



# Ellie-Mae's Sparkle

Written by Emma Mactaggart  
Illustrated by Sir Michael Hill



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Ellie-Mae was ready for what her mother called a 'new-normal' kind of day.

She wore her finest tutu, her silkiest scarf, her shiniest shoes and her favourite fairy wings.



There was just one thing missing...

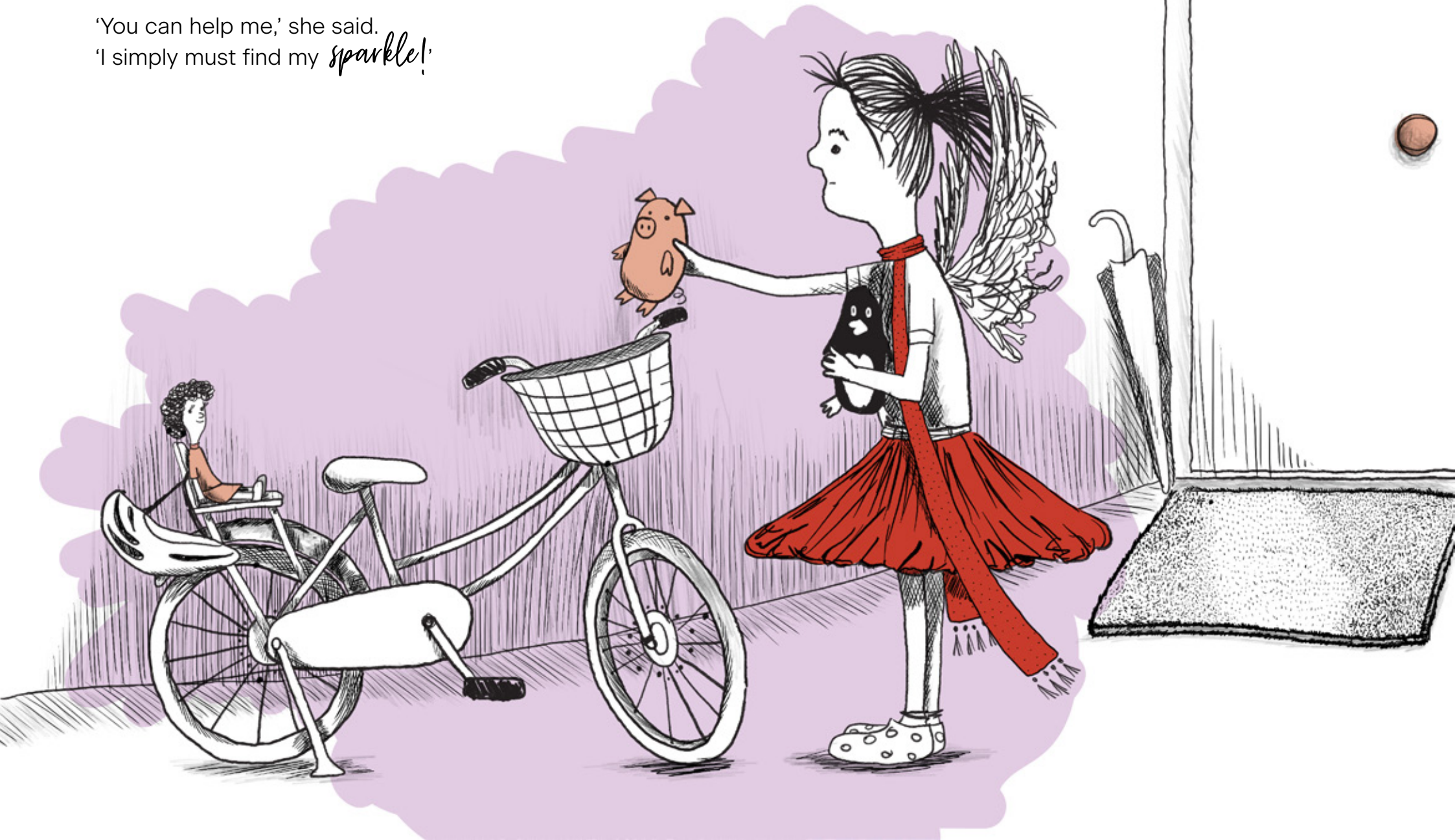


... Ellie-Mae had lost her *sparkle!*



Ellie-Mae bundled up her three best friends, Mother Pig, Penguin and Roey.

'You can help me,' she said.  
'I simply must find my *sparkle!*'





Just as she was about to pass Mr Oliver at Number 11, Ellie-Mae remembered she was to pick up the dish she had dropped off with her mother.

‘Thank you for dinner last night,’  
Mr Oliver called from a safe distance.





'It was my pleasure Mr Oliver,'  
said Ellie-Mae and she rode off  
to continue her search.



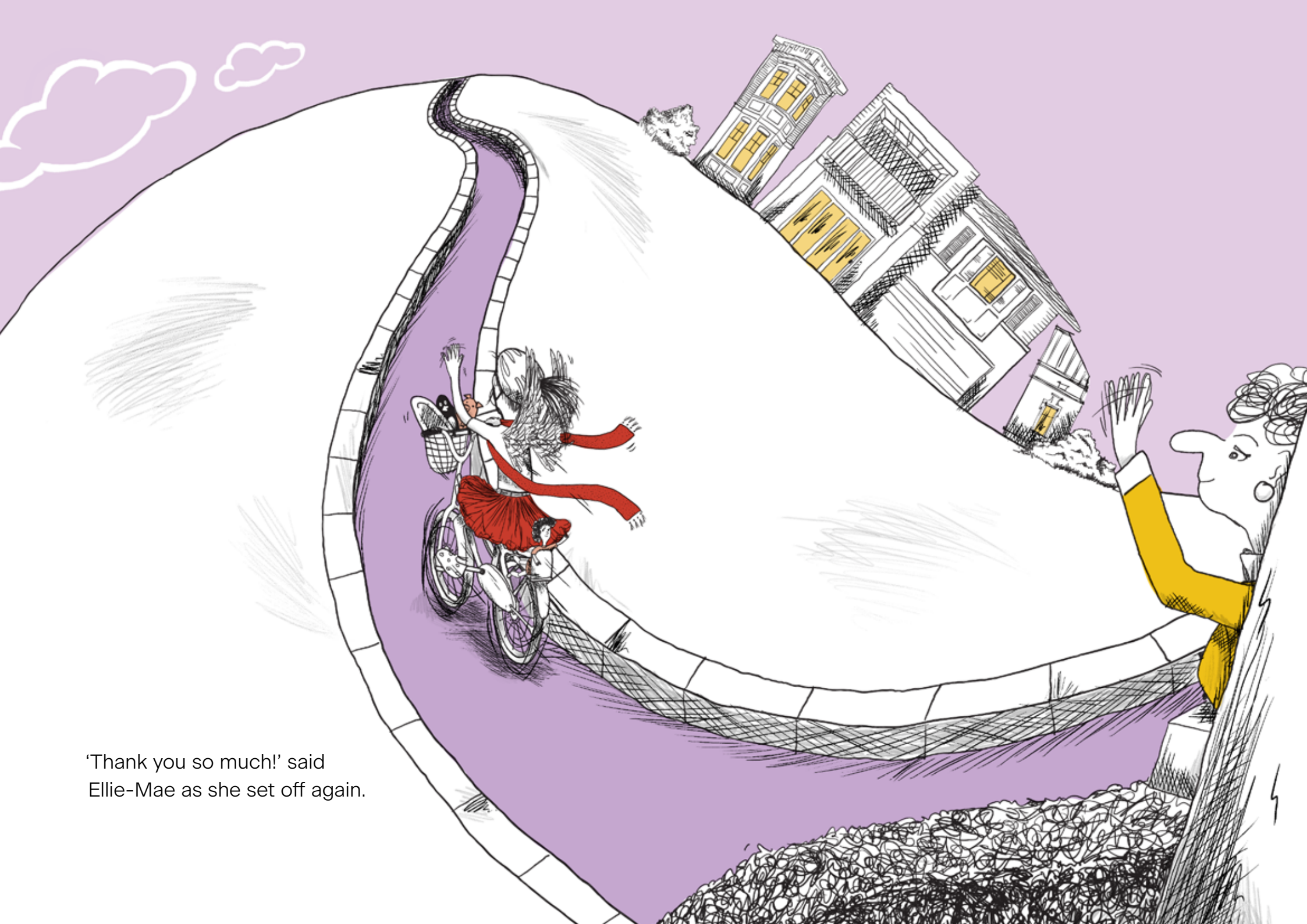


Just as she was about to pass her teacher's house at Number 13, she saw a book leaning against the mailbox.

'It's for you Ellie-Mae,' said Mrs Mark, blowing her a kiss. Mrs Mark was the most thoughtful teacher ever!







'Thank you so much!' said  
Ellie-Mae as she set off again.

Just as she was about to pass  
Miss Chloe's garden at Number 47,  
she saw a gnome had fallen over.

'Bless! Thank you Ellie-Mae,' said  
Miss Chloe who was taking a break  
from watering her vegetable garden.







'It was my pleasure Miss Chloe,'  
said Ellie-Mae as she set off again  
to find her *sparkle*.

Ellie-Mae's legs were starting to feel heavy,  
her head was throbbing, and the hill  
in front of her was very steep.

She was determined to find her *sparkle*  
so she kept going.

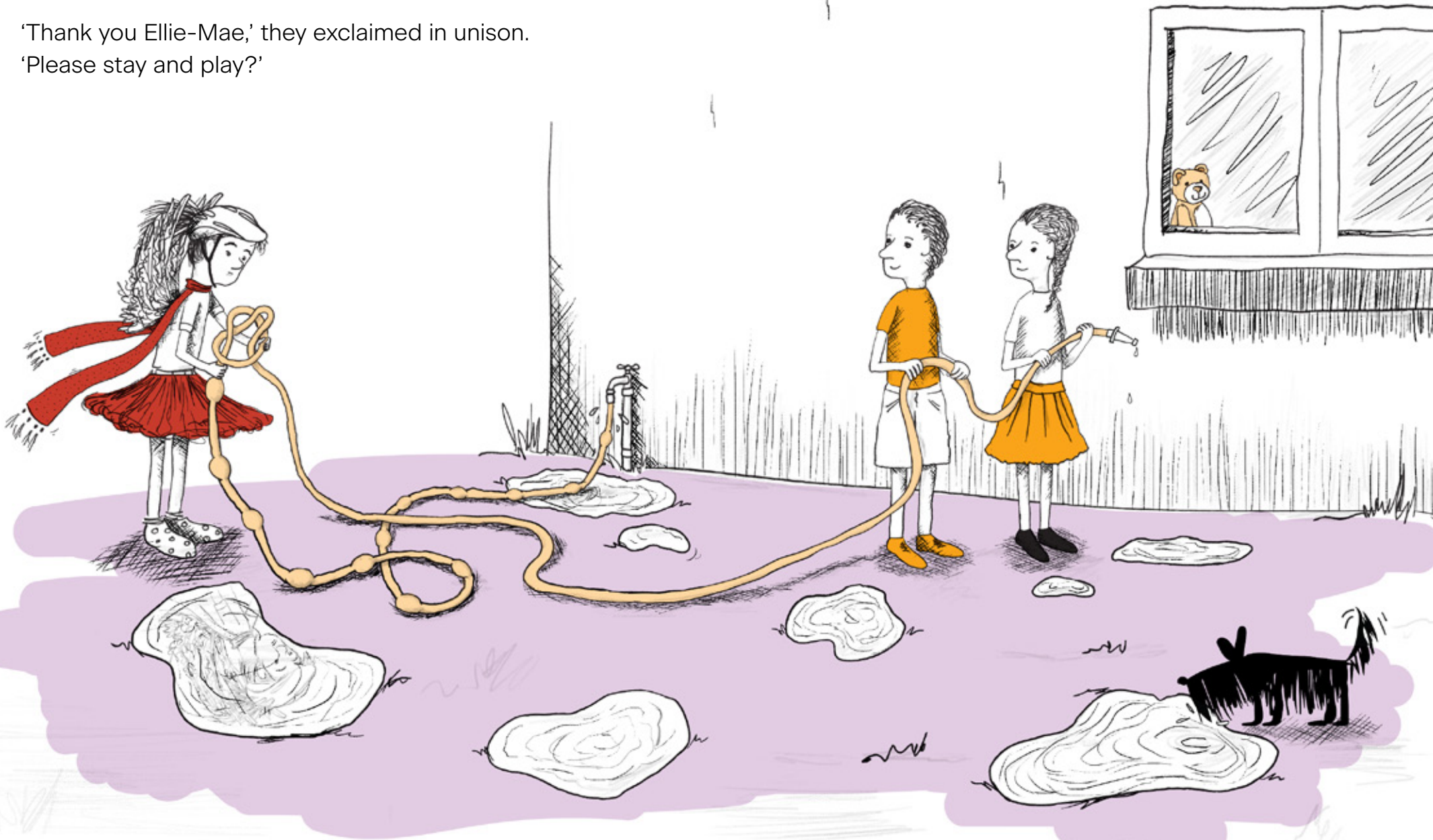




Ellie-Mae was about to pass Number 81  
when she saw the Jacob twins in a muddle.

'There!' she said as she untangled the hose.

'Thank you Ellie-Mae,' they exclaimed in unison.  
'Please stay and play?'





She was very tempted,  
she missed her friends.  
'I would love to stay, but I really  
must keep going,' said Ellie-Mae.



Ellie-Mae stopped to rest  
once she reached the top of the hill.

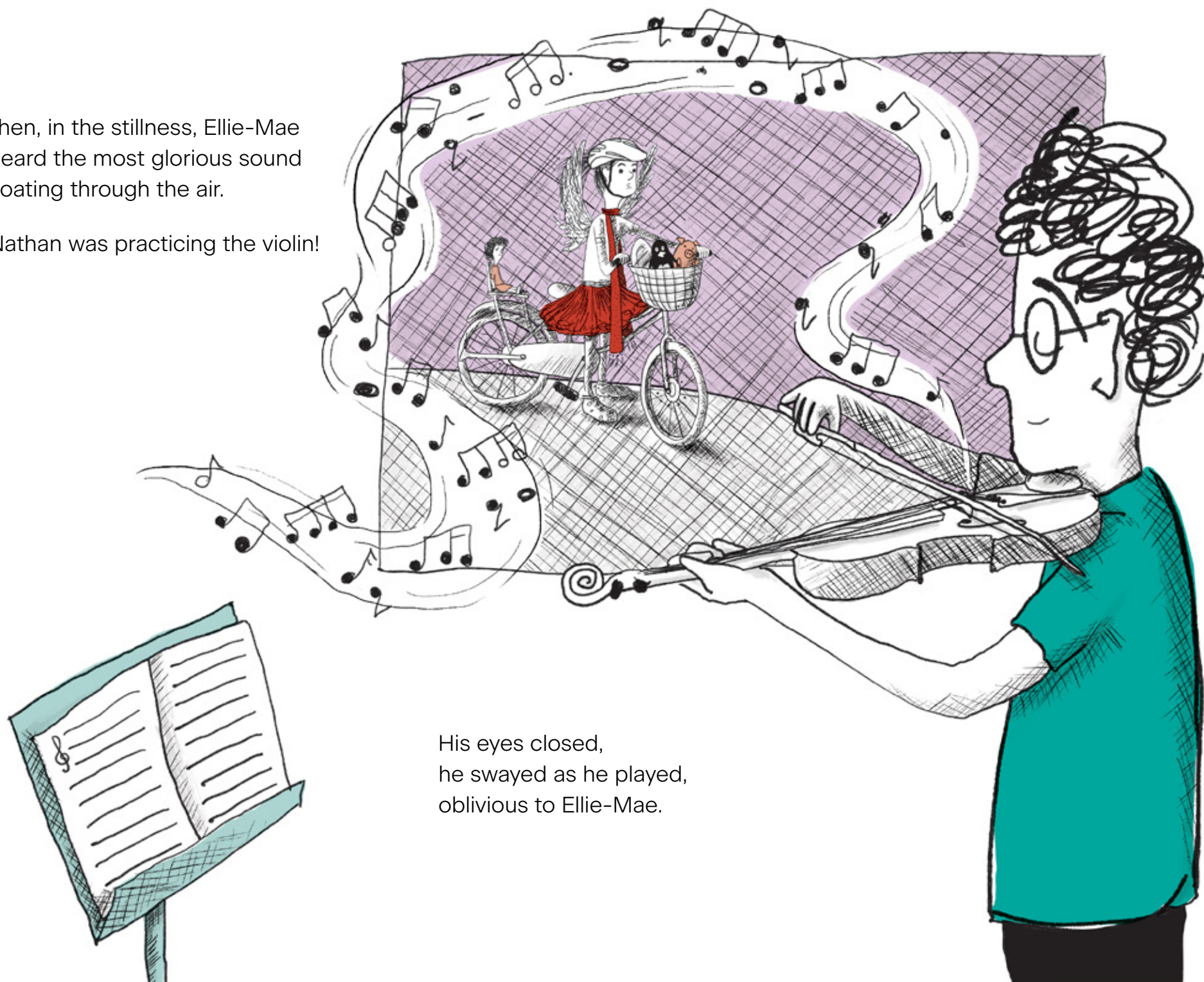
She was so sad.

She still hadn't found her *sparkle*.



Then, in the stillness, Ellie-Mae  
heard the most glorious sound  
floating through the air.

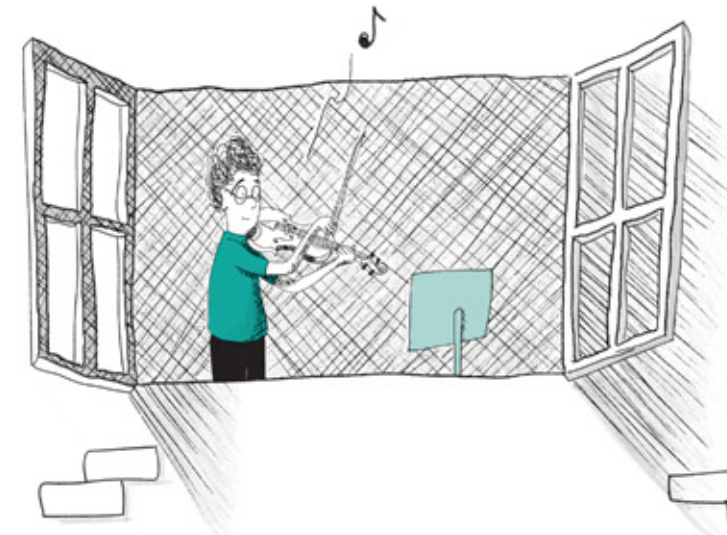
Nathan was practicing the violin!



His eyes closed,  
he swayed as he played,  
oblivious to Ellie-Mae.



Completely entranced, Ellie-Mae didn't notice the shadows lengthen nor the chill in the air.



As the last magical note drifted away, with its promise of love and laughter in the future, Ellie-Mae set off for home.



Ellie-Mae still hadn't found her *sparkle*.  
Surely she could search again tomorrow?

Ellie-Mae smiled and waved to  
the Jacob twins at Number 81.







She smiled and waved to Miss Chloe  
at Number 47.



She smiled and waved to Mrs Mark at Number 13,  
and Mr Oliver at Number 11.





And just as she arrived back home  
Ellie-Mae caught sight of her reflection.  
There it was...

...her *sparkle!*





Ellie-Mae's famous smile!





*Join Ellie-Mae on her journey as she searches for her missing sparkle, in this beautiful and uplifting tale.*



### About Emma

Emma is an award winning writer, publisher, and a regular guest on ABC Southern Queensland Radio with host Belinda Sanders talking about books. If she isn't consuming them herself, she is creating them. Emma founded The Child Writes Fund, which supports children to navigate their future through story, and created International Read to Me! Day, March 19, every year reminding children they can ask to be read to regularly.



### About Sir Michael

Sir Michael has spent his life immersed in creativity in all its forms, from his illustrations to jewellery design and his great love of music. He is also passionate about community, and about helping each person find their own inner shine. Sir Michael founded Michael Hill Jeweller in 1979 with the vision to help people mark their special life moments, and he is a dedicated supporter of creative endeavours in music, art, and sports.

## *We're for love*

Michael Hill is a family founded business, established in New Zealand in 1979.  
For over 40 years we have been dedicated to helping people find the perfect piece  
to mark their special life moments, and to celebrate love.

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We hope you enjoyed Ellie-Mae's journey to find her sparkle and that this story brings joy to you and your loved ones.

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