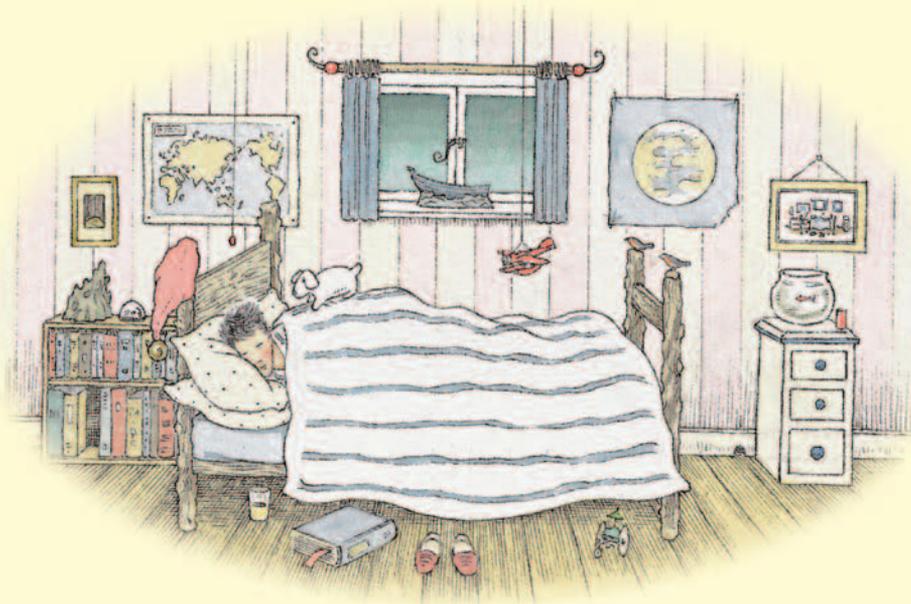


Where is The World?



Peter Suart



Boink!

'What was that?' said Tik.

'That,' replied Tok, 'was my head.'

'Does your head often go Boink?' asked Tik.

'No it doesn't,' said Tok a little crossly. 'It goes Boink! when I fall down a hole.'

'And why would you want to fall down a hole?' said Tik.

'I didn't *want* to fall down a hole. It was an *accident*.

Now, are you coming down here or am I going up there?' asked Tok.

'I think I'll come...' started Tik.

Boink!

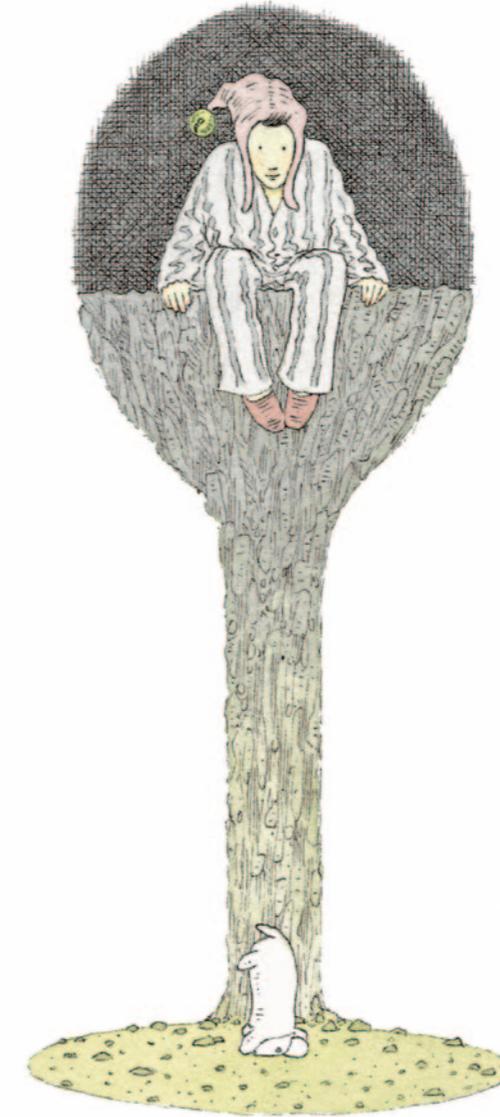
'Does your head often...?' asked Tok.

'No it does not,' said Tik very crossly. 'Where's my hat?'

'Over there,' said Tok, 'by that green tricycle.'

'By that what?' said Tik in high excitement. 'Tok! I think we've found The World!'

'I don't think so,' said Tok, not quite sure if it was or



'Which boat, Tok?' exclaimed Tik. 'Which boat?'
'That blue one over there, with the fishing net,'
answered Tok.

'My, my!' exploded Tik. 'We're onto something
here, dear friend!'

And with that they jumped into the little boat and
pushed off to look for The World.



They drifted gently down the stream, passing
families of ducks on the water and songbirds in
the bushes on the bank. Dragonflies settled on the
prow of the boat.

'It is lovely,' said Tok dreamily.

'Hmmm,' said Tik. 'There is certainly a great variety
of things that fly and many kinds of plants too. I
shall have to give them names and list them in a
book.'



'Yes, I suppose you will have to,' answered Tok sleepily.

The sun was warm and the current getting stronger and before long the two adventurers were sound asleep, the little boat gliding through the clear water to look for The World.



'Have you noticed something?' asked Tik.

Tok snored.

'Tok! Wake up! There's something you should see,' said Tik.

Tok rubbed his eyes, looked around and wondered, 'Where on earth are we?'

All around them was nothing but water stretching as far as the eye could see.

'According to you we're in The World,' said Tik.

'But this can't be it,' said Tok. 'There's nothing here, nothing but water and sky. Surely that can't



A gull flew by.

'By the way,' mumbled Tok, 'where's the boat?'

'The bo...?' gasped Tik. 'Oh dear me, it's gone!

Whatever shall we do now?'

'Um,' said Tok, 'we could try that seaplane.'

'What? Which seaplane?' sputtered Tik.

'That red one, behind you over there,' said Tok.

'Marvellous!' cried Tik. 'Why, don't you see? It follows that if The World isn't underwater (which we have proved) and it isn't here (which is obvious)... it must be up there! There's nowhere else it could possibly be!'

And so they scrambled into the plane and took off into the air to look for The World.

