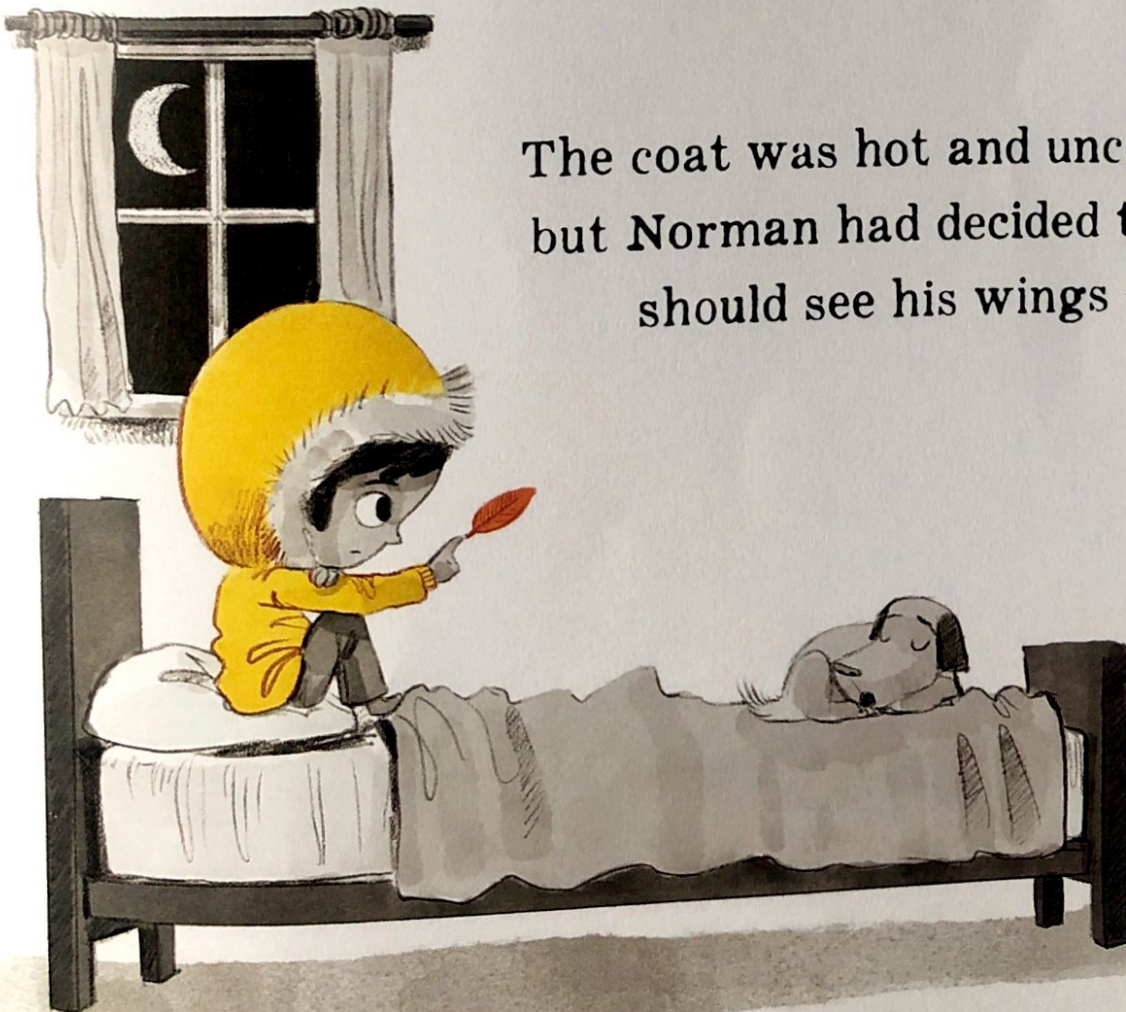




Bath time was problematic.  
So was bedtime.



The coat was hot and uncomfortable,  
but Norman had decided that no one  
should see his wings – *ever*.





The next day Norman went to the park,  
but he was far too hot to play any  
of his favourite games.



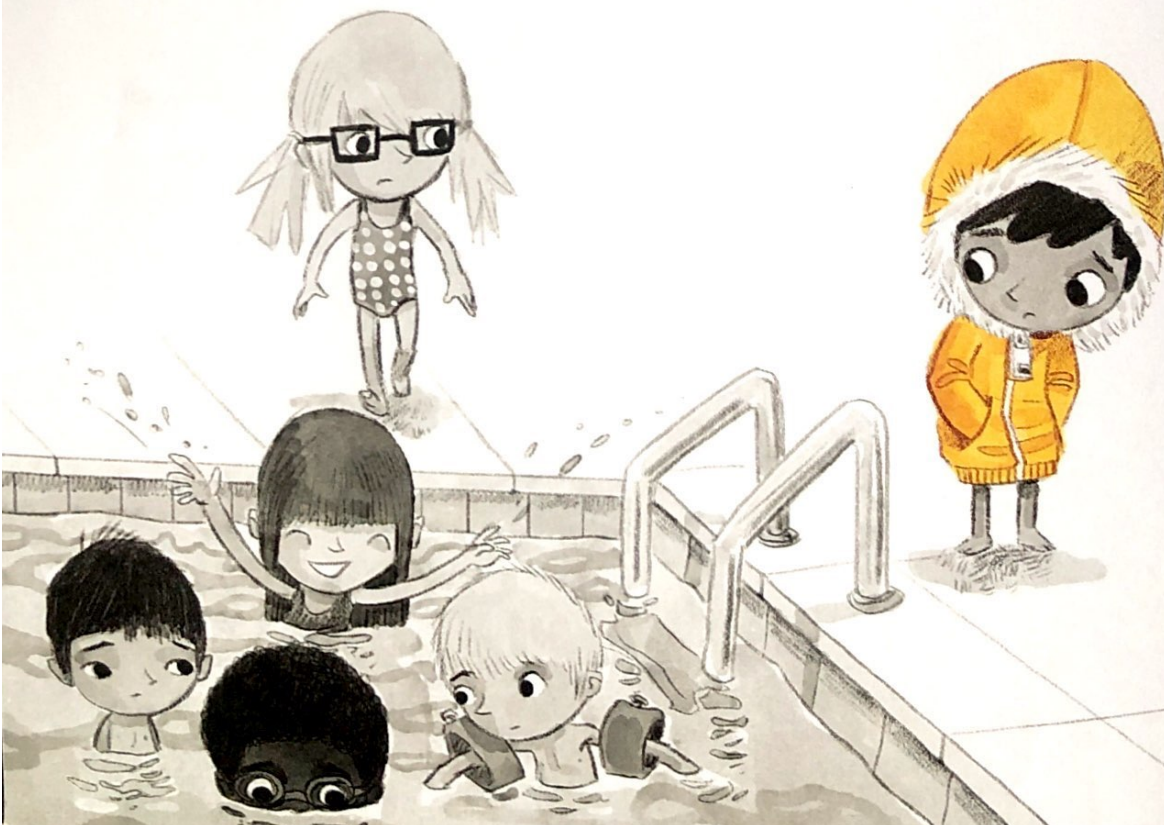
And so it went on ...





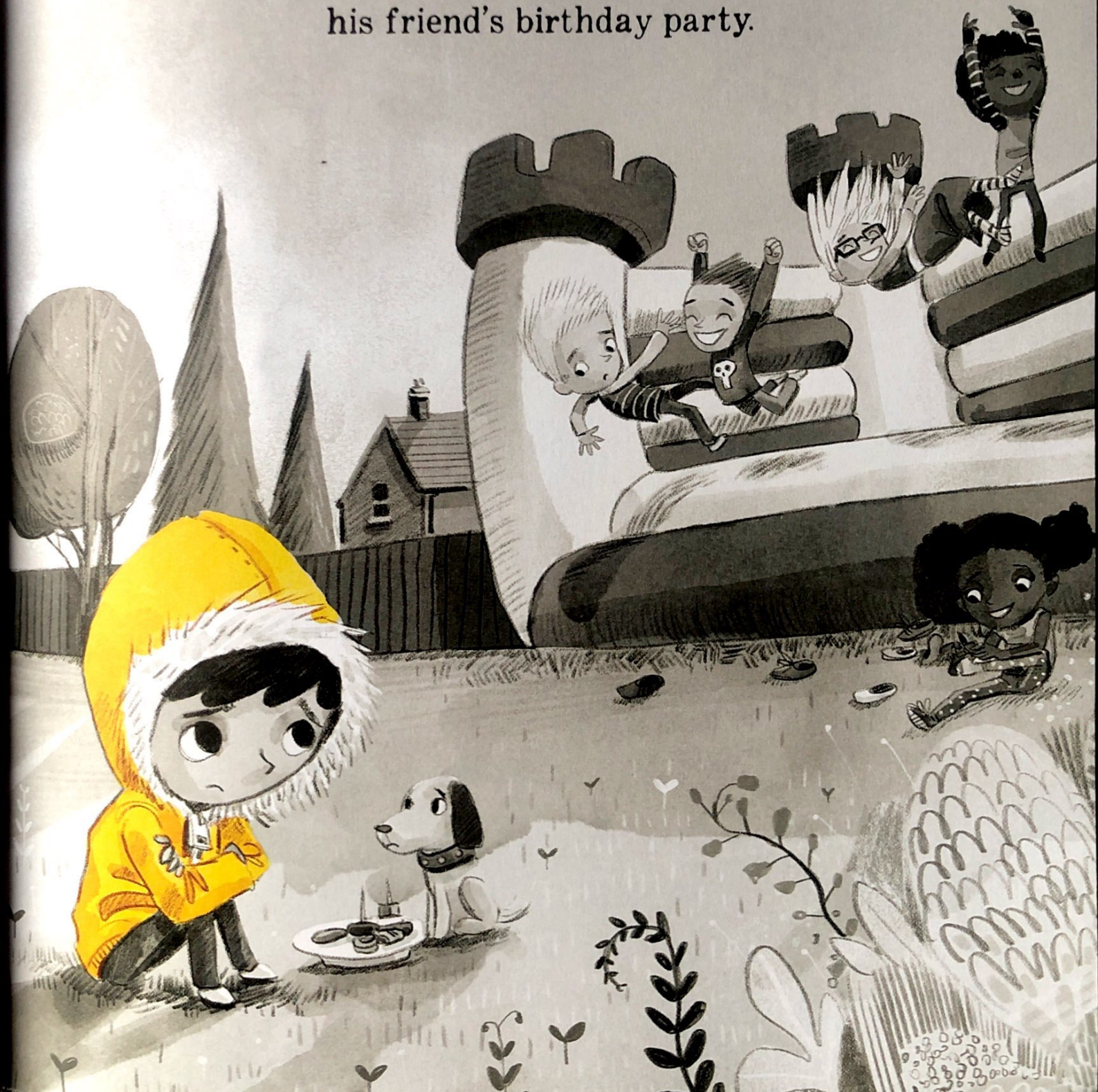
Long car journeys were unbearable,

the swimming pool  
was dreadful,





and that was *nothing* compared to  
his friend's birthday party.





The only time that Norman could feel  
normal now, was when it rained.





One day a boy tried to pull his coat off,



and Norman had to run away –  
hot-faced, angry and sad.





He wished he'd *never* grown  
those stupid wings.







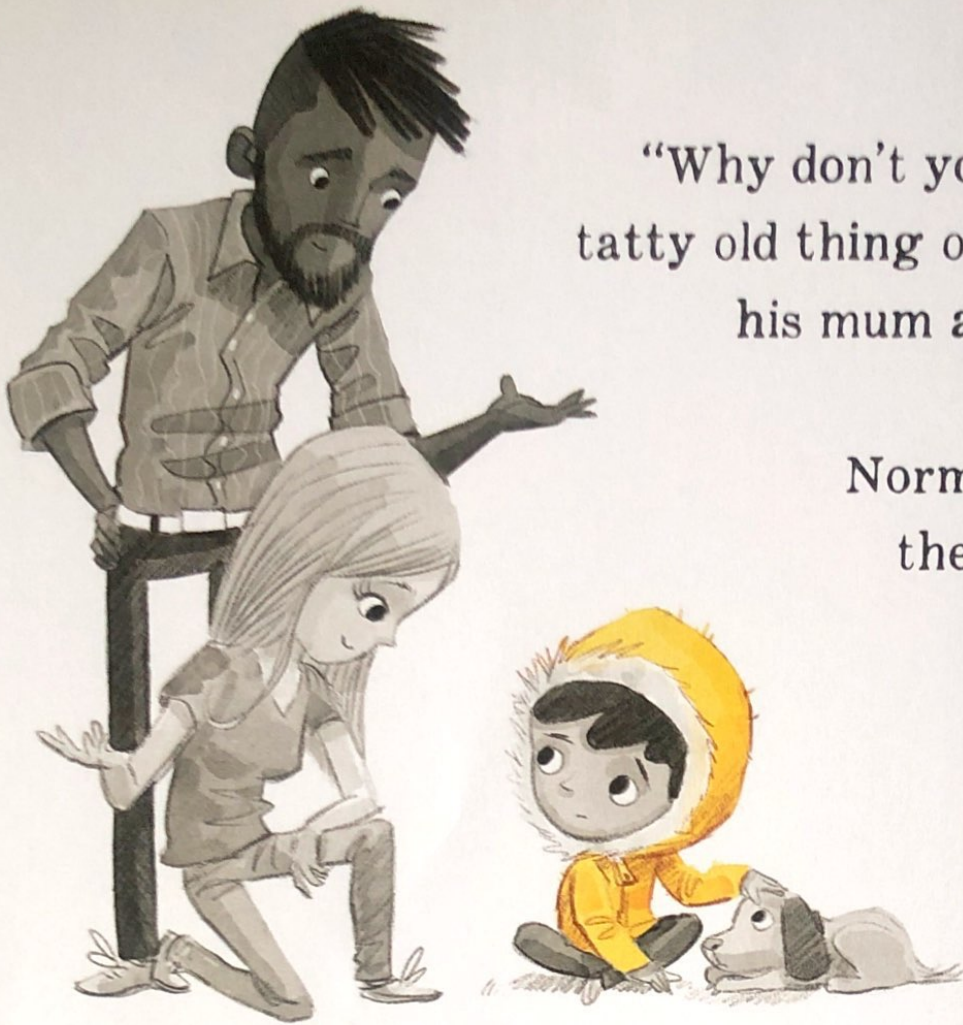
Then he saw some birds, high up in the sky,  
and remembered the joy of his first flight.

It occurred to Norman that it was  
the *coat* that was making him  
miserable, not the *wings*.



“Why don’t you take that  
tatty old thing off?” suggested  
his mum and dad.

Norman looked up at  
them hesitantly.



His parents smiled and nodded.  
Norman smiled back.





Then he threw off the coat . . .

and let his wonderful  
wings fan out.







Norman leapt into the air . . .

*Finally* he was free of that coat!



He noticed a few other children  
wearing thick, heavy coats of their own.  
They looked up at Norman and round  
at each other nervously.

There was a moment's pause and then . . .









He realised that there was no such thing  
as *perfectly normal* . . .



But he *was perfectly Norman*.  
Which was just as it should be.



Norman had always been normal,  
*perfectly normal . . .*



until the day he grew a pair of wings!

A bold and uplifting book about daring to be different  
and having the courage to dance to your own tune.

Perfect for soothing even the biggest worries.

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