

Welcome to Elliot and Gina's Amazing Universe!

Wings? Check. Landing gear? Check. Elliot and Gina are caught up in the excitement! Did they pack everything they need for their dream holiday? Grumpy porter Stan and stylish flight attendant Tasha are the unlikely crew for the maiden voyage of Spencer's Air. Destination: Shell Island. Pack your bags and get on board Spencer's cloud bus now if you don't want to miss Elliot and Gina's first-ever travel adventure!



If you enjoyed this journey, take these stories as your passport to your next exploration!



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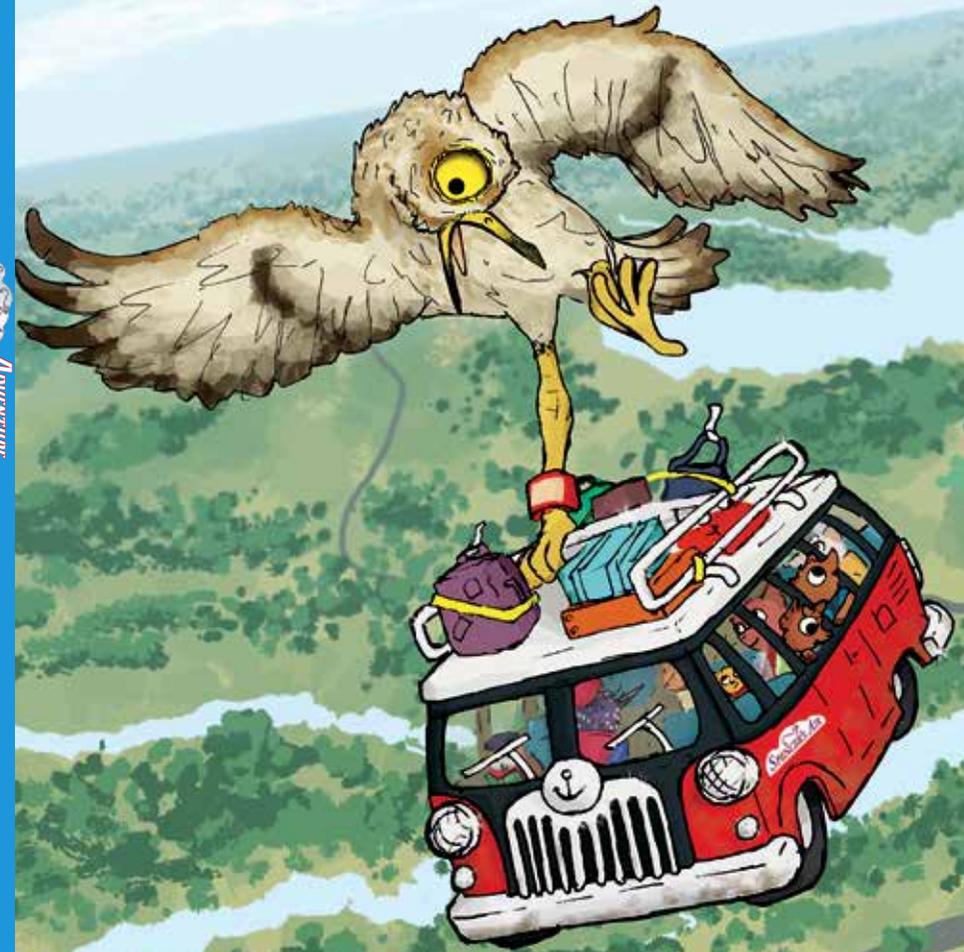
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SPENCER'S AIR
ADVENTURE

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Illustrated by Samuel James



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*Text by Deborah Lee and Patrick Wallace
Illustrated by Samuel James*



After dinner one summer evening, Mum handed Dad the post.

"Take a look at the letter from Spencer," she said smiling.

"All right," said Dad sliding a letter and tickets out of an envelope.



"What is that crazy bird up to now?" Gran asked.

"He invited us on a summer getaway to Shell Island," said Dad.

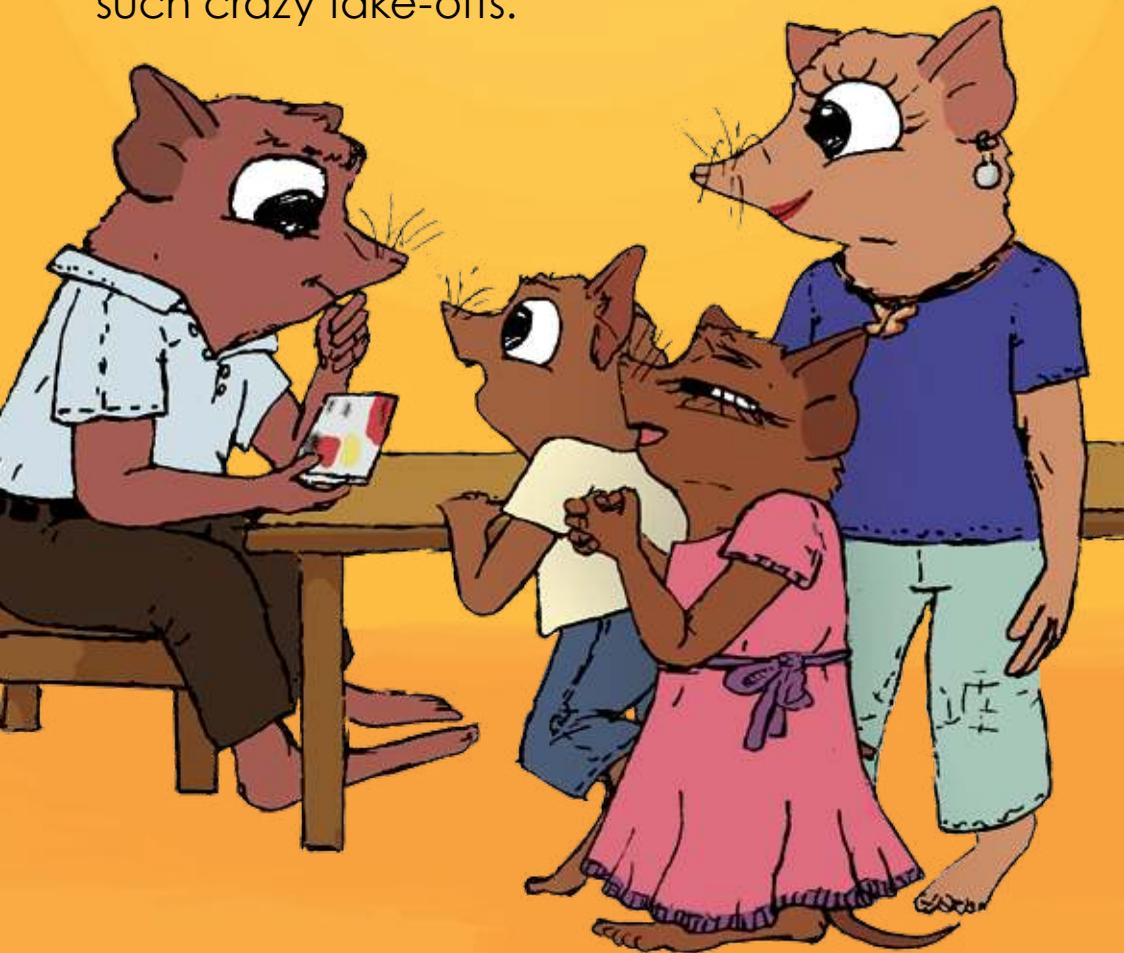
Grandpa got up excitedly. "On his new airline? Splendid!"





"Remember how hard it was teaching him to fly?" said Grandpa, winking at Gran.

"Yes, I do," Gran replied. "He had such crazy take-offs."



"Please can we go? You promised us last time, when he came here for a visit," begged Elliot and Gina.

Mum smiled at Dad who said, "Did I? Well ... it's his first passenger flight." Looking around the table, he finally answered, "OK, we'll go!"

"Yippee! My first plane trip!" shouted Gina.



"I'm going to pack," said Elliot.

"Hey, we aren't leaving for another whole month!" Mum called out.

Week by week, the month passed and each family member packed for their island holiday.



Elliot made his own plan for each day of their trip and packed all the things he would need.

“Let’s see — that’s five days. I want to go hiking, fishing, sailing and swimming.”



After he packed, he felt sorry for Rolly. “Don’t worry, Bryan will take good care of you while I’m away,” Elliot promised.

Gina was researching Shell Island on her tablet. Reading the hotel's website, she asked Gran, "What does 'amenities' mean?"

"It's a weird sea plant," said Elliot, wiggling his fingers over Gina's head.



"No, Elliot. 'Anemones' are sea animals, 'amenities' means the special rooms or activities the hotel offers," Gran explained.

"Oh," the children chimed. Scrolling through the site, they could hardly wait!





The exciting day finally arrived and everyone hurried outside with their bags to wait for the cab.

The longer they waited, the more nervous Mum and Gran got about the trip.

“Did you pack enough underwear, Elliot?” asked Mum.

“Mum!” Elliot protested.



Gran remembered the month she spent coaching young Spencer. "He learnt how to fly, but did he learn how to land?" Gran wondered aloud.

"I'm sure he has! It's been several years since then," Grandpa answered.



An ancient turtle taxi crept towards them.

"No wonder," muttered Dad, checking his watch.

"Can't you go any faster?" Dad asked.

"We do have a flight to catch!"

"Stop bugging me!" snapped the turtle.

"I'm going the speed limit."

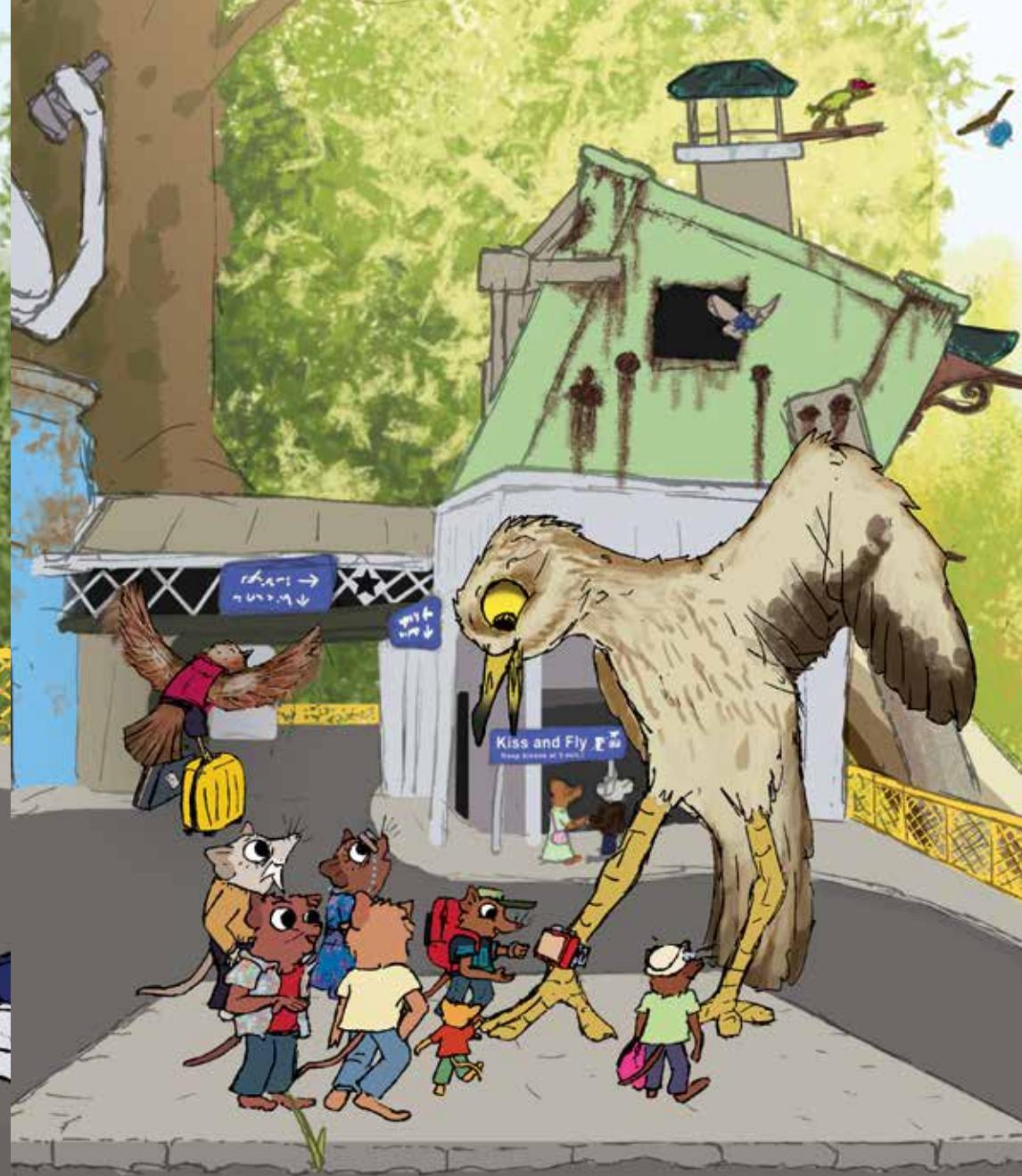
"We could walk there faster!" added Grandpa until Gran hushed him.





Seeing Spencer, they jumped off and ran to thank him.

The grumpy porter Stan took their luggage.



"Hey what's this?" asked Elliot pointing to the gadget on Spencer's leg.

"Highly technical ... has to do with the landing," explained Spencer before excusing himself for his pre-flight check.



Stan hurriedly pinned on a safety badge and got his clipboard.



"Fuel? Check!"



"Wings? Check!" he said attaching a small gauge that helped Spencer know how high he was flying.

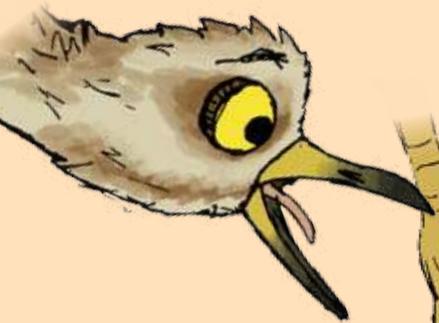


"Controls? Check!" he said tapping Spencer's head.

Bouncing on Spencer's tail, he added, "Rudder, check!"

"Landing gear? Check!" he said with a firm kick.

"Hey — the landing gear is on the bus!" protested Spencer.



"Temperature?" said Stan from behind.

"Check," whined Spencer, hoping to finish.



"The pre-flight check is complete," announced Stan. "Passengers bound for Shell Island may now begin boarding the cloud bus."



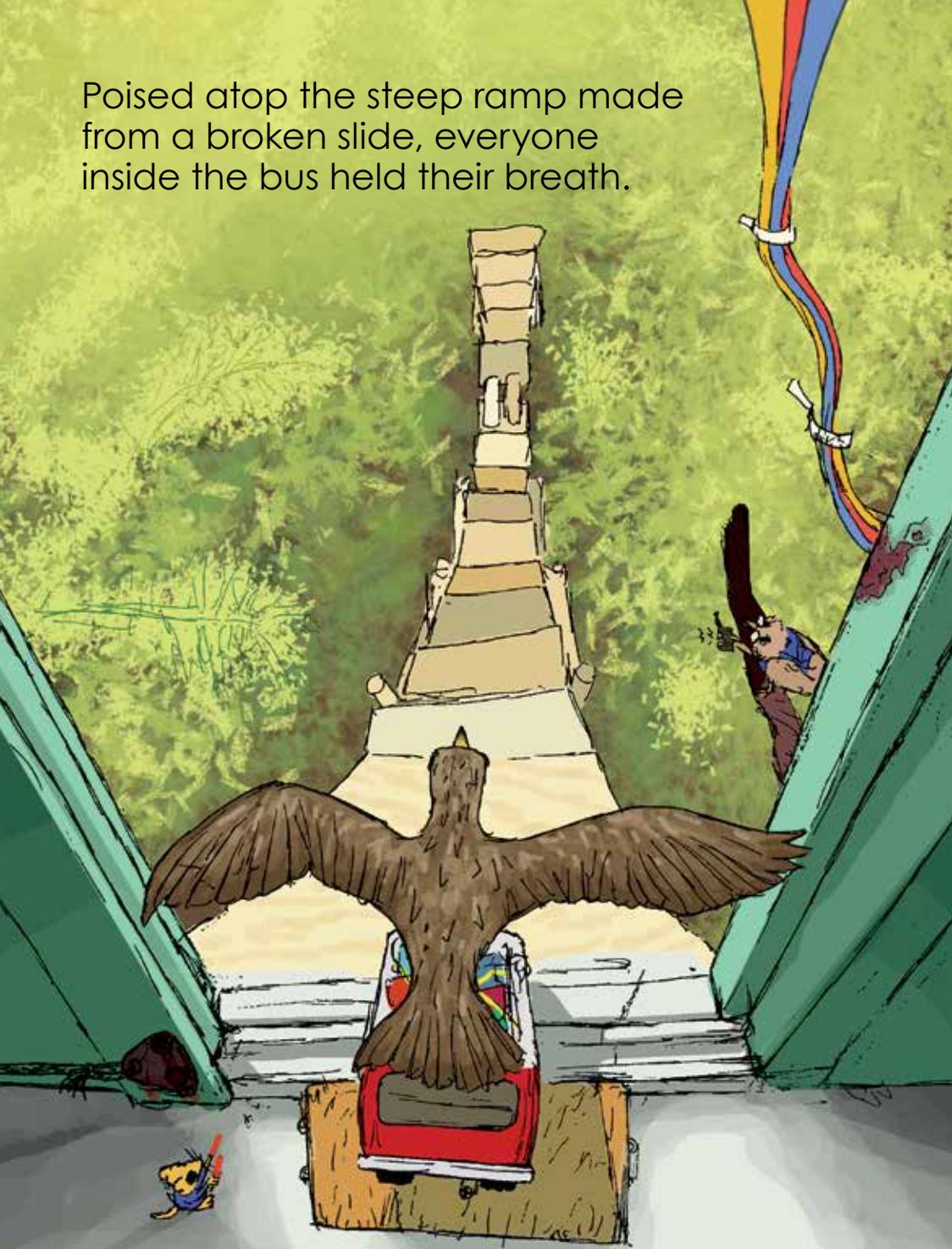
Dad helped Elliot set his new wrist pilot to display the altitude, temperature and weather along their flight path.

The flight attendant Tasha seated passengers, saying, "Ticket, please."



"Time for take-off! Fasten your seatbelts and enjoy your flight," announced Spencer. He anchored his grip and edged the bus toward the open hangar door.

Poised atop the steep ramp made from a broken slide, everyone inside the bus held their breath.



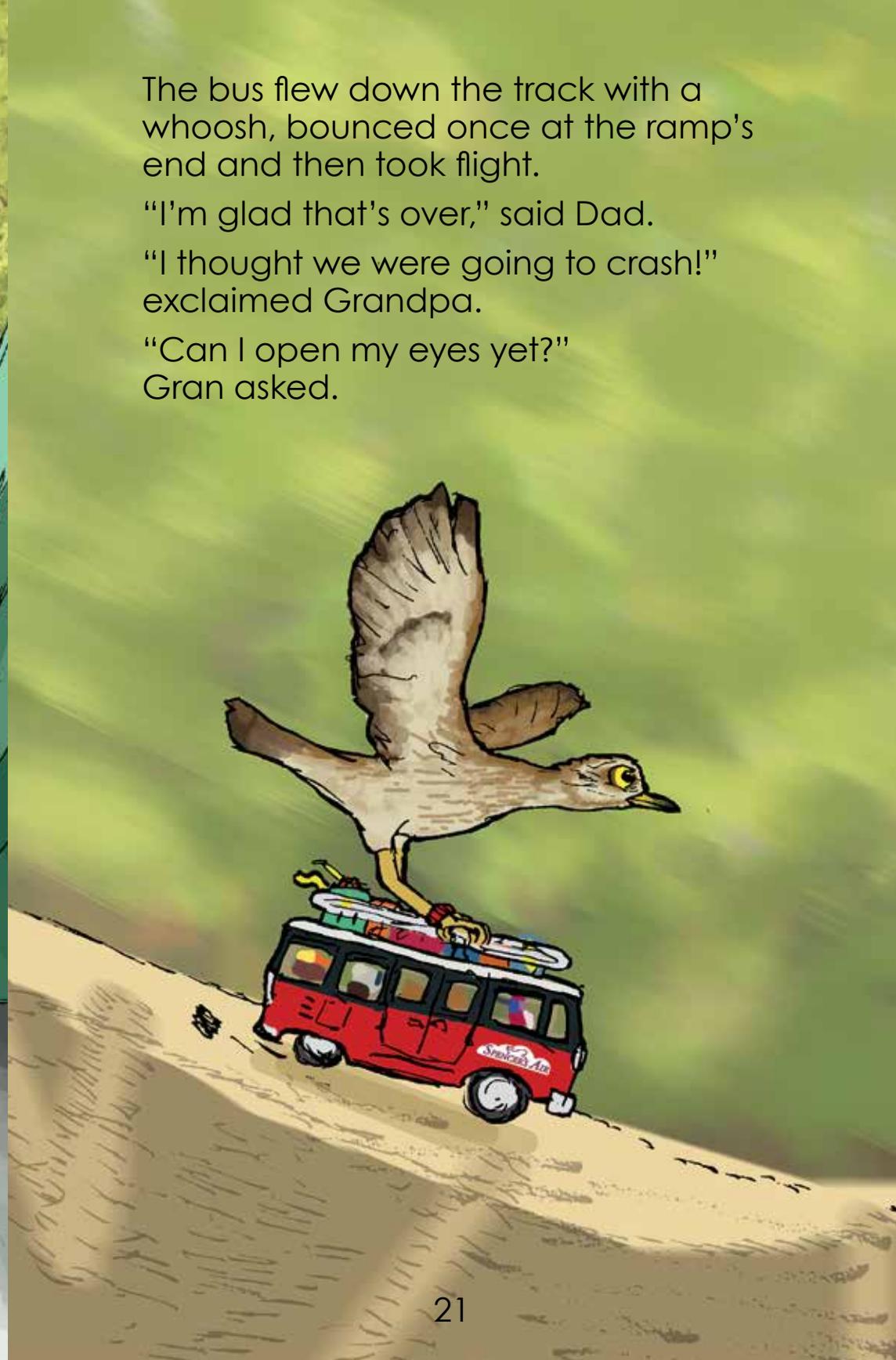
"So this is how he takes off now," mused Gran, covering her eyes.

The bus flew down the track with a whoosh, bounced once at the ramp's end and then took flight.

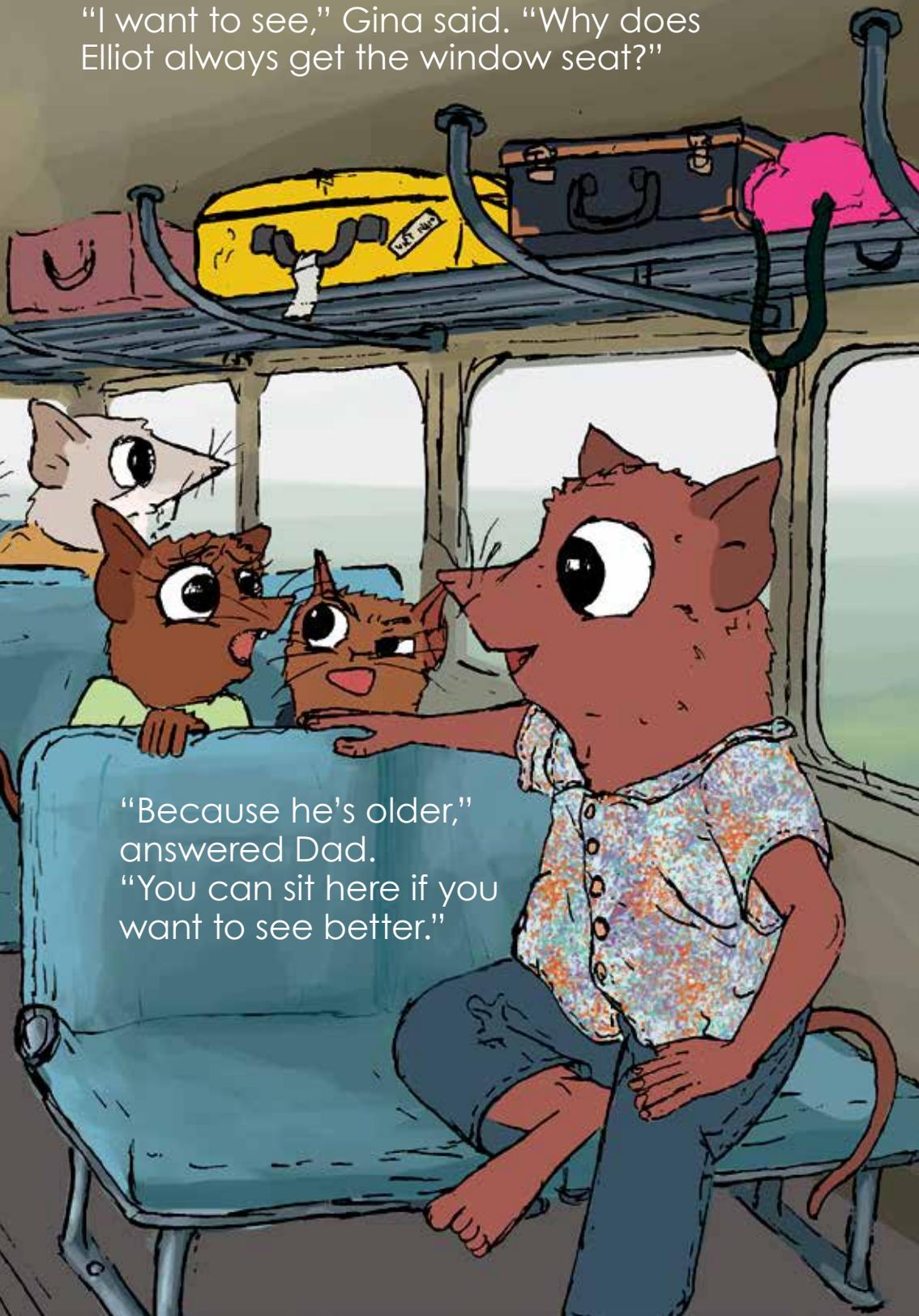
"I'm glad that's over," said Dad.

"I thought we were going to crash!" exclaimed Grandpa.

"Can I open my eyes yet?" Gran asked.



"I want to see," Gina said. "Why does Elliot always get the window seat?"



"Because he's older," answered Dad. "You can sit here if you want to see better."

"That's so unfair," she whined from her perch on Dad's knee.



Looking down on the farms and vineyards on their way, Gina was amazed.

"Everything looks so small and beautiful!" she exclaimed.

The flight was going smoothly until a sudden gust of wind knocked them backwards.

"Everyone buckle your seatbelts," called Tasha just before they rolled nearly upside down.



"Oh, no ... oops, sorry!" screeched Spencer setting the cloud bus upright. "Is everything OK in there?"



Everything was everywhere. The passengers rushed to pick up the things that had fallen.

"I'm going to be sick," mumbled Mother, holding Ethan tightly.

Something rolled up the aisle and Tasha blew her whistle.

“Stowaway!” she yelled, pointing.

“Rolly!” shrieked Elliot, quickly scooping him up.

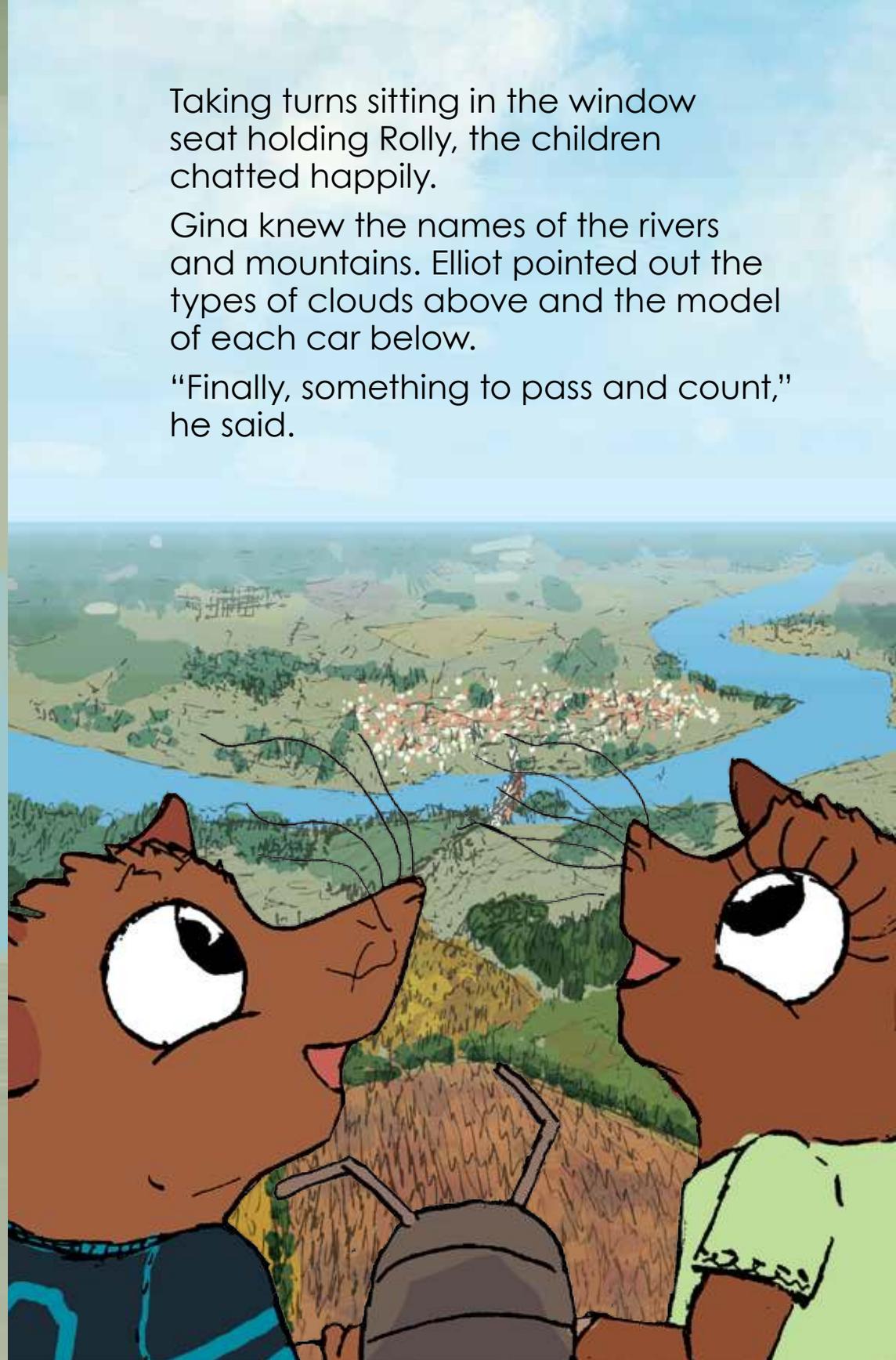


Soon Tasha realised that Rolly was the Snips' pet. “It's OK — family pets don't need tickets,” she said.

Taking turns sitting in the window seat holding Rolly, the children chatted happily.

Gina knew the names of the rivers and mountains. Elliot pointed out the types of clouds above and the model of each car below.

“Finally, something to pass and count,” he said.



Grandpa and Gina spotted a marine exploration boat and Elliot saw all kinds of speedboats.

"Can I drive a speedboat, Dad, please?" he asked.

Mum shook her head, "No way!"

But Dad promised he would ride one.



Everyone buzzed with excitement as the sun set on their approach to Shell Island.

"Can you see over there," said Gran, "there's the hiking trail to the waterfall."



"Look at the deep blue water in the cove! I can't wait to scuba dive," said Dad.

Swooping in low, everyone wondered if Spencer's landings were better than his take-offs.

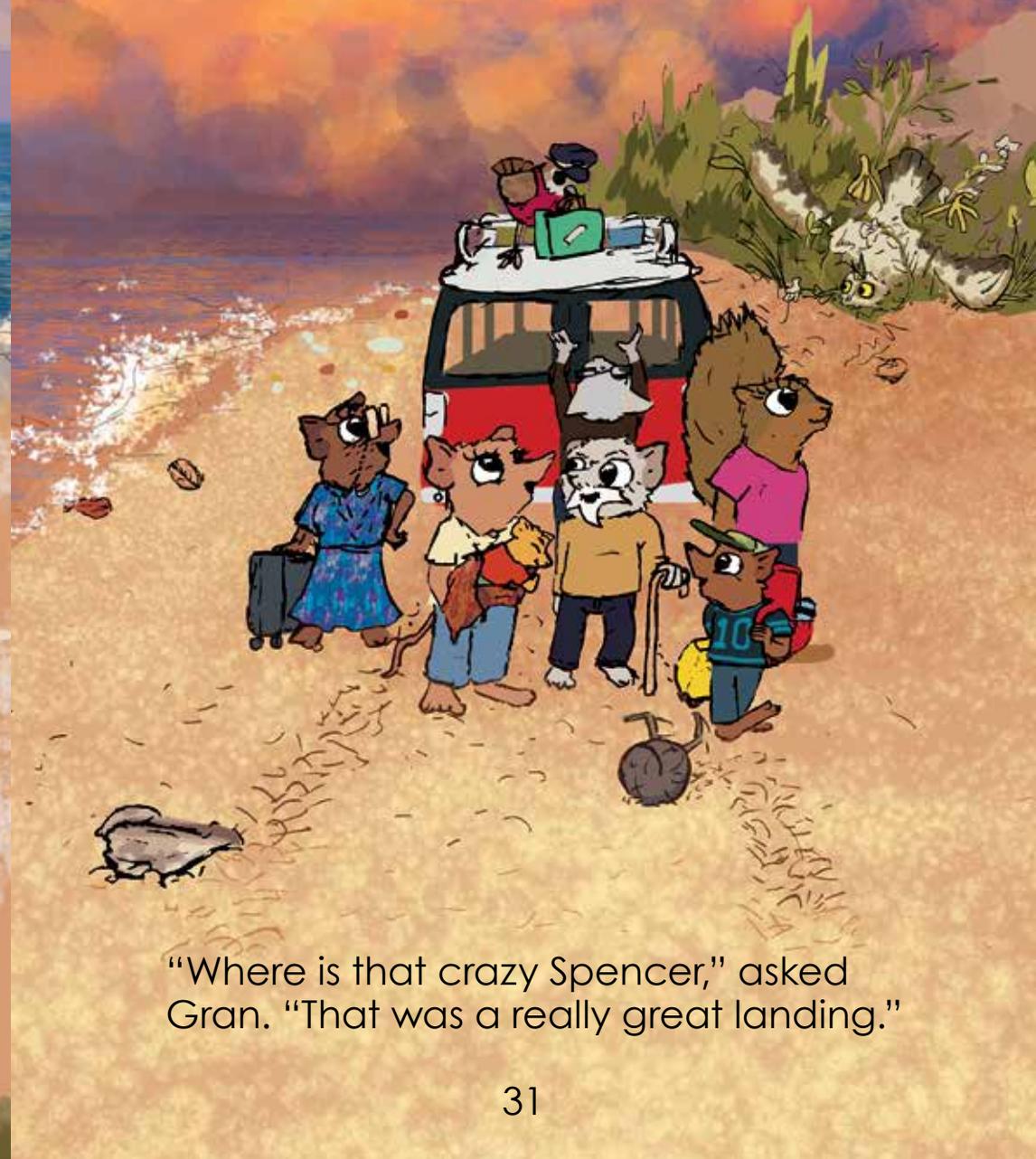


Bouncing only once on a wet patch of sand, the cloud bus came to a gentle stop ... without him!

"I'm sure glad that's over," said Mum, tightly holding sleeping Ethan.

"Why?" quizzed Grandpa.

"It was fun," added Elliot.



"Where is that crazy Spencer," asked Gran. "That was a really great landing."

“Let’s skip the taxi and walk to the hotel,” suggested Grandpa.

“Let’s!” agreed Gran,
“After the sunset!”



Did you enjoy Elliot and Gina's fun adventures? Tell me which bits you loved most at gran@elliotngina.com. I am always keen to keep an eye on what my dear grandchildren are doing, especially if it is a secret!

Love, *Gran*

PS: Don't forget to download activities and check out more titles at www.ElliotNGina.com.



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