



When a monkey meets a rich man, he complains that he is poor. 'I own nothing, not even clothes,' the monkey says. The rich man, who has a big house and vast estates, starts to feel guilty about possessing so much while the monkey remains destitute. So he decides to sign over all his possessions to the animal. Is this a wise choice? Or has the rich man been too hasty in giving everything away to a monkey?

For more than 1,000 years this story has entertained children, helped foster the ability to examine their own assumptions and think for themselves.

Part of a rich body of literature from Central Asia and the Middle East, *The Rich Man and the Monkey* is one of many tales collected by the late Afghan author and thinker, Idries Shah.

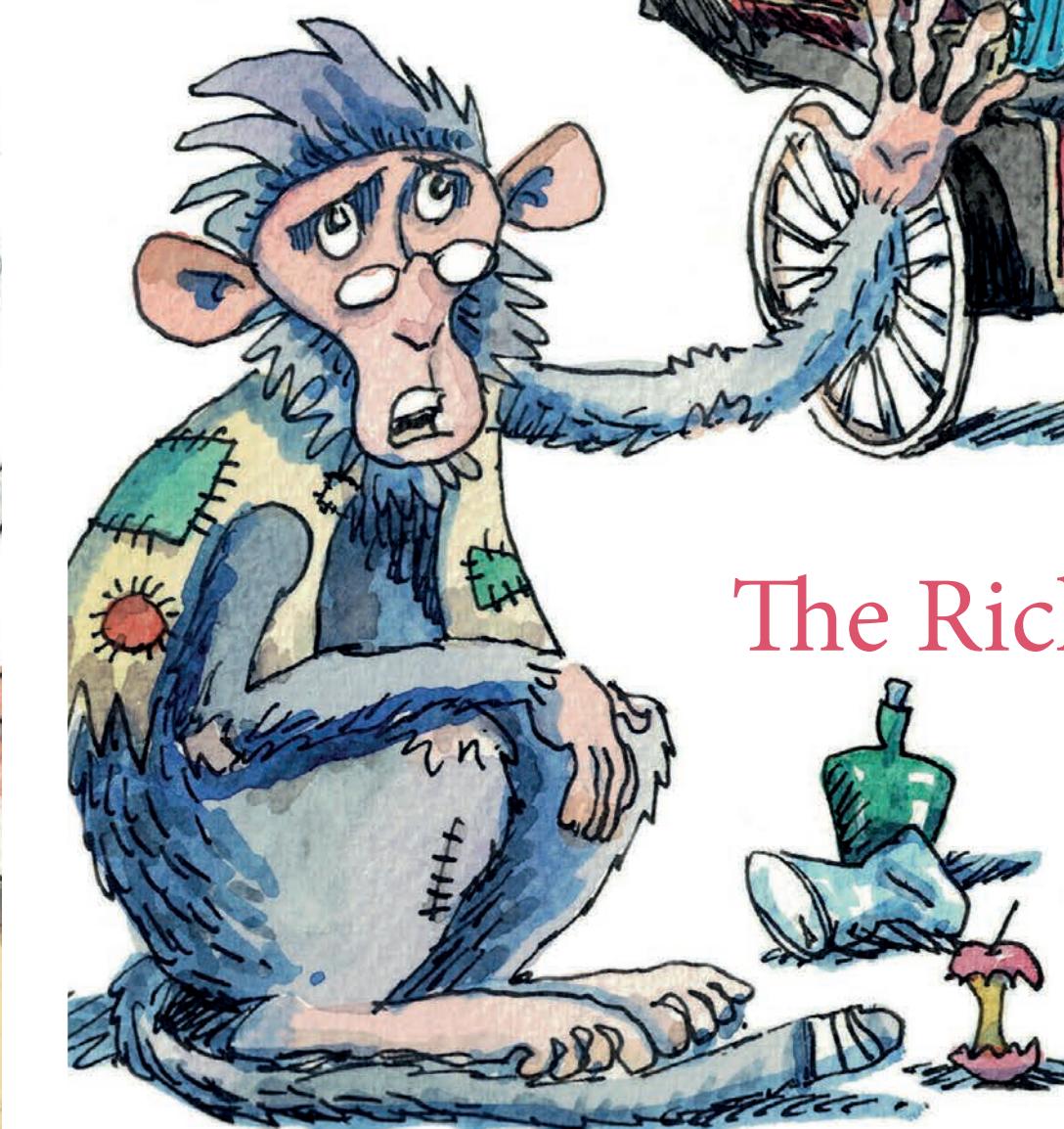
'These teaching-stories can be experienced on many levels. A child may simply enjoy hearing them, an adult may analyse them in a more sophisticated way. Both may eventually benefit from the lessons within.' **ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, NPR**

'Shah has collected hundreds of Sufi tales... In this tradition, the line between stories for children and those for adults is not as clear as it seems to be in Western cultures... the lessons are important for all generations.' **SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL**



'These stories provoke fresh insight and more flexible thought in children. Beautifully illustrated.'

NEA TODAY (The Magazine
of the National Education
Association, USA)



The Rich Man and the Monkey

IDRIES SHAH

Illustrated by Prashant Miranda



The Rich Man and the Monkey

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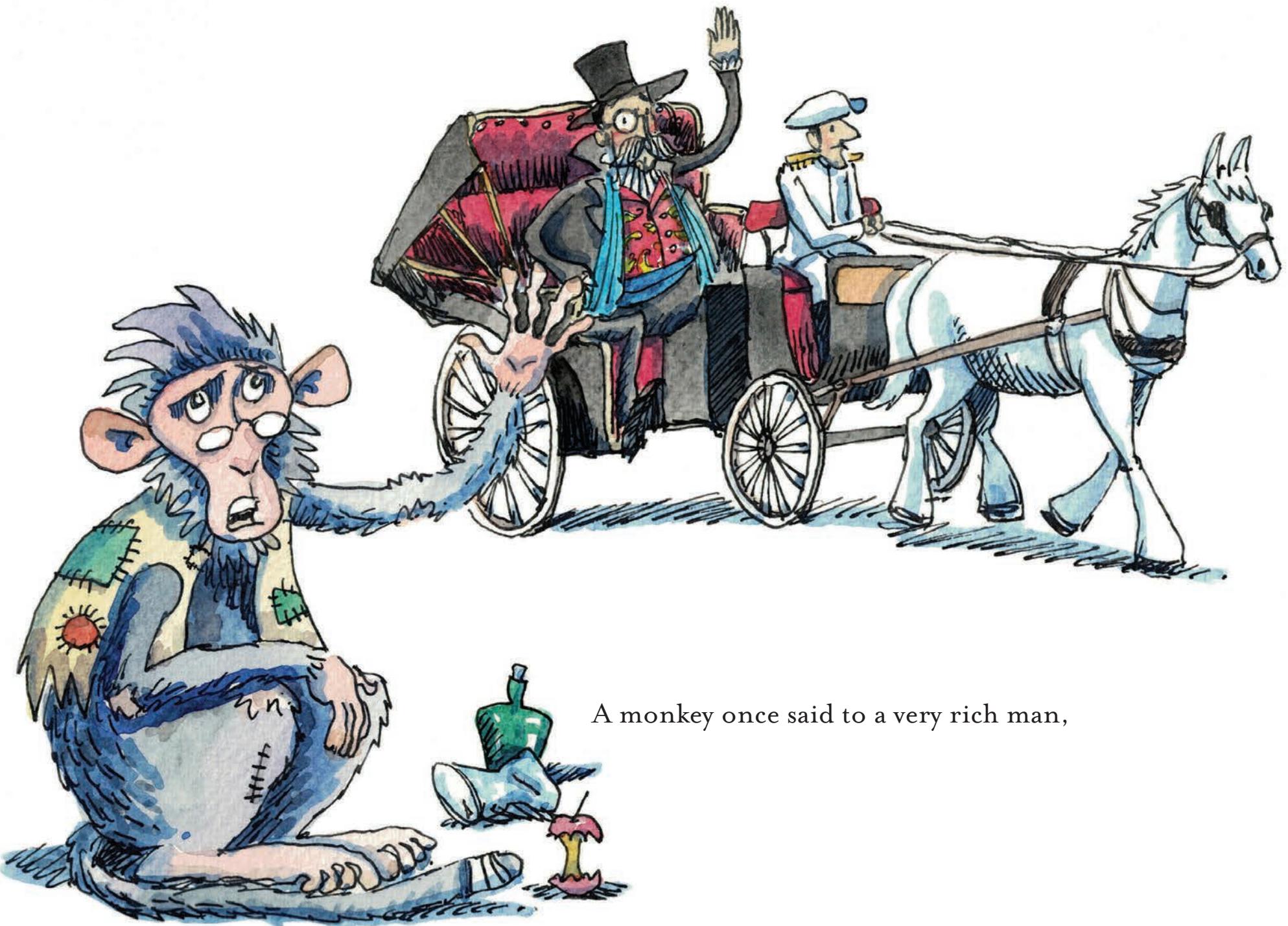
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The Rich Man and the Monkey

BY IDRIES SHAH



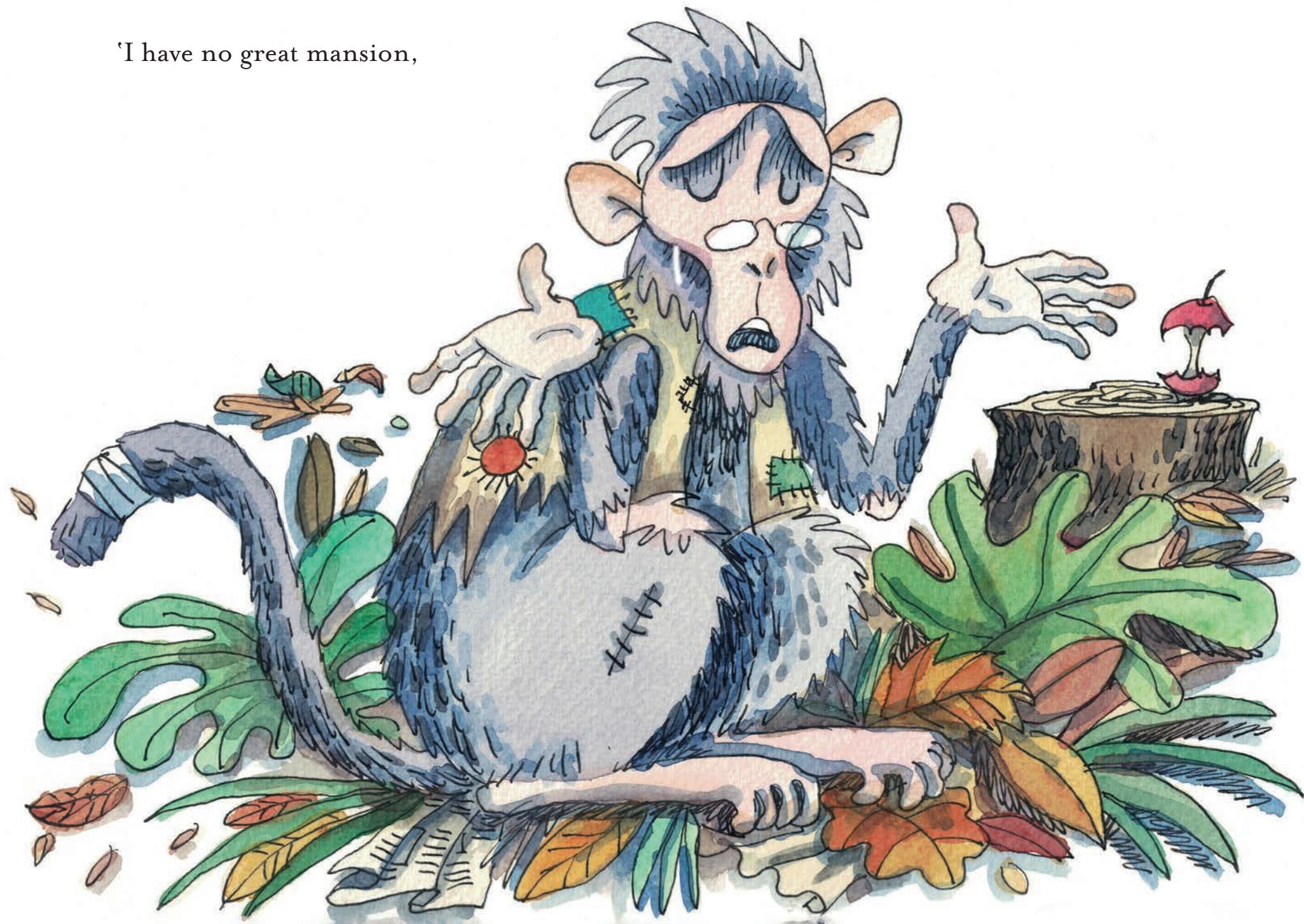


A monkey once said to a very rich man,



'Do you not realise quite
how poor I really am?

'I have no great mansion,



no fine clothes,



'and no delicious food, like you.



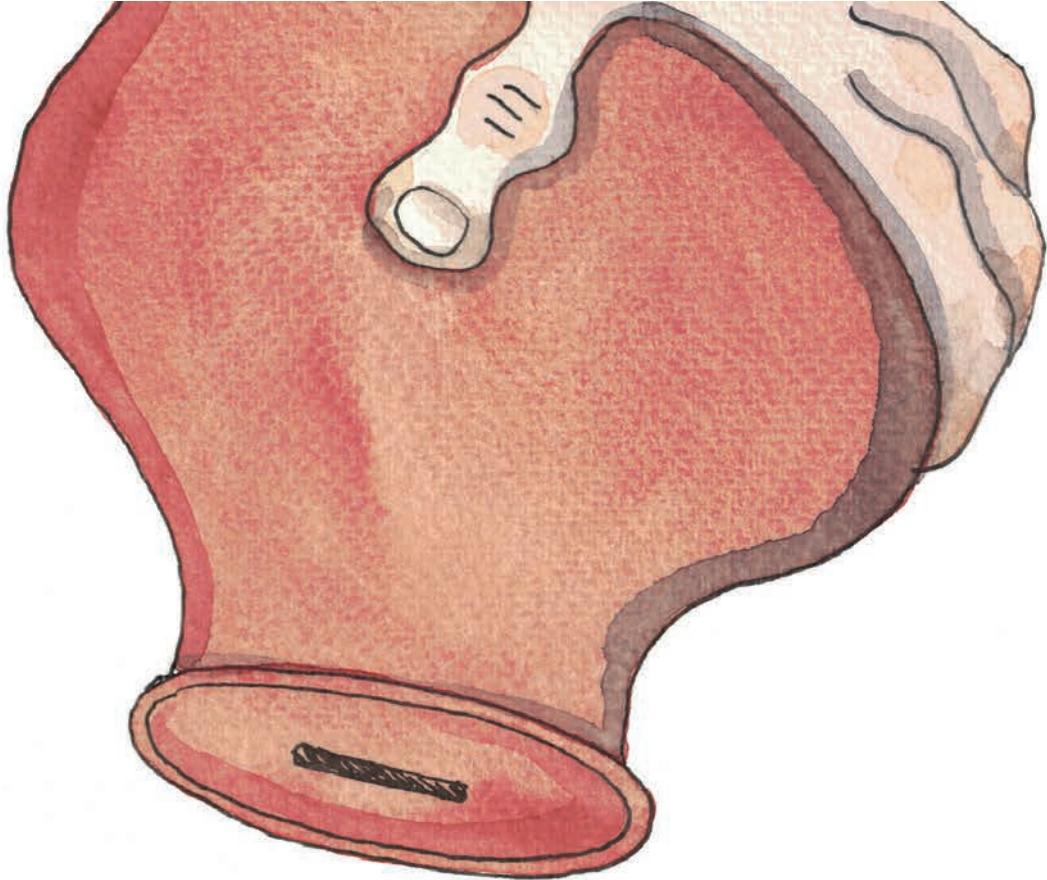


I have no means of transport,



'no lofty library





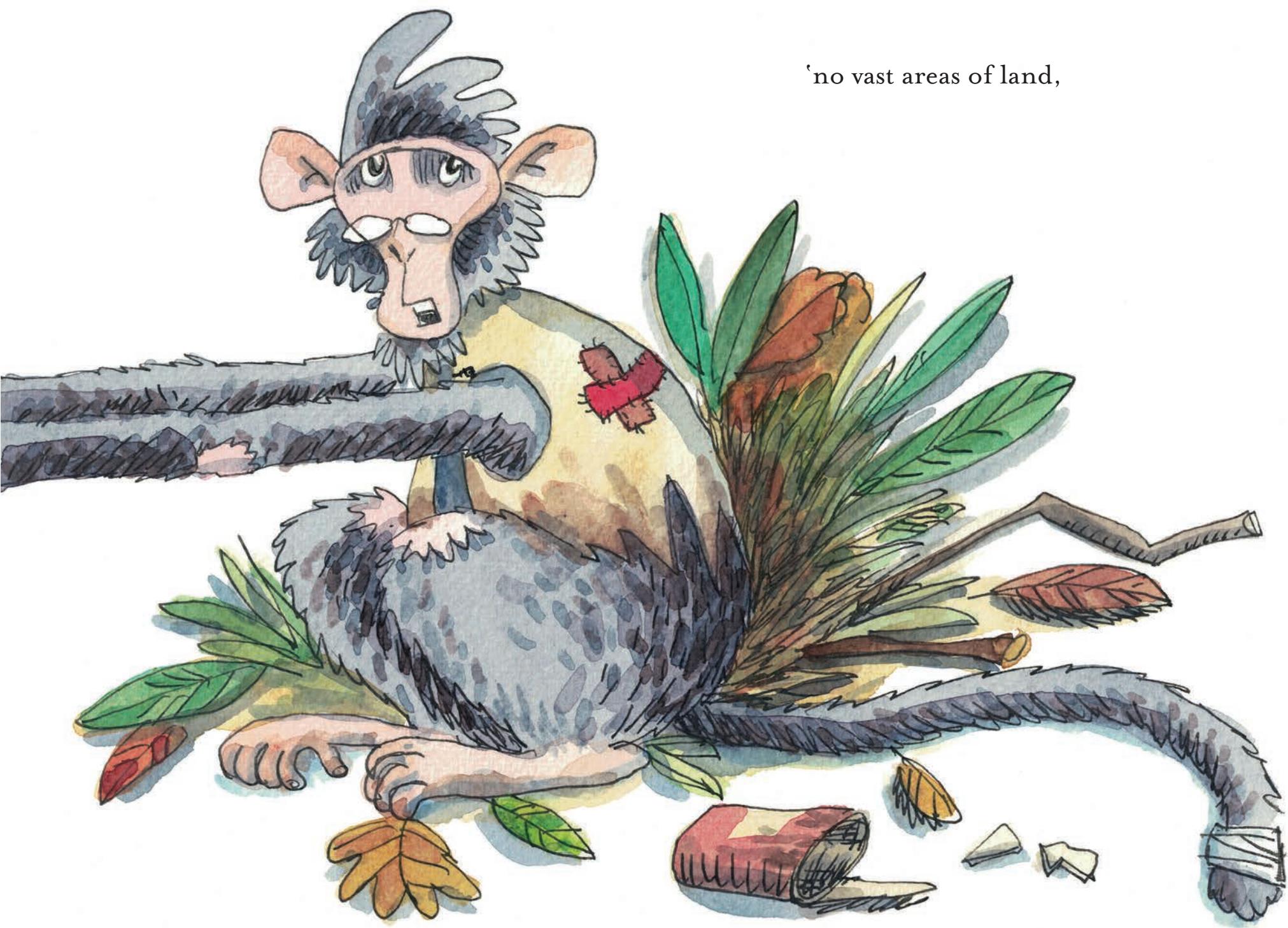
'and no savings.



'I have no handcrafted furniture,



'no vast areas of land,



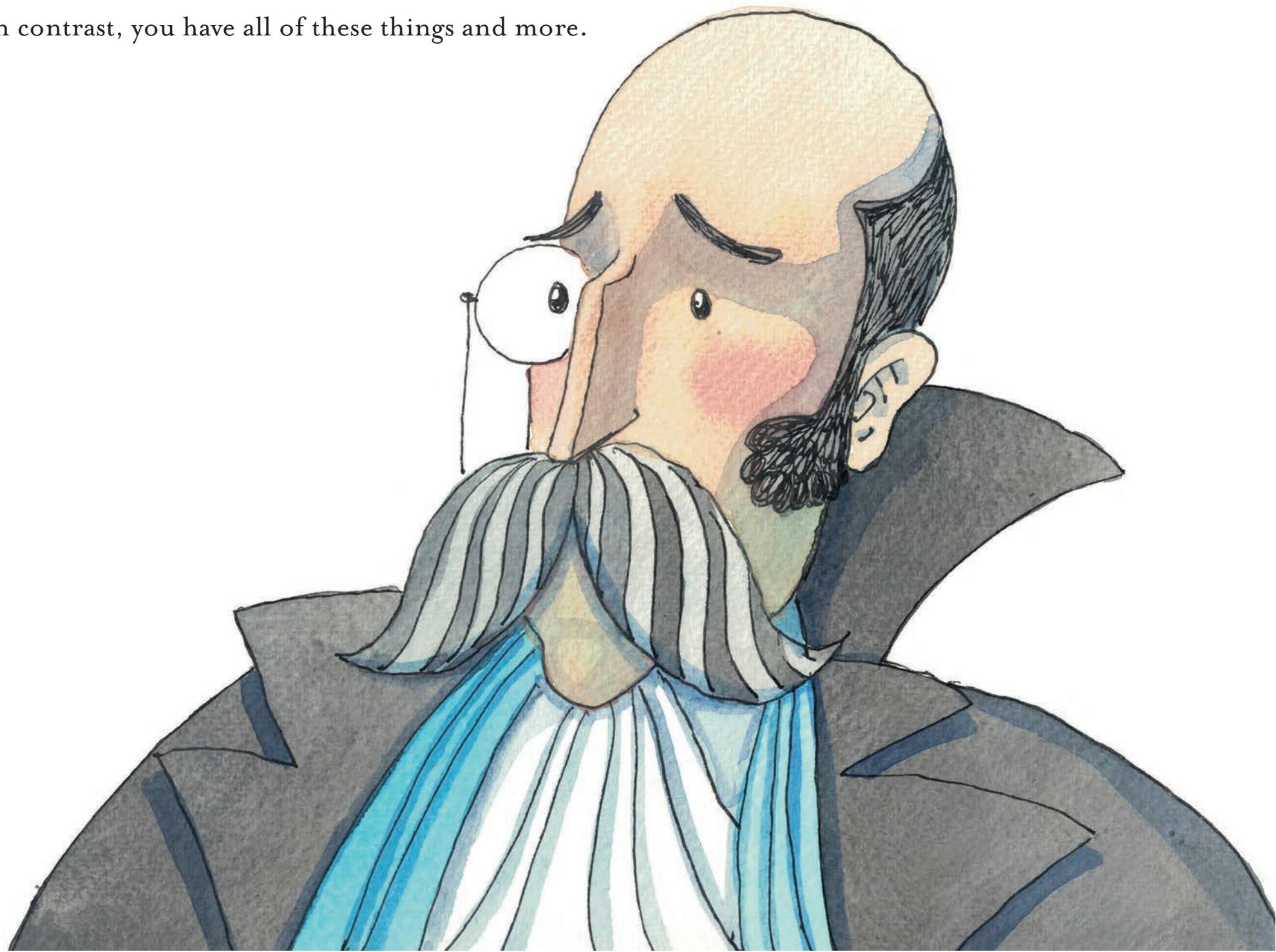


and no lavish articles of adornment.

'I, quite simply, have nothing at all.

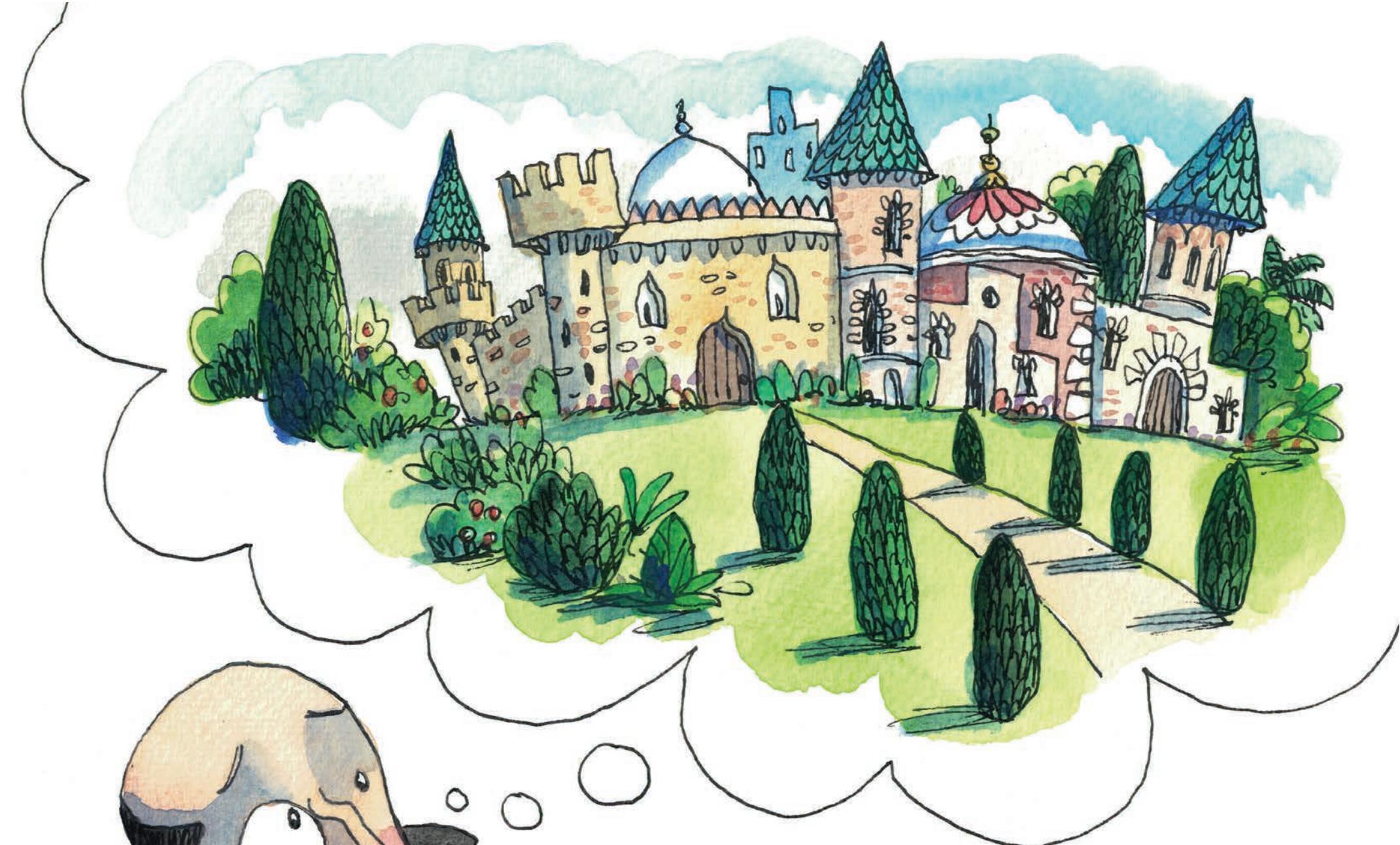


In contrast, you have all of these things and more.



'You are a very rich man.'



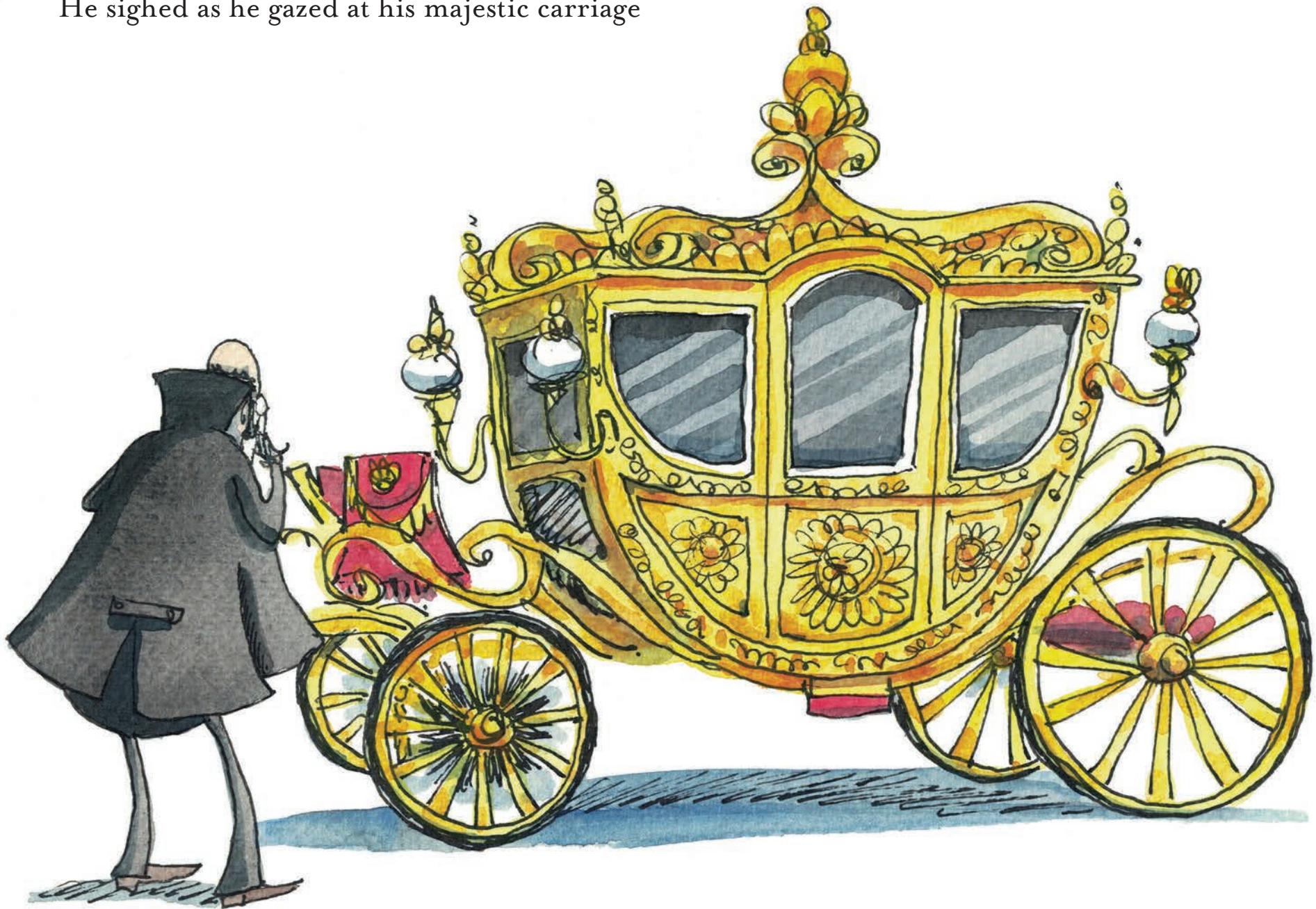


The very rich man thought of his splendid house,
ran a hand over his embroidered silk waistcoat,



and mentally inhaled
the tantalising aromas coming
from his imaginary supper table.

He sighed as he gazed at his majestic carriage

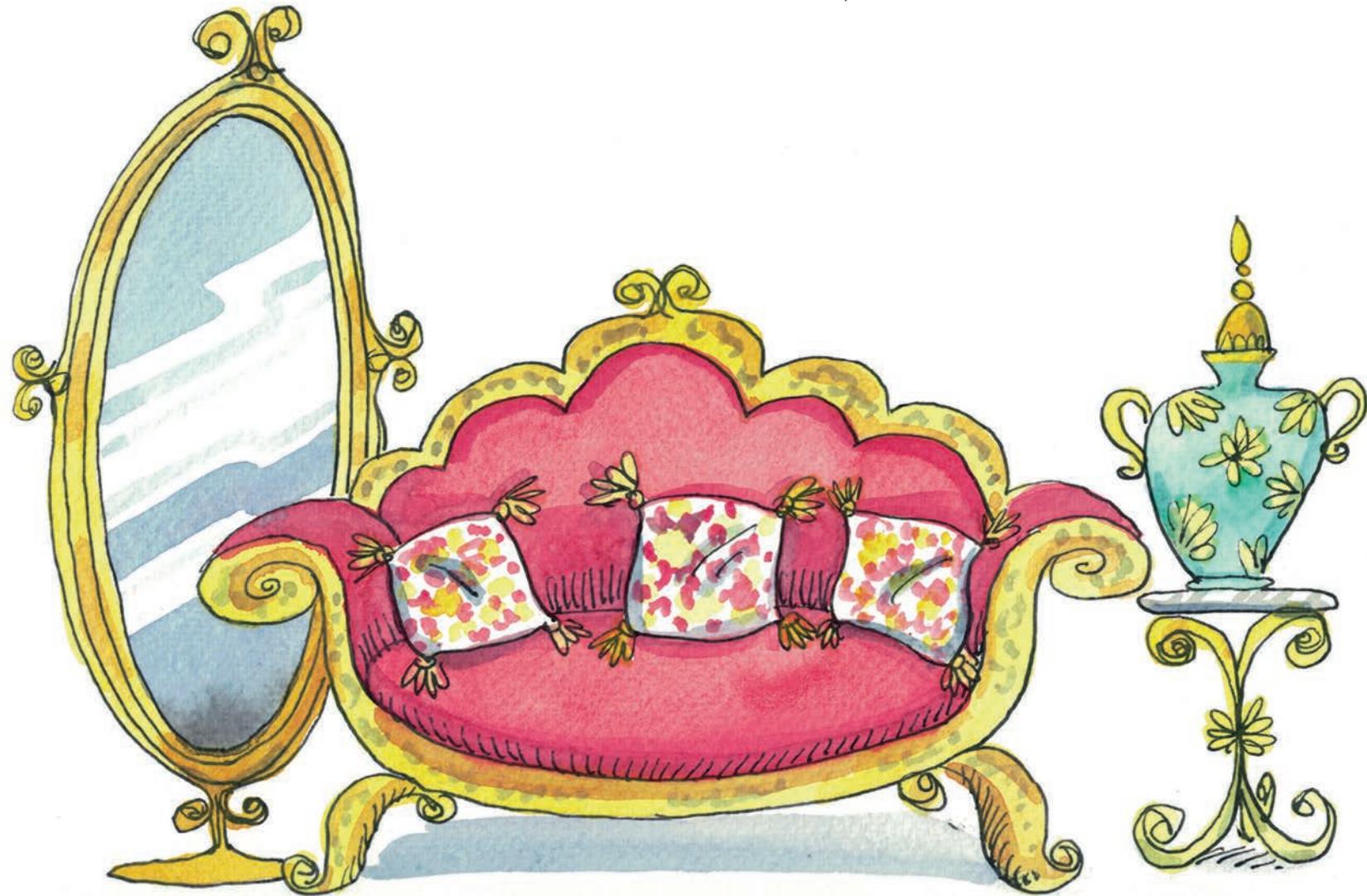


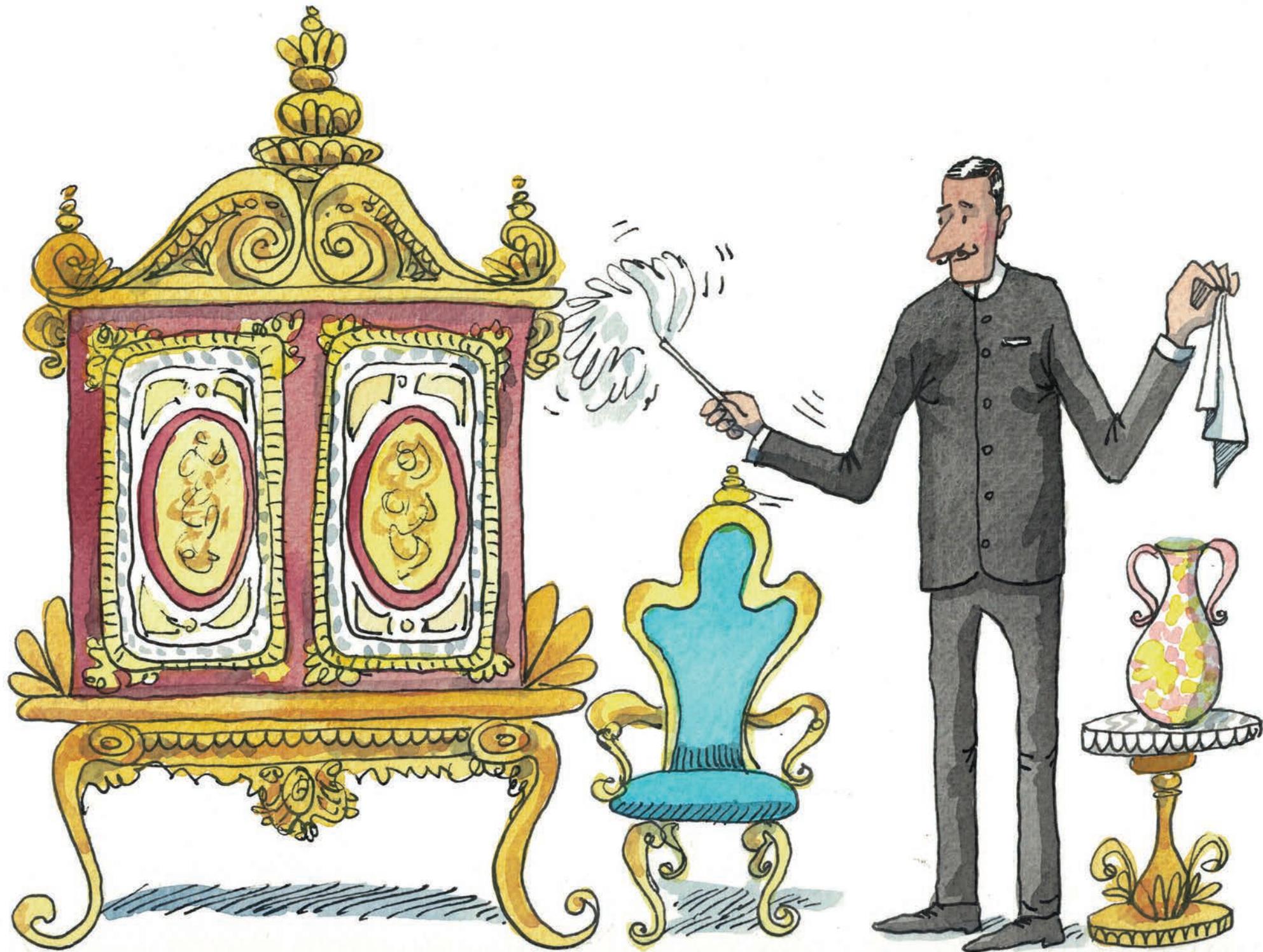
and sadly shook his head upon remembering his cavernous library,



his considerable savings,

his ornate furniture,





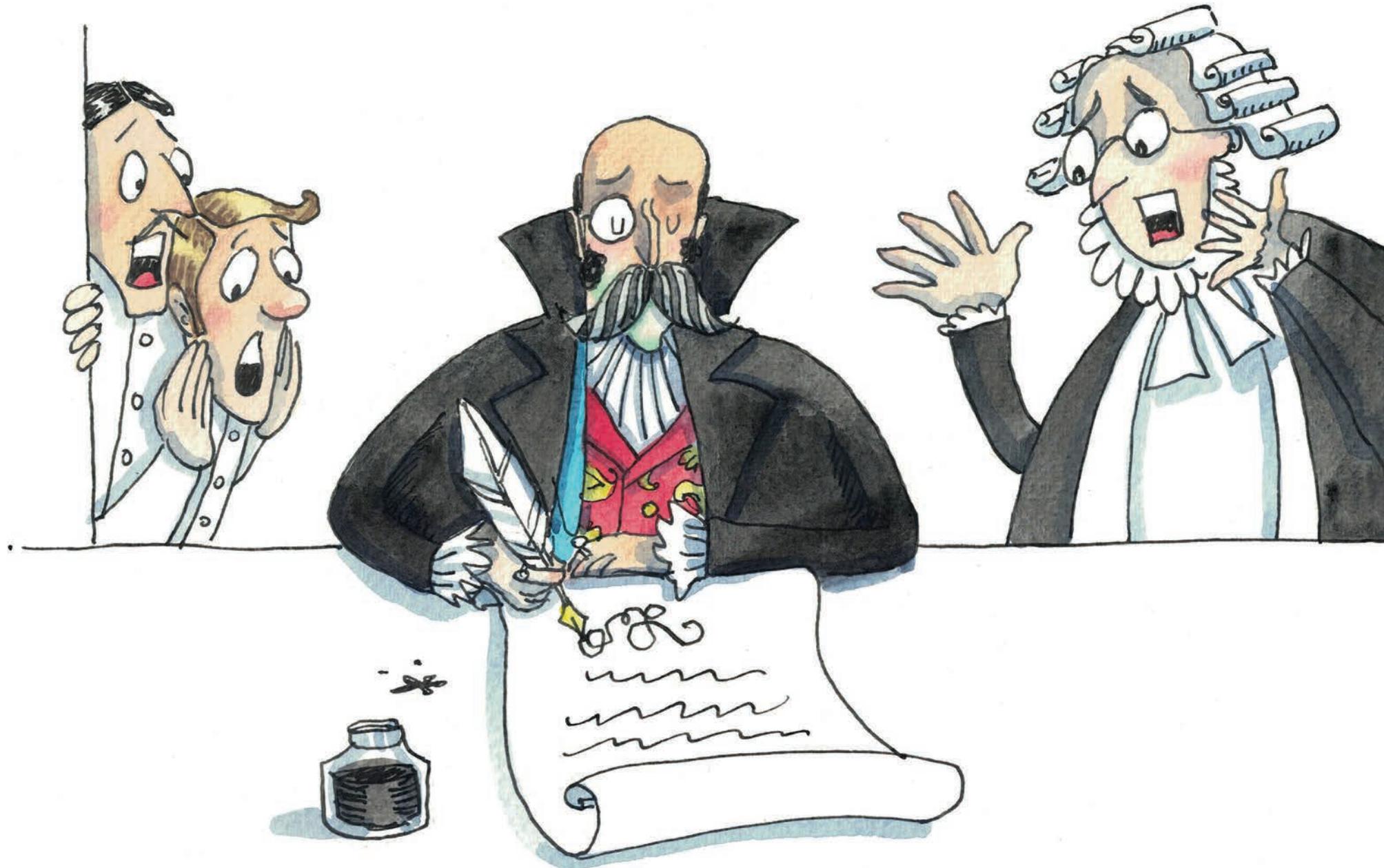
and his endless expanses of land,
all of which had somehow suddenly ceased to bring him any pleasure.



Hanging his head in shame,

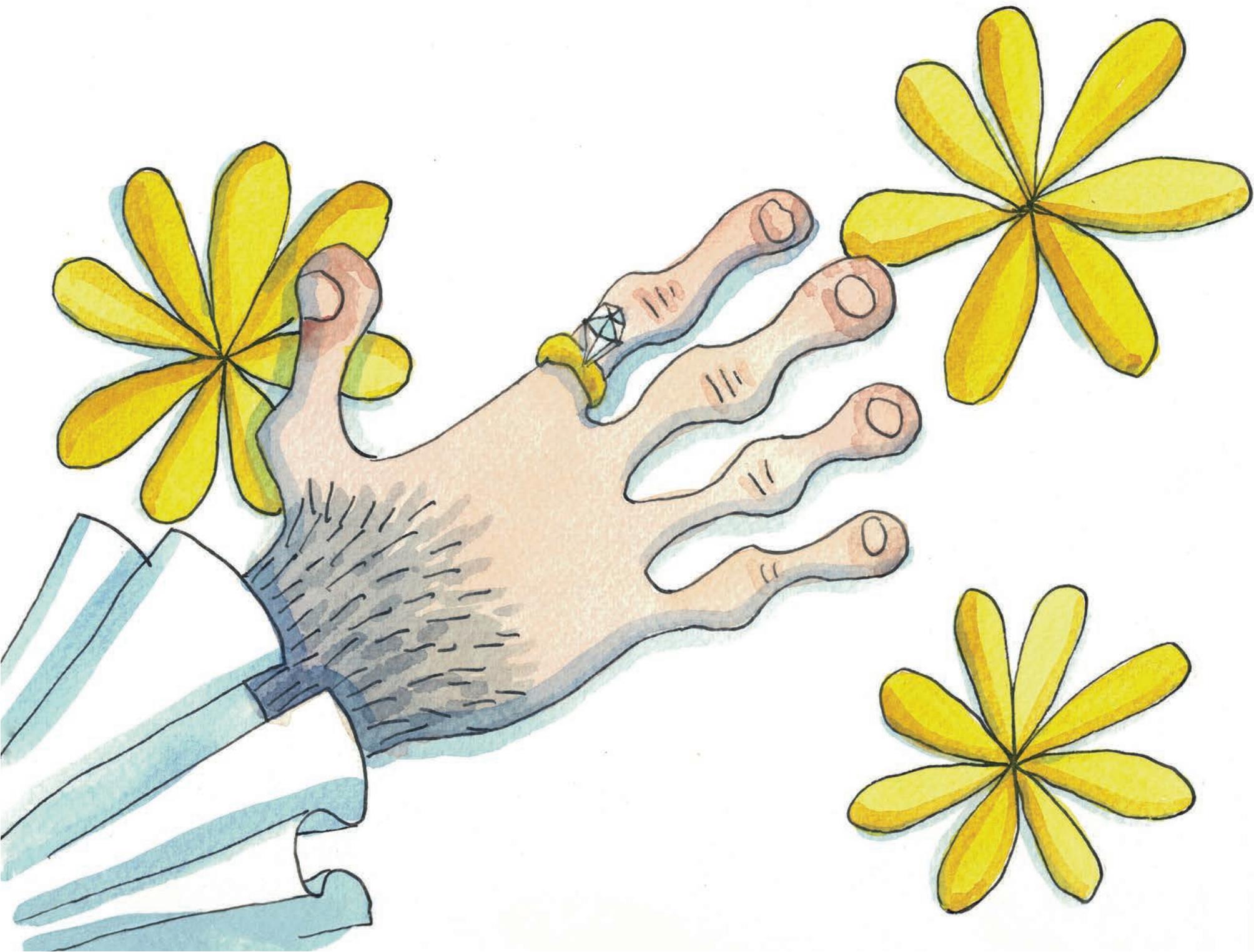


the very rich man returned home, where he immediately signed over all he had to the impoverished monkey.

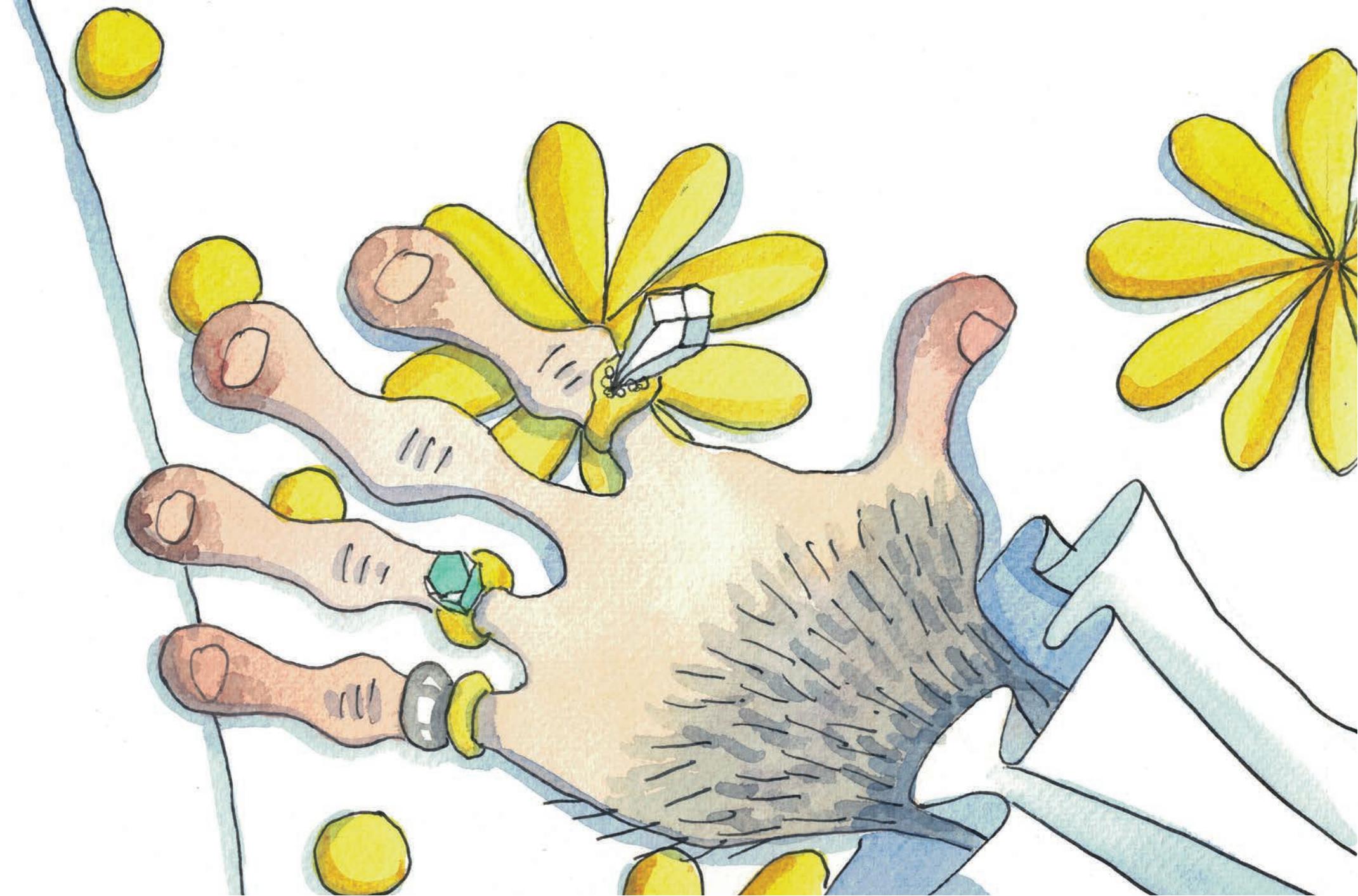




When the monkey had taken legal charge of all the man's possessions, the once very rich man said to him, 'Now what are you going to do with all of this?'



The monkey adjusted his splendid hat and patted his golden buttons,



put his feet up on a stack of precious books, and said:



'Get out of my sight immediately!



'Why should I lower myself by talking to an impoverished fool like you?'



The
End





CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY IDRIES SHAH

After a Swim
Speak First and Lose
The Ants and the Pen
The Boy With No Voice and the Men Who Couldn't Hear
The Fisherman's Neighbour
The Horrible Dib Dib
The Man, the Tree and the Wolf
The Onion
The Rich Man and the Monkey
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