

The Steadfast tin soldier



TThere was once a tin soldier who had only one leg. Every night when his owner Tom went to bed, the little soldier stood guard in the playroom.


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One night, the goblin in the jack-in-the-box threatened him: "Hey you, soldier! Keep your eyes away from the dancer or you will regret it! But the soldier was not afraid of him and he could not stop looking at her."

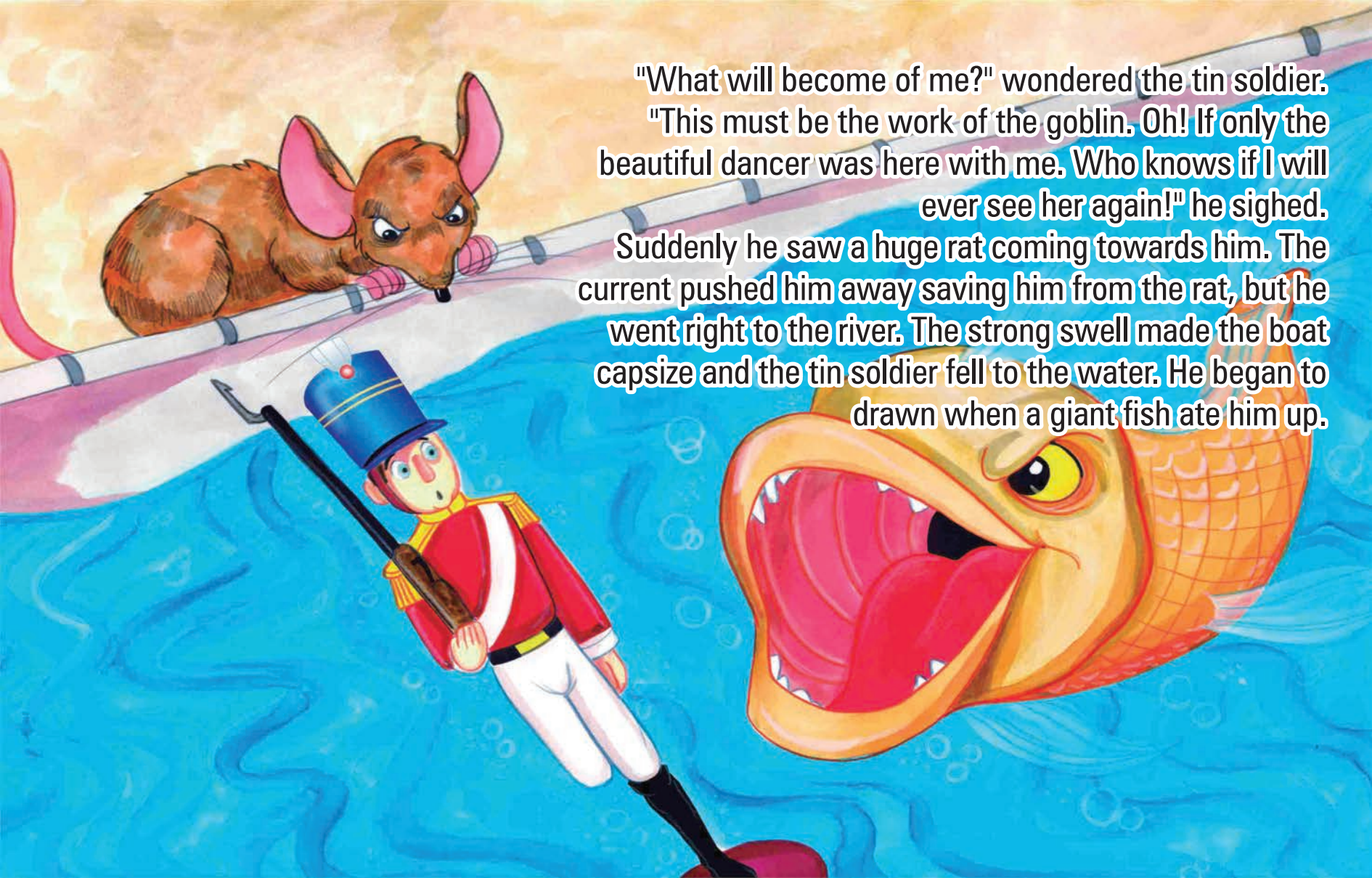




The next day was going to be full of surprises for the tin soldier. Tom had put him on the edge of the window and had forgotten him. Suddenly, a strong wind blew him out and the tin soldier fell to the street.

Two children who were passing by
picked him up and put him on a
paper boat. Then they took him to a
stream where he was quickly
pushed by the current through a dark
long tunnel.





"What will become of me?" wondered the tin soldier.

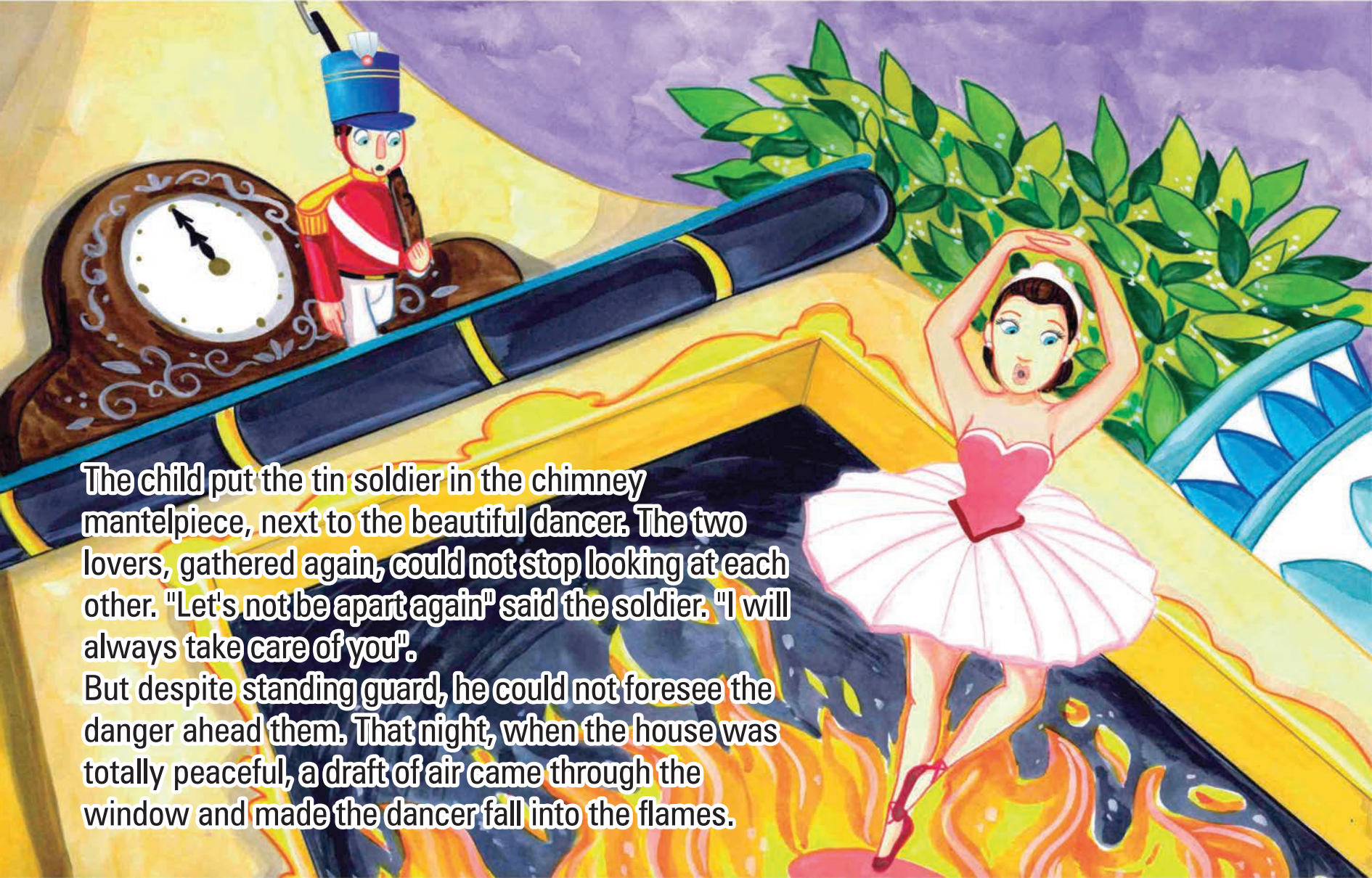
"This must be the work of the goblin. Oh! If only the beautiful dancer was here with me. Who knows if I will ever see her again!" he sighed.

Suddenly he saw a huge rat coming towards him. The current pushed him away saving him from the rat, but he went right to the river. The strong swell made the boat capsize and the tin soldier fell to the water. He began to drown when a giant fish ate him up.

But the soldiers' journey was not over yet. The fish was caught that day and was taken to the market.

What a coincidence! It was precisely that fish that Tom's mother chose for dinner. "It's perfect for my guests" she said. When she arrived home, she opened out the fish and much to her surprise, she found his son's tin soldier. "It's my tin soldier!" said Tom very happy.





The child put the tin soldier in the chimney mantelpiece, next to the beautiful dancer. The two lovers, gathered again, could not stop looking at each other. "Let's not be apart again" said the soldier. "I will always take care of you". But despite standing guard, he could not foresee the danger ahead them. That night, when the house was totally peaceful, a draft of air came through the window and made the dancer fall into the flames.



"My dancer!" cried the tin soldier full of anguish. "I have to save her!"

He started to swing on his leg until he fell to the fire too. Before Tom could realize what happened and could rescue them from the fire, their bases had melt in to one... in the shaped of a heart. They lived happily ever after without no one or nothing that could take them apart.

The end